

WBC News – February 2013

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ...

Poppy Roberts Trophy Pairs 5A Tournament, first night Wednesday 20 February 2013
Interclub – entries close Friday 8 March 2013.

Presidents Corner... this month from the ex-President

Kevin's away this month so it's me again!

We've had further discussions regarding efforts to maintain the confidence of new players coming through the Tuesday night sessions. One of the suggested options was to create a "Multigrade" event on a Tuesday night with the requirement that each pair had to consist of a Grade 2 player with a grade 3 or 4 player. This of course would mean that we would need as many "volunteers" from the 3 and 4 grades to partner all of the potential Tuesday night players, could be a very full room!

We are currently thinking of proceeding with this at the end of July for the Capital Cup Pairs. Please give some feedback to the Committee if you have views on this proposal, both from a Tuesday player and a Wednesday/Thursday player perspective.

New Zealand Bridge have decided to remove the Interprovincial Championships from its current date of pre National Congress and they have seen fit to bestow the honour of running the first of this new format at our club. I think this is testament to the confidence that NZ Bridge has in our club and the tournament organising mechanism that exists here. However this will be a three day event with around 150 players involved. We will be setting up a specific subcommittee to oversee the running of this event.

One final issue – we are missing a set of keys! If you have these in your possession could you return them to Bridget ASAP, otherwise we will be needing to do a whole new set of locks etc. **Derek Snelling**



Interprovincials 2013

New Zealand Bridge has announced major changes to the Interprovincials 2013.

The IPs have been separated from the National Congress in Hamilton. They will be held as a separate event in Wellington at the Wellington Bridge Club from 2 pm 29 November to 4 pm 1 December 2013. Each region will participate via 4 person teams in each category: Open, Womens, Seniors, Intermediate, Junior and Youth. Each 4 person team will have a designated player captain. The teams in each region will be accompanied and managed by one Chef de Mission.

The format will be 2 complete round robins of 12 board matches with each of the 7 regional teams having a bye in each round. There will be no finals.

Because of the impossibility of rescheduling the Wellington Regional Trials, these will go ahead as planned on the **weekend of 25-26 May**. The format for these will follow shortly.

[The IP's weekend at our club will undoubtedly be the largest gathering we have hosted – approximately 150 plus players, managers etc. The committee looks forward to meeting the challenge. Ed]

Interclub 2013

Entries close on **Friday 8 March** and it's very pleasing to see a keen interest in the Novice and Restricted Grades. Details are on the Interclub notice board in the foyer.

For the purposes of Wellington Interclub, Novices shall be limited to about 10 Rating Points / "B" points and no more than 3 years' playing experience. If it is necessary to make a viable competition, there could be some flexibility on these limits.

Novice Tournament – the committee proposes to hold a tournament for novice players mid-year.

Wellington 3B Junior Tournament



Winners of the Junior Tournament – from the Hutt Club, Jim Heald and Ian Possenniskie.

Our Junior Tournament last Sunday was very nearly cancelled/postponed. On Thursday morning we had 2 ½ tables; Thursday afternoon, thanks to masses of ringing around by Bridget Willcox and Vivienne Cannell we had 6 tables. Come on Junior players – more enthusiasm please! Many thanks to Heather Jared who ran the tournament and obviously enjoyed doing so.

Congratulations to the place getters:

1st **Jim Heald, Ian Possenniskie**

2nd **Chris Collins, Sam Ward**

3rd **Brendan Maxwell, Grace Miller**

Session prize: **Candice Ng, Vivienne Borrie**

Wellington 5A Open Tournament



Winners of the Open Tournament, looking gleeful: Stephen Henry and Stephen Blackstock.

