



BALLINA
BRIDGE CLUB

Newsletter October 2021

Message from the President

Email: bbclub@internode.on.net

Chery McCallum



The first and most important matter this month is the AGM on Saturday, October 16 at 9.30 am. Please put your name down and attend this once a year meeting. As Covid rules still apply, we are restricted to 52 Members (13 tables) in the Clubhouse, so, get your names in as soon as possible.

As Marjorie will undoubtedly let you know, Ballina once again holds the Gold Coast versus Ballina trophy. Congratulations to those players who put their hands up and played online, as there was no face to face possible.

Our Club is slowly coming back to life again after our most recent lockdown and it was nice to see a number of players, back for the first time, in our SLL Shield competition on Wednesday.

Our Ruby Anniversary, Life Members Day and our Club's History, by Rob Eldridge, are all coming up on Saturday, October 23, starting at 11 am.

As my 2 year tenure as President will be coming to an end at the AGM, I would like to thank our Members for their understanding over the last 18 months, during Covid and I would like to thank the Management Committee for all their work.

Chery



Book your seat for the AGM - Saturday October 16 at 9.30am

Go to the Calendar link on the website to book.



Ballina Bridge Club – 40th anniversary

The Ballina Bridge Club has much to celebrate this October.

31 October marks the Ruby Anniversary of the Club, 40 years since a small group of Bridge players met at a home in East Ballina and decided to set up a club.

The Ruby Celebration will include Life members Day. Each one of the six life members has made a significant contribution to the Club over many years. The Ruby Celebration will also include the launch of "the History of the Ballina Bridge Club", a substantial 250 page book tracing the development of the Club over 4 decades, and the contribution of

its members, including the Life Members. The book has been written and published by a member of the Club, Robert Eldridge, and includes 150 high quality photos from 1981 onwards. It provides a unique insight into the workings of a totally voluntary organisation and its dedicated members who worked tirelessly, and at times against the odds, to build their own clubrooms and buy the land upon which it is built. It is a demonstration of local government, local community and club members working together. A copy of the book can be ordered by calling Robert Eldridge on 0418 170 521.

Rob Eldridge



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From Chair of Play September 2021



Marjorie Askew

Face-to-face bridge resumed mid-September and the Play Committee decided to think positively and 'press on' with our annual programme. The September round of the Pairs Championships (Round 6) was rescheduled to September 23 (Restricted) and September 25 (Open). Unfortunately some members found they could not participate, being impacted by 'Stay at Home' rules applying to neighbouring shires.

A couple of events had to be re-scheduled. You'll see these on the online calendar. We have our fingers crossed for the coming weeks and we will keep you posted of any further last-minute changes or 'adjustments'.

Events Gone:

Inter-Club Ballina v Gold Coast Bridge Club, Sunday 19 September:

You've probably heard: We retained the Cup! All our Team contributed to our win – which was a 'big' win! Representing us:

Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell, Gary Lynn, Clive Klugman

Janet Brown, Anne Jackson, Judith Crafti, Maureen Baker

Liz Jeffery, Howard Jeffery, Paul Smith, Winston Guymer

Ian Michelson, Deb McLay, Jean Lowe, Carol Hocking

Beth Martin, Sue Fielder, Ange Bettess, Peter Lamont

Heather Whitely, Ina Buhse, Ray Ghioni, Rob Sheahan

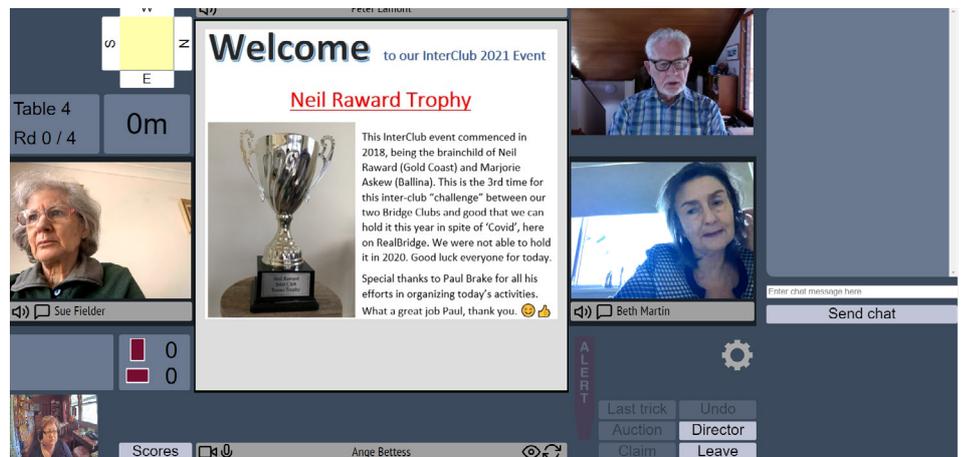
Our top scoring team was the Martin Team who won all their 4 matches convincingly, scoring 74.86 VPs (out of a possible 80). Reflecting back on our 3 wins (ex 3) in this event, our Restricted and Improving players have always excelled. For the full results go to: <http://goldcoast.bridgeaustralia.org/resultslistbyheadevent.asp?umbid=472>

