

Welcome to the
Central Coast
Leagues Club
Bridge Club



NEWSLETTER
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

I **NTERCLUB** **TEAMS**

**Thursday February 27,
9.30am, Parkview Room**

Cost: \$40 per player
Entry: via MYABF

If you don't know how to do this, or are looking for teammates, please contact Tournament Organiser, Julie Sadler (0402 246 391).

There are 13 entries so far, but we would like more! Historically the numbers for InterClub Teams in February have generally been higher – last year there were 18 teams.

This is a great opportunity to play the best form of bridge while meeting players from the other 3 registered clubs on the Central Coast.

Entries will need to close about 1 week before, so please arrange your team now!

G **ARAGE SALE**

Save the date:

Saturday May 17

at Ruth and Joe Griffin's house, 107 Scenic Highway, Terrigal.

We are looking for items to sell, including potted plants and cakes. We'd also love help to set up and sell things if you can spare any time before and on the day.

So if you've been thinking of doing a cleanout, this is the time to start! All goods/help will be much appreciated, with proceeds going to our Charity, Allawah House.

Contact Ruth: (0407 854 060)

RECENT RESULTS

CHRISTMAS PAIRS (R) 9 tables Wed Dec 4

1st	Louise Lewis & Vic Pietraszkiewicz	69.21%
2nd	Jan Clarke & Alan Bustany	65.51%
3rd	Di Coats & Dorothy Berzins	63.19%

NEW YEAR'S CUP (R) 13 tables Fri Jan 3

1st	Barry & Sylvia Foster	67.27%
2nd	Chris Williams & Alan Bustany	65.42%
3rd	Adele Mills & Dorothy Berzins	64.68%

AUSTRALIA DAY PAIRS (R) 12.5 tables Mon Jan 27

1st	Adele Mills & Dorothy Berzins	66.40%
2nd	Sally Clarke & Jan Clarke	63.49%
3rd	Alan Bustany & Pauline Caust	62.56%

TUESDAY REAL BRIDGE January Eclectic

6 pairs were eligible for outright award (best 2 of 3 for the month), so 3 pairs received addition masterpoints:

		Avge	MPs
1st	Jacqui Wilson & Alfie Nation	66.21%	0.15
2nd	Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany	53.46%	0.11
3rd	Henrietta Hohnen & Elizabeth Lawrence	52.59%	0.08

THURSDAY EVE January Eclectic

10 pairs played at least 2 of the 5 sessions, 5 pairs received addition masterpoints:

		Avge	MPs
1st	Eunice de Vries & David Bowerman	70.47%	0.37
2nd	Frik Gautschi & Chris Hannan	61.76	0.26
3rd	Geoff Wilcher & Geoff Mathews	55.79%	0.19
4th	Trish Howard & Peter Mackey	53.36%	0.12
5th	Rachel van der Merwe & Tony Manea	51.93%	0.09

Please note: One player 'qualified' twice, but this is not permitted under the masterpoint regulations, so the next pair was promoted.

MONTHLY SHIELD (1)	(E)	7.5 tables	Wed
Feb 5			
1st	Maureen Catalano & Peter Hall		67.27%
2nd	Julie Sadler & Gladys Donovan		63.19%
3rd	Henrietta Hohnen & Dorothy Berzins		60.68%

SUMMER PAIRS (R) Mon

Eve Feb 10

1st	Eunice de Vries & Wendy Mitchell		70.31%
2nd	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler		62.24%
3rd	Lorraine Lindsay & Chris Hasemore		60.68%

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS

CONGRESS AND TOURNAMENT REPORT

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

Steph Mathews

CANBERRA SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE (7-19 Jan)

This was the big event in January. Lots of CCLCBC members ventured south to play in this great event. Here's how they went:

National Women's Teams. The Coats team (Di Coats, Jan Clarke, Sharon Mayo and Sally Clarke) finished 6th out of 10 with 4 wins, 1 draw, and 4 losses. The Lowry (Helen Lowry, Helen Milward, Jane Beeby and Liz Adams) team finished 10th with 2 wins and 7 losses.

Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs. Chris Hasemore and Pete Lardy finished 28th out of 34, and Vic Pietraszkiewicz with Edward Czarnocki finished 31st.

Under 100 MP Swiss Pairs. Kevin Hughes with Carolynne Mucharsky finished 16th of 28.

