

February 2024 Newsletter

President's Message

Kia ora

I hope you have all had a good Xmas/New Year and are enjoying getting back into regular bridge sessions and events.

A couple of weeks back we had nearly 100 players attend Ron Klinger improvers sessions. It was a great turnout and we will look to explore whether to run a few more sessions later in the year. I hope those of you who attended picked up some good tips that will be useful.



We do have a number of events coming up that I hope that you will be able to attend. Coming up first is the 3 and 1 expert evening on Friday March the 1st. These have proven popular in the past, and for those of you not familiar with it, every table has an expert who with can play each person at the table. The expert can give advice and tips. I am coming along to be one of the experts. The emphasis is on learning some new things and having fun and a social time rather than a competitive session.

However, on a more competitive note, the weekend after, on Saturday March 9 we are having both a Junior and Intermediate Pairs tournament and the following weekend we are hosting the North Island teams on 16/17 March, and the Wellington Congress on 25-28 April. I hope that many of you will enter the events that suit you best, as always the more entries the better.

The management of the club is going smoothly with Sandy and Bridget. Bridget is working on a number of new initiatives that members should start seeing some positive changes next month. I'll cover these in more detail next month, but a new website is one that Bridget has been working closely with Helen Climo and Nan Wehipeihana is not too far away.

We are also looking at ways of increasing membership. We look as though we are going to have great numbers for the next series of lessons that will begin shortly, and we have been focusing on providing better support to new learners.

Thanks for all the help and support many of you are able to give the club, and I hope to see many of you soon at the club in the events coming up.

Peter

Membership subscriptions

A friendly reminder for those of you who have not paid, our subscriptions were due for payment by 1 January 2024 so can you please pay immediately.

Welcome New and Returning Members

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new members: Justus Rozemon, Pam Bannatyne, Kahu Livingstone, Olivia Sawrey, Jean Williams, Roanna Chan, Tom Percy and Shawn Adriel-Ai.

We would also like to offer a very warm welcome back to our returning members: Denise Udy, Richard Gale and Berni Marwick

We hope you all enjoy your bridge and look forward to meeting you at the bridge table.

Newly published books in our Bridge Club Library

Card play

Whether you are a beginner or have played for some time, your understanding of the basic techniques of card play is essential for your success.

In a new series, two of the game's top writers David Bird and Marc Smith explain clearly the various card play skills that you will need. Every booklet contains six chapters – each ending with a short quiz. Topics include drawing trumps, discarding losers and finessing.

Declarer play

How can you become a lucky player and a winner?

Mathew Thomson's new book *How to be a lucky Player*, demonstrates ways to become a lucky player.

David Bird's new book *Twelve Important Bridge Lessons on Declarer Play* describes techniques that you might apply several times during every session you play.

Ron Klinger

Ron Klinger is a leading international bridge teacher and has written over seventy books about bridge. You may have attended his recent seminars given at the Club and been inspired to improve your game.

The Club library has bought three new books this month adding to over thirty of Ron Klinger's books available for borrowing.

Bridge for Children. This book shows you how to ease a child into bridge step by step, with a specially crafted "no-frills system" to cut complications.

Defending Doubled Contracts and its companion book *Playing Doubled Contracts* are a 'must read' for intermediate and advanced bridge players. Both have quizzes to evaluate your defence and play, respectively.

All of these books and other new arrivals to the Library are on display in the NEW ARRIVALS section and are ready for you to peruse and borrow.

Happy reading for better play!
Janet Dobbie, Club Librarian

December/January Monthly Results Club Series

Monday – Christmas Ladder 2023

1st Alan Grant & Richard Solomon
2nd Lorraine Inglis & Gayle Cullwick

Monday Summer Handicap Ladder

1st Mike Murtagh & Pauline Murtagh
2nd Debbie Marcroft & Steve Baron

Tuesday – Watts Jug Ladder

1st Christy Corlett
2nd Andrea Smith

Wednesday – Young Cup Pairs

1st Nigel Kearney & Alan Grant
2nd Sandy McKirdy & Christine McKirdy

Thursday – Alder Cup Ladder

1st Pauline Edwards
2nd Pauline Murtagh

Recent Tournament Successes December/January

Suzanne Duncan 27-29 December 2023

1st Nigel Kearney & Jack James
2nd Colin Haywood & Morgan Booker
3rd Barbara Tumilowicz & John Davidson

