

WBC News – February 2012

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ...

Dot's Farewell Cocktails and Dinner – Saturday 18 February 2012
Poppy Roberts Trophy Pairs 5A Tournament, first night Wednesday 22 February

Presidents Corner... Derek Snelling

We have just held our Open and Junior tournaments for this year and it was gratifying to see such a good turnout, 23 tables for the Open and 8 tables for the Junior. As usual our thanks to those members who supported the tournament in a non-playing capacity. Whilst we have tournaments for Open, Intermediate (July 29th) and Junior graded members there is a bit of a gap for players who have recently made Open status. A suggestion has been made that NZ should consider a category of "Restricted" players who would play in Open events but be able to win a graded category based on a "restricted" number of A points, such as they have in Australia. Please let us know if you think this idea has merit and we will consider approaching NZ Bridge.

We have circulated a questionnaire with this newsletter, hopefully to get feedback on a couple of issues but also to try and encourage members to give a little to your club in areas that you may have expertise. Please consider what you can offer in time or skills when filling it in.

As you will see we are looking for a new Treasurer and Auditor. Glynn Woodbury has been our auditor for a number of years and is standing down this year. Dayle Wilton is our current Treasurer but is moving in the near future. I'd like to thank Glynn and Dayle for their significant contributions to the club. Please let us know if you have the skill set to fill either of these roles. Both of them have a small honorarium associated with them.

We are looking forward to a very special evening this weekend when we celebrate Dot's retirement from the Club Manager's role. Last chances over the next few days to book a seat! Don't miss out on what will be a great night.

Bridget is settling in well to her role as our new Club Manager. Please make her welcome, although she is no stranger to many of us.

Fantastic numbers playing at our club so far this year!

First 2 weeks in February we've had 25 & 23 tables on Wednesday night and 28 & 26 tables on Thursday night. 28 tables was a bit of a feat with three tables in the foyer but our director Dean Sole coped admirably!

The surge in popularity brings to mind: [To quote the late, great Les Schneideman, for many years "Mr Bridge New Zealand", replying to a remark that Wellington would be one of the best bridge clubs in New Zealand. Les bridled and practically trumpeted "IT IS THE BEST BRIDGE CLUB IN NEW ZEALAND." Long may it remain so.](#)
[\[extracts from "Bridging Fifty Years: A history of the Wellington Bridge Club 1934-1984" by J.G. \(Woe\) Wilson.](#)

**** Next Saturday 18 February. Dot's Farewell Function**

Last reminder – tickets are still available for this "special" occasion.
Cocktails and canapés will be served 6-7pm - \$20 per person OR
Cocktails, Dinner & Wine - \$60 per person.
Inquiries please to Bridget Willcox, Club Manager.

**** Wednesday 22 February. Poppy Roberts Trophy Pairs 5A Tournament**

First night's competition commences on Wednesday 22 February and it's always a full house, so please arrive early and be seated by 7.20 pm. It is important to register your names on the notice board so our director can get a good idea of the seedings.

Schneideman Memorial Premier Teams start Wednesday 11 April ...

Now's the time to put your team together – remember you can invite members from other clubs to be part of your team. All players in your team must be registered on the notice board.

Congratulations Martin and Peter!

“Down Under” shine at the 2012 NEC Cup in Yokohama, Japan, 7-12 February



NEC Cup Winners

Peter Newell, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans, Martin Reid

46 teams lined up for the 17th running of the prestigious NEC Cup, including last year's convincing winners team NEDUK, the Hackett team from Great Britain, the Bulgarian All Stars, Oz Players led by Australian legend Ron Klinger, several really strong ladies teams from England, China, and Indonesia. There was also a team called Down Under consisting of Australian internationals Sartaj Hans and Tony Nunn and our own **Peter Newell and Martin Reid**.

There was a gruelling three days of Swiss Qualifying, 4 X 14 board matches starting at 10am local time and finishing at 8pm each day. That's eight hours of bridge per day against tough opposition. At the end of the qualifying, Down Under had just made the top 8 thanks to a big 22-8 win in the last round. Two other teams were tied for 9th on 197 so it was extremely close.

We were lucky enough to see Martin and Peter in live action on BBO Vugraph in the qualifying rounds. They have been playing together for many years and play a very aggressive and complicated system consisting of light transfer openings and a 14+ “strong Club”. Watching them live, you marvel at the accuracy of both their bidding and defence.

