

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



**NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL 2020**

**E**ASTER  
RAFFLE

The winner of the Easter Hamper will be drawn in the morning of Thursday 9th April.

Ruth will arrange delivery.

Sales before our 'shutdown' had raised over \$100. Although Charity Day will be postponed, the proceeds will be earmarked for our charities, Coast Shelter and Pandora, so any more we can raise will be great.

If you still want to buy tickets and have the chance of winning some *comforting chocolate* call Ruth on 0407 854 060.

You can arrange payment with her, including a Direct Deposit to:

**BSB: 062-544      Account: 10280906**

**\$2 each or 3 for \$5**

**ALL BRIDGE CLUBS**

**C O V I D 19**  
**L F I N I** th   
**O T T S** March  
**S A E A** indefinitely  
**U L R S**  
**R E T**  
**E S E**  
**T R**  
**S**



Our club was quick to respond to the ABF recommendation, with sessions cancelled from the evening of Monday 16th.

Your Committee urges all members to take all the recommended precautions. You may already have received a phone call from a Committee Member to check on your well-being. Anne G forwarded ideas from the Bridge Shop, and there are others from the ABF and your President, Louis Koolen - see **Pages 6, 7, 8.**

(There is some repetition, sorry)

## RECENT (and only) RESULTS

### PRESENTATION DAY PAIRS (R) 14.5 tables Fri Mar 13

#### NS Field

1st	Dorothy Berzins & Adele Mills	63.60%
2nd	Sally Clarke & Jan Clarke	61.98%
3rd	Julie Sadler & Marie Purkiss	61.60%

#### EW Field

1st	Angela & Kevin Dougall	61.44%
2nd	Henrietta Hohnen & Jacqui Wilson	61.08%
3rd	Alfie Nation & Gwen White	59.20%

*Report and Photos - Pages 4 & 5*

### MONTHLY SHIELD: Leaders after 2 Months

1st	Louis Koolen & Barbara Grant	56
2nd	Peter Hall & Lyn Lynch	42

There have been 22 different pair combinations at this point, with 8 having played 2 sessions and 14 having played once.

### CONGRESSES & FINALS Best Local Players

**WELLINGTON** *Swiss Pairs (40)* **March 7**

16th Barbara Grant & Louis Koolen

*Swiss Teams (18)* **March 8**

5th Barbara Grant, Louis Koolen, Nola Daly & Marianna Xerri

### PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS **March 14 & 15**

Dasha Brandt and David Bowerman made a leisurely trip from home and finished a great 3rd in the NS field of 27 in the Swiss Pairs on the Saturday with 5 wins and 1 loss.

Director Ronnie Ng, and Barbara & Louis made the dash after Presentation Day. The latter teamed up with Dasha & David to come 9th out of 26 in the Swiss Teams on the Sunday, having 4 wins and 2 losses.

### NEW ABF RANKINGS - MARCH **Congratulations to:**

<i>Gold Life</i>	Elizabeth Lawrence	<i>Regional</i>	John King
<i>National</i>	Matt Raj Mal	<i>*Local</i>	John Aldersley
<i>State</i>	Kathy Ivits, Alma Van Der Walt		

## MEMBERSHIP AT MARCH 31

At the 'rollover' we have 177 financial members: 119 Home and 58 Associate.

### REMINISCING

Going through a pile of A4 paper the other day which was being discarded a yellowing page caught my eye . . . The type was also fading but the title stood out: CCLCBC - Club Teams Championship 1987 to be played on the evenings of 15 & 22 February 1988. Eight teams had entered playing 8- board matches against seven teams. The event was won by *Adele Mills, John White, Peter Berzins and Dorothy Maclean* [now Berzins].

Quite a lot of the players are still with us but some names brought back memories –

*Carl Amundsen* - a Norwegian who came to Australia to work on the Snowy Mountains. He played with *Phil Roche* [a native of Dublin and an early member of CCBC - one of the founders of the Friday Club at CCBC]; they also won the Brisbane Water Congress pairs at least twice in the early days;

*Therese & Guy Chan* - despite having badly damaged hands in a car accident Guy was witnessed managing a lobster using chop sticks without getting his hands dirty! Also known as the “good looking Chinaman” - if you ask me I will tell you why;

*Graham Winder* - Principal of Terrigal High school - playing with our first patron *Zelda Overhall*;

*Geza Sarkozy* who had to learn at least two new languages - Spanish when he ended up in South America after the Hungarian uprising and then Australian.;

*Alys Alexander* - expert dart player who used to put her opening lead on the table and then rub it around before turning it over to put the magic into it!

