

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



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

**NO NEWS
IS SAD NEWS**

As you are all aware, our AGM had to be deferred. This was because, as an internal club of the Central Coast Leagues Club, we are governed by its rules and the Covid-19 restrictions that it, as a licenced club, must follow.

Unlike some independent clubs, we are not governed by NSW Fair Trading. As yet there is no advice regarding when the postponed AGM might be held.

Similarly, bridge club playing sessions and lessons are indefinitely suspended.

Please give serious consideration to the appeal on pages 4 and 5 from the Presidents of the four registered clubs on the Central Coast.

From your Secretary:

I hope all are keeping well but, if anyone knows of members who are ill, please let me know. I'm still able to send cards and I know it does give some members a lift to know others are thinking of them.

Anne Grayden

Not socially-distanced, but at least the cats are playing Face-to-Face!



NSW STATE VETERANS PAIRS

The first State Veterans Pairs Championship was played at the Bowral Golf Club at the end of July in 2015. Entrants had to have turned 70 on or before 31 December 2014. Just 26 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs format of nine 10xboard rounds over 3 days.

The event became very popular [despite the rather cramped conditions and the intense cold overnight]. In the last two years additional space accommodated 40 pairs, but players still had to be placed on a waiting list and often missed out. This year the first entry was accepted 20 seconds after entries opened after midnight on March 31 and entries were closed around midday on April 1.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions the event was transferred from Bowral to BBO this year. The on-line format caused some of the original registered pairs to withdraw but it attracted some top players who had not made the trip to Bowral before.

58 pairs competed on-line from July 24 to July 26. There were three sessions of match-pointed pairs - Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and Sunday morning - each consisting of 20 boards of 2xboard rounds over 2 hours. Although not originally advertised, there was a Restricted category of under 300 MPs. John McIlrath directed, assisted by Rob Ward (organiser).

The winners were Robert Krochmalik and Paul Lavings, second were Dennis Watkins and Roger Conway (winners of the Restricted). These were 'closely' followed by the five Central Coast Pairs : -

- 20 Eunice De Vries & Wendy Mitchell
- 32 Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler
- 40 Martin Johnson & Hope Tomlinson
- 42 Barbara Grant & Louis Koolen
- 48 Len Pascoe & Margot Nelson

Three of the above pairs were happy to earn some State-level red points in a very strong field.

CONGRATULATIONS: TONI DIXON

Toni celebrated a VERY SIGNIFICANT birthday last month. No cake from the bridge club, but she was able to celebrate with a small group of her family.

NEW ABF RANKINGS - JUNE & JULY

Congratulations to:

Local Peter Mackey **Local* Suzanne Harrison

NOT THE McCUTCHEON

Even though the McCutcheon awards have been cancelled for 2020, for interest reasons only, a “Not the McCutcheon” list can be found in the latest Newsletter of the ABF Masterpoint Centre. This lists the top 10 masterpoint earners for 2020 in each category.

Congratulations to Martin Johnson for 10th in the Gold Life group, and to the Central Coast players who have blitzed the State group with Colin Speller (2nd), Jodie Gudaitis (3rd), Colin Kleinig (7th) and Jane Stephens (9th).

MORE ON MATCHPOINTS

Brad Coles, Editor of the ABF Newsletter has written the last of a series on understanding matchpoints in the August edition, No.204. Below are some excerpts - please read the full article. If you did not receive the newsletter by email then go to abf.com.au, choose ‘*ABF Newsletter*’ and ‘*click here for the latest edition*’.

In Australian Bridge Magazine many years ago, a mathematician attempted to calculate how good a game has to be to make it worth bidding, using card play skill as parameters.

The logic was complicated, but it came down to a simple formula:
If your individual chance of making game, plus the field’s chance of making game, is greater than 100%, then you should bid it.

So for example, if you are a typical declarer considering a 30% game, then you should not bid it ($30+30=60$, less than 100%). But if you fancy your declarer skills as being twice as good as everyone else then you still should not bid it ($60+30=90$, still under 100%). If your card play is that good, you'll do better to stay in a partscore and try to get a top board by making overtricks.

