

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



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

A very successful
**Welcome Back
Party**

See Pages 2 & 3

**2022
Bridge Club Program**

Is now available for collection at the Club. Enjoy the new slim format which lists only special events.

**REMEMBER
New Club Number
0478 567 857**

**A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY
FOR A SPECIAL LADY**



Marion Ellis celebrated 90 years young in December.

RECENT RESULTS

THURSDAY REALBRIDGE		(R)	3 tables	Dec 2	
			Wins	Draws	Losses
1st	Julie Sadler & Anne Grayden		4	0	1
2nd	Eunice de Vries & Wendy Mitchell		3	1	1
3rd	Barbara Grant & Louis Koolen		3	0	2

TUESDAY REALBRIDGE		(R)	3 tables	Dec 21	
1st	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler		3	1	1
2nd	Alfie Nation & Jackie Wilson		3	1	1
3rd	Ellen Williams & Agnes Marsh		3	0	2

WELCOME BACK PAIRS (FtoF)		(R)	12 tables	Wed Dec 8	
1st	Pauline Caust & Margaret Regan			64.58 %	
2nd	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler			62.12%	
3rd	Ruth Griffin & Agnes Marsh			60.23%	

This event celebrated the return to face-to-face bridge and the first FtoF Red point event since May.

It began with lunch, catered for by Archies and served at long tables in the Georgiana's area. There were very favourable comments about the food, which consisted of alternating (gluten free) mains of chicken and salmon. Coffee was also provided.

Anthony Ryan, Chief Operations Officer of the Leagues Club, had accepted our invitation to attend but was unable to stay. He was overwhelmed with phone calls about the decision to not allow the unvaccinated entry to the club, so took his lunch back to his office!

Instead of dessert, special permission was obtained to bring in cake to celebrate Marion Ellis' 90th birthday. Many thanks go to Ruth, who made individual cupcakes for all present, as well as a small cake especially for Marion (pictured Page 1).

Congratulations to the winners of the bridge which followed lunch – a new and promising partnership!

MARION ELLIS had an eventful few weeks: her granddaughter's wedding, birthday cakes at the Welcome Back Party, and family celebrations on her actual birthday, December 18. Congratulations on the 90 milestone Marion!

CONGRESSES Best Local Players

JOHN ARKINSTALL STATE OPEN TEAMS

Dec 11 & 12

Held on RealBridge this year, 10 Teams from the qualifying sessions representing the NSWBA, the Sydney Metropolitan zone, the Outer Metropolitan, Northern, Southern and Western zones, played in the Round Robin event. This included Outer Metropolitan 2 team consisting of Brisbane Water BC players David Bowerman, Chris Hasemore, Alfie Nation and Gwen White.

Winners of the final were Kim Morrison, Bruce Neill, Mike Hughes, David Weston & Julian Foster by a margin of just 2 Imps.

The Country Teams play-off was won by Outer Metropolitan 1 team consisting of Sharon & Greg Mayo, Paul McGrath & Michael Simes.

Concurrent with the finals on the Sunday, 26 pairs played in a Swiss Pairs event, also on RealBridge. Rakesh Kumar in the December edition of NSWBA eCongress Newsletter describes some hands from this event. Here are two of them which focus on defence.

1. With the opponents vulnerable and your side not vulnerable, LHO deals and opens 1NT. Partner overcalls 2NT showing the minors and the opponents reach 4♥. Sitting South, you are (virtually) clutching your customary collection of riches and see this East dummy:

	N		♠ KJT
W		E	♥ AK63
			♦ 974
	S		♣ 943
♠ 96532			
♥ 542			
♦ T63			
♣ 85			

Partner leads the ♣ A, ♣ K and ♣ Q, as you signal a doubleton.

What are you going to play on the third club?
Does it really matter?

2. Again with the opponents vulnerable and your side not vulnerable, you pass in first seat, as do LHO and partner. RHO opens 1♠ and is raised to 2♠ by LHO. RHO now jumps to game. Sitting North, you quite reasonably lead a diamond and see this East dummy:

♠ 72		
♥ A73		
♦ T753		
♣ K543		
	N	♠ 864
W		♥ KT84
	E	♦ J8
	S	♣ QJ92

Partner takes ♦A, declarer playing the queen, and returns ♠9 which declarer wins with the ace. Declarer cashes ♠K as you play ♠7 and partner plays ♠J. Next comes ♥Q, which you capture with ♥A. What now?

Answers and Ramesh's explanation can be found on Page 8.

