



# Newsletter June 2024

## Message from the President

*Lorraine Bryant*

Congratulations to Anne Riley and Gary Lynn the winners of the Yamba Congress held on 25th and 26th May (photos opposite). The Congress was well supported by Ballina members and well done by the following pairs who finished in the top ten: Winston Guymer and Paul Smith, Helen and Peter Tootell and Judith Crafti and Deb McLay. Sophie Davis won the Congress Raffle. The Bowling Club at Yamba proved an excellent venue and provided very tasty lunches, afternoon and morning teas. We thank the members of the Yamba Bridge Club for their wonderful hospitality.

The Restricted Pairs Championship was held on the 9th and 16th May. Eight Teams contested the event which was won by the Richards Team - ANGE BETTESS - DENICE RICHARDS - MARGARET CUSACK - GORDON HARRIS - AIDA KENNEDY - PETER LAMONT. Well done. Thank you to Mark Miller for directing the two-week event.

Coming up this month are our King's Birthday Teams on 10th June.

A day of fun. You can nominate as a Team of 4/5/6 or as a Pair/Individual looking for teammates. Winners for the day will be determined based on Club handicaps. This is a red point event.



BYO Lunch. Nibbles through the day and drinks at presentations. \$60 per team – for further information contact the event co-ordinator, Gillian Baker.

On 22nd June it is the Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) Pairs. Our Club Qualifier for the national event. An opportunity for everyone to win GOLD points. It is run in two 2 sessions morning and afternoon starting at 9.30am. You need to enter by 19th June. \$40 per Pair.

A new seat has been provided for members who arrive at the club prior to opening.

Occasionally members accidentally leave their reading glasses at home and look for some alternative at the club. We have purchased two



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Our Pairs Championships -**  
February to November

**King's Birthday teams - June 10**

**GNOT Pairs - June 22**

**State & Country Teams Zonal Final - June 29 & 30**

**Teams of Three - July 1**

**Saturday Novice Section - starts July 13 at 1pm**

pairs of readers for members to use if this happens.

There is always a lot of work that goes on in the background to ensure the efficient management of our club. Our Dealing Team led by Peter Rostron always provide a wonderful service and this month I would like to especially thank the Maintenance Committee, led by Ken Cutcliffe and Howard Jeffery. Ken and Howard give up many hours to be at the club to organise and/or supervise such things as inspection and maintenance of our Solar System, our air conditioning and our security system. They attend the 6 monthly Fire Certification inspections; consult with Garden Maintenance and Cleaning personnel; organise building and driveway repairs; liaise with Council; repair and paint equipment - the list goes on. We value the time given Ken and Howard, THANK YOU.



# Newsletter June 2024



## Play Committee Report - May 2024

### Events Gone:

May seemed a 'quieter' month after 'busy-busy' April leading up to our Congress, and the only 'special' event was our Restricted Teams Championship. It was great to see 8 Teams competing. Peter Rostron was our Event Organiser who did a great job organising the teams and the event, and over to Peter on page 4.

PS: Peter tells me he was asked when the red masterpoints for this event would appear on a player's masterpoint account. This should be at the beginning of July as: Green masterpoints are submitted at month end, but red masterpoints are submitted mid month.

Yamba Congress Winners: Well Done to Gary Lynn and Anne Riley.

### Coming Up:

#### King's Birthday Teams, Monday June 10:



Looks like a great entry for this 'Fun' Day of Teams. If you're not nominated but would like to play (and either morning, or afternoon, or both) and/or standby, as we often need last-minute substitutes, please contact our Event Organiser Gillian Baker. As we go to press we have 17.5 teams and an extra pair would make an even number and thus avoid the 'dreaded' Triangle for the movement.

If you're playing, sweet, or savoury, donations are very welcome for grazing through the day. There will be snacks with a free drink at the end of play.

And don't forget your royal bits!

