

April 2020 Newsletter

President's Corner – Margaret Curnow

Hello everyone from my little island in Island Bay. I hope you are all coping with the realities of the Level 4 Alert. There seem to be huge variations in how people are – my brother who has three teenagers says they are really struggling with not being able to hang out with their friends and play sport and I know my grandchildren are missing those things too. I have friends who are in couples who are loving the slowed down pace of their lives and others who are on their own who are feeling very isolated. Keeping in touch with friends is so important during this time.



I am lucky enough to have my isolation bubble in a beautiful spot just a 5 minute walk from the beach, so am not finding it too difficult so far. In fact it's giving me an opportunity to get to all those little jobs around the house that have been waiting to be attended to. I miss my family of course, and I especially miss hugs from the grandchildren, but overall I'm enjoying the slower pace of life. I've been playing some on line bridge and that has been fun. If you haven't yet given it a go I would recommend it. I played my first game with Ruth and we used FaceTime to communicate with each other, so she was able to talk me through logging on and getting into a game, which was a really good way to go. I liked having the communication channels open while we were playing, and when we didn't do that for our second game I found it harder. It's nice just to be able to say "well done partner" or "sorry partner" during the game.

I'm spending lots of time on the phone catching up with friends and am so grateful that this is all happening in 2020 instead of 50 years ago when there would have been no Netflix, no TV on demand, just two TV channels, no Sky TV, no mobile phones, no internet and just one land line in the house. I'm also doing lots of exercise which I think really helps with feeling good about life and am enjoying seeing so many people out walking on the beach and around the area.

Our Committee met last night (using zoom video) and we are ensuring we use this enforced closure time to make sure that once we are legally able to have workers and cleaners on site, we will be in a position to start the work on the men's toilets immediately, and also to give the premises a 'deep clean'. In addition, we are developing a plan for reopening so that we are clear what our criteria will be. We don't want to wait till the Level 4 Alert is lifted before we start thinking about the conditions under which we will feel comfortable reopening - we want to be able to hit the ground running! We will of course keep you updated on this.

Finally I want to say a huge thank you to three people: Brad Tattersfield and Dale Lacey who have worked hard and liaised with Auckland Bridge Club to get our on line bridge happening and to Bridget who is doing an amazing job keeping in touch with our members and doing the behind the scenes work that will enable us to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. Until that happy day comes around, stay well by staying at home, be kind to those around you and keep up your interest in bridge in whatever way works for you – reading, playing on line or watching videos. There are ideas elsewhere in the newsletter to help.

Committee working on restart

These are strange and unique times with your committee meeting regularly online to make sure we get through this in the best shape possible. Treasurer Donna Upchurch noted the club is in a strong financial position despite the fact that we will experience a drastic drop in income over at least one month. Costs have also fallen sharply. Even accepting we plan to give some tenants rent holidays, we have enough cash in hand until at least August without breaking into our term deposits.

As Margaret notes above, the committee's focus has been on helping members play bridge while club play is suspended, and planning for a restart.

The latter is likely to be delayed even when the Level 4 alert is cut to Level 3 so it will be some time before normal club

activity resumes. We have set up a sub-committee that is working on how and when to restart play. While the Wellington Congress has been abandoned for this year, the committee is considering what replacement tournaments can be set up. Like the Wellington Congress, the Hawke's Bay Congress, a popular Queen's Birthday weekend activity, has also been cancelled.

Online bridge proving hugely popular

Online bridge, particularly the sessions set up by the Auckland Bridge Club are proving so popular that that the 80 pair limit on registrations quickly fills. Registration opens two hours before the twice daily sessions start – one beginning at 1.30pm and one at 7.30pm. However, if you miss out there is usually another Kiwi spill-over tournament on which to register. Another option for kiwis on BBO, are tournaments run by Pam Livingston in New Plymouth, whose BBO ID is Kermit.

If you want to know how to use BBO here are a couple of link on how-to videos;

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1&pli=1#search/wellingtonbridge%40gmail.com/WhctKJVqstSDmCVVvjPOPZkQIJfsFKfLPqWddvVCqsZgGJfjqjPzWgDPCpddZpSMqHrkrq?projector=1>
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1&pli=1#search/wellingtonbridge%40gmail.com/WhctKJVqstSDmCVVvjPOPZkQIJfsFKfLPqWddvVCqsZgGJfjqjPzWgDPCpddZpSMqHrkrq?projector=1>

The Auckland Bridge Club, led by Patrick Carter, is doing a fantastic job organising these daily tourneys.

