

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



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

**MELBOURNE
CUP DAY**

How nice to be back face-to-face for this fun day. Along with Presentation Day it is the occasion on which the club tries to give back to members.

Because this was a green point event, Director Alan Bustany was also able to play, managing the two roles admirably. We welcomed back a number of players not seen for some time, there was one visitor and a few untested partnerships in the total of 13.5 tables.

As they entered the Parkview Room players were welcomed by Wendy and Margo Burnet with a lucky number place card when they paid their \$5 for bridge. Champagne and orange juice was available and the chance to buy tickets in the \$1, \$2 and \$5 sweeps conducted by Gwen

W, Elizabeth L, Margo Brennan and Henrietta H.

Ruth arranged the theme of navy and pink decorations, with table settings by Alison and flowers by Marion. Members co-operated with pink and navy attire, both men and women.

Finger food for lunch was all that we could offer, disappointing when compared to the buffets or set meals of other years. The fruit and cheese platters however were very good.

The traditional Melbourne Cup Quiz was a combined effort this year - Peter & Alison provided 10 questions on the Cup, Ruth tested us with 5 questions on the Gosford district (*contd. pp 4 & 5*)

VALE

John King and Kate Barber
(more on Pages 5 & 6)

RECENT RESULTS

MONTHLY SHIELD (9) (E) 6 tables Wed Oct 4

1st	Anne Grayden & Pauline Caust	61.11%
2nd	Jan Clarke & Alan Bustany	59.26%
3rd	Henrietta Hohnen & Louis Koolen	57.41%

HENRY KENDALL PAIRS (R) 10.5 tables Fri Oct 6

1st	Anne Grayden & Pauline Caust	60.94%
2nd	Gina Robertson & Eva Hartzell	60.30%
3rd	Wendy Mitchell & Eunice de Vries	60.13%

GRADED PAIRS A (C) 4 tables Mon Oct 9 & 16

1st	Gary Heyting & Steph Mathews	58.93%
2nd	Chris Williams & Sharon Mayo	56.55%
3rd	Adele Mills & Dorothy Berzins	66.95%

GRADED PAIRS B (C) 4 tables Mon Oct 9 & 16

1st	Ruth Griffin & Jim Havyatt	57.74%
2nd	Kevin Hughes & George Connell	54.46%
3rd	Allan Adams & Agnes Marsh	53.57%

ODD OCTOBER (E) RealBridge Tuesdays

The best 2 out of 5 results were counted. There were 15 different pairs which played at least twice, so 7 pairs received outright awards. These are in addition to any masterpoints earned in the five individual sessions.

Name	%	MPs
<u>Chris Williams & Alan Bustany</u>	62.04	0.37
<u>Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler</u>	60.68	0.26
<u>Ellen Williams & Agnes Marsh</u>	59.95	0.19
<u>Steve Colling & Mary Colling</u>	58.85	0.12
<u>Henrietta Hohnen & Elizabeth Lawrence</u>	56.77	0.09
<u>Pauline Caust & Rosalind Dey</u>	56.42	0.07
<u>Alfie Nation & Jacqueline Wilson</u>	56.32	0.06

MONTHLY SHIELD (10)	(E)	8.5 tables	Wed Nov 1
1st	Chris Hannan & Lorraine Lindsay		64.8%
2nd	Gina Robertson & Kevin Hughes		63.39%
3rd	Henrietta Hohnen & Louis Koolen		60.32%

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MELBOURNE CUP	13.5 tables	Tue Nov 7
<i>North/South</i>		
1st	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	59.37%
2nd	Agnes Marsh & Ellen Williams	58.32%
3rd	Gina Robertson & Kevin Hughes	55.22%
<i>East /West</i>		
1st	Eva Hartzell & Peter Mackey	64.58%
2nd	Louis Koolen & Barbara Grant	58.67%
3rd	Ruth Griffin & Alison Mackey	56.61%

Handicap Winners: Gina & Kevin (NS) and Eva & Peter (EW)

OCTOBER CONGRESS REPORT

Steph Mathews

Helen Milward teamed up with Paul Weaver to claim third place N/S at the NSBC@ Lindfield Matchpoint Pairs on 2 October.

