



# **IBA Annual Report 2025**

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## **1. 2025 President's Report**

### **Celebrating Bridge, Growth and Community**

As I look over the past 12 months, it is evident that our bridge club has continued to grow and develop with the ideals proposed originally by the founders and passed on from year to year by the tireless efforts of our committees and the welcoming spirit of our members. Our calendar is packed with a variety of events, ranging from eight weekly bridge sessions to competitive events such as club championships, NWP, Australia- Wide Novice, Restricted and open Pairs, Country Teams qualifying, Swiss Pairs Congress, Chris Diment Memorial Congress, Grand National Open Teams qualifying. It also includes Beginner Bridge Lessons, Improver Lessons, Charity events, IBA Birthday and Christmas celebrations.

None of these events happen by chance, but by the tireless efforts of our volunteers and committee members.

### **The Tournament Committee**

Our Tournament Committee of Jeff Carberry, Rob Kinloch, Stuart Cutsforth, Renate La Marra, Dave Havyatt, Grant Cowen and Liz Cusack meets monthly to ensure our events are planned and organised for the next two months.

Each year, the process of planning our club's calendar begins in July, when our chief tournament director, Jeff, submits applications to Bridge NSW to secure suitable dates for our two congresses. Later in the year, the tournament committee convenes to design the full schedule for the following year. This planning is carried out with careful consideration of National, State, and interclub events to ensure our activities align with the broader bridge community. The task is substantial and requires significant coordination and attention to detail. Thanks to the dedication of Jeff, Malcolm Kerr, our Masterpoints Secretary and the Tournament Committee, this complex job is always accomplished to a high standard.

### **The Management Committee**

The Management Committee plays a vital role in the ongoing success and smooth operation of our club. Meeting every two months, the committee is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day management of club activities and ensuring our compliance with the requirements set by Wollongong City Council. Their responsibilities include addressing the immediate needs of the club, identifying priorities for development, and ensuring that appropriate support and resources are available to meet the diverse needs of our members. Additionally, the committee keeps members informed about the resources and opportunities available through Bridge NSW, maintaining a strong connection with the wider bridge community.

### **The Birthday Party**

In May this year, we marked a significant milestone by celebrating the 30th anniversary of The Illawarra Bridge Association Inc. The festivities were expertly organised by Carol Jeffs, a past president and one of our foundation members. Carol's efforts ensured the day was both memorable and meaningful for everyone involved.

During the celebration, Carol paid tribute to our founding members, recognising their vision and commitment in establishing the club. A special highlight of the event was the presentation of a beautiful silver IBA badge to those original members who are still actively playing with us three decades later, acknowledging their long-standing dedication to the association.

Another memorable aspect of the day was the unveiling of the book “Friendship and Play”, which captures the history of the IBA through written accounts and photographs. This book serves as a lasting record of the club’s journey and the enduring friendships formed over the years.

On behalf of all members, sincere thanks are extended to Carol for her hard work and dedication in organising such a wonderful celebration. The 30th birthday party undoubtedly stands out as one of the key achievements of the year, bringing together our community in recognition of our shared history and the spirit of bridge.

### **Transition to MyABF Table Fees**

In May this year, our club successfully completed the transition of table fee payments from the traditional IBA account system to MyABF. This change marks an important step in modernising our financial processes and streamlining how members pay for bridge sessions.

During the COVID pandemic, handling cash transactions became impractical. In response, our treasurer, Ngaire, established a dedicated table fees account. Members deposited funds directly into this account for each bridge session, enabling the club to continue operating while adhering to health guidelines.

Throughout this period, Ngaire diligently managed the financial records, carefully tracking every transaction and providing monthly account reports to members. Her commitment extended to reconciling all individual accounts, including those with unidentified deposits—a task that demanded exceptional attention to detail and countless hours of work.

On behalf of all members, sincere appreciation is extended to Ngaire for her unwavering dedication in managing the club’s finances during a challenging time. Her efforts ensured the continuity and integrity of our bridge sessions, and her service has been invaluable to the association.

