



## Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday, IBA!



Well, did we celebrate our 30th anniversary? We sure did – and no pandemic came along to interfere! I trust everyone had a great time.



It was a pleasure to acknowledge our Founders and those members who are still playing 30 years later, and also to welcome so many of our newer members, I hope they find as much enjoyment in playing bridge as I have and in belonging to the IBA.

I want to thank the ladies of the Kitchen, Julie Cowling and Trikki Young who assembled 10 loaves of sandwiches and Pranati Basu for the scrumptious sausage rolls and then Vicky Davison who not only made 100 Quiche, but washed a million glasses too. A grand job.

There were also many other helpers from Ken Soldi and his gang of decorators to Carolyn Githens who collected ten-dollar notes. And our directors who managed a fun game.

Thanks also to those who brought in food contributions, it was appreciated. Thank you to Ruth our photographer, I'm looking forward to the results. Then the Snowdens, for that lethal punch, which got the party going, and the gentlemen who procured (and helped consume) all the other alcohol. And Mr Tom who got the cake to the club in one piece. Have a party planned? We are all for hire.....for a fee!

It was great to capture in print the History of the IBA. Many thanks to the editors and printer for their hard work. Please return copies back to the club if no longer needed or ask for one if you haven't seen it yet.

My thanks to President Marie who was always there in the background...my security blanket.

*Carol Jeffs*



*Chris Yates, Manuel Lopes, B Rewers and Marie Pickering dressed to party!*

## The founders

Club badges acknowledging our founders were made for the following members.

### Life Members

Jeff Carberry

Kaye Hart

Rob Kinloch (former President)

Jill MacRae (former President)

Ken Mclvor



*Jan Greenlees with a copy of the club history 'Friendship & Play'*

### Members

Arnie Basu

Claire Mclvor

Nina Southall

Martin Bunder

Tim Marchant

Andrew Smith

Jan Greelees

Betty Pieters

Margaret Spira

Carol Jeffs (former President)

Barbara Porter

John Spira (former President)

Marie Laauw

Ian Porter

Tony Wright (first President)

Ann Lee

Larry Regterschot

A collection of photos from the birthday has been posted to Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/edit/a.1106984941456777>

## Management Committee News

The migration to MyABF for payment of table fees is now complete. Balances from the former prepayment system have now been transferred to MyABF. A big thank you to Marie, Grant and Ngaire for completing this work.

Bridge NSW has posted a complimentary story about the Chris Diment Memorial Congress on their website <https://bridgensw.com.au/ibas-supportive-culture-wins-friends/>

## A Hand at the Club

Grant Cowen is as we all know one of the better players at the club, and he is often asked for advice on how to bid or play a hand at the club.

Grant has offered to provide a column that reviews one (or more) hands that have featured in a session. If there is a hand that has perplexed you if you ask Grant about it we can share the discussion with fellow club members.

## Paul Tuckerman OAM

Thirroul regular Paul Tuckerman (pictured with Maura Denmead) has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday Honours List for service to the community of Thirroul. His list of service accompanying the award is reproduced below.



### Thirroul Railway Institute Preservation Society

- President, 1991-2020; Management Committee Member/Bookings Officer/Membership Officer, since 2017; Founding Member, 1991.

### Thirroul Branch, New South Wales Branch, Australian Labor Party

- President, 1980-2007; Secretary/Treasurer, 1967-1979; Life Member, New South Wales Branch, 2007.

### The Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross

- State Chairman/Grand Knight, New South Wales, 1993-1996; Member, State Council, New South Wales, 20 years; Member, National Council, 1993-1996; Member, since 1974.

### Coledale Hospital

- Chairman, 1982; Deputy Chairman, 1978-1982; Board Member, 1973-1983.

### Community

- Pastoral Care/Parishioner, St Michael's Catholic Church, Thirroul, since 1980s; President, Thirroul Village Committee, 2005-2020; Member, Adult Development Committee, Wollongong Diocese, Catholic Church of Australia, 1991-2001.; Member, Advisory Committee, Illawarra Transport, 1976-1996; Secretary, Bulli Pass Scenic Reserve Trust, 1974-1989; Deputy Chair, Illawarra Area Health Service, 1983-1986; Volunteer, St Michael's Parents and Friends Association; Volunteer, Holy Spirit Parents and Friends Association; Former Chair of Trustees, Illawarra Cancer Appealathon; Former Volunteer, Meals on Wheels..