Fixed Income Solutions Swiss Pairs. Chris Hasemore and Pete Lardy finished 40th in a field of 82.

The Bridge Shop Novice Teams. Well done to the Khong team, which included Kevin Hughes, Carolyn Mucharsky, Margaret Cusack and Rhonda Khong, who finished 2nd in the field of 8.

TBIB Open Swiss Pairs. Against stiff competition in a field of 146 pairs, Di Coat and Jan Clarke finished 112th.

TBIB 750/500 Swiss Pairs. Out of 46 pairs, Chris Hasemore and Pete Lardy finished 3rd, with 9 wins and 2 losses. Well done!

TBIB 300/100 Swiss Pairs. With 36 pairs competing, Vic Pietraszkiewicz with Edward Czarnocki finished well in the top half at 15th with 5 wins, 2 draws and 4 losses; Kevin Hughes with Tracey Dillon finished 21st with 6 wins and 5 losses.

There were other events in December and January:

NSBC Festive Season Online Congress. Way back in December 2024, our own Helen Milward (with Ella Jacob, Jane Beeby, and Helen Lowry) finished 8th of 16 in the teams event.

NSBC Online Summer Teams (5 Jan). Twenty-two teams competed, and Helen Milward with Les Grewcock and Mark and Julie Guthrie finished 20th.

NSBC Australia Day Weekend Online Swiss Pairs (26 Jan). Twenty-eight pairs played in this event; Helen Milward and Gary Barwick finished 19th and Steve and Mary Colling finished 25th.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS (1 - 8 February)

This is a fabulous well-organised congress with thousands of players from Australia and around the world. It has events for everyone from the rookie to the diamond grand master.

To make it more fun, the surrounds offer a fabulous variety of foods, drinks, accommodation, and entertainment. A number of our members competed and reportedly had a great time at and away from the bridge table. Here's how they went in the competitions:

Bobby Richman Pairs – Open: Helen Milward with Kuldip Bedi finished 58th of 118 pairs sitting N/S in the qualifying round; Sharon Mayo and Sally Clarke finished 61st in the E/W field in the qualifying round. Both pairs qualified for the E Final, where Clarke and Mayo finished 6th, and Milward and Bedi finished 26th out of 28 pairs.

Bobby Richman Pairs – Restricted. Kevin Hughes with Marcelle Goslin finished an impressive 13th E/W in the qualifying match, qualifying for the A final where they finished 27th out of 28. Jane Stephen and Colin Kleinig finished 20th out of 76 pairs in the qualifying round, making them eligible for the B final where they finished 27th of 28.

Bobby Richman Pairs – Novice: Tony Canavan played with his son Andrew, and they finished 29th of 44 in the qualifying round. In the C Final, they finished 11th out of 16.

Four events were held for the Reg and Joan Trophy:

Saturday Butler Swiss Pairs. Wendy Mitchell and Margaret Regan finished 117th of 122 in the Open field. In the Under 500 MP division, Steve and Mary Colling earned 13th place, Roy Cotton and Steve Calcroft came 46th out of 52 pairs.

Sunday Butler Swiss Pairs. Wendy Mitchell and Margaret Regan earned spot number 15 out of 144 pairs in the Open division; Di Coats and Jan Clark finished 46th. In the Under 500 MP division, Steve Calcroft and Roy Cotton earned 7th place, and Mary and Steve Colling finished 21st out of 66 pairs.

Monday Butler Swiss Pairs: Di Coats and Jan Clarke finished 14th out of 120 pairs; Margaret Regan and Wendy Mitchell finished 69th; Steph Mathews and Gary Heyting did not finish last, coming in at 96th. In the under 500 MP division, Mary and Steve Colling finished 33rd, and Roy Cotton and Steve Calcroft finished 55th out of 64 pairs.

Friday Butler Swiss Pairs: A big congratulations to Jan Clarke and Di Coats who finished 1st of 42 pairs in this Open event! Mary and Steve Colling also competed, finishing 27th.

Open Teams Qualifying: This event included 156 teams with at least one member over 1500 MPs. The Sharon team (Ian Price, Sharon Mayo, Sally Clarke, and Bruce Tier) finished 44th; the Bedi team (Helen Milward, Elaine Ford, Carol DeLuca and Kuldip Bedi) finished 53rd; the Regan team (Margaret Regan, Wendy Mitchell, Dasha Brandt and David Bowerman) finished 83rd; the Bodycote team (Di Coats, Jan Clark, Terry Bodycote, and Paul Weaver) finished 87th.

