



NEWSLETTER

Illawarra Bridge Association

Edited by Peter Graham

Email: pbgraham2000@yahoo.com.au or illawarraba@tpg.com.au

Phone: 4228 5240

Feb 2018

Phone 4227 2799

♣♦♥♠ NT ♣♦♥♠ NT ♣♦♥♠ NT ♣♦♥♠ NT ♣♦♥♠ NT ♣♦♥♠ NT

Mon 19th Red Masterpoints 2 Figtree & Thirroul

DA
C A762

Wed 21st Hi-lo1 Thirroul Birthday Party.

Mon 26th Red Masterpoints 3 Figtree & Thirroul

The ♥J is led against your 4♠ contract. Counting your losers, you see you have 4 possibles, assuming you do not lose a trump trick – two Hearts and two Clubs. What do you intend to do?

March

Thurs 1st Karof Trophy Lessons 1

Sat 3rd Nation wide pairs 5

Thurs 8th Karof Trophy 2 Lessons 2

Sat 10th Red Masterpoints 1

Mon 12th Swiss pairs 1

Wed 14th Nation wide Pairs 6

Thurs 15th Lessons 3

Sat 17th Red masterpoints 2

Sun 18th Kiama Restricted Pairs

Mon 19th Swiss Pairs 2

Thurs 22nd Lessons 4

Sat 24th Red Masterpoints 3

Thurs 29th Easter Egglectic 1 Lessons 5

Fri 30th Good Friday

Sat 31st Easter Egglectic 2

Plan the Play 2

Contract 3NT

S AQ

H 975

D T875

C KQ64

S T7642

H 632

D 9

C J973

S K85

H KQJT

D A63

C 852

S J93

H A84

D KQJ42

C AT

Lead S4

Answers later.

Plan the Play 1

S K63

H A74

D QJ62

C K53

S T7

H JT

D K8754

C QT84

S AQ542

H 653

S J98

H KQ982

D T98

C J9

Summer Festival of Bridge.

I believe we had forty three entrants this year. How did we go?. How about three firsts and a second. In addition our own Rod Lavers was in a successful teams event. That is a big success in anyones language.

B Rewers & Keith Pittaway second in Super Novices Pairs.

Lorna O'Leary & Sue Bochan first in Novice Swiss Pairs.

Ruth Neild & Colin Bale first in Two Day

Swiss Pairs.

Ken 7 Lynne Soldi, Dave Gallagher and Phil Barker first in Restricted Teams.

Also Rod Lavers was in the winning team in a teams event.

Congratulations to all who upheld the good name of IBA.

Two reports received of Canberra experience. Read and enjoy.

From Phil Barker

After an emotional roller coaster lasting 3 days and 8 matches of 20 boards each, the Soldi team (Ken and Lynne Soldi, Dave Gallagher and Phil Barker) snuck up on, and pipped, the Van Weeren and Sylvester teams to top spot in the very last round - thus winning the Non-Life Masters Teams Championship at the 2018 Summer Festival of Bridge.

This event is for those with under 300 Master Points and featured some very accomplished players. The Soldi team (with a total of 500 MPs) were seeded 6th and a long way back from the Cromer team (1100 MPs) and the Van Weeren team (896 MPs). Van Weeren had already won the NSW Restricted Teams Championship, held at our club back in early November.

At the start of the final match, the Soldi team were 9.1 VPs behind Van Weeren, 3.06 VPs behind Sylvester and held no expectations at all. Phil was more concerned with the gap between 3rd and 4th because he felt that finishing in the top three would be a massive achievement for the Illawarra team, exceeding all his expectations. Before the final match, in the huddle at the home table, we all agreed just to keep playing exactly as we had done for all the previous matches. Dave and Phil put a strong shift in early, setting two contracts for +400 each and making a game the other EW missed. The defining moment, however, came on board 11, where the opposition NS bid and made 6C+1. On our home table however, Ken and Lynne pushed on to the cold 7NT and an excellent 11 IMP gain. Another couple of solid games by Dave and Phil ensured the opposition couldn't get away, all leading to an excellent win by 37 IMPs for 17.2 VPs.

