

WBC News – February 2016

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ...

Subscriptions were due by 1st January 2016

NORTH ISLAND TEAMS 20A - 5th and 6th March 2016. All payments on-line please.

Presidents Corner...

No message this month, sorry.

Good Luck & Safe Travelling to all our members playing in the Gold Coast Congress

starting next week. We estimate approximately 20 have registered to play, and good to see this Congress is still a popular draw card on our bridge calendar. We'd like a full report for our March Newsletter please!

Keep up the "Pay and Play" Idea...

Players seem to be benefitting from this little innovation – nice to read one "pairing's" experience - see over page. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help here! We've had an excellent response.

As a reminder ..."*We have a small group of experienced players willing to play with keen improvers, provided the improver pays the experienced player's \$7 table money on the improvers' night of play.*"

North Island Teams Update ...

We look forward to hosting our next tournament on 5 & 6 March and a busy weekend no doubt it will be. Registrations for 25 teams have been received so far.

Help in the Kitchen is needed – just an hour of your time would be hugely appreciated please – any time from 9 am both mornings. Play will commence at 9.30 am till approx 7 pm Saturday. 9am to 5 pm on Sunday. If you can assist us in the kitchen during these hours, please contact Bridget.

Home Baking is always appreciated and our members are very generous helping here. Please label your plates or containers with your name! You can drop off your goodies on Friday 4 March or any time during the weekend: many thanks indeed.



Saturday afternoon improvers play

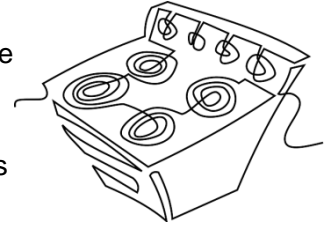
We are running informal bridge sessions on Saturday afternoons (fortnightly) where you all play the same hand and also have a brief discussion after each hand with an experienced player there to give helpful advice. The purpose of the sessions is to assist with confidence and reinforce skills. This is a bridging (*excuse the pun!*) time to assist players new to Tuesday evenings.

If this interests you, please contact Bridget for the timetable. No partner required.

“Kitchen Upgrade Project”

We are looking to get the ball rolling on the revamping of the kitchen as several of the appliances are well past their use by date...

During the course of the year we will be having fundraising events specifically for this Project, starting with a raffle to be drawn after the North Island Teams on Sunday 6th March.



If anyone has something to donate as a prize, or perhaps a service...please let Jenny Delany or Bridget know. Once we have arranged the “raffle” - tickets will be available.

We appreciate your



Beer Price Increase !

From 1 March 2016 all our beers will be \$5 each.

Extract from notes from the Wellington Regional Committee 2016 JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP BRIDGE LEAGUE

Last year your Regional Committee initiated the Wellington Region “Junior Championship Bridge League”. This proved to be popular and brought about increased attendances by Junior players in Junior Tournaments in our Region. The Regional Committee also tried to encourage all clubs wherever possible to run separate 3A point tournaments rather than combined Junior / Intermediate 5B tournaments. Junior players especially welcomed this and as a result only two clubs in our Region ran combined events. ...

The total prize pool has been doubled from \$200 in 2015, to \$400 in 2016. The prize money will be apportioned to individual players on the following basis:-1st. \$150; 2nd. \$80; 3rd. \$60; 4th. \$50; 5th. \$40; & ladder mid-point position \$20. The purpose of the League is to encourage more Junior grade players to participate in more Junior Grade Tournaments in the Wellington Region. This is a Wellington Regional initiative and applies only to events within our Region. This is an individual event, so players may swap partners between tournaments, but forming a regular partnership will probably help in achieving optimum results.

For more information please check out details on: Wellington Regional website : www.wellingtonregionbridge.nz

The Improver's Perspective

Maybe it was the timing – just when my New Year resolution to improve at Bridge were faltering. Maybe it was the frustration of all too frequent Tuesday evening scores in the mid- (OK, the low-) forties. Whatever the reason, the “Pay-and-Play to improve your Bridge” item in the January edition of WBC News struck a chord for me.

The very next day I rang Bridget who arranged for Sandy McKirdy to be my partner and mentor during the upcoming Martin Jug Pairs. At the first session Sandy, armed with notebook and pen, took notes on the bidding and play of all the boards. At the end of the night he gave me thorough feedback and insights on the evening's play – which I very much appreciated. The notes became mine to retain and review. These encouraged me to look up the Club website to see how my performance on each board compared with other pairs – not too demoralising as we had ended up 4th EW with 53.6%.

