

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



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

FACE-to-FACE
DUPLICATE
RESUMES !!!

- Monday Evening, 7.15pm
- Tuesday, 12.30pm
- Wednesday, 1.30pm
- Saturday, 12.30pm

Venue: Ground Floor, CC Leagues Club, near central lift (rear of old buffet area)

Pre-enter: via Event Entry screen, club website



Covid-safe: No shared boards, large tables in a large space, one-person use of Bridgemates, lots of hand sanitizer, wipes and gloves.

Full Conditions: as emailed to you by the Secretary and read out at each session - still a work in progress (see page 2)

CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS

The year has not been good to our club.

We started off with our first ever Bridge Holiday being cancelled because of COVID-19. This was followed by a complete ban on face to face Bridge in our Club rooms. When the ABF negotiated virtual clubs with BBO, we thought we could retain our membership by playing online three times a week.

Unfortunately the initial numbers petered out, we had to drop the

Wednesday session and we now have reached small numbers on Fridays. Your management committee, and the Executive in particular, have been busy this year trying to re-establish our normal environment:

- We held our AGM online, with a lot of help from Gary Barwick, and the feedback was very good.
- We lodged our COVID-19 Safety Plan and Entry Protocol with the Leagues Club in July. We have approached the Leagues Club regularly on being able to return to normal Bridge. They check with the Licensing Police to see if it is permitted. Note that this decision is not State wide, it is up to the local Police Command.
- We explored alternate venues to play in on a temporary basis.
- Wendy and Eunice met with the Leagues Club management in October and received approval to start lessons later that month.
- We met with the management of the Leagues Club in late November and received approval to restart face to face Bridge the following week. We have six “tables” in the Star Buffet near the lift and will have four sessions for now, as listed on Page 1.
- We cannot use our club room because it is in a separate building and digital sign-in via the CCLC’s system is a requirement.
- The directors won’t be paid this year nor will we accept free games from anyone. They can be used next year.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Louis Koolen (President)

PROGRESS SO FAR . .

- 2-table teams on each of Monday Evening 30/11, Tuesday 1/12 and Saturday 5/12; 5-table Mitchell on Wednesday 2/12.
- One person only touches a Bridgmate - covering with cling film best
- One person touches the boards at each table. Boards are not shared.
- 4 tables together make 1 table - this is physically tiring/challenging. The beginners have coped better than the regulars!
- Bids spoken and then written on a large laminated sheet by one person. The wiping off is rather demanding - a trial of bidding boxes was far preferred.

RUMOUR AND REALITY

The rumour: the police closed down Wendy's lessons and took her away on November 12 (a little difficult since she was away on the South Coast).

Some facts: Eunice was told by a CCLC staff member that the teaching space would not be



available on November 19;

Wendy (and others)

were told by a CCLC staff member on November 14 that all bridge was cancelled following a police visit and the banning of card games.



The reality: Faye Toomey (CCLC) confirmed on November 17 that the room was indeed available and there was no police ban. Having already cancelled the 19th Eunice resumed lessons on November 26 ; for simplicity Wendy held three 4xperson workshops at her home. (The misinformation mystery remains unsolved)

LESSONS AND WORKSHOPS

Improver's Part 2: 9 different people attended some or all of these 4 sessions. Thanks to Eunice and Colin for assisting in making up full tables. These players have now officially learned 3 important conventions - Blackwood, Stayman and Transfers.

5 x Thursday Intermediate Workshops: 13 different people attended between 1 and 4 of these.

5 x Saturday Interm/Adv Workshops: 8 different people attended between 1 and 5 sessions. Thank you Eunice and Pauline for help in making up numbers.

Beginners' Supervised: With a few not continuing, there are now 8 Beginners playing with buddies each Thursday morning in the new venue. The assistance and support of buddy players is much appreciated.

Thanks especially to CCLC staff Fay Toomey and Randall. They could not have been more helpful in enabling these sessions.

CONGRESS AWARDS

The October Newsletter reported on our own Online Congress. The ABF report shows that a total of 77.70 Red points were issued. 50 of our members were recipients.

The following **Red** point events were all 'on-line'. Our Home Club participants who earned masterpoints are listed.

