

March 2020 Newsletter

President's Corner – Margaret Curnow

Kia Ora everyone:

I want to start with a huge thank you to all those who have volunteered to help at the North Island Teams Tournament this coming weekend by doing a kitchen shift or baking for morning and afternoon teas. We really appreciate your generosity and willingness to help.

Last Saturday saw a great turnout for the very successful Wellington Sixes Tournament. After only two years I think it is now firmly cemented into our Tournament Calendar. It's a great

opportunity for different grades to mix together and get to know each other and have lots of fun.

I'm sure none of you have missed the news about the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak and are taking appropriate precautions if you are travelling or likely to be exposed to someone who has been travelling to infected areas. Most importantly, don't come to bridge if you aren't well. Better to let the team or teams down than spread infections. We should all be making sure we wash our hands thoroughly and often and avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms such as coughing and sneezing. Needless to say, we should be doing this all the time and the current situation is a good reminder of that.

We have lots of activity in the club at the moment around membership. 25 people are doing the learners' bridge lessons and we are putting more focus into ensuring we get as many of them as we can as future members. In addition, Nigel is currently piloting some Improvers' lessons aimed at advanced players, and you will hear more about these before too long. In addition, the males among you will be pleased to know that a much needed upgrade is being planned for the men's toilets we are just waiting for the plans to be drawn up. Enjoy your bridge – and do your bit to ensure that the people you play with and against enjoy theirs too.

Fun bridge – the success of Super Sixes teams

As mentioned by Margaret, our second Super Sixes Tournament was a roaring success. What was so great is that it allows players of all grades to mix with other grades. It also reinforces that bridge is not all serious head scratching. The 6 No Trumps team below left won the prize for the best dressed team with runners up, the Irish leprechauns. Oh, and by the elegantly-dressed "You Only Win Twice" team of Brian Hoy, Mariusz Tumilowicz, Barbara Tumilowicz, Nelson Procter, Wiktor Tumilowicz, and David Don won the tournament.



Would you prefer your partner to have a good hand or a clean hand?



Welcome to new members

Welcome to Pauline Edwards and Pam White

Wellington Congress coming up

Players should be thinking about putting their teams or pairings together for our premier regional event of the year – the Wellington Congress running from April 24-27. Juniors and Intermediates, there are plenty of points on offer. Go for it.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Club series

Tuesday/Junior – Morley/Bennett Ladder – starts March 31
Thursday/Intermediate – President's Cup Teams – starts April 2
Thursday/Intermediate – Easter Individual – April 9
Wednesday/Open – Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Premier Teams (Prelim) – starts April 15
Wednesday/Open – Jubilee Cup Pairs – starts April 22
Friday Afternoon – Autumn Pairs – starts March 27

Tournaments

North Island Teams 20A – Wellington, Saturday, March 14
Kairangi Intermediate/Junior 5B/3B – Sunday March 22
Masterton Open 5A – Sunday March 22
Paraparaumu Open 5A - Sunday March 29
Upper Hutt Intermediate/Junior 5B/3B – Sunday March 29
Victoria Multigrade 8B – Sunday April 5
Wellington Regional Mixed Pairs (Karori) 3A – Monday April 13
South Wairarapa Intermediate/Junior 5B/3B – Sunday April 19
Wellington Congress (All Grades) – April 24-27

Recent triumphs

- Club Series

Tuesday

Martin Jug Pairs

1st Helen Climo & Murray Climo
2nd Wayne Stechman & Catherine Pike

Wednesday

Charles Wilson Memorial Pairs

1st John Luoni & Bridget Hannaway-Willcox
2nd Tony Lenart & Robyn Freeman-Greene

Gold Coast Congress Pairs

N/S Anne-Marie Russell & Bridget Hannaway-Willcox
E/W Kim Tate & Anthony Ker

Thursday

Brian Willis Memorial Pairs

1st Stefan Prentice & Sushila Kumar
2nd Dianne Tredger & Denis McKinlay

Friday

Afternoon Duplicate Ladder.

