



Website: [hokowhitubridge.org.nz](http://hokowhitubridge.org.nz)

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2013

### Chair Chat

What a fabulous summer we had! It was the best I can remember in my 23 years in Palmerston North. It did mean some warm evenings and even warmer afternoons for bridge players during February, but I hope you were all able to enjoy your bridge despite the (sometimes uncomfortable) heat. Now that autumn has arrived playing conditions have become more temperate.

#### *Intermediate Tournament*

The big news of the moment is our Intermediate Tournament, which was held on Sunday 14 April. A commentary on the tournament follows later in the newsletter, but here I want to acknowledge the hard work of the Tournament Convenor, John Hogan, and the other tournament committee members, Jeanette Gomes and Caroline McCartin, to ensure that the tournament ran smoothly. Thanks also to Shirley Barnett for acting as registration secretary, Lorraine Stachurski for directing, and to the many members who volunteered to assist "back stage" before, during, and after the tournament. The tournament was well supported by our own members, with 15 taking part. To all who played on the day – we would welcome your feedback on what worked well and what needs improvement. Please do pass on your comments to me or one of the other members of the Tournament Committee, so that we can use your feedback as we plan the Daffodil Day Tournament.

#### *Newsletter*

Big thanks to Margaret Williams, who has volunteered (or perhaps had her arm gently twisted?) to take on the role of Newsletter Editor for 2013. Keeping the newsletters flowing at regular intervals is an important job, and the Board is very grateful for Margaret's willingness to step into the vacant position. Newsletters will be published about four times annually, with distribution via email where possible, and with printed copies available for those members without email access. If you have suggestions for newsletter topics or would like to contribute an item to the newsletter, please get in touch with Margaret.

#### *Bridge Lessons*

You will know that the Club had intended to conduct an Introduction to Bridge workshop on the weekend of April 6 and 7, with Tina McVeigh from the House of Cards (Christchurch) as tutor. Unfortunately, the workshop had to be cancelled due to insufficient registrations. This was a disappointing outcome, as lessons provide one avenue for the recruitment of new members. The Board will review the situation and may look to an alternative format for lessons in the future. Although the workshop did not proceed, special thanks are due to Tim Mordaunt and John McCartin for their organisational efforts.

#### *Reminder #1: Membership Updates*

Moved house? New phone number? New email address? The Club Secretary, Graeme Donaldson, would be delighted to receive updated information if you have a new physical address, new email address, or new phone number. If you want to check the details currently recorded for you, just touch base with Graeme.

#### *Reminder #2: Weekly Results*

The results from each session's play are uploaded to the Club website within 24-48 hours of the session finishing. Just visit [www.hokowhitubridge.org.nz](http://www.hokowhitubridge.org.nz) and click on Results.

#### *Upcoming Wednesday Competitions*

Wednesday players can look forward to some interesting competitions in the coming months. The May competition will be an Individual Ladder, where you play with a different partner each week for the five weeks of the month. The winner is the individual with the highest aggregate score across the month. Don't be shy about approaching people to fill your playing card for May, and remember that our hostess Maureen can assist you with filling any gaps.

In June, a Swiss Pairs format will be adopted. An explanation of how this format works is included later in the newsletter. The Swiss Pairs competition replaces the Teams format used in previous years, as feedback from players indicated a lack of enthusiasm for teams.

Our Club Championships will be played in July, a month earlier than usual. The Board has not yet confirmed the eligibility rules that will apply for the 2013 Championships, but these will be advised to players before the competition begins. In the meantime, choose your partner!!

*Good bridging,  
Julie Bunnell*

## WEDNESDAY WINNERS

The winners of the Welcome Pairs in February were Mary Scott and Maureen Watts followed by Alma Bartosh and Graeme Donaldson. Mary Scott and Maureen Watts were also winners in the Handicap Section with Jill Hart and Margaret Williams in second place.

Summer Pairs played in March were won by Gayle Leader and Maureen Watts with Shirley Barnett and Janice Willoughby in second place. Winners of the Handicap Section were Shirley Barnett and Janice Willoughby followed by John Hogan and Caroline McCartin.

## MEMBERS

It is with much sadness that we record the passing in March of Edith Nolan. She will be greatly missed at the club and our thoughts are with her family and friends.

