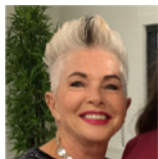# Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with club news

MARCH 2024

Greetings to all of our members,

Well, the year is certainly starting to roll on and here we are in March already.

In February our small bridge club booklet was launched thanks to the efforts of Sue Ryan. I had the pleasure of looking through the booklet diary rather than go to our website to add some dates for our newsletter so make sure you get your copy on Friday when you are there. A lot of effort has gone into the booklet so please use it.

We held our committee meeting 9th February so make sure you read Leo's committee musing report.

Bridge lessons with Kath Morgan are going well and it appears we have some keen players in the group. Thanks Kath and others for your efforts with the new players. Members, you will be asked to help out once supervised play begins.

Also a big thank you to members who are helping with the padded chairs…I've noticed that there have been no "trips" over chair legs since.

Our afternoon teas are going well. Previously, some members had gone to a lot of effort for our afternoon teas and my apologies if you were offended by my comment in last month's newsletter by asking you to "keep it simple". Every effort is appreciated and the more helpers the better.

I'm sure you are all aware that our dear bridge friend Patricia Ellis is going through some very trying medical treatments so please keep her in your thoughts.

Have a good month and see you around the bridge table.

Eda

WINE TASTING FRIDAY 1ST MARCH

RED MASTERPOINT DAY 15TH

NO BRIDGE GOOD FRIDAY

A. G. M. 5TH APRIL

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS
Greg Farrell 3rd
Jane Fulford 5th
Edith Macauley 21st
Lorraine McKenzie 28th

And to anyone else we don't know about

Committee Musings February 2024

1. The club made a donation of $600 to Fletcher St cottage from our 2023 Charity day and received a lovely thank you. The 2024 annual charity day will coincide with Daffodil Day in August and we will still choose a local charity each year as beneficiary.

2. The club has accepted Sponsorship from Ray Towers Carpets Mullumbimby and Nimbella Gallery Bangalow. The sponsorship will be used as prizes for the Spring and Autumn Pairs events in 2024.

3. Our request re air-conditioning of the hall with a financial contribution from our club will not proceed for now. Byron Anglican Parish has a number of properties across Byron Shire and none are air-conditioned. At this stage they will not air-condition just one of the properties and do not wish to air-con all or any of the others. They will however install blinds on the northern wall of the hall to manage the late afternoon glare and will install three more larger fixed fans to increase air-circulation in the hall.

4. The club supported the shared regional bridge booklet as an initiative to link bridge players and bridge playing across the Lismore, Lennox, Byron and Brunswick Valley clubs. The booklet is now available and members can get a free copy at bridge on Fridays. The booklet is **for personal use** as bridge players only as it contains names and phone numbers of players from across the region. Our club wishes to thank Sue Ryan for her extraordinary work in bringing the booklet together so effectively.

5. Tidy up the Constitution. The Committee has drawn up a new Constitution to be put to members at the AGM in March. Our current "official" Constitution is one first drawn up over a decade ago with five different amendments added over that time as special resolutions. The Dept Fair Trading suggested we incorporate those amendments in to the body of the document by adopting a consolidated new Constitution. It would also give us an opportunity to add a few clauses such as phone/internet meetings and electronic voting that had not been covered in the old Constitution as well as updating some other clauses to reflect the Dept recommendations for Association Rules (e.g. Committee roles) The draft new Constitution will be sent out to members along with notice of the AGM which will be held on Friday 5th April.