After scoring up and relaxing at the table for a

couple of minutes, we heard a shout from the foyer. It was Dave – he had just seen the final results being posted up – and there on top, 0.9 VPs (!) in front of Sylvester and 2.4 VPs in front of Van Weeren were the Soldi team. Disbelief, surprise, elation and shock were all the emotions flowing through the team, but it was true – the Soldi team had won! Incredibly Van Weeren had lost to a novice team, while Sylvester had only a small win over Mietzke.

The whole team contributed strongly throughout the week but the individual highlights were obviously Ken's 7NT in the last match; Dave's incredible 17-point 4Sx, which he made for +790 and 12 IMPs (match 7, board 10 – Dave had 12 hcp and Phil 5); Lynne's solid play throughout in the North seat, steadily making tricky games that the opposition NS missed; Phil's defense was strong throughout and no match was complete without the opposition being set by Phil's last card !

After the wash-up, on datums, Phil and Dave ended up the #2 ranked pair from the field of 39 pairs, a massive achievement for a pair with only 120 MPs between them. This situation will not last long, however, with all the team gaining 10.98 gold points for their win.

This is a great achievement for the club and a massive well done to Lynne, Ken, Dave and Phil.

(Ed) I agree, well done. So what is this, fifteen minutes of fame or is it the start of a dynasty?

From Martin Bunder

The 2018 Canberra South West Pacific Teams by Martin Bunder

The teams for this tournament were ranked, by total master points, from 1 to 122. Our team, Duncan Munro, Tony Wright, Bill Fotheringham and I was 107, so very much a weak team. We were to play three 20 board matches per day for four days.

Our first match was against Team 46 and we won by 3 imps, which constitutes a draw.

Match 2 was against Team 118 and we won by 19 imps, so a good start. Match 3 was

against Team 24, which eventually qualified for the quarterfinals, we were thrashed by 63 imps!

Despite this big loss, our first match on Day 2 was against Team 39 and we had a draw. Based on our results so far, playing Team 78 should not have worried us, but we lost by 14 imps. Board 15, below, cost us exactly those 14 imps. Bill and I messed up our asking for Kings and so finished up in 6H, making 13, while the pair playing Duncan and Tony bid and made the grand slam.

S QJT974	
H 9	
D 976	
C QJT	
S AK652	S _
H A4	H KQJT873
D AK52	D T3
C A9	C K752
S 82	
H 652	
D QJ84	
C 8643	

Match 6 was against Team 111 and we lost by 9 imps, so two losses and a draw for the day.

On Day 3 we won Match 7 by 16 imps against Team 63 and Match 8 by 28 imps against Team 93, but against Team 75 we

had a 17 imp loss. One good hand from that match was Board 16, below, where, having a 7 card spade suit and two singletons, I opened 4S. This was doubled, but a lead of JC, 3 from dummy and AC from South allowed me to make (+790, -150 from our partners). It shows again that if the distribution is good, points don't matter.

S J53	
H KT53	
D QJ64	
C J9	
S KQT7642	S 87
H AQJ9	H AQJ9
D T83	D T83
C QT83	C QT83
S A	
H8642	
D AK952	
C A42	

The final day started with a 37 imp win over Team 90 and a 29 imp win over Team 84. The latter match had two interesting boards. In Board 9, below, Bill and I somehow missed our spade fit and I, as South, finished up in 3NT. For some strange reason neither opponent led clubs at any time and I made it! You've got to be lucky sometimes – 4S doesn't make!

