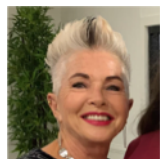


Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with club news



SEPTEMBER 2023

Greetings members,

Welcome to SPRING, warmer days and longer evenings, what's not to love about Spring? A bouquet of spring flowers to each and every one of you.

I feel like I have been away for much longer than a few weeks but travelling in any asian country always feels like that to me. We take for granted our way of living so its always good to travel to remind ourselves of what a great country we live in. I must say though that our side trip to the Maldives was exceptional... crystal clear water, living coral, tropical fish in their droves as well as sharks and mantarays, all perfectly safe to snorkel



with. A quote from a friend "work puts money in your pocket but travel fills your soul".

Our club, in its new venue, seems to be moving forward very happily with new members continuing to join us. We are regularly seeing 7 plus tables on a Friday afternoon. At our September wine tasting there were 25 participants so please let the committee know if you plan to join us the first Friday of each month so that there is enough "tasting" to be had.

Your committee met last Friday and some important decisions were made so please read the "musings" carefully in this newsletter. Most importantly is that our "trial" at our new venue will be reduced to 4 months and depending on the vote outcome we will be able to plan for 2024. Our afternoon teas have always been popular so it was agreed, now that we are more financial, sandwiches will be reintroduced regularly with a cash reimbursement of \$25 to the provider. Patricia will have a roster available for you to put your names on. We would still like cakes volunteered when you feel like baking.

See you around the bridge table.

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

OCTOBER EARLY REMINDER

SPRING PAIRS

6TH & 13TH (DRESS UP DAY)

OCTOBER

WINE TASTING

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER



**HAPPY SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

Annie Stephen 12th

Lyn Stark 14th

AND TO ANY OTHERS WE
DON'T KNOW ABOUT



What should I alert?

1. Introduction

“Players must not have secret agreements with their partners. All agreements must be fully available and fully disclosed to the opponents.”

The rules of bridge are encapsulated in an 86 page legal document that's takes some negotiating to master. You need to follow these rules but fortunately we leave them up to the director to enforce whenever we run into trouble.

Over and above the book of rules, there is an 11 page ABF document on alerting requirements for all Australian players. This differs from country to country.

2. The laws and you

Your responsibility as a bridge player is to follow the rules of the game and the alerting requirements.

Your first requirement is to have a system card. All players are required to have a system card and both cards need to be systemically identical. This is the first-place opponents can look for the meaning of a bid. Having a systems card does not remove the obligation to alert if required by the regulations.

It is your responsibility to alert all calls made by your partner that comply with the alerting regulations.

Be proactive - Do not be lazy.

Hopefully this article will help you with understanding what calls are alertable and which are not. A few calls look alertable but **MUST NOT** be alerted. Alerting non-alertable calls is as big a mistake as not alerting calls that should be. By alerting a call that does not need alerting, might be sending an unauthorised message to your partner.

3. What needs to be alerted

All “conventional” calls need to be alerted. These calls are calls that conveys a meaning other than the willingness to play in the denomination named, or high card strength or length.

For example: - 1S-3C – this might be a Bergen raise and does not indicate that partner wants to play in Clubs. It also shows a specific strength and length.

If you play weak jump shifts, and 1S-3C shows a weak club hand wanting partner to pass – in which case 3C does not need to be alerted.

4. Alert stages

Alerts come at the following stages of a game

4.1. Pre Alerts

There is a special section on your systems card for these alerts. Alerts may include underleading on the opening lead, ACOL - 4 card majors, Strong 1C opening, weak no trump, etc. Anything you do that you think the opponents need to know before the bidding starts. You should detail any bids you are not permitted to alert – for example 2C over 1NT not being Stayman.

4.2. Announcements during the auction

These bids need to be ANNOUNCED not alerted.

There are two bids that must always be announced. These are: -

4.2.1.1C

The number of cards held in clubs must be announced. The wording is “1+”, or “2+”, etc. The words “strong” and Unusual” are permitted for Precision and Polish Club players

4.2.2.1NT

All natural 1NT openings need to be alerted. The point range need to be announced – 12-14, 14-18, 15-17 etc.

All announcements are to be made using this terminology. **Alternative designations are not permitted.** Adding “may contain a 5 card major” is not permitted.

4.3. Delayed alerts

At the end of the auction the declarer (or dummy) needs to explain any calls that their side made and clarify any non alerted calls. The defenders are not permitted to mention that a call was or was not alerted correctly by partner. Defenders bidding errors can be discussed at the end of the hand and the director called if the opponents feel they were disadvantaged. Mentioning the errors prior to the end of play may allow the defenders to correct their misunderstanding and thus defend differently.

