



## BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB

# Newsletter February 2025

## Message from the President

 Lorraine Bryant

A special event for many of our members is the Gold Coast Congress which runs from the 1st to the 8th of February. I wish all participants a rewarding and enjoyable experience. This may well be the final Gold Coast Congress as they need to find a new venue.

We had a very successful Australia Day Teams Event with 14 teams competing. Thank you to Gillian Baker, the coordinator, Howard Jeffery for Directing, Peter Rostron and his team for dealing the boards, and especially to Peter for checking the Financials for the event – a time-consuming task. We also appreciated Chris Fitzgerald for organising a wonderful catering team, Hilary Lewis for assisting Gillian, Marjorie Askew for her work promoting this special day. And thank you to all who supported the day by being part of a team to play and bringing food for our "Picnic". The food was amazing.

We welcome the following new members to our club, Janell Rogers and Ben Falkenmire – Home Club members and Associate members – Marjorie Wilks, Margaret

Fredericks from Brunswick Heads, Ros and Phil Dey from the Central Coast Leagues Bridge Club.

The Management Committee would like to select our Charity for 2025 at the February meeting. If you would like to nominate a charity please give a note to the Secretary, David or to me.

New lessons are beginning on 11th February and run on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 11.30am for 6 weeks. Evening lessons are held on Wednesday night starting on 12th February and run from 6pm to 8pm if there is sufficient interest. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to join. Lyn Graham or Judy Forsyth can provide more information. If you can assist spreading the word by putting up posters, doing a letter box drop or contacting interested family or friends, Judy and Lyn would be grateful.

The trial of bidding boxes will continue this month – Marjorie Askew would love feedback on your experiences with the boxes.

Our cups are getting older and



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Harvey Norman Mixed Pairs:  
Wednesdays February 19 & 26**

**Saturday Novice Section: starting  
February 15**

**Anzac Day, Friday April 25**

**2025 Congress: April 26 - 27**

## Thai By Night

**Birthday winner for this month:**

**Chris Leivers**

**Rank Promotions at end  
January 2025:**

**Bronze State:**

Margaret Cusack

**Life:**

Hilary Lewis

possibly stain more easily. Please check your cup and if stained use the magic white chux to remove the stains before putting it in the dishwasher. Thank you.



Clue 1. Roger & Miroslava (Mirka) and Lindt & Sprüngli. (5,5)

Clue 2. Drink left by sailor when late queen abandons Soccer fan. (7)

*Answers to Bob Hart's cryptic Bridge clues on page 5.*





# Newsletter February 2025



Marjorie Askew

## Play Committee Report - January 2024

The new year is 'off-and-running' and our bridge calendar is underway. January's highlight was the Australia Day Teams which turned out to be a 'Good' Club Day, and the Picnic Lunch turned out to be a great success. Thanks to our Event Organiser Gillian Baker. You'll find Gillian's event report on page 4 + lots of photos.

You can pick up your 2025 Programme Book next time you're at the Club – we hope you like the 'sunny' cover colour. Thanks to Ange Bettess for, again, putting together the Book, which we hope contains useful information for your bridge-ing year.

The bridge programme includes all our 'special' events plus: 'local' congresses that you may like to support in 'Northern' NSW and 'Southern' Queensland, NSW state events and ABF 'national' (gold point) events. A soft copy (pdf) of the bridge programme was emailed to Club members on 20 January. If you missed this and would like a copy please email me.

(As previously advised we had difficulties confirming a couple of dates which meant we were perhaps a couple of weeks behind schedule with the Book.)

### Coming Up:

**'NEW' Saturday Novice Section:** starting Saturday February 15 at 1pm: Some years back we held a separate section on a Saturday for our 'beginner' players and we're hoping this will 'take-off' again. So for players with <20 masterpoints. This is shown on the online calendar so please nominate online. If you're looking for a partner please contact Judy Forsyth; and if you're new to our online calendar, Judy's contact details will pop-up if you click on the event.

**Harvey Norman Mixed Pairs:** Wednesdays February 19 & 26: Nominations are growing for this 2-week event – but there's still time to organise your mixed partner; nominations close on Monday February 17. + Remember you can have a substitute for one week – but must be of the same gender, and also must be approved by the Head Director or Chair of

Play. (Please contact me if you have any questions re substitutes.)