*Elizabeth Kerr* – also known as the ‘blueberry lady’

*Carol McKellar & Bill Thomson* - playing Carols' version of Acol.

CM

## PRESENTATION DAY

Friday March 13 provided our creative team with lots of ideas - from the black/silver colour theme to the inverted horseshoes, black cats, ladders, umbrellas and the challenging Ransley quiz! Thanks to fantastic and frenetic leader Ruth (who says she enjoys every minute) and all her helpers who contributed to setting the scene.



Thanks to Ronnie who managed superbly, even playing to make things smoother when one pair had to pull out at the last minute.



Morning tea (much of it in the theme) was tasty and plentiful, thank you to the cooks. Some players in the following days were able to enjoy the leftovers.

Championship trophies were presented by Leagues CEO Club Ed Camileri, but unfortunately he could not stay for the tasty buffet. Thank you to the Leagues Club for the use of the Parkview Room and for the set-up of tables, water etc.

Finally to Committee and other members who set up and in particular packed up - transporting all the bridge and morning tea requirements is a huge job. Numbers were a little down, but all had a great time and the lucky ones earned a total of 9.52 red points too.

**HISTORICALLY -**

Presentation Day was held on a Saturday until 2013 when it was changed to a Friday after falling attendances.

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
14.5	16	18.5	16.5	20.5	17.5	20	19	9	12.5



## **PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS & POSSIBILITIES**

Dear Members,

With the current lockdown, stopping any non-essential activities, you may wonder what the next six months will bring. It is unlikely that we will be playing Bridge at the club.

So if you are missing Bridge, you can start a membership of Bridge Club Live, on [https://www.bridgeclublive.com/BCL\\_PressRelease\\_01.asp](https://www.bridgeclublive.com/BCL_PressRelease_01.asp) as suggested by Rosalind Dey. Alternatively you could try out BBO or Stepbridge. You certainly should not be holding Bridge parties at home.

If you are missing the social contact of your Bridge friends, you can phone each other or have visual contact with something like Skype or Zoom. Lastly, you now have time to do all those things you have been postponing, because you were playing Bridge! (\*See Editor's note, Page 8\*)

Your committee will still be meeting, using Zoom, to handle all matters of import. Sadly, we had to cancel our Bridge Holiday in the Hunter. Some of us still went for the holiday and did the tourist thing – so we have an adequate supply of wine for the next six months. The resort has refused to reimburse us for the cost of the conference room and any dinners not catered. Not much good will on that score. The club will be refunding the Bridge component less the conference room fee (\$1400/20=\$70).

We will still publish our newsletter each month, albeit shorter than normal. No doubt our editor can find some gems from the past events to enlighten and brighten us. The website will be used to publish announcements, such as the date of the AGM or if our Congress will go ahead.

Cheers,

Louis Koolen

## **FROM THE ABF BRIDGE COLUMN**

(<http://www.abf.com.au/abf-daily-column/>):

With the current coronavirus situation, many/most/nearly all bridge clubs have closed or will be closed soon. It is not easy to keep 1.5 metres distance when playing bridge. So, what to do to keep the little grey bridge cells functioning. Here are some ideas:

- Go to [www.abfevents.com.au/abfdbc/](http://www.abfevents.com.au/abfdbc/) daily for a free bridge column courtesy of Ron Klinger.
- Read / reread some of your bridge books to maintain or even improve your standard.
- Buy a new bridge book for the same purpose.
- If not already a subscriber, take out an annual bridge subscription to [Australian Bridge](#) and to overseas bridge magazines.
- Join Bridge Base Online ([bridgebase.com](http://bridgebase.com)) – it is free – or log in if already a member. There are heaps of activities possible on BBO:  Watch top players in action.  Join a table and play with three other players from anywhere in the world.  You and your partner can join a table and play against two others.  You can arrange with three

friends to play at the same table. □ You can organize 7 other players to play a teams' match. □ You can play by yourself against three robots or you can play with your regular partner against two robots (Cost \$US1 pw). □ You can have just a bidding practice session with your partner. □ Tackle Bridge Master (4 sets of 30 declarer play problems at different levels).

