

Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter



Keeping you up to date with club news



President's Report December 2024

Greetings to all of our members,

Well how fast did 2024 go and its December and the Christmas festive time once again.

I believe the club has had a good year this year with table numbers continuing to increase. It's so good to see newer faces coming along more regularly and our "new" bridge players improving weekly.

December is a time for us to celebrate as a club and we look forward to welcoming you all to our Christmas bridge and luncheon day on 6th December from 11am. Fees for the day are minimal but there will be some extra delicious festive extras provided by the club. And a club first for us...please invite your non playing partners to join us from 1pm for lunch. We would love to meet them and have them join us. Just let Lorraine, our catering gem, know that they are coming along.

There won't be a January newsletter so thank you to everyone that has contributed to the newsletter over the last 12 months and making our newsletter such a success. Let's hope it continues in 2025.

And that brings me to the end of my President's report for 2024. On behalf of the committee, thank you, for believing in us as a quality local club by showing up regularly, thank you to everyone who steps up to the plate to help out each Friday. To our volunteer directors and computer operators, thank you. We wouldn't have a Friday game with results without you.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy Christmas. A bit cliché but heartfelt. Stay safe, enjoy the break and we will see you around the bridge table again on 3rd January 2025.

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 \$5 members/visitors \$8

Join us for a social time after bridge

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

Committee Members: Helen Baker, Kay Milne,
Lorraine Mckenzie, Brian Sunstrom, Starlette

Beaumont, Eileen Malabre

& Edna D'Cruz

What's Happening in December
NO WINE TASTING



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Neil McKenzie 4th

John Harrison 7th

Rhonda Khong 1 1th

Norm Case 1 3th

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Eric B & Guy Jarvi 1st

Ellen Watson 3rd

Patsy Brosnan 1 1th

Michelle Clarke 23rd

Leo Prendergast 24th

Sophie Davis 29th

**AND to any others that we
don't know about**



Greetings to all members of the Byron Bay Bridge Club, Our Christmas Celebrations are fast approaching and planning is underway to make this day an enjoyable one for all.

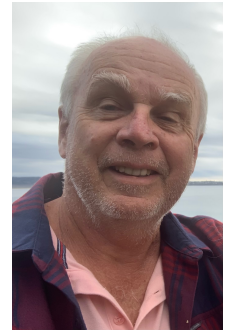
On Friday the 6th of December we will play some bridge and enjoy lots of lovely food and drinks. We would like you to be seated by 11am for play and then there will be a lunch break at 1pm of approximately an hour and a half. After lunch there will be time for some more bridge. The \$15 fee is for the day's play, various drinks - beer, wine, soft drink, champagne etc. & prizes. Non-playing partners are asked to pay \$10.

Members' are asked to contribute some food for the lunch and there will be a list for you to add your name to over the next two Fridays.

If you wish to attend the Christmas Lunch and will not be playing for a fortnight then you can email Lorraine McKenzie on lorraine.b.mckenzie@gmail.com to add your name also.

Thank You from the Committee.

MEET NEIL MCKENZIE



Eda has asked me to write a little vignette about my life story...so here goes....

On 4 December this year I turn 70 years, which means I was born in 1954, making me the peak of the baby boomer generation. Where are my investment properties?!

My early years were spent in Newcastle, in the shadow of the BHP. This was not enough pollutant exposure apparently for my parents, Thelma (who lived to 92) and Ian (who died this year a few weeks short of 100 years), who bought an asbestos ridden house sandwiched between a busy main road and the north coast railway line for us to live in. The old garrets used to belch out smoke outside our house every day. Every house in our neighbourhood had at least four kids and we would gather in packs on weekends and our parents would say to be back before dark. Sometimes we'd play chicken with the trains by putting our heads on the track to see if we could hear them coming. My sporting passion during these years was soccer which I was good at it apparently. I followed the English Premier League even then and my team was Liverpool. To this day I still support Liverpool and am nearly brought to tears by the crowds singing "You'll Never Walk Alone". They are currently coming first in the league!

