

NEWSLETTER



Illawarra Bridge Association

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♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT

Coming Soon

October

Mon 16th Monday Pairs championship 2

Wed 18th Red masterpoints 2

Spring Nationals 18-26

Sat 21st Nationwide Pairs 20

Wed 25th Red Masterpoints 3

November

Wed 1st Nation Wide Pairs 21

Thurs 2nd Thurs Pairs Champs 1

Fri 3rd Friday Session 1.30 pm

Sat 4th State Novice & Restricted Teams

Figtree

Sun 5th State Novice & Restricted Teams

Figtree

Tues 7th Melbourne Cup

Thurs 9th Thurs Pairs Champs 2

Sat 11th Hi-lo 4, (Southern Highlands

Congress)

Sun 12th Southern Highlands Congress

Sat 18th Nation Wide Pairs 22, State Open Pairs Champs (NSWBA)

Sun 19th Spring Pairs Champs NSWBA

Fri 24th GNOT Finals 24-27

Sat 16th Annual General Meeting

Sun 26th Under 100mpts State Finals

December

Sat 2nd Nation Wide Pairs 23

Committee Meeting

xxx

Testing Hand

How would you tackle this hand. It was played in an international comp with a surprising score variation. You are N/S . You are playing in 3NT with the opposition remaining silent.

KJT3 AK KT93 AKQ
Q2 762 Q5 J98652

W leads QH.

Answer later.

xxx

Hand for the less experienced

You pick up the following hand and “Wow”. Surely this can’t be right, “I never get hands like this, only the opposition.” But it is right and you bid to 3NT.

SQ is led and you see this when dummy goes down.

AK64 AK8 AK8 A97
752 43 54 K65432

Eight quick tricks. Is there a way to get the ninth one?

Answer later.

xxx

Rules & Regulations

Ever thought of this. When a card is led out of turn and your partner is next player, the first thing the Director will say when called to the table is to ask your partner if he will accept or refuse the lead. If your partner says to refuse the lead but you want the lead to be accepted, have you any say?. I asked the answer from one of our directors and was

told you have the right to demand that the lead will be accepted.

Received the following from Andrew Smith. It adds to what I wrote in the last issue.

Clarification.

In the last Newsletter there was an article about procedure at the start of play, particularly about Bidding information. It was correct in trying to get people not to put stuff away immediately the auction has finished, but I think a little information may be appropriate. It's complicated by being partly controlled by the world-wide Laws of Bridge (see worldbridge.org) and partly by Zonal Authorities, here in Zone 7, the ABF and NZBF (see abf.com.au).

My interpretation: under WBF Laws, at the end of the auction the Clarification period starts, and the person presumed to be on lead may ask questions of the declaring side about the bidding (but not just to help partner!). The presumptive Leader now places a card FACE DOWN on the table. Partner may now ask further questions and then gives "leader" permission to face the lead. The Clarification period stops and Dummy is now put on the table.

This where ABF Regulations take over.

1. If bidding boxes are in use, the bidding cards are returned to the box.

If written bidding is in use, after the third card is played DUMMY should cover the bidding pad, and it must NOT be looked at thereafter. (In fact I remember in the "old" days playing at Chris Diment's table and he would hide the sheet so it could not be seen. Any player is however still entitled to know the contract, but NOT the bidding towards it.

Xxx

More Rules Knowledge

Basic Masterpoints

Wonder what happened to the masterpoints you thought you had...?

They aren't missing they have just taken the

long way round...

Their story has now been told....

Masterpoints are awarded to Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) members based on the results at the Illawarra Bridge Association (IBA) and any other ABF bridge club or event. There are three kinds of masterpoints

Green – for club level events

Red – special points which are rationed for each club. IBA gets an allocation each year

Gold – special points for events managed at a higher level than IBA.

The masterpoints of each colour are cumulative and determine a player's rank. Higher ranks require minimums of Red and Gold masterpoints as well as the total number of masterpoints.

The nominal masterpoints for each club session are posted on the IBA Website and in Pianola. At the end of each calendar month the club masterpoints' secretary checks, corrects (if required) and processes the green points and uploads them to the ABF. The ABF upload is initially provisional for a few days pending endorsement.

