

January 2020 Newsletter

President's Corner – Margaret Curnow

Happy New Year everyone:

Welcome to bridge in the 2020s! I hope those of you who had a break over the holiday period are feeling rested and rejuvenated, and those who didn't can look forward to one later in the year. WBC is off to a flying start with 2 events coming up in March (the Wellington 6's and the North Island Pairs) followed by Wellington Congress in April. Numbers are limited to 16 tables for the 6's, so I encourage you to put a team together soon, as March will be here before you know it (see detailed information about this tournament later in the newsletter). And speaking of teams, it is also not too soon to start thinking about getting yours organized for Interclub. It's once a month and you play people of your own grade.

We have had our first committee meeting for the year and have made a decision to offer Wednesday players a second playing night option on Thursdays, where they will also qualify for winning session tickets along with the Thursday players – ie two lots of series winner tickets will be given out for the series win, one for eligible players and one for non-eligible players. Enjoy the start of the new year and happy bridging.



Volunteer Extraordinaire

Bruce Ivamy has been selected not just as the Volunteer of the Month but the *Volunteer of 2019*. It would be easier to make a list of how Bruce doesn't help around the club rather than where he does. All this, and he rarely plays due to the time commitments of his work. The Life Member (pictured right) was given a token recognition of his contributions with a wee drop of the good stuff. Many thanks Bruce.



Carry-overs for Paul Titcombe Premier teams

The committee decided that carry-over points for the Paul Titcombe Premier Teams didn't fairly reflect the qualifying round-robin series, given that that series goes on through the year. It was agreed that for the Premier Teams knockouts it should be the VP difference between the two teams converted directly to IMPs (so 1 VP converts to 1 IMP) with the maximum being the number of boards in the match (so not more than 26 IMPs).

Wellington Sixes

This will be the second year we hold a Wellington Sixes Tournament, a fun tournament where each team must comprise a junior, intermediate and senior pair. This year the number of teams will be limited to 16. It will be held on March 7 so it's time to start thinking about putting your teams together. It is a great opportunity for juniors to mix with more senior players but not be intimidated, as you play only against your own grade. Prizes are awarded to the best dressed team and the emphasis is on fun. Last year's best dressed team (pic)



Welcome to new members

Welcome to Kevin Fitzsimmons, Richard Huelin, Neave Fraser, Marian Loader and Wikor Tumilowicz (youth)

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Club series

- Tuesday/Junior – Hand Trophy Pairs – starts Jan 28
- Tuesday/Junior – Martin Jug Pairs – starts Feb 4
- Thursday/Intermediate – Neal Salver Pairs – starts Jan 30
- Thursday/Intermediate – Brian Willis Memorial Pairs – starts Feb 6
- Wednesday/Open – Charles Wilson Memorial Pairs - starts Jan 29
- Friday Afternoon – Duplicate Ladder – starts Jan 24

Tournaments

Feb 8 Waikanae Open 5A

Recent triumphs

- Club Series

Tuesday

Committee Cup Pairs

- 1st Helen Climo & Murray Climo
- 2nd Gordon Streatfield & Christopher Taylor

Wednesday

Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Premier Teams Final

- 1st Karl Hayes, Nigel Kearney, Anthony Ker & Alan Grant
(pictured below right with vice President Suzanne Green)
- 2nd Martin Reid, Peter Newell, Stephen Henry & Annette Henry

Premier Teams Plate

- 1st Simon Louissou & Turei Haronga
- 2nd Dale Lacy & Robyn Freeman Greene

Thursday

Bill Te Tau Summer Pairs

- 1st Stephanie Smith & Dennis McKinlay
- 2nd Helen Climo & Murray Climo

Friday

Summer Pairs

- 1st Graham Potter & Peter Benham
- 2nd Ann Tyrie & Ross Quayle

Visitors Day

- 1st N/S Jenny Coulter & Stephanie Smith
- 1st E/W Chris Bolland & Susan Laurenson

Grade Point Trophies for 2019

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|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| A Grade | 1st Nigel Kearney | 2nd Anthony Ker |
| AR Grade | 1st Graham Potter | 2nd Sushila Kumar |
| B Grade | 1st Caroline Hull | 2nd Wayne Stechman |
| Friday Grade | 1st Peter Benham | 2nd Denise Barnett |



The fine fare at the Christmas Cheer tournament.



