



Newsletter September 2025

Message from the President



Lorraine Bryant

The major event for September is our Annual General Meeting and Club Forum on 13th September commencing at 10.00am. I hope that all members will join us for these important events. The Forum is an opportunity to have your opinion heard on issues affecting the club going forward in 2026. If you cannot attend, you can lodge an apology on the sheet on the table near entrance.

The following nominations for positions on the Management Committee have been received:

President - Lorraine Bryant
Vice President - Robert Sheahan
Treasurer - Peter Rostron
Assistant Treasurer - Robyn Thomas
Secretary – David Drake
Assistant Secretary – Timothy Aley
Chair of Play – Marjorie Askew
Committee Member - Margaret Cusack
Committee Member - Sophie Davis
Committee Member - Anna Huddy
Committee Member - Rebecca Rogers

There are also two nominations for Life Membership.

A light lunch is provided after the forum. If you can assist with catering by making sandwiches or something else, please let me know. Provide your dockets for cost incurred to Peter, our treasurer for a refund. In anticipation thank you for your support.

Our Life Members' Day will be held on 10th September with a special afternoon tea during bridge. We will celebrate the wonderful contribution the Life Members have made to Ballina Bridge Club and thank them for their continued support.

Eighteen members of our club travelled to Grafton for their Congress. Kay Pearson and Vicki Ivosevac were first in B division, Ian Michelson and Deb McLay (ex Ballina) were second in the Open (photos page 5). Helen and Peter Tootell were 5th, Ken Jones and Paul

UPCOMING EVENTS

Life Members Day on Wednesday September 10

SLL Shield, Wednesdays September 17 & 24

Charity Day, Monday October 13

Smith were 6th. Congratulations to all who played.

October is our Charity Month with our special day being Monday 13th being and this year we are supporting "Women Up North" (WUNH). WUNH looks after women, children and young people experiencing domestic or family violence or abuse. They don't advertise due to risk involved and rely on networking and word of mouth to identify those needing assistance. The funding they have is not adequate for the work they need to do with local domestic violence. I will be seeking prizes for our Raffle which is always popular. If you know of any business who may donate a prize for our raffle or you can help me source the prizes, please let me know.

You may have spotted some of our wonderful members having to sort the garbage because some members are not using the correct bins, The Lions Club do not recycle banana skins, dirty cake plates and bidding slips, all of which have been put in the bin for recycling only cans and bottles (not wine bottles) for charity, The kitchen bins are also a problem. Recycling is for clean paper bottles and cans and everything else should go in Landfill. Please assist those volunteers who put out the garbage by taking the time to put things in the correct bin.

The new air conditioning system is being installed on the 16th and 17th September.

If you have not yet activated your MyABF membership you can do this by phoning Margaret Cusack or giving your name, ABF number, email address and a password of 8 characters to Margaret or me. Please note that you do not need any bank account details.



Play Committee Report - August 2025

Events Gone:

NSW State-wide Pairs, Wednesday August 6:

30 pairs competed at our Club in this state-wide event, where the same hands are played in clubs throughout NSW, and then scored state-wide. Our winners on the day - and by a Big 'Country-Mile' - were Ange Bettess and Jenny McDowell with 72.14% - Wow! We were thus optimistic for the state-wide scoring..... Their % went down to 67.9% and they finished a very creditable 7th state-wide, out of 604 Pairs competing in 37 clubs; the winning score being 70.6%. Very Well Done!

Plus we had 2 more pairs in the Top 60:

33rd: Chris Bauer and Colin MacDonald with 61.9%
50th: Phil and Cathy Hocking with 60.4%

You can check all the results at: <https://www.australianbridge.com/SWP/2025SWP.php>

+ For those who took part you can check the state-wide scores and your own state-wide scoresheet at: <https://www.australianbridge.com/BNSW-SWP.php>

And if your curious about why the percentages, and order of rank, change when scored state-wide, you'll find a fairly detailed explanation at: https://www.australianbridge.com/articles/AB_23-12_scoring.pdf

If you missed out on picking-up a booklet with a brief hand commentary at the end of the session, probably best you ask Peter Rostron or me. (We're trying to cut-down on the numbers of hand records that are unclaimed and thus go straight in the bin, hence the request on the day to pre-request if you wanted a booklet.)

