

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



**NEWSLETTER**

**JUNE 2019**

**C H A R I T Y D A Y**

A week of fund-raising will begin on Monday 10th June with Trash & Treasure in the Bridge room Foyer. Clean out your cupboards and donate items - volunteer salespersons are also needed.

Check out the treasures all week until Tuesday 18th. Raffle tickets are being sold in Leagues Club Foyer from Tuesday 11th. For prizes we have some lovely Hampers and Vouchers but more Vouchers needed - try approaching local coffee shops, Coles, Woolies, etc.

Bridge Day is Tuesday 18th June in the **Parkview Room**. Be there early to buy treasures at the Bridge Club first and then last-minute raffle tickets. The game (green points) will commence at **12.30pm**.

Donated cakes etc are welcomed for the tea & coffee break. Always a fun day with lots of prizes to win and the satisfaction of raising money for Local Charities! These are the same as last year: Coast Shelter, Pandora, Helping Hands for Head Wear, Wigwam.

Don't forget to return your raffle books and money!

*Ruth (0407 854 060)*

**VALE**

**BRUCE BRANTHWAITE**

*June 23, 1937 to May 25, 2019*  
Bridge players from our club and from ACES attended the funeral at St Patrick's Catholic Church, East Gosford on June 3. *See P.5.*

**HELEN EATON**

*July 29, 1943 to May 27, 2019*  
Bridge players from our club joined the many from CCBC at the funeral on June 4 at Palmdale. *See P.8.*

## RECENT RESULTS

### **BRIDGE FOR BRAINS**                      **4.5 tables**                      **Fri May 3**

1st	Di Coats & Dorothy Berzins	65.28%
2nd	Anne Grayden & Trish Dennis	56.25%
3rd	Bob Morris & Gwen White	55.56%

### **MONTHLY SHIELD (4) (E)**                      **5 tables**                      **Mon May 6**

1 <sup>st</sup> =	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	58.80%
1 <sup>st</sup> =	Dorothy & Peter Berzins	58.80%
3rd	Agnes Marsh & Jim Havyatt	58.33%

### **PRESIDENTS CUP (R)**                      **7 tables**                      **Fri May 10**

1st	Di Nichols & Toni Dixon	69.50%
2nd	Alfie Nation & Gwen White	59.35%
3rd	Julie Jessop & Pam Harris	53.74 %

### **ZELDA OVERHALL CUP (R)**                      **6 tables**                      **Thu May 16**

1st	Jim Havyatt & Gina Robertson	59.60%
2nd	Marie Purkiss & Elizabeth Lawrence	59.53%
3rd	Leyla Moncelet & Carol Judd	55.73 %

**Congratulations** to Jim and Gina for winning the Cup. The next 3 pairs were too highly ranked to be eligible. The second eligible pair came equal 5th and so wins the Special Prize – well done Suzanne Harrison & Jann Small.

### **SWITCHING SINGLES (4) (E)**                      **7 tables**                      **Mon Eve May 20**

1st	Lorraine Lindsay & Di Coats	69.03%
2nd	Eunice de Vries & Phillip Morris	62.71%
3rd	Barry Davies & Wendy Mitchell	58.80%

### **AUSTRALIA WIDE NOVICE PAIRS**                      **3 tables**                      **Thu May 30**

1st	Marcelle Goslin & John Aldersley	65.00%
2nd	Jann Small & Lyn Baber	51.67%
3rd	Richard Webb & Ruth Griffin	50.83%

### **MAGIC MAY OUTRIGHT AWARDS**

22 pair combinations played overall, but only 11 pairs played the mini-

imum 2 sessions. The top half (rounded down) received outright awards as follows:

		<b>Best 2</b>	<b>MPs</b>
1st	Henrietta Hohnen & Elizabeth Lawrence	131.04	0.44
2nd	Heather Carlile & Paul Unger	127.85	0.31
3rd	Marie Purkiss & Di Nichols	116.56	0.22
4th	Jim Havyatt & Yvonne Zammit	112.79	0.15
5th	Agnes Marsh & Ruth Griffin	107.93	0.11

**MONTHLY SHIELD (5) (E) 5 tables Mon Jun 3**

1st	Alfie Nation & Jacqui Wilson	66.20%
2nd	Dorothy & Peter Berzins	58.80%
3rd	Bob Morris & Gwen White	57.41%

**CLUB PAIRS (C) 11 tables Wed Jun 5**

5 pairs from each of the NS and EW fields qualified in the first session for the Final. 5 out of these 10 pairs were seeded in the top half of the fields. The remaining pairs will play in the Consolation. The second session will be played on Wednesday June 12.