5. Self alerting bids

These bids must not be alerted

- Doubles
- Redoubles
- Cue bids of opponent's suit
- All calls at the four level or higher
- 2C response to 1NT opening in an uncontested auction

Following is a list of the most used and abused calls

6. 1C Opening

Because 1C openings can be anywhere from 1 to 13 cards – it was decided not to alert this bid but instead to **announce** the length of the club suit.

7. Opening bids

These opening bids need to be alerted

- 1D – if it contains less than 3 cards
- 1H/1S – if it can contain less than 4 cards
- 1NT – announce the point range

8. Stayman

An exception to the rule of alerting is 2C over 1NT in a non contested auction.

If the bidding goes (pass) - 1NT – (pass) – 2C – this must not be alerted.

However after (1H) - 1NT – (pass) – 2C – this 2C MUST be alerted. This is a contested auction.

The corollary to not alerting 2C over 1NT is that all responses must be alerted. For example, after

1NT - (Pass) – 2C – (Pass) – 2H – this must be alerted

What does 2H show?

- 4 hearts
- 5 hearts
- A balanced hand

It must be alerted.

A trap – after 1NT - (Pass) – 2C – this is not alerted, even if it's not Stayman. It could be a transfer to Diamonds, a point count, etc. It does not matter the meaning, it is not to be alerted. Hopefully this was in your pre alerts to your opponents.

9. 2C opening

If 2C opening is not weak in clubs it must be alerted. The response must also be alerted as it is conventional and conveys information known by their partner.

10. Weak or strong jumps

The bidding of 1C-2S – should be alerted as this could be a weak or strong bid.

11. Unusual point ranges

Unusual point ranges need to be alerted. For example, the following are accepted point ranges for raises to 1S

- 2S – 6-9
- 3S – 10/11
- 4S – 12+

If you play 2S as 10-12, this needs to be alerted.

12. Some other examples

These bids need alerting. They should be obvious based on the definition of alerting requirements. They convey information that partner understands, and thus needs to be shared with the opponents.

- Inverted minors
- Forcing 1NT response in 2/1
- Jacoby 2NT
- Bergen raises
- Fit jumps
- Fourth suit forcing
- Splinters below 4C
- Transfers below 4C
- Pass or correct bids
- Trial bids
- Pass that has a specific meaning
- Two suited overcalls
- Unusual NT
- Balancing 1NT not promising a stopper in openers suit

13. When to alert

You are required to alert your partners bid as soon as they make it, prior to the next in rotation. Do not delay – verbalise “Alert” and circle the bid in question.

14. Asking about an Alert

Should you ask about an alerted bid? Yes, if it affects your bid. No, if you are not going to bid. Remember you can only ask about a bid when it is your turn to bid or at the end of the auction. You may not ask about your LHO bid until its your turn to bid.

It is bad practise to ask about a bid if you have no intention of bidding. All this does is alert the opponents to their bidding and may in fact help them correct an incorrect bid. You have plenty of time at the end of the auction to ask what the bidding means – of course only when it’s your turn to play.

You cannot ask on behalf of your partner.

15. What not to alert

A couple of examples of bids that do not need to be alerted.

- 2/1 calls – for example 1S-2D – this is game forcing. 2D shows 10+ points and the difference between 10 and 12 points is negligible and thus this does not need to be alerted.

- 1S-(2D)-3S – 3S can be played as weak or strong, but does not need to be alerted, the opponents can ask.

16. Faced tricks

This is not about alerting but something that people often get wrong.

From the laws of bridge – “So long as his side has not led or played to the next trick, declarer or either defender may, until he has turned his own card face down on the table, require that all cards just played to the trick be faced.”

In other words - If you have not turned over your card and your partner has not played to the next trick, you can look at the cards played to the previous trick even if an opponent has led to the next trick.

Remember, don't turn over your card and you have access to all cards played to that trick for as long as you wish.

And while on the point of looking at your card played – you can face your own card until you play to the next trick.

17. In conclusion

I hope this has given you some understanding of what is required of you.

Please complete a systems card and have it at the table for your opponents. A system card editor is available on the ABF web site.

