

June 2019 Newsletter

President's corner

Hi everyone

Well here we are in June already. The shortest day of the year is not far away and before you know it spring will be here! Meanwhile we have a number of bridge and bridge related events to enjoy. The Wellington Regional Teams event is at our club on 29-30 June and the Wellington Open is on 28 July. Volunteers are needed to assist at both events both by helping in the kitchen and by contributing baking, sandwiches or similar. I think other clubs, especially the smaller ones, put us to shame with the home baked goodies they provide at tournaments as well as with the number of their kitchen volunteers, so let's see if we can up our game and maybe some members who don't usually contribute might be able to. We are far and away the biggest club in the region so shouldn't have to rely on the same few willing people.

On Friday 12 July we will have a quiz night to raise funds towards an improvement in the layout of our building. We are planning to add a hatch into the lobby area so that at functions you will be able to get a glass of your favourite tippie from the lobby area rather than having to go all the way into the Pipitea room. Get your team together or tell Bridget you would like to be in a team and she will hook you up (so to speak!)

And finally I would like to give a huge thank you to Paul Gold for the work he has done over the last little while on improving our IT system. He has been generous with his knowledge and his time. Paul we are lucky to have you – THANK YOU. Margaret

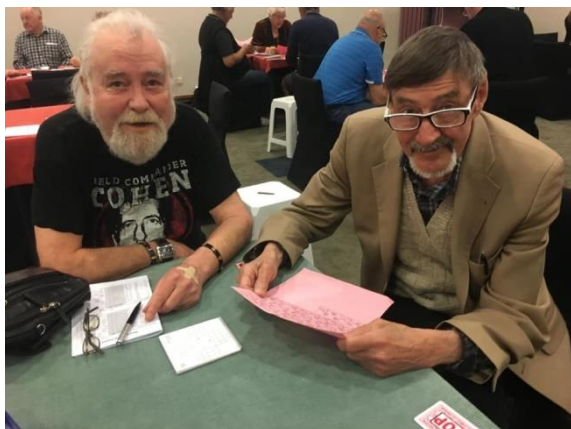
Sad losses

It was a terrible month for our club with the death of four members – Wendy Humphrey, John Miller members for 12 and 15 years respectively and Rex Benson, who first joined the club over 30 years ago. We also mourn the loss of another well known character Gary Hanna who passed away on Monday.



Rex, (pictured above) an anarchist and fiendish bridge player, was most known as crossword composer Kropotkin (named after his hero the Russian anarchist socialist philosopher), 'your tormentor and a headache in 9 letters', who recently celebrated publishing his 1000th puzzle in the Weekend Herald.

In a recent profile in the Herald one reader noted he loved and hated Rex in equal doses. "I have solved three correctly since I started doing them. I am really proud of that, but when I mention it to friends they don't know what I am talking about. You are brilliant." Sandra wrote she always looks forward to her Saturday "treat", despite it sometimes taking her days to figure out. "That's the joy of it." Rex admitted you need a twisted mind to devise crosswords.



Gary Hanna (pictured left with Rex) started lessons at the Hutt Club in 1970 and played there when living in Wellington until the club's open night was no more, when he began playing more often at WBC.

Gary was also a founding member of "Blades", the young player's club in the city, until it folded around 1975.

He enjoyed playing with many partners over the years, including Warren Johnson, Graeme Dick, Alan Grant, Les Gould, Gerry Palmer, Rex Benson, and myself.

Gary moved to Wanganui then Palmerston North in the 1980s, before transferring to Hamilton in 1990. There he played at the Hamilton Bridge Club, once annoying the club committee by bringing a beginner (me) along to play on the A grade night, not at all the done thing in those days. For a short time he ran his own bridge club, "The Cardshed", in his garage.

He served as Hamilton's President for two years then was transferred back to Wellington in 1995, eventually settling in Wainuiomata. "MR 3NT", as his car licence plate proclaimed him to be, became a Grand Master in 1999.

He was a regional correspondent for New Zealand Bridge magazine for a time and served on the NZCBA Management Committee for a couple of years. Gary loved bridge, sports, especially cricket, cooking, wine, books, music, horse racing, and spending time with friends in person and online from all over the world. He was one of the first players in New Zealand to embrace online bridge, first on OK Bridge, then Bridge Base Online, where he frequently provided commentary on international matches. Gary founded the Kiwibridge Facebook page, where he fiercely upheld the right of bridge players to express their views, right or wrong, on our game and its administration;

he certainly wasn't backward in expressing his own opinions. At one time Gary had a collection of over 1500 LP records, music being a huge passion of his, he loved discovering new artists and songs and sharing his finds on his own Facebook music page. He was a particular fan of Warren Zevon's and Bob Dylan's music. He attended many concerts, including seeing Leonard Cohen perform three times.

We will miss Gary's love of life and his joy in his passions. RIP my dear friend. A tribute from Dean Sole

Welcome to new members – all from our lessons

We welcome nine new members, all of whom have come via our lesson sessions. It proves that the lessons are a vital vehicle for keeping our club alive and healthy. Welcome to: Oliver McCready, Pauline Comber, Logan Hull, Jocelyn Street, Prue Kyle, Barbara Grieve, Ambrose Fok, Karen Orsborn, Michael Instone