## SWISS PAIRS

In June you may have noticed the Wednesday evening is scheduled to be a Swiss pairs competition. Swiss Pairs is an IMP Pairs event and is played like a regular pair event but is scored in a totally different way. A basic score is set for each board, usually an average of all the scores compiled on that board. Sometimes the top and bottom scores are eliminated before the average is taken so that extreme scores will have less impact on the average. Then your score is algebraically compared with the average and translated into International Match Points (IMPs) according to the IMP formula. In the first round, pairings are essentially random. In subsequent rounds, the pairs are ranked in order of the number of victory points they have accumulated and the top pair plays the second pair, the third pair plays the fourth pair, etc., subject to the proviso that pairs do not play each other twice.

### General Team Strategy Tips

Stretch to bid Vulnerable games.

Stretch to Invite to game/slam, but not to Accept the invitation.

Bid the safest slam or game or part score if game is not possible. Don't worry if it's a minor, a major or no trump.

With a long suit and a likely wide-open suit, don't sit for 1NT; pull to 2 of your long suit.

Don't double a low-level contract into game, unless you're 120% sure you're going to beat it, even if the opponents have highly distributional hands.

Because the opponents are reluctant to double low-level contracts, be aggressive (but not foolish) in competing for part scores.

Don't risk the contract to make overtricks.

When defending, don't worry about overtricks; go all out to defeat the contract.

Try to absorb these tips, but don't become preoccupied by them; better to play your normal game than introduce confusion trying to remember one of these tips

## VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

Rosters have been made for two small jobs – tidying the kitchen after Wednesday play and setting up cups for afternoon tea on Thursdays. Please see Julie Bunnell if you are able to help on Wednesdays and Jeanette Gomes is organising the Thursday roster.

## TABLE TOPICS

If experienced players offer advice about rules or play to newer players, could they please be as diplomatic as possible and remember we were all beginners once. Newer players are also respectfully requested to understand such comments are given with the very best of intentions and no criticism is intended. We all have to learn and abide by the rules !



## INTERMEDIATE TOURNAMENT

The club hosted a very successful Intermediate Tournament on Sunday 14 April. The many helpers and organisers have been thanked in Chair Chat and they should all be congratulated for such a well organised tournament. The morning tea provided by members was as always, a fantastic array of tempting food to make players feel welcome on arrival. The whole day ran very smoothly with the assistance of many people quietly working in the background. At the end of play food was provided, the bar opened and everyone socialised while waiting for the results. A prize was given to the top junior players who were Mereana Cullen and Debbie Marcroft from Palmerston North Club. It was a pleasure to see some of our own newer players take the plunge and enter their very first tournament so well done to all of you. The tournament winners were Ian Duncan and Anna Weir and in second place Hans Van Bunnick and Michael Hardman. Third place went to Dorothy Davidson and Frank Dunlop, good to see someone from our own club doing so well. Congratulations to all winners.



**Concentration**



**Somebody seems pleased**



**First, Second and Third Place Winners**

## MASTER POINTS AND RATING POINTS

If you have ever wondered about Master Points and your grade here is an explanation.

### MASTER POINTS AWARDS

The majority of games, both club and tournament levels, at affiliated clubs are played for Master Points. If you finish in the top one third of your field, you will receive Master Points. There are three categories of Master Point awards:

#### A Points

Awarded to players who finish in the top placing of approved tournaments, and to all session winners of Pairs Tournaments approved for the award of A Points. Fractional A points are awarded to the winners of each match in approved A Point Match-Play (teams).

#### B Points

Awarded to players who finish in the top placing of approved tournaments which do not qualify for the award of A Points, and to all session winners of Pairs Tournaments approved for the award of B Points.

#### C Points

Awarded to players who are successful in any one session of play organised by a licensed club, Centre, or the NZCBA.

B Points are not convertible to A Points.

C Points are converted to B Points in the ratio of 100 C Points to one B Point.

### RATING POINTS

Rating Points are calculated as follows:

Previous rating points x 0.8, plus the total A & B earned in the immediate past year, for example:

Previous Rating Points	80
Less 20%	<u>-16</u>
	64
Plus Last Years Points	
EG 3A + 17B	<u>20</u>
New Rating Points	84

The calculation is currently completed as at 31 December each year and published online as soon as possible thereafter.

The new Rating Points and Gradings come into effect for the purpose of Tournament participation as soon as they are published on the NZ Bridge Website.

You can view a record of points you have earned on this website: [nzcba.co.nz/Masterpoints/searchbynumber.asp](http://nzcba.co.nz/Masterpoints/searchbynumber.asp).

