

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



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

B USHFIRE
RELIEF PAIRS

NSWBA has offered clubs one free Red Point session to raise funds for Bush Fire Relief.

We have nominated our session on **Wednesday January 22, at 1.30pm**. Because of our limited space, entries are limited to 28 pairs, so you must pre-enter via the website.

The fee will be **\$10 per person**.

Louis Koolen is donating his time as Director. All entry fees and other monies raised on the day will be donated to the Rural Fire Service.

If you cannot play on this day and still wish to contribute, special envelopes will be available for your donation.

BRIDGE HOLIDAY

March 17 - 20

Flyers are now available and entries are open for this exciting initiative. Held in the Hunter Valley at *Estate Tuscany*, Pokolbin, your package includes breakfast and dinner, bridge morning and evening as well as three (optional) workshops conducted by Ian Lisle.

For full details please see *Forthcoming Events* on our website. Deposits are required **ASAP**:

BSB 062 544, A/C 10280906,
reference *Hunter*.

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020

Fees are now overdue.

\$33.10 (Home) or \$7 (Associate) needs to be paid by January 31 to avoid Visitor table fees. 75% of last year's members have paid, with total financial membership standing at 150 (90 Home, 60 Associate).

VALE: Felicity Osborne-Firth *See Page 6*

RECENT RESULTS

DASHING DECEMBER (E)

Best 2 of 4 Fridays

As last year, 11 pairs played at least twice with the same partner and, as for the last two years, the event was won by Dorothy and Margo.

Congratulations!

5 pairs (the top half rounded down) earned outright awards as shown below. A further 21 pair combinations played once only in the month.

		Best 2 Total	Outright MPs
1st	Dorothy Berzins & Margo Brennan	126.85	0.44
2nd	Di Nichols & Toni Dixon	124.06	0.31
3rd	Anne Grayden & Trish Dennis	111.30	0.22
4th	Eunice de Vries & Wendy Mitchell	108.69	0.15
5th	Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany	106.75	0.11

NEW YEAR'S CUP

(R)

8.5 tables

Thu Jan 2

1st	Helen Milward & Christine Williams	65.61%
2nd	Stewart Duxbury & Philip Dey	65.08%
3rd	Sally Clarke & Jan Clarke	61.31%

CONGRESSES & FINALS

Best Local Players

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE – Canberra

Jan 8 to 19

The ABF has issued a warning about the Canberra air quality due to the bushfires, so this may impact on entries. There are a multitude of events to suit all players. Those completed so far:

Penline One Day Swiss Pairs

6 matches of 8 boards

32 pairs

Jaana Oitmaa & Sylvia Foster 20th

One Day Warm Up Novice Teams 6x8 bds, < 100 MPs

12 teams

1st Colin Speller, Jodie Gudaitis, Jane Stephens, Colin Kleinig

2nd Elaine & Peter Hume, (with Mackay pair David & Ming Ting)

National Women's Teams Championship (Q) 9 x 20 bds

14 teams

8th Jan Clarke, Di Coats (with North Shore pair Ros Howes & Margaret Foster)

National Seniors Teams Championship (Q) 9 x 20 bds

32 teams

CCLCBC members competing in 'mixed' teams were Sally & Garry Clarke and Colin Thomas

National Red Plum Life/Non-Life Master Teams Ch'ship

8 x 20 bds 18 teams

6th Hope Tomlinson, Barry Foster, David Snow, Martin Johnson

Two Day National Novice Matchpoint Swiss Pairs Ch'ship

7 x 14 bds 28 pairs

3rd Colin Speller, Jodie Gudaitis; 4th Colin Kleinig, Jane Stephens

Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs 8 x 14 boards

52 pairs

27th Chris Hannan & Alan Bustany; 32nd Sylvia Foster & Jaan Oitmaa

TBIB National Open Swiss Pairs 11 x 9 boards

204 pairs

Garry & Sally Clarke were placed 23rd in a very strong field, with 6 wins and 1 draw – a great result. Next best locals were Sylvia Foster & Jaan Oitmaa with 7 wins for 106th.

Penline 500 Swiss Pairs Championship 11 x 9 bds <500 MPs 60 pairs

Novice Swiss Pairs Championship 11 x 9 bds <100 MPs 24 pairs

Well done Peter & Elaine Hume 4th (8–0–3) and Jodie Gudaitis & Colin Speller 6th (6-1–4)

UHMP 2019

The final results are out – see the link on our website on the Results page.

