

**Welcome to the
Central Coast
Leagues Club
Bridge Club**



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

**A
NNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

You have already received notification of this from the Secretary:

Friday July 28th, 2023

**10.30 am at Central Coast
Leagues Club**

Followed by the Anniversary Pairs

All members are invited to attend & all Management Committee positions are open for nominations.

All proposed Motions must be in hands of Secretary by Friday July 7th July.

Motions need to include the following - the Motion to be put; the names both mover & seconder; &, signatures of mover & seconder.

Nomination and Apology forms are on display at the club, as well as one for you to indicate if you are attending. This is required for catering purposes, as your reward will be some light refreshments before the red point session at 12.30pm

**STATE SENIORS
FOLLOW-UP**

It is pleasing to know that we will have made a profit from this major event although not all finalised yet. Expected, in round figures:

<u>Income</u>	Table fees	\$9,094
	Sponsorship	<u>\$1,000</u>
		\$10,094

<u>Expenditure</u>		
Prizes	\$2,850	
Catering	\$2,984	
Dealing, Director	\$1980	
MPs & Fee	\$ 685	
Standbys, other	\$ 605	<u>\$9104</u>

Nett Profit: \$ 990

More Photos Page 11

RECENT RESULTS

WINTER PAIRS (Real Bridge)		(R)	5 tables	Tue June 12
1st	Louis Koolen & Barbara Grant			57.41%
2nd	Dorothy Berzins & Wendy Mitchell			56.94%
3rd	Alan Bustany & Chris Williams			54.17%

CLUB SWISS PAIRS (C)		20 tables			Fri June 23&30
		W	D	L	VPs
1st	Dorothy Berzins & Adele Mills	4	0	1	69.96
2nd	Di Coat & Jan Clarke	4	0	1	69.13
3rd	Agnes Marsh & Barbara Grant	3	0	2	63.43

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to Director Peter Hume. His taking on the 2-week job enabled all our directors to play in the event.

The Tournament Committee at its next meeting will look at the factors that caused one round to be cancelled, with a view of this not ever happening again.

See Page 6 for a photo of the winners

CONGRESSES Best Local Players

Newcastle Congress Jun 17 – 18

Congratulations to Di Coats and Jan Clarke for 9th out of 32 in the Pairs. In the teams with 4 wins, 2 losses were Sally Clarke & Chris Williams with Sharon & Greg Mayo, 3rd place out of 18. Well done.

BRIDGE EDUCATION

1. Beginners

Eight of the twelve graduates were present on Thursday June 29 to receive their certificates from President Louis Koolen. Congratulations and welcome! Monday Evening saw the two Geoffs on 26th and another four of the beginners at the bridge table on July 3. We look forward to seeing more in the coming weeks. *See Page 7 for photo*

New members will be given temporary name badges until official CCLCBC badges are ordered. Remember that protection against Brown Sticker Conventions is shown by an orange sticker on a system card. This status can be used in regular clubs sessions (not Red Point or Championship) and applies

to Eligible pairs which are:

- a) Both below *Local Master OR b) One player below Graduate Master

Note: An orange sticker does NOT protect a player against a penalty double.

Eunice starts a new group on Thursday, August 2, 6.15pm - 8 lessons for \$80. Flyers are available at the club if you can help with advertising or tell your friends to contact Eunice: 0415 937 941 or euny@bigpond.com.

2. Improvers Supervised: Wednesday Evenings, **6.15pm**.

After 8 weeks of the Improvers Course, between 4 and 9 people stuck it out for another 6 week for Supervised Play. Thank you all!

The last session is Wednesday July 5 at 6.15pm. Theme: *The Part Score Battle* and introduction to *The Law of Total Tricks*. All welcome.

