



Website: hokowhitubridge.org.nz

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

Chair Chat

Well, March is proving to be an interesting month bridge-wise. I'm playing in the Individual Ladders on both Wednesdays and Thursdays, so that means ten different partnerships in the space of one month! The neat thing about the Ladders is that I am playing with some brand new partners, as well as with some "old friends" – that's old in the bridge sense, not chronologically. Playing with so many different partners does highlight the number of variations within a system, as well as across different systems. No wonder it's so hard to play well consistently!

I would like to say big thanks to Maureen and Joy for arranging the multitude of partnerships that a Ladder requires. Your organisational skills have been much appreciated. Feedback from players on whether you did or didn't enjoy the Individual Ladder format is welcomed, to any Board member or Session hostess.

If you haven't made it back to the bridge table yet in 2016 – don't be a stranger! Make April the month that you reconnect with your bridge friends. Both Wednesday and Thursday groups will be playing a regular pairs competition in April. Our hard-working hostesses Maureen (Wednesday) and Joy (Thursday) can help you find a partner.

Good bridging,

Julie Bunnell

LESSONS 2016

Our 2016 Learn To Play Bridge lessons started in the first week of March and we were delighted to have 14 attendees, with apologies from another 4 whom we hope to see in lesson 2. The classes are being held in the mens' locker room from 7-9pm every Wednesday during March and April and are being given by Alister Stuck with help from our members. A big thank you to those of you who have offered to sacrifice 1 playing week in order to help out. Whilst we have a full roster for March, we will be looking for helpers over April, so please give this some consideration and sign up – the roster is on the noticeboard.

From time to time, Alister will be bringing the learners out into the main room so that they can observe a "real" bridge session. Please don't feel intimidated if they are watching you play your hand – they are probably in awe of your prowesses! We hope that you will make our learners feel welcome, they are the life-blood of a thriving club.

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.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Returning Member

We are pleased to note that Jan Whyte has returned to the Club. Great to have you back, Jan!

Resignations

We note with regret the resignations of Errol Conaghan and Will Robson. Errol participated in the lessons a couple of years ago, but did not become a regular at the card table. Will was a long-standing member of the Club, and served as Board Secretary for a period of time. Will has moved to New Plymouth.

WEDNESDAY WINNERS

The overall winners for the month of February were Mary Scott and Maureen Watts, with Andrea Bennett and Janine Fenelon winning on handicap. All monthly winners now receive a Hokowhitu Bridge Club pen to recognise their achievements.

NEW TABLE CLOTHS

New table cloths are on their way! The Board is pleased to report that our application to Pub Charity for funds to purchase suitable fabric was successful. Look out for the new, larger cloths in the not too distant future. If anyone would like to volunteer some time to help with fabric cutting (etc) please contact Julie Bunnell.

SUBSCRIPTIONS OVERDUE

Please accept a friendly reminder that your bridge club subscription for 2016 was due by 29 February. If you've not yet paid your 2016 subscription, we look forward to receiving it in the very near future. Subs can be paid in cash or cheque at any playing session, or online.

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE HOKOWHITU BOWLING CLUB

You may have seen the notices advertising various performers and groups who have appeared at the Bowling Club over the past months. These are part of a monthly promotion by the Benthorseshoe. (formerly at Tokomaru) The next one of events will be on the 16th April and will feature Graham Wardrop from Christchurch.

Graham has been acclaimed as New Zealand's finest finger style guitarist. After thirty years in the professional arena, he is regularly called upon to give concert performances, to play on television and studio recording sessions, to hold workshops in advanced fingerstyle techniques for steel string guitar, along with providing atmospheric music in sophisticated dining situations.

Graham has performed solo and alongside some of the world's finest musicians, dazzling audiences at countless festivals, concerts and corporate functions.

He has toured, opened shows and/or worked with, Tommy Emmanuel, Valdy, Martin Taylor, Leo Kottke, Suzanne Lynch, Anne Kirkpatrick, Michael Fix, Manhattan Transfer, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Vanessa-Mae, Michael Crawford, Jasper Carrot, Billy T. James, Slim Dusty and Gray Bartlett

Not only does Graham maintain a busy performance schedule, but he also handcrafts instruments on which he performs.

He is a musician of great versatility and his love of balance, harmony and precision culminates in his richness of sound and a unique style of performance.

You can assess Graham's skills and style on Utube following this link (holding down the Ctrl key - Click on the link)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT77GfACnMM>

Julie Graeme and Shirley have attended some of the past evenings and all have found them very enjoyable.

On 21 May, there will be a Bob Dylan tribute, by Bullfrog Rata and others. Start time of 7:30, door sales available, cash bar operated by the Bowling Club.

CALLING ALL JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Our Club's first tournament of the year is the Hokowhitu Intermediate Tournament on Sunday 17 April. Spend a fun-filled day playing against pairs from around the region! Find yourself a partner, and register soon. Registration sheet available on the Club noticeboard, or you can email hokowhitubridgeclub@gmail.com with your names, computer numbers, and tournament gradings. Cash prizes for juniors as well as intermediates!!

TOURNAMENT NEWS

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

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| 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 |
| April 2 | Waipukurau Open Pairs | 5A |
| April 3 | South Wairarapa Junior Pairs | 3B |
| April 3 | Sth Wairarapa Intermediate Pairs | 5B |
| April 3 | Wanganui Intermediate Pairs | 5B |
| April 3 | Wanganui Junior Pairs | 3B |
| April 9 | Dannevirke Open Pairs | 5A |
| April 10 | Napier Intermediate Pairs | 5B |
| April 10 | Victoria Multigrade Pairs | 8B |
| April 16 | Stratford Intermediate/Junior Pairs | 5B |
| April 17 | Hokowhitu Intermediate Pairs | 5B |
| April 17 | Masterton Open Pairs | 5A |
| April 17 | Kairanga Junior Pairs | 3B |
| April 17 | Kairanga Intermediate Pairs | 5B |