

Welcome to the
Central Coast
Leagues Club
Bridge Club



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

U **HMP –**
see last page for the
dates of our 6 sessions

This event is designed especially to help players of lower ranks earn red masterpoints and experience competition against players of their own level.

The sessions are just our regular duplicate days and anyone can play, but 76 of our current members have Under 100 masterpoints and are eligible to earn red masterpoints for just \$2 each per session. The sessions are open to members of other clubs too.

It is best to arrange to play with someone in your own category if you can.

While pre-entry is not required, there are lists on the wall where you

can record your intended partnerships and if you want a partner, write your name here too. We will try to organise one for you.

DROUGHT RELIEF

President Louis Koolen has applied to the NSWBA for a special red-point event.

The plan is to raise money for victims of the drought through an event involving all the Central Coast bridge clubs.

He is hoping for approval to be given very soon, so watch our website and your email for details of Date, Time, Venue and event specifics.

RECENT RESULTS

Congratulations to all

ANNIVERSARY PAIRS (R) 9.5 tables Sat Aug 4

1st	Anne Grayden & Carol Judd	64.94%
2nd	Adele Mills & Sue Morris	63.61%
3rd	Louis Koolen & Barbara Grant	62.20%

MONTHLY SHIELD (7) (E) 8 tables Mon Aug 6

1st	Wendy Mitchell & Trish Dennis	70.09%
2nd	Stewart Duxbury & Paul Unger	60.86%
3rd	Peter Berzins & Toni Dixon	59.52%

FOUNDATION CUP (R) 6 tables Mon Aug 13

1st	Christine Williams & Pauline Evans	63.33%
2nd	Adele Mills & Sue Morris	57.78%
3rd	Pauline Caust & Paul Unger	55.19%

AUSTRALIA WIDE OPEN PAIRS 6 tables Mon Eve Aug 27

1st	Eunice de Vries & Wendy Mitchell	65.56%
2nd	Di Coats & Lorraine Lindsay	59.63%
3rd	Barry Davies & Phillip Morris	56.67%

STATE OPEN PAIRS (R) 11.5 tables Wed Aug 22 & 29

1st	Gwen White & Bob Morris	129.80%
2nd	Adele Mills & Sue Morris	126.11%
3rd	Colin Thomas & Stewart Duxbury	120.14%
4th	Dasha Brandt & David Bowerman	117.01%

The cost of entry to the Final on Nov 24 & 25 will be paid by the club for 4 pairs. Any other pair that played in the 2 session-qualifying event may compete in the Final. See Colin Mitchell if you wish to enter, as the cost is cheaper if done through our Club.

AUSPICIOUS AUGUST Best 3 out of 5 Thursdays

6 pairs (out of 23) played the minimum of 3 sessions. The top half received Outright Awards as follows:

Green Points

1st	Heather Carlile & Gina Robertson	0.49
2nd	Margaret Campbell & Jim Howarth	0.34
3rd	John Tagg & Joan Brierty	0.25

CONGRESSES

Best Local Players

CCBC Novice & Restricted Congress

Aug 11 & 12

24 Novice and 16 Restricted pairs competed. Best results for our members overall were: 1st: Hema de Zoysa and son, 3rd: Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany, 5th: Nola Daly & Roy Cotton

15 teams competed on the second day, 8 Restricted and 7 Novice.

MOREE

Aug 11 & 12

30 pairs played over 3 sessions. After a 2nd, 6th and 2nd, Dasha Brandt and David Bowerman won the event by 0.4 matchpoints. Well done!

COFFS GOLD CONGRESS

Aug 14 - 19

Open Swiss Pairs (122)

Helen Milward and partner achieved 38th. 7 local pairs played, with 2 being happy to finish in the top half of the very strong field.

Intermediate/Restricted Pairs (92)

5 local pairs were in this category with the best performed being Hope Tomlinson & Barry Foster (20th).

Open Teams (70)

Di Coats, Jan Clarke and Helen Milward played in the team coming 22nd. Again, a very strong field, with at least 22 other of our local players competing.

Intermediate/Restricted Teams (38)

The team of Hope Tomlinson, Barry Foster, Judy Wulff & Martin Johnson achieved a very creditable equal 5th.

TORONTO TEAMS CONGRESS

30 teams Aug 26

While local players starred in the teams coming 2nd and 3rd, the best 'pure' team from our area was 7th: Marie Purkiss, Di Nichols, Elizabeth Lawrence & Alfie Nation.

Another 5 teams made the trip from local clubs and enjoyed the hospitality, the venue (Rathmines Public School) and directing (Alan Bustany) over 6 matches.

