



BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB

Newsletter January 2026

Message from the President



Lorraine Bryant

I hope you all had and pleasant and safe festive season. May 2026 be a year of good (or better) health, wonderful friendships, safe travels and contentment for you and yours.

Our Annual Presentation and Christmas Party was a most enjoyable event and it was wonderful to have so many of our new members join us. The room looked very festive this year with wonderful decorations, mostly made by Jan Roberts, adorning the walls and cupboards. Thank you, Jan, for making the clubhouse so beautiful this year. The Lions did another amazing job with catering, and I hope that everyone enjoyed the meal. Many new friendships were made during the fun afternoon at Bridge. Thank you to Howard and Liz Jeffery for directing the game. A special thank you to our Treasurer, Peter, who kept tally of the dinner bookings and processed payments. Thank you to Marjorie for organising the presentation.

To those who supported the Lion's cakes and puddings fundraising, thank you. Apparently, some didn't understand they were for sale not free. So if you were someone who forgot or didn't know you were expected to pay, Peter will still accept payment and forward it to the Lions Club.

Howard Jeffery resigned as Head Director in December. We thank Howard for his contribution to the club over many years, which was acknowledged by the award of Life Membership in 2023.

At a meeting of directors Rhonda Khong was nominated as Chair of Directing. Rhonda will compile rosters, organise meetings and training and assist new directors. Thank you, Rhonda.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Australia Day Teams, Monday January 26

Bridge lessons: start February 10

Saturday Novice section: starts February 14

Australia Day Teams is Monday, 26th January. It is always a friendly, fun day and I urge all members to consider being part of a team. You can register as a team, a pair, or let the event coordinator know you are interested in playing, and he/she will try to allocate you to a team. More information on the wonderful day from the Chair of Play, Marjorie very soon.

New day lessons will begin on Tuesday 10th February and run on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 11.30am for 6 weeks. Evening lessons are held on Monday night starting on 23rd February and run for 12 weeks from 6pm to 8pm. Cost for both sets of lessons is \$80. If you know anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to join. Remember if you have already paid for lessons at Ballina BC, you can attend any or all of the lessons, free of charge. If you wish to attend a lesson for revision, Judy can send you a list of lesson topics. Contact Judy Forsyth 0407 664 337 for more information.

Membership Fees are now overdue. Fees are \$65 for full membership and \$20 for Associate and Social membership. Pay online if possible. If you are not going to renew, please send Treasurer Peter a note. On the door of the storage room, there is a list of telephone numbers. These are the numbers that will

Thai By Night

Birthday winner for this month: Sophie Davis



Clue: Drunk with Principles - but these Principles may not be worth as much as first thought. (6,6)

Answer to Bob Hart's Bridge clue on page 11.





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be listed in the Program which goes to the printer soon, so please check to see if your number is correct. If your address or emergency contact has changed, please let our secretaries, David and Tim, or me know.

Gillian Baker and her team of helpers have worked hard to raise funds for our charity of the year raising over \$500 last financial year. At \$1 or \$2 for a book or Jigsaw it is very inexpensive entertainment. Please leave Gillian an IOU if you take a book without payment.

Congratulations to the Thai By Night winner for January - Sophie Davis .

To all the members who helped keep our club running

smoothly during 2025, Thank you. We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of volunteers, the members of the Teaching, Finance, Technology, Directing, Play, Dealing, House and Maintenance committees do an excellent job, as does Bill Powell (Masterpoint Secretary), Rob Eldridge (Media), Damien Kennedy (Welfare), Paul Smith (Webmaster) and of course Ange Bettess, the editor of our excellent monthly newsletter. To the Management Committee thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work.

To all those who see what needs to be done and step up to do it, know that your contribution is valued highly. Please keep up the good work in 2026 and consider joining one of the committees.

Teaching News

Judy Forsyth



Bridge Lessons at Ballina Bridge Club in 2026

Remember - you, our members, are our best resource for attracting future players to new lessons.

Small brochures are now available at our club for you to pass on to friends etc to encourage them to take up bridge.

New Evening lessons will begin on Monday, 23rd February for 12 weeks, 6-8pm.

New Day lessons will begin on Tuesday, 10th February, each Tuesday & Thursday, for 6 weeks (total of 12 lessons), 9:30-11:30am.