The NZ Bridge website has a wealth of info on how to use BBO.

If you haven't used BBO, here are some basics:

- Log into BBO at <http://bridgebase.com>. If you've never used BBO before, you'll need to register first. To do this, click the "Become a member" button then fill in your details. (Note: Leave "ACBL number" blank.).
- Click "Competitive" under "Play or watch bridge". ▪ On some PCs and laptops, you'll now see a list offering "Tournaments", "Team matches", and "Challenges". If you see this, then click "Tournaments". If you don't see it, just ignore this step.
- You should now see a list of types of tournament ("ACBL masterpoint tournaments", "BBO points tournaments", etc, etc). Click "Free tournaments".
- Find the tournament you want. Currently, the Auckland tournaments are all hosted by "trick13" and are called either something like "Afternoon Kiwis by ACBL" or "Evening Kiwis by ACBL". (Note that the tournaments won't appear in the list until two hours before they're due to start. The kick-off times are 1:30 in the afternoon and 7:30 in the evening.)
- Click the tournament you want and join up. You need to invite your partner to join, using their BBO username. Once your partner accepts the invitation, you are enrolled – simply log in again shortly before the start time, and you will be taken automatically to board one.

WBC members as usual have been starring in lots of the tournaments with Johnny Davidson having a first and second in a couple I joined and Donna Upchurch and Nebojsa Djorovic winning another. Also one of our Junior players is cutting it with the big boys, punching well above their weight - Jeremy Gogan with his Karori Club partner Graham Halliday, their first win at 61% but their second success 70%. *Apologies if we have missed any successes, not always easy to find out*

North Island teams

The Wellington Bridge Club hosted the North Island teams tournament and was lucky enough to complete it on March 14-15 shortly before the lockdown. Many thanks to the myriad of club members who helped organise and run the event.

Winners were the Burrows Team of Wayne Burrows, Claire Miao, Carol Richardson, Andi Boughey, while WBC members featured on the podium minor placings. The Livingston Team (pictured right) of Pam Livingston, Jan Alabaster, Martin Reid, Peter Newell came second and the Grant team of Alan Grant Jane Lennon, Jane Skipper, John Skipper came third.



Lessons on hold but help available

The current series of bridge lessons for beginners has been put on hold for obvious reasons.

Following a survey of students, it has been decided to use the NZ Bridge online lessons as the basis for proceeding. Feedback has been that these are high quality, easy-to-follow lessons. They are available here:

<http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/teaching-materials.html>

Nigel Kearney is also working on a series of units for intermediate and open restricted players. This series will be available soon, possibly on a commercial basis. He recommends some practical lessons from the following:

Chris Willenken: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kR2MwoGTULk>

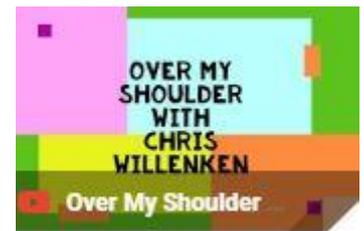
Zach Grossack: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSgdIHn2pWc>

Tom Townsend: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKq2Mxnf2ek>

And Dale Lacey recommends:

<https://youtu.be/MldFbBdea90>

<https://youtu.be/Fd9KLhFWIGU>



Handmade face masks available

Helen Climo has offered to make face masks for members (a limit to 2 per household) although after seeing a picture (below of Helen with her prototype (right), Jeremy Morley emailed to claim they may have been fashioned from his undies (below) and it therefore “would be a serious and worse health hazard than Covid-19”

Contact Helen if you need a mask ahclimo@gmail.com Depending on your location they maybe able to be delivered. (check with Helen)

Unfortunately we were unable to bring you a picture of Jeremy modelling his Thunderpants.



Hand analysis from Gold Coast Congress – Colin Hayward.

