

# Illawarra Bridge Association

Newsletter August 2023

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## 1 Editorial

Hello to you all and welcome to the August issue of our newsletter. This issue contains details of recent results, including the Chris Diment Memorial Congress which was held over the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> June. This newsletter includes results up to the end of July and reminders about table fees and the Monday night RealBridge sessions.

It also includes a fascinating hand that Martin Bunder encountered online.

Are you a 'flopper' or a 'flasher'? You'll discover this in the Director's Corner, where Dave Havyatt covers the rules on how a card is played. The necessity for system cards is also explained and then Dave shows how you can help the Director after you (or your opponents) have called him to your table.

## 2 Important Announcements

**Emergency evacuation drill** – To comply with Wollongong City Council regulations we need to hold a simulated emergency evacuation drill annually. This year it will happen sometime in September, and it will happen during one of our regular sessions at the club – either during a Tuesday afternoon session, a Wednesday morning session, or a Saturday afternoon session. When the siren alarm sounds, the Director automatically becomes the Emergency Warden, and will wear the red helmet (which hangs up just behind the director's chair), and is in charge of proceedings from here. The Director knows exactly how many members are at the club, playing bridge, at the time the alarm is sounded. Your duty, as a club member, is the following:

- **When the alarm sounds**, you must stop playing and put everything down on the table, leave everything where it is and head in an orderly fashion to the main door, assisting those who need it.

- **Follow orders from the Director to the letter** – they may immediately nominate one or two players to check the toilets.
- **Do not go to the cubicles** to grab your handbags, phones, umbrellas, scarves or anything else, get up from the table, go straight out of the door in an orderly manner, head down the path and gather at the Emergency Assembly Point (which is the playground, across the road).
- **The Director** will come over to the assembled group, count heads to ensure all are present, and give the ‘all clear’ order when it is safe to return to the clubrooms and continue playing – hopefully, you left your cards ‘face down.’

Tip – next time you are at the club, have a look at the Emergency Evacuation diagram and information, it is on the door as you enter the clubroom.

**Improving our club** – Is there anything that **you, the member** would like to see happen to improve our Bridge Club?

Our Regional Representative (Marie Pickering) informs us that as part of the restructuring process of the NSWBA, the strategies and planning people would like to know the TWO top priorities for our club’s development? The only people that can provide this information are you, the membership. So, if you would like to see, for example, improvements in.....

- club management
- marketing
- website set up/development
- bridge teacher training and support
- director training and support
- IT support
- bridge lessons
- or any other thoughts or suggestions that you’d like to see happen....

the committee suggests you either: write your thoughts on a piece of paper and put it in the suggestion box; talk to a member of the committee; talk to a director. While the information you give will help the NSWBA in their restructuring plans, it will also help the Management Committee in knowing what they need to do to improve.

**Table fees** – A reminder to keep a check on your latest balance whenever you are at the club, remember the account for your payment is -

BSB	814 282
A/c Number	51258241
A/C Name	IBA Table Fees TRUST
Description	Table Fees
Reference	Name + ABF number

The details here are those to be used for your **table fees only !!!!**

### 3 Upcoming Events

Given the issues we have with the calendars (events and dates not matching), it is important to know what is coming up at the club, so the Tournament Committee has provided the following dates for August and beyond.

One important date in the coming two months is Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September when we host the Illawarra Bridge Association Swiss Pairs Congress at the Port Kembla Golf Club. The Tournament is limited to 30 tables and there will be prizes in the Open, Restricted, Novice and Youth sections and the usual wine prizes for high achieving local pairs. Entry is via the NSWBA website (<https://nswba.com.au/tourn/calendar.asp>) and full details are to be found in the colour brochures, available at the club.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, **Thursday night bridge** will resume at the clubrooms at 7pm. Please try to give this session the utmost support.

Further information on any of these events can be found by checking out the IBA website – [illawarra.bridgeaustralia.org](http://illawarra.bridgeaustralia.org) – or by contacting a committee member or by checking out the NSWBA online calendar.

In addition, a new series of lessons run by Marie Pickering will commence on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, please see the flyer at the club for more details or email : [pickering\\_marie@hotmail.com](mailto:pickering_marie@hotmail.com)

### 4 Monday RealBridge session

After the initial 4-week trial, the Monday night session on RealBridge has been continued and is enjoyed by all who participate. Normally there are 6 to 8 tables, but more participants are always welcome.

There is a **NEW** link for each session which can be accessed via the [IBA website](#) under “Coming Events” on the Home Page, on the day of each session. Please check your microphone and camera on your computer before each session, via the RealBridge website.

