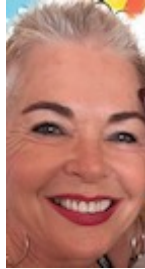


Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter



Keeping you up to date with club news



President's Report
March 2025

Greetings to all of our members,

Welcome to March our first month of Autumn. Already the nights at our home are getting cooler which is so good for getting a good night's rest isn't?

It's good to see more members back from their various holidays etc and we are starting to see table numbers regularly around 11-12 each Friday.

March is also the time of the year for our club to have its AGM. This will be held during afternoon tea on 14th March at around 2.30pm. Please make every effort to attend. It's your club and your opportunity to have your say in how it is run. We now have proxy votes set in place so if you can't physically be there make sure you contact Leo for a proxy form.

Our annual beginner's lessons commence on 14th March at 9.30am for 6 weeks with Ruth and Renia. An amazing opportunity for them to learn with two of the best as their teachers. If any of your friends or acquaintances are interested please give them Leo's mobile to register their interest. More details in the body of the newsletter.

I have been contacted by Majorie Askew, from Ballina Bridge Club, with regard to BridgeNSW looking for representation from all the local bridge clubs in NSW to help promote bridge within the community. If this is of any interest to any of you contact Leo. Nominations close 3rd March so not much time to think about it if you are interested. So far we have one member offer their support.

Have a great month and I'll see you around the bridge table.

Eda

We meet every Friday at the
All Souls' Anglican Church Hall
1 Ashton St Bangalow

We ask that you be seated by 12.15pm
for play to commence promptly at 12.30.

Table Fees \$5 members/visitors \$8

Join us for a social time after bridge

Directory

President Eda Bridgeman 0411 872 423/66930359

Vice President Edna D'Cruz 0434 254 602

Secretary Leo Prendergast 0429 672 262

Treasurer Jeff Dolin

Committee Members: Helen Baker, Kay Milne,
Lorraine Mckenzie, Brian Sunstrom, Starlette

Beaumont, Eileen Malabre

& Edna D'Cruz

Masterpoints Helen Baker

What's Happening in March
Beginners Lessons 9.30 14th
A G M 2.30pm 14th March
Wine Tasting 14th



HAPPY March BIRTHDAYS

Greg Farrell 3rd

Jane Fulford 5th

Edith McAuley 21st

Lorraine Mckenzie 28th

**AND to any others that we
don't know about**

GARBAGE STAYMAN by William Keyte



When facing a strong No Trump opening by partner, you hope to find game in a Major suit or in 3 No Trumps if between you there are 25 plus points. When holding a weak hand against a NT opening, a transfer is a good option if possible. With a hand like:

K Q xxx or Jxx a transfer to the 5 or 6 card Major and passing at the 2 level

Jx Axxxxx is usually a better option than the hand being played in 1 NT.

Jx 10x

Xxxx xx

Sometimes however, you may have a weak responding hand without a suitable suit to transfer to. Occasionally you will find yourself with a perfect candidate for Garbage Stayman (or Junk Stayman). The ideal shape for this kind of bid is a 4 4 5 - or 4 4 4 1 shape and 7 or less points. In this case the bidding would proceed as usual: 1 Nt/ 2 C (stayman asking for a 4 card Major). Whatever opener bids you can happily PASS, knowing that your otherwise useless hand will now have some trump power. If partner responds 2 H or 2 S, (approximately 52% chance), you have a nice 4 -4 Major fit. If Partner responds 2 D, denying a 4 card Major, you can pass and presume Partner has at least 3 or 4 cards in Diamonds, once again giving you 7 or 8 trumps to play with. This kind of bidding works well with simple stayman with a 1nt or 2 Nt opening. There are more complicated versions of this bid to allow for Puppet Stayman but that is for another time.

The main principle behind the use of Garbage Stayman is that a trump suit gives much more fire power and just as importantly, it gives the hands much more communication and flexibility. Playing 1 Nt or 2 Nt with little or no chance of getting to dummy means playing always from your own hand. How do you play your A Qj x or K J10 x combinations strictly from hand? In a suit contract you will have a much better chance of getting to dummy to make your finesses and at least have a chance of success. Give it a try. As a fun exercise try playing a few practice hands twice, in 1 Nt and applying Garbage Stayman to find a 2 level suit contract.

