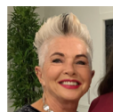


Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with club news



President's Letter July

It's now July and 6 months of 2023 has gone. Our club is at a crossroad and whatever happens over the next months I believe will be the deciding factor for the future of our club and you, our members, are in the driving seat on what happens next. After many years of members asking to go back to the Bowlo we are now there and it's not what we expected. A number of members are now asking for a return to the Cavanbah. It would seem some members have forgotten why the favoured view, just a few months back, was to return to the Bowlo.

However, are we prepared to relocate once again to a venue we can't afford and lose money again each year and see the demise of the Byron Bay Bridge Club as we can't meet the new costs involved? We can survive for a few years if we relocate to what some members see as a more comfortable environment with many things as we would want it to be. Or do we compromise for the time being and see the future of our club as paramount?

I personally would like to persevere at the Bowlo until our 6 month trial is over. Yes the last 8 weeks haven't been as we had expected with Bowlo management changing the ground rules but we have "new" blood joining us regularly on a Friday. Our Friday's may not be as personal or as intimate as have experienced in the past but we are, after all, a competitive bridge club not a social gathering on a Friday afternoon. There are other times for that. We have funds in the bank to survive at Cavanbah for a few years BUT is that what you envision for the long term for your club?

Members, you will be asked next month to vote on your club's future. I, as your president, will abide by your decision but I am asking you to think long and hard about your club's future longevity. What will a return to Cavanbah mean...with increased overheads, higher table fees and less members each Friday? I wish I could paint a better rose coloured picture but I can't.

We either embrace the growth and a new direction for our club or we go back to the way it used to be and slowly wither away.

I am committed to our club but I can only move forward on your behalf with your support. If you support this then let's put a stop to negative thoughts and words and make what we have work. Eda

We meet every Friday at the
Bangalow Bowling Club
21 Byron Bay Rd Bangalow
We ask that you be seated by 12.30pm
for play to commence at 12.45.
Club Bistro opens 12MD for lunch
Join us for a social time afterwards on the
rear deck of the Bowlo. Buy your own drinks

Directory

President Eda Bridgeman 0411 872 423/66930359

Vice President Brian Sundstrom 0429 311 830

Secretary Leo Prendergast 0429 672 262

Treasurer Greg Farrell

Committee Members: Helen Baker, Kay Milne,
Patricia Ellis, Starlette Beaumont, Eileen Malabre

JULY REMINDERS

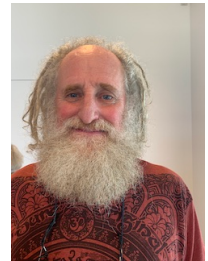
BRIDGE WILL BE HELD AT THE
ANGLICAN ALL SOULS CHURCH HALL 1
ASHTON ST BANGALOW ON FRIDAY
30TH JUNE, 7TH & 14TH JULY
PLAY WILL COMMENCE AT 12.15PM
BYO DRINKS & A GLASS AFTERWARDS



JULY BIRTH DAYS

RUTH BIDDLES 3RD
PETER BALDWIN 5TH
EDNA D'CRUZ 7TH
HELEN BAKER 15TH
KADRI NELMES 16TH
WENDY ROSE 17TH
BRAD HURST 21ST
PATRICIA ELLIS 27TH

AND TO THOSE OF YOU WHO
WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT



What are your Discards? – Part 2

In last month's article we established that your discards are extremely important. To summarise we have three types of signals to share with partner. These are: -

- Attitude discards – do you like the suit?
- Suits preference discards – which suit do you prefer?
- Count signals – how many cards do you have in this suit?

When do we use each of these signals.

- Attitude discards
 - whenever partner leads
- Suits preference discards
 - when partner leads and there is no future in the suit because dummy has a singleton or void or dummy has the remaining tricks. Our attitude signal changes to a suit preference signal.
 - when discarding when following to a trick in which you are void
 - when giving partner a ruff
- Count signals
 - When partner leads the King on the opening lead
 - Whenever declarer or dummy lead to a trick

Last month we decided we will play LOW encourage and Natural count (Hi-low is even) in these examples.

