



Newsletter July 2024

Message from the President

Lorraine Bryant

Coming Event this Month. Extension Lessons to suit all levels of players. Starting Wednesday 10th July with additional lessons on the 17th, 24th and 31st July. Lessons start at 11.00am and finish about 12.30. The cost is \$5 per lesson or \$20 for all 4. The tutor is Clive Klugman and the topics are Discards, Checkback, Reverses and Slam Bidding. Pay online with reference "Extension Lessons".

There was a miscommunication with the ordering of the new bidding slips and some bidding made in pencil is not dark enough to be easily seen. There are additional pens and 2B pencils on the tables to assist members.

Two special events were held during the month. The King's Birthday Teams Event was a great success. The winning team was the Brown Team – Clive and Noah Klugman, Jenny McDowell and Janet Brown. Runners up were the Riley Team – Jean and Terry Lowe, Anne Riley and Gary Lynn. All teams managed to score some of part of a red point. Well done to Gillian who was the EO of the event. Also held in June were the GNOT Pairs. The GNOT Regional Final will be held at Ballina on 28th July. See the play report for more detail. Congratulations to Bill Powell, Marjorie Askew, Gary Lynn and Clive Klugman who have qualified for the state Final of the

Country Teams to be held online on the 29-31st November. We wish you well for that event.

A special thank you to Sue and John Fielder – they recently came into the club and cleaned the mould from around the sink in the kitchen and around the basins in the ladies' and men's bathrooms. They then sealed the gaps. It is important that the area is dried at the end of each day so if you are one of the wonderful volunteers who help clean up after bridge, please mop any moisture in those areas. In anticipation thank you all.

Cecily Barrack has donated one of her lovely artworks to brighten the ladies' bathroom and it makes such a difference. Thank you very much Cecily and thank you Ken J. for hanging the artwork. (Ken is now looking for some pictures or posters for the men's bathroom – can't wait to see what he chooses!!)

This month we welcomed three new Home Club Members, Katherine Benecke, Elizabeth Strang and Christine Havill. We wish you all a long and happy association with Ballina BC.

Several members have requested an area for a book exchange so we will trial a small area. Only books in good condition should be left and I am looking for someone willing to manage and keep the



UPCOMING EVENTS

NSW State-wide Pairs, date Wednesday August 7

Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs, Thursdays August 22 & 29

Teams Championship, Saturdays August 24 & 31

ABF Club Knockout Teams on RealBridge starts Tues 6 August

area tidy. Let me know if you can help.

Lennox Head Lions Club are having their Annual John Mitchell Charity Golf Day on Sunday 18th August from 12 noon at Byron Bay Golf Club. Four person Ambrose, Free BBQ, Prizes Galore, \$50 per player. Major Beneficiary: Mental health Support Group. It would be wonderful if we could support the Lions with this venture by registering a BBC Team or two. Register at Byron Bay Golf Club.

Thai By Night

Winner of the Thai by Night birthday voucher for this month:

Colleen Spencer



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Play Committee Report - June 2024



Marjorie Askew

Events Gone:

Special events over the last month included the King's Birthday Teams on Monday June 10 and the Teams of 3 on Monday July 1. Both were 'Good Club Days', with good numbers, good 'grub', hopefully some good bridge – and some 'Fun'. It was good to see some of our newer players joining in, and we welcomed one kibitzer at the Teams of 3.

Thanks to our Event Organisers for these events: Gillian Baker and Carol Hocking – for 'jobs well done'. Both have reported on their events – see pages 4 and 5.

A major challenge with these 'specials' is having the 'right' numbers eg an even number of teams (avoids a triangle in the movement), and 'contingency plans' in case of last minute drop-outs. Thanks to our members who offer to be on standby and/or fill-in at short notice.

The GNOT Pairs on Saturday June 22 was plagued with a few late withdrawals mostly due to the colds/flu season, and the standby pair (actually a trio) was called in to action; thanks here to Phil Robbins with Beth Martin am and Sue Fielder pm. And their reward was some gold points – for a good performance!

Thanks to Mark for being a playing director for this event, together



Winners at Coffs Harbour Teams Congress

with other helpers on the day from our directing team. We are very fortunate with the numbers and depth in our directing team, which means we can run our club qualifying events effectively and without sustaining extra costs.