In 1968 my family moved to St Ives in Sydney when my father got a new job at an inner city college. Unfortunately the marriage didn't survive this upheaval and my father left the family soon after we arrived. My wonderful mother struggled on alone working as a secretary, and reared 3 children on a survival wage in St Ives, surrounded by wealth and privilege. At 14 I moved from a selective boys high school in Newcastle to a suburban comprehensive high school in leafy St Ives. My grades suffered but my life education was expanded and I devoted much time to.... well, not academic study. I embraced the surfer lifestyle even though I was branded a Westie by the northern beaches surfing fraternity. Westies I tried to explain to them came from Parramatta, not leafy St Ives, but they were not easily convinced.

I finished high school with mediocre grades in 1972 and drifted into tertiary education doing an Arts/Education degree at Macquarie University. This was the heady days of free tertiary education and the Whitlam Government. It took me 5 years to get a 4 year degree. I was bonded to the NSW Education Department and intended to get out when the bond expired, but fate had other plans for me. Marriage (the first one), a mortgage and children put paid to those ambitions before I turned 30. My first wife, Rosemary, mother of my two children, unfortunately died last year. We separated in 1999.

One of the highlights of my young adult life was participating in the Franklin River blockade in Tasmania in the early 1980s. It was the early days of the Greens and I was a passionate supporter. I did my "non-violent action" training in Sydney then spent a few weeks on the river while the police were arresting protesters. I managed to avoid prison but this was a defining moment of my life. I have not experienced such unity of purpose and human connection on a large scale before or since.

My teaching career lasted for the next 30 years or so. Over the years I worked in the western suburbs of Sydney at Mt Druitt, inner city Sydney at Concord and Drummoyne, and the NSW north coast at Barkers Vale, Nimbin, Casino and Lismore. The years at Barkers Vale and Nimbin in the late 1980s and early 1990s were a highlight because the parents were my generation and many were Aquarians. Whilst I loathed the job at times there were other times when I couldn't believe I was getting paid for it. Another highlight was in 2008 when Lorraine and I did an exchange to West Yorkshire. I took leave and worked as a supply teacher in many schools around

Leeds and Bradford whilst Lorraine had a permanent job. Many of the children were Islamic and I gained an appreciation of that culture. We felt very safe there and this year really broadened our horizons. The people in Yorkshire made us feel very welcome even though they struggled to understand a word we said! The kids would not believe I was Australia because I didn't sound like Steve Irwin, who was a superstar in the UK at the time.

I still remain a staunch supporter of public education. I firmly believe that all education should be free and open to everyone. After retirement I taught primary ethics, which is an alternative to religious education, as a volunteer for 8 years, mainly at Bangalow PS, which was a great experience. The kids are encouraged to voice their opinions about all sorts of issues and disagree with each other, in a respectful manner. In those years I developed a great respect for this generation and the enormous challenges they face in today's world.

In the late 90s Lorraine and I were on the same staff at Lismore Heights PS and, according to Lorraine, didn't like each other much at first?! Anyway we were both in "relationship transition" phases but have been together now for near on 25 years, mostly living in Bangalow. Lorraine played a major part in helping to raise my two children, Luke and Sarah, who are now middle aged, but live fairly close-by so we see them fairly regularly. Lorraine has a daughter, Tori, who has lived in the UK for the last 25 years or more, so we see her less frequently. Lorraine visited a few months ago. Between us we have 4 grandchildren: Ava (15) and Sophia (13) in the UK, and Emily (7) and Hudson (5) in Brisbane. Ava, then aged 14, visited us last year on her own for 5 weeks which was a great time for all of us.

Another life affirming experience for me was a solo visit to Canada in 2012 to visit my relatives in Toronto and my son and his wife who were working for the year in Whistler. I learnt to snowboard there in 3 days in my mid fifties without any major injuries. The three of us flew to Yellowknife, above the Arctic Circle, in the middle of winter, to see the aurora borealis in temperatures around - 30 degrees C. We saw the lights on two occasions and I learnt to ride on a sled pulled by huskies (not recommended for anyone with a back problem) and ice fish.

