

News – February 2015

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

Next month !

We can look forward to:



Black Friday Dinner & Bridge – “5 and 10 night” – 13 March – All players welcome

Fancy a fun Friday night of bridge - with the chance to beat the top players?

We are running a “5 and 10” handicap tournament on Friday 13 March. Every intermediate player will get a 5% handicap, and every junior will get 10%, averaged between each pair (so, say, a pairing comprising an open grader and a junior would get a net 5% added to their score, the average of zero plus 10).

The evening will start with drinks at 6pm, followed by one of Mindy Wu’s delicious dinners at 6.30 pm and bridge an hour (or so!) later. Entry only \$20 for bridge and a meal – drinks extra, at normal bar prices.

Because it’s Friday 13th, fancy dress is encouraged – there will be prizes for the best-dressed pair, and the best hat!

Don’t miss this one – just let Bridget know if you want to play, and if you would like her to find you a partner from a different grade. You can book and pay online and bring a visitor if you wish.

A Junior League is being planned for 2015 to encourage junior players’ participation in tournaments. A form/card needs to be completed by those juniors participating and the first junior tournaments get underway in March. This is a super idea for the more competitive junior players to actively support their tournaments – after all most of us started at this level and really enjoyed coming through these tournaments.

It’s been an excellent start to Charles Wilson Memorial Pairs first night on Wednesday – 26 tables and bodes well for numbers to play the monthly Poppy Roberts Trophy Pairs 5A tournament. Which reminds us..

1. Please enter your names on the notice board for the Poppy Roberts;
2. Be mindful with parking please; and
3. Please enter your teams for the Schneideman Memorial Premier Teams – commencing 8 April. Numbers are limited.

Beginners Lessons start next week with Mini Bridge. We have approximately 34 people enrolled.



There's no mistaking our stylish nonagenarian, Ruth Gotlieb!

A fun start to the year Ruth, please wear this again.

From the Chief Director... Maureen Pratchett

A "psyche" is a deliberate and gross misrepresentation of your high card strength and/or the length of one of your suits. It is not a psyche if you make a wrong bid accidentally. To be gross, your call must be deficient by at least a King (i.e. 3 or more points) without compensating distributional values.

When you make a psyche, you are not only deceiving the opponents, but also misleading your partner as your partner must have no idea that you are psyching.

Psyches are a legitimate part of bridge and as opponents, you should not feel that you have been "cheated". However, persistent psyching is not allowed. For club nights, this is defined as more than once in a session or more than 3 times in a year.

If you psyche, the Bridge Laws state that you must register this. At the club, the Director has a folder to register psyche bids. There are some bids that you cannot psyche (eg multi 2C or multi 2D), so when a psyche is registered the director will check that it was legitimate.

Housekeeping



Cleaning - Our long term cleaners "Silver Bullet Services" are finishing up at the end of this month. We are calling for "expressions of interest" from anyone considering undertaking this task. Enquiries to Bridget please.

LAZER team wins the Australian National Teams (NOT) by Gary Hanna

The winners of the 2015 National Open Teams were the LAZER team, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby, Andy Braithwaite, Ian Robinson, Matthew McManus and Michael Ware defeating the NEILL team, Bruce Neill, Arjuna De Livera, George Smolanko, Khokan Bagchi, Zol Nagy and David Lilley (167-112).

Before the NOT there is a qualifying event called the South West Pacific Teams (SWPT). 134 teams, including a fair number of Kiwis, contested this event which consists of 4 days of Swiss, 3 X 20 board matches a day. At the end of the qualifying, the top 8 placed teams go on to the NOT.

The NOT is knockout event of 64 board matches played in 4 sets of 16. The Australian Bridge Federation runs these events extremely well. Not only is there live coverage of all tables on BBO Vugraph, but also there is live video coverage as well. You can literally watch the players sweat and strain and they also have to give written explanations of any alertable bids.

As I am very interested in bridge systems I was keen to follow the Thompson team, winners of the SWPT, which included Bill Jacobs, author of the book *Fantunes Revealed* which is the system played by the world's best pair Fantonio and Nunes. And I was extremely interested in the Lazer team where NZ's leading player Michael Ware and his partner Matthew McManus played their own system called CRUNCH. Also in the Lazer team was well known ex-Kiwi Andrew Braithwaite, and Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer who have been to our NZ Congress. Matthew of course, is well known as he regularly directs there.

Whereas *Fantunes* is a basically natural system, with all 1 level bids natural and forcing for 1 round (though 1C can be a weak NT), CRUNCH is highly artificial with the opening bids being totally different between 1/2 seat and 3/4 seats. In 1/2 seats PASS is either 0-6 or 15-20 balanced or 15-20 unbalanced with no major, 1H is any 7-10 (known as a constructive fertiliser or "fert" bid). Thus one amusing auction went pass by W, Pass (alerted – he had a flat 16 count) pass by E, Pass by Ware (alerted as 0-3) pass. This gained 2imps when 1NT by N in the other room failed by 1 trick.

In the first knockout, Lazer played Lambardi, a team containing 3 other well known Kiwis, Michael Cornell, Ashley Bach and Geo Tislevoll. Lazer won 137-101 although both teams were fined 3imps for slow play and Lambardi had an additional fine for a cell phone violation so their total penalty was 15imps.



The winning team, Andrew Braithwaite, Michael Ware, Matthew McManus, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby and Ian Robinson.

In the semi-finals the Thompson team was CRUNCHED by Lazer while the Neil team had a heavy victory over the Bloom which included Michael Whibley.

The final was 27 all after the 1st set but then Lazer went on to win comfortably by 167 – 112.

All in all a great event and so superbly covered on Vugraph and live video. One day, we wish, we will see something similar in this country.

You will find all the hands in the BBO Vugraph archives, the videos on

YouTube and the results at bridge Australia

<http://www.bridgeaustralia.org/resultslstbyheadevent.asp?umbid=48>



NEC Bridge Festival

THE 20th NEC BRIDGE FESTIVAL, February 10 - February 15, 2015, Yokohama, Japan

We wish **Martin Reid and Peter Newell** good luck for their “Down Under” team competing again. You will remember they won this prestigious event two years ago. Hopefully we will see them on BBO vugraph.

Recent High scores over 70%

21 January – 70.73% Peter Newell & Martin Reid
28 January – 71.77% - Joan Waldvogel & Max Wigbout

Welcome to our new members: Sandy Connon and Ira Wickremesekera

Monthly Pairs - Results from January 2015

<p>Tuesday Night: Watts Jug Ladder</p> <p>1st Edmund Stephen-Smith</p> <p>2nd Terry Neal</p>	<p>Wednesday Night: Young Cup Pairs</p> <p>1st John Davidson and Suzanne Green</p> <p>2nd Judith Johnson and Brian Cleaver</p>
<p>Thursday Night: Alder Cup Ladder</p> <p>1st Stuart Badger</p> <p>2nd Barbara Allen</p>	

Painting – We have appointed “Painters Inc” to paint the exterior of the Building (excluding the bricks!). They are booked to commence works on the 23rd February.



Please be aware the scaffolding may impede some of the parking spaces on the perimeter of the building.

Some alternative parking may be found on Thorndon Quay, then a short walk up the path to Tinakori Road. Your patience and consideration in this matter is appreciated

Reminder Please

2015 Subscriptions are overdue. To date 345 members paid (84%).