

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



**NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2023**

**I**MPROVING  
**OUR SPACE**

Following two recent meetings with Chief Operations Manager, Anthony Ryan, we have been given permission for:

1. A trial of providing our own refreshments, to be reviewed in mid-January to see if this impacts significantly on sales of coffee etc in the club.
2. Installation of fans from our old Donnison St room
3. Purchase of de-humidifiers from our funds
4. Covering of the 'islands' .

A huge thank you to Peter Mackey and his son Andrew, who spent the weekend achieving the latter. As well as the greatly improved appearance, these areas are now much safer.

The modifications are not yet finished but definitely effective because on Monday night the room was so cool that the fan was turned off as well as one of the de-humidifiers.

A second fan is to be installed and more de-humidifiers purchased. The Leagues Club's electrician will assist with necessary connections to power.

## RECENT RESULTS

## Congratulations to all

### REMEMBRANCE DAY PAIRS (R) 8 tables Fri Nov 10

1st	Dorothy Berzins & Di Coats	60.05%
2nd=	Lyn Baber & Kevin Hughes	58.73%
2nd=	Hope Tomlinson & Martin Johnson	58.73%

### GOSFORD PAIRS (R) 5 tables Mon Eve Nov 20

1st	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	68.06%
2nd	Eunice de Vries & Wendy Mitchell	58.33%
3rd	Gwen White & Dorothy Berzins	56.48%

### CHRISTMAS PARIS (R) 10 tables Mon Dec 4

1st	Jaan Oitmaa & Sylvia Foster	61.42%
2nd	Louis Koolen & Barbara Grant	60.68%
3rd	Adele Mills & Dorothy Berzins	60.45%

Ten tables was the best attendance at this event since 2014. Congratulations to first-time winners, Jaan and Sylvia.

## NOVEMBER CONGRESS REPORT

It's been a busy month for congresses and other events. It's great to see our members out and about. Here are the highlights.

A few of our members ventured to the Southern Highlands Congress on 4-5 November. In the open pairs, Ronnie Ng with Kaye Hart finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the field of 32, and Sue Eastman and Steve Calcroft finished 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the teams event, Ronnie and Kaye, playing with Tony and Ros Howes claimed 8<sup>th</sup> place in the field of 24; Sue Eastman, Steve Calcroft, Jodie Gudaitis, and Colin Speller finished 17<sup>th</sup>. Well done!

Parramatta Foundation Day Teams was held on 5 November, and Helen Milward & Gary Barwick with Sydney partners finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 22 teams. Congratulations!

Twenty-six pairs competed in the Open Pairs at the Mudgee Congress on 11-12 November, and Jaan Oitmaa and Sylvia Foster finished 7<sup>th</sup>. Barry Foster, Lorraine Lindsay, Sylvia Foster and Jaan Oitmaa finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 12 in the open teams. Well done to all.

A few members deigned to play in the Wollstonecraft pairs on 12 November. While none made it to the final playoff, Roy Cotton and Steve Calcroft finished 9<sup>th</sup> NS in the plate, and Steph Mathews and Gary Heyting played EW and finished 7<sup>th</sup>.

A big cheer for all our members who competed in the State Open Pairs contest on 18-19 November: David Snow and Margaret Regan, Matt Raj Mal with Brian Richardson, Pauline Caust and Alan Bustany, and Steph Mathews and Gary Heyting. At the end of the morning session of the qualifying round, Margaret and David were in 2<sup>nd</sup> place NS! How awesome is that?!

In the afternoon session of the qualifying round, Matt and Brian were running 5<sup>th</sup>. A fantastic showing from Central Coast players. Overall, Margaret and David finished 14<sup>th</sup> out of 29 NS pairs in the qualifying rounds. Well done! None of our members made it into the Finals, but most competed in the Country Final. Steph and Gary finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and Margaret and David finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the field of twelve pairs in the country final.

This year the final of the John Arkinstall State Open Teams, which incorporates the Country Teams, was held online on RealBridge, November 24-26. In the lead up, teams played face-to-face in Regional and then Zonal Finals. The final field consisted of 10 teams.

Congratulations to the Mayo team (Greg and Sharon Mayo with Michael Simes and Paul McGrath) who qualified from the Hunter/Central Coast Zone, and then claimed second place in the Country Teams.

