

Welcome to the

**Central Coast
Leagues Club
Bridge Club**



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

P **AULINE EVANS**
NOVICE PAIRS

Thursday Evening March 13

This is a trophy event for players with less than 100 masterpoints (at January 1) held in memory of Pauline Evans.

Who was Pauline Evans? A mother of 5, she played bridge at the highest level, representing both Queensland and NSW many times. She also represented Australia as both a member and Captain of the National Women's team.

Not long after being diagnosed with a terminal disease, Pauline and her husband Jim moved to the Central Coast and she joined CCLCBC. Sadly she died the next year. Jim then donated funds for a perpetual trophy in her name.

Because she was always so supportive of new players it was decided to create a red point event for novice players. She always showed good humour, friendliness and helpfulness at the bridge table

Half of our club is eligible for this trophy. Though few of you will have known Pauline, here is an opportunity to at least earn some red masterpoints! You don't have to be a regular Thursday player to participate – just have less than 100 MPs, turn up and make this a great night.

I **INTERCLUB TEAMS**

See pages 2, 3, 8

P **RESENTATION DAY**

See pages 3, 4, 9 & 10
and Facebook

B **RIDGE HOLIDAY**

See pages 14, 15, 16

RECENT RESULTS

TUESDAY Eclectic

February

8 pairs were eligible for outright awards (best 2 out of 3), so half of these received additional masterpoints:

		Avg	MPs
1st	Mary & Steve Colling	64.46%	0.23
2nd	Gary Heyting & Marilyn Scott	56.50%	0.16
3rd	Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany	55.38%	0.12
4th	Jacqui Wilson & Alfie Nation	54.58%	0.08

Note: Although there were 4 sessions in the month, one consisted of 2 tables teams and could not be scored with a percentage.

STATE MIXED PAIRS (R) 8 tables Thu Feb 13 & 20

Two qualifying sessions were held, directed by Ronnie Ng. In the first week a Mitchell movement of 8x4 board rounds was conducted. In the second week a Howell movement of 7x4 board rounds resulted in each pair playing the 15 other pairs over the two sessions. The overall result was:

1st	Jaan Oitmaa & Sylvia Foster	543.43	matchpoints
2nd	Jan Clarke & Chris Hasemore	491.40	
3rd	Wendy Mitchell & Tony Burke	479.12	

The club will pay for these three pairs to contest the State/Country Final in Sydney, May 17 & 18. In addition Di Coats & Alan Bustany are paying for their own entry to the finals.

Our Club Mixed Pairs Championship Trophy is being awarded from the results – congratulations to Jaan and Sylvia who will receive this in 2026.

INTERCLUB TEAMS (R) 15 teams Thu Feb 27

Three teams each from Central Coast and Brisbane Water Bridge Clubs joined our 9 teams in the Parkview Room for this annual event. Unfortunately there was no team from the Community Club.

Director Ronnie Ng conducted 6 matches of 14 boards each. Because of the odd number of teams a triangle was necessary, so 4 matches were played before lunch (sandwiches) and 2 matches after lunch.

		Wins	Draws	Losses	Total VPs
1st	Chris Williams & Ian Lincoln, Gary Heyting & Steph Mathews	5	1	0	94.11
2nd	Jan Clarke & Di Coats, Sharon Mayo & Sally Clarke	5	0	1	87.01
3rd	Berenice Air & Colin Kleinig, Nola Daly & Stewart Duxbury	3	1	2	75.95

Cheese platters and wine and socialising followed the last match.
Well done to the CCLCBC team for first place.

MONTHLY SHIELD 2 (E) 7.5 tables Wed Mar 5

1st	Alan Bustany & Jan Clarke	58.92%
2nd	Di Coats & Dorothy Berzins	57.85%
3rd	Ruth Griffin & Chris Hannan	57.53%

Remember that to earn extra masterpoints in the form of outright awards, you must play in at least FOUR of the Monthly sessions with the SAME PARTNER. Your best 4 sessions out of a possible 10 will be counted.

