



# Newsletter May 2025

## Message from the President

Lorraine Bryant



Our Congress was very successful. Our Chair of Play, Marjorie, had assembled a great number of pairs from far and wide representing all levels of players from Grand Masters to Novices. The boards prepared by our dealing team led by Peter Rostron were challenging. Thank you, Peter and team for giving up your time to prepare the boards. Thank you to Peter for the Financial Management of the event. The lunches provided by the Lennox Lions Club were exceptional. Mark Miller, our Director, ran the congress efficiently and smoothly. It was wonderful to see him and Lorraine back at the club. A special thank you to the wonderful members who gave up their time to assist in the kitchen and with clean up led by Chris Fitzgerald - Sue Fielder, Kay Thornton, Hilary Riggs, Gerri White and Diann Young. Thank you to all who brought food for morning and afternoon tea. I heard nothing but positive comments about our Congress over the two days – we set the bar high. A BIG THANK YOU to all involved.

The Restricted Teams Championship will be held on 8th and 15th May. We encourage all members with less than 100 masterpoints to be part of a team. It is a wonderful learning experience.

Members may have noticed that the tinting on the front doors was peeling and looked very unsightly and that the alarm system continually beeped at times which was very annoying. Thank you to Ken Cutcliffe for organising a new battery for the alarm and having the doors retinted. Ken spends many hours at the club on Maintenance matters such as fire and safety inspections and building repairs. Recently he attended the fire safety inspection and reports that the porch

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Restricted Teams Championship**  
**Thursdays May 8 & 15**
- **King's Birthday Teams, Monday June 9**
- **GNOT Teams, Saturday June 21**

### Thai By Night

**Birthday winner for this month: Margaret Cusack**

sliding door must remain UNLOCKED at all times when members are in the club. Thank you for all you do for us Ken.

We welcome the following new members, Tony Havyatt, Vicki Maloney, Beverley George, Ken Worth and Paul Buck. I hope you all enjoy a long and enjoyable association with Ballina Bridge Club.

Rebecca Rogers has filled the vacant position on the Management Committee until the next AGM. She indicated that she is happy to step down as the club Recorder. Bev Peart-Kuter has completed a Graduate Certificate in counselling. Bev has agreed to step into the Recorder Role and the Committee thanks Rebecca for her excellent work and welcomes Bev into the position.

Thank you to all members who help to keep our club running smoothly. Please leave your table tidy at the end of the day, chairs in, bins emptied and when you can assist with kitchen duties.



Clue 1. Hitchcock thriller loses Oxygen in a bid attempting to provide an illusion of strength or length in a given suit. (5)

Clue 2. German life so high and low initially may be helpful after interference. (9)

*Answers to Bob Hart's cryptic Bridge clues on page 9.*



## Play Committee Report - March 2025

### Our Congress

This was the 'Big' event of the month and thank you to ALL who contributed whether by helping and/or playing. It was a great 'Team' effort. Lorraine has covered the Thank- yous and hopefully the photos 'tell the story'.

We had great support with visitors coming from far and wide: from Sydney (the Peninsula BC) Brisbane and Canberra, and from Tasmania to Wagga Wagga to Toowoomba, as well as from more 'local' clubs: Byron Bay, Lismore, Lennox Head, Yamba, Grafton and Tweed, as well as from just over the border: Surfers Paradise and Gold Coast. We were just 2 pairs short of 'full' – maybe next year?

The Lions catering was 'superb' (photo opposite) and again we had visitors advising they may explore a similar fundraising partnership for their bridge clubs.

As last year we decided to split the field into 4 Divisions – to share the spoils. You'll see the winners in the photos on page 4. + Thanks to Deb McLay for all the photos; Deb regularly steps up as our 'Photographer' for our special events. + photo from Clive page 13.

### Congress Winners (+ their home clubs in brackets):

#### Division 1:

Winners: Andrew and Sandra Richman (Tamar)  
Runners-Up: Paul Hooykaas (Queensland Contract) and Andy Braithwaite (Tweed)

#### Division 2:

Winners: Wendy Boxall (Canberra) and Sharon Carver (Ballina)  
Runners-Up: Anne Riley (Ballina) and Ngaire Wills (Toowoomba)

#### Division 3:

Winners: Pam Craig and Marina Green (Surfers Paradise)  
Runners-Up: John and Lois Rolls (Surfers Paradise)

#### Division 4:

Winners: Kathy Marles and Clare Langford (Tweed)  
Runners-Up: David Drake and Timothy Aley (Ballina)

We also had a lucky score prizes for two pairs – they all took home a 'nice' bottle of wine (photo below).