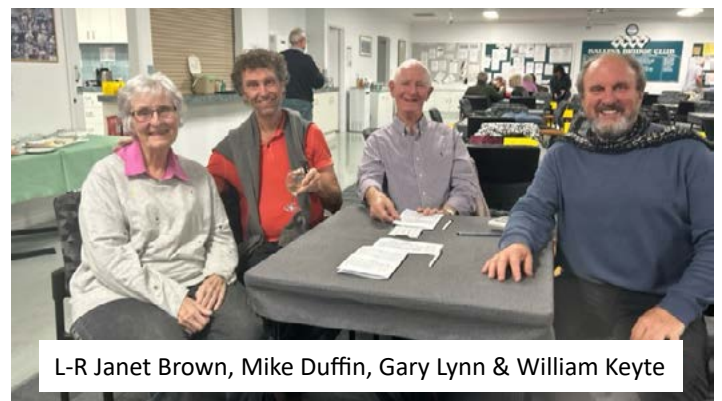
Thanks to Peter Rostron for dealing the special hands for this event and to Rhonda Khong our director on the day.

GNOT Northern Rivers Regional Final, Sunday August 10:

Ballina hosted this Regional Final with 9 Teams

competing; 6 from Ballina, 2 from Tweed and 1 from Byron Bay. As reported last month Mark Miller 'dashed down' to direct the event - thanks Mark.

A full round robin was played over the day. It was a close finish with Janet Brown, Gary Lynn, William Keyte and Mike Duffin (Ballina) just edging Mitchell Raaen, Ian Dickison, Lou Tillotson, and Roger Weathered (Tweed).



L-R Janet Brown, Mike Duffin, Gary Lynn & William Keyte

Our winners now progress to the National Qualifying Final which will be held online on RealBridge on September 19-21; 64 Teams from regions across Australia will be competing. Clive Klugman is also a member of the team progressing but was not available to play in the Regional Final.

Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs, Thursdays August 21 & 28:

10 pairs competed in this 2-week event. Congratulations to our winners: Edna D'Cruz and Starlette Beaumont, with Darryl and Joan McMahon runners-up; prizes will be presented at our annual presentations.

Thanks to our Event Organiser Peter Rostron, and for organising (including cajoling) a side section on both days, notably for regular Thursday players who were either ineligible for the Harvey Norman event (too many masterpoints) or unable to commit to the 2 weeks. Thanks too to Ken Jones for directing the 2-week event, again overseeing 2 sections, with some help from Darryl McMahon and Margaret Cusack.

Coming Up:

Life Members Day on Wednesday September 10:

Come along for bridge and cake and to celebrate with our Life Members. (And play Bridge!)

Inter-club with Gold Coast BC: Sunday September 14:

Vey disappointingly it is looking like this may not happen. The Gold Coast BC appear to have only limited interest from their players. They're still trying to encourage nominations and we should know in the next couple of days.

Thanks to those who have nominated for our Team, and I'll be keeping you posted. Meanwhile please nominate for the new 3-way inter-club to be hosted by Tweed BC coming up on Sunday November 9 – see below.

SLL Shield, Wednesdays September 17 & 24:

This is a 2-week event with winners in both Open and B Grade; winners are determined by the best average score over the 2 weeks. Prizes are from Somerville Laundry Lomax who have been a Club supporter back to 'Day 1' of our clubhouse; these are presented at our annual presentations

As this is a Club 'special' event, the intention is that pairs nominating are committing to the 2-week event; this helps to ensure the director can organise an objective/fair 2-week movement.

