



**BALLINA
BRIDGE CLUB**

Newsletter April 2022

Message from the President

Judy Forsyth



Greetings All,

Congratulations to you – Your generosity is overwhelming. The \$6,500, now donated to Ballina Rotary, is an amazing amount of money. Rotary are distributing vouchers to affected people to purchase goods to replace those lost. If you have been affected, please contact Ballina Rotary for assistance – either to help in clean up or to receive vouchers. Perhaps, as some of our members were impacted, we realized how vulnerable we can be without seeing it coming. Thanks also to Lennox Head and Byron Bay Bridge Clubs who contributed to our fund raising. Again, many thanks for your thoughtfulness. The President of Ballina Rotary passes on his grateful

appreciation for our sizeable donation.

Welcome to the new Home Club members of who were approved at our latest Management meeting - Christine Leivers, Ernest Scott, Janet Campbell, Kay Oxley, Desley Weallans and Jan Coles. We trust you all have many enjoyable times at Ballina Bridge Club.

It is a pleasure to witness many of the Sub-Committees taking up the challenge of their roles within the club. A good club functions with the work of the many members who volunteer. Thank you to our members who quietly help in a myriad of ways. Also, to the Management Committee who take up any challenge asked of them

and for putting up with me!

But it is the Teaching Team I especially wish to mention. Wow, a simple thanks seems an understatement! The first sets of lessons held at the club for some time have come to an end. Great work by Lyn and Clive who conducted lessons, either in the mornings or evenings. Sue Fielder did a lot before that dreaded flood hit. Many members helped during the teaching sessions. Gary Lynn has organised what seems like a “cast of thousands” to act as mentors to assist new players in their transition to club Bridge. Thank you to all members who have come to help. There are more sets of lessons planned throughout the year – both for new players and those who want some extension lessons.

Some Reminders:

- Continue to book in online to make the load easier for those who have a hand in organising and running sessions and events at the club.
- Continue to pay by the voucher system for sessions. If you forget your voucher, a \$5 note will be accepted.
- All players need to have had their double vax immunisation.

Cheers, Judy Forsyth - President



Mary Doohan has created these beautiful poppies (complete with safety pin) to wear on Anzac Day. They are available from Judy for \$5 and money collected will go the Ballina Bridge Club. Thankyou Mary for your wonderful contribution.



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Play Committee Report - March 2022

Dare we hope that the worst of the rains is behind us and we can get back to a more 'settled' bridge programme. It's regular sessions for the next couple of weeks (over Easter) and then there's a mix of special events coming up:

Anzac Day Pairs, Monday April 25:

This is a red point session with a regular 1pm start. Our 'resident craftswoman' Mary Doohan has produced some lovely red poppies for the day (see photo on page 1). Donations for these are \$5 (or more) which will go towards Club fundraising. Many Thanks Mary.

+ We may as well make it a 'red' theme for the day.

Country Teams, Saturday April 30:

This will be a Teams Day at the Club; it also serves as our Club Qualifying Event for the NSW State Teams. We aim to start at 9.30 and it will be BYO lunch.

Teams can be of 4, 5, or 6 players so players can rotate and/or play am or pm. You can nominate as a Team or Pair, or contact Event Organiser Liz Jeffery for help with teammates. Nominations close Wednesday April 27.

And as a state event red masterpoints will be awarded at state championship level.

Please try and support this event. The more teams we have taking part, the more teams we can then send on to the next stage: the Regional Final.

[\(Link for details on the NSW State Teams\)](#)

Sunday Pizza Bridge, May 1:

'Back to earth' with Pizza, rather than Hangi, but please come along for some hands and then Pizza Supper. Lorraine Miller is our Event Organiser and Partner Coordinator so contact Lorraine if you're looking for a partner; or you can nominate online as a Pair or Individual.

Depending on numbers we may play Teams – and you may find you're allocated good teammates.

