

July 2021 Newsletter

Hello to you all.

First, and most importantly, a very warm welcome to all those players who have recently graduated from lessons and are now playing on a Tuesday night. It is great to have you as a member of our club and we hope you get as much pleasure out of your journey into the world of bridge as we all do (well, most of the time) 😊😊.

New Members -

Having just completed the beginner lessons we welcome;
Susan Basile, Michael Curtis, Andrea Curtis, Andre Casting
Denise Clarke, Julie Martin, Emily Lampard, Anna Shires,
Jacqui Van der Kaay, Emma James, Jane Lawless, Mark Brittain,

also David Morel, James Fulton & Neil Buchanan

In order to help the new members settle into regular play and competition, it is vital we have players who are willing to commit some time and energy into 'buddying' and supporting a new player. Being a buddy takes a little time and a willingness to play a series on a Tuesday night. Your role involves the encouragement and support of the new player, helping to introduce them to other players, ensuring they are nurtured by all the regular Tuesday night players and generally doing whatever you can to ensure the player feels comfortable and with a growing confidence. It is possible you would help your buddy find a partner for the next series, you may also be available as a sounding board for them as they find their feet.

It's the middle of winter and I have been off work and hunkered down (aka 'self-isolating') with a flu virus for almost a whole week. The worst of it has been, apart from the very sore throat and other symptoms, a feeling of a dull headachy fog over my brain and a total lack of energy. Inevitably, these symptoms raise the big covid question mark, so my doctor gave me a test when I visited them, and this has come back negative (even though I knew that is what it should be, it was a relief to get that result!).

And, like a stuck record, I am reiterating our message to stay home if you aren't well. Apart from the original reason for this message (to help prevent the spread of Covid), we have all seen that this applies to reducing the spread of other winter ailments and it can be really effective in helping maintain community health.

President's Message

Kia Ora

We received lots of thoughtful feedback in our survey about how we can improve our club and what you do and don't like. Thanks to all who made the effort to contribute. A common complaint is how people behave at the table. "It's important to keep things friendly and welcoming," one respondent wrote. Maybe, that's startlingly obvious, but it doesn't always happen. Another common feature seems to be where players conducting post mortems cross the line with unwelcome criticism of their partner's play.

Concern about late finishes was raised by a number of players. We have to be cognisant that many players are in busy jobs and often have to start early. Most clubs start at 7.30pm, a time that allows people to prepare and eat dinner after work and travel to the club. Some respondents noted late arrivals delayed the start and finish and want the club to be stronger on ensuring all players are seated by 7.20pm, a request the committee totally agrees with. Some suggest abolishing the tea break, although

such a move may hinder the desire from others for more opportunity for social interaction. We have and will continue to experiment with doing without the tea break for some events. Looking at various options including an earlier start and finish, together with the desire for more learning opportunities, the committee is considering one option of reducing the number of boards played on Tuesday nights from 22 or 24 to 20. When play finishes, there would be discussion on particular hands, and how they should or could have been played. Obviously, those who want to retire early can skip the discussion.

We will highlight various aspects of the feedback in future newsletters.

Simon Louisson

Series Interruptions (due to lockdowns, etc)

The committee has decided that if an event does not run its scheduled full course, due to lock-down or some such event, then a result and winners will be declared so long as one session has been held. It was also decided, in the event of cancellations due to lock-downs etc, to prioritise premier events – Poppy Roberts on Wednesday, Neal Salver on Thursday, the Hand Trophy Pairs on Tuesday, the Gladys Taylor Cup on Friday and the Paul Titcombe Lowe Premier Teams on Wednesday. In light of that, it was decided there would be a catch-up night of the Paul Titcombe Lowe Premier Teams on September 15 instead of the published McDermott Cup Ladder event.

Plans and Goals for the future of the club

The committee is close to finalising its five-year plan to ensure we have a thriving club where members have an exceptional playing experience. The four central planks of the plan are:

1. Grow the membership to 500 by 2026.
2. Improve the playing experience.
3. Review the club administration.
4. Ensure the sustainability of the club long-term.

