

New Plymouth Bridge Club Newsletter

August 2019

Member lists

In preparation for next years bridge programme book we would like everyone to check that their names and contact details are correct. The lists are on display in the main playing room. Please check your entry and mark it as correct or make any alterations.

New Plymouth Weekend of Bridge – Sponsored by Anne Wilson

There is a lot of work done behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of a weekend of bridge. As usual players were well fed thanks to the following who provided baking and big pots of soup - Gillian Gonthier, Jude Hansen, Feye Lyall, Anne Smith, Sharon Wray, Fay Murcott, Gaylene Riddle, Lyn Muller, Kevin Turner, Marion Biggs, Anne Fitzgibbons, Frances Corcoran, Coby Slager, Suzi Thirwall, Margaret Sullivan, Gallia Therin and Teresa Roberts.

We also had Anne Fitzgibbons, Marion Biggs, Fern Cull, Helen Carryer, Alan Metcalf, Pat Cantrell-Pary (and her two grandchildren Will and Leah who were a great help) and Suzi Thirwall helping in the kitchen.

We also need to acknowledge the members who opened their homes to visiting players. This is appreciated and goes a long way to promoting our club as a friendly place to be. Thanks too to our sponsor and fellow bridge player Anne Wilson for her generous support of the club through tournament sponsorship as well as other club activities. Thank you to the Card dealers, Barmen, Traffic controllers, front desk people, players and Alex Parr, our youngest member who did a great job helping on Sunday with caddying and general kitchen duties. We thank you all.

I would like to update the lists of kitchen helpers and morning tea providers. These are not onerous tasks – even an hour helping with morning tea or lunch is appreciated and helps to lighten the load. Morning tea is provided by club members and enjoyed by the players. If enough people are willing to provide plates individuals will not need to be called on very often.

Lists will be hung in the kitchen or you can contact June Metcalfe 0210 8408922

Results Open Pairs 2nd Bev Bromfield and Raewyn McLean
 3rd Pam Livingston with Grant Jarvis

Intermediate/Junior Pairs 1st Lois Harrop with Jennifer Horner from Hawera

 2nd Stephanie Larmer and Cecilia Stringer

 3rd John Holdom and John de Bueger

Top Junior Pair - Lalith Mendis and John Rutten

Swiss Pairs 2nd Russell Wilson with Alister Stuck

 3rd Pam Livingston with Grant Jarvis

 5th Lyn Muller and Judy Holdom

Congratulations to Pam Livingston on her elevation to Silver Grand Master. Pam was delighted to be playing at home when she ticked over the magic number for silver - an aggregate of 2500 A+B points including at least 1250 A points. It's going to take some of us a long time.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Congratulations to the class of 2019!

A graduation night was incorporated into the Welcome Pairs on August 14. We are delighted to welcome another group of new enthusiastic members to our club.

Club members have shown their support in many ways.

- Helping at lessons
- Organising rosters of helpers
- Playing with learners in Welcome Pairs
- Being part of the bridge buddy programme

We thank you all for helping to make the newbies welcome.

Green Alerts

Green alerts for graduates during Monday and Wednesday have been implemented and are:

- the use of green pens
this means no psychs and basic systems to be used
- 3 green cards to limit the use of questions to 3 only
Crib sheets can also be used

Friday Bridge Survey

Thanks to all who participated in the survey. It is pleasing that members enjoy their Friday Bridge.

A good number of responses were received and the majority of players were happy with the current format, although it was noted that most want to play all the boards. Slow play, while irksome should be tolerated and managed by the Directors.

The Friday convenor position is now filled.

Afternoon tea was wanted by over half of the players but in a simplified form with a Cookie Jar which can be topped up by members (this works well with the learners). They also wish to state that neither the Director nor the Convenor is responsible for this.

Thanks to Anne and Linda and others who have contributed to afternoon tea.

