



**BALLINA
BRIDGE CLUB**

Newsletter January 2022

Message from the President

Judy Forsyth



Greetings All

On behalf of Ballina Management Committee, we wish everyone a very happy and safe 2022.

A reminder that your annual fees are due - \$45 for home club, \$20 for associate and social memberships. Please ensure these are paid as they were due by the 1st January, 2022.

Everyone should now be aware that masks have returned as part of our attire. QR Check In is optional and are again available for members. This seems to be the routine, at this stage, until near the end of January.

I hope you all appreciate the fresher outlook in the toilets. Thanks to Howard for organising this.

At the AGM meeting, we were asked to monitor the CO₂ readings within the club rooms. Lesley and Russell Burford kindly gave us the use of their monitor – many thanks. We have undertaken random monitoring in different areas of the room and at different sessions and will continue to do so. The results so far have been excellent when the air conditioner is in use. The levels of carbon dioxide measured are well below the accepted levels set by the World Health Organisation.



Jetts prize winners



Winners of Jetts Prizes – Peter Lamont, John Fraser, Ken Jones, Kaylene Cross, Chris McDowell, Lorraine Bryant, Peter Rostron, Robyn Greenhalgh, Liz Jeffery, Geoff Brooks, Marjorie Askew, Judy Forsyth and Lin Hoult



Newsletter January 2022

Play Committee Report - December 2021

Marjorie Askew



We've 'wrapped up' 2021

Events Gone:

John Arkinstall State Teams Finals December 10-12

10 teams from across the state qualified for the state final and we were proud to have 2 Ballina Teams representing the 'Northern' zone. The format is a complete round-robin on the Friday and Saturday. Then the top 2 teams qualify for the State Final and the top 2 Country Teams go forward to the Country Final, played on the Sunday. This year the Finals were held online on RealBridge.

2 Sydney teams headed the round-robin although the Morrison Team started with 3 losses, followed by 6 (big) wins, and qualified first! Interestingly they followed a similar course in the Final: losing the first 3 (of 4) 12 board sets and trailing by 45 IMPs with one set to go. They then won the final set by 47 IMPs to be champions! (Never give up!!)

In the Country qualifying the Outer Metropolitan Team finished first with the Ballina Teams 2nd and 3rd. Our Team of: Paul Smith, Winston Guymer, Liz Jeffery and Howard Jeffery were 2nd and thus took on Outer Metropolitan in the Country Final. This was closely fought with our Team taking the lead after 3 sets but Outer Metropolitan had a strong final set

to take the title. Congratulations to Paul, Winston, Liz and Howard as Country Runners-up.

Paul has written up a couple of their hands on the Club website. + You can view all the results at: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/res.asp?yr=2021&dir=state/stf>. Plus one of the great things about RealBridge is you can view the auction and then the play at every table ie just click through on any contract in the results: can be a great learning tool to see what the 'experts' do; and you may find they don't always get it right!

Christmas Party Saturday December 18:

We had a fun afternoon of bridge with an individual movement ably directed by Mark. After bridge we enjoyed a 'glass' to toast the winners of our major events

for 2021. You'll see the 'Roll of Honour' for our 2021 winners – Page 5.

We also caught up with presenting Jetts lucky score winners from our Championship rounds as per the photo (page 1). You can see a list of these winners – page 12. We thank Jetts for their ongoing sponsorship. Unfortunately gyms have had a tough time in Covid (like many businesses) so if you have won a voucher please 'give-the-gym-a-go' or pass it on to a family member or friend. It may be that a New Year's resolution is: to get more exercise, and you can check out their special classes for seniors. And if you do go to the gym remember we'd love to see some photos of you 'working-out'.

(N.B: If you are a winner of an



continued on page 4



Newsletter January 2022

Play Committee Report - December 2021

continued from page 2

Marjorie Askew



We must have numbers confirmed especially for catering so the closing date is Saturday January 22 at 6pm. Then if you find you are in a Team of 5 or 6 ie different people playing am and pm we will assume everyone will be having lunch unless you advise us otherwise and by the closing date. (It may then get a bit confusing with \$s but all 'extras' will need to contribute \$10 for lunch eg a Team of 4 will be \$100 in total but a Team of 6 with all enjoying lunch will be \$120 in total.)

Event Organiser is Marjorie Askew – please contact me for all queries and if you are looking for teammates.

Australia-Wide 2021-ish Open and Restricted Pairs Sat January 29:

Yes this is the '2021-ish' edition as there were some 'false' starts with both the Open and Restricted events last year. So the 2021 event has been merged and is to be held in the last week of January (2022) and we are scheduling it on the Saturday. (It will be a busy week following the Australia Day Teams!)

