

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



NEWSLETTER

June 2015

COUNTDOWN
IS ON

Charity Day this year will be on Tuesday 30th June.

This popular annual event will be held in the Parkview Room.

While not mandatory, we urge you to put your name down on the entry form on the notice board as this will help our hard working organisers, Ruth Griffin and Lyn Lynch to sort out the catering.

Stalls will be open from 11.00am and will include a Trash and Treasure table, books, plants, and a array of gifts and many other surprises.

But wait.....there's more.....

A delicious savoury morning tea will also be served from opening time followed by our Bridge tournament commencing at 12.30pm.

Spot prizes will be drawn throughout the afternoon along with raffles, door prizes etc. including an irresistible afternoon tea.

Once again we will be supporting two very worthwhile local charities, Pandora and Wildlife ARC.

Sales are already well under way for jams, pickles, rocky road, biscuits and beautiful hand made cards. Raffles tickets are also selling well at \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, but why not take a book and sell to your friends. Great prizes including hampers and vouchers drawn on the day.

Put this date in your diary now.

RECENT RESULTS

Congratulations to all

MONTHLY SHIELD (4) 9 tables Monday May 4

1st	Gary Heyting & Dorothy Berzins	63.2%
2nd	Anne Grayden & Julie Sadler	62.5%
3rd	Kathleen Bromley & Mei-Hua Crawford	56.0%

BRIDGE FOR BRAINS 8.5 tables Wednesday May 6

North/South

1st	Diana Coats & Dorothy Berzins	61.3%
2nd	Marie Purkiss & Diane Nichols	54.2%
2nd	Peter Berzins & Gary Heyting	54.2%

East/West

1st	Bob Morris & Gwen White	58.5%
2nd	Alfie Nation & Elizabeth Lawrence	57.9%
3rd	Robyn Ivers & Ursula Middleton	53.2%

COUNTRY TEAMS 7 teams Friday May 1 & 8

1st	Adele Mills, Dorothy Berzins, Diana Coats, Jan Clarke
2nd	Anne Grayden, Bruce Branthwaite, Julie Sadler, Carol Judd
3rd	Barry Foster, Jaan Oitmaa, Karen Ody, Judy Smyth

SWITCHING SINGLES (4) 3 tables Thursday May 7

1st	Pam Harris & Elaine McGorm	71.0%
2nd	Sam Zammit & Betty Adler	59.0%

CLUB RESTRICTED TEAMS 5 teams Tuesday May 19 & 26

1st	Agnes Marsh, Helen White, Leon Babinski, Daphne Montague
2nd	Marion Ellis, Tem Lancaster, Rosanne Ransley, Lyn Lynch
3rd	June Thompson, Alison Heathcote, Lyn Baber, Chris Spikesman

Results continued:-

AUTUMN PAIRS	10 pairs	Thursday 21
1st Colin Mitchell & Wendy Mitchell		61.5%
2nd Alfie Nation & Gwen White		57.9%
3rd Louis Koolen & Barbara Grant		56.2%

MONTHLY SHIELD

After 5 sessions Dorothy Berzins & Gary Heyting are clear leaders on 64, followed by Di Coats & Nancye Joss (50) and Julie Sadler & Anne Grayden on 36.

A total of 39 different pairs have competed so far. 3 pairs have played in all 5 sessions, 6 pairs in 4 and 7 pairs in 3. There are 16 pairs have played in only one session. The latter will need to play in all 5 remaining sessions to be eligible for outright awards.

The best 6 sessions are counted and there are 5 more months to go, so there is still time to give the leaders a run for their money!

SWITCHING SINGLES

24 different members have played in the 4 sessions, but only 8 of these have played more than once. This is an enjoyable competition but it needs your input to be successful. Come along on the second Thursday of the month, preferably with a different partner each time. Alternatively just turn up and a partnership will be arranged for you.

COUNTRY TEAMS REGIONAL FINAL

8 teams competed in this event, hosted by BWBC on Sunday 7th June. The two teams to represent the Central Coast in the zone finals, held later this month are:-

1st Peter Berzins, Dorothy Berzins, Gary Heyting, Helen Milward

2nd Karen Ody, Judith Smyth, Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster

Thanks to Louis Koolen for Directing and the BWBC for a well run and thoroughly enjoyable day.

