



— Ballina Bridge Club —

Newsletter

August 2018

President's Report

20th Birthday & Life Members' celebration

HELLO ALL. At about the time you see this newsletter, we will be celebrating 20 years in the clubhouse, and also celebrating life members. On that day, Sunday August 5th, we should all reflect on how lucky we are to have our club, and how it came to be so. Hopefully the day works out well and lots of old memories are rekindled. We newer members might hear a few tall tales of how it was all done.

AGM on September 1st — positions vacant

Soon it will be our AGM, specifically September 1st. Possibly, when you receive this newsletter, there will still be a shortage of nominations on the notice board for the new Management Committee, so please give some thought to nominating and making a vital contribution to the workings of your club.

Painting of clubhouse interior; blinds ready

I am pleased to say that, after some deliberation, we have organised to have the interior of the clubhouse repainted. We have engaged Eric Bridgeman to do the job. Eric comes to us highly recommended by a number of people we know, so I am very confident that he will serve us well. To facilitate a speedy completion and to minimize disruption, Eric has agreed to start the work early on Sunday August 19th and complete by end of Tuesday 21st. So, all going to plan, we will miss only two days of bridge play, Monday and Tuesday 20th and 21st August. Please note these two dates of clubhouse closure.

As soon as possible after the painting is finished, we will have new window screening installed in the form of roll down blinds that allow some light in but keep glare low. This will enhance the light in the room and should look very smart. These blinds are all made and ready to go, just awaiting painting completion.

Grand plans for sealing and draining

Previously I have mentioned possible driveway sealing etc. The latest news is that, thanks to a suggested plan by retired civil engineer member Greg Lester, we now have a somewhat grander plan for not only a sealed driveway, but also some sealed car parking and a possible extra entry to the car park. Included in these thoughts is a longer plan for second stage sealing of extra areas of driveway and car park, all incorporating proper drainage of water runoff etc.

President's Report is continued on page 3

Play Committee Chair Report

Rank Promotions

LOTS OF MASTERPOINTS rank promotions at end June.

Congratulations to:

Graduate: Catherine Churton; Club: Ken Jones; Local: Elspeth Lacey, Maureen McDermott; **Local: Gail Pick, Ken Cutcliffe; State: Gwen Wilson; *State: Lorraine Bryant, Felicity Ross; *National: Lorraine Miller; **National: Ian Michelson.

July Events

1. NSW Country Teams Zonal Final, June 30 & July 1 Coffs Harbour

Five teams from Ballina (representing the Far North region) played at Coffs Harbour in the Northern Zone Final. The top two teams go on to the State Teams Final to be held in Sydney in December.

Our team of Eric Hurley, Gary Lynn, Marjorie Askew and Bill Powell set the pace on Day 1, but were caught on Day 2 by a team from the North Inland region. However, our team hung on to second place, just ahead of another of our teams: Winston Guymer, Paul Smith, Howard Jeffery and Liz Jeffery.

2. GNOT Team Club Qualifying Sundays July 8 & 15

Fourteen teams competed; it was great to see some of our less-experienced players taking part. All teams had at least one win/draw, so everyone 'banked' some gold points.

Many thanks to Janet Brown for directing the event, which ran very smoothly in the 'old- fashioned' way, that is, no Bridgemates or computer scoring!

The top half (so, seven teams) now go forward to the Regional Final to be held at Ballina on October 14 & 21. These are:

1. Winston Guymer, Paul Smith, Liz Jeffery, Howard Jeffery (with Helen Tootell and Peter Tootell to augment the team)
2. Eric Hurley, Gary Lynn, Marjorie Askew and William Powell
3. Carol Hocking, Anne Jackson, Jean Lowe & Maureen Baker
4. Jim Roche, John Kable, Jack Pierce and Roger Stanfield
5. Judith Crafti, Charlotte Harrison, Ellen Watson and Mary Goodall
6. Deborah McLay, Ian Michelson, John Sheehan and Peter McGruer
7. Bob Hart, Carolyn Hart, Betty Clark and Henry Hirschhorn.

