

Illawarra Bridge Association

Newsletter October 2023

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1 Editorial

Hello again to all our readers. There is a lot to get through in this edition as we approach the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on 25th November 2023. Details of the Melbourne Cup event that will be held on Tuesday 7th November are also mentioned along with other important club news. In this edition, we have an instructive contribution by Paul Lavings about his time at the World Bridge Championships in Marrakesh, Morocco back in August. We report on the results from two recent events, the IBA Swiss Pairs and the Club Teams Championship. Dave Havyatt has included an article about the 'insufficient bid' and he helps us to understand why only one arrow switch is necessary to achieve a one winner result in our Web Mitchell movements.

2 Important Club Announcements

Annual General Meeting This will be held on Saturday 25th November, at 12.30pm sharp, at Figtree Community Hall, prior to play commencing as normal at 1.30pm. You are encouraged to attend to hear the summaries from the outgoing President and the Treasurer. At this meeting, the existing Management Committee will step down, to be replaced by the incoming Committee which will be elected at this meeting. There are 4 executive positions to be filled: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as 6 non-executive General Committee Member positions. Collectively, this group of people (along with our excellent Tournament Committee, Club Manager and Webmaster) are responsible for the day-to-day running of your bridge club and all members are encouraged to apply for any of the positions. Appointment will be decided by voting (show of hands) on the day, if necessary. To nominate for any position, you must fill in a committee nomination form, available by the notice board, and get two club members to support your application. Being on the Management Committee is not an onerous task and involves 6 meetings, normally held on Saturday mornings, throughout the year. We would particularly encourage members of IBAND to nominate as it is important to maintain the flow of important information both to and from our Northern Suburbs membership.

Melbourne Cup Day – Tuesday 7th November 2023 – Yes, it's here again, our annual Melbourne Cup Day celebration.

- The event will commence at 10 am
- A sandwich lunch will be provided at the cost of your table fees. Please register at the Club to assist with catering.
- You must pre-arrange your partner in order to play bridge.
- Sweepstakes will be open prior to the day, and you will be able to enter and pay at the clubrooms, look out for the notices (thanks to Barb Overington for organising the Sweeps)
- **There will be NO SUPERVISED PLAY in the evening.**

Membership Fee Increase for 2024 The New South Wales Bridge Association (NSWBA) has increased affiliation fees by \$10 per person. The Committee has voted to increase our membership fees by the same amount. This means that our annual dues will be increased to \$20 for Concession Card holders and \$30 for those without Concession Card. Annual membership fees are paid at the end of February each year.

IBAND Christmas Party will be held on Friday, 1 December.

Figtree Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, 2nd December starting at 11.45am. Lunch will be followed by the normal Saturday Bridge session, commencing at 1.30pm. This event is not on 23rd December as originally written in the calendar/diary. The Management Committee felt that the 23rd was too close to Christmas, and with the Christmas Teams event to be held on 9th and 16th December, Saturday, 2nd December was agreed to be the best compromise.

Donations for Refreshments Please do not forget your donations for refreshments should you require them during or at the end of session time. We are trying to keep the system 'coin free' to make life easier for our Treasurer. Therefore, a \$5 note will entitle you to 2 refreshments of your choice. However, if you 'pop' open a bottle of the bubbling liquid, the cost is \$10.

3 UPCOMING EVENTS

IBA EVENTS

UHMP (Under 100 Masterpoints) Qualifying rounds will be held at normal club sessions, 1) Saturday 21st Oct 1.30 pm at Figtree. 2) Monday 23rd Oct 7 pm on Real Bridge. 3) Tuesday night 24th Oct at 7 pm at Figtree. 4) Wed 25th Oct at 1.00 pm at IBAND Thirroul. 5) Thursday 26th Oct at 9.30 am Figtree. 6) Friday 27th Oct at 1.00 pm at IBAND Thirroul. Sessions are open to ALL players, as usual, novices may play in more than one session.

UHMP STATE FINAL. This will be held on Sunday 26th November, **1.30 pm** at Figtree.

Australia Wide Restricted Pairs will be held as part of a normal club session on Wednesday 25th October at Figtree at 9.30 am.

STATE/NATIONAL EVENTS

11th/12th November - NSW State Novice and Restricted Teams – this event will be held at the Central Coast Bridge Club at Long Jetty, near The Entrance. It is a picturesque location and actually does have a long jetty. It is important that we send some teams to the event because many people from Sydney and points North come to the event when we host it here – last year out of 18 teams that played in the event, hosted at Figtree, six-and-a-half of the teams were visitors. There's plenty of accommodation in the area, and it should be a nice weekend. If you get a team together, put your entry in, via the NSWBA website, as soon as possible.