Lyn Muller - President

Recent Tournament Successes

Matamata Open 2nd Russell Wilson

Hawera Intermediate 3rd Anne Smith and Lois Cleaver

Fullarton Teams 4th Sandra Calvert and Colin Carryer

Cambridge 6's Russell Wilson and Margaret and Ken Crawford were in the team that finished top overall in a large field.



Alerting

Each partnership has a duty to make available its partnership understandings to opponents during the bidding by alerting (putting a circle around the bid after partner has written it) or before the commencement of play.

Bids which are deemed to be normal and commonly practiced do not need alerting but anything outside of these or have partnership agreements should always be alerted.

Common Bids (ie not deemed alertable) are:

- Opening 2 Clubs - Game Force and the 2D response showing less than 8 points
- 2 Clubs Stayman (after partners NT)
- Opening 2 Diamonds, 2 Hearts and 2 Spades IF they are a single suited weak 2 bid
- 2NT if it is a normal 20-22 balanced
- Opening 3 level bids that are normal pre-empts

In our club quite of us were raised on Benjaminised Acol where 2 Diamonds is the strongest bid and 2 Clubs was a lesser hand - both of these bids MUST be alerted as they are not considered normal. If 2 Diamonds is not alerted it will be considered a weak 2 in Diamonds as above.

Club Results

Monday

M10 Pairs

- 1st Betty Smith and Lois Cleaver
- 2nd Jenny Cleaver and Margaret Sullivan

Tuesday

Swiss Pairs

- 1st Sandra Calvert and Colin Carryer
- 2nd Pam Livingston and Sarah Green

D & D Allen Pairs

- 1st Maggie Garnham and Neil Murdoch
- 2nd Colin Carryer and Russell Wilson

Wednesday

C8 Pairs

- 1st Mike Gooch and Marie Gray
- 2nd Judy Jefferies and Maree Rowland

Welcome Pairs

- 1st Mike Gooch and Walt Crawshaw

Thursday

Stars Travel Plate

- 1st Nalini Gopinathan and Robert Fox
- 2nd Pat Cantrell-Pary and Walt Crawshaw

B6 Anne Wilson Realty Pairs

- 1st Margaret Farmer and Teresa Roberts
- 2nd Liz Henderson and Kay Shearer

Friday

F12 Vivian Pharmacy Pairs

- 1st Karen and Murray Carter
- 2nd Judy Holdom and Teresa Roberts

F13 Anne Wilson Remax Realty Pairs

- 1st Coby Slager and Catherine Mann
- 2nd Lyn and David O'Shaughnessy

F14 NP District Vet Group Pairs

- 1st Nalini Gopinathan and Kevin Turner
- 2nd Gay Masters and Barry Masters

*Regardless of what sadistic impulses we may harbour,
winning bridge means helping partner avoid mistakes.*

-Frank Stewart

Teachers Conference Wellington Bridge Club 16-17 August 2019

Helen and I would like to thank the club for supporting us with costs to attend this meeting. It came at a very appropriate time: having just seen the latest class graduate we were feeling tired and “burnt out”. We are now feeling energised and back on target i.e. to grow our club by encouraging new members to learn and play at the club.

The theme for this conference was **KISS**

KKeep

IInspire

SSocialise

Support

Topics covered included

- Teaching adults
- Strategy for youth
- Resources for beginners
- Teaching bridge to those with a second language
- Teaching improvers and intermediates
- Fun times at a club

A selection of ideas:

New Players

1. New players use green pens for a year. This alerts other players to use particular consideration i.e. no penalty doubles, if calling the director do so calmly and in a friendly way.
2. Beginners issued with 3 green cards at the start of each session. These are used for asking for help. Cards are removed when question answered. (This ensures players regulate their questions)
3. Pay and Play: juniors pay table money for seniors to play with them.
4. All Wednesday players on a text list. Convenor checks that all have partners for next night of play. Convenor can then send text eg “.....needs a partner”.
5. Once new players have graduated they need to play with The Club’s more experienced players regularly. Maybe ask for names of players happy to partner C graders for a pairs. Jan, Wednesday convenor can work with Christine to implement this.
6. Jane Stearns spoke about Teaching Bridge to those with English as a second language; Migrants and refugees ; English Language Partners to be contacted. Immigrants understand numbers quicker than words, opportunity to start a social network, opportunity for small talk, ends their isolation.

