



Newsletter February 2023

Message from the President



Judy Forsyth

Greetings All,

The first month of 2023 has already disappeared. Many members have returned to the Bridge table after being away over the festive season and we continue to have a trickle of players who have been absent for the past few years.

Monday players have broken records with their large numbers in attendance for January 2023. We have had between 15 - 19 tables playing each Monday during January. These are the largest numbers at Ballina BC for a few years! Monday numbers have grown from players finishing lessons in 2022 attending regularly. Well done Monday players.

Welcome to Home Club new members – Beth Martin, Phill Robbins, Phil & Cathy Hocking, Belinda Olding, Guy Jarvi and Barbara Goulding.

Welcome also to Social new members – Lesley Ritchie, Cindy Smith and Denise Bridge. May you all store up many happy memories and friendships at the club.

We are asking that all embrace “Share the Load”. Tidying and clearing goods, putting away cups/glasses has often fallen to just a few members. We have placed a monthly calendar on the fridge door in the kitchen for you to add

your names to a day when you will take the time to oversee what needs to be done during a session. If two people for each session would add their names together, we would be appreciative.

Come a few minutes early and fill tea/coffee containers, open biscuits into their containers ready for afternoon tea, wipe down benches/urns at the conclusion of afternoon teas, ensure kitchen is left clean and tidy with all goods put away. If you don't know where something is stored or how to work the dishwasher, please ask. This does not mean only these two people should help – we ask that they ensure “things get done”.

While we are on the “theme” of volunteering, the club still requires someone to take on the role of Welfare Officer. This person makes the occasional phone contact, sends cards, flowers where appropriate. Members are required to keep this person up to date when matters arise.

Some members have been supplying extra treats for our afternoon teas and all have enjoyed them. Thanks very much for your efforts and thoughtfulness. We welcome you to do so occasionally.

A special thankyou to Peter Forsyth for his work in spreading

the dirt and grass dug up for the extended path. Hopefully this will fill a few of the potholes. He also returned to water, in the hope some of the grass will grow. Did you know Peter deals with all the garbage bins, both during the week and on Wednesdays when they need to be placed kerbside? If you see a kitchen bin is full, lend a hand by emptying it in the appropriate bin outside. Thanks Peter.

Howard has arranged for our outdoor Handyman to distribute the remainder of the gravel around other holes. This will free a few car parking spaces. With our big numbers on Mondays, we have run out of room for all cars. Park considerately so as not to use more space than your car requires. Thanks Howard.

Thanks also to Ken Cutcliffe who arranged a “special deal” for the concreting of the extended entrance path. This was to stop your feet getting wet during rainy weather.

Keep enjoying your Bridge or Mahjong and give a friendly greeting to your opponents. We love to see happy faces around the club.

Judy Forsyth

President





Newsletter February 2023

Play Committee Report - January 2023

Marjorie Askew



Hopefully we've all enjoyed a 'Break' over the Christmas-New Year period, and now it's February, our 2023 Bridge programme will be underway 'in earnest'. And with the Programme Books now printed, please start planning your Bridge year.

Many thanks to Ange Bettess for putting together the Programme Book. If you haven't picked your copy up yet, please do so next time you're at the Club. As well as the Bridge Programme, you'll find the 'invaluable' phone list of club members, and wider information about our Club. I also commend to you page 22 (i.e towards the back) which is headed: Be a Good Sport (courtesy of NSWBA). Here you'll find some advice, hints and tips, and perhaps clarifications – useful for both newer and more experienced players.

In January our only 'special' event was our Australia Day Teams. 16 teams competed. Our Event Organisers were Peter Rostron and Lorraine Bryant – many thanks to them for a job Well Done. Peter's report on the Day, with photos, follows on page 3.

Coming Up in February:

Wednesdays 8th and 15th: Harvey Norman Mixed Pairs: Please try and find a mixed partner for this 2-week event. Or, Gary Lynn has offered to be 'Chief Matchmaker'

so please contact Gary for help in finding a partner. NB: Closing date for nominations is Monday February 6th at 6pm.

Please note it is not our intention to exclude anyone from a playing session but our 'Plan' is to encourage 'mixed' entries and if this is then exhausted, we can then review opening up the sessions to non-contending (ie non-mixed pairs). Please bear with us as we see how this unfolds.

Saturday 11th Country Teams Club Qualifier, 9.30 start: A Teams Day at the Club so please think about joining in. + If you enjoyed the **Australia Day Teams** – why not have another Go?