(William's contributions are aimed toward beginners and mid range players)

CALENDAR DATES 2025

MARCH 21ST RED POINT DAY

APRIL 4TH & 11TH AUTUMN PAIRS GREEN POINTS

MAY 23RD RED POINTS

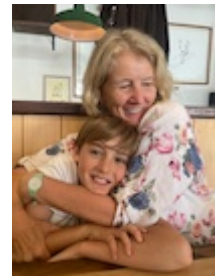
JUNE 13TH & 20TH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RED POINTS

NEW AUGUST 29TH TEAMS ALL DAY EVENT RED POINTS

OCTOBER 10TH & 17TH SPRING PAIRS GREEN POINTS

NOVEMBER 21ST RED POINTS

MEET RUTH LANGFORD



Our birthplace is often significant, isn't it? It tells a story of our ancestors. I recently took my youngest daughter, Imogen on a tour of the houses we'd lived in up until she was 18, ending with the house where she was born. I've retraced the same path with my middle daughter Tess but have yet to return with Zoe, my eldest, to her birthplace of the Soloman Islands. My boy Joe who I carried for a friend also knows the home where he was born.

I suppose our final resting place also tells a story. Our family's ancestry is well documented along the patriarchal line, my Great Grandfather Nathaniel Fox researched that for us. They were all Foxes, all Quakers. The matriarchal line is harder to follow with those name changes, but I had a client a few years ago who was keen on ancestry work and gifted me the list of my grandmothers. He used wills and census information reaching back to the 17th century. Mum and I set off on a pilgrimage to find their villages and with the help of parish records and carefully removing layers of moss from the flat gravestones we found our early grandmothers. There were 3 in one church yard! We then followed the line from Northamptonshire to Banbury and to London where my Grandma was born.

She was a geographer and travelled to Australia in 1919, had a relationship with a bank clerk from Ballarat (he had a motor bike, a detail that has survived the years), but he wasn't keen to live in England so she returned alone and met Arthur Fox and they bought a small row of 400 year old thatched cottages which they turned into a family home in the village of Freeland, Oxfordshire. She ran that village. Wouldn't have been out of place in the CWA.

The Old Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford was where Mum was born and 28 years later she gave birth to me there. It was May, 9 months after the Cowley car factory annual 2-week holiday, the maternity ward was packed! I was Mum's 5th and final child and was born in an old x-ray room. An easy birth, Mum had her wits about her when they brought me to her, "That's not my baby!" says she. And she was right, I was found, swapped back and Mum's usual equanimity was restored.

We lived in Freeland with my Great Aunt next door, an extraordinary woman who studied after finishing her Quaker education to join an Oxford college (there were not many places for women then). She then studied for her doctorate in Paris at the Sorbonne. She once said, "I love all Bridget's children, but I'm devoted to Ruth." I knew this and it was something so significant. I learned later in my therapy training what a difference it makes in a child's life to have an adult who really sees you and you know has your back.

When I was 7, Mum and Dad took us all on our summer holiday to Pembrokeshire, West Wales. Dad was tired on the long journey and Mum had to drive the final part. Two days later he died. My last glimpse of him was being carried on a stretcher down the hill under a white sheet. Those Welsh hills were too steep for the ambulance.

He had a kidney disease which was not fully diagnosed or treated, something which has been genetically passed onto my sister and me. That's another story.

There followed two difficult years of unspoken grief. In 1972, Mum took 3 of us to live in Pembrokeshire. A very rural life, I walked the dogs in the woods on the farm, rode the horse, read lots, joined CND, The Ecology Party (early Greens, "plant a tree in '73" etc). I was part of the first march and demonstration at Greenham Common against American cruise missiles in the UK and I was active in that 2nd wave of feminism. I was offered a Uni place to study psychology but first went to volunteer for a year at a Night Shelter for Homeless people in Stoke-on-Trent. Extraordinary. There was a management team, but the day-to-day running was by young people. Being brought up with the Quaker principles of equality, pacifism and the importance of acts of kindness stood me in good stead.

