



— Ballina Bridge Club —

Newsletter July 2017

Enjoy your bridge

President's Report

New initiative by the Teaching Group — Social Bridge
IN RESPONSE TO requests from our Friday morning Supervised Play class, the Management Committee was happy to accede to a request to add a new Social Bridge session every Monday from 9.30 – 11.30. This allows bridge to be played without formal competition and with no timed rounds; it is simply a social morning for people who want to enjoy a game with a helpful teacher or committee member in attendance.

We are hoping that, by adding this session, we may help our new members develop their partnerships in a relaxed atmosphere, and we are offering access to our Club to those people in the local community who like the social aspect of the game more than the competitive form that we normally offer.

New library bookshelf

A NEW LIBRARY bookshelf will be built and installed on the North wall. The other bookcase is full and as we offer this borrowing service to our members we need to have better display and access. Bob Hart, our librarian, and Chris McDowell will be getting this done when they can.

ABF Teacher Training Program

ON THURSDAY 13th July, Lyn Graham and I will be attending a full day ABF Teacher Training Program at Surfers Paradise (obviously Lyn is coming mainly out of professional interest!) This will be the first step towards my official ABF Teacher Accreditation.

Vale Pauline Gale

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to Col Gale whose wife Pauline passed away last week.

Thanks to our Welfare Officer, Sue Fielder

MY THANKS to our Welfare Officer, Sue Fielder, for all she does to stay in contact and offer Club support to members who need it.

Country Teams in Coffs Harbour

MY THANKS to Anne Jackson, Judy Woodward and John Paynter for such a positive experience playing the Country Teams last weekend in Coffs Harbour.

'Dream team' wins Zonal Final — off to Sydney

MY CONGRATULATIONS to our 'dream team' of Eric Hurley, Gary Lynn, Marjorie Askew and Bill Powell, who won the Zonal Final and will compete in Sydney later this year.

— Rebecca Rogers, President

Play Committee Report

Rank Promotions — Congratulations to:

Jenny Wardley – National**;

Isobel Johnston – Local*; Robert Sheahan – Club;

Jan Roberts – Graduate.

Queen's Birthday – Thanks to so many who contributed to a great day.

Overall winners on the day:



Winston Guymer, Ann Jackson, Maureen Baker, Ngaire Wills

Second place-getters:



John Paynter, John Harrison, Lorraine Miller, Mark Miller.

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Play report (continued from page 1)

Queen's Birthday Open Division — First place



Janet Brown, Karen Scanlan, Jenny & Eric Hurley

Open Division — Second place-getters



Lyn Arnett, Judy Forsyth, Judy Woodward, Mike Gilfoyle

C Grade — First place-getters



Sharon Carver, Sue Fielder, Beth Martin, George Connell

C Grade — Second place-getters



Rebecca Rogers, Peta Price, Lorraine Bryant
(Absent: John Rogers).

Continued ↗

Australia Wide Pairs

MARGARET FAULKS & Robert Eldridge were placed 41st out of 1 156 pairs in all Australia. Congratulations to you both on a great result.

Restricted Partner Co-ordinator

Reminder – John Rogers is now the Restricted Partner Co-ordinator for Monday & Thursday sessions. He may be contacted on his phone number in the programme book or at rogersj@westnet.com.au

Coming Up...

Gala Teams Night — Thursday, 13th July

Enter your pair as usual on the yellow sheet. Enjoy a Winter Warmer meal before play. \$10 for tea & bridge. 5:45 for a 6 p.m. meal.

Early Notice ...

Ballina Bridge Club Teams Championship – To be played in Open, B Grade & Restricted Divisions on Sunday, 20th August. Sort your teams soon.

Teams of Three – 28th August.

— Judy Forsyth, Chair of Play

Odds break ~even — evens break odd

— By Paul Smith

PLAYERS TALK ABOUT how a suit 'breaks', referring to how the opponent's cards are divided between their two hands. If you and dummy have 9 cards of a suit, then your opponents must have 4. One could have 4, the other 0 (4-0); one could have 3, the other 1 (3-1); or they may have 2 each (2-2).

If you have 8 cards, the outstanding 5 could be shared between your two opponents 5-0, 4-1 or 3-2. Which break should you expect? Which is the most likely? If you are missing 5 cards, the most likely break is the one that is most nearly even: 3-2; this occurs about 2/3 of the time. You may say the trumps broke badly, or that you got an unlucky break if they are 4-1, but it is going to happen a little more than a quarter of the time. A way to remember these odds is to swap the digits and make it a fraction: 3-2 → 2/3; 4-1 → 1/4.

