

## WBC News – January 2015

Happy New Year and Welcome Back

### PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ...

Subscriptions were due by 1st January 2015

Poppy Roberts Trophy Pairs 5A Tournament, first night Wednesday 18 February

**Beginners Lessons for 2015** commencing Tuesday 17 February at 7.45 pm

### Presidents Corner... Kevin Walker

Welcome back to bridge for what I hope is an enjoyable and successful year of bridge for all.

The committee held its first monthly meeting for the year last evening. The key decision made was to progress with the exterior painting of the building. This will be undertaken in two stages with the front stage first.

The committee discussed the increasing numbers attending Friday afternoon bridge sessions. There was some thought that we should be holding an additional daytime session during the week. The possibility of holding bridge on a Tuesday with an 11am start (bring your own lunch) was discussed. The committee had mixed views on putting on an additional session. There are additional costs and organisation for another session, the demand is unclear, as is the possible impact on the current sessions. As a consequence we are seeking feedback from members. So please provide Bridget with your thoughts (for or against) introducing another daytime bridge session.

The regular discussion on the impact on members of smoking at the front entrance was again raised. Whilst the committee understands there is no suitable and easily accessible area for smokers it was agreed that smokers should use the area outside the backdoor, through the kitchen. The smoker's ash tray will be moved to this location and it would be appreciated if smokers could use this area.

Finally welcome to new grade captains for Tuesday night, Paul Gold and Johnny Bell who take over from Anna Locker-Lampson. We are very fortunate to have Mindy Wu (Wednesday) and Tania Wynn (Thursday) continue as grade captains for this year.

**Supper Breaks in January:** There will be none! We will not be having a tea person for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights throughout January. However, you are welcome to help yourself to tea and coffee and a biscuit during play.

### **Avoiding slow play**



A reminder for the new year.... please keep to time, please keep our directors and players happy by avoiding the glacial pace of our little green friend here.

## **Schneideman Memorial Premier Teams Final**

Congratulations to the four finalist teams and specially to the winning Blackstock Team of Stephen Blackstock, Stephen Henry, Annette Henry, Anna Herries, Martin Reid and Peter Newell.

2nd - the Norman team of Graeme Norman, Ray Gruschow, Pat D'Arcy and David McDonald

3rd equal: Wu Team and Grant Team.

## **Congratulations to winners of the Points Cups for 2014**

<u>A Grade</u> Wednesday Night 1 <sup>st</sup> Nigel Kearney; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Johnny Davidson	<u>A Reserve Grade</u> Thursday Night 1 <sup>st</sup> Sandy McKirdy; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stuart Badger
<u>B Grade</u> Tuesday Night 1 <sup>st</sup> Paul Devadatta; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Megan Turner	<u>Friday Grade</u> Friday Afternoon 1 <sup>st</sup> Sophie Atkin; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sylvia Johns
OLLY LENART TROPHY                      Sue Storer	

## **Suzanne Duncan Memorial Pairs Tournament**

The Suzanne Duncan Memorial Pairs tournament over the holidays is one of the most enjoyable tournaments we host in the year and certainly popular with those of us fortunate to stay on in Wellington to relax and play bridge after the stresses of Christmas! Excellent numbers this year with 25, 26 and 27 tables over the three nights. Many thanks to director Allan Joseph who as usual made our sessions very enjoyable to ensure the evenings ran to time. Thank you to Derek Snelling who opened the tournament and presented the prizes, making good mention of our long time sponsors for the tournament, Morrison Kent Lawyers.

Finally a vote of thanks to our committee members who watched over this tournament, taking entry fees, running the bar, tidying the kitchen and playing room, etc... all the usual little chores – and to Eve Duncan who helped us in the kitchen all three nights.



Russell and Greg – our winners.