Our previous scoring method based on the number of pairs beaten will be replaced this year by the percentage scores.

PRESENTATION DAY PAIRS 15 tables Tue Mar 11

North-South

1st	Di Coats & Jan Clarke	71.94%
2nd	Alan Bustany & Chris Williams	60.30%
3rd	Adele Mills & Dorothy Berzins	60.15%

East-West

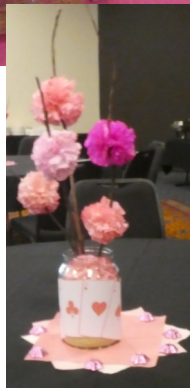
1st	Gary Barwick & Helen Milward	71.59%
2nd	Jaan Oitmaa & Jim Routledge	67.41%
3rd	Kevin Hughes & George Connell	65.13%

Alan Bustany played and directed 13 2-board rounds. Several of the presentations were made by President Eunice during the match. Then Ed Johnson, Deputy Chairman of the Leagues Club Board of Directors, presented the rest before we enjoyed a buffet lunch with a wide range of hot food, cold salads and fruit.

Thank you to Gina for the 'shades of pink' decorations, Marion for the flower arrangement, Ruth for the raffle and Rachel for taking over the photography.



Thanks to all present for making the day pleasant and pink!



BILL THOMSON TROPHY

This is awarded for the most improved player over calendar year with the following conditions: Financial member, played at least 30 sessions, less than 100 MPs at January 1.

Improvement is measured using the ABF Master-pointFormula:

Points This Year * 10000)/(Total Points + 100)

Dorothy Berzins presented this trophy to Kevin Hughes who won it in 2023 and was the clear winner again for 2024.

His improvement has been meteoric, moving from Silver Local to Regional, Bronze Regional, State and then Bronze State in 12 months. This last ranking requires a minimum of 50 Gold/Red masterpoints – Kevin achieved this during November last year.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS

COMMITTEE CRUMBS – Meeting March 3, 2025

1. Country Teams Qualifying – Thursday March 27 – 2 sessions commencing 9.30am

Entry is now open, via MYABF. Cost is \$30 per player, including lunch. The club will pay \$120 each for a number of teams (depending on entries) to proceed to the Country Teams Regional Final, date TBA. The winners of our qualifying event will be named winner of the Club Championship Teams.

2. The role of the Director

Law 81 describes the Official Status, Restrictions and Responsibilities, Duties and Powers of the Director.

Some extracts – ‘The Director is the official representative of the Tournament Organiser’ and ‘The Director is responsible for the on-site technical management of the tournament’ and ‘to maintain discipline and to ensure the orderly progress of the game’

THE DIRECTOR IS IN CHARGE OF THE ROOM

Most players acknowledge that the director has a difficult job. At CCLCBC we pay our directors to carry out their tasks and in recognition of the time they devote.

Remember:

- If you have any specific seating needs you must contact the Director *in advance* of the session.
These will be accommodated IF POSSIBLE.
- Results of a session are available at the end of play and uploaded to our website. However these are only provisional for 48 hours as this is the time frame for notifying the director of scoring errors.

BRIDGE EDUCATION

1. Beginners

Eunice is planning to start a new course on Tuesday Evenings commencing April 1, 6.45pm for 7pm start. Please display flyers at your local shops etc – responses are very low so far.

2. Improvers

Last year's course resumed last week. Sessions will continue on Wednesday evenings, 6.15pm for 6.30pm start.

Anyone can attend all or selected sessions – let me know in advance so that I can have sufficient materials prepared. Topics in Part 2 are:

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	Pre-empts, 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.

Practice sessions 5 to 7 are all \$5 each.

3. Workshops – Intermediate +

As advised last month I am offering a variety of workshops on **Saturday mornings** in the hope that this time slot may suit more players. The starting time is designed to allow participants to play in the Brisbane Water BC afternoon session if they wish.

