



Central Coast Bridge Club

2022/23

# President's Report

## by Louise Lewis

This report sees my final contribution as your President. Although this last year was a shortened one (September 2022 to May 2023) as we realign following COVID, we have achieved a lot. It has, however, been a challenge in many respects.

You may recall from the outset that my brand as President has been openness and inclusivity. I hoped to invite input from the membership and ensure that they were advised of important details to make informed decisions. While I can say that this focus was largely successful, I regret that committee decisions were not supported by some sectors and I am not as pleased upon exiting this role as I may have been. Having said that, I am proud of what I have managed to contribute and I can say that I have never been afraid to get my hands dirty from moving chairs around congresses and binding training booklets to writing change management plans and project management documents.

This year saw the committee change slightly with the exit of David Purkiss and Kerrie Ransom and the addition of Matt Raj Mal and Graham Steele. Thank you to this committee for devoting your time to the club.

While the financial statement currently shows a surplus of \$1,762 for the 2023 year, enquiries are currently being made in relation to the report from DSR Partners Accountants, the result of which will be clarified at or before the AGM. In particular, the money spent to date on the building upgrade is not reflected as an expense in that report and totals over \$20,000.

During the 2022/23 year, events of significance were in the areas of: the constitution, lesson delivery, a congress and project management.

Thank you to members and those who supported my presidency, I wish you all the best in your bridge playing pursuits.

# President's Report by Louise Lewis



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[The Constitution](#)

## The Constitution

It is with great pleasure that I confirm that the 2023 CCBC Constitution was accepted by the Department of Fair Trading Registry and Lodgments on 20 April 2023 and is now in effect.

Changes to the constitution were three years in the making as it was necessary to consult members to determine what was desired for your club. I believe that the resulting 2023 constitution provides a detailed framework for planning and club activities moving forward.

The new 2023 constitution will be posted to the website and you should destroy your obsolete copies should you have any in your possession, to avoid confusion.

I would like to thank the committee and membership for their input with special mention of Stephanie Mathews for assisting me for many hours to get the constitution through.

The next step will be to put processes in place such as life member - for the next committee perhaps.

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[Bridge Lessons](#)

## Bridge Lessons

Continuing on from last year, John Redfearn and his team have graduated more learners with their Bachelors of Bridge, with a number progressing to the Essentials II course currently being run by Stephanie Mathews and on to playing sessions.

Given continued support from future committees, I believe that this scaffolded approach to teaching beginners is a winner which should yield positive results for the club in the future. I will miss the presentation ceremonies and morning teas with our new graduates many of whom have joined the club.

Thank you once again to John Redfearn, Stephanie Mathews, Peter Johnman, Colin Kleinig and Gary Heyting.

For existing members, there are still two sessions offered on Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons. The Wednesday sessions are aimed at novice players while the Friday sessions tackle some more challenging bridge concepts. The lessons are a great way to build bridge skill and have some fun at the same time.

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## Congress

Marilyn Scott continues to make us proud by running exceptional congresses on behalf of the club. The Super Congress was a resounding success with participants travelling from far and wide to join us. Congratulations to our restricted team of Shan Lawson, Stephen Calcroft, Colin Kleinig and Berenice Air who featured in the placings.

True to our reputation, some delicious food was on offer to ravenous bridge players not to mention Thea's amazing cake. We had many volunteers assisting Marilyn to make our congress a success including bakers and workers but there are too many to list, suffice to say thank you, thank you, thank you.

Marilyn hasn't rested on her laurels as she gears up again for our Novice and Restricted Congress on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 July. Entry is via the NSWBA website, so please come along to join in the fun. Marilyn is also exploring the possibility of additional congresses for the coming year.

## Our Volunteers

A club does not run without help from its volunteers so I would like to acknowledge their contributions as they go about their work:

Shan Lawson – newsletter editor, Club Administrator and IT, website manager, Facebook manager; Carolyn Dickinson and her team – gardening; Stephanie Mathews – additional roles of teacher and bridge mentor; Kevin and Angela Dougall – bridge librarians; Mary McFadden, Gillian Aldridge and Eris Brown – librarians for non- bridge library; Colin Kleinig – COVID co-ordinator, Masterpoint Secretary, First Aid Kit maintenance, Key Master and training assistant; Jan Lawson – purchasing officer; Mary McFadden – recorder; Matt Raj Mal – tournament secretary; John Redfearn – chief director, dealing boards and teacher; Rod Shellshear – maintenance, building upgrade subcommittee; Graham Williamson – trophies and honour boards ; Norm Berger, Peter Johnman and David Purkiss – building upgrade subcommittee; Peter Johnman, Kerrie Johnman and Alan Raward – scrutineers; Gary Heyting – training assistant

We are also grateful once again to the volunteers who realise that cups don't find their way to the dishwasher on their own or put themselves away for that matter. Thank you so much for helping the cups.