While the GNOT finals did not take place during November, they merit mention here because I don't want to wait until January to congratulate our members who competed. I've been told by one who has been there that "it's the hardest bridge you will ever play." Congratulations to all our members who qualified to compete in this prestigious event of 60 teams from across Australia.

Representing the Central Coast were Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust, Chris Hasemore, Martin Johnson; and representing Hunter were Greg Mayo and Sharon Mayo (with Paul McGrath and Michael Simes). Well done to all! While none of our members survived the first knockout round, the Mayo team just missed out by one point. The Mayo team finished 26<sup>th</sup> out of 56 in the Swiss Teams and the Grayden team finished 49<sup>th</sup>. Ninety pairs competed in the GNOT Swiss Pairs event. Of the Central Coast pairs Pauline Caust and Alan Bustany finished 39<sup>th</sup>, an excellent result in a very strong field. Again, heartfelt congratulations to each of you.

*Steph Mathews*

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Renewals have been sent to all current members who have email addresses. Fees for 2024 are:

	<b>\$45</b>	Home Club Member (we pay your ABF and NSWBA levies)
OR	<b>\$5</b>	Associate Member (ABF and NSWBA levies paid by your Home club)

The preferred method of payment is by Direct Deposit to:

**BSB: 062-544, Account: 10280906** with your **full name** as identifier.

You may also mail a cheque (payable to the *Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club*) to:

**PO Box 6185, West Gosford, 2250**

Payment in person is the least preferred option. If absolutely essential then please bring your own envelope with the **correct money**. Clearly indicate your **NAME and Amount Tendered**. Hand the fully completed envelope to **the Director**. The Director will **NOT** open this envelope or arrange change. It will be stored until I can collect and check it.

Thank you to those who have paid already - you will receive a confirmation email as a receipt for your payment near the end of December.

### **CLUB PROGRAM 2024**

1. The committee has decided, due to an increase in membership, to re-introduce Thursday duplicate sessions on a trial basis.

**Thursday duplicate will commence at 12.30 on January 4**

Pre-entry is required to ensure that there will be enough players to run a session\*.

If you have any trouble pre-entering, please contact me on 0402 246 391 (see instructions below).

2. We will be holding Club Championships and Qualifying State events on Thursdays, some of which will be all day events.

*Julie Sadler, VP & Tournament Organiser*

\* Please support this session if you can. Some of the new Beginner players indicated they were available on Thursdays. Because these may not yet have a regular partner, Leonie Lovell has kindly offered to be a standby for them on Thursdays, for the time being.

### **CCLC Bridge Club: HOW TO PRE-ENTER EVENTS**

1. Log in to our website: [www.cclcbridgeclub.asn.au](http://www.cclcbridgeclub.asn.au) to take you to our Home Page.

2. Click on 'Event Entry' on the menu on the left of the screen.

## Central Coast Leagues Club



Dane Drive, Gosford

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- [Facebook](#)

Last updated: 19/07/2023

### Contact Details

21 The Secretary, CCLC Bridge Club, P.O. Box 6185, West Gosford, NSW 2250. ☎ 0478 567 857

Send an email to [cccbridgeclub@westnet.com.au](mailto:cccbridgeclub@westnet.com.au)

### Face-to-Face Bridge is Back.

Face-to-face bridge sessions have returned. We are also continuing to conduct some online events - see the [Forthcoming Events](#) page for details of both types.

Our current schedule:

Session	Time
Monday afternoon	12:30 pm - 4 pm
Monday evening	7:15 pm - 10:30 pm
Tuesday	12:30 pm - 4 pm (online)
Wednesday	1:30 pm - 5 pm
Friday	12:30 pm - 4 pm

- Ten minutes walk from railway station
- Surrounded by bus and taxi pick up and set down points
- A standby player is available for our Monday and Wednesday afternoon sessions. If you need a partner for another session, please contact Ruth Griffin (0407 854 060), who will try to find someone to play with you.
- Bridge sessions are held inside the Central Coast Leagues Club (new location - upstairs in the old Teppanyaki restaurant).
- The bridge room will be open to members at least half an hour before the start of play

Bridge Club Phone (on before and during sessions): 0478 567 857

### 3. Coming events requiring pre-entry will be listed. Click on the appropriate event and enter your name and that of your partner.