### State/Country Teams Club Qualifying Event, Saturday

**April 12:** 14 teams competed and we played a Swiss movement with 6 x 9 board matches. The teams finishing in the top half of the field are eligible to progress to the next stage, which is looking like direct to the Northern Zone Final at Coffs Harbour on June 28 & 29.

The top 7 teams from the Club Qualifier are:

1. Cathy Hocking, Phil Hocking, Chris Bauer, Colin MacDonald
2. Paul Smith, Liz Jeffery, Howard Jeffery, Jean Lowe, Winston Guymer
3. Clive Klugman, Janet Brown, Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Gary Lynn
4. Sophie Davis, Lorraine Bryant, Ken Jones, Peter Rostron
5. Chery McCallum, Sharon Carver, Timothy Aley, David Drake
6. Sue Burns, Rebecca Rogers, Hilary Lewis, Karen Amos, Judy Forsyth
7. Lyn Graham, Lesley Burford, Ellen Watson, Mary Goodall



## Play Committee Report - March 2025

If you're a qualifier and you haven't confirmed whether you wish to proceed, please let me know asap.

All teams participating won at least one match and so 'bagged' some red points. (However you won't see these on your masterpoints until the event is completed, with the State Finals not until end November.)

### Coming Up:

#### **Restricted Teams Championship Thursdays May 8 & 15:**

We're hoping to have 8 Teams competing in this Championship event, for players with <100 masterpoints as at 1.1.2025. You can monitor their progress by checking the Results on our website.

If you're not nominated and could be a standby, or substitute, for either week, please contact our Event Organiser: Peter Rostron.

Please note: there will be NO Pairs play on these 2 x Thursdays and if you have too many masterpoints perhaps think about joining another club session for these 2 weeks; our Partner Coordinators can assist if you're looking for a partner.

#### **King's Birthday Teams, Monday June 9:**

A Fun day of Teams again with a Swiss movement and red masterpoints. The theme for the day is: Red, White and Blue.

Nominate as a Team (of 4,5 or 6) or a Pair/Individual looking for team-mates. BYO lunch, then nibbles with a drink at close of play. Closing date for nominations is Thursday June 5 at 6 pm. Jan Roberts is our Event Organiser. (See poster on noticeboard and page 14.)

+ We've come up with a new way of deciding 'winners' on the day – and so it could be YOU!

**GNOT Teams, Saturday June 21:** This year our GNOT (Grand National Open Teams – sounds Grand!!)

Club Qualifying event is a Teams event, so start organising your teammates for this national, and hence gold masterpoint, event. Teams can be 4/5 or 6 players. (See poster on noticeboard and on page 15.)

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.

### **More IMPs!**

As advised last month we have another IMPs pairs week coming up: Thursday May 29 -Wednesday June 4. We hope our less experienced players are 'getting-the-hang' of IMPs scoring, and notably with various Teams events recently and coming up at the Club.

Last month I endeavoured give a summary explanation of IMPs v matchpoints scoring – so you may like to look again at this, and maybe at the short (6½ minute) You Tube video - go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ppn2cVf2TUI>

Many players prefer IMPs to matchpoints for Pairs events, and thus the difference in tactics. Any feedback??

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

or call: 0459 023 907

### **Rank Promotions at end April:**

Local: Joan McMahon

Silver Local: Kay Oxley

Regional: Denice Richards



# Winners - Ballina Congress 2025



Division 1



Division 2



Division 3



Division 4





# Two stories of Youth Bridge - Noah Klugman

## Noah Klugman

Noah was born March 2005. He has just turned 20.

As a child, he wondered where dad disappeared to every week to play cards, and in November 2011, when he was 5 and a half, he demanded that I teach him bridge.

Being a sponge for information, we played and discussed bridge daily. After a few months he said he wanted to go to the club. I was terrified and said we could when he turned 6 – my thinking was that by then he will have moved on and forgotten about bridge. Alas - On his 6th birthday he approached me saying *"now we can go to the bridge club!"*

I rang Grand Slam bridge club and asked if I could bring my son.

*"Sure"*

*"He is young"*

*"Sure"*

*"He is 6"*

*"Sure"*



So off we went to Grand Slam every Sunday afternoon for a year, then decided to go to our local club which was only a few hundred meters from our home.