Special Mention

1. Pamela de Lacy and Cheryl Davison were 19th out of 210 on RAW results

2. Trish Howard and Sandra Cearns were 15th out of 210 on HANDICAPPED results

3. Best in each Category at the Local Final will receive certificates.

0 -10 8th out of 60

Trish and Sandra

10-25 6th out of 39

Kerry Dwyer and June Clarkson

25 – 50 7th out of 47

Pamela and Cheryl

50 – 100 16th out of 64

Tracey Dillon and Cathy Russell

Some of you know Colin Speller (who recently joined our club) and Jodie Gudaitis of Central Coast Bridge Club. They played in the Local Final at

the Peninsula Bridge Club and have won \$100 for First on Handicap in the 25-50 Category.

Congratulations to all these players.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The latest Newsletter from the ABF Masterpoint Centre provides these statistics of the number of bridge players:

National Club Membership Total=36,439 (corresponding total last year: 36,628)

By State: ACT=969; NSW=14,263; VIC=5807; QLD=7683; SA=2342; WA=4299; TAS=920; NT=156

Our club is one of the 152 in NSW and 31st in terms of number of Home members.

The Centre also produces several different reports on members' performance throughout the year which you can easily access through *Links* on our website.

1. McCUTCHEON TROPHY

The McCutcheon Trophy is awarded to the player earning the most masterpoints each calendar year. This trophy is named after Dr George McCutcheon who migrated in the 1950's to Australia from Scotland.

Dr McCutcheon 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.

Check out your or others' standing at abfmasterpoints.com.au, Club Reports, Filtered McCutcheons for Club 2-036.

This year there have been some outstanding results from members at Brisbane Water, Central Coast and our club with four players making the National list for coming in the Top 10 in their masterpoint category.

Congratulations to:

Name	Master Category	National Rank	State Rank
Stephen Calcroft	Regional	6th	1st
Colin Speller	Club	3rd	1st
Jodie Guidaitis	Club	5th	2nd
Denyse Stephens	Graduate	9th	5th

Well done also to 8 others who made the NSW Top 10 (a total of 12 compared with 10 in 2018):

Name	Master Category	State Rank	Name	Master Category	State Rank
Martin Johnson	Silver Life	8th	Trish Byrnes	Regional	5th
Barry Foster	Silver Life	9th	Carol Parker	Regional	6th
Hope Tomlinson	Silver Life	10th	Tony Sappideen	Regional	9th
Pauline Caust	State	10th	Elaine Hume	**Local	5th

Best performed members of our club in the different categories were:

Silver Grand +	Sally Clarke	State	Pauline Caust
Grand	Tony Burke	*Regional	Agnes Marsh
Gold Life	Anne Grayden	Regional	Steve Calcroft
Silver Life	Martin Johnson	**Local	Kathy Ivits
Bronze Life	Bob Morris	*Local	Beryl Lowry
Life	Phillip Hocking	Local	Gina Robertson
*National	Roy Cotton	Club	Colin Speller
National	Cathy Hocking	Graduate	John Aldersley
*State	Matt Raj Mal	Nil	Jim Havyatt

2. MASTERPOINT RANK PROMOTIONS

In 2019 a total of 47 of our members gained a promotion in masterpoint rank (the same number as it happens who gained promotions in 2014): Grand (1), Gold Life (5), Silver Life (1), Bronze Life (1), *National (5), National (1), **State (2), State (4), Regional (7), **Local (1), *Local (3), Local (3), Club (10), Graduate (3)
Again, well done!

3. MOST IMPROVED

On the ABF Masterpoint site you can check out the top 50 *Most Improved* players in our club for 2019. The first 10 of these were Colin Speller, Pauline Caust, Stephen Calcroft, Cathy Hocking, Trish Byrnes, Alan Bustany, Kathy Ivits, Jurate Laisve, Philip Hocking and Alma Van Der Walt.

IN OUR THOUGHTS

Over the Christmas period our thoughts were with the families and friends of members who have passed away in the past 12 months.

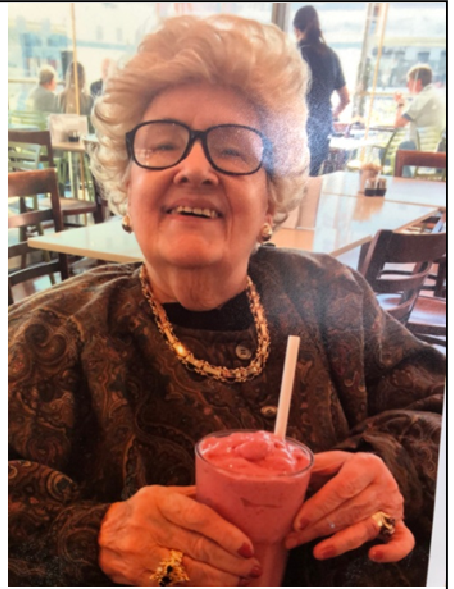
		<u>Age</u>	<u>MP Rank</u>
Pat Unger	Dec 18	87	Life
Daphne Montague	March	90	*Regional
Bruce Branthwaite	May	81	National
Helen Eaton	May	75	Gold Life
Helen Ferguson	July	81	*State
Maureen Holmes	July	91	*State
Jim Hancox	July	100	Regional
Molly O'Neill	October	85	*National
Pauline Evans	October	73	Silver Grand
Felicity Osborne-Firth	November	80	**National

VALE: FELICITY OSBORNE-FIRTH

Felicity died after a short illness on November 19, 2019 at the age of 80. Felicity was a member of CCLCBC for about 16 years, up to 2010 and is fondly remembered by players from that time.

