

Newsletter August 2023

Message from the President



Judy Forsyth

Greetings All,

Welcome to new/returning members of our club. Ann Hewitt and Ramsay Roper are Social members and Karyn Scanlan is an Associate member. Enjoy your Mahjong and Bridge with great company.

July and continuing into August, have seen much activity with day and evening lessons. Lyn Graham, assisted by Bob Hart and with Margaret Reddy when required, have been busy with our day lessons. Clive Klugmann, assisted by Sue Fielder, have just started our evening classes. Thankyou to these wonderful members who are helping our club to grow.

There has been a good deal of maintenance going on with screen doors being fixed, updated and locks repaired. Ken Cutcliffe has overseen this process. Many thanks Ken. Howard and Ken keep all repairs, inspections etc up to date with great efficiency. Thanks gents. The rear gardens are having a much needed cut back & clean up. The new dishwasher is up and running after a minor hiccup. Our wonderful cleaners have been very tolerant with leaks for an extended period of time.

There will be some copies of our newsletter available each month on the front desk for members who prefer to read in a hard copy form rather than on the computer. When you finish, feel free to return the copy for others.

The AGM is nearing - Saturday, 9th September. Business papers will be available shortly. We will use the same format as last year with the business of the AGM, followed by a morning tea with a Forum after for all to discuss the day to day business and running of the club. Please remember that Motions put to the AGM must be to do with the governance of the club. "Other" items can be discussed at the Forum with recommendations made for the incoming Management Committee.

Don't forget to decide which position on the Management Committee you would like to nominate for and/or nominate someone else.

Cheers, Judy



Rank Promotions at end July:

Bronze Local: Geoff Brooks

Bronze Regional: Bruce Mathieson

State: Ina Buhse

Tkai By Night

Winners of the Thai by Night birthday vouchers:

Congratulations, August winners are: Carmel Pollard and Joyce Shepherd



Newsletter August 2023

Marjorie Askew

Events Gone:

1. Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs, Thursdays July 13 & 20: Congratulations to Geoff Brooks and Bruce Mathieson winners of the event, with Hilary Kerr and Angela Mathews runners-up.

13 Pairs competed in the 2-week event, along with some non-contending pairs. Numbers were a little lower than our regular Thursday sessions, which may well be because of school holidays, and Play Committee has 'made a note' to avoid school hols in scheduling for 2024.

2. GNOT Teams, Saturday July 29: 14 Teams competed in our Club qualifier of this national event. We played a 6-round Swiss movement. The top 7 Teams can proceed to the Regional Final which will be held at Ballina on Sunday 29 October. For the full results go to: https://ballina.bridgeaustralia.org/teamresults.asp?id=13037

Notable 'Good' news:

- i) All taking part won some gold masterpoints, and
- ii) Ellen Watson won enough gold points to become a Grand Master. Congratulations to Ellen. (As soon as the masterpoints are processed by the ABF Ellen's certificate should arrive.)

Thanks to our Event Organiser, Gary Lynn, to Mark for directing the day, and to our Dealing Team for preparing a generous number of sets, which also helped ensure the day ran smoothly.

Coming Up:

1. NSW State-wide Pairs Wednesday August 2: Clubs across NSW all play the same boards which are then scored state-wide and red masterpoints issued (at Congress B4 level). We'll see how we go...... State-wide results will be posted at: https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=swp

2. Teams Championships, Saturdays August 19 & 26: This Championship is played in our regular Saturday afternoon sessions, and in 2 Divisions: Open and B Grade (all players < 300 masterpoints as at 1.01.2023). Teams can be 4/5/6 players and all must be members of Ballina Bridge Club; and/or substitutes I'm the Event are allowed. Organiser – please contact me for help with partners/teammates.

Nominations close on Wednesday August 16. Tis 'normal' voucher on the day. See poster on page 9. (There will be no Pairs play on these Saturdays.)

3. IMPs Pairs: As previously advised Play Committee is planning more of these in our regular club sessions so players become more familiar with IMPs tactics and scoring; as opposed to matchpoints. For the week of September 4-9, all club sessions

will be IMP

Pairs – you'll see these on the online calendar.

4. Life Member's Day Wednesday September 6: If you're not a 'regular' Wednesday player think about coming along: Bridge + cake to celebrate our life members.

