

WBC News – December 2012



Season's Greetings

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ...

Suzanne Duncan 5A Pairs Tournament, evenings of 27, 28 and 29 December. Entries on notice board please.
Wellington Open/Junior Tournament – Sunday 10 February 2013

President's Corner... Kevin Walker

We have recently received a report on the state of the building. This has highlighted significant work particularly on the roof and gutter area needs to be undertaken in the next year or so. The cost of this work is estimated to be over \$50,000. The work will require scaffolding to be erected and therefore most of the work required will be undertaken at one time. Given that the building is our major asset we will likely go ahead with the work sometime later next year.

While the club has some funds, they are unlikely to be sufficient to undertake all the work necessary. We will therefore be applying for grant money to allow the work to be undertaken.

You will also notice we have installed new heating (and cooling) systems in the main playing room. Given the building report the committee considered whether to defer this expenditure, but decided that player comfort was as important and that the heating/cooling issue needed to be addressed.

We have had a very successful year with record attendances on some nights. I hope you have all enjoyed your bridge this year and are looking forward to a successful 2013. Thanks for your support for the quiz evening held recently that raised over \$3000 for the purchase of a defibrillator.

On behalf of the committee and myself I wish you a very merry Christmas and enjoyable New Year.

Congratulations Poppy Roberts Trophy Winners



Peter Newell & Martin Reid with Kevin Walker

Wednesday 21 November was the final night for the 22 pairs at the top of this ladder. Those of us in the Plate were surprised to arrive at normal start time to see a purple hue in the room reflecting from the overhead projector with players in the Final deep in concentration after their earlier start at 7pm. Results of each round were screened on the wall, there was a definite tournament atmosphere, and results were out in minutes. Kevin Walker announced the winners of the Plate, Barbara Daly and Lynn Mansfield, and presented the trophies to the overall winners of the Poppy Roberts Trophy, Peter Newell and Martin Reid. Overall a very popular and successful tournament during 2012 with an average of 31 tables during the year. Many thanks to Allan Joseph, our director, and his helpers. Well done team!

Results were: Final: **1 Peter Newell, Martin Reid; 2 Alan Grant, Anthony Ker; 3 Stephen Blackstock, Stephen Henry**
Plate: **1 Barbara Daly; Lynn Mansfield; 2 Cemal Baktas, Diana Dobbinson; 3 Chris Bolland, Anna Herries**

Christmas Cheer

We had 22 tables – numbers a little down this year but lots of Christmas spirit – and visitors from Palmerston North, Levin and the Wairarapa. The Christmas Cheer is a real team effort from not only our committee but from our members either helping out in the kitchen, organising the raffle, ordering the prizes, taking the entries and working the bar. We do appreciate your help, thank you. Thank you also to Turei and Christine Haronga who did a great job with the Christmas decorations. Special thanks to our friendly director, Allan Joseph, and to Bruce Ivamy who previously had sorted the players' grades and made various appearances during the day to finalise the prizewinners. A great team effort as always.



Hayley, Margie, John, Debbie & Jane

Congratulations to the prizewinners and special mention to Hayley Fenwick and Clinton Scott (both graded 2 at our club) who came 3rd overall. They scored a fantastic 67.50% in the morning session plus (do you think) Hayley's stunning Christmassy red dress could well have contributed to their excellent result? Well done and this should be very encouraging to our Junior players to enter the Christmas Cheer next year.

Prizewinners were as follows:

- 1 Pat D'arcy & James Li; 2 Vivienne Cannell & Maureen Pratchett;
 - 3 Haley Fenwick & Clinton Scott;
 - 4 Russell Dive & Anthony Ker
- Open & Intermediate (**Ann Tyrrie & Jennifer Jenner**)
Intermediate & Intermediate (**Mhairi Smith & Helen Fitzgerald**)
Intermediate & Junior (**Kerry Geertson & Mira Trifunovic**)
Session Prize (**Sophie Atkin & Ross Craig**).

Tony Sutich, on behalf of the Wellington Regional Committee, welcomed players and after play presented trophies for interclub and to players with most points in each grade during 2012.

