

Sept 2022 Newsletter

President's Message

Kia Ora koutou:

It has been good that we are increasingly able to play at the club as covid cases have been dropping. Over the last couple of weeks we have had the Wellington sixes and the 3 and 1 expert night which were both successful evenings. From Wednesday 14 September we will be looking to play at least new events face-to-face, and we have the Peter Benham Memorial tournament coming up on Saturday October 15. While we are starting to return to a kind of new "normal" with play at the club, our online sessions on Monday, Friday and Sunday are here to stay and will feature in our programme book next year.



Return of face-to-face bridge



We welcome a full return of face-to-face bridge this week which coincides with the government's announcement of the dropping of the traffic light system. That decision will make it much easier for clubs like ours to plan and operate. Players will not need to pre-register for the Wednesday's Woe Wilson Memorial Handicap Pairs. Just find a partner and turn up. If you haven't got a partner, don't forget to contact Bridget, she will find you one. The committee has run a sweepstake on how many tables we get. Picks are quite wide-ranging. Whether we can switch the Poppy Roberts and Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Premier Teams finals from online will depend whether out of town players make it to the finals, but we will do our best to move to live play.

While the club has a clear preference for face-to-face bridge, obviously online bridge is here to stay. A subcommittee is still working through the details of how we incorporate it into our club structure.

Finances and playing numbers

Our finances remain a tricky juggling act and likely to remain so while the pandemic lingers. The full return of face-to-face bridge this week which we hope approach normality will help alleviate financial pressures. Treasurer Donna Upchurch reported that we managed a surplus in August, thanks partly to having a five-week month and also having healthy online playing numbers.

Learners group

The club Growth and Development subcommittee is in the process of finalising mentor roles and will then allocate mentors to the first group of learners from this year, as well as all the ones from 2020/21 who are hovering but not playing regularly. This year's second group of learners, who finish lessons on September 13, will play with buddies first and then be assigned mentors. Many thanks to those who responded to the request in the last newsletter and we will shoulder tap a few more if we need to. We are still looking for more mentors. Contact Margaret Curnow.

Sponsorship progress

The marketing sub-committee has made considerable progress towards attracting more sponsorship for the club. Share-brokers Forsyth Barr agreed to sponsor the Peter Benham Memorial Open Pairs and have taken out advertising in the 2023 programme book, while Craig Investment Partners has agreed to sponsor the Wellington Region Christmas Cheer Pairs on December 10. an Wehipeihana sponsored the recent 3 and 1 Expert evening.

Paul Titcombe, from Lowe & Co, along with Nick Major, sponsors the Premier Teams event, is also making a welcome contribution from the sale of houses they sell from referrals from club members. Thanks to these and other sponsors.

Thanks Paul, we just received a \$500 bonus as a member used Paul to sell recently.

New school holiday programme

Following the success of the inaugural school holiday program we ran in July, Anne-Marie will be running a second course for school children in the second week of October School holidays (starting Monday, October 10). The Regional Committee is helping with the funding.

If you have children or grandchildren who you think this might appeal to, please encourage them to attend

Super Sixes a success

Despite the difficult operating environment, we held a successful Super Sixes tournament on September 4. We had eight teams – 48 players – which was a pretty good turnout.

More long-distance matches

One of the positives that has arisen from playing online is the ease of setting up matches with clubs from overseas or out of town. Twelve pairs from WBC participated in a successful match against Canada's Prince Edward County Bridge Club last month.

Our Sunday Social session on September 25th at 7.00pm will be a match against Palmerston North. Bridge Club. Links will be on our website.

Put it in your diary

- Oct 1-8 National Congress, (Tauranga)
- Oct 2 – Paraparaumu Multigrade Pairs 8B
- Oct 15 - Peter Benham Memorial Open Pairs 5A
- Oct 15 Wellington Region Junior Pairs 3B- 1 session
- Oct 16 – Kapi Mana Intermediate Pairs 5B
- Oct 21-23 Kairangi Open Pairs (3 nights) 5A
- Oct 30 Alan Grants Improver Day



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PAUL TITCOMBE
0800 677 767

paul@loweandco.nz

Additional Junior Tournament

A number of our region's Junior Tournaments have been cancelled so the Wellington Region has arranged for a one session 3B Junior tournament to be held on Saturday 15th of October. 1.00pm start, 1 session, only \$10 entry fee. This is a great introduction to Tournament play for Juniors and Novices.

