



**BALLINA
BRIDGE CLUB**

Newsletter April 2020

from the President

Chery McCallum



In this time of concern for us all, it is important to stay in contact with each other. I urge you all to make a point of contacting your Partners and friends from our club. Just ring to say hello, it only takes a few minutes and may help with the feeling of isolation. Please care for one and other in these unprecedented times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Howard Jeffery for getting my message out to everyone as quickly as he did and to Paul Smith for the comprehensive information update on our website. Please take note of the bridge online information Paul has provided (so we don't go into total withdrawals).

When the Club was closed, we

hoped it would only be for one month but, listening to the talk now, according to those in the know, it may be as long as 6 months. We will keep you up to date with any decisions made as to the re-opening. While the Club is closed Lorraine Bryant has washed and sanitised the tablecloths and Paul Blanch has been busy with our new fridges and checking on all the electrical appliances.

The entire clubhouse will be sanitised by the cleaners and kept ready for our return.

On a much brighter note, our Congress was held, the weekend before the closure, with some excellent results for our Club. Winners in Division 'A' were Janet

Brown and Peter Corlis, Division 'B' were Charlotte Harrison and Winston Guymer and Division 'C' Sue Fielder and Beth Martin. Congratulations to you and to all the other place getters. A huge thank you must go to the Members who manned the kitchen over the 2 days, a job very well done.

If anyone is feeling unwell, or are worried about going out for shopping, Damien Kennedy has offered his services to our Members. Damien can be contacted on 0491708834, this is his new number that is not in the programme book.

Please look after yourselves and stay in touch with each other.

Chery



**→ Sign
up to stay
connected.**



These times of self-isolation are hard for everyone - but especially if you live alone. The [Australian Bridge Federation site](#) is worth exploring. **Sign up** to receive newsletters and marketing bulletins. The marketing bulletins are sent by Peter Cox (photo left), head of marketing for the ABF. I have, with permission, taken the ideas and links from the latest marketing bulletin.

For more information, go to page 6



ABF Signup Form

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Receive SMS Notifications *
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BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB

Newsletter April 2020

Play Committee Report - March 2020

Marjorie Askew



Should we have a Play Report this month? Well Yes!

Events Gone:

Sadly the main, and only, event to report on is our Congress and weren't we lucky to get this in!

36 pairs competed over the 2-day Swiss pairs event with 12 rounds of 8 board matches. We welcomed players from the following bridge clubs: Brunswick Valley, Byron Bay, Gold Coast, Grafton, Kenmore (Brisbane), Launceston (well Charlotte Harrison is at least half ours!) Lismore, Surfers Paradise, Tweed and Yamba. There was good support from our own members both our experienced players and also our less experienced 'having-a-go' – well done to all for supporting this Club event.

Thanks to all who contributed to the running of the event. And special acknowledgements to:

Clive and the dealing team; lots of sets of boards are required for a Swiss Pairs event, plus there is a need for flexibility in both number of boards and number of sets until entries are finalised close to the event. Clive's team seem always 'unphased' in meeting our needs.

Lorraine and her Helpers: another unflappable group. Lorraine has listed those that helped in her House report. They provided 2 wonderful lunches, cakes and

Rank Promotions

Congratulations to the following members!

Gold Life: Graham Carson

Life: Ian Pick

National: Sophie Davis

State: Robert Eldridge, Marie Ferguson

Regional: Patsy Brosnan

Local: Norman Peart

Club: Julie Pigdon, Kevin Williams, Rhonda Khong

Graduate: Bill McLeod, Peter Baverstock, Kathy Saurine, Michael Letts, Neil Collum

snacks for grazing throughout and nibbles for presentations.

Our Director Chris Snook is also in the 'unflappable' category with his directing style, and we look forward to welcoming Chris again in the future.

Col Gale and Stephen Doherty were called in to action at the last minute, following a late withdrawal – thanks to them for being on standby.

So to the Results:

A Division:

1st: Janet Brown and Peter Corlis

2nd: Bill Powell and Marjorie Askew

3rd: Judy Forsyth and John Paynter

Janet and Peter hit the front mid-way on Saturday and then held off all-comers.

