

WBC News – December 2016

Put it in your Diary

Suzanne Duncan Memorial Pairs –

the evenings of 27, 28 and 29 December at 7.30 pm.

You can play on any or all three playing nights.

Reminder: Meeting tomorrow night at 6.30 pm (see below)

HO! HO! HO!



Presidents Corner... Brad Tattersfield

Hi everyone

The year has ended on a high note with a very well-attended and successful Christmas Cheer Tournament last Saturday, an event we host each year for the Wellington Regional Committee. The table laden with raffle and event prizes looked amazing - thanks to everyone who contributed to those – and congratulations to the tournament winners Kate Davies and Peter Heazlewood.

We're looking forward to a very busy tournament schedule in 2017, and the committee has started thinking about social events to complement the bridge. We have also started planning some improver sessions, and we're considering some initiatives to attract new members – we'll keep you posted on that.

Those of you interested in the proposed restructuring of NZ Bridge are reminded that we are holding a short meeting at the club this Wednesday 14th at 6.30 pm, before the "Rainbow Bridge" starts, to update you on the situation and to hear your views. Around 50 clubs, including us, and many individuals have written to NZ Bridge expressing concern about the proposal. Essentially, the worry is that decisions appear to have been made on restructuring the national organisation before a full explanation has been provided to clubs as to what is being done, why it's being done, and what the benefits will be.

NZ Bridge has recently advised that the Chairman, Arie Geursen, and two board members, Allan Joseph and Phil Rutherford, are up for re-election. Nominations for those positions will be open until 14 February. The board's constitution allows it to operate largely independently of clubs, so the elections are one of the few ways that clubs can directly influence what the board does.

If you are interested in standing – or you know of someone capable who is – Bridget can help you with the nomination process. Cheers and a Happy Christmas. Brad

2017 Programme Book

These are with us now and if not collected by Thursday 15 December, they will be posted to you.

The Dougal McLean Cup is Ours!

Congratulations to our Wellington team (all members of the Wellington Bridge Club may we point out) who won overall the 2016 Inter-Provincial Teams held in Dunedin recently.

Open Team: Alan Grant, Anthony Ker, Kate Davies & John Patterson
Senior's Team: Tony Lenart, Patrick D'Arcy, Maureen Pratchett & Vivienne Cannell.
Women's Team: Sandra Coleman, Mindy Wu, Joan Waldvogel & Joan McCarthy
Intermediate Team: Nan Wehipeihana, Julia Barnett, Sam Ward & Chris Collins
Chef De Mission Nigel Kearney

Wellington Regional Christmas Cheer 2016



We had 27 ½ tables and many visitors from out of town. Thank you to all our members who donated to the fabulous raffles, helping in the kitchen and bar, and contributing to the fun day we all shared last Saturday. Thank you to our director, Allan Joseph, and to Bruce Ivamy who so capably toiled behind the scenes all day with the vast administrative bits and pieces. And thank you to Mindy Wu and her team for a great Christmas Dinner enjoyed by us all, despite the need for the Brandy Snap nazi !

Congratulations to the prizewinners:

Open Grade

1st Peter Heazlewood & Kate Davies;

2nd Tony Lenart & Paula Jenner; 3rd Bridget Willcox & Joanne Rollo;

4th John Patterson & Nigel Kearney

Open Intermediate: John Davidson & Duncan Adair: Open Junior: Ann Tyrie & Alicia Wright

Intermediate Intermediate: Jolene Zink & Jude Lucas

Suzanne Duncan Memorial Pairs Tournament sponsored by Morrison Kent, Lawyers

Evenings of December 27, 28 & 29

Play commences: 7.30 each night

Playing options: Players may participate on any or all of the 3 playing nights

Cost per player: All 3 nights - \$25

Sunday night \$10: Monday night \$10: Tuesday night \$12 (supper night)

Payment can be made online directly to Wellington Bridge Club: 030 518 0093731 00

This is a 5A Point tournament and players are welcome to "roll up" on the night or nights without booking although of course pre-booking helps the organisers. The first night seems to be the most popular and in recent years we have had a full house with 25 plus tables.

Anyone for bridge?

Card games are the latest big deal in schools

Gurpreet Narwan December 3 2016, 12:01am, The Times

The traditional image of a bridge game has been ladies in twinsets and pearls sitting around the kitchen table with a glass of chardonnay. Now that cliché is being turned on its head by schools across the country as pupils shun football and their iPads during breaks to spend time studying the cards and preparing their bids. According to the English Bridge Union, the number of young people playing the card game has quadrupled since 2011. About 300 schools are thought to be promoting it. Teachers have realised that the card game, played by four players in two competing teams, is good for teaching maths and teamwork.

At Weald community primary school in Kent, Jim Garlinge, who has been teaching the game for the past 25 years, has volunteered to play with the pupils. After the children finish their lunch, Mr Garlinge, 77, usually begins with a quick refresher, displaying a number of cards on the board and asking the children to do some quick mental arithmetic to determine whether they have enough points to make an opening bid. The hands shoot up one after the other, accompanied with cries of “one no trump” and “two no trump”. “It’s the new thing at school. Lots of people are talking about it,” Isabelle Chatten, aged ten, said she and her two friends decided to join the school bridge club, established last year, after they discovered during a class presentation that Bill Gates was, as he put it, “obsessed with the game”. Alex James, the bassist in Blur, is also said to find the game “utterly compulsive”.

