

Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with club news



APRIL 2023 President's Report

Greetings members,

After a number years at the Cavanbah Centre plus a few covid years of minimal bridge our club is moving back to the Bangalow Bowling Club. The Bowlo, as it is affectionally known, has been a very happy playing environment for many members and associate members over many years and there has been a strong desire to return. Yes, the club is undertaking renovations over the next few years, yes the toilets aren't quite as flashy as at the Cav, yes the lighting may not be as bright, yes there may be some added noise BUT we are going to give it a jolly good go for 6 months and then ask you for your opinion again on whether we stay or return to the Cavanbah Centre. Issues that come up will be dealt with.

We have tried very hard as a committee to negotiate with the Cav re our rent but to no avail and the governing body of the Cav have actively encouraged us to look for a more affordable option. They even suggested that we approach the Bowlo.

So on Friday 5th May we will have our first game at an old "new" venue and we look forward to seeing you all there.

This Friday is the first week of our Autumn Pairs Red point event and it will be a fitting day to say goodbye to Cav centre with one of our renowned afternoon teas. The 2nd week of Autumn Pairs will be at the Bowlo... perfect timing to finish with one venue and starting again with a "new" venue.

Back to the Bowlo...we ask that you continue to bring your OWN cups. Tea/coffee will be provided. The club Bistro opens at 12 if you fancy a bite to eat before bridge and as always we will gather after play for our usual after bridge drink and you can purchase your choice from the club's bar. Become a member and enjoy member benefits.

See you around the bridge table.

