

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



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

**FIRST
STATE
SENIORS
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Venue: Scenic Lounge, CCLC

Dates: June 15th to 18th

Director: Ronnie Ng

Convener: Louis Koolen

Pairs - Tue 2.30, Wed 9.30 & 1.30

Teams - Thu 9.30 & 1.30, Fri 9.30

Cost: \$70 pp Pairs, \$70 pp Teams

Food: A light lunch will be provided on Wednesday & Thursday and there will be drinks & nibbles at the end of play each day.

Sponsor: CC Leagues Club

Host: CCLC Bridge Club

See *p.6 - President's Paragraphs* to find out how this 'feather-in-the-cap' first was nearly a non-event.

SLAM DUNK

Match 1, CC Mini Congress

Board 7 ♠75

Dealer S ♥Q8

Vul Both ♦JT6542

♣KQ4

♠KQ9643

♥54

♦Q

♣AJ32



♠A2

♥AKJ9763

♦A9

♣65

♠JT8

♥T2

♦K873

♣T987

As East/West, how would you and your partner bid this hand?

(See *p.8* for comments and results)

COMMITTEE CAPERS

From Meeting 5/4/21

1. Would you like the Thursday duplicate sessions to be reinstated?

Expressions of interest to Julie Sadler please, so a decision can be made: juliesadler@iinet.com.au

See *p.9* for more business arising . .

RECENT RESULTS

COUNTRY TEAMS		(Q, R)	7 tables	Wed	Mar 10, 17, 24	
			W	D	L	VPs
1st	Alan Bustany & Chris Williams, Jan Clarke & Di Coats		6	0	0	101.57
2nd	Adele Mills, Dorothy Berzins, Gwen White Bob Morris, Ros Dey		4	0	2	88.39
3rd	Barbara Grant, Louis Koolen, Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler		4	0	2	74.19

The Country Teams Championship is incorporated into the John Arkinstall State Teams. The event is named in honour of John Arkinstall (28/12/54 - 15/7/2007) who was a very strong chess player in his school and university days, and won the City of Sydney chess tournament. He then discovered bridge and was hooked. Not only did he play but he became very involved with the administration of the game. He was on the NSWBA council from 1983-2004, serving as a Councillor, Secretary and for 11 years Chairman.

John and the late Bobby Evans worked tirelessly to purchase the current NSWBA premises, which all our members enjoy. John was a representative for NSW on the ABF from 1987-2007 as a Councillor, member of the Management Committee and Secretary.

Helen Milward is Tournament Organiser for the event this year. For the full structure of the competition see *Page 9*.

The Central Coast *Region* is comprised of Central Coast Leagues, Brisbane Water, Central Coast and Community Bateau Bay clubs. At our club's expense two teams will proceed to the *Regional Final* at Central Coast Bridge Club on Saturday/Sunday July 24 & 25. (Up to 2 other teams are eligible to proceed at their own expense).

Central Coast regional winners will compete in the Outer Metropolitan *Zone Final* on September 18 & 19. Ronnie Ng is the Zone Coordinator

The best two teams then proceed to the John Arkinstall State Teams Finals on November 12 & 13 at the NSWBA. Then on November 14, the top two teams compete for the State Teams title while the top two Country Teams play for the Country Teams title.

CONGRESSES **Best Local Players**

PAULINE EVANS SWISS PAIRS

March 14

32 pairs at North Shore Bridge Club. Sally & Garry Clarke came 10th.

CENTRAL COAST MINI CONGRESS Director: Matthew McManus

Swiss Pairs

Saturday March 27

Open 24 pairs

Best local – Matt Raj Mal & Chris Hasemore (4th)

Restricted & Novice 22 pairs

Best local – Marcelle Goslin & Ron Meaney (8th)

Teams

Sunday March 28

Open 14 teams

Best Local – Greg & Sharon Mayo, Di Coats & Jan Clarke (2nd);

Sylvia Foster & Jan Oitmaa, Lorraine Lindsay & Richard Carter (3rd);

Matt Raj Mal & Chris Hasemore, Dasha Brandt & David Bowerman (4th)

Restricted & Novice 10 teams

Best Local – Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany, Jurate Laisve & Trish Byrnes (5th)

