

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



**NEWSLETTER**

**P**RESENTATION  
DAY  
Parkview Room  
Thursday March 14

60 players enjoyed 14 rounds of 2 boards each, ably directed by Alan Bustany, who also played.

There was a break while Ed Johnson, Deputy Chairman of the CCLC Board presented prizes.

Lunch followed, alternating mains and desserts. Most agreed the mains were very tasty but unfortunately also very cold!

Life member, Dorothy Berzins, also presented prizes after speaking about the background to the Zelda Overall Cup, Pauline Evans Trophy and Bill Thomson Trophy.

\* RED Pictures on pages 10 to 14 \*

**VALE: Ursula Middleton**

March 11, 2024

Ursula joined our club in 1993, so she had been a member for 30 years. Of course she had a number of partners over that time, some of whom pre-deceased her. Her most recent partner was Peter Mackey who treated Ursula with great kindness.

Ursula's family plan to have a memorial service for her on the Central Coast – date to be advised.

**NEW EMAIL ACCOUNT:**

[cclcbridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:cclcbridgeclub@gmail.com)

This replaces our westnet account. Please ensure all email correspondence is sent to this address.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Leonie Lovell is available every Wednesday if you have documents that need witnessing.

## RECENT RESULTS

### MONTHLY SHIELD (2)

10 tables

Wed Mar 6

1st	Di Coats & Dorothy Berzins
2nd	Jan Clarke & Alan Bustany
3rd	David Snow & Margaret Regan

64.29%
63.23%
62.80%

### PRESENTATION DAY

15 tables

Thu Mar 14

#### *North-South*

1st	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler
2nd	Barbara Grant & Louis Koolen
3rd	Peter Hall & Roy Cotton

61.61%
60.92%
58.07%

#### *East-West*

1st	Jan Clarke & Chris Williams
2nd	Jim Routledge & Karen Ody
3rd	Sylvia Foster & Jaan Oitmaa

62.50%
60.49%
57.99%

## COUNTRY TEAMS QUALIFYING

Directed by Ronnie Ng, 8 teams competed in this all-day event which was held in our usual playing area. Seven matches of 8xboards each were played. Lunch and refreshments were provided.

Following an appeal the advertised results are now final.

		Wins	Draws	Losses	VPs
1st	Sally Clarke & Chris Williams, Di Coats & Jan Clarke	5	1	1	98.53
2nd	Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany, Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	6	0	0	87.11
3rd	Wendy Mitchell & Henrietta Hohnen Chris Hannan & Christine Hadaway	4	0	3	84.78

Teams in the top half of the field qualify to proceed to the Regional Final at Brisbane Water BC on Sunday, June 30. CCLCBC will pay for 2 teams.

The first team was non-contending having qualified elsewhere, so the next 2 teams will be invited.

## THURSDAYS THIS MONTH

It was good to see that there were 4.5 tables On April 4. Pre-entry is still required for the time being, but the next regular Thursday duplicate will be on Anzac Day, April 25. Please note that this is not a red point event this year because of our reduced allocation for 2024.

### State Mixed Pairs Qualifier - April 11

This event was postponed from February when we closed the playing area. Entries are now closed, for catering purposes, but there is an excellent number of entries with 18 pairs.

Our Mixed Pairs Champions will be chosen from this event. It is a red point event (weight 3.75) and the entire field is permitted to progress to the State and Country Mixed Pairs Finals on Saturday May 18 and Sunday May 19 at NSWBA.

### Teams of 3 - April 18, all day

Please get your entries in as soon as possible. Go to our website,

Event entry (events requiring pre-entry)

Click on Details to read the conditions and then on

Entry to enter the names of three players. Type TBA for the fourth.

There is a list at the club of eligible players, or contact Tournament Organiser, Pauline Caust, on 0413 283 552 for assistance.

If you haven't played teams before, don't worry - top players will tell you it is the best form of duplicate bridge. Opposite are the strategies to use.

Your 'Captain' will be a highly ranked player who plays with each of you in turn. The Captain will play **your** system.

