

## December 2020 Newsletter

### A Christmas message from our President - Simon Louisson

Kia Ora members:

We won't be sorry to put 2020 behind us. Our bridge programme was seriously disrupted and curtailed by Covid and we lost the Dougal McLean Interprovincial Trophy for the first time in five years. One thing that the challenges of the year have shown, is the strength of our club.

We had excellent leadership that both recognised the risks that Covid presents, suspending our programme and locking the club down, while also working determinedly to ensure we reopened as soon as safe and our members had opportunities to play bridge online or live as much as possible.

The club's books survived in excellent shape. We have had to lift our subs but that is essentially a prudent measure to ensure we can survive another shock. Membership has understandably fallen but not markedly, and our numbers remain robust.

That our club has survived so well is no accident. We have good structures in place and have been incredibly wisely led by past president Margaret Curnow, who put in many hours beyond the call of duty. Similarly, Donna Upchurch, as Treasurer has done an excellent job, rejigging budgets and making sure we have enough freeboard in our books to ensure we don't have sleepless nights.

Mostly though, we have to thank our manager, Bridget who went far beyond her obligations. during the long and lonely period of lockdown, she not only ensured most of us could play bridge, but she also looked after the welfare of many members who felt isolated. Big ups and thanks to Bridget.

To make the club even stronger, our committee will next year give strong consideration to changing its structure from a large operational committee to a smaller board-type one. The thinking is that having a large committee means many members leave most things to the committee and that is not how good clubs work. The idea is that a small committee of about five will make decisions and delegate tasks to the membership to execute. That will mean a more inclusive club. The decision has not yet been taken, and even if the committee decides that is the way to go, it will be put to a vote at the next AGM. If people have strong views, let the committee know.

Having 2020 in the rear mirror and with a vaccine in our headlights, we look forward to a full programme in 2021. Though the Wellington IP team, comprised totally of WBC members, lost the Dougal McLean, coming third behind a powerful Auckland team and a solid Central Districts team, our Open Team still came second and the Intermediates led from first to last. It shows bridge at our club remains at a high standard.

For those not heading away, there is still the Suzanne Duncan Open tournament to look forward to between Christmas and New Year. It's a well-supported and fun competition.

For everyone, I wish you a good break and we look forward to a much better year in 2021.  
Simon Louisson

**And, repeating last month's notes from the Chief Director**

## **Directors Training**

Have you ever thought about learning to direct or want to know more about the Bridge Laws to help improve your play? The Wellington Regional Committee has announced that Allan Joseph will be running training sessions starting on 23 January.

There are two courses:

- 1) five training sessions that cover all the topics required for candidates to sit the NZ Bridge Club Director's exam, and
- 2) a short course of three training sessions that covers the necessary topics to give attendees confidence and basic knowledge to conduct club sessions - but no exam.

If you are interested in becoming a director after the training you will be given further support and mentoring - you won't be thrown in the deep end.

See the flyers on the notice board for more detail on the content and dates, and remember, the club can't operate without you!!!!!!.

## **Bridge Lessons 2021**

Our first series of lessons for new players commences in mid-February 2021. The lessons will be on a Tuesday evening. Talk to friends and acquaintances about the possibility of learning to play – as players yourselves you are the club's best advocates for the game! Details will be available in the new year.

## **2021 Grade Changes**

Congratulations to these players who have been promoted within the Club for the 2021 year, as follows:

### Grade2

Annie Fleetwood  
Ambrose Fok

### Grade3

Wayne Stechman  
Oliver McCready

### Grade 4

Damian Palmer

## Privacy Act Amendments

“From 1 December the 2020 Privacy Act comes into force. The act’s purpose is to protect individuals’ privacy and imposes penalties if privacy is not protected. This act has implications for our club, members and employees. The club policy will be shared with members but this is a heads-up that we need to be aware of protecting our own, and other’s privacy.

For example, the club programme book contains names and contact details of members, and is not to be shared beyond our members. The club has two databases and these will be password protected.

Members and employees are entitled to see what information the club holds about them, and members/employees have an obligation to advise the club of changes to their personal information.

Penalties of up to \$10,000 can be imposed on organisations that do not protect the privacy of employees and members. Because of the seriousness of this Act and it’s penalties, the Committee will impose penalties on any member who knowingly breaches the privacy of any member or employee. Bridget has been appointed our Privacy Officer and if you have any concerns about a privacy matter affecting the club please be in touch with Bridget, or in her absence Dennis McKinlay.”