Marjorie Askew

Harvey Norman Mixed Pairs, Wednesdays May 4 & 11:

The first of our Harvey Norman Pairs events of the year, which also serves as our Club Qualifying Event for the NSW State Mixed Pairs, so again red masterpoints at state championship level. Please try and find a mixed partner for the 2-week event; Liz Jeffery is our Partner Coordinator if you need help finding a partner.

(Non-mixed Pairs can nominate for the regular Wednesday session. Numbers will determine whether we have separate sections on the day.)

Teams of 3, Monday May 9:

A chance to mix-up and for our less experienced players to partner a more experienced player. Players are assigned to teams with a Captain; 3 matches, everyone plays with their Captain for one match. Red points have been allocated.

Nominate individually and by Thursday May 5th. Event Organiser is Lorraine Bryant.

Restricted Teams Championships, Thursdays May 12 & 19:

The first of our Teams Championships and for players with <100 masterpoints as at 1.1.2022. It is a 2-session event (in the 'normal' Thursday timeslot) with head-to-head teams matches.

Please nominate online and you may nominate as a Team of 4/5/6 players or as a Pair looking for teammates. There will be NO Pairs play on these days so:

1. If you are in the < 100 category please join in.
2. if you now have >100 masterpoints but are a Thursday regular please perhaps think about coming along on Wednesday (and/or Monday or Saturday) on these weeks. I think you'll find those 'regulars' very welcoming.



Newsletter April 2022

Play Committee Report - March 2022



Peter Rostron is Event Organiser; please contact Peter for queries or help with teammates. Entries close on Monday May 9. It is 'normal' voucher on the day – Oh and red masterpoints.

Pairs Championship Round re-scheduled:

Our March Championships rounds were cancelled with the floods. The 10th round will now be held on Thursday December 1 Restricted Pairs and Saturday December 3 Open Pairs.

Hopefully there's something for everyone here – and it looks like a busy few weeks. Hope to see you at the Club soon.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

email: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

or call: 0459 023 907

(Event posters for upcoming events on pages 9-13 and on the Club noticeboard.)

Sunday evening Hangi



Hangi – Just held as this newsletter goes out to you all.

What a wonderful afternoon of bridge and a meal of fabulous food we had on Sunday, 3rd April. If we are fortunate enough to have this again, don't miss it.

This all began when Rob Eldridge approached us to have the event so his friends, Peter and Diane, could practice a Hangi before their coming wedding. We ran with the idea. They had helpers in Valerie and Travis, who all joined us for the meal.

However, no such event takes place without a band of willing workers – for which we are very fortunate. Lorraine Miller was the Event Organiser and did much match making up until the last minute. Lorraine, Mark Miller, Lorraine Bryant, Sue Fielder and June Orford organised the club room so we could play bridge on one side and move to the other

Judy Forsyth

to wonderfully set tables for our meal.

Chris and Jenny McDowell stepped in to make the salads when Carmel was caught up in the cleaning ordeal of the latest floods in Lismore. Mark Miller did a great job with the directing of bridge.

Then there was the mass of members who put all the plates and dishes through the dishwasher with the Monday morning bridge players commenting on how clean the kitchen was left.

To all whom I have mentioned and others who quietly did what needed to be done to help, thank you very much. Your contributions are appreciated.

Then there was the wonderful news that Di and Pete were not taking any money for their costs, instead donating to the Flood Appeal. What wonderful people they are.



Player profile - Peter Rostron (Local Master)

Peter Rostron is one of the newer players in our Club, but is already making his mark. Peter generously offered to fill the role of head dealer and has performed this critical role extremely well. He is also the player coordinator for the Monday Session.

■ Rob Eldridge

Where were you born?

I was born in Sydney at Crown Street Women's Hospital; I am the eldest of five children (two brothers and two sisters) with only five and a half years separating me from my youngest brother. I spent the first ten years of my life living in the inner Sydney suburb of Rozelle, and then in 1958 my parents built a War Service home in the outer western suburb of Mount Druitt. This was a complete change from Rozelle as it was "the bush" compared to where we had lived, but we soon came to enjoy the freedom of being able to roam the bush and explore new and exciting territory. I attended Colyton Primary School which was just up the road from home so I could walk to school. Then off to St Mary's High School (St Mary's is the next suburb west of Mt Druitt) so it was bus and train travel to attend school. I enjoyed all of my school years and I was also a member of the school Army Cadet Unit and Band.