The link to the session will take you straight to the BRIDGE LOBBY on RealBridge. Here you will need your ABF number to log in with your full name.

I will start the session at 7pm but you can come to the tables from 6.15pm when I will open the doors! Virtually speaking. You can then just select a seat to sit in with a click of the mouse. Please fill the seats from table 1.

I hope you find it as much fun seeing and talking to people as I have. Phone or text if you have problems on the day.

Jill MacRae

## 5 Recent Results

Since the February/March edition of the Newsletter, there have been a number of Club, State and National Events. The **Club Pairs Championship** was played with two heats and a final over 4, 11 & 18 March.

1 <sup>st</sup>	R. Neild, R. England
2 <sup>nd</sup>	S. Cutsforth, R. La Marra
3 <sup>rd</sup>	T. Wright, H. McGinty

Stuart Cutsforth and Steve Brell had a very big win in the **Karhof Trophy**, contested over 22 and 29 March. Full results were:

1 <sup>st</sup>	S. Cutsforth, S. Brell
2 <sup>nd</sup>	C. Ashcroft, A. Smith
3 <sup>rd</sup>	J. Carberry, R. Kinloch

After winning the 66 Club with Helen Lavings back in February, Moira Cunningham had another win, with Grant Cowen, in the **Tuesday Pairs Championship** played on 27 June and 4 July.

1 <sup>st</sup>	M. Cunningham, G. Cowen
2 <sup>nd</sup>	C. Waters, E. Gray
3 <sup>rd</sup>	B. Fotheringham, M. Bunder

### Chris Diment Memorial Congress 2023

The biggest event on our calendar is the annual **Chris Diment Memorial Congress**. After a Covid-affected event in 2022 which restricted participation to only 38 pairs and 16 teams, it was a different story this year. Played over the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> June our event attracted a fantastic field of 68 pairs and 32 teams with a high representation from youth players and clubs around NSW. Overall results and category results were:

#### Pairs

	North-South	East-West
1 <sup>st</sup>	C. Rhodes, R. Rajkumar	M. Dowling, Y. Qi
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M. Smith, D. Flicker	K. Creet, A. Creet
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I. Lisle, M. Chadwick	A. Stoneham, J. McMahon
Best Restricted	M. Havyatt, D. Havyatt (6 <sup>th</sup> )	D. Duke, T. Williams (14 <sup>th</sup> )
Best Novice	A. Saundry, P. Saundry (14 <sup>th</sup> )	L. Lesueur, P. Jones (17 <sup>th</sup> )
Best Local	T. Wright, H. McGinty (7 <sup>th</sup> )	G. Cowen, S. Szatmary (4 <sup>th</sup> )
Best Youth	I. Bari, S. Mitheran (33 <sup>rd</sup> )	D. Lai, A. Le (25 <sup>th</sup> )

#### Teams

1 <sup>st</sup>	A. Stoneham, D. Flicker, M. Dowling, Y. Qi
2 <sup>nd</sup>	N. Ranson, J. Dunbar, J. McMahon, C. McMahon
3 <sup>rd</sup>	G. Hutchins, H. Little, C. Lokan, M. Lokan
Best Restricted	M. Parekh, P. Stebbing, K. Hubbell, D. Cohen (13 <sup>th</sup> )
Best Novice	C. Szency, G. Jones, M. Havyatt, D. Havyatt (20 <sup>th</sup> )
Best Local	G. Cowen, S. Szatmary, S. Hurley, L. Hurley (5 <sup>th</sup> )
Best Youth	E. Burrows, J. Breznik, D. Lai, A. Le (26 <sup>th</sup> )
Local Restricted	S. Southern, A. Lopez, T. Malcher, J. Zamuner (27 <sup>th</sup> )

Our club was particularly well represented with 12 teams participating.

A massive thanks to Jeff Carberry for directing, Rob Kinloch for assisting and Ken McIvor the faithful caddy – a great team who ensured the event ran smoothly without major dramas. Special thanks to our Congress Convenor (Marie Pickering), our Publicity Officer (Erica Gray), to Ngaire Meehan for looking after all the financial details, Ken and Lynne Soldi for transporting tables and things from the Clubroom and to Phil for buying the wine prizes. Also, thanks to Sue Southern and all those members who helped before, during and after the Congress to make sure things like the catering, coffee and clearing up were taken care of.

