

Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with monthly club news

July 2026



President's Report

Hello to you all,

We arrived back home on 28th June after a wonderful trip to Japan. We traversed the islands for 3 weeks with a great bunch of people seeing lots of different sides to Japan. It would certainly be amazing during cherry blossom time. We only saw glimpses of Mt Fuji as she was hidden in the clouds. More about our trip in another newsletter. So many of our members make amazing trips overseas so on Sue Framer's suggestion (Leo's wife) I'm adding a new addition to our newsletter....a member's travel blog section. This month its Leo's turn.

I have to also bring you some bad news. As you are aware we presented a comprehensive proposal, including heat risks to senior members, to the Parish Council regarding reverse cycle air conditioning. We unfortunately received a one line response that the answer was a firm no with no explanation made. Council member s were so opposed to the idea they would't even discuss it with us. We are back to square one. Our next committee meeting is 17th July where we will discuss where we go from here. If you

have any ideas please forward an email to Leo before the 17th.

A huge congratulations to Liz Jeffery and Clive Klugman on becoming our Club Champions for 2026. A deserved win.

I'll catch up with the beginner's group on Friday. Thankyou Kath Morgan for helping out during my absence...it was very much appreciated.

A short report this month, I'll see you around the bridge table soon.

Eda

What do you open? *Janet Brown*

Dealer

AJ632
Q8
Q53
Q109

The answer is Pass. this is not good enough for an opener. Look at all those unsupported Queens. I call them "lonely Queens", and until partner bids something, those Queens may not be worth two points.

The Club Queen, accompanied by the 109, does not look as lonely as the other two

**Take note of what's happening in
July in your club.**

3rd July

regular weekly duplicates

10th July

regular weekly duplicates

17th July Committee Meeting
and regular weekly bridge

24th July & 31st July regular weekly
duplicates and integration of our new
club members from the lessons held
earlier this year and the practice
sessions they have been holding over
the past months

July Birthdays Werner, Edna, Brad,
Patricia, Kadri, Teresa, Helen

There has been discussion at the
Committee re our annual Xmas party
usually held the first Friday of December
with a bring a plate lunch, drinks with
lunch, party bridge games and prizes, a
duplicate game but not too serious, etc.

However some members have said
December is so crowded a time, that we
might be better having a party at another
time. We thought about Xmas in July but
then found that lots of other groups
including local bridge clubs already host a
Xmas in July event – so that was already
crowded.

Others have suggested that we abandon
the big party idea altogether and just have
a few drinks and snacks after bridge on
the last Friday of our year the week
before Xmas day.

If you have any views of this issue please
let Committee members know.

JUNE WINE TASTING

Peter Roger led a very
interesting tasting of Sangiovese
wines with surprisingly the
cheapest wine on the day - the
Tar & Roses - voted the most
popular.

Sangiovese is the grape behind
Chianti wines and the one Italian
Chianti tasted, the Frescobaldi
Riserva Nippazano, had a mixed
reception with some loving it and
others not so much.

As always various members liked
different wines – and that's why
the tastings are so good for
seeing how different tasters
respond differently to the same
wine.





GET TO KNOW HOW LIZ JEFFERY BECAME THE PLAYER SHE IS TODAY

Howard and I began playing bridge with my family as teenagers. It was what is commonly known as 'kitchen bridge – 'just bid what you see and guess the rest. My older sister took bridge to the next level and joined a club and learnt how to play duplicate. Her journey continued until she stopped playing competitively a little while ago as a gold grand master with nearly 8000 masterpoints. Our journey was a little more modest.

At my sister's insistence we finally joined a brand new club in Leeton, country NSW where we had settled after Howard finally finished studying in 1975. We were introduced to the formalities and fun of duplicate bridge and took on various duties associated with the running of the club including directing.

When our children finished school Howard's itchy feet took control and our next port of call was Fiji in 1991 where we enjoyed two years of wonderful experiences and I began my role of teaching bridge to keen expats. We returned to Sydney for a short time then moved to Darwin. Darwin Bridge Club was thriving at that stage and we were warmly welcomed and soon became contributing members as President, Howard, treasurer, teacher, me.

We were there for 3 years before moving back to Sydney, briefly then on to Irian Jaya (West Papua) for an interesting 8 months. Expats there were hungry for bridge lessons, we were a little restricted in our activities, and entered the scene with gusto. They were most disappointed when our stay was limited.

Another brief period in Sydney then off to PNG for 2 years. The bridge players there were hungry for lessons too so I was able to bring them up to date with many of the latest systems and tactics being used in the 'real 'bridge world. There are many strange tales that came about during our evening bridge sessions in one of the most dangerous areas of Port Moresby.

Next our daughter was beginning her family so it was back to Sydney for 3 years to be more active grandparents. The itchy feet struck again so back to Darwin for 5 years 2003 – 2008, where we enjoyed connecting with old friends. Lots more bridge teaching there and running a dedicated Tuesday night session for beginners and the less experienced players. This was a new initiative for the club and increased membership considerably. During this time, being a small territory I enjoyed representing the NT in Australia wide events. Howard was too busy working to indulge in these pastimes.

Back to Sydney for 3 years before retiring up to Ballina where we enjoyed the thriving bridge club and discovered the delightful, nearby Byron Bay bridge club, playing at Bangalow. The atmosphere in this club is welcoming and refreshing and we thoroughly enjoy our sessions there.

