

# Illawarra Bridge Association

Newsletter June 2024

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## 1 Editorial

It has been a busy time at IBA leading up to our major annual event, the Chris Diment Memorial Congress. A full report from the congress organiser (Marie) and the results can be found later in this Newsletter.

Members unfamiliar with why the congress is named should read ‘A Brief History of the IBA’, which you can find in the [Documents](#) section of the club website. The Management Committee is undertaking a project to complete a longer history of IBA.

Another historic event is discussed later in the newsletter. After ninety years as the state peak body, the New South Wales Bridge Association is being replaced by Bridge NSW.

## 2 Notes from the Committee

**Report on Working Bee** – On Friday 10th May, we had a working bee to clean and sort the bidding boxes. By the end of sorting, cleaning and completing each box, we had 111 fully equipped bidding boxes.

A big thank you to Lynn and Ken Soldi, Dave Havyatt, Sue Southern, Don Clark and Carolyn Githens.

**Emergency Contacts List** – Many of our members have now availed themselves of the opportunity to have the details of someone to contact in an emergency kept at the club. If you have not done so, and would still like to, simply ask the Director for one of the forms to fill out.

**History Project** – IBA celebrates its thirtieth anniversary next year. The Management Committee believes it would be nice to have a booklet published on the history of IBA to celebrate this event. Jill MacRae already has a lot of information on the club history.

The Management Committee is looking for volunteers to take on this project, either an individual or a few members who can work as a group. Please let Marie Pickering know if you would be happy to take on such a project.

**Dishwasher Instructions** – Please take note of the instructions for the dishwasher which are posted on the side wall above the dishwasher. It differs from a normal domestic dishwasher in that it must be heated up, drained regularly, and switched off at the power point at the conclusion of a bridge session.

It needs repairs and will shortly be taken away for repair, as that option is much cheaper than replacing a commercial dishwasher.

### **3 Chris Diment Memorial Congress 2024 – that’s a wrap.**

Our Congress in honour of Chris was held at Port Kembla Golf Club, last Saturday and Sunday (15<sup>th</sup> /16<sup>th</sup> June). As I said at the beginning of the Congress, “many of you knew Chris, who left us with a legacy, a love of bridge and someone who had a major influence in the world of bridge as a teacher and director, it is an honour and a privilege on behalf of Illawarra Bridge Association to welcome and thank everyone for coming to play at our Annual Chris Diment Memorial Congress”.

The Matchpoint Swiss Pairs Event was held on Saturday, we had 54 pairs playing 7 rounds of 8 boards. Players from all over NSW (and many from the ACT) were there, with many highly ranked pairs playing. After a random first round, the session was swissed, this means that the pair ranked 1st played the pair ranked 2nd and so on down to the pair ranked 26th playing the pair ranked 27th. It is an unusual format, as most Swiss Pairs are scored using International Matchpoints (or IMPs). Our Tournament Committee has been keen to retain a Matchpoint event as this was something Chris would always run. Many players commented on the friendly atmosphere and challenging but enjoyable bridge.

The Teams’ event was held on Sunday with 28 teams vying to be crowned Congress champions. It was great to see players of all standards entering the event. Two of the players from IBA had recently completed introductory lessons at our club and were part of a team who had 2 wins on the day, an awesome achievement.

On behalf of our club, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the chief tournament director Jeff Carberry and Rob Kinloch, his very competent assistant director, for their professionalism during the congress.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the wonderful work that the Management and Tournament Committees along with IBA members did in preparation for the congress, it certainly was a team effort.

Thanks also to Wests Illawarra who provided us with a venue and catering at a much reduced cost.

## Matchpoint Swiss Pairs Results



*Open Pairs: Runners Up (Morag & Chris Lokan), Winners (Liz and Steve Hurley)*

3rd Rakesh Kumar, Jake Andrew

4th Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings



*Restricted Pairs: Runners Up (Pranati Basu and Jenny Muscio), Winners (Pat Berry and Sue Kennedy)*



*Best Novice Pair: John McLellan and Carol Swane*



*Best IBA Pairs: Novice (Sue Southern & Catherine Power) Restricted (Graham Jones & Conny Szency) Open (Vicky and Ian Lisle)*

### **Teams**



*Open Teams Winners: Christine Houghton, Wayne Houghton, Christina Riepsamen, Adrian Riepsamen*