### **Representative Bridge**

The **NSW Country Teams** event is played as part of the John Arkinstall State Teams competition. IBA held its qualifying event over 1 & 8 February. The top 5 teams, our expected entitlement to the Regional Final, were:

- 1st R.Neild, R.England, C.Bale, K.Mcivor
- 2nd P.Lavings, H.Lavings, J.Carberry, K.Hart, R.Kinloch, S.Brell
- 3rd S.Hurley, L.Hurley, G.Cowen, S.Szatmary
- 4th B.Fotheringham, M.Bunder, R.Lamarra, S.Cutsforth, T.Wright, P.Barker
- 5th C.Ashcroft, A.Smith, M.Pickering, C.Githens

The Regional Final was played at our Club on 4 June. The winners who progress through to the State Finals were the Lavings team of P. Lavings, H. Lavings, J. Carberry, K. Hart, R. Kinloch, S. Brell. The State Team Finals will be played online on RealBridge on 24-26 November. The first two days are qualifying, and the best two teams play for the State Championship on the Sunday, while the best two Country Teams play the Country Teams Final on that day. Best wishes to the Lavings team for that event.

Qualifying for the Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) was held over 15, 22 and 29 April. The three-day format allowed the fourteen teams to compete in a round robin. As the club can send any team that finished in the top half of the field, the first seven would qualify for the regional final. This will be played on 27 August at Bowral Bowling Club. The winner of the regional final will play in the National Final in Brisbane on 1-4 December. The qualifying teams were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lavings, H. Lavings, I. Lisle, V. Lisle, J. Carberry, K. Hart
- 2<sup>nd</sup> K. McIvor, C. Bale, R. Neild, S. Brell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> R. LaMarra, S. Cutsforth, G. Cowen, S. Szatmary
- 4<sup>th</sup> C. Kerr, M. Kerr, P. Graham, S. Dynan, S. Bochan
- 5<sup>th</sup> J. Kingston, D. Gallagher, K.Soldi, L. Soldi, S. Southern
- 6<sup>th</sup> B. Fotheringham, M.B under, T. Wright, H. McGinty
- 7<sup>th</sup> C. Ashcroft, A. Smith, C. Githens, M. Pickering

The **State Mixed Pairs Qualifying** was held at the club on 6 & 13 May. The best pairs were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> R. Neild, R. Kinloch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> I. Lisle, V. Lisle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> P. Lavings, H. Lavings
- 4<sup>th</sup> S. Cutsforth, R. La Marra

- 5<sup>th</sup> C. Ashcroft, A. Smith
- 6<sup>th</sup> J. Kingston, D. Gallagher
- 7<sup>th</sup> J. Carberry, R. England

Two pairs, J. Carberry & K. Hart, and J. Kingston & D. Gallagher went on to represent at the State Mixed Pairs Championship on 20-21 May, though unfortunately neither pair made the Final.

The **South Coast Autumn Teams** was contested at Nowra Bridge Club on 28 May. The trophy was retained by Illawarra, by the team of **Steve and Liz Hurley, Andrew Smith and Cathy Ashcroft** – well done to you all!



Steve Hurley is presented with the trophy by Adrian Riepsamen of the Nowra Bridge Club.

Congratulations to Alex Tavan and Michael Turner. They finished 28<sup>th</sup> overall in the **Australia Wide Novice Pairs** which was played at our club on 31 May. Additionally, they finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the Under 50 MPs category.

A most enjoyable morning of bridge was held on Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> August where we had 16.5 tables for the **Hi Lo event**. Rob, our director, made everyone feel welcomed and relaxed and set the tone for the morning. Many thanks to everyone who participated in this event. It is a great experience for our newer members to have the support of a more seasoned player and to dip their toes into non supervised play. This is an event that our club should be very proud of.

## 6 An interesting hand - Martin Bunder

Playing online with Bill Fotheringham recently, I picked up this remarkable hand:

♠  
♥  
♦ 86532  
♣ KQJ96542

The chance of picking up voids in both majors is 1 in 27,168.

The bidding went:

N	E (Bill)	S	W (Martin)
1H	P	1S	2NT*
X	3D**	4H	5C
X	P	5H	P
P	P		

The full deal was:

	♠ T82		
	♥ KQJ83		
	♦ AKJT		
	♣ A		
♠		♠ QJ653	
♥		♥ T4	
♦ 86532		♦ Q7	
♣ KQJ96542		♣ T73	
	♠ AK974		
	♥ A97652		
	♦ 9		
	♣ 8		

As you can see, 6H by NS is cold and 5H making 12 should have been a good score for us. However, to get a good score on this hand, with 11 points between us, I should have bid 6C, or 7C if 6H was bid.

A bit of history.... Many years ago, at a world championship match, one pair bid a grand slam in a major. An opponent bid 8C (or 8D)!! This was doubled but, with the grand slam making, this was a good score. Bidding more than 7NT was later banned internationally!