Starting: 9.30am Finish 11.30am – 12 Cost: \$15

Notes and hand records are provided.

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| 1. March 29 | Declarer Play | <i>No Panic NT Play</i> |
| 2. April 5 | Conventions | <i>Better Blackwood (RKeycard)</i> |
| 3. April 12 | Defence | Reverse Count, Suit Preference
& McKenney Discards |
| 4. April 26 | Conventions | <i>Jacoby 2NT</i> (Major suits fits) |

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Write your name on the list at the club or contact me:

0423 388 529 or wmi20245@bigpond.com

Wendy Mitchell

NEW ABF RANKINGS February 2025

<i>Local</i>	Julianne Perceval	<i>Graduate</i>	Shirley Lane-Smith
<i>Club</i>	Janet Davies		Paul Garnsey
	Tanya Masters		

Congratulations to all

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome:

Brian Richardson (0456 663 761) and Richard Wydell (0419 605 505)
and add their numbers to your 2025 Program Book.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for March

June Ball, Margo Burnet, Philip Dey, Rosalind Dey, Sylvia Foster, Stuart Gibson, Peter Hall, Adi Jones, Steph Mathews, Sharon Mayo, Julie Sadler, Martin Schotte, Christine Williams.

WINNERS & GRINNERS

1. InterClub Teams



1st: L to R
Gary Heyting,
Eunice (President)
Steph Mathews, Ian Lincoln
(Chris Williams absent)

2nd: L to R
Eunice (President), Janet
Davies pretending to be
Sally Clarke,
Di Coats, Sharon Mayo.



3rd: L to R
Nola Daly, Berenice Air,
Colin Kleinig,
Eunice (President),
Stewart Duxbury

2. Presentation Day



Pairs Champions

Graded B - Peter Hall, Kath Bromley (front)
Club & Graded A: Jan Clarke (absent: Di Coats)
Swiss - Sharon Mayo, Chris Williams

Below

Teams Champions

Restricted - Ruth Griffin, David Howells, Agnes Marsh

Club - Jan Clarke, Dorothy Berzins (far right), (absent: Sally Clarke, Di Coats)

Tms of 3: Tony Canavan, Julieanne Perceval, Frik Gautschi, (absent: Eunice de Vries, Captain)



Dorothy Berzins (right) won Easter Prs with Adele Mills (left), Remembrance Day Prs with Henrietta Hohnen and Monthly Shield with Di Coats (absent).
 Christmas Pairs: Vic Pietraszkiewicz with Louise Lewis (absent)



Left

Henry Kendall Pairs:

Eunice de Vries, Wendy Mitchell

Australia Day Pairs:

Di Coats, Jan Clarke

Anzac Day Pairs:

Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler



Presentation Day Pairs: Chris Williams & Jan Clarke (E/W); Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler (N/S);
Charity Day Pairs: Barbara Grant & Louis Koolen (N/S);
 Wendy Mitchell & Eunice de Vries (E/W)

Below:

Zelda Overhall Cup: Peter Mackey (centre), Kevin Hughes (right),
Special Prize (left) Tony Manea, Rachel van der Merwe;
Pauline Evans Novice Trophy: Peter Hall, Kath Bromley



Above

President's Cup: Steph Mathews, Gary Heyting; Alan Bustany (centre) won
New Year's Cup with Chris Williams (front left), Gos-
ford Pairs with Pauline Caust, Foundation Cup
 with Jan Clarke (2nd from right);
Anniversary Prs:
 Jaan Oitmaa
 (absent Sylvia Foster)



Autumn Pairs: Julie Sadler & Anne Grayden; Winter Pairs:
 Chris Williams & Jan Clarke; Summer Pairs: Di Coats &
 Dorothy Berzins; Spring Pairs: Wendy Mitchell & Eunice
 de Vries

GOSFORD SENIORS (50+) EXPO

Thursday March 6

As part of the Central Coast Seniors Festival, Central Coast Council arranged for almost 80 stalls from local businesses, services and community groups to display their information at the Gosford Showground.

