

## May 2020 Newsletter

### President's Corner – Margaret Curnow

Greetings to you all from my Covid bunker:

Despite the limitations of lockdown, your committee has been very busy. We met through Zoom twice in April and brought May's meeting forward to Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. This has enabled us to ensure that our club remains in good heart and in good shape and that we will be ready to reopen as soon as it is possible.

Work has now started on the upgrade to the men's toilets – you can see from the photos on the next page how much demolition had to happen before the builder could actually start construction work.



Our members are playing lots of on-line bridge and our Club Teams initiative got off the ground in less than a week – thank you Bridget and Nebosja for organizing that. We also have a Teams initiative up and running for some of our newer members – more about that on page 2.

Our reopening plan is almost finalized – we just need to know what the advice and remaining restrictions will be once we move down from Alert Level 3, so that we can ensure we are complying with them. For safety, we will play teams not pairs, and it's not too soon to think about getting a team together. We are imagining that social distancing requirements will still be in place, so numbers will be limited. You can read more about this below.

Meanwhile I hope you are all managing with the constraints of lockdown. If you live alone make sure you talk to friends often, and if you live with others find ways to take breaks from each other. We all need time alone and time with friends – it's getting the balance right that's the challenge, particularly in this time of the coronavirus.

### Restart plan

With the government's plan to eliminate Covid-19 in Aotearoa nearing success, the committee's focus is on our restart plan.

This hinges on when we will emerge from Level 3 lockdown, which all going to script should happen mid-month. However, even at Level 2 it will be far from business as usual though we are expecting the club to reopen for limited live bridge. A draft plan, yet to be trialled by guinea pigs from the committee plus other volunteers, will involve putting four tables together, using both main rooms, in a teams' format. We have yet to finalise how contactless bidding will be done but blueprints have been formulated. We are

unable to follow the Club's published programme so the format will probably be similar to our successful online teams competition, a multi-grade event divided into sections such as "Kings" "Queens" and "Jacks" and while we will endeavour for you play on your preferred night, it may not be a given. We will keep you posted on the format once we have finalised it. To assist with organising, team pre-entries are encouraged - remember numbers will be limited.

Obviously, people who have coughs and colds will be asked not to come, even if a late withdrawal is at the cost of upsetting the teams format. Grade captains will be proactive in asking anyone with an obvious ailment to go home.

NZ Bridge will make a decision on whether our scheduled 10A tournament – the Wellington Regional Teams – will proceed as planned following the government announcement on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

### CORONA CHRONICLES



## Online Teams

WBC's online teams event played on BBO has proved popular with some 28 teams participating. Most teams have played their first round and many have played their second. And in a fantastic development, a junior member has started up a teams' event on BBO for newer players. They've been going since lockdown began and are doing really well.

## Online bridge for newbies – by Richard Gawith

To misquote the American actor Robin Williams “reality is just a crutch for people who can't play Bridge”.

Unfortunately when I did the bridge lessons at the club 2 years ago, (under Margaret & Anna's kind tutelage) I met some people, who I think, have become dangerously reliant on a regular bridge “hit”. To help them with their affliction, we have over the last few weeks, developed some Friday night bridge tables.

It is played on a table format over 2 rounds. The winning pair at each table advance to the next table and losing pair retreat one table. If you are at the top table at the end of the night, you get to start at the bottom table next week. Winners are determined by the IMPS score at the end of the round. We get Table Masters (TM's) to reserve a table for their allocated 2 pairs at the start of each round, then have a 15 minute break at half time. Same (or new) TM's do the same thing in the second round. We are also trying to upskill some Tuesday players by pairing them with Thursday players so eventually we can conquer....

