



Newsletter March 2023

Message from the President

Judy Forsyth



Greetings All,

A very warm welcome to new home club members, Deborah Carlbergg, Paul Cochrane, Stella Patel, Michael Shoham and social members Janena Bird and Sally Hudson. We wish you many hours of fun, good friendships and probably a smidgen of frustration with these intriguing games we play.

Chris McDowell has showed his prowess yet again. Many months ago, Rob Eldridge suggested to me we should have some open storage for members to put their handbags etc. Recently I ran this thought past Chris. He measured, priced costs and agreed he would do so. As usual, labour was not considered. The result now completes the organisation of a neat and tidy northern end of our club room. Thanks seems such a small way of showing our gratitude, but is meant in a big way. Now, please Chris, fix Jenny's back screen door!

We said our goodbyes to Jenny Wardley at the beginning of this month as she moves to Queensland, closer to family. I feel confident that we shall see Jenny from time to time as she pops back to Ballina to visit friends. Jenny has been a member of Ballina Bridge Club from early days in the Masonic Hall. She moved with the club to our new

premises and spent much time and loads of effort in the early days of establishing the grounds and stocking cupboards, being on committees with the other hard-working members. Jenny has been on various committees and is a Life Member. Enjoy the new friends you will make at your new bridge club. We wish you the very best in this transition in your life.

Thank you to the many members who have been adding their name to the roster for Share the Load. Please keep doing so. If everyone did a little something, a lot would get done.

Damien Kennedy has agreed to take on the role of our Welfare person. Margaret Reddy will be the back-up person when Damien is away or not available. Many thanks Damien and Margaret. Please keep them informed.

A band of members recently cleaned & tidied the storeroom - Hilary Lewis, Lorraine Bryant, Lesley Burford and myself. Howard Jeffery and Ken Cutcliff sorted the maintenance equipment. Damien and Aida Kennedy took a run to the waste centre, with much being dropped at their recycling area. Thanks to these wonderful members who just keep on giving.

It has been sad that three men from the club have passed away recently. These being John

Paynter, Norm Peart and Henry Hirschhorn.

If your personal details have changed since completing your membership form, please inform us. This is particularly vital in an emergency if a contact person phone number is no longer current. There are some slips of paper on the entry desk for you to add any change of addresses, phones and so on.

If you have ordered a badge, they will be delivered this week. However, some are yet to pay for theirs. Please pay online or via our internal mailbox asap. Thankyou.

Judy Forsyth

President

Thai By Night

Winners of the Thai by Night birthday vouchers:

January:

Chris Pezzutti and Elaine Skimmings

February:

John Dennis and Lorraine Miller





Newsletter March 2023

Play Committee Report - February 2023

Marjorie Askew



Our bridge year is now well underway with a mix of regular club sessions and special events at the Club. It's great to see some of our newer players 'joining in' (NB: some are 'fearless'!) – and winning masterpoints.

Then there's 'away' events and a 'big' contingent from our club participated in the recent Gold Coast National Congress. Whilst we had no 'bridge winners' to report, I hear, all had a good time enjoying the (challenging) bridge and of course checking out the local Broadbeach restaurants.

Special Events in February:

Wednesdays 8th and 15th:

Harvey Norman Mixed Pairs: This event was well supported – thanks to everyone who 'found' a mixed partner for the 2-week event, and to Gary Lynn for helping with some 'match-making' for partners.

It was a tight finish with only 7 matchpoints separating the top 3 pairs. And with 30 matchpoints available per each board there may well have been some agonising over: 'What might have been'! Final placings:

1st: Gary Lynn and Anne Riley:
57.78% (1,106 matchpoints)

2nd: Terry Lowe and Cecily Barrack: 57.63% (1,103 matchpoints)

3rd: Peter and Helen Tootell:
57.42% (1,099 matchpoints)

Saturday 11th Country Teams

Club Qualifier: This Teams Day at the Club was also well supported with 13 Teams participating. With an odd number of Teams we had to play a whist movement which was well organised by our Directors: Phil Hocking and Mark Miller. Thanks to Liz Jeffery as Event Organiser – Liz was busy juggling players and reserves into Teams of 4/5/6.

The top 6 Teams are now eligible to progress to the Regional Final which is pencilled in for Sunday May 28. Eligible teams will be contacted nearer the date with details.

1. Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Gary Lynn, Clive Klugman, Janet Brown, Anne Jackson
2. Mark Miller, Lorraine Miller, Helen and Peter Tootell
3. Lyn Graham, Lesley Burford, Mary Goodall, Ellen Watson
4. Judy Forsyth, Carol Hocking, Judith Crafti, Deb McLay
5. Liz Jeffery, Howard Jeffery, Chris Leivers, Ernie Scott
6. Anne Riley, Maureen Baker, Jenny and Chris McDowell

(For more information on the Country/State Teams go to: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=sot>)

Coming Up:

Our current focus is on planning and marketing our Swiss Pairs Congress to be held on Saturday 22 April and Sunday 23 April. It will be a 3-session event, starting at 10am on Saturday and concluding with lunch and presentations on the Sunday; so finishing at about 2.15pm. You'll see details for the event on pages 8-9. There are also hard copy flyers at the Club - on the entry table. Please help by promoting the event to bridge players at our Club and beyond.

The Congress was promoted at the recent Gold Coast Congress; information has been emailed to Clubs and is available on the NSWBA Calendar - go to: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/eventDetails.asp?tid=3787&T=C>

Entries are via the NSWBA website and payment is strongly preferred by direct bank transfer.

We hope to have enough entries for prizes in 3 masterpoint divisions; and here our Club has 'spearheaded' equal prize money per each division. So it is definitely an event for all levels of bridge experience.

Another + is that we are offering billets ie just like the old days! With rising hotel prices visitors may like to avail themselves of an overnight billet; Liz Jeffery is coordinating billets.



Play Committee Report - February 2023

The McDermott Cup Sunday May 21: A date for your bridge calendar: Lismore are re-introducing this inter-club event which will be held in two Divisions: Open and Restricted (all players <200 masterpoints). We will be inviting nominations to represent our Club in due course.

Glitches: A couple of recent 'hiccoughs':

1. Confusion over some club session starting times towards end February: This was because I was away at the Gold Coast and so in a different time zone and I forgot to correct for this when setting up sessions. (As you can imagine time zones are a 'bain of life' for those developing booking systems.)

2. The movement went 'awry' at Saturdays March Championship

round so the Championship Round was cancelled. Play Committee will advise further.

Please contact me, or a member of the Play Committee, with any feedback, or if we can be of help with your bridge.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

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

Gold Coast Congress 2023

Desley and I attended the Rookies comp at the Gold Coast in February, and what a learning experience! We had signed up for the event late last year, fresh out of the lessons and didn't quite know what to expect. The venue was massive with lots of tables and was divided into different competition grades. We met players from all over Australia and many pairs played in different levels - rookies, novice, walk-in pairs. Our first opponents were a lovely pair of women from the Kenmore club which set the tone for a fun session. There were still laughs albeit more subdued. Play was the same as at the Ballina club - bidding pad and Bridgemate. I had a good time and would encourage the newbies to have a go next year!



Margaret Cusack

Rank Promotions:

Rank Promotions at end February:

Graduate: **Kay Thornton**

Local: **Angela Mathews**

Bronze State: **Sue Burns**

Ballina Mah Jong Club News

We are pleased to welcome our new members to our Club.

The winners for the month of February:

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 2nd | Joy Lowein |
| 10th | Pauline Kearney |
| 17th | Jeanette Henwood |
| 24th | Gayle McDonagh |



Defeat that bad break

Paul Smith



Players pick up fairly quickly on the basic finessing situations. If dummy has ♥AQ7 but we only have small cards we are taught early on to lead a small card from hand *towards* the dummy and play the Queen if the King does not appear. It gives you a roughly 50-50 chance of making two tricks. Just lead the Ace and you will hardly ever make a trick with the Queen. It is important which hand leads to the trick.

But there are many, many other situations where the idea of finding a favourable layout of the cards can generate an extra trick or tricks. Players often bemoan that a suit 'broke badly' and their contract fails. But does a bad break have to cause failure?

- ♥Q952 Consider this combination. Losing to the Ace is inevitable. If the outstanding cards divide (or *break*) three in one hand and two in the other then that is all you will lose. But what if you encounter the dreaded *bad* break where one opponent has four cards? A finesse does not guarantee extra tricks but it can increase your chances.
- ♥KJ43

The King, Queen and Jack are touching honours. The card to look out for is the Nine which is not in sequence with the others but *nearly* so. When you have the famous AQ combination you need to lead from the *other* hand. In this case the Nine is nearly in sequence so you need to arrange the lead from the other hand. How does it work?

First lead the ♥K which will probably draw the Ace from the opponents. When next you gain the lead you need to play the ♥J — the honour opposite the non-touching combination. If both opponents follow suit then you have drawn four cards from them and there is only one left. The ♥Q9 will make two tricks, no problem. But what if the hand on your right does not follow suit when you lead the Jack?

In that case you know that the hand on your left has the ♥10x remaining and you can lead the ♥3 from your hand and just cover whatever card West plays. You will win three tricks and have guarded against the dreaded bad break.

| | | |
|--------|-------|----|
| | ♥Q952 | |
| ♥A1086 | | ♥7 |
| | ♥KJ43 | |

Perhaps the entire suit looks like this

Play it out in your head or by laying out the cards to see how it works. Lead the ♥K and you will see the ♥A and ♥7 from the opponents. Now regain the lead and play the ♥J. This will win but East shows out. Now you can lead the ♥3 and West's ♥108 has no chance against your skill. The suit has broken

badly but you have allowed for the possibility.

