



**BALLINA
BRIDGE CLUB**

Newsletter November 2025

Message from the President

Lorraine Bryant



I was overwhelmed by the support for charity day by our members. The food members provided for the luncheon was amazing - a great variety of delicious tastes to share. Thank you to all who brought in food, purchased raffle tickets or gave donations to this wonderful cause. We will be presenting 'Women Up North' \$3000 to further their work assisting women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

The following is a list of businesses that supported our raffle. If you can support them, they would be grateful and mention the bridge club: Coffee Club, Terry White Chemist, Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina RSL, Wallace and Co., Harcourts Real Estate, Pauline's Hair Salon, BWS at Lennox Head, Pillow Talk, Harvey Norman Electrical, Club Lennox, Le Chelle at Lennox Head, Lennox Head Butchery, Blooms the Chemist, West Ballina Pharmacy, Brad's Butchery at West Ballina, Cherry Street Butchery, Rip Curl Ballina, Beefy's Pies Ballina, Lennox Lions Club, Dan Murphy's, Zentveld's Coffee Farm and Roastery and Inner Beauty at Lennox Head.

The motion regarding the Christmas Party that was brought to the AGM was out of order according to our Constitution. Our constitution also makes it clear that no club funds can be transferred or paid directly by way of a bonus to club members, therefore there will be no free Christmas Party. There will also be no free vouchers for Directors. We are a club run by wonderful volunteers.

Welcome to our new member this month Darelle Angel. We all hope you have a long and happy association with the club.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Championships - final rounds - Open and B Grade: Saturday November 1; Restricted: Thursdays November 6 & December 4

Melbourne Cup, Tuesday November 4

Inter-club hosted by Tweed BC, Sunday Nov 9

Harvey Norman Women's & Men's Pairs Wednesdays November 12 & 19

Club Christmas Party, Monday December 8

Coming up this month – Harvey Norman Men's and Women's Pairs on 12th and 19th November. Avoid the rush and get your entry in early.

Ring the Bells! Beginner lessons are on again in February.

Rebecca Rogers

We will begin a new round of daytime lessons for beginners in February for a period of 6 weeks. Dates to be confirmed. Lessons will be on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for about 2 hours. Watch this space for more information as it comes. Call Judy Forsyth 0407 664 337 to enquire and book in.

Perhaps a nice Christmas present for a friend would be a set of Bridge lessons?!

Thai By Night

Birthday winner for this month: Bob Hart



Clue 1. Under the Equator. Some Rubber Bridge scores are placed here. (5,3,4)

Clue 2. This vulgar humourist is thrown away. (7)

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





Play Committee Report - October 2025

Events Gone:

Charity Day, Monday October 13:

This turned out to be a 'lovely' day. Members' food contributions were a 'gastronomic delight', lots of raffle prizes, and we raised good \$\$ for a good cause – Oh and we played some Bridge + 'No Worries' that the pm movement was 'curtailed'.

+ For more on our Charity for this year: Women Up North: Women Up North - a fresh start ... leaving violence behind, go to: <https://wunh.org.au/>

NSW UHMP, Thursday October 16:

Peter Rostron our Event Organiser encouraged great numbers (14 tables) for our Club Qualifier of this state event. + Thanks to Margaret Cusack and Darryl McMahon for directing the event.

We are awaiting advice of the red masterpoints (at State Championship level) awarded and in 4 masterpoint divisions: 0-9.99, 10-24.99, 25-49.99 and 50-99.99.

We are planning to host a 'Local' Final of the UHMP on Thursday 27 November – but are still awaiting confirmation. If this goes ahead, we will have separate sections on the day.

For more information on this event go to: <https://bridgensw.com.au/under-100-masterpoints-pairs-championships/>

Coming Up:

Championships – Just 1, or 2, rounds to go:

The Final Round of our Open and B-Grade (Under 300MP) Championship is this coming Saturday, November 1. The Restricted and Novice Championships has 2 rounds to go: next Thursday November 6 and then Thursday December 4. You may recall Cyclone Alfred 'interfered' in March so this round was re-scheduled to December.