and BBO; our regular onliners probably 'know' John. John organised a special 'tablecloth' to greet the players at the beginning of the event.

Neil Raward, whose Cup we hung on to, was sadly unable to play in the event due to ill health, but he sent me an email:

Congratulations on retaining the trophy. Maybe next year it is our turn. Cheers Neil

[Below: screengrab of MARTIN team on RealBridge]



The 'duel' was played online on RealBridge. Our team, as well as other club members, enjoyed a couple of 'taster' sessions to familiarise themselves with the platform. I'd like to thank Paul Brake at the Gold Coast BC for facilitating these sessions and for all the hard work he put into organising the inter-club event.

Thanks too to John McIlrath who was our Director on the day. John directs regularly on both RealBridge

Charity Day, Monday 4 October:

Some last-minute dramas with several players impacted by the sudden Lismore lockdown having to drop out, but lots of members helped out – many thanks to all these.

We had 14 Teams. Some were 5/6 players so all who wanted to play could join in, with our table numbers restricted to 14. It was



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great to see a mix of members experience-wise and hopefully everybody enjoyed the day.

We had a raffle with two lovely prizes: A seafood voucher donated by Northern Rivers Seafoods, won by Col Lane, and a lovely crochet rug donated by Mary Doohan, won by Peter Rostron. Mary is clearly a talented craftswoman; if you didn't know she made our tablecloths. She has also donated some of her lovely soft toys to the charity Thank you, Mary.

We had ice creams for dessert, nibbles and a drink at the end of play, some good (and not-so-good!) bridge.

Winners: Mark had determined handicaps for every player and places were determined on handicaps:

1st: Anne Riley, Gary Lynn, Ian Michelson, Deb McLay

2nd: Lyn Graham, John Fraser, Betty Clark, Lesley Burford

(You can view the [non-handicapped full results](#) via the website.)

Hilary Kerr donated a special prize for the 'Brave' team ie the team with the least number of masterpoints. This went to Bev Peart Kuter, Claire Goodwill, Ange Bettess and Peter Lamont. Hilary donated 4 copies of her children's books. (I had a quick 'squizz' and

these looked beautifully presented and with full colour illustrations.) Many thanks Hilary.

Thanks too to our organisers and helpers on the day: Gary Lynn as Event Organiser, Howard and Mark for directing, Peter Rostron and the Dealing Team for all the boards, as well as Peter's board management on the day, Hilary on raffles, Lorraine Bryant on kitchen and trophies, Sharon collecting money ... (Funds raised will be confirmed in the next newsletter.)

Coming Up:

Looks like a busy few weeks....
Teams Championships, Saturdays 9 & 16 October:

Looks like good entries for this event which will be held in 2 grades: Open and B grade. (Please note: there is no Pairs bridge on these days.)

Harvey Norman Restricted Pairs, Thursdays 14 & 21 October:

A 2-week event with prizes donated by Harvey Norman to be presented at our Christmas Party. All players < 100 masterpoints as at 1.01. 2021. (There is a hard copy listing at the Club of members' masterpoints as at 1.01.2021 if you can't check yours online whilst the ABF masterpoints website is unavailable.)

(For Thursday players not eligible for the Harvey Norman event there

will be a separate section on these days.)

Life Members Day, Saturday 23 October:

This will be in the afternoon following the launch of Robert Eldridge's book 'The History of the Ballina Bridge Club'. Should be a great day!

GNOT Regional Final, now Sunday 31 October at Ballina:

We have 5 Teams from Ballina qualified for the Regional Final (RF). If you are 'in' one of these teams please note the change of date. The RF has been put back a couple of weeks in the hope that other Clubs in the region can complete their Club qualifying events; having been hindered by these 'uncertain' times. Please note too that Sunday November 7 may be Day 2 of the RF depending on number of entries, or alternatively a 'back-up' date.

Melbourne Cup Tuesday 2 November:

Join us for Bridge and the Cup. 12 for 12.30 start with sweeps and hopefully some champagne and afternoon tea; dependant of course on those 'uncertainties'.

