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## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2015

### Chair Chat

#### Very best wishes for 2015!

I write this column on New Year's Day, a time of the year when we are encouraged to both reflect on the past year, and contemplate how the coming year may unfold. The same dynamic applies to a Bridge Club – we want to continue to do what worked well last year, and look for ways to improve the club experience for all members in 2015.

The first meeting of the 2015 Board was held on 15 December, at which we organised our officers and portfolios for 2015, and discussed goals and priorities for the coming year. The Board suggested that I continue as Chair for another year, and I have accepted. I am very appreciative of the confidence in me shown by the other Board members, and am pleased to be able to serve the Club in this way.

The details of all Board members are given separately in this newsletter. If you have feedback, suggestions, or concerns pertaining to the Club, please don't hesitate to contact any Board member.

#### *Hostesses*

I want to use this column to say a few words about our hostesses, Joy Pearce and Maureen Watts. I want to praise them for the hard work they do, every week, to ensure that players have partners. We are fortunate that both have agreed to continue in their roles for 2015.

I also want to encourage you – yes, you! – to imagine yourself in their place. Wouldn't it be helpful if members told you about the partnerships they had arranged, so you didn't waste time contacting them to see if they were "solo" that week or month? If members told you which weeks or months they were unavailable to play, so you didn't phone them needlessly? If members who wanted to play, but needed help to find a suitable partner, contacted you at least several days before the session? Please, help our hostesses do their job successfully by giving them the information they need as early as possible.

On behalf of the 2015 Board, I would like to welcome you back to the new bridge year – and wish you every success at the card table! We will start the year with two evenings of Summer Bridge (21 and 28 January) and then the regular playing year will begin on 4 February for Wednesday players and 5 February for Thursday players. Please let Maureen (Wednesday) or Joy (Thursday) know who you plan to play with for the month of February, or else ask for their assistance with some matchmaking.

*Good bridging,*

**Julie Bunnell**

## WEDNESDAY WINNERS

Winners of Spring Pairs played in October were Graeme Donaldson and Janice Willoughby with Maria Lukkassen and Lita Poll-Verhaar in second place. Handicap winners were Chris Abbey and Janine Fenelon.

November End Of Year Pairs winners were Alister Stuck and Peter Wiles with Frank Dunlop and Mary Scott in second place.

## AGM

The AGM was held on 3 December. Proceedings began at 5.30pm with drinks and nibbles followed by the meeting at 6.00pm. At close of the meeting there was time to socialise and enjoy some finger food.

Highlight of the annual prize giving was the presentation of trophies. Progressive Grade Club Championship trophy was won by Pauline Brown and Janine Fenelon with Joy Pearce and Margaret Vaughan runners up. Tournament Grade winners were Julie Bunnell and Graeme Donaldson with Frank Dunlop and Zheng Zhang runners up.



Peter Wiles won the cup for the player earning the most points during the year with Maureen Watts as runner up.

The most improved player award was won by Zheng Zhang.



Finally Mary Scott presented Julie Campbell with our very own Oscar award for the admirable way she collects the tea cups on Thursday afternoons.



Later in the evening a group headed for Aqua Bar to celebrate the end of the bridge year. Last to leave Aqua Bar so a good time was had by all.

The following day the Thursday players enjoyed lunch together prior to their final game of the year. The lunch seems to be better and better each year as everyone brings a special plate to share. On behalf of the Thursday players Ann Richards presented Joy Pearce with a lovely poinsettia plant as a thank you for all her hard work to ensure we have a pleasant afternoon's bridge.

Mary Scott has very kindly donated a silver tray to be presented to the Thursday player who has accumulated the most points during the year. This year both Shirley Finlay and Betty McLaughlin shared the number one place.



Congratulations to all the Wednesday and Thursday prize recipients

Everyone is encouraged to put their name on the roster for tidying up the dishes on Wednesday evening and also to set up the afternoon tea things on Thursdays. The job is very small so please help rather than leave it to a small group.