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 & Edna D'Cruz



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR

Pin Sultas 5th

Ian Pick 12th

Ruth Langford 15th

Pete Kiernan 16th

Peter Roger 19th

Fay Bogg 22nd

and to all those we don't know about



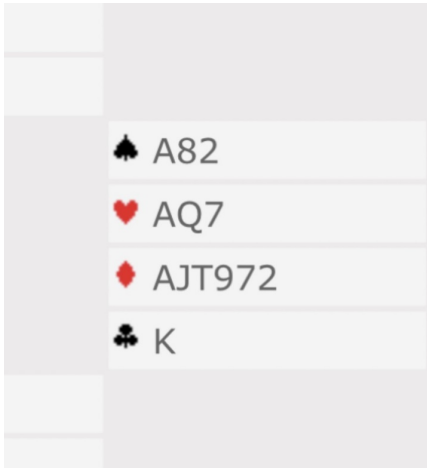
Committee musings April 2023

1. **Our move to the Bangalow Bowlo** is all set and we begin play at Bangalow from 5th May with 12.45 pm start each week as a trial for 6 months. A further member vote will be held in 6 months to see if members are happy with the move. If not, we will be welcomed to return to Cavanbah if necessary. We can bring our own afternoon tea at Bangalow and use the small room to the side for the urn, sink, etc as required. Members will be asked to bring their own cups so we don't have to spend a lot of time washing up. It may be possible to hold our wine tastings at the club each month, but uncertain as yet. An alternative could be to adjourn to a member's home in Bangalow and hold the tasting there? Recognition that lighting in the room is poor but nothing can be done to change that at the moment. We will buy portable table lamps to use to improve lighting at the table.
2. **Our next RED point event** is the Autumn Pairs due to be held on 28th April and 5th May – so the first week will be at Cavanbah and the second week at Bangalow. Pairs will have to play both weeks to be eligible to win the Autumn Pairs. Following that is the Club Championships 16 & 23 June.
3. **Membership** We have just completed our annual update of membership with the ABF and the club now has 46 home members confirmed as well as 23 Associate members.
4. **The dealing machine** has been giving a great deal of trouble and Faye has worked with Clive and used a Ballina dealing machine to get the dealing done for the past few weeks. The machine had to be sent to the distributor in Sydney and is undergoing an upgrade which will cost \$550. It includes both replacement parts and upgraded software. As well a box of new cards has been purchased so we can replace all older sets of cards that were sometimes sticking in the machine. The dealing machine is due back any day now.
5. **Club Constitution** The paperwork has been returned to notify Dept Fair Trading of the change of Constitution passed at the AGM. Incorporated Associations Registrar suggested that as we have now had a number of changes to the Constitution over the past decade or so that it may be time to look at adopting a new document incorporating all those changes. At the moment officially our Constitution is the 2017 document with five different changes just attached. The Committee believes it is a good idea to adopt a new document including the changes to "tidy" it up. It was agreed to put the Constitution with all the amendments included to the next AGM. Committee to look at the current Constitution to see if any further changes may be wise. The current clause requiring a "receipt" to be given for any payment to the club, technically means that we should be giving a receipt each week to every player for table fees. It was agreed that clause could usefully be amended to only apply to larger amounts – say over \$100. Committee to consider if any other changes are needed.
6. **Invitations** had been received for the club or its members to nominate for various congresses. Nambucca Bridge Pairs Congress invitation– 10 & 11 June. Ballina Bridge Northern Rivers Zone Championships 25 & 26 July . Coffs Harbour - Country Zone Championships regional finals 24 & 25 June . Lismore McDermott Memorial Teams 21 May.
7. **Club Computer training** – was held on Friday 17th February and four members have now had a mentored turn at operating the computer system for Friday bridge. The roster for computer/director to be done once we start at Bangalow.
8. **Updating club website** – Neil McKenzie has agreed to take on the role of updating the club website on a regular basis to ensure it remains up to date.
9. **Bank arrangements** We need a debit card, attached to a separate account, used only for depositing of weekly fees at a Post Office. However this has been delayed as the bank needed to confirm our clubs details. However, the Club's information on the Australian Business Register (ABR) has not been updated for some years. We are now updating the ABR, and the club will need to keep on top of this in future and the ABR may need to be updated every year if office bearers change.

What is your bid?

The Problem

You are holding this hand in first seat.



♠	A82
♥	AQ7
♦	AJT972
♣	K

I imagine everyone would open 1D on this hand. Partner bids 1S – what is your rebid with no interference.

These are some of the things you should be considering: -

- We could have a 5-3 spade fit
- What if partner only has 4 spades?
- Partner may have clubs stopped
- You have hearts stopped
- We could have a diamond fit
- At this point we don't know if we have a partscore, game or slam

The problem – how do we convey all of this information in a single bid?

What is your bid?

The Answer

I recently asked this question to a group of players and am happy to say that one player found the correct answer and more importantly sound reasoning for her bid.

There are a couple of tempting bids: -

- 3D is the first bid that comes to mind. This however falls short in letting partner know you have hearts stopped and a singleton club

- 2S is tempting but we don't know if partner has 5S and we are also not conveying the shape and strength of the hand
- 3S would be a good option if partner had 5S. We would likely end up in a 4-3S fit in game with partner expecting 4S from you.
- 4C splinter for Spades? It is not correct splintering with an honour and partner may have 6 points and we are too high.

