



# Newsletter July 2025

## Message from the President

Lorraine Bryant



Please do not park in the designated Disabled carparks unless you have qualified for a Disabled Parking Permit. Unfortunately, one of our members with a disability had to walk some distance to the club as someone had parked in the disabled carpark without a parking permit. Additional parking is available behind the clubhouse area (eastern side) if the carpark is full. It is important that cars do not park right up to the fence so that this area is accessible.

Welcome to Roger Stanfield who has joined the club. We hope that you have a very happy association with the club.

Day Bridge Lessons commence on Tuesday July 22 and run for 6 weeks every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30 -11.30am. Cost is \$80. Night lessons commence Monday August 18 from 6-8pm weekly Cost is \$50. If you have paid for lessons in the past, you can repeat the lessons for free.

Please contact Judy Forsyth if you know of anyone interested in the lessons. Flyers are available on the table near the kitchen.

Have you organised a team for the Club Teams Championships to be held on Saturday, July 19 and 26? There will be no other bridge on those days.

Thank you to all those who made my recent birthday so very special. I was delighted with my beautiful pot plant which I will treasure and reminds me each day of the great decision I made when I decided to have lessons in bridge at Ballina Bridge Club.

I must thank Betty Clark who has been organising Birthday Cakes for 80, 90 and 100 years old birthdays. Betty has done an amazing job and contributed significantly to the club over many years, Thank you, Betty. It has not been easy sourcing the big cakes in the past couple of years and we have all valued your effort. Betty would like to step down so if you would like to take on this role, please let me know. Betty will

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Teams of 3**, Monday July 7

**Teams Championship**, Saturdays July 19 & 26

**NSW State-wide Pairs**, Wednesday August 6

**Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs**, Thursdays August 21 & 28

happily help.

Not everyone can eat cake so it was decided last year that if the recipient preferred, they could choose flowers, a plant or bottle of wine instead. We only know it is your special birthday if you have put your DOB on your registration form or someone tells us. We apologise if your birthday is missed because we don't know.



Clue 1. Just one hundred. (9)

Clue 2. Test NEWS (12,5,6)

*Answers to Bob Hart's cryptic Bridge clues on page 3.*

## Rank Promotions at end June:

'Lots' this month:

**Club:** Margaret Reddy

**Local:** Darryl McMahon

**Silver Local:** Chris Fitzgerald

**State:** Guy Jarvi

**Bronze State:** Dawn Horder

**National:** Chery McCallum, Margaret Cusack



## Thai By Night

**Birthday winner for this month: Sue Burns**



## Play Committee Report - June 2025

### Events Gone:

#### King's Birthday Teams, Monday June 10:

18 teams participated and enjoyed a fun day. Jan Roberts was our Event Organiser and her report on the day follows on page 4. It was Jan's first 'go' as EO and a job Well Done – Thanks Jan.

#### GNOT Teams, Saturday June 21:

14 teams competed in our Club Qualifier of this national event. Many thanks to Clive Klugman for directing the full day event. As a national event, gold masterpoints were at stake – and Hooray everyone won some!

Teams finishing in the top half of the field may now progress to the next stage which is the GNOT Northern Rivers Regional Final, scheduled for Sunday August 10 and hosted by Ballina. If you haven't yet advised, please confirm if your team wishes to proceed. For the full results go to: <https://ballina.bridgeaustralia.org/teamresults.asp?id=15771>

#### State and Country Teams Zonal Final, June 28 & 29:

4 teams, from our Club Qualifying event, headed to Coffs Harbour for the Northern Zone Final. 16 teams competed – maybe a record for recent years - with teams from Port Macquarie, Armidale, Nambucca, Grafton and Coffs Harbour. The Coffs Harbour Club always offers great hospitality and this year with 16 teams competing their players had to forego their Saturday afternoon session.

Teams were divided into 2 sections and played a full round robin and then the top 2 teams played against the top 2 from the other section, to determine the overall top 2 to progress to the State Final. So lots of bridge, and very competently directed by Michael Wilkinson from Sydney.

