



NEWSLETTER

Illawarra Bridge Association

Edited by Peter Graham

Dec 2015

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Coming Soon

December

Wed 9th Christmas at Thirroul.

Thurs 10th Christmas Teams 2.

Fri 11th Christmas at Thirroul

Sat 12th Christmas at Figtree

Tues 15th Christmas at Figtree

January

Fri 1st New year

Sat 9th Nation Wide Pairs

Tues 12th Supervised play restarts

Sat 23rd Nation Wide Pairs

Figtree A.G.M.

The AGM at Figtree started prompt at 1pm. It had seven items of business on the agenda, including nominations for seven positions.

When it was all over and the new committee took their positions, as the president picked up the microphone declaring the AGM closed, I noticed the time, 1.15pm. I couldn't help but think that fifteen minutes for a AGM must be some form of record. It shows either complacency from the members or satisfaction in the outgoing committee. My money is on the latter.

The new committee is as follows:

President Carol Jeffs

Vice President Jill MacRae

Secretary Lindsey Smith

Treasurer Tony Wright

Committee Members:

Jeff Carberry Marie Pickering

Barbara Overington Ngaire Meehan

We congratulate these members on their appointment and thank them for accepting the responsibility which goes with each position. It is now incumbent on each of the remainder of us to help these members in every way we can during their period in office.

Excellent Result

I note from our website that Jeff Carberry and Kaye Hart came third in the Country Pairs final held in Sydney. That deserves more than a 'well done', that deserves a 'standing ovation'. Consider that done Jeff and Kaye, consider that done.

Saturday Club

from Jill Macrae

Saturday Club is a unique competition at the IBA.

It runs over the whole year and a progressive score is kept.

There is a single member as the winner.

You probably play regularly in it and don't even notice.

There are TWO QUALIFYING requirements. You must play with at least one member other than your

regular partner and you must play 9 times on the second Saturday of the month, (third in June).

Some members have played more than 9 times BUT have only played with ONE partner. J Andrews, M O'Neil, R La Marra, S Cutsforth, D Hewson, D Pickles, C Kerr, M Kerr, S Pearce, T Deveski, L Regterschot, J Roodenrys, P and K Snowden.

Some members have played 8 times and need to play in December to complete their qualification.

A.Basu, L Gulati, K Mclvor, L Smith, K Soldi, A Watkins and J Whitehead.

There are a number of players who have already met both requirements to qualify. Come to the Xmas party and complete your qualification for this unique event. (Ed). Thanks Jill for letting members know where they stand in this event. You have not mentioned what the prize is for the winner. There is an unconfirmed rumour that the prize is a two week all expenses paid, including some spending money, to Las Vegas. That may be genuine. Then again-----.

Nora Dwyer

Nora, who now lives in a Retirement Village in Sydney, has made a request to receive a copy of the newsletter. I sent the last one to her. I received a thank-you note, asking for the answer to the bridge problem which was in the newsletter, and a 'regards to all members'. I thought you would like to know that.

Re the bridge problem mentioned above. In the last newsletter, I asked anyone who could work out the bridge problem to let me know, Since that request was made, my phone has never stopped not ringing.

Bidding Discussion.

During a session interval recently,

Andrew Smith and Colin Bale were having a friendly disagreement as to what should be the bidding over a particular hand. Colin said 'A' whilst Andrew said 'B'. As Jeff Carberry was standing nearby, they asked him what he believed the bidding should be. Jeff studied the hand, and sided with Andrew on 'B'.

Whereupon, Colin looked at Jeff and said, "So you got it wrong as well". Colin may be short of some things in life but it would appear that audacity is not one of them. Don't get it wrong, it was said with tongue in cheek and it gave all around a good chuckle. I'll let you all know when Colin will be starting taking classes.

Grin and bear it

I was amused recently when, during a session, a opponent, admittedly a recent newcomer to our ranks, commented on an article in the newsletter and then asked me if I had read it. I politely admitted that I had. Such is fame.

Partners.

Two bridge playing ladies were discussing how pathetic their husbands were. (At playing bridge, that is). One lady said,

"Take last week for instance, my husband was declarer in 7NT. With only two cards left, Ace and Queen, he finished in the wrong hand. To compound matters, he led the Queen".

"That's not so bad", said the other lady, "Against my husband that would have worked".

Bathurst Invasion

The following received from Julie Cowling

A Bevy of Beauties Brave it at Bathurst...or how some of us novices

escaped for a weekend of bridge in the country.

Last month six of us novices, Liz Cusack, Lorna O'Leary, Chris Yates Ngairé Meehan, myself and Jeanette Marvell, a little more than a novice, headed off to Bathurst for a fun weekend in a special tournament organised for our standard of play.

The organisers were very patient with us since many were playing in their first serious competition. Consequently the first day went a little late but by the Sunday everyone had fastened up so we were all done by 4.00pm leaving plenty of time to head back home. We of course had decided to stay on anyway and make a night of it which luckily included a chance to celebrate our third place win in the teams event.

The locals were very welcoming and appreciative of our effort to come.

They have a modern and purpose built venue that they don't have to share with any other organisation. They supplied us with all manner of food and beverage available all day long with a special lunch prepared for us as well on both days. It was hard to keep the girls away from the special casket drinks but we must have managed because we all did quite well, especially considering the late night socializing that went on each night in our quaint accommodation in the settlers cottages just 5 minutes from our bridge venue.

Bathurst is a lovely city especially at this time of year. The temperature was just right and the gardens in full spring bloom. There were plenty of eateries to choose from each evening, all within an easy walk of our accommodation. The Irish pub was probably our favourite. We all had such an enjoyable time that we will definitely be going back next year and hope more of the Figtree players will help us show the flag.

