

November 2020 Newsletter

President's Corner –

Kia Ora members:

For my sins, I have been elected as your new president – a position rather less sought-after than the one they have been vying for in the US this month.

It was great to see so many of you attend the AGM. Four newbies were elected to the committee - Denise Barnett, Richard Gawith, Stephen Henry and Dennis McKinlay – and it's great to have an injection of new ideas and energy..

It was also great to have a couple of lively debates. Money, as always, stirred discussion. Treasurer Donna Upchurch told the meeting that with no change, she was budgeting for a loss. Following frisky debate, it was agreed to lift the subs by \$20 to \$115 – the first rise in four years. The alternative was to increase table money, which of course means those who play most, pay most. Some other clubs charge more than we do for table money and it may be something we have to look at during the year to stay in the black.



Denise Barnett at the AGM questioned whether the committee size should be cut and its function focused on decision-making instead of doing things. The latter roles would be delegated to volunteers outside the committee. It is certainly an idea worth considering and the committee will discuss it and, if change is proposed, will put it to members at the next AGM.

This month, our club hosts the Inter Provincials, a premium national tournament. In the words of NZ Bridge, this “pits Region versus Region. Parochialism and bridge passion unites teams of all grades. Everyone will be striving to play their best for their province.”

Wellington has held the Dougal McLean Trophy, awarded to the overall top region, for four successive years and it is testament to the strength of this club that our members have comprised the bulk of the winning Wellington teams. It rankles with Auckland that we have retained this trophy for so long and it is clear from the teams they have selected that they are going all out to knock us off our perch. I hope lots of you will watch and support our teams either in person or online.

Hosting this tournament is a major operation and many thanks to all of you who have and will volunteer to help. Also, special thanks to Bridget for the extra work she puts in. The folk who volunteer and the players who compete are evidence of what a fantastic club we have.

Lastly, may I add to the thanks given to outgoing President Margaret Curnow at the AGM. With skill and grace, she stewarded us through one of the most challenging years the club has experienced, keeping our club both open and safe when many were not. She also embodies the strength of our club.

Kia Kaha

Simon Louisson

Your committee for 2020

Simon Louisson (President)
Donna Upchurch (Treasurer)
Ruth Brucker
Maureen Sheldon
Richard Gawith

Margaret Curnow (Immediate Past President)
Sandy McKirdy (Chief Director)
Anne-Marie Russell
Suzanne Green
Dennis McKinlay

Wayne Nicol
Stephen Henry
Denise Barnett

There are numerous roles to fill within the committee and these will be decided within the next month or so. In the meantime, please feel free to contact any committee member if you would like information or have a matter to raise.

Notes from the Chief Director

Director Training

Have you ever thought about learning to direct or want to know more about the Bridge Laws to help improve your play? The Wellington Regional Committee has announced that Allan Joseph will be running training sessions starting on 23 January.

There are two courses:

- 1) five training sessions that cover all the topics required for candidates to sit the NZ Bridge Club Director's exam, and
- 2) a short course of three training sessions that covers the necessary topics to give attendees confidence and basic knowledge to conduct club sessions - but no exam.

If you are interested in becoming a director after the training you will be given further support and mentoring - you won't be thrown in the deep end.

See the flyers on the notice board for more detail on the content and dates, and remember, the club can't operate without you!

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Wellington Region Tournaments

12 December Wellington Regional Christmas Cheer
27 – 29 December Suzanne Duncan Tournament

Club Sessions

Tuesday night – Committee Cup Pairs
Wednesday night – Woe Wilson Memorial Handicap Pairs (starts 25 November)
Wednesday Night Paul Titcombe Lowe & Co Premier Teams Final
Thursday night – Bill Te Tau Summer Pairs (starts 3 December)

Tournament and club triumphs

Club series

Friday Spring Pairs
1st Mary-Jane Farrell & Val Cooper
2nd Sophie Atkin & Suzanne Johnstone

Tournaments

October 2020 Tournament results.