So Restricted Players – here < 300 masterpoints, and Open Players: Please think about supporting this event. There will be separate results and prizes for Restricted Pairs in the national event. And if we were to have really good nominations from Restricted Pairs we could consider running

annual award or a Jetts voucher and you haven't yet picked this up, please speak with President Judy or Treasurer Lorraine as these are stored in the Club safe.)

After presentations it was time to enjoy Christmas nibbles with many 'gourmet' delights. Thanks to Carmel Pollard and the House Team for this excellent catering; rumour has it that Chris McDowell was the blini chef! (assisted no doubt by Jenny McD!). And thanks too to Hilary Lewis as our Event Organiser for coordinating the day.

The new 'format' for the Christmas Party seemed to be well received. If you have any feedback please pass this on to a member of the Play or Management Committees.

And now on to 2022 and with some new and old favourites, some

tweaks and ...

Events Coming Up:

Australia Day Swiss Teams Wednesday January 26:

We're sticking with a Handicap event (see poster page 13). Our winners will be determined based on club handicaps. Please nominate online as a Team, or as a Pair or Individual, looking for teammates.

The 'good' news is that we're planning to break, at about 12.30, for a BBQ Lunch, in and around our upgraded Wardley area and hopefully outside. The cost is \$25 per person which is great value for 'everything' on the day; bridge, lunch, Aussie nibbles through the day, and a drink at the end of play. Please pay by direct bank transfer in advance or vouchers on the day.



Newsletter January 2022

Play Committee Report - December 2021

continued from page 3

Marjorie Askew



separate sections on the day: Open and Restricted.

We believe it is important for our Club to support national events and with the Club subsidising we will only pay normal table money on the day. Everyone gets a booklet with experts' advice on the hands, and red masterpoints are awarded nationally.

The 2022 Australia-Wide events: Novice, Restricted and Open will follow later in the year.

2022 Pairs Championships:

These will get underway the first week in February: Thursday February 3rd and Saturday February 5th. Fingers crossed for 10 rounds, February to November, with best 6 scores averaged to determine winners.

Sunday Pizza Bridge February 6th from 4pm:

As announced last month we're giving this a go and initially once a month on the first Sunday. Bridge will start at 4pm then we plan to have pizzas delivered at around 6pm. Initial costings suggest \$10 for bridge and pizza; vouchers on the day.

Some years back Sunday Supper

Bridge was very popular at our Club: bridge, supper and socialising. Let's hope it will be again.... + The plan is to 'evolve' as we go.

Then Tuesday Bridge

The plan is to re-invent Tuesday Bridge. But how? Suggestions please especially from our Tuesday players. Maybe:

- mentoring opportunities?
- a tweak with the starting times either earlier (Tuesday lessons in Feb/March finishing by noon) or later?
- byo lunch maybe once a month?
- ??

ABF Events:

You'll see on our online calendar there are 2 ABF events coming up in January and February. And if you click on the event it will take you to MyABF for more information. Both events offer events for all levels of bridge experience; the Summer Festival is online on RealBridge – so no trekking to Canberra; the Gold Coast Congress is face-to-face and is 'just up the road'.

1. Summer Festival of Bridge January 13-23.

2. Gold Coast Congress February 18-26.

2022 Programme Book:

We will be going to print very soon. So a final reminder to make sure you have advised of any change to your phone number to be included in the phone listing. There is a list on the wall in the Clubhouse (road-side) for you to advise or please email me asap with any changes.

Please contact me if you have any suggestions or feedback or I can be of help with your bridge at the Club

Marjorie

email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com or call: 0459 023 907

BRIDGE FEES ARE DUE -

\$45 Full member

\$20 Associate member

\$20 Social Member

Message from Lorraine Bryant -

If you paid your membership on 8th December by mobile phone please check with Lorraine as there was no name on the transaction and she has no idea whose membership has been paid.