18th/19th November – NSW State Open Pairs Championships Two solid days of Bridge at Goulburn Street

Summer Festival of Bridge, Canberra, 9th-21st January 2024 Yes, it's that time again, think about whether you would like to go to Canberra for this marvellous annual event (and get some gold masterpoints!). This is an Australian Bridge Federation Event and effectively, the National Championships. There are events for all standards: Novice (<100Mps); Restricted (<300Mps); Under 500MPs; Under 700 MPs; Open etc, so there are events suitable for all our members should they wish to compete. To get an overview of events go to

<https://www.abf.com.au/summer-festival-of-bridge-2024/>

and we will place a copy of the event list on the noticeboards at Figtree and IBAND. The event itself is held at the Rex Hotel on Northbourne Avenue and there are many accommodation options in this area. The evenings tend to be sociable with members catching up at local clubs, pubs, or restaurants to eat and talk about the day's events.

If you are unsure or nervous about going, just ask someone who's been!

4 Recent Results

The IBA Swiss Pairs Congress was contested on Sunday 24th September at the Port Kembla Golf Club. 38 pairs, with 13 visiting from other clubs, played 7 matches of 8 boards over the day. The results were as follows:

Open section

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Margaret Phippen and Lucia Mendonca | 97.10 VP |
| 2. Wayne Houghton and Christine Houghton | 96.66 VP |
| 3. Stuart Cutsforth and Renate La Marra | 92.08 VP |

Restricted section

Mukesh Parekh and Paul Stebbing	77.23 VP
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Novice section

B Rewers and Pranati Basu	76.94 VP
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Best IBA Pair

Moira Cunningham and Grant Cowen 81.75 VP

A massive thank you to the Director Jeff Carberry, and his helpers Rob Kinloch and Ken McIvor for running a great Tournament. Special thanks from the Convenor (Jill Macrae) to all the club members who helped with the set-up, clean-up, and transport of accessories to and from the club.

IBA Wednesday Morning Pairs Championship This event was hotly contested at the clubrooms on the 4th and 11th October. After two weeks of competition, the results were

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Liz Hurley and Steve Hurley | 62.48% |
| 2. Paul Lavings and Helen Lavings | 62.18 |
| 3. Stuart Cutsforth and Stephen Brell | 60.71 |

The IBA Teams Championships took place over three successive Saturday afternoons with 14 teams playing against all the other teams in the field.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Lavings Team | 225.77 VP |
| (P Lavings, H Lavings, I Lisle, V Lisle, J Carberry, K Hart) | |
| 2. Cutsforth Team | 191.91 VP |
| (S Cutsforth, R La Marra, G McNee, R McNee, W Fotheringham, M Bunder) | |
| 3. Cowen Team | 188.43 VP |
| (G Cowen, M Cunningham, S Szatmary, P Barker, R England) | |

5 Stories about Bridge #3

The World Bridge Championships 2023 - by Paul Lavings

The 46th World Teams Championships were played this August in Marrakesh, Morocco. There were 4 divisions of 24 teams, Open, Senior, Women and Mixed. Each section played a round-robin of 23 x 16-board matches. Then the first eight teams in each group played a knock-out of 96 boards over two days, first a quarterfinal then a semi-final and then a final.

The temperature was roughly 45 degrees each day out on the street, stinking hot. The hotel where we played was quite luxurious and very expensive. The playing area was huge, bigger than Central Station:



Final results were:

Bermuda Bowl/Open

1. Switzerland
2. Norway
3. Italy

Venice Cup/Women's

1. Israel
2. Turkiye
3. China

D'Orsi Trophy/Seniors

1. Denmark
2. USA1
3. USA2

Wuhan Cup/Mixed

1. USA2
2. France
3. Romania

The Australian Seniors Team (photo below) finished 13th out of 24 teams in the Qualifying. With a little more self-belief and a few less errors, the team could have done much better.



*Back Row: Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, John McIlrath (npc), Stephen Burgess
Front: David Beauchamp, Avi Kanetkar, Gabi Lorentz*

The editor has asked me to write up this hand from our last match, against Chinese Taipei:

	♠ AK72	
	♥ K53	
	♦ 7	
	♣ KJ1094	
♠ 3		♠ QJ10984
♥ AJ10		♥ Q9642
♦ AKQ10983		♦ 2
♣ Q2		♣ 3
	♠ 65	
	♥	
	♦ J654	
	♣ A8765	

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	<i>Lavings</i>		<i>Krochmalik</i>
	1C	1S	2C
2D	4C	4H	5C
Dble	All pass		

At IBA I observe most play a 1C opening as 2+. I much prefer Better Minor, where 1C is 3+, so you can compete more freely when your side has a club fit. This hand is a perfect example.