Under 1500 MP Teams Qualifying: With 70 teams competing in this division, the Heyting team (Steph Mathews, Gary Heyting, Louise Lewis, and Vic Pietraszkiewicz) finished 40th; the Colling team (Steve and Mary Colling, Pauline Caust and John Evans) finished 47th.

Restricted Teams Qualifying: The Edwards team (Kevin Hughes, Marcelle Goslin, Peter Muller and Carol Edward) finished 75th out of 84.

Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs Open: In the E/W section Helen Milward and Kuldip Bedi finished 41st out of 119 pairs.

Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs Restricted: Kevin Hughes and Marcelle Goslin finished 23rd out of 72.

The Walk-ins: The Congress also hosted walk-in pairs every day, which were open to players of all levels.

Friday: Tony and Andrew Canavan came 16th out of 21 E/W.

Saturday a.m.: Pauline Caust and John Evans came 3rd of 9 N/S

Tuesday a.m.: Tony and Andrew Canavan 13th of 18 N/S

Wednesday a.m.: Steve Calcroft and Roy Cotton 14th of 20 E/W.

Wednesday p.m.: Steve Calcroft and Roy Cotton 7th of 17 E/W.

Other players from Central Coast Clubs also competed in what was officially the last ever Gold Coast Congress. However, toward the end it was announced that there is a glimmer of hope of this event continuing.

Although we were all warned to bring something for the cold venue, it was at times and depending where you were seated, absolutely freezing! *See p.7*

A very special thank you to Steph for this mammoth report.



COPING WITH THE COLD: Kevin Hughes with partner Marcelle Goslin

COMMITTEE CRUMBS – Meeting February 10, 2025

1. Presentation Day awards.

- a) Julie is contacting the 2024 relevant winners re their choice of small trophy or free games. Free games will be credited to your MYABF account. Free game cards will only be printed for those who are not registered with MYABF. *
- b) Prize money will still be paid in cash.
- c) Committee members and others who are entitled to a regular number of free games will have the dollar value credited to their MY-ABF account. **
- d) Two anonymous suggestions were received via the Suggestion Box: (i) re a water cooler and (ii) re the Bridgемate setting which allows results to be seen, or not, for each board.

It was decide to take no action on either of these. If the person who proposed these identifies themselves to a member of the Executive, the reasons will be explained.

* This will save the cost of printing these cards (not inconsiderable)

** This will simplify the processing of free games by the director and save a lot of time during the session.

BRIDGE EDUCATION

1. Beginners

a) Eunice is planning to start a new course on Tuesday evenings commencing April 1, 6.45pm for 7pm start.

Flyers will be available soon.

b) We will be demonstrating bridge and trying to attract new players at the Gosford Seniors Expo at the Showground on March 6. Because we made a late application we can only have a position which is outside.

Is there anyone in the club who can loan us a marquee please?

2. Improvers

Last year's course will resume on Wednesday evenings, commencing March 5, 6.15pm for 6.30pm start.

I will email those involved from last year, but anyone can attend all or selected sessions – let me know if you are interested.

Topics in Part 2 will be:

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|-------------|-----------|--|
| 1. March 5 | Chapter 3 | Suit Fits, Blackwood |
| 2. March 12 | Chapter 4 | Shifts, Signals, Bath Coup |
| 3. March 19 | Chapter 5 | Rebids, Mini Midi Maxi, Unblocking |
| 4. March 26 | Chapter 8 | Preempts, 2nd hand play, Ogust convention |
| 5. April 2 | | Mixed practice, including Rule of 15 |
| 6. April 9 | | Mixed practice, including Negative Doubles |
| 7. April 23 | | Review of all conventions (Blackwood, Stayman, Transfers, Ogust) |

Lessons 1 to 4 cost \$40 for those enrolled last year. Cost for occasional attendees is \$15.

Lessons/Practice 5 to 8 are all \$5 each.

3. Workshops

I will advertise these next month – I am thinking of offering Saturday mornings.

Contact me re particular topics and availability

Wendy Mitchell

4. Educational Articles

To the right is an extract from an article by Will Jenner-O'Shea on Page 31 of the February ABF Newsletter.

Note his explanation of '*Don't lead away from an Ace*'.

He also discusses other types of leads from particular holdings.

Well worth a read!

