

April 2018 Newsletter

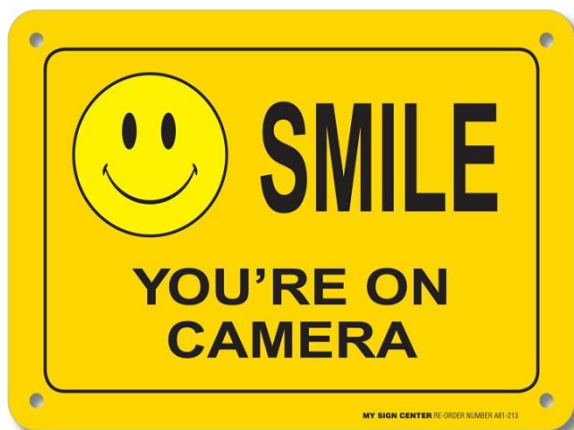
They call it "bridge" because it makes you want to shove your partner off one.



Presidents Corner... Brad Tattersfield

Hi everyone

The biggest event on our tournament calendar, the Wellington Congress, kicks off the weekend after next – and we need your help! We host Congress for the Wellington Region, and it's a massive organisational effort with a full slate of events for all grades across five days. It's not too late to enter if you haven't already done so – check our website or the Wellington Region site for details. Importantly, we would really appreciate any help you might be able to provide – please let Bridget know asap if you can volunteer even just an hour or two. There will be slips on playing tables this week for you to sign up for Congress help.



Smile – be aware you're on camera now. A big thank you to Andrew Cushnie for his many hours of volunteer working installing our new security system, which is now up and thanks to his work, we now have high-quality cameras monitoring the Lobby Area and outside around our building and basement – it's a fantastic upgrade that we would have struggled to achieve without Andrew's expertise and effort.

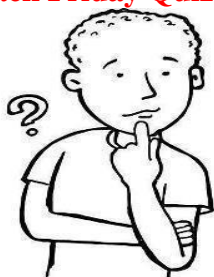
Finally, a word about slow play. This of course is a "hardy annual" bridge issue that causes frustration from time to time, often because players resent being warned by directors to play to time when they don't believe they are responsible for falling behind. Slow play is everyone's responsibility, regardless of who is at fault. It is difficult if not impossible for directors to ascertain blame – what matters is that people make the effort to catch up. Directors can apply slow play penalties, but that is very much a last resort.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Extended Wellington Congress, April 21-25, All Grades

As noted in last month's newsletter, this is the premier event on the Wellington bridge calendar with something for everyone. We need helpers for Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. Even a couple of hours would be great for morning or afternoon teas or lunch. A roster will be circulated on club nights. Also baking contributions gratefully accepted. Open teams play on Saturday and Sunday and then Open pairs play Sunday night and Monday. Junior and Intermediate pairs play Saturday and teams Sunday. Tuesday is a fun day – a walk-up pairs especially to encourage those who haven't previously had a taste of tournament play. Wednesday is a Swiss Pairs open to all. Entries close April 17. Note there is no regular Wednesday night play that night.

Black Friday Quiz, July 13, will also include an “aftermatch” function



CAN YOU TELL ME?

What occurs
twice in a week,
once in a year
but never in a
day?

Get your 6-8 person super team together or contact Bridget to join a sub's bench team. Prizes to the team and individual that dresses most imaginatively for Black Friday.

Maestro quizmaster Dean Sole will set the brain teasers and Eric Frykberg will MC what promises to be a fun night where an aftermatch activity will allow your brain to rest after the quiz.

Club series

Tuesday/Junior – N Robson Cup Teams – starts May 1
Thursday/Intermediate – May Manoy Salver – starts May 10
Wednesday/Open – Jubilee Cup Pairs - starts May 18
Friday Afternoon – Moturoa Pairs Salver – starts May 4

Tournaments

South Wairarapa Intermediate/Junior, Sunday, April 15 at Greytown
Extended ANZAC weekend Wellington Congress – all grades – April 21, 22, 23 & 25 24th Walk-in Pairs
Upper Hutt Open, Sunday, April 29
Kapi Mana Multi - May 6
Wellington Regional IP Trials – Open, Seniors, Women & Intermediate – May 12-13
Hutt Open/Junior - May 20
Paraparaumu Intermediate - May 20

More Improver lessons with Alan Grant – June 9

Some 85% of the 26 who attended this month's Improvers Class with Alan Grant want to go to the next one on June 9. Interestingly, only 2 players came for our club – so watch out, other club players will be overtaking us. Alan said big thanks to Ruth Brucker and Judy Glackin for their assistance. There was huge interest in card play advice and practice and Alan is considering a Monday night card play workshop.