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

CONGRESSES

Remember – From the NSWBA website it is now possible to filter according to Face-to-Face or On-line. Pull down the Congress menu and choose All, F2F, BBO or RealBridge. A few you will find:

RealBridge

Sunday April 11 MasterBridge Online Swiss Teams

Sunday April 18 Peninsula Online Swiss Teams

BBO

Sunday May 1 MasterBridge Online Swiss Pairs

Saturday May 15 Coffs Harbour BC Swiss Pairs

STATE EVENTS

Face-to-Face

June 15 to 18 State Seniors Championship – **CCLCBC**

We are hosting this new event with 3 sessions of pairs and 3 sessions of teams. You are eligible if born before January 1, 1960 – who wasn't ?!

On-line

July 23 & 24 State Veteran Pairs – note that this is no longer F-to-F

INTERSTATE EVENTS

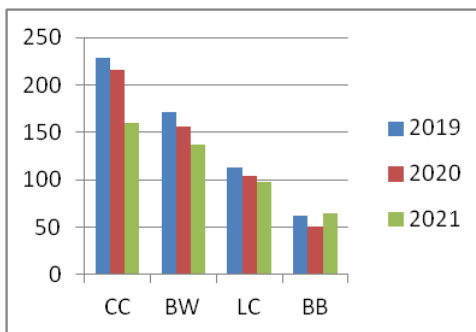
There are links on the first NSWBA screen, or go to www.abf.com.au. One that I can recommend is the Territory Gold Bridge Festival in Alice Springs: **8-12 September 2021**

CCLCBC MEMBERSHIP

	Life + Home	Assoc	Total	
At Mar 31	97	48	145	77.2%

1. Our membership stands at just over three quarters of last year's. Many other clubs have had a similar reduction in renewals. The following are based on Home Club members for the Central Coast region. (CC = Central Coast Bridge Club, BW = Brisbane Water Bridge club, LC = Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club, BB = Community Club, Bateau Bay)

Total registered players on the Central Coast have decreased by 20% since 2019. This compares with 16.7% for NSW and 12.5% for Australia.



	% Change from previous Year	
	2020	2021
CC	-5.3	-25.9
BW	-8.8	-12.2
LC	-8.0	-6.7
BB	-17.7	+25.5

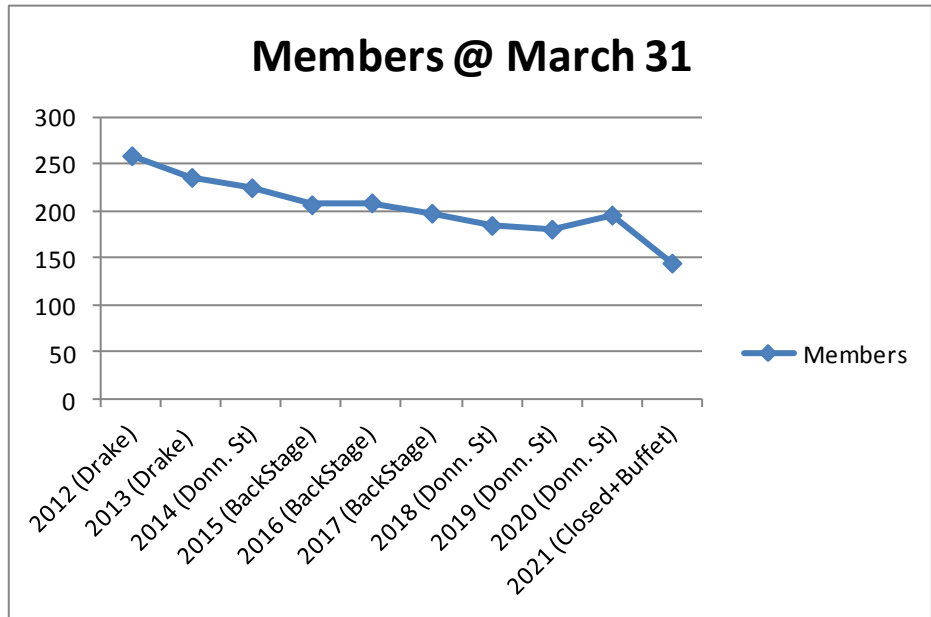
2. In the light of these figures please encourage and support your friends to return to face-to-face play, and to help if possible to attract new members (See Lesson information on Page XX)

3. As you know, to be a member of CCLCBC you must have current Leagues Club membership also. Quite a number of players who have paid their CCLCBC membership for 2021 would have had their LC member-

ship expire last year. I will be emailing those people soon to ask for their current LC Expiry Date. So please renew ASAP if you have not already done so!

