

## Message from the President

President Chris McDowell



Dear Members,

As I am away I have little to report about club activities.

I am reliably informed that this newsletter will look a little different to our last year or so as we have a new editor, Ange Bettess. Thank you Ange for taking on this task as well as being part of new committee. Very pleased to see a few new faces on the committee and no doubt all will help make things run smoothly.

I am also reliably informed that there will not be a report this month from the Head Director. Howard is somewhat distracted, indeed challenged, by the prospect today, as I write this, of planning how to negotiate his way out of Lisbon in a car he's getting soon. Alexander McCall Smith wrote a lovely little comedic novella some years ago about how Portuguese irregular verbs were so challenging that some silly professor built a whole career on them. I think your Head Director might find Portuguese road signs equally challenging, I will make encouraging noises from the passenger seat.



Bridge is a wonderful game, a wonderful pastime. We discovered that, when sitting sipping gin and tonic, beer and coffee while being plied with tasty olives at a bar on the far north of the African continent, just about a mile or so from where the Mediterranean meets the Atlantic, that bridge is great way to pass the time while waiting for a bus.

This is equally true of killing time in a bar in Marrakech while sipping similar substances and awaiting the dinner gong. If ever stuck in a similar situation, take your President's advice, break out the cards and play bridge!

Travel photos tend to bore a bit so I include just one, this is a photo of our bags leaving the home we stayed in on the first night of our Morocco tour. Mine is the bag on top. Tough job being a donkey!

On Bridge, I eagerly look forward to the challenge teams match between Ballina and Gold Coast on October 28. Marjorie has no doubt told you all and will again that she needs 36 hearty souls, and brutally competitive players, to take on the Gold Coast club in what she hopes will be the first of many such challenges. I have no idea of the favourite in this two horse race, but I am sure you will all agree that it will fun whoever wins but more fun if we do. See you all in about a month. Cheers - Chris

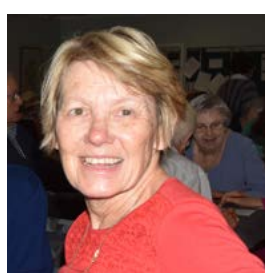
### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS 2018-2019



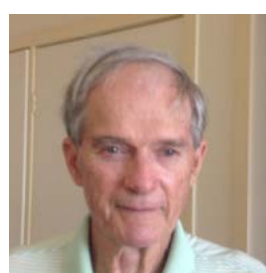
Chris McDowell  
President



Paul Blanch  
Vice President



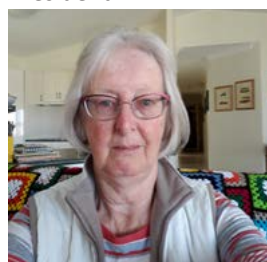
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Chair of Play



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Committee



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Ange Bettess  
Committee



## Play Committee Chair Report – September 2018

### Rank Promotions

Only one masterpoint rank promotion at the end of August – Congratulations to: our new Life Member Jack Pierce now a Gold Life Master.

### September Events:

#### State Open Pairs

Wednesdays September 5 & 12: There were some great scores in this 2-week event with red points at State Championship level (weighting = 5). The 'very best' score was in Week 2 sitting N/S: Isobel Johnstone & Margaret Kelly with a wonderful 67.39%. + Well Done too to other 60+ scores:

**Week 1:** N/S: Helen & Peter Tootell 63.85%, Mary Goodall & Sophie Davis 62.19%, E/W Anne Jackson & Gary Lynn 63.73%, Paul Smith & Carol Hocking 61.67%

**Week 2:** E/W Helen & Peter Tootell 63.57%, Janet Brown & Eric Hurley 61.69%

N.B. You won't see your red points in your masterpoint account until after the State Finals.

All pairs who competed in the event are eligible to play in the State Finals to be held in Sydney on November 24 & 25. As with the State Mixed Pairs Championships held earlier in the year, the Finals incorporate the State Country Open Pairs Final. Please let me know asap if you intend to go to Sydney. For more information go to: <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=sop>

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### Somerville Laundry Lomax (SLL) Shield

Saturday September 15. This event is held annually on the Saturday closest to the Clubhouse's official opening day of September 18th (in 1998). Well Done to the winners in each direction:

N/S: Shirley Mazzer & Cally Mail 62.05%

E/W: Charlotte Harrison & Judith Crafti 65.95%

Prizes donated by SLL will be presented at the Christmas Party.