Wendy M

MONTHLY SHIELD UPDATE

At the half-way mark of this 10-month eclectic event 13 pairs have already qualified. Pairs must play a minimum of 4 times – the best 4 results are counted. The leading 6 pairs are as follows:

NAMES		Total – best 4	Sessions
Dorothy Berzins	Di Coats	120	5
Ian Cameron	Galina Cameron	104	4
Henrietta Hohnen	Wendy Mitchell	96	4
Anne Grayden	Julie Sadler	94	4
Mei-Hua Crawford	Marion Ellis	80	5
Richard Webb	Leonie Wain	76	4

5 pairs have played 5 sessions, 8 have played 4 sessions, 3 have played 3, 3 have played 2 and 16 have played 1. This amounts to 35 pairs but only 56 different players. With 5 months remaining there is still plenty of time to join in this competition. If you are already playing you have the chance of discarding a bad score if you gain a better one in the coming months.

MASTERPOINTS NOTES FOR JUNE

1. Club Swiss Pairs Championship

Adjustments and checking of the masterpoint file had to be done at home by Louis. This took some time and I sought advice from the State Masterpoint Secretary on the weighting factor.

The bad news is that the file was not uploaded until Sunday July 2, after the June 30 cut-off. This means that it will be processed at the end of this month. The good news is that, although less than the minimum number of boards were played – 45 instead of 48 – this still met the 2xsession requirement and so Outright Award masterpoints were able to be included.

2. Beginners supervised sessions with buddies

Thanks again to all who helped out on the last 4 Thursday evenings. It was never intended that masterpoints be awarded to these sessions, but these show on our website display at the normal green point rate. In fact supervised play can only be allocated blue points, which are half that value. These are then accumulated until 2 are earned before they can be credited.

Accordingly, NO points have or will be allocated to players on those nights. Apologies if you were expecting them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for July:

Margo Brennan, Kath Bromley, June Clarkson, Terry Dyer, Barry Foster, Joe Griffin, Christine Hadaway, Jim Havyatt, Henk Keulemans, Louis Koolen, Alison Mackey, John Mitchell, Bob Morris, Alfie Nation, Richard Webb.

NEW ABF RANKINGS – June Congratulations to:

<i>Silver Life</i>	Alan Bustany	<i>Graduate</i>	Frik Gautschi
<i>Bronze State</i>	Tony Sappideen		Pamela Price

WHY ARE SOME BRIDGE COMPETITIONS CALLED 'SWISS'?

The question was asked by a new player recently, prompting some re-search!

The answer - the system was first employed at a chess tournament in Zurich in 1895 by Julius Müller, hence the name "Swiss system". It is now used in many games eg:

Board and Card games: Chess, Go, Scrabble, Bridge

Collectible Cards & Electronic: Yu-Gi-Oh! Trading Card Game, Gwent, Pokemon, Magic – The Gathering, Esports

Sporting: Badminton, Croquet, Curling, Ultimate Frisbee, Sumo

Debating; Wargaming Tournaments

The format of a *Swiss-system tournament* features a fixed number of rounds of competition, but considerably fewer than for a round-robin tournament; thus each competitor (team or individual) does not play all the other competitors.

Competitors meet one-on-one in each round and are paired using a set of rules designed to ensure that each competitor plays opponents with a similar running score, but does not play the same opponent more than once. So the match pairing for each round is done after the previous round has ended and depends on its results.

The Swiss system produces a clear winner - that with the highest aggregate of points earned in all round - with a large number of competitors and a relatively small number of rounds of competition, without a single bad result terminating participation.

In Bridge the Swiss system can be used in tournament events, either pairs or team matches.

For teams, in each round, one team plays against another for several hands with the North/South pairs playing against their opponent's East/West pairs. The same hands are played at each table and the results compared using the International Match Point (IMP) scoring system. The difference between the total IMPs scored in the round is converted to Victory Points (VPs), with 20 VPs shared between the teams.

In the first round, teams are usually paired randomly; however, pairings can be based on other criteria. In subsequent rounds, the teams are ranked in order of the number of VPs they have accumulated in previous rounds, and the top team plays the second team, the third team plays the fourth team, etc., subject to the proviso that teams do not play each other twice.

The draw used to be done by hand, but now is generally managed by software.

