

Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club:

President's Report 2015:

This report may sound a bit like déjà vu or Groundhog Day but the Committee's year started out with another move of premises. On 4 September 2014 we were advised that we would be moving back into the Leagues Club. On Saturday 13th we dismantled the room, on Sunday 14th we had a working bee to pack up and on Tuesday 16th September 2014 we settled into our new venue.

I have likened our current room to Harry Potter's London or Station 9½ because it is long and narrow and not easy to find initially. However it has served us well over the past 12 months and I think most members are happy that we are back within the Club proper. I would like to thank the Committee and members for helping to make this move less onerous than it otherwise would have been. I would like to recognise also the ongoing support of the Central Coast Leagues Club to our Bridge Club.

It is heartening to witness the continuing generosity of our members in order to support our venue. Members such as Marion Ellis (our lovely Ken Duncan print and beautiful flower arrangement) June Clarkson (table covers for both the long table and for playing tables) Gwen White (for providing our wall clock/s) and the many others who have brought books for us to borrow. It all helps to foster a sense of community and friendship within the Club.

Despite having 18 new members this year our membership has continued to decline and, as at 31/1/2015 we had 199 members on our books - a far cry from the heady days of 1997 when we had 422 members. We cannot help losing some members through either leaving the area or becoming ill but we need to encourage beginners to take up the game, preferably while they are still employed.

One of the things we have initiated is to offer lessons **after normal work hours**, which the other Clubs on the Central Coast do not, and we have started to provide some supervised play sessions after hours. This year for the first time we obtained our beginners solely through word of mouth of our members, instead of Newspaper advertising. Well done everyone.

As usual our Club did a great job for the two charities we supported in 2015, namely Pandora Committee and Wildlife ARC, to whom we provided \$2,200 each to help with their great work. This was an amazing effort by all our members but in particular by Ruth Griffin, Lyn Lynch and Rosanne Ransley who coordinated the day and raised much of the money by selling their cards and plants throughout the year.

We also enjoyed good times with our Melbourne Cup Day and Presentation Day (who could forget those fabulous paper roses made by Adele) with our Social Committee doing a wonderful job. I particularly loved the betting slips produced by Clare O'Connor for Melbourne Cup Day, which featured a picture of the horse you drew out on the Sweep ticket. Such attention to detail is mind blowing.

We recently held our Ted Neilsen Memorial Trophy Day which was hosted this year by the Aces Bridge Club in their new venue at the Erina Leagues Club. 56 players (30 from CCLCBC and 26 from Aces) enjoyed a well run game (Leon Babinski directed) with pleasant company and a souvenir pen provided by Aces. The competition is designed for the Clubs, rather than individual players, to compete and this year the CCLCBC won.

During the year we sadly farewelled two long time members Margot Williams and Trish Bowles. They are greatly missed but will remain in our memories.

During the year we purchased 6 more bridgemates so that we could run our larger sessions in the Parkview Room. We now have 21 functioning bridgemates.

We also introduced a voluntary Personal Information Sheet whereby members can provide the contact details of family or friends in case of Emergency.

There are many people who help keep the Club functioning and it is important that we recognise their splendid contribution during the year. In particular, I would like everyone to thank our Directors without whom we could not run our sessions. Two new Directors were inducted into the difficult task of putting theory into practice during the year and we thank Matt Raj Mal and Leon Babinski for all their hard work. We also thank Peter Berzins who was Chief Director for the year and to Colin Mitchell, Leyla Moncelet, Ronnie Ng and George Boettiger who all ran regular sessions. We have two potential new Directors in the wings as Julie Sadler and David Bowerman have agreed to undertake training.

During the year we paid tribute to our Directors and I would like to repeat that Colin Mitchell, Peter Berzins, Bill Thomson and Adele Mills were our original Directors when we started the Club in 1987. Peter has continuously directed at this Club for those 28 years and as he also directed for other Clubs since 1975, this year makes it 40 years of non stop directing for him.

Also important is the work of our Masterpoint Secretary which was undertaken again this year by Wendy Mitchell, with the assistance of Rosanne Ransley. It is crucial that our masterpoints be provided to the ABF at the end of each month as well as having someone with the specialist knowledge to advise us on the finer points of allocating masterpoints. Wendy also maintains our membership list both for our purposes as well as for the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

We must also thank Gwen White, our Recorder, for her willingness to maintain this important position. Gwen is there for players to share concerns about incidents which are not a matter for the Director. It does help to share an issue with someone else even if there may not be an immediate answer. As part of her role Gwen contributes the Recorder Corner in our Newsletter to focus attention on the rights and responsibilities of players and other ethical considerations.

I would also like to thank Trish Dennis who took over the task of getting out our Newsletter every month. This was quite a task for Trish who had to introduce herself to new software and to come into the Club outside of playing times to utilise the computer and printer. I think she did a wonderful job.

And last but not least I would like to thank my committee members for 2014/2015 for all their hard work in not only keeping the Club going but doing it in style. During the year Lyn Lynch had to relinquish the Treasurer's job for health reasons and Ronnie Ng fortunately stepped up to the plate, ably assisted by Ruth Griffin. Di March as Vice President, Tournament Organiser and Partner Arranger stepped into the breach also while I was away in Tasmania over Christmas and January. Julie Sadler did a great job as our Secretary and Welfare person having moved straight into one of the tougher jobs on the committee. Leon Babinski got our room back in order when he got over the shock of our change of venue on his return from overseas, while Rosanne did her usual excellent job as Social Secretary and Di Coats looked after our Standby's and food purchases. David Bowerman has excelled at keeping our website updated and indeed changing our website hosting to "Net Registry" from "Domain Central" which not only gives us more space but costs less.

Most importantly I would like to thank all of our members for their support during the year and for continuing to support our Club.

Dorothy Berzins 28 July 2015