We won regularly.



After a few months the committee of our local club decided to ban Noah from playing there. These were their reasons...

*- He stood at the table (yes he was 6 and only 2 feet tall)*

*- I forced him to play (have you ever tried to force a 6 year old to sit still and concentrate for 3 hours)*

*- He should be outside (he spent plenty of time outdoors)*

*- It's for old people (really!)*

I believe the real reason was that they could not stand losing to a 6 year old.

Noah never knew about this until a few years ago, but at the time I just said we had to go back to Grand Slam.

A couple of years later he discovered computers and sadly bridge fell by the wayside. Over the years I have still discussed bridge with him and in January this year I convinced him to go to Canberra for bridge youth week. The youth spend 20 hours a day, for 8 days, socialising and discussing bridge. He rediscovered his love for bridge and - like his father - became obsessed.



We discuss bridge regularly and exchange ideas daily. The two of us have had numerous games this year and are fine-tuning our system. I fear he is close to surpassing my ability and beginning to question my decisions after each session.

There is nothing like the youth to push boundaries, break conventions and to bid aggressively.

My only hope now is that he continues his studies and does not become another impecunious bridge player!

Last weekend he and his partner played in the NSW youth pairs selection event and won. He will be representing NSW in Brisbane in July.

I look forward to many more games with Noah, tweaking our conventions and building our knowledge.

- Clive Klugman

## Two stories of Youth Bridge - Fiona Brown

Some twenty years ago, my 16 year old daughter, Fiona Brown of Ballina, qualified to represent NSW as a member of the Youth Team of bridge players. Sponsored by the ABF, Fiona travelled all over Australia – to Darwin to Perth and other capital cities. And as an Australian national player she travelled across the Tasman to New Zealand. She made new friends and thoroughly enjoyed herself.

She now lives in England and is a seasoned member of the English Ladies national team. This means she is constantly travelling to represent England in international bridge events. She recently returned from Las Vegas and soon she will be playing bridge in China.

Bridge has been very good to Fiona, and it gives me enormous pleasure to see that Clive's son Noah, has qualified to represent the NSW young bridge players. I am sure he will enjoy the experience and I told him I would take a surrogate interest in his progress.

Ballina can be proud of our young players. Go Noah, Go !!

- Janet Brown



Fiona plays for England



Fiona (left) and Sally Brock - World Championship winners 2019



Fiona with Bill Gates



Fiona and Tony - youth pairs winners



Fiona teaching bridge in China

## Have a computer problem?

Hi all. It's not often that you get a report from the Chair of the Tech committee in the newsletter (Yes, we do actually have a Tech committee), but I wanted to pass on a recommendation to all our members, should you find yourselves in need of computer help.

The Bridge Club has been having ongoing issues with the ability to share important information between all of the computers we use for scoring, dealing and admin. Add in the new laptop for the projector and things were just making my hair greyer than it already is!



Tim Aley

Enter Jai Fox of QuickfoxIT (Hope the link below works!). I contacted Jai on Thursday and set him to work sorting out the nightmare that is computer networking. Needless to say he managed this quickly and very professionally, having the whole lot sorted in no time. There was a hiccup on the Friday, however, and if you were playing on ANZAC Day, you may have seen a tall young man who flew in for a few minutes and got things back on track. This was especially important given that the Swiss Pairs Congress was happening over the following two days and the Directors wanted to have the scores up on the Big Board!

Anyway, I contacted Jai in desperation mode on Friday morning and, to my eternal appreciation, he promptly appeared to get us back up and running. So if you find yourselves in need of help for any computer problems, I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending that you contact Jai at [quickfoxit.com.au](https://quickfoxit.com.au), for a local Ballina guy who can visit you and fix whatever ails your computer. He was quick, knowledgeable and totally professional.

Might just call him a Grand Master! Regards, Timothy Aley Tech Committee Chair.

<https://quickfoxit.com.au/#home>



# Clive Klugman - Silver Life Member

Robert Eldridge

Clive makes a significant contribution to Ballina Bridge club. He has been a Director for a number of years and recently has joined the teaching team to run evening lessons for new players. Clive has an extremely interesting history which he shares with us here.



I was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia – now Harare, Zimbabwe. My two younger brothers and I lived with my parents in a small town which goes by the unfortunate name of Wankie! Today it is known as Hwange.