### **Members**

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our members. You are truly the backbone of our club, fostering a warm and inviting environment where everyone feels welcome. Your involvement and enthusiasm are what make our community so special.

I encourage everyone to take the time to read all the included reports and personally thank those individuals who have contributed significantly to our club, as well as those recognised on the thank you page. Their dedication and service have played a vital role in our ongoing success.

As we move into another year, we look forward to building on our achievements, welcoming new members, and creating more cherished memories together.

Thank you once again for making our bridge club a place where learning thrives, and lasting friendships are formed.

Marie Pickering

## **2. IBAND Report 2025**

It has been a challenging year.

Many thanks to Rob Kinlock and Jeff Carberry for their continued support of IBAND.

Thank you so much to Rob Mathie, John Spira and Jack Regan as fellow directors, your support has been invaluable.

Thank you to Wayne Hunt and Michael Turner for setting up the hall and all the elves who clear away.

IBAND continues to welcome beginners and players from interstate, long may it continue!

We are celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026. How lucky we are to play this game and meet so many wonderful people.

**Pictured below:** Paul Tuckerman, an inaugural member of IBAND, received the OAM in the King's Birthday Honour List 2025, a great honour.



*Paul Tuckerman AOM*

Happy bridging.

### **3. Interactions with Wollongong City Council**

In the past 12 months we have provided the following information as requested by Wollongong City Council:

- Quarterly reports for the number of people using the hall as well as the number of sessions and any bookings.
- Quarterly Asset Inspection checklists of building inside and outside to ensure there are no hazards essentially and all is to Council standard. Any issues raised need to be addressed by the Association.
- The yearly reports for our financial year including Public Liability, Financial Statements, Annual report, and minutes of the Annual General Meeting.
- An additional report was requested by Wollongong City Council to be completed for July next year. It will be called Hall Hire Profit and Loss Statement.
- In addition to these reports there has been regular interaction with WCC usually by email but sometimes with phone call follow ups for matters such as carrying out Electrical Power Board Inspection, an impromptu site inspection by Council, request to review our Fees and Charges, follow up emails after storms to check all is ok with building and outside areas. We received the occasional email advising there are such things as used wall heaters or vacuum cleaners or other things on offer from the council. We have also been having discussions regarding the future planned refurbishment of our amenities and there has been interactions with the council to resolve the parking issue at the front of our entrance.
- As a direct result of the Quarterly Asset Inspection report requested by Council the electrical tagging and testing of all electrical leads is carried out at the appropriate time yearly, and this requires coordinating with the Contractor.

Lorna O'Leary

### **4. Report on the IBA Business Plan for 2024**

Every ten years Wollongong City Council requires IBA to apply for the licence for the Figtree Community Centre. To this end we must demonstrate that we can fulfil all the council's

requirements in relation to the premises. We last renewed the licence in 2016, so we will have to reapply in 2026. WCC has informed us that they will notify us when this needs to be completed.  
Marie Pickering

## **5. BEGINNERS, IMPROVERS AND INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS**

We are basking in the fine standards set by Chris Diment for attracting and developing new players in the club. The numbers currently coming to our lessons, supervised sessions and improvers lessons are increasing annually. We are offering more opportunities to participate in general sessions and to compete on a bigger stage. There are now many who work hard to offer the best encouragement to players who wish to learn and play the game.

### **Supervised Sessions**

The Club holds two formal supervised play sessions each week. One on Tuesday evenings with a lesson at 6.30 and a full session of bridge from 7pm. There have been from 4 to 7 tables each week. The other supervised session (TAMS) is held on Thursday morning from 9.30 am with a lesson followed by hands developed to illustrate the key ideas set out in the lesson. TAMS has had 6 to 9 tables throughout the year.

