



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

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

### Chair Chat

Our bridge year got underway with two successful sessions of Summer Bridge on 20 and 27 January. These were well attended, with 9.5 tables on each night, and a number of visitors from Palmerston North Club attending. It was great to be able to share our friendly club environment with visitors, and those attending (both visitors and members) seemed to enjoy themselves.

The “formal” bridge year started the first week of February, with good attendance at both evening and afternoon sessions. The Thursday session on 4th February included a special afternoon tea to recognise Mary Scott’s recent celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Congratulations, Mary!

We have started using our set of electronic Bridge Tabs, and early feedback from users seems positive. The scoring side has worked well, but there has been a teething problem with getting session results uploaded to the website. We think we’ve now solved that problem.

To all members out there who haven’t made it back to bridge in February – we’d love to see you in March!! An Individual Ladder will run both Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon in March, so this is a great time to play with some different partners. If you’d like to play one or more sessions, please contact Maureen (for Wednesday) or Joy (for Thursday) and they’ll be happy to arrange some partnerships for you.

*Good bridging,*

*Julie Bunnell*

### Intermediate Tournament Sponsorship

We are delighted to announce that Property Brokers have agreed to sponsor our 2016 Intermediate Tournament, which is scheduled for Sunday 17 April. Many thanks to Tim Mordaunt for facilitating this sponsorship!

### Friday Night Drinks at Bowling Club

The Bowling Club has asked that we let Bridge Club members know that they are always welcome to attend Friday evening drinks at the Bowling Club, which start at around 5 pm. Cash bar operates.

## **The Bridge Book – Copies for Sale**

The Club has copies of *The Bridge Book* by Tina McVeigh and Graeme Tufnell for sale at \$15. *The Bridge Book* provides a concise overview of the ACOL system, with quizzes to test your knowledge. A great reference resource for players – or gift one to your regular partner! See Lorraine, Graeme or Julie B if you'd like to purchase a copy. Payment by cash, cheque, or online to 03 0726 0499234 000.

## **Surplus Equipment: Wooden Card Tables**

The Club has approximately 18 wooden card tables that are now surplus to requirements. These tables date from our time at Caccia Birch House, and are showing some signs of age. If any club members have a use for one or more tables, please help yourselves by the end of February. Alternatively, if you know of any charitable organisations that could use some or all of these tables, please mention this to any Board member. We have some ideas, but are open to other suggestions.

## **Surplus Equipment: Plastic Boards with Cards**

We also have several sets of older-style plastic boards, complete with decks of cards, that are no longer needed. If any club members have a use for the boards, the cards, or both, you are welcome to them. Ask Julie Bunnell or Graeme Donaldson to show you what's on offer.

## **Corrections to 2016 Programme**

The March competition, for both Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons, is an Individual Ladder. The programme shows "Individual Ladder" in the right hand column, but "Summer Pairs" in the left-hand column. Please ignore the Summer Pairs designation. For the Individual Ladder, you need to play with a different partner for each of the five sessions. Please amend the telephone number for Jill Polson to **354 1636**. Errol Conaghan has resigned from the Club, so his name and contact numbers can be deleted.

## **NZCBA Tournament Gradings for 2016**

NZCBA tournament gradings for 2016 were released at the beginning of January. You can check your grading, and your Master Points, at [nzcba.co.nz](http://nzcba.co.nz). Congratulations to Tim Mordaunt and Paul Orsborn, who have moved to Intermediate grade, and to Julie Bunnell, who has moved to Open grade.

## **Lessons 2016**

- Remember that lessons for 2016 will start on Wednesday 2 March, and run until the end of April. Lessons will be held in the evenings, 7-9 pm, with a fee of \$25 for the series.
- Do let your friends/family/neighbours/colleagues who might be interested in learning bridge know about the lessons. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!
- If you are able to put up a poster at your workplace or your community/neighbourhood centre, please pick one up at a Wednesday or Thursday playing sessions.
- Big thanks to Caroline McCartin, who has distributed posters far and wide to advertise the lessons. Caroline is now recruiting volunteers to help with the lesson sessions – if you can donate one evening of your time, please let Caroline know.