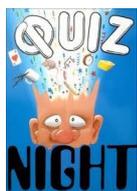
Congratulations to the Wellington 1 Team, captained by Annette Henry on winning the Open Championship (Peter Newell excused himself from his duties as barman to collect the cup on behalf of his team); and to the Wellington 2 Intermediate Team captained by Steven Coulter on winning the Intermediate Championship. **Alan Grant** won the Open Grade (again), **Sue Johnstone** won the Intermediate Grade and **Jim & Margot Brough** were the junior champions.



Pat and James



Clinton and Hayley



Quiz Night – Friday 30 November 2012

Hey this was a great night and we've had lots of requests for another one next year! Dean Sole is the true professional quiz master and our huge thanks for his efforts with the 8 rounds of questions. Gordon McBride is a practised MC, loves talking, doesn't require the room to listen to his every word, and pushes the show along. Ruth Gilmore – we needed two "Ruths" - worked tirelessly marking the questions and Pat D'arcy did a great job running the busy bar. Thank you to Susan Laurenson for her popular Gold Coin question round – that was fun. A big thank you to you all. And last but not least, thank you to Bridget Willcox for putting the quiz together – gathering the entry fees, organising tables, and buying the supper food. We had fantastic support from our club members who attended and/or bought raffle tickets.

Brad Tattersfield writes: Lots of laughs were had at the recent Quiz Night – and perhaps a club member's life might be saved one day as a result. Around **\$3,150.00** was raised towards a club defibrillator, a worthy investment for us given our demographic! The main playing room was packed and competition between the teams was tight – thanks once again to chief quizmaster Dean Sole for his excellent questions. Our regular quiz night MC, Gordon McBride, also did a superb job, interspersing the question rounds with banter and fun activities. The paper dart throwing was popular and hotly contested, winner Karl Hayes displaying previously unknown aeronautical skills. Congratulations to the winning quiz team captained by Eric Frykberg, Martyn Rew's team was 2nd and "The Chesnuts" (Chess Club) were 3rd.



The winning team, "Pole Position"



Quiz Master, Dean Sole

Suzanne Duncan 5A Pairs Tournament – December

This is a very popular tournament on the evenings of Thursday 27th, Friday 28th and Saturday 29th December starting at 7.30pm. You can play all the nights, or only one or two nights depending on your holiday plans. It would be good if you could enter your names on the notice board so we can prepare the player lists, but please do come along if you decide you are free for one of the nights.

Ticket books – 10 playing nights for \$70

Reminder: new books with adjusted \$7 table money are available. A good little Christmas gift for your bridge partner.

2013 Subscription Notices – Your subs are due now.

Here's a hand from San Francisco – Fall 2012 North American Bridge Championships ...

A big one

In a knockout teams on Friday, NABC Tournament Chairman Jim Leuker picked up the kind of deal that gives the computer a bad name. This one, however, was dealt by people – and it was a monster.

Dir: East	♠ AKQ83		
Vul: Both	♥ AKQ87643		
	♦ —		
	♣ —		
	♠ 1062		♠ J9754
	♥ 9		♥ 2
	♦ AQ10943		♦ 72
	♣ AKQ		♣ J10974
	♠ —		
	♥ J105		
	♦ KJ865		
	♣ 86532		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	7♥	All Pass	

Leuker, North, didn't mess around after West opened the bidding in third seat. West, with what looked like three and a half quick tricks, did well not to double. There was nothing to the play, and plus 2210 was good for 13 IMPs to Leuker's team because the apparently pessimistic North at the other table stopped in 6♣.

Bridge Big launched

Bridge players may regret that poker has ended up as today's media darling with a reputation as the game for adrenaline-junkie card players. But in the last few weeks, more than 2000 bridge players from Norway to India have been playing online duplicate "cash games" for poker-style stakes, including a table where winnings or losses can top €100 (\$130) on each board.

Rubber bridge, a form of contract bridge often played for money, long dominated card tables around the world. Although low-stakes money tournaments and friendly penny games can still be found in a few clubs and on a handful of websites, big-money bridge is inaccessible to most of the world's estimated 50 million players.

Netherlands-based Bridge Big is the first to combine "the high-stakes cash and 24/7 access of online poker with everything we love about bridge," according to CEO Rene de Waele. In their new cash games, IMP scores translate to cash stakes; and with beginning stakes of €0.20, €1, and €5, the amounts changing hands quickly becomes exciting. Cash games are scored and paid out after each deal, ensuring the full attention of players whether they play one board or 40.