Harvey Norman Women's and Men's Pairs, Wednesdays 10 & 17 November:

This event has been re-scheduled



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Marjorie Askew

from September. Please try and line up a same sex partner.

Australia-wide Open Pairs – was scheduled for 27 October:

Not unexpectedly this has been postponed again, this time to late January 2022.

Bridge Website Tip:

In the last newsletter I asked for your tips for online bridge websites. Janet Brown recommended: **Battle of the Partners on You Tube** - where famous international players talk a lot, and take you inside their thoughts and analysis as the hands go along.

You can watch, and listen to, international stars: Zia Mahmood, Tor Helness, Andrew Robson and..... (I didn't find any Aussies.) They are playing with robots on BBO – and they don't seem impressed with their robot partners! But as Janet suggests it's very interesting to hear their thoughts/analysis.

So if you've a few spare minutes or are one of those under 'Stay at Home'.....

Again if anyone has any hot tips to share on 'good' bridge sites, please let me know.

Marjorie

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

Rank Promotions at end September?

Unfortunately the ABF Masterpoints website is 'down' which means we can't check our masterpoints and has also impacted the lodging of masterpoints. So we will have to wait for any rank promotions.

The NSWBA website was similarly impacted; am told both have the same 'provider'. (As our website is the now back up and running maybe our 'bug' has gone elsewhere??.....)

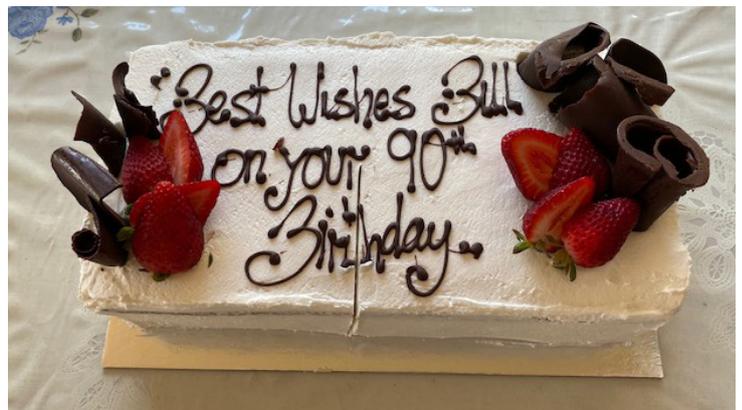
Thanks to all our sponsors:

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

Happy 90th Birthday to Bill Thorne

The **Thai by Night** by Chalee Gift vouchers are awarded on the first Monday of the Month to members who have birthdays during that month. Because we were in lockdown the voucher winners for this month were selected on Monday 20th September.

Congratulations to Bill Thorne who was celebrating his 90th birthday, Jan Rhodes, Pat Preston and Mary Doohan.





SLL Shield Wk 1 Board 17

When you first see dummy you are encouraged to count your losers in a suit contract and your winners in a No Trump contract. This helps identify the problems you may be facing. The next step is to formulate a plan for the hand.

A hand from the first week of the Somerville Laundry Lomax Shield hinged on making the right plan. You are sitting South and are declaring a contract of 3NT after a small Club lead. This is what you have to work with.

SLL Shield Wk 1	
Brd: 17	North
Dir: N	♠ Q54
Vul: Nil	♥ A1076
	♦ K97
	♣ QJ6
	South
	♠ K1072
	♥ KJ5
	♦ AJ3
	♣ A109
3NT	
Lead - ♣3	

Since it is a No Trump contract you start by counting your certain winners. None in Spades, two in Hearts, two in Diamonds and two in Clubs. There are two certain tricks in Clubs because the lead gives you a free finesse. Only six tricks means there is some work to be done.

Where can three more tricks come from? One extra trick in Spades is easy, use the King or Queen to drive out the Ace and the other

one is a trick.

Taking a finesse in Diamonds may gain a trick. But it is the Heart suit that provides the chance to gain the most. If you think West has the Queen then play a small card towards the A-10 in dummy. If you think East has the Queen then a small card towards your KJ. If the finesse is successful and the Heart suit breaks 3-3 then you will have two extra tricks.

Six certain tricks plus the Spade trick and maybe two in Hearts gives you nine. If Hearts only yields one extra trick then you will have to fall back on the Diamond finesse.

Which way to go in the Heart suit? Perhaps surprisingly, the answer lies in the Club suit. The lead was probably from length and strongly suggests that West has the King of Clubs as well (leading fourth best from an honour). If you take the Heart finesse and it loses to East then they will send a Club through you, knocking out your stopper. On the other hand, if you lead a small Heart towards your hand and it loses to West then a Club lead cannot hurt you.

