

April 2021 Newsletter

President's Message

Kia Ora members:

Your committee at this month's meeting had a rare planning and strategy session. The idea was to brainstorm how members perceive our club in five years. This would be honed into a mission statement, and from that, goals could be set and tactics established to achieve those.

Ideas for change or improvement fell into three categories – structure, membership and play. On structure, we saw a need to look at our governance, financial sustainability, flexibility around membership and more imaginative pricing of tournaments.

Regarding membership, the most challenging issue is how to tackle the fact that our club is too stale and pale and not inclusive enough. Interestingly, as our meeting finished, members of the Wellington Chess Club filled the room showing just how a similar brain-game club can attract the young, non-pakeha and rainbow community.

Our club can also improve on retaining members and lesson-graduates as well as getting everyone to play more. Ideas thrown into the pot included an online club, casual bridge, more sessions, more frequent social events, improver lessons and assistance to progress up the grades. A consistent theme that emerged is that we could lift our game on friendliness and making things more fun. Numerous clubs have more comprehensive buddy systems to nurse new members into their fold.

Out of all this, we nipped out a draft mission statement encapsulating what we would like our club to be: A thriving club that provides the best bridge experience for all.

One thing we discovered is that this is a time-consuming business and it will take at least a couple more sessions to flesh out the goals and methods of reaching those. Dennis McKinlay is leading the process and if anyone wants to contribute, email him via Bridget.

Simon Louisson (President)

Outstanding Fees

As you know, approximately 80% of you have paid your annual fees, which is great. Not so great is the fact that one in five of us hasn't paid – that means that at every second table there is at least one person who hasn't paid their fees.

The club needs your fees in order to operate. The following is the full list of fees payable:-

Full Membership Home Club Wellington \$155.25
Full membership Home Club Other \$132.25
Associate Membership Home Club Wellington \$ 89.13
Associate Membership Home Club Other \$66.13
Friday Membership Home Club Wellington \$ 89.13
Friday Membership Home Club Other \$66.13
Youth 22-25 Membership Home Club Wellington \$66.13
Youth 22-25 Membership Home Club Other \$66.13
Youth under 22 No charge.

A follow up email will be sent to those of you who haven't yet paid. Remember that you need to be a paid up member in order to play in tournaments. Please see the note below as it offers you another way to make your payment.

Did you know?.....

- It is timely to advise that we have moved into the 21st century regarding finances and now have an eftpos machine. This offers another method of payment for all your bridge expenses. At the same time, another easy way of paying your table money and other expenses is by direct debit. You receive a monthly invoice, which you do not have to respond to letting you know how much will be deducted. It is incredibly simple and painless!
- This is a final reminder that Monday night tournaments start on 3rd May. Remember that all player grades are welcome and also, your first month of playing fees will be free! Monday night as a playing night is not very common in the Wellington region so make the most of this opportunity. Its success and ongoing viability depends on you!
- I believe most of us are aware that there is a defibrillator hanging on the wall in the lobby, but how many of us know how to use it? If this is something you would like to learn, please let Bridget know as we are looking to run a course on it.
- NZ Bridge recently held elections for 4 spaces on the Board and the following candidates were successful:-
Karen Martelletti
John Skipper
Anna Kalma
Sam Coutts

Congratulations to them all, and commiserations to those who were unsuccessful.

- **Improver Lessons** – We are holding improvers lessons on Saturday 29th May. This is run by Alan Grant who also provides a booklet of notes to go with the course. Details are on the noticeboard, but in summary the cost is \$55 for the whole day (10am – 5pm), with lunch provided.
- **Entertainment Books** - A reminder that the club sells these books as a fund raiser. With the school holidays here and Anzac weekend coming up, now is a great time to make use of the book, which offers numerous deals for activities, meals and much much more. Also with each book sold you receive a \$10 bonus/\$20 gift card from either Countdown or JB HiFi. Talk to Bridget if you would like any help with purchasing a book, or use the online link below.
<https://nz.entdigital.net/orderbooks/10490x3>

Wellington Congress – 23-26th April

Entries for the many tournaments have been coming in thick and fast and we hope that Congress will be as good as we can possibly make it. We also now have sufficient kitchen and other helpers (thankyou everyone who has offered to help, as well as assistance coming in from other Wellington region clubs). One final request - Baking and other treats would be really appreciated too!! If you can help with this it would be wonderful. There are a lot of tournaments and a lot of people to cater for!!

Inter-Provincial Trials

8-9 May 2021

The Regional Committee is calling for entries in each of the 4 grades (open/women/senior/intermediate), to represent Wellington in the final of the Inter-Provincial Championship. Participants must be a regular partnership and choose the grade they wish to trial for and must be available to play on those dates.