What if the four card suit is in the East hand? There is nothing you can do about it. Just the same as you can't do anything about the case where you have the AQ and the King is in the wrong place. But some of the time you gain an extra trick and some of the time is better than never.

What about this?

♣K1053

♣AQ62

If the suit breaks 3-2 then there is no problem. All the opponents' cards will appear as you play off the Ace, King and Queen. But what if you get a bad break and one opponent has four cards headed by the Jack?

The same approach works as in the previous example. Identify which hand has the gap between the high cards and play the honours from the *other* hand first. In this case the Ace, King, Queen are in sequence and then there is a gap to the ♣10. Lead the ♣A and then the ♣Q taking the honours opposite the gap (the technical term is

Defeat that bad break

Paul Smith



‘tenace’). If the hand on your right does not follow to the lead of the Queen then the suit has broken badly but you know where the Jack is and have it trapped with the ♣K10.

| | | |
|-------|--------|----|
| | ♣K1053 | |
| ♣J984 | | ♣7 |
| | ♣AQ62 | |

Again, lay out the cards like this

and play it one card at a time to see how the location of the Jack will be revealed to you and how you can prevent it gaining a trick.

It is fair to say that these combinations are not really finesses. With a true finesse you are hoping that a particular card is in a particular hand. With these examples it is revealed to you exactly where the missing card is and you get an extra trick because you have planned for the eventuality.

2022 NSW UHMP Championship

We received the results of the 2022 Under 100 Master Point championship conducted by the NSW Bridge Association last November and certificates and prizes were presented.



Peter Rostron

There were 4 categories contested in this event, 0 to 10 MP, 10 to 25 MP, 25 to 50 MP and 50 to 100 MP.

In the Ballina Club results (on adjusted handicap scores) the winners were Kay Oxley and Robyn Thomas with a 62.11% result and they were presented with a prize for their overall win as well as a certificate for their category of 0-10mp.

Chris Fitzgerald and Margaret Reddy 10-25MP, Jan Roberts and Peter Rostron 25-50MP, Bruce Mathieson and Geoff Brooks 50-100MP, received certificates for coming first in the club results for their respective categories.

A special congratulation should go to Kay and Robyn who are brand new players and they actually came 4th in the State in their category and 9th out of 189 players in the state overall. (Photo on right).

Well done ladies!

We actually had 3 pairs figure in the top 50 in the State, they were Kay and Robyn, Bruce Mathieson and Geoff Brooks 22nd and Jan Roberts and Peter Rostron 33rd.



Player Profile - Margaret Cusack

Margaret is one of the newer players to join our Club. She has impressed us all with her dedication to the game, and her fearlessness, including competing in a team of novice players in the Gold Coast Congress.

Margaret has a fascinating background. This profile provides one with a starting point from which to ask her further about her life.

Robert Eldridge

Where were you born and what were your early years like?

I was born in Hong Kong. My grandfather had emigrated to Vancouver, Canada in the early 1920s and my grandmother travelled by boat to join him some years later. My parents started the process in the 1950s. Hong Kong was transit point for my parents and older brothers' migration from southern China to Canada. It turned out to be a very long stopover as five of us siblings were born in Hong Kong / Macau.

We arrived in Canada when I was 4 years old. I don't remember much about early years in Hong Kong, except for very crowded living conditions. Early years in Vancouver were both difficult and carefree. We were the only Chinese family in our neighbourhood which posed many challenges, but my teachers were very supportive of us. My parents worked multiple jobs and we were left to look after ourselves. We were, however, free to play and ride our bikes in the neighbourhood until dark.

What family do you have? What achievements are you most proud of in your family?

I am number 6 of 8 children. All my family live in Vancouver or the U.S. My 93-year-old father has



visited a few times over the last years and absolutely loves the lifestyle here.

My husband is an engineer / IT developer. We have two children in their mid-twenties. Jonathan lives with his partner in Traralgon VIC and is a psychiatry registrar at the hospital, studying the specialty at uni. Jade lives in Hobart, working as an oral health therapist. Living in Alstonville, water polo was a big part of our lives. Jade has resumed her love of the sport and has been playing and coaching girls' teams in Tasmania.

I am proud that my parents had the courage to forge a new life in a foreign country without the language skills, adapting to a new culture. I am also very pleased that

we have raised two young adults who are kind, considerate, and generally living a happy, balanced life with thoughtful partners.

What was your occupation? What was the greatest challenge at work?

