

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



NEWSLETTER

June, 2011

CHARITY DAY

What excitement!! From 10.30 when sales of goodies started, to 12.30 when a record 16.5 tables started play (the last 3 years were 10.5, 15.5 and 15), to the break for a scrumptious afternoon tea provided by Lorraine, to 3.30 when we were overwhelmed by smoke! But bridge players rarely give up and we finally finished at 4pm.

Thank you to our Director Leyla Moncelet for managing the mayhem and to all the players for their generosity and friendliness.

The main raffle prize - \$200 petrol voucher paid from club funds - was won by Rose Sperling. The food hamper was won by R Priddle and bathroom hampers by Hilary Owen and Helen Smith. Bottles of wine were won by Gwen White, Ross Bennett and Tony Collis.

The winner of the romantic night was Lyn Pears.

Top bidders at the silent auctions were: Bracelet watch - Pam Harris; Various beauty sessions - Camilla Barlow, Helen Smith, Pam Harris; Cartridge refill vouchers - Helen Cashman, Leon Babinski; Bridge game with a master - June Thompson, Wendy Alford, David Driscoll, Margo Brennan, Gwen White.

SINCERE THANKS to the many organisations that donated to the raffles and the lucky door prizes: Eternal Beauty Salon, West Gosford Butchery, West Gosford Pharmacy, Four Seasons Florist, Cartridge World, Feast Corporation (Buffet), Pinned Up Hair Salon, Mark the Barber, Generator Café (Genesis Gym), Peking Gardens, Aspyre and the Central Coast Leagues Club.

Members may consider supporting these businesses to show our appreciation.

TIP FOR THE MONTH *Lorraine Lindsay*

Don't forget the beautiful bid called a "REDOUBLE"!!

When partner opens and R.H. opponent doubles, a "REDOUBLE" shows **10+ HCPs, denies a fit with partner and promises to play at the 3-level.**

The redouble can be converted to a low level penalty double if the subsequent bidding allows it. Otherwise the contract will be on your side.

Remember L.H. opponent has very, very few points!

A lot of people tend to forget the "redouble".

PERSONAL PROFILE

PETER BERZINS

Peter was born in Riga, Latvia in 1938. To escape the Russian takeover in 1944 Peter and his mother managed to get the last train out of Riga, although it did not leave the station for two days... After escaping through the chaos of the final days of the war (Germany was being heavily bombed) they ended up in a refugee camp in Northern Germany where they stayed for 4 years.

Peter's first opportunity to go to school was when he was eleven years old after the family arrived in South Australia in 1949.

Peter first learned to play bridge in 1958 on the quarter deck of HMAS Melbourne. He had over 700 landings on Australia's famous (but now extinct) aircraft carrier. He had joined the Fleet Air Arm of the Australian Navy in 1955 as a navigator and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Peter was in a Sea Venom Night Fighter about to do a series of night touch and go flights on the Melbourne when it collided with HMAS Voyager in 1964.

Peter's love of bridge survived his Navy days and he founded the Shoalhaven Bridge Club in Nowra in 1975. Peter has been invited back to various anniversary celebrations of the club.

Moving to the Central Coast in 1979 Peter was an active member of the Central Coast Bridge Club which at that time used several venues, including one in Gosford at night. When that venue was no longer available, Peter and three other players (Bill Thomson, Geoff Van Eden and Lionel Blunden) were motivated to contact the Central Coast Leagues Club Management, as a result of which the CCLCBC was started in 1987.

Since that time Peter has been very active in our Club having been a Director continuously for 24 years and on the Committee for 15 years. He was Vice

President on 9 occasions and President 4 times. Peter met Dorothy at the Bridge Club and they married in 1993.

Having witnessed the severity of the local bushfires in 1994 Peter became a volunteer with the Rural Fire Service from 2000 to 2011. Apart from the original training sessions this involved two eight hour shifts at weekends each month as well as monthly meetings and other training days.

When Peter learned to play bridge it was ‘hands on’, at the table. On board ship there was not the luxury of planned lessons and supported play. But the players were certainly keen – Peter has many stories of fascinating places only glimpsed at as the players were too keen on their bridge to play tourist.

