

# Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with club news



## President's Report July 2024



*Hello to you all.*

July already! Wow how quickly does a year start to slip by?

We held our BBBC championships over the last two Fridays and a HUGE congratulations to club members Renia Gyrc and Mike Duffin on their outstanding play over two weeks and are deservedly our 2024 Club Champions. It will be exciting to see some fresh names on our championship trophy to be presented at our Christmas function in December.

Our tables numbers are growing which is so rewarding after a few years of low numbers but does cause your committee to think about plans for the future. Read more about our ideas in the Committee musings report in this newsletter as well as other important information discussed at our last meeting in June.

We have also been using our two heaters in the hall and so far it hasn't been too bad. Please let us know if you are still cold as we have discussed purchasing two blow heaters to quickly heat the room up as well. I have noticed, if you are sitting in the "wrong" spot, the winter sun can play havoc with seeing the cards. We will contact the parish office once again asking them to fulfil their promise of installing blinds so please be patient if you find, as I did over the last two weeks, that the sunlight was annoying.

As you are all aware a flow on from increased numbers is that there is more afternoon tea required. Lorraine is looking for three names on the roster to assist with providing afternoon tea which has become an important part of our afternoon of bridge. The roster is always on display for you to put your name down. The old adage "many hands make light work" is applicable here.

That's it from me for this month. Stay warm, enjoy the crystal clear days and see you around the bridge table sometime soon.

*EDA*

## We Play...

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: \$6 members/\$8 visitors

Join us for a social time afterwards.  
BYO drinks & glass

## 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 0455 315 099

**Assist Treasurer:** Brian Sundstrom

**Committee Members:** Helen Baker, Kay Milne, Lorraine McKenzie, Starlette Beaumont, Eileen Malabre, Edith McAuley, Andrea Herraman

**Masterpoints:** Helen Baker

**Partner Co-ordinator:** Peter Roger 0421635305

**Welfare Officers:** Kay Milne & Peter Kiernan

**Afternoon Teas:** Lorraine McKenzie

**Meet & Greet on Fridays:** Eric Bridgeman

**Recorder:** Peter Brosnan 0411 121 281

**Contact:** [byronbaybridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:byronbaybridgeclub@gmail.com)

## July Happenings

**July 5th** Wine tasting

**June 28th** 10.30 - 11.30am

Review Group with Peter Quirke for new players

**July 5th** 10.30-12pm

Q & A with Peter Quirke for new players

*Happy July Birthday*

to:

Ruth Biddles 3rd

Peter Baldwin 5th

Edna Millard 7th

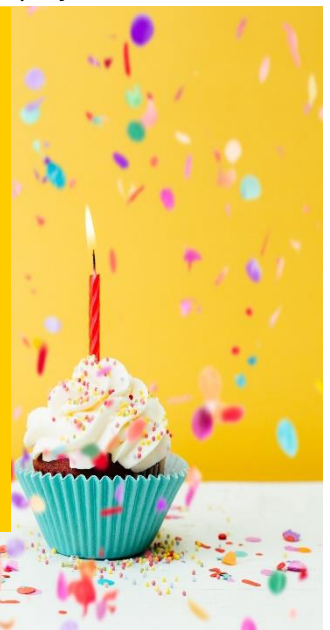
Helen Baker 15th

Brad Hurst 21st

Starlette Isaac 27th

Patricia Ellis 27<sup>th</sup>

**And anyone else we  
forgot**



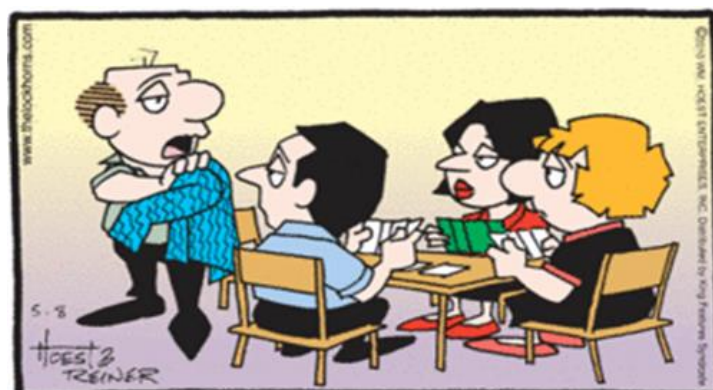
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# Beginners Review Group

