

Welcome to the
Central Coast
Leagues Club
Bridge Club



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2014



SEASONS
GREETINGS

The Committee would like to wish all our Members a *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*.

We also want you to have a very *safe* Christmas, so not too much of the 'Merry'.

Your Committee has worked hard over the past year with many changes, so we all look forward to enjoying the results of that effort and developing our Club further in 2015.

Our good wishes also extend to the Leagues Club and Executive and thank them for their continued support of our Club.

Christmas week begins on Wednesday 16th December and

finishes Tuesday 23rd December. We will be having Christmas cake at each of our sessions with some wine and nibbles after the game on those days.

During January 2015 we have scheduled two red point events. *New Years Cup* on Wednesday 7th January (1.30pm) and *Australia Day Pairs* on Monday 26th January (12.30pm).

An eclectic event, *Jumping January*, will be held over the five Saturdays.

You need to play in at least three (3) sessions with the same partner to win and you can earn additional overall points for competing in these sessions.

Dorothy Berzins
President

RECENT RESULTS

Congratulations to all

MONTHLY SHIELD (10)

8.5 tables

Monday Nov 3

1st Carole Hamilton & Elizabeth Lawrence

=2nd Kathy Mitchell & Toni Dixon

=2nd Angela & Kevin Dougall

SWITCHING SINGLES (10)

5.5 tables

Thursday Nov 6

1st Jill Ritter & Richard Ritter

59.3%

2nd Les Free & Peter Hall

58.6%

3rd Peter Berzins & Dorothy Berzins

58.6%

REMEMBRANCE DAY PAIRS 4.5 tables

Tuesday Nov 11

1st Agnes March & Mary Pye

57.6%

2nd Marie Purkiss & Diane Nichols

51.4%

3rd Peter Berzins & Dorothy Berzins

51.4%

SUMMER PAIRS

5.5 tables

Monday Nov 17

1st Julie Sadler & Wendy Mitchell

67.2%

2nd Colin Mitchell & David Bowerman

65.6%

3rd Helen McLean & Phillip Morris

53.7%

CLUB TEAMS

12 teams

Wednesdays

Nov 12,19&26

1st Adele Mills, Nancye Joss, Diana Coats, Dorothy Berzins

2nd Colin Mitchell, Wendy Mitchell, Alan Bustany, Len Pratt

3rd Toni Dixon, Patricia Bowles, Marie Purkiss, Diane Nichols

CHRISTMAS PAIRS

13 tables

Wednesday Dec 3

1st Diana Coats & Dorothy Berzins,

66.7%

2nd Adele Mills & Nancye Joss

64.7%

3rd Jacqui Wilson & Margo Brennan

62.0%

SMILE AWHILE - Overheard at the next table:

"I have come to think that bridge is like a marriage"

"How come, Agnes?"

"You start off with two hearts and one diamond and wind up wanting one club and one spade!"

CONGRESSES

Best Local Players

CCBC Almost Summer Teams

Nov 16

12 teams competed in the Restricted section and 20 in the Open. Quite a number of CCLCBC members played in various teams, the best performed being John Redfearn, Norm Berger and Angela & Kevin Dougall who finished 4th.

Taree Teams

23 teams

Nov 22-23

Just in the top one-third with 7th were Louis Koolen, Barbara Grant, Sylvia Foster and Jaan Oitmaa.

NSWBA State Novice & Restricted Teams

Dec 6-7

This was directed by Tony Howes at Brisbane Water Bridge Club. A total of 19 teams played 8x14 board matches earning 0.5 red points (State B level) per win. Eight of the teams were from the Central Coast region.

MONTHLY SHIELD 2014 – RESULTS AND STATISTICS

Congratulations to Dorothy and Peter who also won this event in 2013 and 2011.

		<u>Score</u>	<u>Outright MP Awards</u>
1st	Dorothy & Peter Berzins	86 (10)	1.33
2nd	Diana Coats & Nancye Joss	70 (6)	0.93
3rd	Joan & John Lehane	58 (9)	0.67
4th	Leonard Pratt & Alan Bustany	38 (6)	0.44

Participation in this event was down a little this year, with only 8 pairs meeting the minimum requirement of 6 sessions with the same partner, compared to 10 pairs last year.

