

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



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

MARCH
MATTERS

1. Pauline Evans Trophy

Held in memory of Pauline, this event is for players with less than 100 MPs.

That applies to 88 of our members, so try to play even if this is not your usual day:

Monday March 4, 12.30pm

2. Presentation Day

**Thursday March 14, 9.30am
(followed by Lunch at 1pm)**

Enter on our website:

Bridge - \$5 members, \$7 visitors

Lunch - \$15 members, \$55 visitors

Closing date for catering is

Wednesday March 6.

Preferred payment method is by
Direct Deposit to:

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

Bridge and Lunch payments should be combined.

To pay at the club, please bring correct money/cheque in an envelope with your name on it and give to the director.

Lunch will be 2 courses (main and dessert), wine included.

♥ ♦ **DRESS CODE: RED** ♦ ♥

POSTERS

Have you noticed these around the playing area? They contain information about Laws and procedures and will be changed regularly.

NB: Players still cannot find their voice to SAY 'alert'! Is there an epidemic of laryngitis?

RECENT RESULTS

NEW YEAR'S CUP *RealBridge* (R) 5 tables Tue Jan 2

1st	Chris Williams & Alan Bustany	62.96%
2nd	Jan Clarke & Sally Clarke	60.76%
3rd	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	57.99%

AUSTRALIA DAY PAIRS (R) 8.5 tables Fri Jan 26

1st	Di Coats & Jan Clarke	68.45%
2nd	Chris Williams & Alan Bustany	65.61%
3rd	Gina Robertson & Kevin Hughes	63.23%

SUMMER PAIRS (R) 10.5 tables Wed Jan 31

1st	Di Coats & Dorothy Berzins	66.12%
2nd	Henrietta Hohnen & Wendy Mitchell	61.60%
3rd	Chris Williams & Pauline Caust	60.59%

INTERCLUB TEAMS (R) 18 teams Thu Feb 1

7 matches of 8 boards

Ably directed by Ronnie Ng, this was held in the Parkview Room. Sandwiches and fruit were provided for lunch and drinks and nibbles followed the end of play.

		Wins	Draws	Losses	VPs
1st	Jan Clarke, Di Coats	7	0	0	110.02
	Sally Clarke & Chris Williams				
2nd	Hope Tomlinson & Jaan Ooitma	4	1	2	86.03
	Martin Johnson & Chris Hasemore				
3rd	Norm Berger & Stephen Calcroft	5	0	2	85.02
	Kerrie & Peter Johnman				

We welcomed the return of pre-Covid numbers for this traditional event. All Central Coast clubs were represented – CCLCBC (10), Central Coast BC (4), Brisbane Water BC (3) and Community BC Bateau Bay (1).

Congratulations to our star women's team for 1st place and to the Brisbane Water team (2nd) and Central Coast (3rd).

Special mention and thanks to the 'House' team of Chris Hannan, Tony Manea, Wendy Everitt and Maureen Baker. These players volunteered

when another team withdrew. None of them had played together before but with 4 wins and 1 draw were running 4th at the end of Match 6!

See Page 9 for photos

CONGRESSES Best Local Players

Steph Mathews

The last two months were filled with family festivities more than bridge competitions. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday!

There are only a few results to report for December. A few CCLCBC members played in the NSBC Festive Season On-Line Congress 16-17 December. Tony Burke and Mary & Steve Colling played in the Open Swiss Pairs and Tony Sappideen in the Restricted Swiss Pairs. Tony and Helen Milward were members of other teams and our RealBridge members Steve and Mary Colling played with Alan Bustany and Pauline Caust.

January saw a number of online events:

- NSBC Summer Online Teams (January 7) attracted Pauline and Alan
- NSBC Aust Day Weekend Online Pairs (Jan 18) Tony Burke, Helen Milward & Gary Barwick played in the Open and Margaret Regan and Pauline Caust came 8th out of 24 in the Restricted
- The NSWBA Summer Online Pairs League, directed by Alan Bustany, started on Jan22 and has been well supported by CCLCBC players. 5 pairs are playing in Division 1 (8 tables), 2 in Division 2 (2 tables), 3 pairs and 2 other members in Division 3 (8 tables) and one pair in Division 4. There have been 2 rounds to date, 6 more to go.