You can nominate as a Team of 4, 5 or 6 players (eg some can play am, others pm) or as a Pair looking for teammates. Liz Jeffery is our Event Organiser and will help finding teammates so please contact Liz. Again please note there is a closing date for nominations – to help in planning and organising the movement and boards – here: Wednesday February 8th at 6pm.

(As our Club Qualifying Event for the NSW State/Country Teams it's red masterpoints at state championship level.)

Posters for both these events follow on pages 10 and 11 and are posted on the Club noticeboard.

Coming Up in March and April:

Wednesday's March 1, 8 and 29, the Jeffery Challenge: Howard and Liz are donating a trophy for this 3-week event. So start planning your partner; and please bear in mind one substitute is allowed for a 3-week event; all substitutions to be notified prior to Head Director or Chair of Play, for approval, asap before the relevant session. Specifics of the 3-week format will be finalised when nominations are confirmed. Nominations will close on Saturday February 25 at 6pm. (Non-contending Pairs will be able to play on these Wednesdays.)

Ballina Swiss Pairs Congress: Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 April. As advised in the January newsletter, we haven't held a Congress since 2020 but we are well underway with our planning for 2023. So reserve the date – and watch this space for more details!

It's encouraging to see our field sizes continuing to grow. Please contact me if I can be of help with your Bridge.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com
or call: 0459 023 907

Australia Day Teams

Peter Rostron



Australia Day Teams event was held on Thursday 26th Jan 2023 and was a fun day which was hotly contested at all levels of skill. Sixteen teams were nominated on the day which was the best attendance for this event since the start of Covid.

The room was nicely decked out in all sorts of Australiana by Hilary Lewis and her helpers. The players were met at the door with an assortment of "Australian" delicacies such as bread and Cockie's Joy and scones ably provided by Carmel Pollard and her loyal band of assistants.



Many players were dressed in some form of Australian garb but special mention must be made to our Novice team (Margaret Cusack, Kay Oxley, Janet Campbell and Desley Weallans) who exceeded all expectations with their "Team Uniform" and should be congratulated on their effort.

Play proceeded throughout the day very smoothly under the direction of Mark Miller and his very capable band of directors. Three rounds of 9 boards were played in the morning and the afternoon. General consensus at the end of the day was that everybody had fun and possibly learnt a few tricks along the way.



Handicap winners on the day were the Amos Team (Cecily Barrack, Sophie Davis, Hilary Lewis and her Daughter Karen Amos from Brisbane). Runners-up were the Whitely team (Jenny McDowell, Jenny Wardley, Heather Whitely and Chris McDowell). An encouragement award was also presented to the Novice Team (as mentioned above) for their effort and the commitment to coming and playing in the event.





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Rank Promotions:

Rank Promotions at end January: - A Good month with 8 promotions!

Graduate: **Margaret Cussack**

Silver Local: **Jan Roberts**

Bronze Regional: **Ina Buhse**

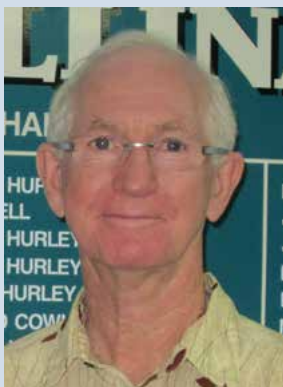
Bronze State: **Heather Whitely**

Bronze Life: **Clive Klugman**

Silver Life: **Anne Riley**

Gold Life: **Deb McLay**

Silver Grand: **Gary Lynn**



New Silver Grand Master: Congratulations to Gary Lynn for achieving this milestone: 2500 masterpoints. At end December Gary was 19 masterpoints short of the gold/red masterpoint requirement, but he 'gathered' these, and more, at the National Summer Festival of Bridge held in Canberra in January; with 10 consecutive days of 'tough' Bridge!

Ballina Mah Jong Club News

On average, 30 players have been attending the Friday afternoon Mahjong sessions.

The winners for the month of January:

6th	Lorna Simpson
13th	Carol Meyer
20th	Lisa Wong
27th	Vanessa Reynolds



Looking forward - Some of our members are keen to participate in the two one-day events in Queensland in March 2023.

Congratulations to Cathy and Phil Hocking:

Their team finished second in the National Life Master Teams at the 2023 Summer Festival of Bridge held in Canberra in January. It was a 9-round event (20 boards) held over 3 days: Well Done.



Photo L-R: Jody Swane (Newcastle), Marcey Spilsbury (Perth), Cathy Hocking and Philip Hocking. Jody and Marcey play online Bridge but it was the first time Cathy and Phil had met Marcey face to face.