The club was well represented at Muswellbrook Congress on 7-8 October, which offered pairs and teams with a Final and Plate event in each. In the 10 x pairs final, Jaan Oitmaa and Sylvia Foster finished second; Wendy Mitchell and Margaret Regan finished third; Alan Bustany and Pauline Caust finished fourth. In the 16xpairs plate, Chris Hasemore and Barry Foster claimed second place. The Hume team (Peter and Elaine Hume, Barry Foster, and Chris Hasemore) finished first in the 5xteams final event. In the 6x teams plate, Wendy Mitchell, Margaret Regan, Alan Bustany and Pauline Caust claimed second place; David Bowerman, Dasha Brandt, Jaan Oitmaa and Sylvia Foster finished fourth.

At Pennant Hills teams on 15 October Helen Milward teamed up with Paul Weaver, Helen Lowry and Gary Barwick and finished sixth out of 22.

The Tomaree Congress was held on 28-29 October at the Horizons Golf Resort. Fifty-six pairs participated on Saturday. Greg and Sharon Mayo claimed first place and Jan Clarke and Di Coats finished second. Steve Calcroft with Sue Eastman and Gary Heyting with Steph Mathews finished in the top half, claiming 17th and 19th places, respectively. Twenty-five teams played on Sunday, and the Brandt team (Dasha Brandt, David Bowerman, Barry Foster and Sylvia Foster) finished in first place. Greg and Sharon Mayo with Ian Price and Brian Glover claimed third. Steph Mathews and Gary Heyting with Louise Lewis and Vic Pietraszkiewicz came 11th; Jan Clarke, Di Coats, Vicky Lisle and Paul Weaver finished 13th; and Sue Eastman, Steve Calcroft, Barbara Grant and Louis Koolen finished in 18th place.

The State Mixed Teams competition was held on Real Bridge over three weeks. After 9 matches, the Foster team (Di Coats, Margaret Foster, Colin Clifford and Alan Bustany) finished eighth in a tough field. A few members ventured to Canterbury Race Course for the Spring Nationals. Directors included Ronnie Ng and Alan Bustany.

Fifty teams competed in the TBIB Open Teams event. The Milward team (Helen Milward, Robyn Fletcher, Carolyn Miller and Helen Lowry) finished 25th; the Clarke team (Jan Clarke, Di Coats, Sally Clarke, and Chris Williams) finished 35th. The Milward team finished second in the Linda Stern Women's Teams final. The Dick Cummings Open Pairs hosted 108 pairs. Helen Milward and Helen Lowry claimed 36th place; Hope Tomlinson and Martin Johnson came 60th. Steve Calcroft and Shan Lawson finished 10th in the Ted Chadwick Restricted pairs and Ronnie Ng and Ian Lisle claimed 9th place in the Rainbow Pairs.

.... Continued from P1 - Melbourne Cup Day

and Alan challenged us with 5 bridge questions.

The Jokers table (Brian W, John A, Ro R, Paul U, Jim and Pip H, Kevin H, Gina R, Wendy M and George C) did best: 9/10, 1/10 and 2/10 – lots of room for improvement in our local and bridge knowledge. Lucky Draw winners were Dasha B, Joe G and Gillian Sadler.

The mystery dress categories and winners judged by Marion and Anne were:

1. Most Colour Co-ordinated Bridge Pair (Joe & Tony; Eva & Peter)
2. Most Impressive dressed in Pink (Julianne Perceval)
3. Most Impressive dressed in Navy (Margo Brennan)
4. Smallest Head Decoration (Kath Bromley)
5. Largest Head Decoration (Rachel van der Merwe)
6. Best dressed man (Kevin Hughes)

For photographs taken by Steph and Wendy please see *pages 12 to 14*.

