



Newsletter: December 2023



The State of the Nation summary from our President:

At the very successful Xmas party last week, I emphasised the critical importance of committed Volunteers who work hard and selflessly to support the efficient operations of the CCBC. These Volunteers include:

1. **Bridge Playing**

- **Directors** – John, Norm & Matt work tirelessly to oversee 8 duplicate bridge sessions, are unpaid and should always be respected. Without Directors, the CCBC cannot open its doors. Given the small number of directors and a female club membership of 70%, the Committee hopes that a representative from this group will step forward to be trained as a director.
- **Boards** – Graham Williamson
- **General Support**: collecting table fees, emptying baskets, cleaning up, packing dishwasher.

2. **Catering (Jill Wildey & team)**

- wonderful volunteers who help with the catering function including working in the kitchen for bridge normal sessions, Congresses, and special events
- members bringing in cakes, slices etc – there are several wonderful pastry cooks around.

- **Purchasing Officer – Dawn Thomas** - a very difficult and time-consuming job conducted with a minimum of fuss including the timely provision of all kitchen supplies sourced at competitive prices etc.
3. **Gardening** - Carolyn Dickinson & team who work tirelessly to maintain the gardens.
 4. **Training & Development** – John Redfearn and his absolute commitment to training and development including developing lessons for Beginners & Intermediates
 5. **Maintenance** – the CCBC maintenance expenditure is at an all-time low due solely to Rod Shellshear’s “can do” attitude and innovative approach to solving many difficult maintenance problems.
 6. **Congress Convenor** – the CCBC is still looking for a Congress Convenor given the end of a very successful tenure by Marilyn Scott – a hard act to follow, however Marilyn has developed a “turnkey” set of instructions that can easily be followed. Next year's congresses include our Super Congress in March and Novice/Restricted in early June. I would like to thank John Redfearn for managing the recent Novice and Restricted Teams Congress in November.
 7. **Librarian** – Angela Dougall’s no nonsense approach to managing bridge books has kept the library intact.
 8. **CCBC Committee** – in addition to normal committee meeting responsibilities, the 11 members perform a myriad of functions including Website Manager (Lawrie Ransom), Club Administrator & IT (Mike Hilton), Tournament Organizer (Matt Raj Mal), Recorder (Lawrie Ransom), Newsletter (Jan Buchanan-Medina), Social Welfare Representative (Jill Wildey), Masterpoint Secretary (Colin Kleinig), Trophies, Prizes and Honour Board (Graham Williamson).
 9. **Sub Committees** – active sub committees include the Building Upgrade Project, Marketing, Training & Development and Disciplinary Review.
 10. **Hardest Working Volunteer** – again a massive thankyou to John Redfearn for his tireless and selfless work in ensuring that the CCBC operations continue to function effectively and for the benefit of members.

BUILDING UPGRADE PROJECT

1. The committee has released its plan for the simultaneous completion of Stages 1, 2 & 3
2. As the CCBC is owned by its members, any decision to proceed to complete Stages 1, 2 and 3 will be subject to approval by at least 75% of members at a Special General

Meeting. Consequently, a member consultative process will commence during the next few weeks including 1) seeking feedback from members; 2) circulating answers to FAQ's; 3) hosting an information session with attendees including the Architect, Builder, members of the Committee etc.

3. Please note that the sponsorship donation proposal is voluntary and entirely up to members if they decide to assist the CCBC with funding the building upgrade project. Clearly, the higher the level of sponsor donation support, the lower the level of CCBC debt going forward.

CCBC – A SOCIAL CLUB

Regular Monday and Thursday afternoon players will know that the CCBC has progressively developed into a social club with most members seeking social interaction and a fun time with masterpoints a secondary consideration. The Xmas party was a good example of the CCBC's "social orientation" with 64 members attending compared to 48 last year.

I would also like to thank all members who have shown support and compassion for those members who have suffered a significant personal loss during the last few months. Without the support of the "CCBC Bridge Family", the grieving process and its accompanying sadness would have been more difficult and painful.

CODE OF CONDUCT

I would like to draw the attention of members to the Club's Code of Conduct which provides guidelines for acceptable behaviour in and around the Clubhouse and between members. At the end of the day, members are entitled to the quiet enjoyment of a game of bridge.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

After considerable committee discussion and analysis of member feedback, the following changes were made to sessions: -

- Monday Afternoon Sessions – a single movement with a Master Point limit of 400MP's.
 - Thursday Afternoon Sessions – 2 separate movements of under 30MP's and over 30MP's.
 - Friday Morning Sessions – moved to Friday afternoon commencing at 1.00pm
 - Friday Afternoon Lessons for Intermediates – moved to Friday morning at 10.30am
- Overall, it's been one of our most active years and we have made substantial progress.

