

December 2023 Newsletter

President's Message

Kia ora

The end of the year is upon us, with hopefully some good summer weather but less bridge over the next few weeks. The club will re-open on 9 January, though our online programme starts up on 1 January.

There were quite a few changes to the Committee at the AGM, with three of the Committee (Ruth Brucker, Anne-Marie Russell and Stephen Henry) standing down. I would like to thank them for the many years they have been part of the Committee and the considerable contributions they have each made. We have four new Committee members: Denise McElwain, Lee McDonald, Richard Gawith, and Ruth Harley. It is great to have such capable members appointed to the Committee and I'm sure they will provide valuable thinking and expertise to the management of the club.



The new Committee recently had its first meeting, and the main matters that were discussed were the Auditors report, our Finances with a small loss forecast for the coming year at this stage, start times/supper breaks, and session/event ticket prizes.

Jeremy Morley kindly agreed at late notice to undertake our Audit this year. Jeremy issued an unmodified opinion and found the quality of financial and accounting functions were at a high level. In terms of the key findings of the audit, the majority related to the processes, artifacts maintained and some of the key areas of compliance that the club should meet or provide as a matter of best practice. Four areas that the Committee agreed to focus on were:

- Improve Audit Planning;
- Developing a Statement of Service Performance (SSP) - much of the information for an SSP was in the annual report, but as a tier 3 charitable entity the club should have one to formally monitor progress against;
- Develop a risk register for the club;
- Develop a formal policy which describes the delegations that apply to Committee members, management and/or others.

Recently we sent out an online survey to members who play on Wednesday and Thursdays nights as well as asking for a show of hands on whether to start club sessions earlier than 7.30pm, and on whether to have supper breaks. This was in response to feedback from some players who favoured slightly earlier starts and some favouring tea breaks and some not.

From a Committee perspective, start times are something that we were keen to get the members who play on those nights views, and if there was a clear majority to change. Whether to have supper on some or all Wednesday and Thursday nights is a little more problematic in that there are additional costs in having a supper break and later finishes, however, member views are clearly important to what we do.

For Wednesday night bridge, there was a clear indication to keep the status quo with 60% of respondents voting for 7.30pm and with 69% wanting either no supper break, or supper during teams and Swiss events only. Only 21% wanted supper every evening.

For Thursday nights 58% of players wanted to retain the 7.30pm start. As far as supper was concerned the vote was close, so we asked for a show of hands on Thursday night which indicated a preference for supper only for teams and Swiss. Our view is that to change what we currently do and what is already in the Programme book, we need a reasonable majority to change the status quo. Tuesday nights starting at 7.15pm with supper has been positively received by Tuesday players so there has been consideration of changing it. Friday afternoons will continue to have afternoon tea breaks.

As I indicated above, the club is currently budgeting a small loss, and as discussed at the AGM the committee decided not to increase the price of club nights. One area that the new Committee has agreed to reduce costs was on the number of free "supper tickets" that are given out. Tuesday nights will remain the same, but for other sessions - there will only be a ticket awarded to the winner of each Series in future rather than the winner of each play night. Bridget in her new role as Development manager will be focused on increasing our revenue and improving the playing experience, and in the first newsletter for the new year I will be able to report to you on progress with some of the initiatives that Bridget is leading.

Thanks to the many members who have been in a position to provide advice and help in so many ways to the club over the year.

I hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season, and those who are playing in the Suzanne Duncan tournament over the Christmas period have an enjoyable event. While I'm in Wellington over Christmas I'll be heading to Wanaka for a week in January.

Best wishes for the festive season
Peter

Welcome

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new members Padraig O'Connor, John Green, and Ann Green. We hope you enjoy your bridge and look forward to meeting you at the bridge table.

Ron Klinger

Ron Klinger will be at Wellington Bridge Club on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. He will hold two workshops 10am to 12.30pm and 1.30-4.00pm. This does promise to be very worthwhile; topics discussed are to be confirmed. Cost will be a very reasonable \$25 per session (or \$45 for both sessions).

Subscriptions

A friendly reminder for those of you who have not paid that our subscriptions are due for payment by 1 January 2024.

Office Hours

The office will be closed until 9th January 2024. For enquiries regarding the Suzanne Duncan Tournament or any online sessions please either email wellingtonbridge@gmail.com or text/phone the Club mobile 027 209 7888.

A reminder that the normal office hours (Sandy's hours of work) are 9.30am to 1.30pm Tuesday to Friday. Outside of these hours please either send an email or leave a message on the office phone or the club mobile.

November/December Monthly Results Club Series

Monday – Presidents Teams

1st Walt Davis, Barbara Tumilowicz, Chris Woods, Lee Miller, Marian Loader, Jeffrey Craanen
2nd Stephanie Smith, Rhondda Sweetman, Tony Quinlivan, Bridget Hannaway

