

News – June 2015

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ...

Please arrive and be seated by 7.20 pm on playing nights.
North Island Pairs 1-2 August at our club
Quiz 2015 – Saturday 29 August at 7.30 pm

Presidents Corner... Kevin Walker

The club held a very successful Junior and Intermediate tournament at the weekend. It was good to see so many of our club members at this tournament. Thanks from all of us “players” to those who organised and helped on the day.

The Top Club Regional playoff occurs on the 21st June at Hutt club. Wellington is looking to win the regional round so we can once again compete against other clubs at the National Congress to become the Top Club in NZ. We have been the top club on two previous occasions.

On the fundraising front the club is wanting to secure more sponsorship funds so we are looking for someone who could help in this. See more detail in this newsletter. Bridget is selling Entertainment books with some of the funds going to the club. So please purchase these now before she stops selling them.

Finally on the fundraising front, we are holding a Quiz Night on 29 August to gain funds for a very worthy purchase. So keep this date free for this event and see more detail later in the newsletter.

Regional Club Teams play-off – Sunday 21 June at Hutt Club

Good luck to our three teams – at time of printing names are still to be finalised.



Quiz Night 2015 – Saturday 29 August
Fundraiser for purchase of scoring devices – replacement Bridgepads

Long range date for another of our popular Quiz Nights with Quizmaster **Dean Sole**.

Ask your friends, family and colleagues to join us. Tables for 4-10 people preferred. 7.30 pm start and \$20.00 each. Bar sales and light food available. Tables are limited as in past years – please book your table with Bridget. All money raised will be put towards the purchase of replacement Bridgepads. Our current Bridgepads are getting to the “best before date” and require upgrading or replacing. Some have given up the ghost already or are intermittent and many other have worn face-plates. Technology is changing at a rapid rate – we need to upgrade in the not to distance future. We are currently investigating our options but replacements or alternatives are costly.

Junior and Intermediate Tournament held last Sunday

We hosted our annual tournament with 16 pairs playing in the Junior section – introduced to the Howell movement – and 23 pairs in the Intermediate. Many thanks to Cathy Nijman who directed and to our fellow club members who helped in the kitchen throughout the day. Congratulations to the prizewinners as follows.



Winners of the intermediate Pairs

ALWYN COURTENAY / ALAN JENNINGS - Hutt
3rd Mike & Pauline Murtagh



Winners of the Junior Pairs

SARA ENOKA / TINA CONNELL-PINE - Paraparaumu
3rd Vivienne Borrie and Patti Poole

Hawkes Bay Bridge Congress

Numbers would be well and truly way down if the large contingent of Wellington Bridge Club players did not continue to support this very enjoyable weekend's congress. While the venue can be tiresome with its fire alarms and heating and no beautiful sea views, the pluses are good parking, good catering, very helpful caddies who will bring and buy your coffee and a good weekend's bridge. Next year, hopefully they will get the scores out sooner.

Congratulations to the prizewinners ...

Open Pairs 1st Joan McCarthy and Kay Austad; 2nd Anthony and Kathy Ker
Swiss Pairs 2nd Nan Wehipeihana and Partner; 3rd Tony Lenart and Partner
Open Teams 3rd Brian Cleaver, Peter Benham, Dean Sole and Partner

Part-time work opportunity

Would you like to help the club raise some funds – and earn some money yourself? If you have good people skills and some free time during the day, this could be for you. The club is looking for someone to contact potential sponsors. We have the leads, and we know there are many businesses that might be interested - we just need someone to do some "legwork," and we're happy to pay you a portion of any sponsorship raised. You don't have to have a marketing background, just a willingness to make some calls and explain what we can offer, such as sponsoring our tournaments. If you're interested, please contact Bridget.

Is bridge the latest twee pastime to get hip? Gillian Orr, The Independent, 3 June 2015

Are young people starting to swap nightclubs for bridge clubs? The English Bridge Union has excitedly reported this week that the number of under-25s playing has more than tripled over the past three years. Can it be that granny's favourite card game is suddenly becoming cool? ...

Until now probably the raciest thing about the game was Mae West's quip that good bridge is like good sex: "If you don't have a good partner, you'd better have a good hand." But after that you're really grasping for cultural relevance outside of an Agatha Christie novel. This isn't poker, with its big cash prizes and flashy televised Las Vegas roundtables. Poker has Leonardo DiCaprio and Rafael Nadal. Bridge has Warren Buffett and Martina Navratilova. So why are (a few) more young people suddenly electing to spend their Saturdays dealing, bidding, playing and scoring?