One substitution player is allowed over the 2-weeks; as per our substitution regulations (available on our website) so please plan ahead and If you're having a substitution you must seek prior approval from the Head Director (Howard) or Chair of Play (me).

This events also serves as our Club Qualifying Event for the NSW State Open Pairs, hence red masterpoints at state championship level; the state finals will be held in Sydney on November 1 & 2; please note this date was changed after our programme book went to print. If any Pair wishes to proceed to the state final please contact me asap after our Club Qualifier.

For the 2 Wednesdays of this event the intention is to

have a 'side' section for players who cannot commit to the 2-week event. Please nominate online so we can check if we have enough players for this to be viable.

Charity Day, Monday October 13:

The Plan is similar to last year, so: Bridge with Lunch. Bridge will be Pairs play and will be AM or PM (or both if you like) and in-between we'll all meet for Lunch. We're exploring lunch options (any suggestions?) and of course there will be raffles and donations boxes. More specifics to come. Our Charity for this year, as advised by President Lorraine in last month's newsletter is: *Women Up North*.

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

This is a new event which the Tweed BC have proposed and aim to host annually. Tweed, Ballina, and Gold Coast bridge clubs will compete for the Noble & Ross Trophy; the trophy donated by Tweed BC.

There will be 3 Sections: Open, Intermediate (180-700 masterpoints) and Novice (<200 masterpoints) with 2 Teams representing each club per each section. (The masterpoint 'barriers' could get tweaked, depending on the 3 clubs nominations.)

Nominate as a Pair for Club selection. Nominations are online - but as this is a while off, you may not notice the event on the Club online calendar, so I'm also posting a nomination sheet on the club noticeboard. Please nominate by 30 September. If you have any questions eg your regular partner fits in a different masterpoint division and/or is not available, or you could perhaps standby as a reserve, please call or email me.

More specifics will be forthcoming but we think it will be: \$10 per player and BYO Lunch. + Hopefully we can organise car-pooling. + With 'The Cup' event with the Gold Coast BC in doubt let's hope this new one goes ahead.

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



The Bridgemates are behaving a little better now - thanks to Liz and Howard who cleaned their internal contacts. Below are some explanations of interest from Howard regarding scoring.

Do you lose out if you cannot play a board?

Definitely. You may only play 32 of 33 boards, the number of boards you play has been reduced by 3% unless the Director sanctions you playing at tea time. Not really a catastrophe. In Sydney, you'd be lucky to play 27 boards in an afternoon with no afternoon tea, higher table fees and a less friendly atmosphere.

Sometimes. One way of handling the scoring is for the Director to score it as "Not Played". Had the board been played and you had done well on it, then there is no recognition for that. On the other hand, if you had played it and played poorly there is no recognition for that either. So, probably close to 50-50 for the field you are in. Doesn't matter whether the board is a 2-Club opening or a yaborough. So, the emotion that comes with "I had a great hand" is rather irrelevant.

If the board cannot be played, you get the average of the boards you did play and that percentage is compared with the percentage others got from playing all the boards. It's as fair as it can be.

Only if you are at fault. Other times, the wrong board may have been brought to the table, you have played it and now time has run out. If you weren't the one at fault for bringing the wrong board, you should get an

"average plus" for the board (20% above the average matchpoints for the board). If you were at fault, sorry, 20% less than the average matchpoints for you.

If the score is wrong, what do you do?

At the table you can correct it via the "Correct" button. If you are not sure how to do this, then call a director.

If it is after the session has finished and has been scored then you must confirm with the other party that the score was incorrect. If they disagree, then no change should be requested. If they agree, the score was incorrect you can then,

1. Send an email (preferably) or a text to the Lead Director asking for a change to be made and advising you have confirmed with the other pair, or
2. Alternatively, you can phone the director with details of the change but please make the call between 9.00 and 4.30 on the following day

Changes to scores will not be made after 24 hours from when the game concluded. Note, appeals re Director's decisions must be made within 10 minutes of the end of session and must identify the Law that the player believe was incorrectly applied.



