



Welcome to the Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club



NEWSLETTER

December 2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT

There are so many people to thank for their support and good wishes during my first months as president.

Wendy Mitchell for her diligent recording as Masterpoints and Membership Secretary - a mammoth job. An extra huge thanks this year for your typing of our program, which you executed on behalf of Rosanne while she was in Europe.

With regard to the program I acknowledge and thank our volunteer editors/proof readers June Thompson, Lyn Beston, Nancye Joss and Colin Mitchell.

To our Directors for all your good work throughout the year and to our previous President, Dorothy, who has been so helpful to me in my kindergarten months.

I could go on but instead, could I just give a group thank you to Our Committee – they are 'simply better than the best' and also to all our workers, designers and cooks who make our 'Special Days' so Special.

Thank you all and have a very Merry Xmas.

Di March

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2017

Thank you for paying your fees so promptly – emailing reminders has certainly saved on the paper work! At this stage 50% have paid.

Our affiliation fees to the NSWBA have just been paid. The amount was \$1,215 for 135 Home Club members as at October 31.

If you do not have an email address, please collect your renewal letter from the file at the club. \$31 (Home) or \$7 (Associate) is due on December 31 for the 2017 year.





FROM THE MASTERPOINT SECRETARY

The ABF's McCutcheon Trophy is based on points earned in the calendar year – check out our members' standing at abfmasterpoints.com.au, Club Reports, Filtered McCutcheons for Club 2-036. I will be processing the December masterpoints no later than 4pm on January 1, 2017 so that they will be included.

I join with the ABF Masterpoint Centre which 'would like to wish you all a very **Merry Christmas** and an exciting, healthy and happy **New Year** to you and your families. Stay safe and enjoy the holidays'.

Wendy Mitchell

MORE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Leagues Club News

The new renovations received the go ahead in early November. However, CEO Peter Blacker decided it would not be fair to patrons for work to begin, only to then have it cease for the Xmas period, leaving workers mess everywhere. So, work will begin in sections in early 2017.

And now for some information you have all been dying to know. The Club uses good quality toilet paper downstairs but unfortunately, due to the poor/old drainage system, only single ply paper can be used upstairs (they hold very informative meetings).

Di March

AUCTIONS AND ALERTS

Wisdom from one so young

Many of you are now accustomed to making a prescribed statement (termed an "Announcement" in the ABF Alert Regulations) when your partner opens either 1C or a natural 1NT. However, some players consistently use incorrect announcements, without using the prescribed wording, or some make announcements when they do not need to. For example, statements are needed only when the 1NT is an **opening bid**, but not so if it is an **overcall**. In addition, you should not say anything other than 'Alert' if your partner is making any 2-level opening bids (eg "multi-2s") or any conventional bids (eg 'transfers').

The only announcements allowed are

1. After a 1C opening
 - a. For Natural-type systems, the appropriate minimum length of the club suit should be announced (ie '1+', '2+', '3+'). It is wrong to say 'Better Minor' or 'at least 2' etc
 - b. For Strong Club systems, the word 'Strong' together with the minimum HCP holding should be announced (eg '**Strong 16+**')
 - c. For other systems, the word '**Unusual**' should be used.
2. After a 1NT opening only the appropriate HCP range should be announced (eg '**15-17**' or '**12-14**').





Making an announcement when you or your partner open the bidding with 1C or 1NT, does not exempt your partnership from having two legible, complete and identical system cards on the table. All partnerships must fully disclose every agreement and convention used, as comprehensively as they can, to their opponents. This means that **when asked** you should give specific explanations (not name the convention only) and any inferences that can be drawn. This is achieved by

- a) pre-alerting before bidding starts (basic system and style)
- b) alerting conventional bids and
- c) delayed alerts.

For example

	EXAMPLE 1	EXAMPLE 2	EXAMPLE 3	EXAMPLE 4
Auction	1C – 2C!	1NT – 2H! – 3S!	(1S) – 2NT!	1C – 1H – 1NT – 2D! – 2S – 3C – 3NT
Convention/ Agreement	Inverted Minor	Super accept after a transfer	Unusual 2NT	Bidding Style – undisclosed 4- card major in a NT rebid
Possible answer to query	10+ HCP, 5+ clubs and denying 4-card majors	2H: Transfer to Spades. 3S: opener has exactly 4 spades and 16-17 HCP	5-5 in the lowest unbid suits: clubs and diamonds	Opener has a 12-14 HCP balanced hand with 4 spades but not 3 hearts

Every player must alert his/her partner's convention bids even though your system card is on the table, but **only explain if asked**. Failure to alert or alerting bids that aren't artificial, may result in an adjusted score when the Director is called and deemed that opponents have been damaged.