Also remember you can only give one signal at a time – it is impossible to combine signals.

Example 1 – suit preference by partner

Partner leads Ace Diamonds in a 3NT contract and you have

♠ A K 8 7 4
♥ 8 6 5 4 3
♦
♣ T 8 6

Playing low encourage you could play the 4S, or the 8H, or the 8C. The decision as to which is the right card will in some way depend on the bidding. If its urgent to switch to a spade, we would play the 4S. If it less urgent the 8H will do. The 8H should indicate that we don't like Hearts, now partner has to decide if we like Clubs or Hearts. Again, the bidding should help us decide. The 8C might be important along with the 10C and 4C – it is possible we could get a trick in clubs, so shortening this suit is not a good idea.

Example 2 – suit preference by leader

Partner leads Ace diamonds in 4H and you have

♠ A T 9 3 2
♥ 7 5 2
♦
♣ J 9 8 6 2

We could play the 9C on this to show we like Spades. However, the 2S shows greater interest in spades and we do not have to worry about shortening our spade holding or weakening our Club position. We play the 2S, partner plays the King diamond and then the 2 diamonds. Why did partner not lead our spade? Partner has a plan. Partner knows we will trump the diamond, and likely play our spade. But is this correct? No. We need to return a club as requested by partner. Partner wins the ACE clubs and plays another diamond for us to ruff.

Had partner followed up with the 9D after playing the AK diamonds, it would imply they do not have clubs covered. Then we lead our A spades and hope partner signals low, saying they like it.

Did you know the person leading could give suit preference?

Example 3 – Count on partner King

Partner leads KH in a 4S contract.

♠ A 7 6
♥ T 7 5 3
♦ Q 7
♣ Q 8 7 2

Partners King asks for count. Partner can see his hand, dummy and once you have given count, knows exactly how many cards declarer has in the suit. On the KH, you can play the 5H, but the 7H is a clearer signal. You are not wasting an important card with the 7 and it makes it clearer for partner. Help partner.

Example 4 – Count on declarer play

Declarer (south) leads 10S from their hand to dummy in a 3NT contract. You are East

Dummy holds ♠ K J 9 7 5 4

You hold ♠ A 8 6

Partner plays the Q.

The Queen Spades is either a singleton, doubleton – it cannot be from 3 or 4. If it's a singleton, declarer has 3 spades. If it's a doubleton, declarer has 2 spades. Since dummy has the J, we cannot afford to play the Ace if partner has only 1 spade (or we establish 5 tricks in dummy), so we duck one round of spades. I suggest ducking the second round of spades to ensure that declarer can only get 2 spade tricks.

NOTE – this play is based on the fact that dummy has no other entries or that you have the other dummy entries covered.

If there were multiple entries in dummy, ducking once will affect our timing in our suits and does nothing to affect dummy's spade winners. In this case, win your ace spades immediately and switch to partner suit (they led or signalled on your lead), or cash your suit.

Example 5 – Suit preference when giving a ruff

East opens 1 Spade, wests bids 2C, north 2D, and the contract ends in 4S by East (yes it did).

BD: 29	♠ 74	Dir: N
	♥ J76	Vul: ALL
	♦ AQ9854	
	♣ K2	
♠ 5		♠ AQJ862
♥ 832		♥ AK
♦ KT6		♦ J2
♣ AQJ983		♣ 765
	♠ KT93	
	♥ QT954	
	♦ 73	
	♣ T4	

South dutifully leads the 7 of diamonds – highest in partners suit.

West, Dummy, plays the 6 and north takes the Q and follows with the A. Declarers J spades confirms the diamond holding – declarer and south are now void. Trumps (spade) position looks like south has some spades. If north continues a diamond to dummy's King, declarer will need to ruff high to stop south winning the trick. Declarer assumes north has 6 diamonds for their bid and south's carding. Declarer can discard in hand and lose the trick to south or trump high – but on this hand little helps.