You may have noticed on the News Page on our

website, Paul Smith has uploaded the 'Running Scores' for both Championships – so all can check how they're going. Thanks Paul.

Melbourne Cup, Tuesday November 4:

Hopefully more 'gastronomic delights' with member contributions for a buffet as we break from Bridge for the Race. Please note it's a 12 for 12.30 start – so some Bridge before the Race, and of course after.

Dress Code: Melbourne Cup. Our Event Organiser is: Hilary Lewis. (See poster on page 7)

Inter-club hosted by Tweed BC, Sunday November 9:

In the end we had great support notably with nominations in the mid-division for this new 3-way inter-club event, between Tweed, Ballina, and Gold Coast bridge clubs, hosted by Tweed BC and competing for the Noble & Ross Trophy; with the trophy donated by Tweed BC.

Teams (2 per Club in each of 3 Divisions) are about to be finalised – so I'll be in touch with more 'specifics'.....
+ Play Well our Teams.

Harvey Norman Women's & Men's Pairs Wednesdays November 12 & 19:

The last of our Harvey Norman events for this year and this time it's Women's and Men's Pairs. Nominations are growing slowly. If you need help finding a partner for this 2-week event please contact our Partner Coordinator Jean Lowe. If need be, you can have a substitute for one of the weeks – but must be same sex. + Please check out our substitute regulations; + N.B substitutes are to be approved by Chair of Play or Head Director - so with Howard away please contact me (+ I'll be playing in the event).

For this event Play Committee has decided there will be NO separate section ie for non-contending pairs, on either day. It is already onerous for a Playing Director to plan a 2-week movement – and play in the event. + We're hoping to have separate sections



Play Committee Report - October 2025

for the Women's and Men's events, depending on numbers. Please note nominations close on Sunday November 9 – again to help our Director with planning the movements. (See poster on page 8)

Club Christmas Party, Monday December 8: We're going with the 'tried-and- tested': 'Normal' start time (1pm) for Bridge – a 'fun' Individual movement - then Annual Presentations, then Christmas Dinner. See poster on page 9 + please note nominations close on Saturday November 29.

As always, if you have any questions or queries about events gone or coming up, or feedback on anything 'Play' at the Club, please get in touch.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

or call: 0459 023 907

Rank Promotions at end October: Defer to next month

Spring Nationals, Sydney October 18 -26

The Ballina Brigade ventured to Sydney with Bridge NSW hosting this national event.

A new format for the Teams Championship was trialled. It ran over 5 days and attracted many/most of Australia's best and was 'copied' from an English event. It was 'complex' with play in pools and then knockouts but in my opinion was 'worthy' for a national event and 'something different'; albeit am sure there may well be some 'tweaking' for next year.



The Ballina Brigade: Drinks at the end of play

We certainly enjoyed the opportunity to play against 'good' teams. Rhonda Khong and Margaret Cusack 'jumped in the deep end' in a team with Paul Smith and Winston Guymer (photo right). Clive Klugman partnered his son Noah in a team of 'Young-Uns' (+ Clive!). Bill and I played with our Queensland bridge friends Rachel Langdon and Nik Moore. Our small 'claim-to-fame' was to come up against the eventual winners (Milne) in the Round of 16; we lost the first set 63-13 but came back in the second winning 37-11 – but not big enough!

The rest of the week was Mixed Teams, and Swiss Pairs in various masterpoint divisions – more good bridge but no winners from Ballina.



The event had a new Organiser: Shannon Queree from Parammatta BC and a Bronze National Master. Shannon seemed to do a great job, with good humour and clad herself in 'Cardy/Bridge' attire c/o Temu.

Canberra in Bloom Bridge Congress (CIB) is held on the long weekend in October. It is run annually by the Bridge Federation of the ACT (BFACT). The congress coincides with Floriade (Canberra annual flower show). CIB attracts many players from Canberra and surrounding areas, New South Wales and places further afield such as Perth.