Cost for both sets of lessons is \$80.

Remember, if you have paid for lessons at Ballina Bridge Club, you may attend any or all lessons - day or evening, free of charge.

Please let me know if you wish to attend for revision.

For enquiries or to register, contact Judy Forsyth – 0407 664 337

If any players would be willing to help once a month on a Friday morning to assist with help in bidding/ play or fit in as an extra player, please contact Judy. Thank you.



Play Committee Report - December 2025

'Wrapping-Up' 2025:

NSW UHMP Pairs Championships: We waited patiently for the state-wide results to be finalised. Many of our pairs had scored well - and Congratulations to those who were awarded prizes:

Peter Rostron and Janet Campbell: 1st in the 50-100 handicapped results (Peter and Janet were also 5th overall).

Anne Tubridy and Kathy Saurine: 2nd in the 25-50 handicapped results.

You can check all the scores at: <https://www.australianbridge.com/UHMP/2025UHMP.php> (+ As you'll see it's fairly complicated with handicapping!)

Club Christmas Party, Monday December 8: We had a good turnout, with a 'fun' Individual movement for the afternoon session, then Annual Presentations, and then a Buffet Dinner; great 'tucker' catered for us by the Lennox Lions. All Good! The photos 'tell the story' + our annual awards 'roll' is shown on page 4.

Thanks to Jan Roberts, our Event Organiser, and notably for organising the new Christmas decorations for the clubhouse, which looked great. Thanks too to Howard Jeffery for directing the session, assisted by Liz Jeffery, and to all who contributed to ensure we had a good, and fun, time.

'Gearing-Up' for 2026:

Australia Day Picnic Teams, Monday January 26: Our first 'special' event of the year and we're going again with a Teams Day and a PICNIC LUNCH. + The plan is that everyone contributes some 'finger' food to share, and with everyone; + there's a sheet on the noticeboard for you to advise your planned contribution - to try and ensure we have a good 'mix'.

You can nominate as a Team of 4, 5 or 6 players, or as a pair, looking for teammates. Gillian Baker and Hilary Lewis are working together as our Event

Organisers, so please contact Gillian or Hilary if you need help with finding teammates, and/or if you can help by being a 'standby' for maybe the am and/or pm session. (Standbys are very important in case of any last-minute withdrawals.)

Prize winners will be awarded by 'Lucky Scores' – so all may be a 'winner'!! It's \$40 per team and please appoint a 'Team Captain' to pay for the team by direct bank transfer; and then be re-imbursed by team members. This is much easier for our treasury to administer, rather than collecting one-off payments or vouchers on the day. (+ See the poster on page 12)

Then coming up in February:

'NEW' Saturday Novice Section: starting Saturday February 14 at 1pm: For players with <20 masterpoints. We're hoping this session will encourage our newer players to the 'next step'. (This will run in parallel with the regular Saturday session.)

Harvey Norman Mixed Pairs: Wednesdays February 18 & 25: Start 'organising' your mixed partner for this 2-week event. There may be changes to the NSW State Mixed Championships so we're not sure how, or if, this fits as our Club Qualifying event – we'll keep you posted.

+ Further ahead please make a note of our 2026 **Congress Dates: April 18 & 19.**

2026 Programme Book: Coming very soon. We're checking some dates and awaiting further advice for dates and updates to some state events.

+ Just letting you know I'm off away from January 12 to February 6 (Bridge in Canberra, then Golf along the Murray) but I'll still be 'in-touch' and on email if you have any queries re anything 'Play' at the Club.

Happy Bridging for 2026 - Marjorie (Chair of Play)

email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com
or call: 0459 023 907

