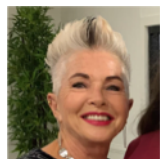


Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with club news



DECEMBER 2023

Greetings members,

December, what does that conjure up for you?

My thoughts are wow, the end of another year, do I have too cope with another year of pre Christmas craziness when we only just got over last year's, gift buying, excess food...yes its all of the above but I wouldn't have it any other way. Families and friends make time to get together and we have time to just slow down from our fast paced lives. Even bridge clubs take a holiday!!!

Our Byron Bay Bridge club has had an interesting year. Low bridge table numbers in January are now a thing of the past with our move back to Bangalow via the Bowlo and we are now happily ensconced at the All Souls Anglican Hall. Table numbers are now ranging from 9-13 tables each week and many "old" faces are now regulars once again. Our well known afternoon teas are back and with Patricia retiring in 2024 Pin Sultas has offered to take Patricia's place. Thanks Pin, you have the best of teachers as Patricia has done a stirring job over the last number of years.

We anticipate 2024 will be another year of growth for our club. The committee have a few ideas floating around and these will be shared in January if any of these ideas pan out.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you all for your commitment to the Byron Bay Bridge Club. Without you we wouldn't exist. Each week members arrive to set our room up, directors volunteer their time, computer is managed weekly, dealing is done behind the scenes so we can enjoy an afternoon of bridge...your efforts are very much appreciated.

Your committee wish you all....a peaceful and happy festive season irrespective of personal beliefs. Stay safe, stay well.

Eda

We meet 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/visitors \$10

Join us for a social time afterwards.

BYO drinks and glass

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

**DECEMBER 8TH
CHRISTMAS HIGH TEA
COMMENCING FROM 11AM**

**FINAL BRIDGE DAY 2023
15TH DECEMBER
RECOMMENCING
5TH JANUARY**



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

John Harrison 7th

Phyliss Morris 8th

Norman Case 13th

Lesley Lawrence 20th

Ness Weekes 21st

AND to any others



BYRON BAY BRIDGE CLUB

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Please be seated by 10.45 for an 11 a.m start

DRESS as if CHRISTMAS is FUN

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF BRIDGE
with LUCKY TABLE SEAT PRIZE

BRIDGE FUN & GAMES WITH PRIZES

AN EXTENDED FINGER FOOD LUNCH
WILL BE SERVED FROM 1PM
(Complimentary beer, wine, champagne
and soft drinks provided)

FOLLOWED BY MORE BRIDGE

Table fees for the day will be \$15 which will cover
your bridge game, prizes and drinks

Thank You

For donating to Fletcher Street Cottage



15305 Visits **16787** Breakfasts **4705** Showers **2475** Washes **4326** Support & ER

Dear Byron Bay Bridge Club,

Thank you for your generous support of Fletcher Street Cottage.

We've had over 15,000 visits to our service by locals in need since opening our doors on April 12, 2022.

With your help, we will continue to assist people at risk of homelessness, and those already sleeping rough, to get practical relief, find connections and access broader support through our Community Support Workers and visiting services.

We are truly grateful for helping us to help our community's most vulnerable. You will find your tax deductible receipt attached for your records.

Thank you again for your kind support.

Warmest regards,
Louise O'Connell
General Manager

MEET RENIA GRYC



I was born in Sopot, a seaside town on the Baltic Sea in Poland, in 1958.

I remember as a child playing in the forests that surrounded the town, making tree houses and bunkers. I saw wild boar, red squirrels and deer as I cycled around, hunting for blueberries and picking mushrooms that I took home. My Mum worked as a seamstress at home and she and Grandma spoke of the horrors of the war and of Russian occupation. These stories were very different to those I learned in school.

At that time there was an expectation of gratitude to the Red Army for freeing Poland after the war, we were taught that we were so lucky to be living in a communist country. However, we were not allowed a passport. Hearing or reading international “propaganda” news was forbidden although at a certain time of the day news from London would be broadcast from the Polish leaders in exile. Grandma would say “To jest czas” (Come on, it’s time). She loved her wireless, she had grown up under Russian occupation with no schooling. She was bright though and taught herself to read but didn’t write.