A player is entitled to ask for a review of bidding at their turn of call. However, it is wise not to abuse this right. Unnecessary questions may help your opponents and may give **unauthorised information** thereby limiting partner's options. It is also improper to ask questions for the benefit of your partner (refer to the excellent article by our patron Colin Mitchell in the August 2016 edition of the newsletter and reprinted below). The best time to ask for **a review of an auction**, always preferable to asking one particular bid when you do not have any reason to enter the bidding, is

1. As the defender making the opening lead, ask after the bidding is finished
2. As the partner of the defender making the opening lead, when the opening lead is faced down.

Remember, if you have reasons to believe any obligations mentioned above have not been properly followed, or unauthorised information is present during the game, call the Director after playing the hand. He/she is there to restore equality to the game.

For example, the auction goes 1NT – 2H! The opponent next in rotation (Player A) enquired the meaning of the 2H bid. After the response, the auction continued 2S! –





3NT. The partner of Player A (Player B) made an opening lead with a Heart. Declarer makes 9 tricks. After the play, declarer notices Player B has Q-J-T-9 of Diamonds, which are among logical alternatives Player B would lead in normal play so it appears B led a heart because partner asked about hearts. If a Diamond lead against 3NT would have allowed the declarer to make 11 tricks, the Director in this case can award an adjusted score to 3NT making 11. *Tournament Organiser Ronnie Ng*

ALERTS wisdom from (one a little older) the Chief Director in August 2016

Over the past few weeks I have noticed many players asking about the meaning of an opponent's alerted bid immediately after the bid has been made. At the end of the hand it has become obvious that the player did not have a hand containing sufficient points / shape to enter the bidding.

From Section 8 of the ABF Alerting Regulations – "Whilst the Laws grant the right to ask questions, unnecessary inquiries, or questions directed at particular calls, may limit partner's options in the subsequent bidding or play. It is therefore advisable not to ask questions if the intention is to pass regardless of the answer". So

- At the start of the round look at the opponents system card and find out the meaning of their one and two level opening bids
- If you need to know during the bidding do **not** ask 'pointed' questions such as 'what does two hearts mean' – the old-fashioned way (learnt at my grandmothers knee or some other low joint) is 'what do you understand by your partner's bid?'
- if you are defender you may ask for a full explanation of the bidding before you make the opening lead – once again you must not ask about a specific bid
- if you are declarer's right hand opponent you may ask for a full explanation of the bidding whilst the opening lead is face down on the table and/or at your turn to play.

Colin Mitchell

NEW ABF RANKINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Congratulations to

Bronze Life

Chris Hannan

(LAST) RECORDER CORNER WITH GWEN

Don't gloat. Don't compliment yourself or your partner on a bid or play of the hand until the opponents leave the table. Also, don't thank the opponents for a good board or tricks you shouldn't get. This makes people feel bad and makes you look like a jerk!

The brain starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you sit down at the bridge table.

Partner's not so subtle response, on being informed that my doctor had advised I shouldn't play bridge, was genuine surprise that I had partnered my doctor.



**RECENT RESULTS**

Congratulations to all

CHRISTMAS PAIRS (17 pairs)

7 December

RANK	PLAYERS	Masterpoints
1	Peter Berzins and Gary Heyting	0.90
2	Paul Unger and Jim Hancox	0.54
3	Anne Grayden and Helen Gulliver	0.54

OTHER EVENTS

Best local players

WOLSTONECRAFT SWISS PAIRS

4 December

EVENT	HIGHEST RANKED with CCLCBC PLAYERS	RANK
Swiss Swiss (44 pairs)	Helen Milward and Julian Abel	22

NSWBA JOHN ARKINSTALL STATE OPEN TEAMS FINAL

9 December

HIGHEST RANKED with CCLCBC PLAYERS	RANK
Dorothy Berzins, Peter Berzins, Di Coats, Helen Milward	22

NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION SUMMER SWISS PAIRS

11 December

EVENT	HIGHEST RANKED with CCLCBC PLAYERS	RANK
Swiss Swiss (36 pairs)	Di Coats and Helen Milward	14
	Dorothy Berzins and Peter Berzins	18

CC BRIDGE CLUB ALMOST SUMMER TEAMS (39 teams)