Qualifying pairs from our GNOT Club Qualifier ie those finishing in the top half of the field, are now organising into Teams for the next stage: a Regional Final which will be hosted by Ballina on Sunday 28 July.

State and Country Teams Zonal Final June 29 & 30:

Five Ballina teams headed to Coffs Harbour, representing the Far North region, and competed against teams from Armidale, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Great Lakes; 14 teams in total. The top 2 teams would proceed to the State Final and after some 'hard fought' matches, victorious were

teams from Armidale and Ballina (Bill Powell, Marjorie Askew, Gary Lynn, Clive Klugman).

The John Arkinstall State Teams Final, which incorporates the Country Teams Final, will be held on RealBridge on 29 November - December 1.

PS: Last month I forgot to 'Shout-Out' my teammates as winners of the Coffs Harbour BC May Teams Congress. Well Done to Janet Brown and Jean Lowe, with teammates Bill Powell and Marjorie Askew – 'winners are grinners' in the photo!

Coming Up:

NSW State-wide Pairs, Wednesday August 7: 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.

Thus a chance to play in a state event at your Club. 'Normal' voucher on the day; the Club subsidises the entry fees to NSWBA.

Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs, Thursdays August 22 & 29: The second of our Harvey Norman events and this time for



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Marjorie Askew

Play Committee Report - June 2024

players with <100 masterpoints as at 1 January 2024; and with red masterpoints. Closing date is Monday August 19, normal voucher on the day. (See poster on page 9)

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. It will depend on numbers whether there are separate sections on the day.

Teams Championship, Saturdays August 24 & 31: Two Saturday afternoon sessions and in 2 Divisions: Open and B Grade (all players < 300 masterpoints as at 1.01.2024). 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'. Liz Jeffery is our Event Organiser – please contact Liz for help with teammates.

Nominations close on Wednesday August 21. Tis 'normal' voucher on the day. There will be no Pairs play on these days. (See poster on page 10)

Lastly the **ABF Club Knockout Teams to be played on RealBridge starts on Tuesday 6 August** – the starting date having been put back from July. Last year we entered 3 Teams in this national event played online – and you may recall our Novice

Team (under 50 masterpoints) did us proud by reaching the National Final.

The event has 5 rounds from August to December with 2 rounds of qualifying (so one qualifying round less than last year) and then the Top 8 Teams in each division proceed to 'Finals'; quarters, semis and then a final. There are 5 divisions (masterpoint eligibility is at 31.03.2024):

Division 1: Open

Division 2: <750 masterpoints

Division 3: <300 masterpoints

Division 4: <100 masterpoints

Division 5: <50 masterpoints

If anybody is interested in making up a Ballina team in any of the 5 Divisions can you please email me by Wednesday July 24. For more information and the schedule (NB all matches start at 7.30pm AEST) go to: <https://myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/1608>

Rank Promotions at end June:

Graduate: Michelle Bourke

Local: Robyn Thomas

Bronze Local: Chris Fitzgerald, Kay Oxley

Silver Local:Carolynn Blair

Regional: Aida Kennedy, Jan Roberts

If you have any questions, queries or feedback about anything 'Play' at the Club, please get in touch.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com or call: 0459 023 907

Update on the proposed Saturday Novice Section

The Saturday Novice Section, was due to start on Saturday July 13. It was an invitation to our newer players with < 20 masterpoints. This has been put on hold for the present and will be reviewed at a later time.

Ballina Mah Jong Club News

Winners for June:

June 7 Pam Farrell

14 Joy Łowień

21 Lesley Ritchie

28 Shirley Atkinson



Vanessa Reynolds



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King's Birthday Teams

Gillian Baker

What a great turnout with 18 teams! Well done to all our players on the day for coming along and taking part. Our very popular winning team based on Club handicaps were Darryl and Joan McMahon, Janet Campbell and Peter Rostron – an excellent result – congratulations.

Our runners up were the Brown team whose players were Clive and Noah Klugman, Janet Brown and Jennifer McDowell who negotiated some of the challenging hands very well indeed.

Some tasty treats were provided by members during the day, and at the end of play we all got together for a well earned tippie and some warming sausage rolls and pies. Thank you to Hilary Lewis for organising the latter and also to the many members who brought along cakes and other nibbles.

Thank you Mark and the dealing team for a very well run Event and to all the many other Committee Members who contributed to the success of the day. I was also very grateful for the number of players agreeing to be on stand-by, even if only for a morning or an afternoon. Without being able to fall back on your availability it would make the Event much more difficult to run.