1. **Choose the SAFEST contract**

– a sure 2D rather than 2NT; 4H instead of a risky 3NT

2. **If Vulnerable**

– bid borderline games

3. **Make your contract**

– overtricks are not so critical

4. **All doubles are TAKEOUT**

– unless they have bid game

5. **Compete**

– to 3-level, only with 9xcard fit

## MARCH 2024 CONGRESS & TOURNAMENT REPORT

*Steph Mathews*

**Port Macquarie-Hastings Congress** (Mar 16&17). In the teams event, all 20 teams competed in one field, with separate prizes awarded for Open, Intermediate and Novice. Roy Cotton and Steve Calcroft (with Marianna Xerri and Maolisa Hawkes) claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall **and** 1<sup>st</sup> place in the intermediate division! Steph and Gary (with Robyn Griffiths and Rhonda Evans) finished 9<sup>th</sup> overall. Steph Mathews, Gary Heyting, Steve Calcroft, and Roy Cotton also played in the Pairs event.

**ANC Restricted Butler Pairs Qualifier** (Mar 19&26). Conducted by NSWBA, this on-line event was sponsored by the ABF, with the winners offered a grant (covering entry fee, travel, and accommodation) to attend the ANC Butler Pairs in Orange. Out of 16 pairs, 4 were from the Central Coast clubs. Best result for CCLCBC was Kevin Hughes and Louise Lewis, 7<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Central Coast Bridge Club Super Congress** (Mar 23&24). CCLCBC was well represented at this local congress, directed by Alan Bustany.

In the **Open Pairs** ten of the twenty-four pairs had at least one CCLCBC member. Chris Hannan and Christine Hadaway finished 6<sup>th</sup>; Di Coats and Jan Clarke finished 8<sup>th</sup>; Doug and Sharon Mayo finished 9<sup>th</sup>; Lorraine Lindsay and Deb Guthrie finished 10<sup>th</sup>; Wendy Mitchell and Henrietta Honen finished 11<sup>th</sup>. Margaret Regan and Pauline Caust; David Bowerman and Dasha Brandt; Louise Lewis and Steph Mathews; Matt Raj Mal and Brian Richardson; and Steve Calcroft and Margaret Driscoll also competed in this event.

Thirty-six pairs competed in the **Novice/Restricted Pairs**. Leonie Lovell and Kevin Hughes finished 19<sup>th</sup> overall and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Novice division; Tony Sappideen and Graham Williamson finished 22<sup>nd</sup> overall and 13<sup>th</sup> in the Restricted division.

Twenty-four teams competed in the **Teams** event. Wendy Mitchell, Henrietta Honen, Chris Hannan and Christine Hadaway claimed 1<sup>st</sup> place; Di Coats, Jan Clarke, Doug Mayo and Sharon Mayo finished 4<sup>th</sup> but 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Open; Pauline Caust, Chris Williams, Julie Sadler, and Anne Grayden finished 8<sup>th</sup>; Sylvia Foster, Jaan Oitmaa, Jim Routledge, and Karen Ody

finished 10<sup>th</sup>; Hope Tomlinson, Barry Foster, Chris Hasemore, and Martin Johnson finished 12<sup>th</sup>; Matt Raj Mal, Brian Richardson, Margaret Driscoll and Steve Calcroft finished 20<sup>th</sup>.

*See pages 7 & 8 for an interesting hand*

**NEW ABF RANKINGS – March**

Congratulations to:

<i>State</i>	Ruth Griffin	<i>Local</i>	Michael Greenfield
<i>Regional</i>	Kevin Hughes	<i>Club</i>	Pauline Allen

**COMMITTEE CRUMBS** from the meeting on April 1 —

1. Please be aware that some members are highly sensitive to strong perfumes and avoid using them if possible.
2. Participation in our Tuesday RealBridge sessions has been much lower than usual in recent weeks. The continuance of these sessions is under review – please support them by playing if possible!
3. A new charity has been chosen for CCLCBC to support this year: *Allawah House*. This has been established in a disused aged-care facility at East Gosford. It provides 14 studio units of transitional housing, with access to communal lounges, kitchens, laundry facilities and gardens, for displaced older women.
4. Ruth Griffin is organising a Mothers’ Day Raffle – quality donations would be appreciated.

**BRIDGE EDUCATION**

**1. Beginners Lessons:** Continuing with good numbers

**2. Improvers Course: Wednesdays, 6.15pm for 6.30**

Up to 15 participants have attended 3 of the 7 lessons. Anyone wanting a ‘refresher’ on particular topic is welcome to attend.

Details are on our website.

**3. Intermediate Workshops**

10 different people attended the last two workshops, with a few unavailable. The next two follow on from last year when we looked at defending the

multi-2D opening. **9.30am** start, in our playing area, about 2 hours.

April 12: Defence to Weak 2D/2H/2S

If your side has Game points these pre-empts are not too problematic but there are risks. The part-score battle is different. Find out about using le-  
bensohl to assist, or making overcalls, including 2-suiters.