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### Club Teams Championships

Sunday September 23: 11 teams took part: 5 in the Open and 6 in B grade which included 2 Restricted Teams; not enough for a separate Restricted Division. Undaunted it was a Restricted Team who took out the B Grade honours. Congratulations to: Jill Cox, Ray Ghioni, Ken Jones & Greg Lester with 4 good wins and 1 small loss (67.73VPs), with Bob Hart, Carolyn Hart, Hilary Lewis & Betty Clarke (63.54VPs) coming in 2nd.

The Open was a very close contest with match-by-match honours shared. My team: Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Eric Hurley & Gary Lynn, just mustered the most VPs (49.41), very closely followed by Judy Forsyth, John Paynter, Jean Lowe and Maureen Baker (48.32VPs).

All teams taking part notched at least one win – so everyone banked some masterpoints.

Very many thanks to Bob Hart for directing the event. Bob had to oversee different movements per the 2 Divisions and he developed some bespoke software for results scoring.

For Next Year? Entries this year were disappointing and it is a club championship event. Some have suggested we run the event on a Saturday and maybe the Restricted event on a Thursday - or a couple of Thursdays. If you have a view on this, or any suggestions for this event, please let us know.

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**NSW Under 100 Masterpoint Pairs (UHMP)** Thursday September 20: 19 pairs took part in this state event which was held in conjunction with our normal Thursday session. Results were submitted to NSWBA and 9 pairs were awarded red masterpoints at State Championship level B4; details of these have been posted on the noticeboard.

With such good support for the event we applied to host a Local Final, and this has been approved. This will be held on Thursday November 29 and will be a separate section on the day. All Local Finals play the same boards and then the event is scored across the state, with B4 red masterpoints awarded based on the state-wide results. All local players with < 100 masterpoints as at 31 August 2018, are eligible to play in the Local Final; entry fee is \$3 per player, pay on the day.

For more information go to: <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=uhmp>

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### Events Coming up:

**Charity Teams Day** Monday October  
continued on P3



## Play Committee Chair Report – September 2018

1: As we go to print this event is just about to happen. 20 teams have nominated to take part. This year we are supporting the Farmers Drought Appeal. There is a Donations Box at the Club if members wish to make contributions to this very worthy cause. Results and photos next time.

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### Harvey Norman Pairs:

Mens & Womens on Wednesdays Oct 10,17 & 24, Restricted on Thursdays Oct 11,18 & 25: Entries have been slow coming in for these events. We need a minimum of 8 pairs for each of these events to go ahead. Entries officially close the week prior (October 3/4) – but if you have missed this deadline please contact Marjorie Askew to see if we can fit you in. It is \$15pp - so just the 'normal' table money – but please pay up-front ie by cash or direct bank transfer and please with an entry slip in 'the box'. Prizes are donated by Harvey Norman and will be presented at the Christmas Party.

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### Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Regional Final Sundays October 14 & 21: 13 teams have qualified for the regional final with 6 teams from Ballina. Good Luck to our teams.

It will be a full round robin format, so 12 matches. The top 2 teams will go forward to the National Finals to be held at Tweed Heads at end November, where 60 teams from all over Australia will compete. Judy Forsyth is the GNOT Regional Coordinator.

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### Inter-Club Challenge

Ballina Bridge Club v Gold Coast Bridge Club Sunday October 28: Thank you to all who have nominated thus far for this new event. We are getting close

to our target of 6 pairs in each of 3 Divisions: Division 1: Open, Division 2 < 600mpts per each player, Division 3 < 200mpts per player. However a couple more pairs are needed and notably in Division 2, and it would be great to have some 'reserves' on stand-by. It may be that there is some 'fine-tuning' of the masterpoint cut-offs per Division. So if you're 'thinking about' putting your name down please have a chat with me or call me. Nominations close on the noticeboard on Saturday 13 October; after that I may be calling you!

