

Ballina Bridge Club January 2014

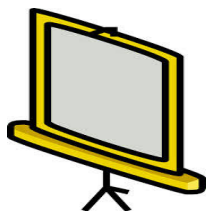
From the President



Congratulations to our Number One Team who delivered another brilliant effort to again be the NSW Country Teams champions. **Janet, Eric, Marjorie** and **Bill** won the Northern Divisional Final undefeated and enjoyed it so much, they repeated the performance in the State Final.

I was unable to attend our Christmas Party but from all accounts the new format of a midday lunch followed by a random draw for partners was a great success. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the day including the convener **Judy Forsyth, Bob** who directed for the day and **Jenny** and her House Committee for their organisation and decorations.

I had an audio-visual specialist to do some work at our home and also asked him the approach we should take for installation of the projector, screen and laptop for which we have been allocated money from the ABF. His suggestion, which we have followed with his guidance in selecting equipment, has been the purchase of pre-loved but quality equipment. This has resulted in savings which can now be directed to a permanent installation of both the projector and the screen. It will eliminate most cables from the floor and be simpler to setup when required. I'm hoping we can see that come to fruition in January or early February.



Howard

From Rebecca Rogers, Vice President

It comes but once a year..... the Club's annual presentation and Christmas "do".

We run quite a lot of competitions during the year and our

"marquee" events have their winners presented with their trophies at this day, along with our celebration of the Christmas season.

Unfortunately, some of our trophy winners could not be here for their presentation. We have changed the date for the 2014 celebration so that it does not clash with State events that might preclude Club winners from attending.

This is probably the most important date in our calendar. The recognition of our Club champions



plus our end of year party, will, I hope, be marked on your calendar for this coming year.

So, I would like to report that this year our celebration lunch and cards was very special. Thanks to our caterer Anthony and his very modern menu.

Jenny Wardley and the team of **Lyn Ebert, Barbara Meaney, Liz** and **John Fletcher** made the Clubhouse look very Christmassy.

A top fun day was had by all of our members who joined in. Prizes for card play and, wonderfully, plain dumb luck! made the results fun.

Put it in your diary.....December 6th 2014.

From Judy Forsyth, Chair of Play Committee.

Heart Starter Teams Day

\$15 per head, \$60 per team.

Sunday, 12th January. 9.30 am. BYO lunch.

All proceeds from the day to be put towards the purchase of a defibrillator for the clubhouse.

Do you know? If your heart is stopped for 10 minutes your heart is stopped, your chances of survival go from 95% to 5%.

Get your team together to support this day.

There is a donation box on desk for donations.

Let's hope we never have reason to use this machine

Also, there will be 100 club tickets sold from 1st January for \$5 or \$2

Generous prizes, 1st, 2nd, 3rd on both boards, pick your number. With 50% of prizes to members Buy your tickets soon.



Australia Day Teams will be played on **Monday, January 27th**. Form a team of four, dress in Australian fashion and join in the fun. Entry forms available soon.

Packer Whacker

Two of our newer players, **Leone Frogley** and **Jackie Wappett**, have made a donation to help the club purchase its defibrillator. Jackie says if she's going to play contracts in 6♥ (or 6♣, 6♦ 6♠ or 6NT) she's going to need it!"

Do Bridge players know the secret of longevity?

An Internet article, with this title, wrote that low-tech mental exercises could be just as beneficial as electronic, screen-based brain training programs. Chess was named as an example of such an activity, but Bridge is every bit as strategic and intellectually demanding as chess, and importantly, it is also an



Longevity



This distinction is important because it's well known that staying socially connected is a key to healthy aging. Bridge

players say it's the combination of the strategic and social aspects of the game that make it so alluring. A neurologist referred to long-lived bridge players as "the most successful agers on earth."

The benefits of bridge are also being realized at the opposite end of the age spectrum. Schools in New York have incorporated bridge into their curriculum, in part with help from pledges by billionaires **Bill Gates** and **Warren Buffet** who are both avid vivid players and believers in the benefits of the game. They want to see this beautiful game adopted by younger generations instead seeing it fading away and becoming a relic of history.



2013 Ballina BC Presentations

Hoult Award

For member earning the most MPs at Ballina BC, under 15MPs at 1st October, 2012. Concludes 30th September, 2013. Winner – **Alan Sims**

Brumley Award

For members earning the most MPs at Ballina BC, between 15 & 75 MPs at 1st October, 2012. Concludes 30th September, 2013.

Winner – **Peter Forsyth**

Aspen Competitions

In 2013, Aspen Living sponsored 3 pairs events at our club.

Women's Pairs – **Janet Brown & Fiona Brown**

Men's Pairs – **Jack Pierce & Gary Lynn**

Mixed Pairs – **Bob Hart & Rebecca Rogers**

Ballina BC Teams Championships

Restricted Winners – **Charlotte & John Harrison, Shelley Taylor, Leonie Love**

Open Winners – **Helen & Peter Tootell, Susan & Gary Lynn**

Ballina BC Pairs Championships

Restricted

Winners – **George Connell & Gwen Wilson**

Runners-Up – **Carmel Pollard & June Orford**

B Grade

Winners – **Ngairé Wills & Mary Doohan**

Runners-Up – **Anne Riley & Betty Clark**

Open

Winners & Club Champions –

Janet Brown & Judy Peiti

Runners-Up – **Marjorie Askew & Bill Powell**



Report from the NSW State Teams Finals.

Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Eric Hurley and **I** travelled to Sydney to compete in this event. Eight teams participated – three Country Teams and five Metropolitan teams. We played a Round Robin and played a 12 board match against each other team. The top two teams qualified to play off for the State title.

In 2007, our team actually made through to be one of the finalists, but alas – this was not to be the case this year. I played particularly poorly in most of the qualifying rounds and made several errors – largely due to inefficient concentration and lack of dedication to the task in hand.

My worst error of the day involved a Roman Keycard Blackwood auction. We had Spade agreement as trumps, Eric bid 4NT and I responded 5♦ (3 or none – I got that bit right). Eric then bid 5♥ asking "Do you have the Queen of Spades". I held the Queen of Spades, but focussed on the Heart suit. No – no ♥ Queen in my hand – so I PASSED !! Eric played in 5♥ going off 6, for minus 600, instead of 6♠ for plus 1430 ! And I am happy to report the opponents misdefended – otherwise it would have been minus 700.

I must congratulate **Eric** on his demeanour during the tragic hand. He calmly played 5♥ going off 6 (when slam in Spades is laydown) as if it were a perfectly normal everyday situation. And there were no recriminations or reproaches at the end of the hand.



Multi Two's seem to have gone the way of Holden cars, and most of our opponents were playing a simple, but very aggressive form of weak Two's. They have discarded the tenets of Weak Two's which have been sacrosanct for many years. Who needs a six card suit – five will do ! Who needs two of the top three honours – 6 to the 9 will do ? Voids ? Four cards in the other Major ? - all gone !

We missed the Ballina Bridge Club Christmas party, but the NSWBA party was held while we were there, so we were able to partake of their generous festive fare.

Janet

Even Homer Simpson plays Bridge

Marge : Homer, are you reading the Bridge column ?

Homer (laughing) : Oh –I like that South ! You never know what he'll do next !

