

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



**NEWSLETTER**

**JUNE 2022**

**C H A R I T Y D A Y**  
**Wednesday**  
**May 25**

What a lot of fun we had raising money for COAST SHELTER. Wonderful teamwork by Julieanne, Margo & Ruth & our great Committee.

On the actual day we raised nearly \$1,500. A very big thank you to all who donated very generously. The Hampers were massive, the chilli jams, cakes, plants the fresh produce that hardly reached the table & the beautiful hand made cards. On top of that, the card holders made and sold by a very industrious member.

Lots of competition for the Silent Auctions, lots of laughs & then a bonus – playing BRIDGE.

Thank you SO much everyone.

Ruth x

Congratulations to all the winners of the Raffle:

- |                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Grocery Pack             | Di March       |
| 2 Surprise Voucher         | Sally Clarke   |
| 3 Grocery Pack             | Marg McCredie  |
| 4 Blanket &<br>Ladies Pack | Peter Mackey   |
| 5 Wine                     | Leonie Lovell  |
| 6 Wine                     | Judith Sherson |
| 7 Wine                     | Anne Grayden   |
| 8 Wine                     | Margo Burnet   |
| 9 Wine                     | Margo Burnet   |
| 10 Wine                    | Dasha Brandt   |

For more reports, photos and final figures, see Pages 4 & 5.

**ZELDA OVERHALL CUP**

For the first time every pair in the field was Bronze Regional or below and so eligible to win, making for a very fair competition. Well done Leon Babinski & Brian Warburton who won the cup, and to Julieanne Perceval & Margo Burnet who have won the Special Prize for best Silver Local and below.

## RECENT RESULTS

### **AUTUMN PAIRS (FtoF) (R) 3.5 tables MonEve May 2**

1st	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	65.62%
2nd	=Wendy Everitt & Ellen Williams	58.33%
2nd	= Eunice de Vries & David Bowerman	58.33%

### **MONTHLY SHIELD (4) (FtoF) (E) 5.5 tables Wed May 4**

1st	Jan Clarke & Alan Bustany	60.94%
2nd	Brian Warburton & John King	58.20%
3rd	Dorothy Berzins & Adele Mills	57.16%

*(For progress scores, see Page 11)*

### **PRESIDENTS CUP (FtoF) (R) 6.5 tables Wed May 11**

1st	Dorothy Berzins & Di Coats	67.92%
2nd	Alan Bustany & Pauline Caust	59.17%
3rd	Ruth Griffin & Agnes Marsh	55.83%

### **SWITCHING SINGLES (3) (FtoF) (E) 2.5 tables MonEve Apr 18**

1st	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	70.00%
2nd	Eunice de Vries & David Bowerman	57.50%
3rd	Trish Howard & Clifford Stratton	52.50%

*(The best 4 sessions with different partners are counted)*

### **ZELDA OVERHALL CUP (FtoF) (R) 3.5 tables Mon May 23**

1st	Brian Warburton & Leon Babinski	63.54%
2nd	Peter Mackey & Ruth Griffin	59.38%
3rd	Mei-Hua Crawford & Leonie Wain	52.07%

### **CHARITY DAY PAIRS (FtoF) (R) 8 tables Wed May 25**

*NS field*

1st	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	68.20%
2nd	Agnes Marsh & Ruth Griffin	57.99%
3rd	Brian Warburton & John King	55.70%

*EW field*

1st	Dorothy Berzins & Di Coats	60.67%
2nd	Jan Clarke & Sally Clarke	55.91%
3rd	Leon Babinski & Louis Koolen	54.80%

## CONGRESSES Best Local Players

### State Mixed Pairs Final

May 28 - 29

17.5 tables played two qualifying sessions on the Saturday. Finishing 8th NS were Helen Milward and Gary Barwick and 8th EW were Eunice de Vries and David Bowerman.

