

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



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

**F IS FOR
FIRST !**

- 1. Electronic AGM**
- 2. On-line Congress**

1. Our AGM, postponed from 1/8, will be conducted electronically, with voting completed on
Thursday, September 24

Members will be able to read AGM reports on our website and then each will have a secure login for voting.

Provision will be made for those without internet access to vote at the club. Watch your emails or snail-mail for full instructions.

2. Last year we conducted our first-ever weekend congress, this year it is our first-ever on-line!

WHEN: *Saturday, September 26*

WHAT: Swiss Pairs - 7x8boards
(Open & Restricted)

WHO: NSW/ACT Home members

WHERE: Bridge Base Online, with local directors Alan Bustany and Ronnie Ng. **Tips on p.7**

For queries and full details, contact:

Convener: Louis Koolen (02) 4389 7203

Email: lkoolen@bigpond.net.au

website: www.cclcbridgeclub.asn.au

Entry via:

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/calendar.asp

**F IS ALSO FOR
Face-to-Face**

**..... ie Lessons &
Workshops**

After a number of preliminary discussions between your Committee and the Leagues Club Event Organiser, a very fruitful meeting was held

on Tuesday Sep 1 with Anthony Ryan and Fay Toomey, Wendy Mitchell and Eunice de Vries.

As a result, approval has been given for use of the Parkview Room to conduct:

Beginners Course - am Thursdays
Improvers Part 2 - am Saturdays
Various Workshops - pm Thursdays
and - am Saturdays

See pp 4/5 for Covid-19 requirements/arrangements

THE PARKVIEW ROOM PROGRAM

It was planned to start Thursdays from September 17, but, as will always be the case, an outside booking for the room has taken priority. So the dates below are planned, but may have to be changed occasionally. The Leagues Club currently does not open until 10am, so start times have to fit in with that.

1. BEGINNERS Teacher: **Eunice de Vries**

Thursdays: 10.15am start, from September 24 for 8 weeks.

The cost is \$80 which covers text, notes, hand records and exercises. Six weeks of supervised play practice will follow the lessons @ \$5 per session. **Pre-booking is essential.**

Eunice has the names of some interested people from earlier in the year, but if you know of anyone who may want to break the Covid-19 boredom, please contact Eunice:

4328 2979 or 0415 937 941 or euony@bigpond.com

If you can help to advertise in any way, flyers are available.

2. IMPROVERS (Part 2) Teacher: **Wendy Mitchell**

Saturdays (every 2nd): 10.15am start

September 19 - Signals, Shifts by Responder, the Bath Coup
October 3 - Jacoby Transfer convention
October 17 - Opener's Rebids
October 31 - Review and Practice of the above

Cost: \$35 for 4 sessions, using Derrick Browne's *Improvers Bridge* as in Part 1 of the course. **OR** \$10 per session, \$3 for repeating pupils. Notes, Hand Records and Review Exercises are provided.

Anyone who wants to review their knowledge is welcome to enrol.

Pre-booking essential via Wendy: 0423 388 529 or
wmi20245@bigpond.com

3. INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOPS Teacher: **Wendy Mitchell**

Thursdays (every 2nd): 1.15pm start

- September 24 - Transfers to the Minors
- October 1 - Multi-2D Opening (*Transforming Twos—Part 1*)
- October 15 - 2-Suited Openings (*Transforming Twos—Part 2*)
- October 29 - Inviting Partner - Suit and NT
- November 12 - Jacoby 2NT convention

4. INTERM/ADVANCED WORKSHOPS Teacher: **Wendy Mitchell**

Saturdays (every 2nd for first 3): 10.15am start

- September 26 - Different conventional responses to 2C=GF
- October 10 - Inverted Minors
- October 24 - 2 over 1 Game Force System
- November 7 - 2/1: Forcing 1NT
- November 14 - 2/1: Focus on Majors
- November 21 - 2/1: 1D Openings

Pre-bookings required - contact Wendy as above

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OTHER LESSON POSSIBILITIES

1. **Free** on-line lessons with Paul Marston

These were advertised for Beginners and the first course was booked out very quickly. However, we have confirmed that you do not have to be a

raw beginner to take part and a big advantage of participating would be the introduction to playing on BBO.

