



CENTRAL COAST  
**BRIDGE**CLUB

Newsletter

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*February  
2022*

# UPDATE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## PARTNER APPRECIATION MONTH

As we look to wrap up Summer, things aren't cooling down at the club.

This month, we have continued to look at ways to improve your experience from improvement of our grounds to the library and once again thank you to our volunteers for helping to make this possible. Additionally, we are seeking professional architectural advice with the goal of improving the club house and will keep you informed as soon as we have more details.

On the playing front, members are returning to the club following COVID restrictions but we hope that you will support the club a little more by playing a few extra sessions per month to help us to get things going. While a number of sessions are well utilised, Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings as well as Saturday afternoons can do with some more players. Please consider playing an extra session here and there, even if you don't usually play at these times. You never know, you might just make it a permanent outing. Finally, Tuesday night bridge is a whole lot of fun so why not relax with us and in your loungeroom as you play some bridge. See you at 6.30 pm.

Just a few reminders for you: please remember to pay your annual fees which are now due; and remember that lessons for all levels of player are commencing with beginners on Tuesday 15 February, Skill Development on Wednesday 16 February and Enhanced Skill Development on Friday 18 February. We can all do with some extra help here and there so come along and improve your bridge. Sessions cost \$7 with money going toward cost recovery and charity.

In partner appreciation month, I'd like to quote from Eddie Kantar:

*Most bridge players value a reliable, happy partner above anything else. Working together as a team is important for the success of your partnership. You both want to win, so you can't gain anything from getting upset when play doesn't go exactly as planned. And it seldom does!*

Happy bridging

*Louise Lewis,  
President*



# UPDATE FROM OUR COVID-SAFE COORDINATOR

## SOME HAPPY NEWS

As from Friday 25 February face masks are no longer compulsory when entering the Bridge Club or playing bridge. However you can certainly still wear one if it makes you feel more comfortable. Hand sanitizer will be on all tables and you are encouraged to use it as normal. QR check in is no longer required.

FYI from the beginning of Friday, 25 February 2022, the following adjustments will be made in NSW:

- Masks will only be mandated on public transport, planes, and indoors at airports, hospitals, aged and disability care facilities, corrections facilities, and indoor music festivals with more than 1,000 people;
- Masks are encouraged for indoor settings where you cannot maintain a safe distance from others and for customer-facing retail staff to protect vulnerable people who must access these premises and services;
- Each State Government agency will review where it may be appropriate for public-facing staff to wear masks and will implement as necessary; and
- The 20,000 person cap on music festivals will be removed, with singing and dancing permitted. Vaccination requirements will remain for indoor music festivals over 1,000 people, with attendees required to have at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Hotel quarantine for unvaccinated returning travellers will be reduced from 14 to 7 days from 21 February.

*Norm Berger,  
COVID Monitor*



# CCBC Club Events

The CCBC Individual Championship was a great success with 40 players participating. A very narrow winner was Matt Raj Mal from Nancy Asquith. Congratulations.

In March we have our Club Mixed Pairs Championship on Wednesday the 9th commencing at 9.30. It's an all-day event cost is \$20 including lunch and drinks at the conclusion of play. Please enter via the Notice Board. The first 3 pairs qualify to go to Sydney for the final.

Also on 24 & 31 Thursday afternoons we have our Restricted Pairs Championship, this is for players with fewer than 300mps each. Enter via the Notice Board..

Wednesday 6 April is our Country Teams, the first three teams will qualify for the Regional Final. Once again it's an all day event.

*Enjoy,  
Norm Berger*



# Partner funnies

The most important skill you can have in bridge is finding a good partner

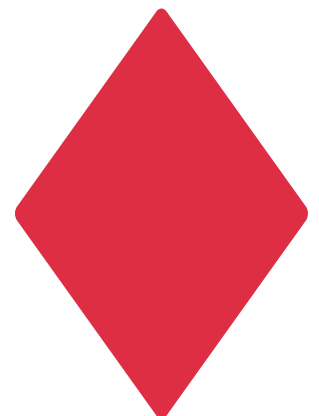
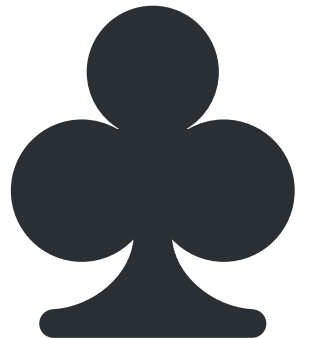
According to an article in the SMH, there are only five real authorities on bridge in this country. Odd how often you get one as a partner!

