

# Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with monthly club news

May 2026



## President's Report

Greetings to all our wonderful members

It's good to see so many coming along to our Friday bridge sessions with the first week of our Autumn Pairs comp seeing 13 tables...our club appreciates your ongoing support and hope we will continue to provide you with a great competitive afternoon mixed with a good quality social time during our super afternoon teas.

The beginner's classes are continuing on Friday mornings. Jean Lowe and Kath Morgan have been the main instructors for this group of now 8 students. Our decision was to take it slow this time with some lessons being repeated and some weeks are revision and play before going on to further lessons. It amazes me that concepts we see as so easy are quite challenging for the new to bridge students. Remember that when they come along on Friday afternoons that that was you too many years ago. My intention is to give them their "own" afternoon of bridge in a month or so in the dining area of the hall. They will have their own event

and will be taught to use the bridge mates. As you are aware it's always better to play with a more experienced player in the beginner so if you would like to volunteer for a few weeks it would be appreciated by me and especially the students.

Our club Team's Day is coming up at the end of May. We already have 9 tables entered so get your team into Leo asap so you don't miss out. Our plan is to start around 9.30am. Its a bring your own lunch, cakes will be available to compliment your lunch by our members and the club will provide fruit and a cheese platter with drinks (beer, bubbles and soft drinks) after bridge. If you plan to stay after the game has finished to hear which Team has won please let Lorraine know for catering purposes. A list will be available from Friday 8th May for you to add your names too so we don't over cater.

I also want to share that another of our local bridge club members has left us. Pat Janda, a longtime member of Brunswick Valley Bridge club, played in our club often but not so much over the last few years. Pat left us on her own terms after a short illness and in true Pat style surrounded by family, sharing a

glass of champagne with them and then chose to leave. A beautiful end to an inspiring lady.

If any member knows of another member being ill please let Kay Milne or Eric B know so that they can be contacted on behalf of our club.

Eric and I are away all of June so my next newsletter will be from Japan.  
Have a great month and see you around the bridge table soon.



*Eda*

**Take note of what's happening in May & June in your club.**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> May** regular weekly duplicates

**15<sup>th</sup> May** Committee meeting at 11am prior to bridge all members welcome to attend

**RED point day 22nd May** regular duplicates play

**Local Teams Day 29<sup>th</sup> May** play in teams of four. Entries must be made prior to play by Tues 26<sup>th</sup>.

**5<sup>th</sup> June** regular weekly duplicates

**12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June** Club Championships red points

**26<sup>th</sup> June** regular weekly duplicates

**May Birthdays** Pin, Peter K, Peter R, Annie, Nell, Starlette

**June Birthdays** Eda, Chris C, Kath M, Howard, Liz, Ron,

**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**

President Eda Bridgeman 0411 872 423/66930359

Vice President Eric Bridgeman 0435 123 404

Treasurer Neil McKenzie 0402 455 896

Secretary Leo Prendergast 0429 672 262

Partner Co-ordinator Peter Roger 0421635305

Masterpoints Helen Baker 0401 669 639

Afternoon Teas Lorraine McKenzie 0417 705 439

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

## Committee Musings

At the April meeting of the Committee :

**Bridge 2U community program grant** – The Committee held a wide ranging discussion about the Community Initiatives Grant of \$1,500 that was received from Council in late 2025. The grant has been used to fund the beginner lessons held this year and the purchase of bridge beginner books to be used in lessons in future years. There was discussion about whether the club should apply for grants as we were competing for funds against other community groups which may not have the resources that our club has - even though of course those funds have been built up over many years of operation of our club. and it was agreed it was up to any future Committee to decide on any future grant application.

**Lismore Bridge Club** Concern was expressed re the difficult state of the Lismore Club with much diminished player numbers. It was agreed to do anything we could to support Lismore Bridge Club and publicise their club events to our members to support them. The Committee noted that a number of Byron members had supported the Lismore Bridge Club's Charity Day.

**Afternoon tea honorarium payment** Some club members have indicated they were happy to support the club by sometimes doing afternoon tea and did not want the money. Other club members may be feeling pressure to not take the \$20/\$30 for providing afternoon tea. It was agreed that if we want a "nice" arvo tea - then the payment amount should be automatic. It was agreed that Neil set up a "donations" envelope and when a member did not want to be reimbursed, then the cash amount would be placed in the envelope and any funds collected over the year by added to the Charity Day amount.

**Regional Booklet** That Lismore Bridge Club and Sue Ryan had again produced local regional bridge booklet, which was excellent and would be given out to all Byron club members as well as those at Lismore, Lennox and Brunswick Valley. The Lismore club has indicated it does not want funds toward the cost of producing the booklet. The Committee recorded its thanks to the Lismore club and especially Sue Ryan for her work in producing the booklet.