5. Inter-Club with the Gold Coast BC Sunday September 10: Our inter-club duel with the Gold Coast BC which will be hosted by us this year. We are looking for players across all masterpoint levels to represent the Club; the divisions will be determined once nominations have closed and in consultation with the Gold Coast Please nominate online in Pairs to show your interest for club selection, and by Saturday August 19 please so we can gauge how many teams we can field; + the more the merrier. We will again be competing for the Neil Raward Cup.

Looking further ahead please note that this year our **Charity Day** is on Monday October 9. We have decided to avoid the public holiday on October 2 as many members seem to have other commitments. It will be a full day's bridge – more details in our next newsletter.

For more information on these upcoming events, please ask.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

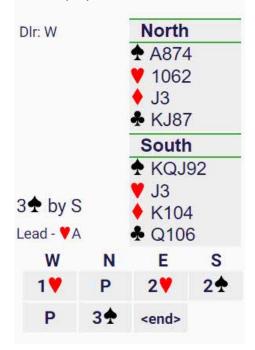
email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

or call: 0459 023 907

Paul Smith

One of my favourite books is **How** to **Read your Opponent's Cards** by **Mike Lawrence**. It is a book which focuses on locating missing honours, frequently Her Majesty but other members of the court also receive focus.

How to play this hand?



West leads the ♥A and then the ♥K and a small Heart to East's Queen which you ruff. There is no compelling reason to delay and so you draw trumps which only takes two rounds.

You have to lose the A which takes the tally to three losers. Your attention turns to the Diamond suit. You can afford to lose one trick but not two. You already know that leading towards honours is a good idea and so you will lead a Diamond from dummy but what will you play from your hand?

If you play the ◆10 and West wins the Queen you are one off but if they win with the Ace then your contract makes. Alternatively, if you play the ◆K and West wins the Ace then you are one off but if they don't have the Ace then your contract makes. What to do? King or Ten?

Like so many bridge questions the answer comes when you count and consider what is likely. Step one is to gather as much information as you can. Accordingly, you should play Clubs and keep playing until someone takes the Ace. It is a very interesting piece of information to know who has the Club Ace. Why?

Imagine that East shows up with the A. You saw that they had the Q at trick three and so now you know about six of their points. Will they also have the Diamond Ace? Unlikely, as that would give them 10 high card points, three card support for their partner's five card Major and a doubleton Spade. That is enough strength that most people would not make a simple raise of 1♥ to 2♥. And if they did then they are unlikely to pass out the auction opposite their partner's opening hand. All in all, if East has the A then they are very unlikely to have the ◆A as well.

Accordingly, your plan would be to lead a Diamond from dummy and play the ◆ 10 from your hand. Your contract makes unless West has both Diamond honours in which case you had no chance.

Conversely, what if West shows up with the ♣A? Will West also have the ◆A? This is unlikely because that leaves East with only four

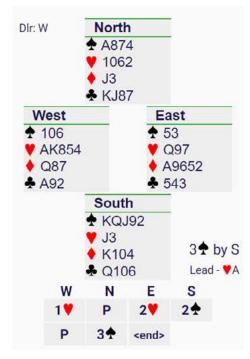
high card p o i n t s (Queen of Hearts and Queen of



Diamonds). It's possible but not likely. A further consideration is that if West has the ◆A then their hand is something like ♠xx ♥AKxxx ◆Axxx ♣Ax — 15 high card points made of Aces and Kings, support from partner for their Hearts and probably two doubletons (1NT is a more likely opening with a balanced hand). If West has both minor suit Aces as well as the top Hearts then they would probably bid 3♥over your call of 2♠.

In this case your plan is to lead a Diamond from dummy and play the King, feeling confident that West is not going to have the Ace.

One possible layout is

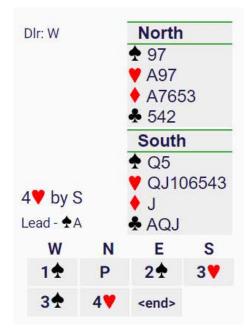


Here you will discover that it is West that has the Club Ace and so you place the Diamond Ace with East and play a Diamond towards your King, winning.

Who's got what?