The Final on the Sunday consists of the top 7 pairs from each direction. However 2 of the qualifying NS pairs chose to play instead in the Country Final, so Helen & Gary elected to play in the final, coming 10th out of 14. The winners were Joan Butts and Michael Courtney.

Only 10 pairs contested the Country Final and half of these were from the Central Coast Region. Winners were Rakesh Kumar and Jenny Michael.

Congratulations to all our local pairs:

Colin Speller & Jodie Gudaitis (5th), Eunice de Vries & David Bowerman (6th), Barry Foster & Hope Tomlinson (8th), Christine Hadaway & Martin Johnson (9th), Lyn Lynch & Tony Sappideen (10th).

All pairs that did not qualify for either final had free entry to the Autumn Swiss Pairs on the Sunday. Local players who took this opportunity were Sue Eastman & Roy Cotton and John Aldersley & Marcelle Goslin.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL REPS OF THE CENTRAL COAST

### !! SAVE OUR SESSIONS !!

***Mondays:*** The 12.30pm Face-to-Face session has been struggling for some time, with some sessions cancelled when not even 2 tables can be formed. We are grateful to those stalwarts who have regularly pre-entred, but without more support the Committee has reluctantly decided to suspend this session from July 4 until the end of the year.

***Thursdays:*** The 9.30am RealBridge session is in a similar situation, with insufficient numbers some weeks. On-line bridge has been a boon for many players - but we need more to give this session a try.

!! PLEASE SUPPPORT THESE DAYS IF YOU CAN !!

## CHARITY DAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

- Pre-planning: I introduced the use of the loyalty card for our coffee orders, which entitles us to a free coffee every tenth purchase. Ruth collected all change each week for the Charity funds
- Planning: Ruth was given the task to run the Charity Day event and given Julieanne and Margo to assist her.
- Execution Part 1: The curtain raiser was the Easter raffle. The coffee money surplus paid for the Chocolate hamper and generous donation from one of our members covered second and third prizes. Ruth made sure everyone bought tickets. Ruth, Margo and Julieanne took turns to wheel out the trolley with the Easter Hamper.
- Execution Part 2: A generous donation from one of our members provided one food hamper. The coffee money surplus paid for some of the second hamper and members donated goods for the rest. Don't know how Ruth acquired the other prizes and I am not game to ask. Ruth, Julieanne and Margo took turns to wheel out the trolley with the Food Hamper. Naturally, Ruth made sure everyone bought tickets. People brought in books, jigsaws, trash & treasure.
- Execution Part 3: 20<sup>th</sup> May marked the opening of the stalls. Ruth bribed someone with chocolates to set up four tables, which were covered with green table cloths, and then filled with plants, books & jigsaws, trash & treasure and items for a silent auction.
- The Event: Further tables had produce (I managed to get the extra hot chilli jam) and hand painted cards. Lunch arrived at 12:00 instead of 12:30 and bore no resemblance to the gourmet sandwiches provided at Internal Clubs meetings. We had an eight table share & bye Mitchell, and I had to fill in when one player did not turn up. We had a short break at 16:00 when Ruth announced the winners of the silent auction. The hotly contested pendant orchid went for \$55. The raffle was drawn after Bridge finished. It was a very pleasant day, but there was general agreement that the dealer should be sacked. And then a lot of us stayed to have a glass of wine.
- Don't know how Ruth does it, she is a great-grandmother, but a

veritable dynamo. You want the winners of the raffle, ask Ruth. You want to know how much money was raised, ask Peter. I know nothing.

Louis Koolen  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2022



Thanks to Alison Mackey for photos. ↑

Income	Amount
Plants	\$75.00
Silent Auction	\$271.00
Jewellery	\$37.00
Donations	\$70.00
Trash & Treasure	\$241.50
Card Holders	\$160.00
Hand Painted Cards	\$90.00
Produce / Jam	\$118.00
Books	\$91.40
Cakes	\$96.00
Easter Raffle	\$463.00
Carity Day Raffle	\$442.00
Bridge Players	\$290.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,444.90</b>



The cost of sandwiches (\$232) was paid for from Club funds. \$15 from left-over Social Sundays will be added to the total.

