

## **WBC News – January 2013**

**Happy New Year and Welcome Back**

**Good Luck to those playing in Canberra**

### **PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ...**

Wellington Open/Junior Tournament – Sunday 10 February 2013

Poppy Roberts Trophy Pairs 5A Tournament, first night Wednesday 20 February 2013

### **Presidents Corner... Kevin Walker**

Welcome back for another great year of bridge. It has been a good start to the year with around 20 tables on both Wednesday and Thursday nights for the first week.

Hopefully many of you will have viewed our new website, thanks to Maureen Pratchett and Fiona Palmer for putting this together over the Christmas period.

At the next monthly meeting the committee will be looking at ways to encourage new and junior players in the game of bridge. We will be looking at ways to help improve your bridge and the enjoyment of the game. If any club members have any ideas please discuss with a committee member or Bridget.

Coming up on 10 February is the club junior tournament at our club rooms. For all you newer and junior players this is an ideal opportunity to have a go at tournament play. The club open tournament will be on the same day so we are looking forward to many club members playing.

### ***New Website***

We hope you are enjoying the new website. As mentioned in our December newsletter, a huge thank you to Maureen Pratchett for cracking the whip and seeing the new website through to completion.

**NB** When you load the new website using your favourite link, if you get a part page of the old website along with a 404 error this may be because your browser is using the old address which it has already saved in its memory. You may be able to clear this by holding the CTRL key and hitting F5. Then try to reload using your link. If this does not work, you can try to clear the memory cache yourself using your browser tools menu. If you don't know how to do this, email or call Maureen Pratchett and she will give you the steps. It will be helpful if you can tell her what browser you are using (eg Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, etc.).

### ***Schneideman Memorial Premier Teams Final***

Congratulations to the four finalist teams, and specially to the winning Grant Team, **Alan Grant, Anthony Ker, Nigel Kearney and Charlie Cahn.**

1st Grant Team; 2nd Blackstock Team; 3rd Gruschow Team; 4th Thompson Team

Schneideman Memorial Premier Plate: 1st Heather Jared & Warren Johnson; 2nd James Li & Mindy Wu;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Barbara Daly & Eleanor Morel

### ***Congratulations to winners of the Points Cups for 2012***

A Grade: Stephen Henry

A Reserve: Vivienne Cannell

B Grade: Pauline Murtagh

Friday afternoon: Barbara Allen

Olly Lenart Trophy (most promising beginner): Grace Miller

## ***Suzanne Duncan Memorial Pairs Tournament***



James Li and Tony Lenart

Once again we enjoyed hosting this tournament to members and visitors, and it's great to see so many of our out of town visitors making this tournament a regular fixture in their Christmas holiday break. Thank you to Alan Joseph who directed the three nights' play, thank you to sponsors Morrison Kent Lawyers, and thank you to our members and committee who helped in so many ways to ensure the tournament ran smoothly. Our new heat pumps/air conditioning system was put to the test and successfully kept the room at a comfortable temperature – certainly was good timing in light of the hot weather to have had the new equipment installed.

Congratulations to the prize-winners and a close finish for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>:

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>James Li and Tony Lenart</b>	(60.98%)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Alan Grant and Nigel Kearney</b>	(60.22%)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Wayne Burrows and Amy Thompson</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Margie Michael and Mark Rowe</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Stephen and Annette Henry</b>	

## ***Roy Kerr To be Granted Prestigious Award***

**Rex Benson** writes: The Canterbury University emeritus professor and past Nobel Prize nominee Roy Kerr has been awarded the Einstein Medal, to be presented in Switzerland in May. He is the only New Zealander to receive this prestigious medal. Roy was John Wignall's bridge partner for a number of years, and represented New Zealand internationally in the Bermuda Bowl World Championships in 1974, the Olympiad in 1976, and in Zonal events. In addition, Roy co-developed (with Paul Marston) the Symmetric Relay bidding system. Roy is noted for his groundbreaking work on the mathematics of rotating black holes, and all that other stuff that makes our heads hurt. The timing of the award is significant as Roy's seminal work in this field was achieved in 1963, fifty years ago.

