

## November 2018 Newsletter

### **(New) President's corner.... Margaret Curnow**

Kia Ora everyone...

My first message as president coincides with a month in which I have the pleasure of offering congratulation to our club members (Pictured on page 3) Alan Grant & Jane Lennon, Kate Davies & John Patterson along with Annette & Stephen Henry who have been selected to represent New Zealand at the World Champs.

This week our new committee met for the first time and among other topics on our very full agenda was how to increase membership generally, and particularly how to increase playing numbers on Thursdays. This was discussed at the AGM earlier in November and some excellent suggestions were put forward.

The committee decided the topic will be looked at in depth at the December meeting which will give everyone a chance to look at the (long) list of ideas from the AGM and also some that have been put forward since. If anyone else has some more suggestions please let Bridget know before December 10.

We are finishing the year on a very positive note with playing numbers being solid and good success in the Interclub competition – well done all those who contributed to this.

Please always feel free to bring any ideas for improvement or concerns you may have to me or any of the committee. I am committed to discussing and following up on anything you bring to our attention.



### **Welcome to new members**

Welcome to new members Barbara Poole and Maciej Szczesny, Maciej is already on the honours board (see below in Tournament successes).

### **New Program Books available soon**

Line up the person you want to play with – program books will be out shortly. Just so can't say you never received it, the books come complete with your subscription invoice and a direct debit form. (Also a reminder that those dinosaurs still paying table money with old fashioned money could take the opportunity to make it easier on our directors if they fill in a direct debit form).

### **Directors needed and existing ones need a hand**

Speaking of directors – Chief Director Maureen Pratchett needs more people to sign up. If you know someone who you think fits the bill, tell Maureen. The main qualification is a good way with people rather than a deep knowledge of the rules (for which you will be trained). The good news is that one of the first actions of the new committee was to hike director payments for the new year.

The role of directing has become more onerous with the introduction of Tablets. To help the Director finish up at the end of the session Grade Captains will request a volunteer each playing night to collect the Tablets and plug them in. It's not a huge job but it will greatly assist your director.

### **Tournament assistance needed**

We need some more people to help for both this weekend's National Teams event and the Christmas Cheer tournament on December 8. Anyone able to put their baking skills to work would also be appreciated.

### **Want to help young people enjoy bridge?**

NZ Bridge is calling for expressions of interest for the voluntary position of Youth Advocate, following the resignation of Tracey Lewis. The two-year role is focused on developing players to represent Aotearoa, especially the under 21 and under 25 squads. It's about mentoring and organising development programs. More details are on [nzbridge.co.nz](http://nzbridge.co.nz) and if interested send a CV and your qualifications for the job to secretary @NZbridge.co.nz .

## Well attended AGM followed up by dinner and NZ WidePairs event



A well-attended annual meeting heard how from outgoing President Brad Tattersfield (below middle) how the club was in good heart financially and in terms of membership. There was discussion on how subs or table money should be raised when the need arises and ideas were canvassed on how to turn around falling attendance on Thursday evenings.

Brad was thanked for his two years as president, which he said were made easier by a lack of crisis or controversy (and his good management). People welcomed in new President Margaret Curnow and Vice President Suzanne Green together with new committee members Wayne Nichol and Turei Haronga. Retiring committee members Kevin Walker Karl Hayes and Toni Izzard (right) were thanked for their long, constructive service while more recent members and recent parents Simon and Miriam Tankersley (below left), were also thanked. The meeting was followed by an excellent meal organised by Mindy Wu and the NZ Wide Pairs, where Gary Hanna & Warren Johnson were best for Wellington at 75<sup>th</sup>.



## PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ....

### Club series

**Tuesday/Junior – Committee Cup Pairs** – starts Nov 20

**Thursday/Intermediate – Bill Te Tau Summer Pairs** – starts Dec 6

**Wednesday/Open – Epic Journeys Premier Teams Finals** – starts Nov 28

**Friday Afternoon – Summer Pairs** – starts Nov 16

### Tournaments

**National Teams, Wellington** - Nov 17-18

**Masterton Multi Teams** - Nov 17-18

**Inter-provincial Finals (Remuera)** – Nov 24-25

**Wellington Regional Multi Christmas Cheer at WBC** – Dec 8 (\$45)

**Suzanne Duncan Open Pairs at WBC** – Dec 27-29

### Recent triumphs

#### Club Series

**Tuesday - Tinakori Salver Pairs**

1<sup>st</sup> Sue Storer & John Norling

2<sup>nd</sup> Megan Turner & Jeremy Gogan

**Wednesday - Woe Wilson Memorial Handicap Pairs**

1<sup>st</sup> Sushila Kumar & Michael Revell

2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Hanna & Anton Ferrari



**Intermediate winners  
Wellington Regional Club  
Champs – Tegan Bennik and  
Jeremy Morley**

## Thursday Stockman Salver Handicap Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Sandie Lepper & Cheryl Scott  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jude Lucas & Karen Eriksen

## Friday Spring Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Sophie Atkin & Jennifer Coulter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Jane Farrell & Val Cooper

## Tournaments

### Palmerston North Swiss Pairs October 13

1<sup>st</sup> Nigel Kearney & Charles Ker

### Kapi Mana Intermediate Tournament Oct 14

1<sup>st</sup> Maciej Szczesny & Mariusz Tumilowicz

### Kairangi Open Pairs Labour Weekend

1<sup>st</sup> Anthony Ker & Russell Dive

2<sup>nd</sup> Maciej Szczesny & Mariusz Tumilowicz

3<sup>rd</sup> Sandy McKirdy & Graham Stronach

### Otago Southland Congress Teams Oct 22

1<sup>st</sup> Alan Grant & Team-mates

### Wellington Region Club Champs Oct 28

2<sup>nd</sup> Overall Wellington Club

### Open Section

1<sup>st</sup> Mindy Wu & Nigel Kearney (Nomads Team)

2<sup>nd</sup> Kate Davies & John Patterson

### Intermediate Section

1<sup>st</sup> Tegan Bennik & Jeremy Morley (pictured previous page)

### NZ Wide Pairs 2 November –(Wellington Club Heat)

N/S Gary Hanna & Warren Johnson

E/W Derek Snelling & Isobel Ross

### Waikanae Junior Tournament Nov 11

1<sup>st</sup> Maciej Szczesny & Mariusz Tumilowicz

2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Storer & Sally Broadhurst

### Waikanae Intermediate Tournament Nov 11

1<sup>st</sup> Margaret Curnow & Andrew Smith



*Four of the team that won the NZ Trials Mixed Team event last weekend. Alan Grant (left) playing with Jane Lennon (second right) from Christchurch and Kate Davies and John Patterson. The third pair chosen are Stephen and Annette Henry.*



## Ex Libris – Tim Heartt

We have been lucky in having the late Tim



Heartt's collection of bridge books given to us. Over thirty books in all. Twenty of these are titles we do not have, which have been added to the collection. The others, which are duplicates, where possible we have substituted them for older and worn copies. So, all in all, the recycling box has been very kind to a number of lucky people.

Just to let you know the breadth of this gift, there are five new Klingers. We have been purchasing Andrew Robson books, and can now add two more, 'Opening Lead' and 'need to know ---- Bridge"

From Eddie Kantar (he is not so formal these days) 'Roman Keycard Blackwood, The Final Word', 2008, and 'Bridge for Dummies', which is a book we have been wanting to see.

Of interest, 'The New Standard American Bridge Updated', by Norma Sands. A new author (to us) Fred Parker, 'Win At Duplicate Bridge; bid difficult hands like an expert' And, another new (to us) author, John Boeder, "Thinking about IMPS". From his introduction:

*'IMPs is a combination of mechanics and ideas. To play IMPs we have different systems, different treatments within systems, different styles and different ideas of tactics and strategy.'*

Food for thought and some extra study.

Finally three treasures from the past, gifted by Gary Hanna, all by that master Victor Mollo.

Will you be my Partner?", "Bridge in the Menagerie", "Last Call in the Menagerie"

Victor Mollo is one of those writers who just keep on keeping on. Last Call in the Menagerie, was published after his death, as the stories originally appeared in various magazines around the world. They were collected and edited by Mark Horton.

.More entertaining adventures of the members of the fictitious bridge club called Griffins.

