

Welcome to the
Central Coast
Leagues Club
Bridge Club



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

A **NNUAL**
GENERAL
MEETING

**Parkview Room,
Thursday July 25.**

Thank you to the 35 members who attended. There were 32 apologies.

The minutes from 2023 were accepted and then the meeting heard reports from President Julie Sadler, Treasurer Peter Mackey and Tournament Organiser Julie.

Louis Koolen took the chair to conduct the elections. Since there was only one nomination for each of the available positions, all were declared elected:

President: Eunice de Vries
Vice President: Julie Sadler
Secretary: Anne Grayden

Treasurer: Peter Mackey
Committee: Leon Babinski,
Margo Burnet, Ruth Griffin, Wendy Mitchell, Julieanne Perceval.

A number of issues were raised in General Business which the Management Committee will discuss at the monthly meeting.

Hot finger-food was served as a reward to attendees before the Anniversary Pairs which were held in the same room, ably directed by Ros Dey.

Thank you to Rachel van der Merwe for her time on the committee and welcome and congratulations Eunice!

See p.8 for Photos

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS

**SESSIONS CANCELLED FROM
NOW ON**

RECENT RESULTS

CLUB RESTRICTED TEAMS		(C)	7 teams	Mon Jul 8 & 15	
			Wins	Draws	VPs
1st	Jane Stephens, Vic Pietraszkiewicz, Colin Kleinig, Lucy D'Ambrosio		4	0	118
2nd	Agnes Marsh, Allan Adams, David Howells, Ruth Griffin		5	0	116
3rd	Alison Mackey, George Connell Leonie Wain, Marion Ellis		4	1	106
4th	Jann Small, Suzanne Harrison, Wendy Byrne, Mei-Hua Crawford		3	1	99

Directed by Margaret Regan, teams played six 5-board matches each week. The team placed first contained non-club members so was ineligible for the trophy. Congratulations to Agnes, Allan, David and Ruth who win the 2024 title for the Restricted Teams.

Thank you Margaret Regan for the Photos page 7

ANNIVERSARY PAIRS		(R)	10 tables	Thu Jul 25
1st	Jaan Ooitma & Sylvia Foster		68.52%	
2nd	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler		62.93%	
3rd	Gary Heyting & Kevin F. Hughes		61.89%	

TUESDAY ECLECTIC RealBridge 5 sessions

Of the 28 people who played during the month, 9 pairs played with the same partner at least twice. After choosing their best two scores, four of these pairs (half the field rounded down) earned extra masterpoints in the form of outright awards:

			MPs
1st	Jacqui Wilson & Alfie Nation	63.19%	0.23
2nd	Mary & Steve Colling	62.35%	0.16
3rd	Jan Clark & Chris Williams	57.29%	0.12
4th	Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany	59.95%	0.08

JULY 2024 CONGRESS AND TOURNAMENT REPORT

Central West Festival of Bridge / Australian National Bridge Championships: July 6 - 18

Many of our members braved the cold and ventured to Orange for up to 2 weeks of bridge. This huge event opened with red point congresses for several Central West Bridge Clubs: Orange, Dubbo, Parkes, Bathurst, Mudgee and Cowra.

Frank Pellarini played with Robyn Rogers in the Orange City Council Welcome Restricted Pairs and the Mudgee BC Swiss Pairs. Anne Grayden and Julie Sadler finished in the top third of the field in the Mudgee pairs. Steph Mathews and Gary Heyting just scraped into the top half in the Dubbo BC Swiss pairs, and Frank Pellarini played with brother Paul in that event. Anne and Julie, Steph and Gary and Frank and Paul finished in the top half of the Bathurst Pairs; Pauline Caust and Alan Bustany also competed in the event. Steph and Gary again just made it to the top half in the Parkes Matchpoint Pairs.

In the Orange Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Julie and Anne finished a very respectable 18th out of 116 pairs. David Snow and Margaret Regan finished in the top half of that event; Steph and Gary, Pauline and Alan, and Peter and Alison Mackey also competed. In the Orange BC teams, the Bustany (Alan, Pauline, Julie and Anne) team finished 32nd out of 63; the Regan team (Steph, Gary, Margaret and David) finished 50th; and the Hughes team (Kevin Hughes, Leonie Lovell, Peter Mackey and Alison Mackey) finished 56th.

