

Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club President's Report

May I begin by reminding everyone of Dorothy's words from last year, " How wonderful to have an area that we can call our own" Well, as you now know, we have been on the move again, but this time it should be 'forever' as, Peter Blackman, (the CCLC CEO) has assured us that we will not be able to fit back into the Main Club until a new CC Leagues Club is built.We will see.

For me, one of the highlights of the year was our Teams of Three Day in October. This is a special day, when, we randomly combine players of mixed grades, ranging from beginners and intermediates to National Grade players with captains of Life Master plus. This day is 3 fold. It is a very friendly day where people who do not normally play together get to mix. It gives recognition to the status of our better players and it gives the rank and file a chance to play with top grade players and learn, as they do so. Many thanks to Dorothy who worked tirelessly to ensure we had a very large number of competing teams. Lets have the same number next year as besides being educational it is a fun day.

In early November, we also had an exceptionally successful Melbourne Cup day with 84 players in attendance. This is our big day of the year as, we hold this event in lieu of a Xmas Party . Our club, again, subsidized part of the cost, so that on this one day of the year, we can all get together and party.

Later in November we ran for the first time a UHMP (under 100 Masterpoints) competition followed by us hosting a State Final (another first for our club but, hopefully many more in the future).

In the State Finals, our pairs after handicapping, came in 53rd, 113th, 156th, 159th and 190th out of 223 pairs with 2 new players Lynne Rainford and Cathy Russel coming 11th.

As previously stated although, we do not hold a Xmas Party as such, we did enjoy Xmas cake and drinks in each session in the week prior to Xmas.

We finished the year on a high with 6 of our players making the State's" top 10 "list for earning the most masterpoints in 2016.

We began 2017 with the National Championships in Canberra in January. We had 20 players representing this club with mixed results.

We came 4th in the "opening pairs", 12th, 14th and 24th in the National Plum Life Masters Championship, and Alan Bustany. Bernie Davidson, Rowan Bergin and Judy Macklow came 3rd in the National Novice Teams Championship In most of the other categories we finished in the middle of the field.

In February 12 of our pairs attended the Gold Coast Congress, where there were over 2000 in attendance. 18 Director conducted the event, one of which was our

home grown Ronnie Ng. He is the first director from the Central Coast to direct a National event. Congratulations Ronnie.

Our official membership at March 31st was 120 home members and 78 associates. 17 home memberships were cancelled and 23 did not renew. Since March we have gained more 3 more home members and 10 associates. Our profile is well above the national average with 42.9% of our members classed as Novice (<100 master pts) - National average is 71.4%.

19.7% classed as Restricted (v<300 MPs) - NA 15.6%

19.7% Intermediate (< 750 MPs) - NA 8% and

17.7% Open (750+) NA 5%.

We held our Intra-club teams day in April instead of the gazetted 2nd March because of the unavailability of a room and with only 13 teams attending our numbers were well down from normal.

On St. Patrick's Day we held a fun day with lots of greenery and games but unfortunately although articles were submitted to the 2 main local newspapers, we did not get our photos published.

Since then we have held our Presentation Day. It was in the style of the Academy Awards, with all 66 members attending taking an alternative persona. Everyone praised the day and the food.

Again submitted photos and a commentary to the newspapers. - but to no avail. However I will keep trying.

Wendy Mitchell, our resident teacher, held Improver's lessons in March and Advanced Lessons on Fridays in April.

At the end of May, Wendy also began her 8 week course of Beginner's Lessons on Thursdays. Unfortunately, we did not get many takers for these Beginner's Lessons but, again, they were well received. Now the "buddy" sessions have begun and soon we will see the 'newbees' in our normal sessions. Can I take this chance to remind all players that we were all, once beginners. Please try to remember, how that felt, and be kind. They will not learn to 'fit in' in their first session so please give them some latitude for a while.

Charity Day was once again a monstrous success. A big thank you to our main 3 cohorts, Ruth Griffin, Lynette Lynch and Rosanne Ransly plus the magnificent donors who spent so much time and effort cooking (including our magnificent Rocky Road maker) and sewing etc. Too many to mention here, now, but, all were thanked in our June Newsletter. \$3850 was raised with \$ 1450 being given to both Pandora and Coast Shelter, \$500 to Wildlife Arc, \$350 to Bandana Cancer Group and \$100 to the Parents' Room at Gosford Hospital Children's Ward.

Our eclectic Events have continued with another one added – 'Magic May'. Most are well patronised and bring in extra Masterpoints which all accumulate and allow us to retain those precious Red Point Days. The big success of the calendar was moving Switching Singles to a Monday night where it is now so well patronised. After only 5

months, 6 people have already qualified by playing 5 times. 4 have played 4 times and 12 have played 3 times. 11 have played twice. Wonderful! Come along and join us, it is fun to play with new partners and the atmosphere is great.