Thanks to your generosity, representatives of Coast Shelter will be invited to receive our donation of

**\$2500**

## *Marion's Grab for Glory bidding the Grand Slam*

Monthly Shield 4, Wednesday May 4

Board 24

None Vulnerable,

Dealer West

The full hand is:

### Auction

♠ 94	W	N	E	S
♥ T943	2C	-	2D	-
♦ KT87	2S	-	4C	-
♣ T83	4S	-	5C	-
	5H	-	6S	-
	7S	all pass		
♠ KQJ8765	♠ A32			
♥ AK76	♥ J			
♦ -	♦ AQJ643			
♣ AQ	♣ J74			
	♠ T			
	♥ Q852			
	♦ 952			
	♣ K9652			

Marion is West and opens 2C; East (Mei-Hua) alerts and responds 2D; Marion bids 2S; Mei-Hua bids 4C (Gerber); Marion replies 4S (2 Aces); Mei-Hua goes 5C; Marion replies 5S (2 Kings) and Mei-Hua signs off in 6S. Marion thinks for a long time and bids 7S, which is passed out. Mei-Hua is not happy and tells Marion "I set the contract".

I am on lead and pluck out a safe ♥T. Marion thanks Mei-Hua for the beautiful dummy plays J, covered by Q and K. More thinking and Marion leads a small ♥, ruffed in dummy; small ♣ to the A and another small ♥, ruffed by the ♠A. Now she leads ♦A and discards ♣Q from hand and returns to hand with a trump, draws the last trump and claims. Marion is still shaking (like a leaf she says) but relieved it is over. She did have an extraordinary hand and her play cannot be faulted.

*Louis Koolen*

*Note:* There were 2x4S bids, 2x6S bids, but only 1x7S!

## BRIDGE EDUCATION

### EUNICE

Some of the Beginners group have now played with their buddies in a 'real' game, but most still need some Supervised Play experience to get up to speed. Thursday afternoon or Friday morning is being considered. If you are interested to help out as a buddy, please contact Eunice.

### WENDY

#### *Intermediate Workshops*

Thursday June 9      *Choosing the Best Lead (LLL)*

Defence is regarded as the hardest part of the game – so get off to a good start!  
Includes Quiz, Play Hands, Notes and Extension Tips, Hand Records

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Whether you are coming or not, try the 'Warm Up' Questions on Page 8

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Thursday June 23      *Strength-showing Bids (MMM)*

Including Forcing bids and Reverses – communicate clearly with your bidding.  
Includes Worksheet, Play Hands, Notes, Hand Records

*Time: 9.15am for 9.30am start.*

*Cost: \$10*

#### *Improvers Supervised Plus*

No session on June 30 because of the Club Pairs, so these will resume on July 14 (not 7th as previously advertised) and then Aug 4, 11, 18,

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### A HANDY CONVENTION

Thanks to Anne Grayden who passed on this link:

[https://yorkshirebridge.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?](https://yorkshirebridge.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ba52758d345393322e3642a46&id=1c45f53c8e&e=d7974454f2)

[u=ba52758d345393322e3642a46&id=1c45f53c8e&e=d7974454f2](https://yorkshirebridge.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ba52758d345393322e3642a46&id=1c45f53c8e&e=d7974454f2)

Jack Stocken discusses the freely bid 3NT: 1NT - 3NT with opposition passing. He says that if partner **doubles** this contract, it is an instruction to Lead a Heart and gives a great example of this in action.

*Editors Note:* I learned this convention from the late, great, Don Evans, but in reverse. Double meant lead a spade, otherwise always a heart - dummy has not sought a Major suit fit. Agree which version to use with your partner - you will come out ahead in the long run.