The second week of the festival offered the Australian National Championship gold point events. Wendy Mitchell and Henrietta Hohnen ventured into the highly competitive Open ANC Butler Pairs and ANC Swiss pairs, A and B. Kevin Hughes and Leonie Lovell played in the Restricted ANC Butler pairs event. Kevin then stayed on, pairing up with local player Hilda Tovey, winning 2nd place (Novice) in the Paul Lavings Swiss Pairs A.

Kevin and Hilda receiving their prize from Tournament Organiser, Murray Paterson.

At the close of the first week, the CCLCBC gang gathered for dinner to celebrate Alison Mackey's birthday!



The ANC interstate teams and interstate matchpoint pairs championships were also conducted in the first week.

While we didn't have any members participating in those events, it is worth reporting that NSW cleaned up in the teams, beating SA in the Open, Women's and Senior's finals. SA won the youth division. Ronnie Ng was one of the directors in the first week and Ronnie and Alan Bustany directed in the second week.

The organisation over 2 weeks was superb - so good that gold points have been awarded by the ABF to this new Central West Festival for 2025, April 9 - 13.

BWBC Congress: July 20 & 21

Our club was well represented at the Congress, held at the Everglades Club. The pairs event had two fields, restricted and open. In the Open

Pairs, three of our pairs finished in the top 10: Sally Clarke and Chris Williams finished 2nd, Di Coats and Jan Clarke finished 5th, Jaan Oitmaa and Sylvia Foster finished 6th. Many other pairs from our club also competed. In the Restricted Pairs, Berenice Air and Vic Pietraszkiewicz claimed 2nd place; Jann Small and Qi Hasemore also played in that event.

Of the 24 teams competing, three teams with CCLCBC players finished in the top 10: The Weaver team (Jan Clarke, Di Coats, Terry Bodycote and Paul Weaver) finished first; the Mayo Team (Greg and Sharon Mayo, Sally Clarke, and Chris Williams) finished 5th; the Bustany team (Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Pauline Caust and Alan Bustany finished 8th.

Many other CCLCBC members also competed in this event.



Terry
Bodycote

Jan
Clarke

Ronnie Ng
(Director)

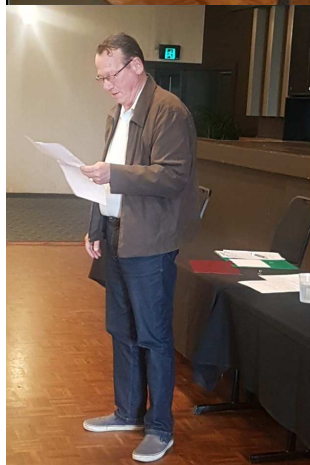
Di
Coats

Paul
Weaver

Steph Mathews

PROTOCOL BOOKLET

Brisbane Water Bridge Club has purchased 50 of these booklets for their members at the cost price of \$1 each.



Above: AGM attendees

Left: Louis Koolen

Below: Your committee

L to R: Margo, Leon, Eunice, Peter,
Anne, Julie, Ruth, Julieanne,
Wendy



Restricted Teams Players -



COMMITTEE CRUMBS – Meeting August 5

- Thursday afternoon sessions - attendance has not improved, so as foreshadowed, these are now cancelled
- Thursday evenings - these are going well, but pre-entry is still required for the time being
- Next year's calendar:
 1. Both Monday and Thursday evenings will have the same starting time: **7pm**
 2. All daytime sessions will have the same starting time: **1pm**
 3. It is intended to program Championship events on Thursdays - teams all day and pairs half a day over 2 weeks
- **Club Recorder** - the committee has appointed Trish Dennis to replace Eunice in this position. Thank you Trish. Details of this role

will be re-printed next month. You can speak to Trish in person or she can be contacted on 0419 020 303.

- **Club Website etc** - guests spoke to the Committee about various aspects raised at the AGM:
 1. Steph Mathews described the use of *Pianola* for administration; the informative/educational aspects of the performance analysis it provides to individuals; the costs involved.
 2. David Bowerman, Webmaster of our current site, described his role and the challenges of changing to a different design and provider.
 3. Alan Bustany spoke about the current ability of table fee collection using myABF and planned future features for masterpoints, membership etc.
 4. Gary Heyting also contributed ideas about the website and display and analysis of results.

No decisions on the various possibilities have been made yet.