April 19: Defence to other multit-2s.

Some of these have an ‘anchor suit’ but with others the suits are un-  
known. Discover how to use ‘near’ and ‘far’ cues.

\$15 per session includes notes, exercises and hand records.

Please contact me if you have not already done so.

*Wendy M*

**From last month: ANOTHER DROPPED CARD PUZZLE**

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

**RealBridge**

West (left) has dropped a card (SA, S2 or H2) and East (right) has also  
dropped a card (DQ, CA or C4). Note: there is an error in the image.

The correct bidding is:

	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	Pass	1C	Pass	1NT
	Pass	2C	All Pass	

Consider the bidding and determine which card each has dropped.

A FREE GAME to Penny Dilworth for her excellent answer:

West with its missing card has 8 points. If the AS was theirs they would have 12 points and could have opened with 1S. If the 2H was theirs they could open with a 6 card weak 2H, however they passed so the 2S was theirs, leaving them with 8 points and no long suit.

East with its missing card has 11 points but no 5 card suit. If QD was theirs they would overcall with 1D, if the AC was theirs, they could double with 15 points. However they passed so 4C must be theirs. They then remain on 11 points and no 5 card suit.

### Also from last month: TEST YOUR REASONING

Sitting West against 4♠, you led the ♣AK, partner followed with the ♣2 and the ♣5 and the declarer played the ♣Q3.

What will you do next? ...

- a) ♣
- b) ♦
- c) ♥
- d) ♠
- e) ♠A & ♠

3	N North	W N E S
0	♠ Q876	P 2♠ P 1NT
	♥ AQ3	P 3NT P 2♥
	♦ A876	P P P 4♠
	♣ J2	
W West	E East	
♠ A54	♠	
♥ 109874	♥	
♦ 2	♦	
♣ AK76	♣	
	S South	
	♠	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣	
		4♠ S NS:0 EW:0

Another excellent response: John Aldersley also wins a Free Game.

**The answer is c) a heart.**

Counting high points between declarer dummy and me, partner is a busted flush with at best 1 jack. Based on bidding, partner has one heart, 2 spades, length in diamonds and clubs. Leading the singleton diamond is what many people would choose, but this is not the correct line of play to defeat the contract as partner can never get in and nor will declarer carelessly lead a diamond. By leading a low heart, which loses to declarer, as

soon declarer tries to clear trumps, win with the ace of spades and lead a second heart for partner to ruff.

NB: No solutions were received for the ‘double dummy’ problem. I can’t solve it either...

### BNSW Draft Constitution and By-Laws

1. A specially convened Committee meeting agreed on our response to the survey. In particular we supported the inclusion of the optional clause 13(3)(b) with the removal of the word ‘financial’. This clause will require clubs to charge ABF and BNSW fees separately from membership fees, and aims to prevent them from offering incentives to players to become Home Club members.
2. Some individual members were known to be intending to respond. Wendy Mitchell made a personal submission which addressed the above and other matters. An immediate and full explanatory response was received the same day.

### AN INTERESTING HAND

*Chris Hannan*

The board below is from the final match of the Central Coast Bridge Club Swiss Teams event held at Long Jetty on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

The board raises a number of interesting facets of Bidding and Play of the Hand.

East was dealer and let us assume that as normal, bid 1S, with S passing. How would you bid as West?

Generally, there were two schools of thought: on the one hand quite a few pairs bid 2NT (Jacoby); alternatively others bid 2C or 2D as the hand did not have 4-card support for S (the Jacoby purists).

BOARD 26		
<b>BD: 26</b>	♠ KT76	<b>Dir: E</b>
	♥ AQJ8752	<b>Vul: ALL</b>
	♦ 9	
	♣ T	
♠ QJ9		♠ A8532
♥ K9		♥
♦ AK83		♦ QJ72
♣ KQ73		♣ AJ52
	♠ 4	
	♥ T643	
	♦ T654	
	♣ 9864	



In either case North generally overcalled 2 or 3H. Of those who did not bid Jacoby in response, most settled in 4S or 5S which makes easily.

In the situation where Jacoby was used It often resulted in a bidding frenzy to find a slam position. Seven of the 24 pairs bid to 6S or 6NT. Play in 6S followed a similar pattern. South led a H to North's A-Q. East ruffed, played a D to the Ace in West's hand and then led SQ, SK from North and SA from East. This then is the critical juncture. If North has doubled 6S how do you continue? Most led a S to West's SQ, only to discover the 4-1 trump split. The contract is in real trouble.

