

Welcome to the
Central Coast
Leagues Club
Bridge Club



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

CELEBRATIONS !



Congratulations to Jan Clarke and Di Coats for winning a place in the 2025 NSW Women's Team.

What an achievement. We are very proud of you and all want to bask in your reflected glory!

Also to the two other pairs who competed from our club.

More detail in the Congress Report on Page 2 ff.

EASTER RAFFLE

This will be drawn at the Bridge session **4pm, Wednesday April 16.**

Make sure you have a chance to win a hamper!

3 tickets for \$5

Proceeds to Allawah House.

GARAGE SALE

Saturday May 17

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

If you have items to sell and/or can help before or on the day, talk to Ruth: 0407 854 060

NEW FLASH

See Committee Crumbs, pages 5 and 6 re:

- **Charity Week (not day)**
- **RealBridge Tuesdays**

RECENT RESULTS

PAULINE EVANS NOVICE PAIRS (E) 7 tables Thu Eve Mar 13

1st	Kerry & Paul Garnsey	65.43%
2nd	Louise Lewis & Vic Pietraszkiewicz	62.35%
3rd	Trish Howard & Cheryl Davison	61.11%

Thank you Director David Bowerman and all those who participated in the fourth year of this event. Well done Kerry and Paul on winning the Trophy.

COUNTRY TEAMS QUALIFYING 1&2 (R) 8 teams Thu Mar 27

	Wins	Total VPs
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1st	Dorothy Berzins & Adele Mills, Chris Williams, Ian Lincoln	6	101.8
2nd	Di Coats & Jan Clarke Sharon Mayo & Sally Clarke	4	88.44
3rd	Sylvia Foster & Jaan Ooitma, Karen Ody & Jim Routledge	4	87.33

Director Ronnie Ng conducted the event with 7x8 board matches. A break for lunch (sandwiches) was taken after Match 4. Refreshments were provided downstairs after the game.

Any team in the top half of the field is eligible to proceed to the Regional Final on June 29 at Brisbane Water Bridge Club. The club will pay for 3 contending teams – the Berzins, Coats and Foster teams.

The Club Teams Champions for 2025 are decided from the results of this event – congratulations to the Berzins team!

CONGRESS AND TOURNAMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

Steph Mathews

First, a huge congratulations to Jan Clarke and Di Coats, who finished 2nd out of 13 in the **NSW Women's Interstate Teams** selection tournament on 28-30 March. Twelve matches were held online over three days. Jan and Di

were ranked 1st or 2nd after each match except one, where they dropped only to 3rd. Finishing with 8 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses, their next stop is to represent NSW as part of a team of six in the national tournament later in the year. Also, a huge congratulations to Sharon Mayo and Sally Clarke, and Pauline Caust and Chris Williams who finished 5th and 9th, respectively in this prestigious event. Well done to all!

North Shore Bridge Club Swiss Pairs was held on the 16th of February, and Steve and Mary Colling finished 2nd in the novice/intermediate/restricted division with 4 wins, 1 loss and 1 draw.

Sally Clarke and Jan Clarke claimed 2nd place out of 20 pairs in Division A at the **Great Lakes Bridge Club Congress** on 1 March, with 3 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. Elaine and Peter Hume finished 4th out of 20 pairs in Division B, winning 5 out of 6 matches.

Several members played at the **Central Coast Bridge Club Congress** on 22-23 March. A hearty congratulations to Jan Clarke, Di Coats, Sharon Mayo, and Sally Clarke who swept 2nd and 3rd place, respectively in the Open Pairs and 1st place in the teams. Well done ladies!!