The highlight of the January calendar was the annual Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge, Jan 9 – 21. Several CCLCBC members competed in various events. Congratulations to all who played in this highly competitive congress!

Fourteen teams competed in the **National Women's Teams**. Di Coats, Jan Clarke, Sally Clarke and Chris Williams made it all the way to the semi-finals and finished 3rd overall. **Well done!**

See Pages 4 to 6 for reports from the team

Thirty-two pairs competed in the **Chris Diment Swiss Pairs**, and our own Chris Hannan and Chris Hasemore finished 23rd.

Three CCLCBC pairs competed in the **Fixed Income Solutions Swiss Pairs**: Chris Hasemore and Chris Hannan finished 48 out of 60, followed by Hope Tomlinson and Martin Johnson at 56, and Margaret Regan and David Snow at 57.

There were 142 pairs in the **TBIB Open Swiss Pairs**: Chris Hannan and Chris Hasemore finished at 121 and Hope Tomlinson and Martin Johnson at 140. Tony Burke, a Home club member who we never see, played in this event and also in the **SW Pacific Teams**.

Fifty-four pairs participated in the **500/750 Swiss Pairs**. Well done to David Snow and Margaret Regan who finished number 13; Pauline Caust and Alan Bustany finished at 41.

Twenty-two teams played in the **Under 750/300 Swiss Teams**, and the Bustany Team (Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust, John Knight and Shane Woodburn) finished 17th.

CANBERRA 2024

Chris Williams

In the Women's Teams in Canberra this year, we, Jan Clarke, Di Coats, Sally Clarke and myself, were surprised to reach the top 4 teams in the semi-final. We were actually 5th of 14 teams, but 2 above us were non-contenders, so we were pretty chuffed to find ourselves playing against 3 of the best women's teams in Australia.

However, that meant playing in a very security conscious set-up. We had to leave our phones, smart watches and any other possible communication devices in a box.



We were seated in a row screened off from the adjacent row, our table had a screen diagonally across it and under the table was another screen so there could be no “footsies” with partner. The director explained the protocol for bidding and alerting, the latter being done silently on paper provided, and alerted on both sides of the screen.

There were other things, like who should move the bidding board under the screen and who should lift the flap in the screen when play began, and also how to notify when the bidding had ceased.

All this was pretty overwhelming for our team members, none of whom had done this before. Our days started at 9am and finished about 7pm – it was an exhausting but challenging experience.

BABES IN THE WOODS

Di Coats & Jan Clarke

So – maybe we are kidding ourselves. Chris, Sally, Jan and myself – we know we’re not babes but are we really in the semi finals of the Women’s Teams in Canberra? Both possibilities seemed equally unlikely but there we were!

We are to play 96 boards over 1 1/2 days (6 stanzas of 16 boards) against the same team, with short breaks between rounds. We are the only team in the semis who have not played behind screens before. If you wish to take a toilet break, you have to ask the Director’s permission to avoid players meeting in the restrooms to discuss hands.

I (Di) sit North and Ella Jacob is East and we can see each other but we can’t see Jan and Jenny Thompson, who sit South and West. There is no talking allowed except for the statement of “Contract” when bidding has ceased and “lead” once the opening lead has been made.

The bidding is made on a tray which starts on our side of the table for Board 1 as sitting North, I am the dealer. The tray contains the boards and has slots where we can place our bids using bidding boxes as normal. When I place my bid in the tray and it is alertable, I have to show the alert card to Ella and if she asks what it means, I have to write it down on paper. She then makes her bid and the tray is slid under the screen to the

other side of the table. Jan would then have to alert my bid and if Jenny asks what it means, she also writes it down on paper. If she then makes another alertable bid she has to alert that to Jenny in the same way. The pieces of paper are kept in case there are different explanations. The bidding continues until there are three passes and the last to pass says “Contract”. Opening lead is placed on the table and the opener says “Lead” and West lifts up the flap so everyone can now see dummy and the cards being played.

Before each stanza of 16 boards, the teams take it in turns to choose the seating. As we had done well sitting as we were (Jan and I playing Ella and Jenny and Chris and Sally playing Jane Reynolds and Renee Cooper, we chose this seating each time but after 3 rounds, the Jacob team swapped it around.