I played in the Spider Orchid Restricted Pairs and the Grevillea Gem Restricted Teams. Both events were enjoyable and it was good to play against different people. My team (Su Yem Lo, Tim Mathew, George Mclean and I) played seven 12-board matches over one and half days. We had some success with a few early wins and at one point, we were coming second in the field and it looked like we could actually win some real money. Unfortunately, we lost badly to the team that won and the second placed team, so that put paid to that idea. In the end, we finished fourth with four wins, one draw and two losses giving us 3.66 gold masterpoints.



Ballina MahJong Club News

Winners for the month of October were:

- 3/10 Vanessa Reynolds
- 10/10 Gladys D'Anna
- 17/10 Ramsay Roper
- 24/10 Wendy Thornton
- 31/10 Vanessa Reynolds.



Vanessa Reynolds

NSW State-wide Pairs



Above: Jenny McDowell receiving a certificate for 7th place in NSW State-wide pairs (absent: Ange Bettess)



Answer to Clue 1: Under the Equator. Some Rubber Bridge scores are placed here. (5,3,4) - **Below the line** - Where made contracts are scored in Rubber Bridge. Overtricks, penalties etc go above the line.

Answer to Clue 2: This vulgar humourist is thrown away. (7) - **Discard** - It sounds unimportant but it is a valuable opportunity to give your partner information.



Law 27 can be your best friend

Law 27 is all about insufficient bids and how they are handled. The first option every player on the left of the insufficient bidder has, is to accept the insufficient bid. Most players reject this option with little consideration thinking it would give the opposition an advantage but it may not.

		S K9542										
		H KJ2			N	E	S	W				
		D 964					1D	1C *				
S Q		C 89	S J73									
H T863			H AQ7									
D Q7			D T8532		* Insufficient Bid							
C AKJT32			C Q6									
		S AT86										
		H 954										
		D AKJ										
		C 754										

If North asks West to make the bid sufficient and West bids 2 Clubs, North is now in a difficult position. 2 Spades is far too strong a bid for the hand and double with 3 Hearts is risky. North, East and South are likely to pass leaving West in a comfortable 2 Club contract.

However, if North accepts the insufficient bid and bids 1 Spade. East will still pass but South is delighted to hear about North's Spades and will take the bid to 2 Spades. West is then rather caught. Any action is fraught as North's strength is at this stage unlimited and 3 Clubs is an overbid of the hand when his partner has shown no values. West is most likely to pass and leave North in a comfortable 9-card Spade contract.

So, take time and consider your options when you are asked whether you wish to accept or not an insufficient bid. You may be doing the opposition a favour by insisting on a sufficient bid.

Howard Jeffery

When can the Lead Card be changed?

To answer this, we must firstly define the two main phases of the auction, the Auction Period and the Clarification Period.

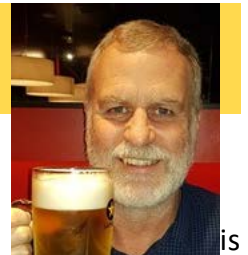
The auction period is when players make bids to determine the final contract and ends when a bid is followed by three consecutive passes. The Clarification Period begins immediately after the Auction Period and finishes when the opening lead is faced.

Once an opening lead has been selected by Declarer's left-hand opponent and placed face-down on the table, the card cannot be changed unless a Director approves the change.

When would a Director approve the replacement of the face-down lead? When during the Clarification Period some further information re the declaring side's bidding has come to light, e.g. an alert wasn't given that should have been or the wrong defender has lead (out of turn).

Key point is, that only the Director can approve the change of the lead-card and they should only allow approve it when there has been omitted or misinformation previously given by the declaring side or the lead has come from the wrong hand.

Liz Jeffery



A recent hand from a Monday session at Ballina. I was sitting West as declarer in a contract of 4♥. The opening lead was the ♦2. Put yourself in South's shoes after the lead has been made and dummy goes down.