Thanks to all our sponsors:

Dancer's Car Care | Harvey Norman | Jetts | Somerville Laundry Lomax | Thai by Night

Ballina Bridge Club 2021 Major Event Winners

Pairs Championships:

Open Pairs Champions: Helen Tootell & Peter Tootell
Open Pairs Runners-Up: Gary Lynn & Clive Klugman
B Grade Pairs Champions: Mark Miller & Lorraine Miller
B Grade Pairs Runners-Up: Ray Ghioni & Rob Sheahan
Restricted Pairs Champions: Ken Jones & Bruce Mathieson
Restricted Pairs Runners-Up: David Cowles & Ken Cutcliffe
Novice Pairs Champions: Steven Marks & Norm Peart
Novice Pairs Runners-Up: Carolyn Blair & Kathy Saurine



Teams Championships:

Open: Deb McLay, Ian Michelson, Helen Tootell, Peter Tootell
B Grade: Geoff Brooks, Ken Jones, Bruce Mathieson, Arthur Renshaw,
Restricted: Geoff Brooks, Ken Jones, Bruce Mathieson, Peter Rostron

Harvey Norman Pairs:

Womens: Marjorie Askew & Janet Brown
Mens: Howard Jeffery & Paul Smith
Mixed: Helen Tootell & Peter Tootell
Restricted: Ken Jones & Peter Rostron

SLL Shield:

Open: Helen Tootell & Peter Tootell
B Grade: Ray Ghioni & Rob Sheahan (and 2nd overall)
3rd overall: Lorraine Miller & Mark Miller

Brumley Award*: Ken Jones

BBC Encouragement Award*: Denice Richards

(For the member earning the most masterpoints in club sessions at Ballina Bridge Club; and for members with under 5MPts; running from 1st October 2019 concluding 30th September 2021.)

* For members starting with: Brumley < 15 masterpoints, BBC Encouragement < 5 masterpoints. The member earning the most masterpoints in club sessions at Ballina Bridge Club for the period 1st October to 30th September the following year. On this occasion the time period was extended to 2 years, so from 1st October 2019 concluding 30th September 2021)

Newsletter January 2022

PLAYER PROFILE - **RHONDA KHONG**

Like many others I was extremely impressed with Rhonda's gutsiness when straight after beginner lessons she began playing at all levels in the Club. Rhonda has made her mark.

And like many others I have wondered about Rhonda away from the Bridge table. This profile answers some of those questions.

A Happy New Year to everyone.

by *Robert Eldridge*



Where were you born?

Melbourne

What are your fondest memories of growing up?

I grew up in a Chinese restaurant, I loved always having great food around me.

What family do you have and what do they do?

I am an only child. My father was an engineer but became a restaurateur in the early 80's. My mother studied mathematics and worked in computer programming. They are now both retired and enjoy a life of gardening, sport and travel when they can. I only found out after I started playing that my parents met playing bridge. Mom says she used to love watching my father play.

What was your first job?

My first unpaid and then paid job was working for my father in his Chinese restaurant. I used to carry out prawn crackers to the tables as a young primary school child (so they tell me). As I got older I worked in all aspects of the business from cooking the basics (fried rice and

entrees) to looking after tables and take aways.

What is your occupation? What do you enjoy most about it?

I currently still work in hospitality as a restaurant manager. The hours are long and unsociable but I love working with food, wine and coffee. I love talking to the chefs about the dish they have created and then going home and researching it more! Flavours and cooking techniques intrigue me.

When did you first start to play Bridge?

I started playing bridge about 3 years ago. I walked into the club to enquire about lessons and ended up at the first trial mini bridge lessons. From there I started to play supervised until the full lessons began. Since then I have been obsessed, then realized there is life outside bridge when covid happened.

What do you enjoy most about Bridge?

I love the challenge and I love watching people's minds work.

What is your most humorous moment playing Bridge?

I don't have an especially humorous moment playing Bridge but I do recall after my first time playing on a normal Bridge day and coming last, I called Dad and said it all went terribly. I asked if he could please look at the hands with me and give me some advice. We jumped on the website and the phone and started going through the boards I had played. Dad instantly saw how badly I had played the hands and said how did you manage to play so badly! I was so happy that he had taken an hour and a half out of his day to help me, I wasn't even offended.

What 3 people would you like to share a meal with and why?

The 2 Chefs that I admire most in the world -

Ferran Adria - won best restaurant in the world every year until he closed. I have never had the good fortune to work with him.

Dan Hunter - one of the top restaurants in Australia and, in my mind, best chef I have ever worked with in terms of creativity and

Newsletter January 2022

PLAYER PROFILE - RHONDA KHONG

leading a team.

And my best friend so we could explore amazing food and wine together.

What do you wish 2022 will bring?

I am going to Gold Coast congress so hoping to not do too badly there. Would love to get some points but I am aware how difficult this can be at congress. More than

anything I am looking forward to the experience.

I am also hoping to refine my Bridge skills both through playing and continued lessons.

Other than this I hope to enjoy a better work life balance than I have had over the last few years and find more time to work on my garden and house.



