

WBC News – October 2014

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

AGM - 31st October at 6 pm - Friday night, followed by dinner and then at 7.30pm the **NZ Wide Pairs**. Please register your name on the notice board for the NZ Wide Pairs.

There are still Entertainment Books for sale from Bridget – they are valid until June 2015.

Presidents Corner... Kevin Walker

The club has a few up-coming events with a social flavour as we move towards Christmas. Firstly we have the AGM on Friday 31 October at 6pm. The AGM is followed by dinner catered by Mindy Wu and then followed by a night of Bridge in the form of the NZ Wide Pairs. The Dinner is free for all those who attend the AGM. See more details later in the newsletter.

The club will be unveiling the new Grand Masters honours board at the AGM so we would like to see a good turnout of club members for this evening.

The Christmas Cheer event is being held on Saturday 22 November which is always enjoyed by those who attend and this has a Christmas meal at the end of play. We also have the final nights of bridge with a more social aspect to them. I hope you get involved in one or more of these activities as part of our social gatherings with club members.

With the AGM coming up it is always good to have some new people on the committee or other positions, so please put your name forward to contribute a small amount of time to ensuring the club is well run for all our members.

Finally, congratulations to those who did well at National Congress in Hamilton. A list of those who performed well is on our website.

2014 Annual General Meeting Reminder – Friday 31 October at 6 pm and Stay & Play New Zealand Wide Pairs at 7.30 pm

Format is: AGM starts at 6pm. For those attending the meeting we will be providing a light meal at 6.45 pm free of charge. There will be a cash bar. It would greatly assist us with catering numbers please... if you plan to attend BOTH the meeting, the dinner and the NZ Wide Pairs, could you let Bridget know. Many thanks. The flyer says: "Prizes awarded for top scores nationwide, also highest two scores for pairs below Open and Intermediate Level" so a good opportunity for all our members here.

Congratulations to Sam Ward, our newest "Tournament Director".

Sam will be directing the NZ Wide Pairs at our club.

Updating any personal details

It's time again to let Bridget know of any changes to phone numbers, addresses email addresses etc. Please also let Bridget know if you would like to add your email address to the 2015 programme book (if you have not had your email details in the programme book before). This is your last reminder ! The 2015 Programme book will be available mid-November.



Novice Tournament last Sunday 12 October

We had only 5 tables but it's an excellent idea to encourage our Wellington novice players to experience a one session tournament and meet other new players. Vivienne Cannell put them through a Howell movement and this was absolutely no trouble at all for the novice players to master. Vivienne said: "*A number of players commented how much they enjoyed their day; helped by the chocolate fish awards of course.*"

Congratulations to the winners from Kairangi, Peter Watts and Angela McDonnell.



News and Results from New Zealand National Bridge Congress *apologies if we missed any*

Congratulations – fantastic to see so many “1st” placings!

Winners of the New Zealand Teams: **Martin Reid & Peter Newell** and their team mates

Dan Gifford Rubber Bridge Final: **Johnny Davidson & James Li** – runners up.

Point a Board: 1st **Mindy Wu, Lorraine Stachurski, Graeme Norman, Ray Gruschow**

NZ Senior Teams: 1st **Max Wigbout, Joan Waldvogel** and their team mates

Same Sex Pairs: 2nd **Graeme Norman and Ray Gruschow**

Open Restricted Swiss Pairs: 1st **Vivienne Cannell and Maureen Pratchett**

Intermediate Swiss Pairs: 1st **Christine and Turei Haronga**



Congratulations Jessiman!

Jessiman Wickison's 90th Birthday party at Friday bridge, 19 September.

Bridge Blogging ...

Sociable and serious bridge – can they grow together?

Maggy Simony is an American author and blogger who is on a one-woman campaign to re-popularize “sociable” bridge. According to Maggy, “Science is telling us these days that for a dementia-free old age, it’s better to have played bridge badly than never to have played at all. That’s because learning to play bridge – badly or expertly – is one of the best life skills you can acquire to reach 90, dementia-free, enjoying life.”

Another idea on her website: <http://bridgetable.net/> she says: “Did you know that Fazoli’s lets seniors play bridge on Wednesday afternoons from 2-5 at their participating restaurants? I presume that the players stay on for dinner at 5. What a great idea for promoting bridge by making it visible—and targeting a potentially huge market. Seniors who play bridge, like to meet and play and eat, but don’t want to cook.”



Welcome to our new members:

Denise Barnett; Elsie Blackman; Roseanne McElroy, Graham Potter, Wayne Stechman, Geoffrey Nixon and Timothy Wernke

Thursday night is full of surprises!

What a great start to October... 25 tables, while director Cathy Nijman was “cracking the whip” as they say to ensure there is absolutely NO SLOW PLAY, the Thursday night Grade Captain, Tania Wynn, took it upon herself to suggest we do crack the whip to rid us of any self-flagellation.

Self-flagellation is the act of hitting oneself with a whip as part of a religious ritual. Because practices such as starvation, sleep denial and flagellation are known to induce altered states, flagellation may be used by religious ecstasies and mystics as part of ritualistic practices or ceremonies to achieve unusual states of mind.



Flagellants from a 15th century woodcut



Flagellants from Thursday night bridge, October 2014



Here's an article from Simon Cochemé - we met Simon in our newsletter in November 2011.

"Hi Jenny, We corresponded in November 2011 about using articles of mine in your club newsletter. I attach another one that has been well received over here. My wife and I are thinking of coming to New Zealand (probably in February) and driving top to bottom. I think I was promised a free game in return for my articles, so I will be coming to claim it! Regards, Simon"

[It will be a pleasure to host you Simon... here's a little snippet from a website ...Simon has been NPC of the England Senior team four times, including their victory in the 2014 European

Championships. His greatest achievement in Bridge is being runner-up (twice) in the annual Eric Rodwell look-alike contest. Ed]

Cherchez la Femme

Simon looks at the perennial problem of finding the queen, missing queen to five.