#### GNOT Pairs, Saturday June 22:

As previously advised, this year our GNOT Club Qualifier is Pairs, so organise your partner for this national, and hence gold masterpoint, event. Or if you're looking for a partner please contact Liz Jeffery, our Saturday Partner Coordinator.

(This is an all-day event so there will be no afternoon duplicate pairs on this Saturday.)

Qualifying pairs ie those finishing in the top half of the field, will then organise into Teams for the Regional Final which will be hosted by Ballina on Sunday 28 July.

Closing date for nominations is Wednesday 19 June. Nominate online and please pay upfront ie by direct bank transfer; it's \$40 per pair. (See poster on page 8)

For more information about the GNOT go to: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/>

#### State and Country Teams Zonal Final June 29 & 30:

We have 5 teams heading to Coffs Harbour, representing the Far North region. Good Luck to:

■ Marjorie Askew

Mark and Lorraine Miller, Deborah McLay, Ian Michelson

Paul Smith, Winston Guymer, Liz and Howard Jeffery

Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Gary Lynn, Clive Klugman

Judy Forsyth, Carol Hocking, Jean and Terry Lowe

Phil Hocking, Cathy Hocking, Rob Sheahan, Ray Ghioni

They will compete with teams from the Mid North Coast and North (Inland) regions. The top 2 teams from the Zonal Final will then proceed to the John Arkinstall State Teams Final, which incorporates the Country Teams Final. This will be held on RealBridge on 29 November - December 1.

#### Teams of 3, Monday July 1

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a Teams afternoon and especially for newer and improving players to play with a Team Captain ie one of our experienced players. Furthermore during the afternoon there will be the time to discuss hands, team's tactics and ...

The format is 3 matches of 9 boards (so approx 1 hour per match) with each player partnering their Captain for one match.

NEW for this year is we are inviting all our VERY NEW players to join us from about 3pm for:



# Newsletter June 2024



## Play Committee Report - May 2024

1. Afternoon Tea to meet and chat with Club members and

2. To then stay and kibitz for the final round to watch how the bidding, play and ..... unfolds.

(Or alternatively if this time schedule doesn't fit, come at 2pm to kibitz and stay for afternoon tea.)

Please nominate online – by Thursday June 27. Then teams will be drawn/assigned – hopefully to give a 'good mix/blend'. As a guideline for newer players, you should probably have played in 7+ club sessions before trying teams play. Otherwise please consider the 'Tea and Kibitz' option.

Carol Hocking is our Event Organiser so please contact Carol if you have any questions/queries re playing or kibitzing.

+ hopefully more good news for our newer players: **New Saturday Novice Section, starting on Saturday July 13.** The plan is start at 1pm with nominations online; the session will be for players with <20 masterpoints. (As we can't have 2 sessions at the same time on the booking system the Novice Section will probably be listed at 12.57.) For more about this session please contact Judy Forsyth or me.

So hopefully something for everyone in our coming events.

Before closing, a further reminder

about **Monday Simple System**. As explained in our April newsletter, the goal is to encourage less experienced players, mentor-mentee partnerships and everyone. The 'Ask' for the bidding is 'To Keep It Simple' so hopefully everyone can understand, and then participate in the auction. With this in mind the basic Monday 'Rules' focus on the early stages of the auction and are shown in the 'box' below. These are also posted on the noticeboard – yellow notice on the results noticeboard.

The 'Keep it Simple' message also

### Monday Simple System

The following applies to ALL bidding:

- 1♣ openings should show at least 3♣s; so an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ is 'better minor'.

- No transfer bids after 1♣ Openings

- 2♦, 2♥ and 2♠ are 'Weak 2' bids ie 6 (possibly 5) card suit with 5-9 high card points; ie no Multi-2s

- No brown sticker conventions or yellow systems

PLUS

All to play Standard American with a strong 1NT

AND as the auction unfolds: Please 'Keep-it-Simple'

Marjorie Askew

applies to the ongoing auction. Play Committee is mindful that 'improving' pairs may like to try some bidding conventions that they've learnt or read about – but please only 'simple', or relatively basic, ones.