### **Summer Bridge**

**Remember that we are having two Summer Bridge evenings, on 21 and 28 January. Turn up at the Bowling Club by 7:10 pm -- no advance bookings required. Graeme Donaldson has agreed to be our Director for these two evenings. Come with or without a partner -- partnerships can be formed when you arrive. If there is an extra player, the Director will play.**

## **MEMBERS**

The Club welcomes the following new members:

Errol Conaghan  
Heather Conaghan  
Tim Coolbear  
Lesley Findlay  
Michael Hardman  
Alastair MacGibbon  
Janet Morris  
Robert Norris  
Paul Orsborn

Telephone contact details for the new members will be in the 2015 programme. If you want to contact any of these members before mid-January, Maureen Watts or Graeme Donaldson could assist.

### **Board Business**

At its first meeting on 15 December 2014, the new Board agreed the following Officers for 2015:

Chair Julie Bunnell  
Secretary Graeme Donaldson  
Treasurer Shirley Barnett to 31 March  
Andrea Bennett from 1 April  
Members John McCartin  
Zheng Zhang

John McCartin has agreed to retain the Tournament Portfolio for another year, and Shirley Barnett will take on responsibility for Fundraising and Sponsorship.

The Board also unanimously agreed the resolution that, for the financial year ending 31 March 2015, the Financial Report will not be audited. Instead, the Board will arrange for the Financial Report and associated statements to be reviewed, as was done for the years ending 31 March 2014 and 31 March 2013.

### **Bowling Club: Friday Night Invitation**

The Bowling Club has extended an invitation to all Bridge Club members to pop in for drinks and socialising any Friday evening. The bar is open from about 5 pm until about 7:30 pm, so feel free to make use of this facility in our community.

### **Daffodil Day Update**

A question was raised at the Annual General Meeting about why the reported donation of \$1500 to the Cancer Society, mentioned in the Chair's report, was significantly less than the income received from entry fees (\$2000) and the raffle. As none of the Board members had the details of income and expenses to hand, we were unable to give a full answer at the meeting, although I did indicate the difference was due to the expenses incurred in running the tournament.

I should also have clarified to member that the goal of the 2014 Board was to run the Daffodil Day tournament on a "break-even" basis, rather than to use Club funds to enhance the donation to the Cancer Society.

Total income for the tournament was \$2,464 – comprising \$2000 from entry fees, \$282 from the raffle, \$152 from sale of crocheted items made by Lita Poll, and \$30 from sale of donated daffodils. The expenses for the tournament totaled \$827.44 – comprising \$490.79 for catering costs and bar license, and \$236.65 for NZ Bridge master points and directing fees.

(Members should appreciate that tournament expenses were significantly reduced by donations of venue hire (value \$200) from the Bowling Club, scoring equipment hire (value \$50) from BridgeNZ, and waiver of bartender fees (value \$45) from Mary Harris and Mary Lock.)

The on-the-day donation of \$1500 represented the difference between the estimated income of \$2250 and the estimated expenditure of \$800, rounded up from \$1450 to \$1500. Now that all accounts have been received – the last did not arrive until late October – the Club will make a subsequent donation of \$182 to the Cancer Society. This represents a small donation from Club funds of \$45.55 to the Cancer Society, which the Board has authorized.

I trust that the above information provides sufficient clarification of how and why the substantive donation of \$1500 to the Cancer Society was determined. Of course, if you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

The 2015 Board does not feel that we have a mandate to run the Daffodil Day tournament on a different basis in 2015 – for instance, by using Club funds to make a larger donation. If it is the wish of the membership that we should do so, then this would need to be moved and approved at an extraordinary general meeting. Our constitution allows for an extraordinary general meeting to be held upon the written request of any five members, submitted to the Secretary.

*Julie Bunnell, 2014 Chair*