Open pairs (30 pairs competing):

Jan Clarke and Di Coats – 2nd

Sally Clarke and Sharon Mayo – 3rd

Vic Pietraszkiewicz and Brian Richardson – 13th

Williams and Pauline Caust - 19th

Eunice De Vries and Wendy Mitchell - 29th

Novice/Restricted Pairs (36 pairs competing)

Kevin Hughes and John Aldersley - 6th

Jane Stephens and Colin Kleinig - 16th

Teams (28 teams competing):

Mayo (Sharon Mayo, Sally Clarke, Jan Clarke, Di Coats) - 1st

Oitmaa (Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster,

Larissa Cowlshaw, Lesley Gunsen) - 5th

Hadaway (Christine Hadaway, Donnelle Foate,
Steph Mathews, Gary Heyting) - 6th
Whiddon (Catherine Whiddon, David Farmer,
Eunice De Vries, Wendy Mitchell,) - 9th
Grayden (Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler,
Chris Williams, Pauline Caust) - 13th
Fane (Felicity Fane, Matt Raj Mal, Dasha Brandt,
David Bowerman) - 20th
Stephens (Jane Stephens, Colin Kleinig,
David Hancock, Lucy D'Ambrosio) - 21st

The **Port Macquarie Hastings Bridge Club** congress was held 29-30 March. In the Division C Pairs, Louise Lewis and Vic Pietraszkiewicz finished 2nd! Well done! Steph Mathews and Gary Heyting scraped into the top half of the Division A pairs, finishing 8th out of 16. In Division B, Kevin Hughes and Roy Cotton finished 15th.

THANK YOU

Sincere thanks to all who were able to help on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening to pack up everything in the Bridge playing area.

Back in our post-Covid playing space on Friday April 4, many commented on the good lighting but of course it was not possible to have our regular break with refreshments. Special thanks to Louis who offered to direct and who coped admirably as a playing director, with a big field and without internet access.

COMMITTEE CRUMBS – Meeting April 4, 2025

The Managing Committee met in the morning, near the coffee and donut bar – good coffee but no donuts available!

Even without that sugar hit a lot of business was dealt with:

1. **Technology** – A new dealing machine has been ordered; the purchase of a better microphone is on hold; our computer will not be supported after October so closer to that time a new one will need to be purchased.

2. **Bridge Holiday** – Approval was given to Louis Koolen for him to seek the appropriate approval to hold another one in the Polkobin in 2026.

3. **Bridge NSW Council Elections** - The committee considered the feedback (thank you) re the candidates. After discussion and consideration of various factors a decision was made on 4 nominees. As the club's representative Wendy will now vote for these using an online process. She will also, if possible, attend the AGM which will be held on May 6 by Zoom. Successful candidates will be declared elected at the AGM.

4. **A New Location ?** - A proposal has been received by the Leagues Club for our club to move to a new space on the ground floor which is currently occupied by poker machines. Our specific needs re floor area, lighting, and storage were identified.

We now await a meeting with Chief Executive Officer, Bevan Paul, to discuss in full.

5. **Charity Day** – listed in our Program for Thursday, May 15.

Please delete this date. Instead we will hold 'Charity Week'.

All table monies from the sessions in the week beginning May 12 will be added to our charity fund for Allawah House. Directors will be invited to donate their fees. Any member who wishes to make additional donations may do so in that week – IN CASH.

6. **Tuesday RealBridge** – During the second club closure due to Covid-19 we started to conduct sessions using the online RealBridge platform in September, 2021 .

This was a great improvement on Bridge Base Online because we could see each other greet our friends (and enemies) as if we were with them. Sessions have continued since then along with Face-to-to Face. However numbers have been declining to the extent that attracting 2 to 3 table of players only makes them non-viable from a play and financial point of view.

We thank those regular stalwarts who have supported RealBridge but sadly the time has come to cease this service to members. Sessions will continue to the end of this month with the last one being on April 29.

BRIDGE EDUCATION

1. Beginners

Eunice's new course on Tuesday Evenings commenced on April 1 with 11 new pupils.

Thank you to the helpers who welcomed these beginners and those that stayed on to play.