If you have any questions, queries or feedback about anything 'Play' at the Club, please get in touch.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

email: [marjorie.askew@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.askew@gmail.com)

or call: 0459 023 907

### Rank Promotions at end May:

Regional: **Peter Rostron**

National: **Sharon Carver**

Silver National: **Chris Leivers**

## Ballina Mah Jong Club News

### Winners for May:

3rd Jeanette Henwood

10th Margaret Bryant

17th Jan Small

& Lorna Simpson

24th Jan Small

31st Linda Lovett



Vanessa Reynolds

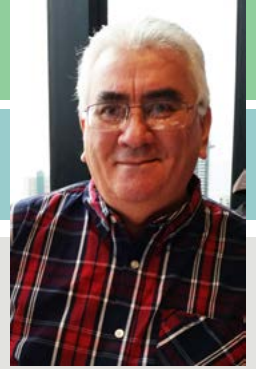




## Newsletter June 2024

### Restricted Teams 2024

Peter Rostron



This event was held over two weeks on the 9th and 16th of May, it was another good turnout for this event with eight teams nominated. I was hoping for 10 teams, which would have been a 25% improvement on last year but there were a number of regular players unable to make it for the event.

It was a pleasing result, with the winning Team of Ange Bettess, Denice Richards, Margaret Cusack, Gordon Harris, Aida Kennedy and Peter Lamont never in doubt winning all seven of their seven matches and accumulating a total of 113.93 VP's

The runner up team of Peter and Patsy Brosnan, Delys DeZwaan and Trevor Saunders had five wins and two losses to finish a close second accumulating 102.05VP's.

Third place was the team of Robyn Thomas, Kay Oxley, Edna D'Cruz and Starlette Beaumont with four wins and three losses and accumulating 82.75 VP's, Fourth place went to the team of Darryl and Joan McMahon, Janet Campbell and Peter Rostron who actually had five wins and two losses but because the winning team annihilated them in the first match saw them only accumulate 81.82 VP's

Special thanks should also go to Mark Miller who gave up his two Thursdays to guide us smoothly through the event over the two weeks.

## Australia Day Awards 2024

Robert Eldridge

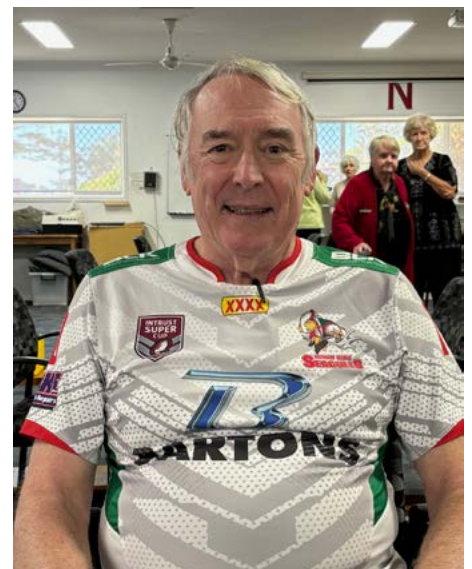


One of Ballina Bridge Clubs newer members, Dr Starlette Isaacs-Beaumont (photo left), recently received the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to medicine and community health.

Starlette was presented the award by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC/KC Governor

of New South Wales. Starlette worked for 50 years as a GP in Balmain. She was nominated for the award by her patients.

Dr Colin McDonald (photo right) was crowned joint winner of the Ballina Shire senior citizens category Australia Day Awards. Colin received this honour for his distinguished medical career, and advocate for community continually supporting individuals in adversity.





