

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



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

BIRTHDAY
BASH

The Club Cruise & Lunch to celebrate our 35th Birthday is on **Monday 17th October** leaving from Woy Woy Wharf. Please be there before 10am. Transport has been organised at Davistown to the RSL if you don't fancy the short walk to the Club.

Parking may be an issue at Woy Woy, so some of us are getting the train from Gosford – it's just a short walk from Woy Woy station to the Wharf.

There are some members who are just coming for lunch, another option.

If by any chance you've not booked in and would like to,

please call Ruth 0407 854 060 ASAP.

2022 CONGRESS

The Congress was a success and with our wonderful team everything ran smoothly. A very special thanks to our lunch organisers Pam, Carol, Alison, Julieanne & Margo who volunteered their time & did a very successful job!

Ruth Griffin

NB: At the meeting on October 3 the Committee decided to acknowledge the above volunteers, along with Judith Sherson & Leon Babinski who were on call for the Teams, with the standard 'Standby' payment of \$15 per session.

For the Convenor's Report and pictures, please see pages 3 to 6.

RECENT RESULTS

MONTHLY SHIELD (8) (FtoF) (E) 6 tables Wed Sep 7

1st	Dorothy Berzins & Di Coats	72.30%
2nd	Jan Clarke & Alan Bustany	67.70%
3rd	Ursula Middleton & June Ball	55.19 %

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

After 8 sessions, while scores have changed slightly, the leaders remain the same, but there are now 10 pairs who have played the minimum number of 4 sessions.

1st	Dorothy Berzins & Di Coats	94
2nd	Jan Clarke & Alan Bustany	80
3rd	Brian Warburton & John King	72
4th	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	70

Because October's session has had to be cancelled, there is now only one session remaining – there are 2 pairs who can still qualify if they play in November. Remember that all pairs who finish in the top half of the eligible field will be awarded *outright masterpoints*.

SWITCHING SINGLES (8) (FtoF) (E) 4 tables MonEve Sep 19

1st=	Lorraine Lindsay & Chris Hasemore	61.31%
1st=	Julie Sadler & David Bowerman	61.31%
3rd	Anne Grayden & Eunice de Vries	60.12%

(The best 4 sessions with different partners are counted)

SPRING PAIRS (FtoF) (R) 5 tables MonEve Sep 12

1st	Eunice de Vries & David Bowerman	61.11 %
2nd	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	60.19%
3rd	Ruth Griffin & Trish Howard	54.17%

CONGRESSES & OTHER Best Local Players

CCLCBC CONGRESS Saturday & Sunday, September 24 & 25

Of the 106 total participants, 104 won red points. 48 were our club members – great participation!

Pairs

The 38 pairs comprised Open (20), Restricted (12) and Novice (6).

The Congress Report lists the Open placegetters and the winners of the Re-

stricted & Novice. In addition special mention for the Pairs goes to:
Barry Foster & Hope Tomlinson – 5th overall
Margaret Regan & Pauline Caust – 4th in the Restricted and 17th overall
Peter Hall & Peter Mackey – not only 1st in the Novice but 24th overall,
ahead of 9 Open and Restricted pairs.

Teams

The 18 teams comprised Open (12), Restricted (5) and Novice (1).
Special mention to:

5th: Chris Hasemore, Martin Johnson, Barry Foster, Hope Tomlinson

6th: Louis Koolen, Barbara Grant, Julie Sadler, Anne Grayden

9th: Trish Dennis, George Connell, Eunice de Vries, Eva Hartzell – a raw
novice playing in an Open team and earning points for 3 wins.

GNOT REGIONAL FINAL Gold Points Sun, Sep 18

6 teams competed at the Central Coast Bridge Club.

1st Sylvia Foster, Jaan Oitmaa, Lorraine Lindsay, Chris Hannan

2nd Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Barbara Grant, Louis Koolen

3rd Di Coats, Jan Clarke, Sally & Garry Clarke

Only one team from our region proceeds to the National Final. This will
be held at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club from November 23 to
28. Central Coast players will receive a subsidy of \$370 each.

STATE & NATIONAL EVENTS

The September report shows that members earned Gold masterpoints
playing in the online Gold Coast Congress Swiss Pairs and Teams: Chris
Williams, Ian Lincoln, Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust, Margo Brennan,
Elizabeth Lawrence, Alfie Nation & Gwen White.

Red points were earned in the NSW Matchpoint Swiss Pairs (Alan
Bustany & Di Coats) and the Mollymook Congress (Ronnie Ng).