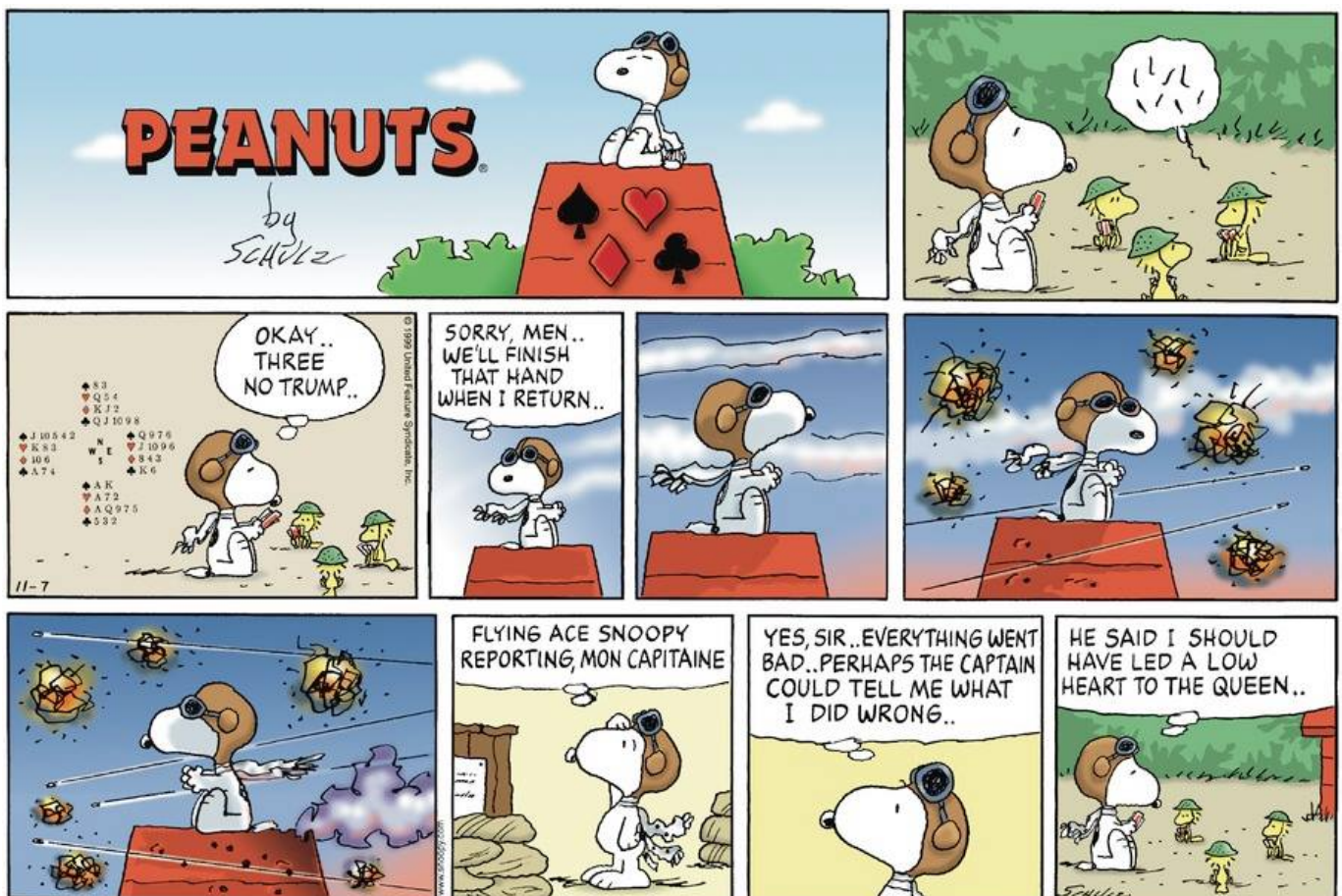
A player suggested 2H as her answer. And here is her reasoning: -

- This is a reverse and shows 17+ points.
- It shows an unbalanced hand. Diamonds and hearts, no spade support and implies a singleton or void somewhere by not bidding NT.
- 2H REVERSE is forcing for one round at least
- Partner bid spades, they could have 5 spades and 4 hearts. If this is the case and partner now supports hearts with 3H or 4H, you will correct to 4S. Partner has 5S and 4H. If partner had 4/4 in the majors they would have bid 1H before 1S.
- There is no danger bidding your 3 card H suit
- With a C stopper partner can bid 2NT or 3NT

Well done to this player.

CLIVE WILL BE A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

Thanks Clive





Clive's Story

I was born Salisbury, Rhodesia – now Harare, Zimbabwe. My two younger brothers and I lived with my parents in a small town which goes by the unfortunate name of Wankie! Today it is known as Hwange.

As the children of the only surgeon for 200kms, we were exceptionally privileged - both by our father's profession and by our colour.

Hwange town serves the Victoria falls and the Game reserve. My father had patched up a number of game wardens wounded from animal encounters, and thus we carried favour with the locals and had unfettered access to the game reserve. We went walking and fishing where usually no one was allowed. What an incredible experience for three feral young boys?

It is hard to divorce my childhood from apartheid. Yes, Rhodesia, declared independence from England in 1965. But, unlike other British colonies who transferred power to the locals, Rhodesia refused, instead deciding to fight against the principle of 'one man, one vote'. Thus began my resentment and animosity to authority, military, police, government, teachers, et al.

