

WBC News – March 2014

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Rubber Bridge entries close very soon – please enter your names on our notice board.

Main Centre Pairs at our Club – weekend of 22-23 March. Check our website for details.

Register for Alan Grant's "Improver's Class" on Saturday 29th March – check our Junior noticeboard.

Presidents Corner... Acting President – Brad Tattersfield.

Wednesday players will be aware that we have recently been through our annual bout of confusion around the two "Schneideman" teams events, the once-a-month premier event commencing in April and the March Salver. Several players wrongly entered themselves in one event thinking it was the other, causing hassles for Bridget and the players involved.

As a result, we would like to retain the current name for the monthly competition (Schneideman Memorial Premier Teams) but rename the March event for 2015. One suggestion has been to offer naming rights for this to a sponsor. This could be a good way of raising much-needed funds for the club: while we're currently "getting by" on subs, playing fees and our other standard income sources, we face some big building maintenance costs in the not-too-distant future. We'd welcome your thoughts and ideas on this.

It's great to see that around 40 eager learners are taking part in the latest round of lessons. Thanks as always to Alan Grant for the time and effort he puts into the lessons, which are fantastic for the club's reputation and keep our playing ranks refreshed.

If you haven't already, don't forget to enter the Main Centre Pairs tournament at the Club on the weekend of 22-23 March. Entries are still a little light – this is a great local playing opportunity for open or good intermediate players.

19TH NEC Bridge Festival

Congratulations to Martin and Peter who with their team mates made the semi final with 46 teams competing in the prestigious NEC Cup held last month in Japan – by invitation only. Down Under Team of **Martin Reid, Peter Newell** and Australians, Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill lost to England Hinden in the Semi-Final; and in the Yokohama Swiss Teams - 43 teams – results were:

4th Down Under **Martin Reid, Peter Newell**, Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill,
5th Australia, **Michael Whibley, Liam Milne**, Justin Howard, Peter Hollands

We have a new Regional Secretary

Herewith a message from retiring secretary, Joan Waldvogel

"Hi Everyone, As I will be working overseas for the next few months, I have resigned as secretary of the Regional Committee.

The new secretary is Anna Herries: annaherries@gmail.com. I have enjoyed working with you and getting to know those of you whom I have met through my role as secretary. Best wishes to you all for an enjoyable year's bridge. Joan"

Thank you

Frank and Carmel Pierson from Ireland played at our club 3 times a week for a few weeks recently...

To Bridget and all concerned at Wellington Bridge Club.

Frank and I enjoyed our visit to your club last month very much. We found everything very efficiently run and loved the fact that we could look up all our results on the net. We found your members friendly and helpful, and had several offers of lifts back to Island Bay. Thank you Martyr. Also had an invite to tea. Go raibh maith agat Marion. In all we had a wonderful time and hope to be back again. Regards Carmel



John Wilkinson – the perfect “Bar Person” – waiting on Sue Johnstone

Valentines Goulash Evening

Thank you to the players who supported this social get together on Valentines Evening. We had 10 tables, some exciting hands and wonderful silver tray bar service from both John Wilkinson and Ruth Brucker. We could get very very used to this service on regular club nights!

Thank you to Nebojsa Djorovic for directing and to Bridget and Ruth who prepared the supper afterwards. Our apology for not rewarding Elicia Gold and husband Paul Gold who were the top pair in a Junior combination on the night, and we do try to encourage Juniors.

Results were:

Open grade:	Pat Darcy & John Davidson
Intermediates:	Helen & Kevin Walker
Open/Intermediate	Jolene Zink & Donna Upchurch
Intermediate/Junior	Elicia & Paul Gold



Caption Competition

One supper ticket for the best response!