The supply of poor partners greatly exceeds the demand

The first rule of bridge - It is always partner's fault

(Overheard at the partner arranging desk)

Make it a cute guy and I don't care if he can play bridge



*It's a thinking game  
John Redbear*

# Player Promotions

Congratulations to those who were promoted another ABF placing in January

- Rod Shellshear (Silver Local)
- Roy Cotton (Silver National)

I also want to congratulate the Top 5 Masterpoint earners in our club for 2021

- G Heyting 33.4
- S Mathews 29.77
- K Dougall 27.07
- A Dougall 25.07
- J Redfearn 24.51



*Colin Kleinig,  
Masterpoint Secretary*

# What Do I Lead Now?!

Above all bridge is a partnership game. We all communicate with our partners through the bidding; during play we all know not to trump our partner's Ace (unless there is a very good reason). But do you communicate with your partner throughout the play? You'll find that doing so will greatly improve your game.

There are three important circumstances in which you should help your partner understand what you want her to do next: when she leads a suit, when you have run out of the suit opponents lead, and when you lead a suit you know your partner will ruff. There are many systems for communication in such situations – find one that works for your partnership and be sure you and your partner agree. The information below is not intended to be exhaustive – just an effort to get you started.

**When your partner leads.** First, take note of the card your partner leads. Often a high card is top of a sequence; it also may be top of nothing. Generally, if it's an honour, it's top of a sequence; if it's a 10 or 9, it's likely top of nothing. He doesn't want you to lead it back. If your partner leads an Ace of King, he'd probably like to know if you think he should continue leading the suit? Can you take a subsequent trick? Do you have so many of the suit that you know opponent has a void? Players often use a high or low –encourage system. High encourage: if you play a high card on partner's lead, you're asking him to continue the suit. With low encourage, if you play a low card on partner's lead, you want him to continue the suit. Remember the converse is also true. If you and your partner agree to play high encourage, playing a low card discourages continuation of the suit.

When you are out of a suit. Let's say you're out of spades and your partner wins the spade trick. Wouldn't it be nice if she knew you had the Ace of hearts? There are many different ways to let her know; these are just a few. Two methods require you to play a card in the suit you want partner to lead. With "high encourage" you would play a high heart on the spade trick, saying "Partner, please lead you a heart when you get on lead." Conversely, if you play a low heart on the spade trick, you're telling partner, "please don't lead hearts."

With **“low encourage”** you would play a low heart on the spade trick, asking her to lead you a heart when she is on lead. Conversely, if you play a high heart on the spade trick, your saying, “please don’t lead a heart.” I like these two methods because they also allow you to say what you don’t want. After all, you may not want anything because you have a terrible hand.

**With McKenney, you play a card in a suit you do not want her to lead.** If you play a high card, you don’t want the suit you played, but want the higher of the two remaining suits; if you play a low card, you want the lower of the two remaining suits. With our above example, spades are led and you want your partner to lead hearts when she gets the lead. If you play a high club on the spade trick, you tell your partner you want hearts (the higher between hearts and diamonds); if you play a high diamond, your partner knows to lead a heart. Conversely, let’s say you want a club lead. If you play a low heart or diamond on the spade lead, you’re asking partner to lead a club. It took me a while to understand this system. To this day, when Shan plays a high diamond on a spade trick I say to myself, she doesn’t have spades, she doesn’t want diamonds she wants . . . a heart!

**When you lead to partner knowing he will ruff.** It’s great to give partner a ruff because you get a trick, but what does he do after he ruffs? Wouldn’t it be great if you could get two tricks? Say spades is trump and you know partner is out of hearts. You have the Ace of clubs. When you lead a heart to partner for him to ruff, lead a low heart – that says “Partner, after you ruff this heart, please send back a club!” Of course, all of these options depend on what cards are available in your hand. Remember it’s a partnership game – communicate with your partner at every opportunity. Be sure you have an agreement on signals. And most important of all – remember your partner is giving up 3+ hours to play with you – be kind, be appreciative, and work together to improve your game.

*It's a partnership game  
Steph Mathews*





# A Bridge Partner's Response

Oh partner, we should have been in two.  
But partner why two when one will do?  
Oh partner don't you know what it means when I go to three.  
But partner you didn't reverse so I couldn't see.

Oh partner why did you pass, my hand is great?  
Ok partner so why didn't you bid to show your shape.  
Oh partner you bid 1 club does it mean two or three  
and I can't remember whether we play McKenney.  
And partner can we have a simple system card?  
Why does this have to be so hard?

Oh my partner, you're taking far too long  
and that last bid was just so wrong.  
But partner it's supposed to be a thinking game,  
so why do you always complain?  
I thought that we were going to have fun  
but I'll tell you now that I'm having none.

Oh partner you went down by more than 2,  
I should have told you what to do.  
But partner when you tell me this and tell me that,  
I have no idea where I'm at.  
Partner listen to me, I'm always right.  
I read all Kantar's books at night.  
Well partner it's great that you are so well read.  
If I were you I'd just go to bed.

Anon