

Illawarra Bridge Association

Newsletter August 2021

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1 Editorial

Well, what can you say? A couple of months at the Hellenic Club (we all thank them for their hospitality during our residency) and we thought face-to-face bridge was back for good.....and it was looking even more promising when we were allowed to return to the clubrooms....yet more promising when we could hold the 2021 Chris Diment Memorial Congress. However, now we find ourselves in a lockdown with an uncertain, unpredictable few weeks ahead. Having said this, we seem to have made a very smooth transition back to the online format via BBO and a massive *thank you* to all the directors involved in setting these sessions up - they all deserve medals for their efforts in enabling us to play.

This is my first Newsletter as Editor, so forgive me for any errors, mistakes, or oversights. You can email me at pba02985@bigpond.net.au with any interesting items for the Newsletter, complaints, interesting hands, perhaps an article or two? This edition is a bit thin, mainly because I have not taken possession of the 'Official Newsletter Template' yet, but hopefully we'll be able to do better in future. I hope to have something out every couple of months.

Below is a report from Marie Pickering with the results from the Congress. It was a great event, magnificently run, at a great venue – I am sure that all those who participated would agree. Thanks to the Tournament Committee for their efforts to ensure it happened.

Hopefully this edition will bring you all up to speed with recent results, future dates for your diary, details of online sessions and other items of interest

Happy Bridging, Phil Barker

2 The Chris Diment Memorial Congress - Report by Marie Pickering

The biggest event on our IBA calendar is The Chris Diment Memorial Congress held in June each year. Last year, due to COVID restrictions, our congress moved online. As everyone knows NSWHealth took over our Figtree premises for COVID testing early in 2021. We wanted to hold our congress face-to-face but could not guarantee that we would meet COVID restrictions so we went looking for a venue that could accommodate us. We therefore booked The Fraternity Club where 30 tables would fit in the upstairs ballroom area. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown in Victoria and the postponement of the VCC (Victor Champion Cup) we were inundated with entries from many very experienced bridge players.

What an experience for us all, to be able to test our skills against some of the best bridge players in Australia. I think we should all be proud of the efforts of our IBA players over the two days.

Overall Pair Results:

Place	NS Pair	%	EW Pair	%
1 st	Paul Lavings & David Hudson	62.94	Ross Stuart & Chris Sundstrom	61.87
2 nd	Andy Hung & Liam Milne	62.39	Walt Davis & Helen Lavings	60.34
3 rd	Margaret Pussel & Gloria Preston	56.66	Andrew Struik & Brian Thorp	59.84

Best Youth Pair (<35 years old): Charles McMahon & John McMahon 60.30%

Best Restricted Pair (< 300 MP): Cheryl Waters & Marie Pickering 52.73% (11/31)

Best Novice Pair (<100 MP): Liz Cusack & Aileen O' Brien 46.71% (20/31)

Best IBA Pairs

NS Steve Dynan & Moira Cunningham 53.54% (9/31)

EW Stuart Cutsforth & Renate La Marra 54.91% (11/31)

Sunday Teams

Place	Team	VPs
1 st	Sylvester Liz Sylvester, Peter Gill, Paul Lavings, David Hudson	86.74
2 nd	Ranson Nico Ranson, Matt Smith, John & Charles McMahon	86.08
3 rd	Milne Liam Milne, Andy Hung, Susan Humphries, Jessica Brake	56.66

Best Restricted: The White Team 18/30: Tony White, Mary Poynten, Gail McKenzie, Martin Brown

Best Novice: The Kus team 20/30: Georgina Kus, John Price, Stephen Smith, David Higgins

Best Youth: The McMahon Team 22/30: Georgina McMahon, Kyle Giggacher, Kanishko Das, Fady Tawadrous

Best IBA Team: The Bunder Team 7/30: Martin Bunder, Tony Wright, Stuart Cutsforth, Renate La Marra

The Congress concluded just after 5pm with the presentation of prizes.

A big vote of thanks goes to the following:

Jeff Carberry for the seamless way he directed the 2 days of play as well as the dealing of boards, the hand records, the result sheets, and many other hidden jobs.

Rob Kinloch for always being there, from first in the morning to last at night, the ever-present calming influence.

John Spira and **Sue Southern** for their work as caddies on Sunday.

Julie Carbonara and **John Kilgower** for being the reserve pair for Saturday and for helping as ushers.

B Rewers, John Kilgower, Marian Lerman, Aileen O'Brien - the reserve team for Sunday.

Paul and Helen Lavings for their donation of the table prizes.

Once more, after the conclusion of proceedings, our members rallied to return the tables and equipment to our Figtree and Thirroul premises.

All our IBA members who helped, especially, Martin Bunder, Moira Cunningham, Stuart Cutsforth, Dave Gallagher, Lorna Edwards, Yvonne Harbison, Dave Havyatt, Marty Hopkins, John Kilgower, Renate La Marra, Lynne and Ken Soldi, Allan Sutherland, and The Management Committee.

Additionally, thanks to **Cam** (Kay Hart's nephew), **Greg, Tom,** and **Cam** (Jill Macrae's family).