Your executive and committee thank every one of you for your contribution to our friendly Club.

David Purkiss

Congratulations to the Black Swan Winners

Right to Left. 1st: Lyn and Don Paton. Runners-up: Jackie Hardwick and Mary McLeod.



LESSONS (or how to become a winner)

Sharpen Your Senses with a firm grasp on the importance of Making the Plan

Wednesday December 13th

Revision hands

Friday December 15

Revision hands

Prof John is giving you a month of rest of celebration (and recuperation) after the Christmas festivities. We know he has some exciting new plans for the New Year and he'll be sharing these with you in January.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE QUIET ACHIEVERS

IN SEPTEMBER

Keith Woodbury achieved the rank of Graduate; Jan Buchanan-Medina became a Local Master; Marilyn Scott was promoted from Silver Local to regional and Colin Kleinig enhanced his ranking from National to Bronze national.

IN OCTOBER

Christina Passafaro became a Graduate;
Lynette Bigland and Tony Giles progressed from Graduate to Club;
Vic Pietraszkiewicz and Lois Smith zipped up from Bronze Local to Silver Local;
Graham Williamson moved up from Bronze Regional to State Regional and
Steve Calcroft slid elegantly upwards from National to Bronze National.
Well done, friends!



WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON IN DECEMBER?

SUMMER PAIRS, WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

This is a RED point event OPEN to everyone, so we are aiming for 5-plus tables to maximise points for place-getters. Choose your PAIRS partner and have your names on the list on the Notice Board by 4pm the day before. Tea, coffee and nibbles will be available all afternoon. Cost is \$8. Please have your voucher or credit card ready as soon as you sit down and please be seated by 12.50.

DON'T FORGET OUR FRIENDLY FEELGOOD

FRIDAYS START AT 1.00PM

Come along to enjoy an afternoon of bridge and nibbles and fun with friends finishing with a flourish of wine, bubbles or beer. No partner required, just come along and sample our club hospitality. It's a great way to kick off the weekend and a warm welcome for a new player. \$8, please be seated by 12.50. Everyone welcome, no partner If you're

CONGRATULATIONS TO SYDNEY BRIDGE CENTRE, WHO WON BOTH THE STATE NOVICE AND RESTRICTED TEAMS

The CCBC had the pleasure of hosting the State teams on the 11th and 12th of November. It was a most enjoyable day and we congratulate the happy winners.

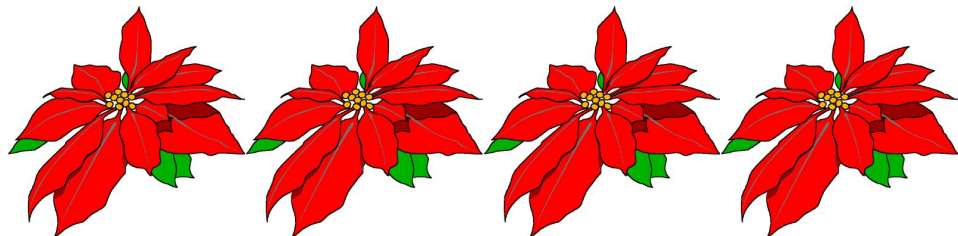


State Novice Team Winners

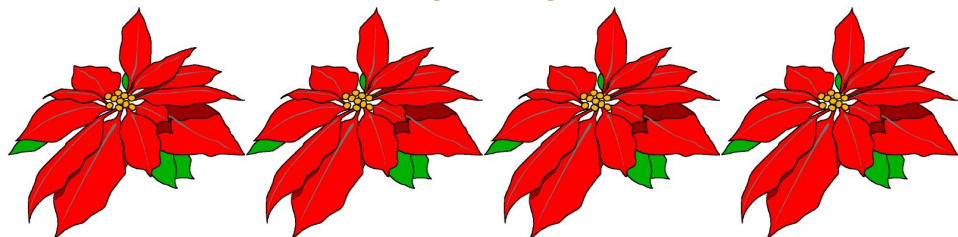
Alan Bustany (R) and L to R: Dave Hayvatt, B. Rewers, Julie Rollinson, Margaret Havyatt.

State Restricted Team Winners

L to R: David Purkiss, President CCBC; Gail McKenzie, Lisa Rush, Michael Hogan, Martin Brown, Alan Bustany.



It is with great sadness that we heard of the peaceful passing of Barry Laidlaw who farewelled the world last week. Barry has been a constant presence at the Club for many years and he will be greatly missed.



CAUGHT IN THE ACT AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY



Five shades of wonderful...