Red points are not included in the monthly upload. Red points are separately approved by the ABF and can only be uploaded quarterly. The club masterpoints' secretary submits the red points for approval by the 13th of the last month in the quarter. If approved the red points are uploaded to the ABF at the end of the quarter.

Gold points are separately managed by the convener of the relevant event. Typically gold points are not processed until the event is concluded. Such events may involve many stages and many clubs.

You can check your masterpoints by going to:

<http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/myawards.asp>

But remember:

- Green points are only updated every

month

- Red points are only updated every quarter
- Gold points are only updated when an event is fully completed

Note: The masterpoints shown on the IBA website are nominal. They have not been necessarily checked or uploaded to the ABF. There may be a significant delay before the results are processed and uploaded to the ABF. Also only completed events are uploaded to the ABF e.g. a three week green point event will not be processed unless it is completed by the end of the month. The current IBA Masterpoints' Secretary is Malcolm Kerr. (Ed) Thanks Malcolm for letting us know how it works.

Xxx

On the table, at the top of the room at Figtree, there is what would appear to be a kiddies toy piglet. I imagine a number of you have seen it and wondered why it was there. I'm not sure of the exact story but it seems to concern Renate La Marra, Judy Kingston and Stuart Cutsforth, maybe others. Seems the piglet is a male pig and if one of the above players becomes declarer for more than three times or so in a row, the 'piglet' is handed to them. Something to do with hogging the contract. (ED). I like it.

Xxx

lost Property

As all Figtree members know we have a little 'cloakroom' where we can hang our jackets before entering the hall. Over the year(s) a number of members have done this and later gone home forgetting all about their jacket. Our efficient hall 'looking afterer', Ken McIvor, says it is time to have a clearance. So, all items not removed by end of October will be donated to charity. This is the only reminder to those forgetful people to claim their clothing.

Xxx

The following two items received from Erica Gray:

Newsletter item. Illawarra Bridge Club 2017 Swiss Pairs Congress

Another fabulous Swiss Pairs event for Illawarra Bridge Association (IBA). The winning pair was Richard Douglas and Ross Stuart. When accepting their prize, Richard Douglas thanked the organisers for a great day, and in particular acknowledged Jeff Carberry for his directing and spoke of the great work of Kaye Hart, from the IBA, in representing the region at the NSW Bridge Association.

Local pairs Renata La Marra and Stuart Cutsforth were 2nd and Bill Fotheringham and Beverly Walker 3rd.

The best placed novice pair <10mps, was Anne MacInnes and Joan Bell, and the best placed restricted pair <100mps, was Jenny Muscio and Erica Gray.

Continuing with the system put in place for the June Congress, the organising group made up a long list of almost every task that needs to be looked after on the day and thank you to Moira Cunningham for talking to members, getting names against tasks, and organising such fabulous support for the day. Most importantly, Jill MacRae also put out a call for non-playing members to undertake the role of kitchen coordinators and support – thank you so much to Zuze and Robert Forbes for their work on the day, ably assisted by Gae Southwell and Aileen O'Brien. This is the most important support on the day as it allows Jill and co-convenor Barbara Overington, in the words of Barbara "to get their legs under a table and enjoy playing bridge for the day!". As one of the volunteers also mentioned, being a volunteer was a non-threatening way for a newer player to get to see how a Congress works and maybe get up the courage to have a go next time!

All in all another very successful Congress and a great big THANK YOU to all those people who volunteered, both before and on the day, and made the day go like clockwork.

xxx

Giving Novice and Restricted Events a go!!

Over the last year I have had the pleasure of entering novice and more recently, restricted events in Canberra, Bathurst, Campbelltown, and the Southern Highlands.

My first Congress was with Conny up at Ingleburn ... a bit of a shock to the system as concentrating for a whole day was quite exhausting! Last October a few from the club went to Bathurst, where I played with Chris Yates as Novices and got the biggest surprise when we were the first placed Novices with less than 10mps. We won some money, and most importantly, entry to a novice event of our choice at the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra in January. This was my first time playing at Canberra and I'm now totally hooked!

