



NEWSLETTER

Illawarra Bridge Association

Edited by Dave Gallagher
Email: admin@illawarrabridge.com.au

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Phone 4227 2799

A welcome back to all for the 2019 bridge year. Andrew Smith deserves a big thank you for his selfless efforts in providing directorship for our bridge sessions during the recent busy period when other directors were not available. I am sure that those seriously addicted bridge players who struggle to go more than two days without playing were very appreciative.

As a regular feature in the newsletter we will be having 'explanations of Rules of Bridge'. The Rules can be complex and daunting to some but it is considered that we could all be more effective players if we have an understanding of some of the more basic rules. Look for it in the newsletter under 'Rules Corner'.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT

Jottings from the Committee Meeting Saturday 9 February 2019. Compiled by Jill MacRae

Lockout at bridge sessions

Due to the complexity of organising our bridge sessions in a timely and efficient manner, it has been decided to 'lock' the entry doors at Figtree ten minutes before the official start time. The sessions being affected are: Figtree - Monday and Thursday evenings, Wednesday mornings and Saturday afternoons. This will assist our Directors to ascertain the best possible movement for the number of players involved.

Any player arriving after the doors have been 'locked' will, unfortunately, be unable to play in that session. It is not a guarantee of play to have your partner at the table. If you have an unexpected occurrence which could delay your arrival, please

phone the Club on 4227 2799 so that allowances can be made.

Members cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Bridge Lessons:

An adult introductory bridge course starts 9.30 am on Thursday 28th February. Please make this known to any of your acquaintances who may be interested.

Iband Report:

Attendances at the bridge sessions continue to be good for this time of the year with a regular 8 tables at the Friday session and 5 tables at the Monday sessions.

Birthday celebrations with cake and bubbles will be on Wednesday 13 February and Friday 22 February.

Office managers report

The chairs at Figtree have reached the end of their economical life and the committee has decided to replace them.

The old chairs will be available for members to purchase at a cost of \$5 each. Ken has this project well in hand and options for choice of chairs will be available for viewing soon.

The next committee meeting will be held on Saturday 27th April 2019

Hi-LO event:

Contributed by Jill MacRae

Wednesday 20th February. Hi Lo events are held at IBA to provide an opportunity for inexperienced players to a) play in a regular session and b) be lead by an experienced partner. Mentoring is an ideal in a bridge club that IBA finds difficult to address. A kindly partner and a positive experience for the inexperienced goes a long way to ensuring growing numbers of members. The list of Hi's is currently very short and lows very long. Please consider partnering an inexperienced player on Wed 20th Feb and register early to assist the directors.

Calendar of Events - amendment

It has been necessary to change the dates for the following events detailed in the recently released Calendar of Events:

Hi Lo2 was 11 May changed to 18 May

Birthday Party was 18 May changed to 11 May

Bridge lessons for young people will start on Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 9.30am

Contributed by Marie Pickering

Flyers have been printed and are being distributed by our members to libraries, community centres and shopping centres. I am currently visiting schools to discuss the lessons promotion and have been invited

along with Dave Gallagher to visit Smiths Hill High School on Monday 25th February to address students at their assembly.

Help needed:

In Dealing Boards. Some members have put their hands up to assist with this task but there remains a need for others to assist. This is not a difficult task and easily learnt. Please see Jeff, Rob, Andrew, Jill or John if you can help. It will be much appreciated.

Results around the traps

The Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge was conducted during 8-20 January 2019 with 45 IBA members competing in various events. All players would have benefited from the experience with some of the notable performances being:

Colin Bale and Ruth Neild - 1st in Neura Swiss pairs.

Melissa Ardern and Stephen Smith - 2nd in the warm up Novice Teams

If members are interested in viewing all results they are available on the ABF website.

The Under 100 MP is an event held at the end of the year at a number of local centres state wide. The results are thus scored over the full state representation. IBA under 100MP pairs have had an outstanding result.

50 – 100 master points

Stephen Smith and David Higgins were the winners in this state wide event.

24.99 – 50 master points

Connie Szenczy and Graham Jones were winners in this local event.

Less than 10 master points

Violet Thomas and Roslyn Lilburn were winners in this local event.

RULES CORNER

Exposing cards during play

Contributed by Andrew Smith

The pedant wants to have his say. I have been quite disappointed recently at the number of times I've seen players turn cards over when they shouldn't. Surprisingly, when I've mentioned it at the table (a probable No-No on my part!), comments and/or body language suggest that players think what they did was OK.

Examples:

Declarer asks where the lead is and dummy turns the last card to show it was a ruff.

Near the end of a hand someone says there was a revoke. People go back several tricks and expose cards to check.

Declarer wants to see all the cards played to the previous trick, turns his/her own card back over and asks the others to do the same.

Each of these behaviours is a No-No.