Thames 3A - Walk in Pairs 6 January 2024

3rd Alan Grant & Richard Solomon

Thames 5A - John Eldridge Teams 7 January 2024

2nd Mindy Wu, John Wilkinson , Kate Terry , Judy Paswon

Top of South 10A Teams 27 January 2024

2nd Sandy McKirdy, Graham Stronach, Kate Davies, John Patterson

Waikato Provincial Pairs 10A 27 January 2024

2nd Peter Newell, Martin Reid

Tauranga Congress Consolation Pairs 3A 29 January 2024

1st Peter Newell, Martin Reid

Upcoming bridge events

[Friday 1 March: 3 and 1 Expert Evening](#)

This event was very successful last year and is a great opportunity to learn from more experienced players. It is a very encouraging environment with plenty of time for discussion for all aspects of each hand. Please contact Sandy if you would like to register.

[Saturday March 9: Junior and Intermediate tournament](#)

This is our clubs annual tournament for junior and intermediate players. This competition is played as two separate tournaments. We do get a number of pairs entering from other clubs so let's get lots of entries to increase our chances of taking home the major prizes.

[Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th March: 20A North Island teams](#)

As always when we host a major event we require volunteers to assist. We also require some suitable standby players for a potential House team. Please contact Sandy if you have a spare hour or two or are available to play as a sub.

[Interclub](#)

Our club has a proud history in Interclub although team numbers from our club have dropped off in recent times, no doubt impacted by Covid. The good news is that interclub will again this year be played on the Real Bridge (online) platform.

For those of you that haven't played interclub or haven't played for some time I would encourage you to enter the competition this year. There are 5 grades (novice, junior, intermediate, restricted open and open) so everyone can play.

There are 9 Friday nights of play in the year. It is a good idea to have teams of 5/6 or more, so you can have the night off if you get a better offer!

Please send in your team registrations to wellingtonbridge@gmail.com by 20th February or call Sandy or Bridget if you are keen to play but need some team-mates.

Entry fees are \$180 (\$45 each for a 4 person team or \$30 each for a 6 person team)

[Rubber bridge – once again free entry](#)

The regional bridge committee is calling for entries to this year's knockout rubber bridge competition. NZ bridge have changed the rules so that the region with the previous year's winners have two pairs competing at the National Bridge congress with the winning pair getting prizemoney of \$1,000. Thanks to the efforts of Brian Cleaver and David May winning the event last year, not only in Wellington, but also the national competition, we will have two pairs representing the region this year.

Having played in this event a number of times I can attest that it is a great event played in a very social environment at home at a convenient time for both pairs. Entry is suitable for all skill levels as the luck of the cards can have a major bearing on the result. Less experienced

players are encouraged to participate as the only systems are those which can be used in junior tournaments (unless otherwise agreed by both pairs without coercion).

In case you missed the heading the regional committee has once again determined that there is free entry to this event. Simply email you entry to Graham Cheater grahamlcheater@gmail.com or call him with any questions on 04 904 9917 or 027 448 3938.

From the Editor

As you can see we have a lot happening this year, and I look forward to enjoying this with you. I plan on putting some new things in the newsletter, including a play problem, and introductions to some people you may not know well

Today's extra from me is a congratulations to one of our directors. I don't know how many of you have been in the position of offering an insufficient bid, the options are that your opponent may accept that bid, or if you don't want to be penalised you can make your bid correct or you may make a bid that has the same, or a more precise meaning than the insufficient bid; it is this option which seems to confuse everyone, even directors on occasion...so I was impressed on a Friday afternoon when the director went clearly through all the options available, and then said now your only option for your alternative bid is 3D. The whole table was delighted, there was no confusion for any one! Thanks Kim, for your clarity, and also for the patience you always exhibit on a Friday Afternoon.

Best Wishes and happy, happy bridging

Margie Michael (Editor)



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