The opponents have bid briskly to 3NT and partner has lead the ♠5. You are sitting South and dummy reveals these cards:

Dir: West Vul: E/W		East-dummy	
		♠ Q8	
		♥ K9752	
		♦ 54	
		♣ AK75	
		South-You	
		♠ AJ1072	
		♥ Q10	
		♦ 109732	
		♣ 3	
W	N	E	S
1♣	P	1♥	P
1NT	P	3NT	

Great lead partner!

What does the lead of the ♠5 tell you? On this auction it won't be a singleton because that would mean that West had five Spades and they didn't bid them. It is unlikely to be a doubleton for a similar reason.

That brings us to what it could be.

- Three small cards. Yes, you cannot see the ♠9643 and partner could easily have something like ♠954. From three small cards the correct lead is the middle one (Middle-Up-Down or MUD).

- Three to an honour? Yes, ♠K65 is certainly possible ... but not likely. If partner has an honour in Spades then West has bid No Trumps with only small cards in the suit. Not impossible, but unlikely.

- Four cards headed by an honour? Sure, it would be exactly ♠K965. This would mean that West had bid No Trump with a Spade holding of only two small cards. Again, not impossible but

unlikely.

- Four cards without an honour? Yes, partner could have ♠9543 and the correct lead would be second best.

Declarer calls for the ♠8 to be played from dummy. What should you do?

If partner has the King then playing either the ♠10 or the ♠A will win the trick, it doesn't really matter. However, it seems likely that declarer has the King for their No Trump bid so playing the ♠10 would lose to them. Thinking beyond the first trick ... what is likely to happen if you take the ♠A? You will then lead a small Spade to knock out the Queen. Declarer will still have the King in their hand. If partner gains the lead and returns a third Spade then declarer will win and your hand is dead. You would have two Spade tricks in your hand but no way to gain the lead to cash them.

Consider playing the ♠10. If declarer takes their King then things look pretty good. If partner gains the lead then you will probably be able to take the next four Spade tricks. One off.

Playing the ♠A gives declarer easy control of the suit so you choose the ♠10. Declarer plays the ♠3. Curses! Declarer knows how to duck! (but we shall prevail, regardless)

Now the Queen is sitting unsupported in dummy. It is tempting to play your Ace to capture it. If you do that and

declarer has the King then they will be able to win the third round and once again your hand will be dead. The solution is to play a small Spade and let dummy win their now bare Queen. Should partner gain the lead later they can lead their last Spade, then you would play your Ace and declarer's King will fall under it. That would mean four Spade tricks plus the trick that partner gained the entry on, one down. This assumes the most likely scenario that partner has lead the middle card from three small.

Of course, if *partner* has the King then they will win the second trick and now your side will take the first five tricks. (Does partner have a third Spade to lead to you? Yes, because had they started with ♠K5 the opening lead would have been the King.)

But ... can partner work out what you want them to do? Are they going to know that a third round of Spades is the winning play? Consider what has happened from their point of view. You have won the first trick with the ♠10. Who has the Jack? That's an easy one. If declarer had the ♠J they would have played it on the ♠10 to win a cheap trick. So, partner knows that you have the Jack. With similar logic, if declarer had both the Ace and the King they certainly would not have ducked the trick. If South had both Ace and King then they would not have played a small card at trick two, they would just cash their five card suit. OK, neither

## No entry? No worries!

Paul Smith

declarer nor South have both Ace and King, therefore one card each. Does declarer have the Ace? If they did then South would have played the King at trick two to cover the Queen, force the Ace and set up their own Jack.

Partner sitting North has worked out that you must have at least ♠KJ10x and probably another

small card! All because they led the correct card from three small and because you made some sensible plays. So, yes partner can work out what is going on and lead that killing third round of Spades when they regain the lead.

The Spade suit was actually

♠654  
♠K93 ♠Q8  
♠AJ1072

like this:

Declarer got the one trick they were entitled to but, importantly, you retained your winning Spade as your only entry to cash the remainder of the suit.