CCLCBC CONGRESS REPORT

At last, after two years, we held our Congress face-to-face. The numbers
were down forty percent from 2019, however not only Sydney and local
players competed. North of the Hunter there were players from Tomaree,
Great Lakes and Taree. Further north still was a couple from Townsville,



testing out their new car by attending bridge congresses around the country! There were some late withdrawals, so we had to use our house pairs, thank you Julieanne and Margo.



We had 38 pairs on the Saturday. There were six nine board matches and Alan Bustany ensured that things ran smoothly. Lunch was served at the midpoint.

The Pairs were won by Di Coats & Jan Clarke. Chris Williams & Ian Lincoln came second with Judy Scott & Margaret Boniface third.



Jill Achurch & Alan Hemmingway won the Restricted and Peter Hall & Peter Mackey the Novice.



Our house Pair was not disgraced with 3 wins.

On the Sunday there were 18 teams. We again played six nine board matches and things ran so smoothly that Alan Bustany appeared invisible.



Lunch was enjoyed by all on both days.



The gluten-free sandwiches were very acceptable and without prior warning our helpers were able to accommodate both a vegan and a vegetarian.

Much appreciated were four books and two \$30 vouchers donated by Paul Lavings. These were given as 'spot' prizes by drawing table numbers and directions on both days.



The Teams were won by the Mayo team (Greg & Sharon Mayo, Chris Dibley & Michael Simes). The Clarke team (Sally & Garry Clarke and Di Coats & Jan Clarke) came second with the Lisle team (Vicky & Ian Lisle, Glenda & Roger McNeen) third.



The Gillies team (Nerida Gillies, Sandy Carter, Jodie Gudaitis & Colin Speller) took out the Restricted prize and the Aldersley team (John Aldersley, Beryl Lowry, Jo Ampherlaw & Linda Cunningham) won the Novice. (See next page for photos.)



The CCLC gave permission to provide our own coffee, tea & biscuits. Because of the money saved we were able to reward our helpers and standbys and still end up with a small overall profit for the Congress.

Louis Koolen, Convenor

Editor's Note:

Prizes were presented by President, Louis Koolen and Patron, Colin Mitchell. The latter happily accepted several kisses in return.

AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

Julie Sadler, Wendy Mitchell and Margo Burnet met on September 17 to consider factors influencing our Program for 2023. Ideas and recommendations were submitted to the General Committee Meeting on October 3.

Red Point Events:

Pre-Covid we conducted 7 sessions per week. Currently we conduct Monday Evenings, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Friday. Mondays and Thursdays have struggled with numbers recently. Our club has been allocated 17 red sessions for 2023 (the same as the last 3 years) but if we conduct fewer sessions there is potential difficulty in fitting these into the Program. If this is the case, then those dropped should be in 'last in, first out' order.

Championships (we are permitted to run 6) could be reduced to 3:

- Teams of 3 could be reduced to one, longer session. This would no longer be a championship, but the trophy could still be awarded.
- The Club Pairs could be awarded based on the State Open Pairs qualifying results and similarly

- Club Teams could be awarded from the State Open Teams qualifying sessions.

Eclectic Events:

- Interest in Switching Singles has decline dramatically, so this could be discontinued
- Other eclectic events that were omitted this year could be considered, especially for Tuesday, RealBridge

Interclub Teams:

The second of these in the year (Spring) has been poorly attended – Interclub Pairs could be considered as an alternative.

Special green point events:

Valentine's Day, Charity Day, Remembrance Day may need to be conducted in a session closest to the actual day. Melbourne Cup Day pairs will need to be conducted on RealBridge, with the possibility of starting the session earlier than normal.

Tournament Organiser, Julie, has started the arduous task of producing our Program and will take all these suggestions into account. Her job will be made much easier if we can re-establish viable Monday and Thursday sessions.

CLUB RECORDER

Our first Club Recorder, Gwen White, was appointed in 2013. Gwen carried out the duties until 2018, after which Elizabeth Lawrence took over. Now Elizabeth has advised that she can no longer continue in the role. We thank Elizabeth for the good work she has done, and it is with pleasure that we now announce the appointment of our third Recorder – Eunice de Vries.

The role of a Recorder involves dealing with incidents which carry no immediate penalty or for which the Director is not even called but affect your enjoyment of the game.

Some examples are: abuse of partner, rudeness to opponents, bullying of inexperienced players, any unauthorised information, perceived deception, overwhelmingly irritating mannerisms.

If you wish to discuss/report any such incidents you are encouraged to do this, in confidence, with Eunice on 0415 937 941.