Palmerston North Swiss Pairs 18th October
1st Peter Delahunty & Ray Gruschow
2nd Mindy Wu & Sandra Coleman

Otago/Southland Congress Pairs 24th October
2nd Alan Grant & Jane Lennon

Otago/Southland Congress Teams 25th October
1st Mindy Wu, Murat Genc, Pam Nisbett & Jan Cormack

Babich NZ Wide Pairs 30th October
Wellington Club Heat
N/S Alan Grant & Nigel Kearney
E/W Dean Sole & Patrick D'arcy.

Babich NZ Wide Pairs National Results
3rd Pryor Rowland & Peter Farley
4th Alan Grant & Nigel Kearney
Nearest to 50% (50.01) Rachel Baskerville & Ambrose Fok.

Zelda Morris 10A Pairs 1st November
1st Mindy Wu & Mariusz Tumilowicz
2nd Anne-Marie Russell & Debbie McLeod

National 15A Teams – 7th November
1st Anne-Marie Russell, Alan Grant, Jane Lennon & Ian Berrington

Masterton Multigrade Teams 15th November.
1st Anne-Marie Russell, John Davidson, Barbara Tumilowicz & David Don
2nd Pam Hancox, Colin Haywood, Wayne Stechman and Julie Ballance.



Monday Night Bridge

Monday night session, commencing after Easter is open to all grades. All members are welcome!
The details and dates are in the 2021 Programme book.

Table Money Payments

Many of you (over 260) choose to pay your table money by direct debit. The system works based on your signed slip from each session of play and a monthly invoice, please don't email your approval of the invoice but do contact Bridget if you ever have a query. Direct Debit is the preferred method of payment as it avoids cash handling and collection. Some members still prefer to pay cash which will be accepted, for ease of handling, we would prefer if you could bring the correct money. Cheques are no longer accepted.

Christmas Raffle



That time of the year is fast approaching and the raffle will be drawn on 12th December at the Christmas Cheer tournament.

We welcome all your Christmas themed donations please, to add to the hamper located in the foyer.

The Back Wall Basement Carpark

It is okay to park in this park, provided you remember that your vehicle MUST be moved immediately after the close of play, at which point it is treated the same way as the 'parking in the middle'.

Colds, Coughs, Sneezing and Flu-like Symptoms

As you all know, there have been 1 or 2 cases of covid-19 in Wellington recently. Please see these as a really good reason not to get complacent about hand hygiene. Keep yourself and others safe by staying at home if you have any respiratory symptoms. If you happen to cough or sneeze please do so into your elbow, turned well away from others at the table. And please, wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands and continue to use the hand sanitiser provided at each table.

From NZ Bridge on Youth Week – Jan 4-8

We need to hear from those that are interested by December 1st so that we can book an appropriate venue. All we need to know at this point is if you are interested (you don't need to guarantee you will go) just so that we have a rough idea of numbers and if you are interested in group accommodation. If we don't hear from enough players, there won't be an event.



The championships will include:

- ❖ NZ Youth Pairs Championship
- ❖ NZ Youth Teams Championship
- ❖ Educational talks from some of NZ's top players
- ❖ Lots of fun side events

We are planning to accommodate everyone at a venue together that will be confirmed once we have rough numbers. Cost will be a max of \$100 per day including all food and bridge play, this will be confirmed once the venue is known.

Send confirmation of interest and any questions to Sam Coutts on srjcoutts@windowslive.com or 0272011222 or message Sammy Coutts on Facebook. Or Paul Coleman at youth@nzbridge.co.nz



We are looking for contributions from you for the Newsletter

Okay everyone, that's it for now. I'm aware this is a boring, almost picture-free newsletter but next month look out for

- ❖ Some bios on new committee members
- ❖ With mug shots
- ❖ An interesting hand played recently – I'm hoping this will become a regular feature.

I'm also very happy to publish any items you find interesting in the bridge world.

Happy bridging! Maureen Sheldon