For the full article go to 'Australian Bridge Federation' via the Links button on our website. Click on ABF Newsletter on the right-hand side of the page.

OPENING LEADS AND BAD OPENING LEADS

The first Workshop for 2025 covered a lot of fundamentals of bidding, play and defense, to brush off some Christmas and New Year's rust.

One topic of discussion was opening leads, and we went through the main techniques that everyone knows. The best leads are leading partner's suit, or a sequence of three touching honours, and perhaps leading a singleton versus a suit contract. The other commonly taught leads are to lead from two touching honours against a suit contract (especially ace-king and king-queen combinations), or fourth-highest from a suit where you have an honour.

During the workshop, there were several hands where the opening leader didn't have a nice lead, and had to weigh up several unattractive choices. One holding that we discussed was a suit headed by the ace, but with no king. In general, it is not a good lead. If you lead the ace, it establishes the king as a winner, and more often than not, the opponents have the king between them. Leading a low card in that suit is potentially even worse, since the opponent's might win their king, and subsequently be void in that suit, or discard their cards, and you might never get your ace.

This leads to a poorly understood phrase, "**Don't lead away from an ace**". That phrase should be expanded to include "... against a suit contract" since it is fine against notrumps, your ace can't be trumped later. The other reason that this is a poorly worded tip is that it is misinterpreted to mean *lead the ace, not a low one*. That is often a bad lead as well. It is generally good to lead a different suit. If you partner bids one suit and then leads another, you should try to work out why, but often lead back the suit they bid. They often have the ace but no king. Leading from a suit where you have the ace but no king risks giving away a trick to the opponents king.

For those with enough stamina, the Gold Coast Congress also offered presentations before play or at lunchtime on a number of topics.

Being never too old to learn, I attended a few: Will Jenner-O'Shea on the 'Scrambling 2NT'; Andy Hung on 'Stoppers: Showing, Asking, or Neither?'; Barry Rigal on 'When to Pre-empt and the Theory of Flaws'.

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While on the subject of leads, here is an extract from Gold Coast Bulletin 5, from an article by Barbara Travis which begins on Page 14.

Does your opposition always make one more trick than the rest of the field?

Understanding this example may prevent you from giving away that extra trick.

Wendy M

Board 23, Dealer South, All Vul

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

You are sitting West, on lead, with:

♠ J 8 7 3
♥ 6 3
♦ A Q 10
♣ K J 6 2

I think this hand calls for a passive lead, i.e. a trump. You have a decent hand, but you are leading around to declarer – and you don't want to help them. Any heart honours are already onside, so just lead a heart and don't help declarer.

The full hand:

♠ J 8 7 3	♠ K 4 2	♠ A 9 5
♥ 6 3	♥ 10 7	♥ J 9 2
♦ A Q 10	♦ J 9 8 7 6 2	♦ 5 4 3
♣ K J 6 2	♣ A 4	♣ 10 8 7 5
	♠ Q 10 6	
	♥ A K Q 8 5 4	
	♦ K	
	♣ Q 9 3	

Look at the effect of leading a black suit... A club lead gives away a club trick and a club ruff. A spade lead provides declarer with two spade winners. East has to win the spade and shift to trumps to prevent declarer ruffing a club in dummy, after which declarer will come home on accurate card-reading. So think about the auction and whether you are leading through or around to the strength.

NEW ABF RANKINGS *Congratulations to all.*

November 2024

<i>Gold Life</i>	Gwen White Henrietta Hohnen	<i>Graduate</i>	Geoff Mathews Kat King
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December 2024

<i>Grand Bronze State</i>	Barry Foster Kevin Hughes	<i>Club</i>	Margaret Sanger
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January 2025

<i>State</i>	Peter Mackey	<i>Bronze Local</i>	Charles Gilmore
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MASTERPOINTS

Because of my absence in Queensland points were only processed up to and including Wednesday January 29.

Points for Friday, Thu Eve Jan 30 and the Thursday eclectic outrights, as well as Friday Jan 31, will be processed in February.

MEMBERSHIP 2025

Membership at February 12 is 126 (Home) and 48 (Associate) for a total of 174.

Due to illness, moving etc 15 have not rejoined. 17 other players did not renew by January 31 and will have visitor status if they play.

A high percentage, 84.6%, of members is registered with MYABF and the majority are maintaining credit in their accounts so that the fee for session play is automatically deducted.