THE CURRENT BRIDGE PICTURE

I presented the following statistics to the recent Committee Meeting:

1. At March 31, 2020 our membership was 196 and at March 2022 it was 146. The drop of 50 is equivalent to 25.5%.

Average per month	pre-Covid	post-Covid	Decrease
	2019 (all)	Nov21 to	
Tables	171	99.5	41.8%
Sessions	29.5	23.7	19.7%

2. The drop in table numbers is higher than the drop in membership – people have rejoined but are not playing; people are not playing as often; we have fewer sessions.

Of course our club is not alone - there were concerns about declining membership even before Covid-19. In the ABF's Newsletter for August (which I have belatedly perused), Marketing Manager Peter Cox presents an analysis of changing membership and the frequency of play across the States. Here are some pertinent excerpts (the full article is worth a read):

'A number of people who may be elderly or have pre-existing conditions have not returned to clubs, and some will be lost to bridge. The threat of flu has compounded the health concern.'

'Analysis shows a distinction between number of members and frequency of playing which in many cases has been reduced. COVID may have brought some social changes with family relationships, new hobbies and interests. For many of us bridge is like an addiction which may have been broken for some still loving the game and being members but resulting in playing less frequently.'

'Clubs lose about 3,000 members a year to attrition, retirement, moving and other factors, and these need to be replaced just to maintain current numbers. The data shows that because of COVID and very little teaching we had far fewer new players in 2020, but in the first half of 2021 new players grew perhaps partly due to some highly active online teaching. Disappointingly, those numbers fell again in the second half of 2021 and the first half of 2022.'

Wendy Mitchell

COMMITTEE DECISIONS

As conveyed in the Secretary's email of October 4:

1. Session starting times will stay unchanged, ie Wednesdays at 1.30pm and Fridays at 12.30pm
2. Monday sessions will re-start on October 24 (after the cruise) and Thursday sessions will be retained. We will continue to offer both these sessions until the end of the year. Pre-entry is essential however as the Director needs to be sure of at least 2 tables.

ALL DAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championship events require a minimum of 2 sessions. They earn green points (not red) at a higher rate than regular green point sessions.

1. *Club Swiss Pairs* - Thursday October 27

Our first Swiss Pairs Champions were Anne Grayden & Karen Ody in 2001 and the last were Sylvia & Barry Foster in 2019.

2. *Club Teams* - Wednesday November 23 (*NOT Thursday 24*)

The event was established in 1987 and last run in 2019. Dorothy Berzins and Adele Mills were the first winners (with Peter Berzins and John White) and also the last winners (with Jan Clarke and Di Coats).

Please consider playing in both these prestigious events. Lunch is included for \$25. Entries must close one week before for catering purposes, so plan ahead!

NEW ABF RANKINGS - September Congratulations to:

<i>Silver Life</i>	Eunice de Vries	<i>Regional</i>	Joan Cottom
<i>State</i>	Beryl Lowry	<i>Club</i>	Julianne Perceval
<i>Bronze Local</i>	Leon Babinski		

NEW MEMBER

Please welcome: Larry Bryant (0418 650 210) and add his number to your Program book.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for October:

John Aldersley, Bill Alexander, Gary Barwick, Cathie Compton, Ivan Cottom, Marielle Foster, Eva Hartzell, Trish Howard, Leonie Lovell, Adele Mills, Pamela Price, Judith Sherson, Jann Small, Pauline Wallace, Gwen White, Helen White.

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

RealBridge

Tuesdays	12.30pm	Oct 11, 18, 25
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Face-to-Face

Monday	12.30pm (P)	Oct 24, 31
Monday Evenings	7.15pm	Oct 10, 17, 24, 31
Wednesdays	1.30pm	Oct (5, 12), 19, 26
Thursdays	1.30 pm (P)	Oct 6, 13, 20, (27)
Fridays	12.30pm	Oct 7, 14, 21, 28

Special Events

Graded Pairs (A&B)	C	Wednesday 5, 12
Henry Kendall Pairs	R	Friday 7
State Open Pairs (Q1, 2)	R/P	Thursday 13
(cancelled due to lack of numbers)		
Switching Singles 9	E	Monday Eve 17
Club Swiss Pairs (1,2)	C/P	Thursday 27

NOVEMBER

Special Events

Melbourne Cup	RealBridge	Tuesday 1
Monthly Shield 9	E	Wednesday 2
Remembrance Day Pairs		Friday 11
Gosford Pairs	R	Wednesday 16
Switching Singles 10	E	Monday Eve 21
Club Teams	C/P (all day)	Wednesday 23

SMILE AWHILE

Always read stuff (?bridge books perhaps?) that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Wendy Mitchell

Editor