NZ Bridge tournaments review

NZ Bridge's Tournament and Gratings Taskforce has conducted a survey of the tournament schedule, grading and ranks system operated by New Zealand Bridge to consider whether any revisions are desirable to promote growth in participation of the game at all levels. A commendable 1500 responses were received.

The survey among other things (my interpretation) seemed to show lots of players don't play tournaments and don't wish to. Players would be encouraged to play more by having a regular partner, being asked to play and the tournament being nearby. Juniors want more junior options, intermediates like multi-grades and open players would like tournaments split into A and B grades. A relatively high 44% thought the structure and model for tournaments needs to be rethought and modernised.

Recent Triumphs



Helen and Kevin Walker proved that playing with your life partner is not always bad news.
They were Top Mixed Grade Pair at the Levin Multi Grade – (maybe it should have been Mixed Sex?)

Tournaments

Kairangi Intermediate Pairs 25th March

- 1st Margaret Dick & Graham Dick
- 2nd Diane Tredger & Dennis McKinlay

Masterton Open 25th March

- 1st Alan Grant & Anthony Ker
- 2nd Mindy Wu & Tegan Bennik
- 3rd Rosa Mishkin & Janet McMenamin

Levin Multi Grade 31 March

- 1st Mixed Grade Pair Helen Walker & Kevin Walker

Karori Mixed Sex Pairs 2nd April

- 1st Ann Tyrie & Ross Quayle
- 2nd Kathy Ker & Anthony Ker
- 3rd = Susan Laurenson & John Davidson
- 3rd = Julia Barnett & Sam Ward

Victoria Multi Grade Pairs 9th April

- 2nd Margot Davenport & Val Cooper

Club Nights

Tuesday - Thelma Wylde Pairs

1 st Miriam Tankersley & Megan Turner

2 nd Aubrey Hann & Gordon Streatfield

Wednesday Andrew Thompson Memorial Teams

1 st Charles Cahn Ross Quayle Martin Reid & Peter Newell

2 nd Anthony Ker Alan Grant Russell Dive & Gay Duncan

Thursday J Robson Cup Pairs

1 st Lee Miller & Jack Richardson

2 nd Tone Borren & Jan Borren

Friday Hobson Pairs

1 st Peter Benham & Heather Jared

2 nd Sophie Atkin & Barbara Allen

Library news from Julie Hawkins Jealousy and Competitiveness at the top?



'THE GREAT BRIDGE SCANDAL, The Most Famous Cheating Case in the History of the Game'
Alan Truscott, Masterpoint Press, 2nd edition 2004.

Last year the library was given the book, *'Story of an Accusation'* by Terence Reese, where he told a fascinating story in defense of the accusation of cheating at the World Bridge Championship at Buenos Aires, May, 1965. His accusers were convinced, and the British Captain forfeited the matches they had played. The World Bridge Federation banned them from competition. As is the result when only one side of any story is presented Reese made the accusations sound just that.. And, a British judicial tribunal did clear them on the grounds of reasonable doubt. *Surely, Englishmen don't lie, and 'pillars of the bridge world' don't cheat? Just an overdose of jealousy and competitiveness at the top?*

Reese argued that: Americans always claim others cheat; the British Captain over-reacted and had a personal problem with Reese and Boris Shapiro his partner; the Tournament Director should have been called at the time, and allowed to handle it; and, that the 'cheating' method claim could not be substantiated as many of the examples given by the accusers did not fit the pattern they were claiming. *It was all about, how many fingers were being used to hold the cards.*

A great read if you like 'who-done-its', except this is a 'did-they-do-it'. I personally, could not believe that if someone was actually cheating, they would do something so obvious!

But, I recently came upon the Truscott book in the KBC library. And, a photo of Terence Reese holding his cards, shows he has incredibly long fingers! Actually he can easily hold a hand of cards with two fingers, which may or may not be his normal position?? **The point of this ramble?** I'm on the scrounge!

Does anyone have the Truscott book in their personal collection, and may perhaps, have finished with it? It would be an asset to have in the library, and would provide the counter-balance to Reese's story.



Inter-Provincial Trials – May 12-13

The IP

Trials are held to choose the teams to represent Wellington in the Inter-Provincial Teams Championships to be held in Auckland on 24-26 November, when players must be available. Allowances are paid for travel and accommodation costs by New Zealand Bridge. Four players each are needed for Open, Seniors (60+), Women and Intermediate. Venue: Victoria Club, entry \$20 for one day and \$30 for two. Saturday and Sunday but, some participants may only be needed for one day. Format: Open – Teams: Senior/Women/Intermediate – Cross Imps Swiss Pairs . Entries by April 27 to Joan Waldvogel (Regional Secretary) forestbird@xtra.co.nz