



BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB

Newsletter April 2025

Message from the President

■ Lorraine Bryant

Congratulations to Margaret Cusack and Rhonda Khong who played in the Tasmanian Festival of Bridge. They were placed second in the Restricted Pairs Championship for players up to 300 Masterpoints. A wonderful result against 66 pairs.

A busy month ahead with the Ballina Congress on the 26th and 27th April. Currently there are forty pairs registered to play so if you are interested in participating you need to consider entering soon. We do need some volunteers to help on the day with kitchen duties, caddying etc so if you can spare an hour of two to assist, please let Marjorie or me know. Nibbles for morning and afternoon tea are welcomed. Lunch is catered for by the Lennox Lions Club.

The ANZAC Day Pairs are held on Friday, 25th April, 12.40 for 1pm start. Register online please. This is a red point event. We hope that some of our visitors to the Congress will join us.

April 12th is the Country Teams Qualifying Event. It would be wonderful to see more teams entered. Bring your own lunch. A 9.30 start and a red point event so get your team together for an

enjoyable day of bridge. Entries close 9th April.

IMP Pairs week starts on 19th April. In the lead-up to the Congress and Restricted Teams Championship, an opportunity to play IMPs, rather than matchpoints. Easter Monday Pairs is a red point, IMP event.

David Drake and Timothy Aley spent time tidying the garden and planting in some of the bare spots. A lovely red crepe myrtle, mondo grass and a camellia aptly named "Little Slam" have been planted. Your efforts are greatly appreciated David and Timothy. Thank you also to Rob Sheahan for resolving the men's bathroom open door problem.

Thank you to all members who sent feedback to the Management Committee regarding Bidding Boxes. After consideration of all responses the Committee decided that the Bidding Boxes would be available to members who wished to use them and request that if members come to a table with bidding boxes that they try to give them a go. If members are very uncomfortable then they may request that a bidding pad be



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Country Teams Club Qualifier,
Saturday April 12**

Anzac Day: Friday April 25

2025 Congress: April 26 - 27

Thai By Night

Birthday winner for this month:

Lesley Burford

used.

Some members would prefer to use a bidding box as they find writing difficult. If this is the case the member may carry a bidding box and use the card from the box which indicates their bid next to the bidding pad.

Kathy Gourlay has had some health issues this year and has resigned from the committee for the remainder of the year. We greatly appreciate the contribution Kathy has made to the club and wish her better health for the future. Rebecca Rogers has volunteered to fill the position until the Annual General Meeting. Thank you, Rebecca.



Clue 1. Best behaved child (6,5)

Clue 2. Cricket team's measuring stick. (4,2,6)

Answers to Bob Hart's cryptic Bridge clues on page 9.





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Lorraine Bryant



Handicap awards are given to a pair with the highest handicap if there are 10 tables or more. After suggestions to increase the number of awards given it was decided that when there are 16+ tables two awards be given, one NS and one EW. In the event of a single winner movement the awards are given to the top two handicap winners regardless of direction.

Score Correction Process. If you

detect a scoring error players need to contact the Director of the day by phone or email; and after consultation with the other players if appropriate an amendment to the results is made. With the lead card input, fewer corrections are needed. A problem has been players not finalising the Bridgmate at the end of the session, that is inputting and confirming the score for the final

board. With both pairs at fault here they should be awarded average minus on the board. It is helpful if at least one person in the pair keeps a hand record.

Welcome to our new members for the past two months Henri Badar, home member and associate members, Mike Duffin and William Keyte.

Library Matters

A generous donation for our library has enabled the purchase of several new and popular bridge books and more to come. They are;

- a) 'Beginners Play', 'Improvers Play', 'Intermediate Play' and 'Contested Auctions' all written by D. Browne.
- b) 'Principles of Card Play' and 'All About No Trump' by Paul Marston.
- c) 'Double' by M. Lawrence

Check out our wonderful library.

Our librarian Linda Maslen has asked that you write your name and date on the card in the back of the book and place the card in the wooden box. When you return the book please place it in the box underneath and Linda will return it to the shelf. Books are borrowed for three weeks but you can re borrow if you need more time.



