



Newsletter August 2025

Message from the President

Lorraine Bryant



Some like it Hot, some like it Cold and I am not referring to Pease Pudding but our air conditioning. The Management Committee are looking at how we can better meet the needs of all members. At present we are asking members not to change the settings which have been done by a member who knows the system. We suggest that all members who feel the cold bring a coat or cardigan. We are currently obtaining quotes for a new system as the current one has a limited future life span, and it may be prudent to purchase a new system now as costs continue to rise. More information will be available for members before the AGM.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 13th September. Apart from reporting on the air-conditioning system there will be discussion on the fees for 2026. Nominations for committee and Life Membership are due now. Please consider nominating for committee.

Thank you to all who supported our Teams of Three and the Teams Championship in July. August is again a busy month with the GNOT Finals held at Ballina, the State Wide Pairs and the Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs. The Play Report will give you a full rundown on the events.

Our Charity Day is on Monday 13th October, after careful consideration of several local charities we are recommending "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

UPCOMING EVENTS

NSW State-wide Pairs, Wednesday August 6

GNOT Northern Rivers Regional Final, Sunday August 10

Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs, Thursdays August 21 & 28

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

needing assistance. The funding they have is not adequate for the work they need to do with local domestic violence. Thank you to Sophie Davis for the time she spent researching local charities. We will again have a raffle and if you can help with sourcing prizes please let me know.

Thai By Night

Birthday winner for this month: Daphne Ryder

Rank Promotions at end July:

Club: David Flitton; Corrie McGrath; Anna Huddy

Silver Local: David Drake

Bronze Regional: Diann Young

Life: Chris Leivers



Clue1. Secular feathers make for an easy play. (7)

Clue2. Reporter is in the van. (10,5)

Answers to Bob Hart's cryptic Bridge clues on page 3.





Play Committee Report - July 2025

Events Gone:

Teams of 3, Monday July 7:

Thanks to our Event Organiser Gill Baker for overseeing this event – and a job Well Done. Gill's report follows on page 4 with photos. As Gill points out it was great to see players of differing bridge experience taking part; this is a key objective of this day.

A main 'bane' of the Event Organiser's life is organising 'stand-bys' in case of late 'drop-outs' or 'no-shows'. Re the latter, a plea from me: If you're not receiving the auto booking reminders from our online booking system (ie approx. 24 hours prior to a session) please make sure your email details are up to date – please click on: My Profile (in the top menu options) and then check your details are there and are up to date.

Nobody took up the 'kibitz' option which in my opinion is/was a little disappointing. As I recommended last month: Bridge can be a good game to spectate, and especially when you can then learn from the after-match discussions on bidding, play, tactics and ... (+ Watching an international match on BBO, or RealBridge, is always 'enlightening' - the bidding and play!)

We are undertaking a 'Review' of this event, and discussing this with our Teaching Committee. If you have any feedback (+s and -s) please email/discuss with me or a member of the Play Committee, or via Judy Forsyth to the Teaching Committee.

Teams Championship, Saturdays July 19 & 26:

We had 7 teams competing in each Division: Open and B Grade (all players < 300 masterpoints as at 1.01.2025). Thanks to all who 'joined-in'. It was pleasing to see some of our Thursday 'regulars' competing in B Grade.

With an odd number of teams we played an 'American whist' movement. We played 5 board matches against every other team each week, which were then combined into 6 x 10-board matches. This

probably turned out to be a 'good' movement for our playing directors Howard and Liz Jeffery (ie no scoring distractions between matches) and also with different boards per each division, all directors playing could field calls in the other division.

Thanks to Howard and Liz for organising the movement, and to all directors who fielded calls, and to Peter Rostron for dealing the boards.

And now to our Winners – Congratulations to:

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

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

Photos of our winners (most of them!) are on page 5. Presentations will be our end of year annual presentations in December.

Coming Up:

NSW State-wide Pairs, Wednesday August 6:

Just about to happen. The same hands are played in clubs throughout NSW and scored state-wide. All are encouraged to 'have-a-go'; it is intended as an event for all levels of bridge experience. Cash prizes and vouchers are awarded to overall winners and includes prizes in the 'Restricted' divisions of Under 25, Under 50 and Under 100 masterpoints (as at June 2025).