The Swiss system is used for competitions in which there are too many entrants for a full round-robin (all-play-all) to be feasible, and eliminating any competitors before the end of the tournament is undesirable

This applied to our recent Club Swiss Pairs held over 2 sessions. In this event 24 pairs competed but each played only 5 others. Mathematically this is considered to give a fair result up to 32 pairs, beyond that 6 rounds would be necessary to avoid pairs playing each other twice. The initial scoring is by matchpoints by comparison with the average across the field, which are then converted to VPs.

By contrast all-play-all is suitable if there are a small number of competitors; the Restricted Teams Championship in progress is such an example where each team will play each other team. There are 8 in the competition, so each will play 7 matches total.

Wendy M



**2023
Swiss Pairs
Champions:**

Dorothy Berzins
Adele Mills

This regular pair has won many events, they won this one last year also.



Beginner Graduates - L to R:

Sue Horrobin, Geoff Mathews, Rachel van der Merwe, Pauline Allen, Janet Davies, Lynette Callaghan, Lynn Harrold, Paul Garnsey.

Absent:

Catherine Gordon, Gary Schroder, Geoff Wilcher, Lisa McNamara

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CORRECT PROCEDURES

With so many new players joining our sessions it is important that experienced players set a good example for them. It is to be expected that it will take time for them to learn and we can be tolerant – but we must not make the same mistakes ourselves.

1. Alerting

It is now 10 years since the ‘new’ procedures were introduced. The August 2013 Newsletter on our website presented the rules regarding ‘Announcements’ which did away with the need to alert a 1C opening. (*see nswba.com.au/tourn/regulations/alertchanges.asp*). However other alerting rules did not change and lately it seems that players are becoming complacent, careless forgetful (?) in alerting correctly and promptly.

Look up the February and March Newsletters of 2020 for a comprehensive explanation by our Chief Director, Alan Bustany.

WHY ALERT

It is an essential principle of the game of bridge that players may not have secret agreements with their partners. All agreements must be *fully* available and *fully* disclosed to the opponents.

WHEN TO ALERT

As soon as partner makes an alertable bid. Late/delayed alerts affect the rights of the opposition. They are particularly annoying from experienced players – make sure you know your system!

HOW TO ALERT

Say the word ‘alert’ and place your Alert card as shown in 2. Below

WHAT TO ALERT

The general principle is to alert calls that the opponents may not fully understand, or may reasonably misinterpret.

This summary may refresh your memory and assist new players:

DO ALERT*	
All non-natural bids (except those below)	Eg a suit that does not promise 3+ cards
Weak jump responses	Eg 1C – 2H*, showing 6+Hs, <6 HCPs
2-level openings with multiple meanings, and their responses	Eg 2D*: weak Hs or Ss or strong options Response: 2H* – pass or correctable
Various conventional bids	Eg inverted minors, forcing 1NT response, trial bids, splinters, Bergen raises, Jacoby 2NT, 4th suit forcing
1NT overall	If it doesn’t promise a stopper
Transfer responses to 1NT	Eg 2D* telling opener to bid 2H
Responses to 2C Stayman	Eg 2D* has different meanings with different versions of Stayman
3C – asking re Majors	Eg in response to strong 2NT opening
Puppet bids	Eg Lebensold 2NT, forcing 3C response from partner
Openings above 3NT	If conventional eg 5NT pre-empt in minors

DO NOT ALERT	
2C (Stayman)	In response to partner's 1NT opening
Cue bid (ie bid of opponents suit)	These bids are taken as 'self-alerting'
Doubles & Redoubles	
Calls higher than 3NT	Eg responses to Blackwood
1NT	If in the pass-out seat
2-over-1 bids	Even if forcing to game

EXPLAINING AND ASKING

You should NOT GIVE an explanation of an alerted call UNLESS a request is made by the opponents.

It is best **not** to ask questions about alerted calls unless you need the information to make your call. Any *extraneous* information from asking questions is unauthorised to partner and may limit their options in subsequent bidding or play.

The time to ask for a Review of the auction is before you make the third pass, or if you are on lead. At that time all bids and alerts will be explained by the declaring side.