- Read the [ABF Newsletter](#)
- Read the bridge columns which still appear in some newspapers.
- There are some outlets for bridge classes via the internet.
- You can help a friend to learn bridge, or play more yourself via various options on [www.acbl.org/learn\\_page/](http://www.acbl.org/learn_page/)
- Check out the Bridge Shop's digital care pack at [www.bridgeshop.com.au/digital-bridge-care-pack](http://www.bridgeshop.com.au/digital-bridge-care-pack)

## FROM THE ABF MARKETING BULLETIN:

[Paul Marston](#) is offering a free a weekly bridge column to hopefully keep players amused whilst clubs are closed. Paul is happy to send this to anyone who signs on here: <https://bridgelounge.online/free-subscription/>

[Joan Butts](#) the ABF National Teaching Co-ordinator, has offered a one month's free access to her Online School of Bridge.

[Ron Klinger](#), an Australian icon of the bridge world, has offered to provide a daily bridge column for free whilst the pandemic is on. This is an extraordinarily generous offer by Ron and the ABF will host the column on the ABF web site which will have a link on the front page for you to read it. <http://www.abfevents.com.au/abfdbc/>

[Barbara Travis](#), one of Australia's leading players for many years and a bridge journalist, has also contributed a guide on how to set up 'pre-set' matches on BBO where you can compare yourself with the world's best. She has also started a paid weekly bridge column which can be found at <http://www.bridgewithbarbara.com> which is excellent for club players as well as experts.

[Stepbridge.com.au](http://Stepbridge.com.au) is an Australian NFP online bridge site that is affiliated with the South Australian Bridge Federation. It usually has one competition session a day at 8.00pm AEST or 4.00pm on Weekends with ABF Masterpoints just like any other bridge club in Australia. The current playing fees are basically \$3 a tournament game and once a month they hold a red masterpoint game. You can also play social bridge with no fees. Now they have added a second session each day at 1.00pm AEST.

[Bridgebase.com](http://Bridgebase.com) or [BBO](#) is the biggest online bridge site in the world where you can play bridge, practice with partners or robots, test your play, challenge your friends and watch (kibitz) the best players in the world playing in tournaments. One can organise a game with friends or play anonymously for free with strangers or robots which you may find to be more friendly.

[Funbridge.com](http://Funbridge.com) has 400,000 members from 190 countries who play more than 800,000 deals a day. You can play at Funbridge.com even on your phone 24/7 at your own pace

and pause a deal and resume it later. I am trying to organise a Funbridge Australia club that may be more suitable for many club players.

[English Bridge Union \(EBU\)](#) has regular daily games on Funbridge and BBO and [Bridge Club Live](#) has over 500 people playing a day now.

Online dating for bridge players – Several people have suggested an App that would match up people wanting to play in homes. So if you are an App builder and could come up with a simple but effective way of matching people in local communities please get in contact with me. (Peter Cox - [petercox@ozemail.com.au](mailto:petercox@ozemail.com.au) or 0413676326)

## **RETURNING MEMBERS**

When you see them some time in the future, please make welcome Janice Crane (4385 7467, 0422 836 628) and Marianna Xerri (0421 728 175) and add their numbers to your Program book.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY – APRIL**

Christine Ashe, Lyn Baber, Steve Calcroft, Pam Harris, Lorraine Lindsay, Elaine McGorm, Hope Tomlinson, Suzanne Whelan.

## **KEEP SMILING!**

### **From SMH: Column 8**

*Tues Mar 24:* Michael Winnick of Wollombi has received some devastating news. “My weekly bridge game has been suspended. Is there something serious going on?”

*Wed Mar 25:* Warning! Dad joke ahead. “If bridge clubs (C8) have put a hold on tournaments, does that make them suspension bridges?” asks John Bailey of Canterbury.

### **Forwarded by Ruth Griffin:**

My son ordered Chinese Takeaway to be delivered. When a little Chinese man arrived at the door my son went to pay him but the Chinese man started screaming "Isolate I-so-late"!! My son said "Calm down mate I only ordered 1/2 hour ago".

*\*The Vice-President is weeding in an attempt to turn the grass in the front of his house into a couch lawn - an impossible task according to Paul Unger, but it does fill in time.\**

**Colin Mitchell, Editor**