As our Club Qualifying event for the NSW State Mixed Championships, it's red masterpoints at state championship level (weighting 3.75).

+ See event poster on page 7.

There will be a 'side' section on these days for those unable to find a mixed partner (Yes men are in short supply!) or for players not available for the 2-week event. This section will appear online in the week prior and please nominate so the directors can have a good idea of numbers to pre-plan the movement; ie it's always more complex when 2 events are running in parallel.

**Ballina Congress Swiss Pairs, April 26 & 27:** This has been set-up on MyABF ie for entries - go to: <https://myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2289>. Marketing has started with flyers available at the Summer Festival in Canberra in January, and at the Gold Coast Congress this week. And we're pleased to see entries coming in already.

The format is much as last year: Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and Sunday + a 'warm-up' Pairs event on Anzac Day, Friday April 25 at 1pm. + The Lennox Lions will be catering for us again. + See the poster/flyer on page 8.

### Bidding Boxes

We are now into the second month of our trial with the bidding boxes. We again encourage everyone to please give these a go so we can then receive 'user' feedback which will help us to decide how these may be used at our Club. Yes there are +s and -s for bidding boxes v written bidding, but we are keen to receive your 'user' feedback after giving them a go.

As advised in last month's newsletter, you may need to 'work-out' what works for you in terms of removing



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## Play Committee Report - January 2024

the bidding cards from the box ie right or left hand, and with a 'forehand' or 'backhand' stroke. Maybe come a few minutes early to bridge and ask someone to show you or just grab a box and have a bit of a practice.

For example Ray Ghioni tells us he has 'grip' problems but he worked out what works for him: he just takes the one bidding 'card' out of the box; and then he doesn't find it too difficult to reconcile the cards into the bidding box at the end of the auction.

Many are telling us the cards are somewhat slippery; this may be because they're brand new. At the Gold Coast Congress this week (where we have the same bidding boxes) we've noticed a few slipping onto the floor.....

(+ Some background context: Bidding boxes were introduced by the WBF (World Bridge Federation) around 50 years ago. At about the same time Australia (and New Zealand) went to written bidding, and, as far as we're aware, are the only countries to do so. The WBF is now moving to tablets, + on the subject of tablets the next edition of Bridgemates are also like tablets....)

As always if you have any feedback, or suggestions, on anything 'Play' at the Club please contact me.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

or call: 0459 023 907

### Mobile phones

There seems to be an increase in ringing (+ a variety of ring tones!) or 'twinkling' and often from afar eg the 'Bag Area'. This is distracting for players so please try to remember to switch your phone to silent. If you do need to have your phone 'on' during play, please mention this to the director of the day.



## Ballina MahJong Club News

Mahjong Winners for the month of January were:

- 3/1 Lorna Simpson
- 10/1 Ronda Taylor
- 17/1 Wendy Thornton
- 24/1 Lorna Simpson
- 31/1 Jan Small



Long time member, past President and Club Champion Lorna Simpson has relocated to the Central Coast. We are sad to see her go and wish her all the best for a smooth transition and happy time with her family and her new community.

(Photo on right - Lorna (left) with current President Shirley Atkinson)





# Australia Day Teams

Gillian Baker

What a splendid way to celebrate Australia Day! We had 14 teams competing, split into 3 divisions. A big 'thank you' to the many members who provided a great array of picnic food – it was a feast to behold. Thanks also to Howard Jeffery for directing, Hilary Lewis who oversaw the picnic lunch contributions, Peter Rostron for the many tasks he calmly undertakes and our Songsters on the day, Lyn Ebert and Liz Jeffery. Congratulations to our winners :-

DIVISION A the Ivosevac Team: Vicki Ivosevac, Kay Pearson, Winston Guymer and Paul Smith.

DIVISION B the Clark Team: Chris Leivers, Ernie Scott, Betty Clark and John Fraser.

DIVISION C the Jarvi Team: Guy Jarvi, Gillian Baker, David Drake and Timothy Aley.

Photos courtesy of Karen Amos and Margaret Cusack

To everyone who came along, I hope you enjoyed the Event and that you will join us again next year.







The Gold Coast Congress is underway again, possibly for the last time at this venue, it seems.