You (South) and dummy hold the following in the heart suit:

Hx A J 8 7

Hx K 10 6 5

How do you find the queen? First of all you should remember the saying 'Eight ever, nine never' and plan to take a finesse rather than play for the drop. The only decision is choosing which way to finesse; cashing the HxK and finessing the jack, or crossing to the HxA and playing East for the queen.

Should you always take a finesse? No. EENN is a fine maxim, but sometimes it should be over-ruled. There are deals where you should be combining your chances; playing against the odds for the drop in one suit, such as the heart suit shown here, and then, if the HxQ hasn't appeared in two rounds, taking a finesse in another suit. But assuming you are going to take a finesse, should you play East or West for the queen?

The great Eddie Kantar says 'Hungry players finesse toward the kitchen, romantic players finesse toward the bedroom and practical players finesse toward the bathroom', but I don't think he is being serious. Fortunately I have found lots of other bits of advice to help you.

You could invoke Bentley's Law: cashing a top honour and finessing through the person you like less; that way you won't feel so bad if the finesse loses. All things being equal, this strategy is the least harmful to your emotional well-being.

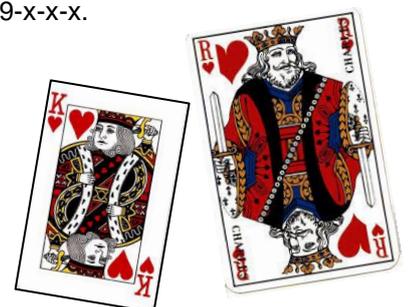
Alternatively, you could follow the Norwegian rule and play for the defender with the longer nose to hold the queen. I got this independently from two Norwegians, one a world champion, so it is definitely worth considering.

Some think it is best to play for the queen to be sitting over the jack, but that is an old rubber bridge adage followed by old rubber bridge addicts, and it doesn't apply in duplicate. In rubber bridge the cards are played together in the middle of the table and the queen might well have been put on top of the jack. Imperfect shuffling means there is a good chance that it is still there the next time cards are dealt. If you don't believe me, get out a pack of cards and do a little experiment.

In India they have a saying that the queen and the nine of a suit will be in the same hand, so you should wait until the Hx9 appears and play for that hand to hold the queen. As a statement of statistical fact it is dubious. As a strategy it is unlikely to work, especially against someone who knows it to be a favourite superstition of yours. If you were to start by playing small towards dummy, then you would feel obliged to take an immediate finesse if West played the Hx9, and he will be happy to false-card with Hx9-x, Hx9-x-x or Hx9-x-x-x.

I found this one on the internet. Have a look at the eyes of the king of the suit in question and play for him to be looking at the queen. In this example, with hearts as the key suit, you should play West for the missing queen.

The HxK, DxK and CxK all look to their right (your left); the SxK looks to his left. With no other clues it's as good a strategy as any. But don't just rely on what I say about who looks where; you will have to double check when you play bridge



abroad. The dastardly French kings all look the opposite way; no doubt something to do with Napoleon insisting that the French shouldn't do anything the same way as the English – they drive on the right, for example, they use kilometres instead of miles, and they don't have small side-plates on which to put their bread.

Barry Crane was a top American bridge player (and also a TV producer and director of programmes like *Mission Impossible* and *Hawaii Five-0*). He had a rule which said that the queen would be sitting over the jack in a minor suit, and under the jack in a major suit. He would have played West for the queen.

One third of the Belgians I polled said he always played for the queen to be on his left. 'And if it isn't,' he told me, 'I am sitting in the wrong seat.'

So, which of those seven strategies should you adopt to locate the missing HxQ? (I know you would rather have one technique that really works, and not have to pick from a menu of dubious alternatives. Alas, life is not like that and neither is bridge.)

The answer is none, at least not until you have recalled the bidding and analysed the play to date. If East opened a weak two bid then, in the absence of other information, the *Theory of Empty Spaces* makes West a strong favourite to hold the missing queen. On the other hand, if West failed to open the bidding and has already shown up with 10 points, he is very unlikely to hold the HxQ.

If you do have to resort to one of the seven, then my advice is to ignore the Indian saying and pick one of the others – and remember its origins. That way, if the finesse fails, you will be able to recover some kudos by saying something like 'I thought I'd try the Norwegian method.' or 'Sorry, Crane's Rule didn't work this time.'

[Thank you, Simon. Ed]

Results from September 2014

Tuesday – Manoy Estate Teams: 1 st Paul Devadatta, Rob Egginson, Mira Trifunovic and Margaret Curnow	Wednesday – McDermott Cup Ladder 1 st Nigel Kearney 2 nd John Wilkinson
Thursday – Porter Ladder: 1 st Haley Fenwick, 2 nd Donna Upchurch	Friday – Handicap Pairs: 1 st Jenny Coulter & Sylvia Johns; 2 nd Pauline Murtagh and Jan Bennett

Results from Recent Tournaments - Congratulations to our Club Members!

Hutt Multigrade – 7 September 1 st Nebojsa Djorovic & Donna Upchurch 2 nd Alex Swainson & Mira Trifunovic	Paraparaumu Multigrade 21 September 1st Joan McCarthy & Judith Johnson
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NZBridge Wellington Regional Bridge Committee - Interclub Dates set for 2015:

Round	Friday night	5	24 July
1	20 March	6	14 August
2	1 May	7	11 September
3	22 May	8	16 October
4	26 June	9	13 November

Tony Sutich – Interclub Convenor, pp Wellington Regional Bridge Committee.