BRIDGE EDUCATION

- **BRIDGE TRAVEL: Pacific Garden Hotel Wamberal**

November Tuesday 13 to Friday 16

Derrick Browne and John Newman are again conducting clinics/workshops and Duplicate play sessions over 4 days in the previously-named Apollo Resort.

There are 2 programs – one for regular club players and one for developing players (suitable for those playing in supervised sessions up to Club Master).

Most of our local players who have attended in the past found this a great opportunity to interact with teachers and players from Sydney and beyond.

Enquiries and bookings to: Derrick – 9969 5959, John - 0412 062 957
ore email to – bridgetravel@bigpond.com.

- **WENDY'S TUESDAY WORKSHOPS**

Attendance averaged 2 tables for each of the 4 weeks. Hopefully you will witness some better defence from the participants, and improved Declarer play in No Trumps!

I have been asked about lessons on the '2 over 1, Game Force' bidding system. This has become increasingly popular in recent years and is just an improvement on American Standard.

If anyone is interested, please contact me.

Wendy M

DID YOU KNOW?

My partner for Switching Singles on 20/8, Di Coats, picked up Board 4, the last of the evening for us. She thought for some time before opening. A 6-6-1-0 shape is pretty unusual after all (about 2.36%):

♠ Q T 9 8 6 2

♥ K Q J T 7 4

♦ 9

♣ - - - -

The hand has only 4 losers but opening 2C with so few High Card Points is not recommended.

What about a 2-suited opening?

Di chose to open 1S. Not enough HCP's you say? Well, the ABF System Regulations, also adopted by the NSWBA, state that for both Green and

Blue Systems [2.1(d) and 2.2(d)]:

All one-level opening bids must, by agreement, promise at least 8 HCP.

So the 1S bid meets the regulations, just! My right-hand opponent passed and I had to bid holding:

♠ - - - - -
♥ A 8 6 5
♦ A J 6 4 2
♣ T 8 7 2

Little did I know it, but I had more HCP's than my partner!! To bid 2D is tempting, but that would promise 10 HCP's and it looks like a mis-fit, so I somewhat reluctantly responded 1NT (the bid to make when there is Nothing else To bid).

My partner's rebid was 4H, asking me to choose between the Heart or Spade game. Obviously I am giving preference to Hearts, but on the bidding we clearly have at least 9xcards in that suit. This will allow plenty of Spade ruffs, so I thought there may be more and bid 4NT (RKCB 1430). Disappointed with the 5C reply (1 or 4) I bowed out in 5H.

On ♠A lead, there were 13 tricks from ruffing spades and clubs 4 times each, as the spades split 4-3 and the hearts were 2-1. Only a trump lead will keep declarer to 12 tricks, with a total 17 HCPs between the two hands.

NEW ABF RANKINGS - AUGUST

!! NIL !!

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE A FAST PLAYER?

Try this quick quiz . . . By Matthew McManus (July 2017)

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 Bridgемate 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/Bridgемate, 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 scoresheet 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 Bridgемate, try this procedure: after dummy's hand goes down, give the Bridgемate 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.

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Gosford Pairs	R	Saturday	1
Monthly Shield 8	E	Monday	3
Intra-Club Teams	R/P 9.30am	Thursday	6
UHMP (1)		Tuesday	11
UHMP (2)		Saturday	15
Switching Singles 8	E	Monday Eve	17
UHMP (3)		Monday Eve	24
UHMP (4)		Thursday	27

OCTOBER

UHMP (5)		Tuesday	2
Henry Kendall Pairs	R	Thursday	4
Monthly Shield 9	E	Monday	8
UHMP (6)		Thursday	11
Club Swiss Pairs	C/P	Friday	12 & 19
Switching Singles 9	E	Monday Eve	15

NEW MEMBERS

Please make welcome: Terry Dyer (0412 867 461) and Colin Thomas (8084 6967) and add their numbers to your program book.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for September to:-

Patricia Birch, Trish Byrnes, Pauline Caust, Roy Cotton, Cynthia Deane, Pauline Evans, Anne Grayden, Judith Guzmanyi, John King, Pam Lumby, Susan McCall, Peter Mackey, Ursula Middleton, Rosanne Ransley, Helen Smith, Carl Sparre, and Ken Townsend.

THINK & SMILE AWHILE

Did you hear . . .

. . . About the man who wanted to learn bridge in *one* day?

He ordered 35 copies of *Five Weeks To Winning Bridge*.

. . . About the lady who always went *down one* in 3 NT?

When asked about this she said she was just following her teacher's advice: "Eight ever, Nine never."

Wendy & Colin Mitchell, Editors