



# Newsletter November 2024

## Message from the President

*Lorraine Bryant*



A very enjoyable and successful Charity Day was held on 14th October.

The feedback from those who attended was very positive. Our charity this year was the Lennox Head Lions Club who support so many individuals and groups across the Ballina Shire. The Monday Social Group ran their Morning session and were joined by the afternoon group for a lovely lunch, catered for by the Lennox Head Lions Club. We raised \$3000 for the Lions. The funds will enable them to continue support for their many wonderful projects in Mental Health, assisting the Homeless, supporting our local hospital and the Rescue Helicopter and the youth programs to name a few. Thank you to the Director for the day, Howard. I would like to thank all who contributed to the success of the day and especially those businesses and club members who generously donated prizes to the raffle. Seventy-six players stayed on for the afternoon session of competitive bridge and we were delighted that some of the morning group stayed and played.

I hope we can help the Lions with their annual cake and pudding drive. Cakes are \$16 (1kg) and \$20 (1.5kg) and Puddings \$10. The mini cakes are \$2 each. The cakes make a lovely Christmas Gift for a friend or relative. Put your money in the

envelope with your name and post in the box. There is a plastic container for the \$2 cakes.

The 9th of December is our Christmas Party so save the date. More details later. We will start with an afternoon of Bridge, followed by our Presentation and then a festive dinner, catered for by Lennox Lions Club. It will be a fun afternoon so put it in your calendar.

The Harvey Norman Men's and Woman's Pairs are on Wednesday 13th and 20th November. Registration is now open.

Our Bridge Library has many wonderful books to assist us on our bridge journey but since Bob retired as librarian it has been neglected. Bob has spent some time getting the library back in order for us and Linda Maslen has volunteered to be our librarian so we hope it will once again get plenty of use. Thank you, Bob and Linda. If you wish to borrow a book take the card out and write your name and date and put it in the wooden box. When you return the book place it in the box underneath and Linda will return it to the shelf. There are still a lot of missing and outstanding books so I would ask everyone to search at home and place any library books you find in the box below. Please do not return them to the shelf yourself as

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Harvey Norman Women's and Men's Pairs Wednesdays  
November 13 & 20**

**NSW UHMP Local Final,  
Thursday November 28**

**Club Christmas Party: Monday  
December 9**

we need to match the card to the book.

Congratulations to all who participated in the Spring Nationals last week. Marjorie will outline the wonderful results in her Play Report. Coming up in Sydney are the NSW GNOT National Final and NSW Open Pairs Final. We wish the members in these events an enjoyable time.

Membership Fees are due by the end of December. Fees are \$50 for full membership and \$25 for Associate and Social membership. Pay online if possible. On the door of the storage room there will be a list of telephone numbers. These are the numbers that will be listed in the Program so please check to see that your number is correct.

The Under One Hundred Masterpoints (UHMP) Final will be held at Ballina BC on 28th November. Good Luck to the participants.



# Newsletter November 2024



## Play Committee Report - October 2024

### Events Gone:

#### Charity Day, Monday October 14:

It was a Great Club Day: a good crowd for the morning's 'social' bridge, mingling over Lunch cooked for us by the Lions, Raffles with 'oodles' of prizes and then afternoon bridge. Well Done to President Lorraine for 'gathering' so many raffle prizes and overseeing the day. Even better; all in a good cause!

#### NSW UHMP, Thursday October 17:

Our Club Qualifier for the NSW Under Hundred Masterpoints Pairs (UHMP) Championships. This event was held within our regular Thursday session. and we're awaiting the results where 'eligible' pairs (ie those with < 100 masterpoints) are awarded red masterpoints based on 'stratified' scoring ie scored against those in the same masterpoint bracket. For an explanation of this and for more information on this event go to: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=uhmp>

**Presentation of the Neil Raward Cup:** On my way to Toowoomba for their Congress at the beginning of October, I called in at the Gold Coast Bridge Club to present their President, Carolyn Waters with the trophy from our inter-club event held in September; and aptly in the Neil Raward room in their clubhouse. It was gratefully



received! - photo above. (This was the Gold Coast BC's first win since the event was introduced in 2018.) Also in the photo is Brian Borrell who directed the event.