The worst possible thing to do is continue drawing trumps from West. If so, North wins with the S10 and leads another H. East must either trump or duck. East can stop the H run by ruffing but continuations in either C or D sees N ruff with the last trump and continue playing out winning H tricks.

Believe it or not the safest option for East-West is to not draw trumps at the beginning and play on the outside suits. Once North has made two ruffs, then draw trumps and the contract is only down 1 trick.

Out of the 24 tables, East-West played 23 times in either S or NT. 6NT succeeded once due to a defensive error. The exception was North-South making a good sacrifice of 5H on one of the few occasions where 5S or better wasn't bid. The scores for East-West ranged from -1700 to 1440.

Looking at the makeable contracts, there were two interesting "sidebars":

6S or 6NT can't be made but 6C or 6D can, but how do you bid them?; and, if allowed N-S can make 4H with the grand total of 10 high card points. Oh the beauty of crazy distributions!

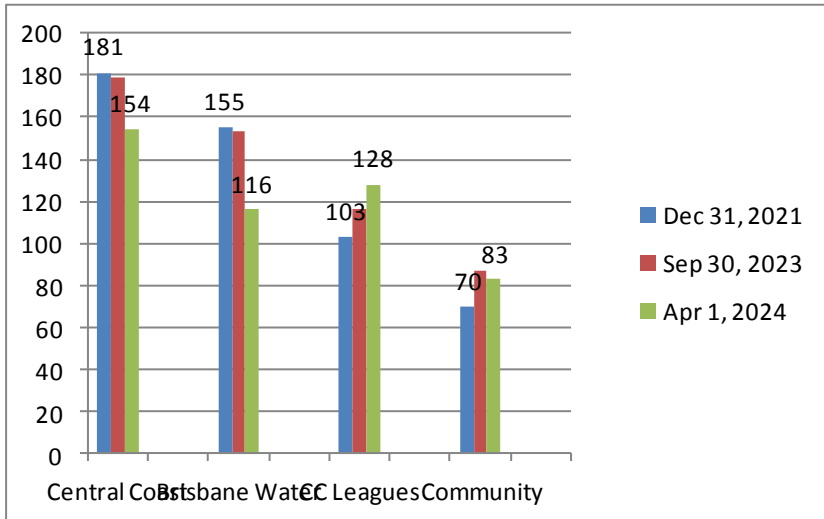
					NT
N			4		
S			4		
E	6	6		5	
W	6	6		6	5

## STANDBYS

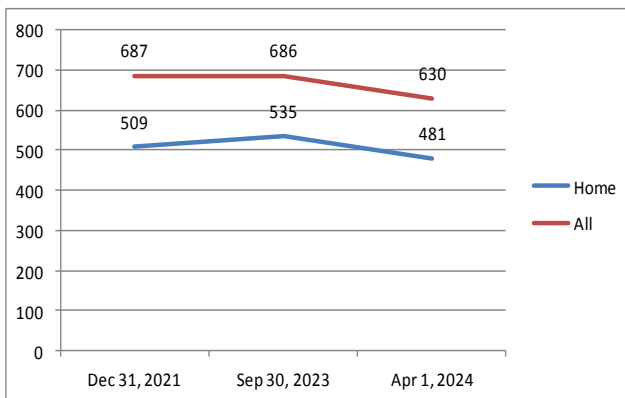
- A standby player is now available for Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- Thursdays - if you contact Louis Koolen he will try to arrange a partner for you. Remember Pre-entry is required.
- There is no Standby on Monday Evenings or for Special Events.

## CAUSE FOR CONCERN?

The graph below shows the changes in Home Club membership at the Central Coast registered bridge clubs at 3 dates.



For the same dates, Total Membership (Home + Alternates) has declined.



NB:  
‘Alternates’ listed on the ABF Master-point site are not necessarily all ‘financial’ members of a club.

A drop of 56 players in less than a year? Hoping these are not all deceased, I did some checking: 27 are marked as Inactive Central Coast members and 24 as Inactive Brisbane Water members. Hopefully these have not given up Bridge, but have just been late in renewing their memberships before the March 31 deadline.

On a positive note, and using these figures, we are currently the largest club on the Coast.

<b>Apr 1, 2024</b>	<b>Central Coast</b>	<b>Brisbane Water</b>	<b>CC Leagues CBC</b>	<b>Community Bateau Bay</b>
Home Club Members	154	116	128	83
ABF Alternate	12	50	50	37
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>120</b>

## IN THE RED



Fantastic flowers by Marion Ellis

President Julie Sadler with Ed Johnson



Decorated lunch and trophy tables by Ruth Griffin and Marion.