6. The Committee agreed that the current organisation of our Xmas party day featuring: members bringing contributions to lunch; spot prizes for novelty events; drinks supplied by the club; the day starting earlier and integrating bridge with the luncheon; - has been well received by members and works well and will be continued this year. It
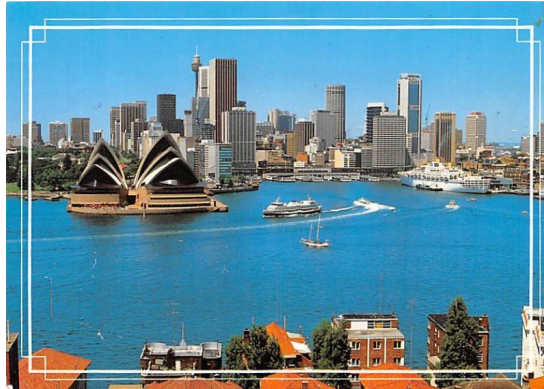
was agreed that this year the novelty contests be written on the white board so members could see at a glance what events were still active.

7. The new Director roster has been working well and sharing the load. Our thanks to the eleven members currently contributing to the running of weekly bridge as either Directors or Computer operators.

8. It was agreed to continue using a handicap system similarly to 2023 and the 2024 points system began from February.

9. Lorraine McKenzie has taken over as afternoon tea coordinator. She has the weekly roster working well. The $25 honorarium has been paid from table fees on most weeks, although some members have said they do not want the money. There has been a great deal of diversity in the afternoon teas as different members provide different approaches each week. Don't forget to put your name/s down on the roster to provide afternoon tea for a week, if you are able.

10. It was agreed that a number of members have had difficulties as the plastic chairs have a widely spread base and a number of people have tripped when moving from table to table. It was agreed that where possible we would only use the heavier cloth cushioned chairs in future. While the chairs are heavier, the chair moving trolley is very effective in reducing the heavy lifting. Eda asked for any members who are a bit stronger to come a bit earlier and help with the setting up.

11. The wine tastings had restarted and members have indicated it is a great initiative for the club adding to the social calendar. It was agreed that we should note the tastings on the first Friday of the month in the new Booklet.

12. Brian Sundstrom has agreed to take over the management of the table fees vouchers. While vouchers had added to our workload it is also recognised that cash payments were on the way out generally in Australia (no, not just yet fully out!) and other payment methods are inevitable. Please see Brian from now on if you have paid for vouchers.

13. Eda feels she does not have the software nor the expertise to manage the newsletter. She is unable to set it up columns, wrap text around photos nor manage blank pages to make the newsletter look better. She is hoping that a club member can take on the role, but has not found anyone as yet. If you have the skills and are willing to help it would be much appreciated. Please let Eda know if you can help.

14. The Committee has decided to realign championship events and red point days. There will be six red point days over the year with two to cover the Club Championships and four red point days at times during the year spread across the year. There will be No red points for the Spring and Autumn pairs but a cash prize as provided by the Sponsors for a two week competition. There will be No team event this year given the amount of work required for a small club.

CHURAIRAT (PIN) SULTAS
Part Two

In 1987, as far from her family and her culture as could possibly have been imagined, Sydney must have felt like a moon landing for a single Thai woman. But as predicted, Pin fell on her feet!

The residents of the harbour city treated Pin kindly, inviting her to their homes to visit and to stay with them, lending Pin books, and even taking her country dancing! But Pin knew she had to find employment to survive. Learning the transport system Pin bought a weekly ticket for the train and began to search for work. At Central Station, after hearing a person speaking Thai, who mentioned the employment centre, Pin found a mentor there, a man called David. Happily, David took Pin under his wing and found her work. Her beautiful needlework soon resulted in many job offers. A stint in a school canteen also helped Pin financially for a while, but her real interest lay in cooking. Eventually David sourced the perfect job for Pin, as a chef in a French restaurant. The owner slowly promoted his protégé until Pin was fully employed in the evening, and to keep Pin safe one of the staff drove her home. This was important to her as she had been afraid of travelling alone at night, Sydney being very difficult city for a sheltered young woman from Thailand to navigate alone on public transport.