Helpers at supervised sessions and back up teachers are essential for supervised sessions to meet the needs of players and to maintain momentum and indeed, grow. In 2025 the Tams session would like to thank Rilla England, Helen Lavings, and Ken Soldi for their very reliable regular support as supervisors. Dave Havyatt, Steve Geddes and Don Clark have all taken a teaching role. Tuesday sessions are supported by Grant Cowan, Ngaire Meehan, Ken Soldi, Sue Southern, Kay Snowden, Paula Corbett, Peter Graham and Erica Gray.

Players are able and encouraged to come to both sessions and so widen their experience and get extra practice.

### **The Introductory lessons.**

Following 2 bridge taster sessions in March, Marie P ran a set of lessons on Monday mornings. Another set of introductory lessons was held on Tuesday evenings in late July. These introductory lessons were 8 weeks with those attending in favour of the extended time. Jill MacRae ran an introductory course on Thursday afternoon for six weeks from mid-February and graduands were then invited to the morning session where basic concepts were reinforced. There were eleven players who completed the course.

Overall, 24 players have joined the club through 2025 as a result of attending these lessons.

### **Continuing to Improve your bridge game**

There are many players in the club in the Improvers and intermediate category for whom the club aims to provide opportunities to expand their knowledge of the game. Steve Geddes provided 4 improvers lessons on a Monday which were very well supported and enjoyed. He followed up with some Pop-up lessons on a Saturday morning before the main session.

Before the usual Thursday evening session, Stuart Cutsforth and Renata la Marra have been holding improving your bidding discussions for half an hour.

### **Hi Lo events**

Three hi lo events are on the 2025 calendar. These events are designed as a social experience for new players so that they can meet the other members of the club and partake in a full session of Duplicate. Partnerships are arranged using seeding, and it emphasised to experienced players that it is NOT a teaching session. The supervised players support these events with enthusiasm and as an organiser I am very grateful to the experienced players who give up a session with their partner to offer this opportunity to the "NEW CLUB". Three of

the Hi Lo sessions are duplicate, and one is a team's event which really is great fun for the players.

### **Bridge NSW, State and National events**

Annually the IBA conducts qualifying for Under a Hundred Master points over several sessions at the club, holding a Local final in late November. This event gives novice players a taste of competition beyond the club. State Novice and Restricted Pairs event this year was held at Peninsular Club. The Teams well be held at Central Coast clubs in November. Illawarra was well represented at the pairs, and we are organising teams for the Central coast. We look forward to hosting the teams event in 2026. We promote and run events for the Australia Wide competitions which have novice and restricted sections.

Jill MacRae and Marie Pickering

## **6. Congress Convenors' Reports**

### **6.1 The Swiss Pairs Congress was held at Port Kembla Golf Club on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

The 2025 IBA Swiss Pairs Congress on Sunday 16 February was a great success with 60 pairs attending the Congress. The move from September to February worked well and overwhelmingly participants praised the new venue, the organisation of the day and the skills of the Director Jeff Carberry and his assistant Rob Kinloch. The change of date and venue had been highlighted in an intense advertising campaign with information mailed to regional clubs and tabled at the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra To the delight of everyone local pair Vicky and Ian Lisle (IBA) are the 2025 IBA Swiss Pairs champions. Other results are given in Section 9 of this report.

### **6.2 Chris Diment Memorial Congress held at the Illawarra Master Builders Club 14th and 15th June 2025**

This event is named after the former IBA Club manager and grade A Director, Chris Diment. Known for his warmth, calm efficiency and insightful guidance, Chris enriched the game for all players, especially beginners. His legacy of professionalism and kindness is something that we can all aspire to.

Players from Sydney, Batemans Bay, Canberra, Nowra, the Southern Highlands and Illawarra attended the Congress. There were 68 pairs and 34 teams an increase from the 28 tables of the 2024 congress. The results of the Congress are given in Section 9 of this Annual Report.

Players attending the Congress were asked to complete a survey to allow the Association to continue to improve the Congress.