As the children of the only surgeon for 200kms, we were exceptionally privileged - both by our father's profession and by our colour.

Hwange town serves the Victoria falls and the Game reserve. My father had patched up several game wardens wounded from animal encounters, and thus we carried favour with the locals and had unfettered access to the game reserve. We went walking and fishing where usually no one was allowed. What an incredible experience for three feral young boys.

It is hard to divorce my childhood from apartheid. Rhodesia declared independence from England in 1965. But, unlike other British colonies who transferred power to the locals, Rhodesia refused, instead deciding to fight against the principle of 'one man, one vote'. This was the genesis of my rebellious spirit. Growing up in the bush, I had lots of black friends with whom I played after school. As I got older, I was confused as to why these friendships were frowned upon and very much forbidden in society generally.

When I turned 12, we moved to Bulawayo, the second biggest Zimbabwean city. I completed my education in Bulawayo and immediately 'ran away' to South Africa to escape being drafted into the Zimbabwe military. During the next couple of years, numerous of my conscripted classmates were killed in the futile conflict whose aim was to maintain white dominance.

I attended the University of Cape Town, where I studied computer science and became politically active against the apartheid regime. Cape Town is the most beautiful city, and I spent many days skipping

classes to climb the magnificent Table mountain which backed the university.

Upon completing my studies, I worked for a couple of months in Johannesburg, before returning to Zimbabwe as soon as it became independent, with hopes of seeing the country bloom. To my dismay, the new majority government turned out to be corrupt, nepotistic, and racist. The sad reality is that after 45 years of independence, Zimbabwe has numerous billionaires and 10s of millions of poverty-stricken citizens. The Zimbabwe government remains one of the most corrupt in the world.

Having spent a few months in Zimbabwe, I realised that there was no place for me in Africa and so I set off to discover the world. During the next 5 years I travelled overland across Africa, Europe, and Asia - eventually arriving in Singapore - and from there took a flight to Australia. My travels saw me spend time in numerous hospitals after catching Bilharzia, Malaria, Giardia, as well as an 8 day long coma in Venice (two thieves drugged me by lacing a fruit juice, and stole all my belongings. Thankfully they spared both my kidneys). The joke amongst my friends became 'around the world in 80 hospitals'.

During my travels I had met lots of people from all over the globe and I was particularly fond of the Aussies. After all - we were from the land of BBQ's, cricket, rugby, 30 degree xmas, and an outdoor lifestyle. I applied to immigrate. My Aussie migration took all of 8 weeks from start to finish. I arrived in Sydney in 1985 with the princely sum of \$200 to my name, which I had borrowed from my Aunt in Harare.

My plan was to earn some money and continue my travels – aiming for South America. As with all well laid plans, things changed. Instead, in 1987, I started a computer business with two brothers, one of whom I had studied with in Cape Town.

Work consumed the next 30 years of my life – but I did manage to spend a lot of time in nature. My passions

were hiking, climbing mountains and running ultra marathons.

In 1994, my daughter Tahlia was born to my first wife. Sadly, this relationship ended a few years later. A few years after that, my brother introduced me to my current partner, Cindy. She really wanted to have children and after much negotiation we agreed on having one child. A year after Noah was born Cindy said – I meant one child at a time, not one child! She lied again, and we were blessed with twin boys.

Tahlia is a police detective in Melbourne, specialising in domestic violence. Noah is at university in Sydney doing third year computer science and my twins are at school in Mullumbimby.

Prior to Noah being born in 2004, Cindy started learning bridge at NSWBA. My mother had played bridge all my life, even in Hwange. I was completely disinterested. Additionally, my father, grandparents, and uncles all played bridge – it held no interest for me. Eventually, after 4 lessons, Cindy persuaded me to join the remaining 4 lessons of bridge. I think my interest was more in courting Cindy than learning bridge.

I was like a pig to a trough. Why had no one explained to me what bridge was about? Or why had I not enquired?

I was very fortunate to have both my mother and mother-in-law to play bridge with. They both happily shared their time and knowledge. I learned very valuable lessons from them both. I had three long-term bridge partners in Sydney. The longest partnership was the last – we completed in all the NSWBA competitions on a Monday night. I think I earned 0.07 green points in 3 years. We got taken to the cleaners every week.

In 2017, I was feeling burnt out in Sydney. I needed a break from working so hard. It took an instant for me to convince Cindy to move to Mullumbimby, she too had longed for a sea change for years.

