

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



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021

O **NLY**
GOOD
NEWS!

As per Secretary Anne's email:

- From November 8 the 1 person per 2 sq m rule will apply, so table numbers will not be limited
- After November 15 you will not have to pre-enter every event

Masks must still be worn and Chief Operating Officer of the CC Leagues Club, Anthony Ryan has advised:

- *'unvaccinated people can't visit until 95% double dose is reached or December 15, whichever occurs first'.*

F **ROM THE COMMITTEE**
MEETING, October 25

- Wendy Mitchell has been co-opted to fill the vacancy

- A mixture of RealBridge & face-to-face bridge will continue as is for the time being
- A mobile phone has been purchased so you can contact the director of the day. Please delete the old land-line number and store this number:

0478 567 857

- A decision on re-starting lessons and workshops is under consideration
- Free Games will be issued to participants in the Club Pairs
- Celebrate the return to bridge with a luncheon and play on

December 8

Lunch at 12.00 followed by bridge at 1.30pm (all in our general area).

Please

1. respond to Anne's email re menu preference and
2. **pre-enter** now, for catering purposes.

RECENT RESULTS

THURSDAY REALBRIDGE	(R)	4 tables	Oct 7
1st Agnes Marsh & Ruth Griffin			57.74 %
2nd Gwen White & Margo Brennan			57.14%
3rd Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler			55.95%

STATE OPEN PAIRS (Q 1&2)	(R)	9/8.5 tables	Oct 5 & 12
1st Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler			123.78 %
2nd Chris Williams & Alan Bustany			115.67%
3rd Margo Brennan & Gwen White			114.37%

The club is paying for the top two 'contending' pairs to proceed to the Final (which incorporates the Country Pairs) to be held at the NSWBA on Nov 20 & 21. However, any pair that played in the qualifying can enter the final - Julie Sadler has already asked players about this.

Note: Red masterpoints earned in the qualifying sessions are submitted by NSWBA after the Final has been conducted.

Held on-line (RealBridge) for the first time, the level of participation compared favourably to other years:

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Not held	8	11.5	10	8.5	10

TUESDAY REALBRIDGE	(R)	7 tables	Oct 26
1st Anne Grayden & Ronnie Ng			66.67 %
2nd Alfie Nation & Jacqui Wilson			63.46%
3rd Barry & Sylvia Foster			60.90%

TUESDAY REALBRIDGE	(R)	6 tables	Nov 2
<i>From the Tournament Organiser:</i>			

Melbourne Cup Day was held online due to Covid restrictions and made a Red point event (instead of Thursday Nov 4).

We had 6 tables and a good time was had by all. Several people dressed for the occasion with fascinators being displayed by Henrietta and Eliza-

WHAT WILL BRIDGE BE LIKE IN FUTURE?

Here I've relied on 2 online articles to discuss this question.

In August 2020 Peter Gill posed the question, is Online Bridge here to stay? (<https://petergillsite.wordpress.com/2020/08/12/is-online-bridge-here-to-stay/>) while the American Al Levy discusses bridge in the future (see article at https://allevybridge.com/allevy/Future_of_Bridge.html) (Note: If the links do not work, copy and paste into your browser)

Both these writers say bridge has evolved over time, with Al Levy saying modern bridge 'evolved for a glamorous high society game in the 40s and 50s, with few rules' to the game we know today with rules & laws regulating acceptable play & etiquette. Rubber bridge, which was played in people's homes, peaked in the mid C20 & has now faded from prominence being replaced by Duplicate bridge which he says peaked in the late C20. We know Duplicate bridge is played at bridge clubs & in organised tournaments. With Covid, online bridge has risen in popularity.

Will this popularity continue to increase peaking at some future date coinciding with duplicate bridge fading in popularity? Following in this vein, in the Peter Gill article, there is a graph summarising bridge demographics, as described to him by Nick Hughes showing the evolutionary nature of bridge.

In August 2020, Peter Gill looked at the various online platforms finding that BBO was the best & most popular of the then available platforms. Stepbridge, although popular in South Australia at this stage, was not so compatible with Apple devices & RealBridge had not made it onto the scene although it was about to be released. In a little over 12 months RealBridge is gaining in popularity so that now club events & congresses are run on this platform quite regularly. Even the Summer Festival of Bridge will be run on RealBridge in 2022.