*Open Teams Runners-Up: Martin Bunder, Bill Fotheringham, Mardi Svensson, Rakesh Kumar*

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



*Restricted/Novice Winners: Debra Cohen, Ken Hubbell, Mukesh Parekh, Paul Stebbing*

Best IBA Teams

- Open Philip Barker, Steve Szatmary, Moira Cunningham, Grant Cowen
- Restricted Piyal Kitulagodage, Cheryl Waters, Maggie Havyatt, Dave Havyatt
- Novice David Higgins, Sue Southern, Annette Lopez, John Zamuner

The full results can be found on the Bridge NSW website here [pairs](#) and here [teams](#)

## 4 Upcoming events

One of our historic trophies will be contested later in June. The Past President's Cup and Shield will be held on 26 June & 3 July. In the first week a one-winner event (typically an arrow-switched Web-Mitchell) will separate the field between those contesting the cup and those contesting the shield. The second week sees another one winner format used across the two groups to select a Cup and Shield winner. Also coming up on 23 and 30 July is the Tuesday Pairs Championship.

It is not too early to start promoting IBA's Swiss Pairs on Sunday 22 September or the State Novice and Restricted Teams being hosted by us on 9 and 10 November. These events have been well attended in the past and are made more enjoyable the more we attract players from outside our club.

Meanwhile further afield, the Australian National Congress makes its way to New South Wales this year to be played in Orange. Apart from the big Interstate Teams events (contested by teams selected by State Associations) there are several events hosted by clubs in the area commencing 6 July. The Restricted and Open Butler pairs commence on 13 July. Paul Lavings is the non-playing captain of the NSW Seniors team, and some club members are participating in other events.

## 5 Recent results

Our club's teams have been busy over recent months. The **South Coast Autumn Teams** was conducted on 26 May at Nowra. This is a friendly event hosted by the Nowra Bridge Club designed to bring the clubs in our region together, with each club providing two teams. The Victory Point scores of the two teams are combined to determine the winning club.

Our teams have ensured the shield has returned to the IBA Hall (it hangs on the Northern Wall). A big thank you and congratulations to our two teams:

Team 1: Grant Cowen, Lucy Cowen, Steve Szatmary, Bill Fotheringham

Team 2: Andrew Smith, Cathy Ashcroft, Carolyn Githens, Marie Pickering

On 2 June seven IBA teams braved the chilly Avoca Community Hall to battle nine other teams for the **Country Teams Regional Final**. Congratulations to the Lavings team for finishing first. All our teams and their placings were:

1st Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings, Jeff Carberry, Kaye Hart

4th Cathy Ashcroft, Andrew Smith, Carolyn Githens, Marie Pickering

5th Bill Fotheringham, Ian Porter, Tony Wright, Martin Bunder

8th Lorna O'Leary, Sue Bochan, Dave Havyatt, Margaret Havyatt

10th Judy Kingston, Dave Gallagher, Kay Snowden, Val Hodsdon

11th Carol Kerr, Ngaire Meehan, B Rewers, Michael Turner

12th Jan Greenlees, Conny Szency, Sue Kennedy, Graham Jones

The Lavings team will progress to the Zone finals.

Our Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) qualifying was held on 20 and 27 April. The top eight of our 16 competing teams qualify for the regional final (which will be held at a date that is yet to be determined). Congratulations to:

- 1st S.Hurley, L.Hurley, S.Szatmary, G.Cowen
- 2nd P.Lavings, H.Lavings, I.Lisle, V.Lisle, J.Carberry, K.Hart
- 3rd R.Neild, S.Brell, C.Bale, K.McIvor, R.England, R.Kinloch
- 4th C.Ashcroft, A.Smith, C.Githens, M.Pickering
- 5th I.Porter, T.Marchant, M.Bunder, B.Fotheringham, S.Cutsforth, R.La Marra
- 6th M.Kerr, C.Kerr, S.Dynan, P.Graham
- 7th J.Greenlees, L.Gulati, L.Soldi, C.Power
- 8th G.Jones, E.Gray, C.Waters, C.Szency, M.Ardern

In club events, the **Thursday Night Pairs Championship** was held over 11 and 18 June. Results were:

- 1st Stuart Cutsforth, Renate La Marra
- 2nd Ian Porter, Timothy Marchant
- 3rd Jeff Carberry, Kaye Hart

The **Mixed Pairs Championship** was held on 4 and 11 May. Some familiar names on the winners list.

