

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



**NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2023**

**C**ONGRESS  
CCLCBC

There are currently 51 entries for Saturday September 16 (Swiss Pairs). With just a few more pairs under 300 MPs it will be possible to conduct 2 fields.

For the Swiss Teams on Sunday September 17 there are 25 teams so far.

Remember, there are cash prizes for Open, Restricted and Novice, with red points at Congress B4 level. \$50 per day for 2 sessions with lunch.

It is not too late to support your club by playing in one or both of these events. Entries are online at [www.myabf.com.au/events](http://www.myabf.com.au/events) and close at midnight September 13.

**OUR NEWSLETTER**

Thank you very much to the 36 members who completed the survey and to those that gave me verbal feedback.

On page 10 is the summary I am presenting to the committee.

Steph Mathews has offered to compile the Congress Results each month - a time-consuming task for which I am very grateful - and Pauline Caust will assist with proof-reading.

Thank you also to all contributors this month. Look in the following pages for articles etc from: Rosalind Dey, Anne Grayden, Alan Bustany, Ronnie Ng.

I also have more material submitted ready for next month! *Wendy M*

**!! WONDERFUL !!**

## RECENT RESULTS

<b>MONTHLY SHIELD (7)</b>	<b>(E) 8 tables</b>	<b>Wed Aug 2</b>
1st Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler		65.19%
2nd Dorothy Berzins & Di Coats		59.65%
3rd Jan Clarke & Alan Bustany		59.42%

<b>FOUNDATION DAY CUP (Real Bridge) (R)</b>	<b>6.5 tables</b>	<b>Tue Aug 15</b>
1st Chris Williams & Alan Bustany		69.42%
2nd Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler		52.67%
3rd Gary Heyting & Marilyn Scott		60.17%

<b>GNOT Qual 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>(G)</b>	<b>11 teams</b>			<b>Wed Aug 16 &amp; 23</b>	
			<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>VPs</b>
1st Adele Mills, Dorothy Berzins			9	1	0	154.77
Wendy Mitchell, Henrietta Hohnen						
2nd Sally Clarke, Garry Clarke,			9	0	1	147.08
Chris Williams, Di Coats, Jan Clarke						
3rd Kath Bromley, Sue Eastman			7	0	3	128.89
Peter Hall, Roy Cotton						
4th Gary Heyting, Steph Mathews			8	0	2	127.97
Jan Small, Suzanne Harrison						

*Please see Page 4 for a report.*

## CONGRESS NEWS

*Steph Mathews*

Our members travelled to a number of congresses in August. Our top finishers are listed below.

### State Veterans Championships

**Aug 3-4**

Held at Tomaree and directed by Ronnie Ng, our members fared well in the teams event with Sue Eastman, Colin Speller, Christine Houghton, Wayne Houghton finishing 3rd and Louis Koolen, Barbara Grant, Ian Stewart and Tony Fallett finishing 7th. Sue and Colin and Louis and Barbara also competed in the pairs event.

### Coffs Coast Gold Congress

**Aug 9-14**

CCLCBC was well-represented at Coffs Harbour in this national event, with members playing in 14 pairs and 10 teams. Our top finishers were:

- Martin Johnson and Chris Hasemore finished 3rd in the Welcome Pairs
- Pauline Caust and Alan Bustany claimed 3rd place in the Intermediate Pairs.

Greg and Sharon Mayo, playing with Chris Dibley and Paul McGrath, finished 5th in the Open Teams and Mary and Steve Colling (our on-line members), playing with Tony White and Jake Andrew, finished 2nd in the Intermediate Teams. Well done!

### **Toronto Bridge Club Teams**

**Aug 20**

We had a fantastic showing at Toronto with CCLCBC members playing in the teams that finished in the top five: Greg and Sharon Mayo, (Michael Simes and Paul McGrath) finished 2nd ; Dasha Brandt and David Bowerman, Matt Raj Mal, (Brian Richardson) claimed 3rd place; Sally Clarke, Chris Williams, Di Coats and Helen Milward finished 4th and David Snow, Chris Hasemore, Martin Johnson, and Hope Tomlinson finished 5th. Two additional CCLCBC teams also competed (the Griffin and Regan teams), and Gary and Steph played with members of another club.