Visitors to the event could collect stamps in an Expo Passport under the categories Housing/home care; Social, education and recreation; Financial; Health; Other and then enter a draw for prizes.



Although we applied 'at the last minute' we were allocated a space in one of the pavilions. Thank you Gina Tap for our sign and to Margo Burnet and Stuart Gibson who helped Eunice de Vries and Wendy Mitchell with the initial set up. These and four others – Steph Mathews, Gary Heyting, Anne Grayden and Julie Sadler played 'demonstration' bridge from 10am till pack up time at 1pm.



We handed out lots of pamphlets re the Beginners Lessons starting April 1. Hopefully there will be some takers!



PS: There is another expo at Wyong Race Club this Thursday, March 13. Well worth a visit for information and giveaways.

BIDDING 7NT

Sometimes you can go for months/years without finding this absolute top scoring bridge contract. In the past few weeks there have been several opportunities. The most recent:

1. Interclub Teams, Thursday February 27 - Match 1, Board 7

After South passed, my partner (West) opened 1C (3+ suit). With the following hand I am immediately thinking of a possible Slam:

♠ KQ8 With great restraint I respond 1H and partner rebids 3C!

♥ AKQ9

♦ QT4 The jump bid promises 6xsuit and better than a MINI hand,

♣ K52 usually 16+ HCPs.

So, 4NT (Roman Keycard Blackwood) receives the response of 5D – 0 or 3 Keycards.

Assuming 3 because of the jump, it is a good idea to ask for the CQ by bidding 5H.

The reply (in our system) is 5NT – yes, with no additional Kings.

On the face of it this is disappointing, but in fact it doesn't matter because I can count 14 of a possible 13 tricks!

Clubs – 6, Diamonds – 1, Hearts – 4 and Spades – 3.

So 7NT is bid. The lead is the S10 and I make all the tricks. Here is partner's hand:

♠ AJ This might have been a match-winning result,
♥ 62 but in fact was a match-saver.

♦ A76

♣ AQT987 Our other boards were not so good and our overall
result was a draw The statistics for this board were:

3NT (12) 1

3NT (13) 3

6C (13) 4

6NT (13) 4

7NT (13) 1

2. Here is an extreme example from January 29. Our EW opponents were one of four pairs who bid a good 6H, making 13 tricks. 8 other pairs were in 3NT or 4/5H all making.

Board 17 Dir: N Vul: Nil	♠ J632 ♥ 4 ♦ KJ42 ♣ Q983										
♠ AJT97532 ♥ 7 ♦ AJT7 ♣		♠ AKT95 ♥ K86 ♦ A95 ♣ K2									
<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </table>		7		10		17		6		♠ Q874 ♥ Q ♦ QT863 ♣ 654	N: S: E: 3 ♣ 2 ♦ 7 ♥ 2 ♠ 7NT W: 3 ♣ 2 ♦ 7 ♥ 2 ♠ 7NT
	7										
10		17									
	6										

North passes and East opens 1NT* with the balanced 17 HCPs. West bids 2D as a transfer to 2H and after East complies, bidding controls may find you the grand slam in Hearts or NT.

It is not recommended for a hand with a void to use Blackwood to ask for Aces. Suppose:

East	West
1NT	2D
2H	4NT

Playing simple Blackwood, East shows the 2 missing Aces. 5NT asks for Kings and East shows 2. Unfortunately, unless you play a specific King ask, West does not know which 2!

Now try this using Roman Keycard Blackwood:
 East shows 3 *controls* – the two missing Aces AND the King of trumps.
 When West asks for Kings, East shows 2 (in addition to the HK.)

Next, count the tricks of which West can be certain:

Spades – 2 (A and K in East's hand)

Hearts – 8 (there is a known 10xcard fit so the HQ can be expected to drop)

Diamonds – 1 (A in East's hand)

Clubs – 2 (A with West and K with East)

Total tricks – 13. Best scoring contract? 7NT

* If you decide this hand is worth 18 then you may open 1S.