Clue 1. You won't be ruffing at the S-bend in Le Mans. (7)

Clue 2. McCartney's later group is revised and provides a musical style as well as a measure of success in Teams matches. (5)

Answers to Bob Hart's Bridge clues on page 6.



HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY

Carol Wells recently celebrated her 80th birthday with a cake at the Club.

Photo on left thanks to Kathy Saurine.



If you have a contribution for the newsletter, contact Ange Bettess 0401 955 432 or angela.bettess@me.com



Penalty Cards – what are your options?

Penalty cards are basically cards that have been exposed but shouldn't have been.

Minor penalty cards come from cards that are accidentally exposed. Typically, while sorting your hand or playing to a trick. If the exposed card is a 9 or lower it is deemed to be a minor penalty card.

Major penalty cards are cards that have been deliberately exposed, e.g. by leading out of turn. If there are two or more penalty cards, even if they are minor penalty cards, they are classified as major penalty cards.

The restrictions with minor penalty cards are quite small:

1. There are no lead restrictions on partner or yourself
2. You don't have to play them at the first opportunity
3. You can play an honour card of the same suit before the penalty card is played

The restrictions with major penalty cards are more significant:

1. They must be played at the first legal opportunity,
2. When the partner of the offender is on lead, the declarer can ask him to
 - (a). Lead a card of the same suit as the penalty card, in which case the penalty card is return to the offender's hand
 - (b). Not lead a card of the same suit as the penalty card, in which case the penalty card is return to the offender's hand
 - (c). Lead anything, in which case the penalty card stays on the table and options (a) and (b) above can be invoked the next time the offender's partner is on lead

Winners from the Grafton Congress



Vicki Ivosevac and Kay Pearson - 1st B division



Ian Michelson & Deb McLay - 2nd place Open

Invitation from Grafton Bridge Club **JOAN BUTTS VISIT TO GRAFTON BRIDGE CLUB**

DATE **15TH NOVEMBER 2025** SESSION 1 10-12am LUNCH 12-1pm SESSION 2 1-3pm

VENUE **GRAFTON DISTRICT SERVICES CLUB, MARY ST GRAFTON PH 0266403200**

COST \$80 PP Includes light lunch Topics are suitable for all levels of play.

Joan also gives all attending 1 month free on her platinum site where you can do her lessons online and play random hands. Plus a discount on her books. **RSVP 30th September 2025**

TO: Denise Llewellyn email: neesellewellyn@gmail.com

Teaching News

Judy Forsyth



Day lessons are coming to a close at present. Activities such as mentoring sessions, extra lessons, introducing this group to Friday morning session are still being undertaken. As new players start to feel their way into areas of bridge at our club, please go out of your way to make them feel welcome and safe. It is a big step for them to begin to play at regular club sessions. Many thanks to members who are helping with mentor sessions currently.



Clive will continue with evening lessons at this stage.

Thanks to all members of the teaching group. Judy Forsyth

Photo on left shows some of our new players receiving their graduation certificate.

Age is never a barrier.

Peter Rostron



Daphne Ryder and her carer Natalie Maestri attended our Teaching Committee's lessons in February this year and decided this was a good social interaction for them. They not long after joined our club and have been happily playing every Monday and Friday morning since.

On Monday 4th August Daphne celebrated her 97th birthday, surrounded by her fellow Monday social Bridge players. (Photos below thanks to Yvonne Head)

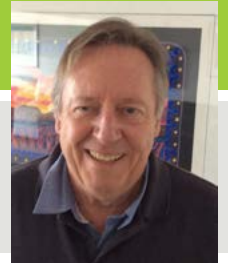


Answer to Clue 1: Chicane - A hand with no trump cards.