Tournaments

Wellington Christmas Cheer

1st Eleanor Morel & Lorraine McArthur
(pictured right with President Margaret Curnow)
2nd Anthony Ker & Charles Ker
3rd Anne-Marie Russell & Nigel Kearney

Top Intermediate Pair

Damian Palmer & Jeremy Morley

Top Junior Pair

Richard Gawith & Chris Taylor

Top Open/Int& Junior Pair

Alan Grant & Oliver McCready

Suzanne Duncan Tournament

1st Russell Dive & Anthony Ker (pictured below with Vice President Suzanne Green)
2nd Nigel Kearney & Karl Hayes
3rd Ross Quayle & Nelson Procter.



Seniors will be able to win super tickets for Thursday nights Series

The committee decided that senior out-of-grade players who are ineligible to win Thursday tournaments will still be able to win series winner tickets if their score wins the overall event. This is another move to try and encourage more players to Thursday nights. It will not alter who wins the event from the eligible players.

Wellington to host the North Island Teams

Wellington Club is hosting the prestigious North Island Teams Event on March 14-15. We will need lots of volunteers as this is a big event.

Lessons start Feb 18 – talk to your colleagues and friends

This year's beginners' lessons with international player Alan Grant start on Feb 18 so make sure you talk to your work colleagues and friends. The 12 week course on Tuesday nights includes two mini bridge lessons as well as comprehensive notes. Bridget has flyers if you want to put one up somewhere.

Can you give someone a lift to Taranaki Congress?

A hitch-hiker from Christchurch looking for a ride to New Plymouth on the afternoon of Friday 6th March to attend Taranaki Congress. Let Bridget know if you can help.



Counting the hand – by Nigel Kearney

One of the biggest differences between strong players and average players is the ability to count the hand. There is a lot of information available from bids and plays chosen and not chosen. Putting all that information together so you are playing with a picture of the hand in your head gives a huge advantage. Counting is a discipline that should be practiced on every hand so eventually it becomes automatic.

Try defending this hand as West:

<p>Dealer: S Vul All</p> <p>North</p> <p>♠ J1065</p> <p>♥ Q743</p> <p>♦ A5</p> <p>♣ K95</p> <p>West</p> <p>♠ K3</p> <p>♥ K106</p> <p>♦ J10873</p> <p>♣ Q43</p>	<p>South opened 1♠, North raised to 3♠, then everyone passed. Your ♦J lead was won in dummy. Declarer then took a spade finesse, ruffed the diamond return, drew one more round of trumps and played ace, king and another club, won by your queen. It's your lead and you have only red cards left. Work out as much as you can about the hand before reading on.</p>
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Declarer is known to have AQxxx of spades and a singleton diamond. The only club outstanding is the jack and if declarer had that they would have finessed. Therefore declarer started with Axx of clubs and four hearts. With the ace of hearts, declarer would have continued to 4♠ and without the jack they would not have an opening bid.

Therefore we know declarer started with AQxxx Jxxx x Axx. If you lead hearts you will get only two heart tricks. It is best to avoid leading hearts and give declarer a ruff and discard instead. They may guess correctly and lead towards the ♥J but at least you have a chance for three heart tricks.

Directors' corner – by Kevin Walker

This will now be a regular column by one of the directors, explaining some of the dos and don'ts of Bridge, particularly what you can and can't do and what is ethical. If an issue comes up, send Chief Director Sandy McKirdy an email and he or one of the directors will review it.

Here is one that was recently raised in the Directors' Forum <https://www.bridgebase.com/forums/topic/54424-unintended-bid/>

D 16	N North	W N E S
	♠ AJ854 ♥ AQ102 ♦ KQ ♣ 64	1NT X P 2♣ P 3♥ P
W West		E East
♠ K10 ♥ K965 ♦ J5 ♣ AKJ53		♠ Q973 ♥ J7 ♦ 106 ♣ 109872
	S South	
	♠ 62 ♥ 843 ♦ A987432 ♣ Q	
Rewind Previous Next Options GIB Play BBO		

The 3♥ bid was undiscussed. At this point South started thinking, spending about a minute (all agreed) to decide what to do. North was looking down at her scorecard for most of this time. Just as South visibly started to reach for his Pass card, North announced that her 3♥ bid was unintentional (mechanical error) and she had meant to bid 2♥. The director was called to the table. What should the ruling be?

South and West had decided to pass regardless, so the contract will be either 2♥ or 3♥ here (unless you prescribe some split ruling)

Kevin notes the directors voted 13 to 5 to revert to 2H. He says the key point is that even with a long passage of time - in this case over a minute, you can still call the director for an unintended bid, but it must be before your partner has bid.

As you can see from the directors' rulings it is a judgement call that directors have to make as to whether the bid was unintended (which they can make a change for) or a simple mistake (eg forgetting your agreed system) or intended bid, which they can't make any changes for.