Peter’s name appears on more than half of our trophies, often more than once and usually with Dorothy as his partner. As mentioned last month, he has now attained the Bridge ranking of Grand Master.



RECENT RESULTS

GRAND NATIONAL PAIRS – Wednesdays 11, 18, 25 May

It was pleasing to see 14 pairs entering this competition, with 10 of these pairs ‘contending’. The best two out of three results determine the final ranking and the first 6 contenders are eligible to play in the Regional Final, to be held on Sunday 15th August at the Brisbane Water Bridge Club.

Congratulations to these pairs!

Sum of best 2 percentages

Norm Berger & Di Nichols	120.5
Kerry Murray & Rhonda Innes	120.3
Paul Unger & Jim Hancox	117.3
Brian Warburton & Tony Davis	112.0
Pam Harris & Elaine McGorm	109.4
Maureen Holmes & Ursula Middleton	101.1

CHARITY DAY PAIRS - Tuesday, May 31

North-South

1st Lorraine Lindsay, Di Coats
2nd Norm Berger, Elaine McGorm
3rd Bev Moran, Marie Purkiss

East-West

Angela & Kevin Dougall
Barbara & Hans Smits
June Thompson, David Driscoll

CONGRESSES

BATHURST TEAMS - May 1 25 Teams

8th Marie Purkiss, Patricia Bowles, Elizabeth Lawrence, Carol Hamilton

STRATHFIELD – May 15

Teams (24) 1st: Noel & Shirley Crockett, Sally & Gary Clarke

Butler Pairs (48) 1st: Sally & Gary Clarke

AN INTERESTING HAND

CCBC Country Teams Qualifying Session 1 on 28 April 2011.

Sitting East playing with MFP (My Favourite Partner) I held ♠QJ8, ♥A, ♦AKQT3, ♣A754 and opened 1♦. South bid 2♠ (weak), MFP passed and North bid 4♠. I doubled thinking that with my 20 HCP I should take the contract at least one off! South passed, MFP bid 5♦ and the bidding stopped.

South led a small spade and MFP placed her cards on the table – no spades, ♥T7542, ♦J97542, ♣K3. I ruffed the spade, played one round of trumps and claimed, making thirteen tricks. As I started to write down +640 it was pointed out that, unnoticed by me, North had doubled so I scored +1150!

Later inspection of the results showed a variety of contracts – 5♦ making 12 (twice) for 620, 3♦ making 12 for 170, 3NT making 10 for 630 and the best score of the night - 6♦ doubled making 13 for +1740!

The full hand, Board 6, EW Vul; Dealer East was

♠AK3

♥KJ983

♦86

♣QT6

♠

♥T7542

♦J97542

♣K3

♠QJ8

♥A

♦AKQT3

♣A754

According to Deep Finesse NS can make 3♠, (so my thoughts about doubling were correct); EW can make 7♦ or 3 NT.

♠T976542

♥Q6

♦

♣J982

Colin Mitchell

CAPITULATION

I'm giving up bridge – tonight's my last night,
It's Amen to Stayman, I give up the fight.
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles.
And I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles.

My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten
Who's played and what's trumps and what's gone on my right!
So for now it's all over – I'm off to the back wood.
I'm bidding goodbye to Gerber and Blackwood.

I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain.
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.
So I'm giving up bridge – tonight's a bad night.
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.

My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope.
And when she says "double" I know we're in trouble.
My points are not high and I'm wondering why
She kept on bidding right up to the sky.

We're in seven spades and all my hope fades
When surprise, surprise the high bidding pays!
We're wining all tricks, the defenders feel sick,
And I have to admit my partner's a brick.

But I'm giving up bridge – tonight's my last night.
Farewell to conventions – I give up the fight!
So I leave with few words but some that are true,
Bridge is a game – not for me but for you.

So be kind to your partners and don't mind their cheek.
For it's only a game – Oh! Yes. I'll see you next week!!!

(Acknowledgement - <http://www.bridgeforfun.net/>)

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

New information on our website - CARDS ratings

You may have missed the explanation of what CARDS is and how it works, so here is an overview.

CARDS stands for Computer Automated Ratings Database System. It is software that implements the Alan Woods Rating System (AWRS) which the ABF is licenced to run in Australia. This arose from the horse racing system which the late Alan Woods used to amass a \$700 million fortune.