After time, and having been recommended by a friend, Pin found a home at the Kings Cross Motel. At $35 per week for her room, including a television and refrigerator, Pin felt for the first time that she would be able to stay in her new country. Meeting another resident also changed Pin's life for the better. Known only to Pin as 'Madam' – although not in the traditional Kings Cross sense – 'Madam' invited Pin to a north shore sports club for an evening out, and Pin met Arthur. The pair played table tennis all night. Arthur eventually asked for Pin's telephone number and they soon became a couple. Having just bought a home in Chatswood, Arthur invited Pin to stay with him. Pin consulted her mother, who told her, 'Pin you are an adult now, you can do what you think is right.' Pin moved in with Arthur. This time only one person mourned Pin's leaving Kings Cross for Chatswood. 'Madam' was very sad. After Pin's mother and brother visited Australia to vet Arthur, on the 1st December, 1989, Pin and Arthur married.

Arthur, who was a strong believer in natural remedies, assisted Pin back to better health. Although she prayed to Krishna every day for a healthy pregnancy, sadly Pin miscarried their first child. Pin's following pregnancy was not easy either. Worrying during the whole

pregnancy and consistently unwell, eleven weeks before their son was due to be born, Pin went into labour and was rushed by ambulance to the Brisbane Martyr Hospital. The doctors tried valiantly to prevent the labour from progressing, to no avail, and tiny Robert was born. Weighing only 1.1kg the baby lay in a humidicrib fighting to survive. Defying the nursing staff, Pin chose to sit beside her son, feeding him with a syringe - a drop of milk at a time – until 99 days later, and now weighing 3.25kg, Pin and Arthur brought their son home. Like his sister, Robert has had a fine education, is clever in the IT field, and is currently a table tennis coach.
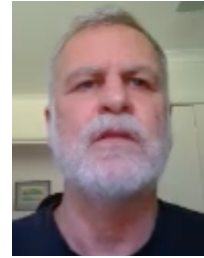

In 1990 the family moved from Sydney to the Ocean Shores area, where Pin still enjoyed playing tennis, and took up golf and then she was drawn into the world of bridge. Pin has played at Brunswick Heads, Tweed Heads, Manora, Ballina, Lismore, and of course at Byron Bay Bridge Club. Winning championships playing tennis, now Pin specialises in table tennis. A gold medal winner in a recent regional championship, Pin has also won many other trophies at Tweed Heads South, Riverside Mullumbimby, and Goonellabah Table tennis clubs. For some years the family has held stalls at Ballina market, Lismore boot market, and the Nimbin markets. Their small family still a unit, Pin, Arthur and Robert now live in Goonellabah. Arthur needing special care Pin devotes her time to her husband, and between her many other activities grows vegetables and herbs, the source of her wonderful Thai food.

Living 'happily ever after', and still wearing a very special gold and sapphire bracelet her mother gave her on her fifteenth birthday, Pin's home is here in the Northern Rivers. At the age of 95 years, Pin's mother still lives safely with her large extended family in Thailand, and the pair often communicate. Pin has lost her father, but he lives on in Pin's loving memory of him, and she is indeed, very much her father's daughter.

Still steeped in the traditions of her country, and of her family, Pin firmly believes that the 'seers' she consulted so many years ago were completely right in their predictions, and she has certainly found everything that lay in wait for her in Australia.

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Good Luck

WHICH SUIT TO LEAD????

The opening lead is trying to set the defence up to take as many tricks as possible. Even this simple statement is not as simple as it may first appear. Playing a Matchpoint event (Pairs) you may be trying your hardest to limit the total tricks that declarer takes. If you are playing an IMPs event (Teams) then the main goal is probably to defeat the contract even if it risks giving away an overtrick or two.

Playing at Matchpoints a score of -130 (say 2♦ making ten tricks) may score 0% if the other pairs only concede -110 (two Major just making) or -120 (1NT making eight tricks). Playing at IMPs the difference between conceding 130 and conceding 110 is negligible.