S AK5

C AKJ4

H 4

At this stage we were running 42nd overall

D AK9532

but then lost by 58 imps to Team 49 and

C Q83

finished 67th out of 122, with 5 wins, 2

S -

S J6432

draws and 5 losses, but ahead of the other

H J9765

H A8

IBA teams. The tournament website shows

D QJ6

D T84

the team results, but also the total number

C A9652

C KJT

of imps (positive or negative compared to

S QT987

the datum) by each pair. Bill and I had the

H KQT32

equal 6th highest total! This, of course is not

D 7

at all a fair measure of performance, as it

C 74

was a Swiss tournament the leading pairs

kept playing against other leading pairs,

while we did not. Also some pairs played

fewer than 12 matches

In Board 10, below, our opponents bid up to 4S (which makes) we "saved" with 5H, which also made! Distribution again!

The website ranking of the pairs adjusts for

this by adding to each pair's total imps half

of the average imps (positive or negative)

gained by the pairs they played against and

then dividing by the number of matches

played. I don't know why the "half" part of

this formula is considered fair, I think it

favoured us, however Bill and I finished 26th

out of 267 pairs, ahead of players like

Warren Lazar and Pauline Gumby! The next

best IBA pair, at 115th, was Stuart Cutsforth

and Renate La Marra.

S 3

H AQT9432

D 432

C T3

S AQ954

S K82

(ED) Thanks Martin, pretty comprehensive.

H 75

H _

No podium finish but you were very

successfully punching way above your

D QJ98

D AKT65

weight. I guess distribution in bridge is like

location, location, location in real estate.

CQ9

C 87652

xxx

S JT76

More on SFoB. After last year SFoB, Marie

H KJ86

Pickering wrote an article on IBA

involvement in the tournament, numbers

and results etc, and sent it to ABF. This

D 7

article was then printed in the ABF
newsletter

In the lead up to SFoB 2018, whilst
advertising the event, the Waverley Bridge
Club in Melbourne showed a copy of
Marie's article. I think it's great that the IBA
name is being shown around the country.
First the country, then the world.

XXX

Andrew Smith, who lives there, tells me
that at The Links Retirement Village, IRT have
developed a fitness system for the elderly to
follow.

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface
where you have plenty of room at each
side. With a 1kg potato bag in each hand, extend
your arms straight out from the sides and hold
them there for as long as you can. Try to reach a
full minute and then relax. Each day you will
find you can hold this position for just a little
longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to a
2kg bag. Then try 5kg potato bags and
eventually try to get to a position where you can
hold a 10kg bag and hold your arms straight for
a full minute. Andrew is at this level. When you
are completely confident at that level, put a
potato in each bag.

(Ed) Thanks Andrew, funeeeee.

Always great to welcome new members.
Our ever busy secretary Lindsey has
forwarded the latest newbies. We welcome
you all and hope you get as much enjoyment
out of this frustrating game as I do.

Neil Benson

Margaret Johnson

Linda Harper

Patricia Cotter

Margaret Wright

Helen Laving

Paul Lavings

Maureen McKay

David Hunt

Trevor Caldwell

Robyn Wilson

Leigh Egan

Ellen Manning

Sandra Boyd

Warren Rich

Eugene Runko

Adrian Barnett

Elizabeth Davey

Nicole Patterson

John Taylor

Susan Hammond

Tony Hammond

During a session, some members seem to
have difficulty in knowing which table they
should move to. It's easy to remember, it is
always the same. E/W move to heaven, i.e.
to a higher number table. The boards go the
other way.

I was at my local shopping centre a few days
before Xmas. The usual type of 'beggars' were
there, buskers, Salvos etc. I was really surprised
to find Ani Basu was there, also begging for
money. Because we should always help our club
members, and as I felt sorry for Ani, I gave him
twenty dollars. He thanked me and sped off.
Most stories have two sides. The other side to
this one is that Ani found he was short of
something at home. So he jumped in the car,
drove five minutes to the shopping centre, spent
two hours trying to find a car spot. Finally got
one so into the shop, picked up the item he
wanted, went to the counter and, "Oh s---, I've
left my wallet at home". As he came out of the
shop, he saw me, told me the tale and borrowed
twenty dollars which he repaid the next day.
Bother, I've just done what an editor shouldn't
do, I've let the truth get in the way of a good

story. I'll never learn.