Even better, if the Heart finesse loses and West switches to a Spade or a Diamond then the problem in one of those suits will be solved for you.

Accordingly, you should play the Hearts so that, if the finesse fails,

then the safe hand will be on lead. That is, a Heart from you hand and play the Ace in dummy followed by a small Heart to the KJ in your hand, finessing.

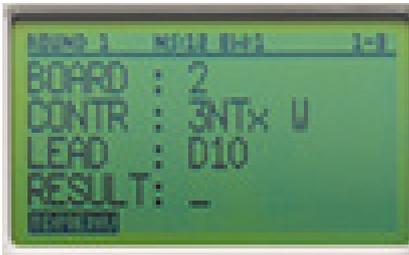
With a plan in place, you play the ♣6 from dummy and the nine from your hand when the King does not appear. ♥5 from hand to the Ace in dummy. Now, the key play, ♥6 from dummy to your Jack. When this wins you play the ♥K and Hearts turn out to be 3-3.

To enter dummy you use the Diamond suit and play the thirteenth Heart. With eight tricks in the bag you play a small Spade to your King, which loses to West's Ace. The Queen of Spades in dummy is now your ninth trick. West trips and leads a Diamond which gets you to ten, well deserved, tricks.

SLL Shield Wk 1			
Brd: 17	North		
Dir: N	♠	Q54	
Vul: Nil	♥	A1076	
	♦	K97	
	♣	QJ6	
	West		East
	♠	A8	♠ J963
	♥	832	♥ Q94
	♦	1084	♦ Q652
	♣	K8543	♣ 72
	South		
	♠	K1072	
	♥	KJ5	
	♦	AJ3	
	♣	A109	
			3NT
			Lead - ♣3

Bridgemates - Lead Card Validation

by Mark Miller



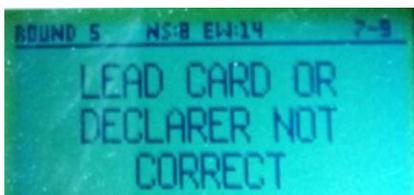
For some time now we have been entering the lead card into the Bridgemates. The software made it an option which was adopted by Ballina for a number of reasons. Some members like to study the online results to see whether the choice of lead affected the contract. Perhaps others like to see what the more experienced players led when they faced the identical decision. But for directors the information is helpful in examining the result anomalies that our scoring program Compscore2 displays at the end of the session.

An example might be a contract of 4H by North making 11 with both sides vulnerable. The score shows as 650. But Compscore says this is suspicious as NS only have 4 trumps! If the players concerned are still present then they can be consulted. But if they have all left, the director is not supposed to change a score that has been accepted without player consultation. Suppose the actual result was 4H by East making 11 with a score of -650 to NS. In checking the Bridgemate, West had not noticed the absence of the negative sign or the incorrect declarer. In such situations the director will look at the lead card. If it was a card that belonged to South then there is no problem in making the sensible correction to 4H by E. This avoids a phone call that evening and having to make a subsequent change, reprinting and republishing the results.

It follows that it is important for the lead card to be entered correctly and it is great to be able to report that by querying this year's data, I found that there has been a 95% success rate.

But now we can get a 100% success rate as software enhancements have the hand records available to the Bridgemates. So an error message will appear on the screen if the lead card is not consistent with the data in the hand record. This might be because the declarer has not been entered correctly or the declarer is correct but the indicated card does not belong to the hand that is on lead. This feature has been active since 18th September and has had the planned benefits plus early detection of a board that was fouled and two that were played reversed - north had the south cards etc.

Some Bridgemate operators have the practice of entering the required information at the end of the hand. In doing so the operator may forget the lead and have to waste time questioning the other players. So please enter the contract, declarer and lead card as soon as possible. The latter ideally immediately after it is faced. All part of saving time at the table.



NOTE: It would be preferable if any error concerning the lead card was detected immediately after the information was entered into the Bridgemate. But this introduces the possibility of cheating by a Bridgemate operator who is also declarer for that hand. For this reason the error message like the one shown will only appear after EW has clicked on the Accept button. The error message will only stay on the screen for short time and then the screen will revert to result entry where the operator can make the required changes. The Bridgemate will not advance to the next hand until the lead card is correct and the data has been accepted successfully.

The overall goal is to have less anomalies detected by the scoring program so faster finalisation of the results. Stay at the club if possible to socialise, enjoy a drink and congratulate the winners who will hopefully be announced quickly.