### **6.3 Australia – Wide Pairs**

The Australia -wide Pairs were held for Novices on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Restricted Pairs on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 and the Open Pairs on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025. These events offer bridge players the opportunity to play in a Nationwide event where they receive a Souvenir Booklet on the day and where they can access a detailed online personal analysis of each board when all the results have been collated. In the 2025 NSW State-wide Pairs Paul Lavings and Jeff Carberry won the Club event and finished 17<sup>th</sup> out of 604 pairs at the State level.

Erica Gray and Marie Pickering

## **7. Publicity Report**

### **February 2025**

Results of the IBA survey completed in late 2025 collated and presented in the newsletter. Many favourable comments.

ABC radio 97.3 FM was contacted on two Saturdays to promote Jill MacRae's upcoming Bridge Lessons. Dates and details were given on air.

A form was filled out for 96.5 Wave FM to promote Jill MacRae's Bridge Lessons. No response was received and it's unsure if the lessons were promoted.

Vox FM and i98FM also sent an email with all lesson details. No response received.

An email was sent to the sports editor at the Illawarra Mercury asking what would be required to have a Bridge article printed in the Mercury. No reply received.

Wollongong Council Seniors Festival Activity Calendar for 2025 was collected from council offices and distributed at Figtree and Thirroul bridge venues with details of the two introductory Bridge Taster Sessions held in the club rooms during Seniors Week at Figtree.

Prize Certificates were printed off for presentation at the Illawarra Swiss Pairs Congress held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Builders Club.

### **April 2025**

Wollongong Council Seniors Festival Bridge Taster Sessions (given by Marie Pickering) were held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 from 10am -12noon. Attendees completed a survey and all thoroughly found the event worthwhile and were enthusiastic about commencing Bridge Lessons. As a result, new bridge lessons were organised by Marie Pickering commencing on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025. ABC radio 97.3FM was contacted and the lessons were promoted on air on two weekday mornings and the Saturday prior to commencement of classes. There were 5 attendees. After the lessons a survey was taken, and all were very positive about bridge. Marie took up a suggestion made by many in the group that the classes are extended from 6 weeks to 8 weeks in length.

### **June 2025**

The Chris Diment Congress was held at the Builders Club in Wollongong on 14<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Certificates including place in the Congress and the prize category were printed for presentation.

ABC 97.3 radio was contacted on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July to promote new bridge lessons on air commencing on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July, given by Jill MacRae.

### **August 2025**

Discussion on inviting organisations to donate prizes or a cash donation for our two major Congresses, the Illawarra Swiss Pairs Congress held in February and the Chris Diment Congress held in June.

### **October 2025**

Ongoing discussion regarding request for licenced clubs to donate to the IBA congresses or choose to donate prizes.

Application sent to Wollongong Council for inclusion of The IBA Bridge Taster Sessions in the Wollongong Seniors Festival Activity Calendar (3<sup>rd</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026). Separate applications were sent to Council for each Bridge Taster event to be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 from 10am- 12noon.

Chris Yates

## 8 PROMOTIONS – October 2024 to September 2025

All information about your Masterpoints is available on the website Australian Bridge Federation Masterpoints Centre. <http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/>.