## WARM UP QUESTIONS FOR June 9

	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1. ♠ 876	1D	P	1H	
♥ K854	P	2C	P	2NT
♦ Q32	P	3NT	All Pass	
♣ J52				
<u>Hand A</u>	<u>Hand B</u>	Reason: _____		
_____	_____	_____		

2. ♠ 6		1H		
♥ 986	P	3H	P	4H
♦ AQ86	All Pass			
♣ A9865				
_____	Reason: _____			
	_____			

3. ♠ A42				1H
♥ 83	P	1S	P	2D
♦ KT94	P	2H	All Pass	
♣ J654				
_____	Reason: _____			
	_____			

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for June:

Tony Burke, Wendy Byrne, Penny Dilworth, Chris Hannan, Henrietta Hohnen, Di March, Helen Milward, Colin Mitchell, June Noble, Jan Oitmaa, June Thompson, Alma Van Der Walt, Brian Warburton, Marilyn Whigham, Ellen Williams.

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### NEW ABF RANKINGS - May

Congratulations to:

<i>Silver Local</i> Brian Warburton	<i>Club</i> Margo Burnet
Leonie Wain	



## WHERE SHOULD WE BE IN FIVE YEARS?

The NSWBA will be conducting a strategic review of bridge in NSW - click on the link about half-way down the front page of their website for full details. The introduction says:

COVID -19 has affected many businesses in NSW adversely. The NSWBA and Affiliated Clubs are no exception. Bridge in NSW has lost clubs, playing venues and some 4,000 players over the past two years.

Overall, we are seeing a decline in table numbers and only a trickling influx of new and/or younger players.

Online bridge has given us new opportunities, but many miss the social aspects of their bridge get-togethers. Compared to pre-Covid times, large state-wide events are nowhere close to attracting the same number of players.

In the second phase of the review, all clubs and players will be asked to complete surveys. To help your thoughts when the time comes here are a few statistics from our own club, which reflect the comments above.

Membership has been falling for at least 11 years. Overall from 2012 to 2022 the fall is 259 to 146 = **43.6%**.

Before the first Covid-19 lockdown, from March 2012 to March 2020, the fall was 259 to 196 = **24.3%**. However, from March 2020 to March 2022, the fall has been 196 to 146 = **25.5%**. So, the fall over the last 2 years is a little higher than that over the previous 9 years.

The number of our playing sessions has varied from 7 to 5 to 6 with the introduction of on-line bridge. Taking this into account, the percentage of our membership playing per session has been remarkably consistent at around 12%, except when we returned from the second lockdown.

In order to increase table numbers, two sets of factors need to be addressed:

1. Those affecting general retention of membership and the attraction of new players – we clearly have not been very successful in this regard over the last 11 years.
2. Those preventing people from returning to bridge (either F2F or On-line) since the advent of Covid-19.

## **BRIDGE PODCAST: SORRY PARTNER**

Bridge players and best friends, Catherine Harris and Jocelyn Startz, have launched a podcast talking about all things bridge. Each week they interview expert players from around the globe, discussing anything and everything from top tips to the funniest thing that's ever happened at a game.

You can check this out at *sorrypartner.com*. Let us know what your think!

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## **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Every club is permitted to conduct **six** Championship events each year. The events must be chosen from a list specified in the ABF Masterpoint Manual.

These attract Green points, the same as our regular Duplicate games, but at a higher rate. Pairs are weighted x2 compared with x1.5 and Teams are weighted x1.5 compared to x1.

Our club runs three championship Pairs events - Open, Swiss, Graded (A and B) and three championship Teams events - Open, Restricted, Teams of 3. The latter was held in April; the second of the year is the (Open) Club Pairs to be held on Thursday June 30.

Another condition is that a minimum of 2 sessions must be held (up to a maximum of 10). This is why our Club Pairs is an all day event requiring pre-entry.