## *PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ....*

**Suzanne Duncan Open**

**27-29 December**

## Wellington Region Tournaments

Waikanae Open (5A)

7 February 2021

## Club Series

**Monday night** – to commence in May 2021

**Tuesday night** – Watts Jug Ladder 5 January

**Wednesday night** – Young Cup Pairs 6 January

**Thursday night** – Alder Cup Ladder 7 January

**Friday afternoon** – Afternoon Duplicate 29 January

## Tournament and club triumphs

### Club series

**Tuesday night  
Committee Cup Pairs**

1st Rosy Moar / Jared Greig

2nd Helen Climo / Kevin Fitzsimons

**Wednesday Night**  
**Woe Wilson Handicap Pairs**

1st Sally-Ann Murphy / Tereska Knap  
2nd Helen Fitzgerald / Sophie Atkin

**Thursday Night.**  
**Bill Te Tau Summer Pairs**

1st Pauline Murtagh / Mike Murtagh  
2nd Julie Ballance / Ruth Brucker

**Friday Afternoon**  
**Summer Pairs**

1st Dale Lacey / Robyn Freeman-Greene  
2nd Jenny Delany / Chris Woods

**Visitors Day**

1st Equal NS, Tereska Knap/Charles Cahn: Pauline Edwards/Klaus Dorbecker  
EW Pam Hancox/Rhondda Sweetman

**Monthly Events**  
**Hand Trophy Pairs**

1st Wayne Stechman / Anne Gaskell  
2nd Margot Booth / Ben Thomas

**Poppy Roberts Trophy**

1st Nigel Kearney / Karl Hayes  
2nd John Patterson / Kate Davies

**Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co; Premier Teams**

1st Alan Grant, Anthony Ker, Nigel Kearney, Karl Hayes  
2nd Annette Henry, Stephen Henry, Martin Reid, Peter Newel, Stephen Blackstock; Anne Marie Russell.

**Neal Salver Pairs**

1st Brad Tattersfield / Michael Revell  
2nd Denise Barnett / Donna Upchurch

**Gladys Taylor Cup**

1st Sandie Lepper / John Davidson  
2nd Denise Barnett / Mira Trifunovic

## Grade Points Trophies

Tuesday– 1st Wayne Stechman 2nd Catherine Pike  
Wednesday 1st Nigel Kearney 2nd Anthony Ker  
Thursday 1st Dennis McKinlay 2nd Michael Cox  
Friday – 1st Denise Barnett 2nd Sophie Atkin.

## Tournaments

**NZ Bridge Inter- Provincial Finals** – 21-23 November  
2nd Open Team – Nigel Kearney Karl Hayes Anthony Ker & Alan Grant  
1st Intermediate Team – Andrew Cushnie, Martyn Rew, Simon Louisson & Jeremy Morley.

**Hawkes Bay Christmas Cheer - 28th November**  
2nd Tani Blackburn / Nan Wehipeihana

**Palmerston North Christmas Cheer – 5th December**  
1st Anne-Marie Russell / Debbie McLeod  
2nd Sandy McKirdy / John Patterson  
3rd Graham Stronach / Paul Carson  
4th Charles Ker / Anthony Ker

**Wellington Christmas Cheer - 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
1st Nigel Kearney / Kate Davies  
2nd Liam Milne / Susan Humphries  
3rd Michael Whibley / Ashley Bach  
4th Alan Grant / Oliver McCready  
Top Open/Other - Barbara Leach & Robyn Green  
Top Intermediate/Other - Martyn Rew & Eason Lu



Kate Davies and Nigel Kearney, winners of the Christmas Cheer Tournament

Here is a selection of photos taken from some of these tournaments:



Interclub Open Teams Winners



Karen Martelletti, from NZ Bridge, with the Interprovincial Intermediate Team and Lynda Rigler, Wellington Chef de Mission



Playing at the Interregionals



Winner of the second A Grade Points Cup Anthony Ker



Closing speeches at the Interregionals

Winner of the A Grade Points Cup Nigel Kearney





Poppy Roberts Trophy winner Nigel Kearney



Winners of the Poppy Roberts Plate Suzanne Green and Arumugam Kumarasamy

## Christmas Holidays and “Make Summer Unstoppable”

As we head into the summer season, and with the possibility that many of us will travel around our beautiful Aotearoa over the next few weeks, let's just be thankful that we have got to this point, enjoying a level of freedom that many people in the world do not have. For me, I am incredibly grateful to the 'Team of 5 million' who were prepared to trust the government and follow the directions and advisories we received. In the same spirit, I hope you will continue to enjoy the summer holidays, but with a little added vigilance. In addition to the 'Slip, Slop, Slap' sun safety message, add on the word 'Scan' – as you enter places along your travels. It simply makes the work of contact tracing people so much easier in the event that there is another community breakout. Enough seriousness!

My turn to wish you all compliments of the season. I really hope you enjoy some time out and I, for one am hanging out for slow, summer beach time.

Enjoy the break and I look forward to catching up with you in 2021.

Don't forget to send me any funny jokes heard or seen, and it would be fabulous if you could send me your favourite holiday pic so I can include them in the next newsletter.

Maureen Sheldon  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2020