

Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with monthly club news

APRIL 2026



President's Report

Greeting to all our wonderful members. 2026 is turning into a crazy year isn't it - and moving once again at the rate of knots. Thankfully we can get some mental reprieve through the delightful game called bridge.

A few weeks ago there was a little bit of excitement at the hall with a very heavy sudden downpour which caused the hall to be surrounded with knee deep water. Thankfully we were all ok apart from two long term members losing their cars as well as more of the Bangalow community. Who would have thought that a sudden downpour could cause such damage. For your future reference we were told by the SES that it is an offence to walk or drive through floodwater.

Back to bridge. Do you remember why you started playing? Bridge is highly social and every hand is a new adventure? But here is a reminder of the other aspects of bridge that we often forget.

- The game of bridge supports brain health
- Helps build lasting friendships
- Is entertaining
- Is mentally challenging as it improves our thinking skills, maths, memory, teamwork, social skills, concentration, critical thinking, improves communication and problem solving skills.

The many reasons why we all return each week to play this rewarding game.

The above is what I shared with the new bridge students a few weeks back. Ken McLean held over two Saturday mornings a bridge blitz introduction. The format certainly sifted the wheat from the chaff with four from the weekend blitz and two others joining the group. These beginners will start a 6 week course to be held at the hall starting end of March. I'm very grateful to Jean Lowe and Kath Morgan helping out with these lessons. The entire

course is sponsored by the grant from the Byron Shire Council. Hopefully we will introduce them to our Friday game at some stage.

Recently a long term member commented that no one asked where she had been after many months of absence. A sorry situation in a small club like ours. Hence the need for welfare officers to keep tabs on our members. I'm grateful to Kay Milne and Eric Bridgeman for offering to take up these very important roles so that members know that we care. I'm waiting to hear back from another long term member about taking the rarely needed recorder's role.

Eda

Take note of what's happening in April in your club.

Easter hat Day Friday 27th March Its always fun to dress up! You can be as inventive as you like

No bridge on Good Friday April 3rd
Enjoy the break over the long weekend, stay safe. Bridge will resume on 10th April as normal.

Wine Tasting 17th April after Friday bridge. Hosted by tba. \$5 per head payable in cash. The best \$5 you ever spent.

April Birthdays 10th Claudia K
13th Brian S 21stEileen M

Autumn Pairs Week 1 - 24th April &
Week 2- 1st May

April Bridge Quiz

Slams

Standard American Bidding

Hand 5	Hand 6
♠ A764	♠ AJ64
♥ AQ1086	♥ AK543
♦ K7	♦ K873
♣ A5	♣ -

On both these hands, Partner opens 1♥.

What is your response ?



Slams Answers

Hand	Bid	Comments
5	4NT	RKCB will discover if partner has both the ♦ Ace and ♥ King. Then SKA (Specific King Ask) will tell you about his Kings and a grand slam might be there for you.
6	4♣	A splinter bid on the way to slam. "I think splinters are the best things in bidding theory to enter the game of bridge". <i>Grant Baze</i> If you do not play splinter bids already – start today.

Sometimes we will be dealt a hand that is too strong to simply sign off in game. You need around 33 combined total points to make a small slam in a suit when you have a fit. Opener has promised about 13+ and so both these hands are worth slam. An easy way would be to simply bid 6♥ ("Slam bash") with both of them. But you might miss a grand.

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 + glass

Directory

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Committee Members: Kay Milne, Edna D'Cruz, Patricia Ellis, Edith Macauley, Ken McLean, Teresa Ebenstreit, Cher Assuage