#### Upcoming Events

[Download event calendar to your smartphone or computer](#)



To view event details, including current entries, click on **Details** link next to the event.

Without a partner, enter 'TBA' and contact partnership arranger Ruth Griffin on 0407 854 080 or the Director, Louis Koolen, on 0419 281 725.

## BRIDGE EDUCATION

1. Congratulations to 11 new players, 10 of whom received their certificates on Thursday evening, November 30.



Pictured with teacher Eunice (far right) are, from Left to Right:

*Standing:* Stuart Gibson, Gunter Haas, John Negus, Chris Johnson, Helen Fisher, Raquel San Juan, Sue Johnson

*Seated:* Shirley Lane-Smith, Adi Jones, Narelle Fowler.

*Absent:* Robyn Smith

Seven tables of players enjoyed an early Christmas function with a quiz and special treats provided by Eunice. Throughout November this group has been assisted by 'buddies' and graduates from the previous course. A very big thank you to the buddies for giving their time.

Dealt hands and good table numbers enabled masterpoints to be awarded (at half the normal rate) for these sessions. New players will have these credited next year.

All graduates have been given a card for one month's free games – please welcome and encourage them (but don't teach them) when you compete against them. Seven new players have already joined our club as Home Members – their contact details will appear in our 2024 Program.

## **2. Beginners Course 2024**

Eunice plans the next course for late February. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please contact her.

## **3. Improvers Course 2024**

I will probably continue this late March. Players who took the first 3 lessons in November will be offered lessons 4 to 8. The new group of beginners will have some play experience by then and should join this course. I will then offer them lessons 1 to 3.

## **4. Intermediate Workshops**

Attendance at the recent three workshops ranged from 2 to 9. I will survey members next year as to whether there is a more suitable time other than Thursday mornings.

## **FRIDAY 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.

Your reward is a payment of \$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.



## ODE TO BRIDGE

### Giving Up Bridge?

I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain.  
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.  
I'm giving up Bridge – Tonight is a bad night.  
Declarer is horrid - Nothing's gone right.  
I'm giving up Bridge – Tonight is my last night.  
It's Amen to Stayman – Yes, I give up the fight.  
So for now it's all over - I'm off to the backwood.  
I'm bidding goodbye to Gerber and Blackwood.  
My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope.  
When he says "double" I know we're in trouble.  
My points are not high and I wonder why  
he keeps on bidding right into the sky.  
You force your partner and yet he passes,  
you deny, and yet he still bids high.  
The score on the other side amasses,  
and yet, you do not utter even a sigh.  
We're in Seven Spades and all hope fades,  
when surprise, surprise, the high bidding pays.  
We're winning all tricks; the defenders feel sick,  
I have to admit my partner's a brick.

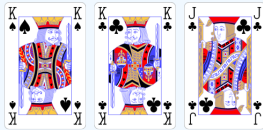
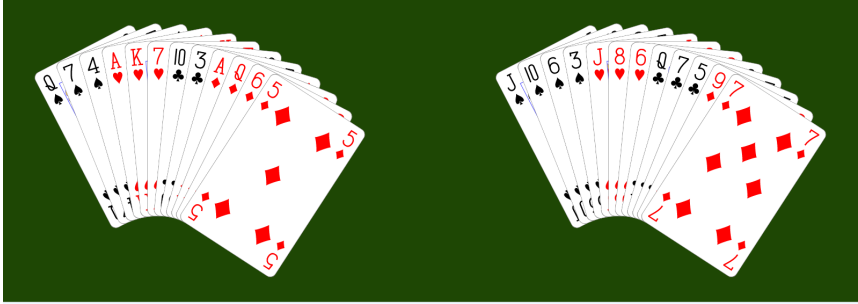
Anonymous Author, submitted by an Anonymous Member

## NEW ABF RANKINGS - NOVEMBER

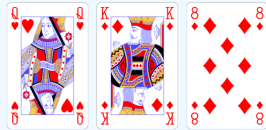
### Congratulations to:

<i>Bronze National</i>	Stephen Calcroft	<i>Local</i>	Richard Webb
<i>Silver Local</i>	Gina Robertson		

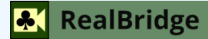
# DROPPED CARD PUZZLE



W	N	E	S
1♦	P	1♠	P
2NT			



West and East each dropped a card.  
Can you find the missing cards?



