



NEWSLETTER

Illawarra Bridge Association

Edited by Peter Graham

Dec 2016

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Coming Soon December

Mon 12th Christmas at Thirroul

Tues 13th Christmas at Figtree

Wed 14th Christmas at Thirroul

Fri 16th Christmas at Thirroul

Sat 17th Nation Wide Pairs

Committee 2017

Following the 2016 AGM, the committee for 2017 was elected as follows.

President. Carol Jeffs

Vice President Jill MacRae

Secretary. Lindsey Smith

Treasurer. Tony Wright

Committee. Jeff Carberry

Marie Pickering

Barbara Overington

Ngaire Meehan

Thinking Time

Pass 1D Pass 1S

Pass 4S All Pass

S AJ97

H QJ6

D KQ94

C 85

S 64

H A9754

D 65

C QJT6

You led the ♣Q. Partner overtakes with the ♣A and switches to the ♥8, which is covered with the ♥10 by declarer. What is your plan. Answer later in newsletter.

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Wayne

Wayne who?

Wayne a manger.

We are the Champions

Do we have, or do we not have, a stack of bridge talent amongst us.

Recently at Figtree, we had the NSW State Restricted Teams Finals for <300 and <100 MP. IBA teams won both events.

<300 Team Karen Irvine, Margaret Carr, Steve Dyan, Peter Graham.

<100 Team Marie Pickering, Carol Jeffs, Jeanette Marvel, Pat Berry.

Jill MacRae makes the following comments about the above annual competition.

A great opportunity for players to compete at their level.

The event was divided into two sections, Restricted, with under 300 MP and Novice with less than 100.

Bridge is about competing. An event like this provides developing players with a fantastic opportunity to compete at their level of experience. The delight of the day was the full display of generations playing the same game with equal enthusiasm. There were players pondering the lives of grand children and a young man considering the subjects he may choose for his higher school certificate, all this of course only when playing the dummy hand!

(ED). Thanks Jill for the above comments.

Hopefully it will encourage more of our members to try next year. To our members: just to let you know that Jill sent an very good e-mail

to the powers that be, thanking them for the privilege of being allowed to hold this State event in our own clubrooms.

In The **NSW State Pairs Open**, Jeff Carberry & Kaye Hart finished in 10th position. I have no idea how many pairs there are in NSW, but to finish 10th is a mighty result.

Then we have the **NSW Country Open Pairs Final**

Here Stuart Cutsforth and Renate La Marra finish a very creditable 5th, which in itself is an excellent result.

However, one of our own did even better. Take a bow, Steve & Liz Hurley. They are the NSW Country Pairs Champions. That's right, the best in NSW. I must find out if this is the first time ever for IBA.

All the above players must be extremely proud of their achievements. Heck, I'm even proud for them.

We are going to need a bigger hall just to display our winning silverware.

What we are not champions of is remembering to turn off our mobile phones before the start of a playing session. Also to be in the hall **at least** ten minutes before play start time. Guilty?

Distributional Power

When we went through our lesson classes at bridge, we were taught about high card points. To open the bidding with 12+ HCP. As we progressed, we were taught about distribution, which is not just so easy to judge its worth. Take the utter extremes; You are dealt S Axxx, H Axx, D Axxx, Cxx. You have 12HCP. How many tricks will you take with Spades as trumps?. You will take three tricks, maybe four. Now consider being dealt S AKQJT98765432. You have 10HCP. How many tricks will you take with Spades as trumps?. The answer is thirteen tricks. 2HCP less, but ten more tricks. That is why our teachers impress on us the power of distribution. To continue on

that theme; Often when we play we get a surprise when, with a limited number of HCP, we make a slam score, although we would never have bid it with so few points.

To go to the opposite end, what is the maximum number of points a partnership, (say N/S), could have, and not be able to make any game contract?. Have a think. I will give answer later in Newsletter.

Are you Santa Claus?

No.

Then take your hand off my stocking.

XXX

In the last newsletter, I printed a poem by member Lurline Bell. Somehow, (nothing to do with me), a female presenter at radio station 2Vox FM, read the poem in the newsletter. She was so impressed with the poem she read it out over the radio. Just shows how skilful some of our members are. Maybe we should send the poem to Macca, on the Australia All Over Sunday morning ABC program. Would be good to hear IBA being mentioned on a national program.