North must play the 4 diamonds to signal a Club return. Yes that's right, a low card from north when they know south is trumping is giving suit preference to south – the lower of the remaining suits (Not diamonds (this suit) and not trumps (spades) which leaves hearts and clubs – the lower of which is clubs). If declarer had won the trick, south still knows north has the KC. 3 down.

Part 3 next month



JUNE WEEKLY BRIDGE WINNERS

**2nd N/S Mary Goodall/Ellen Watson
E/W Fay Bogg/Brian Sundstrom**

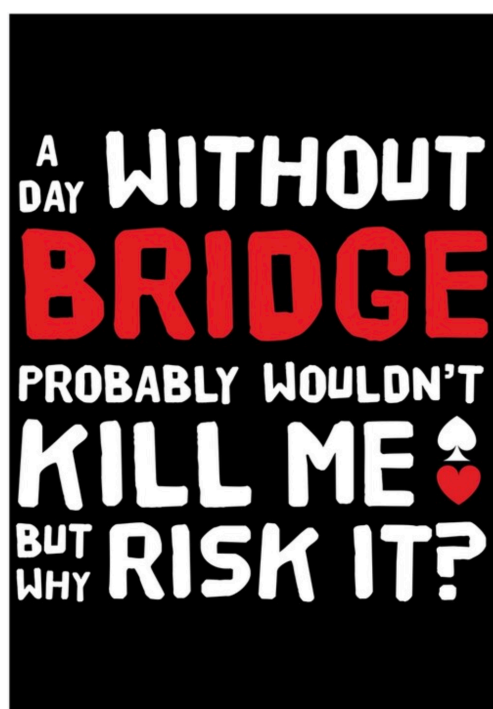
**11th N/S Pete Quirke/Edna d'Cruz
E/W Clive Klugman/Starlette Beaumont**

16th Championship Round 1 Ann Riley/Gary Lynn

**23rd Championship Round 2
Michele Clark/Brad Hurst**

**2023 CLUB CHAMPIONS
ANNE RILEY & GARY LYNN
CONGRATULATIONS ANNE & GARY
RUNNERS UP PIN & LEO**

30th winners will be in next month's newsletter



Final Pass

Mark Miller



Have a look at the bidding in this competitive auction.
Anything unusual?

West P	North 1H	East 1S	South 2H
2S	3H	3S	4H
P	P	P	P

You may notice that there are four Passes after the final bid of 4H.

I've seen this happen a number of times at the club. Usually because there is a delay in the lead card being selected by a defender and another player has assumed that the delay is because everyone is waiting for them to pass - so after the delay they quickly add another pass.

Of course, there is a Bridge Law that covers this. East's call is the Final Pass - the third Pass after a bid. Law 39 says that all calls after the final pass are cancelled and 39B says there is no further rectification if the extra call is a Pass.

Victorian bridge players have a symbol to help prevent this situation from occurring. When they know their Pass is going to be a Final Pass they use a double slash on the bidding pad as shown. When I moved north, I was quickly told by the locals that that is not the done thing in NSW.

W	N	E	S
/	1	1	2
2	3	3	4
/	/	/	//

The 2017 Laws do not mention written bidding. These laws are based on spoken bidding with some adjustments for the use of bidding boxes. Apparently Australasia is the only region using written bidding. So any

clarification here has to come from national (ABF) or state (NSWBA) authorities.

In preparation for our congress I reviewed the NSW Tournament Regulations and found clause 6.2.4 on written bidding to be of relevance:

The only legal notations are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, C, D, H, S, NT, X (double), XX (redouble), / or \ (pass), // or \\ (final pass). Full stops after bids are not allowed. "N" for "no trumps" is not allowed. Players should use the appropriate square on the bidding slip, and write their bids in a consistent manner.

So not only is the double slash allowed it can be done as either // or \\. Note the final sentence - you cannot vary how you write this call or any other call.

If, in this example, South's extra bid was 5H then again this would be cancelled and there is no penalty if the extra bid was by declarer or the presumed dummy.

Suppose after South's extra bid, West has opted to sacrifice in 4S.