There are advantages to be had with online play especially during a Covid lockdown – you don't have to leave the comfort of your favourite chair & some of the more common problems of play are eliminated. Leads out of turn & revoking cannot occur while the number of tricks scored is not up for discussion. Some of the human elements of bridge are

also eliminated, to an extent. Debate over whether, or not, a hesitation occurred should be easily discernible as bids & tempo are recorded, in real time, & these records are available to the Director.

To some extent the fact that 4 people are not sitting around a table face to face eliminates some the human elements that can influence bridge decisions. Partner's behavioural idiosyncrasies may pass unspoken messages to partner (& opponents) are reduced. There have been cases of messages passing between players by using particular card placements, eg the case of Fantoni & Nunes (No 1 & 2 pro bridge players in the world in 2015, & originally from Italy) who placed their cards either horizontally or vertically to signify the presence or absence of an unknown honour in the suit.

Although suspicions hung around this pair they were not found out until being observed by a non-bridge player. They were banned for a period of 5 years but this year Fantoni was chosen in the Italian team to play in the European Bridge League qualifying matches for the World Team Championships. All teams drawn to play against Italy forfeited their matches meaning Italy could not be awarded any points.

While it sounds as if online bridge may prevent cheating in bridge that is not the case, so far, & once again top players are not averse to indulging in a bit of skulduggery. (Google an article entitled, **The 2020 Online Cheating Scandal** by Eldad Ginossar Sept. 25, 2020)

Al Levy envisages a bridge future where 4 players will sit at a bridge table & play on an iDevice. Software will be developed so that opponent's system cards can be displayed at the click of a button & will automatically go to the appropriate convention, dependent on the bidding. He hopes software will be developed to reduce opportunities for cheating.

That's a view of the future but we are still operating in the present & even if this is the way of the future we still have face-to-face bridge for quite some time. Perhaps if we are living in, or about to be living in a transitional period where we may have the best of both worlds, being able to enjoy the company & companionship of our friends when playing both face to face & online.

Anne Grayden

ABF MASTERPOINT CENTRE

Problems with the host's data centre on Sep 27 caused all data after Sep 1 to be lost. Clubs supplied missing files by email. Full functionality was restored on Oct 18 and by Oct 21 the website was up to date.

For 2022 masterpoint levies will forgo the annual CPI increase, remaining the same as the last two years, and capitation will return to \$16.10.

Note: Green points for the Club Pairs event in June will be uploaded this month.

Wendy M

NEW ABF RANKINGS - September

Congratulations to:

John Aldersley Regional Peter Mackey Bronze Local

NEW ABF RANKINGS - October

Congratulations to:

Ivan Cottom Regional

FEEL-GOOD STORY OF THE MONTH

Always lovely to meet an honest Aussie!

Thank you Clifford Stratton for returning my lost wallet and finding out I'm a fellow bridge player!

Ruth Griffin

INAUGURAL GRAND NATIONAL NOVICE PAIRS 2021

This new event, for players with less than 100 masterpoints, will be conducted on the Real Deal Bridge online platform. Because of the short notice, CCLCBC will not conduct heats.

However, you can play through the Real Deal Bridge Club between Nov 15 and 21. To find out how, go to:

www.realdealbridge.com/gnnp-2021

and to learn how to use this platform, go to:

www.realdealbridge.com/videotutorials

Also, look on our club member's table for 'takeaway' information.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Elizabeth Deveson (0411 843 222) when you meet her on RealBridge and new player Cliff Stratton (0414 184 771) who has already been playing online after attending Wendy's interrupted Improver's course.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for November:

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

REGULAR PROGRAM

<u>Face-to-Face</u>		<u>RealBridge</u>	
Mondays & Friday	12.30 pm		
Monday Evening	7.15 pm	Tuesday	12.30pm
Wednesday	1.30 pm	Thursday	9.30am

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS - Online and Face-to-Face

NOVEMBER

Tuesday RealBridge	(R)	12.30pm	Tue 2
Tuesday RealBridge	(R)	12.30pm	Tue 9
Tuesday RealBridge	(R)	12.30pm	Tue 23

DECEMBER

Thursday RealBridge	(R)	9.30am	Thu 2
Wednesday (FtoF)	(P, R)	12 pm lunch, 1.30 pm	Wed 8
Tuesday RealBridge	(R)	12.30pm	Tue 21

SMILE AWHILE

- We had a partnership misunderstanding. I assumed my partner knew what he was doing.
- My partner is 20 years behind the times. He still thinks you need high cards to bid.
- Your play was much better tonight and so were your excuses!

Wendy Mitchell Editor