The Gold Coast Bridge Club is hosting this year and we will reciprocate next year. Cost for the day will be just \$20pp which will include lunch, tea, coffee and snacks during play and drinks/nibbles to conclude the day. It is daylight saving by then so a not-too-early start, and we can organise car sharing if you prefer not to drive.

It should be a good day out and let's go for a WIN.

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### Melbourne Cup:

Tuesday November 6: Always a good fun day at the Club so think about joining us for Bridge and the Race. 11.30 for 12 start with a free glass of champagne or wine whilst you watch the race. Normal \$5 table money and no need to pre-book but please sign up on the list on the noticeboard if you can bring something tasty (sweet or savoury) to share. Last year I recall was a gastronomic delight! There will be sweeps for those who like a flutter. Event Organiser is Liz Jeffery.

### Congress News:

#### Congratulations:

Lismore Teams September 9: Open Winners: Judy Forsyth, Rebecca Rogers, John Paynter & Richard Poole;

B Grade Runners Up: John Fraser, Anne Bigg, Lyn Graham & Jenny Wardley

Glen Bridge Club Matchpoint Swiss Pairs September 15/16: Anne Riley and Gary Lynn clear winners, winning 11 of their 12 matches.

A large contingent from Ballina are off to the Tenterfield Congress on October 6/7 – Good Luck.

### 2019 Programme

The Play Committee has started work on the 2019 programme. If you have any suggestions - additions, deletions or comments - please pass these on to a member of the Play Committee.

### New Volunteers for the Play Committee

A couple of current members of the Play Committee have indicated they would like to take a break, either from now or year end, so we are looking for some new volunteers. So, what is involved?

Play Committee's key role is managing the Club's bridge programme. What events, when and how. Once the programme is planned we need to promote and organise the various events; and here we try to ensure everyone on Play Committee takes a turn as Event Organiser – but with help! After the event, we of course review - and then we go around again!

Ideally it is good to have a mix of people of differing bridge abilities who can put forward the needs and wants of different groups of our members.

We have 6/7 Committee meetings a year (usually on Saturday mornings).

Please way-lay me to discuss, or give me a call, if you may be interested in coming on board.

Marjorie Askew

## Counting at Coffs

by Paul Smith

In most systems when you bid No Trumps you limit your hand to a small range of points. A 1NT opening might be 15-17, a 1NT response to one of a suit might be 6-9. The narrow point range limits your hand and allows partner to better judge the final level of the contract.

W	N	E	S
1C	P	1D	
P	2NT	P	P
P			

In this hand from the recent Coffs Harbour Gold Congress the North player limited their hand to 18-19 points with their jump rebid of 2NT

You may not have chosen

to respond 1♦ on the South hand but you may not have partaken so freely of the complimentary welcome cocktails either!

Partner's lead is ♠J. Hmmm, what is going on? Partner doesn't have the 10, 9 or 8 so it is not even close to a sequence lead, and we would normally lead low from four to an honour. With a strong hand on their right your partner is going to avoid any lead which may give a free finesse. It seems likely that they have awkward holdings in the other suits.

You duck and declarer wins with the Queen. Ducking is the right move as you now have the K-9 sitting over the 10 which guarantees you a trick. Playing the King would have given declarer the entire Spade suit as well as an entry to dummy which may be important. Partner will not have the ♠Ace so you know about six of declarer's points.

Declarer now plays the Ace, King and Queen of Diamonds. Partner discards the ♠6 on the third round of Diamonds. Declarer will want to get to the two good Diamonds in dummy. They now play the Ace of Spades and another Spade, partner discarding two small Hearts.

You are on lead and now you know everything. Declarer has shown six points in Spades and nine points in Diamonds. 15 out of their total of 18-19, that leaves them with one Ace at best - maybe only a King. Declarer had four Spades and missed the 4-4 Spade fit.