MEMBER'S TRAVEL BLOG

Leo in NZ



Leo and Sue travelled to NZ to see the north part of the North Island. A great trip and an insane level of dramatic scenery along the north east coast especially Bay of Islands and the Coromandel Peninsula. Around every corner was a “wow” moment.

We also found the most wonderful chocolates at Makana Chocolates in KeriKeri near the Bay of Islands. Apart from buying lots while there we had a few sent over here with Jan G and Norm and Helen joining in. Pity it costs so much to have them sent off to Australia!!

There were so many interesting areas including the Waitangi Treaty area (up north) and Maori village in Rotorua that has had the same families for a few hundred years.

A highlight of the trip was the Hobbiton Village in Matamata just south of Auckland. As a life long Tolkien fan, Leo was in his element at the hobbit village created for the Lord of the Rings and hobbit movie series and now preserved



as a tourist attraction.

Sue usually has trouble getting Leo in a photo but it was: “Can you take a photo of me on the bridge?” “Can you...

Tighten up your bidding

Paul Smith

Counting losers as a way of evaluating your hand strength is commonly known but a quick refresh can't hurt. Tables have been published showing many different card combinations and how many losers they represent. I just use a simple method

1. Consider only the top three cards in a suit
2. An Ace, King or Queen is a winner, the other cards are losers

(But be pragmatic - Q43, probably more like three losers than two - singleton K or Q, one loser - doubleton AQ, one or two losers)

The most you can have in a hand is 12 losers (three per suit). Therefore, between two hands there are at most 24 losers. If you subtract the total of the losers in your hand plus partner's from 24 then you get a good estimate of how many tricks you should make. 14 losers means game in a Major is the right level ($24 - 14 = 10$ tricks). 12 losers means slam in a Major is your target ($24 - 12 = 12$ tricks).

Some examples

- 3 losers - J87, 97432
- 2 losers - A87, K8732, Q10643, 75
- 1 loser - AK5, A4, KQ3, K
- No losers - AKQ, A, a void

Counting losers is relevant when you have a fit and are intending to play in a suit contract. Losers are not a great way to evaluate No Trump contracts. Further, the more cards are in your fit then the better counting losers is at accurately predicting the trick taking potential of two hands.

Where is this useful? I think the best use (and superior to counting points) is when you have a nine-card fit with partner (or better). This is where people tend to use words like Bergen, Jacoby, weak freak. All those can be rolled into one simple framework. Partner open 1 and you have four card support (or longer). Using the concept of losers, what do you bid? An opening bid is usually 7 losers or better. Here is a suggested set of responses.

Losers	Response
6 or fewer	2NT
7 or 8	3
9	3
10 (no singleton or void)	3
10 (with singleton or void)	4

Does this look like the usual Bergen/Jacoby/weak freak set of bids? That is exactly what it is based on. One thing to notice is that bids are based on a specific number (except 3, I'll get to

that). There are no ranges (is your Bergen 3 6-9, 7-9, 7-10? or something else? does it change from one partner to another). What happens next?

- After 2NT - your usual Jacoby 2NT treatment. Note that you have at worst 13 losers between the two hands (one trick better than is needed for game) and so slam investigation should start.
- After 3 - with 5 losers or better bid game. with 6 losers or worse bid 3.
- After 3 - with 6 loser or better bid game. With 7 losers bid 3. If responder had the 7 loser hand, they will then raise to game.
- After 3 or 4 - you are unlikely to bid again, hopefully the pre-empt has annoyed the opponents.

Notice that you don't have to deal with the vagaries of responder's bids having a range. After the initial response is made you never have to make an invitational bid because partner is not being vague (could that be 6pts or 9pts? Hmmm, better ask). Bid game or don't bid game - easy.

Example 1

East	S K876	H J32	D KQ82	C 43
West	S AQ543	H AQ7	D 984	C 96

West opens 1S and East, with an 8 loser hand, responds 3S. Opener has 7 losers and calculates $7(\text{me}) + 8(\text{partner}) = 15$. Take from 24 = 9 tricks. Opener signs off in 3. You are likely to lose 2 Clubs, 1 Diamond and 1 Heart. (There is a small chance to make 10 tricks - if the K is onside and Diamonds break 3-3, but you really don't want to be bidding such slim games.

Example 2

East	S 8754	H K862	D 73	C K96
West	S 3	H AQ753	D AQ984	C 73

West opens 1 and East, with a 9 loser hand, responds 3. Now that a fit has been discovered, West calculates they have a five loser hand. Add that to the 9 losers that partner has shown gives 14 losers. West rebids 4. If either the K or the A are on side (~75% chance) then 10 tricks is a great chance. At the end of the day the point counters look at the hand record and declare that they didn't have their share of points today. Oops ... missed an 18 HCP game.

We meet every Friday at the All Saints Hall - 1 Ashton St Bangalow . We ask that you be seated by 12.15pm for play to commence at 12.30. Join us for a social time afterwards BYO

President Eda Bridgeman 0411 872 423/66930359	Vice President Eric Bridgeman 0435 123 404
Treasurer Neil McKenzie 0402 455 896	Secretary Leo Prendergast 0429 672 262
Partner Co-ordinator Peter Roger 0421635305	Masterpoints Helen Baker 0401 669 639
Afternoon Teas Lorraine McKenzie 0417 705 439	
Committee Members: Kay Milne, Edna D'Cruz, Patricia Ellis, Edith Macauley, Ken McLean, Teresa Ebenstreit, Cher Assuage	