



Newsletter June 2025

Message from the President

Lorraine Bryant



Congratulations to the winners of the Restricted Teams Championship held last month, Margaret Cusack, Yvonne Head, David Drake and Timothy Aley. It was a very close finish with the Runners up- Peter Rostron, Jan Roberts, Darryl and Joan McMahon.

Main events this month are King's Birthday Teams on 9th June and GNOT Teams on the 21st of June. Coming events in July include Teams of Three on Monday 7th July and the Teams Championship on the 19th and 26th July. Please consider supporting these events.

Deb McLay and Ian Michelson are moving north to Caloundra at the end of this month. They are valued members of our club and will be missed. Deb has been a vital member of our Directing Team as well as our photographer for special events. Deb's photographs have definitely added that special something to our newsletter. We wish them a very long and happy life in their new home.

POSITION VACANT: Club photographer. Starting July, Salary Nil.

Ken Cutcliffe has retired as our maintenance manager. His contribution to our club has been enormous. Countless hours have been given to organising tradespeople, coming to the club to supervise them, sometimes at early hours. He had compiled a maintenance program and ensures that all inspections are completed on time and that the appropriate paperwork is complete and forwarded to the relevant authority. Thank you, Ken, for all that you have done. If you are interested in taking over Ken's Maintenance role he is happy to advise you of what is involved. If interested please talk to Howard Jeffery, David Drake or me.

Could I remind everyone about our wonderful sponsors. Harvey Norman, Dancer's Car Care, Sommerville Laundry Lomax, Thai By Night and Camping and Battery Place. If you are using any of these companies, please thank them for their

UPCOMING EVENTS

King's Birthday Teams, Monday June 9

GNOT Teams, Saturday June 21

State and Country Teams Zonal Final, June 28 & 29
Teams of 3, Monday July 7

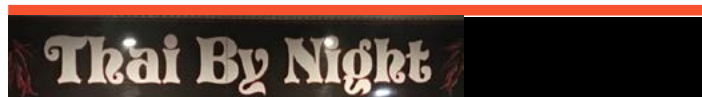
sponsorship of the club.

The Club AGM will be held on 13th September. It is coming up very quickly so start thinking about nominations for positions on the Management Committee

Our newsletters are now sent to you via MyABF. My ABF assists with club management including email communications, membership list maintenance/renewals, listing and payment of congress and club events. All BBC members are requested to activate their MyABF. This will enable BBC to fully utilise the functionalities of the platform. A future development is integration with the Masterpoints Centre and MyABF members will be able to view their Masterpoints. An email invitation to join MyABF will be sent to members in early June with the link to activate membership. A help desk will be at the club to help members if needed. This will be for the hour prior to Bridge on Saturday 14th June, Monday 16th June, Wednesday 18th June and Thursday 19th June. A morning time will be arranged for the Help with Play session. Additional times will be advised.

We welcome the following new members to our club. Susan Frazier, Natalie Maestri, Daphne Ryder, Bob Thorton, Kay McLennan, Mary Hamilton, Mary-Joy Payten, I hope you have a very enjoyable and long association with Ballina Bridge Club.

Next Management Committee meeting is 25th June.



Birthday winner for this month: Beverley George



Play Committee Report - May 2025

Events Gone:

Restricted Teams Championship, May 8 & 15:

This was our only 'special' event in May. It was great to see 8 teams competing, including some of our 'newer' players. Thanks to our Event Organiser, Peter Rostron for encouraging participation, and then organising augmentations due to late withdrawals. Thanks too to President Lorraine for directing the event and overcoming some Compscore (ie computer!) 'challenges'.

It was a tight contest, the winners finishing strongly: Margaret Cusack, Yvonne Head, David Drake, Timothy Aley, ahead of: Peter Rostron, Jan Roberts, Daryl McMahon and Joan McMahon, in turn just ahead of Ange Bettess, Denice Richards, Kay Oxley and Robyn Thomas.

Coming Up:

King's Birthday Teams, Monday June 9:

Looks like we have 18 teams nominated and we're looking forward to a 'Good Club Day', with a Red, White and Blue theme and red masterpoints.

GNOT Teams, Saturday June 21:

Then more Teams – and as our Club Qualifying event for this national event, an opportunity to win gold masterpoints. Teams can be 4/5 or 6 players. It's an all-day event with a 9.30am start. (See poster on noticeboard and on page 8.)