Enter via nzbridge.co.nz/events or email wellingtonbridge@gmail.com

Recent tournament successes



Wellington Sixes Top Open Pair
Anne-Marie Russell & Nigel Kearney



Wellington Sixes Top Junior –
Chris Taylor & Ruth Harley



Wgtn Sixes Winning Team



Best Team Costume



Runners up



Levin Multigrade
Sandy & Christine



Levin Multigrade
Bridget & Anne-Marie
With Levin President



SouthIsland Teams
Kate & John
with Colin & Sandra

Recent Tournament Success

Levin Multi-grade

2nd Anne-Marie Russell & Bridget Hannaway (pictured above)

Top Open/Intermediate Pair Sandy & Christine McKirdy (pictured above)

South Island Teams 27 August

1st Kate Davies John Patterson with Team-mates Colin Carryer & Sandra Calvert (pictured above)

Hokowhitu Daffodil Day 28 August

3rd Sandy McKirdy & Graham Stronach

Wellington Sixes. 4th September

1st Open Pair – Anne-Marie Russell & Nigel Kearney (pictured above)

1st Intermediate Pair – Eason Lu & Marcus Smith

1st Junior Pair – Chris Taylor & Ruth Harley (pictured above)

Top Team – The Illusionists – Nigel Kearney, Anne-Marie Russell, Helen Climo, Murray Climo, Julie Martin & Andre Castaing. (pictured above)

2nd Place – Trouble – Donna Upchurch, Denise Barnett, Karen Eriksen, Jude Lucas, Ruth Harley & Chris Taylor. (pictured above)

Recent club success

Monday Online –Handicap Pairs – all comers

1st Sandy Conan & Hilda Burgess

2nd Donna Monk & Leon Meier

3rd Oliver McCready & Nigel Kearney

Tuesday - Manoy Estate Teams

1st Simon Havill Liz Baker, Nigel Kirkpatrick, Elaine McFadyen, Anne Gaskell & Louise Logan

2nd Christine Wilson, Peter Flanagan, Monique Percy, Kathryn Brown

Wednesday - Schneideman Salver Teams

1st Nigel Kearney, Karl Hayes, Peter Newell & Martin Reid

2nd Ray Gruschow, David MacDonald, Ross Quayle & Mariusz Tumilowicz

Thursday – John Fairbairn Cup

1st Dennis McKinlay & Stephanie Smith

2nd Diane Tredger & Michael Cox

Friday Tinakori Pairs

1st Jenny Delany & Pauline Murtagh

2nd John Wilkinson & Tani Blackburn

Events and Happenings

We have had a busy month at the club with some extra events, firstly the Super Sunday hosted by Katherine Gough, the Regional Bridge Mate and then the 3 and 1 expert evening on Friday 9th September.

3 and 1 Expert evening was well attended with 16 Tables of players and Experts.

Many thanks to the 16 experts who attended.

Thanks to our sponsor for the event Nan Wehipeihana.

We have received some great feedback, so we plan to run this event again in the New Year,

More on offer!

All those new members wanting to improve their play Alan Grant will be running an Improvers Day Course on Sunday 30th October. Watch out for more details

Pictured - A room full of Improvers and Experts



Peter Newell, one of the Expert Volunteers has jotted down a few tips for improving your play

1. Listen to the auction - think about how many points partner and declarer are likely to have and their lengths in suits during the auction to inform your opening lead.
2. After the opening lead, think about the auction again after having seen dummy and the opening lead - this should help you inform your play as a declarer or as a defender.
3. After the opening lead and the sight of the dummy, take your time as declarer before playing from dummy to plan the play, and as defender as to what you think declarer is going to do, and what to play. What declarer plays should give you clues as to their hand.
4. When bidding don't bid your values twice, for example, if you have shown a 5 card suit it is rarely right to bid it again unless you have no other option, or if you preempt and your partner passes don't bid again.
5. Try and keep things simple in the bidding unless you are confident that you and your partner are on the same wavelength.
6. Try and make it easy for your partner by signalling clearly.

Thanks Simon for stepping in to get the newsletter out whilst our Editor Margie is out of the country.



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WELLINGTON BRIDGE CLUB

17 Tinakori Road - 04 972 4311
Monday 10 Oct - Thursday 13 Oct 2022
1:00pm - 3:00pm - 4 x Sessions

To register email: wellingtonbridge@gmail.com
or phone 027 209 7888 **AGE 10+**