

**Central Coast
Leagues Club
Bridge Club**



NEWSLETTER

December 2008

**Welcome to the December edition of the
Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club Newsletter.**

The festive season is here again, I am sure that the days and months are becoming shorter!!

We will be having our usual festivities of Christmas cake and cheer at each session in the week leading up to Christmas. Tea and coffee, biscuits etc. will also be available as usual. **Please note** that the Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve sessions will begin at 12.30 p.m. instead of the usual 1.30 p.m. start. The only breaks from bridge this year will be Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ?

When someone says or does something at the table (or even away from the table, but during the session) which you consider to be unacceptable, your first action must be to call the Director. The Laws of Bridge are unequivocal. Failure to call the Director for a breach of the Laws (see Law 9.1.a), including lapses of etiquette is itself a breach. The Director is the first person who can take appropriate action. If the director is unable to rectify the situation a report will be made to the committee who will deal with the problem.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY

It only seems to be the other day that we enjoyed Melbourne Cup Day. What a day....good bridge, good food and good company. I would also like to thank the people who conducted the sweep for the marvellous wins I had on the day!! The ladies fashion parade was stunning, with Liz Kerr taking out first prize for best dressed and Marie Purkiss for best hat, from a "bevy of beauties". The best dressed man was a very small field, *come on men...we need more entries next year*. However the entrants in this field were very suave and first prize went to Kevin Dougall.

COMPUTER REVOKE!

Our computer crashed about a month ago now and we have bought a new desktop computer and a laptop computer so we should never be caught out by a computer revoke again. The laptop is for backup and for easier movement around the club when necessary. Many thanks to Camilla Barlow and Colin Mitchell for the time and effort spent seeking out new computers and installing all of our programs again. This took many hours.

Microsoft has also generously given our club Microsoft Office 2007 and Publisher 2007 - programmes which are worth hundreds of dollars.

ALERT..EVENING BRIDGE LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS!!

Our club, in conjunction with Kincumber Community College, will be presenting lessons for beginners, from Monday 9 February 2009, for a period of eight weeks. These weekly lessons will be held from 7.00pm—9.00pm. Wendy Mitchell will be the bridge teacher.

If you know of anyone who might want to learn bridge, but cannot attend lessons during the day, please **ALERT** them to this opportunity.

Please bring a partnership system card to the table with you

Did you know. That light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright...until you hear them speak!!

Novice player displays his skills.

Board 27/Dlr S/ Nil vul

Sitting South – last hand of the session and my RHO is a graduate from the Beginners lessons held earlier in the year. He is on a bit of a high because two days before he had won the Spring Pairs Trophy playing with a slightly more experienced player. The bidding proceeds:

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>
P	2S*	P	4C#
P	4H^	P	7NT
*	Weak two in spades		
#	Gerber (not my favourite convention)		
^	One ace		

LHO, an experienced player, sort of smothered an exclamation (or expletive!).

I lead the fourth highest from my best longest but to no avail – won in dummy with the knave, three rounds of spades and he then claims.

The NS hands are fairly immaterial – the EW hands are

♠ KQT653	♠ A42
♥ T	♥ AKQ853
♦ J74	♦ AK6
♣ A63	♣ K

The score sheet was then opened and, once again in this session we had scored an involuntary bottom. One pair had bid and made six spades; every other pair had stopped in four or five.

Congratulations to Bill Donkin – apparently his first grand slam (but why did he have to do it against us!).

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MINIBRIDGE AT GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

In the September Newsletter I told you a little about the game of Minibridge. In Term 3, I conducted six Monday sessions of 30 minutes each, with an average attendance of 12.7 boys and girls from Grade 6.

Some of the students were keen enough to ask for a second session, so in Term 4 Mondays were used for teaching a new concept, and Wednesdays for general practice. After one boy asked 'when are we going to learn real bridge?' I rather reluctantly introduced some simple bidding with sample hands, using 4-card suits, up the line. The students loved the idea of bidding, but wanted to walk before crawling!

With improving weather, there are many activities to attract students in their Recess break, so after five weeks with attendance averaging 5.4 it was time to call a halt. Thank you to Elizabeth Lawrence who helped me on some of the Wednesdays. As she will tell you there were some quite sophisticated questions to try to answer! Hopefully we have engendered sufficient interest for students to learn more about bridge in years to come.

I am also hopeful that a few of them will continue to learn in their spare time through the Minibridge software. If you are interested you can download freeware called Blue Chip MiniBridge from www.bluechipbridge.co.uk/MiniBridge.htm.

The Principal is happy for bridge to be offered again in 2009. Terms 2 and 3 are probably the most appropriate. Also, by offering it to Grade 5 students, we would have the potential for following up with the same students when they are in Grade 6. If this happens, students should become fairly competent in most aspects of the game – so prepare yourself to play against 11/12 year olds!

Wendy Mitchell

Donation to The Cure Cancer Australia Foundation

Our club has made a donation to this organisation in memory of Lanie Jespersen.

A hand from the Remembrance Day Pairs.

Board 7/Dlr S/ All vul

Sitting East this time (with my favourite partner of course) I held the following hand:

♠ 85
♥ AJ6
♦ QT63
♣ AQT9

FP opened one diamond. I cannot remember the bidding but we eventually ended up in five diamonds which was made fairly quickly. A score of 600 looked good on a combined HCP of 26, the full deal being :

♠ KJT	♠ A9743	♠ 85
♥ 872	♥ KQ5	♥ AJ6
♦ AKJ542	♦ 87	♦ QT63
♣ 8	♣ KJ5	♣ AQT9
	♠ Q62	
	♥ T943	
	♦ 9	
	♣ 76432	

The score sheet was then opened and we had scored an average. Some pairs had not bid the game; some pairs had made twelve tricks. The standout score went to the EW pair that played in one diamond redoubled making twelve tricks and thus getting a score of 2230 and earning the title of 'Ms Cronulla'.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2009

Friday 2 New Year's Cup (R)
Monday 26 Australia Day Pairs (R)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2009

Monday 2 Monthly Shield
Thursday 5 Inter Club Teams (R) 9.30am start
Saturday 7, 12 Club Mixed Pairs (C)

If you have any spare large ice cream containers... would you kindly bring them to the club, as they make very good rubbish bins.

DON'T BE SHY RINGDi March on 43810552 if you need a partner. We have standby players (except for red point and Monday night sessions).

LOST EMAIL ADDRESSES.....When the computer crashed all of our email addresses were lost. If you would like to give us your email address please inform the Secretary, Camilla Barlow or a committee member if she is unavailable, or send an email to .cclcbridgeclub@bigpond.com with the subject 'My email address'.

Did you know...that a mousetrap, placed on the top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button!!!

That... Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain.

A note from the editor....

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.. I hope you all enjoy happy and safe Christmas and New Year celebrations and holidays. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter during 2008. *Marilyn Whigham* 2008