



NEWSLETTER

Illawarra Bridge Association

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OCTOBER 2019

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There has been some discussion recently about the benefits or otherwise of the continued publication of the IBA newsletter and a survey form has been distributed to all members seeking the views of the broader membership. Matters being considered are the usefulness of the newsletter, content and whether IBA should continue to publish it. If you have not already done so it would be helpful if you could complete the survey.

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Jottings from the Committee Meeting 12 October 2019.

Contributed by Marie Pickering

Office manager report by Ken:

Ken reports that almost all is in order. Dishwasher now serviced by “FIXME” and air conditioner by “Alpine” due to Cronan and Halloran no longer available. Larger signs for Nov events and AGM are on notice board above table inside room. Meeting between APA and IBA, all going smoothly. I will be away from 29th Nov to 9th Dec.

iBand report by Barbara:

Table numbers are okay, Monday proving the more popular of the two night sessions. Friday remains the gem. We have welcomed many beginners from TAMS in the last couple of months. We're almost at capacity. A novel “alfresco bridge” could be introduced in the near future. See information later on “TRIPS”

teams' event. IBAND Christmas party week begins on 9th Dec. IBAND bridge sessions will resume on **Friday 10 January 2020**

Tournament Committee

The committee is currently discussing the procedures for both the Pairs and Team championships for 2020. More information from the committee as these are developed. The Management Committee approved the suggestion for the Nov Tournament Committee meeting: “That night time sessions begin at 7.00pm with a roving supper so that play ends at 10.00pm”

Business Plan:

June Congress: The number of entrants this year was once again an increase on the previous year's numbers with a full house on both days. Jeff allowed an increase of numbers on both days due to the high demand for places. We had 128

players on both days with 20 tables in room 1 and 12 tables in room 2. We have devised a survey (see separate) sheet to ask our members their opinion of our congresses and of our newsletter.

Bridge Lessons: Jill commenced the 3rd session of bridge lessons on Tuesday 1st Oct and as many as 12 people will have their third lesson on Tuesday next.

I continue to be impressed with the attendance at Tuesday night and Thursday morning supervised play and with the club members who come along to help at these sessions.

We are looking once again at targeting Uni Students/Young people to play bridge, perhaps to start in Semester 2 2020. If you have any suggestions in relation to this please talk to a committee member.

General Business

Lots of discussion occurred on the upcoming events. Please see information on these later on in the newsletter.

Next Committee meeting Saturday 14th December 2019 at 10am.

Results of IBA events

Club Pairs Champions

- 1st Ian Porter - Timothy Marchant
- 2nd Stuart Cutsworth – Renate La Marra
- 3rd Karel Hansen – Ken McIvor

IBA Swiss Pairs

- 1st Paul Lavings – Helen Lavings
- 2nd Lavy Libman – Tomer Libman
- 3rd Mrinal Dey – Ziauddin Kazi

Monday Pairs Champions

- 1st Steven Dynan – Moira Cunningham
- 2nd Stuart Cutsworth – Renate La Marra
- 3rd Duncan Munro – Martin Bunder

GNOT Qualifying

The final qualifier for the ‘Tableland Illawarra’ Region was conducted at Moss Vale on 8th September 2019 where the Illawarra team including Judy Kingston, Bill Fotheringham, Grant Cowen and Beverly Walker was successful. They will now represent the Region at the Grand National Open Teams event at Tweed Heads at the end of November 2019.

RULES CORNER

Law 16 Authorized and Unauthorized Information.

Law 16 deals with Authorized and Unauthorized Information. Unfortunately there is often a great deal of unauthorized information at our regular club sessions. In this article we will deal with poor technique in using the bidding boxes.

Law 16 states (in part) that: “*Any extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorized. This includes remarks, questions, replies to questions, unexpected alerts or failures to alert, unmistakable hesitation, unwanted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism.*”

Let us first consider correct procedure when making a call using bidding boxes.

There are two relevant clauses from the “REGULATIONS FOR WRITTEN BIDDING AND BIDDING BOXES”

“1.3 Players must decide their call before commencing to write or to touch the bidding box. Any vacillation among calls may convey unauthorised information and restrict partner’s actions according to Laws 16B1 and 73C.”