Felicity trained as a teacher in Sydney before moving to Armidale. She is listed as a classroom teacher at Armidale City Public School in 1969. In Armidale she added a Masters Degree from the University of New Eng-

land to her Bachelor of Arts. Her thesis was on feminism and its effect on University students and nurses. She also met and married John Burr (Head of Computer Science at UNE). On her return to Sydney Felicity taught High School students and tutored at the University of Western Sydney.



Felicity was a very keen and competitive bridge player. She played at the (then) Lindfield club and at Trumps (where Wendy Mitchell knew her). She and her husband moved to the Central Coast in 1994. Nancye Joss had moved here at about the same time and they formed a regular partnership.

At their Wyoming home Felicity hosted large Bridge parties (5 or 6 tables) attended by (names from the past) Les Free, Jo Abbott, Pat Kirk, Des Withall, Fini Kuipers and me among many others! Typical of Felicity there would be champagne and delicious food. She continued to play at CCLCBC even when she was in a wheel chair. She was often helped into the club by George Boettiger when we used to play in the Macquarie Room. Later in the Indoor Bowls area, Felicity would arrive in a taxi and use a wheelchair provided by the Leagues Club.

Felicity was always interested in all branches of the Arts and taught Creative Writing at the Tuggerah Lakes Community College. She stopped playing bridge competitively around 2010, having reached **National Master with 25.44 Gold, 125.06 Red and 157.47 Green masterpoints. In 2012 Felicity donated a number of bridge books to our 'Library'.

Although she could not get out as much, Felicity still hosted Sunday games with 4 people. This continued at Aurrum (briefly) and then at Woodport (where she was very happy) – still competitive and still with delicious afternoon teas.

Lyn Baber

SOCIAL SUNDAYS

On Sunday January 12, we had 7 full tables. Seven people were first-time attendees, with four of these non-members.

After a quiz on Leads four hands were played, with discussion after each. Then players enjoyed the usual lovely array of food while Bill's ukulele provided background music to the socialising. Two grandchildren and a dog provide further interest! Shuffle and deal followed with 3 full tables of stayers.

In the coming months Social Sundays are scheduled for **February 16, March 22, April 26 and May 31** – mark the dates in your diary now for an enjoyable afternoon and as one member said, a chance to meet other people who play on different days of the week.

NEW ABF RANKINGS - DECEMBER

Congratulations to:

*State	Pauline Caust
Local	Suzanne Harrison, Mark Te Brugge

BRIDGE EDUCATION – PROGRAM FOR 2020

1. Improvers Course, Part 2

Because of a full March calendar, these will now start on Fridays in

April: April 17 Signals, Shifts by Responder, the Bath Coup

April 24 Convention: Jacoby Transfers

May 1 Opener's Rebids

May 8 Review and Practice of the above

For those who have completed the first half of the course the cost is \$35 (using the same text). Anyone else is welcome to attend some or all of the sessions, at \$10 per session (or \$3 for repeat pupils). *9.15 am (Homework Review) 9.30am – 11.30+ Lesson/Play*

2. Beginners Course, 2020

This will be offered on *Thursday* mornings, 9.30 – 11.30, from *April 16*.

Costs to be advised, but likely to be the same \$80 for 8 lessons, plus \$5 per supervised play practice. Tell your friends!

3. Saturday morning Workshops (9.30 – 11.30)

Continuing for once a month, at \$10 per session (or \$5 for repeats), these are planned to be:

January 18	Cues and Clues for Slams
February 1	No Panic NT Play
March 14	Jacoby 2NT convention (new)
April 18	Transfers to Minors (new)
May 9	Multi 2D Opening
June 20	2xsuited Openings

4. Monday morning Workshops (9.30 – 11.30)

Continuing the format of once per month instead of a block, the first 4 are new topics:

June 29	Convention: <i>'lebensohl'</i>
July 27	Issuing Invitations
August 31	Inverted Minors
September 28	Defence to 2xsuited openings
October 26	Responses to GF Opening

Then November 2, 9, 16, 23 a repeat of the 4 lessons on the 2 over 1 Game Force system

Workshop topics have been chosen to meet member requests. Dates may be subject to change if circumstances require. All enquiries to Wendy Mitchell: 0423 388 529 or 4340 4879 or lessons@cclclbridgeclub.asn.au

HANDICAPPING IN BRIDGE

In bridge there are a number of ways of recognising the different standards of players:

1. Master events

Players are divided into categories so that they only compete with others of similar standards. Our Graded Pairs Club Championship is an example, when there are enough tables to form two sections. Then pairs with at least one player of *National or above status compete for Grade A in one section, while the others compete for Grade B in the other section.