Peter Quirke is holding review and question sessions on 28 June and 5 July and are intended to allow new, beginner or other interested members to ask any questions they have about play. A number of members have indicated an interest in attending. To allow Peter to prepare, members are invited to submit questions beforehand so he has an idea about what members are interested in discussing. Please submit your questions as soon as possible to [byronbaybridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:byronbaybridgeclub@gmail.com).

Following these sessions the Club will hold a monthly beginner's review morning hosted by Edna D'Cruz and Starlette Beaumont. Initially challenging boards from the previous weeks play will be reviewed with the focus on correct bidding and initial first lead rather than playing of the cards. Bookings essential with a minimum of four members for the class go ahead. The concept for this class may evolve over time. **Register your interest with Edna D'Cruz at [ednamillard@gmail.com](mailto:ednamillard@gmail.com)**

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"I THOUGHT YOU WERE KICKING ME UNDER THE TABLE BECAUSE YOU WERE READY TO GO."



# Committee Musings June 2024

## Matters discussed and decisions made at the latest Committee meeting

The club welcomed ten new members over past three months. Welcome to Helen Langford, Sherilee Haddin, Hugh Makin, Werner Borkhardt, Cher Assuage, Phil Byers, Dick DeWit, Vicki McClean, Ken McLean, Lyn Wickham

It was agreed to increase the afternoon tea honorarium to \$50 per week. It was recognised that this would not always cover the cost, we note that many members were prepared to contribute once or twice a year when they took a turn to do afternoon tea.

It was agreed that a new clock was not necessary and the computer screen when placed higher up on the edge of the stage was visible to all. It was agreed however that we need a 3-minute sound and Leo and Helen to liaise in finding a sound to use.

The club thanks the Brunswick Valley Bridge Club for the sound system loaned to us for use each week. We needed loudspeaker given higher numbers and the difficulty of being heard when making announcements to the larger group.

The Anglican Parish Byron Bay responded to our request for holding wine tastings at the hall, and noted the parish requirement that we have a person with an RSA present at any event when we consume alcohol. Eric Bridgeland agreed to complete an RSA course and we were able to resume the wine tastings and/or drinks after bridge.

Due to new ATO income tax regulations, all non-profit associations like our club will have to claim exemption from income tax each year. We also must ensure all details about the club are up to date with the Australian Business Register. As a result, we have had to apply for a new ABN and tax file number as our old numbers were linked to the club prior it becoming incorporated. While it seems like a lot of work for no good reason, we had no choice. It will mean we need to update the ABR register each year if there are changes to our office bearer positions.

Given our larger numbers at bridge each Friday and our successful welcome to several new members over the past few months we are seeking to extend our booking for the hall each Friday to be both mornings and afternoons. That way we can guarantee the hall is available to us when we need to use it for the morning. Given our current strong financial position we can afford to book the hall from 10.30 am-5.30pm each week so as to maintain our opportunity to hold various activities on Friday. Including mornings such as Q&A sessions, supported play, Xmas Party and further lessons in early 2025.

With weekly player numbers now starting to exceed 50, we may have to start thinking about having two sections for play. It would require some more equipment so we can have two sets of cards each week. While it would be quite a bit more trouble, if we get to 15 or more tables it becomes too difficult to all play in the same section.

The club's financial position is strong and getting better all the time allowing us the funds to undertake actions requiring expenditure if and when required. The continued higher numbers of players mean higher income each week and with the lower rental cost for the hall - we can now also afford to support having a nice afternoon tea each week.