NEW ABF RANKINGS - MAY - Congratulations to:

Gold Life	Gary Heyting, Louis Koolen
Bronze Life	Elizabeth Lawrence, Barry Foster
National	Bruce Branthwaite

CARD RATINGS - MOST IMPROVED- APRIL & MAY

Robert Lassau	4.96
Cheryl Davidson	1.71
Diane Nichols	1.54
Brandon Zheng	1.28
Shirley McLean	1.20
Peter Berzins	1.16
John Adams	1.13
Gwen White	1.09
Alan Bustany	1.07
Mei-Hua Crawford	1.06

Brian Warburton	1.00
Anne Grayden	0.95
Helen McLean	0.83
Leonard Pratt	0.80
Joan Brierty	0.80
Don Holmes	0.80
Maureen Holmes	0.79
Tem Lancaster	0.78
Enid Pauling	0.72
Heather Bellamy	0.72

DID YOU KNOW:-

Each **King** in a deck of cards represents a **King** from history.

Spades	-	King David
Hearts	-	Charlemagne
Diamonds	-	Julius Caesar
Clubs	-	Alexander the Great

Heard Recently:-

1. There are three types of Bridge Players:- Those who can count and those who can't.
2. An Overbidder:- When the mind is willing but the hand is weak.
3. There is good news and bad news in Bridge:- Good news - you have a Partner and Bad news - you have a Partner.
4. Faith: in Partner. Hope: He/She doesn't stuff up. Charity: if He/She Does.

TALKING BRIDGE:-

No Trump Bidding

Lavings over 1NT - Paul Lavings himself refuses to play this, mainly because it encourages a 4 point 1NT range when a 3 point 1NT range is superior, for various reasons. The 4 point range is simply too wide, making decisions more difficult. More importantly, a 3 point range forces you to decide if the middle of the 3 point range is minimum or maximum, when you are invited. This encourages proper thinking, that there are good and bad 16 counts, and upgrading or downgrading point counts is better than slavish devotion to an exact point count. A key part of becoming an expert is to use points only as a guide, especially in competitive bidding where “shape rules”.

Long ago, 1 NT showed 16-18 HCP or 15-18 HCP, the latter range being popularised by Tim Seres and Dick Cummings/Roelof Smilde who were Australia’s top pair from the 1950s to the early 1980s Extended Stayman is now extinct at expert level. Now, 15-17 is normal in Standard with some people playing 14-16.

Thinking style of the experts

If there is any consensus among the experts, I think the lazier approach of not overloading with gadgets is more popular, not because laziness is good, but because we don’t want to overload our brains with too many agreements & end up with Decision Fatigue at the table. One of the more interesting things about Decision Fatigue is that those suffering from it at bridge do not even notice the errors they make, such is their fatigue. This can create a never-ending cycle of repeating errors. In a nutshell, vast experience has taught them that the key is to be in your Comfort Zone, able to produce your best bridge as often as possible, and to minimize the inevitable mistakes that all of us humans inevitably make. No matter how good you get at bridge, you will never be mistake-free.

#####

Squeeze Plays:

One of our players asked about Squeeze plays the other day. While this may seem quite complicated many do not realise that they probably carry out a squeeze play many times without realising it.

When you are in No Trumps and you have a long suit to run you often end up with another trick because the opposition was being “squeezed” - they had to find discards and could not keep their high cards or length in all suits.

However, the potential for a squeeze play is always there when you can count 1 trick short of your contract - in other words you need to make 12 tricks and you

(contd. from p.5) can only count 11 you may be able to make another by squeezing either or both opponents. There are a couple of things that you need to do though.

Firstly you have to “rectify the count” that is you must lose a trick or tricks in order for the squeeze to work – if you need to make 10 tricks then you need to lose three tricks, if you need to make 12 tricks you need to lose one trick safely - often a question of ducking the first trick.

You cannot do this later in the play – you must lose the required tricks early and of course you may use that opportunity to engineer one opponent to guard two suits. e.g. an opponent leads 4th best from a suit in which you also have length and has overcalled another suit in which you have KQJ9. You have to presume that when you force out the Ace the player now has to protect the 10 in that suit as well as the 4 in the first led suit.

You must have quick entries between hands, a threat card and a forcing card.

The threat card might be set up - the opposition leads the K Hearts from KQJ - you might hold up one round so they lead the Q which you win with your Ace. Now the opponent still holds the J but you might have the 10 in Dummy which becomes a threat card. – ie will be a winner if they jettison their J.

You must have a potential winner in a long “suit” – e.g. You hold A4 of spades in Dummy and in your hand you hold the K973 – you are hoping that in order to hang on to the J of Hearts the opponent will have to discard spades and the 9 of Spades may become good.

