



Newsletter November 2023

Message from the President

Lorraine Bryant



Charity Day 2023

A highlight of the month was our Charity Day on 9th October. Our charity was Glioblastoma Australia which was established to support sufferers of this rare brain disease. We raised \$3000 for the foundation and the funds will be put towards assisting patients cope physically and mentally with the consequences of diagnosis and treatment. Glioblastoma Australia will also support research that will hopefully find a cure. The Social Group ran their Morning session and were joined by the afternoon group for a lovely lunch, generously supplied by the Lennox Head Lions Club as their donation. Ninety-six players stayed on for the afternoon session of competitive bridge. Thank you to the Director for the day, Mark Miller. I would like to thank all who contributed to the success of the day and especially those businesses and club members who generously donated prizes to the raffle.

Recently the host for our website upgraded and after their upgrade we were incompatible and lost our ability to log in to the calendar. A very big thank you to Paul Smith who worked very hard to get us back online. We really do appreciate the huge effort made by Paul to organise and maintain the website.

The Lions Club gave us wonderful support for Charity Day. I hope we can help them with their annual cake and pudding drive. Cakes are \$15 and \$19 Dollars and Puddings \$15. Mid November there will also be the mini cakes at \$2 each. The cakes make a lovely Christmas Gift for a friend or relative.

The regional final of the GNOT was held on Sunday 29th October. Congratulations to the Askew Team Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Gary Lynn and Clive Klugman, who will represent our region in Brisbane commencing 1st December. We wish them every success.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teams of 3 - 13 November

Harvey Norman Women's and Men's Pairs - Wednesdays
November 15 & 22

NSWUHP Final - November
30

Christmas Party - December 9

This month we welcomed the following new members to our club - Timothy Aley, Tania Beetson, David Drake, and Tania Kroll. We were pleased to welcome Michel Boyle as a home member.

Following meetings with Ballina Council planning department we have upgraded the disabled toilet according to their recommendations. Thank you to Ken Jones who organised the Council visits and the upgrade to better meet the needs of those with a disability.

The 9th of December is our Christmas Party so save the date. More details later>Book online,

The club have changed our email address. The new email is ballinabc@gmail.com.



Play Committee Report - October 2023

Marjorie Askew

Events Gone:

1. Charity Day, Monday October 9:

A Great Club Day – and all in a good cause. Lots of members joining-in, including our Monday morning ‘Social’ players – for Bridge, Lunch and Raffles. A super lunch was prepared, and donated, by the Lennox Lions as their co-contribution to the fundraising – many thanks to The Lions.

2. NSW UHMP, Thursday October 19:

This was our Club Qualifier of the NSW Under Hundred Masterpoints Pairs (UHMP) Championships. Red state masterpoints were awarded in masterpoint groups: 0-10, 10-25, 25-50 or 50-100 masterpoints. Please check the notice posted on the noticeboard to see if you won these. Thanks to Peter Rostron our Event Organiser and Ken Jones for directing.

Next step is a Local Final for the NSW UHMP Championships which we will be hosting on Thursday 30 November.

For more information on the NSW UHMP event go to:

<https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2023&E=uhmp>

3. GNOT Regional Final, Sunday 29 October:

7 Teams competed in the Regional Final; 6 ‘enthusiastic’
Ballina Bridge Club Newsletter

teams from Ballina and 1 from Tweed Bridge Club. As the GNOT Regional Coordinator, I was a little disappointed other clubs in our region (Northern Rivers) didn’t join-in this year – but maybe in 2024?

We ran a full round robin and with an odd number of teams participating this mean a whist movement. We played 5 board matches against every team both am and then pm, which were then combined into 6 x 10 board matches. So lots of bridge – befitting of a Regional Final of a national event!

The Ballina team of: Bill Powell, Marjorie Askew, Gary Lynn and Clive Klugman were our winners, having rallied from 4th place at the mid-point. They will now proceed to the National Final which will be held in Brisbane from December 1-4.

Thanks to Bob Hart for directing the day with some assistance, notably with setting up the movement, from Clive Klugman and Mark Miller at a distance (travelling in Europe). And to Hilary Lewis for organising the nibbles – important with that end-of-the day ‘glass’.