Like many things, I knew listening to radio broadcasts from London was something not to be mentioned. The fear of prosecution was serious and we knew of people ‘disappearing’ with no way of finding out where they had been taken.

I went to university in Gdansk to study teaching. A lot of male students played Bridge but there were no proper lessons, I wondered what was so fascinating that fellow students would play every night instead of studying for exams! In my 2nd year I volunteered to take young Polish swimmers to East Germany for a competition. I remember the wall. We were not allowed closer than 50 metres and there were soldiers always patrolling. There were gaps though where I saw people just walking about on the other side, they looked so free.

I wasn’t aware of us being watched but the Russian team were watched and restricted. One evening my friend Joanna and I invited a young Russian woman to join us, we had vodka(!) and wanted to ask her what her life was like. We were constantly interrupted and then two men came and lifted her chair with her in it! We didn’t see her again.

Food was more plentiful in East Germany, at home it was rationed, I remember a grocers shop with 2 sets of shelves, only 2 items for sale, vinegar and vodka! We were fortunate as we had relations on a farm in the countryside for fresh food. The market was and still is a colourful source of farm produce.

At this time was the rise of Solidarnosc in Gdansk. My brother was in the Merchant Navy, his last port was London before returning home. He knew anyone connected with the solidarity movement would be arrested so he became a refugee in the UK. Like many refugees he wasn't allowed to work under the Thatcher government, and so the UK was a steppingstone to other countries.

In 1984 I got to know a policeman and convinced him that I needed a passport to go to London to bring my brother back. This wasn't straightforward but I escaped. In London I joined a language school to learn English and realized I had the choice of finding a country where I could work or be married to a British Subject... thank you Mr D! He was a working class cheerful chap with a partner, the money helped them but I struggled to understand his accent! Fortune was on my side and the authorities were convinced. I met him again 10 years later when we arranged the divorce. He was still cheerful and incomprehensible.

When I was first in London I stayed with the elderly wife of a Polish General, I did many jobs, nanny, cleaning, gardening and working in cafes. The General's wife was always suspicious that I was a communist spy...

I completed exams that meant my qualifications were recognized and I worked in schools with young people with disabilities in London and then near Brighton. It was great being free to travel and having long holidays. I travelled in Africa, mostly Botswana, Namibia, Kenya, Zimbabwe and to Zanzibar. I was struck by the many varied animals who inhabited the land. I had never experienced that true wildness. I learned the importance of respecting their land, I was a guest here. I got to know locals and listened to their advice, I heard of a German tourist who, ignoring advice, was killed by a lioness because he was lying by a waterhole wanting to take pictures.

I cycled too with two other teachers through Jordan and Syria. I remember we flew into Eilat and were going to travel there but my friend, who had dark hair and perhaps looked Arabic, was taken aside by soldiers to be

searched at the airport. After hours of waiting, she came out in floods of tears so we collected our bikes and tents and left over the border to Jordan. I remember 'sitting' in the Dead sea, could have played cards there! We cycled to Amman and then on to Syria. I remember being in an isolated village meeting an Afghani who spoke Russian so I could communicate! People were so hospitable but he couldn't invite us to his place as his wife and child were away, instead he presented us with a huge ripe watermelon, so welcome in that heat!

Staying in a village near Petra a guide asked me where I was from (Subtext "Are you British?"), when I said I was from Poland he said he would take me for free! The colours of Petra took my breath away, mostly shades of Amber. I remember the cathedral hewn out of the rock, vast with amazing acoustics, there was a choir there practicing, they sang in languages I didn't recognize but the beautiful sound stayed with me. I stayed for three days visiting from dawn to dusk soaking in the history and extraordinary accomplishment of the creators of that place. We ended that trip in Egypt, resting from cycling, snorkeling in the Red Sea.