In the knockout quarter final, Down Under had to play the top qualifier from China whom they beat by 81-54 over 32 boards. On to the semi final where they faced the 2nd qualifier from Japan, and won 79-49. In the other semi, the Bulgarian All Stars (who had knocked out Oz Players) narrowly accounted for NEDUK by 74.5-62.

So on to the dramatic 64 board final. Four segments of 16 boards, with the Bulgarians 34-19 then Down Under 36-18 to make it 54-53 to Down Under at half time. In the 3rd set Down Under by 41-20 and in the final set 28-27 to leave Down Under with the US\$12,000 prize check and the trophy. There is also an excellent daily bulletin produced which is available on the web site: <http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home///tabid/223/Default.aspx> **Gary Hanna**

[Thank you Martin and Peter for giving us the very exciting Vugraph sessions. One Aussie commentator said: “This win shows what can happen when our 2 countries put their greatest assets together”. Ed]

** Extract from bulletin describing the “Down Under” team: Also from Oz, Sartaj Hans and Tony Nunn return accompanied by New Zealanders **Martin Reid**, who last played here in 1996 (just couldn't stay away, eh?), and NEC newcomer **Peter Newell**. The Kiwi pair narrowly missed qualifying for the quarter-finals in Veldhoven.

Our Open / Junior Tournament – last weekend

Again, playing numbers at our tournament on Sunday must have been top for the last few years. 8 tables of Juniors and 23 tables for the Open. Thank you to Suzanne Duncan who directed the Junior tournament in the Motorway Room. Congratulations to the prizewinners:

- 1 **Timothy Grant & Brendan Maxwell**
- 2 **Margot Brough and Jim Brough**
- 3 **Gillian Travers and Judith Waldvogel**

Thank you to Allan Joseph who directed the Open room. Thank you to our Committee members and to the many helpers during the day for another successful and enjoyable tournament.

Congratulations to the prizewinners – 1st, 2nd and 3rd within a whisker of each other!

1	Ray Gruschow and Graeme Norman	57.61
2	Michael Gibson and Janet Woodfield	57.39
3	Stephen Henry and Annette Henry	57.16
4	Judith Johnson and James Li	56.36

News from our Chief Bridge Director

Hi all, as Chief Bridge Director for the club my first role was to organise directors for each of the sessions for the year. I was pleased to find there were more than sufficient willing directors thanks largely to the new director training Allan Joseph has undertaken over the last few years. Allan is planning more training this year for new directors or those who want to undertake the Tournament Directors exam. We have 21 directors for the three nights and the Friday afternoon session. The new directors will be coming up to speed with the organisation of the session as well as learning how to quickly and accurately provide rulings to assist in running a smooth session of bridge for you all.

It's good to see the number of players coming along to sessions for the year. The first round of the Neal Salver with 28 tables caught us out. With only one director for the night and not having the bridge scoring system programmed to run two Boards a round for 28 tables meant we reverted to one Board a round. We have now added the ability to handle two boards a round for 28 and 29 tables with only one director. For the known bigger competitions (Poppy Roberts on Wednesday) we roster two directors to run separate sections for the night in separate rooms.

With larger playing numbers it is likely the directors will become stricter on players being seated by 7.20pm. Whilst the last thing we want to do is not allow anyone to play, we do need to ensure a timely start to the night's session.

Kevin Walker

Beginners Lessons commence tonight, Tuesday 14 February

We have 30 new students enrolled.

Welcome to New Members ...

Helen Shaw, Kim Minot, Ann Weston, James Murray, Walt Davis, Lesley Knight

The Foxes get Outfoxed...

Many of us will have moments of anguish when we have to play top players on our various club nights or at tournaments and you think for certain you will get a bad board. Maybe a little prayer in teams “*please don’t give me any points, please don’t make me declarer, please don’t let me be on lead!*” Or when playing much better opps in pairs you say to yourself “*just bid correctly, don’t do anything really stupid and disgrace yourself - aim for a 50/50 board*”. So when something GOOD happens to you v the top players this is a huge confidence boost.

