

Aug 2020 Newsletter

President's Corner – Margaret Curnow

Kia ora everyone:

Well, last night we had that sinking feeling of here we go again. Let's hope not. Everyone's fingers will be crossed. I made the dreaded "captain's call" to cancel bridge for the rest of this week. A decision about ongoing play will be made once we have the information we need. Our aim is to be as responsible as we can. To keep the opportunity open to play bridge, if at all possible, along with keeping our members and the wider community as safe as possible. We will make all our decisions on the information available and right now there just isn't enough to safely play bridge this week. We know this is disappointing, but believe it is the only decision we can make right now. Under Covid-19 Level 2 you can't hold gatherings of over 100 and with a fantastic 31 teams entered we were over that limit for Wednesday. We could have split into 2 separate rooms but some teams would have withdrawn, and with two rounds already played it was going to be incredibly complex. Also, we have to accept that community transmission has unfortunately arrived back in Aotearoa and while the reported cases are in Auckland, many of our members are in the vulnerable age group. No one yet knows how deeply it has spread in the community. The committee previously took a precautionary approach and we will do the same this time. Better safe than sorry. Our position from here on will be that we will take a 'hold and assess' stance with our default position that we will do our best to keep the club open so long as it is safe. There will be more information about how serious the situation is in the coming days. The committee will be called to meet to discuss the situation.

Following is what I had written before Covid again rudely interrupted.

I wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed baking and helped in the kitchen over the tournament on 26 July. The tournament itself was a great success and the amount of baking available for players during the day was amazing. I heard many favourable comments as I passed by the tables. Thank you to everyone who helped out. Last week I overheard a club member say he volunteered at a well-known charity, and others in the group talked about the volunteer work they did. I wondered if those of us who do this sort of work, think about our club in the same way. We are a registered charitable organisation, and we do need volunteers, so if you are thinking about doing some volunteer work, give Bridget a ring and find out what projects we have that we need assistance with. You might find just what you are looking for!

Many of you are using the Direct Debit form but you may not know that this is used for working out the money you owe and also for our banking. It is effectively a legal document so it's really important that it's legible and filled in correctly. Please take care with how you write your bridge number particularly, but also your name of course. At times the Director will come back to tables to clarify what's been written, but they don't really have time to do this, and I'm sure you don't want to be interrupted in your play to re-write your details, so it would be great if you could write legibly. Thank you all.

Margaret

Congress confirmed for Karapiro and fingers crossed

NZB has confirmed the 35th national bridge Congress will be at Lake Karapiro near Hamilton from Sept 26 until Oct 5. Fingers crossed this will still happen. The Gold Coast tournament has had to be cancelled due to the re-emergence of Covid in Australia so let's hope we will still be in a privileged position and able to support our premier national tournament. Events are open to all levels of players, from grand-master to Novices. You can enter many individual events or select a cost-effective package that suits you.

Welcome to new members

Welcome to new members Monique Percy and Christine Wilson who have come through from Alan Grant's lessons that were mostly done online.

Juniors welcome at Wellington intermediate tournament

Juniors are welcome to play at our club's Intermediate tournament on Sunday, September 6. The tournament is a great opportunity to experience the fun and intensity of playing in a tournament. For juniors who get a taste for it, Victoria Club is holding a single session junior tournament the following Sunday.



Dirty money

In the new Covid world, handling money is considered dirty and our bank wants to charge us for handling it. A member, withdrew some money from the cash machine and walked into the bank as she wanted change for a \$20 note and the bank wanted to charge a perfectly reasonable \$5 – just 25% - for the difficult task of converting it into smaller notes. But seriously, if you must pay table fees in cash then make sure you have the right amount. Because so few people pay by cash, it is actually difficult for directors to provide change, but handling money is also a safety issue. So, if you insist on paying with cash and you don't have the right change, we are taking our lead from our lovely banks and we will not give change.



Scorer issues

Head director Sandy McKirdy and the committee is very mindful that of the starting delays and problems cause by our scoring software. Some issues have been user problems and to a lesser extent, software problems. A Wednesday teams event was delayed when two people from one team both entered the same team under two different names, so we had an uneven number of teams and it was tricky to sort out. Kevin Walker will be using an alternative to Scorer, Compscore 2, at the upcoming Congress and will compare, review and report back. Any change that is made will have to be done will be after consultation with other Wellington clubs.

Finances in good shape despite Covid

Draft figures show the club finished its financial year with a loss of just \$1300 and that includes a non-cash depreciation charge of \$23,000. While the cash position has weakened to \$136,000 from \$167,000 a year ago, that is mainly due to the upgrade of the men's toilets and that has meant our assets have increased. Treasurer Donna Upchurch notes that the balance sheet is still very strong. Thanks to Donna for her great job crunching the numbers.

Obviously our playing numbers stats are well done due to the lockdown interruption, and membership is down, but the latter is partly due to a clean-out of our register.