So, if you register at this website:

<https://bridgelounge.online/learn-bridge-registration/abf/>

you will be notified when the next round is starting.

2. **Not-for-free** on-line lessons are available through a number of teachers including Joan Butts, ABF's National Teaching Coordinator.

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CONDITIONS FOR BRIDGE LESSONS AND WORKSHOPS:

Parkview Room, Central Coast Leagues Club

- Only pre-registered pupils may attend
- You agree not to attend if you have any cold-like symptoms or have recently visited one of the current hotspots
- The teacher will maintain a record of name, phone and email address of each attendee
- Members swipe in on entry to the Leagues Club; their temperature is taken automatically at the entry desk
- The teacher may ask for confirmation re visits to hot spots and has the authority to deny entry to the Parkview Room
- Payment for classes/sessions are to be made by cash in an envelope, or by electronic transfer if pre-arranged
- The Covid Safe app on phone is recommended . . . *Continued page 4*
- Masks – recommended for participants but not compulsory
- The teacher will wear a mask when she cannot maintain 1.5m social distancing
- Pupils must go straight to a table and remain seated
- These may be long tables for viewing a screen or whiteboard, or to simulate play, square tables comprising 4 x 90cm tables together, which allows for 1.5m distancing for each person
- Tables will not have cloths and will be sanitised after use
- Hand sanitisers will be provided at each table
- Cards will only be touched by one person
- Disposable gloves will be available for those who wish to use them
- Participants must bring their own pen or pencil for worksheets or notes

- Bidding boxes will be used instead of bidding pads and sanitised after use
- The teacher is to remain seated as far as possible. If the teacher needs to move to assist at a table, she then sits down at the table and dons a mask
- If participants are given or need a restroom break, then the LC requirements of 1.5m social distancing apply
- Each person must record their exit of the Club by swiping out

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BE ALERT TO ALERTING when playing on-line bridge

One of the biggest differences between online Bridge and regular Club Bridge is how you disclose information about your system to the opposition. Face-to-Face (FtF) the ABF provides system and alerting regulations that include having system cards, announcements, and alerts to ensure that your opposition are fully aware of the system you are using and the systemic meaning of your bids during the auction. We are all familiar with the requirement for our FtF *partner* to alert any bids that are not "natural" or that carry unusual meanings. Partner, rather than bidder, gives an explanation to avoid the problem of players conveying additional unauthorised information (UI), but even partner's explanation sometimes gives rise to UI (which, at times, leads to very complicated decisions for directors).

Online, however, the problem of UI is much reduced. One has the *much* better option of the bidder explaining the systemic meaning of their OWN bid. The information is conveyed to the opponents but *not* to their partner (which is why you press a special Alert button and do not simply communicate to the Table). Hence you alert your own 1C bid and make the appropriate announcement (2+, 3+, Strong 16+, Unusual, or whatever).

Online you MUST alert all those bids that ABF regulations say your FtF partner should alert (or you can suffer similar rectifications were your FtF partner not to alert). Good etiquette, the principle of Full Disclosure (that underlies the ABF regulations), and time-efficiency online, however, mean that you should alert *more* than mandatory requirements.

It saves time, informs your opponents, and makes the game more pleasant if you alert your cue-raise and say "major fit, 10+ points" even though ABF regs describe such a bid as "self-alerting". Similarly you should alert your response to RKCB as "two keycards, no trump queen" (or whatever) at the time of your bid. ABF regulations do require you to disclose that information prior to the opening lead anyway (which good top players do, but many club players do not).

There is nothing worse online than asking an opponent for an explanation of their bid and getting ... deathly silence. Are they typing? Did they see your request? How long do you wait before calling the director? Even more time is wasted typing information to the director, and there is no guarantee that the director will get a response from the player either! So, if *you* get a request to explain your bid, respond promptly to the requester (not to the Table). It is usually better, however, to explain your bid in the first place — even if your overcall is "natural" it will save time explaining it in advance.