Coming Up:

1. Melbourne Cup, Tuesday 7 November:

As we go to press this is just about to happen. Bridge with a pause

for the Race. + Enjoy a glass of champagne/wine (or beer/orange juice) with a contributions ‘buffet’ as the horses get set. Our Event Organiser is: Hilary Lewis.

2. Teams of 3, Monday 13 November:

As previously advised, this time we’re trialling 6 rounds of 5 board matches – so more opponents and more boards; + that opportunity for our less experienced players to play ‘Teams’ and to receive some hints and tips from a more experienced Captain. Our Event Organiser is Liz Jeffery who will be assisted by Carol Hocking. Closing date for nominations is Thursday 9 November.

3. Harvey Norman Women’s and Men’s Pairs, Wednesdays November 15 & 22:

The last of our Harvey Norman events for this year and this time Women’s and Men’s Pairs. Regular Wednesday players, and others, please try and join in. Yes, you will need a same sex partner for this 2-week event – but this may just mean a ‘swap’ for a couple of weeks (nothing like a change!) and/or for those who have player rosters for different weeks in the month, hopefully you can rejig. Liz Jeffery, our Wednesday Partner Coordinator is there if you need help.



Play Committee Report - September 2023

Marjorie Askew

One substitution player will be allowed over the 2-weeks – must be same sex; and as per our substitution regulations (available on our website). Please note if you are having a substitution you must seek pre-approval from the Head Director or Chair of Play; with Mark overseas you should probably contact me.

The winners will be determined by the best average score over the 2 rounds.

Closing of nominations has been extended to Monday November 13. (See poster on page 12).

4. NSW UHMP Championships, Thursday 30 November: The local final, as part of the state championships, awards prizes and red masterpoints but is only for players with < 100 masterpoints as at 1 September 2023.

For Thursday players ineligible for the UHMP we plan to hold a separate section on the day. Please nominate online for both events to assist our planning.

5. Christmas Party Saturday December 9: 'Normal' start time (1pm) for Bridge – an Individual movement so no partner needed, then Annual Presentations, then a (superb) Buffet Dinner. See Poster on page 11 and please book in asap to help our planning.

Jenny and Chris McDowell – our Master Chefs for the Day – are

already planning some (very) tasty treats!

+ National/State Events where Ballina BC are competing

1. ABF Interclub Knockout Teams:

As reported in our June and July newsletters we entered 3 Teams in this national event held online on RealBridge; in Division 1: Open, Division 2: <750 masterpoints, and Division 4: < 50 masterpoints. The format is 3 rounds of qualifying then the Top 8 Teams in each division proceed to 'Finals'; the finals also taking 3 rounds (quarters, semis and then a final). Rounds were scheduled once a month so the event is now approaching the semi finals stage.

In Division 1: Our Open Team (Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Gary Lynn, Clive Klugman) finished 9th in qualifying so just missed out on progressing to the finals.

In Division 2: Our Team (Carol Hocking, Jean Lowe, Phil Hocking, Cathy Hocking) finished 7th in qualifying and so progressed. In the quarter finals they were defeated by Newcastle.

In Division 4: Our Team (Rhonda Khong, Margaret Cusack, Kay Oxley, Aida Kennedy, Robyn Thomas) finished 3rd in qualifying and so progressed. In the quarter finals they defeated Wagga Wagga (61-22) – Well Done! Peter Rostron was called in as a 'sub'

for the quarter final and looking at the 'datum' scores for the match he was a 'super' sub. Our Team now advances to the semi-final on Tuesday November 14 where they will play Kenmore – Play Well!