Congratulations to the prize-winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup>            **Greg Aldridge and Russell Dive**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>            **John Patterson and Kate Davies**
- 3<sup>rd</sup>            **Mindy Wu and John Wilkinson**
- 4<sup>th</sup>            **James Li and Nigel Kearney**

## **\*\* Beginners Lessons for 2015 \*\***

**Now's the time to spread the word to friends and/or put up a flyer on your notice board at work.** Please print off a flyer or two from our website or there's some in the foyer. Alan Grant will again be taking the lessons commencing Tuesday 17 February at 7.45 pm. There will be "Free" Mini Bridge Lessons for the first three weeks. The \$70 cost for the 12 weeks tuition includes comprehensive take-home notes.

### ***Reminder Please***

Subscriptions were due by 1st January 2015. To date 264 members paid (62%).

## ***Friday 12 December – Visitors Day***

The last playing day for the year brought a few "old" names out to play and about a dozen "visitors" from other clubs making up the record 18.5 tables, (last year we had 17 tables). We had arguably the best afternoon tea, with members bringing a plate of sumptuous Christmas treats. A fun afternoon of bridge with the successful pairs being Lorraine McArthur and Eleanor Morel (NS 68.21%) and James Fyfe and Karen Erenstrom (EW 65.56%). Thank you regular Friday members for your help and support.

## ***Bridge world-wide needs new ideas to introduce players to the game... Here's a message from "Uday Ivatury" CEO at Bridge Base Online (BBO)***

When I was in my twenties the bridge clubs in NYC were full of people in their 30s and 40s, with a handful also in their twenties. Of course, there were many older people as well. I met most of my lifelong friends at my bridge club, and I tricked one of them into marrying me.

Now I feel we're running out of bridge players. I understand that not everyone believes this is true. We've managed to make this game insanely painful to learn. Who wants to spend weeks learning a game they might not even enjoy? Who wants to read a thick book before trying a game for the first time? My daughter says she's willing to spend an hour learning the game. I'm competing with Kim Kardashian, Netflix and Youtube, not to mention the dreaded "boys" and I'm definitely not winning.

We need to introduce players to the game in a better way. What might that look like? I'm not sure. I have ideas. Fred has some ideas of his own and he's working on something. Maybe someday, someone will produce an app/webpage that actually works smoothly and well. Then perhaps all of us can lend a hand by promoting the game to our non-bridge-playing friends.

Maybe there is something we can do even without such a magical bit of software. Maybe we need a newbie-friendly space inside BBO. Maybe we need a mentoring program. Maybe we need to identify and assist our new players. Maybe we need to pool our

efforts somehow so that each initiative (there certainly seem to be several in several countries) isn't so isolated from the others.

So for 2015, I'm going to try to make BBO more "newbie-friendly." We can all help and we'll explore how, together, as the weeks roll by. If you have thoughts on how to do this in a scaleable and sustainable fashion, please drop me a line and let me know what you're thinking. **Acknowledgement BBO News.**

## ***Welcome to our new members:***

Graham Streatfield

Gordon Streatfield

Andrew Smith

## ***Monthly Pairs - Results from 2014***

Wednesday <u>Poppy Roberts</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Martin Reid and Peter Newell 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bruce Hemmons and John Davidson	Thursday <u>Neal Salver Pairs</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sandy McKirdy and Christine McKirdy 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vivienne Cannell and Maureen Pratchett
Tuesday <u>Hand Trophy Pairs</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Paul Devadatta and Rob Egginson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Greta Keur and Anna Locker-Lampson	Friday <u>Gladys Taylor Cup</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sophie Atkin and Helen Fitzgerald 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jenny Coulter and Sylvia Johns.

## ***Monthly Pairs - Results from December 2014***

<b>Tuesday Night: Committee Cup Pairs</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Paul Devadatta and Rob Egginson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anne Gaskell and Julie Ballance	<b>Wednesday Night: Schneideman Premier Teams – winners as mentioned on previous pages.</b>  <b>Schneideman Memorial Plate</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Brian Cleaver and Isobel Ross 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jenny Delany and Susan Laurenson
<b>Thursday Night: Summer Pairs</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sam Ward and Stuart Badger 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jocelyn Grainger and Tania Wynn	<b>Friday - Visitors Day</b> N/S Eleanor Morel and Lorraine McArthur E/W James Fyfe and Karen Erenstrom