Lessons for Beginners

Beginner lessons will start on Monday February 6th and run for 6 weeks.

Daytime Bridge lessons will be Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11am, with only the final two weeks on Mondays then Fridays.

Please tell your friends if you know of someone who may be interested in the classes.

Cost is kept at \$80 for the course and notes.

Evening classes - For information on evening classes for 2023 please call Lyn Graham for bookings 0499 868 417

Rebecca Rogers

Negative Doubles

Paul Smith



Partner opens the bidding and your right-hand opponent makes an overcall. Of course, you can Pass or make any sufficient bid but you now have another option that becomes available because of the interference. You can Double. Doubling in this situation is known as a Negative Double. The reason it is negative is because, first and foremost, you are denying support for your partner's suit.

On the positive side, you are telling partner that you would have responded if there was no interference (so you have 6+ points). The suits you are showing depends on the situation but there is an emphasis on Majors.

If both Majors have been bid, Double promises both minors, at least four cards in each. You are bidding two suits with a single call.

If both minors have been bid, Double promises both Majors, at least four cards in each. Again, you are bidding two suits with a single call.

If one Major has been bid, Double promises four cards in the other Major.

A recent example. You are West on Australia Day

Brd: 1	West			
Dir: N	♠ 9843			
Vul: Nil	♥ K962			
	♦ KJ4			
	♣ 64			
	W	N	E	S
		P	1♦	2♣
	?			

If South had not intervened then you would have responded 1♥. Because of the interference any bid you make would be at the two level and so promise 10 points. The perfect solution is to Double. This promises at least four cards in both Majors and six or more points. The interference does not actually cause you much of a problem because you get to bid both of your suits with a single call.

With 10 or more points (say you also had the ♠A) then you would still Double to show both suits. If partner then bids a Major, you would raise it one level to show your extra strength.

On the particular hand partner had four Spades and so a fit was found at the two level.

Another example

Dir: N	South			
	♠ 765			
	♥ 73			
	♦ A743			
	♣ Q542			
	W	N	E	S
		1♥	1♠	?

Now you are sitting South and partner opens 1♥. If you had support for partner then of course you would raise them but here you only have two Hearts.

First consider what you would do if there was no interference. Your correct response would be 1NT as you don't have enough points to bid at the two level and you don't have four Spades.

The interference gives you a much better option — Double. You promise four cards in both minors and at least six points (as well as denying three card Heart support). A perfect description. Thank you, East!

What happens next? It depends on partner's hand but you have given a great description for them to base their next bid on. With a four card minor they bid it, confident of a fit. With Spades stopped they may choose No Trumps knowing that you can help with the minors and that you have 6 points to help them.

Negative Doubles

Paul Smith



The version of a Negative Double that seems to pop up most often is the third variety.

Dir: N		South	
		♠ Q765	
		♥ 73	
		♦ A43	
		♣ 8542	
W	N	E	S
	1♥	2♣	?

You would have happily responded 1♠ to your partner's opening but that option has been taken away from you. A Double in this position is Negative and shows four cards in the unbid Major (Spades), six or more points and denies three card support for partner. Perfect description.

How far do your Negative Doubles go? If partner opens 1♥ and the overcall is 4♠ would your double be considered Negative? That depends on your partnership agreement which you can record on your system card.

Negative doubles through

4♥

If that was your system card then doubling 4♠ would be **penalty** and not Negative.

Dir: N		South	
		♠ A9765	
		♥ KQJ53	
		♦ A4	
		♣ 8	
W	N	E	S
	1♠	3♥	X
P	?		

A short trip to the other side of the table ...

You have opened your five card Spade suit and heard a jump overcall in Hearts. Partner's Negative Double tells you that they do not have support for your Spades, they have six points or more and at least four cards in both minors. What to do?

Pass! (and try not to lick your lips - they are going down)



Happy Birthday
to two lovely ladies
Elaine Skimmings 90th
Lyn Graham 80th



Au revoir - Jenny Wardley - Life member

What can one say when one of the Clubs treasures decides to leave and move interstate? Jenny is one of the longest serving members of Ballina Bridge Club. It is an understatement to say she has made a major and significant contribution to the Club over several decades, including her years as President. Jenny is a Life Member, but as much as she has contributed to the Club, she has also found incredible personal support and friendship.

We wish Jenny the very best in her new adventures and remind her she is always very welcome back at Ballina Bridge Club. So Jenny it is not farewell we say but au revoir.