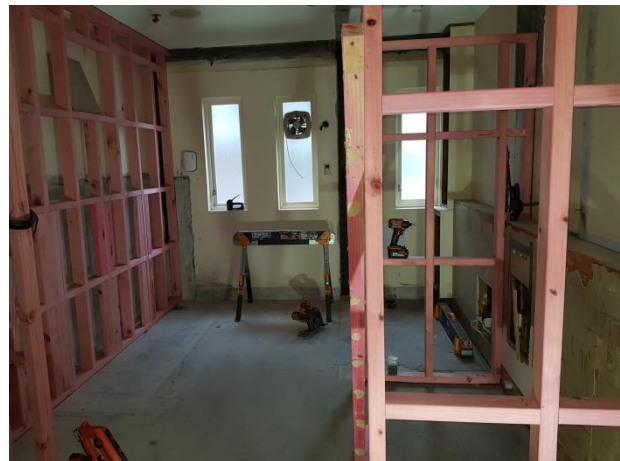
Some of the highlights so far.....people from strange lands are constantly wanting to become friends and try to jump on our tables....the battle of the “tea towel” is I predict likely to get perilous... It is quiet easy to bid 5clubs to your opponents 4NT (ace asking) when BBO keeps tossing players off the table. (it did though ended up being very effective interference) ...you can win & lose a game in seconds when IMPS changes its mind...the chat box at bottom of the screen is like an oxygen bottle to some people....

## Club finances

Clearly with no play, no table money, no bar takings, and some rent holidays given to our tenants and car parkers, the club's finances have been hit. However, Treasurer Donna Upchurch in an interim report to the committee noted that the club's financial position is still sound although of course we can expect a drop in our net assets at the end of the financial year. We are fortunate to have had some unsolicited donations to the club from members which are very much appreciated.

## Men's toilets upgrade

We have proceeded during the lockdown with planning and work on upgrading the men's toilets (work pictured below). This work has gone incredibly well and may even be finished before we exit Level 3.



## Online lessons

Alan Grant is conducting his beginner lessons programme using Zoom meetings in conjunction with NZ Bridge online lessons and Sky Bridge and all is going well. Reports from the 10 students are very positive.

## Director's corner by Sandy McKirdy – System Agreements

In describing your system or bids made, active ethics is encouraged. Your principle should be full disclosure, not as little as you must, but as much as you can, and as comprehensively as you can.

When asked what a bid means you need to provide a full explanation. This also means where you are unsure of your agreement in a particular situation, you should provide details of what your style is in similar situations. Eg You haven't discussed what a jump in a new suit would be, but without an intervening bid a jump in a new suit would be weak – you should tell the opposition about this style.

If you don't have an agreement or general style don't guess and say "I think it means ..." you are better to say "undiscussed". The opposition can make up their own mind or call the Director for guidance. But at least they are not making a decision based on misinformation. The Director may make the person who is unsure of their partner's bid leave the table while their partner explains their agreement. They don't have to say what they have – just what their agreement is or general style of bidding.

Tips:

- If you have explained your agreement and the opposition ask further questions you should call the Director. Saying too much may result in misinformation.
- Don't ask questions when there is no need, ie if you aren't considering bidding or opposition haven't altered a suit bid you can assume it's natural. If a bid hasn't been altered the Director will assess whether you have been damaged and rule accordingly – there are some exceptions eg if it's obvious to the class of player that a bid should have been alerted you can ask – the Director is unlikely to provide recourse where you should have known what the bid was. But avoid problems by alerting where you need to.
- Only ask questions about bidding when it is your turn to bid or play

Difference between misbid and misinformation:

Misbid is where someone makes a mistake and their bid doesn't match their agreement. It's part of the game and the opposition don't get any recourse. The person that made the mistake doesn't need to tell you although courtesy is that they tell you after the hand has been played.

Misinformation is where the bid made is correct but not described correctly (this includes failure to alert a bid). In this case you should inform the opposition:

- a) If you are defender – at the end of play (the Director should be called), or
- b) If you are declarer or dummy - before the opening lead is made (the Director should be called).

The Director will consider whether the misinformation has harmed the opposition and rule accordingly. It is possible for the Director to reopen the bidding (back two places from the final bid).

Please make sure you explain your agreements clearly and in full and if there are any issues call the Director.

That's just the thing, Tessa. Nothing has any meaning.  
We exist only through fluke and coincidence.  
Nap time isn't fair, because nothing is  
fair, because "fair" is our  
attempt to superimpose  
meaning on a universe  
emergent from random  
particle interaction.



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