

Byron Bridge Club Bulletin

June 2025

Dear Byron Bay bridge players,

Thanks for your feedback on how I intend communicating with you. A twice yearly newsletter (June and December) and a monthly Bulletin between newsletters is confirmed.

Those who went cruising are returning to Friday play with their stories of life on the high sea. Apart from some illness the overall impression was positive. These vessels are amazing and cater for all manner of activity - including regular bridge.

Thanks to those helping with structured play for our group of beginners. As expected some come with prior knowledge and improve quickly whereas others take time. Several are interested in joining our Friday play - they will be P players and I know from my experience everyone was very helpful integrating us into the session. Ruth and Renia have been marvelous instructors and coaches.

Last month I mentioned that Directors are considering the format for the June pairs - **“One winner? Go Howell and cop the howls — or Mitchell and switch to ditch?”** (CHAT GTP) Howell needs a confident Director and perhaps a couple of non playing assistants to choreograph the moves. Leo is adjudicating this discussion.

Upcoming Events- Club Championships

- 13 June Round 1 of RED point event
- 20 June Round 2 of RED point event

Friday 13th June

Our Committee is meeting on this day and Patricia (I love your style) has suggested we all dress in BLACK. A show of hands indicated support so let's get into the mood. At our meeting we're discussing the various roles we each have but I'd invite anyone to volunteer for a role in the running of our club – committee member or not.

Congratulations to May Winners

- 2 May Guy and Ray / Brad and Michelle
- 9 May Leo and Pin / Clive and William
- 16 May Greg and Helen / Clive and William
- 23 May Howard and Sophie/ Liz and Ellen
- 30 May Howard and Sophie / Liz and Ellen

Bridge Fun Fact

The answer to **last months** fun fact - why can't AI "win" at bridge?

Bridge is not just about what you know, but what you think they think you know — and who you're fooling." And I know from my own bidding that I'm mostly fooling myself!!

It's nice to know that one area of our lives is immune from AI but we can use the AI Bots to improve our play, when we feel like it!!

This month – why did the WBF ban a strong PASS?

I put this question to one of our experienced players this week – his reply "because you're bullshiting". So? Half of what we read on the internet is BS!! But there **is** a good reason – anyone?

In looking at this further I was intrigued to learn that our very own Marston and Burgess invented their own system (MOSCITO) when the WBF banned a strong "pass".

Director's Corner

If you call over the Director be aware that they are most likely coming away from their playing table to adjudicate. Explain the issue as succinctly as you can so you can all resume play. Director's decision is final and they appreciate you accepting it with grace.

Poll

Last month – Do you play Puppet Stayman-and why?

A lot of feedback from “never” to “compulsory”. My interest is my belief that you need to stretch yourself to improve. But I have learned (sorry Jeff) that one needs to fully understand the play before giving it a go.

I practice yoga two or three times a week and all yogi's know about muscle memory – your body remembers the moves and takes you there. The same applies in bridge – mental patterns rather than physical movement. Through repetition and feedback your brain responds – whether a downward dog or a 2C opener!!

Shout out

Every month I want to acknowledge one of our team.

This month it's LEO. Who is a tower of strength and keeps the wheels greased and ticking along. Thanks Leo – we all appreciate your work.

Got Something to Share?

Send it in for next month's bulletin - we love hearing from members!

Ken McLean