Robert Eldridge

Early Life

I was born in Narrandera, the 5th (& surprise) child. My Dad was a policeman and he took transfers to further his career. I was the only child still at home when we moved to Gosford where I attended Gosford High School. Gosford was rather important in my life as one Richard Wardley was in the year above me, and my four school friends are still very much in my life despite us being scattered around Australia. We holiday together most years and Zoom regularly. Over 60 years of friendship to treasure.

After the Leaving Certificate I started work at the local library and commenced Library qualifications by correspondence. After working for 18 months and 1/3 of the course done, I moved to Canberra where the National Library had a training school to relieve the shortage of staff needed for the new Library being built beside Lake Burley Griffin. We were to be at the training school a couple of days and work in different Department Libraries on rotation. If this sounds familiar

it is because Rebecca Rogers and Kathy Saurine were on the same programme. We had different surnames then and don't really remember one another! I struck it lucky and loved my first rotation and my boss requested that I stay. As a result, when the new Library opened I worked in the Advanced Studies Reading room overlooking the Lake and not available to the general public. So I helped politicians, authors, PhD students and serious researchers with their resources.

Richard was not happy with my move to Canberra and we broke up, but a chance meeting in the Gosford newsagents when we were both home for Fathers Day resulted in a date that night and the rest is history.... Married in June 1969.

I was bonded to the Commonwealth and he worked in Sydney so they had to find me a job.

Lucky again - The Dept. of External Territories had a Training School for teachers and Patrol Officers who were going to PNG, situated



on Middle Head at Mosman. We bought a home unit in Lane Cove and Richard was the Rate Clerk at Baulkham Hills Council. I had urged him to finish the Accountancy and Town Clerks course he had started and so after a few moves around the State furthering his career, our last move before Ballina was 15 years in Goulburn where Richard was General Manager of the Council and our children did their schooling.

In 1993 with the kids left home but one still at Uni and Richard suffering migraines and fluctuating

BP he, and his doctor, convinced me that a move to Ballina would be a good idea. Our neighbour in Goulburn wanted to learn Bridge and they needed a 4th so I went along to 4 lessons and then played at the Club - horrific but I saw the future. Moving to Ballina opened a Bridge world I hadn't imagined and when Richard developed a brain tumour and died within 4 years of being here the Bridge Club friends got me through. You know who you are and I will never forget.

What do you consider the strengths of the Bridge Club?

For me it is the camaraderie and I think the struggle to own OUR own premises led to a desire for success. The generosity of the members, especially the teachers who ensure a steady stream of new players and all those who do little jobs to help or provide afternoon teas and the committees and Directors without whom there would be no play. The OUR is in Capitals because everyone should remember we all benefit and all can do something to help.

What is one of the most humorous memories of Bridge?

I do remember a time when South and West both claimed the 13th trick with the Ace of Diamonds. DIRECTOR! Only then did we discover that South was playing with a red pack and the rest of were playing with blue. NO NAMES!

What is your greatest Bridge achievement?

Coming 2nd overall at the Yamba Congress with Jenny McDowell. We started way down in B Grade. Being President was also a highlight.

What is your greatest disappointment?

That after nearly 30 years that the above is the greatest achievement.

What will you miss most about leaving?

The wonderful forgiving partners I have had over the years. At the risk of offending I will particularly miss Vicki, Jenny, Lyn, Barbara, June Perry and of course the late Mary Leonard and Judy Lawson. I've enjoyed every game with every partner despite the result. I will miss walking in to the room and knowing every smiling face. I dread walking into a club full of strangers but hopefully...

Advice for new players

Remember that everyone was a beginner once and if they don't remember that, it is their problem. Choose who you take advice from. Learn from the experience and ENJOY.

Why are you leaving and where are you going?

Good question Robert!

I do not have any relatives in the area and as I get older I realise it would be nice to have someone around. So I decided to make the

decision while it was mine to make and am moving to a retirement community in Brisbane at Chermside - an easy walk to shops and medical services and about 2 to 3 kms from my daughter Linda and family. It is a large facility with bowling green, pool, cafe and lots of activities. It is called Wheller on the Park. My son Ben and family live in Sydney but they will visit. Ben is a partner in a firm whose main office is in Brisbane so he flies up for meetings.

What plans have you for your new life?

I plan to join a new Bridge Club - either Northern Suburbs or Arana and I have been a member of VIEW (voice, interest, education, women) who support students through the Smith Family, so will transfer to the club there.

Might take up bowls, watch my Grandson play cricket and I think my 8yo granddaughter thinks "when things don't go her way at home - she'll go to grandmas".