(Ed). Thanks for the report Julie, sounds

like you girls had a ball. Wouldn't be surprised to see a few more offering to join you next year

On a similar theme to above. Two of our newer members, Vickie Marchant and Lorna O'Leary went to play at Kiama in a State competition for players with less than one hundred master points. I don't know how they went but I'd wager they enjoyed the experience.

I hear that a number of our members are off to Canberrra for their Summer Festival of Bridge. I'm hoping to receive a report or two, or three how they found the experience. For printing the next newsletter. Please do not be backward in sending me a report.

How many times

I have printed a few times the ABF rule that bidding cards must not be placed back into the bidding box until after the opening lead card is placed on the table. Jeff Carberry has asked me to keep at it. I don't know why some members find that rule so difficult to follow. Whilst there is a difference between social bridge and serious competitive bridge, it is not being pedantic being asked to follow that rule. Remember you have a right to insist your opponents leave their bidding cards on the table until the opening lead card is played.

Food for Thought

Often when the card dealing Gods are being unkind and we are receiving numerous hands with no substance, we are not slow in complaining about our bad luck. Next time you are receiving poor cards and are going to have a whinge, think of this;

There are many, many people in the cemetery who would love to be where you are today, even if they were being dealt Yarboroughs.

One of the problems with old age is that only too often it changes the 'Body Beautiful' into the 'Body Bountiful'. You know what I mean, it's when your legs buckle and you belt won't.

Received from Dave Higgins

Relatively new member Marie Pickering was ecstatic at playing and completing a Grand Slam bid at the recent club Monday night Pairs Championship. It was not all plain sailing either. The deal was

	S A84	
	H KJ8632	
	D 432	
	C A	
S K62		S QJ10973
H 1054		H –
D J976		D –
C J54		C K1098763
	S 5	
	H AQ97	
	D AKQ1085	
	C Q2	

Marie was North in 7H after receiving the lead of QS. After taking the first trick with the AS she led 3 rounds of trumps ending in dummy. She then ran the AKQ of diamonds only to find the JD still outstanding. Thus she played the 5D from dummy which she trumped in her hand and led the 4S to win with dummy's last trump. She then played the T of diamonds (discarding her last spade loser) and led a club from dummy to win with her AC.

With her last 2 trumps she then claimed 13 tricks – one spade, seven hearts, four diamonds and one club. Well done Marie – may there be many more like this hand.

Regards, Dave Higgins .(Partner).

(Ed). Thanks for the input Dave. I suspect this might be first grand slam for Marie so I can understand your excitement. Best of luck for more in the future

Talking about grand slam, the latest grand slam draw took place on Saturday 5th December. Birthday girl Mary White made the draw and the winners were Gem Flood and Marie O'Neill, who bid and made 7NT. 7NT Gem & Marie?, well done, you have my congratulations.

Xmas Letters

from Little Boy:

“Dear Santa, please send me a little sister”

from Santa:

“Dear Little Boy, please send me your mother.”

Surprised

As a number of you know, I am a bit of a fisherman. Driving down to the boatharbour last Sunday, listening to my favourite radio station 2vox fm, at 4.55am, I was surprised when an advert came on asking, 'Do you play bridge or would you like to learn to play?'. I immediately thought, 'Gee I didn't know we were advertising our bridge club on the radio'. As the advert continued, I realised it was not our club, it was Masters Builders Club. I guess it might be advertised every Sunday at that time, so if you want to hear the advert for yourself, then next Sunday 4.55am. Feel free.

Xmas Wish.

May your mistakes be less, and your oppents more, (present company excepted). O.K I know it is the Season of Goodwill, but I am a bridge Player. Nevertheless, I wish well for all our members.

That's all from me. Committee notes will follow. Till next time

P>B>G> (ED).

Jottings
5th Dec 2015

From the committee

Office Managers Report

- No items outstanding
- Carpet cleaned
- Council advised about letterbox requiring a new lock
- Regular electrical carried out by council
- Illawarra Outdoor Club will be hiring the hall on one Saturday evening a month from the IBA

IBand Report

- Table numbers are up again
- Christmas parties on the 14th, 16th and 18th December
- Closing then for 1 month
- Will reopen on 18th January
- iBand will celebrate their 10th birthday on Wednesday 24th February with a b

Lessons

- Jill and Fran's Thursday morning tutorials are going ahead with much appreciation from the bridge players who attend.
- If you need help with your bridge playing you will be most welcome at these sessions – Thursday mornings at 10am at Figtree.
- Many thanks to Jill, Fran and John for their preparation and delivery of these lessons.
- I am told that great enjoyment and learning is occurring at each session.
- Last TAMS Thursday 10th Dec
- TAMS will resume on Thursday 15th January

Joan Butts: Workshop topics date to be advised

- Modern Competitive bidding (Examining the roles of Opener, Responder, Overcalls, Doubles and their partners)
- Play like the hideous hog (an

amusing workshop on declarer play strategies)

Looking for a partner?

- Please give Marie a ring or e-mail if you are looking for a partner.
- Contact her at pickering_marie@hotmail.com or on 0422375712 or 42615483

Name Badges

- If you would like one of our name badges please give Marie a ring. A new order will be sent on Thursday.

Rate of Play

- Thank you to all members for the improvement in the rate of play at all sessions.
- Lindsey will be taking suggestions about how the members want to use the time gained until next week.

Suggestion Box

- Thank you to Julie C for her suggestion – that we ask members for a donation on Melbourne cup day for a local children's charity. The committee unanimously agreed with this.

Code of Conduct

Please check out our code of conduct, it is framed and on the table beside the fridge.

Annual General Meeting

- Many thanks to all our members who attended.