## 7 Jottings from the Committee Meeting August 12<sup>th</sup>

IBAND continues to attract good numbers of participants, with 8 or 9 tables regularly on Friday afternoons and 5-6 tables on Wednesday afternoons.

If you have a badge, please wear it at our regular sessions, it helps newcomers and visitors.

Coming up on Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup> is the Annual General Meeting. If you enjoy your bridge and would like to help in the running of the club, please consider joining the Management Committee in an official role or as a General Member.

## 8 Director's Corner

### Floppers, Flashers, and the Fall

IBA members who travelled to Canberra for the Summer Festival of Bridge got together for dinner on the Friday night where some finishing that day joined others starting the next (and a few hardy souls doing both). It was an enjoyable night, as the company of our fellow bridge players invariably is.

A section of the dining party started discussing the characteristics of bridge players; the main focus was how each card is played (or "faced", as the Laws call it). Apart from players who simply place the card in front of themselves, there are three types: the flopper, the fall and the flashers.

The flopper draws the card from their hand, turns it face up and then lets it drop to the table. The action is reminiscent of the dive known as the bellyflop but without the splash. The height of the fall varies from barely perceptible to extravagant.

The second version is the fall. In the fall, the player draws the card from their hand, balances the lower edge on the table and then releases the card so that it hinges down to fall on the table. The flopper and the fall result in the face-up card resting on the table.

The flasher is altogether more extravagant. The player, having withdrawn the card from their hand, inverts it while still holding it. Unlike the other two approaches (or placing the card), there is no guarantee that all three other players can see the face of the card.

The conversation moved from humorous to serious by asking what the Laws of Bridge say. The Laws are both very precise and imprecise. Law 45A says that a card is played (except for dummy) by the player detaching it from their hand and facing it on the table immediately before them. Law 45C says that a defender holding their card so the partner can see its face is deemed to be played to the current trick.

The flopper and the fall satisfy Law 45A, as the card is on the table. On the other hand, the flasher is deemed to have played the card under Law 45C but hasn't met the requirements of Law 45A. For play to continue, the declarer needs to see the flasher's card, not just the defender's partner, but what about the dummy?

Under Law 42A2 dummy has an absolute right to keep count of tricks won and lost. They need to see the card played to do so on their own determination. Additionally, under Law 42A3 dummy has the absolute right to play the dummy's cards and ensure the dummy follows suit, so at least they need to see a defender's card when that defender is on lead.

What should a dummy do when with a flasher who holds their cards so that the dummy cannot see the card? The first and obvious step is to courteously (Law 74) ask the defender to play the card so that all players can see the card. If the defender declines dummy cannot call the Director during play (Law 43A1(a)). Declarer could, however, call the Director. More simply, the player could call the Director after the hand.



In summary, playing a card requires placing it on the table. When a player shows their card while still holding it, they should hold it so that every player can see the face of the card. If the dummy can't see the face, they can ask the player to change how they play their cards, but they can only call the Director after the hand is completed.

## **System Cards**

A member recently asked a club director whether it was correct that players should have a system card available for inspection by opponents at ordinary club sessions. The short answer is yes, but the reasoning is somewhat tortuous.

The starting point is the structure of the rules and regulations covering any bridge session. The starting point is the 2017 Laws of Bridge which cover the essentials of play, from the shuffle to the score, but they don't cover everything. Each of the world, national, state and local bodies supplement the Laws with Regulations, though we won't discuss the WBF Regulations here.

The ABF Regulations include a list of decisions made by the ABF concerning the places the Laws refer to decisions that the Regulating Authority may make. The three sets of Regulations most relevant to club players are the alerting regulations (covered in an earlier newsletter), the written bidding and bidding box regulations and the system regulations. These are worth reading before you go to attend any Gold Point events. The part relevant to the member's question is this requirement (in 3.3):

For all National (Gold Point) events, each pair shall have two systemically identical ABF approved system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of play.

Before the commencement of play, each pair shall hand one copy of the system card to each opponent. The system cards are to be returned to the pair at the end of that segment of play.

More generally, the ABF Regulations state that both players must play the same system (3.7) and that where "as a matter of style" members adopt different approaches from each other, that difference (or differences) must be disclosed on the system card.

Moving to the State level, the NSW Bridge Association Regulations page includes links to the relevant national regulations. Systems and system cards are included in the NSWBA Tournament Regulations. These state (at 5.1.1):

Except for events where the Director determines that a system card is not required, each pair shall have on the table during the periods of play a legible system card properly identified with their names.

