

# Illawarra Bridge Association

Newsletter May 2022

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## 1 Editorial

Even though we have been back with face-to-face bridge for several months now, numbers are still down on all our formerly regular sessions: Wednesdays and Saturdays, our popular sessions at the club are running at 10-12 tables, down from 15-20 in 2019 pre-Covid.

Monday evenings, Thursday evenings and Thirroul sessions on Monday morning and Friday afternoons are all running at 3-4 tables, well shy of pre-Covid levels. Tuesday afternoons are also down, running at 5-6 tables over recent weeks, but with a change to IMPS format (first Tuesdays of the month) proposed by Andrew Smith, we will see an increase.

Of course, while the current situation is disappointing, it is entirely understandable with many former regulars uneasy about coming to the club while Covid still lurks in the community. We are still a vulnerable group. As such, with several events coming up over the next couple of weeks, we need to reiterate a few Covid pointers, which President Jill Macrae has put together for us.

## 2 COVID 19

Covid 19 is rife in the community and spreading more than ever here. 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 also between rounds.
- 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.
- The Chris Diment Memorial Congress is coming up and although numbers are down, we still have entries from around the region. We have a duty of care to all our entrants. **If you are sick do not come.** If you have already entered, let us know and we will attempt to find a substitute.

### 3 UPCOMING EVENTS

It is important to know what is coming up in the club, Jill has put a list of Club events together.

DATE	EVENT	Comments
8 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday Pairs Championship	
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 1.30 session in lieu of Saturday	
11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Chris Diment Memorial Congress	Port Kembla Golf Club Register via NSWBA calendar NOW
16 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Thursday RED point teams. Thursday RealBridge on hold for these teams.	F2F at the club. Please register
7 <sup>th</sup> July and following 8 weeks, with a 1 week break after 4 weeks	NSWBA pairs league	Register via my ABF website, \$25 for 8 Thursday nights on RB.
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	IBA Swiss pairs	Figtree hall, register via NSWBA
12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	NSWBA Novice and Restricted teams	IBA to host at Figtree. Register via NSWBA. We need a convenor.
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	IBA party	A catch up for 2 years of missed events.

### 4 Competition Results

2022 has seen some return to normality for our bridge, including the various club competitions.

The first competition of the year was the '66 Club'. This competition has been conducted for many years. Any pair that records a score of 66% in any one session over the previous calendar year automatically qualifies to play in this event. It can, of course, be complicated

because a player may have recorded 66% with more than one partner (pistols at dawn normally settles this)!

Eleven pairs contested the **66 Club** competition, held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022. It was a tightly contested afternoon, as can be seen by the results....

1st	Paul Lavings ... Helen Lavings	60.83%
2nd	Steve Szatmary ... Phil Barker	60.42%
3rd	Jeff Carberry ... Walt Davis	58.75%

The **Karhof Trophy** was contested over 28<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March, the overall result being

1st	Steve Hurley ... Liz Hurley
2nd	Walt Davis ... Jeff Carberry
3rd	Stuart Cutsforth ... Renate La Marra

An honourable mention to Martyn Hopkins and Rodd Smith - winners of the 'plate.'

With 21 pairs starting, and after two weeks of qualifying, the top 10 pairs qualified for the final of the **Club Pairs Championship**, held on 19<sup>th</sup> March, with a win to Paul and Helen Lavings.

1st	Paul Lavings ... Helen Lavings
2nd	Ruth Neild ... Steve Brell
3rd	Liz Hurley ... Steve Hurley

The **Past Presidents' Cup** and Shield was contested on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Past Presidents Cup 2022	Stuart Cutsforth ... Rilla England
Past Presidents Shield 2022	Moira Cunningham ... Renate La Marra

The Karhof Trophy and the Past Presidents' Cup and Shield are 'perpetual trophies' that live in our trophy cabinet. They are also historical, because the last winners recorded on each are for 2001 for the Karhof Trophy (which is a cup), 1998 for the Presidents' Cup (which is a trophy) and 1985 for the Past Presidents' Shield. Jill MacRae wrote a poignant paragraph about the history of the Karhof on Pianola and has kindly dug into the database to find winners of the three competitions from 2010 to 2018. If you have information on the winners in the missing years, please let Dave Havyatt know for inclusion in the records.

We cannot overlook the participation of Paul Lavings at the 45<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Championships in Italy. Paul was a member of the Australian Seniors team, competing for the d'Orsi Trophy, the World Seniors Teams Championship. Although the team did not qualify for the quarter finals out of 24 teams competing, they were as high as 9<sup>th</sup> at one stage and obviously competitive.

## 5 Notices from the Committee

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

Rob Kinloch has decided to step down from the Tournament Committee this year. He established this committee and has been chairperson since it started. It has been one of the best innovations in the management of the club, in my opinion (Jill MacRae). Stuart Cutsforth has agreed to take on the role of chairperson, and Steve and Liz Hurley have been added to the existing membership. Thank you in advance.