VALE

Kathleen Louise Barber Nov 29, 1947 – Oct 6, 2023

Kate joined our Club as a Home Member in August 2022 after graduating from Eunice's Beginners course. A humble lady, she often doubted her own ability, while being very supportive of other beginners. Kate was keen to learn and persevered to improve her understanding of the game, attending Improvers lessons and supervised play with Wendy this year. A cheerful, considerate lady, she made many friends in her short time with us and also at the Henry Kendall Village Bridge Club.

Kate was a member of

- the worldwide *Red Hat Society* (which encourages women to get the most out of life),
- the *Partners of Veterans Association*

and was a committed, involved member of her church.

Her sudden death was a shock to all. Kate was a valuable member of the bridge club and will be sorely missed. She is survived by husband Laurie and 3 sons and a daughter. A thank you card from Laurie says:

"Thank you for the kind words expressed in your card of condolence. Kate very much enjoyed the game of Bridge and more so the friends she made there!"

John King

John passed away on October 24 at the age of 86. He joined our club in 2016, playing regularly with us and at his Home Club, Social Bridge - Ryde. Originally he travelled from Hornsby to Gosford to play, but in 2020 he moved here and travelled from Gosford instead. His deteriorating health caused him to return to Hornsby last year to be with family.

A Regional Master, John partnered Peter Mackey for about 6 months when Peter was a new player. Then John established a long partnership with Brian Warburton. As a pair they were well known for their enjoyment of the game, win or lose.

John had a major eye problem that made it hard for him to see the cards. He was a great one for bidding no trumps and played it very well. He was a phlegmatic no-nonsense player with a good card sense, who often called on his version of logic or ‘gut feeling’ to bid and play the cards.

Members recall John’s tales of his days as a merchant seaman and of unloading timber in the Grafton area. He spoke fondly of his family. We remember John as a gentleman at the bridge table – our condolences to his family.

CAN THE SLAM BE BID?

In answer to Dorothy’s question last month re how to bid the 7H slam, if the auction goes without interference:

- 2C! – 3C –
- 4NT (RKC in clubs) –
- 5D (0 or 3) –
- 5H (CQ ask) – positive response (i.e. yes I have the CQ)
- 7C/7H (see below).

Board 21 Dir: N Vul: N-S	♠6543 ♥J86 ♦QT4 ♣843	
♠QJT ♥Q5 ♦J63 ♣QT752		♠A97 ♥AKT9432 ♦AK6 ♣AK6
3 8 11	♠K82 ♥7 ♦AK98752 ♣J9	N: 2♦ S: 2♦ E: 7♣7♥3♠ W: 7♣7♥3♠

From East’s perspective, all he cares is if partner has CQ or SKQ. West’s positive response will definitely get him excited. When partner made things easy for you by bidding 3C showing a Club suit, a chance to ask! Roman Keycard on Clubs! East would not care how many keycards because he’ll just ask anyway: do you have CQ? The bid to show CQ will depend on partnership agreement.

In Teams, the safer contract is probably 7C as there are entries to set up and enjoy hearts. In Duplicate, you can certainly try your luck of 7H (hoping partner has 2 or more hearts).

Note that even if 3C only showed 4-card club suit, still ask! All you're interested in (once partner showed length in clubs) is if he has CQ. In this scenario, you'll just hope your "trustworthy" 7-card heart suit will bring the 7H contract home.

By the way, I would not be bidding the South hand with merely 2D in Dorothy's suggested auction for playing Standard system. My partner passed as dealer, RHO opened 2C GF and I have a very decent diamond suit. I have 11 hcp and there's a GF hand on my right. Partner's pretty broke. I'm not going to let my opponents bid the hand easily.

