



Newsletter August 2022

Message from the President

Judy Forsyth



Greetings All,

We welcome new members, Robyn Thomas, Jane Moore and Margaret Cusack, approved at our recent Management meeting. I trust you have many enjoyable sessions of bridge and make many friendships at Ballina Bridge Club.

A reminder to all that our AGM is just around the corner, Saturday, 10th September. Business papers and information will be out within the next few weeks. Please note that after the AGM, we intend to hold a Forum where members may have their say on matters not relating to the governance of the club in the AGM. We want your feedback and suggestions

for the club moving forward. Please, no motions regarding air conditioning and starting times at the AGM, keep these questions and ideas for the Forum. The Management Committee will follow up suggestions agreed to by the majority of members of the Club.

We will have some vacancies on the Management Committee, so please be prepared to nominate. Details coming soon.

If you have a couple of spare hours on Wednesday evening, Clive has organised a short session of Bridge so new players may partner with those a little more experienced. Everyone is "more"

experienced than our new players. Starting time is 6pm for a couple of hours. Try to give some time for our new players to help them settle into playing bridge a little more confidently.

Howard Jeffery and Ken Cutcliffe will take on the role of overseeing our maintenance, both scheduled work and any incidentals that arise. Thanks gents, your time and work are greatly appreciated. Paul Blanch has carried out this task for some time now. We appreciate all the time and energy he has put into the required tasks. From the members of the club and myself, many thanks for your effort Paul.

Cheers, Judy

Ballina Mah Jong Club News

Winners for the month of July are:

July 1: Jan Rhodes; July 8: Kath Hubbard/Wendy Thornton;

July 15: June Greenaway; July 22: Joy Lowien; July 29: Pauline Bolte

Rank Promotions – end July 2022:

Congratulations to:

Graduate: Catherine Bechaz

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Newsletter August 2022

Play Committee Report - July 2022

Marjorie Askew



Events Gone:

Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs Thursdays July 14 & 21:

Unfortunately only 6 pairs nominated against a minimum requirement of 8. It may have been Covid or flu or...? The regular Thursday players have indicated they'd like to try again so Play Committee will look for new dates for the event.

GNOT Pairs Saturday July 23: 24 pairs competed in a 2 session Pairs event with IMPs scoring. Winners were Gary Lynn and Clive Klugman, followed by Liz and Howard Jeffery, and Nick Humphry and Cally Mail. Full results can be seen on the website.

Thanks to our Event Organiser Gary Lynn, Director Mark Miller, Dealing Team led by Peter Rostron (we were spoilt with 6 sets of boards) and House Committee under Carmel Pollard who kept us well-sustained with goodies and then nibbles at the close of play.

The top half of the field now make up teams to go to the next stage of this national event which is the Regional Final, scheduled to be played at Ballina on Sunday October 30. For more information on the event go to: <https://nswba.com.au/tourn/2022/gnot/regions.asp>

Events Coming Up

NSW State-wide Pairs Wednesday August 3: See last month's newsletter for summary details. Then for updates on results as

they are scored state-wide go to: <https://nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2022&E=swp>

Teams Championships, Saturdays August 20 & 27:

A 2-week event in 2 grades: Open and B Grade (< 300 masterpoints per each player as at 1.1.2022.) Please nominate as a Team of 4, 5 or 6 players or as a Pair looking for teammates. Play is scheduled to start at 1pm each Saturday but we may adjust this slightly depending on the movement and number of boards. Please note there will be no Pairs play on these 2 Saturdays.

Event Organiser and Partner Coordinator is Liz Jeffery. (See p6)

Australia-wide Open Pairs, Wednesday 31 August:

As it happens this Aus-wide event is also on this month i.e. as well as the state-wide event. But please note it will be held on Wednesday 31st – so not 24th as per the programme book. The Club heavily subsidises the entry fee and all entrants receive:

- a souvenir booklet of the hands, with the recommended bidding and items of interest from the play + a personalised online booklet
- prizes for the top 25 pairs + additional spot prizes for lower-ranked players
- exclusive discounts on a selection of popular products from their book store.

The Club session awards green MPs and there are red points for the Australia-wide scoring. For more details go to: <http://www.australianbridge.com/AWP.htm>

Inter-Club with the Gold Coast BC Sunday September 11: We are looking for more nominations to represent our Club in the inter-club duel and by Saturday August 20.

Please nominate online in Pairs to show your interest for club selection. Looking at nominations thus far we really need more pairs in the Novice, Restricted and B Grade categories. So please don't be shy. + we will organise car-pooling if you don't want to drive to the Gold Coast.

Last year our 'star' team was: Beth Martin, Sue Fielder, Ange Bettess, Peter Lamont, in the Restricted Division - so perhaps this may encourage you to nominate. + We want to retain the Neil Raward Cup!

Wednesday September 7, Life Members Day: Bridge + celebrating our Life Members.