When I turned 12, we moved to Bulawayo, the second biggest Zimbabwean city. To cut a long story short, I completed my education in Bulawayo and immediately 'ran away' to South Africa to escape being drafted into the Zimbabwe military. During the next couple of years, numerous of my conscripted classmates were killed in the futile conflict whose aim was to maintain white dominance.

I escaped to Cape Town, where I studied Computer science and became politically active against the apartheid regime. Cape Town is the most beautiful city, and I spent many days skipping classes to walk in the beautiful mountains.

Upon completing my studies, I worked for a couple of years in Johannesburg, before returning to Zimbabwe as soon as it became independent, with hopes of seeing the country bloom. To my dismay, the new majority government also turned out to be corrupt, nepotistic and racist.

I realised that there was no place for me in Africa and so I set off to discover the world. During the next 5 years I travelled over land across Africa, Europe, and Asia - eventually arriving in Singapore - and from there took a flight to Australia. My travels saw me spend time in numerous hospitals after catching Bilharzia, Malaria, Giardia, as well as an 8 day long coma in Venice (two thieves drugged me by lacing a

fruit juice, and stole all my belongings. Thankfully they spared both my kidneys). The joke amongst my friends became 'around the world in 80 hospitals'.

During my travels I had met lots of people from all over the globe and I was particularly fond of the Aussies. After all - we were from the land of BBQ's, cricket, rugby, 30 degree Christmas and an outdoor lifestyle. I applied to migrate. My Aussie migration took all of 8 weeks from start to finish, arriving in Sydney with a borrowed \$200 in my pocket.

My plan was to earn some money and continue my travels – aiming for South America. As with all well laid plans, things changed. Instead, in 1987, I started a computer business with two brothers, one of whom I had studied with in Cape Town.

Work consumed the next 30 years of my life but I did manage to spend a lot of time in nature. My passions were hiking, climbing mountains and running ultra marathons.

In 1994, my daughter Tahlia was born to my first wife. Sadly, this relationship ended a few years later. A few years after that, my brother introduced me to my current partner, Cindy. She really wanted to have children and after much negotiation we agreed on having one child. Noah appeared and Cindy then said not one child but one child at a time. Clearly, she lied again, and we were blessed with twin boys.

Tahlia is a policewoman in Melbourne, Noah has started university in Sydney and my twins are at school in Mullumbimby.

Prior to Noah being born in 2005, Cindy started learning bridge at NSWBA. My mother had played bridge all my life, even in Hwange. I was completely disinterested. Additionally, my father, grandparents and uncles all played bridge but it held no interest for me. Eventually, after 4 lessons, Cindy persuaded me to join the remaining 4 lessons of bridge. I think my interest was more in courting Cindy than learning bridge.

It was like a pig to a trough. Why had no one explained to me what bridge was about? Or why had I not enquired?

I was very fortunate to have both my mother and mother-in-law to play bridge with. They both happily shared their time and knowledge. I learned very valuable lessons from both. I had three long-term bridge partners in Sydney. The longest partnership was the last – we completed in all the NSWBA competitions on a Monday night. I think I earned 0.07 green points in 3 years. We got taken to the cleaners weekly.

In 2017, I was feeling burnt out in Sydney. I needed a break from working so hard. It took only an instant to convince Cindy to move to Mullumbimby.

After playing with numerous partners in Byron and Ballina, Gary Lynn asked me to partner with him. This was an honour, as he had quite a reputation. I have cherished the time we have played together. He has taught me a lot and we still learn and fine

tune our system weekly. I am continually amazed that we find so many hands that are still undiscussed.

As I say to all my students, the rules cover the framework of the game. You then have to deal with the billions of hands that stretch this framework. You have to think on the same wavelength as your partner - or at least try to. We still make huge mistakes from time to time, but these mistakes add up to lessons helping to fill the gaps in our ever-expanding partnership agreement.