**Alan Grant** adds:

I recall Roy Kerr who was my stage 3 mathematical methods lecturer at Canterbury University in 1974. He was highly regarded as a specialist in mathematical physics and had a reputation of being one of very few in the world who properly understood Einstein's theory of general relativity. Although he retired from his professor's job at Canterbury in 1993, he occasionally returns for guest lectures, one of which was attended by my youngest son while studying Astrophysics a couple of years ago.

Later on in my life from 1974, which is coincidentally when a group of friends and I first started to learn bridge, I became more interested in bridge systems. In the 1980's I took an interest in more sophisticated bidding methods and because it was out of print I managed to obtain a photocopy of Roy's famous "Blue Book", describing how the symmetric relay system worked. From this book I learnt and played the symmetric system, and including variations, continued using the system for several years. I found it fascinating that using symmetric methods, it is possible for responder to exactly describe about 98% of hand shapes between an opening 1C and 3NT. Symmetric bidding methods developed by Roy and Paul Marston (or adaptations based on these) now form the basis for almost all accurate relay bidding systems. So Roy Kerr is not only famous for his mathematical physics knowledge, but also as an inventor of the symmetric relay.

## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Visitors Day

A great turn out with 13 tables and eight visitors to the club. Fabulous fare, our players each bought a plate of scrummy Christmas treats. The day provided some interesting bridge with some interesting characters. A memorable board for one pair, how on earth did they reach the contract of 4Sxx. This was before they started on the wine!



### Bridge NZ

Club: Wellington Bridge Club  
 Event: Visitors Day  
 Date: 14/12/2012  
 Time: Afternoon  
 Section: Black

[Help](#)

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Board No: 20									
NS	EW	Contract	By	Lead	Result	Score		MP	
						NS	EW	NS	EW
1	6	3 N	E	2S	-2	200		18	6
2	8	2 H	N	4S	-3		300	1	23
3	10	1 N	N	JH	-1		100	14	10
4	12	3 H	N	QD	-3		300	1	23
5	14	2 N	W	JS	+1		150	6	18
6	2	1 N	E	7S	-2	200		18	6
7	4	3 H	N	2C	-2		200	4	20
8	7	2 N	E	6H	=		120	9	15
9	9	4 S xx	E	6H	-3	1600		24	0
10	11	3 H	W	AC	-3	300		22	2
11	13	2 S	W	AH	=		110	12	12
12	1	2 N	W	7S	=		120	9	15
13	3	3 N x	E	9D	-1	200		18	6

Click on: Pair Number for personal scores

Board:	20	♠JT
Dealer:	W	♥AK975
Vul:	All	♦T8
		♣AKJ7
	♠-AK86	♠-Q94
	♥-QT83	♥-J2
	♦-AK7	♦-QJ42
	♣-QT	♣-9432
	♠7532	
	♥64	
	♦9653	
	♣865	

♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N				
S				
E				
W				

Output generated from NZ Scorer

[Recent changes](#)

The visitors were beaten on the day by some of our Friday regulars.

North South	Alex Drummond and Max Wigbout	57.74
East West	Barbara Allen and Michael Stride	57.85

### \*\* Beginners Lessons for 2013 \*\*

**Now's the time to spread the word and/or put up a flyer on your notice board at work.**

Please print off a flyer or two from our website. Alan Grant will again be taking the lessons. There will be "Free" Mini Bridge Lessons...this is the first three weeks 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> March then for those who wish to continue with the actual lessons, the fee is \$70.

### We need your help please!

We need one or two people to assist Alan Grant on a Tuesday evening from 7.15pm to 10pm (from 19 February) taking registrations and collecting the payments; help setting up the tables and boards, filling in at a table if there are an uneven number of beginners; assisting with any queries whilst the beginners are playing practise hands.

Sunday 10 February - Open Junior tournament: we need help in the kitchen during the morning, cleaning up cups during the afternoon; and 2 people to prepare the supper say approx 4pm.  
 Please contact Bridget Willcox if you can help – much appreciated.

## Directors Corner - Maureen Pratchett

### The problem with Hesitation

This is one of the best explanations I have read of the problems generated when a person hesitates (or breaks their normal tempo, or thinks too long). It is from the book *Dormer on Deduction* by Albert Dormer, published 1995.