You can follow their progress and check all results at: <https://www.abfevents.com.au/events/results/results.asp?yr=2023&dir=ico>

2. NSWBA John Arkinstall State Teams Final, November 24-26:

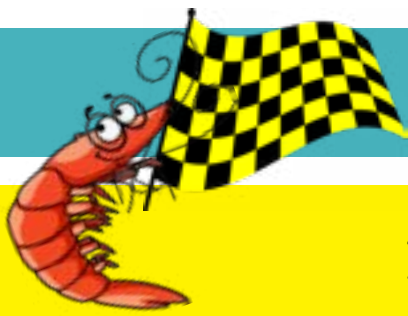
This Final is being held online this year on RealBridge. Our Team (Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Gary Lynn and Clive Klugman) will be taking part as representatives of the Northern Zone. (Janet Brown and Peter Corlis (from Lismore) had been in the Team through qualifying but Peter is unavailable for the Final. Janet will be standing by as a 'reserve').

We're running down to year end – but as above there's still 'quite a bit' happening. Another priority for Play Committee over the next few weeks is our 2024 Programme. If you have any suggestions eg perhaps something new/different, please pass these on to a member of the Play Committee.

Play Committee members: Marjorie Askew (Chair) Gillian Baker, Carol Hocking, Cathy Hocking, Phil Hocking, Liz Jeffery, Hilary Lewis, Mark Miller, Peter Rostron.

Marjorie (Chair of Play)

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



Melbourne Cup Day 2023



Ballina Bridge Club held a Melbourne Cup Event on Tuesday 7th November. It was a most enjoyable afternoon. The seven tables played a most challenging but friendly bridge game which was won by Helen and Peter Tootell. We stopped playing at 2.30pm for a glass of bubbly or orange juice and to enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea. The main table was resplendent with delicious food. Home made sausage rolls, spring rolls, mini quiches, sandwiches, smoked salmon canapes, cheese platters, fruit and nuts for starters. Another table held delicious, slices and cakes to enjoy with a tea or coffee before resuming the bridge. Thank you to all for the delicious contributions for afternoon tea. Special thanks to Howard and Liz for directing and organising the televised running of the race, Paul Smith for organising the sweeps for us and to Hilary as the event coordinator,

Rank Promotions at end

October:

Silver Local: Denice Richards

Regional: Vivian Waddell

Life: Mark Miller

Grand Master Achievement Special Congratulations to Ellen Watson



Thai By Night

**Winners of the Thai by Night
November birthday vouchers:**

Bob Hart and Margaret Reddy

Do you have an interesting story to tell? or have you been on any Bridge holidays to write about?

If you have any contributions to the Ballina Bridge Club newsletter, please contact me .

Email angela.bettess@me.com or send me a text message on 0401 955 432.

- Ange Bettess



Ballina Mah Jong Club News

Ballina Mahjong players are invited to a ONE DAY EVENT at Redcliffe, Queensland on Thursday, 14th March 2024, registration (\$35) closing 16th February 2024.

Winners for the month of October were:

6th Joy Lowien

13th Lorna Simpson

20th Sally Lowry

27th Lorna Simpson





As a defender, it is not always about beating the contract. Sometimes your goal is to not grant the contract to declarer on a silver platter. A, so called, passive defence is needed.

A passive defence begins with a passive opening lead. What are some auctions or contracts which indicate the need for a passive lead?

A Grand Slam — a trump lead from two or more small cards is a good passive choice. Generally, the declaring side has good trumps so leading a trump is unlikely to give a ‘free finesse’. Don’t lead a singleton trump as your singleton is a hint to you that trumps are breaking badly and you don’t want to give that information away.

Against 7NT, don’t underlead an honour. You may just be giving declarer the 13th trick without them having to guess which finesse to take.

6NT — Choose a suit with no honour cards. Your aim against 6NT is not the same as against 3NT. You are not trying to find a way to generate five tricks. Making an aggressive lead against 3NT that gives away a trick but possibly generates more tricks later could be the right move. Against 6NT, the trick you give away might be the 12th. Do no harm.

Where the strength is on your right — Auctions like these

- 1NT passed out

- 2NT passed out
- 1NT : 2NT inviting, passed out
- 2♣ (strong): 2♦ ; 2NT, passed out

In all these cases the hand on your right has shown strength and the hand on your left is much weaker. Do *not* underlead an honour. If declarer is going to take a finesse then it will come to you. If your lead exposes an honour in partner’s hand then it was probably available to be finessed by declarer anyway, nothing is lost.