B Division:

1st: Winston Guymer and Charlotte Harrison

2nd: Roger Spain and Jacquie Williams

3rd: Maureen Baker and Clive Klugman

Winston and Charlotte had a big win in the last round to climb over the other contenders.

C Division:

1st: Sue Fielder and Beth Martin

2nd: Ray Ghioni and Rob Sheahan

3rd: George Connell and Peter Forsyth

Sue and Beth had a tough first round draw (against Janet Brown and Peter Corlis) but steadily worked their way back up the field.

You'll see all our winners photos on page 6.

You can view the full results via the [NSWBA website](#),

Can I please request feedback on our Congress – from those who participated and maybe too from those who chose not to. Please

continued on page 3



BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB

Newsletter April 2020

Play Committee Report - March 2020

Marjorie Askew



email me at marjorie.askew@gmail.com (and indicate if you would like your feedback to be confidential.). So for example feedback on:

- **this year's format:** a 2-day Pairs V one day Pairs and one day Teams in 2019

- **the number of boards;** we played 56 on Saturday and 40 on Sunday

- **scoring was IMPs** – or might you prefer matchpoints?

- **start times:** we started later on Saturday (10am) mainly to appeal to Queensland players with daylight saving, as well as others farther away

- **lunches:** provided or byo?

- **the cost** (\$80 per player which includes 2 lunches)

- **and any other ideas**

This will help the Play Committee as we plan for 2021.

Events Not Coming Up:

Clearly our local programme is suspended until further notice. All ABF and NSWBA events (including Club Congresses) scheduled to at least end May have been cancelled/postponed.

NSW State Mixed Pairs scheduled for May 23 & 24 in Sydney is included in this cancellation list although I am advised by NSWBA:

i) red points for our Club qualifier (ie the Harvey Norman Mixed Pairs) will be awarded ii) there is a (slim) chance the event could be re-scheduled to later in the year.

We will await further advice from NSWBA re the Country Teams Zonal Final.

Bridge in the Coming Months?

Clearly we're all going to miss our bridge. Some may try on-line bridge and you'll see some suggestions below from the ABF + with some additional help from Ange. Paul Smith also has links on the home page of the Club website (as well as some specials from bridge providers) so make sure you check this from time-to-time.

YouTube has some Help videos for those who are not so tech savvy - and you will find a [comparison of BBO and Funbridge](#) from Peter Hollands (one of Australia's younger 'top' players).

If you do try on-line bridge please let us know how you go, so we can share with other members in our next newsletter. This feedback could include: the game/standard? was it casual play or a 'tournament'? did I need to be tech savvy? will I go back? Contact [Ange Bettess by email](#).

If on-line bridge isn't for you then:

1. Ron Klinger (and others) are offering regular tips; many being free – again see the ABF communiqué

2. You can have a closer look at those bridge books in your own 'library' (cupboard?) and try the quizzes and challenges

3. Look for a Bridge book from the library or a hard copy from an on-line bridge shop.

Failing that it's clearing out cupboards, the shed or the garage, gardening or..... and possibly establishing a bit of a routine. But importantly let's all make a point of keeping in touch.

+ Let's hope we can all stay safe. Take care.

Marjorie Askew

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Partial Bids and Unauthorized Information

by Mark Miller

The following situation probably happens regularly but the director is not called to the table. Nor do we want to be called in the initial stage. But the non-offending side may be damaged and so there might be cause to seek a decision from the director. What happens is that a player starts writing part of a bid but then changes it to something else. The original part of the bid was unambiguous.

Example

N	E	S	W
1S	P	2	

Here South has clearly written the number 2 but then either scrawls it out or contrives to turn the figure into a 3 and then completes the bid to become a messy 3S.

The Laws allow such a change and that is why there is no immediate justification to call the director.

But there is potential for **Unauthorized Information** to have been conveyed. Assuming a simple bidding system, it looks like South has a scratchy 10 total points in support of partner's opening bid.

Maybe a good 10HCP but no ruffing potential and South was initially downgrading the hand. North is not allowed to know any of this. North must pretend that the bid was a cleanly written 3S and bid on according to system and his hand.