Ballina had 2 teams progress to the 'Final 4' with our team of Bill Powell, Marjorie Askew, Gary Lynn and Clive Klugman winning. Our team of Cathy Hocking,

Phil Hocking, Chris Bauer and Colin MacDonald finished strongly in their section to reach the final, but then 'ran out of steam' with a team from the Port Hastings BC grabbing second place. For the full results go to: <https://nsw.bridgeaustralia.org/teamresults.asp?id=15786&umbid=960&iswide=y>

The State Final will be held online on RealBridge on November 28-30.

### Coming Up:

#### Teams of 3, Monday July 7:

It's looking like we have 16 teams and it's great to see many of our 'newer' players joining in – and hopefully learning more about this 'game called Bridge'! Report (and photos\*) next month.....

\* We're still looking for a club photographer - or maybe photographer(s)?? If you can help please chat with Lorraine or Marjorie.

#### Teams Championship, Saturdays July 19 & 26:

Two Saturday afternoon sessions and in 2 Divisions: Open and B Grade (all players < 300 masterpoints as at 1.01.2025). Teams can be 4/5/6 players, or you can nominate as a pair looking for teammates. All entrants must be members of Ballina Bridge Club. If you're not a regular Saturday player, please think about 'having a go'. There will be no Pairs play on these days – so 'grab' some teammates! Liz Jeffery is our Event Organiser – please contact Liz for help with teammates. Nominations close on Wednesday July 16. Tis 'normal' voucher on the day. (See poster on page 10)

#### NSW State-wide Pairs, Wednesday August 6:

This event is run at Clubs across NSW in the first week of August. Everybody plays the same boards which are then scored state-wide and red masterpoints issued (at Congress B4 level). Players also receive a brief commentary on the hands.



# Newsletter July 2025

Marjorie Askew



## Play Committee Report - June 2025

Thus a chance to play in a state event at your Club. 'Normal' voucher on the day; + Fyi the Club hands over the full \$5 per player to Bridge NSW to support the event.

### Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs, Thursdays August 21 & 28:

The second of our Harvey Norman events and this time for players with <100 masterpoints as at 1 January 2025; and with red masterpoints. Closing date for entries is Monday August 18, normal voucher on the day. (See poster on page 11)

On these 2 x Thursdays, 'regular' Thursday players who are not eligible for the HN event (eg too many masterpoints or cannot commit for 2 weeks) can still

play and should nominate online in the non-HN event. However please try and 'match' with a <100 or >100 masterpoints partner (as at 1 January 2025) for these 2 weeks - to maximise numbers in both the HN, and non-HN sections.

**Advance Notice:** Our inter-club with the Gold Coast is not far off: Sunday September 14. It's our turn to host so please: 'Save the Date'.

Hopefully something for everyone coming up. As always if you have any feedback, or suggestions, on anything 'Play' at the Club please contact me.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

email: [marjorie.askew@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.askew@gmail.com)

or call: 0459 023 907

## Teaching News

Judy Forsyth



A reminder new lessons are creeping closer. Day lessons will commence on Tuesday, 22nd July & run on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30-11:30, for 6 weeks. Cost is \$80.

Evening lessons will begin on **Monday** 18th August, 6-8pm weekly. (**Please note change of evening**) Cost is \$50.

Be a great ambassador for our club & pick up some small flyers to give to friends, family, neighbours etc... Flyers are on the table near entry into the kitchen. Remember, if you have been to lessons previously, they are free to do again.

We do require people to register for either set of lessons, whether new to bridge or any wanting to revise lessons again. Please contact Judy.

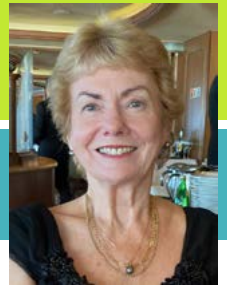


**Answer to Clue 1: Singleton:** Just one card in a suit. It may be worth extra points. Do you always give it 3 points when revaluating after finding a fit? Maybe not. What if it's an Honour Card? Australian representative player Sartaj Hans has a bit to say about valuing shortages at: [https://www.abf.com.au/teaching/speakers/SartajHansPoints\\_Schmoints.pdf](https://www.abf.com.au/teaching/speakers/SartajHansPoints_Schmoints.pdf)



**Answer to Clue 2: International Match Points:** IMPs – a method of scoring. You can brush up on how to handle your bidding and play when this scoring method is in use by reading Janet Brown's article in the Club's April 2025 newsletter.