#### Melbourne Cup, Tuesday

**November 5:** Melbourne Cup Day was very successful. It was a great day and the food was fantastic.



### Coming Up:

**Harvey Norman Women's and Men's Pairs, Wednesdays**

Marjorie Askew

#### November 13 & 20:

Nominations are growing but: Come on 'fellas' you're lagging behind! Nominations are scheduled to close on Saturday November 10 so that our directors can plan the 2-week movement. If you need help with partners please contact our Wednesday Partner Coordinator: Liz Jeffery.

All entries are for the 2-week event but please remember you can have one substitute as per our substitution rules (Section 7 in our Regulations) and as summarised in the box on page 3 + For this Harvey Norman event a substitute must be same sex. Again if you need Help please contact Liz, or me.

#### NSW UHMP Local Final, Thursday November 28:

We are hosting a Local Final of the UHMP on Thursday 28 November. On that day we will have a separate section for the UHMP players (masterpoints as at 1 September). All Local Finals state-wide, will play the same boards and the results will be matchpointed across the state with red masterpoints awarded.

**Club Christmas Party, Monday December 9.** Yes we're going with a Monday for our Christmas Party. 'Normal' start time (1pm) then Annual Presentations, then Buffet Dinner. See Poster on page 11 and



# Newsletter November 2024



## Play Committee Report - October 2024

please book in asap (and by latest Monday December 2) to help our planning.

### Good Luck to our Teams competing in:

#### 1. GNOT (Grand National Open Teams) Finals:

Our Team (Bill Powell, Marjorie Askew, Winston Guymer and Paul Smith) topped the non-metropolitan preliminary finals, held online on Realbridge in September and now head to Sydney for the National Finals on November 23 & 24. This is a new format for the Finals of this National event ie preliminary finals online, then (final) Finals face to face. 8 teams will compete for the non-metropolitan title.

#### 2. John Arkinstall State Teams Finals:

This is being held online on Realbridge on November 29 – December 1. 10 teams, having qualified across the state, will compete for the State and Country Team’s titles. Our Team (Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Gary Lynn, Clive Klugman and Janet Brown) has qualified through the Northern zone.

#### 3. ABF Club Teams Knockout:

Our under 100 Team (Rhonda Khong, Margaret Cusack, Ange Bettess and Peter Lamont) has qualified for the semi finals and will play Tasmania BA on Tuesday

November 12. This event is played online on RealBridge. For more information go to:

<https://www.abfevents.com.au/events/results/results.asp?yr=2024&dir=awko&Z=1>

#### Next Play Committee Meeting +

**New recruits:** Our next meeting is on Wednesday November 13 at 10am. As advised in the last newsletter, we’re looking for new recruits for the Committee. If you’re (possibly) interested please come along to our next Meeting to see what is involved. Or have a chat with me or one of the current Play Committee members: Liz Jeffery, Peter Rostron, Hilary Lewis, and Gillian Baker. Our aim is to have a committee with members of differing bridge experience, who will contribute differing perspectives.

**Au Revoir:** We have recently lost Mark Miller as a Committee member (and Head Director) and we thank him for his contributions to the Play Committee and to Bridge at our Club.

Carol Hocking is also on the verge of re-locating and we thank Carol for her contributions to the Play Committee, and notably as an Event Organiser.

We wish Mark and Lorraine, and Carol, all the best for their ‘new lives’. + We hope all will come visiting.....

If you have any questions or queries

or feedback on 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

#### Substitutions?

In summary for a 2-week event:

- One substitute is allowed.
- The player has to make every effort to find a substitute of ‘equivalent standard’ – or the closest available. (Here masterpoints is not the only ‘measure’.
- The Head Director or Play Committee Chair must be notified of any substitution and as soon as possible before the relevant session – and can thus approve the substitution.

