

July 2020 Newsletter

President's Corner – Margaret Curnow

Kia Ora Members:

We are now into our 5th week of playing post lockdown bridge and it is interesting to note that playing numbers are actually up on this time last year. I'm sure in part this is a reflection on many of us having to cancel overseas trips, and so being available to play bridge, however it is also a reflection of how important bridge is in our lives and that most club members are now comfortable playing 'face to face' bridge. Many people enjoyed playing on-line but most seem to agree that nothing beats the combination of social interaction and the challenge of playing the game.

I would like to share with you that several members have approached me personally over the last few weeks to thank me for how well we as a club managed the lockdown process. They were particularly appreciative of being kept informed and of how we balanced the mix of members' needs – being cautious but not too cautious, focusing on safety and recognizing that our membership has a wide range of ages and health conditions. I would like to thank the committee who put in a great deal of time and considered reflection during lockdown. We are lucky to have such a knowledgeable and skilled group of people who have demonstrated so clearly that they have the club and the membership interests at heart.

You will all know that since lockdown the club has encourage members to use Direct Debit or vouchers in order to pay table money. As well as being very unhygienic, the use of cash takes up considerable administrative time and at this week's meeting, the committee discussed moving to being a cashless bridge club in relation to table money. The decision was made that despite the clear advantages of such a move, there were still some club members (including some committee members) who wished to retain the right to use cash.

We still encourage members to use Direct Debit or vouchers and discourage the use of cash. If you do use cash, no change will be given so please make sure you have the exact money. Thank you all for your cooperation.

That's it for this month – happy bridging everyone.

Margaret



It is not ok to cough on others

It's a tricky issue but it shouldn't be – people not covering up when they cough. Actually, if you are coughing frequently you shouldn't be at the table, you should be at home. We said we would send people home, but obviously that it is a difficult thing to enact, you really have to make the decision yourself. If you do cough at the table, then please, please cover up properly and then excuse yourself to wash your hands. We will be asking grade captains to reinforce the message. What we really should do is have a video, like an Air NZ safety message, to play at the start of each session outlining the protocols. If you do cough and don't follow the protocol then don't be offended if another player reminds you to. If other players are concerned, but don't want to speak directly to someone about their behaviour, then approach your grade captain.



Chance for restricted open players to shine

NZ Bridge is trialling a new format where a 3A Open Restricted Tournament can run alongside a 5A Open Tournament. Our club wanted to be part of this. A separate section will be run for players with less than 100 A points so you will not be facing all the top guns. We want as many intermediate and newly promoted open players as possible to support this tourney. It is great opportunity for aspiring players to get experience and accumulate A points. Entries in by July 22 at the latest please.

Club finances still healthy

We have almost completed the financial year for the club and Treasurer Donna Upchurch reported to the committee that we are likely to finish within a hair's breadth of breakeven. That is a fantastic result given the circumstances of being shut for around a quarter of the year. On the balance sheet, we will end the year basically stable. How good is that? Great job Donna.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Wellington Region Tournaments

Kaori Intermediate 5B – Sunday, July 19
Paraparumu Junior, 3B – Sunday, July 19
Kapi Mana Intermediate/Junior 5B – Sunday, July 26
Wellington Open 5A/3A – Sunday, July 26
Waikanae Multigrade 8B – Sunday, August 2

Club series

Tuesday/Junior – Manoy Estate Teams – starts July 28
Thursday/Intermediate – John Fairburn Cup – starts August 6
Wednesday/Senior – Schneideman Salver Teams – starts August 5
Friday – Tinakori Cup pairs – starts July 24
Friday – Owen Cup Handicap pairs – starts July 21

Tournament and club triumphs

Tournaments

Wellington Club Online Teams

Kings 1st Stephen Henry, Annette Henry Martin Reid & Peter Newell
Queens 1st Paul Maxwell, Gail Tippett, Christine Haronga & Turei Haronga
Jacks 1st Stephanie Smith, Dennis McKinlay, Mike Cox & George Westermayer

Auckland Social Distancing Teams (1)

Group E 1st Susan Laurenson, Jenny Delany, Tereska Knap and Bridget Hannaway
Group F 1st Lee Miller, Sandie Lepper Andrew Cushnie & Martyn Rew.