Improvers

7. Improvers lessons; attend with a partner who is prepared to work with you to put the lessons into practise
8. Richard Solomon tentatively pencilled in for March 2020 to run a couple of sessions

Fun Events

Many clubs hold regular fun events. An example:

Midwinter Madness : From time to time: Director instructs East to move; Director instructs players to look at cards, then place them face down and not look at them during the bidding; include some goulash hands. Swap partners.

Christmas Party : Committee chooses a letter. Room decorated and committee dressed accordingly. (Theme is secret, everyone keen to know each year what it will be) Players can dress up too as they know the letter only, not the committee theme.

Christine Burton

Hesitations

One of the hardest things when bidding at bridge is to get the bidding tempo right. At times we will all struggle with a difficult hand and have to take our time when considering what to bid. If we pass after this it gives information to our partner – eg “I almost have a bid” – and as a consequence our partner has to be very careful to bid only on what they have in their hand and not what partner’s hesitation implies. Often we do not consciously realise that our partner’s hesitation and no-bid has conveyed info about their hand, but we subconsciously use that info.

Thinking about the hand is hesitating. However, hesitating is not illegal, nor does it force partner to pass. But it does put a requirement on Partner to avoid taking any advantage.

Sponsors

We need sponsors to keep our subs down. If you can suggest any potential sponsors please forward the names to Deane Skelton and do remember to support the sponsors that we have. They are always listed in your bridge book. Let them know that you are there because of their support for the Bridge Club.

Grand Masters' Invitational

A chance to partner one of our Grand Masters.

Each of our Grand Masters will be invited to lead a team of 4 to play Multiple teams over 3 Thursdays in October. Each week the GM will partner a different team member.

- GMs don't get to choose their own teams.
- We will have a random draw.
- Can enter individually, or with a partner.
- Entries to be invited from Tuesday night players.

Ideally 6 - 8 teams.

There will be an entry list on the Tuesday noticeboard for you to enter either individually or with a partner. If the numbers are right the GMs will draw a pair and an individual to mold into a team. It will be fun.

Dates – October 17th 24th and 31st.

Multiple Teams - How it works

This event is played in a Pairs style format but is scored Teams style, in imps.

One team pair sits in each direction you play three board matches against the other teams Your team mates come up against the opposite team playing the same boards but at a different time in the session.

The next session you switch partners with another team member each then another for the third session.

Coming Events

September 7 Gisborne Open 8B
September 8 Hawera Open 5A
September 8 Havelock North Intermediate
September 14 Hastings Open 5A
September 21 Waipukurau Swiss Pairs8B
September 29 – October 6 National Congress Hamilton

The information for these competitions is available on the tournament noticeboard. There is also a list of tournaments for all of 2019 available on the NZCBA bridge site. www.nzbridge.co.nz

Condolences

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Shirley Julian who passed away recently. Shirley had been a club member for a number of years enjoying her time at the bridge table. She will be missed.

National Congress

Good luck to all of our club members travelling to Hamilton for National Congress at the end of September. If you have been thinking about going to Congress it is not too late to enter. There are competitions for all grades and options to enter for as many days as you would like.

It's a great way to immerse yourself in the environment.

Another limerick -

This time from one of our own - Graham Hill

Twenty points – I'm in Vulnerable game
Ten tricks and I'm heading for fame.
I've just awoke
I've made a revoke
And now I'll shoulder the blame.

I am always happy to receive any interesting stories or bridge jokes at johnandraewyn@gmail.com

Newsletter compiled by Raewyn McLean. Thanks to Graham Hill, Jenny Cleaver, Lyn Muller, Reeve Pring, June Metcalfe and Christine Burton for your contributions.