Name	New Rank	Name	New Rank
<b>October 2024</b>			
Bevan Clouston	Graduate	Lisa Hyde	Club
Catherine Power	Local	Glenda McNee	Silver Life
Ian Lisle	Silver Grand		
<b>November 2024</b>			
John Cheshier	Graduate	Ian Jenssen	Graduate
Bevan Clouston	Club	Paula Corbett	Club
Cath Gregory	Club	Allan Sutherland	Club
Tom Malcher	Local	Lucy Cowen	Bronze Local
Alex Tavan	Silver Local	Shahla Vogl	Regional
Christine Yates	State	Betty Pieters	Bronze State
Lily Gulati	Bronze National		
<b>December 2024</b>			
Gregg Shaw	Graduate	Manuel Lopes	Bronze Local
Michael Turner	Regional	Jack Regan	State
<b>February 2025</b>			
Davison, Vicki	Graduate	B Rewers	Bronze State
Julie Cowling	National	Ken Soldi	Life
<b>March 2025</b>			
Vicky Lisle	Silver Grand		
<b>April 2025</b>			
Kerry Nicholls	Local	Sue Bochan	Bronze State
Ngairie Meehan	Bronze State		
<b>May 2025</b>			
Catherine Power	Bronze Local		
<b>June 2025</b>			
Mohan Chinnappan	Club	Don Clark	Bronze Local
Paul Tuckerman	Bronze Local	Marie Pickering	Bronze Life
Piyal Kitulagodage	Silver Local	Lucy Cowen	Silver Local
Annette Lopez	Local	Christopher Fergusson	Local
Philip Boehme	Local		
<b>July 2025</b>			
Tony Nicholls	Graduate	Ernst Nowotny	Graduate
Trikki Young	Local	Julie Carbonara	Bronze Local
Peter Gard	Silver Local	Stuart Cutsforth	Gold Life
<b>August 2025</b>			
Penny Potter	Graduate	Bevan Clouston	Local
<b>September 2025</b>			
Cathy Moore	Graduate	Paula Corbett	Bronze Local
Terry Hudson	Silver Local	Wayne Hunt	Silver Local
Jane Johnson	Regional	Ruth Neild	Gold Life

## 9. IBA Results

This report covers all results from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.

### 9.1 Club Championships

The **2024 Wednesday Pairs Championship** (and State Open Pairs Qualifying) was played on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Szatmary and Grant Cowen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ruth Neild and Rilla England
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul and Helen Lavings

The **66 Club** was not held in 2025 as there were not enough entries.

**Tuesday Teams Championship** on 25th February and 4 March.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kaye Hart, Jeff Carberry, Sue Bochan, Lorna O'Leary, Steve Brell
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Elena Pereloma, David Hewson, Renate La Marra, Stuart Cutsforth
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Judith Foley, Phillip Carey, John Rankin, Susan Hammond

The **Mixed Pairs Championship** was held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

- |                 | North-South                 | East-West                         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings | Stuart Cutsforth, Renate La Marra |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Kaye Hart, Jeff Carberry    | Liz Hurley, Steve Hurley          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Jill MacRae, Phil Barker    | Carolyn Githens, Peter Graham     |

The **IBA Teams Championship** was played on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Liz Hurley, Steve Hurley, Steve Szatmary and Grant Cowen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rob Kinloch, Ken McIvor, Steve Brell, Ruth Neild and Colin Bale
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings, Jeff Carberry, Kaye Hart, Vicki Lisle and Ian Lisle

**Wednesday Teams Championship** was played in conjunction with Country Teams Qualifying (see representative bridge) on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The winners of the championship were Liz Hurley, Steve Hurley, Steve Szatmary and Grant Cowen.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings, Ian Lisle, Vicky Lisle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ian Porter, Stuart Cutsforth, Steve Brell, Renate La Marra

The **Past Presidents' Cup and Shield** was contested at the club on 25<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.

- Cup Winners Liz and Steve Hurley
- Shield Winners Pranati Basu, Michael Turner

**GNOT qualifying** was held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025. The teams qualifying to the Regional Final from the IBA were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Paula Corbett, Sue Bochan, Martin Bunder and Bill Fotheringham
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings, Jeff Carberry, Kaye Hart, Dave Havyatt, Maggie Havyatt and Rob Kinloch
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Liz Hurley, Steve Hurley, Steve Szatmary and Grant Cowen
- 4<sup>th</sup> Betty Pieters, Larry Regterschot, Phil Barker and Ngaire Meehan
- 5<sup>th</sup> Carol Kerr, Malcolm Kerr, Steve Dynan, Peter Graham
- 6<sup>th</sup> Manuel Lopes, B. Rewers, Martyn Turner, and Pranati Basu
- 7<sup>th</sup> Sue Southern, Dave Higgins, Lyn Soldi, Ken Soldi and Erica Gray

