

## WBC News – August 2014

### PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ...

Wellington Bridge Club Open Tournament – Sunday 31 August at Wellington Bridge Club

**AGM** will be **31<sup>st</sup> October 2014** Friday night, followed by dinner and then at 7.30pm the **NZ Wide Pairs**, for those who choose to enter.

### Presidents Corner... Kevin Walker

The club has hosted a number of tournaments lately with the Regional Congress in early July, our own Intermediate/Junior tournament in July, the National Swiss Pairs event last weekend and we will be holding the Club Open Tournament on 31 August. It is very pleasing for me as President to hear positive comments about how players have enjoyed these Tournaments. These tournaments have run well not only because Jenny, others on the committee and Bridget have done an excellent job in organising for the events but also because of the volunteers who help with the kitchen and bar etc. So thank you to all those who have helped to make these events enjoyed by all.

On a similar note I would like to thank Vivienne Cannell, Anthea Black, Julie Hawkins and Bruce Ivamy who are helping out in the office in various capacities while our club manager Bridget takes a well deserved seven week overseas holiday.

### *Wellington Intermediate/Junior Tournament*

The Intermediate and Junior tournaments were held at the Club on Sunday 27 July with 50 Intermediate and 26 Junior players directed by Vivienne Cannell. Congratulations to the Winners of the Intermediate section, **Jolene Zink and Hayley Fenwick**. Second place went to Sue and Greg Whitten with Peter Foley and Pat Reynolds in third. In the Junior section the winners were **Paul Devadatta and Ron Egginson** with Tom Plackic and Sharlene Olsen in second and Alistair James and Cindy Lowndes in third. Many thanks to all those who helped make the day a success and to Mindy Wu for the excellent lunch catering.

**Jocelyn Grainger**

### *Thursday Night Lessons*

Another interesting lesson thanks to **Mindy Wu** for her views on “Reading the Cards” with examples of counting and locating the elusive honour. “A poor chance is better than no chance” (when finessing and listening to the bidding) she told us. Another very good attendance and once again, let us say how fortunate we are to have these lessons before our Neal Salver Pairs.

Next and last lesson for the year is Part II with **Stephen Henry** on balancing – Thursday 4 September at 6.30 pm.



### **Welcome to New Members**

Bruce Parkes ; Carmel Irwin ; Paul Kyne ; Jeff Traylor ; Barbara Taylor

## **15A National Swiss Pairs**

Last weekend we hosted our second big tournament within a month – New Zealand Swiss Pairs, and the first time this event has been run by our club for quite some time. This also meant we contributed to planning the format of the competition, number of sessions and the starting times with final approval from NZ Bridge and Martin Oyston, Director. There is the hitch, however, of players having to book airfares in advance, not knowing what the final format is. As Martin said: “Start time was good at 10:30, but there was a delay due to snow closing the Rimutaka Road and we held the start of play for 20 minutes. The quick turn-arounds allowed us to catch up this time and finish at 7pm without shortening any round. 60 boards on Saturday was commented as good by many players. A number of players would have liked to play longer on Sunday, and many from out of town indicated that to be the case, it would be interesting to get the opinion of the locals on this one! “

Firstly thank you to so many club members who helped out to ensure the tournament ran very well. With our office manager, Bridget, away on leave, there were lots of queries/calls to answer and late subs to find and a huge thank you to Viv Cannell, Anthea Black and Bruce Ivamy for going the extra mile. Thank you to all those who helped in the kitchen so readily and to everyone who baked for us. It was a great club effort by our members.

We had 48 pairs competing with players from Auckland through to Invercargill. Martin ran the weekend brilliantly and posted results on the TVs in the foyer, and kept the room to good time. Mindy Wu and her caterers, Adrian and Wendy provided wonderful food and meals and the players were very complimentary on our excellent food and plenty of it. Overall positive comments were flowing from the players. Well done team!

Congratulations to the winners:

1st - Michael Ware / Timothy Schumacher; 2nd - Blair Fisher / Rodney Dravitzki  
3rd - Susan Humphries / Stephanie Jacob



Winners: **Tim Schumacher & Michael Ware**

Left: Players tucking into the Sunday lunch – chicken pie, vegetables, dessert, fruit.

