

## January 2022 Newsletter

Hello, fellow bridge friends/fanatics.

Happy New Year to you all! I sincerely hope that in 2022 we will be able to move to a point where Covid becomes little more than something similar to the flu, where borders can reopen and people pick up their lives (and livelihoods) again. I guess the Covid protocols may have to stay in place for some time but one positive thing these have shown us is that by practising good hand hygiene and care with how we sneeze etc, we can significantly reduce the spread of other transmissible illnesses. And that is really worth something, when you consider what our annual death rate from the flu was, or the number of people who contracted the RSV infection (particularly deadly in young children and those who are immunocompromised).

### President's Message

Kia Ora koutou

I hope you all had a good holiday break and managed to fit in some bridge over the holiday period.

Unfortunately, Omicron has arrived, and this is going to disrupt bridge and our daily lives over the next few months. Under the current "Red" setting, we can still hold sessions at the bridge club for up to 100 vaccinated members, but face masks are mandatory. For now at least, we will continue to run our sessions at the Club, but we are likely to review this if case numbers rise too high and we feel that the health risk is unacceptably high.

Some of you may have tried out some of the Real Bridge sessions we have been holding on Sunday evenings, or other sessions or tournaments too. Generally they seem to be working well. The Committee has agreed that we should formalise club Real Bridge sessions starting in a few weeks' time, date yet to be confirmed. We plan to continue with the Sunday evening sessions though we plan to play around 20 boards starting at 7. We feel that having a casual night that starts and finishes early makes sense.

We also plan to introduce Monday night sessions. These will start at 7.30, will be around 26 boards and will be formal events. Details will be announced shortly.

For Real,Bridge we will have two forms of scoring, the normal and handicap scoring, reflecting that players on Monday night may include members who play in different grades. We will need to start charging fees for Real Bridge as there is a cost to using it, as well as paying for other expenses such as directors. The cost will be less than our normal club nights and most other Real Bridge sessions from other clubs.

News Flash! - With Omicron now arrived we are going to run Real bridge sessions. We may run these sessions in parallel with the Club sessions as some members are uncomfortable playing in the Club setting or wearing a mask for a prolonged period.

We are investigating "Hybrid Bridge" which consists of two sections, one playing at the Club and the other section on "Real Bridge". The boards will be the same and the intention is to have an across the field score.

Peter

## Covid Protocols

Remember - to play at the Club - you must be vaccinated - masked - and use the QR scanning. (or record your visit in the registration book)  
If you are at all unwell please stay at home - get yourself tested.

Specifically, under the 'RED' traffic light setting, the Club will remain open for Club play, but we will be limited in numbers playing (at this stage the limit will be 100 - but is subject to change if the government mandates). Wednesday and Thursday night players will need to register to play at the Club to enable us to keep to the no more than 100 person limit. Mask wearing will be compulsory. There will be no supper breaks or drinks in the playing room.

Those who wish to play at the Club can do so by following all protocols and others may, for various reasons, wish to remain at home. We will continue with our advertised programme. There will also be other Real Bridge sessions available on top of the scheduled Club programme.

## 2022 Membership Subscriptions

Just a reminder that your 2022 subs were due by 1 January 2022. If you have not yet paid, please make this a priority. As we have told you, although the club is in a reasonably stable financial position, the sad reality is that our income has dropped significantly, and we must be prudent and careful over the next 12 months – therefore payment of your annual account has a very real bearing on our continued financial viability. And on that note.....

## Finances

At the AGM it was unanimously agreed that the table money would remain unchanged but the Treasurer indicated at that time, we would need to look at various options to reduce our expenditure so that we ran a balanced budget under normal trading conditions.

Covid has impacted on the playing numbers, bar takings and overall income. The Club has sufficient reserves to cover any Covid related shortfall however we are budgeting to break even excluding the Covid effect.

To do this there are a number of measures that the committee is considering and to date we have had a great response to staffing the dealing machine by volunteers. We are looking at other measures including reducing the number of evenings we have a tea person and reducing the number of free playing tickets. However, we do not see these changes impacting on Tuesday or Friday. These changes are not solely financially driven but are intended to get more people involved so the Club feels more like a club that we all belong to. We will keep you posted as to these changes and welcome feedback.

## Lost and Found

To the person who left their jacket here last August (just before the Youth Weekend)  
The jacket was subsequently taken to Auckland - it has now found its way back.  
Please contact Bridget if this is yours!

## Recent Tournament Results.

### Suzanne Duncan Tournament 27-29 December 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Nigel Kearney / Karl Hayes (right)

2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Carson / Mindy Wu (below)



3<sup>rd</sup> Brian Cleaver/ Pavla Fenwick (below right)

### Alexandra Holiday Pairs 9 January 2022

3<sup>rd</sup> Sandy McKirdy & Christine McKirdy

4<sup>th</sup> Anne-Marie Russell & Moss Wylie



### Baden Wilson Top A Points winners for 2021 – New Zealand Wide..

#### MALE

7<sup>th</sup> Alan Grant

9<sup>th</sup> John Patterson

11<sup>th</sup> Paul Carson

#### FEMALE

1<sup>st</sup> Kate Davies

5<sup>th</sup> Mindy Wu

17<sup>th</sup> Anne-Marie Russell

### South Island Pairs – 22/23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

4<sup>th</sup> Anne-Marie Russell & Debbie McLeod.

## Upcoming Tournaments and Club Series

5-6th March - National 15A Pairs.

12th March - Wellington Club Junior tournament - with a prize for the best Novice Pair

12th March - Wellington Club Intermediate tournament.

Wednesday nights - pre-entries required.

2nd March - Poppy Roberts Trophy. Please register on [nzbridge.co.nz/events](http://nzbridge.co.nz/events)

13th April - Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co premier Teams Please register on [nzbridge.co.nz/events](http://nzbridge.co.nz/events)

Well I think this is probably enough from me for now – there is a lot here for you to digest. However, without a doubt, it seems to me that both your Chairman and Committee and the NZ Bridge organisation, are putting serious thought into how best they can ensure that we can continue to enjoy and participate in our wonderful game. And as Allan says, we are at least lucky that there is an online option, which is more than many other sports/hobbies can offer.

And forgive me if I am misquoting, but from that great US tv drama, “Hill St Blues”, as Sergeant Esterhaus says, “let’s be careful out there”. Stay safe

Nga mihi

Maureen Sheldon