If you have any contributions for the BBC newsletter, please contact Ange Bettess

0401 955 432 or email angela.bettess@me.com



Play Committee Report - March 2025

March. was a 'quiet' month at the Club in terms of 'special events'. However it's pleasing to see some/many of our less experienced players 'stepping-up'; notably those playing in the Saturday Novice section and those from lessons progressing to supervised play. + Thanks to all who are assisting with this 'mentoring'.

Coming Up in April, May and June, we have some Teams events, and we've deliberately scheduled some IMPs Pairs sessions so that all players become more familiar with IMPs scoring and tactics. And our Congress is Swiss Pairs with IMPs scoring. I've attempted to give a brief explanation of a Swiss movement and IMPs scoring (see page 7).

1. State/Country Teams Club Qualifying Event, Saturday April 12:

Just checked and we have 13 Teams nominated so far and Yes Please we would love more. The event will almost definitely be played as a Swiss Teams. + As this is a state championship event, it's red points and at state championship level.

If you're not nominated please think about 'giving-it-a-go'. Liz Jeffery is our Partner Coordinator and will endeavour to help you find teammates; plus teams can be 4,5 or 6 players with changes am and pm or round-by-round. We would really like an even number of teams which greatly facilitates the Swiss movement. So if you can perhaps just play am or pm, and/or standby in case of a late drop-out, please contact Liz. (+ NB: Late fill-ins to facilitate a movement get a 'free' game.)

As our Club Qualifying Event, teams finishing in the top half of the field (so it's looking like 6+ teams) will be eligible to continue to the next stage which will be either a Regional or Zonal Final; details of this are still to be confirmed.

If you're playing in this event, please nominate a Captain who can pre-pay for the team by direct bank transfer for the Club bank account; or cash in the box at the club. It's \$60 per team and there will be nibbles

and a 'free' drink at the close of play. (We prefer not to be handling cash or vouchers on the day.)

(A reminder that there will be no Novice Section on this Saturday.)

2. IMPs Pairs 'Week': A run of IMPs sessions leading up to our Congress, and upcoming Teams events, so we're all: Thinking IMPs (as opposed to matchpoints). Then further IMPs sessions are planned in the run-up to the Kings Birthday Teams (June 9) and then our plan is to have more 'IMPs weeks' as the year unfolds.

3. Anzac Day Pairs Friday 25 April: A Pairs session with red points leading in to our Congress, and also with IMPs scoring. Please nominate on the online calendar + our Congress visitors are invited to join-in.

+ Please come with your Anzac 'Bits' and 'Treats' to share. It's a 1pm start and regular voucher (or \$5 note) on the day.

4. Ballina Congress April 26 & 27: Entries have been growing steadily and we have a good mix of visitors and members. We can still fit in only 5/6 more Pairs so if you're not nominated

We will be playing a Swiss movement with IMPs scoring – so again hopefully for 'everyone'. Indeed we're delighted to see a wide range in masterpoints across our entrants thus far. (You may recall last year we had players from 0.97 to over 9,700 masterpoints.)

Then for 'winners' and thus prizes, the field will be divided into 3 or 4 (approximately) equal 'divisions' based on masterpoints per pair, and we offer equal prize money per each division.

Entries for the Congress close on Saturday April 19. unless we are full before this date. For more details see our Congress poster/flyer on the noticeboard or around the Club. Entries for the Congress are via MyABF; if you need help with MyABF please ask.

The Lennox Head Lions are again catering our Lunches as part of our ongoing fundraising partnership with



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them. If you're playing please make sure you have requested any special dietary needs with your entry: gluten free or vegetarian.

Standby Players and Helpers PLEASE: If you're not playing and can help over the weekend please nominate on the sheet on the noticeboard:

2.1. Standby Players: may be called-in at (very) short notice to cover any late withdrawals, so at least one pair for:

- Saturday: 10am – 1.15pm
- Saturday: 1.30pm – 5.15pm
- Sunday: 9.30am – 1.30pm

2.2. Helpers: We only need volunteers to give up a couple of hours to help with boards, caddying, in the kitchen or.....

Thanks to our House Chair, Chris Fitzgerald, for coordinating the kitchen/catering helpers. + Of course any bakers amongst us, your cake (etc) contributions for 'grazing' will be most welcome. Or if you're not a baker, maybe an alternative 'plate' for grazing?

We look forward to welcoming Mark Miller as Congress Director + catching up with Lorraine. Peter Rostron and the dealing team will be organising lots of boards – so hopefully we're just about set.....