The system takes into account the strength of the partner and that of the opponents, so the rating produced is an accurate measure of the player's current standing at bridge. It also puts more weight on recent games.

Ratings are not designed to replace masterpoints. Masterpoints largely reflect how long a player has been playing rather than a player's current performance and that is quite different from ratings.

Most duplicate players want to know their result from a bridge session, but the percentage and position is only part of the story. What is more relevant to know is how good that result is when you take into account the strength of the partner and the opponents.

Every pair should aim to be 'plus' on their rating - that is, to do better than expected in a session. So it doesn't matter even if you come last, as long as you perform above your 'seeding'. This knowledge can be quite encouraging, especially for less experienced players.

Ratings range from about 30 to about 70 but the majority of players are in the range of 45 to 55, with 50 being average. You can view your monthly statements online. All the events you played during the month are listed with their rating's impact shown for each event. All the Central Coast clubs send results to CARDS so you can see other players' rankings as well as your own. Do have a look - it's fun!

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

In February I reported how the Coats and Berzins, playing in the GNOT finals at Tweed Heads, failed to discover and report incorrect scores before the start of the subsequent session.

While this did affect which opponents they played and their final ranking at the time, following a written submission, their ranking and masterpoints awarded have been adjusted.

PANDORA

A recent Pandora News sheet highlighted the great work done by this charitable group. Last year they packed Christmas Hampers with a value of \$7000 for 65 clients of Central Coast Family Support Services (CCFSC) and 5 of the refuges in Gosford.

This year they have filled many requests from CCFSC including funding for school excursions and holiday camps, counselling for victims of domestic violence, electrical repair work, moving fees for a family in crisis and ongoing support for the *Grandparents caring for Grandchildren* programme.

Major fund-raising activities are the Golf Day held in May and the Luncheon/Fashion Parade to be held at the Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club in September. We can be sure that the money donated from our Charity Day will be used where there is a genuine need.

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED LESSONS

Lorraine Lindsay A.B.T.A.

Mondays 9.30/11.30 am

Programme

6th JUNE	---	BERGEN RAISES
20th JUNE	---	CUE RAISES (<i>support partner</i>)
27th JUNE	---	COMPETITIVE BIDDING
4TH JULY	---	DEFENSIVE STRATEGIES
11th JULY	---	MULTI 2'S Part 1
18th JULY	---	MULTI 2'S Part 2
25th JULY	---	MULTI 2'S Part 3
1st AUG	---	PLAY & DEFENDING NT
8th AUG	---	CARD PLAY <i>incl. dummy reversals</i>

A full sets of notes and hand records will be provided with each lesson as well as bidding and commentary on each hand.

COST: \$10 per lesson

COMING EVENTS

JUNE

Winter Pairs	(Red Points)	Saturday 4
Monthly shield		Monday 6
Grand National Open Teams (Gold Points)		Friday 10, 17, 24
<i>Entries close Monday June 6 at 4pm</i>		
Henry Kendall Pairs	(Red points)	Tuesday 21

JULY

Monthly Shield		Monday 4
Graded Pairs	A: National* and above B: National and below	Wednesday 6
Club Swiss Pairs		Friday 22, 29

STOP PRESS

STATE MIXED PAIRS (Sydney May 28-29)

Best performing local players were Garry and Sally Clarke who qualified for the Final and finished 11th out of 14. Great result!

Our club representatives were Angela and Kevin Dougall and Dorothy and Peter Berzins. They played on the second day in the 30-pair Swiss Pairs and finished 9th and 14th respectively. Well done.

CHARITY DAY - PROGRESS FIGURE - \$1900

This figure is approximate, and the committee will determine the final amount of the cheque for Pandora. Congratulations to Jan Macadie and the many people who contributed to make this day a success - thank you all.

LESSONS

All the lessons listed in the coming weeks for Monday mornings (See Page 7) are Intermediate and Advanced.

I have chosen some new topics like "CUE RAISES".

Not complicated but great to have in the system.

Lorraine

SMILE AWHILE

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root-canal?
His goal: transcend dental medication.

Wendy Mitchell Editor