- 1st Liz Hurley, Steve Hurley
- 2nd Ruth Neild, Rob Kinloch
- 3rd Ian Lisle, Vicky Lisle

A big thank you to Conny Szency & Graham Jones and Maggie & Dave Havyatt for going to Sydney the following weekend to play in the State Mixed Pairs. Unfortunately, there were insufficient country pairs to play the Country Mixed Pairs final.

Our club members continue to be active in national Gold Point events. Helen and Paul Lavings finished third in the Jim and Norma Borin Mixed Swiss Pairs at the Victor Champion Cup event in Melbourne on 6 June.

## **6 News from the North**

A stalwart of IBAND bridge, Wayne Hunt was released from hospital after a hip replacement 2 hours before the commencement of Wednesday afternoon bridge. After a quick lunch he came to bridge complete with hospital tag. True dedication!



*Wayne Hunt with his wristband*

It is very pleasing to see IBA novice bridge players coming to Thirroul. George Cole's idea when he started bridge 18 years ago at Thirroul was to provide an environment that novice bridge players were comfortable in, while also a competitive medium in which to play bridge.

(The Editors would like to apologise for the mix-up on the content for News from the North in the last issue.)

## **7 Birthday Party (and other celebrations)**

IBA celebrated its 29th birthday on 18th May. It was very well attended with 68 playing bridge. Most had indicated they would be attending the party. Unfortunately, IBA did not have full use of the kitchen as there was a prior booking for it.

It was a very pleasant occasion with catering provided by members, supplemented by sandwiches from The Corner Shop (Figtree Grove) and finger food from Passionate Palate, Kanahooka. Many thanks to Ken Soldi, Chris Yates, Julie Cowling, Sue Southern and Carolyn Githens for bringing it all together and to Kay and Phil Snowden for their contribution.



*Phil Snowden tending the bar with the ever busy Sue Southern, while Manuel, Carol, B and Malcolm enjoy the party.*

Our birthday isn't the only thing we celebrate. With Ken McIver starting his annual winter hibernation, the club decided to have a thank you function. This provided an opportunity for a photo of some of the great stalwarts of the club.



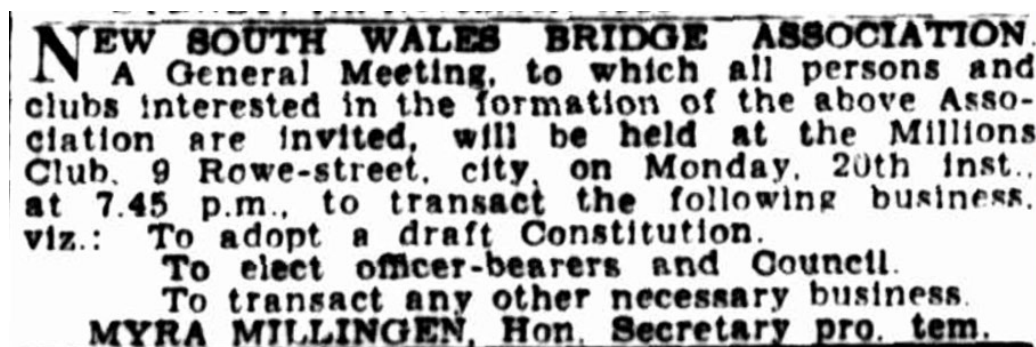
*Colin Bale, Judy Kingston, Betty Pieters, Martin Bunder, Claire and Ken McIver, Rob Kinloch and Jeff Carberry*

## 8 Bridge NSW

On 4 November 1933 the Sydney Morning Herald (page 19) reported on a meeting held in Kings Cross to form a new bridge association.



Seven days later a notice appeared in the same paper (Page 8) advising of the inaugural General Meeting of the New South Wales Bridge Association (NSWBA). (This meeting was held in the Millions Club which had been founded in 1912 with the aim of making Sydney the first Australian city with a population of one million. It changed its name to the Sydney Club in 1963). The building (Million House) on the corner of Pitt and Rowe Streets is heritage listed.)



Over the years the NSWBA acquired its own property in Goulburn Street (the Sydney Bridge Centre). Over recent years, concerns were raised that the NSWBA didn't do enough to generally "bring together bridge players for the advancement of ...contract bridge." A two-

year process to recreate a state association separate from the operation of the Sydney Bridge Centre has reached its culmination with the formation of Bridge NSW.