“I like that famous people are playing things that I’m playing. That’s quite cool,” she added. Rowan Remjin, ten, said that he liked bridge because it did not require strength nor luck. “It only requires strategy,” he added. Richard Banbury, of the English Bridge Union, said that the game was flourishing in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Yorkshire in particular. “We’re not trying to teach them to be international stars but want to broaden their reach. It’s mentally stimulating as well as fun and brings benefits back into the curriculum.” He said that the game had the added benefit of requiring the children to work in teams, allowing them to interact socially.

Anton Mauve, one of the parents who set up the bridge club at Weald primary school, plans to start an inter-schools competition and said: “It’s very much a craze. The kids go home and tell their parents, and get them around the kitchen table. “They then start shrugging off the rust and remember the game they used to play and the whole thing just blooms.” For many of the children it is the refined status of the pastime that appeals. Gabriel Williams, ten, said: “All of my friends are on the football team and I didn’t have anything to do so I started playing bridge. It’s actually quite cool.” Gabriel and his cousin, Florence Wells, play the game at home. Others, enthused by a recent trip to the Houses of Parliament where they had a bridge tournament — and counted Sir Michael Fallon, the defence secretary, as a spectator — are keen to teach their families in time for Christmas. Mr Garlinge called it a courteous game. “You don’t fling your cards up in the air if your partner makes a mistake. You accept it and move on; you’re always civil,” he added.

[Thank you to Michael Gibson for bringing this to our attention. There are some wonderful photos of the children obviously enjoying their cards in this original article from The Times. Ed]

Our Wednesday Night Prizewinners for 2016 (in no particular order!)



***Poppy Roberts Trophy:
Martin Reid & Peter Newell***



***Harcourts Premier Teams:
(presented by Brad Tattersfield)
Nigel Kearney, Charles Cahn, Anthony Ker
(Absent) Alan Grant***



Points Cup A Grade: 1st = Anthony Ker & Graeme Norman (absent)



**Poppy Roberts Plate:
Isobel Ross & Derek Snelling (Brad)**

On behalf of the Wellington Regional Committee, Heather Jared presented these trophies at the Christmas Cheer tournament. Congratulations!



Mira Trifunovic won the Regional Intermediate Points Trophy



Denise Barnett won the Regional Junior Points trophy.

Monthly Pairs - Results from November 2016

<p>Tuesday: Committee Cup Pairs 1st Wayne Stechman & David Fowler 2nd Ruth Whittle & Shirley-Anne Morrow</p>	<p>Wednesday: Harcourts Teams see below Poppy Roberts Final: 1st Martin Reid & Peter Newell 2nd Nigel Kearney & Charles Cahn Poppy Roberts Plate: 1st Isobel Ross & Derek Snelling 2nd Cathy Nijman & Prafulla Hegde</p>
<p>Thursday: Robson Cup Teams 1st Kumar Team Sushila Kumar, Nebojsa Djorovic, Karen Eriksen & Jude Lucas. 2nd Hunter Team Eirlys Hunter Laurence Miller, Damian Palmer & James Andrew</p> <p>Bill Te Tau Summer Pairs 1st = Nebojsa Djorovic & Donna Upchurch 1st = Malcolm Greig & George Westermayer</p>	<p>Friday afternoon: Summer Pairs 1st Ross Craig & Sophie Atkin 2nd Sylvia Johns & Barbara Allen</p>

Congratulations to the finalists of the HARCOURTS PREMIER TEAMS

1st KER: Anthony Ker, Alan Grant, Nigel Kearney & Charlie Cahn

2nd HENRY: Stephen Henry, Stephen Blackstock, Anna Herries, Annette Henry, Peter Newel, Martin Reid

3rd WU: Mindy Wu, Sandra Coleman, John Patterson & Kate Davies

4th KNAP: Tereska Knap, Bridget Willcox, Jo Rollo, Darren Gilchrist & Owen Knowles

Friday Visitors Day

1st N/S Barbara Allen & Sushila Kumar

1st E/W Hitomi Maruo & Andrew Smith

2017 Points Cup - Winners

Tuesday B Grade Points Cup 1 st V Revell; 2 nd S Storer Olly Lenart Cup: Janel Bennik	Wednesday A Grade Points Cup 1 st = Anthony Ker & Graeme Norman
Thursday AR Grade Points Cup 1 st Michael Revell 2 nd Malcolm Greig	Friday Points Cup 1 st = Sylvia Johns & Peter Benham



Welcome to New Member: Paul Holder (2)

Reminders:

1. Our 10 trip ticket booklets for \$70 are available from your director or Bridget.
2. We welcome your support for "Pay & Play"
3. We welcome your support to make the Wednesday Afternoons in the Blue Pages of your Programme Book a regular feature.
4. It is very helpful please if you can pay for tournaments online. ie. The forthcoming Suzanne Duncan Pairs.



Happy Holidays & Safe Travelling.

Thank you one and all who have contributed to our Newsletters during the year. Many hands make light work...and it is very much appreciated. Please keep your ideas, interesting hands, photos, and contributions coming this way for 2017. **Ed**