

## WBC News – October 2016

### Put it in your Diary ....

**Improver's Day** – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October Part 2 –details on the Notice Board

**Annual General Meeting** – Friday 4 November at 6 pm (see details below)

**Babich New Zealand Wide Pairs** – Friday 4 November at 7.30 pm at Wellington Bridge Club

**Christmas Cheer (Wellington Region)** – Saturday 10 December 2016 at 10 am

“**Pay and Play**” - reminder to keep this going this year and next. This has been a popular concept where “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”. If you ring Bridget, she will organise a suitable player.

### Presidents Corner... Mindy Wu

A reminder about the upcoming AGM on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> of November. We are now calling for nominations. If you are interested in assisting in the running of the Club, or know of anyone who would be interested, please let Bridget know, or fill in one of the blue nomination forms on the Notice Board. It's always good to have new blood with a fresh outlook on our activities.

We have trialled the Wednesday afternoon bridge and have decided that a revamp is needed. We will keep it as it is for now, but from next year we will put the event in the Programme Book, make regular competitions, and start at 1pm instead of 11am. If members choose to join as an afternoon member, they will be eligible to play on both Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Of course, full members can play in any event they choose.

### **Annual General Meeting – Friday 4 November**

If you want to find out how we have spent our money this year, our plans for building maintenance and general management of our club by the committee for the next financial year, please come to the AGM at 6 pm on Friday 4 November. The meeting will be followed by dinner – compliments of the management, and will be one of Mindy Wu's team specialties. There will be a cash bar. The NZ Wide Pairs commence at 7.30 pm so it's a full night's entertainment. Please register for dinner and the NZ Wide Pairs with Bridget.

### **Orders being taken for Name Badges**

Cost \$12.00. Two designs to choose from see below. Orders by 5th November 2016.

Three colours (White Silver Gold) ; Computer Number Optional ; Magnetic attachment



*Ruth Brucker*  
18981



*Ruth Brucker*  
18981

## 2016 National Congress at Hamilton recently

*It's good to have you all home safe and sound and to boost our numbers again on Wednesday nights... Here's the best results from our members, and congratulations!*

2016	Congress Results
Rubber Bridge	1 <sup>st</sup> Russell Dive and Anthony Ker
NZ Pairs Plate	2 <sup>nd</sup> John Patterson and Murt Genc
NZ Teams	1 <sup>st</sup> Martin Reid, Ashley Bach, Geo Tislevoll, Michael Cornell, Vivien Cornell & Michael Ware
Open Restricted Pairs	5 <sup>th</sup> Jenny Delany & Susan Laurensen
NZ Senior Teams	3 <sup>rd</sup> Max Wigbout, Joan Waldvogel, Effie Gallie & Sarah Green
Same Sex Pairs	2 <sup>nd</sup> John Davidson & Simon Hinge
Open Swiss Pairs	4 <sup>th</sup> Heather Jared & Warren Johnson
Intermediate Pairs	4 <sup>th</sup> Chris Collins & Sam Ward
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Top Junior Pair Denise Barnett & Tegan Bennik
Senior Pairs	4 <sup>th</sup> Alan Grant & Nick Whitten
	5 <sup>th</sup> Judy Plimmer & Lorraine Inglis
BTF Teams	4 <sup>th</sup> Sandra Coleman, Chris Bolland Jan Whyte & Carolyn Yeomans
Goulash Pairs	1 <sup>st</sup> Rex Benson and Marilyn Jackson

## Titles to Titillate Your Interest



- “How to Improve your Partner's Defence” (KEL)
- “Bridge Over Troubles Waters” (BIR)
- “The Art of Psychic Bidding” (and its Pitfalls) (POT)
- “Bridge in the Menagerie (The winning ways of Hideous Hog)” (MOL)
- “Clobber the Artificial Club” (BAR)
- “How to Win at Bridge with any Partner” (FRY)
- “Double Trouble, All about Doubles” (HOR)
- “Fit for a King” (BRO)

We are almost there! Once we have a full record of the stock completed (over 360 books), it's all go. And, just in case anyone has 'borrowed' something they could not resist, without telling us? We would be very grateful if you could please bring them back now,.

