



# NEWSLETTER

## Illawarra Bridge Association

Edited by Dave Gallagher

FEBRUARY 2020

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At the commencement of this new bridge year it is worth noting how the membership numbers at IBA have increased in recent times. During 2019 the membership grew by 9% and recently table numbers at the Tuesday and Thursday supervised sessions have regularly been as high as 11. A new batch of recruits will appear at the next 'Learn to Play Bridge' lessons commencing on 5<sup>th</sup> March and members are encouraged to spread the word to family and friends about this. All of these happenings are testament to the enthusiasm and effectiveness of our committee who should be congratulated for their efforts.

The IBA 25<sup>th</sup> birthday commemoration is coming soon. Make a note of the **16<sup>th</sup> May 2020** in your diary. The management committee is working hard to ensure that the event will be one to remember. Volunteers are being sought to assist in the planning and members are encouraged not to be shy about putting their hands up.

### **Jottings from the Committee Meeting 8 February 2020.**

Contributed by Marie Pickering

#### **Office manager report by Ken:**

Ken reported that 2020 has presented no housekeeping problems. The bag rack has been extended which gave the opportunity to prune the library to a more manageable size. Liz Cusac has kindly offered to take up the position of librarian and Paul Lavings is supplying 6 books as a start to restocking with some new publications. Many thanks to Paul.

Ken presented to the committee an outline of the program "**Sponsoring a child**

**through the Smith Family to further their schooling"** for consideration. The matter will be discussed at the next committee meeting and members are asked to submit any comments on this through a committee member.

#### **IBAND report**

Barbara reported that IBAND will be celebrating 14 years of Bridge at Thirroul on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020.

Monday nights have been steady with 6-7 tables, Wednesday nights are less consistent with 5 tables on average and Fridays are bursting at the seams with 9 to 11 tables. We managed to squeeze 13 tables into the hall for our recent Christmas Party. The TRIPS teams' event on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February is in hand with 12

teams entered and Rob Kinloch directing. Sandwiches are being provided by the TRIPS members and IBAND will provide slices and a fruit platter. The committee wishes them all a great day of celebration.

### **Rural Fire Service Fund Raiser**

A Red Point event will run on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February and the Australian Bridge Federation has offered to waive Red Master point fees so that all table fees collected on the day can be donated to the Rural Fire Service. A donation box will also be available for members to make personal donations to this most worthy cause.

Some of our neighbouring bridge communities were unfortunate to be affected by the recent bushfires and Kaye Hart in her role as a NSWBA committee member has sought support from other clubs to assist these affected clubs. The committee decided to assist by providing bridge equipment to replace that which was lost in the fires and/or to make a financial contribution once information has been provided by the affected Clubs.

### **Tournament Committee**

The committee met on 25<sup>th</sup> January and confirmed all events for the next few months.

There is a reminder for the new format for the Pairs Championship starting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Members are encouraged to ask a committee member about the new format if they are not sure how the event is to be run.

### **Financial Report**

Ngaire reported that our financial responsibilities are being met. Annual subscription fees are now due and can be paid to Ngaire, Ken or a committee member.

### **Business Plan:**

A brief discussion occurred in relation to supporting/mentoring beginner players to progress from their supervised play sessions to the regular open bridge sessions. You do not have to be an expert player but one who is willing to play with and support them. If you are interested in this or would like more information please see Jill or Marie.

**Next Committee meeting Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 10am**

### **Coronavirus**

**Bridge is a CONTACT sport so be aware that Coronavirus is coming our way.**

At the bridge table we need to be aware of hand and respiratory hygiene. Carol Jeffs has prepared an advisory document on this which has been placed on the bridge tables for members to study so that they are aware of recommended procedures. The club will be supplying hand sanitiser for use at the tables. Please do not come to play if you are feeling unwell, particularly if you have upper respiratory symptoms.

### **Our Bridge Club Library**

Contributed by our newly appointed Librarian – Liz Cusac

We currently have 63 books about Bridge in our Club Library available for borrowing. The previously used card system has been replaced with a large book (located on the library shelf) which is to be used to record book title, your name and date of borrowing. To return the book you just need to enter the returning date and place the book back on the shelf. If you come across any new book that you think our club cannot possibly do without,

please see me and I will endeavour to have it purchased for us all.