## **First Pacific/Asia Women's Online Bridge Tournament**

Please promote this event among the women bridge players you know :) NZB will also be giving a prize for NZ players - still to be decided, but will also be advertised soon. Hope to see you all online over that week - you need to play at least 4/10 sessions of 12 boards to qualify for prizes but of course can play fewer if you want. Cheers. **Shirley Newton**

From: [anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk)

The Australian Bridge Federation, in conjunction with the WBF, is pleased to invite all female bridge players to participate in the FIRST Pacific/Asia Women's Online Bridge Tournament to be held from 1st to 5th September 2014 inclusive. Please go to: <http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/pawobf/2014/> for all of the details and register your interest in playing by completing the registration document on the web site. Although primarily aimed at the Pacific/Asia countries, it is open to all female bridge players who would be very welcome to join the event! So ... please help us tell the world about it! Best regards Anna



## **Reminder to watch our New Zealand Youth Team**

Presumably we shall see some games on BBO. The 15th World Youth Teams Championships will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, hosted by the prestigious [Koç University](http://www.kocuniv.edu.tr/) from 13th to 23rd August 2014.

**Check this out too on Radio NZ.**

**New Zealand Youth Bridge Team heading to Turkey**

Originally aired on [Afternoons, Thursday 7 August 2014](http://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player/20144816)  
<http://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player/20144816>

The New Zealand Youth Bridge Team is heading to Turkey, to compete in the World Youth Teams Championships. The six-strong squad will play against 21 countries and says there'll be tough competition. It's the second time Aucklander **Nick Jacob** will attend the championships and

Simon Mercep caught up with him just before the team flew out.



## **2014 Annual General Meeting Reminder Friday 31 October at 6 pm**

This meeting could have the largest attendance for some time. Why? Happily it coincides with the New Zealand Wide Pairs to follow and happily there will be no cost for the evening except for a cash bar and relevant entry fee in the NZ Wide Pairs.

Dinner will be set up in the foyer as was very popular before our Youth Fundraiser earlier in the year. Dinner will be provided free of charge to attendees at the AGM. We will provide more details of cost of meal for those who may come from other clubs (or our club of course) who might like to have a meal and then play in the NZ Wide Pairs.

Reminder too, members, if you would like to be nominated to stand on our new committee, please make yourself known. Meetings are every second Monday in the month at 5.45 pm. Last reminder, if you have any remits to be considered, now is the time to gather your thoughts.



## **Playing in Las Vegas...**

Don't be put off if you fancy playing bridge in a top USA tournament! You don't need to be an international player or an Open grade player – they cater very well for junior and intermediate standards too. The level of event you play is determined by the number of Masterpoints you have,

Some examples:

Stratified Open Swiss Teams (3000+, 0-3000) Gold Rush Swiss Teams (300-750, 0-300)

0-3000 Stratified Pairs (3000/2000/1000)

And then for junior / intermediates: 299er, 199er, 99er and 49er Pairs 0-20, 0-5 Pairs

So for players like us, we needed to work out what grade we were. Also you don't need to pre-register. You can select your event/s on the day, find the room where it's played (sometimes a small queue – although for the Open Pairs one day – 91 tables – the queue would be a 30 minute wait). They issue you a form with say XXX (the section) N/S11. You find your table and fill in your form with name and ACBL membership number. Pam and Tereska got to join the ACBL for \$28. Each event costs members \$16 and non members \$20. They alert 1NT and use Bridgematic. Worth a mention maybe – you can't play multi 2's or tartan 2's (at least not at our standard).

Two years ago after Susan Laurenson and I played in the Denver Regional with BBO friends, we were invited to play at Las Vegas ACBL nationals, Westgate Las Vegas Hotel, and Pam Skogstad and Tereska Knap joined us for a fantastic week. On our first day when we played Gold Rush Swiss Teams, Pam and Tereska played at Bill Gates' table. That was our best result – 45 tables and we came 7th. We saw a lot of Bill Gates.