Answer to Clue 2: Swing - The difference in scores between two tables on a board in a teams match. McCartney's later group was "WINGS".



Kay is a relatively newer player in the club, but has already made a significant contribution having served on the Management Committee. Kay often plays on Wednesdays and Mondays. Kay has taken the time to provide an extremely interesting profile of her life.



To my fellow Bridge players, following is a peek into my family and life. I am also looking forward to seeing more stories about other players in coming newsletters.

My father was one of thirteen children and I have memories of visiting our extended family often. This involved visits to a large farm in Forbes and helping an uncle on an apple orchard in Orange and family camping trips. Life did change for my younger brother

I am married to Garry and together we have three daughters, the eldest being identical twins. We also have Garry's son from a previous relationship. David resides in Orange with his wife and three young children and works as a workshop and spare parts manager for a large motor dealership. Allisha lives in Melbourne and has recently taken up an executive role with ASIC in combating investments scammers in the digital world. Sarah lives in Sydney with her husband and young son and works in leasing out shopping space in shopping centres. Emma, our youngest, lives in Brisbane with her partner and works in the Trainee and Apprenticeship placement area.

Life began in Orange where I was the second youngest out of six children living in a small 2 and 1/2 bedroom house that my father and grandfather had built. We were a typical Aussie family with a father who worked and a stay-at-home mother. Our childhood was filled with playing with neighbour kids until dark and playing sport on the weekend. (I was a netballer from the start with my last stint in playing in the Master series at the age of 45). As Orange has long cold winters, some of our weekends were taken up with collecting firewood to fuel our Warm Ray in the lounge room, a woodfire stove and a copper in the laundry. Sometimes on these trips, we would take a picnic lunch and pick blackberries so mum could make some of that delicious jam.



Photo above: Our family (including son-in-law James)

and myself when our mother was diagnosed with a brain tumour. We were too young to be at home by ourselves so we were looked after by various aunts and uncles until our grandparents (on our mother side) cared for us for an extended period. We did



Photo above: My siblings

return home when our mother was well enough and she got her wish to see us become independent.

After finishing school, I went onto TAFE and completed a secretarial course. My first job was as a stenographer for the General Manager of the local newspaper. The company gave me an opportunity to learn and work with a mainframe computer (the hardware filled a room). While I appreciated the offer, I really preferred to work with people instead of being locked up in a room. I started work as a medical secretary with three local doctors, which I really enjoyed. They also gave me an opportunity to learn computer programming, sending me on a short course at a university. It would be some years after that computer software was suitable for medical practices.

I met Garry through mutual friends and was married at 20. It would be another 4 years before we started having children giving us a chance to buy and set up our first home in Orange. I was mostly a stay-at-home mum but there were times I took on casual positions in the medical world and employment services to help with the mortgage and caring for a young family. Garry's mother was an enormous help to us.

Somehow, amongst looking after a family and working casually I also enrolled in a distant Bachelor of Applied Science course to help take my mind off dirty nappies and baby talk. This proved to be helpful when I re-entered the workforce when our children started school. Initially, I took on a casual position for six weeks working for mining inspectors in State Government. It was not long after they offered me environmental work in rehabilitating derelict mines. This then extended into becoming an environmental inspector of the mining industry. I guess I can claim I was the first female inspector in the department.

I held various positions in the same area for nearly 20 years, so I must have been happy with my work. However, I was starting to get stale in the job and took on a secondment with Primary Industries in emergency management. This introduced me to

Executives and Ministers and the power plays that went on. My role was in policy and procedures and I soon learnt that good policy was not always implemented, especially during election times. I can remember a mining inspector saying to me, you are a more pragmatic person, why policy?

So back to the mining industry I went and took on a role in environmental consultancy with a local Orange firm. It was great to be on the other side and have hands on experience in the management of specialists and the formation of Environmental Impact Statements leading to development consent. I worked on some interesting projects, but for legal reasons I cannot mention them.