If the defence believe that North has made use of the **Unauthorized Information** and they also believe that they might get a poor score on the board as a result, then they are entitled to call the director. Be careful here, requests for an adjusted score that are without merit can go against the non-offending side.

Suppose North has 14 total points. With partner promising at least 3 spades and 10-12 total points, most North players would bid on to game. If they fail to do so in this situation then it looks like they have used the **Unauthorized Information**. Suppose this NS pair make 3S when most other pairs are one off in 4S, then EW have been damaged. The director would adjust the score to 4S making 9 in this situation. If NS actually make 10 tricks and most other NS pairs are in the making game then clearly EW have not been damaged and no



score adjustment is required.

So what should a non-offending player do in this situation? At the end of the auction such a player should politely notify North that they are concerned about the potential use of unauthorized information and announce that they reserve their right to call for the director. Then at the end of play, the concerned player should ask north to display their hand. This player should now be able to assess whether a call for the director is warranted. If called, the director will determine if the non-offending side has been damaged. The decision may not be possible until the end of the session and that will be when the score adjustment is made.

*Please avoid all of this by following the advice: **Think before you bid not during the bid.***



IS HELP NEEDED? In these difficult and isolating times, please don't forget to check in on your Bridge mates - especially those who may be on on their own. If anybody needs any help, please phone Sue Fielder 6686 0602 (or email: susef1@outlook.com.au). Also any members who can help with shopping or other ideas to assist please let Sue know. Please keep yourselves safe and follow health guidelines.

Bridge game suggestions from Marketing at the ABF

Ron Klinger, an Australian icon of the bridge world, has offered to provide a daily bridge column for free whilst the pandemic is on. This is an extraordinarily generous offer by Ron and the ABF will host the column on the ABF web site which will have a link on the front page for you to read it. <http://www.abfevents.com.au/abfdbc/>

Joan Butts, the ABF National Teaching Co-ordinator, has offered a one month's free access to her Online School of Bridge. To take advantage of this offer, go to <https://www.joanbuttsbridge.com/join> and sign up as a Gold Member and use the code BRIDGE or for US players the code is BRIGEUS.

Paul Marston has won more than 50 national open titles, including 6 international pairs events and the Cavendish Teams twice. His books have sold more than 500,000 copies.

He has been writing a weekly bridge column for the past 45 years and still writes for the Weekend Australian. Paul is reproducing old columns of historical interest for his friends. They will be able to play the hands on Bridge Solver as well. If you would like to receive the columns just contact Paul at <https://bridgelounge.online/free-subscription/>

Barbara Travis, one of Australia's leading players for many years and a bridge journalist, has also contributed a guide on how to set up 'pre-set' matches on BBO where you can compare yourself with the world's best. She has also started a paid weekly bridge column which can be found at <http://www.bridgewithbarbara.com> which is excellent for club players as well as experts.

Online Bridge – There are a number of online bridge clubs that already exist in Australia and Internationally where you can play with and against other players or robots. Here are a few suggestions but there are also others:

Stepbridge.com.au is an Australian NFP online bridge site that is affiliated with the South Australian Bridge Federation. It usually has one competition session a day at 8.00pm AEST or 4.00pm on Weekends with ABF Masterpoints just like any other bridge club in Australia. The current playing fees are basically \$3 a tournament game and once a month they hold a red masterpoint game. You can also play social bridge with no fees. [Extra sessions have been added so check the website latest session times.]

Bridgebase.com or BBO is the biggest online bridge site in the world where you can play bridge, practice with partners or robots, test your play, challenge your friends and watch (kibitz) the best players in the world playing in tournaments. One can organise a game with friends or play anonymously for free with strangers or robots which you may find to be more friendly.

Funbridge.com has 400,000 members from 190 countries who play more than 800,000 deals a day. You can play at Funbridge.com even on your phone 24/7 at your own pace and pause a deal and resume it later. I am trying to organise a Funbridge Australia club that may be more suitable for many club players.

Social Distancing? Here's a Digital Care Package

Nick Fahrer has put together the following: <https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/social-distancing-heres-a-digital-care-package/>

Please contribute any suggestions you have on how we can improve the Bridge experience whilst clubs are closed.