Against a trump contract with no long suit in dummy — Simple auctions like 1♠ : 2♠; 4♠ or 1♥ : 4♥ tend to mean that neither dummy nor declarer will have a long side suit to provide a source of tricks. Again, you should aim to give nothing for free to the strong hand on your right. A trump lead from two or three small ones is your best bet. On these sorts of auctions, declarer’s problems will be with the side suits so don’t give them any help.

The Prince of Leads

None of the above applies if you hold the **Prince of Leads** - a sequence of honours. If you hold a three card sequence of honours (♣AKQ or ♦KQJ, for example) then lead your top card. These leads have the benefits of very rarely giving anything away, taking tricks and setting up future tricks.

I noticed a recent lead of “fourth best” from ♦KQJ64 — I had to get

my handkerchief out to wipe away my tears as my partner made two tricks with ♦A103, very sad.

Consider board 11 from the GNOT qualifying -

GNOT Qualifying			
Brd: 11	North		
Dir: S	♠ 107		
Vul: Nil	♥ A109642		
	♦ J54		
	♣ 93		
	West	East	
	♠ KJ3	♠ AQ652	
	♥ KQ7	♥ J853	
	♦ AKQ72	♦ -	
	♣ Q7	♣ A864	
	South		
	♠ 984		
	♥ -		
	♦ 109863	6NT W	
	♣ KJ1052	Lead - ♣9	

West has bid strongly during the auction and finished as declarer in 6NT. As North, you are on lead.

If you were leading against 3NT then a Heart would be attractive in the hope of setting up some juicy length tricks should partner get the lead later. But against 6NT you should be looking to make a passive lead around to the strong hand on your left. Avoiding suits with honours (Hearts and Diamonds) you should choose the ♣9. A Spade would work just as well. On this particular layout there is no cost when you lead a Diamond *but* any card from the Heart suit gives declarer their ambitious 6NT contract.

Reverses or “Breaking the Barrier”

Clive Klugman



1. Introduction

A lot of people tell me “I don’t play reverses”. This is understandable from a simple perspective as you are just describing your hand shape to your partner. The problem is that you are not describing your point count accurately.

What is partner to understand from your bid? Do you have 12 points or 17 points? This can make the difference between a part score and game or game and slam.

It is important for you to recognise and understand the implications of a reverse and how it can help you and hinder you. Yes it can make life a little more complex.

2. What is a reverse?

Often called “breaking the barrier” for good reason. After opening and partner responding, there are a number of bids you can make to further describe your hand. Your “barrier” is 2 of your opening suit. For example, if you open 1D, your barrier is 2D. Similarly, if you open 1H your barrier is 2H.

If your bid exceeds your barrier you are telling your partner that you have a GOOD 16 or 17+ hand.

This is forcing for at least one round. This is why opener needs 17+ points for this bid. Their 17 and your 6+ will hopefully allow you to make a contract at the 3 level.

Responder can also reverse. The same rules apply for responder except they need less points because opener has shown an opening hand, all responder needs is a game force hand (12+ points) to reverse, Responder reverse is game forcing.

3. Another way of looking at it

A reverse was once described to me as a bid that forces partner to support my first suit at the 3 level. For example, 1C – 1S – 2H – Responder has to bid 3C to support openers first suit.

To support openers first suit:-

- 1C – 1H – 2D responder must bid 3C
- 1H – 1S – 3C responder must bid 3H
- 1D – 1NT – 2H responder must bid 3D

4. Yet another description

Another description is that BOTH the level and the suit need to be higher than the first bid. The examples above corroborate this description.

5. Examples of Openers Reverse

Here are some examples of partner reversing

♠ 3
♥ A J T
♦ A K 7 6
♣ A Q T 9 5

Reverses or “Breaking the Barrier”

Clive Klugman



You – 18 points	Partner
1C	1S
2D	

The barrier was 2C after opening 1C. Bidding 2D shows 17+ points.

