

Ballina Bridge Club September 2009

The Ballina Bridge Club AGM was held on Saturday August 8th. The members voted that the air conditioning be turned off between April 1st & November 1st, unless extreme weather conditions prevail.



Many players favoured a later starting time, but after a close vote, the status quo will be maintained.

The Play Committee has been directed to consider introducing new competitions into the calendar and we have a new Life Member. **Anne Bigg's** service to the Ballina Bridge Club was recognised by bestowing this high honour.

A New Committee was elected. All players are grateful to the members who are willing to give up their time for our benefit.

President	Anne Fraser
Vice president	Mary Leonard
Treasurer	Julie Harwood
Assistant treasurer	Shirley Henry
Secretary	Ngairie Wills
Assistant Secretary	Anne Riley
Committee Members	Henry Hirschhorn, Barbara Meaney, Jim Roche.

The Management Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Any letters or other issues must be lodged by the previous Saturday.

Lyn Graham has again taken on the task of Chairman of the Play Committee, while **John Fraser** will continue his duties as Chief Director.

The Grafton Congress was won by **Eric Hurley and Janet Brown**.

The Tweed Graded Congress was won by **Jack & Eileen Pierce, Mary Goodall and Jean Lowe**.

Ballina Butler Pairs Congress was played on August 15th and 16th. The event was ably directed by **Peter Corlis** and the winners were **Helen Tootell and Wendy Halvorson**. **Janet Brown and Eric Hurley** came 2nd.



In the second match of the Butler Pairs, I was in a contract of 4♥, and with three cards to play, the defender on my left said she **had no cards left!** Dummy, RHO and I all had our three cards. Then we noticed that some cards had been left in the board. A tricky problem for the Director, and poor observational skills at our table!



Bridge Blessing

We pray that the hearts we have joined together in this contract may be strong. Let no splinter come between them. May their responses show true values, and result in a winning relationship, accepting no transfers. May they honour each other's opinions and decisions. Bless and keep this pair's results in thy sight. Amen.



Under 35 ???

Bev Wilson asked someone about the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs, and was informed "Oh – you have to be under 35 to be eligible to play in this event." Now Bev celebrated her 35th birthday only a few years ago, so that ruled her out of entering, but a glance around the bridge club caused her to think, "There won't be many entrants." She subsequently learned that the 35 referred to Masterpoints, not birthdays so the competition was quite well supported after all.

Signalling Do you play USDC – **Upside Down Carding**? Contrary to standard signals, that means **Low Encourages** and **High Discourages**. Count signals are also upside down. A low card = even number while a high card = odd number. If you play these methods then you must extend the agreements a bit further – *a smile discourages, while a frown encourages !!*



New Grandmother **Vicki Ivoevac** is pleased to meet her new grandson, Charlie Michael. Vicki will be the convenor for our Charity Teams Day on October 5th, and **Diane Holt** will run a raffle to raise money. A basket will be placed in the club to accept kind donations for the raffle.



From the Committee Please remember that at the end of the game, every member is expected to assist with tidying up the playing area and the kitchen before going home. Thank you for your cooperation.

Coffs Harbour Congress Many local players traveled south for this important congress. John Fraser said he was stunned by the high standard of his opponents' play. The prize money in this event is generous and many top line players compete in the hope of winning the \$3600 first prize in the teams. **Henry Hirschhorn, Mary Leonard, Jan Blay and Lyn Ebert** took home some of the money. They came second in the Restricted Teams and missed the winning post by one VP. Henry was reproaching himself ... "I should have bid 6♦ I should have played in 5♠ X" and so on. In other words, a normal day at the bridge table!

Did you know that a successful finesse is called a Winesse? I know some players believe that there is no such thing! But a winesse occurs 50% of the time. Really it does. There used to be a car bumper sticker around which read "Bridge players do it with Finesse."

Regional Finals of the NSW Country Teams will be played at Ballina on Sunday 13th September. There will no regular session of bridge on that day.

