



NEWSLETTER

Illawarra Bridge Association

Edited by Peter Graham

Feb 2016

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♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT

Coming Soon

Feb

Thurs 11th Country Teams Qualifying

Sat 13th Committee

Mon 15th Red Masterpoints

Fri 19th Gold Coast Congress

Sat 20th Nation Wide Pairs

Mon 22nd Red Masterpoints

Wed 24th Hi-Lo 1

Thurs 25th Lessons 1

March

Thurs 3rd Karhof Trophy 1

Lessons 2

Sat 5th Red Masterpoints, Nation Wide Pairs

Thurs 10th Karhof Trophy 2

Lessons 3

Sat 12 Red Masterpoints 2

Mon 14th Swiss Pairs 1

Thurs 17th Lessons 4

Sat 19th Red Masterpoints 3,
Nation Wide Pairs

Sun 20th Kiama Restricted Pairs

Mon 21st Swiss Pairs 2

Thurs 24^h Egglecric 1

Lessons 5

Fri 25th Good Friday

Sat 26th Easter Egglecric 2

Mon 28th Easter Egglecric 3.

Please note that , contrary to what is printed in the Diary, lessons will be held on Thursdays at 9am., at least for the first set of lessons.

Outside Events

On 23/24 April this year, Southern Highlands Bridge Club will be hosting the State Novice and Restricted Pairs on behalf of the NSWBA. This is for players with less than 100 masterpoints and less than 300 masterpoints, as of 1st January 2016. Full details are on a flier on the the club notice board.

State Veterans Pairs will be held July 29-31, again at Bowral. Fliers will be placed on notice board when received, if not already there.

One outside event which has recently finished is the Canberra Festival of Bridge. Our club had some success there with Colin Bale & Rut Neild winning the Swiss Pairs, Ngaire Meehan and Elizabeth Cusack coming second in the Super Novices. Congratulations to those members.

I asked members for reports from Canberra as I like reading those members experiences at oher clubs and I would believe I am not Robinson Crusoe in that. Three members, Judy Kingston, Liz Cusack and Julie Cowling have been good enough to do so. Here are their reports .

From Ruth Neild.

Colin and I won the Penline 500 Swiss Pairs at the Summer Festival of Bridge

in Canberra. Since the entrants are restricted to less than 500 Masterpoints, the competition is not as strong as even at our own club. However, you have to produce the goods over the 2 days, and we did!

It's often surprising when you look at the results to see what makes a good score. For example, we were defending after a 1NT opening when the responder went into a long huddle. Finally he produced 2S*, a transfer to clubs, and more angst from him. With a bit of prompting from me, he came up with 4NT asking, and then the same game from him. The directors looked like they might have been to the same school as Jeff, and I was worried about the time. I sweetly suggested that I might have to call the director for slow play, when he whipped out 6C and put down a dummy with a very nice club suit. But off two. Good board for us, we thought. Not so. No game makes. Our partners are both good readers and managed to amuse themselves over the weekend, and were pleased to meet some of the members of the club at Judy, Lynne and Ken's "Drinks and Dinner".

And despite the crazy entry in the festival bulletin, I can assure there was no prizemoney. We'll just have the satisfaction of finally winning something - and the 16+ Gold points.

Regards, Ruth.

From Julie Cowling

The cuties conquer Canberra...well almost
Several of us super novice and rising star players ventured to Canberra again in January for the National Congress. Yes we are brave. There was some success with Ngaire and Liz coming in second in the pairs in their division. The rest of us will be back next year in the hope of improving our results. All is never lost though, since our mandatory presence at both the welcome cocktail

party and the presentation cocktail party meant lots of champagne was consumed and the prawn snacks gobbled down as quickly as they came out. The days were longish and mentally draining but that did not stop most of us socializing well into the evening. The restaurants near our accommodation in Kingston were plentiful and we sampled as many as we could manage in the four nights we stayed. Most were deemed worthy of a return visit next congress. Our evening conversation ranged from "when to duck" to "do you want to be euthanised?" There was no definitive answer to either question but much red wine was enjoyed whilst deliberating the question.

Connie did well clambering onto the bus unaided after double knee surgery only a few weeks previous. Our driver from our accommodation to the venue each day always kept us amused and says he loves his job driving us girls around but was a bit suspicious of Graham. We look forward to another congress in 2017 and I encourage anyone to come and play in the section appropriate to their ability. Julie.

From Liz Cusack.