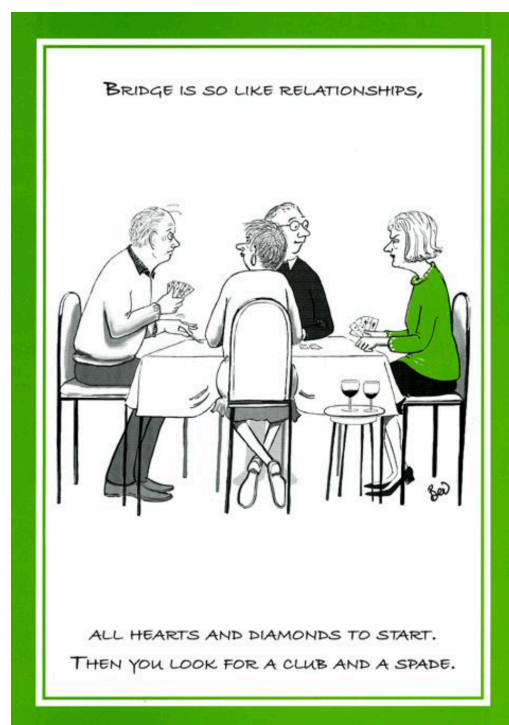
<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/abf-convention-card-pdf/>

Please bring your systems cards along to any bridge game you play during the week.

Sorry Partner Podcast played on 3rd August
featured Peter Hollands



Australian champion [Peter Hollands](#) joins us to talk about what it's like to be the world's most popular bridge streamer, and how being able to stand in another person's shoes makes him a better player and a better teacher. Plus, he shares his top tip for developing players. But first, we kibitz!





Oops - Unauthorised Information *Mark Miller*

Unauthorised information from partner can come in a number of ways. In the featured hand this has come via a statement from partner that they have made a bidding mistake. Words like 'Oh ####!' may have been uttered but let's assume partner has said something tamer like 'Oops, I shouldn't have done that'. Probably not an unintended call, more likely a miscalculation of hand strength or length or forgetting the system. No point calling the director and hoping to be allowed to change your call if this is the case. But the extra comment does introduce the possibility of unauthorised information and the opponents might consider calling the director for a ruling.

Brd: 19	North		
Dir: S	♠ K42		
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ94		
	♦ K1075		
	♣ QJ		
West		East	
♠ J973		♠ 106	
♥ 1087		♥ 63	
♦ Q3		♦ J96	
♣ 7543		♣ A109862	
	South		
	♠ AQ85		
	♥ AJ52		
	♦ A842		
	♣ K		
W	N	E	S
			1♦
P	1♥	P	4♥

After bidding 4 Hearts South said 'oops' and East/West called the director. There may have been some unauthorised information, but it is unclear exactly what this is. Perhaps South decided that there had been an overestimation of the strength of the hand. In the NS system it would be showing 19+ total points and four hearts. Hard to evaluate that singleton King. The director explained to North that they must not make use of any unauthorised information and that if they do then an adjusted score may be awarded if the opponents are damaged. North pondered for a while and then passed. 11 tricks were readily made. At the conclusion of play EW made a further request for a ruling.

What would North have done if there had not been the oops comment? There is probably a double fit in Hearts and Diamonds. North knows from the bidding that partner has 19+ points and they have another 14. Law 16 talks about logical alternative bids that most players of similar experience would consider in a similar situation. Here, asking for aces or key cards would be a common bid. After any ace ask North would know that South has three, they have the King and Queen of trumps so a vulnerable slam in Hearts would be the logical thing to try. But the slam cannot make as there are losers in Diamonds and Clubs. Now EW have a valid claim that North may have made use of the unauthorised information and opted to Pass when asking for Aces would propel them to the failing slam. The director would adjust the contract to 6 Hearts making 11 as this is a better result for EW.

Brd: 19			
Dir: S			
Vul: E/W			
		North	
		♠ K42	
		♥ KQ94	
		♦ K107	
		♣ QJ2	
West		East	
♠ J973		♠ 106	
♥ 1087		♥ 63	
♦ Q3		♦ J965	
♣ 7543		♣ A10986	
		South	
		♠ AQ85	
		♥ AJ52	
		♦ A842	
		♣ K	
W	N	E	S
			1♦
P	1♥	P	4♥

With a slightly different hand the slam can now make. So, if this was the situation then EW have not been disadvantaged by NS settling for game in Hearts. The director would not adjust the score.

So what can we all learn from this example?

- 1. Don't make oops comments** You should not indicate in any way that you have made an incorrect bid. You may be able to redress the situation with subsequent legal calls.
- 2. If your partner has made an oops comment then you must ignore it and bid according to your system.** Any deviation from system might be interpreted as using unauthorised information and result in an adjusted score if the director believes that the non-offending side has been damaged.