Playing at IMPs the cost of allowing a slam (or a game) to make an overtrick is at most one IMP. The benefit of defeating a small slam could be as great as 16 IMPs. Risking an overtrick is a small price for such a large potential gain.

Check out Scoring Pairs events with Matchpoints if you need a refresher on how Matchpoint scoring works.

Choosing the suit to lead is often difficult. Consider everything that follows here as things to consider and definitely not rules.

Partner has bid

If your partner has bid a suit then it is normally right to lead it ... but use your common sense. An opening bid by partner is not normally lead directing (we have all bid five card suits headed by the nine). If partner doubles an artificial bid like a Blackwood response then that is a strong request to lead the suit doubled.

When holding a high honour in partner's suit it may be appropriate to lead another suit to retain the surprise for declarer. For example, if partner opens 1♦ and the hand on your right becomes declarer in 1NT then your ♦Kxx might represent a losing finesse as long as you don't lead the suit.

Choosing a Suit Against No Trumps

No suits Bid

The opponents have not bid a suit or investigated a suit fit. These sorts of situation are typical

Auction	Comments
1NT : Pass	How strong is the No Trump opening?
1NT : 2NT	The opener will be minimum for their range
1NT : 3NT	They probably have a total of 25 to about 30 HCP. Maybe less if responder has a long suit (which will be a minor).
2NT : Pass	Opener will be strong, dummy may have zero points and declarer will have a hard time getting to dummy to take any finesses
2NT : 3NT	Total of 25 to 30 HCP with most of them in opener's hand
2♣ : 2♦ ; 2NT	Very strong hand on your right, very weak on your left (assuming a Standard American type bidding system)

Other variations can also happen, but the key factor is that there was no transfer bid, no Stayman inquiry, no choice given to opener of a suit or No Trumps.

First assess how partner's HCPs compare with yours.
If you are leading against 3NT and you only have 2HCP in your hand then partner will have quite a good collection - maybe an opening hand. Conversely if you are on lead against 2NT and you have 13HCP then partner figures to have very few points. The opponents decided that they did not have enough points for game but they are close, they will have a total of about 23 HCP give or take. Add your 13 to reach 36HCP in three hands. That only leaves (40-36=) 4HCP, roughly, for partner. Of course, the defensive points may be fairly evenly split between you and partner.

Since your goal is to maximise the *partnership* trick taking ability the distribution of points matters. If you are on lead against 2NT and have a seven card Heart suit headed by the Jack and no other points there is very little reason to lead the suit. The reason is that it will take a couple of leads to get rid of the top honours and at that stage you will have no way to gain the

lead to take your winners. To make it even harder, sometimes declarer will *hold-up* their honour so that communication is cut. Declarers are like that.

If the responder thinks that they *may* have an eight card Major fit then they will generally try to find out (if they have enough points to make it safe to do so). In our current scenario there was no such investigation and so you can guess that the opponents have at most seven cards in either Major suit, maybe a lot less.

Other things being equal you should prefer a Major suit lead against these sorts of auctions.

If you can work out that partner has a much stronger hand than you then leading a *short* Major suit may work well. This is dangerous but the thinking is that the opponents don't have many Major suit cards and you are short so therefore partner has length. If partner also has points to gain the lead later then an early strike to setup their suit may work well. The downside is that partner may think you also have length because we normally lead length against No Trump and defend on that basis. Hopefully, your partner has read his article and if they realise that you don't have many points then they will be on the lookout for a short suit lea.

Dummy is going to be weak

If the hand on your right has opened 2NT or the auction started with 2♣ and ended in No Trump or responder invited to game and opener accepted then there is one more factor that you may wish to take into account. On these sorts of hands the dummy is likely to be quite weak and declarer is often limited in which direction they can take a finesse. Since they hold the strong hand, any finesse is likely to be towards their hand. This should push you towards leading a weaker four card suit rather than one headed by unsupported honours.