### Thai By Night

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

Mark Miller

#### Rank Promotions at end October:

Club: Timothy Aley

Local: Janet Campbell

Bronze Local: David Drake

Silver Local: Peter Stolz

Bronze State: Rhonda Khong

The 'Ballina Brigade' has been busy 'Bridging' away through October. 17 of our members attended the King's Birthday Congress (Queensland calendar is in October) at Toowoomba and then 12 travelled to Canterbury, Sydney for the Spring Nationals from October 19-27.

At Toowoomba Bill Powell, Marjorie Askew, Paul Smith and Winston Guymer were 2nd (Photo right: Runners-Up are grinner!) in the Open Teams in a strong-ish field of 30 teams. Bill and Marjorie also grabbed 3rd in the Open Pairs. (Toowoomba host a great Congress over 3 days; with lots of great food for lunch and 'grazing' through the day.)

The Spring Nationals is an ABF event hosted by Bridge NSW; each state/territory hosts an 'national' event during the year. More novice and restricted events have been incorporated into the Spring Nationals programme this year, which offered a full week of events for these players. And it was our less experienced players who 'starred'. Some of their highlights:

Rhonda Khong and Margaret Cusack, and Starlette Beaumont and Edna D'Cruz, started their week in the Penline Restricted/Novice Swiss Pairs; both restricted and novice pairs played together. After 4 sessions Rhonda and Margaret were just pipped for first overall, but finished 1st in the Novice section. Starlette and Edna also had a good result: 6th overall and 3rd in the Novice section.



Rhonda and Margaret were presented with ABF 'medals'. (I tend to call these: Shields (well mini ones).) (Photo right)



Later in the week, Rhonda and Margaret were joined by David Drake and Timothy Aley for the Restricted/Novice Teams. After the first day they were leading



and 'eyeing' the Shield which was to be presented to the winners. However again they were pipped for first overall, but finished 1st in the Novice section. So again 'medals' were presented.

It was 'tough' bridge in the Open

sections but everyone 'won' gold masterpoints, and beyond bridge we all enjoyed the great variety of restaurants in Burwood, Ashfield, Canterbury, Campsie and ..... + I hear some went to Chinatown.

Read more about the novice team from Timothy Aley on page 6.

# The Ballina Brigade at the Spring Nationals



# ABF Spring Nationals Novice Teams win in Sydney



Timothy Aley

It was with quite a bit of trepidation that I agreed to join David in a teams event at the ABF Spring Nationals, in Sydney at the Canterbury Race Course. We had been invited by Margaret and Rhonda to join them and team up to take on all comers!

Arriving at the venue on the day one of two, we were not quite sure what to expect. This was the first big congress that either of us had attended, after all. But enthused by our team members, we headed to our section and began what would turn out to be a very enjoyable day.

There were only six tables in the novice section, with other teams from various locales. Mostly from Sydney, but also from Adelaide and a couple who had lived for a few years in Suffolk Park!

Everyone was keen to win, so the competition was sharp. The day flew by and our team was quite chuffed to end the day 0.06 points ahead, in first place.

At the start of the second day, we were marked as the team to beat.

I think the previous day's success got to all of us and by the start of the last table, we found ourselves 5 points behind the leaders. The pressure was on!

What followed was the most intense round of bridge I have played in my short career. The title hinged on what happened in the next hour. It was like something out of Casino Royale! (Fortunately without the drugged Martini!).

Ultimately, we won the novice section, with a second place overall. The winners were a restricted team from Sydney, who bested us on the day. Congratulations to all teams involved.

So Margaret, Rhonda, David & myself, headed off to Chinatown, for a celebratory dinner, with all of us agreeing it had been a great couple of days and ready to join up again as soon as possible. On to the next congress!

## Ballina MahJong Club News

Winners for the month of October:

Oct 4 Vanessa Reynolds

Oct 11 Margaret Bryant

Oct 18 Lorna Simpson

Oct 25 Carol Meyer



Vanessa Reynolds

Happy 80th Birthday  
to Sue Fielder



# Photos from Toowoomba - including Festival of Flowers



# Melbourne Cup Day



# Charity Day 2024



## Message for members

Anyone wishing to follow-up information about MyABF which was presented at the September forum can follow these links..