We would love to hear from any member who would like to volunteer or who has particular skills they think might help us achieve these goals.

Wellington Open and Restricted Open Tournament 25th July

We are welcoming entries for this tournament. The Restricted Open, which is for players with 50 or less A points, is specifically designed for those of you who are just recently playing at Open level.

As always we will need your help in running the tournament, and would really appreciate it if you could make yourself available for a couple of hours, particularly in the kitchen. Please let Bridget know what help you can offer and when. All baking and food donations gratefully received!

Youth Weekend 6-8th August

We are hosting this weekend for New Zealand's youth players and need 14 billets for the Saturday night (7th), plus 3 for Friday 6th. Here is an opportunity for us to welcome players who will hopefully be the future of our game, and to give them the best hospitality and encouragement we can!! Billeting will also include transporting players to and from the club as required. If you can offer a billet, there is a list in the lobby for you to add your name to, otherwise please contact Bridget as soon as possible.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Wellington Region Tournaments

Wellington Open	5A	25 th July
Wellington open Restricted	8B	25 th July
Waikanae Multigrade	8B	1 st August
Hutt Intermediate	5B	8 th August
Upper Hutt Multigrade	8B	15 th August
Karori Open	5A	22 nd August
Otaki Intermediate/Junior	5B/3B	22 nd August

Club Tournaments

Tuesday night –	Hand Trophy Pairs	20th July
	Manoy Estate Teams	27 th July

Please make sure your team is registered. You must be in a team to play.
Contact Bridget if you are not in a team but would like to be part of one.
This event runs for 4 weeks.

Wednesday night –	Poppy Roberts	21st July
	Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Teams	28 th July
	Schneiderman Salver Teams	4 th August
Thursday night –	Neil Salver Pairs (6)	29th July
	John Fairbairn Cup	5 th August
Friday afternoon –	Gladys Taylor Cup Pairs	23 rd July
	Tinakori Pairs	30 th July

Recent results from Club Play June 2021

Tuesday - Neal Trophy Pairs

1st Margot Booth & Ben Thomas

2nd Monique Percy & peter Flanagan

Wednesday Suzanne Duncan Swiss Pairs

1st John Luoni & Russell Dive

2nd Mariusz Tumilowicz & Ross Quayle

Thursday - Bill Joss Memorial Swiss Pairs

1st Ruth Brucker & Margaret Curnow

2nd Andrew Hudson & Lee Miller

Friday – Winter Pairs

1st Tereska Knap & Charlie Cahn

2nd Margot Davenport & Ann Tyrie

Tournaments.

Sunday 11th July Wellington Club Championships

Our Wellington club representatives were:

Junior: Ruth Harley & Janet Dobbie
Intermediate: Andrew Hudson & Lee McDonald
Open Restricted: Nebosja Djorovic & Donna Upchurch
Open: Nigel Kearney (Team Captain) & Anne-Marie Russell

Unfortunately our team did not come away with a win on this occasion, however Nebosja and Donna came 3rd, whilst Ruth and Janet were 4th and Andrew and Lee were 5th in their grades. Congratulations team!

The winners were:-

Open: Mariusz Tumilowicz & Mindy Wu (Karori)
Open Restricted: Luke Kelly & Tani Blackburn (Karori)
Intermediate: Derek Gill & Stefan Prentice (Victoria)
Junior: Mary Scott & Liam Doonan (Kairangi)

Nga mihi
Maureen Sheldon
19th July 2021

This is your Club...

A little bird told me that one of our lovely Grade Captains was asked to clean up another member's spillage! Remember this is your club and the Grade Captains are just volunteers, so if you see something out of place, that maybe a potential hazard, like a spill on the floor, please feel free to clean it up. It is not up to the Grade Captains to do everything, they are here to ensure the session is run smoothly not as your housemaids...



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Thanks heaps to our Grade Captains
Roger, Mindy, Suzanne and our Editor Maureen....*Cheers Bridget*