

Illawarra Bridge Association

Newsletter August 2022

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1 Editorial

Despite the best efforts of the emergent new strains of COVID-19 to disrupt things, we have been able to continue face-to-face bridge at both Figtree and Thirroul. We were able to complete our annual Chris Diment Memorial Congress over the weekend of 11th/12th June - albeit with reduced numbers compared with last year. The results are found below, along with those from the Country Teams Regional Final for the Southern Tablelands-Illawarra, held on Sunday 19th June at Bowral Golf Club where 4 of the 12 teams competing were from the IBA. We start though with several important announcements.

2 Important Announcements

Table fees - our wonderful treasurer Ngaire Meehan has a request. Please pay your table fees to the following account if transferring fees online

BSB 814 282
A/c Number 51258241
Name IBA Table Fees TRUST Account

Please include your NAME and/or ABF Number in the Reference section.

(Ngaire's request arises from the fact that some members might have a different a/c number in their saved 'regular payments', resulting in a distribution of payments across different IBA accounts. Untangling the payments and getting them to the right spot is a nightmare. The details here are those to be used for your *table fees only*)

Calendar details – be aware that in the club handbook, while everything was correct when the handbook went to press, Covid disruptions have necessitated unforeseen changes and the calendar details do not correlate with the online version, which is more up to date. Check the website for event details and if you do not have online access, ask a friend or a committee member when you come to the club. Do not rely on the handbook.

Enter for upcoming events – see below for our upcoming special events. Entries are down at the moment for the IBA Swiss pairs - it is a great event, please enter when you can.

3 COVID-19

Covid-19 remains rife in the community and there has been a spike over the last two months. Our IBA community remains the same vulnerable aged group they were 2 years ago when we all scurried home and stayed in isolation. The main change has been that we are now vaccinated. This does not stop us getting sick and spreading the virus. Members are asked to maintain awareness of Covid-19 and comply with the club's established Covid policy.

- **Sanitise your hands on entry to the club** and between rounds.
- **If you want to wear a mask** please bring your own.
- **Social distance as much as possible**, eat and drink outside.
- Remember the disclaimer that you signed when Covid was something that happened on the TV? Now it has meaning here. **DO NOT COME TO THE CLUB with new cough or flu symptoms, or if you have a pending COVID test result, or if you have been instructed to isolate.**
- If you have had Covid, you can be infectious for up to 3 weeks. Please wear a mask when you return to club and only return when you are symptom free.
- We all wish to enjoy the benefits of face-to-face bridge, so we all need to take responsibility to make it as safe as we can.

4 UPCOMING EVENTS

Given the issues with the calendar mentioned above, it is important to know what is coming up at the club, so here is a list of Club events for the remainder of August, plus September.

Saturday afternoon 27th August – Round One of the Club Teams Championship, to be played over 3 Saturdays – 27th August, 3rd September and 17th September.

Wednesday morning 31st August – the Australian Open Pairs competition, another Red Point event. Expressions of interest can still be received by the convenor, Marie Pickering, and entries will remain open until the day of play.

Wednesday afternoon 31st August – the first of a new session at IBAND, starting at 1pm.

Tuesday 6th September – Lessons begin in the evening at 7pm. Supervised play also continues.

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September – Mollymook Congress

Sunday 25th September – IBA Swiss Pairs Congress to be held at Port Kembla Golf Club, with a starting time of 9.30am.

Monday 26th September – A course for current and prospective Directors, at the Figtree premises. Conducted by Ian Lisle – starting time 9.30am.

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th November – NSWBA Novice and Restricted Teams. IBA will host this event at our Figtree premises. Entries should be made via the NSWBA website.

Saturday 19th November – The IBA party, to be held at Figtree. This will be a catch up for 2 years of missed events!!!

Further information on any of these events can be found by checking out the IBA website – illawarra.bridgeaustralia.org - by contacting a Committee member or by checking out the NSWBA online calendar.

5 Competition Results

The Chris Diment Memorial Congress was held on 11th & 12th June at the Port Kembla Golf Club in Primbee. The new venue was a great success with plenty of room for bridge, lunch and refreshments afterwards. There were 19 tables for the pairs on Saturday and 16 teams contested the teams competition on Sunday. There were some outstanding results for our club.

PAIRS – North-South was won by our own **Judy Kingston and Grant Cowen with 60.9%**, 2nd Helen Little and Geoff Hutchins from Canberra Bridge Club, 56.04% and 3rd were Michael and Margaret Kefford from Hurstville Bridge Club, 55.47%

East-West was won by Gary Kembrey and Andrew Grace from Finesse Bridge Club with 58.38%, 2nd Lauri Perino and Kevin Tant from Mollymook Bridge Club, 58.28% and **3rd were Steve and Liz Hurley 58.26%**

Special mentions to NS pairs Rilla England and Hugh McGinty (5th), Shahla Vogl and Cheryl Waters (6th), Maggie and Dave Havyatt (9th), Stephen Brell and Ruth Nield (10th). Also, to EW pairs Kaye Hart and Robert Kinloch (7th), Cathy Ashcroft and Andrew Smith (8th), Jan Greenlees and Jill Macrae (9th).

