

WBC News – September 2017

We wish **Anthony Ker & Russell Dive** all the best for the Dan Gifford Rubber Bridge Finals at Hamilton where they will be defending their title as the “National Rubber Bridge Champions”.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Saturday Afternoon Bridge starts this Saturday at 1 pm.... see notice on last page here...

83rd Annual General Meeting - Friday 13 October at 6 pm.

A light Dinner will be served at the conclusion of the meeting, prior to a Bridge evening commencing approximately 7.30 pm. Please check the Notice Board for details.

RSVP is necessary if you are staying for dinner and your entry for bridge.

27 & 28 October – Main Centre Teams at Wellington Bridge Club.

Presidents Corner... Brad Tattersfield

We hope you are enjoying using our new touch-screen tablet scorers – the changeover from bridgepads seems to have been trouble-free. Do let us know if you have any comments about them – positive or negative!

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on Friday 13 October. The meeting will start at 6 pm, followed by dinner and social bridge. The meal will be free of charge to members who attend the AGM, with a cash bar.

In recent years we have timed the AGM to coincide with the New Zealand Wide Pairs event – that wasn't possible this year, though the AGM will consider a remit to change the rules on meeting timing to give us greater scheduling flexibility (the current rule says the meeting must be held in October).

The meeting will also consider a remit removing the “country membership” category. Country membership was intended to recognise that members living 60km from Wellington would play infrequently at the club. But no members have chosen to register as country members for many years. Members who play infrequently can get the same subscription discount by registering as associate members.

Last newsletter I mentioned that we were looking at raising table money to \$8 for cash payments only, as a way of encouraging people to move to cashless payment methods. After further consideration, and taking account of members' reactions, we have abandoned this idea. However, we do encourage you to sign up for direct debits or pre-paid vouchers. There are benefits to the club from reducing the considerable amount of cash we handle each week.

This Saturday we are starting afternoon social bridge. The idea is to carry on Karori Club's successful winter social sessions, which they have now paused until next winter. All welcome.

Finally, it's great to see a good many members browsing the library books. Julie Hawkins has done a terrific job organising and cataloguing our books, and we really appreciate her efforts.

2018 Programme Book

This will be going to print mid to late November. Please advise Bridget of your new phone numbers and email addresses, bearing in mind that Vodafone will turn off its email accounts, including Clear and Paradise accounts on November 30 and will instead encourage customers to set up free email accounts with either Google or Microsoft. The decision follows months of problems with high levels of spam and delayed mail. NZ Bridge also tell us ... Many people have registered on their website with an email address that is about to cease. Once you set up your new email address, please remember to login to NZ Bridge site and change your address under MY NZB.

Results from Wellington Intermediate & Junior Tournaments – 3 September

Entries were disappointingly rather low for both tournaments, however, the players very much enjoyed the day and we hope the Junior participants will spread the good word that a “tournament” is not so bad after all and absolutely nothing to get nervous about. Sam Ward was a busy director having to make several rulings on some pre-emptive hand explanations and having to penalise players for putting their cards back in the wrong slots. Many thanks to Sam, to Mindy’s catering staff and to all our kitchen/bar helpers who looked after the players.

Interestingly 3 pairs of the top 4 pairs on the day had never played with each other before. Is there a message in this?

Congratulations to the prizewinners:

Wellington Junior Pairs	1	ANNIE FLEETWOOD / MARINA SMITH	57.92 %
	2	ANNE GASKELL / MIRIAM LEWIN	54.29 %

Wellington Intermediate Pairs	1	JAN BORREN / BRAD TATTERSFIELD	58.59 %
	2	MIRA TRIFUNOVIC / STEPHANIE SMITH	54.36 %
	3	ANNETTE BLACK / NANCY COONEY	53.47 %

So long BridgePad, hello BridgeTab ... Maureen Pratchett, Chief Director

We hope you are enjoying the new BridgeTabs. Their introduction has gone fairly smoothly and we have had few problems with the transition.

We have trialled showing the travellers for each round and will continue to do this as long as they are not slowing the movement. One consequence of showing the traveller, however, is that if a board number is incorrectly entered and EW accepts the incorrect data, the table may have seen the makeable contract and hands for the other board – the one they haven't played. We are therefore not allowing players to correct any data entered incorrectly after it has been accepted – you will need to call the Director. And if it is found that the information had been entered against the incorrect board, that board cannot be played and each pair will be awarded a 40% score as both pairs are deemed to be at fault. We think this is an acceptable trade-off for being able to see the traveller.

To look after the units, we are asking players to leave them on the playing table at the end of the night. We would be most appreciative if, at the end, 1 or 2 players would assist the director by going round the room to collect them and put each into the numbered slot in the cabinet.

