

August 2021 Newsletter

Hi there everyone

This newsletter has a strong focus on the work your committee has put into what we believe are necessary steps that we as a club must take to ensure we can achieve our goals in the years ahead.

And it is time for you to start thinking about what help or assistance you might be able to offer the club as we strive to achieve our stated goals with a new committee structure – read on!!

Here again are those goals:-

1. Grow the membership to 500 by 2026.
2. Improve the playing experience.
3. Review the club administration.
4. Ensure the sustainability of the club long-term.

President's Message

Kia Ora

One of the themes that came through strongly in the committee's planning meetings we have been holding over the year on how to improve and grow the club, is the need for stronger pastoral care of members. It was also an ongoing theme in the survey results.

This message particularly came through from newer members but has been a surprise to some long-standing members. "Creating friendly atmosphere rather than 'life and death' seriousness," said one member. It has also become apparent that we have an issue converting those who take our lessons into new members. It may be coincidence but there is a strong suspicion the two issues are related.

So, I was interested when I heard on the grapevine that Kairangi Bridge Club had recently acquired nearly 40 new members, most of whom had recently completed lessons there. I luckily ran into Kairangi President Mary Scott and asked her what the club's secret was.

"We are super nice to them in the lessons, we make a fuss of them when they join and we are super nice to them as new members," she said. It doesn't sound like magic.

She also pointed out that when she played at our club on a Wednesday night the evening before I spoke to her, the culture was less than friendly and welcoming.

We have been surveying our most recent lesson-takers and the feedback has been extremely positive. We are also making strenuous efforts to welcome and buddy-up new members. We are a highly competitive club but that doesn't have to be in conflict with being polite and pleasant. We have to ensure being nice is embedded in WBC's culture.

I hope everyone carefully reads and will support the committee's proposed restructure outlined below. We have given it a lot of consideration and believe change is essential for the club to survive and thrive.

Simon Louisson

Significant change to executive committee proposed

Your committee has decided to recommend to the wider club significant change to the way the club operates.

We have come to a view that to survive and thrive long-term, the club needs to change the way club committee operates, moving away from its current structure of a 13-person-plus operational working group to a tighter group focused on strategic planning and membership growth.

The committee has spent much extra time this year developing a Strategic Plan, and we believe that to properly implement this plan we need to change how the committee is structured.

A smaller, executive committee will leave operational matters to standing and ad hoc sub-committees comprised of volunteers with members of the executive committee having portfolio responsibilities for those sub-committees (see the diagram at the end of the newsletter).

The thinking behind the proposed change has been two-fold. The committee, as it is currently constituted, is inevitably consumed with day-to-day operational matters, such as fixing a roof leak or planning the next tournament. That distracts from long-term issues including strategic planning. We have an ageing, largely monocultural membership and are barely making ends meet financially. The tyres of our club are slowly deflating. "There is a feeling that 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it', but it is actually falling apart," one member commented. Unless we agree to significant change the club will continue on its trajectory until crisis arrives when the need for change will be forced on us.

The second main rationale for the change is to reassert the culture and intent of being a club. Having a large operations-focused committee has meant the club has developed a tendency to leave most things to the committee. This has led to the club being treated as a service rather than acting as a true club where we join together to do the mahi.

A tighter, more focused committee may lose the advantage of the wisdom of crowds, but that issue can be overcome by having one or two strategy/planning meetings during the year where all who are interested can participate.

To make these changes happen we need to make a constitutional change to our rules.

We recommend that this happen immediately so that the momentum of developing a Strategic Plan is not lost. Assuming the membership goes along with the recommendation of the committee, we would like the new committee selected at the November AGM to be along the lines we have recommended. That would mean we need to have a Special General Meeting to change the club's rules, which mandate that the committee be comprised of a President, the Immediate Past President, one Vice-President, a Treasurer and ten Committee Members. We also need to adjust the committee quorum size down to four from five.

We propose to hold a **Special General Meeting on Thursday, October 7 at 6.30pm** to discuss the proposed changes. The exact wording of the proposed changes will be communicated to members in the Notice of Meeting, which will be sent out in the next week or two. A quorum of 10 people is required at a SGM and a two thirds majority is required to make a rule change.