Enjoyable sex is like scoring well at bridge. All you need is a good partner or a very good hand.

It's a teams Thursday night event at Figtree. Rob is directing. He picks up the mike to advise that someone has left their car lights on. He states the number plate of the car. A female voice then asks, "What colour is it?"

BE KIND TO YOUR PARTNER

Aren't partners just impossible sometimes?? You're sitting there, minding your own business, and partner launches into surreal flights of fantasy, feats of bravado that would take pride of place at Waterloo and downright blind orneriness. Quite breathtaking.

Partner forgets that you (just yesterday) decided to play transfers to the Minors; changed your mind about reverse attitude and (you are quite certain) decided to use waiting bids. Partner forgets that change of suit is forcing and forgets that 2NT shows 10 – 12 and forgets that 2 over 1 shows at least 10 HCP and forgets that you are supposed to be playing Extended Stayman in 3rd seat and forgets that her last bid sounded awfully like a Reverse and forgets to return your lead, and forgets that you decided not to have sugar in your coffee any more. Partners just can't be trusted.

I have discovered, from dire experience, that if I want my partner to play well, I had better keep my criticism, helpful hints and sundry other lessons till after the end of the session.

As we all know, I have never been known to make a mistake *myself*, but in order to get the best out of the fairly poor excuse for a partner that I have been cursed with I need to remember that a happy partner will always play better than a stressed, anxious and nervous

partner. It is always tempting to want to share your limitless wisdom with partner, but the end of a particularly difficult hand is *not* the time.

I have heard of players who have called the Director to complain about their partners, and it is not uncommon for a pair to complain about bad behaviour at the table by their opponents.

Giving partner a lesson at the end of every hand just wastes time that should be spent on the next hand and creates a terrible atmosphere. Much better to say – bad luck partner, it was a hard hand – and take it up with her at a later time.

That way, you will get the best out of her. If partner continues to bid and play poorly you are much better off to try to find another, more suitable, partner. And, while you are deciding which of the few, brilliant, members of the club are worthy of your overall excellence, it would be a good time to take a step back and examine, objectively, all of 'partner's' mistakes. Is there even a small chance that some of them may just have been yours??

The above is a copy of an article in a Waverley Bridge Club newsletter.

I found myself constantly frustrated that my wife was always taking fully twenty minutes to cook breakfast. Therefore I made suggestions as to how this cooking could be speeded up. My suggestions have been accepted and breakfast cooking time has been shortened.

I now cook breakfast every day in under fifteen minutes.

Our directors have made suggestions as to how we can speed the game up. Apart from, "please do not have discussions after the hand is finished", another one of the points is; after the bidding has finished, if you are the opening lead, **before you do anything else**, look at your hand, decide which card you are going to play, and

place that card face down on the table. On the o.k. from your partner, turn the card face up. Only then should you mark down the contract.

We are asked to be seated at the table at least ten minutes prior to starting time. Some members may think this is tons of time for the director of the day. If you are one of them, try being a director. I bet you quickly have a change of mind.

In the last newsletter I printed an article received from an member about how some people have a reaction to perfume fumes. It rather surprised me and I thought it might be a one off case. Seems I am wrong. I have been approached by another member who claims to have strong reactions to perfume fumes, like migraine headaches. Now I have received, from Rob Kinloch, an article which was in the Summer Festival of Bridge 2017 write up. As follows.

It was reported to me that recently there was some unpleasantness at a table during a bridge session. The issue related to someone's perfume.

I will quote a short article that appeared in a bulletin from the Summer Festival of Bridge in 2017:

“Be Scent-sitive”

Some people have an extreme sensitivity to fragrances (colognes or perfumes). Because tournament bridge requires players to be in close proximity to each other, individuals who suffer from fragrance-related reactions cannot avoid those who are wearing them. Among the commonly reported symptoms are intense headaches (indeed, fragrances can frequently be a trigger for migraine sufferers) or breathing-related problems. For these individuals, the issue is much more serious than simply disliking a particular smell- it's a real health problem. Please give this issue the consideration it

deserves and avoid wearing cologne, perfume or scented lotions.”