Photo above: Environment Unit at a workshop on derelict mines. (The other lady in the photo was related to Albert Einstein).

I have come across many environmental activist groups during my career. There were two events that nearly saw me in the Land and Environment Court (even though I was following the law). I quickly learnt that corporation/government public liability insurance does not cover you as an individual. Although you are afforded some protection on the provision that you supply information in their investigations.

The legal liability of working in such an industry together with dealing with antagonistic activist groups became tedious so I ended up back in Government. I worked for Crown Lands for over seven years managing their bush fire mitigation program in the Central West of NSW. I think Garry was happy that I could spend

more time in helping him on a small farm that we had bought after the kids had all left home. Life on the farm was enjoyable and we learnt many facets of the industry but our life was about to change.

Garry was diagnosed with esophageal and stomach cancer, fortunately they caught it early and following an enormous operation that almost cost him his life and the rounds of chemo and radiation, he is now cancer free. Then there was the start of the drought which went on for over two years. We tried to preserve our breeding cows, but feed was too hard to find and we eventually sold all our stock.

The drought was wide reaching and many bushfires were occurring. It was during this time I was called up to represent Crown Lands in a team to help with the bushfire effort. Our role was to investigate the impacts of the bushfire. I was based near Port Macquarie and we were the first people on the ground. This will stay with me for a long time seeing the trauma and impacts that a wildfire can cause (and nearly being caught in

the bushfire myself).

With the effects of living during COVID and the effort on keeping up with the farm work, we decided to sell our farm, retire and head off in our caravan to find our next adventure. Warmer weather was on the agenda. Having a sister and brother living here, together with a good airport, was very attractive as it makes it easy to visit our children who are based in capital cities all over Australia.

We were not in a real hurry to buy, but house prices were rising and we needed to make a decision quickly, one we have not regretted. Our children and siblings visit often as they love holidaying in the area.

Ballina is a great place to live and we admire the many social and volunteer groups that help make it as it is. Especially, the Bridge Club and the foresight of the various management committees that have made it a standout club. Congratulations to all of you, what a great job you have done and are still doing.

Ballina MahJong Club News

Three members of the Ballina Mahjong Club, Jeanette Henwood, Vanessa Reynolds and Lorna Simpson (photo on right) recently participated in the Australasian Mahjong Festival 2025 hosted by Coolangatta Tweed Mahjong.

124 players from far and wide competed at the Coolangatta Tweed Golf Club 18th to 21st August. Of the five top places 3 players were from New Zealand!

Vanessa Reynolds



Winners for August were:

1/8	Carol Meyer
8/8	Carol Meyer
15/8	Shirley Atkinson
22/8	Linda Lloyd
29/8	Shirley Atkinson



Use both hands

Paul Smith



You've paid your \$5:00 and you never get any points when, suddenly, you pick up this lovely collection.

Brd: 10
Dir: E
Vul: All

North
♠ AKQ763
♥ -
♦ A109653
♣ 8

A 6-6 shape, don't see those every day. Like (almost) everyone in the room you bid your way to a Spade contract. The opening lead is the ♥A (ha! you think, doesn't bother me) and dummy appears.

Brd: 10
Dir: E
Vul: All

North
♠ AKQ763
♥ -
♦ A109653
♣ 8
South
♠ 92
♥ 65
♦ K82
♣ AK7652

Nice, partner provides two trumps and also the King in your second suit. Nine Diamonds between the two hands ... "eight ever, nine never" you mutter to yourself.

This one's pretty easy. Ruff the opening lead, draw trumps and bang out the ♦A and the ♦K. The outstanding Diamonds will fall, claim 13 tricks (maybe 14 if they let you have 6 trumps, 6 Diamonds and 2 Clubs? Not today). What an easy game.

