

June 2022 Newsletter

President's Message

Kia Ora koutou:

We have started moving back to face-to-face sessions at the club. However, it is clear that there are a number of people who have covid, are isolating, or prefer to play online in the current environment. Numbers have been low for face-to-face sessions, considerably lower than for online ones. As a result we are continuing with primarily online sessions with some face-to-face opportunities including a teams' tournament at the club in a few weeks' time. In some cases where there are sufficient numbers we can have online and face-to-face sessions in the evening. The pattern at other clubs and in tournaments is that the majority of players prefer to play online at present. I hope that once we get through winter and Covid has a lesser impact that we will have more face-to-face bridge. We do appreciate that online events are here to stay, and so we are exploring ways to improve our online sessions.



Peter Newell

Your Committee News

Regional Teams

The Regional Teams is to be held at Wellington Club on June 25-26. There have already been enough teams entered for this to be a live event but it would be great if there were more entries, so get a team together and enter to enjoy not only the bridge, but also the social aspect that I know we have all missed. Helpers are needed for both days, so if you do not wish to play, but do want to enjoy the social side, please ring Bridget and join the list of volunteers.

Finance

As I stated last month Covid has had an impact on the club's financial position. At this point Donna Upchurch, our treasurer, sees that the deficit is likely to be \$20,000 for year end at 31 July. Donna and the committee are continuing to seek ways that the club finances can be maintained on a steady footing, but it will only be when playing returns to normal will our finances can return to normal.

Directors

Chief Director, Sandy McKirdy, is looking for more directors, particularly for online bridge. This role is more administrative rather than dealing with bridge issues as on-line bridge saves us from leads out of turn and revokes. I am sure that these errors must make-up more than 90% of director calls! Do think about assisting and give Sandy a call if you can help.

School Holiday Programme

This is a further reminder of the five-day bridge holiday programme for students starting on Monday July 11. It is expected that this will be mainly for young people 12 years and up, but if there are younger children who are enthusiastic then they will be most welcome. Margaret Curnow is organising this and she would welcome any involvement from our club members.

Monthly Results Club Series May 2022

Well done to all the players who enjoyed RealBridge during May and congratulations to the winners of the individual events.

Monday Online –Motura Pairs

1st Alan Grant & Anthony Ker
2nd Helen Fitzgerald & Sophie Atkin

Tuesday - N Robson Cup Teams

1st Ruth Whittle, Shirley-Anne Morrow, Fiona Palmer, Louise Logan & Anne Gaskell
2nd Lorraine Joslin, Denise McElwain, Simon Havill & Roger Harvey



Pictured here are half of the winning Tuesday night team, Ruth Whittle and Shirley-Anne Morrow

Wednesday - Suzanne Duncan Swiss Pairs

Face to face 1st Damian Palmer & Matt Sutherland
Online 1st Peter Newell & Martin Reid

Well done to online visitors Jeff Miller & Murat Genc who were the online event winners (although ineligible to win).

Thursday - May Manoy Slaver

1st Helen Climo & Rosy Moar
2nd Wayne Stechman & Mike Murtagh

Friday Moturoa Pairs Salver

1st Cheryl Scott & Lee Miller
2nd Pauline Murtagh & Jenny Coulter

It is nice to see the success of a husband and wife on different nights...well done Damian and Fiona!

Recent Tournament Successes (June 2022)

Well done to the successful winners.

Auckland QB Weekend Teams Finals

2nd Alan Grant & Team-mates

Hawkes Bay Congress –QB Weekend

Welcome Pairs

1st Peter Heazlewood & Jill McLean

3rd Tani Blackburn & Nan Wehipeihana

Swiss Pairs

1st Ray Gruschow & Graeme Norman

Teams Final

3rd Mindy Wu, Mariusz Tumilowicz, Patrick D’Arcy & Dean Sole

Recorder’s Reflections

Well it’s been a quiet year so far for the Recorder, (that’s me, Derek Snelling).

I hope this is a good sign that play has been pleasurable and without too many concerns about attitudes or behaviour at the table.