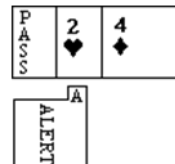
See Newsletter March 2018, pages 8 & 9 for an example of what can happen when inappropriately asking about alerts.

2. Bidding Boxes

A. The above articles referred to written bidding where the alertable bid was circled.

When using bidding boxes, the verbal 'alert' must still be spoken, but the difference is the placement of the *Alert* card instead of circling the bid. This is the correct procedure from the NSWBA Tournament Regulations: 6.1.7 To alert, a player should say "alert" and place one of the "ALERT" cards next to partner's alertable call, with the "A" tab directly below the alerted call.

See the diagram where partner's 2H bid has been alerted:



See Newsletter June 2021, Pages 3 to 7, for all regulations, but note Page 9, December 2021 where our own Club regulation now states to leave the final contract displayed.

B. When written bidding was used, dithering with a bid before eg passing was not too much of a problem. It is much more obvious with bidding boxes and may relay unauthorised information to partner. From the regulations:

6.1.6 Players should refrain from touching any bidding cards until they have determined their call. A call is considered to have been made when the bidding card is removed from the bidding box with apparent intent .

What this means is that you need to do all your thinking before touching a bidding card! Pulling cards out/putting them back/changing them is not allowed! *Note: All past Newsletters can be found on our website*

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NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following Beginning players who have joined our club as Home members and add their phone numbers to your Program Book: Pauline Allen (0407 215 089); Lynette Callaghan (0438 495 562); Janet Davies (0401 003 510); Paul Garnsey (0409 200 771); Catherine Gordon (0405 504 587); Lisa McNamara (0457 731 018); Geoff Mathews (0408 894 223); Rachel van der Merwe (0401 539 976); Gary Schroder (0412 069 405); Geoff Wilcher (0432 613 433).

Also a pupil from the past: Criss Sharp (0404 479 505, 4324 8113) and ADD this number for Kevin Hughes: 0493 615 208

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GRAND SLAMS

On Monday Evening, July 3, there were an unusual number of Grand Slams available. Just one pair (Anne & Julie) bid a small slam on Bd 18. Check them out online and see if/how you would bid them:

Board 6	NS - 30 HCPs	7S
Board 10	EW - 25 HCPs	7H
Board 12	EW - 29 HCPs	7H/7NT
Board 18	EW - 33 HCPs	7H/S/NT
Board 23	NS - 27 HCPs	7C

SOME STATE SENIORS SCENES



**Food
and
more
food**



COMING EVENTS

JULY

RealBridge

Tuesdays 12.30pm Jul 4, 11, 18, 25

Face-to-Face

Monday 12.30pm Jul 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Monday Evenings 7.15pm Jul 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Wednesdays 1.30pm Jul 5, 12, 19, 26

Fridays 12.30pm Jul 7, 14, 21, 28

Special Events

Club Restricted Teams C/P Wednesday 3 & 10

Club Trophy: <300 MPs per player

Monthly Shield 6 E Wednesday Jul 5

Anniversary Pairs R Friday Jul 28

AUGUST

Special Events

Monthly Shield 7 E Wednesday Aug 2

Foundation Day Cup R (RealBridge) Tuesday Aug 15

GNOT Qual. 1 & 2 G/P Wed Aug 16 & 23

CONGRESSES TO COME

1. Good luck to members playing in the Central Coast Novice and Restricted Pairs on July 8. Entries to that event are closed, but still open for the Teams on July.

2. Brisbane Water Super Congress: July 22 & 23: Entries are still open for the pairs but almost full for the teams. Don't miss out!

3. State Veterans, Tomaree, August 1 to 4: Get your entries in!!

4. CCLCBC ANNUAL CONGRESS

Our fifth weekend Congress (3^rd face-o-face) is set for Saturday September 16 (Swiss Pairs) and Sunday September 17 (Swiss Teams). There are cash prizes for Open, Restricted and Novice, with red points at Congress B4 level. The new starting time is 10 am. Our Director will be Alan Bustany. Entry will be online at www.myabf.com.au/events

Wendy Mitchell

Editor