It was agreed to continue support for the beginners (and any existing members) by holding two Q&A sessions at 10.30am on 28<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> July hosted by Peter Q to ask questions and seek clarifications. We will also organise future informal play sessions from 10.30am-12 noon for members to play hands and seek support or advice from other members about duplicate bridge play, maybe to be held once per month. We are also considering another round of lessons in early 2025.

Committee members indicated strong feedback from members about the format of the latest newsletter put together by Andrea H. It was confirmed that Andrea should be considered the Editor of the newsletter and members could send items and articles to her for inclusion in future newsletters. Eda noted that it was her intention that the role of newsletter editor be a committee role separate from the role of President. There was discussion about content and Eda noted several sources of short articles about bridge – bidding, leads, doubles etc were available for us to include. We also invited any member who wished to contribute for inclusion in the newsletter to email it to Eda or Andrea.

It was agreed that as we had received a \$200 sponsorship from our two sponsors directly related to sponsoring the Autumn and Spring pairs that we use the funds as prize money for the Autumn and Spring pairs. There was some uncertainty among Committee members re the giving of cash prizes, with some preferring to give prizes but not trophies or cash. There was also some uncertainty re accepting sponsorship when we did not really need to do so financially. As we had never accepted sponsorship it was agreed Committee members should consider the issues over the next two months and consult with other members before resuming this discussion at the next meeting.

# BBBC WINE TASTING

7th June



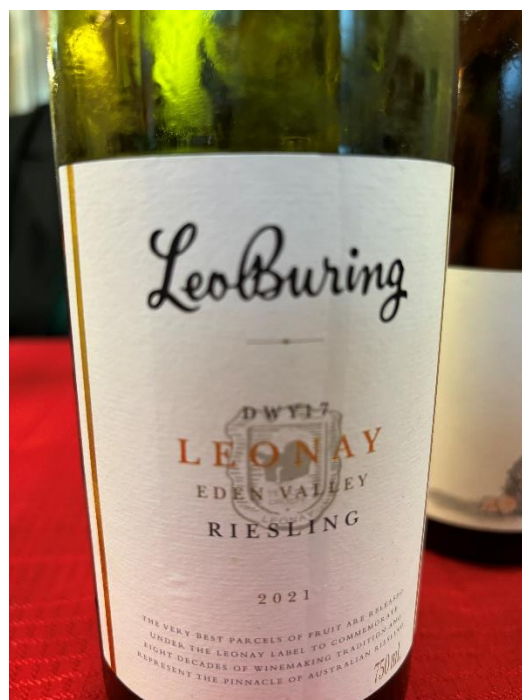
*We tasted winter white wines – wines with more robust flavours suitable for the heavier winter meals. Thanks to Leo for providing the choices + info.*

- **Leo Buring Leonay Reisling** (Eden Valley 2021) – classic rich reisling with the acid to handle rich sauces
- **Ravenworth Pinot Gris** (Canberra 2022) a gris in the French style with a little touch of pink from extended skin contact.
- **Colpasso Grillo** (Sicily 2021) Sicily's favourite white with the body to handle rich pasta dishes
- **Tyrell's Hunter River Semillon** (Hunter 2020) Australia's underappreciated white wine jewel with lime/lemon acid to cut through fattier dishes

- **Tahbilk Viognier** (Victoria 2023) another rich flavoursome white with floral and stone fruit flavours

The group were divided as to the best wine, with all wines appreciated and no one wine dominating the tasting. We also enjoyed a range of cheeses and some beautiful crusty baguettes from the Deli at Lennox Epiq shopping centre.

**Next tasting on the 5th July.**



# JUNE's June Birthday Celebrations



June & Claudia Kiernan, Brunswick Valley President, and latest partner of June before her retirement from the Club game, at one of her recent birthday parties; this one at Ocean Shores Country Club.