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/>

<https://www.abf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/MY-ABF-INTRODUCTION-FOR-PLAYERS.pdf>

<https://www.abf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/MY-ABF-INTRODUCTION-FOR-CLUBS.pdf>





# Newsletter November 2024

## What are my options

Paul Smith



When you make a call there are often other possibilities to consider. A recent hand from the club is a nice example. Sitting North as dealer, you pick up a powerful looking collection.

<b>North</b>
♠ 32
♥ A85
♦ AKQ87643
♣ -

Only, 13 high card points which is ordinary for an opening hand. One point for the doubleton

and three for the void gets to a respectable 17 points. Looking at losers, there are only four. First things first, what to open?

Some folks might look at the four losers and call this a 2♣ opening in their system. Others look at the point count and call it a 1♦ opening.

A 2♣ opening should indicate that you have game in your own hand, or close to it. Are you close to game? Nine tricks certainly, but game? To make 3NT will need good cards in both the black suits from partner. Hardly game in hand if you need that much help. Similarly, 5♦ is going to need two tricks from partner. The downside of opening 2♣ is always that you eat up a lot of bidding space, making it difficult to have a conversation with partner.

The usual concern is "But what if partner passes my 1♦ opening?" If partner only has five points then a Diamond part score is probably all that is going to make, so playing

in 1♦ would be nice. (Don't forget that your 13 plus partner's five, at best, means the opponents have at least 22 points. It would be yummy to steal the contract in 1♦ in that situation).

I vote that 1♦ is clearly the best opening. Your left-hand opponent jumps to 2♥ and the auction proceeds as follows.

Brd: 1			
Dlr: N			
Vul: Nil			
W	N	E	S
	1♦	2♥	2♠
P	?		

You are now back in the hot seat. What do you know? East will probably have six Hearts and a weakish hand (6-10, say). Partner will have five Spades and at least 10 points. With only four Spades they would have doubled.

Partner's free bid at the two level shows enough strength that you definitely want to be in game now. Consider a few possibilities for your rebid.

- 2NT, 3♦ or 4♦. None of these bids would be considered forcing and you should reject them immediately. You don't want to make one of these bids and hear partner Pass.
- 3♥. Bidding the opponent's suit is always forcing and an easy

way to keep the auction going. South will show a stopper in Hearts as their first priority by bidding 3NT. What would you do after that? Hard to know - passing is dangerous as, after this auction, the opponents are bound to lead a Club and there is no guarantee that partner has anything useful there (they have already shown Spades and Hearts, hoping for Clubs as well is very "rose tinted glasses"). On the other hand, partner may not have a Heart stopper and would be able to show a six-card Spade suit which gives you a Major suit fit. Without either of those hands, partner will probably be forced to return to Diamonds. 3♦ has some merit.

- 3NT turns your lovely strong hand into a gamble. You have nine very likely tricks but the obvious Club lead through partner's hand is likely to be problematic.
- 4NT. What if partner shows one Ace? It might be the pretty useless Club Ace or, worse still, the Spade King if you are playing Roman Keycard. This bid is likely to be a waste of time.
- 5♦. Probably going to make but it will be difficult for South to bid slam with very little information. Too unilateral for my liking.

One more option ... 6♦. Sometimes the way to bid a slam is to write a '6' on the bidding pad. The

# What are my options

Paul Smith



popular YouTuber, Peter Hollands, often thinks through a question to determine if slam is a reasonable option. "Can I imagine a minimum strength partner hand where slam will make?" If a minimum hand can possibly make, then a stronger hand will make slam even more likely. Some minimum hands where slam is likely are

- ♠AKxxx ♥Q ♦xx ♣xxxxx - 9 HCP
- ♠Axxxx ♥x ♦xx ♣Axxxx - 8 HCP
- ♠KQxxx ♥x ♦Jxx ♣xxxx - 6 HCP
- ♠AKxxxx ♥Qx ♦x ♣xxxx - 9 HCP

These hands are actually sub-minimum in terms of the strength shown by the 2♠ response. Bidding 6♦ is, therefore, more than reasonable.

