

June 2021 Newsletter

Greetings everyone!

It's a very wet and miserable winter's day as I write this, and a somewhat disconcerting time due to the Level 2 lockdown situation. Disappointing for the many players who had hoped to be competing in the Regional Teams tournament, and for all of us missing out on our regular weekly sessions.

We have seen how easily covid can spread within a community; hopefully Wellington has been able to dodge a bullet on this occasion. But it is a good time to remind you all to please stay home if you are feeling unwell, and to practise good hand hygiene and show an awareness and sensitivity to your colleagues at all times.

President's Message

Kia Ora

I flew a kite at the last committee meeting about the idea that, once Covid vaccinations have been extensively rolled out, we institute a no vaccination, no play policy. As kite-flying goes, this was about as successful as Leonardo's famous ornithopter. There was no appetite for it among the committee. Firstly, members said such a move is premature, given the rollout is far from universally available, and secondly, it was pointed out to me that there are likely to be anti-vaxxers among us.



One member queried whether we would then make seasonal flu vaccines compulsory. However, the point about Covid 19 is that while around 500 Kiwis in an average year die of seasonal flu, it is not nearly as deadly as Covid, and, in most cases, does not have the long-lasting effects that many victims of Covid 19 suffer. If someone does catch Covid, we at the club will also suffer, having to isolate, and the club would have to close for a period and be deep cleaned at a cost.

While Aotearoa doesn't have Covid at present, it is going to be around a long time and it is inevitable Aotearoa will get the disease here at times. Those who choose not to vaccinate put others at risk, because while the Pfizer vaccine is over 80% effective, and will go a long way to eradicating the disease if enough of us immunise, you can nevertheless still catch the disease.

In Israel, the country which is ahead of the pack on national vaccination, they have instituted a vaccine passport, so that if you want to go to the cinema or the bridge club, you have to show your "green passport" to gain entry. Those who chose not to get vaccinated have a choice – they can stay home. The committee made it clear they have no appetite for such a regime but as the vaccine rollout gets momentum, I urge you all to consider yourself and your friends and our club and get the jab as soon as you can.

The committee had its third session on strategy and planning and we have now virtually completed our plan. We then move to the more difficult task of implementing it. As part of this process, we have sent out a very short survey of members, essentially asking you what you do, and do not, like about our club and what we can do to improve it. It will only take a couple of minutes to complete, so please take the trouble to do so. We would like them back in by 2nd July please.

Simon Louisson

Monday Night Play

In case you missed the announcement, we regret that we have to pause Monday night's play for the present. The numbers of people coming along to the sessions is too small to make it viable. As an example, there were only two teams registered for the Matariki teams event. We hope to try again later or possibly next year if we feel there is enough support for it.

Entertainment Books

FREE UPGRADE OFFER EXTENDED!

One of the best things about the Entertainment Membership, apart from supporting Wellington Bridge Club, is that you have the option of choosing a Multi City Membership, which unlocks EVERY offer across New Zealand and Australia. How good!

As we are currently unable to travel overseas, people are exploring Australia and New Zealand a LOT more, which makes the Multi City Membership the perfect option.

For the first time ever, anybody who purchases a \$69.99 Single City Membership will be upgraded to a Multi City Membership valued at \$119.99 for FREE!

That's a \$50 saving and access to over 10,000 offers!!!

Thanks for your continued support!

Improvers Day

From: **Ruth Harley**

Many thanks to Alan Grant for his excellent Improvers Day on 29th May for 48 participants. Our group of learners was coming from very different levels of experience and Alan was patient with us all whilst keeping his focus on all the points he wanted to cover. The particular new skills I came away wanting to concentrate on were taking advantage of more opportunities for doubles, knowing when to double and when to cue bid (ahem...not so sure I have a real grasp of this yet) and how to bid more aggressively to game by using weak jump responses. I didn't previously know this type of bid even existed. It was a really rich learning experience for me this time because I was ready for it. I had done this course previously but with too little experience to be able to make good use of it. I plan to solidify my learning from this course and then be in a good position to attend Alan's next course later in the year.

Alan Grant's Bridge Flippers are available to buy for \$20 from Bridget, and are a great resource for improving players as you learn to swim in a pool filled with card sharks.

Awards Finalist

Congratulations! Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards 2021 Finalist – Wellington City

Congratulations Wellington Bridge Club has been nominated and selected as a finalist in the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards 2021 for Wellington City,

The awards recognise the valuable contribution of volunteers to community groups and organisations across the Wellington Region, across five categories – Art & Culture, Education & Child Youth Development, Health & Wellbeing, Heritage & Environment and Sport & Leisure, and our Rising Star award celebrates new and emerging groups.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony on Wednesday 14th July.

A Timely Reminder from Sandy our Chief Director.....

Once again, I am asking you to please make sure you arrive in good time before the evening session is due to start. In particular, when there are large tournament nights, such as with Poppy Roberts, it is essential you are seated 15-20 minutes before play starts so that the director can be sure to have the correct movement based on the numbers of people present and play is not held up because of late comers and stragglers. There have been instances recently where play has been held up for several minutes, needlessly, because people have cut their arrival times too finely.

Also, please make sure you complete the table slip correctly. The payment options chosen at each table must equal 4, and agreement for direct debits must be clearly shown and signed.

And a reminder to all our smokers.....

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building, including the front porch. The place where you may smoke is outside the kitchen door..