The Jacob team had more experience in playing under these conditions and we have learnt from this. When we get there again (!!!!!) we will take ‘toilet breaks’ to keep our blood moving and munchies to keep our blood sugar up!

The different environment and distractions, tiredness and exhaustion, led to a few silly mistakes on our part, particularly in the last stanza. Nonetheless, we were happy with our result, being in front all the way up until the last round. The team we played then went on to win the finals, beating the other team (Lusk) by more than they beat us so we held our heads high! (*See Page 15 for some interesting hands bid and played*)

NEW ABF RANKINGS – December Congratulations to:

<i>Grand</i>	Anne Grayden	<i>Silver National</i>	Patricia Dennis
	Hope Tomlinson	<i>Regional</i>	Graham Woof

& January

<i>Club Master</i>	Frik Gautschi
	June Noble



President, Julie Sadler, had pleasure in presenting her partner, Anne Grayden, with her *Grand Master* certificate recently. Hope Tomlinson, who also was promoted to this rank in December, received her certificate at her Home Club, Brisbane Water BC.

The requirements of Grand Master are at least 1000 MPs, including 700 red/gold, of which 200 must be gold. Anne has been a member of the 1000 MP club since 2022, and had enough gold points, but needed more red/gold. Hope already had sufficient red/gold points, but needed more green. She will now also join the 1000 MP club.

DECEMBER PUZZLES

Dropped Card: Answers were received from Tanya Master, Tony Manea and Lisa McNamara. Well done to Lisa who wins a free game for the answer below, which covers all the necessary points:

Through elimination West would have supported East's spade bid if they had 4 spades, finding a fit. If they dropped the Jack they would have opened the bidding with 1NT as 16HCP. Therefore I came up with CK.

East, I believe if they had dropped the Queen hearts they would have bid them first in responding but they bid their 4xspades and if they had dropped the D8 I think they would pass as only have 4HCP, not enough to respond. Therefore came up with DK.

Play Puzzle

Both Kevin Hughes and Tony Manea submitted excellent answers. I am awarding the free game to Tony who mentioned the critical step of ruffing **high**. Well done! Here is his answer:

Two things need to happen

1. NS cannot lose the lead after they win the DK with the DA and
2. EW spades must break 4/3.

Play:

Nth wins DA, leads SA to create shortage in Sth hand;
Nth plays S3 trumping in Sth hand with HA;
H5 from dummy to Nth's H9;
Nth plays S4 trumping in Sth hand with HQ;
Now H6 which Nth takes with HJ;
Nth plays S5 and trumps with H7;
S plays H8 and N wins with HK*;
N plays S6 and S discards a diamond** loser.

NS now have only 3 losing tricks.

Editor's Note:

- * Opponent's trumps are now all drawn, even if they split 3-0
- ** Or a club loser on the established S6

COMMITTEE CRUMBS At the meeting on January 8—

1. The following positions were formally confirmed, following the resignation of Louis Koolen as President:

President:	Julie Sadler
Vice President:	Ruth Griffin
Committee:	Rachel van der Merwe
Tournament Organiser	Pauline Caust (from end of Feb)

2. It was agreed to form a sub-committee called 'New Player Support' and appointed Leonie Lovell as chair. She can co-opt members to this sub-committee and will be invited to attend Committee meetings as an observer to assist in her learning the Masterpoint Secretary role.
3. The 'Social Sub-Committee' was formalised with Ruth Griffin as chair.

At the meeting on February 5 -

1. InterClub Teams day was reviewed, especially with regard to sandwiches and refreshments.
2. Procedures for handling regular sessions of more than 11 tables were discussed. Wendy & Peter will make some rearrangement of the room.



Left: ICT players,
Parkview Room
Above: Director,
Ronnie Ng

Winners:
Sally Clarke,
Chris Wil-
liams, Di
Coats, Jan
Clarke with
President,
Julie Sadler



3rd place:
Steve Calcroft,
Norm Berger,
Kerrie Johnman, Peter
Johnman, with
President, Julie
Sadler

(no photo available
of 2nd place team)



ANNUAL ACCOLADES

McCUTCHEONS

George McCutcheon migrated from Scotland to Australia in the 1950's. In subsequent years he exerted a profound influence on the organization of bridge in Queensland and Australia.