Paul Smith

A second example



West leads the Spade Ace followed by the King and then they switch to the ◆ K. What's the problem? You have clear finesses in Hearts and Clubs, if they both fail you are unlucky because your finesses never work. Partner will commiserate and on to the next board.

But is there a better option? In the spirit of the previous example you can attempt to gather more information. After winning the • A in dummy you lead a low Club and play the Queen from your hand. If this wins then your troubles are probably over. Even if the Heart finesse loses you can repeat the Club finesse for ten tricks.

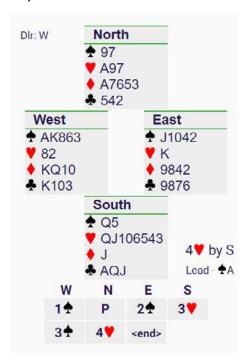
If the Club finesse loses then you need to think a bit harder. West wins and, say, leads a small Heart putting you to the guess. If West has the ♥K then you should play small from dummy so that your Queen can win. If this were to happen then what would West's hand be? You have seen some top Spades, a high Club and a very like • KQ. If they also have the ♥K then their hand is something like ♠AKxxx ♥Kx ♦KQx ♣Kxx. Would you only bid 3 with those yummy 18 points (five losers, if you are into that sort of thing) given that partner has promised you six points, a fit in Spades and a seemingly well placed ♥K? I wouldn't. Or, looking at the other side of the same coin, do you think East would bid 2♠ with **♠**J10xx ♥x ♦xxxx ♣xxxx? Maybe 3♠ or some sort of Bergen raise but 2♠ seems unlikely.

So, if the Club finess e loses and you are



presented with the trump guess then you should rise with dummy's Ace as a singleton King with East seems most likely at this stage.

Once you have learnt the position of most of the high cards in the other suits then there is very little room for the Heart King to be anywhere else.



Ballina Mah Jong Club News

Six members of the Mahjong Club are travelling to Caloundra to participate in the 2023 Annual Australasian Mahjong Festival 20th through 24th August. Apart from the four mornings play, excursions include a bus trip to Montville and cruises on Pumiceston Passage.

Winners for the month of July were:

July 7th Ronda Taylor

15th Pam Farrell

20th Joy Lowien

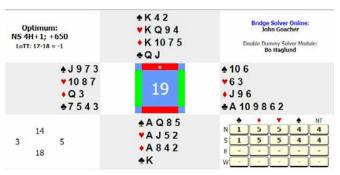
27th Margaret Bryant

- Vanessa Reynolds

Oops!

Oops - Unauthorised Information

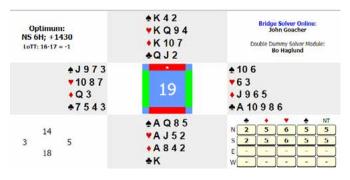
Unauthorised information from partner can come in a number of ways. In the featured hand this has come via a statement from partner that they have made a bidding mistake. Words like 'Oh ####!' may have been uttered but let's assume partner has said something tamer like 'Oops, I shouldn't have done that'. Probably not an unintended call, more likely a miscalculation of hand strength or length or forgetting the system. No point calling the director and hoping to be allowed to change your call if this is the case. But the extra comment does introduce the possibility of unauthorised information and the opponents might consider calling the director for a ruling.



In this hand with EW passing throughout, the bidding has been 1D-1H-4H. After bidding 4H South said oops and EW called the director. There may have been some unauthorised information but it is unclear exactly what this is. Perhaps South decided that there had been an overestimation of the strength of the hand. In the NS system it would be showing 19+ total points and four hearts. Hard to evaluate that singleton King. The director explained to North that they must

not make use of any unauthorised information and that if they do then an adjusted score may be awarded if the opponents are damaged. North pondered for a while and then passed. 11 tricks were readily made. At the conclusion of play EW made a further request for a ruling.

What would North have done if there had not been the oops comment? There is probably a double fit in Hearts and Diamonds. North knows from the bidding that partner has 19+ points and they have another 14. Law 16 talks about logical alternative bids that most players of similar experience would consider in a similar situation. Here asking for aces or key cards would be a common bid. After any ace ask North would know that South has three, they have the K and Q of trumps so a vulnerable slam in Hearts would be the logical thing to try. But the slam cannot make as there are losers in Diamonds and Clubs. Now EW have a valid claim that North may have made use of the unauthorised information and opted to Pass when asking for aces would propel them to the failing slam. The director would adjust the contract to 6H making 11 as this is a better result for EW.