There is very little tension at the table at Byron Bay but in Sydney, partnerships could be explosive at times. It was extremely uncomfortable sitting opposite arguing opponents. If I have any advice for bridge players, Gary encapsulates the perfect partner – do not correct or question your partner at the table or during the game. What is the point of discussing the hand at the table? Leave it for tonight, sleep on it and have the discussion tomorrow. Nothing good can come from questioning the lead, the bid or the discard directly after the hand or at the table. If your partner has made a mistake, they most likely already know it. If they don't know, why point it out during the game and erode their confidence? Will it make partner better or more nervous? Partner took a view. Don't question it until you review the hands later. And yes, do review the hands or you will never improve.

I am not sure what I would do without bridge. Nor do my family!



A WINNER listens to his partner's point of view;

A LOSER just waits until it's time to express his own.

**AND for something different.
Let me know what you think. Eda**

Are you a new bridge player looking to improve your game quickly? In this video, professional bridge player Peter Hollands shares 5 valuable lessons he wishes he had known earlier in his bridge career. Learn why learning conventions doesn't necessarily make you a better player, why it's okay to go down in contracts, and how to effectively review and analyze your hands. Discover the importance of counting and learn strategies for mastering this essential skill. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, these insights will help you take your bridge game to the next level. Don't miss out on this valuable advice!

5 Lessons I Wish I Learnt Sooner



Peter Hollands



Tactics at teams (IMP scoring)

Janet Brown

Experienced bridge players consider Teams play to be the finest form of bridge. The luck element is considerably reduced, and careful steady play is rewarded.

THE NON-VULNERABLE GAME should be bid with certainty, but do not stretch to bid Non-Vulnerable Games. If you're not sure, then a pass is probably best.

On the other hand, **THE VULNERABLE GAME** requires less than a 40% chance to be worth bidding. So - bid any Vulnerable Game that looks to have a faint chance of making. You gain 10 imps if you bid a game which is not reached at the other table. Just look at vulnerability on the board, and if you're not certain – bid it! Go for it!

PLAYING FOR OVERTRICKS is essential at Match Point pairs, but unnecessary at Teams. *Simply aim to make your contract.*

IN DEFENCE your aim is to defeat the contract. If you have the setting trick, make sure you take it. *Do not worry about extra tricks.*

PENALTY DOUBLES are almost forbidden in the Teams game. If you double and beat the contract by one trick, you have turned 50 into 100. (2 IMPs N/V). Big Deal! If they make the contract, you lose many IMPs. The risk involved for the possible gain is too high. Doubles of part scores are particularly dangerous, and can cost you a victory if they go wrong. So - seldom double at Teams – and if you do, you should set the contract by two tricks.

MINOR SUITS are very respectable in part scores at Teams. There is no need to make rash bids, so that the auction ends up in a Major suit or NT.

SLAMS require a 50 - 50 chance to be worth bidding. If you are comfortably ahead in the match, do not shoot for a tight slam. If you are the stronger team, do not bid borderline slams. If you are behind, however, or you are playing a much stronger team, then bidding a tight slam may be the way to win the match.

GRAND SLAMS are rarely bid at teams. The loss of a small slam score is too much to risk. If you do bid a grand, you must be 100% certain of its success.

SACRIFICE BIDDING is not practised as much at Teams bridge as in Pairs. 500 against 620 is not a huge gain, whereas in Pairs it might gain you a top. And if you get it wrong ... and the opponents were not making their game ... then you may have lost the match.

TEAM MORALE If you are holding poor cards and are looking at lots of minus scores, remember that your team mates will be doing their best for you at the other table with the cards of your immediate opponents. They may have a column of pluses. You are part of a team of four players. Do not give a passing thought to overtricks - they are only swings of one or two IMPs.

GENERAL TACTICS: The winning approach is to play a careful, steady game, and make fewer mistakes than the opponents. Par bridge will win almost every Teams match. At teams, a 51% game is good enough to win a match. At Match Point pairs, 51% is nowhere nearly good enough, and even 60% might not win a tournament.

At Pairs, you must take chances (which means making some bad bids) in order to win.

There is no place in Teams for wild bidding, super sacrificing and guessing. Save the weird bids for Match Point Pairs, and keep to the straight and narrow at Teams.