At the end of the session don't forget to pick-up a booklet with a brief hand commentary for discussion with your partner and fellow players, and/or for your perusal.

GNOT Northern Rivers Regional Final, Sunday August 10:

Ballina are hosting this Regional Final. It looks like we have 6 teams from Ballina competing with 2 from Tweed Heads and 1 from Byron Bay. Mark Miller is 'dashing down' to direct the event – thanks Mark. Sadly there is a dearth of 'Congress - qualified'



Newsletter August 2025

Marjorie Askew



Play Committee Report - July 2025

directors in our region.

The winning team from the Regional Final will progress to the National qualifying Final which will be held online on RealBridge on September 19-21.

Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs, Thursdays August 21 & 28:

The second of our Harvey Norman events and this time for players with <100 masterpoints as at 1 January 2025; and with red masterpoints. Closing date for entries is Monday August 18, normal voucher on the day. (See poster on page 11.)

On these 2 x Thursdays, 'regular' Thursday players who are not eligible for the HN event (eg too many masterpoints or cannot commit for 2 weeks) can still play and should nominate online in the non-HN event.

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

The annual 'duel' with the Gold Coast BC and we want to wrestle back 'The Cup' ie the Neil Raward Trophy. + It's our turn to host.



Please sign up online to be part of our Team and asap please so we can gauge how many teams we can field and in what 'divisions', and then compare nominations with the Gold Coast BC.

It's definitely the 'more the merrier' and Yes we want players across all masterpoint 'levels'. Hopefully our 'Teams' focus over the last couple of months, including IMPs pairs sessions, will stand everyone in good stead for the 'battle'.

See poster on page 12 and please nominate in Pairs.

+ other diary notes:

Life Members Day on Wednesday September 10:

Come along for bridge and cake and to celebrate with our Life Members.

Charity Day on Monday October 13. More details next month.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

or call: 0459 023 907

Teaching News

Judy Forsyth

New day lessons are currently underway. Thanks to you, our members, for encouraging neighbours, friends etc to begin lessons at our club. Word of mouth is definitely our best form of advertising. These will conclude late August. Clive will begin evening lessons on a Monday eve around this time.



Answer to Clue 1: Clue 1. Laydown. A contract that can be made on any rational line of play.

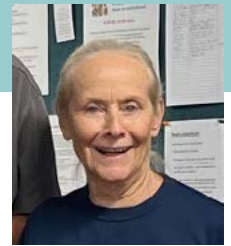
Answer to Clue 2: Clue 2. Journalist Leads. Opening lead convention, mainly against notrump contracts, designed to show both what the leader has and to request specific actions in return. Details can be found at https://www.bridgebum.com/journalist_leads.php



Newsletter August 2025

Teams of Three

Gillian Baker



Sixteen teams of varying experience took part in this Event. Before the start of play Marjorie Askew gave an excellent big screen presentation on IMPs scoring for Teams Events and how to complete the scoring sheets provided to each player. As a result, it was pleasing to see so many of our newer players having a go at filling in their score sheets.

Many thanks to quite a few of our members who were willing to come along (some at VERY short notice) to fill the gaps following last minute cancellations and non-attendance. You definitely saved the day! Thanks also to Lorraine who generously agreed to play in addition to being Director of the Event.

Congratulations to our winners: Margaret Cusack, June Orford, Timothy Aley and David Flitton and runners up: Peter Tootell, Starlette Beaumont, Hilary Kerr and Vicki Moloney with the spin of the wheel lucky prize going to: Ken Jones, Lyn Ebert, Jan Coles and Sue Humphrey. *Photos courtesy of Anna Huddy

Many thanks to all those members who came along and enjoyed the Event.