The library will operate on a self-issue system. Just fill in the all the details in the Issue Book. As it takes a while to read a bridge book, borrowing times will be flexible. Heather Jared will manage the library's operation.

To make it all more interesting (helpful), the collection has been divided into categories. These just may engender some debate in themselves. 'A', (Advanced) 'B', (Beginners) and 'I', (Intermediate) are self-explanatory but 'O' is very interesting. It includes; humour, history, opinion; comment; personal experiences and reminiscence. If you have ever wondered about 'Moscito' it is there plus all the names you know well – Blackwood, Baron, Bergen and Jacoby to name a few.

Watch out for the **Library Open** signs. **JEH**



## **John Simon Sportsmanship Award - Recipients: James & Sam Coutts**

*[While James and Sam are not members of our club, they have played here several times and it's always heartening to know of stories like theirs... Ed]*

"The Award described below has just been handed out by the International Bridge Press Association at the World Bridge Games in Wroclaw, Poland (The other Awards were for brilliant defence & play & naturally went to world-class recipients.) The citation with the Sportsmanship Award is worth quoting for a number of reasons, I thought! Best regards, **Michael Gibson**"

This year's John Simon Sportsmanship Award goes to the brothers **James and Sam Coutts from Otago** New Zealand for their impeccable behaviour in the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra in January. We couldn't say it any better than GeO Tislevoll did in his letter to Barry Rigal explaining what happened.

"I don't know what it takes to be worth a sportsmanship award nomination, but will tell you this story from Canberra in January. It was a 34-pair event over 2 days before the main events started. At the finish, it was a close finish among several pairs, one of whom was Joan Butts and me. When we got the results in the bar afterwards, two young brothers from Christchurch, James and Sam Coutts had won, finishing a few MPs ahead of us. I did not think much more about it other than that I thought our score in the last set was a bit lower than I had hoped for.

Everybody had gone somewhere, dinner/bar and there were no score slips available. About 3 hours later, Joan came looking for me and told me that, when looking over the scores on the internet, she had found a scoring error; our +90 in 1NT having been scored as -90. The difference that would have made, if scored correctly, was more than the Coutts brothers' winning margin. The organisers were informed about it by Joan the same evening, but they said it was too late to change the scores, even though the prize-giving was set to be the next morning.

Rules are rules. James Coutts (and his brother) did not want to accept this. He said, "*If we did not really win, I don't want to accept the prize.*" He talked to the organisers the next morning, but they did not want to change anything. I was not in the room when the prize-giving happened .. but Joan told me when James and Sam were given the 1<sup>ST</sup> prize, James grabbed the microphone and said he and his brother had decided not to accept the gold medal and the 1<sup>ST</sup> prize money, and handed it over to swap with Joan. No one got a bigger round of applause in Canberra this year than James and Sam. (Joan and I decided we did not want to take the 1st prize money either and suggested a split of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>).

I think the two brothers' behaviour was commendable. They had done nothing wrong themselves, and I am sure some (many?) would have just accepted the win. I think these young players' attitude (there is a fine and growing group of young players in New Zealand and Australia at the moment) is super.  
Best regards, **GeO Tislevoll, Auckland**

## **Wellington Regional Bridge 2016 Junior Championship Bridge League**

Points Table to date: As at 19 September 2016 after 11 Junior Tournaments

It looks like this League has been flourishing this year with approx 60 players entered. The last Junior tournament is in November. Top placings are:

**1<sup>st</sup> Denise Barnett (56 pts) ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tegan Bennik (51 pts)**

## **2017 Programme Book**

It's that time again ... another year and a new programme book in November. If you would like to advertise in next year's programme book, please let Bridget know by the end of October. Please make sure you advise us of any changes in your contact details.

## ***Bridging the age gap ...***

"With kind permission of Rick Long, weekly Wairarapa News columnist and occasional player at Masterton Bridge Club"?