With a slightly different hand the slam can now make. So if this was the situation then EW have not been disadvantaged by NS settling for game in Hearts. The director would not adjust the score.

So what can we all learn from this example?

- 1. **Don't make oops comments**. You should not indicate in any way that you have made an incorrect bid. You may be able to redress the situation with subsequent legal calls.
- 2. **If your partner has made an oops comment then you must ignore it and bid according to your system**. Any deviation from system might be interpreted as using unauthorised information and result in an adjusted score if the director believes that the non-offending side has been damaged.

Beverley Peart-Kuter - State Master



Beverley plays regularly at Ballina and also Lennox Head Bridge Club, She has held the positions of both Secretary and Assistant Secretary on the Committee of Management.

Beverley's interests extend beyond the bridge table, and she has made a significant contribution in other areas in Ballina.

Rob Eldridge

Where did you spend your early childhood and school years?

The third of four daughters, I was born to farming parents in Kadina, a little country town in South Australia. My forebears arrived in the district from Cornwall in the 1860s, so my family were well entrenched in country life. School life was spectacularly uneventful and led me to the typing



18 months of age

pool at the Electricity Trust of SA in Adelaide.

What did you do after school leading into your career?

At 18 I gave up the typewriter for nursing. That too was a passing phase; within another year I was sailing for NZ on a working holiday. In Auckland I worked as a waitress and then as a typist in two of the four major hospitals. More than two years later, having hitch-hiked round most of both islands of NZ, (my parents having given up on me by this stage) a decision had to be made — whether to stay in NZ and train as a radiographer, or return home and do some more thinking about my future. On my return to Australia, I soon met my first husband; we married twelve months later. I went back to office work with a government department until my daughter, Melanie, was born. One year later, at age 25 (supposedly the age at which the brain is fully developed) I was seized with the determination to acquire a tertiary education. As I had not matriculated, I began studying part-time by correspondence. Three years later I completed adult matriculation; that same year it was decreed that adults could enter university on the strength of an entrance exam if they had not previously matriculated.

During this time my family had grown further with the arrival of two lovely boys, Andrew and Toby.

I began part-time study for a Diploma of Teaching where I majored in Music Education and Educational Psychology. There was much time spent in childraising, study, singing lessons and weekly singing in a choir until, at last, at the ripe old age of 38, I began my teaching career at a private girls' school.



What was your occupation and where did you work?

teaching loved but, after two years, decided that there were just not quite enough hours in the day to accomplish all I wanted to do, so I arranged with Principal the switch to a fourday week teaching classroom music from Kindergarten to Gr 7. It was a joy, as I had recently



As a courtesan in the State Opera of SA 1982 production of "tales of Hoffman"

garnered much hands-on knowledge in this field from various music education workshops specializing in the Kodaly method of music education combined with Orff classroom instruments. I had much fun

Beverley Peart-Kuter - State Master

establishing the music programme and stocking the department with the necessary instrumental (Very noisy, array. all percussive). During this time. completed Associate Diploma in Singing and began singing in the chorus of the SA Opera

Company. This was very enjoyable and gave me further singing experience, addition in my singing in the leading a cappella chamber choir of SA. Chamber choir singing involved several international tours to such places as NZ, Norway, UK, Malaysia, Japan and Hong Kong.



As a fairy in a State of SA production of



As a townsperson at the ball in State Opera of SA 1996 production of Eugene Onegin.

Teaching in school and further study led to my tutoring in Music Education at the University from which I had graduated. After a year of full-time work in the Music Education Dept, the department was closed and I became redundant. Time to re-invent myself yet again.

What is something memorable from your work life?