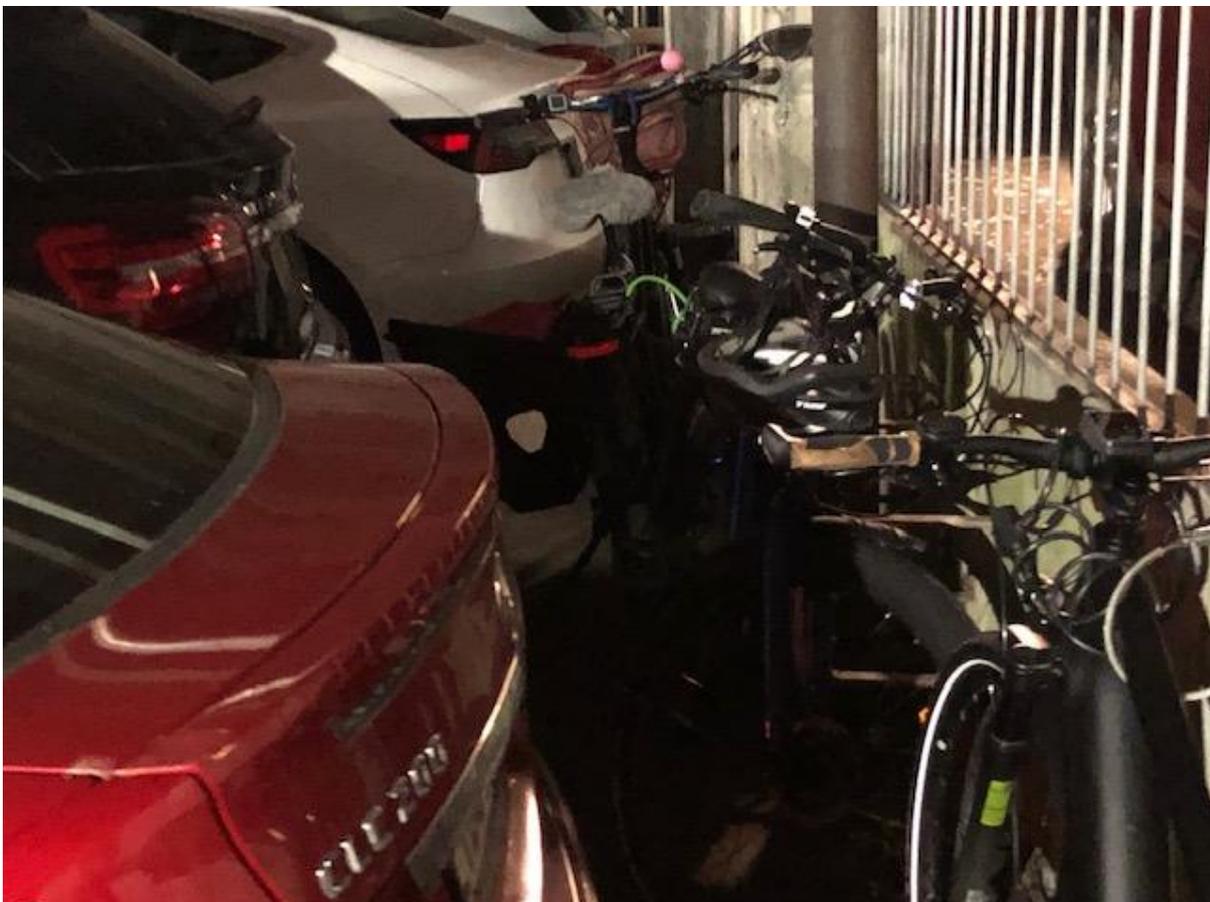
Parks for bikes

Members are getting on board with the climate change message and there are growing number of members biking to bridge.

You may have seen bikes parked by the downstairs entrance, which is not the greatest place for the biker or other members.

The committee agreed at the last meeting to designate an area in the garage for bike parking.

It will not affect the number of cars that can be parked. The front part of the No.1 and No. 2 parks (the first two on the left as you enter) will be designated for cycles with painted marking. You can see from the picture that if cars park too close to the wall it makes it difficult for cyclists to attach their bikes to the railings or extricate them. There is still room for your car unless it's huge, in which case, try and use a different park.



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Librarians Corner.



