



SEPTEMBER 2026

A word from our President

Hello members

It's been a hectic few months since the AGM. We have had many new beginners at Kerrie and Peter Johnman's classes and a dozen more due to start lessons on 1 September. The 'Introduction to Bridge' sessions at Tuggerah and Erina libraries had a total of 24 participants and many of those are now keen to get further training.



Our congresses this year have been well attended and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive in all aspects. I'm confident we can all look forward to another year of enjoyable and satisfying bridge.

Keith Woodbury

Your Committee for 2026-27

Keith Woodbury (President)
Brian Millanta (Vice President)
Lyn Lynch (Treasurer)
Lyn Paton (Secretary)
Colleen Milne
Don Paton
Rod Shellshear
Jill Wildey
Sue Woodbury

Our session times

Monday 9.30 am and 1.30 pm
Tuesday 1.00 pm
Wednesday 1.00 pm
Thursday 9.30 am and 1.30 pm
Friday 1.00 pm (followed by drinks and nibbles)
Saturday 1.00 pm

Our newly appointed recorder is Liz Munro

CCBC special event results

- *Interclubs teams (Wednesday 24 June) – see below for winners photoboard*
- *Wamberal Cup (Wednesday 22 July) – 1st Matt Raj Mal and Brian Richardson*
- *Club Novice and Restricted Congress (25/26 July) – see below*
- *Club Open Teams (27 July and 3 August) – 1st Ron and Chantel Silsarch, Peter Cloughessy and Nola Daly*
- *Club Novice Teams (Thursday 6 and 13 August) – 1st Judy DInd, Maree Fitzgerald, Lee Mitchell, Gloria Smith*
- *Club Open Pairs (Wednesday 19 August) – 1st Tony Sappideen and Peter Cloughessy*
- *Australia Wide Open Pairs (Thursday 27 August) – (results TBA)*

Grand National Open Teams (GNOTS)

After a qualifying event at each central coast club, winning teams came together to represent the central coast at a regional level. This session was held on Sunday 23 August at Brisbane Waters Bridge Club. The winning team was Sylvia Foster, Barry Foster, Jaan Oitmaa and Jim Routledge who represented our club at Long Jetty. The CCBC team – Colin Kleinig, Berenice Air, Jane Stephens and Mat Raj Mal participated but were unplaced. Congratulations all on a great result.

All regular club results are available on our website.

Coming up

- *Life Member Pairs (Wednesday 9 September – 1.00 pm)*
- *Club Restricted Team (Thursday 10 and 17 September – 1.30 pm)*
- *September Pairs (Friday 18 September – 1.30 pm)*
- *Premises Anniversary Pairs (Wednesday 23 September – 1.00 pm)*
- *The Lakes Challenge, Toronto (Thursday 22 October)*

See Don Paton's email of 30 August for further information on all these coming events



CCBC Interclub Teams Wednesday 24 June



1st Open – Kerrie and Peter Johnman, Virginia Dressler and Ian McKinnon



1st Restricted – Lyn Lynch, Colleen Milne, Annette Houtman and Mark Mathews



1st Novice – Susan Mingay, Tess Oehm, Heather Spencer, Debra Baldwin



The Interclub teams day was a relaxed, friendly event, once again directed by John McIlraith and assisted by Kevin Hughes. A special thanks to Lynn Bigland who so generously provided all those yummy cakes and slices for afternoon tea



CCBC Novice and Restricted Congress Saturday and Sunday 25/26 July

Congratulations to all who helped to make this congress the success that it was! From our Directors, John McIlraith and Kevin Hughes who kept us all in order, John Redfearn and co for their tireless preparation of all the boards and the volunteers who made sure everything was ship shape – and of course our catering crew and members who provided all the amazing food. Once again we received lots of accolades and the feedback surveys were very complimentary. Good job!