2. Stratified events

Players compete against pairs of all standards, but a pair can win within their own strata. The event has as many winners as there are strata.. Our Zelda Overhall Cup is conducted this way – players of all standards compete for the red points, but only a pair of ranking *Regional and below can win the trophy.

The State UHMP event is an example of this type – participating pairs in four masterpoint divisions as well as non-contending pairs are mixed together in the club events.

3. Handicapped events

When a handicap is applied in a competition it ‘levels’ the playing field so that players of all standards compete against each other as if they were of equal ability. Handicaps are applied in various ways in all sorts of sporting events – chess, bowling, swimming, horse racing, golf – to name a few.

Handicaps are allowed for in bridge competitions. There can be a winning pair based on handicap, for which prizes or trophies may be awarded, but masterpoints are only issued based on the non-handicapped positions. There are different methods of calculating a player’s handicap but all take into account *past performance*.

Handicaps are used in England and New Zealand. In NSW there are some clubs using them, with different methods and in different ways.

Producing results based on handicap gives encouragement to players who would otherwise have little chance of a position in the top half of the field. Recognition can be given by the display of these results, small prizes, free games or even an annual trophy.

*Your Committee is investigating the ways in which we may use
and report on Handicaps in our club.
You may have already noticed the 1st and 2nd places based on
handicap are on the printed results.*

FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

A. Web site additions

- *Committee Minutes*: As requested at the AGM an edited copy of the minutes of the General Committee meeting is posted on the home page of the club web site after they have been approved at the following meeting i.e. the August minutes will be posted after the September meeting. Click on *Committee Meeting*.
- *Facebook*: there is also a link to the Club Facebook page - currently at the bottom of the list of links.

B. Club Tournament Regulations

- *Current*: Click on “*Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations*” to get to the Club Tournament Regulations link. Note that Pairs that use “Brown Sticker” conventions¹ are currently not allowed to use these against pairs that have Protected Status² [see para 5 Protected Pair Status].
- *To be Updated*: The committee has decided to add to the Club Tournament Regulations in order to allow pairs that do not have “Protected Pair” status to refer to a written defence to these bids during bidding and play.

The updated regulations will probably be in force by 1 March.

Colin Mitchell

1. These conventions include:

- opening bids from 2C to 3S which may be weak and do not promise 4+ cards in a known suit (a multi 2D is exempted)
- overcalls that do not promise at least 4 cards in the suit (NT overcalls exempted)
- Any weak 2-suited bid at 2 or 3 level with less than 4 cards in 1 suit

Do you play a Brown Sticker convention? If in doubt, find out!

2. Entitlement to protection (in Green (E) events):

- If both players are Nil, Graduate, Club or Local OR one is a Nil Master and the other *Local or above
- You place an Orange sticker on your system card

Claim the entitlement if eligible because Brown Sticker conventions place demands on your defensive preparations.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Australia Day Pairs	R	Monday Eve 27
Bush Fire Relief Pairs	R/P	Wednesday 22

FEBRUARY

Summer Pairs	R	Monday 3
Monthly Shield (1)	E	Wednesday 5
Inter-Club Teams (1)	R/P 9.30am	Thursday 6
<i>Entries Closed – No Side Game</i>		
Valentine Day Pairs	Green	Friday 14
State Mixed Pairs Q 1&2	R/P all day	Saturday 15
<i>Social Sunday</i>	<i>1.30pm</i>	<i>Sunday 16</i>
Switching Singles (1)	E	Monday Eve 17

MARCH

Monthly Shield (2)	E	Wednesday 4
Presentation Day Pairs	R 9.30am	Friday 13
Switching Singles (2)	E	Monday Eve 23
<i>Hunter Holiday Tuesday 17 to Friday 20</i>		
<i>Social Sunday</i>	<i>1.30pm</i>	<i>Sunday 22</i>
Country Teams Q 1&2	R/P all day	Saturday 28
Country Teams Q 3		Sunday 29

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new members: Greg Watson (0425 361 769), and Graham Felton (0415 999 253) and returning member: Gabrielle Fitzgerald (0409 745 253) and add their numbers to your Program book.

CORRECTION

Kerryl McGrath (0403 519 999) not 995

SMILE AWHILE

Years ago there were only two acceptable reasons for not leading partner's suit: (1) having no cards in the suit;
(2) a death wish.

Colin Mitchell, Editor