Committee Musings Sept 2023

1. Anglican All Souls Parish has confirmed our booking for the church hall for bridge on an ongoing basis each Friday. We will continue to play at the hall for the time being. The weekly rental for the hall is less than we were paying at the Bowlo and at Cavanbah and the cost is now easily covered by the table fees collected each week. In September we will hold a vote among members asking if you are happy for Friday bridge to remain at the hall on an ongoing basis. You will receive an email in early September asking you to record a vote on this matter and the Committee are asking you to ensure you let them know how you feel. We have been looking for a home for some time now and Committee members feel we may have now found the right place for our club and we want to know your views.
2. The Australian Bridge Federation annual fees the club pays from the membership fees of home members will increase in 2024 \$16 to \$20 per player. Given our lower than expected weekly rental costs at the hall, we may be able to pay that additional amount without any increase in member fees for 2024.
3. The financial report Jan-August 2023 - shows income of \$8,380 for the year to date and expenditure of \$8,390 – so virtually break even. The bank balance was just over \$30,100. It was agreed to place \$20,000 on fixed deposit with Westpac bank online for twelve months.
4. Membership We have had a significant increase in numbers of members and we now have over 80 club members
5. Club Championships and other RED point multi week events members indicated some concerns re the organisation of these events with uncertainty about the format of play. Unfortunately we cannot determine the best movement to use until just before play starts – as it depends on the number of tables we get on the day. The “best” option changes depending on the number of tables, when we wish to have a one pair winner situation. The choice between Howell, Mitchell, Mitchell arrow switch and truncated movements changes as we go from 7 or 7.5 or 8 or 8.5 etc tables. A final decision of the movement to be used for the Spring pairs in October will be made on the day based on the numbers of players who come on the day. A blind draw for table positions will also ensure a fair event, regardless of which movement was used.
6. Handicap results – We will soon have a weekly handicap winners as a “fun” addition as well as the actual results and an annual trophy winner for “Top of the Deck” based on a points table from the weekly handicap winners. Howard Jeffrey will assist the Committee to set up the handicapping.

7. Wine tasting - have resumed and are going very well with big numbers of over 20 attending the last two tastings. The venue at the hall has proved very suitable for the tasting and it is great to have it back. Leo did an "aged wines" tasting in August and Peter R did an excellent Beaujolais tasting this week. Peter Brosnan has agreed to do the next one on October 6th.
8. Our Xmas party this year will be held in a similar way to last year. It will be an all day event on Friday 8th December starting about 11am. Self catering as members will be asked to bring a plate to share for lunch. Relaxed bridge day with novelty prizes, some sort of dress up and wines/beer/soft drinks etc to be provided. Members will be asked to let Claudia know the plates of food they will bring in to ensure we have a good variety of dishes.
9. We want to provide a little more substantial afternoon teas. Members to be asked to nominate to bring in a plate of sandwiches or snacks with an honorarium of \$25 for doing so. One volunteer to be sought for each week. If a member is prepared to make or bring a cake that is appreciated. Biscuits, tea, coffee, etc will be provided.
10. Following comments received from members re minor concerns re heating, cooling and glare at the hall, if members vote to remain at the hall, we will initiate discussion with the Parish about our club funding minor improvements to the hall.
11. Our club will require players to have system cards when playing on Fridays. We have blank system cards and can distribute them to members to be filled in by hand - or members can download cards from the ABF website if they wish and complete them on a screen and then print them out. Please see Clive's article about system cards in this newsletter.
12. Spring Pairs will be held on 6th and 13th October with RED points. Oct 13th will also be a dress up day with prizes for best dressed. Further details later – although it will be hard to top those hats members wore last year!!
13. We will begin using the back garden area behind the kitchen for after bridge drinks to provide a more salubrious location. The after bridge drinks are considered an important part of club life and activities and it can be a lovely
14. chance to chat with other members. We felt that making it as pleasant as possible would be nice, especially as we are now moving into the warmer months and it is still light and bright at 4.30pm.

AUGUST WEEKLY BRIDGE WINNERS

4th August

**N/S Graham Carson & Ian Pick
E/W Margaret & Thomas Fleming**

11th August

**N/S Fay Bogg & Brad Hurst
E/W Ellen Watson & Jean Lowe**

18th August

**N/S Brian Sundstrom & Fay Bogg
E/W Ian Pick & Graham Carson
tied with
Veronica Humphreys & Ruth Biddles**

25th August

**N/S Brian Sundstom & Fay Bogg
E/W Rhonda Khong & Guy Jarvi**

VALE

ANNE BIGG

ANN JACKSON

JACK PIERCE