Here (slightly reworded and the underlining is mine) is part of Law 66: **Inspection of tricks**

A. **Current trick:** So long as his side has not led or played to the next trick, declarer or a defender may, until he has turned his own card face down, require all cards just played to be faced.

B. **Own Last Card:** until his side has led or played to the next trick, declarer or a defender may inspect but not expose his own last played card.

C. **Quitted tricks:** Thereafter, until play ceases, the cards of quitted tricks may not be inspected (except at the Director's instruction).

D. **After conclusion of play:** Played and unplayed cards may be inspected to check revokes or number of tricks won, but no player should handle cards other than his own. Please note that Dummy is not one of the players permitted to look at a previous card.

MY WORST AND BEST HANDS

Contributed by Paul Lavings

In The December 2018 newsletter we heard from Paul on his 'Worst Hand' and we now get the chance to hear about his 'Best Hand'.

Time passed, and in 1985 I got married, and in the process moved to Brisbane. There I met up again with Kevin Hume, an above average card player but a brilliant bidder and a fierce competitor. Kevin (numbat on BBO) was a bridge guru for me, and I learned much and improved a great deal as a result of our partnership.

In 1987 we were on the Queensland Team at the Australian Nat. Championships and lost the final to NSW. In 1988 Kevin had it in his mind to win and we coasted to the final. In the last qualifying round we could afford to lose to Victoria, and keep NSW out of the final. But we played our best, and won by a maximum.

The 6 X 10 board final against NSW was close all the way, and we led by 22 imps going into the last 10 boards. With 5 boards remaining the match hung in the balance, then this deal:

56. W/EW

♠ 92
♥ 65
♦ KQ1084
♣ KQ82

West
♠ 654
♥ KQ32
♦ 73
♣ 9643

East
♠ KQ1083
♥ 107
♦ J652
♣ AJ

South
♠ AJ7
♥ AJ984
♦ A9
♣ 1075

West	North	East	South
	Kev		Paul
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

The 1NT overcall was instinctive. Only 14 HCP, but probably two spade stoppers, and a beautiful suit, AJ98x for a source of tricks. And even the C10 played a major role in the play.

West led S5, and I ducked East's queen, and won the continuation with SJ. Rather than bank everything on the diamonds, I played a club to the King and East's ace, and won the third spade. When the CJ dropped under the queen, I could cash the C10 to bring my tally to 8 tricks. When I played diamonds, they didn't break, but I could put West in with the fourth club.

The vugraph panel of commentators had predicted 3NT would fail. The audience of about 150 were two floors below in a rambling old Melbourne hotel, and when the vugraph caller announced C8, the building began to shake. The spectators could see the ending and were out of their seats, jumping up and down with excitement.

In with the fourth club West had only hearts, and had to give me a ninth trick. I had planned to win East's honour with HA and play HJ, but West underled his heart honours and HJ won the trick. "I don't believe it", bemoaned my LHO, bringing joy to my heart.

The strangest thing is that the person I end played, West, was my partner on the first hand!!?????

Go figure that one.

Table numbering with large fields

Contributed by Andrew Smith

Apologies to readers who only play at IBAND. This article doesn't apply at Thirroul (unless lots of you all visit Lilliput first). It may be of interest though.

In the past couple of years, table numbers have grown at Figtree (good!) and 16-19 or even 20 are well known on Wednesdays and Saturdays. To cater for this situation, Jeff has implemented Web Mitchells, which really work quite well, now that we have

three sets of boards available. (Many thanks to the patient dealing machine drivers).

There has been a problem though that in some cases, boards and people have had to move quite a long distance around the room, which can be a distraction for other players.

Because of the congestion, I have been working on revised table numbering, so that as far as possible, no-one has to move more than one table at any time, and boards can be moved in groups of three sets at the break time. So far I have done layouts for 15, 17 and the "special" Mitchell 18 table movements.

In Webs, to keep board sets together, it is best to have T1 and T9 near to each other. We also need T1 to be near the highest numbered table, so my layouts have T1 near the centre of the room!

Player movement is in a closed loop going round the room. Unfortunately there are a couple of diagonal backward moves, because of the restricted space. You can regard the whole idea as being an extension of the "dog leg" we've been using for some time for 13-15 tables, following a suggestion from the late George Czubala.

At the time of writing we haven't done anything for the 12 table situation.

Traditionally we've played a nine round 3-board Mitchell movement. This means that players only play 75% of the 36 boards and meet only 75% of the field. This has potential for unfair scoring. A Web Mitchell would get round one of the problems (as only 27 boards are needed). The 12 table movement means a 3 board sitout and many clubs world-wide strive to avoid sitouts of more than 2 boards. This can be done with a 12 table Hesitation Mitchell, which involves 13 round of 2 boards, and the initial NS at one table moves as if it's in the EW field.

These table numbering layouts are a work in progress and will be tweaked as required. **If you have any feedback please contact Jeff, Rob, myself or else place an anonymous note on the directors tables.**