He organised Australia's first country congress at Toowoomba in 1960. Other congresses soon followed in Queensland and other parts of Australia, and this establishment of a congress circuit had a profound effect on bridge in this country.

Dr. McCutcheon's vision of the need to attract players from the rest of Australia and overseas resulted in the organization of the Gold Coast Congress which has grown into one of the nation's most popular events.

Dr. McCutcheon was responsible for the introduction of a masterpoint scheme in Queensland, and also played a significant role in the establishment of the national masterpoint arrangements. Fittingly, the ABF established in his honour the McCutcheon trophy, which recognises the players gaining the most masterpoints annually in all events contested in Australia.

The McCutcheon awards are presented to the player in each master ranking group (Gold and Silver Grand Masters are combined into a single category) winning the most masterpoints during the calendar year. Player ranking groups are determined by their master ranking at the start of the calendar year.

The ABF website lists the top 20 in each category. Congratulations to all 2023 placegetters.

National McCutcheons

Bronze National

	NAME	ABF NO	HOME CLUB	M'POINTS
1	Speller, Colin	798551	5-742 (Stepbridge)	144.05

State McCutcheons - NSW**Grand**

	NAME	ABF NO	HOME CLUB	M'POINTS
20	Coats, Di	11282	2-036	138.08

Gold Life

15	Grayden, Anne	340332	2-036	60.35
19	Sadler, Julie	54089	2-036	55.66

Silver Life

9	Hasemore, Chris	240729	2-022	78.34
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Bronze Life

5	Bustany, Alan	274585	2-036	85.18
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Life

20	Mathews, Stephanie	830712	2-025	55.24
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Silver National

15	Cotton, Roy	635677	2-035	33.85
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Bronze National

10	Caust, Pauline	940445	2-036	68.07
18	Regan, Margaret	856894	2-036	46.21

National

4	Calcroft, Stephen	978337	2-025	49.93
17	Air, Berenice	660752	2-025	28.97

State

	NAME	ABF NO	HOME CLUB	M'POINTS
16	Sappideen, Tony	940781	2-025	37.03
20	Goslin, Marcelle	1048491	2-022	35.74

Regional

10	Harrison, Suzanne	1000705	2-036	26.53
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Bronze Local

14	Lewis, Louise	1036904	2-025	15.62
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Local

5	Hughes, Kevin F	616524	2-035	24.87
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Victoria

Life

12	Colling, Mary	950701	3-356	49.60
13	Colling, Steve	950696	3-356	49.60

FROM THE ABF January 1, 2024

Club Membership Total=31,909 (corresponding total last year: 31,915)

By State: ACT=966; NSW=11570; VIC=5210; QLD=6668; SA=2428; WA=4064; TAS=863; NT=140

CCLCBC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024

At February 3 we have 171 out of 186 (92%) members financial for 2024: 1 Life, 124 Home and 47 Associate. A few others may still re-join, but until they do they will be regarded as visitors.

CCLCBC TOP 20/21**All Ranks**

	NAME	ABF NO	HOME CLUB	MASTER-POINTS
1	Coats, Di	11282	2-036	138.08
2	Williams, Chris	210676	2-036	114.67
3	Clarke, Jan	27340	2-036	108.85
4	Mayo, Sharon	111643	2-160	97.64
5	Mayo, Greg	39853	2-160	95.51
6	Burke, Anthony	8125	2-036	92.71
7	Bustany, Alan	274585	2-036	85.18
8	Hasemore, Chris	240729	2-022	78.34
9	Milward, Helen	23884	2-120	75.20
10	Clarke, Sally	403555	2-120	70.35
11	Caust, Pauline	940445	2-036	68.07
12	Grayden, Anne	340332	2-036	60.35
13	Johnson, Martin	758108	2-022	58.61
14	White, Gwen	525510	2-036	57.30
15	Sadler, Julie	54089	2-036	55.66
16	Mitchell, Wendy	15921	2-036	55.42
17	Heyting, Gary	27464	2-025	55.41
18	Mathews, Stephanie	830712	2-025	55.24
19	Calcroft, Stephen	978337	2-025	49.93
20	Colling, Mary	950701	3-356	49.60
21	Colling, Steve	950696	3-356	49.60

BRIDGE EDUCATION

1. **Beginners Lessons** by Eunice commence on February 29 at 6.15pm. If you know of anyone who is interested, it is not too late! Please ask them to contact Eunice on 0415 937 941.