**Club Pairs Championship**, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Stuart Cutsforth, Renate La Marra
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Carol Kerr, Malcolm Kerr

The **Thursday Night Pairs Championship** was held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Marie Pickering, Carol Jeffs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stuart Cutsforth, Renate La Marra

The **Tuesday Pairs Championship** was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kaye Hart and Jeff Carberry
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Martin Bunder and Bill Fotheringham
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lyn Soldi and Ken Soldi

The **Karhof Trophy** was held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Paul and Helen Lavings
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stuart Cutsforth, Renate La Marra
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Steve Szatmary and Grant Cowen

**Wednesday Pairs Championship** (and State Open Pairs Qualifying) 17 and 24 September

- 1<sup>st</sup> Liz and Steve Hurley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stuart Cutsforth and Stephen Brell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Kinloch and Jeff Carberry

## 9.2 Club Congresses

**IBA Swiss Pairs** Congress held 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025, at the Illawarra Master Builders' Club

### Open Pairs

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ian Lisle, Vicky Lisle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> B. Dalsto, F. Zulfiqar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings

**Restricted Pairs** Erica Gray, Barb Overington

**Local Pairs** Stuart Cutsforth, Renate La Marra

**Chris Diment Memorial Congress** held 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 at the Illawarra Master Builders' Club

### Open Pairs

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lucy Cowan and Grant Cowan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Filmer Ramsay and C. Mitchell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Lavings and Helen Lavings

### Restricted Pairs

- 1<sup>st</sup> Graham Jones and Conny Szenczy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> David Higgins and Sue Southern

### Novice Pairs

Chris Fergusson and Trikki Young

### Best IBA

Steve Szatmary and Phil Barker

### Open Teams

- 1<sup>st</sup> A. Creet, L. Brassil, M. Brassil and K. Creet
- 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Corbett, J. Adcock, R. Hurst and D. Manderson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> E. Pretorius, S. Geddes, V. Brown and W Jenner-O'Shea

### Intermediate Teams

- 1<sup>st</sup> A. Grace, K. Hubbell, F. Hardiman and P. Stebbing
- 2<sup>nd</sup> L. Cowan, Z. Chowdhury, L. Minogue and Grant Cowan

### Restricted Teams

- 1<sup>st</sup> I. Khoury, C. Jeffs, K. Snowden and V. Hodsdon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Camilleri, T. Simmons, B. Matterson and B. Lyon

### Novice Teams

- 1<sup>st</sup> A. Poon, D. Zheng, N. Klugman and D. Lai
- 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Corbett, A. Lopez, D. Clark and I. Young

### Best IBA Team

P. Lavings, V. Lisle, I. Lisle and H. Lavings

### 9.3 Representative and Championship Bridge

The **2024 State Novice and Restricted Teams** was played at Illawarra Bridge Club on 9 -10 November 2024. Eighteen teams contested the State Novice and Restricted Teams with an odd number of entries in each field it was played as one round robin of 17 six board matches. The team of Ngaire Meehan, Bevan Clouston, Cath Gregory and Lucy Cowen from Illawarra won the Restricted Section as a Novice Team.



*Ngaire Meehan Bevan Clouston, Cath Gregory and Lucy Cowan with Tournament Organiser Jill MacRae*

The **2024 State Open Pairs** (incorporating **Country Pairs**) no IBA pairs participated in this event in 2024.