We are very fortunate that thanks to a generous donation we are able to add to our Library collection. Luckily the Donors preferences and mine are similar, so I very happily bought more Andrew Robson & Mike Lawrence books. We added to Robson's "Lessons series" and the first of a new series by Mike Lawrence called "Insights on Bridge". This book "Moments in bidding" won the ABTA (American Bridge Teachers Association) Book of the Year award. This series is aimed at turning aspiring players into good players, but it sounds as if there will be a next series which will aim at turning good players into expert players. What this space! (Julie)

David Bird, an English professional bridge player has written a number of instructional bridge books, mostly covering card play and defence. Our library has approximately 30 booked authored by him, some are in collaboration with other players, such as Terrence Reese, Tony Forrester and Geir Helgemo.

A "New" addition to the library has recently been donated by Claire McAlister (thanks Claire) titled "Scientific Auction Bridge" and dates from 1913. This is an important piece of history that shows the development of the game. This can be found in the Antique books section of our library for anyone interested in reading this. (Ray Gruschow).



Just a reminder.....

Please make sure that the results for your hands are displayed on your bridge tablet only for those at your table who played them and that you push Enter to move the screens along before your next Opposition comes to your table. This ensures that we don't have an accidental display of information to others who may not have played those boards.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Improvers Day, Part 2

I'm pleased to advise that the second of Alan Grant's improver days will be held on Saturday 4th September at the clubrooms. The first of these, held earlier this year was highly successful for attendees and I am sure the second will be just as useful. Lunch is included in the price.

Wellington Region Tournaments

Karori Open	5A	22 nd August
Otaki Intermediate/Junior	5B/3B	22 nd August
Wellington Intermediate/Junior	5B/3B	5 th September
Victoria Intermediate/Junior	5B/3B	12 th September
South Wairarapa Multigrade Pairs	8B	19 th September
NZ Bridge Congress		25 th Sept- 2 nd October

As listed above, Wellington Club's own Intermediate and Junior Tournament will be held on Sunday 5th September. Junior and Intermediate players, this is your time to shine!! Let's see as many of you as possible enter – it would be great if we could fill the rooms (or at least one of them 😊). And of course, as usual we seek help from everyone to donate food and/or your time helping in the kitchen.

15A Wellington Region Teams.

We are pleased to announce that this tournament, which had to be postponed from 29-30 June due to the Level 2 lockdown, has been rescheduled to the 18-19 December.

Club Tournaments

Tuesday night –	Hand Trophy Pairs Capital Cup Pairs	24 th August 31 st August
Wednesday night –	Poppy Roberts Trophy Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Teams Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Teams Catch up	1 st September 8 th September 15 th September
Thursday night –	Neil Salver Pairs (6) Porter Ladder	2 nd September 8 th September
Friday afternoon –	Gladys Taylor Cup Pairs Owen Cup Handicap Pairs	20 th August 27 th August
Interclub -	All grades	17 th September

Recent results from July 2021 **Tournament results**

Levin open Pairs 18 July 2021

1st Graham Stronach & Sandy McKirdy
2nd Anthony Ker & Charles Ker
3rd Mindy Wu & Graham Cheater

Karori Intermediate Pairs 19 July 2021

1st Andrew Cushnie & Martyn Rew

Wellington Open Pairs 25 July 2021

1st John Patterson & Kate Davies
2nd Patrick d'Arcy & Graeme Norman
3rd John Davidson & Jack James
4th Paul Carson & Alister Stuck
5th Nebosja Djorovic & Derek Snelling

Waikanae Multi-grade 1 August 2021 1

1st Donna Upchurch & Denise Barnett
2nd Julie Hawkins & Nigel Kearney
3rd Ruth Brucker & Phil Revell

North Island Pairs 1st August 2021

3rd John Davidson & Leon Meier.

Club results

Tuesday - Morton Salver Pairs

1st Wayne Cook & Rosalind Cervante
2nd Doug Connell & Ben Thomas

Wednesday United Nations Cup Pairs

1st Anthony Ker & Russell Dive
2nd Isobel Ross & Nebosja Djorovic

Thursday - Blomeyer Cup 'BTF Teams Pairs

1st Donna Upchurch, Denise Barnett, Karen Eriksen & Jude Lucas
2nd Stephanie Smith, Dennis McKinlay, Dianne Tredger & Mike Cox.

Friday – Pipitea Pairs

1st Joan Waldvogel & Sylvia Johns
2nd Sophie Atkin & Lorraine Inglis