**Defibrillator training.** The Committee noted that the defibrillator was now in place at the Hall and instructions fo using the machine should be self explanatory. However to assist members, we were looking to the rector to organise the training and it was believed we expected we would hear soon about training.

**Club Fees** Following a loss on operations of the club in 2025 of about \$2300, there was discussion about whether there should be an increase in any fees – table fees and/or membership fees. Affiliation fees for BridgeNSW are now \$20 for the year and for ABF are now \$26.50 and so the \$40 home member fee does not even cover the affiliation fees for a home member let alone anything else. Weekly table fees have been \$5 for over a decade ago. It was felt that if we carry on with current fees the worst thing that may happen is a small loss again in 2026. The Committee will look at the situation again in late 2026.

**Xmas party** It was agreed that December was a busy period and sometimes too busy to enjoy our annual Xmas Party Day. This year we will trial a Xmas in July Party instead to be held on 24th July. We will also hold a small low key "end year drinks" after bridge on Dec 18<sup>th</sup> which will be our last day of bridge for 2026.

**Club Members here** are 41 financial home members and 32 financial associate members. There were three new associate members. Eight home members and seven associate members did not renew membership in 2026. Four home members transferred to another club. One new home member transferred in from another club.

**Intermediate lessons** It was suggested that further "intermediate" lessons could be held once the beginner lessons had concluded. Members felt that a number of regular players would appreciate some intermediate lessons to supplement the beginner training they had originally received. It was agreed to survey members to see if they want to have intermediate lessons/sessions.

**Air-Conditioning of the Hall** It was agreed to again approach the Byron Anglican Parish with an offer to pay of rthe installation of air-con at the Hall at a cost to the club of \$7,000.

**Review of 9.30am** There was considerable diversity of views about the early start in Dec-Feb with some members very enthusiastic whereas others much opposed. It was agreed to survey members to get their views about the trial and the review the start time for summer 2026/27 later on - after we have a response from the parish re the air-conditioning issue.

**Evacuation Plan** it was agreed to develop an evacuation plan for the hall in case of any future problems.

**Teams Day Events** It was agreed to hold an inhouse teams day in late May as an opportunity for a different competition on a Friday as well as an opportunity for members to become more familiar with teams events. Later in the year we will again hold an Open Teams Day and invite teams from all local regional clubs to enter.

## May Bridge Quiz

### 117a Bidding Quiz

### Standard American Bidding

Hand C	Hand D
♠ 65	♠ J874
♥ J108632	♥ 732
♦ KQJ	♦ K53
♣ 74	♣ A85

**Hand C** partner opens a weak 2♦ and RHO overcalls 2♥. What do you do?

**Hand D** partner opens 1NT, what do you bid?



### Bidding Quiz 117a Answers

Hand	Bid	Comments
C	3♦	Nine combined trumps so 'the Law' says bid 3. A X is tempting (it would be penalty X – it is <b>never</b> T/O when partner preempts. He's only got one suit !) But partner will not have much defence and the Diamonds won't hold up for long. I can see 4 tricks (or maybe 5) but where are the other tricks ?
D	Pass	It's not worth a Stayman bid (2♣ followed by an invitation). Yes, I know the hand has 8 points, but the pips <i>aka</i> rags - (lower ranked cards) are terrible and the shape is the dreaded 4-3-3-3

### 117 Bidding Quiz

### Standard American Bidding

Hand A	Hand B
♠ AJ94	♠ -
♥ AKQ63	♥ -
♦ J64	♦ A1086532
♣ 2	♣ 1098653

**Hand A** you open 1♥ and partner responds 1♠. What do you bid?

**Hand B** You are dealer at **red vulnerability** with this 2 suited freak. What do you open?



### Bidding Quiz 117 Answers

Hand	Bid	Comments
A	4♠ or 4♣	I think that the hand deserves a Game bid. The invitational bid of 3♠ bid is around 16-18 points, while a game force (4♠ or a 4♣ splinter) would be around good 18-19. This hand is only 15 hcp, but with good trumps and a 5 card suit headed by the AKQ (worth far more than 9 points) and a singleton, it's definitely worth a game force. If you play splinters then 4♣ (agreeing ♠'s and showing a ♣ shortage) is perfect. If not – then 4♠ will do.
B	3♦	7/6 shape. Wow! Pass is a possibility if you have the mechanism to back in to show a minor two-suiter later, but I prefer 3♦ followed by a subsequent 4♣ bid. The opponents or partner will be bidding, so you'll definitely get another go. Where are the majors ?