Members of the Byron Bay and the Brunswick Valley Bridge Clubs partied along with June Selleck at the Ocean Shores Country Club for her 99th birthday recently. June is a long-time Bridge player who retired from club play in the last 12 months. She still manages 3 afternoons a week of social Bridge maintaining skills many of us envy.

## June Q and A

### Where did you come from to Ocean Shores?

I was born and spent my life in and around Camberwell in Melbourne until I was 60.

### What brought you to the Northern Rivers?

I travelled up and down the north coast looking for somewhere to retire. I saw the views at Ocean Shores and decided "this is the place I want to live". My husband and I bought ¾ of an acre looking over the Brunswick River in Ocean Shores. The last 39 years have been the best days of my life.

### How did you start playing Bridge?

My sister came up at the same time so we started playing Euchre socially together and then we moved onto Solo. We were golfers so along the grapevine heard about Bridge and thought we'd give that a go. We first played at the Mechanics Institute in Ballina. We had lessons with Ian Humphries in Byron Bay and joined the Brunswick Valley Club at the Brunswick Heads Community Centre. We went onto lessons with John Gall at Ocean Shores County Club. We went to the opening of the Ballina Club. We'd play there on Sunday afternoons and dinner was provided (we'd take it in turns to bring it) so we'd eat and then continuing playing until 8pm.

### What about your long-term partners at the Bridge table?

Gwen Falcon and I played together for 15 years. We had to stop playing because she went blind but lived until last year and 104 years old. I played with Barbara Simmons for about the same amount of time and she too has gone blind.

### What do you enjoy most about playing Bridge?

Winning! I've always been competitive about most things in life.



## Test your Bridge Knowledge. Thanks to Janet Brown Answers at end of newsletter

### 377a Bidding Quiz

Hand C	Hand D
♠ KJ105	♠ J1097
♥ QJ872	♥ AK10
♦ KQ6	♦ K9752
♣ 10	♣ 3

### Standard American Bidding

**Hand C** it's **unfavourable** vulnerability. You open 1♥, LHO overcalls 3♣ and partner doubles (negative). RHO bids 5♣, what do you do?

**Hand D** you open 1♦ in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat at **favourable** vulnerability and LHO bids 2♣. This is passed to you, what do you do?



### 377a Bidding Sequence

N	E	S	W
1♦	p	1♥	dbl
1♠	p	3♥	

**E** Is 3♥ forcing ?

# Getting to know Eileen Malabre



*Our journey in life is dependent on the choices of our parents.*

My Dad was Jamaican of French descent. His family left France prior to the revolution and became sugar cane producers in Haiti. They stayed there for nearly one hundred years and left with the plantations burning, lives being massacred, the devastation and violence of revolution. The slave revolts ended mostly in the death of the planters and their families. My family escaped to Jamaica and remained there. My dad immigrated to Canada when he was eight.

On return from the war, my Dad completed his education and joined Alcan, the Aluminium Company of Canada. We were transferred to their bauxite mine in Jamaica when I was two. This is where it started for me.

My parents led a very colonial life with all the bells and whistles. I grew up with horses, a tremendous amount of freedom in one of the most beautiful countries in the world. However, at nine my father was transferred to Guyana and a new way of life began.

Guyana, formerly British Guiana, is situated in the north of South America next to Venezuela. At the time we moved there less than ten percent of the land was cleared of equatorial rain forest. We lived in Mackenzie, a small town on the Demerara River. Upriver, three hours past the last light bulb!

Guyana, like the West Indian islands, has a history of colonial development.

All ravaged by scavengers for natural resources.

The company provided a primary school up to year five after that it was boarding school. My first school was a convent in England. Very strict, rather draconian and very religious. We all were sent in September and returned home for the summer holidays. I never really adapted to this, and to my

parent's despair, was regularly sent home for rebellious behaviour. It left me with a contempt for illogical rules and a belligerence for controlling environments!

