

November 2021 Newsletter

President's Message

Kia Ora members:



As this is my first “column” as your president I’m doing quite a bit of listening and trying to help continue the momentum the previous Committee has built up around the long term issues the club is facing around things like membership and the building.

Over the last month or two we have had a special general meeting and the AGM. At the special meeting members rejected wording changes to the rules covering matters such as the size of the Committee and approach to bring about the Committee putting more focus on the longer term strategic issues. Most of the concern centred around that the wording needed further work, and some of the numbers needed reconsideration. I was encouraged by

the strong support for the intent behind the proposals, and I will be focussing on the direction that was endorsed, and mindful that we will need to come back to members in the future with a refined proposal. At the AGM apart from normal matters as far as elections and reports the key topic was around clear policies around our approach to responding to Covid. A resolution was put around requiring members to have a vaccine passport in order to play at the club. There was also quite a bit of discussion on use of masks, and a request from the Committee for greater clarity around vaccination. The Committee met shortly after the AGM to consider our policy in the light of the government’s traffic light system and to ensure our approach lines up with the Government’s public health policy while minimising the impact on members' playing experience.

In my note to you on November 19 I outlined the Committee’s decisions and the rationale. Anyone who enters the club in future whether they be members, visitors, tenants, or members of other clubs will need to be vaccinated. Members who have a medical exemption from a government-approved medical officer will be able to play provided they wear a mask at all times. The club will require evidence that those entering the club are fully vaccinated. Where vaccination certification is used by a club such as ours, under the “green” and “orange” lights, masks are recommended, but will not be mandatory. These new rules apply from 1 December which is not far away, so please find an appropriate way to confirm your vaccination status to Bridget as soon as possible if you have not done so already.

I hope you all have a good Xmas break if I don’t see you before then.

Peter Newell (Club President)

Clock is racing to get your vaccine certificate to Bridget

As Peter notes in his message, the committee at its first meeting last week backed up the resolution at the AGM to mandate that all members be vaccinated by December 1 if they want to play live bridge at the club. You must get your vaccine certificate from the <https://mycovidrecord.health.nz/> website. Once you have received the QR code, Bridget will have to record it. The easiest way is for you is either email a copy or show it on your phone and Bridget has an app to scan it. Invoices for your subs will be released with your bridge books next week and remember there will be a new section for you to agree to be fully vaccinated and that our club can share that information with other bridge clubs for the purposes of tournaments and interclub. Those who have a medical exemption from an authorised medico will also have to show that to Bridget.



Unfortunately, for the safety of the vast majority, those exempt both vaccine and wearing a mask will not be able to play. The good news is that after December 1, mask wearing will be optional.

No smoking remit passed

Reminder that a remit was passed banning smoking on the property at the AGM. Smokers can smoke by the street or at the back by the carpark. One of the reasons this ban has been imposed is that some smokers did not adhere to smoking in the designated areas.



Allocation of committee “portfolios”

The new committee began the mahi at its first meeting to put in place the proposed new structure whereby most of the day-to-day operations will be conducted by sub-committees.

It was agreed that Dennis McKinlay (right) and Margaret Curnow (left) will take responsibility for the Membership Growth and Marketing committee;



Stephen Henry (left) and our chief director Sandy McKirdy (right) will oversee the Bridge Technical committee (and no, those are not Corrections Dept mugshots!)



Anne-Marie Russell (is overseeing the Sustainability Committee (including the Building); Ruth Brucker (right) will oversee the Events and Tournaments committee while



Treasurer Donna Upchurch (right) is overseeing Finance and Budgeting.

If anyone is interested in joining one of these subcommittees, or you think someone would be suitable and you would like to nominate them, then please contact the Committee member.



New Bridge Books available

The new Bridge Books will be out next week but a reminder you can download all the bridge calendar and do all your booking electronically now, and that is the way we are heading. So, try it out. The big advantage is that you can't lose it and always have it with you so long as you have your phone. This year's bridge book may become a collector's item. As stated above, don't forget to fill in the new sections regarding vaccination when you pay your invoice.

Open team win at InterProvincials

Congratulations to our Open team of Alan Grant-Anthony Ker; Peter Newell-Martin Reid and Nigel Kearney & Karl Hayes, which won their prestigious grade at the InterProvincial competition this month. Sadly, we did not win the Dougal MacClean Trophy which went to Auckland-Northland. Wellington ended 4th.

The tournament scheduled to be held in Auckland had to be played online on the RealBridge platform. Many thanks to Isobel Ross, the Wellington Chef de Mission, Mindy Wu of the Wellington Regional Bridge Committee and Alan Grant, who conducted the training on RealBridge, for all the extra mahi they put in. Also thanks to Kim Tate who joined the intermediate at the eleventh hour and played the whole tournament. Isobel probably understated it considerably when she said the reorganisation was "very demanding".

She reports that the idea of "building the plane as we're flying it" is the best analogy for the organisation and structure of the Interprovincials in the online format. Welly players played from home but Isobel said it would have been better to have been at a centralised venue. She also advised a team of six was preferable than just two pairs.

See: https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/blog/8204/Real-Live-Inter_Provincials

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

Christmas Cheer on Saturday, Dec 11

This is a fun tournament so get your bridge fix in before the Christmas break. We will need some more helpers for this if you can spare a couple of hours, let Bridget or Ruth know.

Rescheduled Wellington Regional Teams tourney

The rescheduled 15A Wellington Regional Teams tournament will be held at our club on December 18-19. There are already 18 teams confirmed for this so it should be a cracker tournament. Again we need volunteers to help run this.

Suzanne Duncan Open tournament Dec 27-29

If you are not away over Christmas what better way to spend your time? You can play one evening or all three. If you have a bridge-playing family member or friend then bring them along.

Visitors' Day

Friday 10th December - 1.00pm. Bring along a visitor for the afternoon session and an end of year afternoon tea.

Christmas Raffle

Christmas Raffle - can you please bring a Christmas grocery item for our annual raffle to be drawn on Dec 11 at the Christmas Cheer tournament.

Christmas Cards

Sandra's Christmas cards are available in the foyer or from Bridget.



Welcome to new member

Welcome to new member Glenda Lewis

Congratulations

Tournament results:

NZ Wide Pairs

N/S Peter Newell & Annette Henry

E/W Paul Carson & Mindy Wu

Monthly Results Club Series:

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Tuesday: Thorndon Trophy Handicap Pairs:

1st Sarah Ash & Rosy Moar (pictured right)

2nd Helen Climo & Helen Dunn

Thursday – Stockman Salver Handicap Pairs:

1st Dennis McKinlay & Robyn Steele

2nd Toni Allwood & Rob Egginson

Friday – Gloria & Neil Crabbe Pairs:

1st Sandie Lepper & Pauline Murtagh

2nd Kim Tate & Bill Gardner



New Life Member

At the AGM, Margaret Curnow proposed that Kevin Walker be made a Life Member of the Wellington Bridge Club. Many people may not be aware of how much voluntary work Kevin does for our club. He has been Chief Director, Club President and a committee member. He is responsible for the smooth introduction of Compscore, our new bridge scoring system, earlier this year, and for training all directors in using it. This has been a mammoth task and has involved hours of time as well as skill and experience. In addition, Kevin's in-depth knowledge of the club rules, his quiet and unassuming manner and his ability to see all sides of any situation, mean he has provided a voice of moderation and reason on many occasions and has become an advisor and mentor for directors and club officers.

The proposal of Life Membership was passed unanimously at the AGM with a round of applause.