### **NSBC Winter Online Pairs**

**Aug 20**

Steve Calcroft with Shan Lawson finished first in the restricted section.

### **Tim Seres National Pairs**

**Aug 28**

Di Coats and Alan Bustany finished a very respectable 12th in a very tough field. This was a new event on RealBridge.

### **NEW ABF RANKINGS – August**

Congratulations to:

<i>Silver Life</i>	David Snow	<i>Regional</i>	Carolynne Mucharsky
<i>Silver Local</i>	Kevin Hughes		

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY for September**

Maureen Bell, Trish Byrnes, Ian Cameron, Pauline Caust, Roy Cotton, Anne Grayden, Suzanne Harrison, John King, Peter Mackey, Tony Manea, Ursula Middleton, Rosanne Ransley, Rachel van der Merwe.

## **REPORT ON GNOT Qualifying**

Participation this year, the first time held since 2019, was similar to past years which ranged from 10 to 14 teams.

11 teams played 6xboard matches, 4 matches the first week and 6 the second. Because of the odd number a triangle was necessary. The movement chosen by the director, Louis Koolen, involved Team 1 being permanently in the triangle.

Unfortunately, Louis became unwell before the last round. As a result Alan Bustany took over the directing and Team 6 (Warburton) forfeited to Team 5 (Heyting). Ensuing bridgemate and scoring problems have revealed an apparent bug in the scoring program and out-of-date tournament regulations. A big thank you to Ronnie Ng and Alan Bustany who have spent some considerable time in re-entering results and following up the problems to ensure a correct result. Yours truly has been ensuring that the masterpoints are also what they should be.

The top 4 teams have been invited to proceed to the Regional Final at Central Coast BC, Long Jetty on Sunday, September 10 at the Club's expense. The top half of the field were eligible, but the teams coming 5th and 6th were non-contending, having qualified elsewhere already. One team from our Regional Final will proceed to the GNOT National Final in Brisbane, December 1 to 4.

Please note that the gold points earned are not processed by the Club. The file is checked externally and not sent for processing until after the Regional Final.

### **A COMEDY OF ERRORS**

*Rosalind Dey*

Monday night bridge is fun, in more ways than one. One by one the players drift into the old Teppanyaki restaurant, admiring the blinking lights of Brisbane Waters, sipping cocktails from dinner below. The sign on the old restaurant bar says "Please leave the wine glasses here!". The atmosphere is buzzing. Its not just about bridge at Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club.

Boards have been dealt, tables have been filled, players have been welcomed, and the bridge players are becoming focussed. The game begins and the director decides to finish reading a murder mystery. “Well! I guess I deserved that”. The director looks up and a quick head count reveals all are alive and well, unlike in her novel. There is some residual friendly chatter, as there is a longish sit out. The Matildas are playing in the background. Regular score updates and cheers can be heard, and all is well on the home front (in more ways than one). Back to the murders.

Director later notices one pair have bid and made a small slam. Curious by nature, she checks the deals and discovers that five boards have the potential for slam, including three grand slams. What are the odds in a twenty eight board match? Suddenly bridge is looking more interesting than the predictable discovery that “the husband did it!”

Let’s look at board 10. How would you and your partner bid this hand?

Board 10 Dir: E Vul: All	♠75 ♥QJ9862 ♦943 ♣J9	Monday Eve August 7, 2013									
♠Q842 ♥AK754 ♦AK7 ♣2	+	♠AK963 ♥T ♦QT52 ♣AQ7									
<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </table>		4		16		15		5		♠JT ♥3 ♦J86 ♣KT86543	N: S: E: 2♣7♦3♥7♠6NT W: 2♣7♦3♥7♠6NT
	4										
16		15									
	5										

After East opens 1S, West knows game is on, and with a trump fit, outside controls in the red suits plus a singleton club, West may be curious about slam. What to bid next? Jacoby 2NT (showing four card support and forcing to game) or a splinter, 4C (showing four card support and interest in slam with a singleton or void in clubs). There is a line of thinking that Jacoby

denies a singleton, so lets go with 4C.