The following Tuesday we had a brief review of some key points from the previous session's play before entering the fray again, this time playing NS. As before Sandy had notebook and pen at the ready and once again we were able to review the evening's play at the end of the session - feedback which I have been able to retain, review and hopefully digest before the next session. For the record we had a top score of 64.05%, so it certainly looks like Pay-and-Play works.

So? Is it now a few years since you did the beginners course? Are your Tuesday evening scores stagnating in the mid-forties? If this sounds like you too then I am confident that Pay-and-Play mentoring will re-kindle your enthusiasm. And where else can you get three hours of advanced tuition for \$7.00.

George Baird - 13/2/16 [Many thanks George. Ed]

Pay to Play ... Sandy McKirdy

When I was first approached to help 'mentor' someone under the pay to play scheme, my first thought was what a great idea, I wonder what they need help with. Is it to do with bidding, declarer play, defence or learning new systems like multi 2s and transfers?

My first assignment has been helping a Tuesday night player. George has been playing for a few years and wasn't getting the good results that he should be. We started off by talking through what George wanted to achieve and it was clear that being more consistent in bidding would help his confidence – it's a lot easier to improve your scores and play well if you are in the right contract. So the focus has been on reducing bad boards and turning them into average and good boards.

Between hands we often had the opportunity to talk about what was good or bad and the alternatives. I also kept a record of the bidding, result & leads along with some brief notes that George could refer to when reviewing the online hand records to see why certain results were achieved.

The past weeks have been enjoyable and it's been good to see George's progression – it's something I hope to see him build on over the coming weeks. I'll be checking ! **[Thank you Sandy!! Ed]**



High Scores Lately

Such are the recent spate of 70% scores – you would think on our Wednesday night attaining a 73.48% and then a 67.92% you might win the series?

But only 2nd by 0.63% for **Nigel Kearney and Charlie Cahn** and a sense of humour.

Photo: *Wednesday Night Serious Summer Post Mortems.*

A few members are off to a good start for the year. Look at these recent High Scores. Well done to these players.

27 Jan	Kathy Ker and Anthony Ker	71.39%	Kathy's first game as a new member of the club.
2 Feb	Wayne Stechman & Tegan Bennik	75.23%	Tegan is 13 years old and only took lessons last year.
2 Feb	Heather Renton & Bridget Willcox	71.07%	Bridget, playing with a top Australian player still managed to be beaten by a 13yr old!
3 Feb	Nigel Kearney & Charlie Cahn	73.48%	

Playing Numbers as at 31st January 2016 (financial year to date)

	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thurs</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2010-2011	1338	1952	1804	768	5862
2011-2012	1268	2030	2008	824	6130
2012-2013	1120	2138	2180	818	6256
2013-2014	1084	2198	2216	900	6398
2014-2015	990	2126	1944	994	6054
2015-2016	1258	1938	1902	950	6048

31 January 2016 Total Membership 438 - 2015 (425)

Associate Members	27 (26)	Friday Members	38 (33)
Life Members	5 (5)	Members	364 (357)
Youth Members	4 (4)		

Of the 438 members – 345 have Wellington as their Home Club.

Beginners Lessons for 2016

Lessons commence tonight (Tuesday) and we have 30 enrolments.

Reminder Please

Subscriptions were due by 1st January 2016. To date **73%** of members have paid.

Monthly Pairs - Results from January 2016

Tuesday Night: Watts Jug Ladder 1 st Simon Dixie 2 nd Toni Izzard	Wednesday Night: Young Cup Pairs 1 st Peter Benham & Nigel Kearney 2 nd Cemal Bektas & Pryor Rowland
Thursday Night: Alder Cup Ladder 1 st Malcolm Greig 2 nd Stephanie Smith	

Results from Recent Tournaments – Congratulations !

Waikanae Open Sunday 14 Feb

1st Joan Waldvogel and Joan McCarthy
3rd Graeme Norman and Patrick Darcy.

South Island Teams 13-14 Feb.

1st Anthony Ker & Alan Grant with teammates Michael Cornell & Ashley Bach.

Top of the South Teams 30 Jan

4th Rosa Mishkin Allan Joseph Tony Sutich and Lorraine Sutich

Welcome to New Members: “5” being Friday afternoon players



Margo Davenport 5; Val Cooper 5; Jean Knowles 5; Owen Knowles 3;
Elizabeth Schuck 1; Jack Davies 1; Joe Davies 1; John Donbavand 3;
Kimberley Lawrence 1; Gary Duncan 4