1st Sophie Atkin
2nd Sylvia Johns

- Tournaments

Waikanae Open February 9

1st Lorraine Stachurski & Mindy Wu
2nd Patrick D'Arcy & Graeme Norman
3rd Nigel Kearney & Brian Cleaver

Gold Coast Congress

Restricted Pairs

1st Brad Tattersfield & Jan Borren
3rd Jenni Borren & Margaret Robbie

Top Mixed Team

Alan Grant, Jane Lennon Annette Henry & Stephen Henry

National 15A Swiss Pairs February 15

1st Martin Reid & Peter Newell

Hutt Multi-grade March 1

1st Nigel Kearney & Maciej Szczesny
2nd Arumugam Kumarasamy & Graham Weir
3rd Malcolm Greig & George Westermayer

Wellington Sixes March 7

Overall Winner - *"You Only Win Twice"*
Brian Hoy, Mariusz Tumilowicz, Barbara Tumilowicz Nelson Procter
Wiktor Tumilowicz & David Don.

1st Open Pair - Anne-Marie Russell & Nigel Kearney

1st Intermediate Pair - David Don & Barbara Tumilowicz

1st Junior Pair - Wiktor Tumilowicz & Brian Hoy

Taranaki Congress – March 7-8

10A Teams; 1st Graham Stronach, Sandy McKirdy, John Patterson & John Luoni
10A Pairs; 1st Graham Stronach & Sandy McKirdy
3rd Peter Benham & Brian Cleaver

Kapi Mana Multi-Grade March 8

1st Arumugam Kumarasamy & Graham Weir
2nd Ruth Brucker & Dorothy Mackay
Top Intermediate Pair Sandie Lepper & Andrew Smith

Improvers lessons coming

For the many of us who need to lift their game, international player Nigel Kearney is soon to come to your rescue. Dates to be announced shortly.

To T or not to T?

The vexed issue of whether the Wednesday nighters have a tea break or not was canvassed with somewhat inconclusive results. The majority – 50 – wanted tea breaks to continue. Only 25 voted for no break. But the survey was clouded by the option of having a break only for teams events (when there must be a break for the Director to determine which teams meet in the next round. So with 35 voting for this option, the no tea-breakers on the committee vigorously argued a majority wanted discontinuation. The pro-tea breakers argued strongly that they had by far the biggest support, but just as some political parties recently discovered, the most numbers don't always prevail in all elections. The divided committee decided to compromise – tea breaks on Wednesdays will only happen for teams events and Poppy Roberts and there will be a further election – survey – at year-end with a straight "yes" or "no" vote!

Glenn Bush

The club would like to acknowledge the death of Glen Bush. Glen had been a member since 1996 and a regular attendee at both club night and tournaments. He also played interclub for four years and was part of the winning intermediate team one of those years. Glen and Dennis McKinlay went to the Hamilton Congress on four occasions and Napier Congress twice.

Many club members have commented with great warmth on Glen's enthusiasm, boundless energy, sense of humour and a sincere genuine approach to life and people. He liked to travel and in recent years had hiked in Nepal, been with Victoria University to Antarctica and travelled around the UK by camper.

Glenn and his wife Jenny moved to Palmerston North about two years ago to be closer to family. He will be missed by his many friends and playing partners at the club.



Be kind to our directors

Directing is a difficult job. Often directors come under pressure when more than one query comes up together with keeping the room moving. Remember, to always be polite, accept rulings with grace, and keep your sense of perspective and humour.

Full field for North Island Teams

Some 44 teams have entered the prestigious North Island teams event that our club is hosting this weekend. Many thanks to the many people who have volunteered to help and/or billet people. The numbers involved is close to our capacity so well done to all getting so many entries and we are confident of a smoothly run and enjoyable event.

Directors' corner – by Sandy McKirdy

This month we are looking at claiming and conceding tricks.

The claiming of, or conceding, tricks is part of bridge and is encouraged as it speeds the game up, leaving more time for the difficult boards that require a bit more thought.

However, you need to take some care when claiming so that there is no doubt as to whether the tricks can be won, this will usually involve stating a line of play or defence. The complexity of the stated line of play will differ from hand to hand. In some cases it's clear ie your only remaining cards are the remaining trumps. If for example there is a trump outstanding you might say – “ruffing what you return and drawing the remaining trump”. In more complex situations where you need to win trick in both declarer and dummy's hands you should state the order in which you are playing the cards.