The idea is that declarer is most likely to finesse towards their own hand (that is *through* partner) because they are strong. Leading a suit where you only have small cards might give declarer a 'free finesse' but that is the direction they would have taken it anyway, nothing has been lost. On the other hand, if you underlead your suit headed by the King and Jack then you may give declarer a trick when they would have naturally taken a losing finesse or finesses to you.

Suits have been bid

Responder may have transferred or used some variety of Stayman. When selecting your lead you should take notice of which suit has been shown and

by which hand. It is fine to ask before you lead as many pairs have complicated methods of showing which suits they hold. Don't just accept an explanation of "Thay's Smolen" or "Puppet Stayman" or "transfer", they are not valid explanations. They ABF states

Merely to name a convention (e.g. Michaels, Lebensohl, etc.) is not an acceptable explanation. There are many variations of most conventions, and a more specific explanation is normally required. Similarly, the use of "Standard" or "Natural" to describe calls, signals or leads is rarely sufficient - nor are the terms "Weak", "Strong" or "Intermediate" - without appropriate qualification.

If you are given this sort of explanation, then ask for clarification. Does "transfer" mean a five-card suit or a six-card suit? Which suit? (Of course, when you give an explanation don't say things like "transfer" but rather "Thay show six or more Diamonds" or whatever is appropriate)

Once it has been explained what length of which suit is where you can select your lead from a position of knowledge. If declarer shows, or implies, length in a suit then it is probably not a good idea to lead that suit.

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♣[1]	P
2♦[2]	P	2♠[3]	P
2NT[4]	P	3NT[5]	P
P	P		

1 Asks for Major suit length
2 One or more four card Majors
3 Holds four Hearts, may or may not have four Spades
4 Does not have four Hearts, therefore has four Spades
5 Does not have four Spades

In this situation, leading a Spade would be unwise if you hold an honour in the suit as declarer has implied that they have four Spades.

Leading a Heart *through* dummy and around to declarer's implied shortage should be considered, however.

BRIDGE HUMOUR

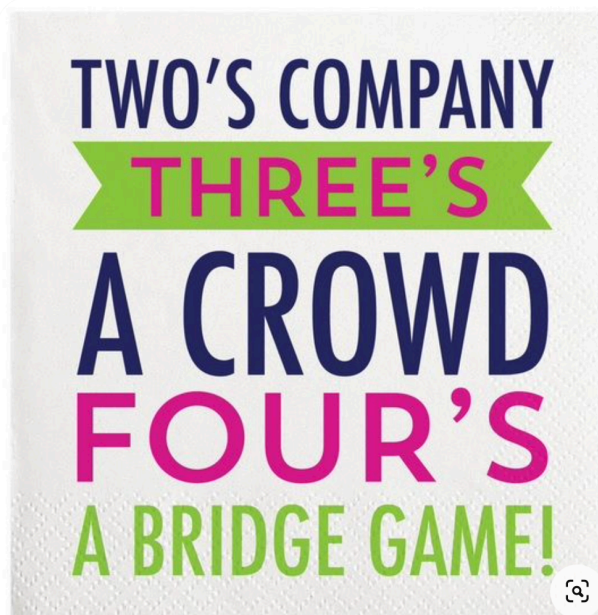The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in it.
-Alfred Sheinwold

Years ago there were only two acceptable reasons for not leading partner's suit: (1) having no cards in the suit; (2) a death wish.

My partner is 20 years behind the times. He still thinks you need high cards to bid.

Know the difference between a serial killer and a bridge partner?
Answer: You can reason with the serial killer.

I am called over to a table by one of my students who tells me she only has 12 cards. Sure enough she is right. I look around and find the SA on the floor and give it to her. She was previously void in spades. Now she says to me: "You've ruined my entire hand."

FOR ALL YOU GENIUSES

Basic Bridge Math

Question 1: How many bridge hands are there? That is, how many ways are there of selecting 13 cards from a deck of 52?