Stay safe and healthy.

Peter Cox - contact at petercox@ozemail.com.au or 0413676326



Ballina Congress 1st place winners

Division 1: Janet Brown & Peter Corlis

Division 2: Winston Guymer & Charlotte Harrison

Division 3: Sue Fielder & Beth Martin



Peter Corlis and Janet Brown



Marjorie Askew, Charlotte Harrison, Winston Guymer and Chery McCallum



Beth Martin, Sue Fielder and Chery McCallum

House Report

How fortunate were we to complete the Ballina Pairs Congress before this horrible pandemic changed our lives? The weekend was a great success and everyone I spoke to praised the catering teams highly. I cannot thank the marvellous volunteers enough for their fantastic effort.

Saturdays team coordinator, Denice Richards, was assisted by Lesley Burford, Barbara Stephens, Kathy Saurine and Anne Tubridy served delicious chicken with salad and baked potato with ice-creams for dessert.

Sunday Lunch and nibbles after the event was coordinated by Jenny Wardley with wonderful support from Jenny Hurley, Jan Blay, Lyn Ebert. Sue Mason and Margaret Reddy. They served very tasty

quiches with Asian salad followed by a choice of lime or chocolate pie with cream and blueberries. Both teams also organised different meals for those with special dietary needs.

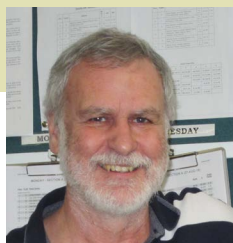
To the members who brought along 'goodies' for morning and afternoon tea, thank you for contributing to the success of the day. A wonderful treat at the Congress were scones donated by Marj Hill. Marj regularly supplements our afternoon teas with a variety of delicious scones and we really enjoy them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her and all our members who help provide afternoon teas on bridge days throughout the year.

The kitchen really values the



volunteers who help with preparing food, washing up and putting away, cleaning, taking home the laundry etc I cannot mention everybody but special thank you to Sue Fielder who puts in a lot of work behind the scenes and Pam and Ian Frith who continue to support the house committee. Our appreciation also goes to Peter Forsyth and his team for that thankless job - organising garbage.

Please take care of yourselves over the coming weeks. I miss you all and hope to see you at a bridge table very soon. - Lorraine Bryant



Put the Deerstalker hat on

by Paul Smith



As I write this, the last time I sat at a table in a bridge club was over three weeks ago. Seems like a lifetime. As chance would have it the very last board of that session reminded me of Arthur Conan Doyle.

Partner sitting West was the dealer and opened 1♣. North overcalled 1♥ and I bid 1♠. South passed and my partner bid 3♥. In our methods, this shows support for my Spades and is a very strong invitation to game and invites cue bids to investigate slam. I simply raised to game which ended the auction. South led the ♥ 8 - partner's suit. This is what I saw:-

West	East
♠ AJ104	♠ KQ532
♥ K9	♥ J75
♦ K5	♦ J6
♣ AQJ62	♣ 1054

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♥	1♠	P
3♥	P	4♠	P
P	P		

18 points in the dummy and 7 in mine leaves 15 points for the opposition. The opps have an 8 cards Heart fit but South couldn't bid 2♥ over my 1♠ bid. This probably means that South is short in Hearts or short in points or both.

The ♥ 8 is an interesting lead. If the opponents are using standard leads then it will be either a singleton or a doubleton. Why? The nine is in dummy and so it can't be the middle card from three small. If South had three

Hearts headed by an honour (say, ♥ Q108) then they probably would have raised partner, even with few other points.

Since I don't think South has a Heart honour, my play to the first trick doesn't seem to matter much. Nevertheless, if they have underled an honour it is more likely to be the Queen than the Ace. Accordingly, I play small from the dummy and there is no surprise when North wins with the Queen. North continues with the ♥ A on which South discards a Club. A third Heart is led and my Jack is ruffed by South and overruffed by dummy.