Hopefully we shall get an even larger number of teams entering next year – you all have a good chance of winning so please think about joining in next year.



Thanks to Sue and John Fielder

Howard Jeffery

A Big thanks to Sue and John Fielder. They have worked together and sealed round the hand basins in the women's and men's toilets as well as sealed the back of the sink in the kitchen. All sections badly needed repair and it helps to maintain our clubhouse in better condition. Thanks Sue and John.

Do you have any stories or photos relating to Bridge? Or maybe stories of interest for Bridge Club members?

If you have any contributions for the BBC newsletter, please contact Ange Bettess on 0401 955 432 or email angela.bettess@me.com



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Teams of Three - Monday 1 July

Carol Hocking

We had an enjoyable day with 16 teams competing. A slight computer problem at the beginning but Thank you Mark for coming to the rescue!

We celebrated **Betty Clarke's 80th Birthday** with a lovely cake. And a big thank you to all that contributed to a wonderful afternoon tea.

Congratulations to...

1st Lorraine Bryant, Sue Burns, Kay Oxley & Darryl McMahon

2nd John Frazer, Trevor Saunders, Chery McCallum & Rhonda Kong

Lucky Draw

Sophie Davis, Starlette Beaumont, Guy Jarvis & Elaine Skimmings.

Thank you to our directors - Deb McLay and Lorraine Bryant.

Event organisers - Carol Hocking and Marjorie Askew.



Teaching News

Judy Forsyth

We set out on our next set of lessons from Tuesday, 23rd July. These are conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:30, for 6 weeks.

You, our members, are our best advertising weapon. Spread the word among friends, neighbours, clubs or groups you belong to.

Advertising flyers are now available on the table near the kitchen to collect. Pass them on to anyone who will accept one.

We also ask for your help to place flyers in shops, businesses, clubs, social groups, community living village – anywhere you can think of. Ask permission first please. These A4 flyers are also on the table near the kitchen.

Please direct all enquiries to **Judy on 0407 664 337**.

Extension Lessons

The teaching group will conduct extension lessons in July. They will be trialled on Wednesday mornings at 11:00am start, finishing at 12:30.

Cost for each lesson shall be \$5:00.

Dates for lessons are 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st July.

Open to all level of players - come along & learn from tutor, Clive Klugman.

Topics are: Discards, Checkback, Reverses, Slam Bidding





Have you ever heard the refrain “It only takes one trick...” as a defender places the best trump on the table? I just heard it today and I’m not convinced it is true.

Look at this hand where you hold the Ace of trumps.

North	
♠	875
♥	QJ3
♦	652
♣	A1092

West	
♠	A432
♥	98
♦	KQJ93
♣	87

4♠S
Lead - ♦K

You have heard the opponent on your right open 1♠, the hand on the left bid 2♠, quickly followed by 4♠ from your right. You have a nice Diamond suit and lead the top of your sequence. Dummy appears and this is what you see.

Your four trumps headed by the Ace look to be one trick only. The ♠432 are hardly going to scare anyone. Watch what happens. The ♦K wins the first trick, as does the ♦Q when you lead it to the second trick. Partner clearly has the Ace and so you lead a small Diamond over to their Ace which is duly trumped by declarer.

The first two tricks are in the bag, the Ace of trumps is a third. Maybe partner has the ♣K and you can lead through dummy’s Ace to get a fourth trick. Declarer places the ♠K on the table and with the twin thoughts of “Aces are meant to kill Kings” and “It only takes one

trick” filling your head, you proudly knock the King off his throne with your ♠A.

With hope as the main part of your plan, you lead a Club through the Ace in dummy. declarer calls for the ♣10 from dummy, partner covers with the ♣J which is captured by declarer’s ♣K. Oh well, nice try – but it looks like today is **not our day**. Declarer quickly draws the trumps and their original 18 points are sufficient firepower to mop up the remaining tricks.

“Not much in that one, all I had to do was knock out their Ace of trumps. Everyone will make that”, is declarer’s speedy but faulty analysis.

Let’s try that again and this time let’s force it to be our day.