### **Nationwide Pairs won by Ruth Neild and Karel Hensen**

The Nationwide Pairs event No. 21 was conducted on 28 November 2019 and there were some notable results from IBA members:

Congratulations to Ruth Neild and Karel Hensen who won the event with a percentage score of 75.04%.

Other notable performances were:

13<sup>th</sup> R. Kinloch and J. Carberry 65.9%  
30<sup>th</sup> A. Smith and C. Ashcroft 62.6%  
33<sup>rd</sup> L. Hurley and S. Hurley 61.8%  
34<sup>th</sup> S. Cutsworth and D. Gallagher 61.3%

The event was conducted Nationally with 479 competing pairs, so not a bad effort from the IBA members.

### **Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge - 2020**

IBA was represented by 29 members at this major event on the Australian Bridge Federation's calendar. All seemed to be enjoying the experience as can be seen by the group photo over the page.

### **The Canberra Red Plum Life Masters Teams- won by IBA 'Fotheringham Team'**

Contributed by Martin Bunder:

This team tournament was restricted to non grand Master players. Our team which included Stuart Cutsworth, Renate La Marra, Bill Fotheringham and myself was seeded 4<sup>th</sup> out of 18 entered teams.

We started against team seeded 16 which should have been a win for us but we lost by 17 to 33 imps thanks to some bad breaks and some bad play by us.

We played Team 2 next which had also lost in the first round and we won 45 to 37. We then played Team 1 which had also started badly and drew 55 to 55.

Here is an interesting hand from this round. I was seated North, the dealer was West and NS was vulnerable:

S: KJT8543

H:-

D: A9542

C:5

S: 92

H: A872

D: 7

C: KJT743

S:AQ76

H: KQJT5

D: QT

C: Q9

S: -

H: 9643

D: KJ863

C: A862

The bidding went Pass, 3S, 3NT, Pass, Pass.

My thinking in the North seat was that if Bill had something in Spades or Diamonds 4S could make for us or go only 1 off.

With Bill and I having only 16 HCP's I bid 4S over the opposition's 3NT which was understandably doubled by East. I made the contract with 10 tricks but with the club lead could have made 11 tricks. Regardless it was a big point swing for us.

The second day we had 61 to 37, 75 to 36 and 50 to 37 wins which put us into 4<sup>th</sup> place for the third and final day.

On the final day we won the 1<sup>st</sup> match 84 to 27 which promoted us to 1<sup>st</sup> and then in the 2<sup>nd</sup> match we won 69 to 31 which put us only 6.5VP's ahead of 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team. As they had to play team 12 and we had to play team 3 in the final match the 6.5VP lead was not a safe margin.

Team 2 won their match by 19.79 VP's (out of 20) and fortunately we won ours by 15.11 VP's so we won.

To our surprise we got, not only a medal and our names on a perpetual trophy but also prize money of \$250 each. See over the page for presentation photo.

## PAUL LAVINGS – NATIONAL SENIORS TEAMS EVENT CANBERRA

Paul was a member of the ‘Burgess’ team in this highly competitive event at the Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge. Here is a brief summary of the teams’ progress to the Final where they were eventually beaten by the ‘Lilley’ team:

In the qualifying stages the Burgess team (Stephen Burgess, George Kozakos, Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, Simon Hinge and Stephen Lester) was running 20<sup>th</sup> out of 32 teams with only 3 of 9 rounds to play but zoomed back with 3 big wins to finish 4<sup>th</sup> and reach the semi finals. In the first semi final they overcame the number 1 ranked Buchen team (Peter Buchen, Terry Brown, Ron Klinger, Ian Thomson, Andrew Braithwaite and Arjuna De Livera).

The Burgess team then played the Lilley team in the final but never got going and were well beaten.

Congratulations Paul on making the final. (See over page for photo)

## RANK PROMOTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

### Graduate Master: Master points

Judy Starr 2.19

Edith McNally 2.08

Ron McNally 2.08

### Club Master:

Anne Easterman 6.37

Gae Southwell 5.59

Robert Forbes 5.03

Neil Grant 5.30

Bill Roberts 5.12

### Local Master:

Christine Yates 35.70

### State Master:

Jon Smith 69.64

### National Master:

Jillian MacRae 163.36

### Bronze Life:

Stephen Brell 428.31

### Silver Life:

Renate La Marra 526.92

## Claire Stammel – The 2019 NSWBA Congress player of the year less than 100 master points.

Claire won this prestigious award whilst a member of the St George Budapest Bridge Club and has recently been a regular player at Figtree and Thirroul with her husband Robert.