And the teams winners were :



1st Restricted – Wynne O'Brien, Pam Leathley, Gail Beverley, Lyn Lynch



2nd Restricted – Ruth McConnell, Audrey Belt, Margaret Hagar, Gwen Rafferty



3rd Restricted – Lewis Carey, Graham Williamson, Lyn Brownlee, Pam Jones



1st Novice – Karen McSpeerin, Leanne Johnson, Cathy Clapoudis, Deb Scott



2nd Novice – Bill Wilmott, Gina Anderson, Dennis Lee, Sally Gilder



3rd Novice – Lynn Bigland, Lee Mitchell, Gloria Smith (not pictured), Maree Fitzgerald



Kevin Hughes, John McIlraith and John Redfearn

Congress results *(continued)*

Swiss Pairs 1st placegetters :



1st Novice - Gabi and Kat King



1st Restricted – Neil McMaster and Jennifer Bisset

And some random pix from the congress



Beginners' lessons

The next session of beginners' lessons in the training room begins on Tuesday 1 September, run by Kerrie and Peter Johnman.

Those interested in attending can still register by notifying either Carolyn Dickinson (0438 043 211) or Colleen Milne (0412 377 004) or chat with them at the club.

Intermediate lessons

John Redfearn will guide you through revision and special tips to enhance your bidding and play. The following is a timetable for these Tuesday morning sessions from 9.30 :

1 Sept – Blackwood

Making your suit contract –

- *8 Sept – suit establishment*
- *15 Sept - roughing in the short hand*
- *22 Sept – finessing*
- *29 Sept – cross roughing*

6 Oct - revision

Everyone is welcome so come along and learn or revise

Beginners transitioning

Transition sessions (for those who have moved on from beginner's lessons) will be held weekly on Tuesday and Thursday, with a Director and a teacher.

Learner's liaison



Carolyn Dickinson has taken on the role of Learners Liaison Officer – she will be the first contact and overall beginners' coordinator to monitor their path from initial entry through to club play



Directors in training

Several CCBC members have put up their hands to further their bridge experience by undergoing director training. Sessions and discussion groups are continuing, including an initial session at Toronto Bridge Club and continuing on at our club. We are very grateful to those who are putting up their hands, as this enables us to play more bridge and raise the level of expertise in our club.

One of these trainees, Maree Kelly, has shared her experience with us :

'You develop many new skills when you become a Bridge Director. My main focus is to rule in the "Spirit of the game", while applying the rules and laws. Some of these skills include :

- *Conflict resolution*
- *Learning to make fast, firm decisions under pressure*
- *technical skills - scoring software*
- *understanding movements*
- *bridging hardware*
- *mental sharpness/challenge*
- *deepened game knowledge*
- *enhanced decision making*
- *having tolerance and patience*

Benefits gained include personal fulfilment and satisfaction. Qualified directors can open their own clubs and teach, run private games, organise and teach bridge on cruises. Passing regional exams enables you to direct national tournaments, offering opportunities to travel to major events. I can't see myself reaching those heights (one can only dream) but the real satisfaction for me is knowing that I can help out at the club and hopefully make a difference, make new friends and listen to all the great members who have a wealth of knowledge and experience to pass on.

So a big thank you for your tolerance and patience while I continue my journey in becoming a respected Director.

Maree Kelly, Associate Director



Members' Corner

Travellers

Keith and Jan Perring recently visited China and shared this memory with us –



Jan, Keith, Peter and Sue relaxing in Guilin at the end of an amazing journey in China which took in the Warriors, the Great Wall, fabulous architecture of Shanghai, the Three Gorges, the Forbidden City and much more ...

Partners Pool

Are you occasionally looking for a bridge partner for a particular session?

Send Jill Wildey a message on 0410451331 to add your name to our Whats App Partner's Pool or write your name on the list on the notice board. This new initiative is working really well. No more sitting around waiting for someone to arrive!



Don Paton shared this gem with us –

*'Many duplicate bridge players have no idea how **rubber** bridge is played. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the popularity of duplicate bridge has taken bridge playing out of a domestic setting and into halls that can be mistaken as speed dating for seniors'*



Vale John McFadden

A long time member and much loved supporter of the Central Coast Bridge Club, John McFadden passed away last month after a brief illness. Our condolences to Mary and all the McFadden family at this time. He will be very much missed.



*'John as we remember with him and relaxing with his beloved granddaughter'
Thanks Mary for sharing these memories*

Jenny MacPherson is also in our thoughts as her hubby Jock also recently passed away. Rest in peace, Jock



Last thoughts from Dolly

'A peacock that rests on his feathers is just another turkey'

'The magic is inside you – there ain't no crystal ball'

'I always just thought if you see somebody without a smile, give 'em yours!'

Jill Wilkey - Editor

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