

News – March 2015



Go the Blackcaps!

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Please arrive and be seated by 7.20 pm on playing nights.

This Friday 13th – dinner and bridge (see notes over page). All welcome - please register if you want one of Mindy's luscious dinners! 6 pm start.

Rubber bridge entries by 18 March.

Kitchen help needed please for Anzac Weekend – Wellington Congress.

Presidents Corner... Kevin Walker

Last night the committee discussed the new procedure instigated by Directors for starting the bridge sessions. The process has been put in place for a number of reasons but mainly so that the movement for the night can be set up in Bridgepads prior to play, and pairs can then check that they have the correct boards when the director advises that play can begin for all. To allow this process to work effectively all players must, as the rules stipulate, arrive and be seated by 7.20pm (12:50pm for Fridays). The Directors will set up the bridge movement for the night at 7.25pm (12:55pm) following the grade captain's announcements. This means that pairs who arrive after this time are unlikely to be able to play.

As you will have seen, the external painting of the window and concrete trims has commenced. With fine weather the painting will be completed this month. The external painting of the remainder of the building will occur next summer.

A welcome to those who are starting the beginner's bridge lessons this week. Many of you will have been involved in the mini bridge sessions that have been held over the last three weeks.

There are 16 club teams registered for the Interclub teams events this year. With 56 teams entered from all the Wellington Region the club is well represented across all of the grades. Good luck to those teams.

Wanted for Anzac Weekend.... "kitchen helpers" for the Wellington Congress weekend to be held at our club on Saturday 25 April, Sunday 26 April or Monday 27 April. All offers of assistance would be hugely appreciated as this is a busy weekend for us all. Say a 1 or 2 hour help in the kitchen – we will roster you and please let Bridget know your availability. Men in the kitchen look really good too! All the more the merrier!

Dan Gifford Knockout Rubber Bridge 2015

Calling all Rubber Bridge enthusiasts and those who want to take up this different style of bridge where the luck of the cards can give you the opportunity to shine! Please enter on our notice board - entries close 18th March and we are hosting a "club heat" on the 17th April. The last round of matches to find the pair (or two pairs) to go to Hamilton, will need to be completed by the end of August.



This Friday, 13th March....

Black Friday Dinner & Bridge – “5 and 10” night–

All players welcome

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. 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. You can book and pay online and bring a visitor if you wish.

Gold Coast Congress 2015.... Joan Waldvogel

Cyclone Marcia greeted the large NZ contingent of 220 bridge players, including a large number of Wellingtonians who had left behind the cricket and a balmy summer, to try their luck on the Gold Coast. By the middle of the week the sun had begun to return and beaches which had been covered with foam and giant blue jellyfish reopened, but for the first few days umbrellas and raincoats were de rigueur for going to and from the venue. As Queensland is apparently the only state that does not have daylight saving, we had to get used to darkness descending at about 6pm.

As usual the Congress was extremely well run and scores were available very quickly after each event. For those interested, there were talks by leading bridge players before and after play on most days with donations going to youth bridge. A new and very popular event this year was the Swiss Pairs which provided an alternative to the Open Pairs for those players who did not want to be playing at night. As a result the number playing in the Open and Swiss Pairs was down on previous years.

Wellingtonians who featured were Joan Waldvogel and Max Wigbout who finished 8th in the Open Pairs, Mindy Wu and her partner who were the top Women's Pair and Tony Lenart and his partner who also made it to the Open Pairs Final. Tony was also in one of the teams in the final of the Open Teams. Robyn Freeman Greene and Dale Lacey finished 9th in the Seniors Pairs. Robyn and Dale also featured in the Seniors Teams finishing 7th with their teammates Helen and Tony Thompson.

The Congress ended with a sit down dinner and dance on Saturday night. On Sunday instead of taking a shuttle to the airport in Brisbane, six of us hired a mini-van for considerably less than what the shuttle would have cost, and had a leisurely and very pleasant return journey to Brisbane via Mt Tambourine.

Bridge coaching

Fancy some coaching from a top player on improving your bridge partnership? The club is trialling a player development coaching programme that aims to help established partnerships fine-tune their play. One of our top players, Grand Master **Nigel Kearney**, has offered to lead the month-long trial. Participants will need to devote a few hours each week to the coaching, mainly playing hands online in their own time for Nigel to review and critique – so minimal “face time” would be required. The trial is free – if successful, we will consider asking other top players to be coaches so we can open it up to more members. If you are interested in taking part, please email wnbridge@paradise.net.nz

7 Reasons to Teach Your Kids Bridge ...

BBO News recently had this article on their website....

by Lisa Lewis Tyre writing for the Huffington Post, 4 March 2015.

Forget soccer games and violin lessons, teach your kids something really cool -- bridge. Sure the average age of bridge players is closer to 70 than 7, but there are some really awesome reasons to teach your child this amazing game. Here are seven!

