



Website: hokowhitubridge.org.nz

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016

Chair Chat

Happy New Year! I do hope that good health, good friendships, and good bridge will all be coming your way in 2016.

We closed the 2015 bridge year with two excellent occasions. The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 2 December, and was attended by about 40 members. The business of the meeting was smoothly transacted in about 30 minutes, leaving plenty of time for socialising and for enjoying the variety of tasty treats that members had made. There was also an opportunity to say thank you to some key individuals who help make our club run smoothly, and to recognise special achievements in the bridge arena. A list of prize winners appears later in the newsletter.

The Thursday luncheon on 3 December was delightful! In keeping with tradition, there was a surfeit of delicious food contributed by members, which was enjoyed before a relaxed afternoon of bridge. There was a great turnout of members, with 9.5 tables. Well done to Lita Poll and Anne Richards, who were top NS, and to Frank Dunlop and Margaret Williams, who were top EW.

The 2016 Board of Directors held its first meeting on 16 December. We welcome three new Board members – Derek Knighton, Caroline McCartin, and Paul Orsborn – who join the four members continuing from 2015. I have agreed to serve as Chair for a further year, and look forward to working for the betterment of our club in 2016.

Good bridging,

Julie Bunnell

Board Officers and Portfolio Holders for 2016

The 2016 Board of Directors held its first meeting on 16 December. A significant portion of the meeting focused on goals and priorities for 2016, portfolios of activity, and deciding who would take on which roles and responsibilities for the year.

It was agreed that the following would hold office for 2016:

Chair	Julie Bunnell
Deputy Chair	Tim Coolbear
Secretary	Graeme Donaldson
Treasurer	Andrea Bennett

Members will recognise that the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are all continuing their positions from 2015. The position of Deputy Chair is new, and is intended to allow a wider distribution of responsibilities and some succession planning.

It was also agreed that Board members would take on responsibility for the following portfolios in 2016:

Lessons Administration	Caroline McCartin
Strategic Planning	Tim Coolbear
Tournaments	Paul Orsborn
Website/Media	Derek Knighton

Congratulations

A number of prizes and awards were made at our end of year functions.

- The Points Cup, which is awarded to the Wednesday evening player with the highest total points for the year, was received by **John Hogan**.
- The Scott Plate, which is awarded to the Thursday afternoon player with the highest total points for the year, was received by **Margaret Williams**.
- **Alastair MacGibbon** received the award for Most Improved Player.
- The Oscar Trophy was awarded to **Anne Richards**. The Oscar is awarded for a contribution of any sort to the bridge club, as decided by the previous awardee.
- The winners of the Club Championships 2015 also received their trophies – **Alister Stuck** and **Peter Wiles** in the Tournament Grade, and **Brian Burmeister** and **Chai Young** in the Progressive Grade.

Congratulations to all recipients!



WEDNESDAY RESULTS

Winners of the October Spring Pairs were Pauline Brown and Harold Orsborn with Gayle Leader and Tony Patterson in second place. Handicap winners were Maria Lukkassen and Anne Richards.

End of Year Pairs winners played in November were John Hogan and Tim Mordaunt closely followed by Alister Stuck and Peter Wiles in second place. Handicap winners were Jo Burmeister and Derek Knighton.

SUMMER BRIDGE

Come one, come all – to Summer Bridge on Wednesday 20th and Wednesday 27th January! You can come solo or with a partner arranged. Those who come solo will arrange a partnership “at the door” and if there happens to be an extra person, the director (Graeme Donaldson) will form a partnership. Be sure to arrive by 7:10 pm, so that partnerships can be formed and the number of tables determined. Normal table money (\$5) applies, and cards are accepted. Summer bridge is a great way to ease back into the bridge year – and possibly to play with a new partner!



BRIDGE TABLETS

The Club has purchased a set of 15 tablets, so that we can implement electronic scoring. They are very easy to use! Even if you've never touched a tablet before, you'll catch on quickly. We'll be getting used to them at Summer Bridge sessions, and then using them regularly from February. A training session (by Martin Oyston of BridgeNZ) for scorers/directors came with the purchase, and was attended by Graeme Donaldson, Lorraine Stachurski and Julie Bunnell in December.