Grand National Pairs The first round of the Grand National Pairs Championship of Australia (GNP) will be played at the Ballina Bridge Club on September 9th, 16th and 23rd. The GNP will be played as match pointed pairs and only players with less than 300 Masterpoints will be eligible to participate. The format will be modeled on that of the GNOT, and the tournament will have three stages. Ballina participants will be asked to pay \$20 on the first day which will cover entry fees for the three sessions. Successful pairs from the Ballina Club selection stage will proceed to compete in a Regional Final at Club Banora on Sunday 25th October. The winners of the Regional Finals will then be eligible to play in the National Finals in Canberra. Gold Masterpoints will be awarded at every stage, and there will travel subsidies from the ABF.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Ballina players to compete in an event of national importance. Special Gold Masterpoint scales will apply and awards will be made to 90% of the field. Let us hope that some players from Ballina are able to fly the flag for the Northern Rivers in Canberra in January, 2010, as Winston Guymer and Paul Cruickshank did in 2009.



Garden Competition. Our garden has been entered in the Ballina Garden Competition once again. New mulch has been delivered and spread to make things look more attractive.



Quiz

1 Which famous rock band plays bridge to pass away the time between gigs?

Radiohead Led Zeppelin
Rolling Stones Red Hot Chili Peppers

2 Which former Chinese leader was a regular bridge player?

Mao Tse-tung Wai Prei Blij
Deng Xiaoping Chiang Kai Shek

3 Which famous actor represented his/her country at bridge?

Ben Gazzara Gina Lollobrigida
Don Klingon Omar Sharif



4 Which spiritual leader used bridge to illustrate some of his teachings?

Martin Luther King Mahatma Gandhi
Pope John Paul II Sun Myung Moon

5 Which English ruler banned all card games from his/her realm?

Charles II Oliver Cromwell
Queen Anne Alfred the Great

Answers:

- 1 Radiohead
- 2 Deng Xiaoping, leader of the People's Republic of China from 1978 to 1997, played Bridge several times a week
- 3 Omar Sharif played for Egypt
- 4 Mahatma Gandhi used bridge to illustrate the relationship between *karma* and *dharma*.
- 5 Oliver Cromwell

Eric's Bidding Tip

With four clubs and four spades, a hand strong enough to open 1NT, but no stopper in EITHER red suit, open 1♣.

♠ AKJ4 ♥ 87 ♦ 654 ♣ AKJ4 **Open 1♣**

Do not open 1NT with this hand.

RHO opens 1♣ and you hold

♠AT76 ♥KJ109 ♦AJ7 ♣K3 **Double**

Rather than overcall 1NT to show 16-18, it is better to double in case partner has a 4 card major. He may not be able to bid it, if you overcall 1NT.

Do not overcall 1NT with this hand.



Eric's Playing Tip

Always assume that your opponent will never lead away from an Ace against a suit contract.

When you are declarer in a suit contract, and you RHO leads a low card, or an honour, always assume he does not have the Ace ("Never lead away from an Ace")

K65 **Who has the Ace?** East ofcourse,

Q So do not play the King. East may hold a singleton Ace or Ax and then your King will live to fight another day.

K65

4 (A) ?? Play low. You know East has Ace.
J95 Let the lead run to your Jack.

Eric's Defensive Tip



When discarding, keep parity with dummy's or Declarer's suit. If dummy's side suit is AK73 and you hold 8642, do not discard any card from this suit – the 8 will beat the 7 on the 4th round.

If declarer has bid a side 4 card suit – try to keep parity with this suit. Declarer plays in a Heart contract, having opened 1♥, and rebid 2♦. If you hold four Diamonds, do not discard any – you do not want to allow Declarer's 4th Diamond to become a winner.

Do not discard down to a void in any suit. When declarer runs this suit and you show out, a finesse is automatically marked against partner.

When partner leads a small card against a NT contract, make sure you **keep a card in that suit to return to him.**