4. The Ten Year Trend

Membership as submitted to the ABF at March 31 each year.



This graph also highlights our historical locations.

Wendy Mitchell (MP and Membership Secretary)

TABLE NUMBERS at CCLCBC

March numbers have improved (helped by the 3 sessions of Country Teams) – 24 sessions and 93.5 tables. So the month’s average is 3.90 pers session, up from 3.65 in February.

NEW ABF RANKINGS - March

Congratulations to:

<i>Silver National</i>	Alan Bustany		
<i>Silver Local</i>	John Aldersley	<i>Graduate</i>	Chris Jamieson

ABF REPORTS - March

1. Most Improved Players

The top 10 performers for this year who are members of our club are: Suzanne Harrison, Alma Van der Walt, John Aldersley, Alan Bustany, Jann Small, Pauline Caust, Kathryn Ivits, Trish Byrnes, Ivan Cottom & Stephen Calcroft.

Congratulations especially to Suzanne and Alma who appear on the NSW top 50 Improvers list – 24th and 37th respectively.

2. McCutcheon Trophy

The top 20 in each masterpoint rank are reported for each State. For NSW, 19 of our members appear in 12 of the 19 categories. A special mention for three who appear in the category of Silver Grand + above (Gold, Emerald, Diamond) – Sally Clarke (7th), Garry Clarke (10th) and Chris Williams (16th).

For these and other reports, go to www.abfmasterpoints.com.au

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

Things are happening face-to-face . . .

In late 2019, our club applied to hold the State Seniors Championships in 2021. So we booked the Parkview Room at the beginning of this year and made our preparations accordingly. It was then that Wendy Mitchell gave us a rude awakening: the event was not in the NSWBA Calendar. As a result, I dutifully and rapidly emailed Pauline Gumby (Congress & State Events Coordinator), who informed me that this was the first time she heard of the event. She consulted Warren Lazer (Events Committee Chairman), who vaguely remembered that it was approved before COVID, and deftly flicked it to the NSWBA Council Chairman, John Scudder.

John managed to retrieve our signed agreement from his home office and countersigned the contract after almost a year had lapsed. Pauline then advised me that our dates now clashed with the Victor Champion Cup, a national event. Our dates needed to shift by a week which meant that the Parkview Room was no longer available, so we had to settle for the Scenic Lounge. This has restricted our table numbers to thirty.

So the venue is booked, the catering has been organised and brochures printed. I have emailed 149 clubs in NSW and 135 individuals with an invitation and brochure. So far we have 12 Pairs and 5 Teams. The age qualification is that you must have been born before 1st January 1960. The only person in our club who does not qualify is the director of the Championships, Ronnie Ng.

This event runs from Tuesday to Friday (June 15 to 18). There will be no club Bridge as we will be using all tables and equipment. So there are no excuses, you have to enter!
Louis Koolen President

ABF NEWSLETTER - April

www.abf.com.au

There are many articles by well-known players and teachers about bridge hands covering **bidding** (limiting/evaluating your hand, overcalling, balancing, high level judgement); **card play** (planning, counting, drawing trumps, end plays) and **defence** (signals). Most of these are written with the average player in mind, so studying these is a great way to improve your bridge.

There is an update on the development of MYABF and a report by the Marketing Manager, Peter Cox, on some of the results/statistics from the ABF player survey. Peter refers to recent revelations in Canberra and suggests that

‘Bridge also suffers from some of these behavioural problems which can lead to a loss of belief in bridge and the ABF leading to a decline in volunteer support and membership of bridge clubs. Bridge is a microcosm of the general population and as we age some become more grumpy, loud and belligerent with unethical and overly competitive behaviour. This affects new players who try out our clubs.’

‘. . . . All the clubs and the state bodies are responsible for creating a friendly and welcoming environment and ensuring positive behavioural standards of both players and officials. Remember if you cannot see the problem then perhaps you are the problem. . . .’