IP Teams needed: **Open, Women, Senior (62+ years), Intermediate**

Date: 8 – 9 May (*1 or 2 days will depend on number of entries*)

Entries Close: 3 May @ midnight

Entry Fee: \$25/pp (BYO lunch)

Venue: tbc

Entries to: Email: mindywu16@gmail.com

Format:

Trial format will be pairs. The top two scoring pairs in each division will be invited to form a 4-person team in their respective grade. The Regional Committee will make the selection if there are insufficient entries for a trial. No correspondence will be entered into with respect to the final selection.

Inter-Provincial Championship Final:

This year it will be held in Auckland, 20-22 November 2021.

Should a situation arise where one or more selected players are unable to attend the Championship, then an invitation shall be made to the next eligible pair in the respective grade to fill the vacancy thus created or selected by the Committee.

The Wellington Regional Committee will appoint a Chef de Mission.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Wellington Region Tournaments

Wellington Congress	All grades	23-26 April
Interprovincial Trials	Open, Women, Senior Intermediate	8 May
Hutt Open/Junior Pairs	5A/3B	16 May
Paraparaumu Intermediate	5B	16 May

Club Tournaments

Monday night –	Molesworth Championship Pairs	3 May
Tuesday night –	N Robson Cup Teams	4 May
Wednesday night –	Jubilee Cup Pairs	5 May
	Poppy Roberts	12 May
	Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Teams	19 May
Thursday night –	Neil Salver Pairs (4)	6 May
	May Manoy Salver	13 May
Friday afternoon –	Moturoa Pairs	7 May
Interclub -	All grades	21 st May

Recents Results

Tuesday - Martin Jug Pairs

1st Fiona Palmer & Ruth Whittle

2nd Carol Storer & Alison Turner

Wednesday - Charles Wilson Memorial Pairs

1st Nigel Kearney & Alan Grant

2nd

Graham Stronach & Kate Davies

Thursday - Alder Cup Ladder

1st Jane Brenan & Sandy Connon

2nd Pauline Murtagh & Mike Murtagh

Friday - Afternoon Ladder

1st Lorraine Inglis

2nd Eleanor Morel

Tournament Successes

Masterton Open - 21st March 2021

1st Sandra Coleman & Mindy Wu

2nd Ray Gruschow & Peter Delahunty

Marlborough Open Teams - 27th March 2021

1st Ruth Brucker, John Patterson Kate Davies & Pamela Dravitski

Paraparaumu Open - 28th March 2021

1st Alan Grant & Anthony Ker

2nd John Luoni & Brian Cleaver

3rd Joan Waldvogel & Joan McCarthy

Karori Mixed Sex Pairs - 5th April 2021

1st Anne-Marie Russell & Nigel Kearney

2nd Paul Maxwell & Gail Tippett

3rd Peter Delahunty & Lynda Rigler

1

South Canterbury Congress Open Teams - 12th April 2021

3rd Anne-Marie Russell, Paul Carson Jack James & Jeremy Fraser-Hoskins

Two Hands of Interest (played by Ruth Brucker at the Top of the South Teams)

North

S: 86543

H: AKT3

D: 52

C: T8

S: 97

H: J75

D: 6

C: QJ76542

S: QJ2

H: Q964

D: J943

C: K9

S: AKT

H: 92

D: AKQT87

C: A3

The auction

S	W	N	E	
2C	3C	3S	P	
4NT	P	5D	P	(1 Key Card)
5H	P	5S	P	(No I don't have the Q)
6S				

North lay the foundation for bidding this slam with the 3S bid. How would you play this, after the K clubs lead? Have a think about this and we will provide the solution as it was played in next month's newsletter.

The second board showed the need for good evaluation skills:

North Hand

S: AK6

H: 3

D: KQJ2

C: 96432

Partner's Hand

S: QJ832

H: QT5

D: 93

C: AKJ

Bidding

	!NT (12-14)
2C	2S
4S	P

The North 4S bid is very good hand evaluation as the opposition are known to hold a 9 card heart fit which will likely defeat 3NT. The players went on to make 6S. By contrast 3NT goes one away on a heart lead.

And finally, here is a small rhyming mnemonic, courtesy of our president Simon:-

Don't concede when you lead

When the dummy is to your right, lead the weakest suit in sight.
When the dummy is to your left, lead through heft.
Don't be cute, lead partner's suit.
The lead of top of three small is worst of all.
You will lose face if you underlead an ace.

Happy bridging!

Maureen Sheldon
April 2021