Teams finishing in the top half of the field may progress to the next stage which is the GNOT Northern Rivers Regional Final, scheduled for Sunday August 10 at Ballina.

State and Country Teams Zonal Final, June 28 & 29:

It looks like we have 4 teams, from our Club Qualifier, heading to Coffs Harbour, and representing the Far North region. Good Luck to:

- Cathy Hocking, Phil Hocking, Chris Bauer, Colin MacDonald
- Paul Smith, Liz Jeffery, Howard Jeffery, Jean Lowe, Winston Guymer
- Clive Klugman, Janet Brown, Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Gary Lynn
- Chery McCallum, Sharon Carver, Timothy Aley, David Drake

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 28-30 November.

Teams of 3, Monday July 7:

And there's more teams! This event is intended for all and we especially encourage our newer and improving players to join in.

The format is 3 matches of 9 boards (so approx 1 hour per match) with each player partnering their Captain for one match. And importantly there will be time between rounds to discuss the hands, team tactics and ...

Please nominate online - by Thursday July 3. Then teams will be drawn/assigned – hopefully to give a 'good mix/blend'.

As a guideline for newer players, you should probably



Clue 1. The French - Vietnamese name shortened article to provide an important feature of a suit. (6)

Clue 2. After receiving a negative response to a Stayman bid, bridge partners cuddle a spy to take the bidding further. (6)

Answers to Bob Hart's cryptic Bridge clues on page 4.

have played in 5/6+ club sessions before trying teams play. Otherwise please consider the 'Tea and Kibitz*' option thus:

Join us from about 3pm for Afternoon Tea and to meet and chat with Club members and then stay and kibitz for the final round to watch how the bidding, play and ... unfolds.

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

(*Kibitz is a 'Yiiddish' term, which in turn is from the German word 'kiebitzen' meaning 'to look on'.)

Gillian Baker is our Event Organiser so please contact Gillian if you have any questions/queries re playing or kibitzing. (See poster on page7.)

Coming Up in November – Sunday 9th:

We have a new inter-club event, this time hosted by Tweed BC and with 3 teams competing: Ballina, The Gold Coast and Tweed. This event has been initiated by Robert Noble, Tweed's President, and we will be playing for the Noble & Ross trophy.

Please note this is in addition to our annual inter-club event with the Gold Coast BC, which we are hosting this year on Sunday September 14. Please update your bridge programme – and more importantly your diary so you can nominate for both events. (+ Delete

the tentative date for the event at Tweed which was Sunday September 28 tbc.)

More IMPs? We've had a focus on Teams events over the last couple of months and with IMPs pairs sessions in our regular club sessions to familiarise players with IMPs scoring and tactics; our Congress was also IMPs Pairs. Furthermore IMPs is the dominant mode for events at the 'top level' in bridge. Then computer scoring has facilitated IMPs scoring for regular club sessions.

So maybe IMPs is taking over? In our previous 2 newsletters I've tried to give some 'explanations' of IMPs v matchpoints, and in April we included Janet's article: Tactics at Teams (IMPs Scoring). Maybe check back at these and/or pick up a hard copy of Janet's article from the entry table at the Club.

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

Rank Promotions at end May:

Local: Kay Thornton

Regional: Phill Robbins, Gordon Harris

Bronze State: Robert Sheahan

Teams on a regular bridge days

■ Howard Jeffery

The Directors have decided to run an occasional teams match on regular bridge days, if the player numbers are suitable and the Lead Director for the day is confident running a Swiss movement. The events will serve a number of purposes:

- Help the assistant Director and other Directors to become skilled in running team's events
- Make players more comfortable playing team's matches and gain a better understanding of decision-making in team's events (refer to Janet's notes on how to play a better team's game)
- Provide variety in the movements provided to players

Peter Rostron will be regularly dealing 3 boards sets of 32 boards per set. This will comfortably allow teams formats of 3 x 10-board matches or 4 x 8-board matches in the afternoon's bridge.

Teams will only be played when there are 12 tables or fewer. More than that will result in too much conflict between tables for boards with only three board sets available.





Please keep this date in mind – **New Day lessons** will begin on **Tuesday, 22nd July, 2025** and run on Tuesday & Thursday mornings, 9:30 – 11:30 for 6 weeks. **New Evening lessons** yet to be confirmed.