There are so many events every day – teams or pairs – sessions 9am, 10am & 3pm, but probably the top players' sessions would be 1pm & 7.30 pm, and you play in either Ballroom A, B, C, D, E, F, G or other huge rooms. Can you imagine how big the ballrooms are? Each ballroom is bigger than the main room we play at Congress at Kingsgate, Hamilton. I see attendance through to the final day was 16,616 tables. The ACBL team packed and moved 1300 card tables, 5200 bidding boxes, 750 sets of pre-duplicated boards, more than 62,000 pencils and about 75,000 convention cards (on which you score each event).

## **Our highlights and funny moments**

- We entered a team event – wrongly “299er Swiss Teams – we won and we each received a North American Contract Bridge winner's trophy, t/shirts and had the team photo for the notice board.
- Late one night when we caught the elevator to our rooms, Pam says to a guy “are you a bridge player”? He said “I try”. Pam says “oh good we're bridge players too and here's our trophy we've just won”. After the usual “are you Australians”, we learned that our man was Les Amoils who had won the Vanderbilt with Ish delMonte. Susan and I enjoyed kibbing Les next day – Zia Mahmood sat beside us. This was the Spingold Teams with top players from all over the world – all those names you see on the BBO vugraphs. We met again Fred Gitelman (Mr BBO) and chatted to Ish delMonte who has remarried and now living in Vegas.
- Pam introduced us to roulette and we were hooked. Pleased to say two of us came home with small winnings.
- Pam – the gambler – played poker with Thomas Bessis, Tom Hanlon, Alfredo Versace and Steve Weinstein (all Spingold players). Pam says to Thomas Bessis (wanting to kib him next day) “what room are you playing in”? Thomas replies “did you ask what room am I staying in? I'm not staying in this hotel”.
- The shopping, the buzz, the lights, the restaurants at The Venetian, MGM, Bellagio, Caesars Palace, The Golden Nugget - the shows The Jersey Boys and Michael Jackson One by Cirque du Soleil – and the company of us all.

## **Lowligh**

We were cold in the playing rooms – can you believe 109 degrees outside but they got the airconditioning very wrong with everyone complaining – we're sitting playing in our woollen wraps. One session we thought we'd have to wear woolly socks. It did improve slightly and fortunately after a session we could thaw out in the oven outside.

## **Overall**

Just fantastic – loved the bridge and the bright lights and playing together at the casinos. Everyone so interested in our being from New Zealand – “a beautiful country”. Always a talking point. Many of our opponents had been to New Zealand and loved it, or were planning to come here. Tourism New Zealand would have been very proud of us.

So if you want a bridge tournament and holiday to remember, organise a group together - we would definitely recommend a Las Vegas regional. There's plenty of choice there – you can divide your busy day with bridge, the pool, casinos, shopping, shows and sightseeing. Thank you all for your interest in our little trip.....Hopefully in two years time, we'll do another!

**Jenny Delany**



Susan, Jenny and Tereska with Ralph Katz who played in Spingold in the Nickell team with Rodwell, Meckstroth, Robert Levin and Steve Weinstein



Alfredo Versace and Pam at the poker table.

## ***Results from Recent Tournaments - Congratulations to our Club Members!***

### **Waikanae Multigrade – Sunday 3 August**

1<sup>st</sup> Derek Snelling & John Luoni

2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Tyrie & Joan McCarthy

Open/Junior: 1<sup>st</sup> Alex Swainson & Anne Ricketts;

Open/Intermediate: 1<sup>st</sup> Jolene Zink & Nebojsa Djorovic;

2<sup>nd</sup> Ruth Brucker & Mira Trifunovic

2<sup>nd</sup> Haley Fenwick & Sushila Kumar

### ***Results from July 2014***

#### **Tuesday – Morton Salver Pairs**

1st Greta Keur / Jenny Norris

2nd Paul Devadatta / Rob Egginson

#### **Wednesday – United Nations Cup Pairs**

1st Anthony Ker / Nigel Kearney

2nd Tony Lenart / James Li

#### **Friday – Pipitea Pairs**

1st Peter Benham / Alex Drummond

2nd Sophie Atkin / Joan Waldvogel