



CENTRAL COAST LEAGUES CLUB BRIDGE CLUB

NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

With Christmas and New Year out of the way it is back to bridge again for the majority of members. Hope 2006 is full of great things bridge-wise for all.

PLAYERS REGISTERED WITH ABF

While we all hold bridge to be a worthwhile game providing mental stimulation much needed as we grow into middle age but do you realise that there are 32,282 people within Australia who hold the same view. At least this is the number of bridge players registered with the ABF, as at December, 2005.

Of that number by far the majority live in NSW. We have 13,905 registered players compared with 7,075 in Queensland; 4,366 in Victoria; 3,680 in WA; 1,603 in SA; 759 in ACT; 748 in Tasmania; and, 146 in NT.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Thursday 26: Australia Day Pairs (R)

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 1: February Pairs (R)

Thursday 9: Inter Club Teams

Monday 13: Monthly Shield

Tuesday 14: Valentine's Day Pairs (R)

INTER CLUB TEAMS

This is an event held between the 3 local affiliated clubs with only members of these 3 clubs eligible to compete. The Committee encourages as many players as possible to get a team together and have a bit of fun by participating.

PRESENTATION DAY

This is not just a day for prize winners but a day for the enjoyment of all club members. The lunch should be good as well as the company. Make it a social affair, talk to your friends, make up a group and come and enjoy.

The date for this is **Saturday 25 March, 2006.**

SYSTEM CARDS

There are three clubs on the Central Coast that are affiliated with the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) - Central Coast Bridge Club, Brisbane Water Bridge Club and Central Coast Leagues Bridge Club. Bridge tournaments run by these clubs - whether of one or many sessions - are run in accordance with The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 and the New South Wales Bridge Association (NSWBA) Tournament

Regulations. In addition the NSWBA Tournament Regulations refer to the ABF Alerting and Systems Regulations.

How does this affect the use (or non-use!) of system cards in our three clubs? What does this mean to players at our three clubs? Well here it is straight from the NSWBA Tournament Regulations :

5. System Cards.

Except for events where the Director determines that a system card is not required, each pair shall have on the table during the periods of play a legible system card properly identified with their names. The system card shall be one approved by the NSWBA; that is, one supplied by the NSWBA or the ABF. The onus is on the pair to prepare an accurate and reasonably comprehensive system card. System cards should remain on the table during play. At the commencement of each round, it is highly recommended that a pair should consult the system card of the opponents to determine their general system, strength of 1NT opening, length of opening suit bids and level of negative doubles. The purpose of this Regulation is to reduce the possibility of unauthorised information being conveyed by questions asked during the auction or play. This Regulation in no way reduces a pair's obligation to alert its opponents to any special partnership understandings under Law 40 of the Code, or under Regulation 7 hereunder and

7.4 Start of a Round or Match

At the start of a round or match, players have a responsibility to inform their opponents of the following information:

- * basic system, including the minimum suit length and strength of one level opening(s);
- * strength and style of the 1NT opening;
- * any unusual two and higher level opening bids.

So

- have a readable completed system card – preferably two that contain the same information – on the table for your opponents. (If you have difficulty in completing a system card ask the advice of one of the directors at your club).
- inform your opponents of the basics of your bidding system.
- don't forget that you must alert any special partnership understandings even though some of these may have been defined when describing the basics of your bidding system.

1NT OPENING WITH A 5-CARD MAJOR AND PRE-ALERTS

See the Noticeboard for copy of e-message from Matthew McManus written in reply to Lyn's query regarding need to alert a 1NT opening that may contain a 5 card major. He wrote that 'that under the current ABF regulations if a partnership's style was that 1NT could contain a 5 card major then they should make opponents aware of it at the start of the round as part of their pre-alerts'

Your Committee takes the view that apart from the ABF regulation, to make opponents aware of your system is not only courteous but makes for more harmonious playing conditions thereby enhancing any pleasure gained.