Parting words

Am I the first Life Member to leave while alive? Don't say you weren't warned.

Seriously it has been an honour and just being a member of BBC has been a privilege and a joy. I will miss you all - but will visit. I also expect visitors. It is a serious downsize but will have a spare ensuite room.

My phone number is in the book. No excuses

THANKYOU ❤️ THANKYOU 😊

The Contested Auction - Type 2

Mark Miller

We all know that a contested auction is when both pairs are bidding in the auction. But there is another type where one pair passes throughout and both players from the other pair are having a bidding battle. The featured hand is Board 5 at Ballina from Saturday 28th January

Optimum:
NS 4S+1; +650
LoTT: 14-14 = 0

♠ A Q 9 6 5 2
♥
♦ A J 10 9 7 2
♣ 2

♠ 8 7
♥ K 5 4
♦ Q 6 5 4
♣ K 8 7 4

11 5
8 16

Bridge Solver Online:
John Goacher
Double Dummy Solver Module:
Bo Haglund

♠ J 10 4 3
♥ J 10 8 2
♦ K 8
♣ 9 6 5

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	3	5	3	5	3
S	3	4	3	5	3
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-



Those playing Multi-Twos might open the North hand 2S (spades and a minor) but this hand is way too strong for that action. 1S should be a standard opening bid. But always have in mind what your second bid is going to be. Simple enough if partner bids 1NT or 2C but what if they bid 2H?

N	E	S	W
1S	/	2H	/
3D	/	3NT	/
4D	/	4H	/
4S	/	4NT	///

Sitting North I decided that 3NT was probably not a good place to be due to the poor communication between the hands so overcalled 4D. Partner wanted to be in game so suggested 4H. With no hearts I thought 4S would be a better chance. Given that I didn't think 3NT would make, partner

was perhaps a bit ambitious in trying 4NT. Both of us got it wrong as 3NT does make, so does 4S and even 5D. Tricky to work out who should give in. With that high spade honour and two red aces I think partner should have accepted 4S as the contract. Of course Lorraine pointed out that 3NT would make. Hopefully we provided some bidding amusement to the opposition.

Perhaps my second bid of 3D overstates the strength of my hand. Bidding directly to 4D would strongly suggest game in Spades or Hearts. Again perhaps too strong an action given partner has only promised 10 HCPs.

N	E	S	W
1S	/	2H	/
2S	/	3C	/
3S	/	4S	///

Maybe my second bid should only be 2S. My hand is not that strong unless I find a suit fit with partner. Over partner's 3C response I have options of 3NT or 4S (to bid diamonds now would be looking for a diamond stopper from South). This is probably how a few pairs ended up in NT by North. But I

would still think this is a gamble with the mis-fitting hands.

Many NS pairs matched our result of one off but there was a variety of contracts. Well done to those who stopped in 4S or 3NT.

If you don't know what a ruffing-finesse is then play the hand with bridge solver. The trick is not to finesse the club but to rise with the Ace on the first play of that suit. Then continue to lead club honours from south. You are hoping the KC is in the West hand so will discard losers unless it appears in which case you ruff. Click on this link to play: [Board5](#)

Harvey Norman

Mixed Pairs

Wednesdays: Feb 8 & 15

Red Masterpoints at State Championship Level
(Weighting = 3.75)

Please:

- ◆ **Try and find a mixed partner**
- ◆ **Nominate online**

Normal \$5 voucher on the day

Conditions:

1. Open to all members of Ballina Bridge Club
2. Event will be held as the regular Wednesday session.
3. Substitutes will be allowed according to Ballina Bridge Club policy
4. Winners determined by best average score over the 2 rounds.

Event Organiser: Marjorie Askew

**This event is also our Club Qualifier for the State
Mixed Pairs Championships***

* For Regulations go to: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=smp>

COUNTRY TEAMS 2023

BALLINA CLUB QUALIFIER



Saturday 11 February

Time: 9.15 for 9.30 am

Cost: \$15.00pp (\$60 per team)

Red Masterpoints at State Championship Level

Please bring your own lunch

The event is open to all players within our Region. Teams finishing in the top half the field will be eligible to continue to the Regional Final (or possibly direct to the Zonal Final) as part of the NSWBA John Arkinstall State Teams*.

Event Organiser: Liz Jeffery

Please contact Liz for help with teammates

Please nominate online: (Teams of 4/5/6 or as a Pair)

by: 6pm Wednesday 8 February

* For full Regulations go to: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=sot>

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**Harvey
Norman**



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