More car park gripes

Despite our previous item, people using the car park on the wall by the car park entrance are still failing to move their vehicles immediately at the end of play. Cars parked here are under the same obligation as cars parked in the middle – they need to be moved straight away. If this is you – please take note
The committee reviewed the availability of disability car parks and assessed the three spaces marries up pretty well with the number of people needing such parks.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Wellington Region Tournaments

Upper Hutt Multigrade 86 – Sunday, Aug 16

Kaori Open 5A – Sunday, Aug 23

Otaki Intermediate/Junior 5B/3B – Sunday, Aug 23

Wellington Intermediate (Juniors welcome) 5B – Sunday, Sept 6

Victoria Junior (one session) 3B – Sunday, Sept 13

South Wairarapa Multigrade 8B – Sunday, Sept 20

NZB National Bridge Congress – Sept 26- Oct 5

Paraparaumu Multigrade 8B – Sunday, September 27

Club series

Tuesday/Junior – Capital Cup Pairs – Starts Sept 14

Friday – Owen Cup Handicap – starts Aug 21

Tournament and club triumphs

Tournaments

Karori Intermediate Pairs. 19 July

3rd Martyn Rew & Andrew Cushnie

Wellington 5A Open Pairs 29 July

1st Annette Henry & Stephen Henry (pictured right)

2nd Nigel Kearney & Mariusz Tumilowicz

3rd Arumugam Kumarasamy & Graham Weir



Wellington 3A Restricted Pairs 29 July

1st Dianne Tredger & Dennis McKinlay (pictured below right)

2nd Val Cooper & Margot Davenport

Waikanae Multi Grade 3rd August

1st Karen Eriksen & Jude Lucas

2nd Jo Rollo & Simon Louisson

3rd Gail Tippett & Paul Maxwell

Top Open/Junior Pair Phil Revell & Hannah Revell



National 15A Pairs Finals 2/3 August

1st Anthony Ker & Charles Ker

2nd Patrick D'Arcy & Graeme Norman

3rd Alan Grant & Jane Lennon

Club series

Thursday- Re-Opening Teams

President Cup Teams

1st Alison O'Dea, Allan Joseph, Christine McKirdy & Jane Brenan

2nd Cheryl Scott, Stephanie Smith, Hilary Paton & Dianne Tredger

1st unqualified Team with less than 12 club points

Nigel Kearney Kate Davies Oliver McCready & Lee McDonald

Directors' corner – dealing with noise and unauthorised information

We all know bridge players like to talk, particularly about the hand we've just played. However, we don't all appreciate how the discussion impacts others.

Noise or talking at one table can distract players at other tables – impacting on their ability to concentrate on the play of the hand. The discussion can also disclose information about a hand that another table is about to play resulting in unauthorised information and the need to apply an adjusted score, and possibly a penalty for the players who disclosed information by talking about the hand. The obvious thing to do is to talk quietly and try and avoid talking about the hand you've just played.

Please call the Director if:

a) You have heard information about a hand call. They will assess whether the information will have a material influence on the bidding or play of the hand and rule accordingly.

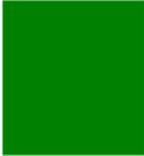
b) Someone is talking loudly. They can speak to the player/table involved. Avoid telling other players to keep the noise down as that can also cause problems between players. Also, if possible wait until there is a break in play because calling the director can also impact the players at your own table if they are in the middle of playing a hand.

We understand that there will be some background noise and ask that players be mindful that directors can't eliminate it entirely – be tolerant and courteous and make it an enjoyable night for everyone.

Finally with the return of Covid it is probably a good idea to minimise the number of people handling the boards, bidding pads and scoring pads. Please be mindful of this.

Fun and games with trumps – by Nigel Kearney

This is a hand from the online teams organised by the Auckland Bridge club during level 4 lockdown. Anthony Ker and Alan Grant were playing against Barry Jones and Jenny Millington:

Dealer: W Vul: N/S ♠ QJ83 ♥ Q ♦ AQ97 ♣ AQ92	♠ 5 ♥ AK1074 ♦ J5432 ♣ K4		♠ 10962 ♥ 96 ♦ K108 ♣ J876	♠ AK74 ♥ J8532 ♦ 6 ♣ 1053	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♥	Dbl	P	1♠	P	2♠	P	3♠	P	4♠	P	P	P			
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The auction is fairly straightforward. The 1S bid is limited and North's raise shows extra values. If North had opened the bidding, they would raise a 1S response to 3S. But after the double, the 1S bidder will not be strong (or they would jump) and could be very weak, and North has already shown spade support by doubling, so a raise to just 2S is enough. South has a maximum 1S bid so needs to make another move.

Jenny led the ace of hearts and switched to a diamond. Alan correctly played the queen. From the bidding, at least one of the minor suit kings must be on-side and a club can be discarded on the ace of diamonds so the finesse cannot cost and may gain.

East won and continued hearts, ruffed in dummy. Alan now played ace of diamonds, discarding a club, ruffed a diamond, took the marked club finesse and cashed the ace. West's king appeared which may or may not be a false card but it doesn't matter.

Declarer has taken five tricks and still has AK7 of trumps in hand opposite QJ8 in dummy. Four high trumps can be made by cross-ruffing and the goal is to find a safe way to score one of the lower trumps. We can see that West only has one small trump but Alan didn't know that and had to worry about West over-ruffing and returning a trump which would be fatal.

Dummy's last diamond was led next and Barry had to ruff high or Alan could safely ruff with the 7 as Jenny would have to follow suit. Alan over-ruffed and continued with three more high ruffs. At the end he had the 7S in hand and 8S in dummy needing just one more trick. Barry had 10S and 6S left, having already had to under-ruff once. When Alan led a side suit he had to make one more trick and the contract.