Tuesday – Hand Trophy Pairs

1st Rosy Moar, Ruth Harley
2nd Susan Basile, Denise Clark

Tuesday – Tinkori Salver Pairs

1st Brian O’Sullivan, Vivienne Revell
2nd Alison Sparrow, Andrea Smith

Tuesday – Thorndon Trophy Handicap Pairs

1st Alison Sparrow, Christy Corlett
2nd Patrick Jackson, Mary Jane Haywood

Tuesday – Committee Cup Pair

1st Vivienne Revell, Catherine Pike
2nd Karen Orsborn, Janet Dobbie

Wednesday Woe Wilson Memorial Handicap Pairs

1st Ray Gruschow, Peter Delahunty
2nd Russell Dive, Allan Joseph

Wednesday Poppy Roberts Plate

1st Peter Heazlewood, Patricia Herbert
2nd Lee Miller, Chris Woods

Wednesday Poppy Roberts Final

1st Peter Newell, Martin Reid
2nd Alan Grant, Anthony Ker

Wednesday - Schneideman Jug Pairs

1st Sandy McKirdy, Graham Stronach
2nd John Scott, Bob Ure

Wednesday – Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Premier Teams

1st Nigel Kearney, Karl Hayes, Alan Grant, Anthony Ker, Stephen Henry
2nd Debbie McLeod, Greg Aldridge, Joni Luoni, Brian Cleaver. Kate Davis, John Patterson

Thursday – Stockman Salver Handicap Pairs

1st Glenda Lewis, Eric Frykberg
2nd Denise Barnett, Wayne Stechman

Thursday – Neal Salver Pairs

1st Rosy Moar, Kevin Moar
2nd Michael Cox, Sandie Lepper

Thursday – Robson Teams

1st Rosy Moar, Kevin, Moar, Julie Balance, Wayne Stechman, Klaus Dorbecker
2nd Mark Rowe, Margie Michael, Pdraig O’Connor, Jim Brough, Margot Brough

Thursday – Bill Te Tau Summer Pairs

1st Suzanne Duncan, Allan Joseph
2nd Dianne Tredger, Wayne Stechman

Friday - Gloria & Neil Crabbe Pairs

1st Peter Barker, Sylvia Johns
2nd Lesley Gilhooly, Mary Jane Farrell

Friday – Summer Pairs

1st Loraine Inglis, Eleanor Morel
2nd Pauline Edwards, Hilary Patton

Friday – Gladys Taylor Cup Pairs

1st Jenny Delany, Patrick D’Arcy
2nd Val Cooper, Margot Davenport

Recent Tournament Successes November/December 2023

Waikato Bay’s Provincial Teams

2nd Alan Grant & team mates
3rd Stephen & Annette Henry & team mates

Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs – Wellington club

NS Mark Rowe & Margie Michael
EW Debbie McLeod & Greg Aldridge

Palmerston North Xmas Cheer - 2nd Anthony Ker & Kathy Ker

Wellington Christmas Cheer

1st Debbie McLeod & Greg Aldridge
2nd Nigel Kearney & Anne Maree Russell

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Wellington Region's Intermediate team for once again winning their grade at the recent Interprovincial Championships. This year's team comprised Chris Woods and partner Lee Miller, Barbara Tumilowicz and partner Walt Davis and Marion Loader and partner Jeffrey Craanen. It is a really great effort!

Congratulations also to the McMillan team for winning the Open interclub competition this year. The team consisted of Murray McMillan & Kathy Ker, Alan Grant & Anthony Ker, and Russell Dive & Gary Duncan.

Finally, congratulations to Cheryl Scott (pictured below) on being the Wellington Regional Intermediate Tournament Champion for 2023.



Upcoming bridge sessions

Holiday Bridge

We have the Suzanne Duncan Tournament on the 27th - 28th and 29th December - play 1, 2 or 3 nights! A great supper will be provided on the third night. Enter [https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/events/8107/Suzanne-Duncan-Memorial-Pairs-\(3-evenings\)](https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/events/8107/Suzanne-Duncan-Memorial-Pairs-(3-evenings))

On-Line Bridge recommences weekly

Monday 1 January – Summer handicap

Friday 5 January – Social Bridge

Sunday 7 January - Social Bridge

Face to face Bridge recommences weekly

Tuesday 9 January – Watts Jug ladder

Wednesday 10 January – Young Cup pairs

Thursday 11 January – Alder cup pairs

Friday afternoon 26 January – Afternoon duplicate ladder.

Nominations for NZ Bridge Board (voluntary positions)

NZ Bridge is calling for nominations for the election of 3 Members to the Board of NZ Bridge for a 3 year term commencing 1 April 2024. Anna Kalma, Sam Coutts & John Skipper will retire by rotation, and all are eligible for re-election. Voting for the election of any candidates will be conducted by postal ballot of Affiliated Clubs as described in Rule 9 of the NZ Bridge Constitution. Nominations must be made in writing by 5pm Wednesday 31st January using the appropriate form. Please contact Bridget if you are interested in applying.

Hot off the Press

The Committee has just received a detailed seismic assessment of the building from the Robert Bird Group. There has also been a follow up conversation with them. There are a number of issues to be processed around cost vs benefit which will occur next year and will be reported back to the club.

From the Editor

Well, we have reached the end of another very busy year, but one where we have been able to see each other face to face, which I know you have all enjoyed. It has been great to catchup and chat properly between boards.

I really want to promote the training sessions that Ron Klinger is holding; I have had the pleasure of attending a couple of training sessions with Ron Klinger many years ago, both here at the club and also in Auckland and thoroughly recommend the upcoming sessions for any level of bridge player. I hope to see you there.

For those of you in town over the holiday period that haven't previously played the Suzanne Duncan Tournament it is a great event for all players. I will be catering the super on the last night and I promise my best baking.

I just want to acknowledge the support and help that my husband, Mark Rowe, is to me with both the catering and with this newsletter. And as well we all should be thanking Bridget, Sandy, Peter and the Committee on the work they put in to ensure that our Bridge Club is the best in New Zealand.

And finally, I trust you all have a wonderful and joyous festive season, good health and happy bridging to you all

Margie Michael (Editor)