SWITCHING SINGLES 2014

This year the condition was 'Best 4 out of 10' to be eligible for outright awards. Participation increased from 56 individuals to 64, but 63% of these played only once compared with 55% last year. However more players qualified this year because of the changed requirement – 13 compared with 8. The final results are shown, with the 6 individuals in the top half of the field earning outright masterpoints, compared with 4 last year.

	Ave	MPs		Ave	MPs
Dorothy Berzins	67.2	0.68	Colin Mitchell	57.0	0.23
Bruce Branthwaite	60.3	0.48	Alison Heathcote	57.0	0.17
Matt Raj Mal	57.6	0.34	Paul Unger	54.9	0.11

In 2015 the condition is 5 out of 10 again - so start planning partnerships now!!

NEW ABF RANKINGS AUGUST- Congratulations to:

* <i>Regional</i>	Jessica Dunn	<i>Regional</i>	Agnes Marsh
* <i>Local</i>	Jim Hancox	<i>Local</i>	Philippa Cooper

CARDS RATINGS - MOST IMPROVED - NOVEMBER

Pauline Caust	1.32
Kevin Dougall	0.95
Adele Mills	0.84
Margot Williams	0.84
Julie Sadler	0.82
June Thompson	0.77

Margaret Berriman	0.69
Anne Grayden	0.67
Alan Bustany	0.61
Marilyn Whigham	0.60
Patricia Bowles	0.56
Peter Hall	0.54

ENQUIRIES DURING AND AFTER THE BIDDING

Over the last few weeks playing at the Club, I have been asked by an opponent during the bidding questions such as “what does that bid mean”. This may surprise some of our Members but this sort of question is not allowed!

Players need to be aware of Law 20 - Review and Explanation of calls.

This law takes up two and a half pages in the Laws, so here is a summary:-

1. At their turn to bid, or after the final pass, a player may ask for a review of the auction. The full auction (up to that point), including alerts, must be given.
2. A player may request information about a particular call but this risks giving unauthorised information.
3. A player is entitled to know not only information about calls made, but also about relevant calls that were not made and any inferences that can be drawn from them.
4. A player may not ask a question for the benefit of their partner. If this summary is unclear ask the Chief Director for an explanation. If an opponent asks a question about a specific bid during or after the auction that you are not sure of.....call the Director.

Happy Bridging

Colin Mitchell

CENTRAL COAST GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS 2014

Earlier this year David Bowerman and I decided to enter a team in the GNOT Club Selection Event at the CCLCBC. Alan Bustany and Len Pratt were asked to join the team making a four-bloke team.

We were placed fifth in the twelve team event and with the withdrawal of two teams above us, found ourselves playing in the Regional Final. There were eight teams in the final.

As Len Pratt was unable to play in the final so the team line-up was Dasha Brandt and David - a regular partnership and Alan and me, an inexperienced partnership, having played only one session together in the qualifying event.

Alan and I were playing a very basic system. 3+card minors, 5+card majors, 15-17NT with simple Stayman and transfers; two clubs the only strong bid with two diamond responding relay; two diamonds, hearts and spades weak with a six card suit; 2NT a balanced 20-22HCP. Alan is a 'returning' bridge player having learnt some/many years ago and then not playing until he restarted recently.

We lost the first two matches, but not too far behind the leading teams. Then, both pairs started getting good results and we won the next four matches. In the last round we lost the last match narrowly but the results of the other contending teams favoured us and ***we won the event by 7VP's.***

The GNOT final qualifying event was played at Coolangatta on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 November. 64 teams played a Knockout Event with a Swiss repechage.

We were a five person team as Wendy Mitchell had been augmented to the team. On both days, five fourteen board matches were played. Wendy replaced me for the last match on Saturday.

We won three matches, drew one and lost six finishing 61st out of the 64 teams.

An interesting experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Colin Mitchell

HISTORICAL SNIPPETS

10 years ago:-

In October 2004 the dealing machine was sent back to Sweden for Repairs. (Fortunately we now only have to send it to Sydney)

20 years ago:-

“As of 1 November 1994 there will be no smoking at the Bridge Table.”

In 1994 our Directors were Peter Berzins, Les Mills, Bill Pinfold, Bill Thomson, Joan Rubie and Lionel Sherriff.

26 years ago:-

The Club Teams Championship was played for the first time in February 1988. The winning Team members were John White, Peter Berzins, Dorothy MacLean (now Berzins) and Adele Mills.