Opener has six of their high cards in clubs, which is wasted, and lots of gaps and likely responds 4S, rejecting the slam invitation. Not deterred, partner asks for controls with Roman Keycard, 4NT and opener reveals three, clearly SA, SK and CA. Partner doesn't need much more for grand slam, but she asks herself “do I feel lucky?” Yes! 7S it is!

Of the three pairs who played board 10, one was in 6S making 7, one in 7S making 6 and one was in 4S making 7. **To our new players, a free game to the first person who can identify the play of 7 making 6.** It is after all, a rather cold slam. Contact Wendy on [wmi20245@bigpond.com](mailto:wmi20245@bigpond.com).

On reflecting, director remembers the earlier comment, and the penny drops. One of the nicest things you can say to partner when they have messed up is, “never mind partner, move on”.

You have to laugh, and you have to make partner laugh. After all, it’s not just about the bridge!

Note: Leads were H3, C6, D8

### A CHALLENGE FOR THE EXPERIENCED

Secretary, Anne Grayden, has passed on the following, which was received as advertising material:

Is this the hardest bridge hand we have ever seen? It is a bit... extreme, but your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to find a way to make this 4♣ contract.

Even if we can see all four hands, it is still nigh on impossible to find the winning line with four inescapable losers. I think I might have to ring Tom Cruise. Does he play bridge?



Playing ACOL South is in 4S and receives the HK lead.

**A free game to the first to solve ‘Mission Impossible’**

Contact Wendy on [wmi20245@bigpond.com](mailto:wmi20245@bigpond.com).

The solution and link to the website source will be given next month.

## AVERAGES IN TEAMS EVENTS

Teams events are the most popular type of event in Contract Bridge. You don't need to hope for the cards to lie your way like you do in Swiss Pairs because if you don't have the cards, your teammates do. There is much less luck involved.

Normally teams gather at their home table to score up after a match. Have you ever come across the following? Imagine you managed to defeat a 3NT contract in which the declarer had 9 easy tricks, or silly bidding by opponents gave you a "postcode" score (e.g. +2000 the postcode for Sydney) when you doubled their contract. With excitement you waited for your teammates to score up only to find out that for some reason, the director gave an average to that board at the other table. (Possible reasons are a board not played or a board that was fouled.) I imagine that you would either be furious and claim foul, or wonder what you did to deserve this.

A "new" law introduced in 2017 now requires the director to give an assigned adjusted score (a numerical score) rather than an artificial adjusted score (an average) for that one board in a Teams event when "the result at the other table between the same contestants is clearly favourable to one side" (Law 86B1).

So what results are deemed to be "clearly favourable" to one side? It all depends on the board and the scores obtained at the other tables of an event. In the previous example, if you manage to extract +1700 from opponents, that may not automatically count as "clearly favourable" if quite a few tables have similar scores (+1100, +1400 etc), or your side actually have a vulnerable grand slam which a sufficient number of players have bid and made.

In the last 6 years since the law has been in effect, my opportunity to apply this Law has been scarce. The first time was in 2021 when a player managed to go down in 3NT with 9 obvious tricks. Two recent examples (which both happened in August 2023) included a side which received +790 for a 4SX contract making while the scores at other tables were between +100 and -130, and another which received +110 when other tables are mostly -600 and -630.

The one question that remains is: what assigned adjusted score would the director give if required? Again, it depends on the board. In the above 3NT example, if it's clear most players will be able to bid to 3NT, the adjusted score would most likely be  $\pm 400/600$  depending on vulnerability (or even  $\pm 430/630$  if a sufficient number of tables manage to get extra tricks). However, the contract and tricks are not always as obvious so sometimes the arithmetic average of the scores from all the tables (or, if the event is large enough, from the part of the field where the affected teams are competing) can be considered. This score will then replace the average and be used to compare your "clearly favourable" score (rather than a "wash" of 0 IMPs).

