



# — Ballina Bridge Club —

## Newsletter March 2017

### Enjoy your bridge

## President's Report

WE ARE NOW half way through our administrative year 2016/17 and just at the end of our membership renewal period. We have a confirmed membership of 296 and a class of 16 new students is currently under way. I hope we will be successful in streaming them into the club as we have so many of those who came before. We will continue to add new members and their contact phone numbers by way of a list on the notice board.

In the past few months a number of very new members have begun playing, and although they are sometimes fairly slow and anxious participants at the table they are generally being met with patience and courteous behaviour, and I thank every player for this.

Small problem with the monies paid for drinks after play. We are finding strange foreign currencies in the money jar, and Lorraine is collecting them for charity.



However, as this has been happening for a month or so, may I ask you travellers please to ensure you use legal Australian currency to pay for your drinks.

The wonderful fellowship in this club was evident at the celebration held last month for the late Paul Cruickshank. We came out in honour of Paul and in support for Winston. We are a close-knit community and we keenly feel the loss of any member.

To those of our members who are currently feeling strain or pain, are immobile or incapacitated or in hospital, we wish you well and hope to see you back with us soon.

—Rebecca Rogers, President.

## Play Committee Report

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE members on their Rank Promotions:

Graduate – Phill Robins;

Gold Life – Anne Fraser, Paul Smith.

### Coming Events

#### Teams Night

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> – enter your pair. See Eric Hurley for any questions.

#### Ballina Congress

This is our gala event of the year. Players are invited from local clubs.

It is a Swiss event, so you will play against those achieving results similar to yours.

Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> – Pairs, Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> – Teams.

Prizes will be given in sections according to the number of entries. All details are on the noticeboard, or see the Event Organiser, Chery McCallum. Pre-entry is required.

### Recent Results

#### Teams of Three Winners

Marjorie Askew, Judy Carroll, Beverley Peart-Kuter, Barbara Selman.

#### Harvey Norman Pairs

Well done to the winners of these events:

Mens – John Paynter and Howard Jeffery

Womens – Judy Forsyth and Judy Woodward.

— Judy Forsyth, Chair of Play

## McCutcheon Awards

EACH YEAR THE ABF awards the McCutcheon Trophy to the player who scored the most Masterpoints in the year. Further recognition is also given to players in the various Masterpoint categories.

In 2016 Ballina member **Leonie Love** finished third in the Regional Master division, scoring 49.14 Masterpoints for the year. Well done, Leonie.

Former Ballina member **Alan Sims** also featured in the results, finishing first in the Regional Master (one star) Division.



## What suit should I play?

— By Paul Smith

ON SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, you are East playing Board 3. You hold ♠A 7 4 3; ♥T 8; ♦Q; ♣J T 7 6 3 2. South is dealer; the auction is: S Pass; W 1♦; N 1♠; E Pass; S 2♣; (all pass).

The opening lead seems fairly obvious: ♦Q. Leading a singleton in partner's suit when you have four trumps is very attractive. You have visions of partner overtaking, giving you a ruff, back to partner, ruff, rinse, repeat. Yum. Dummy is: ♠QJT ♥7632 ♦AJ73 ♣84

The first trick goes Q-A-6-8! Your dream is shattered. Next declarer calls for the Queen of trumps (Spades). Partner plays low and you win with the Ace. Now what? You need to get the lead to your partner so that you can get a Diamond ruff. Do you lead a Heart or a Club? You have no way of knowing, and you have already made the mistake which prevents you from finding out! The mistake was neglecting to think and count. Let's back up. Before you play the Ace of Spades, do some counting. Declarer overcalled, so they have five, dummy has three, and you have four. Therefore, partner's card is a singleton. If you don't take your Ace then declarer will lead a second trump and your partner will be able to discard, giving you a suit preference. Now it is easy — you duck rather than take your Ace of trumps. Declarer plays a second trump and partner discards ♥9.

Playing low to encourage, you receive a clear signal that partner does not want a Heart lead. You take your Ace of trumps and smoothly play a Club. Partner plays the Queen, which wins, and gives you a Diamond ruff. Then you play another Club to partner's King and you receive a second Diamond ruff. Two ruffs, two Clubs and the Ace of trumps holds the contract to eight tricks. Half the field made nine or ten tricks in Spades. Holding the contract to eight gives you a 72% result on the board. The full deal (Dealer South, EW vulnerable):

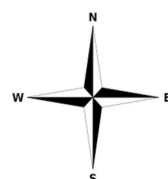
Dir: S ♠ K9865

Vul: E-W ♥ AQ4

Lead: ♦Q ♦ K98

Tricks: ? ♣ 95

♠ 2	♠ A 7 4 3
♥ KJ95	♥ T 8
♦ T6542	♦ Q
♣ AKQ	♣ JT7632



♠ QJT

♥ 7632

♦ AJ73

♣ 84

How easy it is to fall asleep with *only* seven points! The need to count and reason never goes away.

## Robin Greenhalgh's birthday



*What? Me? Eighty? Who told you that?*



*Okay. I admit it. Thank you all.*



*And here's the cake to prove it.*

Many happy returns and all the very best of best wishes, Robin, from Ballina Bridge Club players.

Ballina Bridge Club is at 13 North Creek Road, Ballina NSW 2478 (opposite Aldi). Phone (02) 6681 5533  
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