(Anna Herries, Sue Johnstone and Julia Barnett with Chris Bolland at the Valentines Goulash Night)

Registrations are being received for the Schneideman Memorial Premier Teams

We offer the best teams bridge in Wellington and we must have an even number of teams. Please register your team online or on the notice board. First in first served and there are **27** teams so far. Players from all clubs in Wellington are eligible and welcome to play, and teams can be composed of Wellington Club members and non members from different clubs.



**Here's a hand that went horribly wrong ...
2014 Gold Coast Congress Open Teams Championship Final**

	<u>McGann</u>	
	♠A	
	♥J1097	
	♦109652	
	♣J92	
<u>China N</u>		<u>China N</u>
♠K93		♠10876542
♥AK8		♥65
♦K73		♦QJ4
♣A753		♣8
	<u>McGann</u>	
	♠QJ	
	♥Q432	
	♦A8	
	♣KQ1064	

Board 17, Final 4/4

Oh dear....isn't it amazing after all the hands E/W (China Nangang) would have played to get to the last boards of the final, they now have a simple bidding misunderstanding.

Vugraph: *"The Chinese are just having a disaster playing in their 3/3 diamond fit when 5 spades is cold"*.

North (decl)	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2D	Pass	Pass
Pass			

**2D = down 2. 4S bid and made in other room:
Minus 11 imps for China Nangang.**

Zero Tolerance Posters

	<p>The ACBL (American Contract Bridge League) is renewing the public education campaign initiated by Seagram, Cronin and Jacobs more than 15 years ago. The theme, "Play nice" transposes two words we all like to hear at the table ("nice play!"). New posters have been developed and are being disseminated to all 3100 clubs.</p> <p>[We read "PLAY NICE" is a "phrasal verb", the usage of which is now very common in modern English. Would anyone say of a hockey player that "He plays dirtily"? Phrasal verbs are often used as well to complete a thought beginning with "Be....." as in "Be nice to your mother-in-law when she's visiting". Ed]</p>
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Etiquette using Electronic Scoring

This works well – please take it on board! East after okaying the score passes the Bridgepad to North who passes it on to West and back to South.

British taxman declares contract bridge not a sport

Patrick Kidd, The Times, February 25, 2014

“IT'S a game that requires stamina, concentration, teamwork and ruthlessness - as well as years of practice - to acquire any real proficiency. As far as the taxman is concerned, however, letting a mere card game be considered as a sport would be a bridge too far. How can something be a sport when you can hold a glass of whisky while playing it?”

A tax tribunal yesterday dealt a losing hand to the English Bridge Union, which had wanted to be recognised as a sport so that members would not have to pay VAT on their competition entry fees, which amounted to pounds 631,000 in 2012-13. Although it is seen as a sport - a contract sport, as the joke goes - by other countries, the Charity Commission, the sector's watchdog, and even the International Olympic Committee, the Tax Chamber of the First-Tier Tribunal ruled that bridge does not involve enough physical activity to make it so. Not even the fact that Martina Navratilova and Billie Jean King, the former Wimbledon tennis champions, are keen bridge players, swapping one sort of grand slam for another, would sway the panel. The English Bridge Union (EBU) had argued that bridge is a healthy pursuit, pointing to studies showing that regular contests may benefit the immune system and reduce the risk of dementia. It also insisted that if activities such as croquet, darts and billiards qualify as sports, then the 50,000 members of the union should also be seen as sportsmen.

The EBU's barrister, David Ewart, QC, asked whether it was "really possible to draw a distinction between the mental skill needed in planning a snooker shot, or a croquet stroke, and the physical skill used in executing it". Alas, he was trumped. Dismissing the EBU's appeal, Judge Hellier explained: "To our minds, sport normally connotes a game with an athletic element, rather than simply a game. "Contract bridge involves some physical activity, but not a significant amount. The physical activity is not the aim of participation and physical skill is not particularly important to the outcome." The tribunal decided that the interpretation of the tax exemption was clear and refused to refer the dispute to the European Court of Justice. In passing judgment, Judge Hellier admitted qualms that failing to recognise bridge as a sport might discriminate against older people who form the majority of players.

