



CENTRAL COAST **BRIDGE**CLUB

Newsletter

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ON OUR CLUB

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*January
2021*

UPDATE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Central Coast Bridge Club 100 days report

Our first 100 days as the CCBC Committee was reached on 30 November 2020 and it has been both a triumph and a challenge for all Committee members.

We have reopened the clubhouse under stringent conditions, introduced financial improvements, agreed a forward planning project, commenced engagement with members, resumed initiatives including bridge lessons and a Directors' workshop, commenced work to comply with fire safety reports, cleaned the club inside and out, conducted a successful Melbourne Cup event, held as many honour board events as possible and even an online congress.

In addition to this is adoption of new roles for Committee members who have put their hands up to learn more about bridge processes and procedures and improvement of Committee processes in the spirit of open communication and input from members.

Clubhouse Reopening

Opening the clubhouse was this Committee's first priority. We quickly appointed Kerrie Ransom as our first COVID Safe Co-ordinator and to say that she has done an exemplary job is a total understatement.

Under Kerrie's guidance a well-informed and hard-working COVID Safe sub-committee, consisting of Jill Wildey, Norm Berger and Rod Shellshear, has fully researched our requirements in the category of Community Centres and Halls, undertaken extensive compliance, changes to the clubhouse, for example tabletops and covers, signage, markings, quarantine areas and changes to ingress and egress. As well, they put plans and procedures in place to ensure that members are as safe as possible while enjoying a game of bridge, for example our COVID safe plan, COVID safe monitors, training, temperature checking, conditions of use of equipment and cleaning. This has been a massive undertaking and everything that has occurred in the clubhouse since this committee's inception has been governed by COVID safe requirements.

You will be aware that we were able to accept more players to the clubhouse and we have acted immediately to remove barriers that are now deemed unnecessary under new guidelines. However, recently we implemented a face mask policy in alignment with the NSW Health Department's guidelines for safe lengthy indoor activity and aged demographic safety. We will continue to update the premises and procedures to ensure that as many players as possible can attend while also continuing to be COVID safe.

Kerrie continues to monitor requirements and update the Committee. I am very proud of Kerrie and her team not only for their determination to follow the COVID safe guidelines but because of their genuine concern for the health and well-being of members.

Financial improvements

Improving member experience is another key focus of this Committee. The inclusion of table fee and voucher payments using the new EFTPOS machine has proven to be a very popular move as members are happy to 'tap and go' rather than hassle with cash payments at the table. We will be able to accept other member payments as we continue to improve this system in the future. Thank you David, Phil and Lawrie Ransom who assisted the Committee.

Current work in the financial area includes commencement of a budget trading statement for 2020/2021 and a working budget to move through initiatives chosen by the membership.

Planning for the future

An ongoing and important piece of work that has commenced with a project plan and launch is the Forward Planning Project. This project has the goal of creating a plan based on needs and wants of the CCBC membership. The committee has based its draft strategic plan on the CCBC goals as well as the ABF strategic plan. This item of work will take a considerable time to complete and will result in a work plan prioritising improvements/work to be done with a full costing. The membership will have input into the development of the work plan and all plans will be shared.

Process improvement

Process improvements to assist members include a new complaints procedure, reintroduction of the noticeboard and rapid addressing of committee business through out of session motions.

A new complaints process has been endorsed by the Committee. The process will focus on restoring harmony when required rather than punishing offenders. Generally, the complaints process will require the complainant to complete a form which will be referred to the appropriate person/s. A small infraction at the table will be handled by the Director of the session and more serious issues will be dealt with by the committee or referred to the recorder. A complainant may forward a complaint directly to the Recorder.

The noticeboard has now been reopened to members. Notices may be posted without reference to anyone however, we ask that you please consider the well-being of your fellow members and if you have any issue or complaint which would be better mentioned to a Committee member in person, please take that option in preference to the noticeboard.

As the environment is changing faster than our face to face meetings are conducted, we have introduced out of session motions via digital communication. This enables the Committee to make decisions as well as act without delay. So far so good, with a number of motions passed by the committee out of session; one example being those related to COVID restrictions and the pace that we were able to keep abreast of the changing environment.

Personally, I have enjoyed working with the new Committee and I have also been buoyed by the happy faces of our members who are now able to return to bridge.

On this point, we have already re-opened sessions on Monday and Thursday mornings and looking to the future, we are planning a mini Congress on 27-28 March.

I look forward to seeing what 2021 brings and seeing you at the bridge club.



*all the best,
Louise Lewis*

UPDATE FROM OUR COVID-SAFE COORDINATOR

I am honoured to be appointed as the COVID-Safe Coordinator for the club. To say it has kept me on my toes would have to be a huge understatement!

With rapidly changing requirements to the COVID rules (sometimes daily) my number one priorities are playing in safe conditions and following the rules.

Here is a summary of what I have implemented to date to give you an idea of what happens in the background:

- Thoroughly research NSW Health guidelines
- Liaise with NSW Health Covid Specialists
- Liaise with Police Licensing unit and local police
- Consult with our insurers to ensure we are adequately covered for all members after opening during the pandemic
- Setup a Covid sub committee, which met regularly prior to opening
- Create a Covid Safety Plan
- Create a Covid Folder, which contained our Safety Plan, Protocols for Directors, Protocol for Covid Monitors, quarantining of Boards, Entry Register, Training Log, Management of Lessons, and Cleaning Procedures
- Physically set up the club room - this involved cleaning out the whole club, removing half of the tables and chairs, and storing them offsite. Closing off the kitchen. Setting up a check in station.
- Training sessions for Directors
- Training sessions for Covid Monitors
- Purchase of - thermometer, hand sanitizers, 10 new table tops, 3 Perspex screens, cleaning equipment
- Set up a QR code for CCBC for contactless entry
- Creating and laminating signage for a Covid safe environment
- All air conditioners were cleaned and disinfected prior to opening
- Employing a cleaner to ensure thoroughly clean the clubhouse prior to opening
- Employ a permanent cleaner to ensure cleaning is done to NSW Health specifications after EVERY bridge session, meeting, or lesson.