Our first Club Pairs was in 1987 won by Josie & Colin Mitchell. There has been a wide variety of winners since, then. The most prolific is Dorothy Berzins who has won a total of 6 times: with Adele Mills in 1988, 2014, 2015; with Peter Berzins in 1994, 2010 and with Di Coats in 2017. The event could not be conducted in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 lockdowns, so the most recent winners were Hope Tomlinson and Barry Foster in 2019.

Entries are now open on the website: The cost of \$20, which includes a light lunch. Entries must close Thursday 23rd June at 12 noon.

## THE ABF MASTERPOINT NEWSLETTER, MAY 2022

This gives a list of all clubs with any home club members as at 31st May 2022. Each has their home club members grouped into various masterpoint ranges, expressed as a percentage of their total home club members.

Nationally, including the ABF Youth Club there were 30,158 (down 1625 from last year) registered members. They fell into the following groups:

	0-20	20-50	50-100	100-300	300-1000	1000+
Players	12,710	4,508	3,681	4,837	3,098	1,324
Percentage	42%	15%	12%	16%	10%	4%

Hence you can compare this national average, which has changed very little over the last five years, against the breakdown for your club.

*David Weston*

*Editor's Note:*

Below are the published figures for our 4 Local Clubs.

LOCAL CLUBS	0-20	20-50	50-100	100-300	300-1000	1000+
Brisbane Water	39%	15%	13%	12%	15%	5%
Central Coast	49%	17%	13%	12%	6%	4%
Comm'y B. Bay	19%	22%	21%	24%	10%	4%
CC Leagues	36%	6%	9%	17%	18%	14%

In our January Newsletter I produced similar figures, but in just three masterpoint groups: 0-100 (Novice), 100-300 (Restricted) and 300+. If you care to compare, the figures are almost identical to those above.

Looking at the National averages, our club has fewer beginning and novice players, the same in the 100-300 category and we are top-heavy in the 300+. Remember that these figures are based on Home Club members and do not necessarily reflect who is actually playing in club sessions.

## MONTHLY SHIELD PROGRESS TOTALS

Counting the best 4 sessions only, the leaders are: Dorothy Berzins & Di Coats (88), Jan Clarke & Alan Bustany (76), Marion Ellis & Mei-Hua Crawford (68), Brian Warburton & John King (64).

## COMING EVENTS - Online and Face-to-Face

### JUNE

#### *RealBridge*

Tuesdays	12.30pm	June 14, 21, 28
Thursdays	9.30am	June 9, 16, 23

#### *Face-to-Face*

Mondays	12.30pm	June 13, 20, 27
Monday Evenings	7.15pm	June 13, <b>20</b> , 27
Wednesdays	1.30pm	June 22, 29
Fridays	12.30pm	June 10, 24, 27

### JUNE

#### *Special Events*

State Seniors Pairs Championship	R/P	Tuesday 14 to Friday 17
<i>(No regular duplicate on these days)</i>		
Switching Singles 5	E	Monday Eve 20
Club Pairs 1 & 2	9.30am C/P	Thursday 30

### JULY

#### *Special Events*

Monthly Shield 6	E	Wednesday 6
GNOT Qualifier	Q/G/P	Thursday 7
Winter Pairs	R	Monday Eve 11
Switching Singles 6	E	Monday Eve 18
Club Restricted Teams	C/P	Thursday 21
Anniversary Pairs, AGM	R/P	Thursday 28

### SMILE AWHILE

A lady in my class can only play by rhymes. These are her favorites:

- (1) When the dummy is to your right, lead the weakest suit in sight.
- (2) When the dummy is to your left, lead through heft.
- (3) Don't be cute, lead partner's suit.
- (4) The lead of top of three small is worst of all.
- (5) The one who knows, goes.
- (6) You will lose face if you underlead an ace

(from Eddie Kantar)

*Wendy Mitchell*

*Editor*