What is one of your best memories of growing up?

The carefree attitude of being able to just be kids, there was no peer pressure back then and the only requirements our parents put on us was that we had to be home before sunset. My friends and I had a huge tree house in a big old Apple Gum down near the local creek where we spent a lot of our school holidays happily playing and fishing.

Did you or your family play cards when you were young? What games?

I learnt to play Euchre and 500 when I was about ten or eleven and on wet days in the holidays we would play euchre all day. I don't remember any other card

games being played at home and I don't remember my parents ever playing regular card games.

What was your occupation and what did that entail?

This is a tricky question because I have had a very varied range of occupations; a friend once commented that I had had "more starts than Phar Lap".

I left school at the age of fifteen with my Intermediate Certificate and was apprenticed as a boilermaker for a small engineering workshop in the Sydney suburb of Enfield. It was a four year apprenticeship and in my last year I had a pretty bad motor cycle accident where I spent five weeks in hospital and after getting out of hospital I decided that I was going to get a job that better suited my interests.

Over my fifty years of working I worked as an automotive parts salesperson, clerk for the PMG's Department, a car salesman, insurance broker, a branch manager for Avco Financial Services, Greater Pacific Finance and St George Building Society, an undertaker, a pub cleaner, an office manager for the Engineering Department of Bega Valley Shire Council, a self-employed windscreen repairer, the Service Department Administrator and the Sales Department Administrator of Tutt Bryant Group Qld (a large company which sells earthmoving equipment) and lastly an adult trainer teaching electronic bookkeeping.

What family do you have and what do they do?

My wife and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this year and we will be celebrating with our three children and our seven grandchildren. Our eldest daughter Amanda and her husband Miles are both self-employed and work from home, they have four daughters - the eldest are 22 year old twins, Indya who works with animals and Tayha who is a beautician, then a 14 year old Sikari and a twelve year old Aysha, both still in high school.

Our son Brendan is also self-employed. He is a qualified cabinetmaker and also works as a contract landscaper. He has two boys, the eldest Coan is 24 years old works

Player profile - Peter Rostron (Local Master)

for the same landscaper as his father, and Noel who is 22 years old and has just qualified as an electrician.

Our youngest daughter Brooke is a qualified arborist and she has a 6 year old boy Marlow who is in year 1



Peter, Brooke, Cheryl, Amanda and Brendan.



Mother's Day helicopter flight over Uluru.



Devonshire tea at Curtin Springs, NT.

in primary school. They all live in the local area so we see them quite regularly.

What led you to take up Bridge? (Expand)

I promised myself when I retired that I would learn how to play Bridge as I like to try to keep the grey matter ticking over. When we first came to this area in 1993 I met Lyn Ebert through my business and she was always at me to "come and learn to play Bridge", but unfortunately for me it took another twenty years

before I did. I attended the lessons in August 2017 which were taught by Lyn Graham and since then I have been hooked. I am immensely grateful to Wendy Doyle and Dawn Horder who took me under their wings early on and later to Liz Jeffery.

You do a fantastic job as head dealer at the Club. Please explain what that entails.

It is just a matter of turning up at the club on a regular basis with our crew and determining how many boxes we have to deal, then creating the deal files on the computer and processing the boards. The dealing machines do all of the hard work and you just become a process worker for a few hours. Hilary Lewis and Geoff Brooks are my two main helpers but we have a number of other people who assist from time to time.

What has been the biggest challenge as head dealer?

Learning how to import files from the ABF for State and National Tournaments and just trying to learn all I can about the dealing system.

What do you enjoy most about playing Bridge?

The challenge of trying my best every time I play, as well as the camaraderie and friendships I have made since joining the club.

What other interests do you have?