Ballina Bridge Club 2025 Awards



Pairs Championships

Open: Marjorie Askew & Bill Powell

Open Runners-Up: Helen Tootell & Peter Tootell

B Grade: Gillian Baker & Guy Jarvi

Restricted: Gordon Harris & Hilary Riggs

Novice: Darryl McMahon & Joan McMahon

Teams Championships

Open: Winston Guymer, Paul Smith, Liz Jeffery, Howard Jeffery

B Grade: Ray Ghioni, Chris Bauer, Colin MacDonald, Rob Sheahan, Vicki Ivosevac

Restricted: Margaret Cusack, Yvonne Head, Timothy Aley, David Drake

Harvey Norman Pairs Events

Women's Pairs: Judy Forsyth & Rebecca Rogers

Women's Pairs Runners-Up: Margaret Cusack & Jenny McDowell

Men's Pairs: Clive Klugman & Gary Lynn

Mixed Pairs: Vicki Ivosevac & Paul Smith

Mixed Pairs Runners-Up: Judith Crafti & Clive Klugman

Restricted Pairs: Starlette Beaumont & Edna D'Cruz

Somerville Laundry Lomax Shield

Open: Gary Lynn & Clive Klugman

B Grade: Timothy Aley & David Drake

Brumley Award*: Jan Roberts

(For the member, starting the year with between 15 & 75 masterpoints, who earns the most masterpoints at the Ballina Bridge Club in the year; with the year running from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.)

Geoff Brooks Award*: Darryl McMahon

(For the member, starting the year with <15 masterpoints, who earns the most masterpoints in Ballina Bridge Club's regular sessions in the year; with the year running from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.)

(*Members can only win the Brumley and Geoff Brooks Awards once, per each award.)











Did you ever get a book of puzzles for Christmas as a kid? Here are some Christmas puzzles of the bridge variety. You have three spare days because the cricket only goes for two of the allocated five this season. Feet up, cool drink in hand, time to puzzle.

You are always South and on lead in these problems. Remember that in a double dummy style of problem you can see all four hands, you are not guessing which cards are where.

Problem #1

North	
♠ 64	
♥ -	
♦ 32	
♣ 2	
West	East
♠ J3	♠ K
♥ 10	♥ A6
♦ K	♦ -
♣ 5	♣ J10
South	
♠ A2	
♥ -	
♦ 105	
♣ 6	

You are on lead as South playing in a Diamond contract. There are five tricks to go and you need to win three of those tricks.

♠A is an easy trick. Once the ♦K is gone then you have a long trump trick. Where is the third trick?

It's a puzzle so you know that doing the usual things won't work but let's try anyway. Draw the remaining trump by leading the ♦5 from your hand. West wins and leads a Club for partner to win. At this point you have lost the two tricks that you are allowed to lose.

East leads the ♠K which you must win with the ♠A. You can take your last trump but are forced to lose a Spade and fail in your contract.

... but, what if East didn't have the K to lead? Then they would have to lead a Club or a Heart. Either case you get a ruff and discard which provides the winning trick. Don't know what a ruff and discard is? Stay tuned.

North	
♠ 6	
♥ -	
♦ 32	
♣ -	
West	East
♠ J	♠ -
♥ 10	♥ A6
♦ K	♦ -
♣ -	♣ J
South	
♠ 2	
♥ -	
♦ 105	
♣ -	

The way to succeed is to *first* lead the ♠A. Everybody follows. Then lead your small Club. East is forced to win the trick and we now have this position.

Say East leads a Heart. You **ruff** with the ♦5 and **discard** the ♠6 from dummy. Your Spade loser has just disappeared! Lead the ♠2 from your hand and ruff in dummy. That's your second trick. You still have two trumps in hand and only one trump outstanding and that gives you the third trick.

What if East leads the ♣J? Basically, the same thing. You ruff with the ♦5 and discard the ♠6 from dummy. West can overruff if they want to but dummy will have two trumps for the last two tricks.

A ruff and discard is a great play to add to your toolkit. It takes some work and vision to set it up but is worth it because it makes a trick disappear.

Hence, my very, very strong advice to all defenders. Never, ever give declarer a ruff and discard if you can avoid it. It gives them a free trick.

Problem #2

North	
♠ A3	
♥ -	
♦ 96	
♣ 9	
West	East
♠ 6	♠ Q109
♥ 98	♥ 75
♦ QJ	♦ -
♣ -	♣ -
South	
♠ J2	
♥ Q64	
♦ -	
♣ -	

This time Clubs are trumps and you need four of the remaining five tricks. You have a top Spade, a top Heart and a trump — one trick short. The third Heart could become a trick but the problem is that you need to ruff a Heart to set it up which gets you stuck

in dummy. How to get back to hand to take that last Heart trick?