Which Ace does declarer have? If they have the Ace of Clubs then partner has the Ace, King and Jack of Hearts with at least one other. They would not have lead the anaemic Spade suit with that great Heart holding. Further, declarer would have no Heart stopper for their 2NT bid. Declarer must have the Ace or King of Hearts and, therefore, no honours in the Club suit. Partner has a tenace in the suit



<div> <div>D</div> <div>13</div> </div>	North	W N E S
	♠ A Q 7 4 ♥ A 10 8 3 ♦ A K Q ♣ 6 3	1C P 1D P 2NT P P P
West		East
♠ K 9 3 ♥ 7 6 2 ♦ 10 7 2 ♣ K 9 5 2		♠ J 6 ♥ K J 9 5 ♦ 5 3 ♣ A Q J 10 4
	South	
	♠ 10 8 5 2 ♥ Q 4 ♦ J 9 8 6 4 ♣ 8 7	

that declarer bid first plus the King or Queen of Hearts. The reason for the opening Spade lead is now clear.

Which Club should you lead? The 'normal' lead would be small from your honour holding. But if partner wins the trick with the Jack are they going to continue the suit when they have A-Q? Or will they return a Heart, guessing you have the Ace to lead another Club through?

Make it easy for partner and lead the King of Clubs which wins and continue with the nine. Partner now takes a further four Club tricks. Declarer is one off and you score 84%. Not a bad reward for the ability to count up to nineteen. (Did you think that your boring six points with a 4333 shape meant you could go to sleep on this hand? Shame on you!)

### What's Your Bid? from Marjorie Askew

You are sitting W. E is Dealer, N/S vulnerable. Your hand:

♠ Q J 4 2  
 ♥ 10 6 2  
 ♦ K Q  
 ♣ A 9 8 3

Your partner (East) Passes and then Right Hand opponent (South) opens 1D. Your bid?

[Answer on page 6](#)

## Ron Klinger remembering Ballina

Whilst looking through the Club scrapbooks in the run-up to the Clubhouse 20th Birthday celebrations I came across photos of Ron Klinger when he visited Ballina in 1997 (so just before the Clubhouse development). Two photos caught my eye: 1. Ron Klinger having a few hands with some members at a local hotel and 2. Ron with then President Barbara Meaney and Lyn McDowell (Chris's mother).

So on to the Australian National Championships (ANC) in Hobart and Bill and I find ourselves playing against Ron in Session 2 of the Open Butler Qualifying on Saturday August 4. We finish our 4 boards ahead of time so I venture to ask him if he recalls his visit to Ballina, at the same time pointing out to him that the Club is celebrating the Clubhouse's 20th birthday the next day.

He proceeded to recount his trip:

*After the afternoon teaching session, a few of us went to the local hotel for a few hands before dinner and the evening class. I was partnering Janet Brown. The opponents had bid and raised their suit and then Janet jumped to a bid of 4NT. Janet's daughter Fiona who was sitting beside Janet piped up: 'Do you think he'll know what that bid means, Mum?'*

We all had a chuckle but Bill, I, and Ron's partner at the ANC (Jonathan Free) were all astounded at his vivid recollection. Jonathan chided that Ron had better recollections of his bridge travels than his wedding anniversary! (But Jonathan then added this wasn't true.)

On returning to Ballina I sought out the scrapbooks again. Together with the photos I had previously noticed was a copy of an article from Ron's Bridge Column in The Australian, dated 17 May 1997. And yes it was just as Ron had recounted, plus in the article Ron

goes on to describe a hand played at the hotel – and yes it was the hand that he recalled in our discussion in Hobart. After Janet's 4NT bid, Ron ended up playing in 5♥ which was doubled. Ron and Janet were playing against Barbara Meaney and Helen Tootell (with Fiona Brown kibitzing) and he commends Barbara and Helen for their excellent defence taking him one down. He concluded: The Ballina brigade plays a tough game.

(Am leaving the 1997 scrapbook out on the Entry Table for a couple of weeks for those who may like to see the photos and read the full article – and importantly see the 'killing defence'.)

### Back to the ANC.....

The Australian National Championships is held annually, usually in July, but this year it ran into early August. The six states, plus ACT host in turn; with the Northern Territory dropping off the roster recently. This year it was Tasmania's turn and Hobart the venue. It is a 2-week event. Week 1 is an inter-state contest, Week 2 has the flagship Butler Pairs events (Open, Womens and Seniors) plus congress events for those that are knocked out.

Stage 1 of the Open Butler was a 4-session qualifier where all the N/S pairs played all the E/W pairs in 4 board rounds with IMPs scoring. We had a sad 2nd session when our opponents bid a grand slam and games; never good forimps scoring so we had much to make up on Day 2.