Now, you may be thinking that it will take a lot of time to type in your explanation of almost every bid you make. And it would if you had to type it fresh each time. But we are on computers which have extraordinary abilities such as checking your spelling and grammar. Apple has an abbreviation facility built-in to its operating system, Bridge Base Online has a Chat Manager that stores texts, and there are various facilities available on Windows PCs.

The most common abbreviations you need are saying "Hello" and "Thank you" to your opponents. My abbreviations I have set up on my Apple Mac (System Preferences -> Keyboard -> Text) for these are:

bbhi — "Hi, we play 2/1, 1NT(15-17), Multi 2s, and Extended Bergen"; and

bbty — "Thank you opponents 🖐️".

I also have:

bbcr — "Cue Raise: suit fit and 10+ points";

bb20 — "Two key cards but no Queen of Trumps";

bbfg — "Forcing to Game"; and so on.

By reviewing your system and play you will find the relatively few canned explanations that cover 90%+ of your needs.

With practice you can alert and explain most of your bids as fast (or faster) than many people bid without explanation. This makes the game flow more smoothly and makes it a better experience for all concerned. And don't forget that even though you are explaining everything as you go along, you should still have a properly completed system card available for your opponents to view at their leisure.

Alan Bustany

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TIPS FOR OUR ON-LINE CONGRESS

Blue Mountains BC held an on-line Congress on Saturday, September 5. Below are some of the instructions given by Matthew McManus that will apply to our Congress.

Preparation

1) If you do not yet have a BBO account, you will need to create one.

<https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/>

Click on "Become a member (free)"

2) Make sure that your username is registered on the ABF Mailing List.

To check, go to: <http://www.abfevents.com.au/bbo.asp>

If your username is not registered, go to: <http://www.abfevents.com.au/forms/signup/>

3) Make sure that you have at least BB\$15 in your BBO account in order to pay your entry fee for the Congress:

- Log in to your BBO account. In the top right hand corner, click on the BB\$ icon
- Enter the details as required to make your purchase.

On the Day

4) To enter the Congress you need to log on to BBO at any time after 7.30am on Saturday. Both you and your partner need to be logged on in order to enter. Details of the event name for our Congress will be emailed to you before the day.

5) Both you and your partner must be logged on to BBO at 9.30am. When you log on, make sure that the *Invisible* box is NOT ticked. Also, do NOT go to the Casual area on BBO while waiting for the game to start. This is because if you are in the Casual area, BBO thinks that you are not logged on.

If you are not both logged on at start time, your entry will be cancelled. Unfortunately, if this happens, the BBO technology is such that there is nothing we can do to let you play. You will not be charged.

Other information

6) *Format* - MP scored Swiss Pairs, but with a small difference to usual Swiss - you may play a pair more than once. (For each new round, first always plays against second, third v fourth, etc.)

7) *Round start times* - You will be automatically taken to your table at the start of each round. Just like at a real life Congress, there will be a delay between rounds. *Please do not log off from BBO during the day.* If you are disconnected at any time, just log back in and you will be returned to your table.

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ABF RANKINGS Apologies for missing these last month:

| *Local* Ivan Cottom **National* Richard Carter |

New for August: [**Local* Jann Small]

Congratulations to all

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MASTERPOINT CATEGORIES

Categories can/do vary according to the competition or congress. Here are some stats for our club - very consistent proportions in recent years.

| MPs | 2008 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Under 100 | 45% | 41% | 44% | 40% |
| Under 300 | | 61% | 63% | 63% |
| Under 400 | 75% | 69% | 68% | 67% |
| Over 400 | 25% | 31% | 32% | 33% |
| Total Members | 272 | 191 | 183 | 172 |

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY - SEPTEMBER

Maureen Bell, Trish Byrnes, Richard Carter, Pauline Caust, Mary Corrigan, Roy Cotton, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Anne Grayden, Suzanne Harrison, John King, Peter Mackey, Ursula Middleton, Rosanne Ransley, Ken Townsend and Marianna Xerri.

SMILE AWHILE -

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Colin Mitchell Editor