Ronnie Ng

16/08/2023

### THAT SYDNEY POSTCODE

The winners of our Foundation Day Cup produced a Sydney Postcode score on Board 9 by going eight off, no less, in 5C doubled. How did our 'expert' pair produce this less-than-fabulous result?

Well, they play something called TWERB (Two-Way Exclusion Relay Bid) over a strong 2C opening. The suit overcalled means the next higher suit or the other two suits. A NT overcall is two non-touching or 'odd' suits, and a double shows 16+ high-card points. Usually it is just a disruptive bid, and is not meant for competitive bidding. It can be quite useful at favourable vulnerability (non-vul against vul).

On Board 9, opponent West opened 2C in fourth seat. Since South had passed, North was fairly certain that EW had Game, and possibly Slam, on so thought it "wise" to interfere with a bid of 2H (alerted as long Spades OR both minors). East passed and South relayed with 2S (alerted as pass or correct). West now bid 2NT, North passed, and East bid 3NT, just like everyone else in the competition.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface for Board 9, Dir N. The interface is divided into four quadrants representing the players: West (Margo Brennan), North (Chris Williams), East (Gwen White), and South (Alan Bustany).

- West (Margo Brennan):**
  - Score: 95
  - Hand:  $5\clubsuit X-8 N$
  - High Card Points:  $\heartsuit 95$ ,  $\diamondsuit 8732$ ,  $\clubsuit 10642$
  - Hand:  $\spadesuit AQ1065$ ,  $\heartsuit KQ3$ ,  $\diamondsuit AQ$ ,  $\clubsuit AK8$
- North (Chris Williams):**
  - Score: 8732
  - Hand:  $5\clubsuit X-8 N$
  - High Card Points:  $\heartsuit 95$ ,  $\diamondsuit 8732$ ,  $\clubsuit 10642$
  - Hand:  $\spadesuit J8$ ,  $\heartsuit J108$ ,  $\diamondsuit K10964$ ,  $\clubsuit Q97$
- East (Gwen White):**
  - Score: 10642
  - Hand:  $5\clubsuit X-8 N$
  - High Card Points:  $\heartsuit 95$ ,  $\diamondsuit 8732$ ,  $\clubsuit 10642$
  - Hand:  $\spadesuit J8$ ,  $\heartsuit J108$ ,  $\diamondsuit K10964$ ,  $\clubsuit Q97$
- South (Alan Bustany):**
  - Score: 972
  - Hand:  $5\clubsuit X-8 N$
  - High Card Points:  $\heartsuit 95$ ,  $\diamondsuit 8732$ ,  $\clubsuit 10642$
  - Hand:  $\spadesuit 972$ ,  $\heartsuit A7642$ ,  $\diamondsuit J5$ ,  $\clubsuit J53$

A bidding table is visible in the bottom right corner:

	W	N	E	S
2 $\heartsuit$ *	P	P	P	P
2 $\heartsuit$ *	P	P	P	2 $\heartsuit$ *
2NT	P	P	3NT	4 $\heartsuit$ *
X	5 $\clubsuit$	P	P	P
X	P	P	P	P



At this point South had a rush of blood to the head and thought "my partner's Pass must mean she has Spades, they must be making a vulnerable 3NT so I'll bid 4S – how bad can it be as we are not vulnerable?". Unsurprisingly this was promptly doubled by West, and North tried a "rescue" into the minors with 5C which West even more enthusiastically doubled. Both 4S and 5C will go eight off, doubled, not vulnerable which is 1,3,5,8,11,14,17 hundred off for seven down, and the Sydney Postcode 2000 for eight down!