If you are new to bridge, this is a great way to meet people from other clubs and consolidate your bridge bidding and play with your partner/s. You do play for the whole day so it is tiring, however, the Restricted and Novice events mean that you are competing with people who are closer to your level. You also get to have a few days away and enjoying discovering restaurants in new places.

Over the next few months you may like to check out the following:

1. Sydney Spring Nationals, Canterbury Racecourse, Novice and Restricted Swiss pairs Oct 21/22
2. Bathurst Novice Tournament Oct 28/29
3. State Novice and Restricted Teams IBA Nov 4/5
4. Southern Highlands Swiss Pairs (includes restricted <200mps) Nov 11

5. Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge Jan 10-21

If you are interested, then forming a Team and competing at Figtree in November would be a great first step. You can form a team of 6 if you like so you can give yourself a break by skipping one of the sessions.

If you would like more information about just how Congresses work, talk to Marie Pickering and she will let you know who is playing in events, or check out the NSW Bridge Association web site, or feel free to chat to me.

Cheers,
Erica Gray.

(ED) Thanks Erica, both items interesting and well written. Further to the volunteering part. Jill MacRae does a great deal of work for you & I, with being on the committee and preparing and running Thursday morning Tams. Jill found it was a real pleasure to have her 'legs under the table' (Bridge) for the Swiss Congress instead of her usual 'hands in the sink', (Kitchen), which was only possible because of the number of volunteers on the day. Thanks to all who played their part in making this day as good as it was.

Xxx

I used to worry because I made the occasional mistake but I've moved on a lot since those days. I no longer just make mistakes. Now I'm working on the variations.

Xxx

Don't you love it

It's Thursday morning Tams. The opening lead goes down H J which wins the trick. Opener then plays H Q. Opener is then told that, from H QJ one should always lead the Q. Opener is told that if H J is led with no system in place, then partner will not know where the HQ is. "But", says opener, "I'll **Know where the Queen is**".

(Ed) Good luck Jill.

Actually Tams is doing nicely thank you. 4-7 tables, good atmosphere and good to see the improvement in the players.

Xxx

A sixty-seven year old woman named Dorothy Fletcher had a heart attack on a plane. When the stewardess asked if there was a doctor on board, fifteen people stood up. They were on their way to a cardiology conference. The woman survived

xxx

What Kind Of A 'C' Are You?

It is hard to play like a bridge champion, but it's easy to behave like one.....

A Champ

Does not preach
Sides with partner
Treats partner with respect
Allows partner to enjoy game
Plays with consideration
Moves on
Is willing to learn
Is open to partners suggestions
Plays cards in a gentle manner

A Chump

Gives free lessons
Sides with the opponents
Berates partner
Makes partner feel bad
Dwells on bad results
Lives in his own world
Thinks he knows it all
Insists on his favourite conventions
Slams the cards down

Are you a class act or one of the other?

No one achieves 100% in this all of the time. Alas, some never hit 50% almost all of the time.

(ED). The above article was received from Carol Jeffs. Thanks Carol, I like it except it makes me wonder about my own shortcomings.

When my partner makes a mistake or misses something, or whatever, should I keep quiet or raise the matter? If I raise the matter, does

it sound like I am being constructive or destructive. Where I make an error, in bidding or play, I prefer to be told, hoping to learn from my mistake. But we all have different makeups and should try to adjust to what our partner is. Also we must realise that what we perceive when we are looking at our cards may not be what we would think if we could see partners cards.

xxx

Which country has won the European Song Contest most often?. You may be surprised to know the answer is Ireland. Seven times.

Xxx

Received an e-mail from Chris Yates. Chris and hubby are on the Grey Nomads caravan trail in NT & WA, travelling with friends. I suppose as she was in Broome she has probably bought pearl earrings or brooches to bring back for all you lady members. Don't know what she might bring back for we gentlemen members. In the world as it is today, probably earrings and brooches as well. In one of the van parks a lady asked if anyone played bridge. Chris was volunteered by her friends. Trouble was they couldn't find a fourth player. So they played three-handed bridge. One could imagine sitting on the floor, playing bridge by candlelight in a tent, but in today's world, it is electric light in a home from home modern van with table and chairs. Members, seems if you have shares in some WA wineries you could in for a good increase in share dividends. By the time you are reading this newsletter Chris is, or is very nearly, home.