Thank you to all who helped with the setting up before play.





Club Teams:  
Wendy, Henrietta  
Hohnen, Dorothy  
Berzins

Teams of 3: Julie,  
Helen White,  
Kath Bromley

Restricted Teams:  
Kevin Hughes,  
Pauline Caust,  
Margaret Regan

Graded Prs A:  
Mathews & Gary Heyting  
Club Swiss Prs: Dorothy Berzins  
Club Prs: Margaret Regan  
Club Mixed Prs: Chris Williams  
Graded Prs B:  
Ruth Griffin & Jim Havyatt



Foundation Cup:  
Chris Williams & Alan Bustany  
President's Cup:  
Dorothy Berzins  
Gosford Pairs:  
Julie Sadler & Anne Grayden  
New Years Cup:  
Chris Williams



Spring Prs: Wendy M

Winter Prs: Louis Koolen & Barbara Grant

Autumn Prs: Dasha Brandt & David Bowerman

Summer Pairs: Jan Clarke & Ros Dey

Australia Day Prs:  
Wendy M & Henri Hohnen

Henry Kendall Prs:  
Anne Grayden & Pauline Caust

Anzac Day Prs:  
Henrietta & Elizabeth Lawrence



Charity Day Prs (E/W): Roy Cotton & Peter Hall

Presentation Day Prs (N/S):  
Henrietta & Elizabeth Lawrence

Charity Day Prs (N/S): Alan Bustany & Jan Clarke



Valentine's Day Prs: Alan B & Chris W

Monthly Shield, Easter Pairs, Remembrance Day Pairs: Dorothy Berzins

Christmas Pairs:  
Jaan Oitmaa & Sylvia Foster

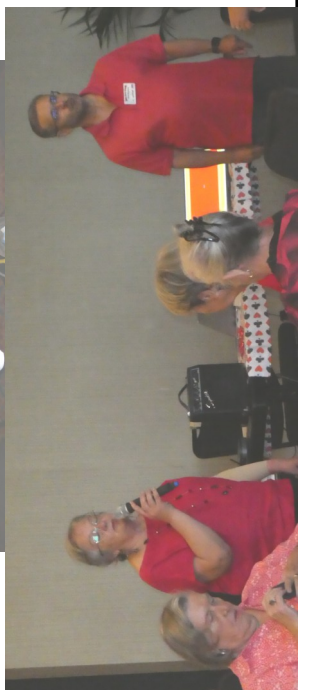




Zelda Overhall Special Prize:  
 Julieanne Perceval  
 Zelda Overhall Trophy:  
 Frik Gautschi & Suzanne  
 Harrison

Bill Thomson Trophy:  
 Kevin Hughes  
 Pauline Evans Novice Pairs:  
 Beryl Lowry & John Aldersley  
 pictured with Dorothy Berzins





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY for April

Christine Ashe, Lyn Baber, Maureen Baker, Steve Calcroft, Janet Davies, Kerry Garnsey, Kevin Hughes, Lorraine Lindsay, Lisa McNamara, Gina Robertson, Gillian Sadler, Hope Tomlinson, Suzanne Whelan.

**NEW MEMBER:** Please welcome Charles Gilmore (phone TBA)

Also, we have been pleased to welcome back Greg Watson (0433 639 657). He is visiting for a short time from his home in Finland.

## COMING EVENTS

### APRIL

#### *RealBridge*

Tuesdays 12.30pm Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

*Eclectic: Best 2 of 5 scores*

#### *Face-to-Face*

Monday 12.30pm Apr 8, 15, 22, 29

Monday Evenings 7.15pm Apr 8, 15, 22, 29

Wednesdays 1.30pm Apr 10, 17, 24

Thursdays **Pre-Entry** 12.30pm Apr 25

Fridays 1 2.30pm Apr 5, 12, 19, 26

#### *Special Events*

State Mixed Pairs (1, 2) Q/R/P *all day* Thursday 11

Teams of 3 P/C *all day* Thursday 18

Anzac Day Pairs P/Green Thursday 25

### MAY

#### *Special Events*

Monthly Shield (4) E Wednesday 1

Autumn Pairs R Monday Eve 6

Zelda Overhall Cup R Monday 13

State Seniors Pairs R, P Tue 28, Wed 29

State Seniors Teams R, P Thu 30, Fri 31

*Wendy Mitchell, Editor*