TEAMS – The teams event was won by the Kumar Team with 86.5 VPs, our own teams were **2nd Fotheringham 78.33 VPs** and **3rd Nield 78.09 VPs**- with a nod to the **Gallagher** team (5th, 75.67VPs)

THANKS – To Jeff Carberry for directing, Ken McIvor the faithful caddy, and to all those members who helped before, during and after the Congress. A special thanks to Ngaire Meehan for looking after all the financial details!

The **2022 Country Teams Regional Final** for the Southern Tablelands-Illawarra took place the weekend after the Congress and was held at Bowral Golf Club on Sunday June 19th. Twelve teams took part, with just the top two finishers proceeding to the Zone final later in the year. First place went to the Bayliss team from Southern Highlands Bridge Club, who finished with 92.8VPs and an impressive 6-0-0 (wdl) record. Four teams represented the IBA and finished in places 2-5 although in a somewhat surprising order....

In 2nd place was the **Barker** team (Phil Barker, Jill MacRae, Carol Kerr and B Rewers) with 78.8 VPs, followed in 3rd by **Hurley** (71.3), **Fotheringham** (70.86) and **Kingston** (63.23).

6 Notes from the Committee

This is a summary of items discussed at recent Management Committee meetings which we need to bring to your attention.

- The Church group “Destiny Alive” will hire the IBA club room on a weekly basis from Sunday 4th September. This will require packing up the red bidding boxes and putting them away, together with BridgeMates and sanitising gear from the tabletops. Other loose items around the room will need to be cleared away too. Saturday players are requested to assist at the end of play. It is a requirement of our lease that we make the Hall available to the community.
- IBAND is expanding and will run a bridge session on Wednesday afternoons for a two-month trial period, starting on 31st August. Please help set up from midday and play will begin at 1pm. You will need a partner.
- Our Building Manager, Ken Soldi, has resigned from the position and from the Management Committee. The Committee thanks him for his consistency in attending to the Building Managers duties, his regular help with the new bridge players, and his reliable commitment to the welfare of the club and its members. Lynne has kindly stepped up to take on the Building Managers mantle and has been appointed in the interim.
- Stuart Cutsforth has been appointed as the Tournament Committee Chairman until the end of the year. Thank you to Stuart for accepting this important position.
- Please read the list of upcoming events set out on Page 2 and 3. We have Club events, regional events, and a state event to consider. Notably, we have representative teams in the GNOT (28th August in Bowral), SCAT in Nowra on 16th October, and the Country Teams Zone play off is yet to be confirmed.

- Ian Lisle will run an all-day DIRECTORS COURSE at our Figtree premises on Monday 26th September. This course will cater for directors at all club levels. The club has depended on too small a number of very dedicated directors for a long time and this is your chance to do the directors training at our home base in Figtree. A light lunch will be provided.
- Our Melbourne Cup social bridge day will be held on 1st November from 10 am. A light lunch will be provided (cost will be covered by your table fees) and there will be envelopes for your prepaid sweep at both venues, all washed down with a little sparkling wine if you wish. See Lynne Soldi if you wish to help with catering.
- The IBA Swiss Pairs is an annual event that will be held at the Port Kembla Golf Club, Primbee, on Sunday 25th September. Please advertise this to your friends in other clubs, register via the NSWBA website and help make this a success amidst the World Cycling events.
- Our Anniversary Gala Evening on 19th November will be a 3 in 1 event - a missed building milestone anniversary, a birthday, and a Christmas party with a 3 course sit down dinner after bridge on Saturday, and entertainment! Save the date and gather your friends to make up a table, dust off your glad rags and let us celebrate.
- The Annual General meeting will be held at Figtree on Saturday 26th November, prior to the afternoon bridge session. All committee positions will be declared vacant on the day, so if you would like to play a more active role in the management of our Club, please have your nomination in by early November.
- The **Hi-Lo** event on August 3rd was very well supported. A big thank-you goes to all regular Wednesday players for giving up their regular partner for the day and giving one of our many novices the benefit of playing in a regular session. It is nice to see some venturing out to our regular sessions, following that day.

7 Improve your bridge.....by reading bridge books!

Experts agree that reading bridge books is the best way to improve your game and the best book to lift your declarer play is the brilliant *Eddie Kantar Teaches Topics in Declarer Play at Bridge*.

The first chapter alone is priceless, “*A Transport of Delight*”, on the art of creating extra entries and fluidity within a single suit. Eddie observes, “*If all the contracts that were lost by overlooking entry problems (frequently at trick one) were laid end to end, there would be no end.*”

Later chapters feature when to and when not to finesse, basic counting (including “Count Your Tricks!”) and basic declarer technique.

Try your hand at this problem:

Question: How do you play this trump suit - A42 opposite KQ8753?

(Answer below)

For all things bridge - Email paul@bridgegear.com or phone - 0408-888-085



Paul sells bridge supplies and giftware as well as books and has read many of the books he sells. If you are seeking advice on which book is best for you, please speak to Paul at the club or by email or phone.

IBA members attract a 10% discount plus of course no postage since deliveries can be organised at the Club premises.

Answer: Keep the 3, to maintain fluidity, K first then 5 to Ace. If the suit breaks 2-2 you now can cross with the 3 to the 4 if you need an entry later.

8 Acknowledgements

Thanks to all who helped me put this Newsletter together: Jill, Carolyn and Marie.

Happy Bridging everybody, I will see you all in October.

Phil