## King's Birthday Teams Event

On Monday June 9, Ballina Bridge Club celebrated the King's birthday with a red point teams' event. 18 teams participated and a fun day was had by all. Dressed in red, white and blue finery, players enjoyed a very British morning tea of scones, pikelets and other delicious treats. In fact, there was probably little need for lunch!

Many people contributed towards the success of the event and thanks must be extended to the director and club president, Lorraine Bryant, who spent her day solving problems and assisting people. Janet Chester must also be mentioned. Janet came into the bridge club in the morning for the sole purpose of facilitating the morning tea preparations.

Thanks also to all those who provided food and helped with the setup and clean up. An event such as this cannot be run without the involvement and generosity of many people.

Kay Pearson, Vicki Ivosevac, Paul Smith and Winston Guymer were overall winners on the day with Marjorie Askew, Barbara Meaney, Janet Brown and Clive Klugman coming in second.

However, in keeping with the fun nature of the day, prizes of wine and play coupons, were awarded randomly. Teresa Ebenstreit, Vicki McClean, Anna Huddy, Betty Johnson, Joy Miller and Christine Pezutti were lucky recipients of first prize. Second prize went to Kay Thornton, Di Kruse, Diann Young and Col Gale. The third prize to be randomly awarded was given to Kay Pearson, Vicki Ivosevac, Paul Smith and Winston Guymer

Congratulations to all those who played on the day. There were wins and there were losses but more importantly there were smiles all round.

Jan Roberts (Event Organiser).







## Kiing's Birthday Teams Event Photos





The hand on your left opens the bidding and partner doubles. What do you do? First, a quick recap on what partner's double of an opening bid tells you.

1. Shortness (0, 1 or 2 cards) in the suit opened
2. At least three cards in each of the remaining three suits
3. 11+ points if the one level is being doubled. If a higher level is doubled then partner needs to be stronger in either high card points or distribution to compensate for the higher level being doubled.

I sometime hear "I had to double to show you my points" — **no you don't**. The items above are in order of importance. If you don't have shortness in the suit you are doubling or you don't have support for the unbid suits then **do not double**. Your points are the least important component, shape is what counts.

What do you need to do if partner doubles? If your right-hand opponent (RHO) Passes then you must bid. If your RHO bids you may still bid but are not required to. If your RHO Passes and you also Pass then you have converted partner's takeout to a penalty double. This is a very, very rare action to take and you want to be 100% certain that it is the correct thing to do. Partner may be very strong (11 is the lower strength limit, there is no real upper strength limit) with no cards in the opening suit. Maybe your side can make a vulnerable slam if you bid, versus putting a low level contract down two or three tricks. Make certain that you can "win the post mortem".

So far, hopefully, so familiar. Consider, the innocuous looking auction

Vul: N/S

| W  | N | E | S  |
|----|---|---|----|
| 1♦ | X | P | 1♠ |

You are sitting South and have bid, as partner requested. What are you telling partner? Firstly, you do not promise any high card points. Nil, none, zip, nada. Partner made you bid and you did so. The second thing is that Spades is your best suit. Maybe you have something like ♠984 ♥63 ♦1087632 ♣83. Truly a nightmare hand.

On such a hand you might be tempted to bid 1NT, after all you do have a Diamond stopper. Responding

1NT to partner's takeout double is a constructive bid. It shows

- A stopper in the opponent's suit
- No long suit that fits with your partner
- Constructive values (6+ HCP)

You don't have the values to respond 1NT.

Another situation. The opening is 1♣ and partner Doubles. You have ♠K2 ♥87632 ♦K3 ♣QJ102. If you bid 1♥ then partner will think it is possible that you have zero points and probably Pass. You have a good hand and must tell partner about it. Your correct response is to jump to 2♥.