I keep busy now trying to maintain my mental acuity and physical fitness. My passion used to be surfing but has morphed more into ocean swimming, which I do almost daily with a group of other like-minded fanatics loosely known as the Stingrays. I can be found some mornings after the swim sitting with a group of guys known as the "circle of wisdom" outside the book shop in Byron. In this circle we discuss issues big and small over a coffee. I play tennis twice a week in Bangalow but I have noticed that I am experiencing more aches and pains after playing. I am a keen cyclist and have been involved in promoting the Casino to Murwillumbah rail trail project for the last 10 years. I have helped out at local markets informing the public about the merits of the idea. I am more convinced than ever that this will eventually be one of the great rail trails of the world. The Lismore to Bentley section opens in a few weeks.

I belong to a book club (15 + years), a wine club (20 + years) and Bangalow Mens Shed where I do a "pilates" class once a week, followed by coffee of course. Watching the old blokes do a form of "rhythmic dance" is hilarious. I am a member of ArtsNational (formerly ADFAS) and help out on the bar once a month. I was a member of Bangalow Lions for many years and drove the bus for Feros village for about 8 years during this time to give the very oldies a few hours out of the place. My mother was one of the passengers for 2 years. I am a member of Byron Bay Surf Club and do regular beach patrols. I've only discovered surf lifesaving in the last 5 years and it is a profound regret of mine that I did not get involved when I was much younger.

I learnt to play bridge about 10 years ago. I really enjoy the game, for the challenge of playing well and improving, but also because of all the wonderful people I have met over those years (and the afternoon teas). Thank you all for your excellent company each week. Next year we are doing our first "bridge cruise" with some others from the club, which I am excited (and a little apprehensive) about, having never been on a cruise before, except across Bass Strait, Cook Strait and the Irish Sea.

I have several "side hussles" running at present. I distribute the Echo in Bangalow every Wednesday, with Lorraine's help. We were recently involved for the first time in supervising the HSC exam at Byron Bay HS, which was an interesting experience. Since retirement I have also

worked as a poll clerk in elections and as a casual academic at Southern Cross University. I enjoy being part of the workforce and will continue to be involved for as long as the body permits.

Well...I guess thats about it. I plan to have a quiet birthday celebration with Lorraine; my brother and sister and their partners; my son and partner, and daughter; two lifelong friends and two of my grandchildren. I don't think I could ask for more than that.



HAPPY 70TH NEIL FROM YOUR BRIDGE MATES

442a Bidding Quiz

Standard American Bidding

Hand C	Hand D
♠ KJ42	♠ J9874
♥ 85	♥ A2
♦ AQ753	♦ A85
♣ 85	♣ A65

Hand C partner opens 1♣ and you bid 1♦. Partner then bids 1♥, what do you bid?



Hand D partner opens 1♥, you bid 1♠ and partner bids 2♦.

- (a) What do you bid now?
 (b) Suppose you bid 3♣ 4th suit and partner bids 3♦, what now?

Bidding Quiz 442a Answers

Hand	Bid	Comments
C	1♠	natural and forcing. Never deny a 4-card major that partner may also have.
D (a)	3♣	4 th suit forcing. 3NT is a poor bid as it's unlikely to make unless partner has a ♣ stop and you cannot bid 2♠ or 3♠ as neither is forcing.
(b)	3♠	The sequence is game forcing, so show your five ♠'s. (This is the way to make a 3♠ bid forcing – first go through the 4 th suit, and then rebid your suit).

Random Ramblings

Clive Klugman

1. Introduction

The article this month raises some random thoughts, or not so random. Pet foibles, misunderstandings, advice and general comments.

There is a lot of misinformation being shared at the club. I have addressed some of the issues raised in these discussions.

2. Hesitation

There is a misconception that if partner hesitates for too long that their partner must pass. This is where you need to call the director. Yes, a long hesitation by partner often suggests that their partner now has unauthorised information. But this does not mean that their partner **MUST** pass. Each case needs to be evaluated on its merits.