Victor Mollo and Nico Gardiner's "Card Play Technique", was first published in 1955. The last revised edition was published in 2013 and is still available. For many years it was the most requested out-of-print bridge book. If you fancy a copy of the 1982 edition it will set you back NZ\$98.75. Considered "the best intermediate level book on card play ever written", it is still on any list of the all-time top ten bridge books. J.E.H.



## Slow play – by Maureen Pratchett (Chief Director)

Slow play is one of the most complained-of events. There will always be occasions where we have a particularly difficult hand. However, if a pair consistently takes more than their share of the allotted time for each round, they are inconveniencing their fellow competitors as well as gaining an unfair advantage over them. When a pair has fallen behind it is incumbent on them to make up the time as quickly as possible whether at fault or not. The actively ethical player makes a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness. All players are expected to develop this good habit. It would help if everyone would abide by the following guidelines:

- All players are to be seated no later than 10 minutes before start, so that the director can decide the movement and get the boards out in order to start on time. If a pair arrives after 7:25, the Director has the discretion to refuse them entry.
- Try to keep up to a reasonable speed with your bidding and play. If you finish a round late, please make every effort to catch up during the next one.
- When the Director has called the move, move promptly to the next table even if it has not yet been vacated.
- Keep the conversation to a minimum until you have finished playing all the hands for each round.
- When you're on lead, please make your lead before entering the details in the tabs or writing up your score card. Similarly, when you're dummy, put your hand down promptly, then enter the information in the tabs or on your score card. If you see someone beginning to write down the contract before making the opening lead, remind them politely that they should lead first so that everyone else can be getting on with the hand.
- If the move has been called, complete your score sheet at the next table.
- If, as declarer, you can see that you will definitely win all the remaining tricks, or a definite number of the remaining tricks, please claim, but in doing so remember that you must make a statement as to how you will play the rest of the hand, and this must include a reference to how you will handle any trumps still held by the defenders (otherwise they can argue that you had forgotten they were still out). Equally, as defender, if it's totally obvious that your side will win (or lose) the last, say, two or three tricks, please make a claim (or concession).
- Do not start a board if there is less than 3 minutes left in the round.
- If a particular table or pair keeps holding you up, draw the director's attention to it at an early stage so that they can keep an eye on the potential problem.
- To play more quickly you don't need to play fast; you just need to play slowly less often. Thinking ahead about your next bid or possible lead can help you do this.

**Remember that slow play is a violation of bridge Laws.** If these guidelines do not remedy slow play, The Laws allow the Director to remove one or more boards from a round and award a "no score" or a 60%/40% score. Or for persistent slow play, the Director may award a procedural penalty of 10% of the board's matchpoints.

## One hand that boosted our mixed pairs team to the top – by Alan Grant

One of our best results in the last teams match against Moss Wylie and Anne Somerville was the result, not of a slam or game contract, but of a simple part-score swing. We managed to achieve +9 IMPS by good defence at our table allied with sound declarer play by Kate and John at the other.

At our table our opponents bid somewhat conservatively to 1NT by West on the combined 23 points for EW on the EW hands on the following layout. Anne in the East seat opened a ubiquitous precision 1D on the East cards. Moss replied 1NT – to play if East was 11-13 balanced (they play a 14-16 1NT opening).

While EW's bidding had the merit of keeping the bidding low – it had the contract played from what turned out to be the wrong side for easy declarer play. Jane found the excellent lead of the ♥J from the North seat:

<b>BD: 26</b>	♠653	<b>Dlr: E</b>
	♥JT865	<b>Vul: All</b>
	♦853	
	♣Q2	
♠QJ9		♠AT2
♥92		♥AQ4
♦KJ76		♦QT2
♣KJT3		♣8754
	♠K874	
	♥K73	
	♦A94	
	♣A96	
	♣♦♥♠	N
		T
N	- - 1 - -	3
S	- - 1 - -	11 12
E	2 2 - 1 2	14
W	2 2 - 1 1	

While technically it is possible for either side to make 8 tricks, it is not easy in practice on the defence we found:

Declarer correctly started with playing ♥A from dummy. Next declarer played on ♦s, I held up to the 3rd round to hinder communications between declarer and dummy. Then I led a low ♣ to Jane's ♣Q and she found the excellent continuation from the North hand of the ♥10 through the ♥Q, pinning West's ♥9. Declarer now faltered by playing ♥Q on the ♥T, covered by the ♥K and a heart returned to Jane's ♥8 – so she could cash 2 further ♥s. Declarer pitched 2 x ♣s and a ♠ from dummy and a ♠ from hand – hoping that the ♠K was onside. In the meantime I encouraged Jane to switch to ♠s with my discards. So when Jane exited with the ♠6 through dummy's Ace to my ♠K, I was able to clear the ♠A, while still retaining the ♠A entry. This gave me 2 further tricks in the black suits when I came in with the ♠A for 3 down and +300 to the winning team.