My 4C said to partner, "Bid 5C if you want to" and with a defenceless hand and with 5 clubs (2C could be bid here with only 4 clubs) partner bid 5C. With HA onside 5C proved unbeatable - even though it was bid as a sacrifice.

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Beauchamp</i>		<i>Kanetkar</i>	
	1C	2D	Pass
4H	All pass		

The auction at the other table was short and sharp. Avi Kanetkar's 2D was at least 5-5 in the majors and 4H proved too difficult to defend and made 10 tricks. Making game contracts in both rooms gave a swing of 15 imps.

Using 2D over their 1C to show both majors, at least 5-5, means you can now bid 2C over their 1C to show a natural club overcall. Very useful indeed when opponent's 1C could be just 1, 2 or 3 clubs. Also, 2D as a weak jump overcall is infrequent and not a potent weapon, often actually helping the opponents.

Australia won the match by 39-27imps, 13.28-6.72 VP.

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com or phone 0408-888-085

6 Director's Corner – Dave Havyatt

Insufficient Bid and a Comparable Call

Making an insufficient bid is one of the more frustrating infractions for players and directors alike. For players, it is frustrating because most of the time the player really meant to bid the same denomination (the suit or No Trump specified) at the higher level. But you must not correct it immediately at the table, because your Left-Hand Opponent (LHO) has rights.

When the Director arrives, they will first review the bidding and identify the insufficient bid. They will ask the LHO if they want to accept the bid. If they do, bidding continues with the formerly insufficient bid becoming the current bid for the contract.

When LHO doesn't accept the bid (as is almost always the case) the offending player has two options. The first is to withdraw the bid and replace it with the lowest sufficient bid in the same denomination as that specified by the withdrawn call. In that case, the bidding continues without further rectification (though in very rare cases if the bids are seen to have advantaged the offending side the Director can make an adjusted score).

The second option is to withdraw the bid and make any other call. However, unless it is replaced with a "comparable call" or a pass, the offending player must pass whenever it is his turn to call. A double or redouble can be made as a comparable call but is otherwise cancelled.

A "comparable call" is one that:

1. Has the same or similar meaning to that of the withdrawn call,
2. Defines a subset of the meanings of the withdrawn call, or
3. Has the same purpose (e.g., an asking bid or a relay) as that of the withdrawn call.

Very experienced Directors with players using simple systems can readily determine what comparable calls are available, if any. If there are no comparable calls, they will inform the offending player to replace the call with a sufficient bid in the same denomination or pass.

Less experienced Directors or players with complex systems may need to inquire about the meaning of the insufficient bid made and the meaning of a proposed replacement before deciding if it is comparable. This is one place where System Cards can be of great assistance to the Director as they can consult it rather than having to take the player away from the table to discuss the meaning of the proposed call.

One winner Mitchell movements

Whenever we play one winner Mitchell movements, such as the recent Wednesday Pairs Championship, players wonder why only one round is switched. The short answer is that this results in the most balanced one winner movement.

According to McKinnon's *Duplicate Bridge Schedules: History and Mathematics* the first thorough analysis of the balance of movements was provided by John Manning in 1979. His paper *Mathematics of duplicate bridge tournaments* (Bull. Inst. Math. Applic 1979 Vol. 15 Pages 201-206) is reproduced in McKinnon's book.

Manning's work describes a measure of competition between each pair in a tournament. Because of the desirability of one winner fields, he considers the balance of switched movements. From his analysis, he provides a "rough and ready rule" to switch about one-eighth of the board sets in a

Mitchell-type movement. In the context of a Web-Mitchell such as we play at IBA in our big events, what matters here is the number of board sets not the number of tables. Obviously, the closest whole number to one-eighth of nine is one.

A later 1992 paper by Ross Moore had the more delightful title *Too many arrow-switches spoil the balance*. This also concluded that one arrow switch provided the most balanced (though written as least imbalanced) outcome for a nine-movement contest.

The intuition is relatively simple. In a standard Mitchell, each EW pair is compared to all the other EW pairs, but not the NS pairs. When you arrow switch, on that board you get compared to all the other players who played in the opposite direction to your starting position, but not to the pair you are playing. If you have two arrow switches you wind up not being compared to two pairs. The mathematics is more complicated than that, but in essence that is the reason one is better than more.

7 Acknowledgements

Thanks to all who helped us put this Newsletter together. Special thanks to Paul Lavings for the article about Marrakesh.

Happy Bridging everybody.

Dave H and Phil B