At 40 I rented out my house and set off for more travel. I took trains through Europe then Turkey to Syria. This time I remember Aleppo, the beautiful old architecture, the tiles, domes and minarets. From here I joined an Australian overland group to travel in Iran and Pakistan. Respectfully, I wore the Burqa in these countries. When we arrived in Amritsar, I was struck by the vibrant colours worn by the women in the marketplace, the previous countries had felt so grey and women were hidden away. The stalls were all about the colour and rich scent of spices, piled in pyramids on huge tagines, turmeric, cumin, cayenne, many I didn't recognise.

I decided to leave the tour and travelled to Dharamshala in the Himalayas where I studied Buddhism for three and a half years. One day I met an American in a chai shop and he was talking about a retreat centre in the U.S. I embarked on a 3 month silent retreat in Massachusetts.

I visited Australia for the first time in 2002 where my brother was now living, before returning to the UK and Poland. Although much had changed in Poland I found it difficult to live there because of the religious oppression, judgements and the complicated need for bribes in getting anything done. This was so different to how I was now used to living. It was still not free. The UK was hard to return to as well so I followed my brother and came to Australia. I joined Wat Buddha Dharma in Wisemans

Ferry where I managed the retreat centre for 18 months. When living in Sydney I studied Gestalt Therapy and worked for ACON first in Sydney and then as a Counsellor Co-ordinator in Lismore.

Why Lismore? Well, this is where, in 2011, I was to meet my future wife! We began learning Bridge together with Kath at Byron Community College in 2019 and have met many other brilliant teachers along the way! I love the active life I live in Brunswick Heads and appreciate all the freedoms that I never take for granted.



BEGINNERS BRIDGE LESSONS WILL COMMENCE
FEBRUARY 2ND 10AM WITH KATH MORGAN &
others

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW IN JANUARY.

PLEASE LET THOSE INTERESTED KNOW

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Committee Musings November 2023

Following the member ballot re our venue we can expect the Anglican All Souls Hall is now our home venue for the foreseeable future. We are discussing with the Byron Anglican Parish whether some small changes to the hall including blinds similar to those on the western wall can be installed on the northern wall and if the installation of air-conditioning may be possible with financial contributions from our club.

The club did not nominate a team to the regional GNOT event this year, as we did not have time to get a team together. It was agreed we should nominate a team for this or other regional events as appropriate in 2024. Our club team will need to include home members of our Club who have been playing at a strong level over the year.

We have accepted a proposal from Sue Ryan and Lismore Bridge club to create a joint booklet showcasing the four smaller bridge clubs in the region – Lismore, Lennox, Byron and Brunswick. The idea had secured sponsorship for print costs and would be printed and distributed to members at the four clubs, saving us the time and expense of making our own. It would include details about each club's program of events for the 2024 year, contact details and committee etc for each club, and a list of members and their phone numbers. Eda is approaching some local businesses who may be potential sponsors.

The club has a small surplus on 2023 operations of \$1,085 so far. The bank balance was \$11,209 with \$20,000 now on fixed deposit earning almost a \$1000 for the period to Sept 2024.

The club welcomed nine new associate members over the past three months.

Following advice from the Dept Fair Trading the Committee will be proposing a new Constitution that will consolidate a number of changes the club has made to the Constitution over the past decade into one document. There are also some minor changes / updates to a number of other clauses including: clauses re electronic voting and ballots; updated Committee roles to reflect the recommendations of the Model Rules; removal of unnecessary complexity from various procedures (e.g. membership forms, payments, items for discussion at Committee meetings, petty cash, etc) where our existing Constitution includes unnecessary details and procedures; and allowing for the Committee to have more than 6 ordinary committee members if there are members who wish to join the Committee – we saw no reason to exclude members from joining the Committee. The Committee has endorsed the proposed new Constitution and recommended it be adopted by Special Resolution which will be

circulated to members along with notice of the AGM when the date of the AGM is confirmed for march 2023.