The same applies to a weak declarer bidding a good game. If you are nervous about your declarer skills, staying out of a good game won't help you. If all the other tables are making 620, you are booked for a bad score whether you score 140 or -100. You may as well bid the game, to get some practice. The borderline decision is, as you would expect, the 50% game. If a game has a 50% chance of making, you should bid it if you think you are an above-average declarer.

When you bid a major suit game at IMPs, you presumably think that the trump suit will play better than notrumps. While 3NT scores only 600, an extra trick in the major will get you to 620. But at Pairs, you can't ignore the extra trick that a trump suit might provide.

There are two occasions when you might choose 3NT, gambling that the trump suit will not be worth an extra trick:

1. When both hands are balanced
2. When you have a very high point-count, say 30+ HCP

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To All Members of Central Coast Bridge Clubs **A Virtual Club to help members to stay connected with their club**

When the Coronavirus pandemic was declared in March, the ABF began negotiations with Bridge Base Online to run online virtual clubs to replace face to face Bridge clubs, while still maintaining their local identity.

Agreement was reached in April and all four Central Coast Bridge Clubs decided to form a single virtual club for the Central Coast. Open sessions were to be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and the clubs

would contribute their red point entitlements so that we would have a red point event each week.

Trials at the end April started with 20 tables. Novice and Restricted sessions were trialled also but they fizzled out, due to lack of patronage.

Current situation

Brisbane Water Bridge Club reopened when restrictions were eased, however, since 24th July, the NSW Government has tightened restrictions again, and registered clubs can admit no more than ten in a group. This precludes the Central Coast Leagues and Community Bridge Clubs from reopening, until these restrictions are eased. We now are down to between 6 and 8 tables per session on Bridge Base Online (BBO).

What lies ahead

Current Coronavirus figures in NSW indicate further tightening is likely pushing the return to 'normal' bridge further into the future. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a lot of our members are risk averse and will not consider returning to face to face bridge until a vaccine is found and available. It is important for members to stay connected with their Clubs because if they don't, some Clubs may cease to exist.

We urge you to consider playing in the regional virtual club our four Central Coast Clubs have set up for all our members. If you have not played online before, we offer technical advice and a number of sessions with an experienced online partner to get you started. If you are playing online, give our virtual club a go, so that you can stay in touch with fellow club members while supporting our local clubs.

Please participate in our local virtual club to ensure you have a Bridge Club to return to.

Peter Hume
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

Jean Moran
Central Coast Bridge Club

Louis Koolen
Central Coast Leagues Bridge Club

Sharon Versteeg
Community Bridge Club

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COMING EVENTS

BBO sessions

NSWBCC: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays BB\$3 1.20pm
Red points on Wed 12th, Fri 21st and Mon 24th

ABF: Sundays (Open, Restricted, Novice) *Red* BB\$3 2.30pm

REMINISCING: 10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

- Finger food followed the AGM for the first time, thanks to Leon Babinski's suggestion
- Marilyn Whigham replaced Colin Mitchell as President
- Dianne March replaced Marilyn as Vice-President
- Wendy Mitchell replaced Marilyn as Newsletter Editor
- The Anniversary Pairs was won by Dorothy & Peter Berzins
- The Gosford Pairs and Foundation Cup were both held in August
- Three pairs earned over 60% in the Australia Wide Pairs - Judy Wulff & Marilyn Whigham, Lorraine Lindsay & Nancye Joss, John Redfearn & Kevin Dougall

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - AUGUST

Leon Babinski, Margaret Berger, Dorothy Berzins, Jan Clarke, Barry Davies, John McGrath, Phillip Morris, Janice Roughley.

SMILE AWHILE - from the circulating emails

- Had I known in March that it was the last time I would be in a restaurant, I would have ordered he dessert.
- Imagine if this lockdown happened 18 years ago. You would be stuck at home with a Nokia 3310 with 300 texts, 100 mins call limit and dial-up internet.
- My body has absorbed so much

soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.

Colin Mitchell
Editor