BRIDGE EDUCATION Email: lessons@cclcbridgeclub.asn.au

1. BEGINNERS CLASSES

These will be conducted by Eunice de Vries (4328 2979 or 0415 937 941) on Friday mornings at 9.15am, commencing May 7. Flyers are

available in the Leagues Club foyer and on the large table in our bridge area. If you can take a flyer or to and display on a local noticeboard it would be greatly appreciated.

2. IMPROVERS COURSE

Beginners from Eunice's recent group will start this course with me (4340 4870 or 0423 388 529), also beginning May 7 at 9.15am. This course also suits those needing to refresh or update their knowledge. Such players may select specific sessions. Again there are flyers in the above locations.

Both courses are advertised on our website and the dates will appear on the NSWBA website.

3. WORKSHOPS

I have not had sufficient demand as yet to offer these just now. However, please let me know if there is a topic you want and I will present it as soon as there are sufficient numbers to make a class viable.

Wendy Mitchell

.... SLAM DUNK from Page 1

West has 12 High Card Points, with 2 of these the useless singleton $\diamond Q$. However, counting 7 *playing tricks* (5 \times \spadesuit s and 2 \times \clubsuit s) I chose to open 1S. My partner, Colin, bid 2H and I responded 2S to show a 6xcard suit and a minimum hand. Bidding my second suit (3C) would have showed more strength. East's hand is valued at 8 playing tricks, so not needing much from my hand Colin bid 4NT, Roman Keycard Blackwood. The beauty of this convention is that my reply of 5S (based on the spade suit) showed 2 controls and the Q, so he knew that I held the $\clubsuit A$, $\spadesuit K$ and $\spadesuit Q$ - exactly the cards he wanted. He duly bid 6H and received the $\clubsuit 10$ lead.

He won the lead and, following the maxim for trumps *8-ever, 9-never*, did not finesse but played $\heartsuit A$ and $\heartsuit K$, dropping the $\heartsuit Q$. Now playing the spades the J drops and the \diamond and \clubsuit losers can be discarded. There are a possible 13 tricks in \heartsuit s, \spadesuit s or even NT. This is not the only line of play and a few did not make even 12 tricks.

In the Open section 5 out of 12 pairs bid 6H or 6S, with 4 making 12 or 13 tricks and 1 going down. In the Restricted/Novice section 4 out of 11 pairs bid 6H or 6S, all making 13 tricks.

JOHN ARKINSTALL STATE TEAMS

No. of Clubs	Regions	Zones		Teams to Final
10	Far North	C O U N T R Y	Northern	2
11	Mid North Coast			
11	North Inland			
16	Hunter		Outer Metropolitan	2
4	Central Coast			
6	Mountains		Southern	2
7	Far South Coast			
8	Tablelands- Illawarra			
13	Central West			
8	South West		Western	
All Sydney	Metropolitan	Sydney		2
NSWBA		NSWBA		2

Outcome: John Arkinstall State Teams Champions, Country Teams Champions

.... From p.1 COMMITTEE CAPERS 5/4/21

2. Although Charity Day could not be held last year, some funds already raised since the year before have now been allocated - \$400 to the very worthy Coast Shelter. Thank you members for your generosity.
3. A lot of planning is going into the logistics of hosting of the State Seniors Championship: tables, bridge equipment, food etc.

Payment for entries will be via the new **myABF** system, so everyone needs to register. Simply go to www.abf.com.au, choose Log Into My ABF (R-hand side of page) and choose Sign Up. Complete the form with ABF number, First Name, Last Name, email address and set a password.



Subsequently when you Log In you use either your ABF number or email address plus the password. You will use a credit card or 'Bridge Credits' to pay.

EVENT HISTORY

PRESIDENT'S CUP

This event was first held on October 20, 1993 when the winners were Eileen & Martin Smyers. The last winners in 2019 were Toni Dixon & Di Nicholls. The event was not held last year because the club was closed.

Following Colin Mitchell's inaugural presidency 1987 & 1988, Dorothy (MacLean) was President for the next 4 years. After marrying Peter in 1993 she stood down so there would not be 2 members of the same family on the Committee. Now our historian, Dorothy was asked if the President's Cup was perhaps named after her.