South - Our hero		Dummy	
♠	QJ985	♠	6
♥	4	♥	10983
♦	K1076	♦	J853
♣	K92	♣	AJ73

4♥ W
Lead - ♦2

You and partner play "standard leads" - fourth best when headed by an honour, Middle-Up-Down, and so on. The lead of a two always carries a lot of information, what does South work out?

The lead could be a singleton, of course. That would mean that declarer holds the ♦AQ94 and all your cards are doomed.

From a doubleton your partnership always plays high-low and the two is not high! Definitely not a doubleton.

With three small cards you lead the middle one. Again, the two cannot be a middle card, and so the lead is definitely not from three small cards.

Three cards headed by an honour? Yes, that is possibly.

From four small cards you lead the second highest, not what is happening here.

Four cards with an honour? Possibly, because partner would lead their fourth best.

Not a five card suit because partner would lead fourth best and there would have to be a card smaller than the two in partner's hand.

Ignoring the singleton possibility (because you can't do anything in that case) you can conclude that partner has three or four Diamonds headed by an honour. Which honour? Between your hand and the dummy you can see the 10, Jack and King. Partner has either the Ace or the Queen (or both). You never, ever underlead an Ace and so you have worked out that partner has the Queen. Give yourself a pat on

the back for your detective work and remember to have a chat with partner about how good it is to have leading agreements.

Ok, so partner has three or four cards in the Diamond suit headed by the Queen. Declarer calls for the three from dummy, what do you play? Declarer must have ♦A9, ♦A4 or ♦A. Playing your six on this trick would lose if declarer has the nine.

Your King would lose to declarer's ♦A but may also allow declarer to later lead towards dummy's Diamonds and generate a trick with the ♦J. (I wrote [Resolution 6](#) and so I definitely remember!)

The perfect card to play is the ♦10. The Jack is in dummy, partner has the Queen and you have the King. Therefore, Declarer will have to play the A and cannot setup any later tricks in the suit. The hero of our story, South, thus confidently plays the ♦10 on the first trick.

Imagine their consternation, and my surprise as declarer, when I win the first trick with the ♦Q. What is going on? South's logic was impeccable, but their partner had underled the ♦A. The full hand -

Brd: 24 Dir: W Vul: Nil		The villain	
		♠	K43
		♥	765
		♦	A942
		♣	Q86
West		East	
♠	A1072	♠	6
♥	AKQJ2	♥	10983
♦	Q	♦	J853
♣	1054	♣	AJ73
		South	
		♠	QJ985
		♥	4
		♦	K1076
		♣	K92

4♥ W
Lead - ♦2

To be clear, the problem is not that declarer gets a free trick and a top board. That is a one-off bad thing. The problem is the erosion of partnership trust. Forevermore, South, will not be able to trust

their partner. If the bedrock of assumptions can be violated then there can be no more assumptions or trust in agreements. Every card will carry with it an element of doubt.

If you and partner have agreements, then stick to them or be prepared to have partnership understanding be undermined bit by bit. Also, apologise.

MELBOURNE CUP PAIRS

Tuesday 4 November 2025



TIME: 12 noon for 12.30pm start

COST: Voucher on the day

**Come with a partner and please try and
bring a plate (sweet or savoury) to share.**

**There will be a break for the race and a free
glass of wine/champagne or beer/orange juice will
be available for all players while we watch the Cup.**

Sweeps will be run for all the Punters!

DRESS: Melbourne Cup

Event Organiser: Hilary Lewis



Harvey Norman

Women's & Men's Pairs

Wednesdays

November 12 & 19

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

Partner Coordinator: Jean Lowe

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



YOU ARE INVITED TO
BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB
CHRISTMAS PARTY

ON

MONDAY DECEMBER 8

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

♦ **Annual Presentations follow Bridge**

and then:

♥ **Christmas Dinner - 2 courses**

\$35 per person – prepay please
and preferably by direct bank transfer

Please book online & pay - by
Saturday November 29

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Harvey Norman

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