If you are missing 4 cards, the odds are that the suit does *not* break evenly. A 3-1 break will occur about half of the time; the 2-2 break only 40%.

If missing 6 cards, the odds are still that the suit does *not* break evenly. A 4-2 break will occur about half of the time; the 3-3 break about 1/3 of the time.

Missing only 3 cards? Then the most even break is 2-1, and it occurs nearly 80% of the time.

The mnemonic in the title summarises these numbers. 'Odds break ~even' means that you can expect an odd number of cards (3, 5 or 7) to break as close to evenly as possible (2-1, 3-2 or 4-3). This will happen better than 60%

of the time. 'Evens break odd' means you can expect an even number of cards (4 or 6) to break oddly (3–1 or 4–2). This will happen about half the time.

Your contract is 6♥ and the lead is Q♦.

♠ AQ864	♠ KJ95
♥ J942	♥ 73
♦ A65	♦ K84
♣ 4	♣ QT53
♠ T72	♠ 3
♥ 5	♥ AKQT86
♦ QJT2	♦ 973
♣ KJ976	♣ A82

Win the opening lead; do a quick count. You have six trump tricks, three Aces and two Club ruffs: 11 tricks. The only place to get a 12th trick is from Spades. There are two ways to get a second trick: finesse the Q♠ or ruff three Spades, hoping

the last comes good. The finesse is a 50% chance. If you take the A♠, then ruff three times, the last will be a winner if the 7 outstanding Spades break 4–3.

When missing an odd number of cards (here, 7) the odds are > 60% that they will break evenly (4–3 in this case). So the better line of play is to ruff three rounds of Spades hoping the last one comes good.



Jargon ('Bridge-speak')

— By Paul Smith [Many thanks, Paul — Ed.]

Active – An approach to defending a hand that emphasises quickly setting up winners and taking tricks.

Advancer – The partner of the overcaller

Air or **Beating air** – To win a trick with a high card while capturing only small cards.

Alert – Notifying the opponents that a bid has a conventional or unusual meaning. Alerts are made by audibly saying "Alert". If bidding boxes are used, an alert card should also be placed across the call. If written bidding is used, the bid should also be circled.

Announcement – A prescribed statement whenever partner opens either 1♣ or a natural 1NT.

Arrow switch – The action of changing the North direction during a Mitchell movement so that pairs who were North-South become East-West and vice versa. This allows a single winning pair to be determined.

Artificial – A call which by agreement carries a coded meaning not necessarily related to the call's denomination.

Asking Bid – A bid that requests information about a feature of partner's hand.

Back In – To make the first bid for your side after passing in a previous round. Sometimes this bid will be *balancing*.

Balancing or **Balance** – To keep the bidding open when it is about to be passed out at a low level. A balancing bid is often made without the normally expected strength and relies on partner to hold the missing points. If the auction proceeds 1♠ – Pass – 2♠ – Pass – Pass – 3♣. The 3♣ bid is said to be 'balancing'; it prevents the opponents buying a cheap contract.

Beer Card – The seven of diamonds. If you win the last trick with the seven of diamonds (when diamonds are not trumps) then partner must buy you a beer — or two if the contract is doubled.

Bidding Box – A set of cards which contains one card for every possible bid or call.

Blank – A card which lacks protecting small cards. 'The blank King' is a singleton. During the play of the hand you may need to discard the supporting cards that you originally held – "I had to blank the Heart King to keep Club winners."

Block – High cards in one hand prevent the other hand from taking tricks. For example, if you hold the singleton A♣ and partner is on lead against 3NT with the K Q J 10 9. Your A♣ is said to 'Block the Clubs.'

Break – How the outstanding cards of a suit are distributed. If your side holds eight cards in a suit, one opponent may hold three and the other two – an 'even break'. One opponent may have four and the other a singleton – a 'bad break'. One opponent has all five and the other has none – 'a tough break'.

Bullet – An ace.

Bump – A single raise.

Business Double – A penalty double.

Butler – A method of scoring a pairs event. Each pair has their score compared with the average of the rest of the field. There are several ways of calculating the average or datum.

Buy – To buy the contract is to be allowed to declare a low level contract when the opponents have a much better contract available. "I was able to buy it in two Hearts when they had a cold Spade game." Not making your contract when you buy it at a cheap level is still going to be a good score.

Caddy – An assistant to the director who is primarily responsible for moving the boards.

Canape – A bidding method where a short suit is bid before a longer suit.

More 'jargon' will be printed as space permits

Ballina Bridge Club is at 13 North Creek Road, Ballina NSW 2478 (opposite Aldi). Phone (02) 6681 5533. Contributions welcomed; please email them to the Editor, Michael Kuter, at kuteredit@gmail.com