Although she liked that idea, Dorothy thinks that in all likelihood the introduction of the President's Cup was simply that the Club had grown from 77 members in June 1988, of which 12 were Home Club members, to 283 members (110 Home Club) by July 1993. At that time the allocation of red point events was based on Home Club member numbers and at least 4 other new events were introduced that year.

Only three of our twelve presidents have ever won the Cup - Graham Winder (deceased), Peter Berzins and Dorothy Berzins. So far, Dorothy is the only one to win it while the incumbent President.

Former and Future Presidents, Presentation Days 2007 to 2009



There are many current members whose names appear on website Honour Roll for the President's Cup: Adele Mills (2), Di Coats (3), Gwen White, Bob Morris (2), Trish Dennis, Dorothy Berzins (2), Peter Berzins, Marie Purkiss (2), Ronnie Ng, Jan Clarke, Hope Tomlinson, Martin Johnson, Elizabeth Lawrence, Di Nichols. It will be interesting to see how many of these enter this year's event - but it would also be great to add some new names to the list!

More Recently, 2018 to 2020



Left to Right: Lyn Pears, Di March, Marilyn Whigham, Louis Koolen, Wendy Mitchell, Colin Mitchell, Dorothy Berzins, Peter Berzins

Living and playing in Sydney, Lyn is no longer a member so she is not eligible. Peter has won once and Dorothy twice, but the others have the opportunity to make the Cup list. Can Dorothy do it again and equal Lorraine Lindsay and Di Coats with 3 wins? Can Louis emulate Dorothy to become the second sitting President to win? Find out -

Pre-enter and come and compete for glory and red points on
Wednesday, April 14 at 1.30pm

ANZAC DAY PAIRS

This red point event is relatively new, being only the 13th time it will have been held. First winners in 2008 were Elizabeth Lawrence & Marie Purkiss and the last in 2019 were Dorothy & Peter Berzins. Current members on the Honour roll, in addition to half listed for the President's Cup are Wendy Mitchell, Colin Mitchell, Christine Hadaway, Pauline Caust. So let's see you there - just remember to pre-enter of course.

Monday, April 26 at 12.30pm

EASTER PAIRS

The first winners were Josie Ryan & Jack Rushbrook in 1992 and the most recent were Chris Hannan & Alan Bustany in 2019 - so, 29 years for this competition.

STOP PRESS!! Congratulations to the 2021 winners: Anne & Julie

Yesterday's placegetters and details -

EASTER PAIRS		(R)	6 tables	Mon Apr 5
1st	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler			67.56%
2nd	Gwen White & Dorothy Berzins			59.63%
3rd	Louis Koolen & Barbara Grant			56.52%

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

Presidents Cup	(R)	Wednesday 14
Anzac Day Pairs	(R)	Monday 26

MAY

Autumn Pairs	(R)	Monday Eve 3
Zelda Overall Cup	(R)	Friday 21

ALL SESSIONS, INCLUDING NORMAL DUPLICATE GAMES, REQUIRE PRE-ENTRY ON THE WEBSITE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for April:

Lyn Baber, Steve Calcroft, Pam Harris, Elaine McGorm, Hope Tomlinson, Suzanne Whelan.

Regular Duplicate Sessions

Monday, Tuesday, Friday	12.30 pm
Wednesday	1.30 pm
Monday Evening	7.15 pm

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new member Tony Langmead (0412 388 192) and returning member Helen Matthews (0403 809 327). Please make them feel at home in our new environment.

Correction from last month: Tanya Masters 0419 613 551

SMILE AWHILE

- What did the man say to the bartender? I'll have a corona, hold the virus.
- If there's a baby boom nine months from now, what will happen in 2033? There will be a whole bunch of quaranteens.
- What do you tell yourself when you wake up late for work and realize you have a fever? Self, I so late.
- So many coronavirus jokes out there, it's a pundemic

NEW ADVICE FOR DIRECTORS

When a card or cards go missing from a hand in the middle of a session; as well as counting the cards in the other hands, looking on the floor, under the table number, in handbags, pockets etc, try checking out the players' bidding boxes!!
(Just ask Alan Bustany)

Colin Mitchell Editor