This has made a huge difference in the workload for the Standby, Directors and Treasurer.

ABF MASTERPOINT CENTRE REPORTS 2024

Annual reports for a variety of achievements can be viewed on their website. Several players from Central Coast clubs have made their mark in these lists:

1. Top 50 Most Improved - National

5th Lucy D'Ambrosio (CCBC)

35th Kevin Hughes (CCLCBC)

2. Top 50 Most Improved - CCLCBC

First 10 – Kevin F Hughes, Vic Pietraszkiewicz, Pauline Caust, Peter Mackey, Stephen Calcroft, Frik Gautschi, John Aldersley, Alan Bustany, Louis Lewis, Margaret Regan.

3. McCutcheons - National

Silver Local: Kevin F Hughes (4th), Vic Pietraszkiewicz (6th)

Bronze Local: Lucy D'Ambrosio (1st)

The McCutcheon Trophy is awarded to the player earning the most masterpoints each calendar year. This trophy is named after Dr George McCutcheon who organised Australia's first country congress at Toowoomba in 1960 and it was his vision that resulted in the organization of the Gold Coast Congress. He 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.

4. McCutcheons - CCLCBC (All Ranks) – Top 20

Di Coats, Jan Clarke, Sally Clarke, Chris Williams, Tony Burke, Sharon Mayo, Chris Hasemore, Wendy Mitchell, Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Gary Heyting, Greg Mayo, Helen Milward, Gwen White, Pauline Caust, Christine Hadaway, Steph Mathews, Alfie Nation, Henrietta Hohnen.

5. McCutcheons - CCLCBC – First in each rank

Silver Grand and Above Sally Clarke

Grand Di Coats

Gold Life Julie Sadler

Silver Life Chris Hasemore

Bronze Life Sue Eastman

Life Steph Mathews

Silver National	Jurate Laisve
Bronze National	Pauline Caust
National	Rosalind Dey
Bronze State	Kathryn Ivits
State	John Aldersley
Bronze Regional	Mei-Hua Crawford
Regional	Ruth Griffin
Silver Local	Kevin F. Hughes
Bronze Local	Wendy Byrne
Local	Allan Adams
Club	Leonie Lovell
Graduate	Frik Gautschi
Nil	Rachel van der Merwe

6. Top 200 Nationally by Masterpoint Colour

Red Di Coats (37th), Jan Clarke (61st), Sharon Mayo (141st), Sally Clarke (150 th)

Green Lucy D'Ambrosia (39th CCBC), Gwen White (109th), Chris Hasemore (113th), Christine Hadaway (171st)

Gold Some very well-known players made this list, but none from the Central Coast.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome

Gaye Allen (0459 376 511), Greg Eustace (0415 816 919), Peter Hume (0416 138 698), Catherine Hyatt (0417 761 111), Ros Roworth (0417 239 774) and Marcel Hrnecir (0402 941 993) and add their numbers to your 2025 Program Book.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for February

Gaye Allen, David Bowerman, Maureen Catalano, Cheryl Davison, Sue Eastman, Kathryn Ivits, Chris Jamieson, Kat King, Elizabeth Lawrence, Agnes Marsh, Tanya Masters, Wendy Mitchell, David Snow, Clifford Stratton, Jackie Wilson.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

RealBridge

Tuesdays 1 pm Feb 18, 25

Eclectic: Best 2 of 4 scores

Face-to-Face

Monday 1 pm Feb 17, 24

Monday Evenings 7 pm Feb 17, 24

Wednesdays 1 pm Feb 19, 26

Thursdays Evenings 7 pm Feb 13, 20, 27

Fridays 1 pm Feb 14, 21, 28

Special Events

State Mixed Pairs (1, 2) (Q/R/C/P)
1 pm Thursday 13 & 20

Interclub Teams (R, P - MYABF)
9.30am *all day* Thursday 27

MARCH

Special Events

CCLCBC 'Bridge in Pokolbin' Mar 4 - 7

Monthly Shield (2) E Wednesday 5

Presentation Day Pairs P 9.30am **Tuesday 11 ***
Followed by Lunch at 1pm

Pauline Evans Novice Prs T/R/P **Thursday Eve 13 ***
Eligible to players with <100 MPs at January 1

Country/Club Teams Q/R/C/P
9.30am *all day* Thursday 27

* *Note change of date*

Wendy Mitchell Editor