October

ABF Online Nationwide Pairs: Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust

Coffs Harbour Swiss Pairs: Tony Burke, Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust, Suzanne Harrison, Agnes Marsh, Len Pascoe, Jan Small

Pennant Hills Swiss Pairs: Tony Burke, Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust, Anne Grayden, Len Pascoe, Julie Sadler

Sydney Bridge Centre Labour Day Swiss Pairs: Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust, Sally Clarke, Garry Clarke, Anne Grayden, Suzanne Harrison, Len Pascoe, Julie Sadler, Jann Small, Chris Williams

November

ABF Online Nationwide Pairs: Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust, Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Chris Williams

Mudgee Congress: Tony Burke, Anne Grayden, Suzanne Harrison, Julie Sadler, Jann Small, Chris Williams

Southern Highlands Congress: Tony Burke, Pauline Caust, Di Coats, Suzanne Harrison, Jann Small

NSWBA IMP Swiss Pairs: Garry Clarke, Sally Clarke

NSWBA Spring Swiss Pairs: Tony Burke, Garry Clarke, Sally Clarke, Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Chris Williams

Gold points were earned by our members in the Brisbane Water GNOT Heat: David Bowerman, Dasha Brandt, Alan Bustany, Jan Clarke, Chris Hannan, Matt Raj Mal, David Snow, Martin Johnson, Chris Williams.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Alan & Pauline: 1st place in the Restricted Pairs at both the Pennant Hills Congress (11/10) and the Central Coast Almost Summer Pairs (6/12).

Julie & Anne: 10th out of 32 in the Open section of the latter event.

Sally & Garry Clarke: 1st place Country section of State Pairs (15/11)

Jann Small & Suzanne Harrison: our only contenders in the NSW UHMP online event (29/11).

APPEAL TO MEMBERS

The necessity for online bridge due to the coronavirus lockdown, whether it is BBO, Stepbridge or the NSWBA RealBridge Online, has proved popular with many members.

Some however have tried and do not like the experience. Some do not want to even attempt this format of bridge, or do not have the appropriate computer technology. For some members private, 'at home' sessions have kept them in touch with the game.

Acknowledgement and thanks are due to all those who have gone out of their way to assist those in our bridge community in any way - whether it has been to: enable a successful transition to the online environment, play at home, provide transport, make a phone call, continue lessons/workshops, attract and introduce new players to the game.

Our own club has been slower than the others to return to face-to-face bridge. This is not because of a lack of trying or good will, but because we are an 'internal club of a licensed club'. As such the Covid-19 safety regulations are different to those for the other three Central Coast clubs.

Returning to face-to-face is still problematical for many individuals for a variety of reasons, including: age or health in the high risk bracket; air-conditioning or the lack of it; a preference to wait for a vaccine.

Unfortunately it may be that some bridge players will never return to the game, at least competitively. However, even the 'on-line aficionados' have acknowledged that they have missed the social contact of duplicate club bridge.

For the sake of the survival of CCLCBC we urge you to support our club in its return to face-to-face play, if at all possible.



Colin Mitchell
Wendy Mitchell

*Patron and Vice President
Club Masterpoint Secretary & Teacher*

COMING EVENTS

Mondays and Fridays on BBO - 1.20pm

Numbers are declining for our NSWCC combined clubs online sessions. Without greater patronage these are unlikely to continue beyond Christmas.

ABF Nationwide Pairs - Red points

Try these out: Friday evenings (7.30pm) and Sunday afternoons (2.30pm)

RealBridge.online sessions run by NSWBA offer Zoom-like video and audio whilst playing online Bridge which makes it feel much more like face-to-face. If you have not already done a 'taster' session, these are available via the Canberra Bridge Club - see the NSWBA website.

Coming up on this platform are the

Sydney Spring Nationals - December 12 & 13

NEW ABF RANKINGS - October & November

<i>**Local</i>	Suzanne Harrison	<i>*State</i>	Colin Speller
			Stephen Calcroft

Congratulations to all

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - for November (belatedly)

Mei-Hua Crawford, Eunice de Vries, Graham Felton, Kath Harper, David Howells, Ronnie Ng, Karen Ody, Judy Wulff.

and for December

Joan Brierty, Alan Bustany, Heather Carlile, Sally Clarke, Diana Coats, Tony Collis, Joan Cottom, Trish Dennis, Tracey Dillon, Marion Ellis, Carol Godfrey, Barbara Grant, Nancye Joss, Beryl Lowry, Bob Lowry, Greg Mayo, Kerryl McGrath, Diane Nichols, Len Pascoe, Julieanne Perceval, Gina Robertson, Chris Spikesman, Greg Watson

and to come in January

Peter Berzins, Dasha Brandt, Jenny Buckley, Austin Driscoll, Wendy Everitt, Ruth Griffin, Phil Hocking, Martin Johnson, Carol Judd, Ian Lincoln, Matt Raj Mal, Tony Ransley, Jenny Rowe, John Tagg.

Colin Mitchell Editor