Go back to that ♠K lead by declarer. Duck it. Declarer continues with the ♠Q. Duck again. Declarer persists by leading the ♠J. Only this time do you win the ♠A. After one ruff by declarer and three rounds of trumps the situation is now that you have one small trump left and declarer has one big trump left. However, big difference! You can lead a Diamond and declarer has to ruff with their last trump. After that you are the only one with a trump, your little ♠4 has grown up to be the last and best trump.

Declarer now tries to take all their winning Heart and Club tricks but you can ruff in to take the setting trick. Hang on! You also have the best and only Diamond as another trick. **It was our day after all**. Two

down.

The full hand looked like this.

North		East	
♠	875	♠	9
♥	QJ3	♥	107542
♦	652	♦	A84
♣	A1092	♣	J654

West		South	
♠	A432	♠	KQJ106
♥	98	♥	AK6
♦	KQJ93	♦	107
♣	87	♣	KQ3

4♠S
Lead - ♦K

	W	N	E	S
P		2♠	P	4♠

<end>

Follow what happened closely

- Diamond wins, Diamond wins, Diamond ruffed by declarer. Now declarer has only four trumps.
 - King of trumps wins, Queen of trumps wins, Jack of trumps loses to Ace. Now West and South both have one trump.
 - West leads the killing fourth Diamond. Not killing because it wins a trick but killing because it takes out declarer’s last trump. Now, West has the only trump and the only Diamond.
 - West sits back and waits for the opportunity to ruff a Heart or a Club. The setting trick
 - West takes a trick with the final Diamond. The icing on the cake
- Never say “It only takes one trick” again. Sometimes it gives away two tricks.

Player Profile – Chris Bauer – State Master

Have you ever wondered who at our Club learned Bridge at the earliest age? Chris Bauer is certainly a strong contender...having learned when 19 years old. Chris would certainly hold the record for partnering in Bridge with a childhood friend. A tribute to good friendships. The following is a snapshot of Chris' very interesting life.



Robert Eldridge

Where were you born? And what are your best memories of growing up?

I was born in London, June 1950. My father was originally from Vienna in Austria. He was undertaking an exam at the London heart hospital to complete his medical specialist training. Had he been unsuccessful he would have had to sit a similar exam the following week in Ireland... to think I could have started life as an Irishman!

My early upbringing was in suburban Sydney on the North Shore. My best early memories are about the chance to ride my bike to the local school, play with friends each afternoon, and dream of the goals I might score for the under 10 local soccer team. With two younger brothers and very encouraging parents I was certainly blessed.

What was your very first paid job and what did that involve?

At 15 years of age I obtained my first job at the local Woolworths in Chatswood, Sydney. I was asked to work in the delicatessen section and given the very responsible job of taking off the chicken meat from unsold barbecue chickens, and then to pass that onto the sandwich making section.

At the end of my very first day of paid employment, the store manager approached me with a significant look of concern, announcing... "Do you want the good news or the bad news?"

Being very optimistic, I requested the good news!! He announced that the store had never employed anyone so skilled at leaving a chicken carcass bare of meat... I was understandably proud (briefly !!). He informed me that they had also never employed anyone who undertook the same job by mainly using their teeth!! And also consuming, in front of many customers, a significant amount of the product!! Not surprisingly, I was then informed that your



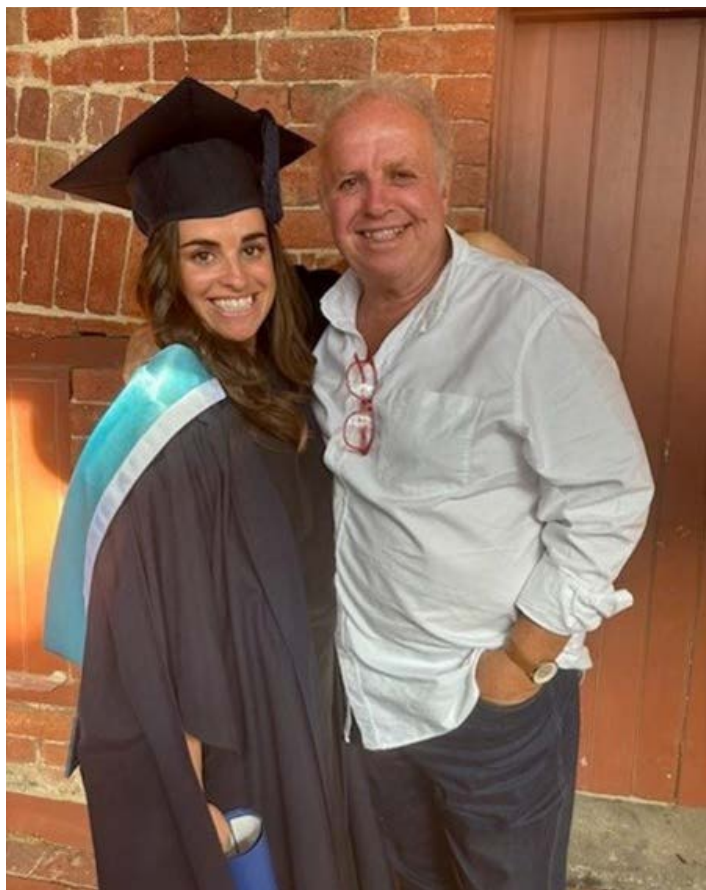
As we embarrass our precious children "unique skills" are no longer required by Woolworths! Fired after day one in the workforce!