No problem — just start listing all the possible hands! Just kidding. That would require a ludicrously huge amount of time and scratch paper. Even computers have better things to do with their time. There must be a better way to count hands without listing every single one.

Imagine dealing a single bridge hand. For simplicity, we won't worry about the other three players; we'll just deal North thirteen cards.

• There are 52 possibilities for the first card. Let's say it's the ♦7.

• There are 51 possibilities for the second card (because it can be anything except the ♦7). Let's say

it's the ♠K.

• There are 50 possibilities for the third card (because it can be anything except the ♦7

or ♠K). Let's

say it's the ♣4.

• ...

• There are 40 possibilities for the thirteenth card (because it can be anything except the ♦7, ♠K, ♣4, or any

of the nine other cards already dealt).

That means that the number of possible hands is 52×51×50×⋯×42×41×40 = 3954242643911239680000. Right?

Close, but wrong. The reason is that the order in which the cards were dealt is irrelevant. If, say, the ♦7 and ♠K had

switched places, or even if the first thirteen cards had been shuffled arbitrarily while leaving the rest of the deck alone, then the hand we dealt wouldn't have changed.

How many ways are there to shuffle a thirteen-card hand? (To put it another way, if you

accidentally drop your hand on the floor, then how many different orders can the cards be in when you pick it up again)? The first card you pick up could be any of 13; the second card could be any of 12; the third any of 11; and so on. Therefore, the answer is

13 × 12 × 11 × 10 × 9 × 8 × 7 × 6 × 5 × 4 × 3 × 2 × 1 = 6, 227, 020, 800 = 13!.

That punctuation is not a typo. These numbers come up so often that we mathematicians use the notation "13!" (pronounced "thirteen factorial") as a convenient shorthand rather than writing out all thirteen factors on the left.

Getting back to the original question, we need to divide the number 3954242643911239680000 by the number of ways to shuffle a 13-card hand in order to count the number of possible hands. That is,

$$\frac{52 \times 51 \times 50 \times \cdots \times 42 \times 41 \times 40}{13 \times 12 \times 11 \times \cdots \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}$$

3954242643911239680000

=

= 635013559600.

Also, by the way, observe that $52 \times 51 \times \cdots \times 40 = 52!/39!$ — because if you wrote $52!/39!$ out in its full glory, then you'd be able to cancel 39/39 and 38/38 and 37/37 and a lot more stuff, and all that survived

number of possible bridge hands =

6227020800

would be $52 \times 51 \times \cdots \times 40$. That means that we can write down a more concise formula: $635013559600 = 52!$.

$39! \times 13!$

This kind of calculation ("How many ways are there to choose a subset of k things from a set of n things?")

is extremely common; common enough, in fact, that it has a special symbol: $\binom{n}{?}$. (You might also see C(n, k) k

or nCk, but the notation $\binom{n}{?}$ is what most mathematicians would use.) By the same logic as above, these k

$$n!$$
$$= k!(n–k)!$$

numbers can be calculated by the formula

$\binom{n}{?}$ $n(n – 1)(n – 2) \cdots (n – k + 2)(n – k + 1)$

$k = k(k–1)(k–2)\cdots(2)(1)$
So we can summarize: The number of possible bridge hands is

$\binom{52}{?}$

$13 = 635013559600.$

Question 2: How many bridge deals are there?

Having answered Question 1, this is now a lot easier.

Should we just take the answer from Question 1 and raise it to the fourth power? No — once we know what one player's hand is, that tells us thirteen cards that none of the other players can have. (That would only be the right method if we dealt each player's hand from a different deck, which is not how bridge works!) Instead, what we are going to do is deal out four hands to the players in some order (say North–West– South– East; it doesn't matter) and determine the number of hands for

each player taken from the cards not already dealt to earlier players.

