

WBC News – April 2012

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ...

Anzac Day – lesson with Alan Grant for Intermediate-Advanced Improvers. Main focus is to be on improving card play – defence and declarer. Will only go ahead if there are 20+ paid participants. Check the Notice Board.

No parking please! There are yellow “*no parking*” lines on the east wall of the carpark. This is to enable easier access and departure from the carpark. Several cars have been damaged whilst trying to reverse out of the middle of the carpark. Please do not park there.

Presidents Corner... Derek Snelling

Thank you to all those who took the time to respond to the questionnaire sent out recently. A gratifying 97 responses!

The main issues were that you appeared to favour an increase in subs rather than table money if the Committee saw a need to raise our income stream.

You continue to express a desire to keep a strong line on late arrivals and slow play. Please bear this in mind when the Director of the evening has reason to discuss this with you!

The last issue was in relation to the costs of running tournaments and it seems that a small increase in entry fee would be tolerated by a large majority of respondents (73/10). There is less support for providing your own lunch to keep costs down.

Finally, thank you to all those who volunteered their relevant skills or sphere of interest to assist with the running of the club. Your names have been forwarded to the relevant subcommittee chairs and we will be in touch!

One of the old chestnuts raised from a number of respondents was the issue of smoking. Whilst the Committee has no immediate plans to change the Club's policy on smoking, can I take this opportunity to ask the smokers amongst us if they would consider having that pre-session smoke on the kitchen balcony and after play has finished if you would consider waiting for the bulk of players who leave immediately after play has finished to leave, before lighting up in the entrance way. For obvious reasons, smoking in the main doorway to the club impacts negatively on a large majority of the membership.

National Club Championships

Can we win again? Of course we can...

The Committee seeks applications so a Junior, Intermediate and Open team can be selected to represent the Club for the NZ Club Championships. The Wellington Regional Committee is arranging a competition between clubs in the Wellington area on Sunday 17 June to determine which club will represent the area for the NZ Club Championships to be held in Hamilton in September. Please see notice board if you are interested in putting your name forward. Please also bear in mind that if you are selected to play in the regional trials for our club, you are under no obligation to play in Hamilton in September if our team gets through to the final (although of course we would be thrilled if you could play both dates).

Welcome to New Members ...

Jan Hughes; James Fyfe, Karen Erenstrom

Gossip/Chat

+++ Rex Benson writes: "Recently **Chris Bolland** showed me the results sheet for his pair in a round of the Schneideman Teams: not a single score was to be found in the column for his side over the 14 boards. I comforted him with a reminiscence along similar lines, which I'll share with you here, now that I've got over it: circa 1974 the team of Benson-Frater and Lescher-Walkley was defeated in an 8-board Provincial Teams match by an IMP score of 80-0."

[ah yes... those times when there was history and herstory...Ed]

+++The annual Gentlemen v Players teams match for the Doreen Wilkinson Trophy took place on Saturday 31st March. After 48 boards (3x16 with rotating partners) The Gentlemen (John Jowett, Dale Lacey, Charlie Cahn, Brian Cleaver) emerged victors over The Players (Doreen Wilkinson, Simon Arnold, Ross Quayle, Rex Benson) by 146-117 IMPS. Doreen comes over from Sydney every year to play in the D W Trophy - she represented NZ once upon a time w. Heather Goldstone.

+++At a recent tournament...the auction ended and partner was declarer. A few moments passed until LHO put a small ♥ on the table. The director was called and the lead had to come from the correct hand. A ♥ was followed by three small ones. Partner now plays a small trump out of turn. When director was called again, the friendliest director of them all explained "everything is fine. Declarer can expose anything he likes".



ANC TEAMS

The Open and Women's teams to represent NSW at the ANC in Darwin have been selected (subject to NSWBA Council ratification).

OPEN - Fraser Rew (as most of you know, ex-member of our club), Nick Rodwell, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Andrew Peake and Orlando Wu.