1. It Improves Test Scores

A researcher by the name of Dr. Christopher Shaw taught 5th graders to play bridge then compared their 6th grade standardized test scores. What Shaw discovered was that students who learned to play bridge had a significant increase in their ITSB scores compared with their non-playing classmates. While everyone's scores increased because they were older, the most significant gains were from those who had learned bridge!

2. It Boosts the Immune System

Who doesn't want healthier kids? You might think that playing cards all day has no health benefits, but according to a study by biologist Marian Diamond, you would be wrong. "In a presentation at last week's meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Diamond described an experiment showing that contract bridge players have increased numbers of immune cells after a game of bridge. ... Diamond interprets the findings as "strong evidence that an area of the brain involved in playing bridge stimulates the immune system, in particular the thymus gland that produces white blood cells called T cells, or T lymphocytes." Forget the cough medicine, deal the cards!

3. It's Inexpensive

My daughter attended a week of bridge camp, took several lessons at a local club, and played three times at the Junior Nationals in Atlanta for a grand total of **zero** dollars. ... Even when you do pay, it's not much. Juniors can play at most clubs for around \$6.00 to \$10.00 a session.

4. You can play bridge FOREVER and continue to improve as you age

You can't say the same for football, baseball, tennis, hockey, volleyball, skateboarding or gymnastics. You may be able to do all those things when you're 80, but I bet your 18 year old self was way better. In bridge, your glory days are always ahead of you. How awesome to fall in love with something and not have to stop when you graduate high school!

5. It's MindFULL entertainment

My favorite thing about watching kids play bridge is seeing them do something besides playing computer games or watching TV. They use their brains, interact face-to-face with other kids, meet some folks from our greatest generation, and have fun! And despite Bridge's "nerdy" reputation, the kids are all cute, normal and I've never seen one sporting a pocket protector.

6. It's A Career Path

...Clients have been known to pay \$500 - \$1500 to a pro for ONE session. Making it as a bridge professional is tough, but if your child dedicated themselves, there is a chance that they could make a living from playing cards. Let's put it this way, the chance of a high-school football player making it in the NFL is 0.2%. The chances are better with cards and there's no need for the frequent CT scans.

7. It's good clean fun

One of the great things about my daughter playing bridge, is that I don't have to worry about the usual boy/girl shenanigans. Yes, she could sit on a boy's lap at the bridge club, but I'm pretty sure the club director (think of it as a referee) would end that nonsense quickly. ... Oh yeah, I guess that's ANOTHER reason bridge for kids is so great - you can continue to play and not feel guilty for leaving them at home! **[Abbreviated Ed.]**

Interclub 2015

The list of teams is on the notice board – 1st match is Friday March 20th.
It's a great turnout from our club this year with **16 teams** entered:
6 Open teams; 4 Restricted; 3 Intermediate; 2 Junior and 1 Novice.

Welcome to our new members: Annette Austing; Ann Hall; Gillian Tasker

Recent High Scores

To quote Tony Sutich's write up for the NZ Bridge Magazine recently: "the only other bridge item certainly worth mentioning is the absolute blitzing of the field that **Alan Grant & Anthony Ker** gave in the first round of the Poppy Roberts event at Wellington Club on Wednesday night 18 February which was about as convincing as the hiding the Black Caps gave to England about a kilometre down the road only 2 days later! The Poppy Roberts is a very popular 5A point "Metropolitan" tournament with 7 qualifying rounds spread through February to October, followed by a 3 night final in November.

In the 18 February session Alan & Anthony scored a phenomenal 80.77% which appears to be a record score on Wellington Club's premier night. (No one seems to recall a higher score). It needs to be taken into account that there were 69 pairs competing; with all scoring across the field; with 28 Grand Masters playing and most of the other players were Open grade players. Congratulations to Alan & Anthony. And let us hope the Black Caps continue their winning form." [Thank you Tony. Ed]

Congratulations too to **Gail Tippett and Donna Upchurch** scored a fabulous 73.41% in the Thursday night Brian Willis Memorial Pairs on 19 February. And one more: Tuesday 3 March, two of the beginners (they did lessons last year and will be in the Novice Interclub Team), **Denise Barnett and Graham Potter** got 68.29%.

Results from recent Tournaments

Waikanae Open Pairs – Sunday 22 February 1 st Lynda Rigler & Peter Delahunty	South Island Teams 14-15 February 2 nd John Davidson, James Li and team mates
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Monthly Pairs - Results from February 2015

Tuesday Night: Martin Jug Pairs 1st Greta Keur & Anna Locker-Lampson 2nd Edmund Stephen-Smith Kevin Moar	Wednesday Night: Charles Wilson Memorial Pairs 1st Max Wigbout & Joan Waldvogel 2nd Tim Heatt & Malcolm Greig
Thursday Night: Brian Willis Memorial Pairs 1st Stuart Badger & Maureen Pratchett 2nd Gail Tippett & Donna Upchurch	Friday afternoon: Afternoon Duplicate Ladder 1st Sylvia Johns 2nd Michael Stride