At the recent Finale of the French National Teams Event in January 2012, check out Board 9.

http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?linurl=http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/vugraph_linfetch.php?id=21822

N/S are No.1 & 2 in the world and even they with all their magic, wisdom and experience can have a bad board and this can be really bad. North opened 1♥. Some would pass with the East hand rather than bid 2♦. However East was not one of those and he bid 2♦. South passed because he didn’t have the points to bid but thought he will come in later. West bids 4♦ - shows a good hand and has at least 4 of his partner’s suit - bit of an overbid but they were playing against No.1 & 2 in the world so West figured let’s be a bit aggressive. North x for takeout and East xx saying I have a very good hand. South, knowing his partner has suits other than ♦’s (because of his x) confidently bid 4♣. The auction continued P, P and East bid 5♦. South, from both a greedy and logical standpoint, bid 5♣. This is passed round to East who doesn’t know who is lying and who is telling the truth, and elected to believe his partner and bid 6♦. Passed round to North who x. South is thinking about what to lead. He knows his partner has suits other than ♦’s but what he didn’t know was the opps had more ♣s than they did. Most players would lead either a trump or a heart but South in his wisdom is trying to be clever (“the Fox”) and leads 9♣. This made it very easy for E/W to chalk up 6♦x for +1540. That cost N/S 17imps and the turning point in the game [5♦-1 at the other table with J♥ lead]. Fantoni and Nunes (Zimmermann team) never recovered and lost the match.

Moral of the story: You should never worry who you are playing against – let things happen!

There are a lot of good players and look what happens to them.

[Many thanks to Daman on BBO who watched the hand and described the play. Ed]

D		N FANTONI		W N E S			
9		♠ Q975		1♥	2♦	P	
		♥ KQ976		4♦	X	XX	4♣
		♦		P	P	5♦	5♠
		♣ AK54		P	P	6♦	P
W LEVY		S NUNES		E MARI			
♠ J		♠ A108632		♠ K4			
♥ 32		♥ J		♥ A10854			
♦ Q1043		♦ J92		♦ AK8765			
♣ QJ10832		♣ 976		♣			
Other table: 5♦E-1				6♦x E NS: 0 EW: 0			
NS: Zimmermann 117 IMPs							
EW: Laffineur 142 IMPs							

Here's a hand where you have to trust your partner and be in tune with him/her!

B - 17th NEC CUP Qualifying - Round3 - Mozilla Firefox																										
http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?linurl=http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/vugraph_infetch.php?id=21889																										
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One more hand from BBO Vugraph. Round 3, NEC Cup Qualifying – 7 February 2012

Board 2. McGann and Hanlon gained 15 imps on this hand – both passed partners yet they bid and made 5♦x for +550 and scooped up 4♠+1 + 650 from their team mates.

LOST PROPERTY: *Please check the office and pick up your clothing.*

Lost or strayed : *Pink Stole missing from Club after last Sunday's Tournament*

If you mistakenly picked up a pretty pink stole which had been on a hanger in the Ladies Cloakroom all day during the tournament on Sunday, could you please return it to the Club Manager.

Results from Recent Tournaments

Congratulations to the Winners of the SBS Teams at the Tauranga Mini Congress: **Alan Grant**, Alan Turner, Grant Jarvis & **Karl Hayes**

[Please let us know about your results at tournaments this year. Don't be shy! Ed]

**Subscriptions are now due. 82% have paid.
A reminder letter was posted recently.**

Playing Numbers

The following are comparative figures for the calendar year to date:

Jan 2012	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Total
2005	98	166	238		502
2006	84	188	252	0	524
2007	162	294	328	22	806
2008	136	328	290	28	782
2009	140	244	258	28	670
2010	156	252	264	32	704
2011	124	288	288	34	734
2012	140	338	316	86	880

2012 Interprovincial Trials – Preliminary Notice

Venue: Victoria Bridge Club, 112 Tinakori Road, Thorndon

Date: Sunday 27 May, 2012

NB: Saturday May 26 will be used only for the grade/grades in which the number of teams entered, will require more playing rounds.

Format: **Four Person Teams for all grades** NB. Pair entries will be accepted to form extra teams if practical, & at the Regional Committee's discretion, to balance playing formats of entries in any of the divisions.

Grades: **Open:** All

Senior: Players who are 60 years old or more, or who will reach their 60th birthday during 2012.

Women: All

Intermediate: Players with a 2012 intermediate grading certificate

Closing date: Friday 15 May, 2012

Results from Club Nights

Tuesday Night – Watts Jug Ladder

1st Mike Murtagh

2nd Paul Devadatta

Wednesday Night – Young Cup Pairs

1st Nigel Kearney & Anthony Ker

2nd Stephen and Annette Henry

Thursday Night – Alder Cup Ladder

1st Sushila Kumar

2nd Vivienne Cannell

Congratulations to you All