What family do you have, and what do they do?

I am so fortunate to have a remarkable supportive partner of 45 years, Lynne. Not surprisingly, in addition to being a great parent she is a nurse, with a very, very working health related background. We have both focused for the past 25 years in improving mental and



Family at another stage



Proud Dad - smart daughter

social well-being. Lynne currently supports many flood affected residents from the local Wardell community.

Our three children all live locally. They work in various sectors that include events and floral work, managing a complex fishing based business and our younger daughter works as a therapist. We are so grateful to have their partners and seven grandchildren. They have all progressively moved to the Northern Rivers area over the past 15 years. Four years ago we followed them here from the Southern Highlands, where we had lived for the past 12 years.

What is your occupation? Why did you take this up? And has it met your original expectations?

I started my medical career after graduating from New South Wales University in 1975 after working and living in the UK, then started life as a country GP and enjoyed it immensely. In those days involvement in the local hospital, regular home visits, some anaesthetics and obstetrics were all part of a busy, if not chaotic medical life. It was a very demanding role for myself and often the family. But so often

extremely rewarding. Sidenote: The TV series. “A Country Practice” was filmed in the same town. I often encountered the film crew on location. Invariably I would want to stop to tell them about potential future episodes, based on my varied and often remarkable GP experiences! After 20 years of general practice, the humanities “called”, and I chose my next career. Initially this involved five years of teaching at the local university. The subject was based on “thinking and communicating”. A very rewarding experience. This then led me to retrain in Couple and Family Therapy, a very meaningful occupation, that I have worked in for the past 20 years.

When and why did you take up bridge?

I was introduced, very fortunately, to bridge at about 18 or 19 years of age by my best friend’s family... It was love at first sight! My own family were keen chess and board game players.

At this time I was trying to complete a medical degree, the most challenging task, when all I really wanted to do was either pursue bridge as a career or pretend that my golf skills could amount to a financial future! Interestingly, nearly all of my thin friends found bridge fascinating. One of those friends, Neil went on to represent Australia at the bridge Olympiad.

I think my funniest moment at the bridge table was arriving in 1972 at the Canberra Lakeside Hotel for the National Youth Championships teams event, wearing a matching kimono with my partner ... I don’t know what we were thinking! Possibly just young and quirky bridge players!!

Lynne and I have now been living in this wonderful area for almost 4 years full-time. We both are so grateful for the chance to be involved, at many levels in a community that has been faced with many challenges. The Ballina Bridge Club has been a fantastic opportunity to meet so many enthusiastic local people and play a game that we all know is so much more than “a game”. To do this with a friend I have known since the age of 13 is a special additional gift.

Thank you all.

Harvey Norman

Restricted Pairs

Thursdays

August 22 & 29

Normal table money – vouchers on the day

◆ **Red Masterpoints** ◆

Prizes donated by Harvey Norman will be presented at Christmas Party

Nominate online by Monday August 19

Conditions:

1. Open to all members of Ballina Bridge Club with <100 masterpoints as at 1 Jan 2024
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



2024 TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS Open and B Grade*

will be held on

Saturdays August 24 & 31

*Everyone is invited to join
in – nominate online[^]*

- ♣ **'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

[^] 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 August 21

***B Grade: all players <300 mpts (at 1.1.2024)
All players must be members of Ballina Bridge Club**

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters

Harvey Norman

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