After reviewing our advertising methods with students, it appears that “word of mouth” from you, our existing members at BBC, is the best method of advertising. So please speak to neighbours, friends and relatives to encourage them to take on the challenge of learning to play bridge. NB Our next teachers meeting will be on Wednesday 11th June. If you have any questions, suggestions etc, please pass this on to Judy or Lyn prior to this date.



Answer to Clue 1: Length. Explanation - The number of cards held in a suit

Answer to Clue 2: Smolen. Explanation - Smolen is a convention used after opener has denied a four-card major in a Stayman sequence, responder's jump to 3M shows four cards in the bid major and five cards in the other major. Weblink: <https://www.bridgebum.com/smolen.php>



Nambucca Valley Bridge Congress

Two pairs from Ballina played in this event on 31 May - 1 June at Nambucca. Ian Michelson and Deborah McLay came second overall and Vicki Ivosevic and Paul Smith finished seventh.



90th birthday Celebrations

John and Joan Fraser celebrating their 90th birthdays with family and friends at The Edible Garden Cafe Wollongbar. A delightful occasion for all.

Photo below thanks to Mary Goodall.



Ballina MahJong Club News

Winners for month of May:

- 2/5 Pauline Kearney
- 9/5 Linda Lloyd
- 16/5 Joy Lowien
- 23/5 Ramsay Roper
- 30/5 Linda Lovett





When the opening lead has been made and you first get to see the dummy it is time to plan. It is not yet time to call for a card from the dummy (or touch the BridgeMate, or fill in your hand record - [remember Resolution number 2](#))

The usual advice is to put your mind inside the hand which has longer trumps. This is way harder than the simple statement makes it sound. I am normally very attached to my own hand, after all I am holding the cards! I have made the best bid at every opportunity and I am personally attached to the high card points that I am looking at to make sure I get my fair share today.

What does it even mean to “put your mind inside the hand”? When planning how to play a suit contract the main focus is how to control the number of tricks you will lose. If you can hold the losing tricks to three then you must have won 10 tricks. The reason for concentrating on your losing tricks is because the opponents are concentrating on winning the greatest number of tricks they can. A simple example is that you may have 12 (or 13) tricks available to take in three suits but if you are missing the Ace and King of the fourth suit then you are not likely to make your slam contract.

Imagine that you open 1NT. Partner makes a transfer bid (say, 2♦) and you end up as declarer in the suit transferred to (Hearts). When dummy goes down you will find that dummy has more trumps than you. You can think about the losing cards in your hand and try to work out how to reduce or eliminate them or you can “put your mind inside” dummy and think about the losing cards in the dummy and how to eliminate them. Eliminating losers from your hand will involve trumping some long suits in the dummy which shortens the trump holding there. If trumps do not break well then you are in trouble.

Planning works better and is just less work if you think from the perspective of the long trump hand. There are fewer side suit cards that are losers to deal with and so less work.

What if both hands have the same number of trumps, say a four-four fit? A recent hand from an online game

is illustrative.

How many losers are there between the two hands? Looking from your hand :- 1 trump loser (if they break 3-2), 2 Heart losers (if they break 4-3), 1 Diamond and 1 Club, a total of five losers.

Dir: S		North	
Vul: All		♠ 9762	
		♥ A	
		♦ A10983	
		♣ J63	
		You	
		♠ AK85	
		♥ K10962	
		♦ J6	
		♣ A2	
4♠ N			
Lead - ♦ 4			
W		N	
E		S	
		1♥	
P	1♠	P	3♠
P	4♠	<end>	

Putting your mind inside the North hand :- 1 trump loser, no Heart losers, 2 Diamond losers and 2 Club losers, a total of five losers.

Both hands give similar results, so how to plan this hand? First notice that we have assumed that trumps break 3-2, but around a third of the time they will break

4-1 or worse. So, a third of the time you may lose 2 trump tricks. That is the same no matter how you plan the hand, so ignore it for the moment. After the Ace and King the trumps are quite poor. You will play this trump suit by taking the Ace and then the King and leaving any remaining high trumps outstanding. Don't use up two of your trumps to get rid of a single high trump. Put another way, you are planning to take two rounds of high trumps and then use your little trumps for ruffing.

The best asset in your (South) hand is the Heart suit. Notice, however that there is no opportunity to finesse in this suit because of the singleton Ace in the dummy.

The best asset in the dummy is the Diamond suit. Here we do have some finessing opportunities. In fact, the opening Diamond lead is quite nice for us. The North hand is going to win the first trick either by capturing some honour from the West hand or with the lowly 10 ([Resolution 3](#)).