The upside of my poor behaviour was I spent a lot of time in Guyana and met interesting people. I often flew into the interior with pilot fiends and was privileged to experience some of the most beautiful untouched country in the world. Rich in wildlife, waterfalls, exotic, colourful birds and extraordinary plants and flowers.

Political upheaval in Guyana once again changed our lives. The country received independence from the Brits in 1968. My family stayed on for two years and then set sail for Australia. The company offered for my father to return to Canada but after so many years in the tropics the idea of the Canadian winter was daunting.

My father found a job in Port Hedland, in the northwest of Western Australia. I came to visit in 1976. It was time for change. I had been exploring the world of hippiedom and revelling in the music, the alternative life, the protests, the consciousness of the sixties/seventies. It was such a time of idealistic hope, the quest for racial freedom, women's rights and the hope for a better world.

I remember the flight to Port Hedland flying over the flat red earth, so different from the vibrant tropics. It was such a contrast to all I had known. It was right after cyclone Joan and everything was sand blasted, in disrepair and covered in sand. I was shocked. However, I came to see the Australian way and met my husband in Port Hedland. He was from Kalgoorlie, a very interesting mining town in the West Australian gold fields.

So began the Australian way of life. We moved to Perth and settled into suburban life in Nedlands - a beautiful suburb near the city centre. Our family grew to three beautiful girls.

Thirty years passed quickly. Can't say I ever mastered being a suburban housewife, but I tried. I had a shop in Perth importing from Mexico and Turkey. This allowed me to continue my nomadic ways to some extent. I found beautiful hand crafted treasures all over Turkey, Mexico and Central America and brought them to my shop to delight the people of Perth. It was a lot of fun, an adventure!

Eventually, change once again knocked on the door and I decided it was time to leave the marriage and move to Byron Bay. An environment not unlike the one I grew up in. A beautiful semi tropical haven.

So here we are! Thank you, Byron Bay Bridge Club for the hours of fun and frustration that defines bridge! It is great to be part of such a dynamic and growing club and for the friendships found here.

# WHAT SHOULD I LEAD? – PART 1 CLIVE KLUßMAN

## 1. Introduction

Undoubtedly the most important card played in defence is the opening lead. This subject is the topic of numerous books and as such is not a simple topic to cover in a few paragraphs. We can however cover some of the basics that will hopefully improve your chances of defeating the contract.

## 2. Standard leads

There is a concept of “Standard Leads”. This is a rather sweeping statement since there are lots of opinions as to what is standard. Below is a list of some standard leads.

- Fourth highest from an honour
- MUD – Middle up down from rubbish
- Top of a doubleton
- A Singleton
- Top of a sequence
- Highest card in partners bid suit
- Trump lead
- Internal sequence



## 3. Non-Standard leads

There are some leads which do not help your cause as a defender.

- Leading away from an Ace in a suit contract.
- A singleton lead without trumps
- Not leading partner’s suit

## 4. How to select a lead

Once the bidding is over, it’s time to select your opening lead. How do you select the best lead?

- Study the bidding, are there any obvious choices
- Did partner bid or not?
- Are you leading to a Trump or No-Trump contract
- Do you make an aggressive lead or passive lead?

## 5. Trump vs No-Trump

This is probably the easiest choice. In No-Trump the aim is to establish your long suit as soon as possible. Things to consider

- Did partner bid?
- Can I establish my long suit?
- Do I have enough entries to my hand to establish my long suit?
- What does partner have and can I find their suit?

## 6. What to lead

This month we will cover what to lead. Next month we will cover what not to lead.

What do you lead?

### 6.1. Fourth highest from an honour

Some people play 3rds and 5ths. This means you lead the 3rd highest or the 5th highest. This can be harder for partner to decipher. Example leads:-

- Q954
- Q9542
- 108642

### 6.2. MUD – Middle up down from rubbish

- 972
- 752

### 6.3. Top of a doubleton

- 82
- J3
- 32

### 6.4. A Singleton

This speaks for itself.