**CONGRESSES & FINALS Best Local Players**

**BATHURST CONGRESS May 4 & 5**

Out of 40 pairs in the *Swiss Pairs*, Elizabeth Lawrence & Alfie Nation and Marie Purkiss & Di Nichols were 10th and 11th respectively. As a team, these four then came 5th out of 21 teams.

**MAITLAND TEAMS 36 teams Sun May 5**

Six local teams competed in this increasingly popular event. Best were:

- 4th Sharon & Greg Mayo (with Michaels Simes & Johnson)
- 7th Bob Morris, Gwen White, Dasha Brandt, David Bowerman
- 12th Jurate Laisve, Carol Anderson, Elaine & Peter Hume

**STATE MIXED PAIRS May 25 & 26**

34 tables competed in the qualifying session with the top 7 pairs NS and EW progressing to the State Final, won by Shirley Arnold and Barry Dalsto from Pennant Hills BC.

14 eligible pairs competed in the Country Pairs Final. Six of these pairs were from the Central Coast. The winners were Jim and Ellie Fitzgerald

from Cessnock with Bob Morris and Gwen White in the money with third!

Pairs which did not make either final could play on the Sunday in the Autumn Swiss Pairs – a total of 56 pairs.

<b>INTERCLUB TEAMS – CCBC</b>		<b>12 teams</b>			<b>Tue May 28</b>
		<b>Wins</b>	<b>Draws</b>	<b>Losses</b>	<b>VPs</b>
1st		5	0	1	83.08
	Marie Purkiss, Di Nichols, Henrietta Hohnen, Elizabeth Lawrence				
2nd		4	0	2	75.65
	Barry Foster, David Snow, Sylvia Foster, Jaan Oitmaa				
3rd		4	0	2	74.69
	Gary Barwick, Lorraine Lindsay, Gabrielle Fitzgerald, Sue Morris				

**COUNTRY TEAMS REGIONAL FINAL** **Sat Jun 1**  
 Held at the Central Coast and directed by Alan Bustany, there were 8 teams playing a Round Robin of seven 8xboard matches. The top half of the field is eligible to progress to the Zone Final – at least 2 teams must progress for red points to be awarded.

		<b>Wins</b>	<b>Draws</b>	<b>Losses</b>	<b>VPs</b>
1st	BWBC 2	4	1	2	77.63
	Chris Hannan, John Duncan, Jan Davis, Lorraine Lindsay				
2nd	CCBC 1	3	1	3	75.15
	John Redfearn, Norm Berger, Angela Dougall, Kevin Dougall				
3rd	CCLCBC 1	4	0	3	73.86
	Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Dorothy & Peter Berzins				
4th	CCBC 3	4	0	3	71.10
	Jurate Laisve, Robin Scahill, Susan McCall, Pam Joseph				

**NSWBA TEAMS OF THREE** **Sun Jun 2**

*Open* **21 teams**

In a strong field Cathy Russell, Carol Anderson & Jurate Laisve (Captain: David Hudson) did well to come 20th.

*Restricted* **10 teams**

Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust & Lyn Lynch (Captain: George Finikiotis) came a terrific 2nd.

There were also 10 teams in the Novice section but no one from the Central Coast.

## NEW ABF RANKINGS – MAY

### Congratulations to:

*\*Local* Gina Robertson *Club* Suzanne Harrison

## BEGINNERS LESSONS

14 people will complete the Beginners Course on June 21 and then start supervised play. Some may come to duplicate play concurrently, so please watch out for them and make them welcome. *Wendy Mitchell*

## WORKSHOPS ON A THURSDAY

Subject to Committee approval I will conduct 7 workshops from 9.30am to 11.30am, beginning June 27. These are aimed at developing and Intermediate players, but all are welcome. Topics will cover Bidding, Play and Defence. The proposed topics are:

- June 27 **MMM** – bid to the right level
- July 4 **Part Scores Battle** – compete to the right level
- July 11 **Silent Signals** – Count, Discards
- July 18 **PPP** – planning suit play
- July 25 **7-11 Convenience** – improving NT play
- August 1 **Double Trouble** – negative and other types
- August 8 **LLL** – choose the best lead

*Wendy M*

## VALE: Bruce Branthwaite

*Nancye Joss & Anne Grayden*

Of his several passions, Bruce's passion for bridge developed prior to his Central Coast residency. He had played in Sydney and moved to the area, in the mid 1990s, knowing that one of his Sydney bridge partners and friend, Nancye Joss, had already settled here. Another of the 'Sydney group', Julie Sadler, came later.

Nancye, Julie & John Redfearn, of the CCBC with another member of 'the Sydney group' sometimes reminisced of the 'halycon days' they shared in Sydney, playing at the Association, Lindfield & elsewhere. Much of this reminiscing, centred around playing for the *Cockroach Cup*, a trophy only Bruce could have sourced. It was a large bright red china cup sporting a large plastic cockroach on the inside. These events were

always hosted by Bruce where drinks and dinner was served by Dennis, his non bridge playing partner, before the competition began. Much fun was had by all with good bridge, food and wine.

Apart from the above-mentioned bridge, Bruce also played in Canberra on the odd occasion and he played with Nancye at Lindfield during these years. Bruce taught bridge and was the aerobics instructor on a number of cruises. In 1992 Nancye taught bridge in his place on the *Achille Lauro*. Nancye recalls that all members of the 'entertainment staff' including the aerobics instructor and bridge teacher' were expected to help with the evening entertainment. Being the proverbial party boy this suited Bruce just fine and he would take to the dance floor partnering passengers and enjoying the music as well as showing off his amazing dancing skills.

Earlier in his life Bruce spent time in a seminary, travelled around Australia and NZ picking up odd jobs, and worked as a florist & greengrocer in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs. Anne remembers Bruce recalling, with a fair degree of delight, that when he showed annoyance at customers who squeezed avocados they'd ask to be served by the 'the other bloke'. The other bloke was his partner of 28 years, Dennis Hicks. Bruce's final work was as a civilian, in the Navy, where he administered psychological tests. Coming to the Central Coast Bruce played with several partners including Guy Reid at CCBC, and then Ted Neilsen, Nancye Joss, Jacqui Wilson, Wendy Mitchell, Anne Grayden and Robert Watson, at CCLCBC. He and Ted played together regularly until Ted's death in late 2013. Although their manner towards one another, at the bridge table, could cause alarm to others they were in fact good mates and Bruce missed the banter he'd enjoyed with Ted.

Special mention should be made of Robert, Bruce's second life partner who learnt bridge after meeting Bruce. They played together at CCLCBC and ACES as well as having an occasional game in Cessnock, after moving there. With some family members they cruised to Canada where they married - something they could not do here at the time. In recent years a very patient Robert took on the role of Bruce's carer, both physically and emotionally, as he battled illness.

Bruce was a member of our club from 1998. The following list of Bruce's bridge achievements at CCLCBC has been given to Robert.

- 2010 President's Cup with Ted Nielsen
- 2013 Charity Day (N/S) and Anzac Day Pairs with Nancye Joss
- 2014 Spring Pairs with Jacqui Wilson
- 2016 Presentation Day Pairs(N/S) with Anne Grayden.
- 2003 Inter-Club Teams (2) with Joyce Small, Ted Nielsen and Neville Buchanan.



Bruce Branthwaite

Helen Eaton



*Left:*  
1st in  
CCBC I/C  
teams: Di,  
Marie,  
Henrietta  
& Eliza-  
beth

*Below:* Gwen and Bob receiving their  
prize for the SMP from Julian Foster



*Right:* Mother and Son,  
Pat and Paul Unger



## VALE: Helen Eaton - 29/07/1943 to 17/05/2019

Helen was born in Western Australia but met and married husband Barry when she came to Sydney for a working holiday.