Pre-empt! Yes I'm Vul against not, but with a 6-loser hand (or 5.5) all I need is 2-2-2 break in diamonds (or partner having either DQ or 3 diamonds) to have 0 losers in diamonds. 3D or 4D (odds look very reasonable even if played in 4DX) will be my choice. East is more likely to have SA for the GF bid as well.

If South did bid 3D,
P – 2C! – 3D – P
P – X – P – 4C
P – 4NT etc

Ronnie Ng

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2024

At the Management Committee meeting on November 6, the fees for next year were decided.

The ABF has raised the capitation fee from \$16.40 to \$20 and the NSWBA has raised the affiliation fee per Home Club member from \$10 to \$20.

Our CCLCBC fee has been \$7 for some time, but it was decided to reduce this to \$5 as we are currently restricted in supplying refreshments to players during our sessions.

Hence for 2024 Home Club Membership will be \$45 and Associate Membership will be \$5. You will receive an email at the end of this month regarding payment.

STANDBY PLAYER

We are looking for a member who is willing to be our Standby player on **Fridays**. Your responsibilities would be:

1. Arrive no later than 12.00 pm
2. Assist the director with the session set-up as required and collect table monies
3. Be willing to play with anyone who arrives without a partner and ensure an enjoyable game. No teaching or criticism if you are the more experienced. If you are unable to play that person's system, there is a basic 'Improvers' system card that the player must play with you.

You are rewarded with \$15 and a free game if you are required to play.

We are keen to be able to advertise a standby for all day-time sessions, so if you are interested please contact Tournament Organiser, Julie Sadler, on 0402 246 391 or Partnership Arranger, Ruth Griffin, on 0407 854 080.

ENJOYMENT AND CONSIDERATION FOR ALL

Soon you will see posters appearing on our walls with guidelines for behaviour etc during a game of bridge. It is easy to fall into bad habits so here are just a few reminders.

- Value your partner, be polite to all competitors and respect the director.
- Be tolerant of newer players, but **DO NOT** offer unsolicited advice. You may have the best of intentions but they are nervous and embarrassed enough. Further, it is important that you are familiar with what they have been taught and their level of competence.
- Call the director for any infraction. This should not be seen as an embarrassment, but a learning opportunity for all. Do not act as the referee yourself – that is the Director's job.
- Discussion of bidding and play of a particular hand should not occur. **IF** there is time at the end of the round, **QUIET** discussion may be appropriate, but partnerships are best to do this at the end of the game. Certainly **DO NOT** continue these when you sit down for the next round.
- Greet your opponents on arrival and thank them when they leave.

NEW ABF RANKINGS – October Congratulations to:

Gold Life Chris Hannan *Club Master* Eva Hartzell

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for November

Galina Cameron, Mei-Hua Crawford, Eunice de Vries, David Howells, Carolynne Mucharsky, Ronnie Ng, Karen Ody.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome Helen Cooke (0415 436 042).

BRIDGE EDUCATION

IMPROVERS SUPERVISED

Wednesday Evening – November 15 **6.15pm for 6.30 start.**

Practice play hands on these topics: NT bids and declarer play; Transfers; Stayman; Finesses; Overcalls and Doubles. \$5 for mini-lesson and hand notes, all welcome.

INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOPS

Thursday Mornings – 10am for 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

Nov 16 When, why and how to compete over 1NT
(repeat pupils half price)

Nov 23 Defence against ‘Transfer responses > 1C’;
 Doubling for Penalties;

Nov 30 Competing over a Multi-2D opening

The 2 latter workshops are *new*. \$10 per session, includes notes, hand records.

Next year I will follow up with the Lebensohl Convention and competing over weak 2’s and other multi-2’s.

For bookings or more detail: 0423 388 529, wmi20245@bigpond.com

Wendy M

OPPORTUNITIES MISSED . . .

It is not often one gets the opportunity to bid the Grand Slam of 7NT. Partners and I had the chance and the tools on 3 occasions within a week recently – and failed each time! All 3 hands involved a long club suit.