The following also from Rob Kinloch.

PROBLEMS AT THE TABLE

I have been asked to comment on two areas causing concern at the table.

A.DUMMY’S OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS.

There has been some concern about the actions of Dummy at the table. Dummy has specific obligations and rights which are covered very clearly in the **2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge**. While I could summarise them it is better to see them in the “flesh”!!

LAW 42 –DUMMY’S RIGHTS

- ***Absolute Rights***

1. *Dummy is entitled to give information, in the Director’s presence, as to fact of law.*
2. *He may keep count of tricks won or lost.*
3. *He plays the cards of the dummy as declarer’s agent as directed and ensures that dummy follows suit (se Law 45F if dummy suggests a play)*

- ***Qualified Rights***

Dummy may exercise other rights subject to the limitations stated in Law 43.

1. *Dummy may ask declarer (but not a defender) when he has failed to follow suit to a trick whether he has a card of the suit led.*
2. *2. He may try to prevent any irregularity.*
3. *3. He may draw attention to any irregularity, but only after play of the hand is concluded.*

LAW 43 – DUMMY’S LIMITATIONS

Except as Law 42 allows:

Limitations on Dummy

- *(a) Dummy may not initiate a call for the Director during play unless*

another player has drawn attention to an irregularity.

(b) Dummy may not call attention to an irregularity during play.

(c) Dummy must not participate in the play, nor may he communicate anything about the play to declarer.

2. *(a) Dummy may not exchange hands with declarer.*

(b) Dummy may not leave his seat to watch declarer's play of the hand.

(c) Dummy may not look at the face of a card in either defender's hand.

3. *A defender may not show dummy his hand.*

Law 43 goes on to list what would happen if a violation occurs.

Players are not expected to remember what will occur. All they need to do is call for the Director!!

NOTE that the general tenor of the Laws 42 and 43 is that Dummy is really the agent of declarer- he/she must NOT suggest in any way how Declarer should play the hand.

This is spelt out very clearly in:

Law 45 F – Dummy Indicates Card
After dummy's hand is faced, dummy may not touch or indicate any card (except for the purpose of arrangement) without instruction from declarer. If he does so the Director should be summoned forthwith and informed of the action. Play continues. At the end of the play the Director shall award an adjusted score if he considers dummy suggested a play to declarer and the defenders were damaged by the play suggested.

SO WHEN YOU ARE DUMMY ACT LIKE A DUMMY!!

● UNAUTHORISED INFORMATION

“Any extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorized”

The use of unauthorized information creates lots of tension at the table. No one likes to be accused of “cheating.” Yet that is how we feel if the Director is called over the use of unauthorised information. It is also one of the reasons that the Director is often NOT called- no one wants to call their opponent a “cheat”!

My contention is that very few people actually “cheat”. They become so involved in the game and are so keen to do well that they often overstep the mark and indicate to partner through some means a play or call while partner is thinking or after partner has made the wrong call/play!! This is termed “unauthorised information”

Law 16 has lots of information on Authorised and Unauthorised Information. The most relevant to this discussion follows:

- ***Extraneous Information from Partner***
- *Any extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorised. This includes remarks, questions, replies to questions, unexpected alerts or failures to alert, unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism.*
- *A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if*

the other call or play is a logical alternative,

- *A logical alternative is an action that a significant proportion of the class of players in question, using the methods of the partnership, would seriously consider, and some might select.*
- *When a player considers that an opponent has made such information available and that damage could well result he may announce, unless prohibited by the Regulating Authority (which may require that the Director be called), that he reserves the right to summon the Director later (the opponents should summon the Director immediately if they dispute the fact that unauthorized information might have been conveyed).*
- *When a player has substantial reason to believe that an opponent who had a logical alternative has chosen an action suggested by such information, he should summon the Director when play ends (It is an infraction to call the Director earlier or later). The Director shall assign an adjusted score (see Law 12C1) if he considers that an infraction of law has resulted in an advantage for the offender.*

Bridge, unlike most card games is a very ethical pursuit. Hence the number of laws and the current controversy concerning world class players allegedly involved in cheating. Indeed Laws 73 and 74 are very specific on Communication, tempo and deception and Conduct and Etiquette! – PERHAPS THE GRIST FOR A LATER ARTICLE!
BUT TO THE MATTER AT HAND!

