

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



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

A G M
Thursday
July 28
10.30 am

- **Motions**, with seconder, must be received by the Secretary no later than Thursday July 7
- **Nominations for any Committee position**, with seconder, must be made on the form displayed near the Director's table. (If necessary, these can be emailed to the Secretary, but the nominee **MUST** sign the form displayed at the club)
- **Agenda** will be displayed and emailed no later than July 14
- **Finger food** for those attending the AGM will be provided after the meeting
- **Register** online for catering purposes
- **Anniversary Pairs** will commence at 12.30 pm

**L OSS OF TWO
BRIDGE SESSIONS**

1. Because participation has not improved, it is with regret that the Committee has decided to suspend *Monday afternoon sessions*, effective immediately. Thanks to Director Leon Babinski for his perseverance.

Member interest in resuming this session will be gauged in late September and a further decision will be made at the October Committee Meeting.

2. Unfortunately *Thursday morning RealBridge sessions* also have to be cancelled due to very low numbers. The last will be held on July 14.

Beginning on Thursday August 4, *Face-to-Face afternoon sessions* will be trialled for 3 weeks.

RECENT RESULTS

MONTHLY SHIELD (5) (FtoF) (E) 7 tables Wed Jun 1

1st	Dorothy Berzins & Di Coats	58.39 %
2nd	Louis Koolen & Trish Dennis	57.32%
3rd	Brian Warburton & John King	56.68 %

(The best 4 sessions with the same partner are counted)

SWITCHING SINGLES (5) (FtoF) (E) 3.5 tables MonEve Jun 20

1st	Ellen Williams & Wendy Everitt	59.38 %
2nd	Leonie Lovell & Maureen Bell	57.29%
3rd	Oscar Tap & Terry Dyer	53.12%

(The best 4 sessions with different partners are counted)

CLUB PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP (FtoF) (R) 5 tables Thu Jun 30

2-session Howell, 6xboard rounds

1st	Dorothy Berzins & Adele Mills	59.26 %
2nd	Louis Koolen & Barbara Grant	57.87%
3rd	Jaana Oitmaa & Sylvia Foster	55.32%

CONGRESSES Best Local Players

STATE SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS

CCLCBC

Swiss Pairs 9x9bd rounds 20 pairs

June 14 & 15

		W	D	L	VPs
1st	Warren Lazer & Pauline Gumby	9	0	0	155.32
2nd	Eunice de Vries & David Bowerman	5	2	2	118.32
3rd	Jan Clarke & Di Coats	5	1	3	105.91

Teams 6x14bd matches 14 teams

June 16 & 17

		W	D	L	VPs
1st	Martin Bloom, George Bilski, Peter Gill, Liz Adams	5	1	0	90.68
2nd	Di Coats, Jan Clarke, Sharon & Greg Mayo	5	0	1	82.03
3rd	Vicky & Ian Lisle, John McIlrath, Trish Grigson	3	1	2	68.86

Although entries were down on last year (32 pairs and 18 teams) the event was very successful, with accolades received re the food and organisation - especially meaningful when praised by players recently returned from a major event in Melbourne.

Congratulations to the best local pair: Eunice & David. David remarked that he felt great pressure defending the title Eunice won with Wendy Mitchell last year!

Local pair Jan & Di were 3rd as well as part of the best local team, coming 2nd with Sharon & Greg. A great performance by local players against strong competition.

Masterpoints were issued and processed at the June 30 rollover: 66.34 for the Pairs and 113.26 for the Teams.

An overall profit of \$458.59 was made for the event. Because the table numbers were lower than expected, Prize Monies were reduced and our Director, Ronnie Ng, agreed to a lower fee. From the profit made the Committee decided to pay an additional \$200 to Ronnie.



1st Pairs:

Warren Lazer (L), Patron
Colin Mitchell, President
Louis Koolen, **Pauline
Gumby** (R)

1st Teams:



L to R - Director
Ronnie Ng, Patron
Colin, President Louis
**Peter Gill, Liz Adams,
Martin Bloom, George
Bilski**

More Congress results
on Page 11. . .