The Committee noted the requirement to maintain records as set out by Dept Fair Trading and agreed to continue efforts to uncover any club records held by past Committee members. It was further agreed that in future the Committee needed to be more aware of its legal requirements re ongoing retention of club records including member lists, AGM and SGM minutes and financial records. Committee members noted it was valuable to have that history of the club in discussion on 2024 fee levels.

We will have the weekly handicap winner as a “fun” addition as well as the actual results and for handicap results to be published on the club website, along with actual results. It was further agreed there be an annual handicap winner based on a points table. The 2023 “annual handicap winner” will be based on results going back to May 2023. The 2024 results will encompass the full calendar year. Eric Bridgeman has created an impressive wooden trophy for annual “Top of the Heap” to be given out at the annual Xmas party.

Charity and Memory Day for 2023 to be Friday 10th November and the charity recipient for 2023 to be Fletcher Street Cottage. All table fee income for the day to be directed to the charity as well as any donations from members and the club to “top up” the donation by a little extra as well. Members to be asked to bring extra cash if possible to add to the charity collection. Memory Day was meant to give members a chance to recall former members who are no longer with us. Eda will address members and ask any member who wishes to share a memory of a previous member to also speak if they wish.

Xmas party planning It has been agreed to have a function similar to the 2022 Xmas party, with bridge for the day to start at 11am with two hours of bridge followed by at least a full hour for the party followed by further bridge to finish up. There will be novelty games competition based on the bridge play with prizes. All members be asked to contribute a plate for lunch at the party. Claudia to decorate a lunch table in the Xmas spirit. Appropriate wines, beers and soft drinks will be available for the day. Table fees for the day to be \$15 including drinks, food, prizes etc

It had been agreed to upgrade afternoon teas and we have asked for volunteers to provide food with an honorarium of \$25 to be paid from table fees. The roster has been filled for each Friday up till 1st Dec. Members have noted satisfaction and agreement to the new arrangements.

It was noted that Patricia has indicated her wish to finish up as afternoon tea coordinator at the end of 2023, after many years of marvellous contribution. It was resolved that Patricia be given a formal vote of thanks from the club for her work coordinating the afternoon teas. We are seeking a volunteer to take over the role to run the roster and ensure supplies of tea, coffee, milk, sugar, biscuits, etc are available each week with reimbursements paid for from petty cash.

Membership and table fees Following the change to the Constitution in March, the Committee now has responsibility for setting all fees for 2024. It was agreed that we had indicated to members we would reconsider fees once we were settled at our new venue. We are now paying each week much less in rent than we were paying at the Bowlo and less than half of what we were paying at Cavanbah. For the first year in quite some time it looks likely we will have a small surplus in 2023. Our regular weekly table fees are now averaging well over \$200 a week with rent of just \$77. In Contrast at Cavanbah in 2022 we averaged \$160 a week in table fees but had rent of \$168 per week. The review of the archive has shown however that the current fees are broadly in line with fees charged over the years and in line with fees charged at other clubs, although our visitor table fee may be a little higher than some other clubs. It was also noted that affiliation fees for both the NSWBA and the ABF have increased substantially. It was agreed that 2024 fees be Membership Homel member \$40 per year – Associate member \$25 per year – Table fees member \$6 per week and visitor \$8 per week

Friday 15th December 2023 be the last day of club bridge for the year. Friday bridge would resume on 5th January 2024 Wine tastings will continue on the first Friday of the month. The next wine tasting to be held on Friday 2nd February.

AND HOW
YOU
SAID???