Item of Interest

This received from member Carol Jeffs
Hi Peter,

I always have a great time when I go away playing Bridge, and find it sad that so few players partake of this aspect of the game. One doesn't need to be an expert to join in. Anyway November saw six club players go to the Tumbarumba Congress up in the Snowy Mountains. It was a beautiful drive, all the Rhododendrons, Azaleas and lovely Dogwoods were in brilliant flower. Two full days of Bridge, pairs then teams kept our minds alert and the socialising stressed our bodies. Jeff and Kaye won some money which was briskly distributed around the local economy. The local ladies demonstrated their country women's baking skills for our delectation, and the high school students provided Sunday lunch. I came home having made new friends and feeling that I'd had a jolly good holiday.

Good luck to everyone going to Canberra, enjoy yourselves.....you are just playing a game!
Carol Jeffs

Then there was the little Scottish boy who all he got in his stocking was some batteries and a note which read 'Toys not included'.

Know your rules

Got a bit of a startle at the bridge table recently. My partner was declarer in 3NT. He played two rounds of clubs, which set the clubs up with the lead in my hand. I had QJT_x of clubs with only 9 of Clubs still outstanding. My partner then said, "Run the clubs". My LHO then said, "From the bottom please". He then stated that, as my partner had not said 'from the top' he, opponent, has the right to demand they be played 'from the bottom'. He said he would not enforce it but it was a right he had.

So, was he correct?. The short answer is 'no'. Playing 'from the top' is the only natural play in this type of case and is accepted as being implied. There is a big word in the bridge rule book, too big for me to remember, but it covers this situation. If in doubt, call the director .

Wrist Slap

During a recent session, an opponent made an infraction, (insufficient bid). As I knew this rule, (Or do I?) I allowed an adjustment to be made. I was wrong in allowing the adjustment to be made. If an infraction is made, the Director should be called. I should have known better and I accept the slap on the wrist which I give myself.

Most Annoying

Why is it that Christmas always comes around just when the shops are at their busiest?.

Hi-Lo

Always keen to find ways to improve IBA I thought it would be a good idea to find the Lo players findings from the recent HI-Lo

session, the intention being to make improvements for the future Hi-Lo sessions. I would have liked to have received more replies than I did to have a broader picture of Lo players feelings. However , there are some recurring themes. Newcomers are nervous about playing amongst 'experts' and can be easily upset. Some of the way we Hi players say things, even amongst ourselves which we consider normal, can sound rather intimidating to newies. Newies love receiving compassion and consideration and allowance for their inexperience. The Hi player should be helping the Lo, there is no use in playing with a Lo and not saying anything to help. I will print one letter received which sums up pretty much the general theme amongst reports received.

Hey Peter,

Here is some feedback on the Hi –Lo.

You know have you put yourself down for something and then you think oh I don't think I should have done that! Well that was me! I felt when I had done it I really ought not to be playing with an expert! I was extremely nervous and it took me a few rounds to relax. I was blessed with a fabulous person who was not only patient with me he even forgave me all my sins! I thoroughly enjoyed my day and came away feeling that I had learned so much from him. Even making mistakes helped me in the learning process and I found "my expert for the day" so full of knowledge. For me Hi-Lo was a very positive experience even though I signed up with so much trepidation. I certainly would do it again. A great day. My thanks goes to all the kind people who gave of their time so freely.

Xxx

I was asked what I would like for Christmas. I said "Just the usual, gold, frankincense and myrrh".

Yes, I do think I am.

Talking of Christmas, before play at a recent bridge session, president Carol Jeffs addressed the members and advised of the upcoming Xmas Party. She advised of bringing a plate and times etc. and finished by saying, "Wear a hat". I trust that members realise Carol meant to wear a hat 'as well as and not just 'instead of'.

Xxx

Grand slam draw winners this time are Judy Kingston and Grant Cowan. Envious congrats to them.

Thinking Time Answer

It is unlikely that you can beat this contract with high cards. Giving partner the ♦AJ would leave South with at best 11 points. Your only hope appears to be to give East a heart ruff - his lead of the ♥8 suggests 'high from a doubleton.'

Do not take the ♥A. Play the ♥4 (encouraging),(If you play low to encourage), and wait for partner to take his ♠K and return his second heart. Now you can take the ♥A and give him his ruff.

S AJ97
H QJ6
D KQ94
C 85

S 64
H A9754
D 65
C QJ106

S K52
H 83
D 10732
C A732

S Q1083
H K102
D AJ8
C K94

How many points answer

What was your answer?. Did you go to high as say 36 points?. Would you believe me if I said the answer was 39. That's right, every honour except one Jack. Maybe you

find that hard to believe. If you don't, then disprove it by making any N/S game contract from the following lay-out. Who knows, maybe there is one and I am telling a furbie. Then again, maybe I am telling the truth for once. Well, which one is it?