Wednesdays September 14 & 21, SLL Shield: a 2-week event with winners in Open and B Grade.

Monday October 3 Charity Day: For this year Play Committee has decided we will have a Pairs Day. The format will be confirmed once we have entries/numbers. The goal is a good/fun Club Day and importantly supporting a local charity.

Hope to see you at the Club. Please contact me if you need any help.

Marjorie (Chair of Play) email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com or call: 0459 023 907

Player Profile - Mystery Player

This months player profile is a Mystery Player. The profile and photos contain a number of clues as to whom the player might be. Successfully identify the player and you will go into the draw to win the prize. The prize is either a bottle of wine or a box of chocolates... your choice.

Please email your answer to me at robetom@bigpond.com. Good luck!

Rob Eldridge

Describe your upbringing/early life.

I was born at home in a large country town.

I went to the same local schools from kindergarten, primary school and up to the Leaving Certificate.

I was like an only child but had much older siblings.

When I wanted to go anywhere in town, I hopped on my bike.

What is a memory from growing up that you particularly cherish?

I particularly enjoyed travelling to large towns to represent the school at sports.

I played tennis from the age of eleven, and still play.

I came last in a 50 metre swimming race which was won by Dawn Fraser.

What was your very first job? What did it involve?

I got paid to help with milking the cows on a dairy farm. It involved getting up at 5am but not getting breakfast until 8:30am.

What is something about yourself or what you have done that others in the Club are unlikely to know?

I really wanted to be an architect. I did not have the drive and went into another career that had a



scholarship.

I have always looked at the structure of buildings when I travel.

Most of the houses I have owned have been oriented to the north, and most had interesting layouts.

My parents lived in the same house from marriage to their death. I have lived in 14 houses so far.

Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?

My partner has influenced me in so many ways.

What is the most humorous thing that has happened to you at the Bridge table?

Someone cut 13 cards into small pieces. Whilst playing, they called the director, and dropped all the pieces onto the floor. When the director came, they said "I dropped my hand and it broke".

What advice would you give to other players who play with their spouse/life partner?

Don't.

If you do, just treat it like fun.

What do you most appreciate about the Ballina Bridge Club?

It has allowed me to make a wonderful group of friends.

It gives the brain a good workout.

Reflecting on your life, what is your fondest memory?

Travelling in different parts of the world.

Which two people would you most like to see in concert and why?

Elvis Presley, good fun and a great voice. I like Sammy J on Thursday nights, he would do a great concert.



What's that Double mean?

Paul Smith



Peter Hollands, an Australian representative and prolific YouTube video maker, recently discussed making notes of your system agreements. How comprehensive the notes are depends on how serious your partnership is.

Agreements are often made 'on-the-fly' at the table, generally when there has been a misunderstanding or a difficult hand to bid. But do you remember the agreement when the same situation occurs again two months later? This is where written notes come in handy. Reviewing your notes before a session starts keeps agreements fresh in your mind.

Written notes can also sort out things that a system card does not have enough detail for. Recently, the hand on my left opened 1♣ and partner bid 2♣. My mind went to our agreement that we play Michaels cue bids (as the system card shows) and so this bid promises both Majors. The Michaels cue bid convention gives a special meaning to partner's call when they immediately bid the same suit as the opponent's have opened.

But ... we also have an agreement as to the meaning of all overcalls at the 1NT level or higher when the opponents open 1♣. A convention called TWERB.

This is where system notes come into play. Is 1♣:2♣ an example of the Michaels cue bid convention or the TWERB convention? Either could apply and your notes should sort out the ambiguity.

Peter Hollands provided a 33(!) page [system notes document](#) ready for the keen player to fill in with all their agreements. The final page caught my eye. Here Peter lists 30 auctions which contain at least one Double and asks "What are these Doubles?". Some examples,

Peter Hollands Example 1

W	N	E	S
1♠	X	2♠	X

The Double by North is a takeout Double as covered in most beginners' lessons.

It doesn't hurt to revise what this call tells your partner.

1. Shortness in the suit opened - in this case no more than two Spades.
2. At least three cards in each of the remaining three suits.
3. 11+ points

Some things worth noting. The *first* requirement is a shortage in the suit that you are doubling. If you have three, or more, Spades then **do not** double - you would mislead your partner. The second point is that you *must* have at least three cards in each of the remaining suits.

I sometimes hear people say after the hand is over "were you doubling for Hearts?" This is wrong - no ifs/ands/buts or maybes. Just plain wrong. If you have Hearts bid them. The definition of a takeout double tells you it is "for" all the unbid suits. You may also hear "I had an opening hand, I had to Double". No you don't. The first two requirements must be met otherwise partner will not know what is going on!

Bottom line — a takeout double says "*please bid partner, I can support anything*". That's the basics but there is more to it than this brief overview.

Moving on, what about the Double by South? This is known as a **Responsive Double** and is made by the partner of the person who made the takeout double. (Using the jargon of bridge — by **Advancer** when **Overcaller** has doubled)

What does a Responsive Double tell your partner?