MANY TIMES HAVE
HEARD THIS

NOVEMBER BRIDGE RESULTS

FRIDAY 3RD N/S PAUL SMITH & HOWARD JEFFERY

E/W LIZ JEFFREY & CAROL HIOCKING

HANDICAP WINNERS

N/S LESLEY LAWRENCE & ANDREA HERRAMAN

E/W NEIL MCKENZIE & STEVE STEWARD

FRIDAY 10TH N/S GRAHAM CARSON & IAN PICK

E/W MARGARET & THOMAS FLEMING

HANDICAP WINNERS

N/S PAT KRANZ & PETER BALDWIN

E/W PETER ROGER & LORRAINE MCKENZIE

FRIDAY 17TH N/S LIZ JEFFREY & CAROL HOCKING

E/W ELLEN WATSON & SOPHIE DAVIS

HANDICAP WINNERS

N/S SUE RYAN & GRAHAM ASKEY

E/W ELLEN WATSON & SOPHIE DAVIS

FRIDAY 24TH N/S HOWARD JEFFREY & JENNY BUSH

E/W TERRY LOWE & JEAN LOWE

HANDICAP WINNERS

N/S PAT KRANZ & PETER BALDWIN

E/W TERRY & JEAN LOWE

WHAT'S THE POINT OF POINTS?

by courtesy from Paul Smith



Consider an auction that starts like this

W 1 club
N 1 heart
E 1 spade
S ????

A fairly typical competitive auction. Let's look at two possible hands that you might hold.

Hand 1

South

♠ J43
♥ K87
♦ QJ8
♣ KJ73

Easy right? Three card support for partner's five card Major, 11 high card points. A good hand?

Hand 2 South

♠ 43
♥ J1084
♦ 97
♣ A8764

Five points this time (plus two points for the two doubletons, I hear you cry! OK)

Comparison

With Hand 1 you have a Major suit fit. But ... is valuing the ♠J as one point sensible? How valuable are the ♣KJ? The hand on your left opened Clubs. Three trumps are great, that is three that the opponents do not have. But how many tricks will those three trumps generate? What are you going to ruff? Imagine that trumps break 4-1, how well will this hand play?

A brutal evaluation would be that you actually have no points in Spades and no points in Clubs. I think Hand 1 is the equivalent of about seven points

I am going to bid 2♥ but with a feeling that it is an overbid. If the opponents carry on then these "11" points will not get another bid from me.

With Hand 2 you have four trumps. Now an unequal break is 3-1 and you still have a Heart after trumps are drawn. Your trumps are a source of tricks because you have two doubletons. Your trumps will probably not disappear just because declarer draws trumps. They are likely to generate one or two tricks of their own via ruffs.

With these five high card points I am happy to bid 2♥ and if the opponents carry on then I will be comfortable bidding 3♥.

At the end of the day Hand 1 will contribute 11 to the total points that the South seat held that day. Hand 2 would only add 5 points. Are you looking at the average points your seat held or are you able to gauge what is a good hand and what is not?

But what about the headline question?

What is the point of points?

When you are opening the bidding you have very little to go on. If you are the dealer then there is no extra information beyond the thirteen cards you are looking at. The only way to evaluate a hand at this stage is your points. Definitely high card points but also distribution points (length or shortage - take your pick). But is still

not that simple. How well do your cards work together? A Quack on it's own is marginal but pair a Queen with a King and you have a winner. Do you have the King, Queen and Jack in a suit? Lucky you. But what if you have the ten as well? Probably a trick, definitely worth more than zero points.

A recent example

I held the East cards and North opened 1♣. Ten high card points but this is a great hand. I am actually quite happy that the hand on my right has opened because now I can double to show support for all the unbid suits in one stroke.

The auction proceeded with 1♥ from South, Pass, 1NT. Back to me. My ♥A is still worth a trick (if I had the ♥KJ that would still be four points but close to worthless). My initial double emphasises the Majors and partner may well have been reluctant to bid Diamonds at the two level. Normally to double and then bid again would show 19 points or better but your ear needs to be tuned to the music of the auction. A bid of 2♦ shows the value of this hand, but more importantly the shape of the hand. With North opening and South responding my partner is never going to get too excited. 2♦ is likely to be a safe contract, pushes North/South a little higher and indicates a good lead should South win the contract.

North/South finish in 4♠, down two.

Skepticism is appropriate

Paul Smith

Old "Doc" Bloom, the local hardware store owner, who was known for his miraculous cures for arthritis, had a long line of "patients" waiting outside his door when a little old lady, completely bent over, shuffled in slowly, leaning on her cane.