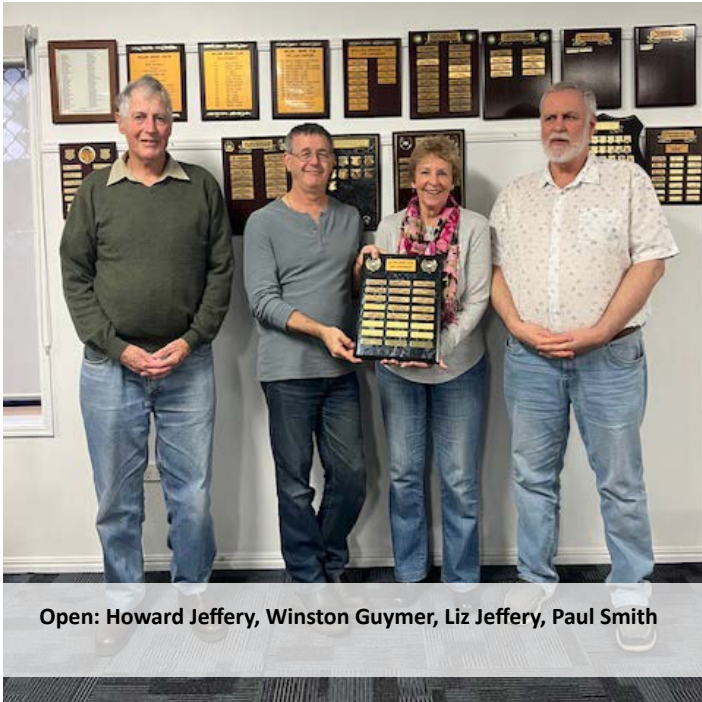


If you have any contributions for the BBC newsletter, please contact Ange Bettess

0401 955 432 or email angela.bettess@me.com

Newsletter August 2025

Teams Championship Winners



Happy 80th Birthdays for Lorraine Bryant and Carolyn Hart



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wouldn't it be nice?

Paul Smith



Wouldn't it be nice if you have a seven card fit and the opponent's cards divide 3-3? The situation is this one

♠AQ43
♠765

Contract 3NT. You lead a small Spade from your hand ([Resolution 6](#)) and when West plays low you play the ♠Q from dummy. A simple finesse. If West has the King then you win the trick, if East you lose.

OK, now what? It may seem obvious to play the ♠A the next time followed by a third Spade. The third Spade will not win but if the Spades are split evenly (3-3) then the *fourth* Spade in dummy will be a winner, hooray! Notice the *if* in the previous sentence.

What if the Spades do not split evenly? Now when you give up the third Spade trick the defenders will have a fourth trick that they can take.

There is a better way. Start by taking the finesse. Win or lose the next Spade should be a small one from both hands. You are always intending to lose a trick in the suit, so do it. Now things are different. When you regain the lead you can now take the ♠A as the third trick in the suit.

Watching carefully you will notice if both defenders follow to this third round of the suit. If they do you can cash the last Spade from dummy. If both defenders do not follow, then the suit broke 4-2 and the last Spade

in dummy is not a trick.

Most likely - If the suit is like this then you will take two tricks and the defenders one trick. Using the first method (finesse and then take the ♠A followed by a small card) you still get two tricks but the defenders would get two.

♠AQ43
♠K982 ♠J10
♠765

Friendly break - But if the suit is like this then you get three tricks and the defenders only one. The first method would give the same result.

♠AQ43
♠K98 ♠J102
♠765

Lose a trick early and guarantee at most one trick for the defenders or lose a trick later and risk them getting two tricks.

I assumed that you were playing in No Trumps. Playing in a suit contract there may be a risk that you are setting up for the defenders to be able to ruff your ♠A by playing this way. Make sure that the defenders have no trumps left or that you don't care about them ruffing.

Ballina MahJong Club News

Winners for July were:

4/7 Pam Farrell
11/7 Jane Fenech
18/7 Carol Meyer
25/7 Barbara Ellan



Our three newest players whom Joy has been instructing for 6 weeks - photo on the right.

L to R: Cheryl, Kim and Liana

Vanessa Reynolds



Anna Huddy, a local having been born in Lismore, is one of the newer members of our Club. Along with her other interests Anna is a rug maker, some of which are included in the photo below. We wish Anna all the best in her Bridge playing endeavours.



Thank you to the Ballina Bridge Club for existing and introducing me to this splendid game!

