

January 2019 Newsletter

President's corner....

Hi everyone

Happy New Year to you all. I hope those of you who had a break over the holiday period enjoyed it and those who didn't can look forward to one later in the year. We again had a very successful Suzanne Duncan Tournament over the holiday break with 25 tables. Big thanks to all who assisted with the organisation, particularly to Susan Laurenson and her team of helpers and to Wayne Nicol for his fantastic support in the kitchen.

We have had our first committee meeting for the year and have made a good start with our plan to address the issue of falling numbers on Thursday nights. Details appear later in the newsletter, but we are implementing initial strategies to encourage Tuesday players to play on Thursdays, as well as completing our in-depth analysis of what has happened to our Thursday players. We are also looking at the retention rates of those who go through our lessons and will do some investigation as to how we can improve that.

Thank you to all those who have put in suggestions – there have been some great ideas and we are considering all of them as well as starting to implement some already.

Our next set of lessons run by Alan Grant will start on February 12 and there will be a second set starting in May/June which Anna Herries will take. Please encourage any friends and family who may be interested to come along.

You may notice, if you have a look in the Pipitea room that we have replaced the worn carpet. While not Axminster, the new carpet tiles have definitely freshened up the room. Many thanks to Turei Haronga, Wayne Nicol and Graham Potter for their work over the holiday putting the room back in order after the carpet laying. Turei also replaced some water damaged tiles high up in the Pipitea Room using Damian Palmer's scaffolding. Also thanks to the little fairy (Damian?) who removed some graffiti that disappeared in the garage almost before the ratbag's paint had dried.

Moves to boost Thursday participation

As mentioned above by Margaret, the committee at its first meeting this year decided on three immediate initiatives to try and boost participation on Thursday nights. There will also be a survey taken on some of the many ideas that were put to the committee on how to encourage more participation and we expect that will result in other measures.

Firstly, it was agreed that the Presidents Cup Teams event in April would offer a new prize open to all grades so long as your four members do not have more than 12 points by grade score (Your score is in the Bridge Book with Juniors on 1 and Open players on 4). The idea is to encourage more teams so a team with out of grade players can still win a prize. The regular President's Cup will still be presented to the best Thursday nighters' team.

It was also decided to open up the Bill Joss Memorial Swiss Pairs series in June and the Porter Ladder series in September to non Wellington Bridge Club members without affecting the usual 3 time limit for non member participation limit.

Thirdly, it was agreed that as well as the regular improver lessons before the Neal Salver sessions, there would be workshops conducted after play that evening to discuss relevant hands. The first one will be conducted by Nigel Kearney on January 31 on card counting, from 6.30-7.15pm and then the workshop will happen after the session at 10.30pm.

Welcome to new member Hilda Burgess

We need nominations for directors

Do you know anyone who you think would make a good director. Chief Director Maureen Pratchett says the main necessary criterion is to have confidence with people. Training about the rules will be provided. You are paid for directing.



PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Tournaments

Waikanae Open – Feb 10

Club series

Tuesday/Junior - Hand Trophy Pairs - starts Jan 29

Tuesday/Junior – Martin Jug Pairs – starts Feb 5

Thursday/Intermediate – Neal Salver Pairs – starts Jan 31

Thursday/Intermediate – Brian Wills Memorial Pairs – starts Feb 7

Wednesday/Open – Charles Wilson Memorial Pairs – starts Jan 30

Friday Afternoon – Gladys Taylor Cup – starts Feb 15

Recent triumphs

Club Series

Tuesday- Committee Cup Pairs

1st Helen Climo & Murray Climo

2nd Megan Turner & Toni Izzard

Tuesday Points Trophy

1st Megan Turner

2nd Gordon Streatfield

Olly Lenart Trophy (for best new player –who completed lessons)

Murray Climo.

Wednesday - Epic Journey Premier Teams

1st Annette Henry, Anna Herries, Peter Newell
Stephen Blackstock, Martin Reid, & Stephen
Henry (pictured right minus the women members!)

2nd Charles Cahn, Ross Quayle, Peter Benham &
Brian Cleaver

3rd John Luoni, John Patterson, Kate Davies, Mindy Wu, Tegan Bennik & Rod Dravitski.

4th Russell Dive, Murray McMillian, Kathy Ker & Gary Duncan

Premier Teams Plate (Pairs Event)

1st Karl Hayes & Nigel Kearney

2nd Alan Grant & Anthony Ker

A Points Trophy

1st Nigel Kearney (pictured right)

2nd Ray Gruschow

Thursday-Neal Salver Pairs

1st Denise Barnett & Tegan Bennik

2nd Alison O’Dea & Allan Joseph

AR Points Trophy

1st Denise Barnett

2nd Allan Joseph

Bill Te Tau Summer Pairs

1st Michael Cox & Barbara Allen

2nd Chris Woods & Jenny Delany



Nigel Kearney - A points winner

Tournaments

Suzanne Duncan Tournament 27-29 December 2018

(Sponsored by Morrison Kent)

1st John Patterson & Kate Davies (pictured)

2nd Nigel Kearney & Karl Hayes

3rd Pavla Fenwick & Brian Cleaver

4th Patrick D'Arcy & Ray Gruschow

5th Joan McCarthy & Peter Delahunty



Rating Points & Tournament Grades snafu

NZ Bridge says that while the player rating points updated correctly on January 1, the tournament grades have not, at least until the programme developers return to work next week. As soon as this can be looked at and corrected NZB will notify people. Also the transfer of Australian Masterpoints has not worked for a number of months. Again until this has been looked into by the developers and until a fix is put in place NZB can't do anything. All files received from the ABF are saved and will be uploaded when possible.

Isn't it great we have the boys and girls in blue?

We had a section of the copper waste pipe stolen in October 2017. The Police attended and fingerprinted the area and then on the cops' recommendation we installed security cameras in December 2017. Come August 2018, our investment paid off, or so we thought. We had another theft of some of the copper pipes and we had a recording of the theft with a full face view of the culprit and a car registration that we supplied to the cops. Our diligent cops pulled the said car over on another matter in October but reckoned the registered driver was not our man caught on camera using the car. The file was then assigned to the Hutt Valley Area police. The possibly misnamed Rob McNabb of the "investigating support unit" informed us later by email: "The two suspects have still not been identified and the car has not been stopped again, so is possibly no longer on the road. Unless they (the suspects) can be identified the file will most likely be inactivated." Well done lads and lasses, we can all sleep easier.



Congratulations to Poppy Roberts Pairs Winners

Martin Reid (left) and Peter Newell being awarded the Poppy Roberts Trophy for the club's premier event by former president Brad Tattersfield. Along with Brad, Martin and Peter are also in contention for a national fashion award.