58 pairs competed and with 20 pairs going through to the Finals, the goal was to finish in the Top 10 N/S and E/W. As Paul Smith said to me in a text we 'cut it a bit fine' but we had climbed back from 22nd up to 10th on Day 2 so we were 'in'. Gary Lynn and Anne Riley were also having-a-go and they had a very creditable performance in every qualifying session finishing 16th

overall in the E/W field.

Gary and Anne then went on to the Seniors event. This was a similar 2-day qualifier but with only the top 10 pairs (ex 22) going on the Final stage to be played over 2 days. Again a very creditable performance by Gary and Anne – finishing 11th. Just as well as it happened as they had booked their flights home too early for them to proceed to the Finals!

Back to the Open Butler Final. With 20 pairs you play all the other 19 pairs in a 12-board match over 4 days. So 60 boards a day on Days 1-3 and 48 boards on Day 4. Suffice to say it is a marathon! Bridge starts at 10 am till about 6.30pm with about 45 minutes for lunch. 8 minutes (yes 8!) are allocated per board and often you find you are using this full time allocation for considered bidding, then planning the play or defence.

Thank you to all members who followed our performance and sent encouraging emails and texts. Yes, we were doing OK at the half-way stage but sadly we ran out of steam.....

I asked Bill for a hand to share. Nothing has been forthcoming so as we are talking about Ron Klinger I am sharing a hand we played against him in the Finals.

(Hand shown from Page 4)

Open Butler Stage 2 Round 7 Board 2

You are sitting W. E Dealer, N/S vulnerable. Your hand (West):

♠ Q J 4 2

♥ 10 6 2

♦ K Q

♣ A 9 8 3

Your partner (East) Passes and then Right Hand opponent (South) opens 1D. Your bid?

*continued on P6*



## Ron Klinger remembering Ballina

This was the auction at our table.

East	South (Bill)	West (Ron)	North (Marj)
Pass	1♦	X	XX
Pass	Pass	1♠	X
Pass	Pass	Pass	

My Redouble shows 10+ points suggesting we look to penalise the opponents and probably shortage in partner's suit (here diamonds). My subsequent double confirms my wish to penalise.

Ron was West. His take-out double would not be everyone's choice – with just 12 points including

KQ doubleton in the opponent's suit.

So how did he go? He made just 3 tricks so 800 to us. At most tables N/S made 12 tricks in hearts for 680 (nobody bid a slam). The datum was 680 so we were +3 imps on the board

However I let the 'Ballina brigade' down because we should have held him to just 2 tricks. I lead my singleton diamond and Bill rightly switched to a trump.

I need to draw trumps now and declarer wins only one trump and the ace of clubs. 5 down = 1100 and +8 imps for us on the board.

Let's hope the Ballina Brigade play their tough game at the inter-club with the Gold Coast BC!

Marjorie Askew

North		East	
♠	A K 10 9 3	♠	8 6 5
♥	K J 7 5	♥	8 3
♦	J	♦	9 7 6 5 3 2
♣	K 10 2	♣	7 4
West		South	
♠	Q J 4 2	♠	7
♥	10 6 2	♥	A Q 9 4
♦	K Q	♦	A 10 8 4
♣	A 9 8 3	♣	Q J 6 5

### Bridge Lessons for Improving and Intermediate Players - 'filling in the gaps in bridge'

Rebecca had asked me if I would deliver a short series of lessons before the year end and I confidently said 'Yes' and these were announced in the last newsletter. But Sorry I'm postponing these to the new year. October seems so 'full-on' with bridge events at the Club and we are away for much of November.

However, I do have some topics in mind:

1. Big, Balanced and Bigger: puppet stayman + with extras/refinements, cue bidding, ace asking without ambiguity.....
2. Planning – to Win: probably mostly for better declaring
3. ??

For Lesson 3 I would welcome suggestions eg topics you grapple with that you may like covered. And/or we could have a more forum style. Please mention your suggestions to me or Bill - who I expect will make a 'guest appearance' – or email me: [marjorie.askew@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.askew@gmail.com)

Dates will be announced early in the new year; most probably for Wednesday mornings.

Marjorie Askew