Two tricks lost so far. I need to keep the minor suit losers to one if I am going to make this contract - which doesn't seem very likely. On the likely assumption that North has the ♦ A it looks like I am at least one down (two Hearts and two Diamonds and still the Club suit to negotiate)

There are now no Hearts in dummy and none in my hand. If North has ♦ AQ then maybe they will lead the Clubs around to the dummy (they may not work out that giving me a ruff and discard wouldn't actually help). A very slim chance, but here goes.

I play the ♠ A from dummy which everyone follows. One more round of trumps is needed after which I want to be in my hand to lead towards the ♦ K. Accordingly, I lead the ♠ 4 to my King. (A small point, I play the King and not the Queen, that way North cannot be

sure where the Queen is).

It is time to tackle the Diamond suit. I want North to be on lead once I have no more Diamonds. I cannot see how to do it and North may well have ♦ AQ anyway so just lead ♦ 6 from my hand. Small from South, King from dummy and it wins! Now I lead the remaining Diamond and North, who doesn't want to be on lead plays the ♦ 8, Jack from me and South's ♦ A wins the trick.

Three tricks lost now and it is not possible to lose more than one Club trick. One off should be a pretty normal result. South leads an obvious Club. (Dummy no longer has red cards and South is tempting the finesse) It seems obvious to take the finesse in Clubs. But is it right?

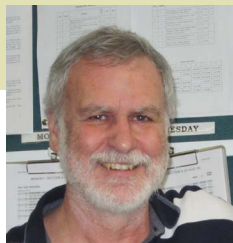
If the Club finesse works then South started with the ♦ A and ♣ K. Seven points which would leave North with only eight. Many players these days would overcall 2♥ with a seven card suit and eight points. The words of Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes popped



into my head
"Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth"

It is not impossible for North to

continued on page



Put the Deerstalker hat on

by Paul Smith

continued from page

have only eight points but close to it. I noticed South discard a Club at trick 2. Surely, they wouldn't do that if they held the King? Therefore I am going to play North for the ♣K. If that is the case then the improbable option must be the right one. After much thought I call for the Ace from dummy and am rewarded when North plays their singleton ♣K. Hooray for fictional detectives!

Of course, the double dummy analysis says that 4♠ should make 10 tricks. It is easy if you can see all four hands - just play the ♣A and Clubs provide five easy tricks. The full hand is shown opposite.

North		W	N	E	S
♠ 9		1♣	1♥	1♠	P
♥ AQ106432		3♥	P	4♠	P
♦ Q1098		P	P		
♣ K					
West		East			
♠ AJ104		♠ KQ532			
♥ K9		♥ J75			
♦ K5		♦ J6			
♣ AQJ62		♣ 1054			
South		4♠ E			
♠ 876		Lead - ♥8			
♥ 8					
♦ A7432					
♣ 9873					

Teaching Our New Beginner Class

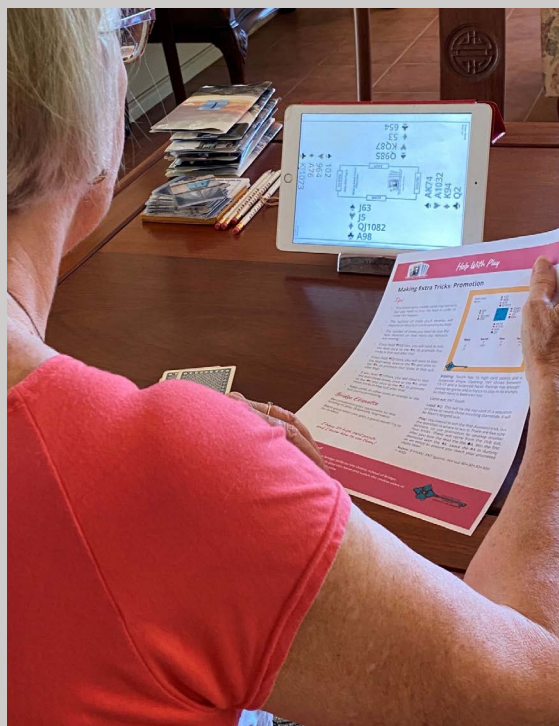
So we began lessons on Wednesday 4th March with our usual enthusiasm to take a group of beginners through the devious pathway that is learning to play bridge. We expected to spend the next 6 - 7 weeks on a program of discovery but alas this has been cut short. Our class members were dropping out because they did not want to come as the coronavirus took hold. With the closure of our Club, and indeed every club in our region virtually the same day, we made the offer to our students to continue their learning online until we can resume face to face lessons.