North-South knew their convention well enough, but South didn't really understand its purpose. After the interference the opponents (with the majority of the points) have to decide early whether to punish the interference or push on to Game or Slam. This can be a difficult choice given that the two-way nature of TWERB means they are not quite sure what they will be punishing. South now knows that once the opponents have made their choice, the interference has served its purpose and it is rarely correct to continue competing – indeed making the initial interference relies on Partner *not* continuing to compete!

In this particular case it was not difficult for EW to push on to 3NT, although the interference might have made it difficult for them to find a Slam if it were on.

It can be fun to try new gadgets like TWERB, but they often involve learning curves. There is nothing quite like "going off for a postcode" to accelerate the learning and make it stick!

NT	♠	♥	♦	♣	
N	2	2	3	2	3
S	2	2	3	2	3
E	11	10	10	11	10
W	11	10	10	11	10

Contract	Lead	Score
3NT+2 E	♥4	660
3NT+2 E	♥2	660
3NT+2 W	♠3	660
3NT+2 W	♠6	660
3NT+3 W	♠2	690
5♣X-8 N	♥J	2000

*Alan Bustany*

**LOOKING FOR A PARTNER ?**  
 Contact Ruth Griffin: 0407 854 060

## SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO NEWSLETTER SURVEY

QUESTION		Yes	No	Blank
1	Should there be a monthly Newsletter?	31	5	
2	Do you read the current Newsletter?	35	1	
3	Do you print the Newsletter?	8	28	
4	Which regular items interest you?			
a	Reports of recent events	32	2	2
b	Photographs of special events	31	2	3
c	Record of results of our special bridge sessions	31	3	2
d	Results of Congresses etc	26	4	6
e	Reports of Committee Decisions	32	1	3
f	Educational articles	31	2	3
g	Analysis of interesting hands	34	0	2
h	Bridge news - state/national/worldwide	25	4	7
i	New ABF rankings	21	7	8
j	New member names & phone numbers	27	3	6
k	Birthday recognition	22	8	6
l	Coming events – our Club	31	1	4
m	Coming events - other	24	5	7
n	Personal Profiles (occasional)	22	5	9
5	Is there anything else you would like to see in the Newsletter?	0	4	32
6	If you can contribute in any way, please describe:	0	1	35

### Question 5

Obituaries; Amusing anecdotes; Social Events; Informative articles; Analysis of interesting hands; A comic.

### General Suggestions/Comments

Bi-monthly (3); Put Newsletter on Home Page; Replace with items & results on website (2); Best ever read; It is probably the only newsletter that I read properly. Yours is just right - a bit of a Goldilocks!

## MONTHLY SHIELD

After 6 months the leaders are:

Dorothy Berzins & Di Coats (122); Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler (118); Ian & Galina Cameron (104).

15 pairs have already played the minimum 4 times to qualify for outright masterpoint awards. 8 more pairs can still qualify if they play sufficient sessions in September/October/November.

## COMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

#### *RealBridge*

Tuesdays 12.30pm Sep 5, 12, 19, 26

#### *Face-to-Face*

Monday 12.30pm Sep 4, 11, 18, 25

Monday Evenings 7.15pm Sep 4, **11**, 18, 25

Wednesdays 1.30pm Sep **6**, 13, **20**, **27**

Fridays 12.30pm Sep **8**, **15**, **22**, **29**

### SEPTEMBER

#### *Special Events*

Sunny September E (*best 2 of 5*) Fridays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Monthly Shield 8 E Wednesday 6

Spring Pairs R Monday 11

CCLCBC Congress Prs R/P (all day) Saturday 16

CCLCBC Congress Teams R/P (all day) Sunday 17

State Open Prs Qual 1&2 R/P (*Club trophy*) Wednesdays 20 & 27

### OCTOBER

#### *Special Events*

Odd October E (RealBridge) Tuesdays 3,10,17,24,31

Monthly Shield 9 E Wednesday 4

Henry Kendall Pairs R Friday 6

Club Graded Pairs A&B C/P Mondays 9, 16

*Wendy Mitchell*

*Editor*