NEW TOURNAMENT REGULATION

Players have been quick to adapt to the new regulation:

When bidding boxes are in use, after the opening lead is faced players are to return the bidding cards to the boxes, with the exception of the final contract.

However there are a few points to reiterate -

1. A few people are missing the phrase ***after the opening lead is faced*** . . . Except for Pass cards, the whole of the bidding must remain visible until the lead is turned up (faced). **This is essential!**

2. Some have established the practice of placing just the one card on the bidding box to show the final contract. For example the 4♠ card, without the accompanying cards beneath it. While this may stop the cards from slipping, it is not recommended because of the chance of misplacement when returning it to the bidding box.

As described in the December Newsletter, simply collapse the bidding cards so that only the 4S is showing and place the whole group of cards on top of the 'board'.

3. Remember to do this without obscuring the Dealer and Vulnerability.

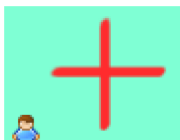
A GRAND SLAM

Monday Evening, December 27, had only 2 tables, but that didn't stop there being interesting hands! Here is one of them, as described by Anne Grayden, who played and made it with partner Julie Sadler.

Below was our bidding by E/W with N/S passing throughout.

Board 10 ♠ K62
 Dir: E ♥ 732
 Vul: All ♦ 93
 ♣ QJT94

♠ QT4
 ♥ KQJ96
 ♦ AKT54
 ♣



♠ A973
 ♥ AT5
 ♦ QJ6
 ♣ AK3

6 ♠ J85
 15 18 ♥ 84
 ♦ 872
 1 ♣ 87652

N:
 S:
 E: 2 ♣ 7 ♦ 7 ♥ 6 ♠ 7NT
 W: 2 ♣ 7 ♦ 7 ♥ 6 ♠ 7NT

East opens 1C, West responds 1H and East re-bids 2NT - showing 18-19 HCP and a balanced hand.

West shows the second suit by bidding 3D. This promises at least 5 hearts & 4 diamonds.

So, East now knows there's a H fit & bids 4H.

West, now knowing partner has 3 hearts, has 15HCP + a void opposite 18-19 HCP, is interested in slam and so bids 4NT (Keycard Blackwood) to ask about Aces and the King of hearts.

East answers 5D showing 0 or 3 key cards. West takes this to be 3 considering the points shown with the 2NT bid. Now with 2 key cards (D Ace & H King) as well as the H Queen, West considers: -

There are 6 or 7 HCP outside the 3 Aces in East's hand. Being optimistic West assumes 3 of these points is a King.

If it's the Spade King, then there are no losers in spades, as East has already shown the Ace & West has 3 to the Q.

If it's the Club King, then along with the Ace of Clubs which has also been shown, two of West's spade losers disappear.

So 7 Hearts is bid.

Editor's Note:

It is not generally recommended to ask for Aces when holding a void, but rather to bid controls.

A possible sequence would be:

	1C
1H	2NT
3D	3H
4C *	4S **

* first round control – not encouraging to East opposite the CA

** Spade Ace

If control bidding is continued, EW may stop out of the Grand Slam. As it happens, 4NT finds that all 5 Key cards are held. If in any doubt, 5NT finds East with 1xKing, and as Anne explains, it does not matter whether it is the C or S King.

REAL BRIDGE PAYMENTS

Thank you again to all those who paid so promptly for November. You can expect your December invoice by email early in the New Year.

NEW ABF RANKINGS - December

Congratulations to:

Julie Sadler <i>Gold Life</i>

STATISTICS

Wendy M

Last month I published statistics which showed gains and losses in membership for the Central Coast clubs from 2020 to 2021.

Home Members	2021	2020	% change
BW	151	160	-5.63
CC	179	218	-17.89
Commy BC	68	51	33.33
CCLCBC	101	109	-7.34

Here are some more, based solely on Home Club membership, which may be used to judge the size and strength of the clubs.

Dec 31, 2021	Central Coast	Brisbane Wa- ter	CC Leagues	Community
Home Club Members	181	155	103	70

Over 300 MPs	18	9.9%	29	18.7%	30	29.1%	9	12.9%
<300 & >100	20	11.0%	22	14.2%	19	18.4%	17	24.3%
Less than 100	143	79.0%	104	67.1%	54	52.4%	44	62.9%

ABF Alternate Members	35		53		61		34	
(not necessarily financial club members)	% of total	16.2%		25.5%		37.2%		32.7%

RAMESH KUMAR - from Page 3 & 4

1. To save partner from a possible endplay situation and/or from committing a grave error, all you have to do is ruff ♣ Q and play a diamond through.