Xxx

Haven't heard any news from our northern branch as none of the troops have dropped me an e-mail. I guess I will just have to send the usual report, 'All Quiet On The Northern Front'. (Hint-Hint).

Xxx

Answer to Testing Hand

Q2
762
Q5
J98652

865 A974
QJT83 954
J842 A76
4 T73

KJT3
AK
KT93
AKQ

HQ lead
Win the heart lead. Play AKQclubs. Play KD. East is now 'stuffed'. If he plays AD he opens up an entry to the North (QD)last three clubs. If he doesn't take AD, South plays S3 to the QS, ensuring three spade tricks. Either way, South will make his contract.

Xxx
Answer for Less Experienced Hand

752
43
54
K65432

AK64
AK8
AK8
A97

SQ is lead
You have nine clubs between you. Therefore opposition have four. So they split 4-0, 3-1, or 2-2. If they split 4-0 there is nothing you can do. If they do split 4-0 and you are going to say what you think of the card God, then say it under your breath. You could play for a 2-2 break and play A and K of clubs. If they break 2-2 you will make nine tricks because the 9 of clubs will block you from running all the clubs. A much better plan is to win the opening lead, play AC and then give a club away. Win any return, play a club to your KC and you make eleven tricks. Of course you had already worked that

out,hadn't you?

Xxx

Both the above hands require a different level of skill. Sometimes something other than skill can help. We'll call it L.L. Take the following hand, forwarded by Steve Hurley, played in the GNOT Final.

Kx
AQJT9x
Axxxx

JT98xx Aqx
 x x x
KJx QT9xx
AKQx Tx
 x x
 Kxxx

 J9xxxxxx

Bidding	W	N	E	S
	1S	X	3S	P
	4S	5H	P	P
	5S	X	P	P
	P			

So what does North lead. Evidently an Ace, but which one.

Lead AD and you take the first five tricks.

Lead AH and you only take one trick.

I don't know the vulnerability but no matter what, there is a huge difference in the score.

I don't know what Ace Steve led but I have no doubt it would have been the AD. I base this on the fact that Steve is a good player

and, as all we mediocre players know, good players are always lucky.

Xxx

New members

John Taylor, Elizabeth Davey, Adrian Barnett, Eugene Runko, Warren Rich, Sandra Boyd, Ellen Manning, Leigh Eggan, Robyn Diann Wilson, Maureen Annette McKay, David Hunt.

We all welcome you new members and look forward to playing with and against you. We hope your stay with us is long and enjoyable.

Xxx

New Books

Larry Cohen	Doubles & Redoubles
Larry Cohen	Two Over One Game Forcing
Eric Rodwell	Bidding Topics
Bill Treble	Two Over One (A First Course)
Larry Cohen	Defence
Bill Treble	Defending At Bridge
David Bird	Famous Bridge Swings
Frank Stewart	Keys to Winning Bridge
Frank Stewart	Play Bridge With Me
Kit Woolsey	Matchpoints
Derrick Browne	Improvers Play
Larry Cohen	Declarer Play At No-Trumps
Larry Cohen	Declarer Play At Suit Contracts
Larry Cohen	Opening Leads
Hans Sartaj	Battling The Best
Adam Parrish	Bridge At The Crammer Club
Adam Parrish	When To Draw Trumps
Danny Roth	Outsmart The Bridge Experts

(Ed) All the above new modern books available on loan from our Figtree library.

Xxx

The 2018 IBA Calendar - Contact Details

A police joke – What’s the worst thing you can happen when you’ve got an eye witness to a crime? Another eye witness – the two witnesses never agree completely which the defence can exploit.

So member details are available in three different databases: the original dataset, the Pianola dataset and the ABF dataset. They don’t always agree.

A list has been put together for the calendar reconciling the three datasets as best as we can. This is available as a printout at the bridge club. Can everyone please check their details. Tick if correct. Amend contact numbers if required. If you don’t want to be listed in the calendar please cross out your name.