*Santa's Little Helpers were everywhere.
On the soundstage, in the kitchen, serving delicacies, feasting,
up to their elbows in soapsuds, scrubbing cutlery,
dancing or just tapping toes. Everyone was humming along.
You can't help thinking how lucky we are
to have so many willing volunteers and so many gifted chefs.
David thanked everyone and everyone had a wonderful time.
Special thanks to Five Shades of Grey who
gifted their unmatched music to us.*



There was a lot of sitting around chatting, relaxing, laughing and telling tales.
We give special thanks to Thea
who has tickled many a palate throughout the year with her
apparently endless baking and decorating talent.



Merry Christmas Friends!

After all, we are a Bridge Club so John sent this interesting hand which turned up in a recent session:

DUMMY	You are in 4H. West (LHO) leads the ace of clubs.
65	Dummy is tabled and of course you thank partner.
643	You count your losers.
7654	West leads the Ace, King and Queen of Clubs
9532	How do you play the hand?

DECLARER

AQ
KQJ9875
AK
xx

You have 4 losers - (1 possible spade, 1 heart and 2 clubs) On the lead of the Queen of Clubs (the third lead of Clubs) I hope that you did not ruff with the 5. You must ruff high. You want to get to dummy to finesse the King of Spades. Ruff with the 9 and lead the King of Hearts. Win the return and draw the last heart. Now the 6 is your entry to dummy. Play the H5 to the H6 and finesse East for the King of Spades. Wait for thunderous applause.



And here's another little mindbender from John to entertain you: the following are common bridge terms. However, each has been written in a cryptic fashion. Can you decipher them? Answers at the end.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| a) angry president | b) jet timber | c) Don't move, Guy |
| d) grow smaller | e) dib | f) fine twosome |
| g) sounds like underground workers | | h) feeble pairs |
| i) Initially Colin left us behind | | j) crazy spas |

How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?



OR - How Many Points Does That 1NT Show?

How much is the dog worth? How many points is your 1NT worth?

Here is a selection of 1NT bids that are used by many, but not all, Standard American bridge players. Being aware of the variety of 1NT bids available will certainly not harm your bridge ability.

1. *1NT opening bid*. This bid shows either 15-17 or 15-18. The partnership chooses which of the two ranges to use.
2. *1NT overcall*. 15-17/18 with a balanced hand and at least one stopper in the suit bid by the Right-Hand Opponent (RHO).
3. *1NT as Opener's first rebid* IF partner has bid. 12-14 points with a balanced hand.
4. *1NT response to partner's opening bid of 1 Club or 1 Diamond*. Denying a 4-card major, often 6-10 points, sometimes 6-9.
5. *1NT response to partner's 1 Heart or 1 Spade opening*. 6-9 HCPs and denies a 4-card Spade suit if partner opened 1 Heart.
6. *1NT in a Balancing Position*. The balancing position is when your Left-Hand Opponent (LHO) has made an opening bid of 1 of a suit and the bidding goes Pass, Pass to you. You know that your RHO almost certainly does NOT have 6 points. Most players make a balancing 1NT with 11-14 or 12-15 points, a NT shaped hand with at least one stopper in LHO's suit.
7. *1NT rebid by opener when partner has passed*. When partner has denied 6 points it is very dangerous to rebid 1NT with 12-14 points. Most experienced players would not rebid 1NT in this situation unless they have 18-19 points.
8. *The Sandwich 1NT*. This is a not-so-common bid but may appeal to some. It occurs only when partner has passed, and the opponents have both bid a suit at the one-level. Now your 1NT bid shows 5 cards in each of the 2 unbid suits, and very little defensive values. Almost always it DENIES a full opening hand. It is seeking either a fit to play at the 2-level, or to push the opponents higher into a more difficult contract. This bid is almost identical to the Unusual 2NT bid. In fact, Larry Cohen and Marty Bergen, both consider it to be the Unusual NT bid.

Bob Merrill wrote the 'Doggie in the Window' song and Patti Page first made it popular in 1952. You don't have to guess the price of the dog to become a good bridge

player. However, you do need to know that INT has very different meanings at different times in a bridge auction. I hope you find this helpful.

Brian Richardson. 2023

Cryptic Answers: a) cross trump b) blackwood c) stayman d) contract
e) reverse bid f) penalty double g) minors h) weak twos i) club j) pass

Should you happen upon an abandoned outdoor table and chairs, your Club wants to adopt them. If they won't fit in your car, let the Committee know and we'll organise pick-up.



Until next month, the editorial staff wishes everyone a merry, happy and safe Christmas and leaves you with a link to our website:
<https://www.centralcoast.bridge-club.org>



"The Moving Finger" (do you recognise the quote?)