For example sitting with :-

xxxxx
AKxxx
AK
A

And the bidding goes

North	East	South	West
1S	2H	2S	3H
3S	4H	*Pass	Pass
*X			

*Pass – partner hesitated for along time

*X – North knows south has something in their hand and was not sure to bid, double, or pass. The hesitation definitely says that south is not broke but not enough to bid again.

Whether South hesitated or not, North was going to double. North got no more information from south's delay. With all their points outside of their suit, it's a fair decision by north to double.

But be warned, most hesitations are penalised. Call the director immediately.

3. Legal change of call – law 25

You are sitting with

X
AKQxx
AQJ
Xxxx

And open 1S. Oops.

Law 25 states - 1. Until his partner makes a call, a player may substitute his intended call for an unintended call but only if he does so, or attempts to do so, without pause for thought. The second (intended) call stands and is subject to the appropriate Law.

Law 25A2 Unintended Call

If the player's original intent was to make the call selected or voiced, that call stands. A change of call may be allowed because of a mechanical error or a slip of the tongue, but not because of a loss of concentration regarding the intent of the action.

Losing sight of where one is in the auction does not make a call unintended. The lapse needs to be after the call is chosen, not before. As an example, a player has passed partner's Bergen raise, cue raise, fit showing jump or control bid. While he may not have thought, "I want to play in partner's artificial bid," he could have become confused as to where the auction stood and thought, "We are high enough, I will pass." Pass is an intended call. At the moment he passed he intended to pass.

What did you intend to bid? This law is handy with bidding boxes and the chance of a mechanical error when removing the wrong card from the bidding box – this is easily done. However how is this possible when you use bidding pads. Surely what you wrote is what you intended and is a lapse of concentration?

Directors need to evaluate each incident and decide on what course of action to take. Suffice it to say, you should call the director immediately and allow them to make a ruling.

Its far easier to rule if you alert the bid as you complete it.

Bridge is a game of memory, mistakes and concentration, and law 25 makes sure you concentrate.

4. Fiddling before playing

When removing a card from your hand, its ethical to wait until you have selected the card and then play it. You should not remove a card from your hand, return it to your hand and then remove another card to play.

There is no law that addresses this directly, but if you do this regularly the opponent may have redress. There is no reason to swap cards, rather make your choice and play accordingly. Once you have removed the card from your hand you have made your choice.

5. Is 2C opening alertable

After writing a whole article on the 2C strong opening, I still hear people arguing about it. You need to alert all calls that do not represent a card holding in the suit you are bidding.

Unless your system card says 2C = Clubs holding, then this call needs to be alerted.

All calls below 3NT that do not represent the suit bid, need to be alerted. So, a 4D splinter, for example, does not need to be alerted.

6. Comparable call

When you make a call out of turn, the director may ask you to make a comparable call when its your actual turn to bid.

A comparable call is one that best represents the initial call. It needs to show similar points and similar card holding.

For example, if you open 1H when its RHO turn to bid and they open 1S. 2H would show a similar hand – 5 hearts and an opening hand. This would be comparable. X would not.

But if you opened 1D out of turn and now RHO bids 1S, you would like to X, to show 4H but you cannot because partner will be forced to pass the X. A possible bid is 2D but, if you had opened with 3 diamonds, that would not be a good option.

Another example, you open 1D and RHO opens 1S, with your 5/5 in the minors your best bid is 2NT but this is not permitted. It shows more suits than your original bid – if you do, partner must pass.

7. System Card

Do you have one? The rules of bridge are clear – all competitors should have identical system cards.

8. Your responsibilities

Listen to the initial announcements – the director announces the movement at the start of the game. It generally takes 10-20 seconds. There should be no

reason not to listen to this announcement. Why would people talk while the director is explaining the table layout and movement? Why do you think you can ask how many boards, how many rounds, what's the movement after this announcement? You ask a lot of the director, show them some courtesy and not speak for 20 seconds.