But, of course, Diamonds do not fall in two rounds and so you have to lose a Diamond trick. When you look at the results on-line everyone makes 12 tricks and you get an average board. Move on, nothing to see here.

Except ... the double dummy result on the hand record shows that 13 tricks are available. You console yourself with "everyone made 12 tricks, must be just one of those things".

The problem is something that I think of as "dummy blindness". It is much easier to see the assets in your own hand and not those in the dummy. It is easy to overlook that great Club suit in the dummy, particularly when you only have a singleton.

To take full advantage of that great dummy you should play on the Club suit first. The play starts the same way, ruff the opening Heart lead and then draw trumps. Being focussed on your own hand it is easy to notice that if Diamonds are 2-2 then you make all the tricks but to miss that if Clubs are 3-3 you can also make all the tricks even if Diamonds do not break.

After drawing trumps, lead a Club to the Ace in dummy. Then take the ♣K and discard a Diamond. Then a third Club which you ruff. If you watch carefully you notice that the defenders have followed to all three rounds of the Club suit. You had one Club, the opponents had three each and there were six in dummy. Therefore, those last three Clubs in dummy are tricks. You threw one of your Diamonds away on the ♣K and now you can throw another three away on dummy's Club winners. That leaves you with ♦A10 opposite the ♦K in dummy. The final result is that you take 6 trump tricks, 2 Diamonds and 5 Clubs for a total of 13. Now you get a great score because you have used all the tricks that dummy provides and all the other declarers ignored.

Just a minute! Surely it is less likely for Clubs to break 3-3 than it is for Diamonds to break 2-2? It is but that is not the point. The first way of playing relies on Diamonds being 2-2 (about a 40% chance). If you play the second way then you make 13 tricks if Clubs break 3-3 (only 35%) but if they do not break 3-3 then you still make 13 tricks if Diamonds are 2-2. This is called combining your chances.

Wednesday, August 27th

Brd: 10 Dir: E Vul: All	North ♠ AKQ763 ♥ - ♦ A109653 ♣ 8
West ♠ 105 ♥ QJ743 ♦ QJ7 ♣ J94	East ♠ J84 ♥ AK10982 ♦ 4 ♣ Q103
	South ♠ 92 ♥ 65 ♦ K82 ♣ AK7652

4♠ N
Lead: ♥A

Playing the second way you make 13 tricks if Clubs break 3-3 or Diamonds break 2-2 (the combined odds are now over 50%). Since you are such a good declarer, maybe you should have a discussion about how to bid the grand slam with your partner?

Brd: 11
Dir: S
Vul: Nil

North
♠ QJ1065
♥ 4
♦ AQ43
♣ 1065

The very next board partner opens the bidding and when you announce that you have at least four Spades, your very kind

partner supports you. The auction quickly settles on 4♠ with you as declarer. Whacko! You have ♦AQ, the beginners lessons taught you how to handle that. The

Use both hands

Paul Smith



simplest finesse of them all.

North	
♠	QJ1065
♥	4
♦	AQ43
♣	1065
South	
♠	A872
♥	K9
♦	2
♣	AK7432

The opening lead is ♥Q. You cover with the ♥K and the ♥A appears from West, no surprise there. West continues the Heart suit and you ruff to find yourself on lead to trick three. That's good because you want to take a finesse in trumps. You lead the ♠Q, low from East, low from dummy and your ♠Q wins the trick. Now you lead the ♠J and the ♠K appears

from East, dummy wins and the trumps are drawn in only two rounds.

There are two trumps left in dummy that you can use to ruff two of your Diamonds but you have four altogether. The plan is to take the Diamond finesse. After that you can take the ♦A and ruff your two small Diamonds. If the finesse works you don't lose any Diamonds, if it doesn't work you lose one Diamond trick.

What happens in the Club suit is in the lap of the gods. If they break 2-2 then there are no losers, otherwise you lose one trick in the suit.