What I like about Law 16 is that while bridge is supposed to be very ethical the Laws seem to me to take into account that Bridge is played by humans! And as such we are all fallible! While we all try to play with a poker face most of us find this impossible! How many times have we drawn a loud in-take of breath when partner has done something we did not want/expect? How often has our hand or head

hit the table when he/she leads the wrong suit? As dummy have you inadvertently indicated a card which declarer should play because you know this is what will win the trick?

The above are infractions but what the laws bring to our game is an understanding of us as humans. The law makers realise that we may make mistakes. So they have written into the laws (Law 16 in particular) that partner may not take any action inferred from any unauthorised bits of information we might “inadvertently” convey.

SO WHILE OUR ACTIONS SUCH AS HESITATIONS, FINGER TAPPING, HEAD-BUTTING THE TABLE ETC MAY BE VIOLATIONS THE BIGGER VIOLATION IS FOR PARTNER TO USE THIS UNAUTHORISED INFORMATION!

Your unauthorised information may have woken partner up to the “best” play. If he/she now chooses this play then the Director needs to work out whether there was a logical alternative action. Note that you, by your actions have put partner under enormous pressure! Best advice is for partner to do what he/she would have done and let the Director decide. In all cases the Director will rule so as not to disadvantage the non-offending side!

If an infraction may have or has occurred then call the Director. Let him/her sort it out. Note that you can “politely” point out that there has been some unauthorised information and that you reserve the right to call the Director. Note also that the opponents can dispute this if they so wish. AT THIS POINT THE DIRECTOR MUST BE CALLED.

The important thing here is to NOT think that someone is cheating or trying to take advantage or that your opponent is calling you a cheat!

Yes we become upset at what happens because we are competitive and we want to do the best we can and it is hard enough when the cards don’t fall our way and now the opponents are conspiring against us!!!

Take a breath..... take another breath!

Let's all try to do the right thing! Try to play in tempo, keep all thoughts and mannerisms to ourselves. Don't help partner by any actions or mannerisms – we know he/she needs all the help in the world but we can always point this out in the post-mortem and then find ourselves looking for a new partner!!!

We all make mistakes! If we didn't we would be playing bridge at a much higher level than we currently are!!

Rob Kinloch

The Titanic Has Sunk

Grant Cowen & Judy Kingston are bridge partners. I'm not sure how long they have been playing bridge but I think I heard them say that they had spent many an enjoyable evening playing bridge with Adam & Eve. Grant & Judy went to SFoB to play in a Pairs comp, hoping for some success. Alas, it was not to be, especially on one particular hand. Grant & Judy bid to 3NT and that won the contract. So how many tricks did they make? None. None. 9 off. I imagine you less experienced players are thinking that you have never done that. Please do not be discouraged, keep trying and maybe one day you will be able to emulate Grant & Judy on a 3NT hand.

Latest Grand Slam winners were Steve & Liz Hurley.

Hogs.

Plan the Play 1

The ♥J is led against your 4♠ contract. Counting your losers, you see you have 4 possibles, assuming you do not lose a trump trick – two Hearts and two Clubs. In order to avoid a trump loser, trumps must be 3/2. This will only leave the Heart and Club losers.

1. You could hope that Clubs break 3/3 – against the odds. 2. If Clubs are 4/2, you could hope to trump a Club in dummy – unlikely to work. If you don't draw the

opponent's trumps, you could well be over-ruffed.