I downloaded the Bulletin for Day 1 of the Congress ([https://www.myabf.com.au/media/bulletins/2025/01/31/Bulletin\\_1\\_IGOpsxe.pdf](https://www.myabf.com.au/media/bulletins/2025/01/31/Bulletin_1_IGOpsxe.pdf)) and was saddened to see on page 27 the obituary of Brent Manley, former Editor of the American Contract Bridge League Bulletin, and often a joint editor of the Gold Coast Congress bulletins.

In 2018, Carolyn and I played at the Congress in the Restricted Pairs. Saturday we did well and found ourselves in the A Final on the Sunday. Shortly before play commenced, we were approached by a quietly spoken American who asked if he could kibbitz at our table in the next round. It was Brent Manley. Nervously, we agreed.

The next day we were in print in the Congress Bulletin ([link here](#)), but not in the winning list (see below).

Brent authored a book - "*The Complete Book of Bridge*". It is in our library! Take a look!

Also in Bulletin 1 on page 28 is an article by Frank Stewart – another American – who contributes daily to the Bridge Baron website [www.bridgebaron.com](http://www.bridgebaron.com). His article is called PLAN, THEN PLAY. Several of Frank's books are in the Club library including one added just this week entitled "*The Complete Guide to Defensive Play*".

If you want to borrow from the library please just remove the library card from the book you want and register your name and the date on it and place the card in the "Card Box" on the library shelves.

Bob Hart

## From the Gold Coast Bulletin - Monday 19th February 2018

### RESTRICTED PAIRS FINAL ROUND ONE - IGNORING THE SETBACKS

Brent Manley



Bob and Carolyn Hart

While he was stationed in Sri Lanka and working with the Australian Foreign Service, Bob Hart and his wife, Carolyn, played rubber bridge. They returned to Australia in 1985, and in 2000 they discovered the Ballina Bridge Club in the Northern NSW. They are now tournament players, attending the Gold Coast Congress on occasion.

On Sunday at the 2018 edition of the GCC, the Harts qualified for the A Final of the Restricted Pairs with a couple of good games.

In the first session of the final on Sunday, the Harts had several below-average results – some of it bad luck – but they made up for the negatives with some good boards to get to about average.

The first board out of the box was a bit unlucky for the couple.



**Answer 1:** Swiss Pairs [*Roger & Miroslava (Mirka) and Lindt & Sprüngli. (5,5)*]

**Explanation -** *The Federers and the chocolate makers in a bridge contest where they should meet opponents at their own level. (Miroslava was originally Slovakian,- I know!)*

**Answer 2:** Support [*Drink left by sailor when late queen abandons Soccer fan. (7)*] **Explanation -** *A fit with partner*



You are sitting North with an eight loser hand and choose to Pass in first seat. Partner is quite competitive in the auction but East/West win the contract. After the opening lead of the ♥10 and dummy being tabled this is what you see. Hmmm...

Brd: 1		You	
Dir: N		♠ 98653	
Vul: Nil		♥ AJ75	
		♦ KQ	
		♣ 74	

  

West			
♠ J10			
♥ K98			
♦ 64			
♣ AJ10652			

  

	4♣ E		
	Lead - ♥10		
W	N	E	S
	P	1♣	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
3♣	P	P	3♦ <sup>2</sup>
4♣	<end>		

1 Weak jump overcall  
2 Hmmm...

Declarer calls for the ♥8 from dummy and you have to decide which card to play. "Third hand high" would suggest the ♥A. However, you are not a slave to all-purpose rules and treat them more as advice.

Declarer surely has the ♥Q, partner's lead would not make any sense from a suit headed by the Q10. You would like your ♥A to capture the ♥K rather than "beating thin air". Accordingly, you play small and allow declarer's ♥Q to win the first trick.

The play is fairly uncomplicated from this point onwards. Declarer draws trumps in two rounds with

partner's ♣Q dropping on the second round. Declarer now plays the ♠A and then the ♠K. Partner's ♠Q drops on the second round which means that your ♠98 are the top cards in the suit. Declarer ruffs a Spade and the lead is now in the dummy. A small Diamond from the table and you must play the ♦Q. Partner thinks for a moment and overtakes with their ♦A.

Now the moment you imagined way back at trick one. Partner leads a small Heart and your ♥AJ are sitting over dummy's ♥K for two tricks. The ♦K in your hand is high. Declarer is one down for a score of +50.