2. Improvers

April 9	Mixed practice, including Negative Doubles
April 23	Review of all conventions (Blackwood, Stayman, Transfers, Ogust)

Lessons/Practice sessions are **\$5** each, including handouts.

3. Workshops – Intermediate + Saturdays, 9.30am Cost: \$15

Twelve people attended the first workshop on 'No Panic NT Play' and 10 were at the second workshop 'Better Blackwood'.

Due to a clash of dates, the third workshop will now follow the fourth! Proposed dates are below but permission has still to be obtained for these dates from the Leagues Club.

April 26 Jacoby 2NT Convention
May 10 Defence – Reverse Count and McKenney Discards

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 March 2025 Congratulations to all

<i>National</i>	Trish Byrnes	<i>Graduate</i>
<i>Club</i>	Penny Dilworth	Helen Fisher
	Rachel van der Merwe	Lisa McNamara
		Lynne Harrold
		Lynette Callaghan

FROM THE CHIEF DIRECTOR

Alan Bustany

Our Club members are moderately good when it comes to alerting procedures, asking about the meaning of bids, and responding to questions about bids, but there is room for improvement in some areas...

Alerting

The ABF Alerting Regulations go into some detail on when you must alert and when you are not required to alert. If in doubt it is best to alert, but it is important to be consistent with your alerts, and to make them quickly (before your right-hand-opponent bids). A procedure to highlight that is not currently observed well in our Club (or generally around Australia) is section

- 7.4 Alerts are made by audibly saying “Alert” and, if bidding boxes are in use, an alert card should be placed across the relevant call.

Note the requirement to place the alert card across your partner's bid and to actually alert your opponents audibly – don't just silently place the alert card in front of you!

Questioning

At your turn to act (and only at your own turn) you may request an explanation of the opponents' auction (Law 20F1), and you may ask specifically about the most recent call (Law 20F3). In either case you should ask a consistent neutral question such as:

- May I have a review of the Auction?
- What do you understand from your partner's Call?

For a call that has just been alerted you can abbreviate the second of these to just "Yes?".

Anything else is **Unauthorised Information** to your partner and may restrict their ability to make certain bids. For example, asking any pointed question such as "*Does your IS response deny four Hearts?*" could restrict your partner from bidding Hearts. If an explanation is unclear you can, of course, ask follow-up questions (but your partner must wait for their turn to act before asking their follow-up question).

In general you should ask questions only if you need to know the answer in order to make your own call. It is expressly forbidden to ask questions for the sole purpose of benefiting partner or to elicit an incorrect response from your opponent (Law 20G).

It is often best to wait until the end of the Auction before asking for a review (which the best Declarers will often provide unprompted).

Responding

When giving an explanation of your partner's call you are required to give the full *systemic* meaning of the call (including any negative inferences and special partnership understandings, but not anything you can deduce from knowing your own hand or that a new partner could deduce from general Bridge knowledge).

For example a 4D bid might be explained as "*first round control in Diamonds and denies first round control in Clubs*" or a 1NT bid might be explained as "*6-12 points*" (without having to say it denies a four-card Major).

Section 9.3 of the regulations says that merely naming a convention (e.g. Michaels, Lebensohl, etc.) is not an acceptable explanation.

If there is no partnership agreement say "Undiscussed". If you cannot remember the agreement, call the Director. In either case do *not* offer statements like "*I take it to mean...*" or "*I'm treating it as...*" as such statements create unauthorised information for your partner.

Unauthorised Information

If your partner creates unauthorised information it is not the end of the world, but the key restriction on you is contained in Law 16B1a:

- A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorised information if the other call or play is a logical alternative.

If your opponents may have done this, call the Director. It helps train players and Directors and, if your side is damaged, the Director can adjust the score.

Editor's Note: Refer to your 'Bridge Protocol' booklet for mention of the above topics – pages 3, 4 and 13.

If you have not been given one of these booklets, please advise Wendy Mitchell.