After they moved to the Central Coast, Helen became a passionate bridge

FIRST PLACE		YEAR	PLAYED WITH
Club	Club Pairs	1991	Phillip Morris
Championship	Club Teams	2018	Dorothy Berzins, Jan Clarke, Di Coats
Trophy	Spring Pairs	1990	Phillip Morris
Events	Australia Day Pairs	2008	Karen Ody
Special	Inter Club Teams 1	2002	Josie Ryan, Sally Clarke, Gary Clarke
	Inter Club Teams 1	2004	Irma Heyting, Sally Clarke, Gary Clarke
Events	Inter Club Teams 2	2011	Sally Clarke, Kaylee Lemon, Ronnie Ng
	Inter Club Teams 1	2015	Jan Clarke, Sally Clarke, Gabrielle Fitzgerald
<b>Central Coast Representative in Grand National Open Teams</b>	2002	Josie Ryan, Gary Clarke, Sally Clarke	
	2003	Sally Clarke, Josie Ryan, Judy Hopkinson	
	2006	Nancy Asquith, Di Nichols and Kaylee Lemon	

player, teacher and qualified as a Congress Director. She made a huge contribution to the Central Coast Bridge Club having held many Committee positions, including President.

Only last month she had taken on the job of Treasurer for the second time.

Among her bridge partners were Phillip Morris, Sally Clarke, Eunice de Vries and Gary Barwick.

Helen will be greatly missed by her husband, son, daughter, grandchildren and the bridge community.

The list (left) of wins at CCLCBC was presented to the family after her funeral.

## **MOTHER AND SON: *Pat and Paul Unger***

Mum (Pat) and my sister Christine learnt Bridge at Matcham in Zelda Overhall's kitchen in 1991. After a few lessons Zelda sent them to the main game saying 'if you do well you will be happy; if you do poorly the others will be happy'.

Mum played with Christine at Lismore and Ballina where they were living, and later at Foster with David Goldsmith (former Long Jetty player).

She moved in with me around 2000 and went to many congresses with her new Long Jetty partner, Len Melchior. We were on a boat off Cairns when Zelda returned my call enquiring about lessons. I soon joined Zelda's last class. Because I was working I'd go to lessons, but not supervised play, so my standard of play was a bit rough.

Mum and I used to play at Long Jetty Tuesday and Thursday nights – being the gentleman I was the one who drove to the club. One memorable night the bidding went (with the opposition passing):

<b>Me</b>	<b>Mum</b>	
1D	1H	* I passed as I thought she had a lot of
1S	4C	clubs, because I had only 2.
Pass*		

She went red and said nothing except 'Than you partner' when my dummy came down. She went down, vulnerable, because 4C was an Ace ask and she only had 3. Her only comment was 'you are so lucky you have the car keys!'

Mum was a city girl, but was sent to Tamworth for protection during WWII and fell in love with country life. Dad was a dairy farmer's son from Taree and moved to Sydney for work where they met, married and moved to a dairy farm at Wyong. She worked hard on the farm and did a lot of charity work for the school and set up netball in the Wyong Shire with a number of other ladies.

When my sister Jackie became ill in about 2005, Mum left congresses with about 350 masterpoints. Her partner Len kept going and became a Grand Master in about 2012, a ranking I feel she could have reached.

Mum was responsible for introducing me to Bridge as she knew I'd enjoy

it, as I do. Until her final weeks before she passed away\* she would take an interest in my day's play. We would play 'paper-bridge' with each having a hand record.

For all her patience in teaching me the game of Bridge I am thankful and am happy she could share in my joy with the ten trophies I have earned since retiring from work in 2009.

*Paul Unger*

\*See January 2019 Newsletter.

### A HAND TO REMEMBER: Friday May 10 – Board 17

I have been playing bridge for over 32 years and have never picked up a hand like South's before.

When I returned home that day I just had to look up the probabilities! This is what I found:

The probability of an 8xcard suit is 0.0047. There are five possible distributions: 8-2-2-1, 8-3-1-1, 8-3-2-0, 8-4-1-0 and 8-5-0-0.

So the chance of any 8/5/0/0 is  $0.0047/5 = 0.00094$ .

Specifically the chance of 8xspades and 5xclubs is 1 in 12, so the probability of this hand shape is  $0.00094/12 = 0.0000783333333333$ . In other words, about 7.83 chances in 100,000.

Note that with just 18HCPs N/S can make 6C or 6D, while E/W with more - 22HCPs - can make 3D or 4H. The contracts reached around the room were:

2S - 11 tricks, 5S - 11 tricks, 5S - 12 tricks (twice), 4S - 13 tricks, 5S - 13 tricks and 5SX - 13 tricks.