1. Let's deal North's hand first. As we just calculated, the number of possible North hands is $\binom{52}{?}$. 13

2. Now deal West's hand. There are 52 – 13 = 39 cards that North does not hold. West gets 13 of those cards. By the same logic as in Question 1, the number of possible West hands is $\binom{39}{?}$.

13

3, Similarly, there are now 52 – 26 = 26 cards from which to choose South's hand, so $\binom{26}{?}$ possibilities. 13

4. Finally, there are $\binom{13}{?}$ possibilities for East's hand. Actually, $\binom{13}{?}$ = 13! = 1. This makes sense, 13 13 13! (13–13)!

since if we already know the other three players' hands then there is only one possible East hand! (Also, by the way, 0! = 1. This might seem weird, but actually it makes sense — if you are trying to put zero things in order, there is one way to do it.)

Therefore,

That is a pretty impressive number.

$\boxed{52}\boxed{?}\boxed{?}39\boxed{?}\boxed{?}26\boxed{?}$
$\boxed{?}13\boxed{?}$ 13 13 13 13

number of bridge deals =

= 635013559600 × 8122425444 × 10400600 × 1

= 53644737765488792839237440000 ≈ 5.36 × 1028

Something interesting happens if we write out the formula in terms of binomial coefficients:

$\boxed{?}52\boxed{?}\boxed{?}39\boxed{?}\boxed{?}26\boxed{?}$
$\boxed{?}13\boxed{?}$

52! 39! 26! 13! = 39!13! × 26!13! × 13!13! × 13!0!

13 13

13 13

52! $\boxed{?}$39! $\boxed{?}$26! =×××

= 52! . 13! 13! 13! 13!

$\boxed{?}$13! 13! 0!

$\boxed{?}\boxed{?}\boxed{?}$

$\boxed{?}\boxed{?}\boxed{?}$ $\boxed{?}$39! 13!
$\boxed{?}$26! 13! $\boxed{?}$13! 13!

This formula is nice because it indicates a general principle — if you want to separate a big set S into n little sets (where the order of the elements within each little set doesn't matter, but the order of the little sets themselves doesn't), you now know how to count the number of ways to do so.

There's a good reason for this. There are 52! ways to shuffle a deck of cards, and each way of shuffling produces a bridge deal. But the number of shuffles is a much bigger number than the number of bridge deals:

52! = 80658175170943878571660636856403766975289505440883277824000000000000 ≈ 8.07 × 1067. The reason is that rearranging the 13 cards that go to each player doesn't change the outcome. So the

denominator in the formula 52! is precisely the correction for this overcount. (The underlying 13! 13! 13! 13!

principle is that if you want to count how many sheep are in a flock, you can simply count the legs and divide by 4.)

-YOUR SANDWICHES WERE LOUSY, AND THE COFFEE AND CAKE WAS TERRIBLE, BUT I WON THE BRIDGE GAME SO I HAD A **WONDERFUL** EVENING!

BRIDGE

LOCATED IN BANGALOW

Hosting a fine range of First Nations Australian art displayed alongside paintings by Northern Rivers artists, Ninbella Gallery is located on the main street of Bangalow in Northern New South Wales.

We represent highly sought-after, award-winning artists and work directly with wholly Aboriginal owned art centres in remote communities such as Ampilatwatja, Yuendumu, Yirrkala, and the Tiwi Islands. Collectable Western and Central Desert artists include Willy Tjungarrayi, Minnie Pwerle, Makinti Napanangka, Ronnie Tjamitjinpa and Emily.

Among our other contemporary indigenous artists are Kurun Warun, Gloria Gardiner, Ethan-James Kotiau, Gabriella Possum and Melissa Ladkin.
Local contemporary artists such as Vlad Kolas, Hilary Herrmann, Tanith Kershaw, Beryl Miles, Saren Dobkins and Leah Anketell.
We are a member of the Australian and New Zealand Fair Trade Association and stock a select range of Better World Arts ethical giftware.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS FOR 2024