Play Committee Chair Report is continued on page 2

Play Committee Chair Report (continued from page 1)

2. Gala Teams Night, Thursday July 12

Another gastronomic delight, this time a curry theme — oh yes — and some bridge after. Thanks to all the chefs of the night, and to Eric Hurley and Lorraine Bryant for coordinating.

3. 'Fall into Winter' Pairs:

This 3-round event concluded on July 18. As well as being graded, it was run as an eclectic event with best two scores determining overall winners, and at the same time providing extra Masterpoints for overall placings. Winners were: Open: Janet Brown and Eric Hurley; Restricted: Lola Humphry and Nick Humphry.

The graded format proved a popular variation, affording the opportunity to divide the field into more/less experienced players. As I reported last month, our Directors coped admirably with the extra challenges of different movements per the two sections, and we all seemed to manage our 'chatter' levels.

4. Teams of 3, Monday July 30

Looks like we have 23 teams for this always popular event. Results next time.

Events Coming up

20th Birthday & Life Members Day, Sunday August 5

As we go to press, our clubhouse's 20th birthday is just about upon us. The clubhouse is a 'big tangible' and has been a key element for the growth and success of our club. As we reflect on this, we are forever thankful for the foresight, determination and hard work of those members, and other contributors, who made the clubhouse a reality.

We hope this will be a special day. We will be able to share stories and look at photos and videos from the past 20 years (do we all look just a shade older??); to reminisce with 'old' and newer friends, and to enjoy lunch, drinks and birthday cake and some bridge.

With the birthday celebrations coming up, I have been perusing the scrapbooks and historical books that trace the club's history. (It is wonderful that members took the time to put these together.) I found lots of interesting things... here's something from 1991:

An admirable saying to describe bridge partnerships: "True love is playing bridge with your spouse."

If you haven't yet nominated, but do wish to come for bridge (some are playing one session, some two) or just for lunch, please contact urgently Ngaire Wills, who has taken over from me as Event Organiser. Ngaire will try to fit you in for bridge and/or lunch (and possibly find you a partner). As per my email re the birthday celebrations: 20 is a China anniversary; colours are emerald green and white — our theme for the day. Bridge starts at 9:30 AM; we anticipate we will be preparing for lunch from around noon.

(Disappointingly Very! Bill and I are an apology for the birthday as we will be in Hobart competing in the Australian Bridge Championships; but we will be thinking of you—Marjorie.)

2. State Open Pairs, Wednesdays Sept 5 & 12

This is a Club qualifying event with red points at state championship level. All those taking part are eligible to play in the State Final to be held in Sydney on November 24 & 25.

3. Harvey Norman Mixed Men's & Women's Pairs, October 10, 17 & 24

An early reminder so you can think about lining up a (favourite) partner for this 3-week event.

Congress Wrap-Up

The Surfers Congress is the only one that I am aware of in July (21st & 22nd). In the Pairs event on the Saturday: Carol Hocking and Paul Smith won B Division (and were 5th overall).

In the Teams event on the Sunday: 1st: Bill Powell, Marjorie Askew, Eric Hurley and Gary Lynn; 3rd: Paul Smith, Carol Hocking, Liz Jeffery and Howard Jeffery.

August looks a busier month for congresses. Good luck to those going to the Moree Pairs (11th & 12th); the Coffs Super Congress (14th–19th); and Tweed Birthday Teams (26th). + If you do go, please submit a short write-up, if not to 'trumpet-blow' then to let us know if these events offer anything 'special' or 'different' so others can maybe think about these events for next year!

From Jetts, our

Championships sponsor

Marie Ferguson and Alan Gibson were the winners of the lucky score prize from the June Championship round. Kallum Fido from Jetts has sent me details of their 'Stand Tall' Group Exercise Class which is specifically designed for

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STAND TALL
Group Exercise Class

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'seniors'.

Please ring Kim Chappel (0422 298 992) if you would like to give this a go, or if you have any questions.

Medicare and private health rebates available — AND the first class is free for all Bridge Club Members.