Motor racing and cooking are my other two passions, although I am probably not as keen on motor racing as I once was. I also played cricket and golf, and umpired cricket for a number of years at a higher level than I could ever play. I also had the privilege of being Team Manager of the NSW Country Cricket Team at the Australian Country Championships for seasons 1991/1992 and 1992/1993.

What is the one thing you would like to see change in the world and why?

I would like to see more of a 'We' society again instead of this 'Me' society that seems to have taken over, where no one wants to take responsibility for their own actions and are always looking for someone else to blame. Natural disasters like floods and bushfires always seem to bring out the goodness in people but I feel we need to look out for each other all of the time.



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Don't do that!

Paul Smith



There are very few absolute rules for declarers or defenders. My favourite absolute rule is "Lead an Ace against 7NTx". There are some things that are very, very bad but maybe not an absolute. It happens surprisingly frequently that the action you take is to choose the "least worst" option.

Most players learn early on that underleading an Ace is a bad idea. Leading a singleton trump is another bad idea. Second player playing a high card is not a good idea. A bad idea that is less frequently mentioned is the idea of giving a "ruff and discard". So, what is that?

Dummy	
♠ A	
♥ -	
♦ 4	
♣ -	

West	East
♠ A	♠ -
♥ 3	♥ 5
♦ -	♦ A
♣ -	♣ A

Declarer
♠ K
♥ -
♦ 2
♣ -

Here is a really simple example. Spades are trumps and you are the declarer sitting South.

There are only two tricks to go

and you have a trump trick and a loser in Diamonds. If you are on lead there is nothing you can do to prevent losing a trick. But ... what if West is on lead?

There are only two tricks to go and West has an Ace. Many people can't wait to get that Ace on the table. After all if it doesn't make a trick now it is never going to make a trick, right?

But look what happens if West

leads the ♥ A. Dummy will ruff with the ♠ A and declarer will discard the ♦ 2. For the last trick, dummy leads the ♦ 4 and Declarer ruffs with the ♠ K. Two tricks for declarer and no tricks for the defence. West has just given a "ruff and discard". On the lead of the ♥ A one hand ruffs and the other discards.

If West leads the ♦ 3 instead then dummy has to follow suit, East wins with the ♦ 5 and Declarer follows suit. Declarer loses the trick.

That was an artificial example to make the point. Unfortunately, the real world is more complicated than that. Here is a recent hand from the club.

North	
♠ K85	
♥ AK109852	
♦ A2	
♣ 4	

West	East
♠ 43	♠ 106
♥ 3	♥ QJ764
♦ KQ854	♦ 109
♣ K10875	♣ A962

South	
♠ AQJ972	
♥ -	
♦ J763	
♣ QJ3	

W	N	E	S
		P	1♠
2NT ¹	4♠	5♣	X

The 2NT overcall is the so-called "unusual No Trump" which describes a hand which has five cards in each of the minors but less than opening strength. East

decides that a nine card fit is going to make a good sacrifice.

South makes the opening lead of ♠ A (don't underlead an Ace). North encourages with the ♠ 5 and so South continues with another Spade. The second trick is won by North with the ♠ K. North is concerned about leading the suits headed by an Ace and also knows that leading a singleton trump is bad. Accordingly, they lead a third round of Spades (perhaps they thought "return your partner's suit").

The third round of Spades turns out to be a ruff and discard. East ruffs and West discards their singleton Heart. One loser has just disappeared for declarer.

The remainder of the play is a matter of taking one top trump and then ruffing two Diamonds in the East hand to ensure the contract only goes down two tricks. North/South score 300 but they have an easy game in Spades and so receive few matchpoints.

Looking at all four hands it is easy to see that the defence should take two Spade tricks, one Heart, one Diamond and one trump for three off and a score of 500. The problem is with North leading the third round of Spades. From their point of view partner may have started with only five Spades and so declarer would have had another one. What they didn't consider is

Don't do that!

Paul Smith
continued

that a ruff and discard is such a bad play that you should not even risk it happening.

The ♥A is a much better option (top of touching honours).



