

## January 2021 Newsletter

### Happy New Year to you all!

Many of you will already be getting your regular bridge 'fix', while others are still in complete holiday mode. Wherever you are or have been over these holidays, I wish you a happy and prosperous 2021 and I look forward to seeing you in the club again soon.

### President's Corner

Kia Ora:

The committee is edging its way towards a slimmed down version of itself whereby the smaller "board" will take responsibility for key matters such as strategy and planning, fiscal management, employment, managing relations with external parties, operational oversight and, most importantly, enjoyment of playing bridge. A club captain could potentially be on the committee as the conduit for player concerns. A series of sub-committees would be set up to run operations for such matters as directors and scoring, property oversight, lessons and membership, catering, tournaments and so on. When the final format has been agreed, it will be put to the AGM for members to approve or not.

The other weighty issue the committee is mulling is our Zero Tolerance Policy. Originally set up in 2001 when the club was dealing with a fair degree of unacceptable behaviour, the policy has been successful in changing the culture on unacceptable behaviour. However, the thinking is that it lacks flexibility, so some unacceptable behaviour is tolerated to a degree and also it potentially inhibits people from complaining about such behaviour as they believe the consequences may be too severe.

The committee has not yet finalised its review of the policy but one thing we are likely to do is raise the profile of the position of club Recorder, currently Patrick D'Arcy. If someone has concerns or is upset with the behaviour of another player, and is unsure how to proceed, that person can discuss matters with the Recorder in confidence. As stated in the Bridge Book, this doesn't preclude a formal complaint. Of course, the first port of call involving play is the director. You can also raise matters with your grade captain. Former President Margaret Curnow has also updated the guidelines for the Complaints Committee.

As most of you will know, Peter Benham, one of the club's strongest players and longest standing members, died on Thursday. Typically, Pete was in fine form hours before he died, coming top East -West on Wednesday night, getting 62.65%, playing with Carolyn Black. Pete was a WBC member for over 50 years. He was a Silver Grand Master in 2017 and had over 2,000 A Points to his name. He is one of a few players who has attended every NZ Bridge National Congress tournament, frequently making the pairs finals and with a best finish of 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our thoughts go out to Pete's life partner Anne Barr, who is a former member and director. A memorial service will be held at the club at 2pm, Thursday, January 28 with members welcome.

There are tributes to Pete on the NZ Bridge website

<http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates,listing,7111,a-tribute-to-pete-benham.html> and <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates,listing,7110,the-coat-of-many-colours.html>



Simon Louisson

## Pete Benham – WBC member for over 50 years



The following is a special tribute to Peter from long-time bridge partner, Brian Cleaver:

*“Pete and I met in 1968 when we both worked at Databank as programmers. A colleague, Tony Burghout, was a member of the Wellington Bridge Club and introduced us to the game. We had two tables at work lunch times and sometimes at the pub after work for 20 cents a hundred. More enthusiasm than skill. We both joined the Wellington Bridge Club in 1970.*

*Pete became enamoured with the game, both the psychology of reading the four hands and the technical play aspects. He quickly progressed to become one of Wellington’s leading players and has won most, if not all, of Wellington’s major titles, in addition to featuring prominently in national events. In recent years he has balanced his top level competitive play with enjoyment of less competitive bridge such as Friday afternoons. He enjoyed playing the game regardless of the environment for challenge of the play and the social environment it provided.*

*Going home immediately after the last hand was not Pete’s idea of a bridge evening. Whether it was analysis of the night’s hands, politics (Pete was slightly right wing), sport or obscure jokes he was a witty and informed contributor to the discussion. Pete had trouble going to sleep before 6.00 am so was nearly always one of the last to finish up. I recall an occasion at the Nationals when we realised we had stayed too long at the bar when hotel guests started turning up for breakfast.*

*Pete has been a notable and colourful identity in both Wellington and New Zealand bridge and will be sorely missed. I will greatly miss Pete both as a friend and a bridge partner. I, along with many others, will also miss him as part of the Wellington bridge social environment that he has been a core of for many years.”*



## Director Please!

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 16th 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.

We realise you will have missed the first sessions but what has been missed can be caught up reasonably easily. Why not give it a go? Apart from anything else, you gain a much deeper understanding of the rules of the game (although whether that would make you a better bridge player is a moot point).

## New Plymouth Taranaki Bridge Congress 6-11 March

As you all know, there is no Australian Congress in Queensland this year and consequently many of you may wish to go to New Plymouth to attend the New Plymouth Congress instead.

However, there is a clash of dates in that the first night of the Andrew Thompson Memorial Teams competition starts on 10 March.

Please send Bridget feedback on this proposed change ASAP.

## A LITTLE BIRD TELLS ME.....

- EFTPOS is coming! We should have it in the club in February
- Disabled access way through the kitchen will be built improved in the coming weeks. Unfortunately we cannot improve the slope of the ramp due to space limitations, but the improvements will make wheelchair entry to the building possible.
- There are roadworks going on around the building at present. We are aware they may potentially cause disruption.
- From Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January there will also be so scaffolding on the roof to allow for some maintenance on the roof and guttering's. . Richard Gawith, has taken on the mantle of Building Maintenance co-ordinator,
- Nigel Kearney and Anne-Marie Russell have taken on a joint role as Youth Liaison officers for our club. Their main work will be in formulating/co-ordinating a programme for our youth players and will hopefully include other youth from the Wellington area. We are also hosting the NZ Bridge Youth Bridge Weekend on 6-8 August.



to

## PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ....

- NZ Bridge 15A Swiss Pairs 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> March
- New Plymouth Taranaki Bridge Congress 6-11 March 2021
- Wellington Club 6's Tournament – a great day for all grades!
- Waikanae Open (5A) February 7

## Club Sessions

**Monday night** –commencing May 2021

**Tuesday night** – Martin Jug Pairs 2 February

**Wednesday night** – Charles Wilson Memorial Pairs 3 February

**Thursday night** – Brian Willis Memorial Pairs 4 February

**Friday afternoon** – Afternoon Duplicate Ladder 29 January

## December 2020 – January 2021 Tournament results

Suzanne Duncan Tournament 27-29 December 2020

<u>1st</u>	<u>Nigel Kearney / Jack James (picture left)</u>
<u>2nd</u>	<u>Paul Carson / Mindy Wu</u>
<u>3rd</u>	<u>Annette Henry / Stephen Henry</u>
<u>4th</u>	<u>John Patterson / Kate Davies (pictured right)</u>



## Other results

### Alexandra Holiday Pairs 9 January 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> Anne-Marie Russell & John Patterson

4<sup>th</sup> Kate Davies & Anne Sommerville

5<sup>th</sup> Sandy McKirdy & Christine McKirdy (Congrats to Chris on her 1<sup>st</sup> A points)

### 10A Otago/Southland Swiss Pairs

2nd Mindy Wu & Pamela Nisbett.

## Baden Wilson Top A Points winners for 2020 – New Zealand-Wide

### MALE

1<sup>st</sup> Alan Grant

7<sup>th</sup> John Patterson

### FEMALE

3<sup>rd</sup> Anne Marie Russell

7<sup>th</sup> Kate Davies

9<sup>th</sup> Mindy Wu.

## **Dot Procter**

Our best wishes are also with Dot Procter, who is terminally ill with cancer.. Most of you will remember Dot, who held Bridget's position of Office Manager for 18 years and was stalwart of the club. Nelson and family are in our thoughts at this difficult time.



a

Okay, that's it for now, enjoy!

Maureen Sheldon