STORIES IN STATISTICS

From the ABF Masterpoint Newsletter, March 3

Bridge Club	Home Members @ Dec 31, 2024	Change since Dec 31, 2023
Central Coast	163	-19
CC Leagues Club	144	+24
Brisbane Water	129	-24
Community	93	+3

From the ABF Masterpoint website, **March 1**

Bridge Club	Home Members	Alternate Members*	Total Members
Central Coast	165	13	178
CC Leagues Club	149	56	205
Brisbane Water	129	60	189
Community	92	34	126

From the ABF Masterpoint website, **April 1**

Home members who have not rejoined for 2025 are marked by clubs to be cancelled at the March 31 rollover. Compare the figures below with those above to see the changes.

Bridge Club	Home Members	Alternate Members*	Total Members
Central Coast	170 (+5)	15	185
CC Leagues Club	129 (-20)	49	178
Brisbane Water	117 (-12)	58	175
Community	76 (-16)	37	113

* Alternate members are not necessarily all financial members – clubs can nominate anyone as an Alternate. CCLCBC only nominates financial Associate members.



























A USEFUL CONVENTION

Wendy Mitchell

Playing with Henrietta Hohnen in the Monthly Shield on Wednesday 2/4, I was South and opened 1D.

Partner's hand is now worth at least 19 TPs.
She now bid 4D = 'Minorwood'

This asks for Keycards in the same way as RKC Blackwood, but keeps the level of bidding lower.

Board 7 Dir: S Vul: All	 K2  J9  AKJ64  AK43	
 74  Q85  T98  QT865	 	 JT653  KT74  2  972
1 9 4 4 1 3	 AQ98  A632  Q753  J	N: 2  7  4  4  5NT S: 2  7  4  4  5NT E: W:

My replies are: 4H (1st step) = 1 or 4
4S (2nd step) = 0 or 3
4NT (3rd step) = 2 without the Queen
5C (4th step) = 2 with the Queen

I made a mistake and answered 4NT, when I should have replied 5C. My 2 controls must be SA and HA as North as CA and DA and DK. Henri then bid 6D and I made 12 on the lead of D10. If I had answered correctly, she may have bid 7D, but then I would need to have found the winning line of play.

Can you find it?

4 other pairs found their way to 6D, all making 12.
2 were in 3NT, making 12, but this can be kept to 11 – how?
1 pair bid 5D, and 3 were in 2D or 3D, all making 12.
1 pair managed to make 13 tricks but sadly was only in 3D.

**A FREE GAME TO ANYONE
WHO CAN FIND THE SOLUTION!!**

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome returning member Mary Corrigan (0409 326 121) and add her number to your program book.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for April

Lyn Baber, Steve Calcroft, Janet Davies, Kerry Garnsey, Kevin Hughes, Lorraine Lindsay, Lisa McNamara, Gillian Sadler, Hope Tomlinson, Suzanne Whelan.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

RealBridge

Tuesdays	1 pm	Apr 8, 15, 22, 29
<i>Eclectic: Best 2 of 5 scores</i>		

Face-to-Face

Monday	1 pm	Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
Monday Evening	7 pm	Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
Wednesday	1 pm	Apr 9, 16 , 23, 30
Thursday Evening	7 pm	Apr 10, 17, 24
Friday	1 pm	Apr 11, 25

Special Events

Easter Pairs	R	Wednesday 16
NO BRIDGE		Friday April 18

MAY

Thursday Evenings	E (best 2 of 5)	Thu 1 to 29
Autumn Pairs	R	Mon Eve 5
Charity Week	all sessions	Mon 12 to Fri 16
Zelda Overhall Cup	R	Mon 19
State Seniors Congress	R at CCLCBC	
<i>Pairs</i>	12.30pm	Tue 27 and Wed 28 all day
<i>Teams</i>	10am	Thu 29 all day and Fri 30 am only

Wendy Mitchell

Editor