12 December

HIGHEST RANKED with CCLCBC PLAYERS	RANK
Stewart Duxbury, Colin Thomas, Anne Small, Ronald Smith	9
Ian Lisle, Barbara Grant, Louis Koolen, Vicky Lisle	12
Donelle Foate, Jaan Oitmaa, Christine Hadaway, Sylvia Foster	14
Robert Harvey, Glen Campbell, Janet Clarke, Di Coats	17
Elizabeth Lawrence, Alfie Nation, Toni Dixon, Marie Purkiss	18
Cathy Mitchell, Alan Bustany, Jurate Laisve, John Mitchell	19
Sue Eastman, Leon Babinski, David Adams, Robyn Lang	25
Anne Grayden, Dorothy Berzins, Gary Heyting, Peter Berzins	27
Martin Johnson, Hope Tomlinson, Karen Ody, Barry Foster	30
Colin Mitchell, Wendy Mitchell, Gary Barwick, Helen Eaton	31
Gwen White, Colin Murray, Judy Wolff, Pamela Joseph	33





SWITCHING SINGLES HISTORY

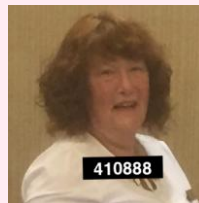
52 individuals played over the 10 months with 3 of these qualifying by playing 5 out of 10 sessions with different partners.

Four pairs and 3 other individuals played exclusively with the same partner and competed in sufficient sessions to qualify if they had changed partners. Below is the history of this event:

Year	Condition	Av Tables (/Year Av same day)	Eligible Individuals (/Total)	Individuals Receiving Outright MPs
2013	4 out of 9	3.5 (/3.5)	8 (/56)	4
2014	4 out of 10	4.0 (/4.5)	13 (/84)	6
2015	5 out of 10	3.1 (/5.5)	3 (/50)	1
2016	5 out of 10	3.7 (/4.8)	3 (/52)	1

Wendy Mitchell, Masterpoint Secretary

So often I find myself looking for a photo of Lyn Lynch, for the newsletter, because she's done something, yet again. So I've adopted this photo as her 'stock' photo or 'mug' shot, if you like.



This time Lyn has sewn a new set of card table covers (how else does one spend ones weekend?). Thank you Lyn. Hope we're all trying hard not to doodle during auctions (Agnes). Ed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

in December to:



Joan Brierty, Alan Bustany, Pamela Carew,
Heather Carlile, Diana Coats, Tony Collis,
Trish Dennis, Marion Ellis, Carol Godfrey, Barbara Grant,
Alison Heathcote, Nancye Joss, Diane Nichols,
Hilary Owen, Gina Robertson, Chris Spikesman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY



COMING EVENTS AT CCLCBC

KEY (C) CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (E) ECLECTIC (G) GOLD POINT (P) PRE-ENTRY (Q) QUALIFYING SESSION (R) RED POINT

30 Dec	Friday	Dashing December (E – best 3 from 5)
4 January	Wednesday	New Year's Cup (R)
21 January	Saturday	Summer Pairs (R)
26 January	Thursday	Australia Day Pairs (R)

UPCOMING EVENTS ELSEWHERE

26 Dec to 2 Jan	Monday	Trumps Festival of Bridge
7 Jan	Saturday	ABF Australian Youth Championships Canberra
8 Jan	Sunday	Double Bay New Year Swiss Pairs
10 Jan to 22 Jan	Tuesday	ABF Summer Festival of Bridge Canberra
31 Jan to 3 Feb	Tuesday	Trumps Leura Bridge Holiday

**VALE: ELIZABETH ANNE KERR**

5 /12/1934 - 16/12/2016

Liz was a long term member of both the Central Coast Bridge Club and the Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club. In fact Liz was one of the 30 who attended the original meeting of the CCLCBC on 11 June 1987. Liz also served on the CCLCBC Committee in 1990/91.

Liz won a number of trophy events with various partners. She won the inaugural Christmas Day Pairs in 1992 with Judy Hopkinson and won it again in 1998 with Adele Mills. She also played with Judy Hopkinson in the Spring Pairs in 1992 and came equal first.

In 2001 Liz won the Monthly Shield (an event running over a 12 month period) playing with Marie Purkiss, with whom she also won the Gosford Pairs in 2007.