We the Super Novices of bridge with about seven MPs between us, travelled intrepidly to Canberra last month for three days of competition, 1 for pairs and 2 for teams. This being the second year putting ourselves on the line, we were perhaps not just as nervous as last year as we both knew what to expect. Wednesday 13th January was the Super Novice pairs for 0 to 20 MPs, with 11x twenty boards in the morning and the same in the afternoon. Ngaire and I plodded along, carefully bidding and not taking too many risks. At lunch we were told we were in the lead for E/W pairs but we didn't really believe this although our club member friends were telling us not to let it go to our head. Again in the afternoon we played along steadily not thinking about results so it

was with surprise and pleasure that we discovered at the end of play that we had come second out of thirty pairs, with 60.41%, 1.54% behind the winners. We were presented with plaques and had our photos taken with rather stunned but happy expressions.

Our play over the next two days was more challenging. Our Super Novice teams division was combined with Rising Stars, (20 – 50 MPs), so was of a higher standard. We finished coming 5th out of 10 in the Super Novice teams division, playing with Marie Pickering and Chris Yates, and 9th out of 14 in the two divisions combined. We found our three days of play enjoyable, if exhausting and we now have increased enthusiasm to improve and continue learning the many intricacies of this challenging game called bridge. The dinners and after parties each day were most enjoyable too, and as we had 14 club members all staying at the same apartments, you can imagine the fun and frivolity. We would like to thank all the people in our Illawarra Bridge Club who have taken the time to help us over the eighteen months we have partnered each other. There are too many to name individually but we are grateful for the friendliness and giving nature of our club members, especially at the HI-LO events which have all been an invaluable help to our progress. Also we recommend and encourage other Super Novices in our club to have a go. Maybe we'll see you at Canberra next January.

LizCusack & Ngaire Meehan.

Nan Akitt

Marion Lerman was in contact with Nan Akitt a few weeks ago. Nan says she has settled well in Bathurst and all is good.

I felt pleasure in hearing that, and I'm sure so will you all. I remember Nan as a lady who was a 'lady'.

Further to that, Hazel Holmwood now tells me that she has just contacted Nan,

and Nan is over the moon that she has just reached 1,000 masterpoints. Because nearly all of these points were won at our club, she says she will be sending a note of thanks to the club.

Henrica Cary

Nice to have a visit from ex-member Henrica Cary.

Henrica moved to Melbourne some couple of years ago to be closer to family. She is on a holiday excursion and was stopping in Wollongong before heading back to Melbourne. She is not playing bridge in Melbourne as the bridge hall is quite a distance from where she lives and the traffic is rather heavy. She would have been pleased with the welcome she received from our members when she played at Figtree. Despite not playing bridge for a long time, she still scored well against the experts.

This n That

The following is from a 'Letters To The Editor' column. It has whiskers on it as it happened some fifty years ago. It was sent to the Editor of 'The Bridge World' in America. It read as follows; 'To The Editor': It was a great surprise and delight to receive your letter informing me that I had won the December "You Be The Judge" contest. In the same mail I received a summons to jury duty.

Charles J. Schmidt, Schenectady, N.Y.

Whilst on the subject of newspapers, a West Australian newspaper reported that a woman had sued a Perth hospital saying that after her husband had surgery there, he lost all interest in sex. A hospital spokesperson replied, "Her husband was admitted for cataract surgery. All we did was correct his eyesight".

John Spira

Inci Khoury brought a newspaper cutting in to Figtree and stuck it on the notice board. It was a photo from the recent Bulli Folk Music Festival. It showed a small band group and playing in the band was our member John Spira. I've always considered John a quiet, unassuming gentleman, more considerate of others rather than himself. I never thought there would come the day when I would see John blowing his own trumpet. Just goes to show, you never know.

Sporting?

During a normal Wednesday session, my partner and I arrived at Larry & Jill Regterschots' table. They were talking about some unusual bidding on their previous hand. Jill had opened and made four bids, 2C-4C-5C-7cC. Jill felt this was unique bidding for her four bids, all clubs. 7C was a brave bid, but can't make, going one off and a bottom on that board. My partner and I had sympathy for her bad luck, so much so that we let them make 4Hx next hand and a top for them. Actually, 4H can only make if a particular opening lead card is led. Guess what.

Wrong Phone Number

In our Club Diary, the phone number for Martin Bunder is listed as 42285637. That is incorrect. It should be 42275637. Further to the above: A week or two back, Bill Fotheringham phoned Martin. When a woman answered the phone, Bill asked to speak to Martin. "There is no Martin here" was the reply. Assuming he had mis-dialed, Bill apologised and hung up. He then re-checked the Diary number and carefully dialed the 'correct' number. When a lady answered, Bill asked to speak to Martin. "Someone keeps phoning and asking for

Martin", was the reply, "and there is no Martin lives here".

"That was me", said Bill", and again apologised. (ED), Shame on you Bill, disturbing a little old lady from having her Nanny Nap by phoning the wrong number. Twice.

Lucky?