This is harder for us and them as we follow a student centred approach where play of the cards is paramount - no whiteboards in play.

We have now begun our lessons by email and will continue to the end of the course. We have been fortunate that we have access to the Teachers Portal of Joan Butts Bridge which means that we have an excellent resource from which to choose commentary and hands.

Thanks to Anne Jackson our students are continuing their excellent education.

What we need now is a platform for our Supervised session to continue their learning and this is under consideration.



Rebecca Rogers

BOARD OF THE MONTH

Board 2 from Match 1 Ballina Pairs Congress - Saturday 14th March

For our first match, the random draw was unkind to Lorraine and I as we were against Gary and Eric. On board 1 Gary bid and made a slam. Unfortunately only half the field did the same so this cost us nearly 6 IMPs. Then on board 2 Eric bid and made a spade slam for a cost of another 8 IMPs. Things were not going well!

Being a congress result you will not find it on the Ballina Results site. Instead click on [this link](#).

Dealer was East. With a 4-loser hand South may have been tempted to open 2C but this hand is not strong enough for that action so Gary started with 1H. After some bidding involving a cue bid in clubs by Eric and RKCB for hearts by Gary, Eric opted for 6S knowing that his suit was headed by AKQ which was not definite in hearts. He must have been disappointed when he saw the void in support but was lucky that the spades fell 4-3. North must clear the spade suit and establish the hearts with one ruff to discard the three losing clubs. Preserving the KD in dummy as an entry is essential.

It is interesting to see that the hand analysis says that 7H is possible from North. But North is very unlikely to start the bidding in hearts with a singleton. Also 7NT is possible from either side. Given the misfit in the majors, NT is a likely bid and in fact half the field played there. Three pairs made the slam, three pairs stopped in

Bridge Solver Online
Close this browser window to return to Session Results

Optimum: NS 7N; +2220 <small>LoTT: 15-16 = -1</small>	♠ A K Q 9 3 2 ♥ 8 ♦ A 5 ♣ A 10 9 4	<div style="text-align: right;"> Bridge Solver Online: <small>John Goacher</small> Double Dummy Solver Module: <small>Bo Haglund</small> </div>																																							
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3NT and three pairs went down in either 6NT or 7NT. Only one pair tried 7NT possibly because of a 2C opening bid from South.

How do you make 7NT on any lead? If you can make all six of the heart tricks this would help. Playing for the drop would be hoping for either a 3-3 split (36% chance) or a defender having Jx (16%). This gives a total chance of 52% and so should be the preferred option compared with a blind finesse (50%) on the first play of hearts. But to make 7NT here you have to go against the odds and finesse to the 10H.

The spade suit is unlikely to be a source of more than three tricks. Playing for the drop you might be lucky that one defender has JT or JT_x in which case the 9S is promoted. But the chance of success here is under 9%. But you would certainly try this, after exhausting hearts, before risking anything else. A defender just might have discarded an important spade on the hearts.

So with 6 tricks in Hearts, 3 in spades, 2 in diamonds and one

in clubs where is the 13th trick coming from? You could play AD (hoping to drop the singleton Queen) and then finesse to JD. Without knowing how the clubs are distributed this is the usual 50% chance. It would fail here.

One way to make all 13 tricks is to play AK of diamonds and hope one defender has Q or Q_x. The chance of success here is under 5%! If East led the 10D which was common, then it probably makes little sense to cover this with the Jack as West looks likely to have the Queen. North should play low from dummy and win with the Ace. This preserves the hope of Q or Q_x in West and winning with JD. It is also possible to squeeze West in the black suits even if North covered the 10D with the Jack.

It is often the case when looking at unusual makeable contracts, that the only way to be successful is to make one or more plays that are against the odds. Try a few contracts using Bridge Solver Online.

| **Mark Miller**

Ann is well known to many at Ballina, being a regular player at both Ballina and Lennox Head Bridge Clubs. Ann has lived in many areas of NSW as well as Southern Queensland, and has lived and worked in London for a number of years. Ann now lives in Ballina with her partner, David Cowles, who also plays Bridge. Ann is a State Master is close to becoming a *State Master.

by Rob Eldridge



Do you believe in the Easter Bunny? What is the best Easter egg you have received?