Bridge NSW is now the state peak body for NSW and responsible for advancing the playing and enjoyment of Bridge in NSW. An initial Board and Council have now been appointed.

The Council represents the breadth of bridge clubs, and its primary responsibilities are the appointment of the Board (or dismissing them) and making By-Laws on the recommendation of the Board. It is one of the ways the Board connects with the member clubs. Board members, general counsel, ABF delegates, and special councillors (if any appointed by council) also attend Council meetings.

The Board is responsible for the operation of Bridge NSW in terms of developing Bridge in the state, the selection of state representatives and is the constituent entity with the ABF. The Board has established five standing Committees to assist it in advancing Bridge in NSW. Members of the Council and Board, and the chairs of these committees and their purpose are shown in the graphics below.

The website ([bridgensw.com.au](http://bridgensw.com.au)) will be launched in two phases. The first phase is expected to be completed by the end of August and will include the full details of the governance arrangements. Other existing functionality will be maintained on the old site ([nswba.com.au](http://nswba.com.au)) till later in the year.

#### Bridge NSW Governance

Bridge NSW Council	Bridge NSW Board	Board Support	Committee Chairs
Catherine Chaffey (Chair) Southern Highlands Bridge Club	Catherine Chaffey (Chair)	General Counsel Alison Hanson	Clubs & Community Glenda Parmenter
Glenda Parmenter Armidale Bridge Club	Bob Rankin (Secretary)		Events Maurits van der Vlugt
John McIlraith Hunter Region Bridge Association	Jake Andrew	Accountant (interim) Christine Evans	Education Steve English
Phil Glover Wagga Wagga Bridge Club	Alan Bustany		Youth Josh Heller
Marie Pickering Illawarra Bridge Association	David Hudson		People & Governance Dagmar Neumann
Alan Bustany Central Coast Leagues Bridge Club	Glenda Parmenter		
Marjorie Askew Ballina Bridge Club	ABF Representatives	Bridge NSW Office	Contact
Mary Anne Loveridge Sydney Bridge Club	Dagmar Neumann	Executive Officer David Havyatt	<a href="mailto:office@bridgensw.com.au">email: office@bridgensw.com.au</a>
Sharon Thompson North Shore Bridge Club	Rob Ward		tel: 0477 52 52 52 (to be operational from 20 June)
Derrick Browne Trumps Bridge Centre		Marketing & Communications Officer TBA	
Lynleigh Evans Southern Highlands Bridge Club			

## Bridge NSW Committees

Committee	Clubs & Community	Events	Education	Youth	People & Governance
Chair	Glenda Parmenter	Maurits van der Vlugt	Steve English	Josh Heller	Dagmar Neumann
Purpose	<p>Facilitate open and supportive communication and engagement with and between clubs.</p> <p>Identify strategic priority areas for club and community development and support.</p> <p>Collaborate with other standing Committees to ensure optimum outcomes.</p> <p>Ensure that the Voice of Clubs is heard and always represented.</p>	<p>Plan and organise all State Championships, events submitted to the Masterpoint Centre under the Bridge NSW (2-001) registration and events conducted by the State body on behalf of the ABF.</p> <p>Ensure events are aligned to the Bridge NSW Purpose &amp; Objective, support day-to-day operations and the execution of the Bridge NSW Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Provide input on strategic direction, leadership, and expertise in Events coordination and management.</p>	<p>Provide Teachers with support and materials for successful delivery of the Bridge NSW curriculum.</p> <p>Establish pathways for learners and clubs to progress player skill levels and participation in events.</p> <p>Support Directors with training and materials for skills and accreditation progression.</p> <p>Provide input on strategic direction, leadership, and expertise pertaining to all areas of education for directors, teachers and players.</p>	<p>Create and facilitate programs and events for bridge players under the age of 30 in NSW.</p> <p>Ensure the future of youth bridge in NSW by advocating for programs which will bring in new players and by providing education and mentoring opportunities for those players.</p> <p>Help make bridge fun for young people in NSW.</p>	<p>Guide Bridge NSW on board governance processes and drive best practice.</p> <p>Lead the process for appointments to board and council.</p> <p>Oversee employee matters and ensure compliance with policies and legislation.</p>

## 9 Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all the contributors who helped us put this Newsletter together and, as always, **Happy Bridging everybody.**

Phil B and Dave H