3 Other recent results

a) NSW Country teams

Ten teams battled out the Tablelands-Illawarra Regional final in the NSW Country Teams. Three Illawarra teams took part and put up a great show for the IBA. There were also three teams from the Highlands club, two from Bowral and two from Nowra. Ian Lisle was the director and took the precaution of ensuring all the teams from the same club played each other in the first couple of rounds in to avoid controversy later in the day.

Illawarra 1 lost their first match to **Illawarra 2** by 10 imps but then played solidly to be leading the field after 8 rounds. According to the Director, the last match was exciting as the results of the last 6 boards came in as several changes of the overall lead occurred. Illawarra 1 held on though and ended up winning by 2.6 VPs. **Illawarra 3** also finished creditably, in the top half of the field, after an enjoyable day for all.

Place	Team	VPs
1st	Illawarra 1 Steve Hurley, Liz Hurley, Steve Szatmary, Phil Barker	130.87
2nd	Illawarra 2 Walt Davis, Grant Cowen, Martin Bunder, Tony Wright	128.27
5 th	Illawarra 3 Andrew Smith, Cathy Ashcroft, Cheryl Waters, Marie Pickering	86.77

b) ABF Nationwide Pairs – Sunday July 25th

Since May last year, as the impact of Covid became clear, the ABF introduced the Nationwide Pairs Competition on the BBO platform. Our club has had many notable results in these events. However, on Sunday July 25th we truly hit the Jackpot with several pairs excelling across all 3 Divisions (Open, Restricted and Novice).

The Open competition featured 39 tables and here, Martin Bunder and Tony Wright finished 4th EW, Walt Davis and Jeff Carberry finished 6th NS with Ruth Neild and Rilla England 7th NS. A special mention goes to Carol Jeffs and Jennette Rosetta for their 12th place finish.

In the restricted event, with 25 tables, Pranati Basu and Maria Christensen finished 4th EW with Sue Bochan and Moira Cunningham in 8th.

The Novice event attracted 30 tables and here, Edith and Ron McNally finished 1st with an excellent 64.9%.

Great work by all, well done.

4 President's Report - Jill Macrae

Jill Macrae has put together a timeline of events since the Covid epidemic began.

1. The IBA closed its doors on 16th March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
2. On 20th May 2020 the directors began 2 virtual sessions on BBO. These sessions were well attended by about 50% of club members over the following almost 12 months. Many members played regularly in other online competitions including the ABF Nationwide Pairs events.
3. Wednesday 14th April 2021 following transfer of tables, scoring equipment and sanitising gear, the club held its first session at the local HELENIC CLUB with 11.5 tables. Our own premises had been usurped by NSW Health for a Covid testing clinic.

4. Under pressure from stakeholders the Council and NSW arranged for the IBA to return to the club rooms. This was followed by frantic transfer of equipment.
5. The first session of face-to-face Bridge was held in the Figtree Community Hall on Monday 17th May 2021. All the usual club sessions restarted.
6. Evening sessions numbers were generally small.
7. Friday 7th May we began a new online session on BBO for players who were not willing to return face to face.
8. The Northern Branch of IBA began face to face bridge with a Wednesday session on 7th April 2021.
9. Lessons continued for TAMS players and other beginners through the lockdown. A zoom lesson on Tuesday followed by play on Thursday. BBO teaching table was used for those in the middle of beginner lessons with general tables for other members. As a result of this, the club has endorsed several new members who graduated from the 2020 intro class. We have also attracted several other players as new members, including 5 from other online lessons (notably Paul Marston). 19 new members in total.
10. Most of our members paid their annual membership fees for 2021.
11. The club held its Annual Congress at the new venue of the Fraternity Club Fairy Meadow, on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June.
12. We kept up payments for utilities at Figtree, rent at Thirroul, payments for security including John, who keeps us safe at night. We collected no revenue when we played at the Hellenic club but received funds for the 'virtual club' from BBO.
13. On Saturday 26th June, the NSW State Government announced that a new period of lockdown would commence at midnight, and since then, we have returned to online sessions.
14. During the period of face-to-face bridge from 7th April until 26th June we had begun to collect table fees online, details of payment options are given below. However, while records of deposits and sessions played have been kept, privacy issues have restricted efficient reporting of balances to members. We would therefore like to ask that you review sessions you played and money you paid to ensure everything matches up, then making up any outstanding sum via the methods below. We would also be very grateful for advice on software that would enable the Treasurer to keep these records up to date in future. When we return to the clubrooms, we see this as a more efficient way of collecting table fees.
15. In the last week of July, the State Premier announced a further 4 weeks of an intensified period of lockdown. We will keep members abreast of developments as and when they occur.
16. We are aware that many members are unfamiliar with the intricacies of playing online, so if you haven't been playing and yet would like to 'have a go', please contact myself, or the Secretary, Carolyn Githens, to obtain a set of written instructions for you to follow.

5 Calling the Director – a perspective from Dave Havyatt

The experience of attending a Directors Course at the NSW Bridge Association teaches a player a lot more than how to direct. The course I attended on 6 June was taught by Ian Lisle who has directed for us at the Illawarra when we hosted the State Novice and Restricted Teams in 2019 and occasionally plays at our club and played at our 2021 Chris Diment Memorial Congress.