*Stay safe,
Kerrie Ransom*

Expect Good Things

Have you ever noticed that when you catch someone's eye at the shops and smile at them, they usually smile back? We all form expectations about upcoming situations based on our experience. Sometimes those expectations are negative because we have had an unpleasant experience in the past. Those expectations in turn can affect our response to the situation before it even begins. We may be defensive, nervous or agitated before anything even happens. Those expectations and responses in turn affect the upcoming situation, and the expectations can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. The stranger who sees your smile wasn't expecting it; the smile was disarming and brought a pleasant, friendly feeling to an otherwise innocuous situation.



I encourage us to begin each day, each situation anew.

We don't know what might have been happening in another's life the last time we interacted. Don't let the past linger and take the joy out of the present. Be open to a positive situation. Perhaps we cannot control the expectations we form, but we can control how they affect our feelings and our responses. Expect good things; behave as though you expect good things. Maybe you'll be surprised – the stranger may smile back.



*With smiles,
Steph Mathews*

Giddy up! Melbourne Cup

Melbourne Cup was celebrated at the Bridge Club 'Covid style' 2020. Much fun was had by our limited numbers beginning with a few boards of bridge, interspersed with games and culminating with watching the main event on our big screen. Awards were presented for the most stylish headwear and Shan kept us cleverly entertained with her digital 'wheel of numbers'.



Bridge Problems

Hand 1

Dummy
J 10 9 2
9 8
Q 6 5
A K J 2

East (You)
A 7 6
Q 10 5
J 10 9 3 2
4 3



South is in 3NT. West leads the 6 of hearts. You play your Queen and South plays the King. At trick two, South crosses to dummy and leads the Jack of Spades. Over to you East. (Answers on the next page)

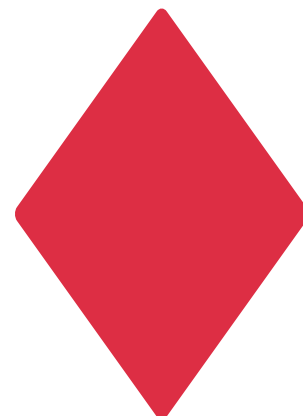
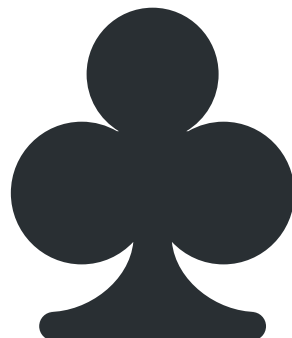
Hand 2

10 8 5 3
A J 7
9 7 6
Q 7 6

7 6
K Q 8 5 2
A K Q
A 8 4

You are in 4H. West leads the King, Ace and another Spade. You ruff the third spade.

You have 2 Club losers. How do you make the contract? (Answers on the next page)



*It's a thinking game
John Redfearn*

Bridge Problems Answers

Hand 1

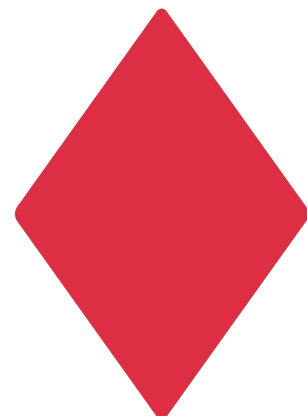
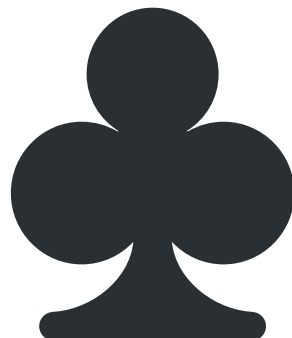
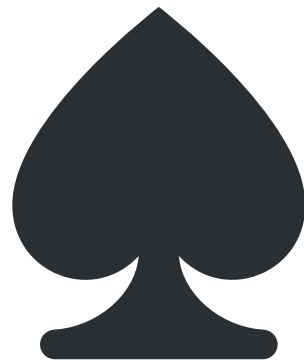
You must fly up with your Ace. South is trying to sneak his ninth trick.

Think about the lead. Partner lead the 6, so using the "rule of eleven" you know that there are 5 cards in dummy, your hand and declarer's.

You can see 4 of them (the 8 and 9 in dummy and the Queen and 10 in your hand). Declarer then has only one card higher than the 6. Take your Ace of Spades, then play your 10 of hearts.

Hand 2

Play your Ace of Clubs, then lead a low club towards the Queen, hoping your left hand opponent hold the King.



*It's a thinking game
John Redbear*

Club Champions since reopening

We ran quite a few Club Trophy events once we returned to face-to-face bridge.

Congratulations to all the following pairs:

Premises Anniversary

Roy Cotton & Stephen Calcroft

Selangor Plate

Angela Dougall & Jan Hilton

Life Members

Norm Berger & Steph Mathews

Charity Day

Kath Bromley & Sue Eastman

President's Cup

John Redfearn & Shan Lawson

Black Swan

Eris Brown & Marg Brett



*Congratulations!
Norm Berger*