Auckland Social Distancing Teams (2)

Group I 1st Jenni Borren, Jan Borren, Brad Tattersfield & Margaret Robbie

Wellington Regional Teams 10A

1st Peter Newell, Martin Reid, Nick Jacob & Geo Tislevoll
2nd Stephen Henry, Annette Henry, Nigel Kearney & Jack James
4th Graham Stronach, Sandy McKirby, Kate Davies & John Patterson

Trustee Executors Kairangi Multigrade Teams:

1st pictured from left (Sponsor rep Kellie McKinstry), Oliver McCready, Caroline Hull, Denise Barnett, Donna Upchurch
2nd John Davidson, Anne-Marie Russell, Barbara Tumilowicz & Simon Louisson



Club series

Tuesday - Re-Opening Teams

1st Rosy Moar, Kevin Moar, Ambrose Fok & Jared Greig

2nd Richard Gawith, Christopher Taylor, Oliver McCready & Caroline Hull

Wednesday - Re-Opening Teams

1st Russell Dive, Gary Duncan, Ross Quayle & Alan Grant

2nd Annette Henry, Stephen Henry, Peter Newell & Martin Reid.

Thursday - Re-Opening Teams

1st Michael Cox, George Westermayer, Dianne Tredger & Sushila Kumar

2nd Alison O'Dea, Yiyang Wang, Hilda Burgess & Allan Joseph

Friday - Re-Opening Teams

1st Anne-Marie Russell, Susan Laurenson, Peter Benham & Bridget Hannaway.

NZ Bridge National Congress

The 35th national bridge Congress is planned to open on September 26 and still likely to be in Hamilton despite the dastardly Distinction Hotel doing the dirty by dumping our booking. It is the premier event in the bridge annual calendar and was last year attended by over 700 players. It will be curtain-raised by the Youth Teams on Friday, September 25th with events open to all levels of players, from grand-master to novice. You can enter many individual events or select a cost-effective package that suits you.

Library news

In 2019, these members donated books to the library; Maureen Pratchett, Paul Devadatta, John Bickerton, Graeme & Margaret Dick, Max Wigbout, John Elliot, Vil Gravis, and 2 Unknowns. Thank you for your generosity. We have also had monetary donations, to be spent on new books. The donor suggested authors Mike Lawrence and Andrew Robson were worth investing more in. Agreed.

In November 2016 when the library, in its current form opened, we had about 350 books and 250 of these were from the collection of Dougal McLean. There was a dearth of books written in the 21st century. Thanks to the generosity of members, and some purchasing, that gap is slowly being filled. Our holdings now number 487. The effect of these donations is multiple, we are able to replace the older worn books with later editions, we gain new titles, and, we have turned into a book re-distribution centre. More books than have gone on the shelf, have been through the recycle box to new homes.

Antique Books We have three books in the collection that are over 100 years old. These are a curiosity, but difficult to find on the shelves. They now have their own box. Have a browse and see how much the game and bridge publishing has changed.

On a mercenary level, a copy of **Archibald Dunn's** "The Bridge Handbook, A Complete Treatise On Bridge", 1907 fourth edition, which we have, is available for MX\$986.04, but unfortunately only NZ\$68.00. Quite exciting until one checks how many pesos there are to the NZ\$. On the other hand, "**Badsworth on Bridge**" first edition is selling for US\$75.00. We have the second edition, 1905. The third book, "**The Complete Bridge Player**" by "**Cut Cavendish**", was first printed 1905. Our edition is from the fourth printing 1910. No originals could be found for sale, but you can order facsimiles from a company in India for US\$30.00. It was interesting to see that

there is a publishing company in the US which specialises in reproducing antique books.

What is the Issue Book? The Issue Book is in the library to maintain a record of books borrowed by members. This is a large brown book that sits in the Returns Tray. There is a page for the book details, with the facing page for recording borrower details. The **Issue Book** has another very useful function. It provides the librarian with an analytical tool. It gives a picture of the sort of books members are using, and may indicate what gaps we have. However, many books we have been looking for, seem to have disappeared. The explanation for this may be that although members can all read, some may not have yet mastered writing skills? **Please** check your book shelves for any that may have been 'borrowed' and then overlooked. |

And, some very good news. The recently retired, very knowledgeable, Ray Gruschow has joined the library team. Julie Hawkins, Temporary Librarian

New members

Welcome to Pauline Edwards, Peter Flanagan, Elizabeth Paterson, and Nicola Schaab. Three of these have come to us via our lessons, showing the value of putting on our lessons. A new series of lessons started this week with 20 students.

Car park gripes

If you use the car park on the wall by the car park entrance, there are two major conditions about using it. Firstly, only small cars can use, and yes, we all know what is not a small car. Secondly, you must immediately vacate that spot when play has finished. Failure to do causes chaos.

Fancy earning a bit of pocket money?

We need more directors. You need people skills more than knowledge of bridge rules. You get paid for your troubles. There are lessons on directing. If you are interested, contact the director of directors, Sandy McKirdy.

Help needed each playing session

The grade captains will be calling for a volunteer every playing session to pick up the computer tablets at the end of play and wipe them. The Director usually has his or her hands full at this time, and we want to clean and sanitise the pads as well as put them in the recharging cabinet. This is a chance for members who do not regularly contribute to put their hand up rather than leave it to the usual suspects.