Major Award and Christmas Party Winners (more on next page)



A Grade Pairs Winners Helen and Peter Tootell



SLL Shield Winners L-R Peter, Mark, Lorraine, Helen (Ray Ghioni and Rob Sheahan not present)



B Grade Pairs Winners Lorraine and Mark Miller



B Grade Teams winners Ken Jones and Geoff Brooks (missing Bruce Mathieson and Arthur Renshaw)



Ballina Teams Winners – Ian Michelson, Deb McLay, Helen and Peter Tootell



Brumley Award Winner – Kens Jones with Judy Forsyth (President)



Harvey Norman 1sts and 2nds – Howard J, Paul Smith (1st Men), Ken Jones, Peter Rostron (1st Restricted), Marjorie Askew (1st Womens), Helen Tootell (2nd Womens), Peter Tootell (2nd Mens)



Individual 1st - 4th: Howard, Jenny, Gail and Henry



Individual 1st (Jenny) and 2nd (Howard)



Individual Places 1-10 Ian Pick, Liz Jeffery, Howard Jeffery, Jenny McDowell, Clive Klugman, Jenny Wardley, Henry Hirschhorn, Gail Pick, Jan Roberts, Chris Bauer



Restricted Pairs Winners Ken Jones and Ken Cutcliffe



Restricted Teams winners Peter Rostron, Geoff Brooks and Ken Jones (missing Bruce Mathieson).

Ballina Mah Jong Club News



The annual celebration for the 23rd Birthday of the Ballina Mahjong Club was combined this year with our Christmas luncheon on 17th December 2021. The day kicked off with an hour of Half-Limit games and then the Bridge Club President, Judy Forsyth, presented the Trophy to the 2021 Champion, Joy Lowien and Runner Up, Sally Lowry, and awards to the Most Improved, Pauline Kearney and Most Bouquets, Val Heinritz. This was followed by luncheon in which Judy participated, then further Limit-hand games and a round of Goulash hands after which the Club Birthday was celebrated with a cake marking the occasion.



Left to right: Sally Lowry (Runner Up), Val Heinritz (Most Bouquets), BBC President Judy Forsyth who presented the 2021 Awards, Pauline Kearney (Most Improved) and 2021 Champion, Joy Lowien.

Rank Promotion: Congratulations to **Mark Miller** for achieving **Silver National** status.

The ABF Masterpoints website has been updated with year end totals. If you click on some of the Reports (Reporting menu at upper Left) you can see some of our members featuring under National, State and then Club.





Newsletter January 2022

Bid boldly, play safe



Paul Smith

Your partner opens 3♦ in first seat and you hold this yummy collection, what do you bid?

Brd: 35	Winston
Dlr: S	♠ AK97
Vul: E/W	♥ AQJ652
	♦ AQ
	♣ 2

One requirement to bid a slam is that there cannot be two quick losers in any suit.

In No Trumps that means holding the Ace or King in every suit between the two hands. If the only stopper is the King then it is best if it is in declarer's hand so that the lead comes around to the weakness.

In a suit contract you will need either the Ace, the King, a singleton or a void in each suit to avoid losing the first two tricks in any suit.

Another requirement is that you must have first round control in at least three suits. This is often interpreted as having at least three Aces but clearly a void functions just as well if you are playing in a suit contract.

The King of the trump suit is often given equal treatment to an Ace due to its importance. Hence, the frequently quoted requirement to have at least four of the five key cards.

Back to the problem at hand. You contemplate the possibility of slam. Clearly there are not two immediate losers in any suit. Aces in three suits and a singleton in the fourth. A No Trump slam would require partner to have either Ace or King of Clubs but a Diamond slam does not.

You have a known nine card fit in Diamonds. If partner does not have the ♦K then they will surely have the ♣A or, even better, the ♥K. You reason that there

must be six or seven tricks in the minors (either the trump King or the Club Ace will lead to seven tricks). There are three sure tricks in the Majors. The Heart King, a Heart finesse or maybe deep Heart tricks should get you to twelve tricks.

The Rixi Markus classic (available in our library) is called "Bid boldly, Play Safe" - you boldly bid 6♦ which ends the auction. "Play safe" is partner's problem.

Unbeknownst to you the opening bid was another example of bidding boldly. This is what declarer sees when dummy goes down.

Brd: 35	North		
Dlr: S	♠ AK97		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQJ652		
	♦ AQ		
	♣ 2		
	South		
	♠ 543		
	♥ 3		
6♦ South	♦ J9875432		
Lead - ♠Q	♣ A		
<u>W</u>	N	<u>E</u>	S
			3♦
P	6♦	<end>	

Partner's pre-empt is a little unusual. An eight card suit but without any top honours. Your reporter was sitting South and decided that the favourable vulnerability



Bid boldly, play safe

Paul Smith

was too good to ignore. Our system does not include a weak two level bid that shows Diamonds and so 3 was the only real option.