At the other table Kate Davies played 2NT from the East seat after a 1NT opening - 2♣ range finder response and 2NT signoff. With the less testing defence from the East seat and a ♠ lead, Kate made 2NT on sound declarer play, not found at the other Mixed Teams tables, for +120 and net +9 IMPs to us!

I'm sure declarer didn't expect to end up down 3 in 1NT on combined 23 HCP. Who says part-score contracts are boring!

FREQUENCIES FOR BOARD 26			
Contract	Result	Score	Frequency
1NT by EW	-3	300	1
2NT by EW	-3	300	1
2NT by EW	-2	200	1
2NT by EW	=	-120	1



SandraPritchard's Hand Made Greeting Cards are available at the club for sale with the some of the proceeds donated to the Bridge Club. Great cards only \$3.00 (\$1.00 to the Club) and she will also make to order

## Make your living playing bridge in Manhattan

The Observer's Greg Hanlon has taken a fascinating peak inside the world of big-money bridge

<https://observer.com/2013/11/million-dollar-hobby-inside-the-world-of-big-money-bridge/>. He checks out how three-time

junior world champion, 20-something year old John Kranyak, and others earn their livings partnering players at the Honors Bridge Club on East 58th Street, Manhattan, where the median player age is well north of 70 and the air smells of coffee and heavily applied makeup.

Rich sponsors are common at the Honors, one of Manhattan's three major bridge clubs and considered the most hoity-toity. Marjorie Wilpon, the wife of Ken Wilpon (who is first cousin to Mets owner Fred Wilpon), plays there. So does Justine Cushing, whose father was the developer of Squaw Valley.



To this crowd, bridge isn't just some time-passing activity **Gail Greenberg at the Honors Bridge Club. (Photo by Amanda Lea Perez)** for the idle elderly, but rather a serious competitive pursuit for people whose experiences in life have accustomed them to winning. Of the 11 tables devoted to high-level play when Hanlon visited, eight contained partnerships between a client and a pro. The ubiquity of these pairings lends truth to the famous Mae West axiom that good bridge is like good sex: "If you don't have a good partner, you'd better have a good hand."

The difference is that in bridge in the US, it's not considered untoward to pay for the privilege. For a weekday three-hour tournament at a club like the Honors, pros fetch anywhere from \$US150 to \$225. As the stakes get higher, so do the rates. For regional tournaments, pros make in the neighbourhood of \$500 to \$1,000 for a day. For larger national tournaments, pros make up to \$3,000 per day, while the very best pros charge clients annual retainer fees of up to \$200,000 and pull in seven-figure incomes.

Judi Radin, a four-time world champion, has made her living from bridge for more than 40 years, since she was 17. Like many pros, Ms. Radin considers herself close friends with some of her clients, with whom she regularly goes out to dinner and the theatre. Melih Ozdil, a pro whose three regular clients include Ms. Cushing, gets his health insurance from one of his clients, though he declined to tell me which one. For clients with a difficult-to-exhaust supply of money, paying a pro is considered money well spent.

"You play with a partner who's better than you, and you try to learn to keep up your end, and it makes it more exciting," Ms. Cushing explained, adding that her partnership with Mr. Ozdil has raised her level from average to above-average.

Because rates for weekday club tournaments are comparatively low, many elite pros save themselves for regional, national and international tournament play. Almost all top players play with sponsors. As a result, top teams at American tournaments, which consist of three pairs, or six players per team, follow a peculiar configuration: one wealthy sponsor and five pros in the sponsor's employ. Top sponsors pay \$US1 million or more to field their dream teams.

"Imagine if you could pay LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal and you could be the fifth guy," Aviv Shahaf, director of the Honors, said. "And you were at a level that was decent but not NBA level. That's basically what this is."