From the Internet - BBO

Last Sunday morning there was an excellent 28 board team match – Jimmy Cayne & Alfredo Versace v Lucy and Laura, two youth players from Melbourne whose team convincingly won the match. Some comments from kibbers and there were over 450 of them:

Kibber from Sweden: "*when they play UDCA [upside down count & attitude] Downunder, is that like standard carding here?*"

Peterh: "*no we stand on our heads*"

paua: "*all our cards are upside down too*"

Acol Club Sunday Bash on BBO: If you're free on Sunday evenings at 8pm, this is fun to play in – 12 boards, only Acol obviously and usually the Brits with a sprinkling of Aussies and Kiwis – a Commonwealth feel about it, and quite a thrill when you get to play at Table 1.



Boring Hands?

Who dealt these cards??? A question asked many times by those who have very few points. Seldom asked by those who have many points. At times we get people who ask - why are the hands so "boring", and at times - have these hands been "set up"?

Well the answer to these questions is that every hand is the luck of the draw - a computer has dealt the cards - or at least decided what cards are in each hand - Duncan (a human being) is the "dealer" who puts the hands together. The computer is given no instructions other than to generate hands on a random basis. This means any "boring hands" or what appear to be "set up hands" are not because of any "instruction" to the computer rather they are the consequence of random generation.

The fact that hands are random means that you will at times get runs of "boring" hands. Over your life of playing bridge you will likely find that the average of your hands is 10 points and you have had 3.25 cards in each suit - however for tonight that will not be the case.

Of course if you want more excitement of "set up" hands then try the next Goulash event. (Kevin Walker)

Casual bridge trial

Next month the Club will start "casual Tuesday night" bridge sessions on a trial basis. The aim is to offer a different, more relaxed playing format to the normal club nights, along with expert tips to improve your play. Play will start at 7 pm with plenty of time between boards and continuous tea, coffee and drinks available. After finishing at around 9 pm, a senior player will review the boards and discuss optimal contracts for those who are interested. More details to follow later – if you're interested in playing, or know anyone else who might be, or who might be persuaded to return to bridge, please contact Brad Tattersfield at bradandjill@xtra.co.nz

Justin Lall, 25, has become the youngest Grand Life Master ever

At the Spring North American Championships the Norman Kay Platinum Pairs was won by Bob Hamman and Justin Lall, USA. Second was Thomas Bessis from France and Ishmael Delmonte from Australia.

NORTH			
♠ 97642			
♥ K1074			
♦ 53			
♣ Q5			
WEST		EAST(D)	
♠ K		♠ 53	
♥ 93		♥ A852	
♦ K972		♦ AJ108	
♣ AK10742		♣ 6	
SOUTH			
♠ AQJ108			
♥ QJ6			
♦ Q4			
♣ 986			
Both sides were vulnerable.			
The bidding:			
West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♣	4♠	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	Pass		
West led the club ace.			

With the Platinum Pairs win Lall, 25, has become the youngest Grand Life Master ever. This is the highest rank of the American Contract Bridge League, requiring 10,000 master points and at least one victory in either a top national championship or a world championship. It is also Hamman's 50th national title, with his 24th different partner. Hamman, who plays without sorting his hand, is brilliant at reading the cards, as exhibited in the diagrammed deal.

Hamman (South) opened one spade, Delmonte (West) overcalled two clubs, Lall (North) responded with a pre-emptive jump to four spades, Bessis (East) made a card-showing double, and everyone passed.

West cashed his top clubs, East signalling he had begun with a doubleton. Then West shifted to a diamond. East won with his ace and returned a diamond, West taking his king and playing a third diamond. After ruffing in the dummy and discarding his last club, what did Hamman do next? He wondered why West had not played a third club in the hope that East could overruff the dummy. There could be only one answer: West had the singleton spade king. So South led a spade to his ace and escaped for down two, minus 500, losing one heart, two diamonds and two clubs. After the victory Hamman, 73, was asked whether he had any plans to reduce his playing. "What am I going to do?" he replied. "Watch TV?" [extracts courtesy **New York Times 21 March 2012**]

Your Homework for this Month...