What's the plan? Having ten trumps is nice but I am missing the King. There are seven trump tricks, three outside Aces and the K. Only eleven tricks. Where is the twelfth?

There are two obvious possibilities. Finesses in both of the red suits. The Club suit provides the only quick entry to my hand. If I come back to my hand in order to finesse the Heart suit and it loses then I have the difficulty of coming back to hand to then take the trump finesse. Further there is the potential embarrassment of taking the Heart finesse and losing to a singleton King when I only have a singleton.

My plan is to take the trump finesse. If that works (and the King comes down in two rounds of trumps) then I have eight trump tricks, three Aces and a King for my contract.

If the trump finesse loses then life is more complicated. I can expect a Spade to be returned which puts me in dummy. Now I need to take a ruffing finesse in Hearts before using the trump Ace as my entry back to the winner in dummy.

Play proceeds as follows. Win the opening Spade lead in dummy and play a Club to my Ace. A small trump (secretly hoping that the King is singleton on my left and all my troubles are over) to the Queen loses to the King which was on my right.

Now a Spade is returned with West contributing the 10 forcing the King from dummy. Now the key play. I take the ♥A and then lead the Queen. The plan is that if East plays small then I discard my losing Spade. As it happens, East covered the Queen with their King and I ruffed. A trump to the Ace in dummy and the ♥J takes care of my losing Spade. Notice that if I draw the last trump before taking the Heart finesse then I have no

way to get back to dummy to enjoy the ♥J.

A ruffing finesse is less common than the normal kind but the same principle applies. You hope that a particular card is where you want it to be. In this case I wanted the ♥K to be with East so that I can let the Queen 'run' if it is not covered. In the actual hand the Queen was covered which left the Jack as the best card.

The full hand from the final of the Country Teams championship was

Can I justify the 3♦ preempt? I think so but it is pushy. At the other table, South passed in first seat. North opened 1♥. South does not really have a sensible response and the result for the board was 1♥ at one table making two overtricks and 6♦ making twelve tricks at the other table. 13 useful IMPs.

Brd: 35	North		
Dir: S	♠ AK97		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQJ652		
	♦ AQ		
	♣ 2		
	West	East	
	♠ QJ102	♠ 86	
	♥ 974	♥ K108	
	♦ 10	♦ K6	
	♣ KJ987	♣ Q106543	
	South		
	♠ 543		
	♥ 3		
	♦ J9875432	6♦ South	
	♣ A	Lead - ♠Q	
	W	N	E
			S
			3♦
	P	6♦	<end>



2021 Jetts Championships Winners

Club Champions: Helen Tootell & Peter Tootell

Lucky Score Winners:

- April: Open: Mark Miller & Lorraine Miller
 Restricted: Steven Marks & Bill Thorne
- May: Open: Jean Lowe & Ellen Watson
 Restricted: Greg Lester & Kevin Williams
- June: Open: Anne Riley & Mary Goodall
 Restricted: David Cowles & Ken Cutcliffe
- July: (37) Open: Lin Hoult & Robin Greenhalgh
 (57) Restricted: Denice Richards and Dian Kruse
- August: (63) Open: Marjorie Askew & Bill Powell
 Restricted: Ken Jones & Bruce Mathieson
- September: (43) Open: Kaylene Cross & John Fraser
 Restricted: Paul Blanch & Mary Blanch
- October: (50) Open: Judy Forsyth & John Paynter
 Restricted: Ange Bettess & Peter Lamont
- November: (51) Open: Lorraine Bryant & Liz Jeffery
 Restricted: Ann Griffiths & Peter Rostron
- December: (49) Open: Heather Whitely & Chris McDowell
 Restricted: Geoff Brooks & Kathy Saurine

Thanks to Kallum and Phoebe at Jetts Ballina

BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB AUSTRALIA DAY TEAMS 2022



A Fun Day of Teams

9 for 9.30 start
With BBQ Lunch

- ♣ Enter as a Team or as a Pair/Individual looking for teammates
 - ◆ All nominations through Club online booking system
 - ♥ Prepay direct to Club bank or vouchers on the day
 - ♠ Prize winners determined on Club handicaps

Entries Close on Saturday 22 January at 6pm

- ◆ Aussie snacks and bits through the day

\$25* per person – includes everything

Event Organiser: Marjorie Askew



HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY

*** For Teams of more than 4 people lunch for additional players will be \$10 per person**