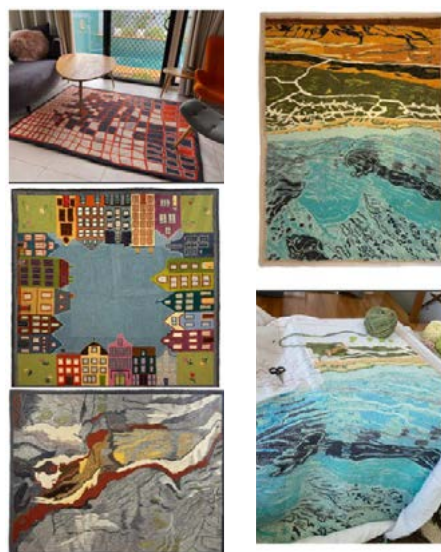
I was born at home in Lismore (my mother was Dutch and home birth was normal for the Dutch). I am the oldest of four siblings with whom I am still close. Our family was a very happy one, though my father was very restless and driven, so we moved around a lot for the next opportunity in his empire building, which meant seven different schools. Mum created a home wherever we were and we children relied on each other for Best Friends. We always had pets: gloriously at the end of primary school we had a dog, eleven guinea pigs and 21 mice. Later my sister added a horse!



I attended university in Brisbane, somehow resulting in a Bachelor of Science and a Masters in Dietetics among some spectacular partying. During Uni I was a professional cleaner, and laundry worker (having failed at waitressing). "Career" wise, between 1981 and 2021 I worked 20 years in hospital dietetics (two of those years in Saudi Arabia) much of it part time, 13 years in Health Promotion and two years in research. On the side, I have been an au pair in Paris, a brickie's labourer, and owned a supermarket for five years (that was tough, my husband and I worked a 91 hour week (7 am – 8pm, 7 days a week) for two years for a combined total of \$30,000 a year and all the out of date stock we could eat!). Briefly I was advisor to the Qld Minister for Health, and, just for fun, twenty years book keeper for my husband's building business.

Volunteering has always appealed to me: Chair of the Qld Council of Allied Health Professions, industry advisor on QUT School of Health (Dietetics), Chair, Dietitians Association of Australia, and years as canteen organiser for AFL and Rugby Union clubs (and school canteens, and ten years Class Parent!).

Meaningful work, and making a difference have



driven my career. For me, Public Service has been a privilege, not the maligned slacker role. I have been very proud to have had the chance to contribute and I have tried to be worthy of the public purse that paid my wage.

I met my wonderful husband in Brisbane; and after an awful number of IVF cycles (sixteen! My obstetrician kindly called this perseverance but it was more pig-headedness), the result was two splendid boys, four years apart. My family is the most important thing in my life. The older has married a lovely woman; they live on the Gold Coast and they made us grandparents this month (pretty good I must say!). The younger lives in Canberra with another lovely woman; so we are very fortunate.

As for card games; they were always there. I remember playing Canasta with my grandmother when I was



Photo above: Our sons (Sam and Jonathan) on a camping trip

about 10. On the 40 minute bus trip from Byron Bay to Mullumbimby for high school we played endless games of Euchre, the two in front turning round and leaning over the back to play on the side of a port in the lap. With my brother and his friends, Friday night always ended in Poker for copper and silver coins. Friends and I played 500. On our many camping trips, my husband and I played Gin Rummy.



Photo above: At our older son's (Sam's) wedding

My friend, Michelle Bourke, persuaded me that I'd "love" Bridge. The jury is still out on that one; in the 16 months I have been playing (with time out for skiing, cycling and camping trips), most weeks I feel I will never improve and it's time to give up, then along comes a few hands where it all falls into place and I'm besotted with it again! I am deeply grateful to Lyn Graham and Judy Forsyth for their lessons, to the many very experienced players who have been so encouraging, patient and sharing, and to the amazing office bearers and volunteers who keep the whole show running.

My favourite quotes:

"Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players and who were willing to keep the game going 24 hours a day." – Warren Buffett

"No matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table." – Martina Navratilova

"Bridge is too important to take seriously." – Oscar Wilde

"Old Bridge players never die; they just lose their finesse." – General Douglas MacArthur

And the two that were written for me:

"One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts." – Alfred Sheinwold

"The real test of a Bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in." – Alfred Sheinwold

2025 ANC Interstate Teams Championships - Youth team



Noah Klugman was part of the youth team - coming in third in the Interstate Teams Championships. Congratulations Noah. Noah was profiled in the May issue of the newsletter - link is <https://www.ballinabridge.org.au/news/2025/5/1/two-stories-of-youth-bridge---noah-klugman>