Finally, our directors without whom there would be no bridge. They are Stephanie Mathews, Shan Lawson, Norm Berger, Graham Williamson, Matt Raj Mal and John Redfearn.

## Project Management

While the building upgrade project has been frustrated by Council's comments relating to approval being imminent followed by their continual request for further information, an equally frustrating management issue threatens the smooth running of the project.

At its October 2022 meeting, the committee unanimously passed a motion to adopt a set of project management documents including an extensive delegation document for a Building Upgrade Subcommittee (BUS) (attached to the member newsletter) and a set of project management templates (report template, risk assessment, construction risk register, decision log, communication log (tba)). The purpose of these documents was to not only comply with the requirements of the CCBC constitution in relation to delegation to subcommittees, but to setup a process whereby the BUS and the CCBC committee could communicate, make decisions and store an extensive written record of the building upgrade which is undoubtedly, at a \$250,000 plus investment, the largest undertaking that the club has engaged in. It is my regret that despite attempting to establish a sound and workable process, the committee was frustrated at every turn and no proper project management reports, correspondence or completed templates of substance were submitted as requested. With absent regular and complete communication, the committee cannot perform its duty of oversight of this expensive project. Additionally, no-one from the BUS membership has expressed a willingness to manage the building upgrade project, a task that now falls to the architect to perform at additional cost. Therefore, as delegation to the BUS subcommittee has been an obvious failure, I leave the decision to the next committee to determine whether changes to these arrangements should be made to safeguard the club. At a minimum, the usefulness of the BUS comes into question.

Having said that, I still believe that conducted properly and with the utmost care, the project extensions will be an asset to CCBC and they will enhance the experience of our members. Given current economic conditions, both the committee and the membership should carefully monitor the situation to ensure compliance with budgetary plans and building quality.

## Summary

While this committee made a number of advances for the club, of which I am very proud, they were somewhat dulled by the difficulties encountered which I believe could have been avoided with a willingness to work as a cohesive team. Given my preference for openness and transparency, this has caused me particular angst. For this reason and because I feel in a position of experience but neutrality, I have made the decision to endorse candidates for the next committee accompanied by my reasons. Members will of course make up their own minds about the next committee but I wish to share mine:

### President

**Shan Lawson.** Shan is a long term member of the club who has successfully served as President previously. She is dedicated to the club and determined to preserve it as a friendly, social environment for its members. Shan is no stranger to overseeing modifications to the club and is more than capable of handling the upgrade project with her team. Additionally, she has many other skills which are useful to this role, namely her management and IT skills. Shan is passionate about CCBC and is a team player. I have every confidence that she will continue with openness and transparency which the membership deserve.

### Treasurer

**Mark Mathews.** Mark is a conscientious record keeper who has written and obtained a number of grants, managed budgets and worked in high level financial/administrative roles. Mark has more than sufficient knowledge and skill to be the CCBC treasurer. Mark also puts his name forward as an independent thinker, not likely to be coerced but willing to debate.

### Committee

**Colin Kleinig.** Colin just keeps contributing as a sound, useful and wise committee member who is an asset to the club. His services are essential on any new committee.

**Stephanie Mathews.** Stephanie is one of the most honest people who I have met at the club. While she speaks her mind, she is willing to listen to others and is a stickler for fairness. Stephanie is highly knowledgeable and skilled. She was consistent and very supportive while I was president.

**Matt Raj Mal.** Since joining the committee, Matt has been polite, hardworking and useful. I am sure that he will continue to be so.

**Graham Steel.** Graham is another former President who knows the functioning of a bridge club and bridge club committees. Graham's experience and input was very useful this year, often moving the debate on with insightful contributions. I found Graham's input very useful.

**Jill Wildey.** Jill was on the committee for the past 3 years while I was President when her considered opinions were always welcome. She will not join voting blocs and she has shown that she is willing to stay the distance. Jill is a great committee member.

**Graham Williamson.** Graham is a clubman who is helpful and polite. Graham has served on the committee while I have been president and I don't see why this should not continue.

**Michael Hilton.** Michael is a fresh face who has fresh ideas and he will be an asset to a new committee.

Louise Lewis

President