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Wellington Region Tournaments

Kairangi	8B Multigrade Teams	4 th July
Wellington Regional Club	Teams	11 th July
Karori Intermediate	5B	18 th July
Paraparaumu Junior	3B	18 th July
Wellington Open	5A	25 th July
Waikanae Multigrade	8B	1 st August
Hutt Intermediate	5B	8 th August
Upper Hutt	8B Multigrade Pairs	15 th August

Club Tournaments – please note these are the dates as per your booklet and may be affected by the L2 lockdown.

Tuesday night –	Morton Salver Pairs	29 th June
Wednesday night –	United Nations Cup Pairs	30 th June
	Poppy Roberts	21 st July
	Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Teams	28 th July
Thursday night –	Neil Salver Pairs (6)	1 st July
	Blomeyer Cup BTF Teams	8 th July
Friday afternoon –	Pipitea Pairs	2 nd July
Interclub -	All grades	16 th July

Recent results from May/June 2021 **Tournaments**

Victoria Swiss Pairs 30 May 2021

1st Mariusz Tumilowicz/Mindy Wu

2nd Anne-Marie Russell/Jack James

Hawkes Bay Congress 5-7 June 2021 Swiss Pairs

1st John Davidson & Leon Meier

3rd Patrick D'arcy & Dean Sole

Upper Hutt Open 13 June 2021

1st Nick Whitten / Alan Grant

2nd Anthony Ker / Murray McMillan

3rd Graham Stronach / Sandy McKirdy

Kapi Mana Open. 20 June 2021

1st Patrick D'Arcy / Graeme Norman

2nd Anthony Ker / Alan Grant

3rd John Davidson / Barbara Tumilowicz

**Congratulations to Brian Cleaver – Silver Grand Master
and David May on attaining Grand Master...both pictured below**



Club Series

MAY 2021

Monday – Hawkestone Pairs

1st Anne-Marie Russell & Nigel Kearney
2nd Pauline Murtagh & Mike Murtagh

Tuesday - N. Robson Cup Teams

1st J Brian O'Sullivan Vivienne Revell
& Johnny Bell (pictured right & Simon Havill
2nd Barbara Taylor Margaret Ferguson
Brent Smaill Sharon Stokes



Thursday - May Manoy Salver

1st Helen Walker & Brad Tatterfield
2nd David Smol & Bruce Parkes

Friday – Moturoa Pairs

1st Val Cooper & Mary Slowey
2nd Paul Maxwell & Kim Tate

The Generosity of Michael Ware *by Alan Grant*

We've been lucky this year in New Zealand to be able to safely play actual face-to-face bridge in almost all of our tournaments. I have to admire the generosity of our top ranked player, Michael Ware, as he often offers to play with different partners and teammates. I asked him if he could, with a partner of his choice, team up with me and my most regular partner Anthony Ker in the annual Kelly Peirse Memorial tournament at the Rotorua Bridge Club occurring in late summer this year (March in NZ). He partnered up with NZ International representative Matt Brown to complete our team for the event.

One hand from the tournament stood out as illustrating very good defence by Michael.

After a responder's transfer auction South became declarer in 4S:

Dummy
♠KJ864
♥J42
♦KJ3
♣T5

Declarer:
♠Q95
♥K53
♦A9
♣AKQ73

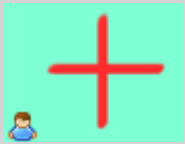
After Michael's generous lead of the ♦7, declarer played low from dummy and East played a small diamond – so declarer received a free finesse as it came around to the ♦A9.

As a challenge to the reader: How do you plan to proceed?

Michael (West) holding four trumps, decided instead of leading his singleton club to lead $\spadesuit 7$, generously giving declarer, as it turned out, a free finesse. As the play developed on this hand Michael generously offered declarer a second free finesse – but these offers had a sting in the tail!

Our declarer took the first trick with the $\spadesuit 9$. Next they played on trumps, winning the first two rounds, with East showing out on the second round. Michael won the third round of trumps with his ace. He then continued his generosity by leading a heart away from his ace, East contributing the $\heartsuit T$, allowing declarer to win the $\heartsuit K$.

However, these generous free finesses came with a cost – as you will see from the full hand below. Declarer, as they had no immediate entry to dummy after winning $\heartsuit K$, now may have regretted having won the cheap $\spadesuit 9$ at trick 1. They tried to cash their A and K of \clubsuit planning to ruff a club in dummy to draw Michael's last trump. The contract was defeated when Michael ruffed the second top club and, because of his gift of a free trick to the $\heartsuit K$, had set up two \heartsuit tricks ready to cash.

Dir: S Vul: All	\spadesuit KJ864 \heartsuit J42 \diamondsuit KJ3 \clubsuit T5	
\spadesuit A732 \heartsuit A976 \diamondsuit QT74 \clubsuit 6		\spadesuit T \heartsuit QT8 \diamondsuit 8652 \clubsuit J9842
	\spadesuit Q95 \heartsuit K53 \diamondsuit A9 \clubsuit AKQ73	

At the other table, also played by South after a responder's transfer sequence, the $\clubsuit 6$ was led – which when covered with the T, J and won with the $\clubsuit A$ gave me a clue to the potential risk in the club suit. The contract was made our table with an overtrick for a 13 IMP swing to help us on our way to winning the tournament.

Right, that's it for now.

Stay warm and well!

Maureen Sheldon