

## April 2022 Newsletter

### President's Message

Kia Ora koutou:



Online Bridge has been working well, we have been getting good numbers on most nights and are now getting up to 29 tables. If you haven't tried and would like to, please talk to Bridget or one of the Directors. Online bridge is, I think, here to stay and has a place, but I know many of you are keen to get back to the club and face to face play. With the Omicron peak passing and all of New Zealand moving to an orange traffic light setting the Committee has reviewed when we can open up the club and get back to face-to-face bridge. We need to consider whether masks should be mandatory, or just highly recommended. On this, opinions are divided with some strongly preferring not to wear masks, and others being uncomfortable about coming into the club where masks are not compulsory. The wearing of a mask is an

important part of managing risk and protecting those who maybe immune-compromised, but, increasingly, this is becoming a matter of choice. We are also mindful that we don't want to change whether an event is online or face to face in the mid-stream.

The Committee believes that we should take a cautious approach to moving back to offering face-to face bridge given there remains widespread community transmission and our borders have now opened up. We plan to open face-to-face bridge up progressively, while maintaining plenty of opportunities for online bridge. To that end, we plan to offer the first opportunity for face-to-face bridge on Friday afternoon of 6 May. The Friday afternoon sessions will be with masks highly recommended but optional - if you don't wish to wear a mask for some or all of the time that's up to you. We will look at when, and how, we open up additional face-to-face sessions over the next month as we see whether Covid cases reduce and we will of course see how things go on the Friday afternoon.

These decisions are difficult as there are a variety of views and we can't please everyone, but constructive feedback is always welcome.

Peter Newell



### Finances and playing numbers

As Peter discussed above, thanks to online bridge our playing numbers are holding up quite well. For example, we recently had 72 for our Monday evening session, and Tuesday numbers have been very healthy. As a result, the club's year-to-date loss is ~\$6000, which Treasurer Donna Upchurch said is "pretty good considering". She told this month's committee meeting that if we can get away with a small loss for the year, then we will be doing pretty well. Real Bridge has been a real success. We are attracting players from around the country.

### Wellington Regional Congress will be on Real Bridge

In line with all the discussion above regarding player safety, the Wellington Regional Congress from 22-25 of this month will be held online on the Real Bridge platform. Entries have now closed but if you want to play please contact Bridget as there will be opportunities to be a standby.

## Online membership drive and sponsorship

The Growth and Development sub-committee is progressing a couple of initiatives. It is holding beginner lessons for school-aged children during the July school holidays using the social media platforms to advertise the program. Funding will be provided by the Wellington Regional Committee. It has Anyone who can help with the delivery of lessons, please contact Dennis McKinlay.

The sub-committee is also making progress on attracting sponsorship. Dennis is also seeking anyone in the club who has skills in sponsorship management.

## Recent Club Success

### Monday Online – Tinakori Swiss Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Alan Grant & Anthony Ker

2<sup>nd</sup> Anne-Marie Russell & Murat Genc

### Tuesday - Thelma Wylde Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Rupert Rokeby-Johnson & Anne Gaskell

2<sup>nd</sup> Louise Logan & Fiona Palmer

### Wednesday - Andrew Thompson Memorial Teams

1<sup>st</sup> Peter Newell, Martin Reid, Anna Kalma & Richard Solomon

1<sup>st</sup> all members Team: Steven Henry, Annette Henry, Mindy Wu & Nigel Kearney

### Thursday - President's Cup Teams

1<sup>st</sup> Dennis McKinlay, Caroline Hull, Murray Climo & Helen Climo

### Top Team with no more than 12 club points

Ambrose Fok, Tani Blackburn, Mariusz Tumilowicz & Barbara Tumilowicz

### Friday – Hobson Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Anne Tyrie & Sophie Atkin

2<sup>nd</sup> Rhondda Sweetman & Jenny Coulter

## Recent Tournament Successes

### Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams 19 March

1st John Patterson, Kate Davies, Colin Carryer & Sandra Calvert

### Marlborough 5A Open Pairs 27 March

2nd Alan Grant & John Skipper

### Paraparaumu 5A Open Pairs

2nd Mindy Wu & Nigel Kearney

### South Canterbury Congress Swiss Pairs

3rd Anne-Marie Russell & Jack James (pictured)



## **Inter-Provincial Trials**

Experienced Open, Senior, Women, Intermediate pairs should get your entries in for the team to represent The Wellington Region in the Inter-Provincials to be held on Real Bridge over the e weekend of November 18-21. Trials will be held on Real Bridge on May 7-8.

## **A Big Thanks**

*Many thanks to Anne-Marie for ably managing the office and keeping the Bridge Club ticking over whilst I was on leave. Cheers Bridget*