I haven't had an Easter egg since I was a kid. However, I have pinched some chocolate from my kids and grandchildren's eggs.

Tell us about your early life, where you were born, your family, and what it was like growing up.

I grew up in Toowoomba. My dad had a company there, "Southern Cross", known for windmills' pumps and irrigation. I went to school there for 17 years, first to kindergarten from ages 2-7. My memory is of wooden desks, blackboard, chalk and slates to write on! School was strict in those days. I had learned to read and write before I started school. There was no TV in those days. All my schooling was at Fairbourne College after which I went to Brisbane to study as there was no Uni or tertiary education in Toowoomba in those days.

My main love when growing up was horse riding, and I competed

on the show riding circuit for a few years.

Tell us about your working life, your occupation, the best place you worked and why.

I travelled to London and lived there for 2 years. During that time I did secretarial work, which I had studied in Brisbane. Later I lived in Sydney and worked in property management at Chatswood.

What has been your greatest inspiration in life?

My family and children. When I was young, I met and married Carl and we had 3 children together. I ended up in Brisbane, remarried a guy who had 2 children, and thus we had 5 children under 8 years. Life was busy! All are now successful in their own businesses, that include hotel ownership and management, interior decorating, and coffee production and distribution.

What is the best concert you have seen?

I have seen many concerts and stage shows, especially during the times I have spent in London and Europe. I saw Michael Crawford in Phantom of the Opera which was brilliant.

The very first concert I saw was when I was young. I remember travelling down to Brisbane to see the Beatles. It was so noisy that you

couldn't hear a word they sang!

When did you first start playing Bridge?

I learned Bridge in Brisbane. I used to go to a small apartment in Hamilton, and learned 4 card major with Joan Butts. I played a few times at Toowong Bridge Club (where I learned 5 card majors), and then used to play at friends' houses once a week. We enjoyed Bridge, lunch and a glass of wine.

Later, when living at Possum Creek I decided to play Bridge again, so went to the Bangalow club, had a game, and they suggested I go to Ballina to have lessons. I wonder why!

Where did you meet David (Cowles)?

After about a year of playing at Ballina, David followed me to my car, and asked me out. I had many excuses, but ended up having lunch together. We now live together in our unit in "Reside". We do play Bridge together, and when we score badly it is all his fault!!

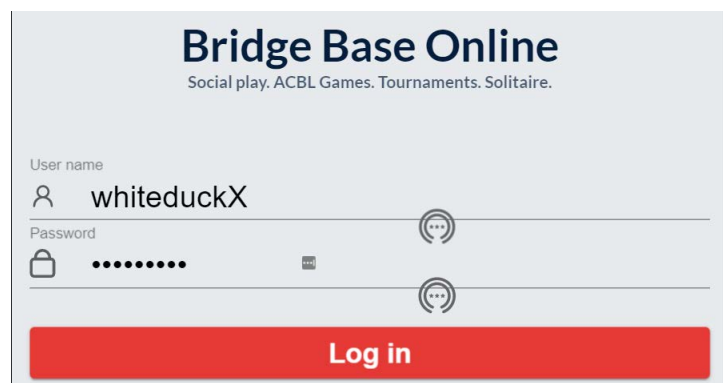
What is the one place you would like to visit and why?

When I was young, my husband and I moved to London for 2 years. We later spent another year travelling Europe in a campervan. I love London and the English countryside.