So you think you're a fast player? Try this quick quiz...

by MATTHEW MCMANUS

For bridge players

The major complaint that directors have to deal with is slow play (although air-conditioning does come a close second). Whether it's because there's no time to play all the boards, whether it's players waiting for a table to finish so they can move there or because most of the players are hanging around for tables to finish play so the director can make the draw for the next round, slow play is the main cause of discontent for most players. So, if you are brave enough to take it, here is a quiz to see if you are one of those players who cause dissatisfaction...are you ready to start?

1 Are you ready to start?

One of the very obvious things that I observe is that players who are notorious for their slow play are also typically those who, when the round or match is starting, are making a cup of tea, chatting with friends, arguing with their partner or team mates – anything but being ready to commence play. If you do have a reputation as a slow player, how about trying the effect of sitting at the table before the director hands out the boards, all set to start play immediately? Those extra couple of minutes will make a difference.

2 Are you carrying too much weight?

No, I am not being personal, but like a racehorse which is handicapped to slow it down by having to carry additional weight, a lot of slow players add to the delay by what they have to transport when they get up to move to the next table. A coat or jumper, a bag, a book or magazine, a score book, a pen, a glass of water or cup of tea, and various other paraphernalia. Why not try the effect of travelling light? Put as much as you can away in a corner before the start of the session.

3 Are you guilty of “scoring on the green”?

Golfers will know that one of the big no-no's is scoring on the green. That is, filling in your scorecard immediately after putting out, rather than moving off the green so that the group following can hit up. Bridge has its own version of this. It can be the players who are running late filling in personal scorecards before moving on. But there are other instances. Looking at the travelling score

sheet to see what others have done, or inspecting the Bridgmate to see your percentage on the board is a privilege, not a right. If you are running late and other players are waiting to come to the table, you have lost that entitlement. The director, if he is on the ball and able to do so, should take responsibility for entering the score on the traveller/Bridgmate, so that EW can move on and NS can start play in the next round. (Of course, playing directors are unlikely to be in a position to do this – one of the reasons why it is even more difficult for playing directors to keep a track on slow play.) Similarly, spending too much time poring over the results at the end of a hand, and engaging in lengthy post mortems with partner, is a significant cause of slow play.

Furthermore, there can be similar problems during the play of the hand. Some easy directions: if you are on opening lead, NEVER fill in your personal score-sheet until after you have made the lead. If you are dummy, ALWAYS put your cards down on the table immediately after the opening lead is faced. If play is being delayed by having to enter the data in the Bridgmate, try this procedure: after dummy's hand goes down, give the Bridgmate to dummy, who can then enter the board number, the contract, the declarer and (if recorded) the opening lead, before handing the unit back to North or South. At the end of the hand, it is then a simple matter of entering the number of tricks and having the score confirmed by the opponents. Finally, at the end of the hand, after the number of tricks is agreed, the very first thing you should do is to put the cards back into the board. If the director does need to move the board on, it will greatly speed things up.

4 Do you feel bad/remorseful when the director says “take an average”?

If I had a dollar for every time I've been told, “it wasn't our fault”, I wouldn't be directing, I'd be living in the lap of luxury on the Riviera!

There are two possibilities: one – it really wasn't your fault. In that case, it will be a very rare occurrence for the director to say, “take an average”. As it is so uncommon, it will hardly make a difference to you, and you will understand that what the director is doing is for the benefit of the game, keeping it moving and making things better for everyone. However, if it is happening to you a lot, you need to ask the question, “why?”

The standard amount of time allowed per board is about 7 minutes. That means, each player has about 2 minutes per hand to consider their bids and plays. (The reason it doesn't quite add up is that dummy doesn't need any thinking time during the play period.) Of course, occasionally there will be particularly difficult problems when you may need to take extra time. That is not

an issue. However, if you are consistently taking more than your fair share, that is a big problem. Apart from being discourteous to the opponents – and any one who has to wait for you to finish – it is a significant breach of the proprieties of the game. In tournament chess, a player who exceeds the time limit automatically loses the match. The penalties usually imposed in bridge (on the rare occasions that they are implemented) are usually of far less significance – often just getting average minus on a board.

Experienced directors know who the slow players are. Apart from having to consistently hurry them up, directors regularly receive complaints about having to play against “so and so, who is so slow”. When the same names keep coming up, the pattern and the truth is pretty well established. When these players react with comments like “we weren’t slow” or “it wasn’t me”, either they are being disingenuous, or are unacceptably unaware of their behaviour. In either case, clearly something needs to change for the good of the game and the enjoyment of all.