"I think I was more excited as a player than as a business owner when our first €5 table filled up and the bidding started," says de Waele, an avid bridge player who holds the title of Dutch Student Champion 2005, among others. "This is the game I've been dreaming of playing since I first put a few euros on the table on a poker site."

All games are individual and anonymous.

More than 5000 cash games have been played since the Nov. 14 launch of Bridge Big. Visit bridgebig.com to learn more.



Playing Numbers

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

November	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	TOTAL
2008-2009	950	1132	1168	400	3650
2009-2010	1166	1414	1374	590	4544
2010-2011	1048	1436	1308	616	4408
2011-2012	1008	1558	1530	638	4734
2012-2013	964	1618	1664	658	4904

Reminder: Visitor's Day – this Friday 14 December at 1 pm

We look forward to hosting our annual Friday Visitors afternoon this week.

Please note some changes this year:

Visitors play for free; Members please bring a plate; Cash bar during the afternoon.

New Heat Pumps

Have you noticed our new heaters/air conditioners? We have purchased 4 for the Main Playing room and hopefully our heating problems are over. **Please please do not touch the controls.** We realise there will be a "bedding in" period to find a comfortable temperature in our room, but this should be rectified pretty soon.

Grade Captains for 2013

Thank you to our grade captains this year, Phillipa Ballard (Tuesday), Karl Hayes (Wednesday), Jenni Borren (Thursday) and Barbara Allen and Michael Stride who help out on Friday. Next year, Judy Mallalieu is Grade Captain for Tuesday; Karl Hayes & Debbie McLeod will share Wednesdays, and Jenni Borren, an expert in quelling the noise on the busy Thursday nights, has consented to be grade captain again for 2013.

Our New Website...

Over the past few weeks, Maureen Pratchett and Fiona Palmer have been working on developing a new website. This is nearing completion and Maureen will preview it to any interested members this Saturday 15 December at 9am at the Club.

We are hoping to implement this to coincide with the start of the new bridge year.

The new website includes the facility for a much greater level of detail on the hands that have been played and the contracts made. To get the most value from this analysis, starting in the new year it will be standard practice to enter not only the contracts and results on the Bridgepad, but also the lead that was made.

[Very exciting news - at last! A new website has been one of the committee's goals for at least the last 5 years and now it's a happening thing thanks to the wonderful efforts of Maureen and Fiona. A sneak preview of the website shows an interesting Home Page with attractive layout, it has content that is easy to navigate and Maureen assures us it will be easy to implement regular updates. Congratulations Maureen and Fiona! **Ed**]

Results from Tournaments - Congratulations!

Palmerston North Christmas Cheer 1 Stephen Blackstock & Alister Stuck 2 Judith Jackson & Janet McMenamin
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News from NZ Bridge – December Newsletter

Rating Points

Analysis of 2012 Grade Data presented at the August Regional Conference and the 2012 NZ Bridge AGM demonstrated a significant imbalance within the grades especially of players Local Master 5* and above who were still classified as Intermediate Grade Players.

As from 1st January 2013 new Grade Change Trigger points, detailed below, will be introduced to address this issue.

Open Player Grade

■ Local Master 0* – 4* & 100+ Rating Points ; **or** Local Master 5* & above ; **or** Provincial Master or higher Rank

Intermediate Player Grade

■ Club Master or lower Rank & 30 or less Rating Points but 5+A Points; **or** Club Master or lower Rank with more than 30 Rating Points; **or** Local Master 0* to 4* & 0 – 100 Rating Points

Junior Player Grade

■ Club Master or lower Rank & 30 or less Rating Points & less than 5A Points



Fun at the Quiz night



Club Results – November

Tuesday - Thorndon Trophy Handicap

1st Eirlys Hunter & Laurence Millar

2nd Devin Kilminster & Adele Weston

Friday - Summer Pairs

1st Barbara Allen & Sushila Kumar

2nd Shirley Green & Brian Meads

Thursday - Robson Cup Teams

1st Anthea Black, Steven Coulter, Jane Windle & Ross Craig

2nd Vivienne Cannell, Clinton Scott, Andrew Cushnie & Paul Cushnie.



My thanks to all who contributed to articles, photographs, bridge hands etc for the newsletter this year. It is heartening to receive so much support and enthusiasm from our members. Happy Christmas and Safe Travelling. Ed