I met Anke there, a German woman who taught me to hitch hike. I was pretty organized with a clear plastic wallet containing a road map and sheets of paper: A34, M5, BATH and so on. She also gave me a pocket-sized canister of tear gas for emergencies. We hoped we'd never have to use them, did they even work? Sadly, she was once on a long journey from London to the West coast of Ireland, lights of Dingle in her sights. That's when she found out it worked. She survived.

On one of my trips to Bath I met Paul, a Dr who was playing guitar, busking in a band with Irish musicians. We got together then he applied for a job in the Solomon Islands. Do you want to come with me? Sure. He was a Dr (family approval), we were adventurous, we abseiled, went caving, had shared values, what could go wrong? We married (part of job requirement), and visited friends in St Vincent, New York, California, Hawaii, Fiji and finally reached the Solomons. I was 20 years old.

I discovered many things there including that Paul had addiction issues, almost any substance that could be administered by needle would do. Even ones without a needle.

We lived on Malaita in a wooden house on a hill, originally bought out from Harrods in 1926 for the high commissioner. Had a good view. This is where I met 3 great Australian women who were volunteers. Vicki lived about a day's journey south, only accessible by boat, Carol in a village about an hour by jeep and Faye, 3 hours rough drive north at a mission hospital. I remember arriving at Carols village with a lime meringue pie, carried aloft, dress hitched up to cross a wide, fast-flowing river, heavily pregnant with Zoe and with lots of village children running out to meet me. I smuggled beer and cigarettes to Faye as requested and took home the evidence! I learned pidgin and discovered the folly of transplanting Western feminist / socialist ideas to a different culture. Those women were finding their own way through the system. How could it be otherwise?

The journey home was a time where Paul and I travelled well, through Australia, Bali, Singapore and months in Nepal and India. Zoe thrived; she was 3 months old when we left. Well into the journey in India I became very sick. We were on a houseboat in Srinagar. Paul set up a drip on a coat hanger. I felt like I was facing the end, surprisingly peaceful and I felt close to Auntie. Long story. We got home but a month too late to be reunited with Auntie, she had died at my sickest time.

Speaking of deaths and goodbyes, 35 years after my dad's death, which was still hardly spoken about, the whole family gathered to celebrate my mum's 70th birthday. I noticed we were staying next door to a spiritualist church and there was a service that Sunday. Shall we go? Mum surprised me by saying yes and we filled the first 2 rows. Our dad shows up straight away, the medium passed on lots of specific detail and he got to say his goodbyes.

Back to the mid 80,s, Paul and I lived in the United Arab Emirates, London, a then a move north to Leeds, and my 2nd and 3rd daughter's births at home. I loved bringing up those girls! I studied in the evening for an antenatal teaching qualification and taught groups for 20 years for the National Childbirth Trust.

When I was 26 it absolutely dawned on me that there were no circumstances where Paul would put my needs first. I wasn't prepared to support him for the rest of my life with so little in return. He went to his next consultant job in Birmingham and I stayed in Leeds. Shock from family, how will you manage? I tell you looking after 3 was easier than looking after 4! I never told them about his addiction issues and the impact on the family.

I studied more; those essays crammed into a weekend when the girls were with their dad. I danced, mostly contemporary, and studied for 2 years to become a dance therapist. I worked in

schools, community groups and homes for the elderly. By then I was also teaching counselling, then studying for my degree, postgrad in teaching at Uni, diploma in supervision at Oxford (nice return to the dreaming spires!). Years of therapeutic work.

A significant story but too long for here was my agreeing to be a surrogate mum for friends Sarah and Jon. Joe is a joy and counts me as one of his mum's and the girls as his sisters. A TV documentary was made about us, magazine and radio interviews etc. Unexpected!