+ Coming Up in May:

Restricted Teams Championship Thursdays May 8 & 15: The first of our Teams Championships and for players with <100 masterpoints as at 1.1.2025. It's a 2-session event (in the 'normal' Thursday timeslot) with head-to-head teams matches. Please nominate online and you may nominate as a Team of 4/5/6 players or as a Pair looking for teammates.

Peter Rostron is our Event Organiser; please contact Peter for queries. Peter and/or Robyn Thomas, our Thursday Partner Coordinator, will try to help with teammates; as this is a Championship event, all

players must be members of Ballina BC.

Entries close on Monday May 5. It's 'normal' voucher on the day – Oh and red masterpoints. (See poster on page 15.)

If you're a 'regular' Thursday player but now exceed the 100 masterpoint limit, please perhaps think about coming along on another day for these two weeks – so Monday, Wednesday or Saturday. I think you'll find those 'regulars' very welcoming and you may meet new/different members. And remember our Partner Coordinators can help you find a partner.

Coming up in June – So Start Getting Ready!

King's Birthday Teams, Monday June 9: A Fun day of Teams again with a Swiss movement. Start thinking about your Team – of 4,5 or 6 players. Some advance notice:

- The theme for the day is: Red, White and Blue.
- We've come up with a new way of deciding 'winners' on the day. This means everyone can be a 'Winner' and so perhaps think of 'mixing-up' your team.

GNOT Club Qualifying Event, Saturday June 21: An all day teams event with gold masterpoints.

My report seems to be getting lengthy, but a couple more 'things' before I sign off:

New Players and P-Plates

With new/newer players progressing to club sessions a reminder about our P-Plates.

What is a P-Plate? 'Inexperienced' players may carry a P-plate at our regular sessions which alerts the opponents that they are playing against new/inexperienced players. This 'asks' that the opponents revert to 'simple' bidding. The specifics are shown on page 6 and are also posted on the club noticeboard.

Jan Roberts is organising new supplies of P-Plates – Thanks Jan.



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Marjorie Askew



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Advice from the ABF: They will be no longer sending out hard copy registration cards nor ranking (promotion) certificates and are seeking a 'digital' solution. However ranking certificates will be sent out whilst stocks last.

In the last newsletter I advised about John Fraser becoming, or about to become, a Grand Master. There was in fact no 'drama' about needing a fraction of a masterpoint as some overalls for Australia Day were not showing on our Results page. So yes, as announced in the Rank promotions last month, John is a Grand Master. Hopefully stocks lasting will mean John will receive his hard copy certificate.



Bridge NSW Newsletter: Last month I recommended to you the Bridge NSW newsletter. If you haven't checked it out yet please do, as in the latest edition you'll find our very own "Clive" starring. Go to: <https://bridgensw.com.au/newsletter/> and click on the March edition.

As always if you have any feedback, or suggestions, on anything 'Play' at the Club please contact me.

Marjorie (Chair of Play) - call: 0459 023 907 or email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

Rank Promotions at end of February:

Graduate: Richard Alderman, Joy Miller

Silver Life: Cathy Hocking

GRAND: John Fraser



Rank Promotions at end March:

Graduate: Fay Keegan

Regional: Peter Lamont

National: Rhonda Khong

Life: Terry Lowe

Invitation from Hunter Bridge Association



The Hunter Region Bridge Association is excited to welcome new players with a free game on RealBridge.

If you enjoy the game and decide to join us regularly, the cost is \$5. ABF Masterpoints will be awarded in the usual way.

Join us every Wednesday at 7pm for an evening of relaxed bridge, free from covid and a nighttime

commute.

Whether you are a beginner looking to sharpen your skills, or a more experienced player, this is the perfect opportunity to play bridge in a friendly, supportive environment.

Contact Peter Clarke at pc4bridge@gmail.com for more details. Don't miss out - grab your free game any Wednesday. We're all looking forward to meeting you.

(From Janet Brown:- "I play regularly in the game and enjoy it very much. I meet players from all over Australia - and also run into some of my local friends from Ballina. Janet")

P Plates

‘Inexperienced’ players may carry a P-plate at our regular sessions which alerts the opponents that they are playing against new/inexperienced players. This ‘asks’ that the opponents revert to ‘simple’ bidding.