“3.1 A call is made by the player selecting the appropriate card from the bidding box and placing it on the table (no screens) or on the bidding tray (with screens). Players should not touch any bidding cards before they have determined their call. (Law 73E2 may apply and also, when there are no screens, Law 16B1).”

Have you ever noticed players resting their hand on the bidding box whilst they think? Or, worse still, removing (or partly removing) calls, only to replace them and then choose another? If you are guilty of this – desist. If your opponents are doing it, you have the right to call the director for protection against possible unauthorized information.

Most of us have been guilty of fiddling around with the bidding box cards and this explanation should encourage us to desist.

In the next newsletter Jeff will explain how unnecessary questioning of opponent’s bids can be in contravention of Laws of bridge and similarly pass on unauthorised information.

2019 MELBOURNE CUP

Contributed by Jill MacRae

The IBA Melbourne Cup event will be held at Figtree on Tuesday 5th November commencing at 10am. A bridge session will be conducted from about 10.30am and lunch served at the break. The race commences at 3pm and members are encouraged to dress up for the occasion in competition with others members.

THE LUNCH: Please bring a plate for the lunch table and enter your name on the registration list indicating what you will be bringing so that we will have a balanced feast. If you wish to contribute to a group platter please give \$5 to a committee member. Drinks will be provided and there will be no table fees.

THE SWEEPS: Please buy your sweep tickets in advance. Write your details on the envelopes supplied at the club and put the correct money inside and place the envelope inside the ‘letter box’. Entry to the Sweeps will close on the Saturday before the Cup. It may be possible to buy into the Sweeps on the day only if there is a need to fill existing part Sweeps.

BRIDGE: along with the bridge session commencing at about 10.30am there will be various wine prizes for particular plays, a trivia round and lucky door prize.

It would assist with the planning if members could register on the list available at Figtree to indicate they will be attending.

**THIRROUL RAILWAY INSTITUTE
CENTENARY Put this in your diary.**

As TRIPS is the venue for all IBAND bridge sessions we will celebrate the centenary with a special event.

The 'TRIPS TEAMS' event is scheduled for 21 February 2020 (the day before IBAND'S 14th birthday).

It will be an all day event beginning at 10.00am with 2 sessions of 3 rounds in both morning and afternoon. Lunch will be provided, cost to be determined. An email has been sent to IBAND members and the response has been very positive.

The format is to appoint captains and vice captains from Monday and Wednesday nights with the rest of the players coming from Friday.

Making a game contract with very few points.

Martin Bunder has provided this review of an unusual hand he played at a recent Figtree bridge session:

"Duncan in the east hand passed with only 4 high card points and as you will see the points were of no value to me. South bid, I forget exactly what, and my hand containing 8 high card points was:

S QJ108762

H 3

D AJ1054

C –

I thought NS can surely make 4H, 5C or even 3NT, and Duncan may have something. Despite being vulnerable I bid 4S. North doubled and everyone else passed.

Duncan had:

S 4

H Q642

D 6

C Q1097642

In short, with the assistance of a favourable diamond lead the contract was made with only 8 high card points in my

hand and an almost useless 4 HCP in Duncan's hand.

LESSONS ON DEFENCE

Defence is the weakest part of most players' game and we are fortunate indeed that Paul Lavings will give 4 lessons on DEFENCE on each of the Mondays in November, 4th, 11th, and 18th, 25th. The lessons will be \$10 each which can be paid as you arrive on the day. Lesson starts at 10 am and concludes at 12.15pm. The Club will supply a special morning tea. Play hands, with hand records and notes will be supplied. Take this chance to improve your Bridge.

NSWBA STATE NOVICE and RESTRICTED TEAMS.

Compete with players who are at the same standard as you. This event will be held at IBA on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th November. Players usually enter from around the state. This is a great chance to meet other players. Find a team of four or six and enter the event via the NSWBA website. Play starts at 10 am on Saturday and 9.30 on Sunday.

Players who generally play in our congresses who have over 300 MP and so ineligible for this event are invited (begged) to help on the day especially with the catering. Please assist further by supplying your delicious cakes and slices on the day.

Jill MacRae, Convenor

**PLEASE NOTE THAT AS THERE
WILL BE NO SATURDAY BRIDGE
ON THIS WEEKEND. AN**

**AFTERNOON SESSION WILL BE
HELD ON FRIDAY FROM 1.30.**

RULES CORNER

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.