As a bridge player we sometimes think that calling the Director is a bit like calling the police and that, as intelligent adults, we should be able to sort it out at the table. This is a poor understanding of the role of a Director.

The first and foremost role of the Director is making games, and the club, work well. It isn't just to be an expert on the Laws. If you don't call the Director they can't do their job of making the game work smoothly.

While we were playing online many of the most common circumstances for calling the Director couldn't occur; call out of turn, insufficient bid, lead out of turn and revokes. All of these require the Director to be called.

There are many occasions where even players at the table who fully understand the Laws cannot make a decision. Who at the table can determine if a bid made to replace an insufficient bid is a comparable call? Who at the table has the power to issue a corrected score if unauthorised information has been used?

Calling the Director at the moment there is an infraction is the best way to deal with any circumstance. If you call the Director, you are not accusing your opponents of anything, you are just ensuring the hand can be played and scored fairly.

Finally, just an observation. The Directors have fairly good hearing, so the call need not be excessively loud, but they do need to be able to find the right table. So please leave a hand raised so the Director doesn't have to make a second disturbance asking where the call came from.

6 IBAND – Barbara Overington

During our all too brief period of face-to-face bridge, sessions at our Northern Branch were run through May and June. This was not an easy proposition, with many players wanting to play, many needing a partner, and a seven table (Covid) restriction at the Thirroul Railway Institute Preservation Society (TRIPS) Hall. Sessions were run on Monday mornings, Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons until 25th June. Fridays were often over-subscribed and booking via email needed to be made. If the seven-table limit was exceeded, pairs that missed out one week were placed at the top of the booking list for the following week. There were no supervised sessions during this period.

Note: Our special thanks go to both Barbara Overington and Rob Mathie for their Herculean efforts in providing regular bridge sessions for members at our Northern Branch.

7.1 Dates coming up

Here are some dates for your diary in the forthcoming months.....

1. **21st/22nd August** Novice and Restricted event – we have held this event at IBA in past years, and this year it is at Central Coast Bridge Club. Enter via the NSWBA website
2. **11th/12th September** Mollymook Congress. Pairs on Saturday, teams on Sunday. Enter via NSWBA website
3. **26th September IBA** Swiss Pairs. This is another massive date on our Calendar. A great event to play in.

If you have entered these or other events which were proposed to be going ahead in face-to-face mode, keep checking the NSWBA website (or with the tournament organisers) for updates and further details, in case of cancellation, postponement or format rearrangement (i.e., to online).

Our IBA Swiss Pairs will be an online event, but the platform is yet to be decided.

7.2 Our Regular Online Sessions

With no face-to-face sessions for at least the next four weeks, here are the details of our regular online sessions with Bridge Base Online (www.bridgebase.com)

Tuesday 1.30pm

Wednesday 9.30am

Friday 1.30pm

Saturday 1.30pm

8 Covid

We are now in a prolonged 'NSW Lockdown' so there may be no return to face-to-face bridge for a while. The Management Committee will keep you posted on developments as and when they occur.

9 New Members from March 2020

As the President mentioned, through both our in-house IBA lessons (which continued online throughout lockdown) and because of interest generated through other online resources, a total of 19 new and returning members have joined our club. This is fantastic news and while we may not be able to meet them in person for a while, I am sure you will all join me in welcoming them to the Illawarra Bridge Association.

April 2020

Jill Washington

James Van-Lane

October 2020

Robert Davidson

Helen Davison

Chris Komarynsky

Annette Lequileuc

Eileen Pietrini

Catherine Power

December 2020

Henrietta Osmo

Marina Osmo

April 2021

Diane Blom

Kerrie Faulkner

Franca Glasson

June 2021

Georgina Burke

Philip Boehme

Jan Hales (returning member)

Tom Malcher

Annabel Pearce

Elaine Woods

10 From the Treasurer

Illawarra Bridge Association

TABLE FEES PAYMENT: The preferred method of payment is by bank transfer into a special trust account, with details as follows –

BSB: 814-282 A/C No: 51258241, A/C Name: IBA Table Fees Trust Account. Your surname and ABF number are the reference.

\$50 covers 10 sessions

If a bank transfer is not an option, a cheque can be posted to

Ngairé Meehan,
9 Kembla Street,
Port Kembla
NSW 2505

ngairemeehan@gmail.com

We ask you to keep track of the games that you play via the IBA website and top up as required.

Illawarra Bridge Association

MEMBERSHIP, LOCAL CONGRESS FEES AND OTHER PAYMENTS: The preferred method of payment is by bank transfer into the IBA account -

BSB: 814-282 A/C No: 31204318 A/C Name: Membership Account. Your surname and ABF number are the reference

Initial Joining fee is \$50 plus Annual fee of \$20 or \$10 for Pensioners.

If a bank transfer is not an option, a cheque can be posted to

Ngairé Meehan,
9 Kembla Street,
Port Kembla
NSW 2505

ngairemeehan@gmail.com