PUT IT YOUR DIARY

Wellington Region Tournaments

Masterton Intermediate/Junior 5B/3B – Sunday June 23

Kapi Mana Open 5A – Sunday June 23

Wellington Regional Teams 10A – Sunday June 29-30

Kairangi Multigrade Teams 8B – Sunday, July 7

Regional Club Champs, Hutt – Sunday, July 14

Paraparaumu Junior 3B - Sunday, July 21

Karori Intermediate 5B - Sunday, July 21

Wellington Open 5A - Sunday, July 28

Kapa Mana Junior/Intermediate - Sunday, July 28

Club series

Tuesday/Junior – Morton Salver Pairs – starts July 2

Thursday/Intermediate – Blomeyer Cup 'BTF' Team Pairs - starts July 11

Wednesday/Open –United Nationals Cup – starts June 26

Wednesday/Open –Schneiderman Salver Teams – starts June 31

Friday – Pipitea Pairs – starts June 28

Recent triumphs

Club Series

Tuesday- Neal Robson Cup Teams

1st Helen Climo Murray Climo Anne Gaskell & Elaine McFadyen (pictured right)

2nd Rosy Moar Jared Greig Wayne Stechman & Ben Thomas

Wednesday - Suzanne Duncan Swiss Pairs

1st Peter Benham & Isobel Ross

2nd Claire McAllister & Jude Manhart

Thursday - May Manoy Salver

1st Sushila Kumar & Michael Revell

2nd Julie Hawkins & Lee Miller

Friday- Moturoa Pairs

1st Mary Jane Farrell & Lesley Gilhooly

2nd Annette Black & Nancy Cooney



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Tournaments

Hastings Junior Pairs

2nd Ruth Whittle & Lois Rodler

Hutt Open

1st Nigel Kearney & Joan McCarthy

2nd Lynda Rigler & Peter Delahunty

Hutt Junior

1st Yvonne Fisher & Graeme Fisher

2nd Murray Climo & Helen Climo

Christchurch Open Teams

2nd Alan Grant with J Skipper D Skipper & B Johnson

Christchurch Open Pairs

1st Alan Grant & John Skipper

Otaki Multi-grade

2nd Graham Potter & Suzanne Duncan (Pictured right)

3rd Chris Bolland & Charles Ker

Top Junior Pair – Yvonne Fisher & Flora Edwards

Hawkes Bay Congress QB Weekend

Open Pairs

1st Tony Lenart & Peter Benham

2nd Linda Rigler & Peter Delahunty

Open Teams

1st Ray Gruschow Graeme Norman Lynda Rigler & Peter Delahunty



Have you thought about biking to bridge?

As part of an attempt to cut my carbs (emissions that is), I have virtually stopped using my car so I now bike the 13kms from home to bridge. John Scott doesn't reckon it's real biking because I use an e-bike, but actually it is. You still get exercise, you just don't get hot and sweaty. It's something some of you might think about – it's amazing how seldom you get rained on. The plus side is it takes me exactly the same time from Seatoun as it does driving (and is faster when there are snarl-ups in the Mt Vic tunnel), you don't have to worry about fighting for a park, and instead of paying \$150 a fortnight on petrol, I pay about that every 4 months. Some people might think this is "virtue signalling", to use that sneering term some use to put people down for trying to reduce your environmental footprint, but actually biking everywhere is an addictive pleasure. I love the cycle home around midnight when there are almost no cars about.

There are others who also bike to bridge and I have suggested we make a designated space for bikes (which won't reduce the number of car parks). – Simon Louisson (pictured)



**GRAB A
TEAM
ITS
QUIZ
NIGHT**

**Friday 12th July @ 6.30 pm
Quizstart 7.00pm.**

ALL funds raised on the night go towards the Bar upgrade
Please register your team with Bridget
wellingtonbridge@gmail.com or Phone 04 972 4311
Quiz Master DEAN SOLE
Master of Ceremonies ERIC FRYKBERG
Tickets only \$20. Nibbles provided. Cash Bar.

Joan McCarthy, Grandmaster

Congratulations to Joan McCarthy (pictured below with Nigel Kearney) on reaching 500 A points and becoming a Grandmaster. Here's a hand Joan played on the way to winning the Mixed Sex Pairs at Karori in April. It is a cat and mouse battle between declarer and defence. Unfortunately for her opponents, in this story Joan plays the role of the cat. One mousehole after another is blocked until finally there is no escape:

Dealer: W ♠ J87
 Vul: Nil ♥ K
 ♦ 8742
 ♣ J8532

S	W	N	E
	1♣	P	1♦
4♥	P	P	P

♠ KQ103
 ♥ 732
 ♦ KQ3
 ♣ K106



♠ 952
 ♥ J4
 ♦ AJ10965
 ♣ A9

♠ A64
 ♥ AQ109865
 ♦ -
 ♣ Q74



The auction was short and West led the ♦K. Assuming trumps break, there are eight tricks and a ninth can probably be established in clubs. However it's almost certain opponents will be able to hold up and prevent declarer getting more than one club trick. So two are needed from spades. This may be achieved with an endplay if West has the KQ of spades and his safe exit cards are removed.

Joan ruffed the diamond lead, played a heart to the king, and ruffed another diamond. This was a key play to remove an exit card from West. Two top trumps followed, then Joan led the ♣Q. West cannot afford to win otherwise East will have to win the second round of clubs and dummy will have club winners plus an entry. So West played low. East won and led a spade to West's queen.

West was running out of options now. A spade would concede a second spade trick immediately. The king of clubs would set up dummy's clubs. West might try the ten of clubs but then declarer can win the jack, ruff another diamond and lead a club. At the table West chose to exit with his last diamond but then a further club had to be ducked and West was finally endplayed with only spades remaining after winning the king of clubs.

This excellent play by Joan was worth 4 A points because it was the difference between winning the session and coming first overall, or not winning the session and finishing fourth overall.

After the diamond lead there is a way for the defence to prevent ten tricks but it's not easy to spot even looking at all four hands. Both East and West should duck the first round of clubs. Then after East wins the next club and leads a spade, West can cash the king of clubs, get out safely with a diamond, and later make a second spade.