The club hosted a local final of the **2024 State Under 100 Master Points** (UHMP) on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

	North-South	East-West
1 <sup>st</sup>	Shahla Vogel, Martyn Hopkins	Bevan Clouston, Cath Gregory
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lucy Cowan, Don Clark	Catherine Power, Paula Corbett
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Julie D'Amico, Bronwen Jones	Mohan Chinnappan, Diana Davison

**Country Teams Qualifying** was played over two weeks on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 7 February 2025. Our initial qualifiers were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Lavings, Paul Lavings, Jeff Carberry, Kaye Hart, Ian Lisle and Vicky Lisle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Geddes, Elaine Pretorius, Bill Fotheringham, Martin Bunder, Stuart Cutsforth and Renate La Marra
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ken Soldi, Grant Cowan, Liz Hurley, and Steve Hurley
- 4<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Githens, Marie Pickering, Andrew Smith and Cathy Ashcroft

- 5<sup>th</sup> Malcolm Kerr, Carol Kerr, Steve Dynan and Peter Graham
- 6<sup>th</sup> Steve Brell, Colin Bale, Ken McIvor and Ruth Neild
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jan Greenlees, Carol Jeffs, Kaye Snowden and Jill MacRae

The **2025 State Open Pairs** was played at the Sydney Bridge Centre on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. Steve and Liz Hurley won the State Open Pairs and Kaye Hart and Jeff Carberry were the Champion Country Pair.



*Liz and Steve Hurley*

*Jeff Carberry and Kaye Hart*

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025, three IBA teams competed against nine other teams for the **Country Teams Regional Final**. Our top three team placings were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Liz Hurley, Steve Hurley, Steve Szatmary and Grant Cowen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vicky Lisle, Ian Lisle, Jeff Carberry and Kaye Hart
- 8<sup>th</sup> Cathy Ashcroft, Andrew Smith, Carolyn Githens, Marie Pickering

The Lisle team progressed to the Zone finals and finished second.

Seven IBA teams contested the 2025 **GNOT Regional Final** on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Liz Hurley, Steve Hurley, Steve Szatmary and Grant Cowen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul and Helen Lavings, Jeff Carberry and Kaye Hart
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Eddie Carkut, Lydia Adams, Christina Riepsamen and Adrian Riepsamen.

One Tablelands-Illawarra team, Paul and Helen Lavings, Jeff Carberry and Kaye Hart, participated in the three-day, on-line **GNOT** qualifying event held 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2025.

The **South Coast Autumn Teams** was not held in 2025 as there were power supply problems. Also at the end of last year our club hosted a local final of the Under 100 Masterpoints (UHMP). Bevan Clouston and Cath Gregory came first overall as well as winning the 0 to 9.99 masterpoints category. In that category Helen Davidson and Alan Sutherland finished 4th. Catherine Power and Paula Corbett won the 10 to 24.99 masterpoints category. Well done to all these state champions!

## **10. Thanks to our large contingent of volunteers.**

The Association could not function without the active participation of many, including - The Management Committee.

Building manager  
Directors

Ken Soldi  
Jeff Carberry, Rob Kinloch, Andrew Smith,  
Barbara Overington, Marie Pickering, Jill

Tournament Committee	MacRae, Dave Havyatt, Jack Regan, Stuart Cutsforth, John Spira, Grant Cowan Jeff Carberry, Stuart Cutsforth, Renata La Marra, Rob Kinloch, Grant Cowan, Dave Havyatt, Liz Cusack
Collation of Masterpoints and preparation of the annual calendar	Malcolm Kerr
Refreshments	Lynne Soldi, Ken Soldi, Sue Southern
Cheering contact	Aileen O'Brien
Library	Liz Cusack
Recording of event winners	Dave Havyatt
Newsletter	Dave Havyatt
Special Suppers and Teas	Carol Jeffs, Julie Cowling, Sue Southern, Lynne Soldi
Congress Convenors	Erica Gray, Marie Pickering,
Lessons & Supervised Sessions	Marie Pickering, Jill MacRae, Fran Lyon, Grant Cowen, Dave Havyatt, Helen Lavings, Rilla England, Ngaire Meehan, Ken Soldi, Kay Snowden, Paula Corbett, Erica Gray
Dealing boards	Ruth Neild, Dave Gallagher, Rob Kinloch, Jeff Carberry, Carolyn Githens, Ivan Young, Don Clark, Tom Malcher
Media contact	Chris Yates
Spare players and partners	Julie Cowling
Web Manager	Cheryl Waters

Very special thanks go to Sue Southern, and Lynne and Ken Soldi who are listed above, but it cannot be underestimated just how many tasks they perform.