On the actual hand, the Diamond finesse loses so you lose a trick there. The Club suit breaks 2-2 so you do not lose a Club trick. 11 tricks taken is a very common

score - 42%. You notice that several declarers took 12 tricks and that is indeed what the double dummy result shows.

Another case of "dummy blindness". Those Clubs in dummy are a great asset. If they break 2-2 then there are six tricks in dummy. Add five trump tricks and the ♦A for a total of 12. Accordingly, after drawing trumps, you should play the Club suit and watch to see if they break 2-2. On this occasion they do.

Wednesday, August 27th

North	
♠	QJ1065
♥	4
♦	AQ43
♣	1065
West	
♠	93
♥	A8653
♦	10976
♣	Q8
East	
♠	K4
♥	QJ1072
♦	KJ85
♣	J9
South	
♠	A872
♥	K9
♦	2
♣	AK7432

4♠ N
Lead - ♥Q

	W	N	E	S
				1♣
P	1♣		P	3♣
P	4♣		<end>	

A finesse is a great tool but it should not be the only one in your toolbox. Dummy can be a treasure trove. The big advantage that declarer has is that they control 26 cards, make sure you use all of them to your advantage.

Now you can play with both hands, how do you make 6 sitting E/W on board 16 of the same session?

Our new sponsor - QuickFox IT

Robyn Thomas



We, the committee, are very grateful to have a new sponsor onboard. His name is Jai Fox from QuickfoxIT. We had Jai come to the club to to take on the difficult task of getting our computers to talk to each other, making our work a lot easier.

He did a fantastic job at a very reasonable price. He has since worked on a few of our members personal computers, including myself. He is local, honest, reliable and well informed with very competitive rates.

Contact Details for Jai

Jai Fox - 0430 462 298

Mobile Computer Repairs & Support

www.quickfoxit.com.au

support@quickfoxit.com.au



Birthday winner for this month:
Peter Waggott

Rank Promotions at end August:

Local: Timothy Aley

National: Ray Ghioni; Ken Jones

Gold Life: Jean Lowe

There were dire warnings issued to the group of 12 Ballina players who departed from Ballina on Monday, 18 August with the aim of playing bridge in Northern Tablelands clubs. Well, sunny weather and a lack of wind meant the warnings were wasted. The cold hardly mattered. All the clubs we played at were either nicely or very nicely heated.



Our first stop was Tenterfield where we played at the Golf Club in a 7-table Mitchell movement - the first Mitchell movement that had been run there in over a year. Some players had come down from Stanthorpe to join in, which was great. The club provided us with a memorable afternoon tea. This resulted in the usual "I won't be able to eat anything for dinner" anguished exclamations. But this was turned on its head at the Grand Hotel with the consumption of generous country meals.

The next day we hosted the bridge and provided our afternoon tea for the bridge club - OK we cheated and bought it from the Golf Club.

Early on the following morning, we drove to Inverell and met the Inverell players in their snug, well decorated Town and Country Club. It was a lovely afternoon, with the afternoon tea again threatening

our blood sugar levels as well as our waistlines. At Inverell, we played an 8-table Mitchell. We then drove to Glen Innes for the last two nights.

Glen Innes also plays their bridge in a Town and Country Club which has a beautifully decorated club house. But bridge at GI, as we learned to call it, is different. It harkens back to the glory days of bridge where the occasion as much as the cards was important.

We started bridge around 10.30, again an 8-table Mitchell, but then stopped for a magnificent lunch sometime near 1pm, see the photo. This was followed by the afternoon session completing the movement and then we repaired to the bar - they have their own liquor licence. It was a delightful experience.

Our 12 players included 5 grandmasters which meant that we outranked the locals and usually

finished in the top-half of the field. But I don't think anyone cared much about that, it was meeting a lovely group of bridge players at each venue, enjoying their company and sharing tales and some wonderful food with them. Added to that we generally had our evening meals as a group and shared war tales from the day's bridge.



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