Of course, the contract will always go down if partner exits with a trump – but if partner leads a diamond away from ♦ KJ declarer will make! Two did.

Board 16	♠ Q84	
Dlr W	♥ 7	
EW Vul	♦ KJ82	
	♣ AKQ62	
♠ A7	N	♠ KJT
♥ QJT98	W	♥ AK63
♦ AQ5	E	♦ 974
♣ JT7	S	♣ 943
	♠ 96532	
	♥ 542	
	♦ T63	
	♣ 85	

2.

Board 141	♠ 72	
Dlr N	♥ A73	
EW Vul	♦ T753	
	♣ K543	
♠ AKQT53	N	♠ 864
♥ QJ6	W	♥ KT84
♦ KQ	E	♦ J8
♣ 76	S	♣ QJ92
	♠ J9	
	♥ 952	
	♦ A9642	
	♣ AT8	

After the first 4 tricks, what do you know as North?

Firstly, partner doesn't have ♦ K.

Declarer played ♦ Q on the first trick, but while this might be some ploy to gain an entry to dummy with the jack, it seems likely that declarer has a doubleton ♦ KQ.

Secondly, declarer has 6 spades as two rounds of trumps sufficed.

That being so, declarer's remaining cards may be 3-2 or 2-3 in the round suits – there's not much to think about if s/he is 4-1 either way. If declarer has ♥ Q J, either doubleton or with a third heart, then if partner has ♥ A it is necessary to grab 2 club tricks now, else a loser or losers will be discarded on the heart suit.

So you have to play a small club to partner immediately!

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022

At December 31, 69 Home members and 34 Associate members are financial for next year, representing just over 62% of last year's members. Four people have indicated that they will not be renewing. 33 Home members and 26 Associate members have not yet renewed. The latter are officially unfinancial as at December 31, but have until January 31 to renew.

Please refer to the email sent on December 7 for how to pay your fees.

INTER-CLUB TEAMS 9.30am & 1.30pm Thursday, Feb 3

This event is open to members of any of the four affiliated Central Coast bridge clubs. The red points are in addition to our allocated B4c sessions and carry a lower weighting, the same as green point teams events.

In the last 10 years, we have had from 12 to 22 teams compete. Entries are open now and close on January 26, so get your team together! Lunch and after-bridge drinks will be provided at **\$160** per team.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Next year some **National Gold Points Events** are planned to be held online, while others are scheduled to run face-to-face. The *Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge* will be held on RealBridge from 13th - 23rd January 2022. The *Gold Coast Congress* will be held face-to-face from 18th - 26th February 2022. Details can be found at [MyABF / congresses](#). Please consult the event's official website for conditions of entry for face-to-face congresses.

NEW MEMBER

Please welcome Irene Campbell (4332 1558) and add her details to your 2022 Program book.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for January:

Peter Berzins, Jenny Buckley, Austin Driscoll, Wendy Everitt, Ruth Griffin, Martin Johnson, Carol Judd, Ian Lincoln, Matt Raj Mal, Tony Ransley, Margaret Regan, Jenny Rowe.

COMING EVENTS - Online and Face-to-Face

JANUARY

RealBridge

Tuesdays	12.30pm	Jan 4, 11, 18, 25
Thursdays	9.30am	Jan 6, 13, 20, 27

Face-to-Face

Mondays	12.30pm	Jan 3 , 10, 17, 24, 31
Monday Evenings	7.15pm	Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Wednesdays	1.30pm	Jan 5, 12, 19, 26
Fridays	12.30pm	Jan 7, 14, 21, 28

Special Events

New Year's Cup	R	Monday, Jan 3
Australia Day Pairs	R	Wednesday, Jan 26

FEBRUARY

Special Events

Summer Pairs, Real Bridge	R	Tuesday Feb 1
Monthly Shield 1	E	Wednesday Feb 2
InterClub Teams (1)	R, P all day	Thursday Feb 3
Valentine's Day Pairs		Monday Feb 14
State Mixed Pairs (Club Trophy)	Q, R, P all day	Thursday Feb 17
Switching Singles 1	E	Monday Eve Feb 21

SMILE AWHILE

1. How did the health experts lie? They said a mask and gloves was enough to go to grocery shopping. When I got there, every one else had clothes on.
2. Two grandmothers were bragging about their precious darlings. One of them says to the other, "Mine are so good at social distancing, they won't even call me."
3. A granddaughter of six was watching her grandparents and friends playing bridge. When one of the players asked whether she played, the girl replied: "I can't play bridge but I can talk it!"

Wendy Mitchell Editor