SESSION RESULTS

Alongside the purchase of Bridge Tabs, we have decided to use the web service offered by BridgeNZ for our session results. This provides a more detailed analysis of performance on the hands for a session. Along with your own results for each board, you can see how every other pair performed on that board, and what match points were awarded. At this point, results should be accessed via the BridgeNZ site, www.bridgenz.co.nz. Select the Club Results icon at the top left of the home page, then select Hokowhitu Bridge Club from the list of clubs. We'll let you know when the link from our own club site is working.

LESSONS 2016

- Our 2016 lessons will start on Wednesday 2 March, and run for about 10-11 weeks (depending on whether an Easter break is taken).
- Lessons will be held at the Bowling Club – we'll use either the ladies or men's locker room, depending on the size of the group.
- Lessons will be held in the evenings, 7-9 pm, with a fee of \$25 for the series.
- Alister Stuck has once again volunteered to be our tutor, and Caroline McCartin will take the lead on administrative support for the lessons and the learners.
- Lessons will conclude in early May, and we expect that the learners will play amongst themselves for the rest of that month.
- Bridge buddies will be needed for the month of June, to ease the learners into the main group of players. Please consider volunteering your interest in being a bridge buddy to Caroline McCartin. It's a great way to give back to the game!
- Please start spreading the word to friends, neighbours, colleagues, social contacts (and so forth!). Cards and posters will be available to club members to distribute from late January/early February.
- Screen advertising in Cinema Gold has been arranged for the month of February, in cooperation with the Palmerston North Bridge Club, and supported by NZ Bridge. Print advertising will also be arranged.

TOURNAMENT NEWS

A reminder re tournaments scheduled for January and February this year in the Central Districts and Wellington Regions.

January 31	New Plymouth Picnic Pairs	8B
February 7	Wanganui Picnic Pairs	8B
February 13	Napier Multigrade Pairs	8B
February 14	Hawera Picnic Pairs	8B
February 14	Waikanae Open Pairs	3A
February 28	Feilding Open Pairs	5A
February 28	Masterton Junior Pairs	3B
February 28	Masterton Intermediate Pairs	5B

Commencing In February it is planned to circulate a newsletter on the third Wednesday of each month. Contributions are encouraged and should be provided to Margaret Williams two days prior at the latest.

HAND OF THE MONTH

Alan Doddridge has kindly agreed to submit hands on a regular basis and hopes you will find the series entertaining and perhaps even educational.

Last year I attended the National Bridge Congress in Hamilton and it was a pleasure to see some of our club members also in attendance. I would encourage any of our members who may be interested to avail themselves of the opportunity to take part. There are now restricted levels of play for less experienced players which should make competing less intimidating. The atmosphere was very pleasant and I felt it was very enjoyable and friendly week's bridge.

Anyway, on to a hand. This is a hand from the semi final of the pairs and resulted in "burnt fingers" for our opponents from Auckland. I have always had a particular dislike for the "gambling 3 NT", in which a player has a long running minor and nothing more than a king outside his suit. I have never played it personally and have frequently found it a source of profit! My RHO opened a vulnerable 3 NT which was described as "gambling" and I am sitting with the following hand: S.T6 H. AJT97 D. 96 C.T432. I passed as did the rest of the table. One of the best defenders I have had the pleasure of partnering was the late Johnny Lenart, who always said to me "If you are on lead against a gambling 3NT, lay down an ace and have a look at dummy". So I duly laid down AH.

Dummy hit with the following: S A Q 9 7 H. 8 6 5 4 3 2 D j 5 3 C VOID. No prizes for guessing what declarer's suit is!! Dummy plays the 2 H and partner looks a little unhappy as her King drops! However we both brighten up when declarer's Queen drops also! So I continue to play off the J T 9 of Hearts and Jenny's first discard is a low Diamond which is encouraging in our system. So I duly switch to a diamond and Jenny now cashes her top 4 diamonds for 4 light, -400 for declarer. I thought it probably not a good idea to mention to Jenny that by discouraging the black suits, she could have kept all her Diamonds for 5 light! This was the full hand:

North. S. 8 5 4 3 2 H. K D. A K Q 9 2 C. J 9

West. S. A Q 9 7 H. 8 6 5 4 3 2 D. j 5 3 C. Void
7 6 5

East. S. K J. H. Q D. 8 7 4. C. A K Q 8

South. S. T 6 H. A J T 9 7 D. 9 6 C. T 4 3 2.



Please be helpful and advise your Wednesday playing partners in February to Maureen Watts Tel 354 1932 and Thursday afternoon to Joy Pearce Tel 357 3217.