The key was to play low at trick one which gives up a trick now in order to get two tricks later. If you take the ♥A at trick one, then declarer has two Heart tricks and their contract. Good, thoughtful, defence saves the day.

Meanwhile, not a million miles away a declarer has this situation at trick one.

Brd: 1		4♣ E	
Dir: N		Lead - ♥10	
Vul: Nil			
West		You, declarer	
♠ J10		♠ AK74	
♥ K98		♥ Q632	
♦ 64		♦ 73	
♣ AJ10652		♣ K98	

With the ♥K in dummy and the Queen in your hand, it seems obvious to play low. If North knows "third hand high" then you get two tricks in the suit. Before calling for the "obvious" small card from

dummy you pause for thought. Is there a better plan? What do you know? Firstly, South will not have the ♥J, if they lead the ♥10 when they hold the ♥J10 they will make life very difficult for their partner to know what is going on. You reason that North must have both the Ace and the Jack.

Play the ♥K from dummy. North can have their ♥A ... you are never stopping that from happening. The advantage is that you now have a finesse against North's known ♥J.

North now cashes the ♦K and then the ♦Q before exiting with a Spade.

Declarer wins the ♠A ([Resolution #3](#)), draws trumps in two rounds and then leads the ♥9 from dummy to take the successful finesse. Ten tricks, well played.

Good, thoughtful, declarer play saves the day.

Of course, I am sure you have noticed, the two hands displayed are the same board.

Did you notice how important the ♥8 was? If South started with the ♥108 and West with ♥K94 then the defence shown first is guaranteed of success ... when declarer leads from dummy the presence of the ♥8 with South makes the ♥7 in the North hand a winner! Don't bemoan your lack of points until you are certain that there is not a stray seven or eight somewhere which is the key to the hand!

# **Harvey Norman**

## **Mixed Pairs**

**Wednesdays: Feb 19 & 26**

This event is also our Club Qualifier for the State Mixed Pairs Championships so: **Red Masterpoints** at State Championship Level (Weighting = 3.75)

**Please:**

- ♦ **Try and find a mixed partner**
- ♦ **Nominate online – closes Feb 15 (all nominations are for the 2-week event\*)**

**Partner Coordinator: Liz Jeffery**

### **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 regulations. N.B If you are planning a substitute you need to have this pre-approved by notifying our Head Director or Chair of Play.
4. Winners determined by best average score over the 2 rounds.

**Normal \$5 voucher on the day**



# **Ballina Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Congress April 26 & 27, 2025**



**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: \$100 per Player, \$200 per Pair**

**All entries via MyABF**  
***Entries close 6pm Saturday April 20***

NEW 'ADD-ON'  
THIS YEAR

**Anzac Day Welcome Pairs**  
**Thursday April 25 at 1pm**  
(‘Walk-in’ \$5pp; red masterpoints)

**Tournament Director**  
Mark Miller

**Event Organiser**  
Marjorie Askew

Tel: 0459 023 907 e: [marjorie.askew@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.askew@gmail.com)

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

**Ballina Bridge Club**  
Website: <https://ballinabridge.org.au>



## PROGRAMME

### ‘The Intro’:

**Anzac Day ‘Welcome’ Pairs:** Friday 25 April: Commences 1pm, \$5pp, pay on the day; **red** masterpoints.

### ‘The Main Event’ - Swiss Pairs:

**Saturday 26 April:** Commences 10am, concluding approx 5.45pm.

**Sunday 27 April:** Commences 9.30am, with lunch and drinks following play and then Presentations, concluding approx 2.15pm.

## 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

Lunch is included for both Saturday and Sunday and 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.



Our lunches will be catered for us by the Lennox Head Lions; as part of our ongoing fundraising partnership with them.

### + SATURDAY DINNER – optional extra, pay on the day.

Join us for dinner at the Ballina Golf Club, Asian Green Restaurant. This proved very popular last year; a chance to catch-up with old and new bridge friends, and maybe not discuss the day’s bridge hands!! Please pre-book for this so we can reserve tables: by email to Marjorie.

## MAIN EVENT: ENTRIES & PAYMENTS

Please make your entry via MyABF. 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.

**HELP?** Please contact Event Organiser: Marjorie Askew.

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters

# Harvey Norman

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