A jump response shows 10-12 high card points (some say 9-11, discuss with your partner) and at least a four card suit. Maybe the situation is like this

Brd: 9  
Dir: N  
Vul: E/W

| North                               | West                               | East                              | South                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♠ 9<br>♥ AJ10<br>♦ Q1072<br>♣ AK987 | ♠ K2<br>♥ 87632<br>♦ K3<br>♣ QJ102 | ♠ AJ87<br>♥ KQ54<br>♦ A964<br>♣ 4 | ♠ Q106543<br>♥ 9<br>♦ J85<br>♣ 653 |

| W  | N  | E  | S     |
|----|----|----|-------|
|    | 1♣ | X  | P     |
| 2♥ | P  | 4♥ | <end> |

Lead ♣A  
1 Worth 11 points, one point for each doubleton

Once your partner, East, hears that you have four (or more) Hearts and 10-12 points they can re-evaluate their hand. With the eight card Major fit they count three points for their singleton Club. The partnership has at least 27 points and an eight card Major fit. That's enough for game, so bid it.

Notice that it would be wrong for West to respond with 1♥. West

would make that bid even with zero points — give partner the good news.

Similarly, it would be wrong for East to bid 3♥ (rather than 4♥). East knows there is enough strength for game, bid it.

North has strong trumps and is not immediately looking for a ruff. The A♣ is the best option. When dummy reveals a singleton Club, it is now time to switch to the singleton Spade.



Declarer's trumps are long but not strong. Of course, you remember **Resolution 6** and are intent on leading towards those Heart honours. Accordingly, you win the Spade continuation in your hand. At trick three you lead a small trump. If North plays low, then you win with the ♥K. Continuing trumps will cost a trick, so come back to hand by playing a small Diamond to your King. Another trump and North is stuck. If they play the Ace then the Queen in dummy will gobble up their last trump. If they play small then the Queen will win in dummy.

If North does play low the second time you lead trumps then win the ♥Q and abandon trumps. There is only one trump left, the Ace, and there is no need to use two of your trumps for no gain. Instead find a way to get back to your hand. ♦A followed by a small

Diamond that you ruff is a good method.

Back in your hand, you lead the ♣Q. Remember that the opening lead was the ♣A? You are pretty sure that North has the ♣K to go with their Ace. If North plays low then you can discard a Diamond (or Spade) from the dummy. If North plays their ♣A then you can ruff in dummy. Now your ♣J10 are both good. All that remains is to lose a trick to the Ace of trumps and your hand will be high. Ten tricks made.

## How to respond when partner doubles

| Holding | Action over opponent's Pass                                 | Action over a bid |
|---------|---|-------------------|
| 0-5 pts | Bid a suit - no choice                                      | Pass              |
| 6-9     | Bid a suit or 1NT   | Same              |
| 10-12   | Jump bid a suit or 2NT                                      | Same              |
| 13+     | Game in a Major, 3NT or bid the enemy suit to force to game |                   |

## 2025 Great year for John!

Congratulations John! John Fraser celebrates his 90th birthday and receives his certificate for Grand Master.



Any contributions for the BBC newsletter? please contact Ange Bettess 0401 955 432 or email [angela.bettess@me.com](mailto:angela.bettess@me.com)

# Newsletter July 2025

## Tim Aley - Club Master

Tim is one of the newer players at Ballina, and regularly plays on Wednesdays and Saturdays with his partner David. At the last Annual General Meeting, Tim was elected to the Management Committee as Assistant Secretary, and as such, has played an important role in keeping the club successfully running.

Robert Eldridge



### Where were you born and what is the fondest memory you have of your early years?



I was born in Sydney and raised in the somewhat salubriously named suburb of Beverley Hills. Our home was nothing like the Clampett mansion from the then popular TV show, but it was filled to the brim by my parents and six siblings, with me being the youngest of them

all. We were very lucky to be brought up in a loving household, full of laughter and music. My fondest memories of those years were the many singalongs around the piano, something that happened regularly as my parents were members of the church choir.

To date, all of my four sisters and two brothers are still around and we do all enjoy a big family get together whenever possible. Two girls, then two boys, then twin girls, then me making seven. The perfect number.



### Where did you go to school? What was the best part of your schooling that you remember?

We all went to the nuns at Bexley for primary School, then the boys to Marist Brothers Kogarah for high school. The best part of school was when I was kicked

out of Latin!

### What was your very first paid job?

My very first job was at Coles Variety store in Hurstville. I was 15.

### What career path did you pursue and what led you to that path?

Wherever life took me.

