

## Ballina Bridge Club June 2013

### From the President



Our wonderful teachers have offered to run a second session of teaching this year. You are probably aware the first session was well attended, had high retention and gave us a lot of new members including some who have been confident enough to play on any day of the week. Good on you – the best way to progress is to give yourself challenges. If you are wanting to try out on a non-restricted day, remember you are entitled to a “P Plate” which restricts your opponents to using a bidding system with which you’re familiar.



A large number of requests have come in for more lessons and the teachers are willing to devote more time to teaching. Thank you Anne, Lyn, Jean, Penny, Jim, Ellen and Dawn. The lessons will be starting in the second half of the year, probably July. If you know of someone who is interested, please let Anne or Lyn know and make sure you give contact details.

A huge congratulations to a newest qualified director, **Margaret Kelly**. Margaret is the first in the group recently initiated by Anne Fraser to gain her qualification. Well done Margaret. Great to have a new director and I hope you enjoy the challenges it brings.  
**Howard Jeffery**

### From Judy Forsyth Chair of Play Committee

#### **Handicap Award**

From June there will be a monthly award for the best percentage at the Thursday Restricted session. The winning pair will be given a free game. In Restricted events, new players will be able to refer to their systems card for the first 12 months. Please encourage new players and be willing to be understanding & helpful.

#### **Thursday Restricted Session**

When you and your partner exceed 200 Master Points, you are no longer eligible to play together at this session. You may choose to play with someone else. However, you may continue to compete together in the club pairs championship on the first Thursday of each month

#### **Australia Wide Pairs**

Winners in this Restricted event were:  
**David Cowles & Val Gurn**  
**Trish Reynolds & Jonathon Chance**

**Tootell Teams Day** Remember this special event on Monday, June 10th.

**The McDermott Cup** is an annual competition played in Lismore. Congratulations to the Ballina team who won this event, with 6 clubs competing from the local area.



**Paul Turner, President of the Lismore Bridge Club presents the trophy to Judy Forsyth, Captain of the Ballina team**

**Elizabeth Fletcher, Vicki Ivosevac**

Particular congratulations to the Restricted team who were the outright winners of their division.

#### **Teams of Three**

18 teams competed, with a large number of newer players meeting many of the "old hands" at the club. Many thanks to those who gave up their time to participate and help promote the game of bridge.

The winning team was : **Horst Utzen. Ian McLean,**

**Arthur Renshaw, Lyn England.**



**Monday Bridge** It must be remembered that Monday is an OPEN DAY and players of all abilities are welcome to play. It is nice when stronger players partner a new player, but this is not compulsory. Two Grand Masters can play together if they wish. The only restriction on the Monday players is that they must play the Simple System.

**Cross Imp Pairs** Several players approached the Play Committee and asked that the Wednesday Cross Imp Pairs be deleted from the calendar. This request was granted. A pity really, for this method of scoring favours sensible steady bridge enabling players to practise for Teams play.

It gave the newer players a chance to score well and it provided a change from our everyday game. Many good players regard IMP scoring as “Real Bridge”.

Ah well..... “Sic transit gloria mundi”



**Etiquette** When the bidding is over, make your opening lead BEFORE you enter the contract in your scorecard. And if you are Dummy, put your cards on the table – AND THEN enter the contract in your personal scoresheet.

**Col Gale** has just returned after 4 weeks overseas. He has decided to retire from his Club duties and we thank him for his cheerful and helpful service over the years.

**Card Play** The Law relating to the play of a card is a very simple one. “When it is your turn to play, you detach a card from your hand and place it on the table.” The key phrase is “When it is your turn to play.....” This means

you should not prematurely have a card ready and half out of your hand. This is illegal and will give unauthorised information to your partner – particularly if you decide you'd like to play a different card. WAIT – until it is your turn to play, and then select your card. As Dummy you must wait until Declarer nominates a card – even if it is a singleton.

**Too fast !** Players have been complaining that some players turn their cards over too quickly. You must wait until all four cards played to the trick are in view, before turning over the card.

**May I see those cards again ?** Once all four cards have been turned over, no one is allowed to ask to see the cards again, but if one player still has his card exposed he can ask to see the cards played to that trick.

**Opening lead** With regard to the opening lead, it must be faced down on the table, and not turned over until acknowledgement by partner. This is not to prevent an opening lead out of turn as many players suppose, but it is to allow question time about the bidding. In Ballina it is usual to say "Thank you Partner" and then play commences, but in most other parts of the world, players say, "No questions, Partner" before the card is faced. Ofcourse, this action should prevent the lead coming from the wrong hand.



**Unintended Call or Insufficient Call** We all commit this offence every now and again. If you do make an error in the bidding, it is important **not to announce WHY** you committed the infraction. This conveys Unauthorised Information to your partner and he may not be allowed to bid again. So if you make a wrong call, simply call the Director and no account announce to the table at large **why** you got it wrong. Do not say, "Oh I did not see your Club opening partner" or "Oh, I thought you bid 2♥, I did not realise it was 2NT" or words to that effect.



**It's a Dog's Life** A man walked by a table in a hotel and noticed three men and a dog playing bridge. "That is a very smart dog," the man commented. "He's not so smart," said one of the players. "Every time he gets a good hand he wags his tail and gives his partner Unauthorised Information."



**Re the Malaysian and Singapore Trip**



Seven Ballina bridge players and one brave non-playing husband joined up with two bridge players from Darwin to form a group of ten who travelled and played bridge at a number of clubs in Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur and Kuching) and Singapore. Usually six or eight players played at each location.

All the events were held in exclusive clubs which meant we usually played in salubrious surroundings and had morning/afternoon teas that were simply sinful. On our last night, trips home were organised for us – in two Mercedes and we were not sure of the other make of car as no one asked the chauffeur.

We played in seven clubs and also the Kuching Congress. At various stages, all players achieved a first, second or third placing which was rewarding. However, the highlight was the hospitality and generosity shown by our hosts. I believe they were genuinely delighted to have us play with them and we were equally delighted to be there. Six of us managed to go to a reserve near Kuching and see orang utans in the wild. That also was special.



**Thank You** The group of overseas travellers and players would like to publically thank Howard and Liz for their superb effort in their organization of this tour. Howard is retiring from University duties in July and will be looking for other things to do. For those of you that missed out on this tour I am sure he will be organising more so I do suggest that if you are interested in participating in the future, make it known to Howard soon.



**Partner Co ordinator**

**Maureen Baker** has volunteered to take over Col's duty as Partner Co-ordinator, so If you'd like a game and you haven't got a partner, give Maureen a ring on **66 877543**