Of course these days “at the table” can also mean in front of your screen and it is this aspect I would like to reflect on.

Playing on line has many advantages in that there are less opportunities for “misbids” such as bid/lead out of turn or insufficient bids. This means less opportunities for potential conflict.

However there are a couple of issues that have been raised recently that are uniquely applicable to online bridge:

1) as with regular bridge you should have and, for some competitions are required to have, a system card available to refer to if opponents ask a system related question. However with face-to-face bridge this should not be referred to during the bidding process. With your system card sitting beside during on-line bridge there needs to be a degree of discipline as no-one can see what is available for you to look at during the bidding process. The expectation is that you **do not** refer to your system card when a bidding sequence is in process. [Mark and I actually experienced this with an out of town pair who were clearly referring to their system cards during the bidding process. As we did not believe we were damaged we said nothing, but Derek’s reminder means perhaps we should have commented to them. Ed.]

2) kibitzing is allowable when playing on-line but generally is provided through a separate system and you are not expected to have someone sitting with you when playing on line. Having someone sitting by your side raises all sorts of questions regarding what input that person may have in the bidding and play. The expectation is that when playing online you will be alone and in a separate room if you are playing in the same premises as your partner.

3) associated with both of the above is the expectation that all electronic devices will be switched off during play. Online bridge is a great concept and a lifesaver during a time of COVID but it does present a few additional complications that require a level of honesty and discipline which is not apparent when playing face to face.

Happy Bridging

Derek

Volunteers

Any club depends on its volunteers to function well. We are lucky that we do have many members who do give up their time and help out regularly, but you will have noticed in this newsletter alone there are three requests for assistance; on-line directors, a range of helpers for the Regional Teams Tournament, and assistance for the school holiday programme. I will also be looking for helpers when I am catering for our club tournaments. None of these requests are for people to have any special abilities except a willingness to help and to support our club (except perhaps for the school holiday programme where you should probably also like teen-agers). Please ring Bridget regarding assistance with the Regional Teams, Margaret Curnow for the school holiday programme and Sandy for directing.

Volunteering is a chance for you to meet people from other grades and also an excellent opportunity to catch up on all the socialising we have missed because of covid. To this end I am going to set up a data base of all of you who are willing to help, and the areas in which you feel your particular skills are suited. Please email if you are willing to be on this list (us@markandmargie.com) and I will also visit each bridge nights when I return home in early July to explain further the specifics of the things we need volunteers for and how often (not very often really) we would call on you for help. There are many people already helping on a regular basis, our librarian, the people who “just pop in” to give Bridget a hand and the wonderful helpers I have had doing the catering as well as those who help on the bar.

Upcoming Events

Wellington Regional Teams June 25-26.

School holiday programme beginning July 11-15.

Wellington Region Club Champs July 10. Bridget has sent out a notice of this but we do need more Junior and Intermediate pairs to register for selection.

Obituary

It is with sadness that we heard of the death of Gloria Crabbe. She was a long-time member of Wellington Bridge Club, serving on the committee from 1985, becoming Vice President in 1986 & 1987, and President in 1988/89 & 1990. She was made a Life Member in 1991. She continued playing, more latterly on Friday afternoons until quite recently.

Nelson Procter has kindly shared some memories:

In many ways the Club was fortunate to have Gloria at the helm during the late 1980s when it was looking to leave its premises in Moturoa Street and seek a larger building elsewhere. A site found in Tinakori Road was purchased for \$115,000, and draft plans drawn up. However local residents raised objections to the use of that property being used as a Bridge club so proceedings came to an abrupt halt. Thus, several years later, when a buyer offered Gloria something of the order of \$450,000 for the property, I suspect it took her very little time to say “yes” ! About that time, we found that our present site was to be sold by its owners, a Masonic Club. It fell to Gloria and her committee to inspect, organise finance, organise the sale of the old club rooms and fit out this new acquisition to a

state suitable for its new purpose. Gloria’s husband, Neil, ran a carpet importing business and offered to carpet the place at ‘mates rates’ which I believe were at his cost.