British ambivalence on bridge goes back to the Physical Training and Recreation Act of 1937, devised to produce a physically fit nation. Richard Caborn, former Minister for Sport, once said that it needed updating to put the same onus on mental agility, although he warned that differentiation was still needed between "mind sports", such as bridge and chess, and "parlour board games". Otherwise Monopoly and Cluedo could be considered sports. Many countries, including France, Canada and China, regard bridge as a sport. It was recognised by the International Olympic Committee in 1995 and a grand prix competition was held at the Olympic museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, three years later. Juan Samaranch, the IOC president at the time, declared: "Bridge is a sport and its place is here." It appeared as an exhibition event at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City and there were hopes that bridge could be considered for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, presumably because it is best played indoors on a cold day by the fireplace.

However, the IOC was reported to be having doubts later that year after an American player refused to take a drug test and was stripped of the silver medal she had won at the World Championships. She said that she was taking medication for a back condition. If bridge were ever adopted as an Olympic sport, some of the wealthiest men on the planet may be attracted by the lure of gold. ***Warren Buffett once said that he wouldn't mind jail if he had three cell mates who were decent bridge players. On hearing this, Bill Gates said: "I may have to volunteer to go in with him."***

Welcome to our new members:

[Darren Gilchrist](#); [Hitomi Maruo](#); [Mary-Jane Farrell](#)

Recent High Scores

13/2/14 Brian Willis Memorial Pairs - Paul Maxwell & Turei Haronga =	73.2%
18/2/14 Martin Jug Pairs - Nina Hewitt & Rachel Baskerville =	71.2%
27/2/14 Neal Salver Pairs – Maureen Pratchett & Vivienne Cannell =	71.2%
4/3/14 Thelma Wylde Pairs - Julie Balance and Terry Neal =	70.9%
6/3/14 J Robson Cup Pairs – Tania Wynn & David May =	70.3%

Maybe these distributional hands are here to stay. Last couple of Thursdays for instance we've had 24/26 hands with a singleton or void. Is this the reason for these unusually high scores?

Improvers' Class

Alan Grant is to hold an "Improver's Class" on Saturday 29th March – 10am to 5 pm. This is aimed at first level improvers who have recently completed the lessons in the last year or two. Our club is fortunate to have Alan's enthusiasm and encouragement to run lessons and classes for our newer players. Make the most of this super opportunity and check out the flyer on the notice board. It's very encouraging to see a good list of names there already and we will be inviting other clubs to participate.

Results from Recent Tournaments

South Island Teams, Christchurch – 15/16 February 2 nd James Li and Alan Grant & team mates	Waikanae Open Pairs - 16 February 2 nd Robyn Freeman-Greene & Dinnie Hall 3= Ray Gruschow & Graeme Norman
Upper Hutt Intermediate – 9 March 2nd Kim Tate and Ken Betteridge	

Naming our playing rooms

After considering feedback from members, the committee has approved the following names for our playing rooms. Why these names you might ask? Some members may recall our clubrooms used to be at 1 Pipitea Street in 1955 and 8 Moturoa Street in 1965 before we moved here in Tinakori Road in 1989.

Main playing room:	Tinakori Room	Second downstairs room:	Pipitea Room
Upstairs playing room:	Moturoa Room		

Results from February 2014

Tuesday Night: Martin Jug Pairs 1 st Megan Turner and Paul Devadatta 2 nd Julie Ballance and Terry Neal	Wednesday Night: Charles Wilson Memorial Pairs 1 st Pryor Rowland and Thorsten Stanley 2 nd Anna Herries and Chris Bolland
Thursday Night: Brian Willis Memorial Pairs 1 st Derek Snelling and Sue Johnstone 2 nd Berni Marwick and Gail Tippett	Friday - Afternoon duplicate Ladder 1 st Mira Trifunovic 2 nd Mary Slowey