## Results

### State Mixed Pairs and Country Pairs Championship

The State Mixed Pairs Championship is contested over the weekend of 17-18 May. This is a Matchpoint event played as a Web Mitchell of all entries (either from Club Qualifying Events or direct entries) on Saturday.

The top seven placed pairs from North-South and East-West then play a barometer round-robin on the Sunday (13 matches). When there are enough entries a separate Country final is played.

Liz and Steve Hurley won the State Mixed Pairs Championship and were presented with their certificate at the club.

IBA sent four pairs. Unfortunately, one pair that had qualified for the Country final had to pull out meaning there were insufficient entries for a separate Country Final.



This meant the Country Mixed Pairs Championship was awarded to the best placed country pair. This was Jeff Carberry and Kaye Hart who finished third and were also presented with their certificate at the club.

See the column later on the hand Steve analyses for us from the event.

### Chris Diment Congress

Returning to the Builders Club on the weekend of 14-15 June we managed to squeeze in 34 tables for pairs and teams. Just over half the entries were from other clubs.

The results and presentations reminded us why tournament regulations should specify a results correction period. Going into the last match, Grant and Lucy Cowen had a 15 VP lead. They didn't have a good last round having a 22 IMP loss. Paul and Helen Lavings were scored as a 30 IMP win and had achieved a miraculous outcome. However, after the presentations a correction to that score reduced the win to 11 IMPs. Grant and Lucy had managed to keep out Clare Filmer Ramsay (who they played in the last match) by two VPs and the Lavings by a tad over three.

For the teams, event we introduced different definitions for the categories. We used aggregate masterpoints rather than each player's masterpoints – so Novice was less than 400 (4\*100), Restricted less than 1200 (4\*300), and Intermediate less than 2000 (4\*500). The event itself was played as one Swiss field, the categories were for prizes only.

## PAIRS

### Open

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lucy and Grant Cowen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Clare Filmer Ramsay and Cassandra Mitchell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul and Helen Lavings
- 4<sup>th</sup> Elaine Pretorius and Steve Geddes



### Restricted

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

### Novice

Chris Fergusson and Trikki Young



### Best IBA

Steve Szatmary and Phil Barker

## TEAMS

### Open

1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Creet, Louise Brassil, Michael Brassil, Karen Creet



2<sup>nd</sup> Rowan Corbett, Jacqueline Adcock, Rob Hurst, Desmond Manderson



3<sup>rd</sup> Elaine Pretorius, Steve Geddes, Vanessa Brown, Will Jenner-O'Shea



### Intermediate

1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Grace, Ken Hubbell, Frank Hardiman, Paul Stebbing

2<sup>nd</sup> Lucy Cowen, Zara Chowdhury, Liam Minogue, Grant Cowen



## Restricted

- 1<sup>st</sup> Inci Khoury (not pictured), Carol Jeffs, Kay Snowden, Val Hodsdon  
2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Camilleri, Therese Simmons, Barbara Matterson, Betty Lyon (team not pictured)

## Novice

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aaron Poon, David Zheng, Noah Klugman, Duncan Lai  
2<sup>nd</sup> Paula Corbett, Annette Lopez, Don Clark, Ivan Young



## Best IBA

Paul Lavings, Vicky Lisle, Helen Lavings, Ian Lisle

The congress is a reflection of our club. A very well organised, convivial and enjoyable event. The club appreciates the great work of Marie Pickering as Tournament Organiser and Jeff Carberry as Director as well as all the members who assisted with the event. A special call to Chris Komarynsky who cadied on Saturday and Rob Kinloch who assisted Jeff on Sunday.

Having hosted a Directors' workshop at the club rooms on Friday, we bumped in at 4pm bringing resources from Figtree, Thirroul and storage (aka Erica and Bill's shed). Bump out on Sunday was conducted smoothly and efficiently with members settling in for a meal soon after 6pm. Thanks also to those who helped bump in and out including Ken Soldi, Don Clark, Sue Southern, John Gould, Tom Malcher and Steve Geddes.