Photo from Bridge NSW FB:[L-R, back row] Duncan Lai, Shannon Ooi, Yiwei Qi, Ida Andersen, Noah Klugman, David Zheng, [front] Mitch Dowling (NPC)



Why would you want to become a club Director? Hard to answer. A Google search gave three major answers:

- **Contributing to the Bridge Community** – True. Each session needs a director. The session can do without any other member of the club but a director is essential. You won't have a session without a director.
- **Personal Fulfillment and Development** – Maybe. If you can quell warring parties, that's a positive. But with each difficult decision there will be an aggrieved party who is very unlikely to be praising you.
- **Practical Benefits** – Pretty spurious. Subheadings were "Opportunities to travel", Yes for a very few; "Potential for employment", Not realistically outside a capital city and not big there; "Personal enjoyment", I'd like to see that.

Nonetheless, perhaps because they hadn't seen my responses above, ten members of the club devoted 3+ hours x 3-days to attend a series of talks on the role of a club Director and club directing.

The course itself was delivered by what one of my office managers used to say was "death by PowerPoint". There were three main sections – Movements, Common Infractions and Compscore3. Those who had Windows laptops left with fully functional versions of Compscore3, loaded with names that can be used to generate trial runs of any movement.

The motivation of the attendees varied from wanting to become more acquainted with the Laws of Bridge to the desire to become a director. But I think all were inspired in various ways by the first point – contributing to the bridge community.

We had quite recent members of the club attending as well as one of our most experienced members. All contributed in various ways – by questions of clarification, raising specific issues that had affected them and by examples from major congresses.

Overall, I think it was a successful course. As always, when preparing for a course you also learn but more importantly if continued attendance is any guide, the players who were there also gained from the course. Five of those who attended the course have now joined the Directors team and will commence by assisting a more senior Director on bridge days.



Bidding a preempt in third seat.

Janet Brown

The experts preempt aggressively in 3rd seat. Two passes to you. 4th seat bidder may hold a powerhouse hand. Make things difficult for the 4th seat bidder by making skinny, worse than usual preempts – bids you would never dream of making in 1st or 2nd seat.

♠ KQJ96 ♥ 83 ♦ 10942 ♣ 72	5 Spades ! <i>Open 2♠</i> A weak 2 with only 5 cards is fine in 3 rd seat. particularly with Spades	♠ 42 ♥ 72 ♦ J109634 ♣ 1062	Only 1 pt <i>Open 2♦</i> In 3 rd seat, anything goes. Make it hard for the 4 th bidder.	♠ 6 ♥ 9872 ♦ 62 ♣ QJ108732	You'd like to open a weak 2 in Clubs, but there's no such bid. <i>Open 3♣</i>
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IMPORTANT – VERY IMPORTANT. When you pre empt in 3rd seat, on no account should your partner join in the bidding. He must just hope that your pre emption has damaged the opponents. The only thing that can go wrong with this type of aggressive action, is that partner may join in and wreck everything. So – first seat bidder - if your partner pre empts in 3rd seat, you have the easiest decision in the world – just pass and pass.

INTER-CLUB CHALLENGE

BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB

V

GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB

this year hosted by Us
on Sunday September 14 from 9.30am



**We want to keep the CUP
and we need players in
all masterpoint divisions**



Nominate online by Saturday 23 August
Teams will be organised
(+ NB reserves may be needed)

**PLEASE JOIN IN AND BE PART OF
THE 'BALLINA BRIGADE'**

Any Questions/Queries: Please ASK
- contact Marjorie Askew

Harvey Norman

Restricted Pairs

Thursdays

August 21 & 28

Normal table money – vouchers on the day

♦ Red Masterpoints ♦

**Prizes from Harvey Norman will be
presented at Christmas Party**

Nominate online by Monday August 18

Conditions:

1. Open to all members of Ballina Bridge Club with <100 masterpoints as at 1 Jan 2025
2. Event will be held provided there are a minimum of 8 pairs entered
3. Substitutes will be allowed according to Ballina Bridge Club policy
4. Winners determined by best average score over 2 rounds.

Event Organiser: Peter Rostron

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters

Harvey Norman

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