Liz was an amazing person who combined raising 4 children on her own, with starting up a Blueberry Farm (I understand the first on the Central Coast) with the support of the CSIRO. And she did all this while coping with Insulin dependent diabetes. On many occasions we would be out to dinner or playing bridge when Liz would lift up her blouse and jab herself with her insulin.

I remember one year when Liz fell and broke a leg. But full leg cast or not the blueberries still had to be picked. We had quite an interesting day helping out among the bushes.

The farm became a tourist draw card and Liz would also put on morning tea with scones and blueberry products. As I recall she called herself the Blueberry Tart - always a great sense of humour.

Liz also made the most delicious Blueberry Christmas Cakes which were suitable for people with diabetes. Marie Purkiss said she tried to get the recipe from her but Liz guarded it like the crown jewels.

Liz always had a wonderful sense of style and liked fine clothes. Mind you she had a figure that we all envied as she could wear size 12 children's shorts when she was well into her 60's. When she went overseas you could bet that Liz would return with a little something off the cat walk from Paris or London.

I have a great photo of Liz with myself, Adele Mills, Anne Steele and Judy Hopkinson. This was taken in 1990 at Liz's house at the Blueberry Farm and although she was the eldest by 11 + years, she looked the youngest of the group.

Liz was farewelled at McKay's Family Funerals at Ourimbah on Thursday 22nd December.

Be at rest now Lizzie

Dorothy Berzins





LUCKY THIRTEEN

Anonymous

It was the club's Xmas party and needless to say
The punch and the season had made us quite gay
Now we're just raw novices, my partner and me
We've only been playing six months, you see

"Find your seats and shuffle," the director had said
As visions of last place danced in my head
When I checked our position, I went dry in the mouth
We'd been assigned Table One – North and South

Fate had decided to put us to the test –
With two grand masters sitting East and West
We took our positions and said not a word
But I'm sure our heartbeats could surely be heard
I shuffled the cards and handed them out
As North I was dealer, so it was my first shout
I've been to some lessons, so although I was green
I knew that to open - you must have thirteen

I sorted my hand and counted, but alas
With only ten points I had to pass
And frankly – I thought this a shame
As I'd never before had 13 spades in a game
My left-hand opponent, a big name in the city
Opened two Clubs and I thought what a pity
My partner, South, who was trembling with fear
Bid two Hearts in a voice hard to hear

My right-hand opponent sat straight in his chair
3 Diamonds was the bid he chose to declare
Now I had a fair suit, but alas
With no help in her Hearts – I had to pass

My left-hand opponent now bid three Spades
You can imagine how much I was amazed
South, bid four Hearts and now I feared
That I can't play her suit if I end up on lead

My right-hand opponent studied his hand
And soon six No Trumps was his command
It was my turn to bid – and just to save face
I doubled – I knew they were missing an ace

The next three bids were pass, pass, pass
And I was ready to lead a Spade, but alas –
My partner got it wrong and led the Heart King –
A lead out of turn – what a damnable thing

North		N E S W			
AKQJ1098765432		Pass	2♣	2♥	3♦
♥ -		Pass	3♣	4♥	6NT
♦ -		Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣ -					
West		East			
♠ -	10	♠ -			
♥ -		♥ Axxxxx			
♦ Axxx	14	♦ KQJ10xx			
♣ AKQJ10xxxx		♣ -			
	6				
♠ -		♠ -			
♥ KQJ10xx					
♦ xxx					
♣ xx					
South					

The director was called and I can still hear his voice
As he told the declarer he could make his own choice
A Heart lead you see, as I'm sure you understand
Could well help to set up my partner's hand

So declarer turned to me and looking ever so smart
Said "Lead any suit – but not a Heart"
So, of course, I led my fourth spade
I guess this was a reasonable lead I made

Because from thereon in I didn't lose the lead
And our venerable opponents had to concede
Thirty-five hundred – which seemed like a lot
Later we found – this score was a top

Now I ask you, after a board like this –
The rest of the event – well, how could we miss?
Later I heard the director say: "Who was the lass –
Who had thirteen Spades – and cleverly passed?"

Many thanks to all who have contributed and helped with the newsletter this year. Special thanks to Wendy Mitchell (is there anything Wendy hasn't got stats for?), Ronnie Ng (contributions, corrections and Monday night printing), Gwen White's Recorder Corner, Dorothy Berzins' Committee Capers and eulogies, Colin Mitchell's occasional epistles, David Bowerman (web assistance and keeping cool when the newsletter causes his system to crash) and Rosanne Ransley for edits, corrections and pillow talk (committee members take note). Merry Christmas Ed.