During the Year we made some significant purchases. These include a Life Members Board which we will now hang in the new Rooms and 6 larger, light chairs (on sliders) for easy manoeuvrability. We also bought a new printer, a new monitor, new microphone, extra stools and new table cloths.

Next I would like to thank the Central Coast Leagues Club for all their help during the year, in solving our air conditioning problems and eliminating the bulk of the mildew smell emanating from the Music Storage room and caused by water leaks onto the carpet.....

And now alas we move...again! ... And it may take a while to get the air conditioning correct....so, rug up and wear layer clothes.

A big thank you to Peter Blacker, for finding us a quiet room which has more space for changing tables and general access. The extra rooms and the use of the kitchen are an added bonus and allow us to place more tables than when last we used the room. At this point I would also like to thank Randal as from the CCLC end, the bulk of the move has fallen on his shoulders. He has had to help us accomplish this move as well as tending to his normal duties.

And, what do I say about Leon Babinski. He has been just marvellous, again. To just thank him, is not enough. Maybe we can do more about that in the future. I'd also like to thank his helpers, Joe Griffin, Alan Bustany, Stewart Duxbury, George Boettiger, Matt Raj Mal and David Bowerman. I'm sure there will be many more to thank as the room gets fitted. But, at this moment this report has to go to the printers. However, there is room for, an important addendum. I would also like to thank Wendy Mitchell, who has again come to the fore to help with packing and Ruth Griffin and all the others who finally cleared the room on Wed. night.

Let's end the year's review with success. Two of our members have achieved high status during the year. Anne Graden has been promoted to Gold Life Master and Marie Purkiss has achieved Grand Master status. Congratulations.

In Memorium

During the year we lost 3 long standing members of our club.

John Lehane who died in October last year. He began playing Bridge in 1988. Joan, his wife took the lessons and John read her notes and extended his knowledge by reading lots of books. In mid'97 he joined our club and his first 'job' was Masterpoint Secretary. He later became a Committeeman, a Director, our club Bridge Teacher, and finally President. Those of us who remember him, acknowledge him as an ethical player and a thorough gentleman.

Bill Thomson who died in January when, unfortunately many were still on holidays. He was a Life Member, one of the founders of our club and our inaugural Vice-President. Bill

established much of what we take for granted now, such as; our Presentation Dinners, our Melbourne Cup Day, as well as organizing the Perpetual Trophies and being instrumental in our club growing from 2 sessions to 7 sessions of play per week within the 1st 10years. He served on the Committee for 15 years, being both President and Vice President on two occasions, Secretary for 5 years (one of the tougher jobs), Treasurer for 5 years and Committee person for 1 year. Bill also directed for at least 15 years. He was always friendly and encouraging to all beginners & improving members and thrived as a Captain in the Teams of 3s. A jolly good bloke.

His family wish to donate a perpetual Trophy in his honour and the new committee will discuss that as one of their first items of business. Any ideas ? please tell myself or one of the committee persons. We always enjoy fresh Ideas.

Dick Wilson who died in April this year. Many of you may not remember him as he retired from Bridge a few years ago now. However we still wish to acknowledge Dick as he was such a friendly member of our club. Again, a gentleman and a help to newer players.

Now, lets not end on a happier note.

Let us acknowledge the wonderful committee we have had in 2016 / 2017.

Ronnie Ng took on 3 portfolios, Treasurer, Tournament Organiser and Chief Director and Trish Dennis joined us later for just this year. She more than fulfilled any role she was given. I would personally like to thank them and everyone else on the committee. They have done a marvellous job. I'd also like to thank Di Coates who bought our biscuits and ensured we always had a standby. She is retiring after 4 years to fulfil more grandmotherly duties. And then, the big thank you to our retiring Secretary, Lynette Lynch and Social Director / Vice President, Rosanne Ransly. Both, of whom have also served 4 years each. What more can I say? You all know what tireless workers they have been and I'm sure they will continue to be active members of our club.

Lastly I would like to thank two behind the scene workers. Tony Ransley for his extraordinary performance in producing our newsletter each month. He also is retiring.... so are there any offers of help in that direction? Otherwise we may not be able to publish a newsletter in future.

And Wendy Mitchell, our largely unsung fabulous club person! She has taken on Masterpoints Secretary, Membership address/ phone record keeper, and is the person who adjusts each Calendar into the format that she created. She also sends out any bulk emails. This year she and Leon also did a stock take and Wendy has created the spreadsheet to go with it, so that in future the job will be that much easier. How do we thank you Wendy?

Late Addendum. There is another sad note. After 8 yrs Leon will not be continuing as a committee person but says he is willing to help and continue doing odd jobs but with no pressure. Let's say thank you by giving him a round of applause.

I would now like thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. THANK YOU. I have enjoyed the year and I hope next year to fulfil my desire to get our club more publicity.

Yours in Bridge
Dianne March