My first job out of university was at a stock brokerage firm. I subsequently worked for CSR Bradford Insulation in marketing and setting up the Vancouver office. My husband also worked for CSR, and was posted from Australia to Canada to run the Grand Forks factory (about 6-hour drive from Vancouver). We met in an elevator at a conference in Victoria on Vancouver Island.

After Vancouver, we were posted to Malaysia for 3 years and Thailand for 2 years, building a

Player Profile - Margaret Cusack

greenfield rockwool factory. I worked in marketing and project administration. We got married in Thailand, and in between completing the project and commissioning, our son was born at Pattaya Hospital. We were offered another posting to China but declined as we wanted to settle in Australia with a newborn, and moved to Sydney.

When did you move to Ballina and why?

Moving to the Northern Rivers in 1999 was our sea change. After full-on work commitments, we wanted a more balanced lifestyle to raise our family. Jade was born in Lismore one month after our move. We owned a wholesale nursery for 20 years, concurrent with IT Consulting and bookkeeping businesses. This enabled us to spend time with our young family and be involved in the local, school and sporting communities. We sold the nursery about four years ago and work from home, semi-retired.

To immerse myself in the Chinese culture and language, I taught English to university students in Xian, China for six months in 2019, returning to Australia just before the Covid border closures in 2020. I had accepted an offer from QLD TAFE to teach accounting in Shanghai later that year, but Covid and the floods have changed those plans.

It was a challenge working in Asia being an Asian with mostly western outlooks. I think the locals sometimes did not quite

know how to take me. However, the biggest challenge at work was working with my husband in a small business, and I think he would say the same about me.

What lead to you taking up Bridge? Do any of your family play cards?

I had always heard that bridge was hard to learn. I heard the ad for lessons on the local radio, thought 'Right, I am ready for a challenge' and signed up for the lessons. I had played some poker during my uni days but not any other

welcoming club with many members contributing their time and expertise. I've had lots of encouragement and mentoring from the teachers, my partner and other established members of the club to my question of "How could I have played better?"

What do you like most about Bridge?

I enjoy the social aspect as much as the mental challenge. I always have a laugh or two during the sessions, regardless of how I played.



card games. My son has recently started lessons at his local bridge club which he very much enjoys. I look forward to sharing this interest with him.

What are your initial impressions of Ballina Bridge Club?

There appears to be genuine care between club members and a social / support network. It is a well organised and

What other interests do you have?

I love to travel and have visited 20 countries so far. I am a sometimes deckhand, crew or galley wench to support my husband's sailing. I have on and off tried to learn the guitar and ukulele, but have a long way to go. Mostly, I have always done some sort of learning - formal study and short courses. My next project is to learn to read and write Chinese.



Ballina Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Congress April 22 & 23, 2023



Play starts: Saturday 10am, Sunday 9.30am

Cash prizes in masterpoint divisions

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA
Red Masterpoints at B4 Level

Cross Imps Scoring
Green, Blue & Red Systems only

Cost: \$80 per Player, \$160 per Pair

Entries via NSWBA website
Entries close 6pm Saturday April 15

Tournament Director
Mark Miller

Event Organiser

Marjorie Askew

0459 023 907

e: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

Billets Coordinator

Liz Jeffery

0414 492 110

e: liznhow@gmail.com

All players are subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

Ballina Bridge Club

13, North Creek Road, Ballina

email: bbclub@internode.on.net Tel: 02 6681 5533

Website: <https://ballinabridge.org.au>

PROGRAMME

Saturday 22nd April: Commences 10am, concluding approx. 5.45pm.

Sunday 23rd April: Commences 9.30am, with light lunch and drinks following play and then Presentations, concluding by approx. 2.15pm.

Numbers of matches, and boards, will depend on entries.

SCORING will be Cross-Imps which seems to becoming more popular worldwide for Pairs events with Imps scoring.

PRIZES

Generous prizes will be awarded determined by number of entries. We expect to award prizes in 3 Divisions: Open, Intermediate and Restricted; 'Intermediate' is the middle third of the field; 'Restricted' the lower third of the field. *And* we award equal prize money per each division.

LUNCHES

On Saturday please BYO Lunch. On Sunday a light lunch will be provided; we will endeavour to offer Gluten Free and Vegetarian options – but please request with your entry. Tea/coffee and light refreshments will be available all day.

BILLETS

Our members are very willing to offer overnight billets for Friday and/or Saturday nights – so you can experience our 'Ballina hospitality'. Please contact Liz Jeffery who will help you with this: e: liznhow@gmail.com, phone: 0414 492 110.

ENTRIES & PAYMENTS

Please enter via the Tournament Calendar on the NSWBA website. Preferred payment is direct to our bank account: BSB: 650 300 A/C No: 551649703 and by the closing date; please reference your surname and ABF Number. For all entry queries please contact the Event Organiser: Marjorie Askew.

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters

**Harvey
Norman**



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