**THE CHRIS DIMENT MEMORIAL CONGRESS** is our major Congress of the year and is to be held at the Port Kembla Golf Club. The event numbers are low this year and we would invite ALL IBA members to come, play and enjoy the atmosphere of a Congress. The lunch on both days looks good too. Register through the NSWBA. There will be no session at the club on Saturday so Jeff will run a session on Friday afternoon at Figtree for regular Saturday players. Please play at Thirroul if this is your usual session.

There is equipment for the congress that needs to be transported to Port Kembla. Five volunteers could collect it after the session on Friday and bring it to the golf club on Saturday morning around 8 am. Let Marie know if you can help.

Lessons were held in April and May, for which we thank Frances Lyon. The club welcomes these new players and some returning players to the club.

The Thursday night sessions continue on their rocky road. Small numbers at the club and increasing Covid in the community suggest that keeping an IBA session online will serve our players well. There is also a need to have face-to-face events in the evening to support those workers amongst the membership, and maybe this will grow too!. Thursday on RealBridge will continue until the Thursday team's competition at the club on 16th & 23rd of June, and then interested members can join the NSWBA pairs league online in July. When the Pairs League ends we will review. Watch the IBA website and if there is a link to a game please email Jill MacRae if you wish to play.

A big thank you to Dave G, Ruth and B who have volunteered to deal boards.

Thank you to the novices who joined in the Local Hi Lo and the Australia Wide Novice Pairs. It was a buzz to see the club rooms filled again with the excitement we have been used to.

We have vacancies in our management. We need new (and revived) Directors to make sure that we can support each session. Importantly, the IBA has been entrusted to host the NSWBA Novice and Restricted Teams event on 12th and 13th of November and we are looking for a convenor. If you can help, please contact a committee member.

The NSWBA has asked that members register themselves with myABF. The details are on the NSWBA website. Clubs will increasingly use this portal to streamline transactions and contact.

**IBAND** The Friday session has gradually attracted players back to face-to-face. Monday morning sessions are small and Barbara plans to trial a Wednesday afternoon session in the near future. Please watch your PIANOLA notices and the IBA website for the commencement date. Thank you to Barbara and Rob for direction and the brigade of helpers for set up before and after each session.

**PAYMENTS:** Ngaire Meehan is doing an excellent job of tracking the table fee payments. There is now a list on the notice board each month that we urge you to check regularly. All IBA sessions are \$5. Please keep your fund in the black. The preferred method of payment for all transactions is by bank transfer.

Account details: -

For **TABLE FEES**

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

For all other payments (including **Membership Fees and Congress Entries**)

BSB	814 282
A/c Number	31204318
Name	Illawarra Bridge Assoc.

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

If Bank Transfer is not an option, cheques may be given or sent to -

Ngaire Meehan  
9 Kembla Street  
PORT KEMBLA NSW 2505

## 6 How to improve your bridge

What is the best way to improve my bridge game? It is a question we often ask, and Marie Pickering has found an interesting article for us all to consider. Sourced from <https://youth.worldbridge.org>

There are several keys to improving your game:

**1. Patience** - Bridge skills improve slowly. While they are improving, you will make errors. To improve, you must be able to acknowledge the errors and live with them. If you won't accept an error as an error, you won't learn not to make it again.

**2. Learning and playing occur separately** - When playing, your goal is to do your best with the skills you have now. There is a ton of stuff to think about and pay attention to. The last thing you need is someone explaining how you could have made the last hand on a squeeze. So don't ask for lessons from your partner while you are playing. You need that mental

energy just to use the skills you already have. Instead, do your learning after the session by reviewing the hands. When you have added that skill to your toolbox, apply it during a future session.

**3. Focus on process, not outcomes** - Outcomes are your scores. Unfortunately, scores have a randomness factor. You can play a hand well and get a bad score. You can also play a hand poorly and get a good one. You can even play flawlessly for a whole session and get a mediocre score or play mixed and get a great one. So, outcome is a misleading indicator of the quality of your play. Process is the mental process you follow while choosing your bids and making your plays. If you focus on improving your process, you will be working on the part of bridge that you can control. Further, you can work on process even on hands where good process won't change the outcome. For example, you can practice counting declarer's shape and tricks even though he is simply cashing out.

**4. Rehearse the basic skills** - Skilled musicians spend countless hours rehearsing to gain facility on their instruments. You will need to rehearse as well. For example, with my students, I deal random hands, let them play versus robots, and I ask questions like "how are the clubs divided?" "How are the high cards divided?" asking yourself these types of questions on every hand is the equivalent of the musician mastering fingering on his stringed instrument. It is an underlying fundamental skill. It doesn't make you a great player by itself, but without mastering it, being good at the instrument simply isn't possible. Same with counting. Bridge skill starts with gathering information—observing the defender showed out on the second round of clubs. Then moves on to counting to establish in your mind all the information that is known, then moves onto drawing inference now that I know clubs were 6-4-2-1 around the table what can I infer about other suits? and finally moves onto making a plan for how to take a certain number of tricks.

Happy Bridging All

Phil