1. September 10, GNOT Regional Final, Board 19

Board 19 Dir: S Vul: EW	♠ QJ954 ♥ JT9654 ♦ J8 ♣ J8	
♠ AK54 ♥ AK3 ♦ AQ7532 ♣ AQ7532	+	♠ QT96 ♥ T86 ♦ AK73 ♣ K4
5 20 12 3	♠ J8632 ♥ 72 ♦ Q82 ♣ T96	N: S: E: 6 ♣ 4 ♥ 6 ♠ 7NT W: 7 ♣ 4 ♥ 5 ♠ 7NT

W	E
2C*	2D*
2H*	2S*
3C*	

Playing Kokish 2's these 5 bids show 10+ Playing Tricks in clubs.

Next perhaps:

West	East
3C*	3D natural
3S natural	4NT RKCB (1430) on spades
5C (1 or 4)	5NT looking for the one missing K
ie SA, HA, CA, SK	7NT - counting 3x♠s, 2x♥s, 2x♦s and 6x♣s
6C (1)	= 13 tricks.

(Out of 8 pairs, 2 bid 6S making 13 and 1 bid 6NT making 13).

2. September 13, at the club, Board 16

Board 16 Dir: W Vul: E-W	♠ J832 ♥ J843 ♦ 92 ♣ T83	
♠ A5 ♥ K762 ♦ AKJ853 ♣ A	—	♠ KQT ♥ AT ♦ 6 ♣ KQJ9765
2 19 15 4	♠ 9764 ♥ Q95 ♦ QT74 ♣ 42	N: S: E: 7♣6♦5♥4♣7NT W: 7♣6♦5♥4♣7NT

West has a 9 playing tick hand – not quite a Game Force opening in my book.

If playing 2 over 1 GF the bidding might go:

West	East
1D	2C* Game Force
2H (= 4)	3C (= 6+, unbalanced)
3D (= 6)	3NT

West has 9 tricks and needs 3 from partner for a Small slam, 4 for the Grand. Now:

4NT	5C (1 Ace)
5NT	6H (2 Kings)

So that is 3 tricks, worth 10 HCPs, but East has at least 3 more HCPs for the GF bid, so 7NT!


(All 8 pairs were in NT, but only 3 bid 6NT, making 13)

3. September 15, at the club, Board 13

Again there were 8 pairs, with 6 managing to bid 6C, all making 13 tricks.

After North passes, East can count 9 playing tricks.

A possible bidding sequence using the ‘Minorwood’ convention to ask for keycards:

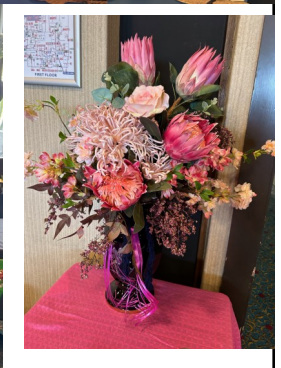
Board 13 Dlr: N Vul: All	♠JT65 ♥Q8764 ♦6 ♣972	
♠732 ♥KT3 ♦AKJ93 ♣AJ		♠AK9 ♥AJ2 ♦KQT8643 ♣
3 16 17 4	♠Q84 ♥95 ♦QT87542 ♣5	N: S: E: 7♣4♦5♥5♠7NT W: 7♣4♦5♥5♠7NT

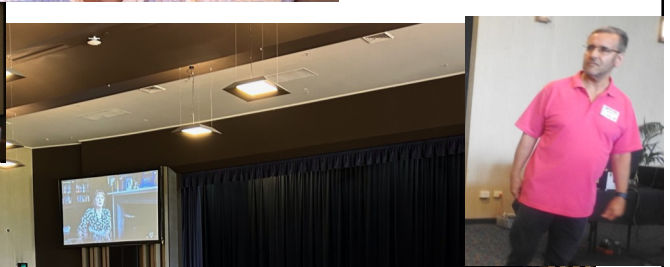
West	East
	1C
1D	3C (6+ suit, 16+ HCPs)
4C* Minorwood	4H (3 or 0)
4S* have you the Q?	5D (yes, with 1 extra King)

West can now count a sure 12 tricks – 2xSs, 2xHs, 2xDs and 6xCs. So 6C or 6NT look certain. 13 tricks are made in either because East’s losing S and H can be discarded on West’s DA and DK.