### What do you consider as your greatest achievement in life?

Making it to 65.

### Is there anything else you want to achieve?

I'm trying for the ton!

### When did you first meet David? How did that happen, and how many years have you been together?

I first met David through a mutual friend Phillip. David was a guest at Phillip's 21st birthday party, where I arrived late due to it clashing with my twin sisters' birthday party. Then, as fate would have it, I moved into a share house in Bondi, just around from Phillip's flat, which he shared with David. They were both



Wedding Day, October 17, 1984

studying medicine at uni. We became great friends immediately, which is why I think we are still together after 45 years, being friends first before anything else happened.



# Newsletter July 2025

## Tim Aley - Club Master *(continued)*

Robert Eldridge

There are far too many hilarious tales to tell, but suffice to say that laughter is the best medicine for all that ails you.

### What led you to take up Bridge?

Marital Harmony.

### What other interests do you have apart from Bridge?

Our 15 acre property at Federal takes a lot of caring for. And, of course, our furkids can be quite a handful,



Motto

but we both love our two Rottweilers, Sirius and Bessie.

### Who do you admire the most and why?

There are many people in the world who do worthy things, but the ones I admire the most are the ordinary folk who can survive anything that life throws at them. There are some very inspiring members of our own club and I think the one person that stands out for me at present is Pat Preston. I admire her tenacity, her determination, her get up and go, when others around would have given up when faced with similar hardships. I'm not sure that I could be as positive, were I faced with life as she has. I hope to get to know her better over my time at the bridge club.

## Ballina MahJong Club News

### Winners for month of June:

June 6 Carol Meyer  
June 13 Margaret Bryant  
June 20 Susan Allan  
June 27 Vanessa Reynolds



We welcomed 3 beginner players to the Friday Mahjong Club on June 20. Joy has generously offered to teach on Fridays, giving up her spot to play herself for the time being. Many thanks from us all Joy.

Vanessa Reynolds



## MAFIA – Major First Always – in response to a takeout double.

The bidding starts (1♠) X (P) and it's your turn to bid in response to your partner's takeout Double.

You hold ♠ 54 ♥ J872 ♦ A7652 ♣ 84. Do not respond 2♦ Follow the MAFIA principle and respond 2♥.

You must also show the number of points you hold. Remember partner has forced you to bid and you may have zero points! You cannot pass, because the Takeout Double turns into a Penalty Double if you pass, and then the opponents might get a big score.

0 – 8 points – minimum response. 9 – 11 – jump a level of bidding. 12 + - jump to game.

You must evaluate your hand very aggressively. Count your distribution. Your partner's takeout Double should be up to scratch – shortage in the opponent's suit and support for the other three suits. You must trust your partner to guarantee the right sort of hand.



Janet Brown



# **2025 TEAMS** **CHAMPIONSHIPS** **Open and B Grade\***

*will be held on*

**Saturdays July 19 & 26**

***Everyone is invited to join  
in – nominate online<sup>^</sup>***

- ♣ **'Normal' table money – vouchers on the day**
- ♦ **PM Starting Time – may be flexible v numbers**
- ♥ **No Pairs Play on these days**
- ♠ **All players must be members of Ballina BC**

**Event Organiser: Liz Jeffery**

<sup>^</sup> You can nominate as a Team of 4/5/6 or as a Pair looking for teammates. Or please contact Liz for help with teammates.

***Nominations close Wednesday July 16***

**\*B Grade: all players <300 mpts (at 1.1.2025)  
All players must be members of Ballina Bridge Club**



# **Harvey Norman**

## **Restricted Pairs**

**Thursdays**

**August 21 & 28**

**Normal table money – vouchers on the day**

**♦ Red Masterpoints ♦**

**Prizes from Harvey Norman will be  
presented at Christmas Party**

**Nominate online by Monday August 18**

### **Conditions:**

1. Open to all members of Ballina Bridge Club with <100 masterpoints as at 1 Jan 2025
2. Event will be held provided there are a minimum of 8 pairs entered
3. Substitutes will be allowed according to Ballina Bridge Club policy
4. Winners determined by best average score over 2 rounds.

**Event Organiser: Peter Rostron**

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters

# Harvey Norman

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