Alan Shillitoe, the 39-year-old coach of the England Under-25s, believes that people have the wrong idea about the game. "I know bridge has this reputation for being about old ladies eating cake in a kitchen, but in reality that's as close to the international game as kids kicking a ball around is to the World Cup," he says. "It's incredibly exciting; chess is a game of spatial reasoning and logic, and poker is a game of psychology and bluff. Bridge sits somewhere between the two." The benefits to the elderly are well publicised: bridge stimulates the brain and helps keep the memory active. So I ask Shillitoe what young people might get out of it. "It involves lateral thinking, psychology and mathematics. Every element of your mental skills will be tested," he says. I'm not convinced that Shillitoe is quite in tune with what young people consider a good time. If I was to hazard a guess, it would be that the recent return to twee hobbies such as crocheting, boules and badminton has also been good news for bridge. [extract only]

Blame the weather ...

Last month the heavy rain kept us down to 17 tables one Thursday night, almost doubling in size to 29 tables the following Thursday!

From the Chief Director Scorer Ladders

At first glance it might look like Scorer produces an incorrect ladder, particularly for our events that run monthly. When Scorer calculates the ladder for an event, it does not just average the sessions that have been played by a partnership. It is clever enough to work out at any point of time how many sessions you need to have played to still be eligible for the event. The average shown in the ladder is the average of this number of sessions. In other words, Scorer drops as many as possible of your lowest scores before it determines the average. **Maureen Pratchett**

Message from Bruce Ivamy on behalf of Mornington Golf Club

The Mornington Golf Club (including the Mornington Ladies Golf Club and the Mornington Mid-Week Ladies Golf Club) will be holding its centennial celebrations on Wellington Anniversary Weekend 2016. During research of the Club's history a number of the same names appeared in the membership of both the Mornington Golf Club and the Wellington Bridge Club. For this reason the Mornington Golf Club would like to hear from former members who would be interested in attending these celebrations. We would also like to hear from former members (or their families) who may be holding Club memorabilia. The Club is especially interested viewing and recording buttons, goblets, awards, etc. If you are interested in attending celebrations or are able to assist with memorabilia, please contact Bruce Ivamy either by telephone on 027 550 9998 or by email to bottle1@clear.net.nz. Thanks.

Dear Chief Director

At a recent tournament we were East/West. North/South opened the bidding and after two rounds of bidding North bid 3S and my partner passed. Then "director!" from North who leaves the table to show the director his cards. The director and North come back to the table and the director advises that North has made an "unintended bid". He (the director) erases my Partner's Pass and erases North's 3S bid and allows North to write 3H and says "now carry on". Is this something new? Yours "Always Learning".

From the Chief Director - Unintended Call vs Mistaken Call

What happens if you make an unintended call and what happens if you make a mistaken call? The answer is that the director can fix an unintended call up until your partner has bid. The director can never fix a mistaken call (provided it is a legal call). The important point in deciding what is unintended and what is a mistake is obviously the player's intention when they bid. An unintended bid is described as a " inexplicable mental aberration ", in other words your mind told you to bid hearts , but you bid spades ! - and there was absolutely no reason or evidence for you even to consider bidding spades .

Claims such as "in the same breath", or "my pen was still on the paper", or "immediately" or "almost immediately" are not the key factor in deciding if a bid is unintended. While realisation of an unintended bid is normally quick, it need not be. You may not realize your unintended bid until the opposition has bid or even after they ask what your bid meant – if you come to the realisation at this point, that you wrote spades rather than hearts, you can still call the director and the bid can be changed as long as your partner has not bid. Any bid made by the opposition over the unintended call may be withdrawn and substituted with any other legal call.

Compare this to the situation where a player bids 1NT, with a 12HCP balanced hand, and then with his/her pen still on the bidding pad, remembers they are playing a strong NT, calls the director and says "I made a mistake, we are playing a strong NT, my pen is still on the bidding pad, can I change it? The director's answer would be no, this is a mistake, not an unintended call. At the time you wrote 1NT that is what you intended to do – a split second later you remembered your system and realized this was a mistake – these mistakes are not fixable by the director.

Maureen Pratchett

Results from recent Tournaments

AUCKLAND QUEENS BIRTHDAY TEAMS

1st Alan Grant, James Li and team-mates; 2nd Johnny Davidson and Team-mates

Monthly Pairs - Results from May 2015

<p><u>Tuesday</u> - N Robson Cup Teams 1st Denise Barnett, Graham Potter, Megan Turner & Anna Locker-Lampson 2nd Liz Baker Nigel Kirkpatrick Terry Neal & Anne Gaskell</p>	<p><u>Wednesday</u>- Suzanne Duncan Swiss Pairs 1st Karl Hayes and Alan Grant 2nd John Scott and Bob Ure</p>
<p><u>Thursday</u> -_May Manoy Salver 1st Anthea Black and Stuart Badger 2nd Allan Joseph and Phillipa Gardiner</p>	<p><u>Friday</u> -_Moturoa Pairs Salver 1st Hans Evenbly and Kim Prescott 2nd Barbara Leach and Jean Cashin</p>