*“Most ethical problems in bridge arise from a paradox. There is not much point to a cerebral game unless you are allowed to stop and think from time to time, but when you do, the other players may be able to work out what you are thinking about. For opponents to do this is perfectly alright, but for one’s partner to interpret one’s hesitation is distinctly not comme il faut.*

*The principle is clear, but to apply it requires the erection of a notional barrier to the passage of information. Human nature being what it is, we all think we are good at this – but many of us are wrong.*

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
<i>1S</i>	<i>pass</i>	<i>2S</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>North-South are vulnerable and East-West are 60 below. South holds:</i>
				<i>S: K4</i>
				<i>H: Q1053</i>
				<i>D: AQJ</i>
				<i>C: J92</i>

*Most players would regard a double as much too risky, even though East may have scraped up a raise on the smell of an oil rag. But suppose that over 1S, North’s pass was made less than smoothly. This transforms the situation. Whatever form of action he may have been contemplating, a double is now risk free. If the Chinese wall is solid, South will still pass despite the break in tempo. This is just ordinary honesty, like not robbing a bank. Still it is surprising how often a normally-timid bidder will become lion-hearted in such a situation.*

*Now take a thruster who knows that, left alone, he might well have risked a double if in the mood. This player should also pass, because scrupulousness insists that when ‘improper information’ has been transmitted, the recipient should go out of his way not to profit. But now, a certain largeness of spirit is required.*

*Finally, a player who is satisfied in his own mind that he would have doubled, huddle or no huddle, Chinese wall or not, may see no reason why he should be stopped by his partners break in tempo. This player has my sympathy; his stance is within the spirit and letter or Proprieties. But he should expect a hard time if he takes this line when playing in tournaments. Competitiveness and the almost obsessive pursuit of ethical uniformity have led to a regulatory code that is loaded against a player – more accurately, against the partner of a player – who hesitates.”*



### Lost Property

Lost or strayed? Last February one of our regular club members had a lovely pink stole taken from the Ladies Cloakroom after a tournament. Last Wednesday night, the same club member had another stole taken from the Ladies Cloakroom. If you picked this up by mistake, please return it to the Ladies Cloakroom or the Office.

**Welcome to our new members...** Jenny Coulter, Aleksa Djorovic, Sandra Coleman



**Call for Nominations** for the election of two members to the Board of New Zealand Bridge. Nominations must be received by 3pm on 14 February 2013. Inquiries if you are interested please to Bridget Willcox.

## 31 December 2012 414 Total Membership

Associate Members	25	Friday Members	21
Life Members	5	New Members	24
Members	335	Youth Members	5

323 members with Wellington as their home Club. Subscriptions 67% PAID.

### **Reminders:**

#### **\*\* Sunday 10 February. Open / Junior Tournament**

Start the New Year with our popular Open Pairs tournament and good practise too for players going to the Gold Coast later in February.

Junior Pairs Tournament - calling all Juniors – this could be your first ever tournament and a great opportunity to play in your home tournament with players you see most Tuesday nights. Entries on the notice board / website please.

#### **\*\* Wednesday 20 February. Poppy Roberts Trophy Pairs 5A Tournament**

First night's competition commences on Wednesday 20 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/website so our director can get a good idea of the seeding.

### **Reminder Please**

Subscriptions were due by 1st January 2013

### **Results from December 2012:**

<p>TUESDAY: Committee Cup Pairs 1<sup>st</sup> Lee Walker and Devin Kilminster 2<sup>nd</sup> Haley Fenwick and Pauline Murtagh</p>	<p>THURSDAY: Summer Pairs 1st Hilary Patton and Michael Cox 2<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Allen and Anthea Black</p>
<p>FRIDAY: Gladys Taylor Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Janet McMenamin and Ann Tyrie 2<sup>nd</sup> Roy Tugwell and Elicia Gold</p>	<p>FRIDAY: Summer Pairs 1<sup>st</sup> Barbara Allen and Sushila Kumar 2<sup>nd</sup> Shirley Green and Brian Meads</p>

**From the Editor:** Another big year ahead of us, so please feel free at any time to send me or Bridget your interesting bridge hands, snippets of goss, photos, results from tournaments you've played in – write-ups from say Canberra, Gold Coast congresses – you know what we enjoy reading. We have a faithful little band of contributors at various times and this is much appreciated. **Jenny Delany**