## Teaching – Judy Forsyth

A new set of lessons will start on Tuesday, July 23rd, over 6 weeks. Lessons are conducted on Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 - 11:30 in the club rooms, except for the final 2 weeks where the Thursday will be moved to join the Friday morning “Help With Play” session. Cost is \$80 with an included Beginners Handbook.

It was wonderful to receive positive feedback from our learners when I spoke with them all recently regarding the friendliness, efficiency and dedication of members in our club. Well done BBC members.

If you know of anyone who may be interested, or if you feel they would enjoy learning and being out with others, please let them know. Flyers with information will be available shortly. Please feel free to pass on my phone number to anyone who may like to learn or has any questions.

**Judy Forsyth - 0407 664 337**

Over the next short period we will investigate how we can better assist our Thursday players with some short lessons to improve their skills.

We will also look at how our learners might enjoy “Kibitzing”. Understanding a session of bridge is a concept we would like to improve for our newer players.

Some of you may remember the Novice session we held in the club on a Saturday afternoon many years ago. We are investigating this for our new members, while working with the Play & Directors.

If you have any comments or suggestions on these areas or other ideas, please feel free to make suggestions to myself or other members of the Teaching Sub-Committee.



Do you have any stories or photos relating to Bridge? Or maybe stories of interest for Bridge Club members?

If you have any contributions for the BBC newsletter, please contact Ange Bettess on 0401 955 432 or email [angela.bettess@me.com](mailto:angela.bettess@me.com)

## Thai By Night

**Winner of the Thai by Night birthday voucher for this month:**

Lorraine Bryant

# TEAMS OF THREE



ON

**MONDAY 1 JULY @ 1.00PM**

- ♣ Come and play\* in a Fun afternoon of Teams
- ♦ Enter individually online
- ♥ Teams drawn/assigned with a Team Captain
- ♠ 3 matches; everyone plays with their Captain

**NEW: We also invite our new players to come and kibitz + join us for afternoon tea at approx 3pm**

**Event Organiser: Carol Hocking**

**Red masterpoints**

**Normal voucher on the day**

**Entries close Thursday June 27**

**\*To play Teams we recommend players have played a minimum of 7 sessions at the Club, otherwise please come for 'Kibitz and Tea'.**



# GNOT PAIRS

## GOLD POINT EVENT

**DATE: Saturday 22 June 2024**

**TIME: 9am for 9.30am start: 2 sessions**

**COST: \$40 per pair (\$20 per person)**

**Entries close at 6pm on Wednesday 19th June 2024.**

**Please enter online and pay per Pair (direct bank transfer preferred) by this date.**



**Event Organiser: tbc**

This is your only chance to earn **GOLD POINTS** whilst playing at your club.

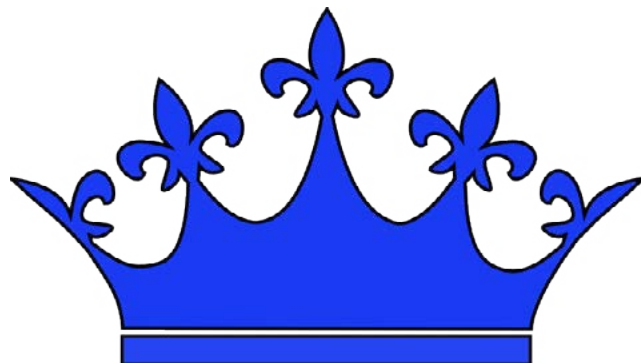
The event is open to all Northern Rivers Regional members.

For full regulations go to: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/>



# KING'S BIRTHDAY TEAMS

Monday June 10, 9 for 9.30



## A 'Fun Day' of Teams

Enter as a Team of 4/5/6 players *or*  
as a Pair/Individual looking for teammates

Winners determined on Club handicaps

Red masterpoints

Entries Close on Thursday 6 June at 6pm

Nominations through Club online booking system

\$60 per Team (\$15pp)

Prepay preferred direct to Club Bank

BYO Lunch

Event Organiser: Gillian Baker



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