S -
H -
D AKQJ32
C AKQJ432

S JT9876
H T98765
D 5
C -

S 5
H -
D T98764
CT98765

S AKQ432
H AKQJ432
D -
C -



The above photo compliments of the Waverley Bridge Club Melbourne.

Bathurst Novice Tournament.

A number of our members attended the above event. Erica Grey and Marie Pickering have been good enough to forward some info on how the tournament went for them. Here it is.

Bathurst Central West Novice tournament October 29-30 2016

Thank you to Bathurst for hosting an easy-going and friendly tournament. There were 40 pairs from across NSW and the Tournament Director, Ed Barnes did a fabulous job keeping the tournament on track and coping with some very new players – apparently some people had only just finished a series of beginner lessons.

Five pairs from Illawarra Bridge club participated and put up a good effort and featured in the top 10 of the pairs overall results: Marie Pickering and Kay Snowden (2nd), Julie Cowling and Carolyn Githens (5th) and Erica Gray and Chris Yates (6th). Our overall best placed team on Sunday were Julie Cowling, Carolyn Githens, Marie Pickering, and Kay Snowden (5th).

Chris Yates and Erica Gray took out best placed pair with less than 10MP and were thrilled to find they had won free entry to a novice event at the Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge.

We would recommend this Tournament to all new players ... it was a great weekend, the gardens around the place were delightful and the restaurants in Bathurst were a lot of fun.

Most of us shared a very unusual house ... it was the old water reservoir! As you will realise the town reservoir was usually on the top of a hill. Thus we had no windows to the outside world on the ground floor ... we all looked in onto a lovely garden, but the top floor had a magnificent 360' view across Bathurst.

The Tournament was for anyone with less than 40MPs as were all of us who went out to Bathurst Still it was such fun and players from Illawarra Bridge Club did well . Oh, mustn't forget, the food was great.

Before bridge on the Saturday, 5 of us set out to see Nan Akitt. We had asked one of the Bathurst Committee where she lived, had rung and told them we were coming. Unfortunately Marie wrote down what she thought the lady had told her, but after 40 minutes, terrible GPS locating and no sign of her place we had to give up.

After play on the day Marie and Kay, having got the correct address got to visit Nan. She was in good spirits and wanted us to let everyone at IBA know how much she treasured the friendships she made and the bridge she played. She asked us to pass on her very good wishes to everyone. Her address is Bedwell Section, Whiddon Group, 15 Lumbar Way Kelso. Phone number 0263307000.

(Ed). Thank you Erica & Marie for this contribution. Very pleased you all enjoyed Bathurst and great to hear about Nan.

Xxx

How did Joseph and Mary know that Jesus weighed exactly 6lbs 10ozs at birth.

They had a weigh in the manger.

Committee jottings attached at end of newsletter.

On that note I will finish for the 2016 season. My Christmas & New Year Wish to you all is, 'Good Health', 'Good Friends', and 'Lang May Yer Lum Reek',

Till Next Time,

P.B.G.(Ed).

Jottings

From the committee 26th Nov 2016
Manager's Report – Ken Mclvor

- Air conditioner, good news... our new one will be installed on the 5th and 6th of December.
- New curtains look very swish, thank you Carol and your elves.
- Bidding box cards that are not up to scratch are being replaced. Thanks to the directing team for this initiative.
- Ken to purchase new glassware to replace broken ones.

Again, we are very grateful for all the work Ken and Lindsey do in organising and doing all these jobs.

iBand Report -

Bridge at Thirroul continues to thrive. On Monday nights, Barbara and Jeff will coordinate the board movement so that when both venues are combined at the end of the night we have a fair result for all.

Correspondence: Lease is finally all signed and delivered. Well done Lindsey and committee.

Promoting bridge

- Tony W has agreed to investigate the IBA having a stall i.e. live bridge during orientation week at Wollongong in Feb/March 2017
- Marie to visit Smith's Hill High School to discuss running bridge classes there.

Suggestion Box

- Suggestion that we put alternative covers on our tables during festive events.
- Those gluten free options are labeled at congress events.

General Business

- Melbourne Cup turned out to be an excellent day with very well dressed ladies and gentlemen in attendance. Good bridge, food and drink was had by all.
- IBA Christmas Party 10th December drinks from 12pm, lunch at 12.30pm. Arrangements: if you are over 85 you do not need to bring a plate. For everyone else, please indicate on the sheet whether you are bringing savory or sweet. If you are under 85 and finding it difficult to bring a plate please arrange with your partner, a friend or a committee member to organise one for you. Many thanks. This will be our arrangement for future festivities.

Our next committee meeting - February 4th 2017 10am.

Marie Pickering. grgr