2. The solution is to concentrate on dummy's Diamonds. Win the Heart Ace and draw two rounds of trumps with the ♠A and ♠Q. Play the ♦A and then draw a third round of trumps with dummy's ♠K. Now lead dummy's ♦Q and discard a Heart or Club loser from your hand. West will win the trick with the ♦K but you can later get to dummy with the ♣K to discard another loser on the ♦J.

Plan the Play 2

What is your plan for ensuring 9 tricks? There is one sure trick in Spades, one in Hearts, and three in Clubs. You will need four more tricks, which can be promoted in Diamonds if you drive out the Ace. It seems to be perfectly safe to play the ♠Q at trick one, even if it loses to the King you will have a second winner with the Jack. But what if East takes the King and switches to a Heart? To ensure your contract, take the ♠A at trick one and set about getting rid of the ♦A. If the defenders take the ♠K after winning the ♦A you will still have your overtrick. If they switch to Hearts, as they should, you **will still get your nine tricks**

Sign outside a church.

Honk if you love Jesus.

Text if you want to meet him.

That's my lot for this issue. I will attach Committee Jottings when they come to hand. I have no doubt they will contain "Get Well" wishes for our President Jill. I, and every member, join in those wishes. We look forward to seeing your smiling face back amongst us Jill. Make it soon,

Till Next Time

P.B.G.(Ed).

Jottings from the Committee Meeting

Saturday 10th February 2018

Jill our President is in Wollongong Hospital following her overseas holiday. We miss her, wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to having her back as our President and at the bridge table.

Office manager report by Ken:

- The new fridge is a great success
- The director's area has been tidied up and there is now 18 tables available for all sessions and the free space allows us to set up 2 extra tables with the minimum of fuss. Beyond 20/21 tables on a Wed there is no real answer as the APA hall is not available.
- Ken will be on holidays over the next 5 weeks. Ken and Lynne Soldi will be looking after us during this period, if you can help them during a session that will be great.
- Many thanks Ken for all your work at our club and we all wish you a very enjoyable holiday.

iBand report by Barbara:

- All going well at Thirroul
- Barbara looking at a timer for the club. Moved that Barbara investigate the best way of doing this.
- Moved that Barbara uses the trolley for her director's use and that the old books be made available to club members.

Tournament Committee

- Halls booked for all Congresses. Entries on line, we are waiting information on ethics/regulations for congresses and will then decide whether they are adopted for club events a well.

Business Plan:

- Teaching Bridge in schools, Ngaire, Steve H and Marie are in the planning process. Helpers needed as support people at the lessons. If you

can help, you will need to complete a "Working with Children" check on line. See one of the team if you can help.

- "Improving our Bidding" lessons on Monday 26th Feb and Monday 26th March at IBA Figtree, 9.30am to 11.30am. Please put your name on the clipboard at Figtree or Thirroul so that there is adequate resources available.

Suggestion Box

- Hi /Lo session numbers, can we book APA hall? Yes, Ken will investigate this for the Saturday ones for this year but the APA hall is not available on Wed. this year. We will also look at this when the calendar is being prepared for 2019.

General Business

- A big thank you to Andrew Smith for all his directing during January.
- Xmas Party: Ken to check availability of APA hall.
- Hi-Lo, highs to nominate good play by lows
- Acknowledge of winners/good results from other tournaments: on our honour board for a period of time, in our newsletters, on our website and in our annual report.
- Bridge at UOW, Carol talking to Tim and Ian and is offering support from IBA in setting up an affiliated club at Wollongong Uni.
- There will be reserved signs on certain tables on Wed and Sat. Thank you for your understanding.
- Car parking concerns, Marie to write to David Farmer re the situation.
- Thank you to everyone who has paid their annual dues.
- Please read Rob's articles on "Problems at the Table". Remember it is all our responsibility to behave ethically at all times and to be aware of our obligations.

PS: I spoke to Jill this morning (Sunday)

and she is feeling 150% better than last week. She asked me to say thank you for all the good wishes. Jill will be in hospital for another couple of weeks.

Marie Pickering.