Congratulations Claire

## Country teams qualifiers

This event was conducted on Thursdays 30 January and 6 February. Results were:

1<sup>st</sup> place Hurley team ( Stephen and Liz Hurley, Tim Marchant and Ian Porter).

2<sup>nd</sup> place Kingston team (Judy Kingston, Dave Gallagher, Grant and Lucy Cowen).

3<sup>rd</sup> place Pickering team (Marie Pickering, Carolyn Githens, Andrew Smith and Cathy Ashcroft).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Listed here are important future IBA events. For a comprehensive listing of events members should refer to the IBA calendar booklet.

## IBA club pairs qualifiers:

This event is designed to determine the best competing pair at the various IBA sessions. There will be 3 qualifying ‘weeks’ during February, March and May with a total of 9 sessions. For those who are interested in the detail of how this event is to be conducted a ‘flyer’ has been prepared by the Tournament Committee

and is available at Figtree. Members can also talk to a Committee member.

Details of the qualifying sessions are:

### **Qualifying week 1 sessions;**

Monday February 10

Thursday February 13

Saturday February 15

### **Qualifying week 2 sessions;**

Saturday March 21

Monday March 23

Thursday March 26

### **Qualifying week 3;**

Monday May 18

Thursday May 21

Saturday May 23

The final will be held on Saturdays: 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> November.

### **Hi Lo**

Wednesday 19 February

### **Karhof Trophy weeks 1 and 2**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

### **Swiss Pairs**

Mondays 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March

### **Practice teams**

Wednesday 11 March

### **Teams Championship 1&2**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

### **Kiama Restricted Pairs**

29<sup>th</sup> March

This event is very popular and usually fills up very quickly. Previously, there has been a lot of interest from IBA members, so keep an eye on this one.

### **Calendar addenda**

To keep your IBA calendar booklet up to date the following amendments should be made:

Liz Cusak no longer has a land line, please delete this.

29<sup>th</sup> February – RFS RED points Saturday session, 1.30pm start

4<sup>th</sup> August, Introductory lessons at Figtree to replace the October block of lessons.

### **IBA 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY - 16 May 2020.**

Contributed by Jill MacRae:

To fully celebrate 25 wonderful years of Bridge at IBA the Management Committee is keen to publish an anniversary book. We aim to show the history and development of the club by collating members' memories of events and people. We are looking for personal stories about what inspired you to take up Bridge and of those people who had an effect on your bridge experience. Anything that captures the essence of the community that has developed within and beyond the Figtree Community Centre is sought.

Members are encouraged to submit their written accounts to Jill MacRae or otherwise tell your story to Rilla England who has volunteered to turn it into written words.

**We would like to have a 3 person panel to collate and prepare the items submitted and are looking for volunteers who think they may be able to assist.**

We are also still looking for any suggestions from members that might help us to celebrate the anniversary in style.

## RULES CORNER

### Notes on Dummy

Dummy should only touch the cards when playing the nominated card.

They should not play any card until it is nominated by the declarer even if it is obvious to play, e.g. a singleton.

Dummy can attempt to stop declarer committing an infraction e.g. They may ask the declarer (but not the defender) when he has failed to follow suit to a trick whether they have a card of that suit (No more hearts, partner?).

If an infraction has been committed they cannot call the director.

Dummy may not call attention to any irregularity during play.

Dummy may not initiate a call for Director  
Dummy may draw attention to any irregularity after play of the hand is completed.

## VALE DAVID LING

It is with much sadness that we announce the death of our esteemed member David Ling.

David has been a loyal member of the club and played bridge up to his last trip to hospital. He will be sadly missed.

RIP

President

**So that the newsletter is interesting and satisfies the needs of IBA members everyone is encouraged to provide feedback and suggested items for inclusion in future issues.**

## Summer Festival of Bridge

Canberra January 2020



*“the illawarra mob”*

# Summer Festival of Bridge Canberra January 2020



*Paul Lavings and his playing partner Robert Krochmalik  
at the National Senior Teams event in Canberra.*



*Stuart Cutsworth, Renate La Marra, Bill Fotheringham  
and Martin Bunder receiving their trophy and cheque*