Some people are listed with no contact details. That is because these are not held in any of the databases. These names will not be included in the calendar contact list unless a contact is provided. The Pianola database has provision for a “preferred

contact number.” If the preferred number option has been selected then only that number has been included in the draft phone list. If you want the other number to be included in the calendar then enter it on the sheet in the blank space. Even if nothing has changed for you can you still please tick the entry on the sheet.

(Ed) O.K. members it is up to you to make sure your details are correct for the calendar.

Xxx

Giggle Time

The Tax Office suspected a fishing boat owner wasn’t paying proper wages to his deckhands and sent an agent to investigate him.

Auditor: “I need a list of all your employees and how much you pay them”.

Boat Owner: “Well, there’s Clarence my deckhand who’s been with me for three years. I pay him \$1000 a week plus free room and board”. Then there’s the mentally challenged guy. He works about eighteen hours every day and does about 90% of the work around here. He makes about \$10 a week, pays his own room and board and I buy him a bottle of whiskey and a dozen beers every Saturday just so he can cope with life. He also gets to sleep with my wife occasionally.”

Auditor. “ That’s the guy I want to talk to, the mentally challenged one”.

Boat Owner. “ That would be me. What would you like to know?”

Xxx

I wonder if some of our committee members feel like the boat owner at times.

I guess that’s it for this issue.

I will attach committee jottings when they come to hand.

Until next time, Keep Smiling
P.B.G.(Ed).

(Ed) I had left this page blank for the Committee Jottings to be attached. At the last moment, the committee meeting was postponed for one week. As I will be walkabout for a couple of weeks, This letter will be printed now and the jottings will be placed on the notice board later.

Further to the Annual General Meeting on 16th November; Nomination forms are on the club room tables. They are there for a reason, **For Nominations.** If you can help our club in any way, no matter how small, then be prepared to ‘put your hand up’. You may have more talent than you think you have, give it a go. Also, as a token of respect for the excellent job the current committee have done this year, we should all be at the commencement of the AGM to show our thanks.

xxx

Unusual Occurrence

On Saturday, 7th November, at Figtree, Rob Kinloch was Director. At 1.20 he asked everyone to sit at their table so he could see how many tables we would be playing. After a couple of minutes he said 14.1/2 tables and Ken McIvor gave out two boards to each table whilst Rob started setting up the computer. At 1.25 Rob, with a surprise tone in his voice said, “Let’s start”. As members started picking up their cards, two more members arrived. Fortunately, this was a good thing as it made up a full table and still meant two hand rounds.

But let’s consider: What if it had meant a different number of tables and therefore a different number of hands per round. All cards would had to be collected and then redistributed as required. Rob would have had to reset the computer to the different format. And all members who had started to play would have had to replace their cards and wait for the readjustment.

So, should this be done or should the latecomers be told “Sorry, you’re too late”. Tough call, but how would you feel if you were the Director, had come early and set everything up, and then have to change it all. Come on, support our committee, and be

seated at the table 10 minutes prior to scheduled starting time.

Xxx

THE DIRECTOR IS YOUR FRIEND 1

Changes to the Bridge Laws were introduced in August 2017. The main aims of the changes are to ensure that play continues at the table. We will print some in the newsletter for you. (today’s ref: The Director is Called by J MCILWRAITH). “**COMPARABLE CALLS**” (LAW 23) From last time:

“Offender may make any legal call at his turn to call and when the call is a “**COMPARABLE**” call there is no further rectification.”

“**COMPARABLE CALLS**” (LAW 23) “Definition

A call that replaces a withdrawn call is a **COMPARABLE CALL**, if it

6. Has the same or similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call or
7. Defines a subset of the possible meanings attributable to the withdrawn call or,
8. Has the same purpose (e.g. an asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call.”

e.g.1. Insufficient Bids

1NT (2♠) 2♦E

If East’s intention was to transfer to hearts (he did not see the 2♠ bid) then a replacement bid of 3♥ would not bar his partner from bidding.

e.g.2. Call out of turn

WESTNORTH	EAST SOUTH
	PASS
Replaced by WESTNORTH	
EAST SOUTH	
1♥	PASS
1NT	

This would be a comparable call. The original PASS shows a hand of less than opening values as does the 1NT bid.

Jill MacRae