Something like ... ♥Q (discarding a Diamond), ruff a Heart (which puts you in dummy). You would now have the best Heart in your hand. Maybe a small Spade from dummy? If East does not play the Queen then your Jack will win and you can take the long Heart. Hmm, only problem is that East is not on your side! They just take the ♠Q when you lead small from dummy and play another Spade to put the lead back in the dummy. The last Diamond in dummy is a loser and down you go.

The four tricks you are trying to take are one Spade, a



top Heart, a Heart ruff and a long Heart. Do you see it? The ♠A is the obvious Spade trick but in puzzles the obvious thing is rarely right. Try this.

Lead the ♥Q and discard the ♠A from dummy! Now ruff a Heart in dummy to reach this position.

North		
♠	3	
♥	-	
♦	96	
♣	-	

West	
♠	6
♥	-
♦	QJ
♣	-

East	
♠	Q109
♥	-
♦	-
♣	-

South	
♠	J2
♥	6
♦	-
♣	-

Lead the ♠3 from dummy and East is cooked.

If they take the Queen they then have to lead another Spade for you to win with the Jack, giving you access to the precious Heart.

If they don't take the Queen then your ♠J wins

and you get to win your final Heart.

Either way, East is the one that gives you access to your winning Heart.

Problem #3

North		
♠	865	
♥	-	
♦	-	
♣	63	

West	
♠	QJ9
♥	-
♦	Q10
♣	-

East	
♠	K
♥	-
♦	A
♣	J108

South	
♠	10
♥	-
♦	-
♣	Q975

Clubs are trumps and you need three of the last five tricks. There is a certain Spade loser which means you can only afford one trump loser. Take the ♣Q and you are cooked. How are you going to handle the trump suit? East looks like a problem.



Rank Promotions at end December

Graduate: Vicki McClean, Teresa Ebenstreit

Bronze Local: Sherry Fehring

Bronze State: Barbara Proctor

Put some effort into trying to nut out the answer before clicking this button. Show Answer

No Trumps, for a change. You need four of the remaining tricks. West has quite the powerhouse and East's Club length prevents you from just overtaking the third Club in dummy. Leading a Spade or a Diamond will give West the first three tricks, so you better start with a Club.

Can you work out the wizardry that charms West out of their tricks? Give it some thought before you. See website for answer.

Want more? Check out the [Peter Hollands web site](#).

SAVE THE DATE – DIRECTORS TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Interested in Joining our Directing Team? We are working with John McIlrath, Chair of the Directing Committee of Bridge NSW, and coming up is:

Northern Rivers Directors Training Workshops:

Thursday April 16 at Tweed BC – 'Basics'

Friday April 17 at Ballina BC – 'More Advanced'

The Plan is all 'aspiring' directors can attend one, or both, Training Days.

(John McIlrath is a National Director and is then staying on to direct our Congress).

More specifics coming.....

Marjorie Askew

Ballina MahJong Club News

Winners for the month of December were:

5th Ramsay Roper

12th Mahjong Christmas Party

19th Vanessa Reynolds

26th Boxing Day



Our Christmas party on the 12th was a huge success, catered so well by the Lennox Lions Club.

Vanessa Reynolds



Answer to Clue: Wasted Values - Possession of values in the same suit in both partners' hands so arranged that they do not pull their full weight.

(1) High Card values in one hand and a singleton or void in the other; e.g. ♠KJ9 facing a void is much less useful than ♠KJ9 facing ♠Q4.

(2) High cards in short suits in both hands, e.g. ♠AJ facing ♠KQ

You can read more about it here: [Adventures in Bridge](#)



AUSTRALIA DAY 'PICNIC' TEAMS



A Fun Day of Teams with a Picnic Lunch



Picnic Lunch: Please contribute 'finger food' to share + advise on sheet on noticeboard

9.15 for 9.30 start

- ♣ Enter as a Team (4-6) or as a Pair looking for teammates
- ♦ All nominations through Club online booking system
- ♥ Please Prepay direct and by Team Captain in one payment
- ♠ Prize winners determined by 'Lucky Scores' 🐾 🐾

\$40 per team

Event Organisers: Gillian Baker/Hilary Lewis

Entries Close: Wednesday January 21 at 6pm



HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY



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