CONGRESS AND TOURNAMENT REPORT –held over to April

BRIDGE IN THE POKOLBIN

March 4 - 7

Bridge Getaway to the Hunter

On Tuesday 4th March, a contingent of 25 keen Bridge club members (some with husbands and wives) descended on the Mercure in Pokolbin for four days of bridge organised by Louis Koolen.

The venue was absolutely perfect.....easy driving from the Central Coast surrounded by beautiful gardens and just a short drive to a large variety of wonderful wineries. There was a welcoming country feel as you explored the lounge and dining area and the staff were super helpful.

We were allocated a large room for bridge play and dining, close to the bar and lounge area. The meals were delicious with a large breakfast of anything you could wish for (including Bread and Butter Pudding!)

Louis did a marvellous job with match play sessions, lessons each day and a two part teams event. It was so good to see some of the newer players embracing the 'Loser Count' lesson so seriously and discovering the resulting success (coming in 2nd - well done Lisa and Lynette!)

On Thursday a large group headed to the Mt. Pleasant winery for a wine tasting (thanks Suzanne) which was enjoyed by everyone and we picked up some lovely wines in the process.

RESULTS

4/3/25.....	Evening event	Sue Eastman & John Aldersley
5/3/25.....	Morning event	Sue Eastman & John Aldersley
	Evening event	Sue Eastman & John Aldersley
6/3/25.....	Morning event	Leonie Wain & Frik Gautschi
	Evening event	Part 1 of teams event.
7/3/25.....	Part 2 of teams event.	

TEAMS RESULT

1st. Sue Eastman, Leonie Wain, Suzanne Harrison, John Aldersley and Barbara Grant.

2nd. Julianne Perceval, Helen Fisher, Frik Gautschi, June Noble and Louis Koolen.

HANDICAP WINNERS

Well done Lisa McNamara and Lynette Callaghan with special mention to Gina Tap for consistently good attitude and play.

Thanks again Louis for a great week.

Alison Mackey

(More photos on Page 16)





GOING DIGITAL – from the ABF Masterpoint Centre, March 4

The ABF Board have decided to stop issuing the physical paper registration cards and ranking certificates. The Board will investigate a digital solution instead.

The Centre will continue to issue the paper ranking certificates whilst stock lasts. But the registration cards will immediately cease being printed and mailed to clubs.

In the March update when we normally print the 30000+ registration cards that will not happen this year. We hope to have a digital solution in place by then, but it is possible there might be a short delay. Rest assured we are progressing a solution as fast as possible.

EASTER RAFFLE

Ticket sales began on Thursday evening. Two lovely hampers to be won.

3 tickets for \$5 - drawn 4pm, Wednesday April 16

All proceeds to Allawah House

GARAGE SALE

Save the date: Saturday May 17

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

Please continue to bring in items to sell.

We'd also love help to set up and sell things if you can spare any time before and on the day. Talk to Ruth (0407 854 060).

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

RealBridge

Tuesdays 1 pm Mar 18, 25

Eclectic: Best 2 of 4 scores

Face-to-Face

Monday 1 pm Mar 17, 24, 31

Monday Evenings 7 pm Mar 17, 24, 31

Wednesdays 1 pm Mar 19, 26

Thursdays Evenings 7 pm Mar 13, 20, 27

Fridays 1 pm Mar 14, 21, 28

Special Events

Pauline Evans Novice Prs T/R/P **Thursday Eve 13 ***

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

APRIL

Special Events

Tuesdays Real Bridge Eclectic* Best 2 out of 5

Monthly Shield 3 (E)* (best 4 of 10) Wednesday 2

Easter Pairs (R) Wednesday 16

NO BRIDGE Friday April 18

* sessions played with the same partner

Wendy Mitchell

Editor