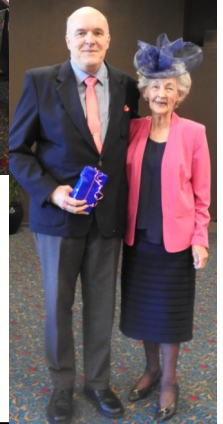
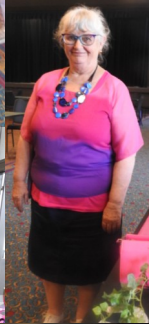
Minor suit slams are notoriously difficult to bid. There are many slam bidding methods available – try out yours on these hands!

Welcome decorations and decorators





**B
r
i
d
g
e**



**Fashions
and
Winners**

MONTHLY SHIELD REPORT

SAME PARTNER		Con- dition	Av Tables (/ Year Av same day)	Eligible Prs (/ Total)	No. of Prs	Extra Green Pts	
M o n t h l y S h i e l d	Mon- days	2012	6 out of 10	9.0 (/8.5)	11 (/69)	5	
		2013		10.0 (/9.0)	10 (/66)	5	8.74
		2014		8.5 (/8.5)	8 (/61)	4	6.74
		2015		8.5 (/8.7)	9 (/57)	4	7.96
		2016		7.9 (/7.8)	11 (/48)	5	9.98
		2017		6.25 (/6.5)	7 (/42)	3	4.80
		2018		5.9 (/5.6)	10 (/34)	6	8.76
		2019		4.65 (/4.5)	5 (/40)	2	2.86
		2020					
		2021					
Wedne sdays	2022	4 / 9	6	10 (/41)	5	5.52	
	2023	4 /10	8 (/8.31)	19 (/53)	9	10.08	

The above shows the details of Monthly Shield competitions since 2012. This year Wednesday table numbers have been high (average 8.31) but no extra players were attracted on the Monthly Shield days (average tables 8).

There were 37 different players over the 10 months, but 53 different pair combinations – partners do have a habit of being sick, away or otherwise engaged! 21 players played with the same partner - 19 of these played the minimum of 4 times but one played 4 times with 1 partner and 4 times with another. Only 1 of these results can be counted.

Half of the eligible field receive outright awards, that is 9 pairs. The total MPs that will be issued is 10.08 in addition to points already earned in each session.

Note: If the condition had been 6 out of 10, the top placegetters would have been the same but only 5 pairs would receive outright awards and only 8.58 MPs would have been issued. Look out for these points next month.

JUST A REGULAR DAY AT THE CLUB . . .



Some people didn't wait for Melbourne Cup Day as an excuse to dress up: Chris Jamieson and Patrick Gallagher in their Halloween Party costumes of Dr Evil and Austin Powers.

The rest of the room on Friday Nov. 4.



COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

RealBridge

Tuesdays	12.30pm	Nov 14, 21, 28
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Face-to-Face

Monday	12.30pm	Nov 13, 20, 27
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Monday Evenings	7.15pm	Nov 13, 20 , 27
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Wednesdays	1.30pm	Nov 15, 22, 29
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Fridays	12.30pm	Nov 10 , 17, 24
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NOVEMBER

Special Events

Remembrance Day Pairs		Friday 10
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Gosford Pairs	R	Monday Eve 20
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DECEMBER

Special Events

Christmas Pairs	R	Monday 4
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NO BRIDGE **Monday 25, Tuesday 26**

Wendy Mitchell

Editor