5 Are we done yet?

The fact that all the boards have been played is not a good indication that play has been timely. The biggest grumbles that the opponents of slow players have involve being pressured to rush through the last couple of boards because of the amount of time that has been used up earlier. A far better test of whether you are slow is to monitor where you are midway through the round. When the director says, “we have reached the half way point, you should have finished ___ boards”, have you completed at least half your boards? If the answer to this is “no” more than 25% of the time, you cannot keep blaming your opponents – you are a slow player.

How did you go? I expect you passed. But maybe you may know of someone else for whom this article might be useful? Your partner perhaps? Remember that saying, “it’s not me, it’s my partner” is not really an excuse. Bridge is a partnership game. If your partner is to blame for making the game less pleasant for others, then at some point you have to take responsibility as well.

Editor’s Note: Next month there will be some information about penalties for slow play.

BRIDGE EDUCATION

EUNICE: Beginner Graduates are attending Friday mornings for Supervised Play with a buddy.

WENDY:

Improvers Supervised Plus

These sessions will wind up with one on July 14 and the last on August 4 (after which players can stay on for Face-to-Face duplicate.)

Time: 9.15am for 9.30am start.

Cost: \$5

Intermediate Workshops

10 people attended on June 9 to learn more about leads and a select group of 5 on June 23 to better learn how to show the strength of one's hand.

Here are the suggested answers to last month's quiz:

		W	N	E	S
1. ♠ 876	♠ Q73	1D	P	1H	
♥ K854	♥ AQ72	P	2C	P	2NT
♦ Q32	♦ 86	P	3NT	All Pass	
♣ J52	♣ KT62				
<u>Hand A</u>	<u>Hand B</u>				
♠ 7 Middle	♠ 3 Small				
from a suit you	from 3 cards				
don't want	to an honour				

Reason:

Lead the unbid Major

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

♠ 6 Reason: Lead the **singleton** because you have small trumps for ruffing. Avoid leading unsupported Aces

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

♥ 8 Reason: Lead a **trump** – simple preference has been given. You have declarer's second suit and a trump lead will reduce declarer's ability to ruff diamond losers in dummy.

The next two workshops will be:

Thursday August 11 *The Rule of 11*

Find out why you were taught to lead '4th best'. If you do know, do you make use of the rule - both as declarer and defender?

Thursday August 18 *Pause and Plan the Play (PPP)*

As Declarer, do you play to the first trick before thinking of what will happen next? Do you let the opposition or your dummy hassle you when there is a singleton in dummy? Don't just hope for the best - have a plan!

Following these workshops you will be able to grab some lunch and then stay on for a Face-to-Face game to put it all into practice.

Time: 9.15am for 9.30am start.

Cost: \$10

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CCLCBC BRIDGE LIBRARY

Our bridge books for borrowing are located in the white shelves below where the bidding boxes are kept. I have created a cataloguing system for these which identifies the topics covered and indicates the level of difficulty.

The Categories and related colours are:

<i>Card Play</i>	Black	<i>Conventions</i>	Navy
<i>Bidding</i>	Green	<i>Stories with Problems</i>	Pink
<i>Defence</i>	Red	<i>Laws & Directing</i>	White

1. The books are arranged alphabetically by *Title*
2. The small filing box on the shelf contains a borrowing card for each book. When taking a book, record the date borrowed and your name on the card, as indicated, and then the date you return it.
3. Each card has 1 or more coloured stickers to indicate the category/categories addressed in the book
4. The estimated difficulty level is shown on the card
5. Some cards also have an Orange sticker with a comment - this is to warn you of old methods of bidding, signalling etc. While these do not apply to modern bridge and are no longer recommended, the rest of the principles of play and defence do.

To look for a book on a particular topic - say *Defence* - simply flip through the cards to find those with a Red sticker. Then check if the Difficulty level is appropriate for you.

If you simply choose a book from the shelf by title, then locate the card and again check if this book will suit your needs.

There are a few more books to be catalogued and we have been promised quite a number from Garry Clarke. If you have any you would like to donate, please contact me.

A small number of books are deemed unsuitable for borrowing as they are far too out of date, but may be of academic interest to some. These will be put on the table with other general books - not to be returned!