When playing against a ‘P-plater’ please follow the ‘Monday Simple System’ bidding so:

- 1♣ openings should show at least 3♣s; so an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ is ‘better minor’.
- No transfer bids after 1♣ Openings
- No Multi-2s
- No brown sticker conventions or yellow systems

PLUS

All to play Standard American with a strong 1NT

AND then as the auction unfolds: Please ‘Keep-it-Simple’

Furthermore as per our updated Regulation 5:

5. NEW PLAYERS AND SYSTEM CARDS In accordance with the ABF Law 40-C-3a, new players will be allowed to consult their systems card, **and notes**, during the auction and play for the first year.

NB: P-plates cannot be used in our ‘Special’ events which include Championships and Our Congress.



Swiss Movements and IMPs Scoring

Swiss Movement:

In my opinion this is a 'great' movement for a 'mixed' field ie in terms of bridge experience/ability. The first round is (usually) a random draw and after that you play against opponents according to how you are 'placed' in the round-by-round results; thus in the next round you play against those who are doing 'as well' as you are. And an added bonus is if you win a 'match' you are awarded masterpoints; regardless of your final placing. (So hopefully everyone earns some masterpoints.)

IMPs Scoring:

IMPs stands for International Matchpoints Scoring. It is the usual method of scoring for Teams competitions but is becoming increasingly popular for Pairs events and this has been facilitated by computers doing the scoring ie in the 'good old days' matchpoints scoring for club sessions was 'relatively easy', albeit very tedious; IMPs for pairs scoring would have been almost impossible.

So what is the difference between matchpoints and IMPs?

In matchpoints your score is compared to the scores at all the other tables. You then earn 2 points for every pair you get a better score than, one point for every pair you get the same score as and zero points when a pair beats you. This is then all computed to give a percentage for each board and then a percentage for the session.

In IMPs Teams scoring the total points difference per each board is compared to a scale and the difference is converted to a number of IMPs; + you can see these when you check your results.

This is very well explained in this 6½ minute You Tube video. If you've always wondered but not fully understood, I strongly recommend this to you. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ppn2cVf2TUI>

Adapting IMPs scoring to Pairs, your score on a board is compared with the 'datum' score and then converted into IMPs. The datum score is the average score of all other tables; in some (bigger) events the highest and lowest scores may not be counted in the average so removing any 'silly' scores which could have a 'silly' effect on the datum.

Now a further refinement for Pairs events is called 'Cross-IMPs'. Here your score is 'imped' against every other table in the field and then averaged; again this is facilitated by computer scoring!

OK - What does this mean in terms of tactics for IMPs?

1. Make your contract – overtricks are not important if they may risk the contract
2. 'Go For It' to defeat the opponent's contract; if it gives away an overtrick this is not overly important.
3. Push for vulnerable games
4. Play in the safest contract ie 5 of a minor may be better than a 'risky' 3NT.

+ Perhaps an overall good tip for IMPs is: Size Does Matter! (As mentioned in the You Tube video.)

Plus Janet's article 'Tactics at Teams' which we always recommend to you elaborates further. See page 8.

And for further explanation of IMPs scoring v matchpoints, Gary Barwick from the North Shore BC, Sydney has a good article, go to: <https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/Scoring>



TACTICS AT TEAMS (IMP SCORING)

Experienced bridge players consider Teams play to be the finest form of bridge. The luck element is considerably reduced, and careful steady play is rewarded.

THE NON-VULNERABLE GAME should be bid with certainty, but do not stretch to bid Non-Vulnerable Games. If you're not sure, then a pass is probably best.

On the other hand, **THE VULNERABLE GAME** requires less than a 40% chance to be worth bidding. So - *bid* any Vulnerable Game that looks to have a faint chance of making. You gain 10 imps if you bid a game which is not reached at the other table. Just look at vulnerability on the board, and if you're not certain – bid it! Go for it!

PLAYING FOR OVERTRICKS is essential at Match Point pairs, but unnecessary at Teams.
Simply aim to make your contract.

IN DEFENCE your aim is to defeat the contract. If you have the setting trick, make sure you take it.
Do not worry about extra tricks.