- 8
- 2

### 6.5. Top of a sequence

- KQJ4
- QJ1045

### 6.6. Highest card in partners bid suit

- J65
- K72
- 8765
- K4

### 6.7. Trump lead

Lead a trump to reduce declarers cross trumping ability. For example, if the opponents bidding went as follows  
West East

1D 1H

1S 1NT

2H 4H

West has probably got a singleton club and 2 hearts. East might want to trump clubs in dummy.

NB: - A trump lead is always a good idea if you have doubled their trump contract.

### 6.8. Internal sequence

An internal sequence is more difficult for partner to recognise but is a very powerful option in defence.

- KJ108
- Q1098

## 7. An example

Suppose the bidding goes as follows:-

North East South West



1C Pass 1S Pass

2D Pass 2H Pass

2S Pass 3NT

What do we know

- South has 4 or 5 spades
- South is looking for a spade fit and asking if north has 3 spades or further describe their hand. However you play 4th suit forcing.
- North has 2 spades, denied a heart stopper, probably 5-4-2-2
- North reversed, showing 16+ points
- South has 10 points
- South has a heart stopper – Q9xx (or Q9x)
- West holds – 654, AKJ84, 742, 43
- East has – 40 points less 16+10+8 = 6 points at most

You are West, and hold:-

Spades 654

Hearts AKJ84

Diamonds 742

Clubs 43

What do you lead and why?

One option is to lead the A and K of hearts. You win 2 tricks but if partner had 2 hearts, when they get in with their 6 points they do not have a heart to lead back.

You have no other entry to your hand to cash your heart tricks. Partner has 2 and hopefully 3 hearts but to be certain of making an extra heart trick west will need to lead the 8 of hearts. Does the 8 look like 4th highest from an honour? Or MUD? Can you lead the 4? This looks more like 4th highest.

If you lead the 4, partner might think you have 4 hearts when they see the 2 and 3 fall.

Partner will be looking for the 5th trick to set the contract. Having 4 cards is not enough to set the contract. However south did not bid hearts aggressively and thus probably only has 4 and west has 5. The 8 does not cost, and forces out the 9, 10 or Q. Partner should read the 8 as 4th highest, no need to lead the 4.

You can lead the AK hearts, and partner has a trick in their hand, you make 3 tricks. No good.

If you lead the 8 – partner should think this is an attacking lead and not MUD. The cards they can see in their hand and dummy are 1076532. Giving you the honours. Partner can now count, one trick in their hand, and hopefully 4 heart tricks in your hand. If partner has 3 hearts, all the better. If partner has 2 hearts, dummy has 2 and even if declarer has Q109x, the defence can make 4 heart tricks if east can win one trick.

Leading the AK of hearts is a losing strategy. Best to lead the 8 of hearts. Partner knows you have 5 and not 4. Declarer would have bid hearts more aggressively if they were 5-5 in the majors with an opening hand opposite an opening hand.

Lead the 8 of hearts and hope partner has an entry in their hand. You don't have an entry, but partners KQ of S will win a trick and they will return a heart. Contract down.

This is not a guaranteed outcome since partner may not have an entry, but it's your best chance of setting the contract. You need to be optimistic.

### 377a Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand	Bid	Comments
C	5♠	This is horrible. I don't like to pass because then partner will never know I have four Spades. But I am not strong. I don't have much in the way of defence – and I have a terrible hand for bidding at the 5 level. Partner will probably expect more. Oh dear ... I wish I'd passed in the first place. But I bid 5♠ and take the consequences.
D	dbl	Reopening Double – 'automatic'. Partner may wish to pass for penalty.

### Bidding Sequence Quiz 377 Answer

N	E	S	W
1♦	p	1♥	dbl
1♠	p	3♥	

E 3♥ is invitational. It is **not forcing**. If you wish to effectively make a forcing 3♥ bid then bid 2♣ (4th suit F) followed by 3♥.