## Country Teams Regional Final

The **Tablelands-Illawarra Country Teams Regional Final** was held in Bowral on Sunday 1 June. Congratulations to the two Illawarra Teams that finished first and second and will now go on to contest the Southern Zone Final.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Szatmary, Stephen Hurley, Liz Hurley, Grant Cowen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vicky Lisle, Ian Lisle, Jeff Carberry, Kaye Hart

Thank you also to the other team who represented Illawarra (Andrew Smith, Carolyn Githens, Cathy Ashcroft, Marie Pickering)

## Wednesday Teams Championship

The **Wednesday Teams Championship** was played on

- 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Hurley, Liz Hurley, Steve Szatmary, 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

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## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Club Events

Past Presidents' Cup and Shield – 25 June and 2 July

GNOT Qualifying – 26 July and 2 August

### ABF Knockout Teams – Gold Point Event

The ABF Knockout Teams is an online tournament for club teams. There are 5 divisions - Open, U750, U300, U100 and U50, with cash prizemoney in each division according to the number of entries in that division.

A Club may enter a team in each division. and unlimited substitutions are allowed. This means that the whole Club has the chance to be involved, we can have a different set of players in each match if we want.

The event will be played on Realbridge on Tuesday evenings, starting at 7.30 pm (EST). There will be 2 qualifying rounds, on 22 July and 19 August.

The top 8 teams in each division will then play a quarter final knockout on 23 September with the winners playing a semifinal knockout on 28 October. Finally the remaining 2 teams will play a final on 25 November. Teams that are knocked out will play in a consolation match.

If you are interested in playing in this event please let Dave Havyatt know either in person or email [david@havyatt.com.au](mailto:david@havyatt.com.au) or phone 0414 467 271

## Winter is coming

IBAND and IBA have already collected more than 19 boxes of food, toiletries and hygiene products to help the Illawarra Homeless Hub.



The Homeless Hub helps people experiencing difficulties with food assistance, transitional accommodation and temporary/crisis accommodation. Winter and the difficult economic climate will result in increasing demands on the services for the homeless and we can help.

When you are a little cold or the winter wind whispers around your ears, please think of the people who need our help and put that extra product in your shopping trolley to donate to the homeless. Then feel free to snuggle down at home happy that you have helped somebody less fortunate than you.

*Kaye Hart and Barb Overington*

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## Promotions

The Australian Bridge Federation is ceasing of annual registration cards. They will also not send cardboard promotion certificates once current stock is exhausted. This is, in part, designed to save members money. We will still announce promotions here.

### April 2025

Club	Kerry Nicholls
Bronze State	Sue Bochan
	Ngairé Meehan

### May 2025

Graduate	Susan Schreiber
Local	Paula Corbett
Bronze Local	Catherine Power

## State Mixed Pairs Final – Morning

We asked the State Mixed Pairs Champions, Liz and Steve Hurley, which hand they thought was memorable. They nominated one against the top seeds for the event, Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer.

Bd: 11      ♠ J  
 Dir: S      ♥ 93  
 Vul: Nil     ♦ A976  
              ♣ AKJ1063

♠ K10965	♠ 874
♥ Q8762	♥ K105
♦ J5	♦ Q103
♣ 8	♣ 9742

♠ AQ32  
 ♥ AJ4  
 ♦ K842  
 ♣ Q5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		
N	5	6		1	4		13
S	5	6	2	2	5	6	5
E							16
W							

Three tables played the hand in 3NT by S, with two making 12 tricks (to a spade lead) and one making 10 (to a heart lead).

One played in 5♣ (by S) making, and three went to 6♣ (by N) going off by one. Here is the bidding at the Hurley table.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Warren Lazer	Liz Hurley	Pauline Gumby	Steve Hurley
2C(2)	3C	P	1NT(1)
P	4C	P	3NT
P	6C	All Pass	5C

Note 1 1NT 15-18

Note 2 Various hands types including weak 5/5 in the majors.

Steve Hurley explains the bidding and play and the alternatives:

First things first. This is matchpoint pairs, and unless there is a clear reason, 3NT will score much better than 5 of a minor. So, if pursuing a minor, consideration should be given to bidding a slam to get the best match points. North has a 6-card suit and 13 points – surely worth considering a minor slam.