It is difficult to emphasise in only a few words the level of effort she expended for the Club’s benefit throughout those years. A measure of the Club’s confidence in her was demonstrated when she was elected as President for a third term, to ensure the whole project was competently overseen.

Her efforts were recognized very quickly by her elevation to Life Member, an Honour richly deserved. She continued to play on a Friday afternoon as her years progressed, and a certain seat was deemed to be hers as of right. One day on a rare early visit to Friday afternoon, I was appraised of the situation, and warned politely but firmly that I was sitting in “Gloria’s Seat”... of course I shifted quickly.

Anyone for Slams ?? But whose ??

Thanks to Tony Lenart for sharing and commenting on this fascinating hand.

Most bridge players get pretty excited about making a slam even if they have not bid one. There was an excitement in the Moturoa Pairs on Real bridge recently when many players tried for extra match points to make 12 or 13 tricks for their side.

The hand featured was as follows.

		North				East	
	S		Q9876542		S		K3
	H		AQ9		H		J8
	D		10		D		AKQ73
	C		8		C		AQ64
		South					
	S		AJ				
	H		K1076532				
	D		92				
	C		107				
West				East			
S	10	\	\	S	K3		
H	4			H	J8		
D	J8654			D	AKQ73		
C	KJ9532			C	AQ64		

North was dealer and pre-empted conservatively 3 spades. East tried 3NT thinking he had right-sided the auction to protect his King.

This was passed out.

As South, I decided to try another suit to lead, so I tried a small heart. Most surprised to see partner rise with the Ace, expecting the return of the suit.

But no, she was enamoured with her spades and led a low spade at trick 2. East was now certain that rising with his King would result in another 12 tricks, with all the minor tricks and result in a slam 3 overtricks for their side.. After all, spades were not led on the first lead. Shock and horror, the spade Ace collected trick 2, followed by the jack, which was overtaken by North. Now all the top spades were cashed, followed by a belated heart return to my hand. Declarer's guess of 12 tricks for his side resulted in zero tricks and a grand slam for the defence. Nine down on a combined 16 HCPs. AMAZING!!

Results on this board were mixed. E-W made 5 clubs doubled, , N-S in one case made 5 spades doubled, and several other scores recorded. So much fun, fighting for overtricks in the slam zone.

Tony Lenart

Library News

Recent arrivals at the Bridge Club Library

We have some new additions to the library from the late Michael Gibson which are available for loan:

Jacobs, Bill	Fantunes Revealed	2012
Milnes, Eric; Lukacs, Paul	Bridge Hands for the Connoisseur: Fourth collection of interesting bridge problems	1974
Greenwood, David	The Pairs Game	1972
Lawrence, Mike	Opening Leads	1996
Goren, Charles H	New Contract Bridge in a Nutshell	1975

Book Review 'Vulnerable in Hearts' by Sandy Balfour (a Dougal McLean bequest).

This memoir is a story of fathers, sons, and contract bridge. It's a family saga of two bridge addicts. Dad was born in Scotland - he's a devotee of R L Stevenson - but unlike David Balfour in 'Kidnapped' he was never 'daft at cards'. Not much time for fancy bidding devices and in competition he's in the 'when in doubt you bid one more' camp. Sandy, second son and author, is captivated with bridge history and much of Contract Bridge's almost 100 years are covered. For example, the scoring table was defined by Harold Vanderbilt, whilst on a cruise from Los Angeles to Havana via the Panama Canal in 1925. That cruise and other great stories of our game are skilfully intertwined with interesting Balfour family detail. Highly recommended by Mike Murtagh.

Janet Dobbie, Librarian.

The Newsletter

Thank you to all the people who commented to be about enjoying my last newsletter. It is great to get some feedback. As I wrote last time I am indeed in Nottingham and am writing this just as New Zealand has started its second innings... and I am finishing the newsletter as a very dejected Black Caps supporter! I will be back to write July's newsletter so please let me know of any items you wish to include in July's newsletter

Happy Bridging and good health to you all Margie Michael