A partner then said how about moving to Australia? Sure. It was good timing for the girls, Zoe had finished her degree, Tess had completed school, Imogen had joined the circus and then run away from it! We came to Byron in 2007. One by one they have returned to the UK, to training and life there. My first grandchild, Ffion, was born in Mullumbimby, Tess gave a brilliant birth! My second was with Zoe in Brisbane. Tobias lived for 4 days. Too much to write about here but I'm so proud of my Zoe. My third was Bryn with Tess, a home birth. I was honoured to be there, some of you have met him at the bridge table! More recently Zoe's George and Christy arrived, lovely to be with them too. Moving here also meant I met and studied with Zen master Doko for 10 years, this has had such a positive impact on my life and work.

I met Renia at work 12 years ago, that was a great day! Followed by wonderful years here in Bruns. The girls and grandchildren love Renia and seeing their mum happy. I've continued to work as a therapist, trainer and supervisor. Renia and I share lots of interests, Buddhism, therapy, travel, theatre, art, gym classes, nature, politics, plant-based food and we loved learning bridge at Kath's lessons. We've been lucky to learn from Graham too and then Clive. We always played cards when I was growing up and now it's good to find a whole social network around the bridge game that I can play with my partner and occasionally bake cakes! Hoping my Auntie and Grandmothers would be proud.

482 Bidding Quiz

Standard American Bidding

Hand A	Hand B
♠ A954	♠ A72
♥ QJ3	♥ A95
♦ J1064	♦ A862
♣ AQ	♣ A82

Hand A LHO opens 1♦ and partner overcalls 1♠. What do you bid?

Hand B What do you open?



482 Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand	Bid	Comments
A	2NT	a cue raise showing a limit raise or better with 4 trumps. Even though you have 14 points, 3♠ may be too high if partner has a minimal overcall (it was and he did). So you definitely do not want to bid 4♥.
B	1NT	What else? If you open 1♦ then partner will never place you with this shape and 16 points. I cannot see how to continue the bidding if you do not open 1NT. I hear players say "aces and spaces" are no good. How wrong they are! Anybody who takes "aces and spaces" seriously to the point of thinking four aces mean a poor hand, not only he isn't a good player, but very likely never will be. Perhaps this "Aces and Spaces" myth came about when partner was broke, but he usually comes up with something of help.

FEBRUARY WINE TASTING NOTES

On the 14th of February after usual our Friday bridge the club hosted its first wine tasting for 2025.

A dozen or more members enjoyed tasting 6 wines. 3 were selected from New Zealand and 3 from Australia. Which would the members prefer?

We had one Sauvignon Blanc & one Semillon Sauvignon Blanc; two Chardonnays & 2 Pinot Noirs. All 2023 or 2024. Prices from \$14 to \$24

The wines were:

- Cape Mentelle 'Marri Range' WA SSB & A typical Sav. Blanc from Marlborough
- Church Road, Hawkes Bay NZ Chardonnay & Red Hills Estate Mornington Peninsula Victoria Chardonnay
- Isobel Wines Blenheim NZ Pinot Noir & Artemis Pinot Noir Southern Highland NSW.

In every category the Australian representatives won the approval of the crowd.

HOSTS LORRAINE & NEIL MCKENZIE

477 Bidding Quiz Standard American Bidding

Hand A	Hand B
♠ 3	♠ void
♥ 1096532	♥ J75
♦ J9	♦ KQJ2
♣ J853	♣ QJ10653

What do you open with **Hand A**?

Hand B partner opens 1♠ and RHO overcalls 1NT.
What do you bid ?



Bidding Quiz 477 Answers

Hand	Bid	Comments
A	pass	Opening in 1st or 2 nd seat with 2 points outside the long suit and zero points in the long suit with a weak 2♥ is certainly not recommended. So pass. However in 3 rd seat anything goes. So 2♥ in 3 rd seat is fine. Partner (with his passed hand) will not to join in the bidding so this gives you licence to be unorthodox.
B	dbl	RHO has overcalled 1NT after partner has opened 1♠. A double here is for penalty. Your side holds the balance of power and you have two great suits for defence. Opening lead – a ♣ or a ♦ ? Both look good.

BEGINNER'S LESSON COMMENCE
FRIDAY 14TH MARCH
9.30-11.30
FOR 6 WEEKS
COST \$50 FOR LESSONS AND TEXT BOOK
TELL YOUR FRIENDS
EDUCATORS
RUTH LANGFORD & RENIA GYRC