**And many thanks to all the other members who do the little things that are untitled but none the less essential, such as:**

- Assist directors to set up and close the room.
- Watch over the First Aid box.
- Set the supper table.
- Wash tea towels and tablecloths.
- Remove garbage and take home the recycling.
- Pack up equipment after Saturday afternoon sessions.

**11. Charity Sessions**

The Club has held sessions to raise money for the Cancer Council through Australia's Greatest Morning Tea and for the Movember charity. The amounts raised exceeded \$2,000. In addition, both the IBA and IBAND have collected over 28 boxes of food donations for the Wollongong Homeless Hub and Housing Services.

**12. Vale**

Sadly, this year we have farewelled:

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Pat Berry      | Hugh McGinty |
| Norma Grindrod | Tony Wright  |
| Henny Karhof   |              |

### 13. Financial Reports

## Illawarra Bridge Association Balance Sheet Financial Year ending 30th September 2025

<b>Current Assets</b>	<b><u>30th September 2025</u></b>	<b><u>30th September 2024</u></b>
E-Saver Account - CUA	\$15,441.77	\$8,467.90
Prime Access Bank A/c Chq	\$213.38	\$328.22
Property Account	\$7,134.56	\$5,754.56
Term Deposit	\$199,024.82	\$193,981.31
Petty Cash	\$300.00	\$300.00
Cash on Hand		
Accounts Receivable		
Interest Receivable		
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$222,114.53</b>	<b>\$208831.99</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$222,114.53</b>	<b>\$208831.99</b>

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## Illawarra Bridge Association Inc - Profit & Loss 2024-2025

### Income

Table Fees - Figtree	\$51,945.81
Table Fees - Thirroul	\$7,061.00
Refreshments	\$1,249.25
Cards / Bidding Pads/Books	\$75.00
Congresses	\$24,088.20
Donations /Grants/Sponsorship	\$140.00
Hall Hire	\$1,380.00
Interest	\$9,659.89
Lessons / Tutorials	\$2,580.00
Memberships	10,660.00
Special Events	\$7,950.50
Sundry Income	\$6,014.94

### Total Income

**\$122,804.59**

### Expenditure

Accounting	\$462.00
Advertising	-
Affiliation Fees -ABF	\$6,378.00
Affiliation Fees - NSWBA	\$6,504.00
ABF - Nationwide Pairs	\$728.00
Bank Fees	\$9.85
Bathroom & Kitchen Supplies	\$3,081.09
Bridge Supplies	\$2,175.82
Cleaning	\$4,597.39
Computing	\$1,707.34
Congresses	\$21,077.86
Directors Fees	\$5,830.00
Directors Training/Registration	\$306.50
Donations	\$2,320.00
Electricity	\$3,126.12
Events	\$3,401.33
Insurance	\$774.00
Lessons	\$1,040.62
Library Expenses	\$125.88
Masterpoints	\$4,746.48
Pianola	\$2,166.00
Prizes	\$3,540.00
Printing & Stationery	\$7,989.26
Real Bridge Expenses	\$1,205.44
Refreshments	\$2,520.76
Repairs & Maintenance	\$527.47
Security	\$6,148.00
Suppers	\$5,458.35
Sundries	\$3,489.34
Telephone/Utilities	\$1,380.00
Thirroul - Hall Hire	\$3,560.00
Thirroul - Expenses	\$2,701.24

### Total Expenses

**\$109,078.14**

Profit/(Loss)

**\$13,726.45**

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