These photos look like an advertisement for Heineken! Ed

Thank you to Vivienne Cannell, directing her first open tournament – well done! Thank you to committee and club members who worked so hard to ensure the day ran smoothly. Players came from far and wide – well Hawkes Bay, Levin, Palmerston North and the Wairarapa – and we were thrilled to have a good strong entry of 46 pairs which bodes well for so early in the year. A happy and friendly tournament. Congratulations to the place getters and a close finish too:

1st **Stephen Blackstock, Stephen Henry** 61.74 %

2nd **Judith Johnson, Joan Waldvogel** 60.64 %

3rd **Alan Grant, Anthony Kerr** 59.77 %

4th **Ray Gruschow, Graeme Norman** 58.33 %

Session prizes: **Deidre Stallinger / Debbie Wolak; Jenny Rowley / Trevor McKeown**

Canberra - The Summer Festival of Bridge *[Max has already published this in the Karori Newsletter]*

Joan, Joan, Judith and I had a great time in Canberra, where the annual Summer Festival of Bridge was played. We didn't have any rain and it was very warm, up to 37 degrees. Luckily the playing rooms were air-conditioned and the apartment where we stayed was quite cool (temperature wise).

We played in the 'National Seniors Teams' (46 teams), the 'South-West Pacific Teams' (152 teams) and the 'Open Swiss Pairs' (188 pairs), all very enjoyable, with respectable results, for example we finished 42nd in the main event, the SWP teams. Actually, we were the top Zone 7 team (ie non-Australian, although the award was given to the team consisting of members of the NZ women's team, because the organisers thought that Joan McCarthy was an Australian!). Oh, Judith was Judith Johnson!

We strongly recommend the congress, although the Gold Coast Congress in February seems to attract many more Kiwis and we met one American couple, who were far from happy with the behaviour of some of their opponents. I messed up the following hand, with Joan West and me East:

	♠ K764	
	♥ 9	
	♦ T54	
	♣ Q9876	
♠ Q52		♠ -
♥ K65		♥ AQJT8743
♦ Q7		♦ AJ932
♣ KJ542		♣ -
	♠ AJT983	
	♥ 2	
	♦ K86	
	♣ AT3	

Joan as West opened 1NT (10-12 HCP) and I jumped to 4♥, to stop them from finding their presumed Spade fit. How annoying: South still bid 4♠. West and North passed and it was up to me. I assumed that my partner, the 1NT opener would have some good Spades and doubled. The good news was that 4♠ went 1 off, the bad news was that we could have made 6♥! And we still won the match (23-7)! Of course I should have bid 5♦. Grrrr Silly Max, with such a distribution. On the other hand, we might have won by too much to get more difficult opponents in the next round! It's all tactics.

I won't mention the slam, in which I went 3 down. I prefer to show the following hand, with me also as West:

	♠ 743	
	♥ JT843	
	♦ J85	
	♣ 82	
♠ A82		♠ T96
♥ Q762		♥ AK5
♦ 96		♦ AQ43
♣ KQ63		♣ A97
	♠ KQJ5	
	♥ 9	
	♦ KT72	
	♣ JT54	

South opened 1♦ (Precision style), but I, as East, finished up in 3NT. The lead was the ♠K. I ducked twice and took with the Ace the third round. I played the Club and the Heart winners and noticed the distribution. Obviously the South player had ♦K and there was no point in finessing. Hence I threw him in with the fourth Club. He made his ♣J and ♠5, but had then to lead a Diamond into my AQ tenace and I made 3NT. At the other table the declarer finessed the Diamonds and went 1 down (maybe South did not open 1♦). As a result we won that match as well! **Max Wigbout.**



Happy 90th birthday to Gloria Crabbe !
 Gloria is one of our life members. Congratulations Gloria.

You and Your Partnership

Here's a few words of advice from Frank Stewart, a professional bridge player, courtesy of recent ACBL New Member Newsletter

"A lot of your success at bridge will depend on your partner. Does partner play best with you across the table? Do the two of you function well together? One of the intangibles that makes bridge unusual is the importance of good chemistry between partners. *Everything* that happens within your partnership can affect how well you do – not only your individual technical skills and depth of partnership understanding, but also your will to win, your mental stamina and your morale. Since every partnership must face bad results, you'd do well to handle these trying situations as gracefully as possible, so you can try for a better result on the next board with absolutely no distractions. The big attraction of bridge is that we get a chance to gratify our egos. We don't like our mistakes broadcast to the world (or even to two opponents) – our egos are bruised. So if you consider your partner's feelings, you'll try to refrain from deflating partner's ego with an at-the-table blast. No purpose can ever be served by emotional criticism. It's not as though your partner makes mistakes just to spite you. On the contrary partner feels a lot worse about personal mistakes than you do. (If you can't assume your partner is trying as hard as possible, start looking for another partner). A good bridge player never forgets about partner and partner's potential problems. A good bridge player signals when necessary, avoids throwing partner pointless curve balls in the auction and takes charge of the defence when there is enough information to know what to do.