Now retired, I spend my time playing bridge, spending time with my wife and twins still at home, as well as running a charity in Zimbabwe. “Makthula” tries to

deliver solar, internet and laptops to remote schools. Its not easy because the infrastructure has suffered from 50 years of inattention and the challenges are enormous. I try and spend a couple of weeks each year in these remote villages teaching the children and teachers.

I love the African concept of Ubuntu – “I am because we are”. This has been one of my guiding principles in the work I do. How can we thrive if the people around us are suffering?



*I am because we are.*

After arriving in Mullumbimby, I played with numerous bridge partners in Byron and Ballina, until Gary Lynn asked me to partner with him. This was an honour, as he had quite a reputation. I have cherished the time we have played together. He has taught me a lot and we still learn and fine-tune our system weekly. I am continually amazed that we find so many hands that are still undiscussed.



As I say to all my students, the lessons cover the framework of the game. You then have to deal with the billions of hands that stretch this framework. You have to think on the same wavelength as your partner - or at least try to. We still make huge mistakes from time to time, but these mistakes add up to lessons that help fill the gaps in our ever-expanding partnership agreement.



There is little tension at the table in Byron Bay, but in Sydney, partnerships could be explosive at times. It was extremely uncomfortable sitting opposite arguing opponents. If I have any advice for bridge players - Gary encapsulates this perfectly – do not correct or question your partner at the table or during the game. What is the point of discussing the hand at the table? Leave it for tonight, sleep on it and have the discussion tomorrow. Nothing good can come from questioning the lead, the bid, or the discard directly

after the hand or at the table. If your partner has made a mistake, they most likely already know it. If they don't know, why point it out during the game and erode their confidence? Will it make partner better or more nervous? Partner took a view. Don't question it until you review the hands later. And yes, do review the hands or you will never improve.

I am not sure what I would do without bridge in my life.



**Answer to Clue 1: Psych Bid** - A bid which grossly exaggerates strength or distribution. If you make such a bid, you should voluntarily enter it in the Club's Psych Register after the game. The Director will show you where it is. Such bids are not alertable, unless your partner is aware you make such bids and thinks it possible that it could be a Psych. Then it should be alerted.

**Answer to Clue 2: Lebensohl** - After your side opens 1NT and the opponents interfere, the Lebensohl convention (2NT) allows you to describe your hand type to your partner and eliminates ambiguity. A clear intro is available on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsNtxFqCKfs&t=6s>

Or simply search YouTube for Mark Hugger + Lebensohl Part 1 OR Joan Butts + Lebensohl



## Teaching News

Congratulations to our newest graduates from Wednesday evening classes.

Judy Forsyth





# Newsletter May 2025

## Hold-up Play

Paul Smith



Players learn early on about this slightly peculiar idea of not taking a winning trick. Why do that? Let's look at an example in great detail.

Dir: S		<b>North</b>	
		♠	Q65
		♥	K84
		♦	AJ983
		♣	83
		<b>South</b>	
		♠	AK4
		♥	A72
		♦	Q1042
		♣	A76
W	N	E	S
			1NT
P	3NT	<end>	

Short and sweet - you open your balanced 17 point hand with 1NT and partner's 10 points are enough to go straight to game. (If your 1NT opening could contain a five-card Major, then North would check for that first).

Three Spade tricks, two Heart tricks, four Diamonds after you

lose to the King and one Club trick. Ten tricks easy ... maybe 11 if you don't lose to the ♦K.

The opening lead is a small Club, the opponents have sniffed out your weak spot. East contributes the ♣K and your Ace makes short work of that. ("Aces are made to take Kings" ... you heard that somewhere)

It is not uncommon to see newer players now proceed to grab those juicy top tricks. Ace, King, Queen of Spades and then Ace and King of Hearts. Yum, six tricks in the bank and only three to go. The thought of a finesse now comes to mind and declarer leads a small Diamond from their hand and calls for the Jack from dummy when West plays low. Dastardly East plays the ♦K. They then take a Spade trick with the Jack and lead a Club to their partner who takes four Club tricks and two Heart tricks. You never make the ♦A, down three.

Ouch! 27 points between the two hands and three down! What went wrong ... pretty much everything. Let's fix the problems one at a time

The main difference that I see between newer players and more experienced ones is the order they do things. Newer players seem to spot the low hanging fruit and grab it. After the first few juicy tricks they start to cast about for the rest of the tricks they need. More experienced players do it the other way around.