♠ 5
♥ AKQ9
♦ AKJ76
♣ T97

You – 17 points	Partner
1D	1S
2H	

The barrier was 2D after opening 1D. Bidding 2H shows 17+ points.

6. Examples of Responders Reverse

♠ AKQ85
♥ KQ98
♦ 6
♣ T97

Your Partner Opens	You – 14 points
1D	1S
2D	3H

Responders barrier was 2S, by breaking the barrier responder is showing game values. Opener may also have 4H but is not be able to bid them because it would be a reverse.

♠
♥ KQJ98
♦ 96
♣ AKT97

Your Partner Opens	You – 14 points
1D	1H
2D	3C

Responders barrier was 2H, by breaking the barrier responder is showing game values.

NOTE – Opener must rebid their suit for responder to reverse. If opener bid a different suit, responders reverse would be the 4th suit. Fourth suit forcing is a different concept to a reverse.

Reverses or “Breaking the Barrier”



7. What do I bid if I cannot Reverse?

Clive Klugman

♠ 5
♥ AKQ9
♦ AKJ76
♣ T97

With this hand opener plans to reverse to show 17 points and 5D and 4H.

But what if you have this hand

♠ 5
♥ KQ96
♦ AKJ76
♣ T97

You open 1D and partner bids 1S. You cannot bid 2H as this is a reverse and shows 17+ points. 1NT does not look like a good idea with a singleton, so you settle for 2D. If partner is strong enough, they will make a forcing bid to uncover your 4 hearts.

Responder knows that you have 12-14 points because you did not reverse.

You cannot bid the 2 hands in the same manner. One hand shows 17 points and one 12-14. This is VERY important if you are ever going to find the correct game or slam.

8. Quiz

Suggested bidding solutions for the attached Quiz are available on request. Answers can vary depending on your system, style, and conventions. Send me your answers and I will send you my answers.

9. Conclusion

Playing “reverses” permit a partnership to describe their point count more accurately than if not playing reverses. If responder has an opening hand they will ensure that they now make a forcing bid to uncover a hidden 4 card major. If responder is weak, then playing at a lower level might be the correct bid.

Reverses or “Breaking the Barrier”



Clive Klugman

Quiz (points in brackets)

1. (17)

♠ 9
♥ AQJ T
♦ AKQJ T
♣ 9 8 3

You open	Partner Bids
1D	1S
???	

2. (13)

♠ 9
♥ AQJ T
♦ KQJ T 6
♣ 9 8 3

You open	Partner Bids
1D	1S
???	

3. (18)

♠ T 7
♥ A 6
♦ AQJ 7
♣ AQJ 9 7

You open	Partner Bids
1C	1H or 1S
???	

4. (14)

♠ T 7
♥ 8 6
♦ AQJ 7
♣ AQJ 9 7

You open	Partner Bids
1C	1H or 1S
???	

5. (19)

♠ 6
♥ AKQ 4
♦ T 7 6 4
♣ AKQJ

You open	Partner Bids
1D	1S
???	

6. (12)

♠ 6
♥ Q 9 8 4
♦ T 7 6 4
♣ AKQJ

You open	Partner Bids
1D	1S
???	

7. (14)

♠ AQJ 8 5
♥ AQJ T
♦ 5
♣ 7 6

Partner open	You Bids
1D	1S
2D	???

Can opener have 4H?

8. (6)

♠ QJ 8 5 2
♥ QJ T 2
♦ 5
♣ 7 6

Partner open	You Bids
1D	1S
2D	???

Can opener have 4H?

9. (19)

♠ AKQ 7
♥
♦ AKQJ T 7 2
♣ 6 5

You open	Partner Bids
1D	1H
???	

11. (14)

♠
♥ 5 4
♦ AKJ T 8 4
♣ AQ 9 6 4

You open	Partner Bids
1D	1NT
???	

13. (14)

♠ 8 6 2
♥ AKJ 7
♦ 7
♣ AQ 8 7 5

You open	Partner Bids
1C	1S
???	

15. (17)

♠ 8 7 6 2
♥ AKJ 7
♦
♣ AKQ 8 7

You Open	Partner Bids
1C	1S
???	