2. Improvers Course 2024

I will survey potential pupils, but this is likely to run on Wednesday evenings, beginning 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 follow with lessons 1 to 3 for them.

3. Intermediate Workshops

I will survey members re holding these on Friday mornings, again starting late March. Topics will be:

1. Lebensold Convention (for interference over 1NT opening)
2. Two-suited Overcalls (Michael's Cue Bid & Unusual 2NT)
3. Defence to Weak 2's (including Lebensold, Leaping Michael's)
4. Takeout of other Multi-2s

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for February

David Bowerman, Maureen Catalano, Sue Eastman, Kathryn Ivits, Chris Jamieson, Elizabeth Lawrence, Lyn Lynch, Agnes Marsh, Tanya Masters, Kathy Mitchell, Wendy Mitchell, David Snow, Clifford Stratton, Jackie Wilson.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new members:

Louise Lewis (0410 559 657), Pip Havyatt (0417 300 643) and Michael Greenfield (0414 794 844) add their numbers to your program book.

ERRATA

Please correct the following - my aunt would have blamed the gremlins!

Gary Schroder 0412 069 405

Nola Daly 0408 683 410

Martin Schotte 0458 463 113

From Page 6:

HANDS TO REMEMBER

Di Coats

National Women's Teams Session 9
 Contract: 3CX by North
 Lead: SK

BD: 36	♠ Q54	Dlr: W
	♥ T8	Vul: ALL
	♦ 8	
	♣ AKQ6542	
♠ J9762		♠ AKT
♥ K42		♥ A75
♦ A765		♦ KQT3
♣ 8		♣ T73
	♠ 83	
	♥ QJ963	
	♦ J942	
	♣ J9	

East switched to a C, won in dummy by C9.

I lead a small H to the 10 – no one takes it as both defenders are afraid to set up dummy's hearts. Now I play clubs, keeping one, squeezing everyone and East lets go of a spade. When I play a small spade the K comes up. They win a D and a H, then I trump and play my now good Q of spades. Making 3CX (670) for a top board as I should only make 7 tricks. NB: EW can make 5D/5S but most went down.

National Women's Teams Semi-Final – Match 5

BD: 3	♠ A4	Dlr: S	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>
	♥ A4	Vul: EW	1C	1S (in our system this denies a 4xMajor and can be game force in a minor)
	♦ QT6432			
	♣ A85			
♠ T952		♠ KQ6	2NT (18-19)	4D (Minorwood in D's, looking for slam)
♥ 98763		♥ T52		
♦ 85		♦ J97	4NT (2 Keycards, not the DQ)	5H (asking for K's)
♣ JT		♣ 9743		
	♠ J873		5S (either the SK or the other 2 K's)	7D (partner must have the other 2 K's to make up 18-19 HCPs)
	♥ KQJ			
	♦ AK			
	♣ KQ62			

The Grand was bid by one other pair; one bid 6D and one 6NT.

STANDBYS

- A standby player is now available for Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- Thursdays - if you contact Louis Koolen he will try to arrange a partner for you. Remember Pre-entry is required.
- There is no Standby on Monday Evenings or for Special Events.

CAUGHT ON
CANDID CAMERA
AT CHRISTMAS



COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

RealBridge

Tuesdays 12.30pm Feb 6, 13, 20, 27
Eclectic: Best 2 of 4 scores

Face-to-Face

Monday 12.30pm Feb 12, 19, 26
Monday Evenings 7.15pm Feb 12, 19, 26
Wednesdays 1.30pm Feb 7, 14, 21, 28
Thursdays **Pre-Entry** 12.30pm Feb 8, 22, 29
Fridays 12.30pm Feb 9, 16, 23

Special Events

State Mixed Pairs (1, 2) Q/R/P *all day* Thursday 15
Valentine's Day Pairs RealBridge, Green Wednesday 14

MARCH

Special Events

Pauline Evans Trophy T/P Monday 4
<100 masterpoints
Monthly Shield 2 E Wednesday 6
Presentation Day Pairs P, all day Thursday 14
Country Teams(1, 2) Q/R/P *all day* Thursday 28

Wendy Mitchell

Editor