The NSW regulations also require both partnership members to use the same bidding system and play conventions (5.6). The NSW regulations also include an interesting provision about a partnership knowing its system, stating:

It is implicit that a partnership should know its own system. The Director may require a pair to cease playing a particular system and revert to a more natural system if, in the Director's opinion, the bidding and/or explanations of the partnership demonstrate that it does not have an adequate knowledge of its system. The Director shall report such a ruling to the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee may prohibit the pair from playing such system until it is able to demonstrate a satisfactory knowledge of the system.

The Illawarra Bridge Association has its own Tournament Regulations. These Regulations charge the IBA Tournament Committee with ensuring that IBA follows the NSWBA Tournament Regulations for our "annual Pairs and Teams Congress, the Swiss Pairs event and Restricted Pairs event and also our regular Club sessions."

The simple answer to the member's question is that players must have a system card available for opponents' inspection at all club sessions. However, this shouldn't be the primary reason for having a systems card. Writing out a systems card is the easiest way for a partnership to agree on their system. This is possibly even more important for players who form temporary partnerships than those who play together regularly.

System cards are also of assistance to directors. Certain rulings (e.g., determining comparable calls under Law 23) can be easier if the director can get an explanation of the intent of a call from the systems card.

The club usually has a stock of blank system cards on hand. Alternatively, blank cards can be easily generated by printing them off from the ABF website. The system cards section includes links for standard and simple blank cards, an editable PDF card, and a guide on completing a system card.

Members can keep a copy of their system card at the Figtree club. There is a rack for these beneath the results board at the Western side of the Northern end of the hall.

### **After the Director is called**

In a 2022 newsletter, I advised on the importance of calling the Director in every case of an infraction. As a new Director, I have quickly learnt how players can help the Director.

The first is by calling the Director promptly. Players should turn no cards face-up until the Director arrives at the table and asks for it to be done. Unless a player has accidentally drawn more than one card and exposed it, there is no reason for there ever to be more than one face-up card in front of any player (unless it is a penalty card, and that should only occur because the Director has previously ruled that it is a penalty card). For example, if a player realises they have revoked before the trick is complete, don't pull out the card you should have played before the Director arrives and has given instructions.

The second is raising your hand and leaving it raised when you call the Director. No matter how clear or distinct your voice, the Director can't pinpoint tables by voice alone. The number of "phantom" calls I hear when I'm a playing Director is quite surprising. A quick room scan looking for a raised hand can tell me if it is real or a phantom.

Thirdly, when the Director asks how they can help, it is useful if only one player talks. This should be the person who called the Director, but they can, if they wish, defer to another to respond to the Director. It is unhelpful to have multiple players talking at once.

Now that the Director is at the table and has been appraised of the situation, recognise that the Director cannot always make a decision immediately. Give the Director time to think; don't start peppering them with additional questions before they give instructions or ask for further information.

As players have a right to appeal any decision of a Director (Law 92), it is perfectly reasonable to respectfully ask the Director for the basis of their ruling or further clarifying questions. For example, I was recently called to a table for an insufficient bid that the Left-Hand Opponent didn't accept and didn't replace with a comparable bid. Apart from being unclear about the rights of the offender's

partner before the offender withdrew the bid and passed, I had failed to mention lead restrictions. A non-offending player correctly asked me whether any lead restrictions applied.

Finally, the Director may ask players to face their played cards after the hand to resolve disputes over the number of tricks won or an established revoke. When asked to do so, please face them where they are and maintain the orientation that indicates who won the trick.

Dave Havyatt

## **9 Members' stories about bridge (ii) Carol Jeffs**

Jim was an elderly gentleman who turned up every Tuesday when we first moved to Figtree, to play Rubber Bridge. He played but never said much, but he let it slip that he would be 93 the next week. We came forth with a splendid cake with an abundance of candles. It took Jim a good few goes to extinguish them all, with the resulting smoke setting off the fire alarm!! It sounded long and loud, but eventually a fire engine turned up and in bounded the fire brigade crew. Old Jim was so excited by the kerfuffle, while the Firies were placated with chunks of birthday cake.

Alas, Jim couldn't eat his cake....he had a gastric feeding tube which we knew nothing about.

Jim died a few weeks later and Rubber Bridge also fizzled out, sadly for the beautiful game.

Another old Bridge trooper now playing in the Heavenly Club and hopefully the Angels have trained him in Duplicate by now. Truly another Bridge character typical of the members who form the backbone of our Club.

Carol

## **10 Acknowledgements**

Thanks to all who helped us put this Newsletter together: Jill, Chris Yates, Marie and the rest.

Happy Bridging everybody.

Phil and Dave