10. (12)

♠ Q 8 7 3
♥
♦ AKQJ T 7 2
♣ 6 5

You open	Partner Bids
1D	1H
???	

12. (15)

♠ 5
♥ AKQ 4
♦ T 8 4
♣ AQ 9 6 4

You open	Partner Bids
1C	1S
???	

14. (18)

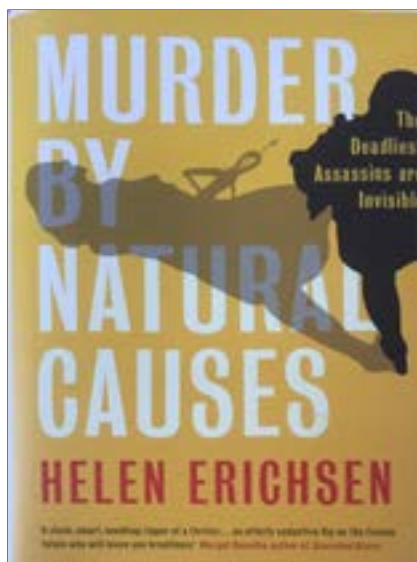
♠ 8 6 2
♥ AKJ 7
♦ A
♣ AQ 8 7 5

You open	Partner Bids
1C	1S
???	

16. (14)

♠ 8 7 2
♥ KQJ 7
♦ QJ T
♣ KQ 8

You open	Partner Bids
1C	1D
???	



Message from Janet Brown

Fiona Brown's bridge partner Helen Erichsen has just written a crime story which is set in a bridge club in London.

Although the book is a work of fiction, Helen introduces a few real life bridge players into the story. "The charming Zia Mahmood who was popular with the ladies, Michael Courtney, the crazy Australian whose capacity to imbibe alcohol had no impact whatsoever on his perfect card play and **Robert Sheahan**, tight lipped and taciturn who sometimes played an entire session in total silence".

Can this really be our local player ?

Player profile - Mystery Player

Robert Eldridge



Thankyou to everyone who entered the mystery player competition.

Surprisingly many members found it too difficult, even though the answer was embedded in the profile. Unfortunately, it became almost impossible to provide further clues along the way as the Club experienced problems with the website and members could no longer access the Newsletter.

Regardless, by far the most popular guess was Mary Doohan with the selected clue being “making pom poms for her mother when young”. This guess was not the correct one, and nor was another popular guess of Peter Rostron (black hair, area of Sydney).

Two members correctly identified Col Gale as the mystery player, and both supported their guess with “over 80 and known grief”. These players were Peter Brosnan and Ken Jones. Neither found the “absolute giveaway” which was contained in the profile. This was that the first letter of each of the questions in the profile spelled out COL GALE.

As there were two correct guesses, the winner was selected on Monday 30th October by our President, Lorraine Byrant. Congratulations to Peter Brosnan.



Col Gale is of course well known to most people at our Club. He has contributed in many ways over the years and recently in assisting with the training of new players and with play on Friday mornings. He has been an intrepid traveller, croquet player, and card player.

Col is a State Master.





YOU ARE INVITED TO
BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB
CHRISTMAS PARTY

ON

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

♣ **Bridge starts at 1pm – NO Partner needed**

♦ **Annual Presentations follow Bridge**

and then:

♥ **Special Buffet Dinner**

♠ **\$20 per person – prepay please
and preferably by direct bank transfer**

Event Organiser: Hilary Lewis

**Please book online – and by Saturday December 2
to help our planning**

Harvey Norman

Women's & Men's Pairs

Wednesdays

November 15 & 22

Please nominate online by 11 November

N.B All Nominations are for the 2-week
event*

Partner Coordinator: Liz Jeffery

Conditions:

1. Open to all members of Ballina Bridge Club.
2. Separate winners for women and men provided there are at least 6 pairs per each gender entered.
3. Event will be held provided there are a minimum of 8 pairs entered.
4. * Substitutes will be allowed according to Ballina Bridge Club policy.
5. Winners determined by best average score over the 2 rounds.

Normal voucher on the day

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters

Harvey Norman

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