PENALTY DOUBLES are almost forbidden in the Teams game. If you double and beat the contract by one trick, you have turned 50 into 100. (2 IMPs N/V). Big Deal!! If they make the contract, you lose many IMPs. The risk involved for the possible gain is too high. Doubles of part scores are particularly dangerous, and can cost you a victory if they go wrong. So - seldom double at Teams – and if you do, you should set the contract by two tricks.

MINOR SUITS are very respectable in part scores at Teams. There is no need to make rash bids, so that the auction ends up in a Major suit or NT.

SLAMS require a 50 - 50 chance to be worth bidding. If you are comfortably ahead in the match, do not shoot for a tight slam. If you are the stronger team, do not bid borderline slams. If you are behind, however, or you are playing a much stronger team, then bidding a tight slam may be the way to win the match.

GRAND SLAMS are rarely bid at teams. The loss of a small slam score is too much to risk. If you do bid a grand, you must be 100% certain of its success.

SACRIFICE BIDDING is not practised as much at Teams bridge as in Pairs. 500 against 620 is not a huge gain, whereas in Pairs it might gain you a top. And if you get it wrong ... and the opponents were not making their game ... then you may have lost the match.

TEAM MORALE If you are holding poor cards and are looking at lots of minus scores, remember that your team mates will be doing their best for you at the other table with the cards of your immediate opponents. They may have a column of pluses. You are part of a team of four players. Do not give a passing thought to overtricks - they are only swings of one or two IMPs.

GENERAL TACTICS: The winning approach is to play a careful, steady game, and make fewer mistakes than the opponents. Par bridge will win almost every Teams match. At teams, a 51% game is good enough to win a match. At Match Point pairs, 51% is nowhere nearly good enough, and even 60% might not win a tournament.



At Pairs, you must take chances (which means making some bad bids) in order to win.

There is no place in Teams for wild bidding, super sacrificing and guessing. Save the weird bids for Match Point Pairs, and keep to the straight and narrow at Teams.

At Pairs you are allowed to make some wild “bad” bids, but at teams you must play very “good” sensible bridge.



In conclusion, Minor suits are OK, overtricks are unimportant and in defence simply put the contract down. And – remember to push the boat out and **bid all the Vulnerable games.**

Teaching Report

Judy Forsyth



Our first day lessons for 2025 have just concluded. We had a dozen new players as well as many who returned to revise all or some selected topics from previous lessons. Day lessons are twice weekly.

Evening lessons have not yet concluded. About the same numbers of new players have also been introduced to the game of bridge. They will continue longer as they meet weekly.

Thankyou to the members who gave up their time to play with our graduates during two mentoring sessions we conducted as lessons concluded. This is a good chance for our newer players to play with "the old hands."

We encourage new players to initially join in with the Friday Help With Play session. Many "old hands" play in this session and are very welcoming & helpful to these new players. No partner is required.

This session is overseen by the teaching members who prepare a short lesson before play begins. We also have volunteers who come to play with anyone needing a partner. There is no cost to these helpers. If you would be able to help at this session please contact Guy Jarvi who organises the roster. Volunteers would only be asked to come along once a month or less.



April Calendar Changes for newer players. There will be **NO** Novice Bridge on Saturday, 12th April & Saturday 26th April. This is due to special events being conducted at the club. Also, there will be **NO** Help with Play on Fridays 18th & 25th April due to Easter & Anzac Days.

Judy Forsyth - for the teaching team.



Answer to Clue 1: Better Minor [Best behaved child (6,5)] A commonly used term for the choice of a minor suit opening bid with less than four cards

Answer to Clue 2: Rule of Eleven [Cricket team's measuring stick. (4,2,6)] A calculation that can be used when it is assumed that

opening lead is the fourth highest card in a suit. By subtracting the pips on the card from 11, the result is the number of cards in the other three hands that are higher than the one led. Third hand, for example, can then make inferences about declarer's holding in the suit by examining his own and dummy's holdings. Likewise, Declarer can make inferences about right-hand-opponent's holding in the suit.





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Two way finesse

Paul Smith



Commonly when finessing you know where you want the missing card to be. If dummy has the AQ then you want the King to be on your left so that leading towards the Queen will give you an extra trick. If you have the KQx then you want the Ace to be on your right so that you can lead towards your Hearts twice and make two tricks.