North – You have the burden of responsibility. It is your job to check the boards for each round, to check you have the correct opponents for each round, to advise players of where they are moving at the end of each round, and to score each board on the bridgemate.

South – You should help with board and bidding paper management.

East/West – You should check the bridgemate for accurate data entry after each hand. You are to move the boards at the end of each round.

9. Directors responsibility

The director is responsible for

- running a smooth session.
- This includes making sure everyone completes their boards in time.
- Do not start a new board when the three minute warning sounds.
- To attend to a table when the director is called. Remember, the director may be declarer in a 6SX contract – they will endeavour to attend to your requirement as soon as they can – have some understanding and patience.

These are not the director's responsibility

- Moving boards at the end of each round
- Showing people where to move at the end of each round
- Correct data entry in the bridgemates

10. Just because you have a convention

Just because you have a convention does not mean you have to use it.

I often see this with 2 way check back. You hold

Xx
Xxx
AKJxx
AKx

And partner opens 1C, to which you reply 1D and opener responds 1NT. Opener could be sitting on both 4 card majors. Your 2D bid tells partner we are in a game force auction. Well done you have conveyed this message but what does your 2D

bid tell partner. According to the convention this implies you have a 4 card major since you started with a minor – you could be 6-4 in Diamonds and spades.

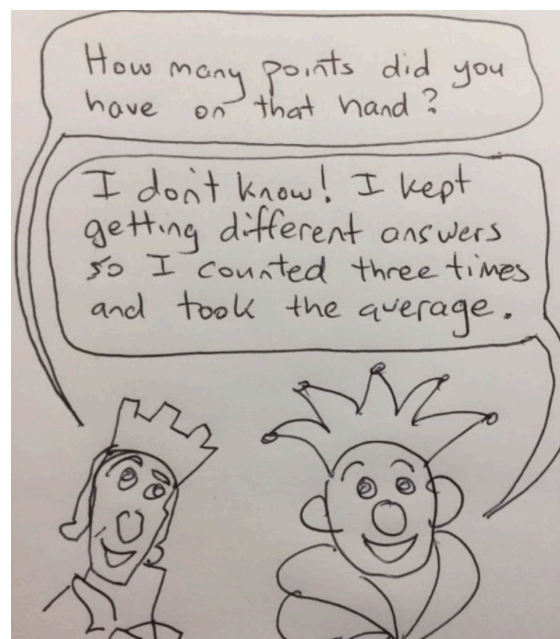
Partner will now bid 2H to show their 4 card hearts and you will bid 3NT. What if partner now bids 4S showing 4 hearts and 4 spades?

After partners initial 1NT, you have nothing to say other than 3NT. Why use checkback? What are you checking back on? Just bid 3NT, with partner's 12-14 and your 15, game is where you need to be. Also why share additional information with the opponents unnecessarily.



"I'm not driving anyone anywhere. I'm trying to get a bridge game together."

**MY IDEA OF
EXERCISE IS
SITTING
EAST - WEST**





Several men are in the locker room of a golf club.

A cellular phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands-free speaker function and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen.

MAN: "Hello"

WOMAN: "Hi Honey, it's me . Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes."

WOMAN: "I'm at the shops now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only £2,000. Is it OK if I buy it?"

MAN: "Sure, go ahead if you like it that much."

WOMAN: "I also stopped by the Lexus dealership and saw the new models. I saw one I really liked."

MAN: "How much?"

WOMAN: "£90,000."

MAN: "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options."

WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing. I was just talking to Janie and found out that the house I wanted last year is back on the market. They're asking £980,000 for it."

MAN: "Well, then go ahead and make an offer of £900,000. They'll probably take it. If not, we can go the extra eighty-thousand if it's what you really want."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you so much!"

MAN: "Bye! I love you, too."

The man hangs up.

The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths wide open.

He turns and asks,

"Anyone know whose phone this is?"

MERRY CHRISTMAS

TO YOU ALL

THE BYRON BAY BRIDGE CLUB

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