1. 6+ points
2. Exactly four cards in all unbid Majors (Hearts in our example)
3. Four or more cards in any unbid minor (both of them in our example)

Why not just bid 3♥ if you have four Hearts? Because partner has only promised three Hearts (see point 2, above). If you have *five* Hearts and sufficient strength then bid 3♥ directly - do not make a Responsive Double as you must have an eight card Major fit (your five plus partner's guaranteed three).

Bottom line — a responsive double says "you asked me to bid and I am not broke but do not know which suit is best".

Peter Hollands Example 2

W	N	E	S
1♠	X	3♣	X

The same takeout double from North but now **Responder** has jumped to the three level. This may be the same as the first example ... or not. It depends on your agreement.

What's that Double mean?

Paul Smith



A Standard System Card has an item on the front page “Responsive doubles through” which governs this example.

If your agreement is to play “Responsive doubles through 2NT”, for example, then this Double is for “Penalty” and partner is asked to Pass. But if your agreement is to play “Responsive doubles through 3♠” then the Double is **Responsive** and shows exactly four Hearts and at least four Diamonds. Partner is expected to take action based on this information.

Peter Hollands Example 11

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♣ ¹	X
1 Stayman			

The simple way to look at this situation is that you are Doubling an artificial bid.

Or maybe you consider this

to be an extension of your normal defence to No Trump openings. What is your agreement?

Because there are so many different situations (what if the opening is a weak No Trump? What is weak and what is strong? What if they may/may not have a five card Major?) I like to find agreements that can cover as many different situations as possible.

My preference is to have a general agreement about the meaning of Double when the last bid was artificial. The agreement is quite simple - double of an artificial bid is for penalty. In this example, the double by South would say to partner “the opponents cannot make 2♣”.

What would I need? Clearly a good Club suit and about an opening hand. Of course, the opponents are unlikely to pass the auction out but I am ready if they do. More likely is that partner is going to be on lead to a No Trump or Major suit contract and my double tells them that I think a Club lead is a good idea. Just possibly partner likes the sound of a Club contract and the vulnerability is ripe for a profitable sacrifice. Remember that the strong hand is sitting over you (assuming 1NT was a strong bid), so do *not* double when you hold ♣KJ873 because the lead you are asking for will just make life easy for declarer.

This agreement about doubling artificial bids covers not just this particular example but cases like

- Doubling a transfer bid after a No Trump opening

- Doubling a transfer response to 1♣
- Doubling a response to Blackwood. (But only if the response is not a suit that has been shown in the auction)
- Doubling a 2♦ opening which does not show Diamonds
- Doubling a 2♣ opening which does not show Clubs.
- Doubling a Bergen response
- Doubling a Drury response The beauty is that even if you have never heard of the Drury convention then the explanation from the opponents will reveal it to be an artificial bid and so your all purpose convention comes into play

Personally, I like conventions that are not specific to a situation but which, rather, can be used in many different situations.

Summary

There are another 27 examples to consider in the Peter Hollands document. I would suggest that the sheer variety of possibilities where a Double can be used means that you need to have a small set of guidelines which can cover many situations.

As the partnership gets more experience then bring in more nuance. Like, how does the meaning of a Double change if partner has Passed versus partner has not had the chance to bid?

Are people interested in more information on Doubles? Do you care what a Support double is? Negative? Balancing? Snapdragon? Maximal? I don't normally write about bidding because so much depends on your system and your specific agreements but let me know by clicking 'Make a Comment' or 'Add to the discussion' below. Maybe you don't agree with my broad generalisations or have a juicy tip, feel free to get the discussion rolling.



2022 TEAMS **CHAMPIONSHIPS** **Open and B Grade***

will be held on

Saturdays August 20 & 27

***Everyone is invited to join
in – nominate online[^]***

- ♣ **'Normal' table money – vouchers on the day**
- ♦ **PM Starting Time – may be flexible v numbers**
- ♥ **No Pairs Play on these days**
- ♠ **All players must be members of Ballina BC**

Event Organiser: Liz Jeffery

[^] You can nominate as a Team of 4/5/6 or as a Pair looking for teammates. Or please contact Liz for help with teammates.

Nominations close Wednesday August 17

***B Grade: all players <300 mpts (at 1.1.2022)**

Please nominate now for:

THE INTER-CLUB CHALLENGE

Ballina BC v Gold Coast BC

*hosted this year by the GCBC
on Sunday September 11 from 9.30am*

**We're looking for nominations across all levels of
experience: Novice, Restricted, B Grade, Open...**

**Please nominate online, in Pairs, by Saturday
20 August - for club selection**

EVENT ORGANISER: Marjorie Askew

**+ If you'd like to standby as a reserve, or have
any queries, please contact Marjorie**

**We'd like to keep the CUP –
(The Neil Raward Trophy)**