But there is another kind of finesse where the missing card can be in either hand and you can still succeed. Imagine sitting South with this suit holding

♥AJ8

♥K107

If you imagine that the Queen is with East, on your right, you can lead the ♥7 from your hand and win in dummy with the ♥A. Then lead the ♥8 from dummy and play the ♥10 from your hand to finesse against East's supposed ♥Q.

Alternatively, you might imagine that the Queen is with West, on your left. Now you play the ♥K from your hand first and then lead the ♥7 and play the ♥J from dummy to finesse against West's supposed ♥Q.

This is called a two-way finesse. There are two different ways to finesse against the same card. So, what to do?

In short, this is a tough one. Occasionally, you can work out where the Queen is with a high degree of certainty (that is the case in many books). But what about some random deal at the club? Have a look at this recent hand and imagine yourself in the South seat

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--|----------|----|-------|
| March 19 th | | | | |
| Brd: 27 | | North | | |
| Dir: S | | ♠ 983 | | |
| Vul: Nil | | ♥ AJ8 | | |
| | | ♦ K4 | | |
| | | ♣ J9753 | | |
| | | South | | |
| | | ♠ AQJ104 | | |
| | | ♥ K107 | | |
| | | ♦ A87 | | |
| | | ♣ 84 | | |
| 2♠ S | | W | N | E |
| Lead - ♣A | | | | S |
| | | | | 1♠ |
| | | P | 2♠ | <end> |

The ♣A holds the first trick. West continues with a small Club and East wins with the ♣Q. Interestingly, East does not continue with a third Club to give their partner a ruff. This suggests that East knew that West did not lead from a doubleton.

East can see the doubleton Diamond in dummy and so it is fairly normal for them to play a trump at trick three in an attempt to reduce dummy's ruffing power. With nothing to lose you take the trump finesse by playing the ♠Q which wins.

The Heart suit looms large in your plan. Where is the ♥Q? The key is to gather as much information as possible but in as safe a way as possible.

What is going on in the Club suit? West's opening lead of the ♣A suggests they either started with the ♣K or that they had a doubleton. East did not attempt to give West a ruff and so West must still have the ♣K in their hand. A third round of Clubs, ruffed by you, is safe and may give a 'count' on that suit. Accordingly, you cross to dummy with the ♦K and lead a small club.

East discards a small Diamond on this third round of Clubs as you ruff with the ♠10. Interesting, East started with only two Clubs.

There is a Diamond loser in your hand so take the King and then ruff your last Diamond in dummy with the ♠8. To take the Spade finesse again you lead dummy's last trump, East's ♠K appears and your Ace wins. Play the ♠J to draw the last trump from West, dummy discards a Club and East a Heart. This is the situation with four tricks to go.

| | |
|-------|------|
| North | |
| ♠ | - |
| ♥ | AJ8 |
| ♦ | - |
| ♣ | J |
| South | |
| ♠ | 10 |
| ♥ | K107 |
| ♦ | - |
| ♣ | - |

What do you know about the opponent's hands?

East started with two Clubs because they discarded when you played the third round from dummy. They also started with two Spades because West had the third trump. They have followed to three rounds of



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Two way finesse

Paul Smith



Diamonds and discarded one. They have discarded one Heart.

West started with four Clubs (five in dummy, two in hand and two with East leaves four) and three Spades. They also followed to three rounds of Diamonds. West has one Club left.

There is only one Diamond unaccounted for. The four cards remaining in the defender's hands are either

West with ♠- ♥??? ♦ - ♣10 and East with ♠- ♥??? ♦? ♣- ... or ...

West with ♠- ♥?? ♦? ♣10 and East with ♠♥ ??? ♦ ♣-

Great counting, but so what? Not much really because this is not a problem from a book but a normal, messy situation.

As explained above you have a "two-way" finesse in Hearts. Basically, a 50-50 chance. Is there some way to tip the odds in your favour? Even slightly? Your analysis tells you that either East and West have the same number of Hearts remaining (three) or East has four and West two. Since there is a chance that East has more Hearts then East then the chance they have the Queen is slightly higher.

Decision made ... play East for the ♥Q. Lead towards the ♥A in dummy and then lead the ♥8 back towards your ♥10, finessing East for the Queen.