(It is good practice to think through why slam is likely with each of these South hands. In particular,

think through how you would make if East was so unkind as to lead a trump).

Lastly, you may have the gadget known as Exclusion Blackwood in your armoury. This is a way to ask for keycards excluding one particular suit. Useful if you have a void, as here, and so don't care about the Ace of that suit. I leave it as an exercise to the reader as to why there is probably little point in using this convention even if you do have it available.

Bottom line, the short, sweet auction shown opposite is perfectly reasonable.

"But, but, but, ..." I can hear. It is true that there are hands that South might hold where slam is less likely. But, do you want to be in slam after thinking through all the options?

As long as East has the ♥K as part of their six-card suit, the slam is going to make. After drawing trumps, the simple expedient of leading a small Heart from the North hand towards the Queen in dummy will bring home the bacon.

Sat, Oct 19th

Brd: 1	<b>North</b>		
Dir: N	♠ 32		
Vul: Nil	♥ A85		
	♦ AKQ87643		
	♣ -		
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>	
♠ QJ109		♠ 6	
♥ 76		♥ KJ10943	
♦ 109		♦ J5	
♣ AJ432		♣ K985	
	<b>South</b>		
	♠ AK8754		
	♥ Q2		
	♦ 2	6♦ N	
	♣ Q1076	Lead - ♠6	
W	N	E	S
	1♦	2♥	2♠
P	6♦	<end>	

**Millers ???** Apologies from Lorraine and I. We never intended to just disappear from Ballina Bridge Club like we have done. Unfortunately, we returned from our overseas trip unwell, me in particular. Perhaps I might have got over the incessant coughing with rest but we had a housemove to organise by October 15 so time was tight. However, I lost 3 days in Ballina hospital after my condition worsened. There it was diagnosed that I had contracted RSV(still had?) and viral pneumonia. Perhaps oddly I was treated with antibiotics and maybe to justify this my discharge letter said I had had bacterial pneumonia. I did feel slightly better, possibly because of the enforced rest. So, it was back to packing, cleaning and selling off items. My health deteriorated again. Thanks for the offers of help but we did not want to risk anyone being exposed so avoided most contact. We were keen to have at least one farewell game at Ballina but my condition made that impossible. Lorraine struggled on with less symptoms and did a great job at home but her health also worsened. We just managed to get the move done.



We continued to keep a low profile at Palm Lake, Cooroy. Lorraine's health improved and eventually so did mine. We did play at Noosa Bridge Club today - four weeks after our return from OS. We still get very tired so the ordeal is not over yet. An RSV vaccine is recommended for those over 75. Do some research and consider it for yourselves.

Hopefully we will get back to Ballina for that farewell game soon. All the best to all of you and to Ballina Bridge Club.

- Mark & Lorraine Miller



**YOU ARE INVITED TO**  
**BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB**  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

ON

**MONDAY DECEMBER 9**

♣ **Bridge starts at 1pm – NO Partner needed**

♦ **Annual Presentations follow Bridge**

*and then:*

♥ **Buffet Dinner**

**\$30 per person – prepay please**  
**and preferably by direct bank transfer**

**Event Organiser: Hilary Lewis**

**Please book online & pay – by Monday December 2**

# Harvey Norman

## Women's & Men's Pairs

Wednesdays

November 13 & 20

Please nominate online by 9 November  
N.B All Nominations are for the 2-week  
event\*

**Partner Coordinator: Liz Jeffery**

**Conditions:**

1. Open to all members of Ballina Bridge Club.
2. Separate winners for women and men provided there are at least 6 pairs per each gender entered.
3. Event will be held provided there are a minimum of 8 pairs entered.
4. \* Substitutes will be allowed according to Ballina Bridge Club rules.
5. Winners determined by best average score over the 2 rounds.

**Normal voucher on the day**

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters

# Harvey Norman

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