Try reading up on Squeeze plays in one of the many bridge books our Members have donated. You may find it easier than you think.

I enjoy a good squeeze myself.

Cheers, Dorothy

COMMITTEE CAPERS:

The Committee has been temporarily depleted with 4 members away at the moment, Di March in America, Di Coats in Cairns, Rosanne in Europe and Leon in Malaysia. Certainly are a well travelled lot. Most will be back soon.

Our 6 new Bridgemates have finally arrived and our Microphone has been fixed and is back in operation.

Thanks to a \$50 Voucher donated by Dasha Brandt and David Bowerman we have purchased 5 items from the Bridge Shop – A 2 Table Howell movement

Card, a long plastic card holder, a pad of Team scorers, a Bridge Pen and a book on Beginner's Play by Derrick Browne. We hope the latter will be utilised by our players and we will provide a book for members to note when they borrow and return it.

Two of our committee members are undertaking the Director's course. Julie Sadler and David Bowerman recently attended a weekend course in Sydney provided by the NSWBA and are now doing their exam by correspondence. Good luck all.

Wendy had 11 starters on Wednesday 27th May and another 5 on Saturday morning. 30th May. The committee has recommended that our Club continue to focus on providing beginner's lessons at night in the future, as both other Clubs provide lessons on weekdays. We will be the only local Club to focus on teaching those still working.

AGM:

Our AGM is scheduled on Saturday 1 August 2015 at 10.30 am followed by the Anniversary Pairs at 12.30. Anyone wanting to put a Motion to the Meeting will need to provide this to the Secretary by **3 July 2015** so that members can be advised of any Motion 21 days before the AGM.

UNDER 100 MP's EVENT:

The committee is currently considering a new (NSWBA) State Championship Event for those players with less than 100 Masterpoints. We had already set aside three weeks in August in our Programme as we understood a new Event was being planned. However the NSWBA wants us to run this during a one week period in September (14th to 20th) or in October (12th to 18th).

The NSWBA points out that 33% of members have less than 9.99 Masterpoints, 13% have less than 24.99 MP's with 12% having between 25 and 49.99 and another 12% has between 50 and 99.9. This means 70 % of players have less than 100 Mp's.

A quick survey of our members show that out of 195 Members listed in the Masterpoint ranking 82 (42%) have less than 100MP's and of these 61 (31.2% of members) have less than 50 MP's. Other interesting statistics are 9% (18) have over 1,000 Masterpoints, 13% (26) have over 500 (and less than 1000) MP's, while 12.8% or 25 members have between 300 and 500 Mps. This leaves 44 (22.56%) of our members having between 100 and 299.9 MP's

Cheers,

Dorothy Berzins, President

COMING EVENTS

JULY

Winter Pairs	R	Friday 3
Monthly Shield (6)	E	Monday 6
Jovial July (best 2/4)	E (evening)	Monday 6,13,20,27
Switching Singles (6)	E	Thursday 9
Zelda Overall Cup	R	Thursday 16
Pot Luck Teams		Thursday 30
Ted Neilsen Memorial Pairs at ACES		Thursday 23 (9.30 start)

Please note there will be NO BRIDGE at the Club on Thursday 23

AUGUST

Anniversary Pairs	R	Saturday 1
<i>(AGM at 10.30am precedes Anniversary Pairs)</i>		
Monthly Shield (7)	E	Monday 3
Novice/Restricted Event	R	Tuesday 4, 11, 18
Switching Singles	E	Thursday 13
Club Pairs	(C/P)	Friday 21 & 28

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for June to:-

George Boettiger, Bruce Branthwaite, Tony Burke, Sue Hanson, Pam Harris, Robyn Ivers, Dianne March, Helen Milward, Colin Mitchell, Jaan Oitmaa, June Rado, Brian Warburton, Marilyn Whigham, Ellen Williams

NEW MEMBERS Please make the following members welcome and add their details to your program book: Janice Roughley (0447 865 111), Helen White (4381 2259), George Shina (0427 437 060) and Shirley McLean (0401 031 907).

WELCOME BACK: Frank and Kath Pellarini

RECORDER CORNER WITH GWEN

If you feel intimidated, rudely or badly treated by any player please call for the Director. Action taken immediately may stem future attempts to bully and intimidate. No player should be made to feel embarrassed or unwelcome at our Bridge Club. Just as no player has the right to spoil the enjoyment of another player.