- Approval was given for CCLCBC to be associated with a bridge holiday proposed by Louis Koolen:

Estate Tuscany, Tue March 4 to Fri March 7, 2025

FROM THE BOTTOM TABLE - ANC 2024: Board Eleven by Kevin

Your Correspondent (YC) was fortunate enough to be able to play six days at the 2024 Australian National Bridge Championships and Butler at Orange, NSW.

Each morning, the Piano Bar at the Orange Ex Services' Club saw the meeting of weary souls preparing for another long day at the card tables.

Freshly made coffee was the choice of many.

The main topic of discussion was often the Orange weather. However, for the bridge tragic, and there were many, much of the discussion was centred on conducting a forensic examination of boards played the previous day.

On the Sunday morning, Board 11 from Round 1 of the TBIB Open Butler Pairs, Stage 1, was the centre of discussion. Of the 37 tables, three successfully found the Club slam, one made a Spade game, while the other 33 were in various NT contracts, most making 4NT, but many not making their 5NT or higher contracts.

Henrietta Hohnen and Wendy Mitchell were in a 5NT contract, making 10 tricks. The hand records show that it is possible for South to make 5NT, but South, in the main, made only 10 tricks. With the 3/2 split in Clubs and both the Diamond and Spade finesses failing, South was always going to lose one Club, one Diamond and one Spade trick.

Board 11
Dealer S
Vul None

♠ T865
♥ 853
♦ Q987
♣ T6

♠ AKJ4
♥ A42
♦ A2
♣ A932



♠ 32
♥ KQ6
♦ KJ43
♣ K874

♠ Q97
♥ JT97
♦ T65
♣ QJ5

20
2 6
12

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	5	5	4	4
S	6	5	5	5	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

The question of the morning was:
How do you make 5NT on this board?

A number of experienced players were polled, most agreeing that 5NT should, at first glance, fail, because of the unfavourable finesses. Alan Bustany came the closest to the correct solution, saying that he didn't think it was possible for West to protect both Diamonds and Spades, but was called away to prepare for his directing duties before being able to explain.

In the end, YC from the Bottom Table suggested that DDA technology come to the rescue to provide a definitive answer.

After an 8♠ lead, E wins with the Q, returns the 9, which N takes with the K. Declarer then attempts to establish Clubs, winning with the A and K, thinking themselves fortunate with the 3/2 split, then losing a trick to E whilst establishing the last Club.

East continues to attack the Spades, leaving North with a Spade loser. Declarer now wins three Heart tricks and the last Club trick, forcing West to either discard the winning Spade, or to leave the Q♦ unprotected.

Declarer is now able to take the remaining tricks.

ANC 2024 at Orange was a tournament not to be missed. Novice players, such as YC, had the chance to play against the best bridge players in the country, and benefited greatly from the experience.

Many thanks go to Leonie, who had no choice but to look at me from the opposite side of the table for four long days, Peter and Alison for joining us in the Friday teams, and to Hilda from the Orange Bridge Club, who joined YC in an almost permanent position in the NS chairs on the Bottom Table for the ANC Swiss Pairs, and made this a fun place to be.

Kevin Hughes

HIGH-LOW PAIRS Friday July 5

Pre-entry was limited to 11 tables and the entries were divided in half based on masterpoints. On the day Alan Bustany used the computer to randomly choose a ‘high’ and ‘low’ to form pairs.

From Eva Hartzell:

I started with stating that ‘There is one part of luck in the game of bridge and that is what opponent you will get for each hand.’

So the four best pairs will win a prize each, however if you win the main prize (\$400 Bunnings vouchers) then you need a bit of luck too.” There were three sets of pot plants and one set of first aid kits to choose from.

Each set came with an envelope containing the vouchers. Each envelope had the prize written on it, so it was already determined what prize came with what set of vouchers.

Little did they know that the biggest pot plant contained the lowest value vouchers!

When the first three teams had picked their prizes it was noted the main prize hadn't been picked yet, so when the team that came fourth picked their set of orange pot plants they received the envelope with the main prize.



1st: Anne Grayden & Vic Pietraszkiewicz with Eva



2nd: (Eva), Jann Small & Alan Bustany



3rd: Tony Manea, (Eva), & Chris Williams

(photos by Margaret Regan)



4th: (Eva), Margo Burnet & David Snow

It didn't end there. . . .