In November 2014 The Teams was won by Adele Mills, Nancye Joss, Dorothy Berzins and Diana Coats.

Adele and Dorothy were part of both winning Teams 26 years apart.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2015

Thank you to all those who have already paid their fees: \$31 for Home and \$7 for Associate members. Please try to pay by December 31. Just place your cash or cheque with your renewal letter in the envelope provided and a committee member will issue a receipt as soon as possible. January 31 is the cut-off date – after that, visitor fees apply!

Wendy Mitchell, Masterpoint Secretary

Breaking News:

Lyn Lynch has resigned as Treasurer due to health issues.

At this time Lyn needs to reduce any unnecessary stress from her life while sorting out her health. We look forward to seeing Lyn at the Bridge table and hopefully back on the Committee in the future.

In the meantime Ronnie Ng has been co-opted back as Treasurer until the next AGM.

COMMITTEE CAPERS:

After a very successful Melbourne Cup Day our Social Committee have now turned their attention to some 'seasonal' fund raising for next years Charity Day. Rosanne, Ruth, Lyn and Wendy have been busy making colourful and unique Christmas gift tags to sell for 50cents. They look great and have been very popular.

We are still working on the new room. The Leagues Club have agreed to remove the door to the Kitchen and to replace the holes in the ceiling with vents. Leon has built some shelves in the Office to help with storage and shelves in the playing area for players bags. David Driscoll has tidied up the cords to our monitor and microphone and has organised our water cooler so that we can reposition it away from the exit.

Dorothy and Di March attended the Internal Club's Meeting. The Leagues Club Board advised that things are looking up after introducing a number of changes.

We wish to acknowledge that the Leagues Club has expended a lot of money to enable the Bridge Club to return to the Club proper and for that we are very grateful.

Di March, Wendy Mitchell and I have been working hard on the new Program for 2015. We hope this will be printed and ready to distribute to our Members by Christmas. Our survey, of 36 Members, held in November helped confirm our various events and sessions throughout the coming year.

Some comments made on the survey suggested we should encourage new players to find partners and that we provide lessons to improve play. We have already started on the latter with our supervised play sessions on Wednesday evenings and we will expand our efforts to promote partnerships for new players.

The supervised play sessions have been going for 6 weeks now and will finish for the year on Wednesday 9th December. We plan to reintroduce them in February 2015.

Cheers,

Dorothy Berzins, President

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

Christmas Pairs	(R)	Wednesday 3
Dashing December	(E)	Tuesdays 2,9,16,23,30

There will be **NO BRIDGE** on
Wednesday 24, Thursday 25, Friday 26, Wednesday 31

JANUARY

New Years Cup	(R)	Wednesday 7
Australia Day Pairs	(R)	Monday 20
Pot Luck Teams	(E)	Thursday 29
Jumping January (for extra m/p's)		Saturday 3,10,17,24,31

There will be **NO BRIDGE** on New Years Day, Thursday 1st January

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for December to:-

Norm Berger, Joan Brierty, Alan Bustany, Pamela Carew, Heather Carlile, Diana Coats, Tony Collis, Trish Dennis, David Driscoll, Marion Ellis, Barbara Grant, Robyn Henwood, Nancye Joss, Helen Lorne-Smith, Maureen Mitchell, Diane Nichols, Clyde Penfold, John Wherry

and for January to:-

Pamela Answiecz, Peter Berzins, Dasha Brandt, Jenny Buckley, Lyla Cross, Jan Davis, Judith Dunstan Les Free Joe Griffin, Ruth Griffin, Ann Gunner, Martin Johnson, Carol Judd, Dawn, McCorquodale, Daphne Montague, Matt Raj Mal, Tony Ransley, Dawn Sherriff, Barbara Thomas, Anne Whatmore

NEW MEMBERS Please make very welcome: US visitors Jill & Dick Ritter, Betty Cusack, Leonie Lovell, Chris Spikesman, Marilyn Scott.

RECORDER CORNER WITH GWEN

Make beginners welcome: They are the future of the game we love.

Make a special effort to explain your bidding fully to less experienced players and remember they may not know the methods and conventions you are using. When claiming, state your line clearly and explain it if required. Less experienced players may not see it as quickly as you.

If opponents don't yet know the bridge code of behaviour, explain (politely!) - even better, refer them to the Ethics page of the NSWBA website.

Trish Dennis Editor