— Marjorie Askew, Chair,
Play Committee



President's report (continued from page 1)

The committee has agreed that the concept is good; we have a draft plan from Greg which must now go to engineers for final plans and submission to council.

This is a bigger and grander plan than had been contemplated before, and almost certainly will not all happen at once. If we can get appropriate planning and permissions in place soon, I am sure that stage one will not be too far away and will be a great improvement. Stage two would make us the envy of any country bridge club.

New newsletter editor

I have previously remarked that Michael Kuter does a great job of editing this newsletter. As Michael is about to retire after serving us so well, I am delighted to announce that Ange Bettess has agreed to take over from Michael. Ange comes to the job experienced and confident, as she now edits a newsletter for an association of professionals. Thank you Ange.

Terry Lowe retiring

After many years of being part of the team of directors, Terry Lowe has decided to retire and, as he put it, "let some of the young ones have a go". Thanks Terry for making that great contribution. Winston Guymer has joined the directing team, as has our relatively new member, Clive Klugman.

Congratulations Mark Miller

Mark Miller has now been awarded a 'C' Grade Director's grading, meaning that he can act as Director at Congresses. Our club now has three C grade Directors.

As a matter of interest, this is how C Grade Directors qualify: to become a C1 Grade director you need to (a) complete a C Grade examination (most Directors just do their D Grade exam) and (b) your credentials must be submitted to the NSWBA with a

recommendation from your club that you be promoted to a Congress Director and, if required, complete a practical examination. The other practising C1 Grade Directors are Bob Hart and Howard Jeffery, our Head Director. *[Thanks to Howard for giving us that information. — Ed.]*

Acknowledging the 'heroes'

It is a statement of the obvious that strong volunteers make for a great club. While not forgetting others I have mentioned before, it occurs to me now to acknowledge and thank a few more of the unsung hero volunteers in our club.

Pam and Ian Frith go shopping for us every week at various suppliers to keep us in food supplies as well as other items for the kitchen, toilets and washrooms.

John Fraser goes shopping for us very regularly and keeps our drink fridge well stocked in refreshments that many of us enjoy. Sometimes this involves lugging in heavy cartons of booze.

Do we ever stop and think how our Masterpoints earned each week magically get tallied and end up on the ABF website? Well, the answer is that **Bill Powell**, Masterpoint secretary, looks after us very well, and has done so for about 14 years, I am told.

All this happens quietly in the background, but it certainly must happen. Indeed, these functions are critical to our club running smoothly. Many others also do a lot; it just seemed to me that I had not mentioned these people before and they deserve our collective thanks.

May your opposition's Kings drop on their Aces!

Cheers
Chris



How to cheat

— By Paul Smith

YOU MAY NEVER play as well as World Champions Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth, but you can practise hard and try to be a little bit like them. You may never be a world-class cheat like Fantoni and Nunes, but you can practise hard and try to be a little bit like them. Some tips on how to cheat more. Remember, every little bit helps

If you don't know what to lead, make sure your partner knows that you have a choice. Squirming in your seat, muttering "I don't know what to do," or just a sigh that everyone can hear, will get the illegal message to your partner that you have strength in more than one suit and that a switch may work out OK.

When opponents make a natural bid, like responding 1♠ to a 1♦ opening, make sure that you ask if the bid is a transfer whenever you have length in the suit bid. Otherwise how will partner know to lead your suit?

Don't have many points? No problem; a sarcastic remark like "There's a surprise for you, partner," as you pass, is a sure way to get the message across not to make any marginal decisions on this board.

What if you have a couple of possible bids? How do you get that message to partner? Easy! Reach out with your pencil and hover over the bidding pad. The more advanced way is to rest your pencil somewhere on the pad and sigh. Lift the pencil, replace it. If partner doesn't get the illegal information that you could have made a different bid, then it is time to get a new partner.

In most cheating which is not yet 'world class', the main feature is the unconsciousness of the signal. This lets you take umbrage at any suggestion of impropriety because you don't do it on purpose. Hooray! By not actively taking every step to behave ethically, you are taking the first steps on the road to embedding your cheating habits and making the game unpleasant for everyone.