Board 17 Dir: N Vul: Nil	♠ J3 ♥ Q75 ♦ T9653 ♣ 863	
♠ Q ♥ AJ43 ♦ A842 ♣ T972		♠ T6 ♥ KT9862 ♦ KQJ7 ♣ Q
3 1 1 1 1 1 5	♠ AK987542 ♥ ♦ ♣ AKJ54	N: 6 ♣ 6 ♠ S: 6 ♣ 6 ♠ E: 3 ♦ 5 ♥ W: 3 ♦ 5 ♥

Although it is very tempting to bid the makeable slam, South can only count 11 playing tricks. North's ♥Q is useless opposite the void, but because the ♠Q falls when the ♠A is played, North's ♠J is the 12th trick.

Then why do some make 13 tricks? At our table, West discarded a high club on the ♠J to indicate the high heart. When a small club was led from dummy the singleton ♣Q fell and now South's 5xclubs are all winners.

*Wendy M*

## **BOWLS FOR CHARITY**

*Leon Babinski*

The Leagues Club ran a bowls tournament on Sunday 26 May to raise money for "Save our Kids from Suicide" – a local charity. Apparently the Central Coast Region has the highest suicide rate in Australia.

All of the Internal Clubs were invited to enter a team. After a tough selection process, the highly competitive team of Joe Griffin [skip], Theo Chadwick [brilliant lead bowler], Eddie Gilbert [a ring-in from Green Point Probus] and Leon Babinski [virgin bowler] fronted up at the Lawn Bowls Club. Colin Mitchell had intended to play until he discovered that (a) the bowling would be underarm and (b) he would be in Batemans Bay on the day!

The weather was eminently suitable for bowls being fine and sunny with a very gentle breeze coming over the left shoulder. Nineteen other teams had entered. There were raffle tickets galore to purchase, free-flowing coffee and lots of talk.

Match 1 - we just squeaked a win – 8/7

Match 2 - a win 12/6 against the Wine Appreciation Club [probably because the match was early in the day and no bottles had been opened].

Lunch was then taken with raffles and other activities designed to put our team off their game.

Match 3 - was against the Snooker Club. They were a little upset they were unable to use their cues and so our [by now] expert team won 15/1

*Edited by the Editor*

## **UPDATES**

Please amend phone land-line number for Dianne March to 4365 9230 and change mobile number for Julie Germein to land-line 4322 3553.

## MASTERPOINTS FOR HOME CLUB MEMBERS (31/5/2019):

	0-20	20-50	50-100	100-300	300-1000	1000+
CLCLBC	37%	13%	7%	19%	16%	9%
CCBC	44%	13%	13%	14%	10%	6%
BWBC	49%	11%	10%	9%	14%	7%
CommyClubBB	24%	32%	24%	19%	0%	0%
National Average	43%	15%	12%	16%	10%	4%

## COMING EVENTS

### JUNE

Monthly Shield (5)	E	Monday	3
Club Pairs	C/P	Wednesday	5 & 12
Teams of Three	C/P 9.30am	Friday	14
Charity Day Pairs		Tuesday	18
Switching Singles (5)	E	Monday Eve	17

### JULY

Monthly Shield (6)	E	Monday	1
Jovial July	E (Best 2 of 4)	Saturday	6,13,20,27
Winter Pairs	R	Monday Eve	8
Switching Singles (6)	E	Monday Eve	15
Club Restricted Teams	C/P	Tuesday	23 & 30
State Wide Pairs		Wednesday	31

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY for June:

George Boettiger, Sue Brumby, Tony Burke, Wendy Byrne, Chris Hannan, Henrietta Hohnen, Robyn Ivers, Sandra Cearn, Dianne March, Helen Milward, Colin Mitchell, Jaan Oitmaa, June Thompson, Alma Van Der Walt, Brian Warburton, Marilyn Whigham, Ellen Williams.

## SMILE AWHILE

Seen in the window of an antique (code word for junk) shop on the South Coast on our recent holiday:

Marriage is like a deck of cards:

In the beginning all you need



Is 2 Hearts and a Diamond.

And by the end, all you need

Is a club and a spade.



*Colin Mitchell, Editor*