The complete hand

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|----|
| March 19 th | | | |
| Brd: 27 | | | |
| Dir: S | | | |
| Vul: Nil | | | |
| North | | | |
| ♠ 983 | | | |
| ♥ AJ8 | | | |
| ♦ K4 | | | |
| ♣ J9753 | | | |
| West | East | | |
| ♠ 765 | ♠ K2 | | |
| ♥ 643 | ♥ Q952 | | |
| ♦ 1093 | ♦ QJ652 | | |
| ♣ AK105 | ♣ Q2 | | |
| South | | | |
| ♠ AQJ104 | | | |
| ♥ K107 | | | |
| ♦ A87 | | | |
| ♣ 84 | | | |
| 2♠ S | | | |
| Lead - ♣A | | | |
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | 1♠ |
| P | 2♠ | <end> | |

Eleven tricks for 69%, ten tricks is only 23%. Remember last month "Sweat the small stuff"? This hand is a nice example of just that. (Thanks, Lesley, for bringing the hand to my attention).

Much could also be said about the

defence, West with only seven high card points has an interesting decision at trick two. ♣K basically gives the contract away because South can later get a discard on the ♣J. Leading a Heart would solve declarer's guess in the suit. A Diamond may help declarer if they need to ruff two Diamonds. Don't tell me that a lack of points makes for a boring hand!

At trick three, East has similar problems and the Spade switch is probably the best option.

Ballina MahJong Club News

Winners for the month of March:

Mar 7 no play ("Alfred")

14 Sally Lowry

21 Shirley Atkinson

28 Joy Łowień.



John Fraser - Life Member and Grand Master

Life Member, John Fraser, recently achieved the status of Grand Master. John has twice been President of our club and is one of the members who worked to establish the club and raise funds to build the clubhouse and purchase the land on which the club house now stands. During his time as President he was also responsible for the development of the garden areas and surrounds of the club and much of the Clubs fit out. His presidency also considered but rejected the introduction of bidding boxes. Everything old is new again!



Rob Eldridge

John now joins the ranks of relatively few players who have achieved the status of Grand Master. All at Ballina congratulate him on this achievement.

What is the story behind how you decided to take up Bridge?

In August 1991, while being involved in the Commonwealth Census, I met up with Janet Brown. As I had injured my shoulder and was unable to play tennis and golf, and finding out that Janet was a teacher of Bridge, I asked her if I could start lessons. She told me that she had a group commencing lessons on the following Friday morning and that she needed one more player to make four tables. That was the beginning of my Bridge playing life!



I was taught the simple methods of playing, but soon became aware of many strange systems. I remember playing at Bangalow, Ballina and Lismore with some experienced players who put me right when I made mistakes. In those early days there were no sections for learners at our local clubs. We still played each Friday morning at Janet's house and played at each other's homes. We also played in some competitions for learners, in more distant clubs.

Your bridge partners.

Over the time I've been playing I've had some wonderful partners. At present I have been enjoying playing with Betty Clark on Monday afternoon and Kaylene Cross on Saturday afternoon. However, I must mention my long-term partner, Ann Bigg. Ann commenced teaching bridge in 1995 and continued for 15 years or more. She also produced a learners booklet which has become extremely popular near and far. Besides playing with me as a partner for many years we also teamed up with Margaret Wilcox and

Ellen Watson to play in local and National Congresses at the Gold Coast.

Congratulations on achieving Grand Master.

To become a Grand Master has given me much pleasure, however the most satisfying factor has been the friendship and everyday social enjoyment I have derived each time I meet up with other members, some that I've played with for 30 years.



The Ballina Bridge Club has seen major changes over time, both in the game of Bridge and in its management.

During my time as a member of the Ballina Bridge Club, I have observed many changes and challenges. The club has had a number of problems since I became involved in 1991, however since the club split up in 1995 much has been achieved. Our numbers have increased with the assistance of various teachers, we have made people of all ages very welcome and we have put on special functions to make life interesting.