If a claim is made and the opposition doesn't agree there two options:

- a) If all four players agree you can continue and play the hand out, or
- b) The director is to be called to make a ruling.

The director will take everything into account and decide whether the claim is valid or not.

If the stated line of play is flawed **or no line of play is stated** the director will consider whether there is a reasonable line of play that would result in the opposition winning any tricks and determine the result as equitably as possible. The director will not accept from the claimer any successful line of play not included in the original statement if there is a normal line of play that would be less successful. “Normal” includes play that would be careless or inferior for the class of player involved.

Remember out of grade players can still be winners on Thursdays

Out of grade players will be acknowledged if they win on Thursdays. The upcoming President's Cup Teams allows any team that has no more than 12 grade points to win. (Your grade points are next to your name in the club booklet). We have seen a good uptake in Thursday night participation, which is encouraging.

Lessons well supported

There has been good support for the latest series of lessons with seven tables of players. Please offer anyone involved full support.

McKirdy and Stronach slay them in the Naki (courtesy Richard Solomon NZB)

Graham Stronach and Sandy McKirdy had one of their finest weekends of bridge at last weekend's Taranaki Bridge Congress. With teammates, John Luoni and John Patterson, they blitzed their way to victory in the Open Teams, winning all their matches barring a draw in one of the final stage matches. They won the Qualifying Swiss by 10vps and more emphatically scored 67.78 vps in the 6 -team round-robin final with the second-placed team scoring 46.28.

Then, Graham and Sandy continued on with 71% in the first of three rounds in the CD Marion Hill Open Main Centre Pairs and with more modest scores in the other two rounds, won that event by 8%.

They have played together for about three years. Sandy returned to bridge after a period away.

They bid aggressively and play their cards well as the hand illustrated in the following page from the Pairs demonstrated:



Board 5 ♠ Q J 3
 North Deals ♥ A 7 6
 None Vul ♦ J 2
 ♣ J 9 8 3 2

♠ A 9 8 7 ♥ K J 9 5 ♦ K 10 9 8 ♣ A		♠ K 10 ♥ 10 8 4 2 ♦ 7 5 ♣ K 7 6 5 4
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♠ 6 5 4 2
 ♥ Q 3
 ♦ A Q 6 4 3
 ♣ Q 10

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandy McKirdy</i>		<i>Graham Stronach</i>	
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

An aggressive but reasonable game. The lead was ♠5 which both the declarer and North players found a little hard to read. The key to this contract as in many cases is that declarer should not try and establish tricks in his own hand but set up dummy, using his own weaker trumps for ruffs and drawing trumps with those in the West hand.

Graham played the hand perfectly. He took the ♠J with the king and played a second spade to the ace. He could tell that the lead was not 4th highest as that would mean there were 6 cards higher than ♠5 (using the Rule of 11) in the West, North and East hands. There were 6 in the East-West hands alone and North had already contributed a 7th. It's a good rule, that one. So, Graham ruffed a third round of spades low in his hand and led a diamond from hand. South won the ace and returned a low diamond. Graham won, played ♣A, ruffed a diamond and discarded dummy's last diamond on the ♣K.

Only now did he attack trumps and with the favourable fall of the ♥Q, Graham had made an overtrick for 100% of the match-points.

They were the only pair to bid and make the heart game with only 3 out of 10 pairs in hearts making 11 tricks. *(Legitimately, the only ways for the defence to take three tricks is for South to lead either heart..yes, that's right from Q3...and either for North to duck the opening lead and then South to continue hearts when in with ♦A or if North played 2 rounds of hearts at tricks 1 and 2, South must duck the first diamond and North win the second round with ♦J to play a third round of hearts. Do you think at the 7 tables where less than 11 tricks were made that that either defence was found? I am more than a little doubtful!)*

Sandy and Graham only scored 92% on the next board for another slightly aggressive game contract (Wellingtonians do not play in 2NT!) and continued on their successful way. I can only reflect they choose different opponents to bid and play their hands against so well in the future!

Richard Solomon