

## Byron Bridge Club Bulletin September 2025

Dear Byron Bay Bridge Players,

Firstly, congratulations to Terry and Jean – our 2025 Champions. Well done and nice having them playing with us.



Bridge is part system and part strategy, and “judgment” is the bit in between. You can learn a system, but handling uncertainty comes with experience.

Really good hands don’t come up too often but when they do you can safely bid to make game. My latest “let’s try this” is the Rule of 17 otherwise know as the

**Pythagorean triple.** Partner opens with a weak 2, and if my high-card points plus trumps equal 17, I jump to game (4-level). More often it will be 1S/H indicating five of the major and 12 points - rule of 17 – number of trumps plus HCP – go to game.

I'm also looking forward to trying Canapé—rather like a cocktail party where you pass on the first round of oysters (16+ HCP) but go all-in on the second pass! There is a question as to the need to alert a strong pass – the answer is YES “would the opponents expect this bid to mean exactly what it means”? More about this later!!

Graham related a unusual event in Lismore recently when the dummy revoked. Law 42 and 43 lay out the likely circumstances of a *dummy infraction* on the assumption the dummy doesn't revoke because dummy doesn't play. This wasn't an infraction, definitely a revoke as two cards stuck together which wasn't noticed until the crime had been committed. Dummy to the sin bin for 10 minutes and miss a game?

You'll remember our colleague Andrea planning her sojourn in Greece. She's having a great time, but not playing as much bridge as expected. Andrea was misadvised about Schengen requirements before she left, which has meant travelling to the Balkans and now to Ireland for several weeks to ensure she doesn't overstay in Greece. I think we'll be treated to some great stories of her adventures when she's back home.

We're about to conduct a review of our Feros outreach program (BRIDGE2U). Thanks to all who have volunteered and participated. We have two relatively experienced players and one learner, and our weekly session has become the highlight of their week. We have each volunteered for various activities over the years but feedback from those who are helping in this venture indicates an enhanced sense of purpose beyond the time required. I think this is down to the flexibility of when you will be needed, the short 90 minutes of commitment and the fact that you are helping people whose options for “fun”, beyond the sing/song, are limited. I mentioned earlier in the year that I was going to apply for funding and Byron Shire Council has provided grant funding in their latest round. At our next committee meeting I'll propose we extend the programme to St Andrews in Byron Bay and Ballina. I've had an initial discussion and they are very keen and undoubtedly have some experienced player in their 140 resident cohort. If we expand the offering we will need to implement a roster of some sort and the funding will pay for one of our members to be the rostering guru. Next year I'll explore extending to schools - where the future players will come from. This activity will be bridge lessons and funding will pay for teachers.

We are planning a TEAMS EVENT on Friday 21 November. This is shaping up to be a really fund event which Eda and Leo are choreographing, Clive directing and many other doing their bit – Lorraine the catering for example. Teams will be matched for level of expertise. More details over the next week but mark it the diary with a FUN symbol alongside.

Warm regards,

Ken McLean