A delightful story I read in a Readers Digest concerned a rail commuter en-route to New York who was sitting next to a professional bridge player. The traveller took the opportunity to tell the bridge expert about a hand of bridge he had been dealt the night before and how he had acted upon it. He particularly wanted to know had he played the hand correctly, or should he have represented it differently. The bridge man considered the question and then allowed that indeed the hand had been played exactly as it should have been. A few days later our man got an account from the bridge expert for \$250. The next day the commuter found himself sitting next to a lawyer so he relayed the story about the information he had asked for and the subsequent invoice. "Was he liable to pay the bill?" he wanted to know. The lawyer said that he was. He knew the bridge man was a professional, he had sought his advice and therefore the payment was owed. Next day he got a bill for \$250 from the lawyer.

I tell this anecdote simply as a lead in to confessing that I used to play bridge. Once you think you have learned the game you are coerced into joining the local bridge club in Villa Street. The internal walls of their clubrooms are marked North, South, East and West and they really take the game seriously. Gold leafed honours boards adorn the hallowed hallways and subjects other than the finer points of bridge are not up for discussion. There was no room for gossip. And they use a whole new language. They have stamens, singletons and doubletons and pre-empt bids and I am accused of being an interposer. My head is spinning - "Learn from your mistakes" was a common piece of advice - and I made plenty - and suddenly I'm told I am "vulnerable," though I hadn't a clue why.

And it was not as though you could hide your incompetence. You move around the room travelling with the east of your west (north and south remain seated) and your progress is plotted by a cunning computer that cleverly calculates your score. The next week they post the outcome on the door so all the world can see that you came last equal. Your mortified partner, whom you unwittingly dragged down with you, is desperately looking for someone else to play with.

The trouble with the bridge exponents is that they have never moved on. The poker players now have their poker machines; clever pieces of electronic wizardry tucked away in neon caverns with spinning wheels that can relieve you of your money in comparative anonymity. But the bridge fraternity still use the fifty-two piece cardboard card set that should have been phased out with the Gulbransen radio and the DC 3. Bridge players will often tell you they've taken on the game to slow down the ageing process and perhaps it works. I was talking to a bridge player other day who is nearly 90 and he says he doesn't need glasses. He drinks right out of the bottle.

[Thank you Michael Gibson for emailing us this article. Ed]

## ***Monthly Pairs - Results from September 2016***

<p><b>Tuesday:</b> Manoy Estate Teams                      1<sup>ST</sup> Janel Benik, Tegan Bennik Denise Barnett &amp; Clive Phillips                      2<sup>nd</sup> Simon Dixie, David Fowler, Jeremy Gogan &amp; Peter Bushnell</p>	<p><b>Wednesday:</b> McDermont Cup Ladder                      1<sup>st</sup> Nigel Kearney                      2<sup>nd</sup> Graeme Norman</p>
<p><b>Thursday:</b> Porter Ladder                      1<sup>st</sup> Pauline Murtagh                      2<sup>nd</sup> Alistair Young</p>	<p><b>Friday afternoon:</b> Handicap Pairs                      1<sup>st</sup> Graham Potter &amp; Denise Barnett                      2<sup>nd</sup> Sylvia Johns &amp; Sophie Atkin</p>

## Results from Recent Tournaments - Congratulations

<u>Victoria Bridge Club Int - 18<sup>th</sup> September</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Julia Barnett & Christine Haronga 2 <sup>nd</sup> Graham Potter & John Black	<u>Victoria Bridge Club Junior 18<sup>th</sup> September</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan Bennett & Carol O'Sullivan
<u>Paraparaumu Multigrade 25 September</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Graham Potter & Mira Trifunovic	<u>South Wairarapa Multigrade 9<sup>th</sup> October</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mindy Wu & John Wilkinson (with an average score of 71.41% !) Top Open/ Intermediate Arumugam Kumarasamy & Jeffrey Craanen



### Bridge Bags (for system Cards)

We have a limited supply of Bridge Bags - great for System Cards, Bridge Programme Books and any other items you may need at the bridge table.

Many thanks to Christine Haronga for her time making/donating these handy bags. Good fund-raiser for our club. Good little man-bag too!

Available for \$15.00.

### Reminders

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- Please make sure you book for the AGM dinner, and register for the NZ Wide Pairs.
- All changes to your contact details for the 2017 Programme Book to Bridget please by early November. If you wish to advertise in the Programme Book, please make your wishes known to Bridget or Brad Tattersfield.