It is almost always wrong to give declarer a "ruff and discard". A ruff and discard will give declarer a trick they are not entitled to. Don't do it! On the list of bad things to do it is right towards the top.

A ruff and discard is so good for declarer that good declarers are always on the lookout for situations where they can *force* the defence to give them one. But that is an advanced topic for another day.



Sorry, Partner is a podcast about Bridge with a fun chat at the beginning then an interview with an expert Bridge player. It is presented by Catherine Harris and Jocelyn Startz once per week. You can listen to past podcasts as well if you miss one. Link to Apple podcasts - <https://podcasts.apple.com/za/podcast/sorry-partner/id1586086367>

Ballina Mah Jong Club News

We have been battling with attendance numbers at Friday afternoon Mahjong since the reopening of the Club after the Covid lockdown. We had a gradual increase in attendance and we got up to 32 players. After the recent flood we dropped to 16, then 24, then 29 so it's looking promising again.

New players are always welcome.

Winners for the month of March were:

11th **Sally Lowry** - 18th **Jan Rhodes** - 25th **Gladys D'Anna**



Thai By Night

The Thai by Night vouchers this month went to Cynthia Royle and Chris McDowell.

The Birthday Book is on the front desk so if you want a chance to win a voucher then write your name in the appropriate month. The draw is done at the end of each month.

Each month I prepare an article for The Ballina Wave and like to put in any special events that have taken place and they always want a picture. So if you have played away at another club or been on a bridge holiday then give me the story and a picture please if you wouldn't mind it being published.

Rebecca Rogers

Thanks to all our sponsors -

Somerville Laundry Lomax

Harvey Norman

Dancer's Car Care

Thai by Night

Jetts

Rank Promotions

at end of March 2022

Local: Chris Bauer, Carolyn Blair

Bronze Local: Rhonda Khong

Life: Clive Klugman

Gold Life: Winston Guymer

Is your email address in your Profile in the Booking System?

Please check that your email address is in your 'Profile' in the Booking System. This means you receive an email confirming your booking and then a reminder on the day prior. And we can send an email to just the players booked for the session with any updates about the session e.g. recently a couple of cancellations with those floods.

Enquiring about an alerted bid

If your opponents have used an artificial bid which has been alerted as required, then you are allowed to know the meaning of that bid. BUT there are laws and guidelines that govern if, when and how you seek an explanation. There is also a distinction between asking during the auction and after the auction.

You should never ask about an alerted bid in the following situations:

1. it is not your turn to call during the auction
2. it is not your turn to lead or play to a trick after the auction
3. you are only asking for the benefit of your partner
4. you are only curious about the systems that other people play
5. during the auction you are likely to pass regardless of any explanation
6. during the play and you are dummy



Any transgression here could be seen as conveying unauthorised information to your partner and allow the opponents to make a claim that they have been disadvantaged by the transgression and seek an adjusted score. This is a tricky area for directors and certainly not something that your volunteer playing directors wish to do.

An example: Using Bergen Raises EW had an uncontested auction to 4H with the artificial bid of 2S being alerted but neither opponent enquiring as to its meaning (exactly three hearts and 10-12 total points).

♠ A K 10 5 ♥ A Q 9 7 2 ♦ K 6 4 ♣ 8		♠ 6 4 3 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ 8 5 ♣ A K J 7 6	<table> <tr><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th><th>W</th></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>1H</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2S*</td><td>P</td><td>4H</td></tr> </table>	N	E	S	W	P	P	P	1H	P	2S*	P	4H
N	E	S	W												
P	P	P	1H												
P	2S*	P	4H												
*Alerted															

SOUTH

♠ J 2
♥ 10 5 4
♦ A Q 3 2
♣ Q 9 5 2

Just before making his second bid South could have asked for an explanation of the 2S bid but correctly didn't. His uninspiring hand would have been a pass regardless. Point 5 above.

Before making his final Pass, North could have asked about the 2S bid but didn't partly due to knowing the Bergen system or at least inferring it from the bidding

but also because he would pass regardless of the explanation. North is on lead so is again entitled to ask but didn't because no answer would persuade him to lead anything else than the top of his diamond sequence.