At this time, I was fortunate to attend a workshop in Hobart which drilled a group of speech therapists and singers about the physiology and anatomy of voice production. At the end of that week, I sang for the other workshop members. I was amazed at

the sound I produced! It was the voice always wished had for, but could never before produce. This became the guiding light of the remainder of my working life. I determined to was pass on to as many others who wanted to hear, all that I had learned. I had already completed a post-grad Health Science course in counselling, so now had to choose between being a counsellor or a singing teacher. I



As the birdwoman in Ballina Players production of Mary Poppins 2017.

thought singing teaching offered the opportunity to combine the two, as singing is a mind-body-voice activity, an aerobic exercise, and an art form involving the emotions.

So, I plunged into the scary waters of the selfemployed. For six months I subsisted on my opera contracts and a handful of singing students in schools, whilst building my studio at home; hoping, each week, that no-one would call in sick. The day came when my book was nearly full, then full — bookings five and a half days a week. Eventually I found I could no longer keep a waiting list. These were the glory days of my career; I achieved an enormous sense of fulfillment helping so many students achieve their singing goals. As an adjunct to teaching I became an Australian Music Examination Board examiner and an adjudicator at Adelaide Eisteddfod. In 2010 I retired and moved up to Ballina where my elder son and his family lived, but not without some real pangs of regret at giving up the work I loved. I now coach voluntarily at Ballina Players.

What family do you have, and what do they do?

Melanie, Andrew and Toby are my raison d'etre. They are three wonderful individuals. Melanie, the mother of my only grandson, Henry, and granddaughter, Lucy, lives in America. Melanie was teaching in Sydney

Beverley Peart-Kuter - State Master

when the family left Australia in 2010, but has been a stay-at-home Mum in America.

Andrew began his life as a jazz guitarist gigging around Melbourne. However, the smell of an oily rag sustains dreams for only so long, so he now lives here with his wife and three daughters. He is an anæsthetist at Lismore Base and St Vincent's Hospitals.

Toby spent the first twenty years of his working life as a back-stage theatre technician in Adelaide. That particular oily rag also lost its sustaining power eventually, so he studied to qualify to work with marginalized youth. Surprisingly, Adelaide presented insufficient work opportunities for him, so he moved up here to find work and to take care of his father, Norm. Norm passed away earlier this year.

Toby now works full time with an NGO in Lismore as an after-hours youth support worker.



Beverley with her three children Melanie, Andrew and Toby.

What led you to take up Bridge and when?

When I started to think about retirement, I enrolled to have Bridge lessons with a private teacher in Adelaide. These lessons were a brief outline of Acol. After one year of Saturday morning play at BBC with my long-suffering partner Norma Pharaoh, I decided to begin learning Bridge as played at BBC in Lyn Graham's classes. Soon thereafter I met Michael, my second husband. He also attended the BBC lessons, and we continued more lessons with Liz Jeffery and then with Janet Brown. After two years Michael decided he and Bridge were not ideal partners, so I

continued alone with Janet to learn more about this fascinating and addictive game.

What do you enjoy most about Bridge?

I am just returning to regular bridge at the club after the Covid-19 lockdown. What I had missed most was the friendliness and respect among the members. The socializing is an aspect which I really value and missed very much during the long break. It provides an essential part of human well-being and I feel very lucky to be a part of such a wonderful group of people.

To play to the best of my ability is an essential part of the game for me, but I believe fairness and empathy at the table are also vital. We all do silly things at times, but I have very forgiving partners.

The game itself is fascinating because it is so challenging and presents new things to puzzle over with each hand.

What are your main interests outside Bridge?

Reading (history, biography and fiction) and vocal coaching/teaching are my greatest loves. Quilting comes a pretty close third. I have made a quilt for almost everyone in the immediate family.

I can no longer sing at the standard I would like, but ... I can still pass on what a student of singing needs to learn and do; I can still listen (with hearing aids) to what comes back; I can still be involved; I can still encourage; so, while I have breath, I hope that Ballina Players will continue to play a crucial part in my life, along with Ballina Bridge Club.

What are you most proud of in your life?

My children. As I said earlier, they are my reason for being. They are so individual, and each display in his/her own way the basic goodness of humanity. They and their children are a constant joy to me.

2023 TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS Open and B Grade*

will be held on

Saturdays August 19 & 26

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: Marjorie Askew

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

Nominations close Wednesday August 16

*B Grade: <u>all</u> players <300 mpts (at 1.1.2023)
All players must be members of Ballina Bridge Club

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Harvey Norman

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