WEST P	North 1H	East 1S	South 2H
2S	3H	3S	4H
P	P	P	p
4S			

As before the extra calls are cancelled and North is declarer in 4H. East is on lead and Law 39C allows declarer to forbid the lead of one suit that has not been mentioned in the legal auction by West. So North has the option to ban the lead of a Club, Diamond or Heart and that prohibition stays in force until East loses the lead. So an extra bid (not a Pass) by a defender does have a penalty.





Byron Bay Bridge Club Committee Musings June 2023

The club has had an extraordinary past three months trying to set up a new bank account with a debit card to enable us to deposit cash through the post office – given Westpac has so few convenient bank branches anymore. Firstly we ran foul of the new banking laws aimed at stopping money laundering – ironic, given the law’s aim is the integrity of cash deposits over \$10,000. Our clubs total deposits over the year hardly amount to \$10,000 ! Anyway we had to go through an onerous process to “verify of club’s bone fides” – only to find our Australian Business Register named us as Byron Bay Bridge Club Inc – whereas the ASIC Business name register called us Byron Bay Bridge Club. Not much difference, eh? Well it was enough to cause a two month delay as we tried to sort out that difference ! And sorting it out was slow and awkward as we had no online log-ins and passwords from 20 years ago when the name was registered. Anyway it is all now sorted and we can do banking at the post office. Whew!

We also have found that the Dept Fair Trading had seemingly lost our 2020 annual return. As far as they were concerned we had never submitted it. They required we had to redo the return and pay the fee and the penalty. Luckily we still had the copy of the documents so were able to resubmit them and they indicated they waived the penalty fee due to “Covid complications!!”. Who says it is a simple matter running a small non-profit community based club like ours.

The clubs dealing machine had a “hissy fit” recently and we had a few issues with incorrect deal files not corresponding with actual cards in the board sets. The machine had to be sent to Sydney for an upgrade – both software and hardware which had to be sent out from Europe – which has now been completed. Thanks to Clive and Ballina Bridge club which helped out while our machine was away. All fixed for just \$500 – you beauty!

Finance report shows we are running about square for our club operations so far in 2023. The lower rent at Bangalow (almost half what it was at Cavanbah) certainly helps. We also have just under \$30,000 in the bank.

The two week events like the Club Championships continue to challenge our club. With around seven to nine tables it is a fine judgement for the director to decide what movement to choose – given the need to combine the results to achieve one winner each week and one winner overall. Just one extra or one less pair playing tips the balance between playing a Howell movement or an arrow switch Mitchell. When we have a half table it also complicates as well trying to avoid a long sit out if possible. While we know members are frustrated being told we will play one type of movement and then having it changed at the last moment – spare a thought for the director group trying to work out at short notice which one to choose. Every one wants an easy life – but some of us have been foolish enough to put our hand up to assist the club with this sort of dilemma. Please be gentle with us!

The committee are looking at introducing handicap results each week for a bit of fun. It will never replace the actual winners and won't be a focus of the weekly results. But it may be that we will have handicap winners announced for the previous week winning a chocolate each and maybe a fun trophy ("Kings of the Heap" ?) for the overall handicap winner at the end of the year. Watch this space.

Many of us are missing our wine tastings but it has proved difficult at the Bowlo. We are keen however to revive this activity and looking at options including maybe retiring once a month to the home or verandah of one of our Bangalow based members. Again watch this space.

Venue for play. It is clear our move to Bangalow has perhaps not yet met all our expectations for a regular, affordable, pleasant, relaxed venue to enjoy our weekly game of competitive bridge. A number of members have asked for the vote about our venue (which was due in October at the end of the six months trial at Bangalow Bowlo) to be brought forward. The Committee has resolved to bring the vote forward and it will be held as an email ballot of ALL members (Life, Home and Associates) as soon as possible. We need to confirm and clarify a few matters including the availability and cost of any possible return to Cavanbah before holding the ballot and that clarification will happen over the next couple of weeks.

Leo Prendergast – Secretary

A big thanks to you Leo....who works behind the scenes with "stuff" none of us would ever dream about as being part of a bridge club...from all the BBBC members

**BON VOYAGE Helen and Greg
as they leave for a
5 week overseas holiday
early July**