NORTH

♠ Q 9 8 7
♥ J 6
♦ J 10 9 7
♣ 10 4 3

NS have been exemplary so far but after the auction and before the first lead, South transgressed because he now asked about the 2S bid. The answer above was stated. A further question followed asking whether the 2S bid implied anything about the spade holding. Now both of these questions are against the rules as South is not on lead. South's questions may have implied a spade holding and this would be unauthorized information to North. If North led a spade then declarer had the right to call the director at the end of play of the hand if he thought this disadvantaged the contract. South was only curious about the systemic bid but should have asked after the play of all boards in the round was complete and only if time allowed.

After the auction and if it is your turn to lead or play, the advice is to not ask about a specific bid but ask for a full review of the auction. This removes all chance of conveying unauthorised information. Again this should only be done if the explanations are likely to affect your choice of card to play or lead.

The rules and guidelines are there to prevent unauthorised information and to help with the flow of the game. Please follow them.

COUNTRY TEAMS 2022

BALLINA CLUB QUALIFIER



Saturday 30 April

Time: 9.15 for 9.30 am

Cost: \$15.00pp (\$60 per team)

Red Masterpoints at State Championship Level

Please bring your own lunch

The event is open to all players within our Region. Teams finishing in the top half the field will be eligible to continue to the Regional Final (or possibly direct to the Zonal Final) as part of the NSWBA John Arkinstall State Teams*.

Event Organiser: Liz Jeffery

Please contact Liz for help with teammates

Please nominate online: (Teams of 4/5/6 or as a Pair)

by: 6pm Wednesday 27 April

* For full Regulations go to: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2022&E=sot>

Harvey Norman

Mixed Pairs

Wednesdays: May 4 & 11

Red Masterpoints at State Championship Level
(Weighting = 3.75)

Please nominate online

**Please try and find a mixed partner although
non-mixed pairs may play in the daily event**

Normal \$5 voucher on the day

Conditions:

1. Open to all members of Ballina Bridge Club
2. Event will be held as the regular Wednesday session.
3. Non-mixed pairs may play in the daily event.
4. Substitutes will be allowed according to Ballina Bridge Club policy
5. Winners determined by best average score over the 2 rounds.

Event Organiser: Marjorie Askew

**This event is also our Club Qualifier for the State
Mixed Pairs Championships***

* For Regulations go to: <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2022&E=smp>



RESTRICTED

TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

to be held on
Thursdays May 12 & 19

ALL nominations online*

- ♣ Pay on the day - normal \$5 voucher**
- ♦ Start-time 12.45 for 13.00**
- ♥ All players <100mpts at 1.1.2022**
- ♠ All players must be members of the Ballina Bridge Club**

Event Organiser: Peter Rostron

*** You can nominate online as a Team of 4/5/6 or as a Pair looking for teammates. Or please contact Peter for help with teammates.**

Nominations close Monday May 9

N.B. There will be NO Pairs Play on these days

Sunday Pizza Bridge

first Sunday each month

**4pm
Cards**



All for
\$10

**then
Pizza
Supper**



**Event Organiser & Partner Coordinator
Lorraine Miller**

Please nominate online

TEAMS OF THREE



ON
MONDAY 9 MAY
@ 1.00PM

- ♣ Fun afternoon of Teams
- ♦ Enter individually [online](#)
- ♥ Teams drawn with a Team Captain
- ♠ 3 matches; everyone plays with their Captain

Red masterpoints

Event Organiser: Lorraine Bryant

Normal Voucher - on the day

Entries close Thursday May 5

BRIDGE
AUSTRALIA



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Are you interested? Please contact
marketing@abf.com.au

Website: www.bridgetv.com.au

YouTube: [BridgeTV Australia](https://www.youtube.com/BridgeTV Australia)



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- Bidding, defence and play advice
- Interviews with leading players
- Rules and Regulations explained
- Your Club, Your Community
- Mental health and wellbeing
- News from the Bridge world