Bridge is like any other pursuit – you get as much out of it as you are willing to put in. Fine-tuning a partnership requires plenty of hard work on the technical side. After each session of play, any aspiring pair should carefully go over their results, good and bad, looking for areas that merit discussion. A therapeutic session like this must be approached constructively. Each partner must be willing to listen to the other's views and criticism without taking offence and even to criticise personal actions objectively. Work toward cultivating a mature, considerate attitude in your partnership. You might see your results improve!"

Basics Quiz (courtesy ACBL newsletter)

You

♠AJ7532
♣KJ4

Dummy

♠KQ
♣A3

Question: You are in 4♠ and have three inescapable losers in the other two suits, so you cannot afford to lose a club trick. Should you ruff the club loser in dummy with one of dummy's spade honours (if you do, you have a safe entry back to your hand in another suit), or should you instead cash the ♠KQ and then finesse RHO for the ♣Q.

Answer: The club finesse is a 50% proposition, while ruffing the club in dummy will set up a trump trick for the opposition if the spades are divided 4-1. Yet you have to do one or the other, and the answer is arrived at simply by comparing the frequency of occurrence of the two alternatives and then choosing the one less likely to jeopardize the contract. Thus, since the finesse will lose half the time while the opposing spades will split 4-1 far less often than that (28%), you should ruff the club loser in dummy and hope for a 3-2 spade break (68%).

**** Beginners Lessons for 2013 starting next week, Tuesday 19 February ****

To date we have **25** enrolments. There will be 3 free Mini Bridge Lessons to start followed by a 12 week course of learning to play bridge – tutor is Alan Grant. It's not too late to rustle up friends and family to learn the king of card games. **Help is needed though:** we would like two people to share the admin help for Alan, 7.30 pm each Tuesday evening. Bonus is it's a great refresher course for your bridge! If you can help even one night, please contact Bridget Willcox very soon. Bridget tells us most of the inquiries for lessons have been via our new website.



Lost Property from the Ladies Cloakroom:

We are pleased to report the "missing" stole was returned to its owner.

Welcome to our new member... Rupert Rokeby-Johnson

Reminders:

Social Bridge starts on Tuesday 5 March – 7.30 pm – 9.15 pm each fortnight.

These casual Tuesday evenings were popular last year for part-time players, rusty players and or those wanting early nights. It was a pleasure to see some of the "old regulars" back on a Thursday night who had made this transition. We all have friends who have played bridge once upon a time. The new year is the time to encourage them to come back.

**** 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.

Remember too, for hassle-free parking you can park down on Thorndon Quay and walk up the zig-zag – only takes a couple of minutes.

Reminder Please

Subscriptions were due by 1st January 2013: 80% of subs have been paid to date.

Good Luck to our members playing in the South Island Teams 15A Tournament this Saturday and Sunday 16/17 February at the Rangiora Bridge Club.

Results from January 2013:

Tuesday - Watts Jug Ladder

1st Patti Poole
2nd Mira Trifunovic

Wednesday - Young Cup Pairs

1st Charles Cahn & Nigel Kearney
2nd Stephen Henry & Stephen Blackstock

Thursday - Alder Cup Ladder

1st Michael Cox
2nd Barbara Allen



Wellington Bridge Club

Are you a card buff or just interested in learning to play?
Wellington Bridge Club is offering

FREE MINI BRIDGE LESSONS

as an introduction to the king of card games. BRIDGE.
The three Mini Bridge lessons are followed by a twelve week course of
learning to play bridge.

Where	17 Tinakori Road Thorndon
When	Tuesdays at 7.45pm.
Commencing	19 th February 2013
Costs	No cost for first 3 weeks of Mini Bridge <u>\$70 for 12 week beginners' course.</u>

You will be under the tuition of a top international player and be provided
with practice hands to play and comprehensive take-home notes.

For more information or to enrol check out our website

www.wellingtonbridge.co.nz

Or contact our Club Manager Bridget Willcox
Phone 04 972 4311
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