PLAYING BRIDGE ONLINE WITH BBO

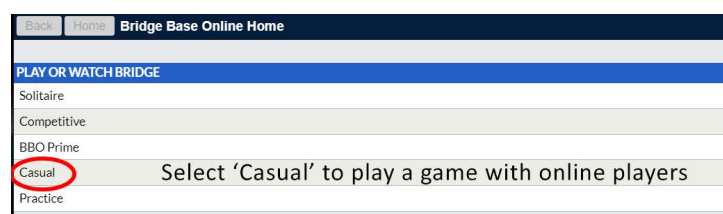
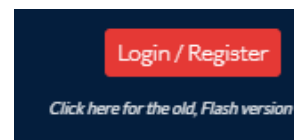
Ange Bettess

Playing bridge online with Bridge Base Online (<https://www.bridgebase.com/>) is good fun - so don't be daunted by the idea. You may want to play against robots to get some experience with the interface first. But I do enjoy playing against real people across the world with a love for Bridge. You will encounter a cross-section of levels of skill from beginner to expert. You don't need a partner because someone will appear for you or a robot will take the place - but I recently started playing with Bridge players from Ballina Bridge Club. It is comforting to know their methods of play as your partner - so whilst we are in lockout mode, I look forward to more such games. Other than playing Bridge, you can view tournaments when they are available. There are also practice options (try out Bridgmaster) to explore for all levels of skill. Here is [link to do a tour of BBO](#).



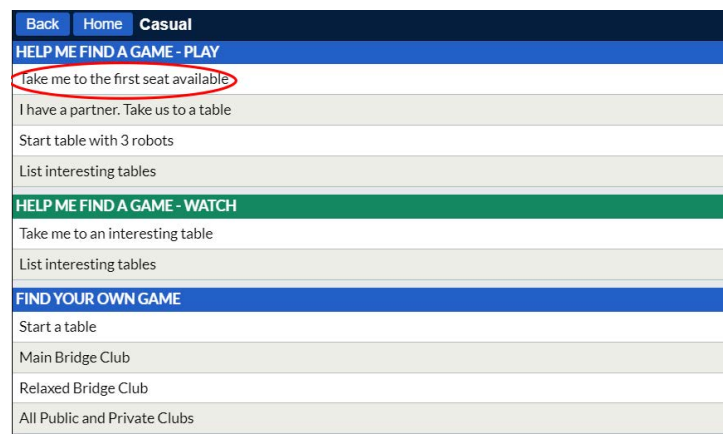
The login screen for Bridge Base Online. It features the site's logo and tagline at the top. Below, there are input fields for 'User name' (containing 'whiteduckX') and 'Password' (masked with dots). A red 'Log in' button is positioned at the bottom of the form.

On the BBO website, you will see a Login/Register button top right. If you are not yet registered, you will need to register before you can login. Choose a username and password - then you are ready to go. For example, my username is whiteduckX. When you register, you are given different options to check for your level of skill - but your opponents can be any skill level. If you know another player's username, you can add them as a friend.



The main menu of Bridge Base Online. It includes a 'PLAY OR WATCH BRIDGE' section with options like Solitaire, Competitive, BBO Prime, and 'Casual' (highlighted with a red circle). A note next to 'Casual' says 'Select 'Casual' to play a game with online players'.

After logging in, different options are available - select the option 'casual' under the heading 'PLAY OR WATCH BRIDGE' (see left).



The 'Casual' game options screen. It has three main sections: 'HELP ME FIND A GAME - PLAY' (with 'Take me to the first seat available' circled in red), 'HELP ME FIND A GAME - WATCH', and 'FIND YOUR OWN GAME'.

The next screen (see left) gives options to find a game to play, find a game to watch or find your own game. To go straight to a game by yourself, select 'take me to the first available seat'. You will be taken to a table with 3 other players. Players do come and go and there is always a player who is the host of the table (represented by a crown next to their username). If you are planning to play with a Bridge friend, you would select 'Have a partner. Take us to a table'. This brings up a popup and asks for the name of the partner - that person is then asked to accept the request. If you want to partner with a Bridge friend, organise it with that person to be logged on at the same time.



The Bridge game interface. It shows a bidding phase with 'Pass Pass' entered. The interface includes a card display at the bottom, a chat area at the bottom with a note about abbreviations, and a 'History' table on the right showing game results.

Once you are in a game (see left), your cards are shown and the bidding commences. A popup screen appears when it is your turn to bid. The contract will appear and who is N,S,E and W is shown - the player whose turn it is to bid or play is highlighted in yellow. There is a chat section at the bottom - people often use abbreviations like 'wdp' = well done partner.