When her turn came, she went into the back room of the store and, amazingly, emerged within half an hour, walking completely erect with her head held high.

A woman waiting in the line said, "It's a miracle! You walked in bent in half and now you are walking erect. What did Doc do?"

She answered, "He gave me a longer cane."

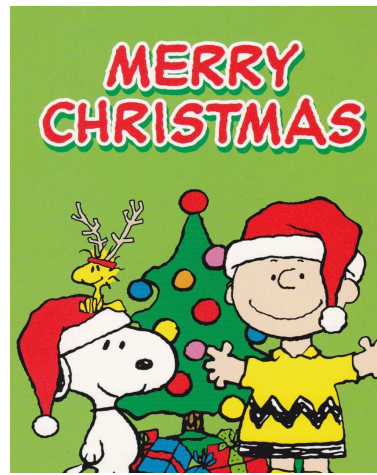
DID YOU KNOW??

Rubber bridge is a form of [contract bridge](#) played by two competing pairs using a particular method of scoring. A rubber is completed when one pair becomes first to win two *games*, each *game* presenting a [score of 100 or more contract points](#); a new game ensues until one pair has won two games to conclude the rubber. Owing to the availability of [various additional bonus and penalty points](#) in the scoring, it is possible, though less common, to win the rubber by amassing more total points despite losing two games out of three. Rubber bridge involves a high degree of skill but there is also a fair amount of luck involved in who gets the best cards. A popular variation of rubber bridge is known as [Chicago](#).

At rubber the goal is to win the most points over a series of hands and it is important to make contracts to try to win the rubber and get the bonus. Overtricks do not matter - even less than at IMPs. Balancing over low-level contracts is not as attractive, because unless one can make contract one has little to gain and may force the opponents into a higher-scoring contract. Sacrificing can be expensive and only preserves the current state rubber as far as points below the line go and a 500-point penalty is possibly worth as much as winning the rubber.

At rubber every hand is affected by the context of the score and there are many different factors to consider and weigh. One needs to be constantly aware of not just the vulnerability but what legs (part-games) both sides have as affects the meanings of bids. Game may only require 2♥ so it is worth stretching to bid it with a weak hand but not to go higher with a strong hand unless 6♥ is a reasonable chance. Part-scores like 40 and 60 are highly worthwhile as one can make game with two of major or 1NT respectively on a later hand.

This is very different from [duplicate bridge](#) where each part-score and game are worth fixed amounts and each hand is an individual battle over points.



NO SKELETONS — — JUST A BONE IN THE CLOSET

**T'WAS TWO EVES BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE WE
COULD SMELL A BAD SMELL LIKE A DEAD MOUSE**

**WITH SOCKS TO OUR NOSES WE SEARCHED WITH GREAT CARE IN HOPES THAT
THE SMELL WAS HERE OR THERE**

**BY THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS THE SMELL WAS NOW STENCH THE KIND
THAT TO THE STOMACH DOES CAUSE ONE TO WRENCH**

THE BLAME FELL ON NADINE OUR DEAR PUSSY CAT

BY NOW I WAS CERTAIN I COULD SMELL A DEAD RAT

I DUG IN THE CLOSET WHERE IT WAS MOST STRONG

TO GET TO THE SOUCE OF THAT AWFUL PONG

SOME CLOTHES AND A BAG PLUS SIX PAIRS OF SHOES BEFORE

THE OFFENDER HAD COME INTO VIEW

IT LAY IN ITS GLORY FESTERED WITH MAGGOTS

A RAW MEATY BONE THAT COOPER FORGOT

CALLED IN THE CULPRIT TO FACE HIS ORDEAL

HE PICKED IT UP GENTLY NO FUSS OR BIG DEAL

THEN CARRIED IT OUTSIDE TO MUNCH IT WITH ZEAL

MAKING LIGHT WORK OF HIS FESTIVE MEAL

E L Bridgeman circa 1995

Aahhh the joys of country livingMerry Christmas