West (left) has dropped a card (SK, CK or SJ) and East (right) has also dropped a card (HQ, DJ or D8). Consider the bidding and determine which card each has dropped.

**A FREE GAME** will be awarded for the best, correct explanation by a player with less than 5 masterpoints.

Send your answer to Wendy: [wmi20245@bigpond.com](mailto:wmi20245@bigpond.com)

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## A PLAY PUZZLE

West	North	East	South		EW Vul	♠ A 6 5 4 3
			3♥		S Dlr	♥ K J 9
Pass	4♥	All Pass				♦ A 7 6
						♣ J 10
						N
					♦ K led	W
						E
						S

South's pre-empt promises 6 playing tricks. North counts 3 sure winners and the possibility of a ruff and so bids game. When you see dummy you can count only 9 winners, with 2 losers each in clubs and diamonds. Can you make the game?

♠ J  
♥ A Q 10 8 7 6 5  
♦ 8 4 3  
♣ 6 5

***A FREE GAME*** will be awarded for the best answer by a player with less than 300 masterpoints.

Send your answer to Wendy: wmi20245@bigpond.com

#####

**FROM PAUL LAVINGS (Bridge into the 21st Century)**

**YOUR RIGHT HAND OPPONENT OVERCALLS 3♥**

What would you call on these hands, nil vulnerable?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	(3♥)	?

1. Assuming 1♦ shows 3+ diamonds, better minor.

a. ♠ KJ94 ♥2 ♦ QJ4 ♣ J9864

b. ♠ KQ6 ♥5 ♦ Q9762 ♣ K962      *Answers below.*

#####

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY for December**

Joan Brierty, Alan Bustany, Sally Clarke, Diana Coats, Tony Collis, Joan Cottom, Trish Dennis, Tracey Dillon, Marion Ellis, Narelle Fowler, Paul Garnsey, Frik Gautschi, Carol Godfrey, Marcelle Goslin, Barbara Grant, Beryl Lowry, Bob Lowry, Kerryl McGrath, Greg Mayo, Diane Nichols, Len Pascoe, Julieanne Perceval, Chris Sharp, Chris Spikesman.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY for January**

Dasha Brandt, Jenny Buckley, Lynette Callaghan, George Connell, Austin Driscoll, Kerry Dwyer, Wendy Everitt, Ruth Griffin, Gunter Haas, Martin Johnson, Shirley Lane-Smith, Ian Lincoln, Geoff Mathews, Matt Raj Mal, Tony Ransley, Margaret Regan, James Routledge, Gina Tap, Leonie Wain.

#####

a. Pass. You have the right shape but you lack the values to compete at the three level. The bidding is still alive and if opener has sufficient strength to reopen with a double you will have an easy 4♠ bid.

b. 4♦. Even though you have an aceless hand you have positive features in every suit and would be happy for opener to carry on to 5♦ or 6♠. It is not a good idea to double here with only three spades.



## COMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER

<b>NO BRIDGE</b>	Christmas Day	Monday	25
<b>NO BRIDGE</b>	Boxing Day	Tuesday	26

### JANUARY

<b>NO BRIDGE</b>	New Year's Day	Monday	1
New Years' Cup	R <i>RealBridge</i>	Tuesday	2
Normal Duplicate	P	Thu 4, 11, 18, 25	
Australia Day Pairs	R	Friday	26
Summer Pairs	R	Wednesday	31

### FEBRUARY

Inter-Club Teams 1	R/P <b>9.30am</b>	Thursday	1
March <i>RealBridge</i>	E (best 2 of 4)	Tue 5, 12, 19, 26	
Monthly Shield (1)	E	Wednesday	7
Valentine's Day Pairs	Green	Wednesday	14

### MERRY CHRISTMAS

- The Masterpoint Centre would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and happy New Year to you and your families. Stay safe and enjoy the holidays and hope to see you at the tables in 2024
- We still have 11 sessions of play before Christmas, and you can expect something special at the last few. After that we are only closed for 2 sessions before play resumes. Your committee echoes the sentiments above - do make the most of special times with family and friends.

### THINK & SMILE AWHILE

You can tell Microsoft have a monopoly because even Santa had to switch from chimneys to Windows.

*Wendy Mitchell*

*Editor*