Transfer your point of view to the North hand because it has the side suit with the better possibilities. Now

the plan is to setup the Diamond suit, using the long tricks to discard Clubs from the South hand. Then later, you can ruff your Clubs in the South hand.

Time to play. Small Diamond from South and West inserts the ♦ Q. You win the trick with the ♦ A. This leaves you with the ♦ J1098 between the two hands. This makes it easy to drive out the ♦ K and have the remaining Diamonds be high.

That's the general plan, time for some detail. What could go wrong? Trumps may not break 3-2. If you take two rounds of trumps and one defender started with four then you may have a problem. If that person also has the best Diamond then they will take the ♦ K and then draw all your trumps! There goes any chance of ruffing. To counter this, take just one round of trumps before driving out the ♦ K.

Accordingly, trick two should be a small trump from the North hand and the ♠ A from the South. At trick three you want to lead a Diamond to drive out the King but first it would be a good idea to clear the ♥ A out of the way. So, trick three is a small Heart to the ♥ A in North. Now lead a small Diamond to the Jack which forces the King to appear.

Whatever is now led you should win (doesn't matter if it is a Heart, Diamond or Club - you have the best cards in all those suits). Now comes a second round of trumps. On the particular hand, East did not follow

Dir: S
Vul: All

North	
♠	9762
♥	A
♦	A10983
♣	J63

West	East
♠ J1043	♠ Q
♥ Q873	♥ J54
♦ Q	♦ K7542
♣ Q874	♣ K1095

You
♠ AK85
♥ K10962
♦ J6
♣ A2

4♠ N
Lead - ♦ 4

- trumps break 4-1.

But you are in control. Lead a (high) Diamond from North and throw a Club from the South hand. Even if someone ruffs it is with a high trump anyway and you still get rid of the losing Club. The

defence only has one more high trump and so you must be able to ruff one Club. (The other losing Club in the North hand goes under the ♥ K).

Planning is difficult and it is common to not make a 100% plan but to just have a general line of attack. Planning from the point of view of the long trump hand helps stop you from breaking [Resolution 4](#). When both hands have the same length in the trumps suit then consider planning from the perspective of the hand with the better side suit.

(It would be remiss not to mention the possibility of the advanced play called a "dummy reversal". Researching this is left as an exercise for the reader!)

Bridge on the Northern Seas

This is Dr Tevetalin S Vassili, known to his players as Ziggy. He was born in Bulgaria but now living in Canada. We were onboard the Noordam from Tokyo to Vancouver last month, and with seven straight sea days traversing the North Pacific through the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands to Alaska then Vancouver there was plenty of time for Bridge. The card room is beautiful, you can see the decorated ceiling in this picture. Ziggy gave lessons in the morning and we played in the afternoon. 7 tables each day and I was lucky enough to pair with a friendly American lady. It was a mixed group of American, Canadian, German, French, Swiss, English and the odd Aussie players. Very relaxed days.

What a wonderful game it is that had all these odd people happily playing and swapping stories every day for a week. [Side note: Ziggy's daughter Albena Vassileva has played with

the Canadian Women's Team so I asked him if they had heard of Fiona Brown and he said oh yes she is a famous player.]

Rebecca Rogers



TEAMS OF THREE



ON

MONDAY 7 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

+ We invite 'newer' players for 'Kibitz and Tea'

ie come and watch some hands + join us
for afternoon tea at around 3pm

Event Organiser: Gillian Baker

Red masterpoints

Normal voucher on the day

Entries close Thursday July 3

***To play Teams we recommend players have played a minimum of 5/6+ sessions at the Club, otherwise please come for 'Kibitz and Tea'.**

GNOT TEAMS

CLUB QUALIFIER - GOLD POINTS

DATE: Saturday 21 June 2025

TIME: 9am for 9.30am start: 2 sessions

COST: \$80 per team; teams may be 4/5/6

Entries close at 6pm on Wednesday 18th June 2025.

Please enter online and pay per Team (one payment by direct bank transfer preferred) by this date.

Event Organiser: Liz Jeffery



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

Teams finishing in the top half of the field may progress to the Regional Final scheduled for Sunday August 10 at Ballina.

The event is open to all Northern Rivers regional members.
For more information on the GNOT go to: <https://bridgensw.com.au/gnot/>

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Harvey Norman

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