Memorize the common patterns of the 13 cards in a suit -- 4432,4333, 4441,5332,5431, 6322,7321, etc. (Note that all the patterns of four numbers fall into one of two even-odd combinations: three even numbers and one odd, or three odds and one even.) Drill yourself on the patterns and become so familiar with them that you won't even have to think once you get a partial count. If you discover that each opponent has 4 cards in a suit and you hold 2 cards, you won't need to do any arithmetic to know that partner holds 3. The 4432 pattern will instantly pop into your head.

Concentrate on how the unseen cards divide. Once you become adept at recognizing the common patterns, start thinking not just about the number of outstanding cards in a suit, but about how they might break. If your hand and dummy have 8 total cards in a suit, try to focus on the possible divisions of the 5 missing cards. With practice, it will become second nature for you to go beyond thinking "5" and start thinking "3-2, 4-1, 5-0".

Memorize the original layout. Whether you're declaring or defending, study the dummy at trick one and create a mental picture of its distribution. Commit it to memory by repeating the pattern in your head (for example: 3-5-3-2, or 35-32). Do the same with your own hand. Later in the play, if you can't remember how many cards have been played in a suit, you can often reconstruct the play – and figure out how many times the suit has been led -- by recalling your mental picture of the number of cards you and dummy originally held in the suit.

Mentally review the bidding before you play to the first trick. If possible, come up with a picture of each player's general hand pattern and high-card strength. Consider not just what the hidden hands actually bid, but what they did not bid.

Focus your count on just one unseen hand. The easiest hand to count will usually be the player who made the most bids during the auction, or who made the opening lead. Use what you know about that hand to figure the distribution of the other hidden hand?

Practice, practice, practice. It will take time and lots of practice before you can process all the information available and make the right conclusions. You can speed your progress by making a concentrated effort to count at least one or two suits on every deal you play, even on those where it appears you can't affect the result. The more hands you play and the more suits you count, the more adept your brain will become at remembering the cards.
[Courtesy of Bridgebase Online]

Playing Numbers: The following are comparative figures for the calendar year to date:

March	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
2005	470	964	1150	186	2770
2006	408	1034	1170	250	2862
2007	510	978	1046	204	2738
2008	714	982	902	254	2616
2009	642	910	938	302	2792
2010	660	1042	1018	274	2994
2011	604	1128	1124	360	3216
2012	492	1126	1148	392	3158

31 March 2012: 395 Total Membership - 310 members with Wellington as their home Club

Results from Recent Tournaments

Hutt Intermediate 18th March

2nd Barbara Allen and Joanne Rollo

Victoria Multigrade – 1 April

1st Judith Johnson & Joan McCarthy

2nd Lidia Dabrowska & Ian Middleton

3rd Walt Davis & Eleisha Jewell

Canterbury Open Teams held on 8 April 2012 Pat Darcy was member of team who came 2nd.

Centre Island Pairs at Masterton – 24-25 March

1st Tony Lenart & James Li

2nd Alan Grant & Karl Hayes

Masterton Open – Sunday 15 April

1st Alan Grant & Anthony Ker

3rd Nebojsa Djorovic & Judith Johnson

Levin Easter Multigrade

1st Mindy Wu & John Wilkinson

Results from Club Nights

Tuesday - Thelma Wylde Pairs

1st Haley Fenwick and Faye Smith

2nd Carole Dryburgh and Jamie Linton

Thursday - J Robson Cup Pairs

1st Malcolm Greig and Maureen Pratchett

2nd Barbara Allen and Christine Haronga

Wednesday - Schneideman Salver Teams

1st A Grant, A Ker, C Cahn and N Kearney

2nd R Gruschow, G Norman, M Rowe and M Michael

Friday - Hobson Pairs

1st Barbara Allen & Mhairi Smith

2nd Mary Slowey & Michael Stride