## **Subscriptions Due**

Please accept a friendly reminder that your bridge club subscription for 2016 is due by 29 February. Subs can be paid in cash or cheque at any playing session, or online. Thanks to all those who have already made payment.

## HAND OF THE MONTH- FEBRUARY

I hope you all had an enjoyable festive season and a good rest to prepare yourselves for a busy year of bridge! For myself, I had a very enjoyable break in sunny Marlborough with my son's in-laws . I have never seen Blenheim so dry-the hills were well and truly parched though I have to say that the hospitality was not a bit "dry"!

Anyway, on to the first hand of the year – one from a daytime session at Palmerston North club during the Summer Bridge series. You are sitting West , first to speak with this collection:

S.Q 5 4 2    H. A 9 7 6 3    D. J    C A73. A simple opening of one Heart . Partner bids 2 Diamonds after your LHO passes. This is passed round to you and you bid 2 Hearts showing your minimum opening hand. Your partner raises you to 4 Hearts and your RHO doubles ! Oh dear ,this doesn't look good -you know he is a Grand Master -so probably knows you're not making this. Never mind –they make mistakes too. The lead is made -the T of Spades and your dummy appears –not too bad . S.K 7 3    H.K T 5    D. A Q T 7 4    C. K 4. This contract doesn't look too awful . A spade loser ,a heart loser probably . It has to be a very bad heart break-probably 5-0 .At least all those Hearts are sitting under your 5 hearts. So you play low from table and your doubler plays the A S . and exits with the J S. Now ,thinking time!! It looks like RHO may have started with AS , 5 Hearts and probably the K D as well for his double. So we probably won't be tempted to try the Diamond finesse. We will need to ruff a losing club and maybe we will be able to get 3 diamond ruffs in our hand – we can always over ruff if necessary.

So , off we go .we win the spade in hand with the Q. and play a diamond to the A. and then ruff a diamond in hand. Small club to the King on table and another Diamond ruff . RHO pitches a club. Damn, we could have played the Diamond finesse ! Hoping that he started with 4 clubs and not 3, we now play A C and ruff our losing Club on table. Thank goodness , RHO follows. One more Diamond ruff . RHO is helpless –he only has his trumps left. If he ruffs high, we pitch a losing spade and he has to lead away from his J 8 4 2 of trumps -a neat end play! If he ruffs low we just over ruff. 10 tricks made! Our Grandmaster takes it well ,though tells us that we could have made 11 tricks with the Diamond finesse . He had to have the last word! The hand in full :

	♠ 10986	
	♥	
	♦ K8532	
	♣ Q1092	
♠ Q542		♠ K73
♥ A9763		♥ K105
♦ J		♦ AQ1074
♣ A73		♣ K4
	♠ AJ	
	♥ QJ842	
	♦ 96	
	♣ J865	



Thursday players surprised Mary Scott with a cake to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## TOURNAMENT NEWS

A reminder re upcoming tournaments scheduled for February and March in the Central Districts and Wellington Regions.

February 28	Feilding Open Pairs	5A
February 28	Masterton Junior Pairs	3B
February 28	Masterton Intermediate Pairs	5B
March 5	Taradale Intermediate Pairs	5B
March 5-6	National Nth Island Teams	20A
March 12	CD Marion Hill Main Reg Prs	10A
March 12-14	Taranaki Mini Congress All Grades	5B
March 13	Taranaki Congress Open Teams	10A
March 13	Upper Hutt Intermediate Pairs	5B
March 19	Taradale Lawson Jugs	8B
March 20	Marton Picnic Pairs	8B
March 20	Kapi Mana Int/Junior Pairs	5B
March 20	Paraparaumu Open Pairs	5A
March 26	Levin Multigrade Pairs Open	8B
March 28	Wellington Regional Mixed Pairs	3A