There was a wooden spoon prize to the last pair, and I was very surprised to see it was my current partner Margaret and my mentor and teacher Eunice who came last and received a wooden spoon and a bottle of Absolut Vodka each to drown their sorrows.



As reported to the Editor:

A fun time was had by all with new partnerships except for Ruth and Joe!

Wine and chips were enjoyed at the end of play.

Right: Eva with Margaret
Sanger & Eunice de Vries

From the Committee

Many thanks to Eva and her company *The Building Establishment* for sponsoring this event. The committee has agreed to Eva's kind offer to continue this fun experience - the first Friday in July, 2025.

MONTHLY SHIELD

After 6 sessions there were 15 pairs who had played at least 4 sessions with the same partner. So at this stage 7 pairs will receive outright awards for being in the top half of the field.

However, since this eclectic event is the best 4 out of 10 results, there is the potential for a lot more pairs to qualify. Note however that if you play with one partner 4 times and another partner 4 times you can only qualify with one of them!

Because the average tables has been more than 10, the scores, which are based on the number of pairs beaten, is quite high.

The leaders are (not including the 7th session):

Di Coats & Dorothy Berzins (162), Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler (131), Alan Bustany & Jan Clarke (130), Kath Bromley & Sue Eastman (120).

NEW ABF RANKINGS – July Congratulations to:

Bronze State Marcelle Goslin

Local Frank Pellarini

Graduate Rachel van der Merwe

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for August

Allan Adams, Leon Babinski, Dorothy Berzins, Larry Bryant, Tony Cavanaugh, Jan Clarke, Helen Fisher, Lynne Harrold, John McGrath, Shirley Ross, Geoff Wilcher, Graham Woof, Tuck Yuen.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome (previously on-line player only) Marilyn Scott (0417 453 170) and add her number to your program book.

From BBO (BridgeBaseOnline)



Greetings, fellow enthusiasts of all things bridge. In the ongoing saga of AI versus human intellect, we've seen our silicon adversaries conquer chess grandmasters with the cold precision of a robotic guillotine. Yet, there's one game where the human spirit still holds strong against the binary onslaught: bridge.

"Bridge is one of the last games in which the computer is not better."

- Bill Gates

Yes, you heard that right - AI hasn't quite cracked the code of this intricate game of incomplete information and subtle cooperation.

While supercomputers can churn through more permutations than there are atoms in the universe, bridge remains a realm where human intuition, communication, and the occasional bluff still reign supreme. Our brains, honed by millennia of evolution and countless social interactions (and maybe a few family dinners), excel at interpreting subtle facial cues, deciphering body language, and navigating the complex dance of partnership.

But wait a moment - before you start crafting statues in honor of human superiority, there's a twist in the tale. Recently, AI managed to steal a few wins against bridge champions - not in a direct head-to-head game, though.

So, what's the verdict? Can AI snatch the crown of bridge mastery from our unsuspecting hands? Will the next world bridge champion be a series of algorithms in a trench coat pretending to be human?

Maybe. But for now, let's revel in the fact that we still hold the cards! Our ability to strategize, empathize, and bluff keeps us at the forefront of this timeless game.

Until the next deal is shuffled and the next algorithm devised, let's keep playing, keep strategizing, and keep enjoying the unique blend of logic and creativity that makes bridge - and our human experience - so wonderfully unpredictable.

Here's to keeping AI on its toes and humans on their best game!

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

RealBridge

Tuesdays(E)	12.30pm	Aug 6, 13, 20, 27
Best 2 of 4 for outright awards		

Face-to-Face

Monday	12.30pm	Aug 5, 12, 19, 26
Monday Evenings	7.15pm	Aug 5, 12, 19, 26
Wednesdays	1.30pm	Aug 7, 14, 21 , 28
Thursday Evenings	7.00pm	Aug 8, 15, 22, 29
	(Pre-Entry)	
Fridays	12.30pm	Aug 9, 16, 23, 30

Special Events

Monthly Shield (7)	E	Wednesday 7
Club Swiss Pairs (1, 2)	C/P	Thursday 1, 8
	(Entries closed)	
Foundation Cup	R	Wednesday 21

SEPTEMBER

Special Events

Spring Pairs	R	Monday Eve 9
CCLCBC Congress Pairs	R <i>all day</i>	Saturday 14
CCLCBC Congress Teams	R <i>all day</i>	Sunday 15

Wendy Mitchell **Editor**