Thinking further on the bidding, it is often better to play in a 4-4 fit with a strong outside suit rather than to have the strong long single suit as trumps with an outside 4-4 fit. Having the 4-4 fit as trumps allows the long strong side suit to be used for discards.

So to the play. In 6C, there are 2 losers – notionally a diamond and a heart. Not knowing the KS is off-side, declarer could look at the spade finesse to discard the losing heart, but that was not to be.

In 6D though (being the 4-4 fit), after gaining the lead, declarer draws two rounds of trumps and plays on clubs, (the strong long side suit). As it turns out, the player with the master trump (♦Q) has to follow clubs for 4 rounds. In this time, declarer has discarded the J and 4 of hearts, therefore avoiding a heart loser.

If North had instead bid 4D instead of 4C, South would have raised to 5D. With North pursuing slam, the next bid would have been 6D.

## History Erratum

The club history, *Friendship and Play*, unfortunately left out one of the photos of club members having success in major tournaments.



Pictured are Phil Barker, Ken Soldi, Lyn Soldi and Dave Gallagher with the trophy for Non-Life Masters and Novice Teams Champions at the Summer Festival of Bridge in 2018.

Going into the last match the team was in third place. Having already played the two teams behind them the leading team played the team coming fourth in the last match and had a major loss. The team coming second played the team coming fourth and the Illawarra team played the team coming sixth. A big win by Illawarra and a narrow win by the second placed team saw Illawarra emerge victorious.

Interestingly, one of the members of the team that came second, Liz Sylvester, has this year made it onto the Australian Mixed Team with her partner Peter Gill. Phil, Dave, Ken and Lyn not only keep up their competitive bridge, they have all been members of the Management Committee at some point in recent years.

## Directors' Corner

### Etiquette

As the [\*Illawarra Bridge Association Code of Conduct\*](#) states, 'Good ethics and etiquette are fundamental to bridge.' The code also reminds members of their obligations under **Law 73** (Communication, Behaviour, Tempo and Deception) and **Law 74** (Conduct and Etiquette). Players should familiarise themselves with these Laws.

Under Etiquette the **Law 74** states:

*As a matter of courtesy a player should refrain from:*

1. *paying insufficient attention to the game.*
2. *making gratuitous comments during the auction and play.*
3. *detaching a card before it is his turn to play.*

4. *prolonging play unnecessarily (as in playing on although he knows that all the tricks are surely his) for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.*
5. *summoning and addressing the Director in a manner discourteous to him or to other contestants.*

The third item on this list is, unfortunately, a very regular occurrence at our club.

Under Proper Attitude **Law 74** states:

*A player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.*

Note that the way members of a partnership might address each other falls within the scope of this law. It is often the other players at the table who are most affected by comments between partners.

**Law 90** provides Directors with the power to award procedural penalties 'for any offence that unduly delays or obstructs the game, inconveniences other contestants, violates correct procedure, or requires the award of an adjusted score.'

The examples of offences subject to procedural penalties given in this Law include:

- *arrival of a contestant after the specified starting time.*
- *unduly slow play by a contestant.*
- *discussion of the bidding, play or result of a board, which may be overheard at another table.*
- *unauthorized comparison of scores with another contestant.*
- *touching or handling of cards belonging to another player.*

Hand *post mortems* are seldom of any benefit to developing your partnership; but they should certainly be conducted after the session. They are also (along with prioritising paperwork over bridge) the greatest cause of slow play.

The last of these includes a note to see **Law 7**. **Law 7B3** states in part 'No player shall touch any cards other than his own (but declarer may play dummy's cards in accordance with Law 45) during or after play except by permission of an opponent or the Director.' **Law 7C** states 'After play has finished, each player should shuffle his original thirteen cards, after which he restores them to the pocket corresponding to his compass position. Thereafter no hand shall be removed from the board unless a member of each side, or the Director, is present.'

A good game of bridge is played consistently. Players take their cards from the board promptly. They bid in tempo and place their bidding card neatly on the table. Players take cards from their hand only when it is their turn to play, and in doing so they are placed on the table in such a way that all players, including dummy, can see them. If there is an infraction the Director is called immediately, and players do not discuss the infraction until the Director is present. Concessions and claims are made clearly, and when there is a claim the line of play is stated. Players do not touch another player's cards without the other player's permission. Discussion at the end of a hand is kept to a minimum, and voices are kept low.