Bridge in dreamland

— BY PAUL SMITH

AS YOU TOSS and turn in bed, the blasphemous thought occurs to you, "Maybe I am playing too much bridge; my mind won't let me sleep." At last, the arms of Morpheus encircle you. As you dream, cards swirl in your head. Eventually they settle into this pattern:

♠ A K T 8 4	♠ Q J 7 6
♥ 7 6 3	♥ A Q 4
♦ K 7 6	♦ A Q 5
♣ A Q	♣ 8 6 2

You look down at the bidding pad to see the contract is 6♠, and you are Declarer holding the West cards.

The opening lead of the ♦J is already on the table. "Thank you, partner," you mumble as you survey your prospects: A certain loser in Hearts, so you are going to need the King of Hearts to be with North and the King of Clubs to be with South. Requiring two finesses makes this slam a depressing 25% chance.

Still, your dream state lends you a feeling of invincibility. You call for the ♦Q a 'practice' finesse; there is no need for South to know who has the ♦K. With the lead in dummy you play the ♠Q, then a small trump to your Ace; both

defenders follow suit, all the trumps have been drawn. Now a Diamond to the Ace, and one back to your King. You lead a Heart to the Queen, which wins, then cash the ♥A, noticing that North drops the ♥J under the Ace. Leading dummy's last Heart, you note with satisfaction that North is now on lead with the ♥K.

The position now is:

♠ K T 8	♠ J 7
♥ —	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —
♣ A Q	♣ 8 6 2

If the hapless North leads a red card then you can trump in dummy and discard your ♣Q, taking the rest of the tricks. If North leads a Club, then you don't care where the King is; the AQ must make two tricks and, again, you take the rest of the tricks. A nice end-play.

"Such an easy game," you think as the cards swirl once more, and you fall into the restful night's sleep you richly deserve.

The following Saturday is a round of the Club Championship. You politely greet the reigning Club Champions and pull your first hand from the board. As you sort the cards you see ♠A K T 8 4; ♥7 6 3; ♦K 7 6; ♣A Q. Secretly, you reach under the table and pinch yourself. This is the 'dream hand'!

The auction proceeds as you expect:

N	E	S	W
			1♠
P	2NT	P	4NT
P	5♠ ¹	P	6♣

¹Two keycards and Queen of trumps.

The Blackwood response to partner's 2NT is a bit cheeky, but you *know* what they have, and don't want to miss the chance to show your brilliant play in the slam. The lead is the expected ♦J. Play proceeds exactly as it did in the land of Nod: you draw trumps, take the Diamond tricks and lead a Heart towards dummy.

"What???" North plays the ♥J on the first lead of Hearts! "What is going on?" Slightly nervously, you call for the Queen, which wins, South following with the 10. Now you take the ♥A on which South plays the ♥2 and North the ♥K. The small Heart from dummy loses to South's ♥9 and North follows suit! Your dream has become a nightmare.

Now East leads a Club *through* your A Q. With no better option available, you play the Queen, which loses to North's King, and you are down one.

Before you can say anything, North blurts out, "I had the most amazing dream the other night ..."

The full hand:

Board —			
Dir: W Vuln: Nil			
[N]			
♠ 5 3			
♥ K J 5			
♦ J T 9 3			
♣ K T 7 4		[E]	
♠ A K T 8 4		♠ Q J 7 6	
♥ 7 6 3		♥ A Q 4	
♦ K 7 6		♦ A Q 5	
♣ A Q		♣ 8 6 2	
[S]			
♠ 9 2			
♥ T 9 8 2			
♦ 8 4 2			
♣ J 9 5 3			
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣			

Medicos, nurses...

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE asks any doctor, nurse or paramedic able to render first-response assistance to a player in need, please give their name to the Club Secretary, Bev Peart-Kuter.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Ballina Bridge Club is at 13 North Creek Road, Ballina.
Contributions welcome; please email them **before CoB** on the **last Wednesday of each month** to the Editor, Michael Kuter:
kuteredit@gmail.com

Card holders for sale



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