### Set up your winners first.

By taking the top three Spades and the top two Hearts you are making little cards in the opponent's hands be winners. This is easy to fix. Don't take the easy tricks until you have set up the difficult tricks.

In this case it is a matter of setting up your Diamond suit. You won the opening lead in your hand. At trick two lead a Diamond so that you can take the finesse (do you remember Resolution 6?). If the finesse loses then you will have four more Diamond tricks to go with your other six winners. If the finesse wins then you will make five Diamond tricks to go with your other six winners.

Unfortunately, on this hand the Diamond finesse does not work. You lead a Diamond from your hand, small from West, Jack from the dummy and East wins the King. Do you want the good news or the bad news?

### Two pieces of good news

1. East does not have a top Spade trick to play because you did not rush to take your Ace, King and Queen.
2. There are now four easy tricks in Diamonds, giving you enough tricks to make your contract.

The bad news is that East leads a Club and their partner rattles off four Club tricks. You are one down despite having enough tricks to make your contract.

How can you combat this problem? Wouldn't it be good if East didn't have any Clubs after they won the ♦K? They would have to lead another suit and you could take all those lovely tricks you have created.





# Newsletter May 2025



## Hold-up Play

Paul Smith

### Improve your chances of success

There are two Clubs in dummy and three in your hand. The opponents have eight. If the opponents have four Clubs each then they can only ever take three Club tricks (remember that your Ace takes one trick). If the Diamond finesse loses that only gives them a total of four tricks and you make your contract.

The problem was that West had five Clubs. Once they obtained the lead there are four more tricks for them. In this problem case East must only have three (dummy-2, declarer-3, West-5 and therefore East-3).

The solution is slightly counterintuitive. **Don't** win the opening lead. Let East win the ♣K (But, but, but "Aces are meant to take Kings" – you are not a robot). East now has two Clubs remaining and leads one to their partner. Again, **don't** take your Ace. Let West (or East) win the trick. Now a third Club is led by the opponents and you are forced to win the trick because the ♣A is your last card in the suit.

Now take the finesse in Diamonds. This still loses to East but what a difference! East does not have any Clubs left. They have to lead one of the suits that you control. Your downfall earlier was that West held five Clubs giving them four more tricks. You have now taken advantage of the fact that if West has five then East must only have three.

### Show your expertise

Now that danger has been avoided and you have set up your required tricks it is time to take all your winners. Ten tricks altogether.

The full hand looks like this -

The result is that you lose three of the first

Dir: S		North	
		♠ Q65	
		♥ K84	
		♦ AJ983	
		♣ 83	
West	East	South	
♠ 1073	♠ J982	♠ AK4	
♥ Q1065	♥ J92	♥ A72	
♦ 7	♦ K65	♦ Q1042	
♣ QJ542	♣ K109	♣ A76	
		3NT S	
		Lead - ♣5	
W	N	E	S
P	3NT	<end>	1NT

four tricks (♣K, ♣10 and a little later the ♦K ... "good player's set up their tricks first"). After that, you take all the tricks. What a difference compared with our first attempt to take tricks and then work out what to do - ten tricks versus six.

### A hand from Anzac Day.

Brd: 1	North
Dlr: N	♠ A72
Vul: Nil	♥ 104
	♦ J876
	♣ AQ53
	South
	♠ KQJ63
	♥ AJ93
	♦ K102
	♣ 7
3NT S	
Lead - ♥6	

Why didn't we play in Spades with our eight card fit? Good question and we discussed it over a drink after the session, shouldn't happen again (wishful thinking).

The lead was a small Heart and declarer let East win the trick with the ♥Q ... they've heard about this "hold up"

thing. A Heart was returned and they still didn't take their ♥A, West winning with the King. The result was nine tricks when the Club finesse worked.

So what? Well, this is a case to not hold up. The Heart suit is not a threat to you. Place your ♥A on East ♥Q. Now, you have ♥J109 between the two hands. Give up one Heart trick straight away (good players set up their tricks ...) and you will get two in return.

The point is, holding up is not something you need to do all the time. Each case must be considered on its merits.