First prize for confusing the opposition lately goes to Warren Parker. Warren opened 1NT. His partner, Pat, bid 2D-transfer to Hearts. Warren bid 4S and we all wondered what was going on. 4S was the contract. Warren had five spades to the AQJ and Pat came up with the Kx. Opposition were 3-3 in spades so they ran. Warren had Ax in Hearts and Pat had five to the KQ. Opposition had 3-3 in Hearts so they ran, giving Warren three discards. Twelve tricks was the end result. Warren had a 5-2-1-5 hand. Not recommended as a 1NT opening in any book I've read. Fortune favours the brave so well done Warren.

Who Dares, Wins

This forwarded to me by Rob Kinloch. The heroine is Melissa Ardern.

PLAY LIKE YOU BID

There is an adage in bridge that goes something like this:

"You need to play as well as you bid"

Melissa Ardern proved this on a hand on Saturday. Sitting North you hold:

♠ KJ752

♥ 109

♦ A

♣ AQ1095

The bidding at our table:

W	N	E	S
P	1S	P	2NT*
P	4NT	P	5S**
P	7S		

* 13+ HCPs & 4+ spades

** 2 Aces + trump Q

A spade is led and partner (Walt Davis) puts down dummy:

- ♠AQ98
- ♥AJ743
- ♦QJ7
- ♣2

So you will need to ruff out Clubs but what to do about that Heart loser!

Melissa reasoned that she would need a ruffing finesse in Diamonds and essentially the same play in Clubs. So to the play! Melissa drew trumps in 2 rounds, cashed the DA and played a heart across to Dummy's Ace. She now ran the DQ (the ruffing finesse) pause for dramatic effect covered.... (YES one King in the right place!). She now cashed the CA and ruffed a Club noting the fall of the CJ. In dummy she played the DJ to discard the Heart, returned to hand via a Heart ruff, played another Club and saw the Club K fall and claimed 13 tricks.

Well done!!! A grand slam on a combined 28 HCP count.

the odd 3 Kings missing but who needs them in distributional hands! – ‘points schmoints’ as I'm unsure of the odds of the CK falling in 3 rounds holding a combined 6 cards in the suit and there are more scientific ways of bidding the Grand Slam. As well, from the bidding partner has shown 10HCPs of the 13+ needed to bid the supporting 2NT. How many more can he have?? While the North hand is a 5 loser hand there are Marty Bergen says – AND no one can argue with success!

The bid and play is all the more praiseworthy because on the hand before against the same opponents Melissa and Walt bid slowly to an unmakeable small slam!

For the record 4S was bid 8 times making 13 on 4 occasions and 12 on 4; 5 S was bid once making 13;

6 S was bid twice, once making 11 and once 12; 7 S was bid twice making 12 once and 13 ONCE!!

Well done again Melissa – a worthy entry in

the Grand Slam Club!
Rob Kinloch

The full hand

BD:	♠KJ75	Dlr: W
24	2	Vul: None
	♥T9	
	♦A	
	♠AQT9	
	5	
♠63		♠T4
♥K52		♥Q86
♦KT6		♦98543
2		
♣864		♣KJ7
3		
	♠AQ98	
	♥AJ74	
	3	
	♦QJ7	
	♣2	
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
N	4 2 5 7 5	1
S	4 2 5 7 4	4
E	- - - - -	6
W	- - - - -	1
		4

Poems

I have received love poems from one of our female members. Get rid of that gleam in your eyes you wicked minded people. They are not for me personally but for consideration for inclusion in the newsletter. Lurline Bell evidently enjoys doodling with poems and gave them to me for newsletter consideration. Here is

a sample of her work.

Memories

Treasure every memory, store them all
away,
Remember how it feels to love, you'll
need them all someday,
Recapturing sweet moments, of love
and all its joys
Recall just how you wanted love when
you were just a boy,
Don't miss on life, my love, It's the only
thing worth having,
And the secret of a happy life is loving,
sharing, giving.

Mirrors

Many mirrors I seem to see
Reflecting different images of me,
On one side I see a woman,
Emotions rent from loving someone,
On the other side I see,
The contented woman I used to be,
Can love really have wrought this
change,
And brought about my minds derange,
The next reflection that I see
Is a different scene of me,
Smiling, happy, loving thee,
Is that the woman I'm going to be?
(Ed). Not bad, Lurline, I reckon Robbie
Burns would have given you pass
marks.

Did You Ever Notice?

Glenys Coomer has been studying a
playing pack of cards and has come to

this conclusion.

Kings look arrogant,
Queens look very sad,
Jacks are laughing.
Have a look. Any comments?.

One for Us Guys

As you all know, I like to include a joke
or two in the newsletter. Now that 2015
has come and gone, I wonder what was
the best joke of the year.

Maybe this one.

'Two women are sitting together, quietly
minding their own business.'

Having printed that, I will now don a suit
of armour and disappear into the wide
blue yonder,

Till Next Time,
P.B.G, (Ed).