When the Ballina Bridge Club split up, with 43 members in each section, we were fortunate enough to have the Ballina Lodge for Saturday and Wednesday bridge. My friends in the Masonic Lodge altered their booking to allow us to play on our usual days and later on allowed us to play for free of charge on Sundays and on our Congress days. A main challenge was to find a permanent home that we could play in on any day or night. As a result, Barbara Meaney and I searched everywhere possible, but without success until unexpectedly, the Ballina Council appointed a member to assist local organisations find suitable sites. After reading some of the applications and letters

John Fraser - Life Member and Grand Master

from local organisations she was most impressed by us so we were offered our present site which was so special that we accepted it immediately. Our membership had increased greatly so we decided to search for a builder and to raise the necessary funds. During 1997 and 1998 we raised the funds, firstly by conducting numerous functions but mainly by loans from members under a scheme recommended by my solicitor friend, John Maxwell. I worked with our treasurer, Edna Smith to arrange for members to take out debentures at 6% interest. The club was fortunate in having a voluntary surveyor and building designer and council advisors. By August 1999 we had an official opening and moved into our clubhouse.

This didn't happen without a tremendous effort by our committee which was led by our hard-working President Barbara Meaney, Secretary Jenny Wardley, and Treasurer Edna Smith and most of our members. Without going into details, the club raised and paid off loans in a short time as the club conducted a series of fundraising functions assisted by many of our members. I remember the fact that we had very few subcommittees, members just did the necessary work that needed to be done, such as gardening, mowing, cleaning, maintenance etc. The loans were all paid off during 2001 and our temporary tables and chairs were replaced soon after that.



Above L-R: Our Life Members - Lyn Graham, Judy Forsyth, Barbara Meaney, John Fraser, and Jenny Wardley

After being Vice Present to Barbara Meaney for three years and President for two years, I was made a Life Member in 2001 which was pleasantly surprising. I was a Play Director for 15 years and Head Director for the last four years of that time. I was also part of the Finance Committee for a number of years.

In 2018, the Council put pressure on the club to purchase the three blocks of land that we used free of charge. As a result we decided to purchase them however the price had increased from \$51,000 per block in 1997 to \$250,000 in 2010. After some time our legal supporters were able to reduce the asking price to \$400,000 for the three blocks. The clubs Treasurer and I were able to offer loan debentures at 6% interest to members, which was soon taken up and within less than three years the loans were repaid.

What a wonderful club we have!!





Ballina Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Congress April 26 & 27, 2025



Play starts: Saturday 10am, Sunday 9.30am

Cash prizes in masterpoint divisions

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA
Red Masterpoints at B4 Level

Cross Imps Scoring
Green, Blue & Red Systems only

Cost: \$100 per Player, \$200 per Pair

All entries via MyABF
Entries close 6pm Saturday April 20



Anzac Day Welcome Pairs
Friday April 25 at 1pm
(‘Walk-in’ \$5pp; red masterpoints)

Tournament Director
Mark Miller

Event Organiser
Marjorie Askew
Tel: 0459 023 907 e: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

All players are subject to the NSWBA’s Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

Ballina Bridge Club
Website: <https://ballinabridge.org.au>



RESTRICTED

TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

to be held on
Thursdays May 8 & 15

ALL nominations online*

- ♣ **Pay on the day - normal \$5 voucher**
- ♦ **Start-time 12.45 for 13.00**
- ♥ **All players <100mpts at 1.1.2025**
- ♠ **All players must be members of the Ballina Bridge Club**

Event Organiser: Peter Rostron

* You can nominate online as a Team of 4/5/6 or as a Pair looking for teammates. Or please contact **Peter or Robyn Thomas**, our Thursday Partner Coordinator, for help with teammates.

Nominations close Monday May 5

N.B. There will be NO Pairs Play on these days

COUNTRY TEAMS 2025

BALLINA CLUB QUALIFIER



Saturday 12 April

Time: 9.15 for 9.30 am

Cost: \$15.00pp (\$60 per team)

Red Masterpoints at State Championship Level

Please bring your own lunch

The event is open to all players within our Region. Teams finishing in the top half the field will be eligible to continue to the Regional Final (or possibly direct to the Zonal Final) as part of the NSWBA John Arkinstall State Teams*.

Partner Coordinator: Liz Jeffery

Please contact Liz for help with teammates

Please nominate online: (Teams of 4/5/6 or as a Pair)

by: 6pm Wednesday 9 April

* For more information go to: <https://bridgensw.com.au/state-open-teams-country-clubs/>

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Harvey Norman

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Bring in you Ballina Bridge Club Newsletter or Membership card to get 10%* off all Batteries and/or 5%* off all Jaycar Products. *Excludes Products already on sale and Gift Cards



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