## Ballina MahJong Club News

Winners for the month of April:

April 4 Vanessa Reynolds

11 Vanessa Reynolds

18 Good Friday - no play

25 Anzac Day - no play



# Bridge on the High Seas

Rob Eldridge



On 20th of April a group of intrepid players, including some with their partners, left the Int'l cruise terminal in Sydney for their adventure on the Celebrity Edge. An 18 day adventure across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand then Tahiti and finally to the North Pacific and Hawaii.



I have flown over the Pacific in various directions many times, but I had no idea of the enormity of the ocean. Days on end without seeing anything but sea in all directions, causing one to marvel at how the indigenous peoples found their way to the South Pacific Islands in the small boats, and the bravery of the early European explorers who sailed from Europe in search of the Great Southern Land.

I had no idea what to expect on a cruise, having never been on one before. Celebrity Edge is a large 2800 passenger ship, but not so large that you feel at all overwhelmed. A United Nations mix of passengers and staff, and truly exceptional service in all aspects of the trip.

We are only halfway on our adventure. The Anzac Day service at Dawn on 25 April was extremely special with over 400 people attending, but was not repeated on Groundhog Day the following day, also 25 April. I already normally struggle to remember what day it is, but having two days with the same date has done my head in. This has been further confused by three time changes in four days!! Who knows what day, date or time it is?

What's better, it actually doesn't matter.

We all did manage to get Liz and Howard's 59th wedding anniversary right though. What a marvellous achievement. And bridge every morning at sea, how very special.

Meeting new Bridge players, and having the time to get to know players from our club much better.



From me personally, in a somewhat compromised physical state, thanks to the overwhelming support and encouragement from all on our trip.

The following is a series of contributions from Ballina Bridge club members on the cruise.

## JUDITH CRAFTI.

**B.** Banquets and buffets on the boat.

**R.** Raiatea, red wine and rock 'n' roll.

**I.** Icy drinks, ingenious itinerary.

**D.** Drinks, dancing and dressing up.

**G.** Games, galas and gin.

**E.** Entertainment is enchanting on Edge.

## PETER LAMONT.

When I suggested to Carole that we join Howard and Liz for the bridge cruise to Hawaii, she hesitated at first as she is a non-bridge player. However, once we got away she was warmly welcomed by fellow travellers and found plenty of activities to keep her occupied during the bridge sessions.



## Bridge on the High Seas

The service delivered by the crew is highly professional and always delivered with a warm smile. We both enjoy meeting players from other clubs and socialising with other members from our Club. A big thank you to Howard for making this possible.

### BETTY CLARK

I have been on a number of cruises and I must say that this one, on Celebrity Edge, is by far the best. It is exceptionally nice to be able to relax and be pampered throughout the day and evenings. The food is unbelievable in choice and quality, the entertainment extremely good, and great fun playing bridge on the high seas each morning.

### HOWARD JEFFERY.

Of all the On board experiences I have had running bridge, bridge on the celebrity edge has been the smoothest.

It has been the combination of a great group of enthusiastic players from Cairns to Canberra and a wonderfully thoughtful crew. Bridge room is set up early morning and is ready on cue. It has been a delight for Liz and me in organising and running the bridge.



Liz and Howard's 59th wedding anniversary and Liz has finally got the halo she deserves.



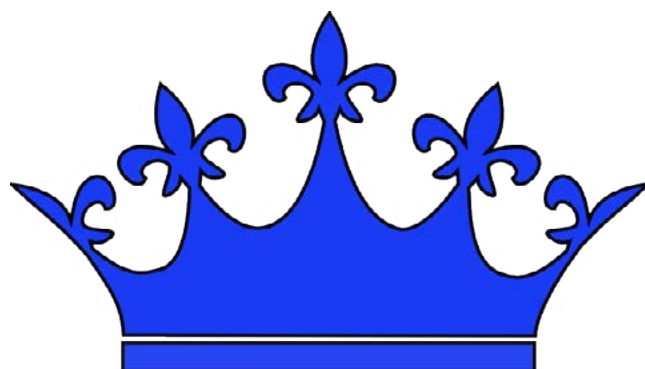
*photo courtesy Clive Klugman*

## The Ballina Congress 2025



# **KING'S BIRTHDAY TEAMS**

**Monday June 9, 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

**Red masterpoints**

**Theme for the Day: Red, White & Blue**

**BYO Lunch**

\$60 per Team (\$15pp if 4 per team)

Nominate online + one team payment  
preferred and by direct bank transfer

**Event Organiser: Jan Roberts**

**Entries Close on Thursday 5 June at 6pm**



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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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