So treat the Tabs with respect and we hope they will give us as many years of service as the BridgePads did.

Bermuda Bowl at Lyon last month - Exciting Times....

A big thank you to our NZ team players for providing us with many hours of exhilarating vu-graph watching into the wee small hours...

Congratulations to the NZ Open team in the semi-final.

BBO: Lyon 2017 – Daily Updates, Saturday 19 August:

“Exciting finish to the round robins in the Bermuda Bowl where Egypt, Monaco and New Zealand fought for the vital 8th place most of the time, until a late surge by Bulgaria, combined with a spurt by New Zealand saw the All Blacks emerge triumphant”.

The grand final of the Wellington Region knock-out Rubber Bridge was played recently and on behalf of the Regional Committee I would like to congratulate the winners **Anthony Ker and Russell Dive**. Anthony and Russell had a pretty convincing win over Kate Davies and John Patterson who conceded the match well before the 30th deal. Anthony and Russell will be defending their title of National Rubber Bridge Champions that they won last year at Hamilton and we wish them the best of luck in Hamilton again; – to be played on the nights of 29 Sept; 1 Oct & 2 Oct.

I also take this opportunity to thank all those players who took part this year in the Regional Rubber Bridge knock-out. We had 27 pairs enter here, including 8 pairs from the Waikanae area. The Auckland / Northland Region pipped us with 28 pairs, so we just missed out on sending 2 pairs to Hamilton. I would like to think we could increase our numbers by quite a few pairs next year, to again get 2 pairs to the Hamilton finals. We need to try and get more players involved with Rubber Bridge and any suggestions would be appreciated. **Cheers – Tony Sutich**



Library News..... Books on the Horizon

When you actually have hundreds of books on how to play bridge, where do you go to update the collection. To the current experts?

Andrew Robson is a World Silver Medallist, a former World and European Champion, and is Britain's leading Bridge player-teacher-writer. He runs a highly successful Bridge School in SW London, with close to 3,000 members. (Internet Information) He is best known for his daily Bridge column in The Times. We have been looking at his series, 'Bridge Lessons' and have ordered two as a trial. They are “Finesse” and “Hand Evaluation and the Losing Trick Count”. If these are as useful as they sound we can look at others.

Hot off the press! “Never a Dull Deal: Faith, Hope and Probability in Bridge” by Robert F. MacKinnon.

This is a sequel to his bestseller, “Bridge, Probability and Information”, where he drew on his professional background in mathematics to introduce readers to the mysteries of information theory and Bayes Theorem, and their surprisingly practical applications for bridge players. “Although rooted in mathematics it aims to be accessible to all bridge players.”



Robert F. MacKinnon (Canada) is a retired mathematician who writes for bridge magazines. He has also written two bridge novels, and has a bridge blog. We await with great anticipation the arrival of these books. **Julie**

Bridget will be happy to take names for a waiting list.

Monthly Pairs - Results from August 2017

Tuesday - Capital Cup Pairs 1 st Sue Storer & Wayne Stechman 2 nd Sally Broadhurst & Maureen Sheldon	Wednesday - Schneideman Salver Teams 1 st Mindy Wu, John Wilkinson, Kate Davies & John Patterson 2 nd Stephen Henry, Annette Henry, Nigel Kearney & Charlie Cahn
Thursday - John Fairbairn Cup 1 st Jolene Zink & Susan Brown 2 nd Berni Marwick & Suzanne Duncan	Friday - Tinakori Pairs 1 st Lindy Thomson & Jill Dodson 2 nd Suzanne Duncan & Graham Potter

Results from Recent Tournaments - Congratulations

Hutt Club Multigrade – 10th September – Top Pair Open/Junior Allan Joseph & Yiyan Wang	TOTs Teams – 9th and 10th September - 1st Kate Davies, John Patterson, Tony Oberdries & Morris Carter.
National Swiss Pairs Christchurch 2 & 3rd September 2nd John Davidson & David Skipper	Karori Open 27 August 1st Russell Dive & Anthony Ker 2nd Graeme Norman & Patrick D'arcy 3rd Robyn Freeman-Greene & Dale Lacey



Where is our Pot?

Actually it is our one and only large saucepan – a necessity for use at our tournaments - and it lived happily in the cupboard under the middle two sinks.

Good Luck to all our members playing at National Congress in Hamilton at the end of this month.

Reminder: We start Saturday Afternoon Bridge this week, picking up where Karori Bridge Club has left off for the season. Congratulations to Karori Bridge Club for running a very successful event over the winter months. We welcome all players from all clubs. 1 pm start. Players are encouraged to arrange their own partners but not mandatory – as we will have a playing Director if required.