	♠ AK62 ♥ 76 ♦ 7532 ♣ K75		
♠ JT954 ♥ A84 ♦ — ♣ QJT62	Dealer North, E/W vulnerable Opening lead: ♠Q	♠ Q87 ♥ T5 ♦ AQJT98 ♣ 84	
	♠ 3 ♥ KQJ932 ♦ K64 ♣ A93		
North	East	South	West
1♦ (1)	P	1♥	1♠
P	2♦ (2)	4♥	All Pass

(1) Playing very light openings at favourable vulnerability. (2) Good spade raise.

I found this deal from the Gold Coast Congress semi-finals very interesting. South was in 4♥ and received the ♠Q opening lead, East contributing the ♠4 (UDCA). He won in hand, played a spade to the ace, and a heart to the king and ace. West returned the ♠T to the king. Declarer cashed dummy's ♠K pitching a club and then led a diamond for a finesse – only to encounter a very horrible split. East won ♦A and played ♦Q, effecting a ruffing finesse through the ♦K - down one.

Let us analyse the hand from declarer's point of view to see how he might have avoided this mishap. He has 9 winners (five hearts, two spades, two clubs), and the tenth must come from the ♦K, so the ♦A must be with East. He might try winning the opening lead in dummy in order to preserve an entry to hand to draw trumps. However, West can then find the killing switch to a spade when in with the ♥A, removing any entry to take a diamond finesse.

Declarer's decision to play trumps from dummy was more of a problem. This does pick up a singleton ace with East, but given the assumption that East has the ♦A, the odds favour West having the ♥A. In all other cases it is equally good to play hearts from hand, and doing so preserves that crucial dummy entry. Additionally, West may hop up with ♥A on the first round in order to try to give his partner a club ruff. This leads to an easy make as there is still sufficient transportation to draw trumps and then take the diamond finesse.

Should West take his ace on the second round of hearts instead, declarer can still prevail by analysing East's shape. He would see East follow with the ♥T on the second round, suggesting a doubleton heart. From the bidding and plays in the club suit, East is known to hold three spades and at most four clubs. If we assume West would have led a singleton diamond, then East's shape must be 3=2=6=2 or 3=2=4=4. Now, East encouraged at trick one with no honours in the suit, suggesting he holds a doubleton club. Also, suppose East was 3=2=4=4: he would probably want 9+ HCP for his good raise, leaving at most 8 points for West. Given West holds ♥A and ♣QJ, his spades are then at best ♠JT9xx, and a 5=3=2=3 shape with a jack-high suit doesn't add up to a particularly appealing overcall at unfavourable vulnerability. It seems much more likely that West has extra shape, such as a diamond void.

Overall, the signs seem to point towards East having his actual shape of 3=2=6=2. If declarer makes this read, then he can succeed via an endplay. He wins the club return in dummy, plays ♠AK pitching a club, ruffs a spade and draws the last trump. East is now down to only diamonds and so, when declarer exits a diamond, East must eventually concede a trick to ♦K. Of note is the fact that declarer at the table was also able to make via this line, but it was perhaps harder to envisage given that he didn't know the heart layout at the point he had to make the critical play from dummy.

For those with time on their hands

For those of us with more than usual time on our hands, there have numerous clever and amusing works clips doing the rounds. My favourite made by friends has gone viral: Lockdown Boogie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-ugfNXycDg>

what self-isolator are you?



kererū

- ate the quarantine choco before lockdown started
- pjs 24/7
- "maybe i should dust off the wii fit"



ruru

- fires up the subaru to do laps as soon as it's dark
- panic bought port royal pouches and cody's
- on 2nd warning



pīwakawaka

- smiles at everyone on daily walk
- always up in your bubble
- regular contributor to neighbourhood fb group



albatross/toroa

- ethical self-isolator
- got home from travel a month ago and hasn't left the house since
- extremely lonely



kea

- downloaded graph software to map spread
- hits the live blogs hard
- "tech will save us"



hoiho

- refuses to stop surfing
- thinks fish and chips are an essential service
- mostly likely to burden the health system



weka

- caught siphoning neighbour's petrol
- big on panic buying - "it's every bird for themselves"
- still posting items for sale on fb marketplace



tūi

- vocal about how well they're coping
- very loud on zoom calls
- thinking about re-starting their old blog



kākāpō

- extreme mood swings
- up all night reading romance novels
- just wants kids out of the house

@featherymemes