Wendy Mitchell

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GNOT Qualifying Sessions - Thursday July 7

This event has been cancelled because there were only 3 entries.

When no competition has been conducted, clubs are permitted to send nominated teams to the next level. Under the regulations we can send 2 teams of players who are members of CCLCBC. These will be the first 2 teams that entered for the qualifying event:

Louis Koolen, Barbara Grant, Julie Sadler, Anne Grayden

and

Jan Clarke, Di Coats, Sally Clarke, Garry Clarke

The third team that entered consisted of players who are not member of our club and so this team was not eligible to be nominated.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for July:

Margo Brennan, June Clarkson, Terry Dyer, Barry Foster, Joe Griffin, Christine Hadaway, Jim Havyatt, Henk Keulemans, Louis Koolen, Alison Mackey, John Mitchell, Bob Morris, Alfie Nation, Richard Webb.

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NEW MEMBER

Please welcome Patrick Gallagher (0420 564 685) and add his details to your Program book

NEW ABF RANKINGS - June

Congratulations to:

<i>Grand Master</i>	Martin Johnson	<i>State</i>	John Aldersley
<i>Silver Life</i>	Chris Hasemore	<i>Club</i>	Jennifer Anderson
<i>Bronze National</i>	Pauline Caust	<i>Graduate</i>	Henk Keulemans

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CLUB RESTRICTED TEAMS - Thursday July 21

Over the years the MP requirements have varied, but currently the restriction is that each member of the team must have less than 300 MPs at June 30. So this is not much of a restriction, as 91 of our 148 members have less than 300 MPs.

This is a Club Championship which has been conducted since 1993, with only a few years not played since then. Recent winners were:

- 2016 Helen White, Jurate Laisve, Trish Byrnes & Alan Bustany
- 2017 Jurate Laisve, Trish Byrnes, Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany
- 2018 Agnes Marsh, Ruth Griffin, Gina Robertson & Paul Unger
- 2019 Jurate Laisve, Trish Byrnes, Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany

Jurate and Alan are no longer eligible, so here is your chance! If you need help in forming a team, contact Tournament Organiser, Julie Sadler.

2 sessions: 9.30am and 1pm Cost: \$25, Lunch provided

Entries close at 9am on July 14. It would be very sad to have to cancel a Club Championship, so please get your entries in soon!

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CONGRESS RESULTS - Congratulations

Grafton (online) 56 Pairs, June 18: Ian Lincoln & Chris Williams (13th), Gwen White & Margo Brennan (18th)

Newcastle Swiss Pairs (32) June 18: Allan Bustany & Pauline Caust (11th), Greg & Sharon Mayo (12th)

Newcastle Teams (16) June 19: Chris Hannan, Lorraine Lindsay, Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster (6th).

There may be more!

COMING EVENTS - Online and Face-to-Face

JULY

RealBridge

Tuesdays	12.30pm	Jul 5, 12, 19, 26
Thursdays	9.30am	Jul 7, 14 only

Face-to-Face

Mondays	12.30pm	Jul 4, 11, 18, 25
Monday Evenings	7.15pm	Jul 4, 11 , 18 , 25
Wednesdays	1.30pm	Jul 6 , 13, 20, 27
Fridays	12.30pm	Jul 8, 15, 22, 29

JULY

Special Events

Monthly Shield 6	E	Wednesday 6
Winter Pairs	R	Monday Eve 11
Switching Singles 6	E	Monday Eve 18
Club Restricted Teams (2sessions)	C/P	Thursday 21
Annual General Meeting	10.30am	Thursday 28

Please register for the AGM for catering purposes

Anniversary Pairs	12.30pm	R	Thursday 28
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AUGUST

Special Events

Monthly Shield 7	E	Wednesday 3
Switching Singles 7	E	Monday Eve 15
Foundation Day Cup	R	Wednesday 17
Graded Pairs (2 sessions)	C/P	Thursday 25

SMILE AWHILE

Inspecting a tombstone in a large cemetery a tourist came across an inscription that read : “Herein you will find Peter Thomason, a bridge player and a gentleman”. Curious thought the tourist : “Three men in the same grave”.

My husband has threatened to leave me unless I give up bridge!
What will you do? Miss him.

Wendy Mitchell

Editor