



Website: hokowhitubridge.org.nz

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016

Chair Chat

This month the Chair Chat will focus on some matters that the Board has considered in recent months.

Those who attended the AGM may recall that a question was raised during General Business about the security of our tenure at the Bowling Club. The incoming Board agreed that this matter warranted attention, and we suggested to the Bowling Club that there might be mutual benefits in establishing a Tenancy Agreement. We forwarded a draft Agreement to the Bowling Club at the beginning of March, and now await their response.

Another question during General Business was about the security of our property stored at the Bowling Club, and whether our assets were insured. The short answer (given at the AGM) is that we currently carry no insurance. However, the Board has begun to explore options in this area. We have obtained an estimate for both contents insurance and liability insurance. We have also raised the matter of insurance with the Bowling Club, who advised that their liability insurance includes coverage for any mishaps while the venue is hired. The Bowling Club's preliminary advice is that their Contents policy would also cover our assets stored at the Bowling Club. We are in the process of compiling a list of our assets, and their replacement value, for the Bowling Club.

Within the Board itself, Andrea Bennett has decided to step down from the role of Treasurer. Caroline McCartin has agreed to take up the duties of Treasurer, with a suitable transition period to ensure that all Club business is attended to. I know that Club members will join the Board in thanking Andrea for keeping the Board's finances on an even keel during her term as Treasurer.

Finally, a big thank you to the very many members who paid their 2016 subscriptions by the 29 February due date – this is much appreciated, as it makes the Board's task of planning expenditure for the year much easier when we know our subscription income early in the year.

Good bridging,

Julie Bunnell

NZ Bridge Website – Register!

If you haven't yet registered on the NZ Bridge website, you're encouraged to do so. Just visit www.nzbridge.co.nz and follow the instructions to register. As well as being able to check on your Master Points, you can get all the latest bridge news from around New Zealand.

You can also choose to join any of three new Forums recently launched by NZ Bridge: Director, Teacher, and Master Solver. The three Forums appear within the My NZB menu item at the top right of the main website menu.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome Ann Ashwell, Heather Cooper, and Josephine McIlwaine to the Club. All three are looking for partners during 2016, so please keep them in mind if you have any spaces in your programme for Wednesday evenings or Thursday afternoons. Please add Heather's telephone number, 357-6869, to your booklet. Numbers for Ann and Josephine are already included in the 2016 booklet.

HAND OF THE MONTH- APRIL

This hand should be entitled "How to turn an average board into a complete bottom ". It will be remembered with some fondness by our esteemed president Julie because she was the beneficiary of my largesse! I was sitting West with a balanced 10 count including 4 Hearts to the A K .My RHO opened 1 Club and Julie bid one Diamond after I passed. Partner passed and RHO with a very nice 17 count bid one Spade. This was passed to Julie who now bid 2 Clubs which was passed round to me. This seemed to me to be a chance to get into the bidding as partner seemed marked with the unbid suit and we were not vulnerable so I bid 2 Hearts. This was passed round to RHO who now doubled. Julie did well to bid 2 Spades with her 5 points [2 hearts was probably making]. My partner with 5 Hearts to the QJ now raised to 3 Hearts ! RHO now competed to 3 Spades and there the bidding ended.

I started with A K of Hearts and declarer quickly wrapped up 3 Spades just losing K Spades and the A of Diamonds for 9 tricks. So instead of defending 2 Clubs, which probably would have made, I defended 3 Spades for a complete bottom ! Not very clever, I think you'll agree. My annoyance was increased when I discovered that Deep Finesse informed me that 3 Spades should be one off! The defence is not obvious, but instead of starting with A K Hearts. I should start with my doubleton Diamond , taken by my partner's Ace and returned. Now, when I get in with my King of Spades, I should underlead my Hearts to partners Queen and receive a Diamond ruff for one off. Too clever for me. Here is the full hand:

Happy Bridging, Alan.

| | | |
|--------|---------|---------|
| | ♠ T64 | |
| | ♥ 52 | |
| | ♦ KT865 | |
| | ♣ Q98 | |
| ♠ K73 | | ♠ 852 |
| ♥ AKT9 | | ♥ QJ843 |
| ♦ 42 | | ♦ A93 |
| ♣ 6543 | | ♣ J7 |
| | ♠ AQJ9 | |
| | ♥ 76 | |
| | ♦ QJ7 | |
| | ♣ AKT2 | |

NEW TABLECLOTHS

We now have new tablecloths. To keep them in pristine condition, it would be helpful if we could all take care not to make biro marks on them. Food and drinks should be placed on the small plastic tables to prevent any spillages on the cloths. Hope everyone enjoys the new look.

INTERMEDIATE TOURNAMENT

Twenty pairs contested the Hokowhitu Intermediate Tournament on Sunday 17 April. Our own club was well represented, with 14 players participating.

The winners were Marion Bunckenburg and Paul Gatenby, an Intermediate/Junior pair from Palmerston North. Close behind in second place were our own Frank Dunlop and Rohan Wewala, another Intermediate/Junior Pair. In third place were Carol Dickson and Barb Robinson, an Intermediate pair from Feilding, and in fourth place were Mereana Cullen and Denise Servante, an Intermediate pair from Palmerston North. Great to see the prizes shared around amongst the various Clubs!

Behind the scenes, lots of club members contributed to the success of the tournament. Thanks to all those who contributed to the morning tea, which received favourable comments for its diversity and quantity. And thanks to all those who helped with set up, morning tea, lunch, supper and clean up on tournament day. As always, thanks to Lorraine, the Director. It's no small achievement, hosting a tournament, and the inputs of all are applauded.



Winners Marion Bunckenburg and Paul Gatenby

Palmerston North Bridge Club



Second Place Frank Dunlop and Rohan Wewala

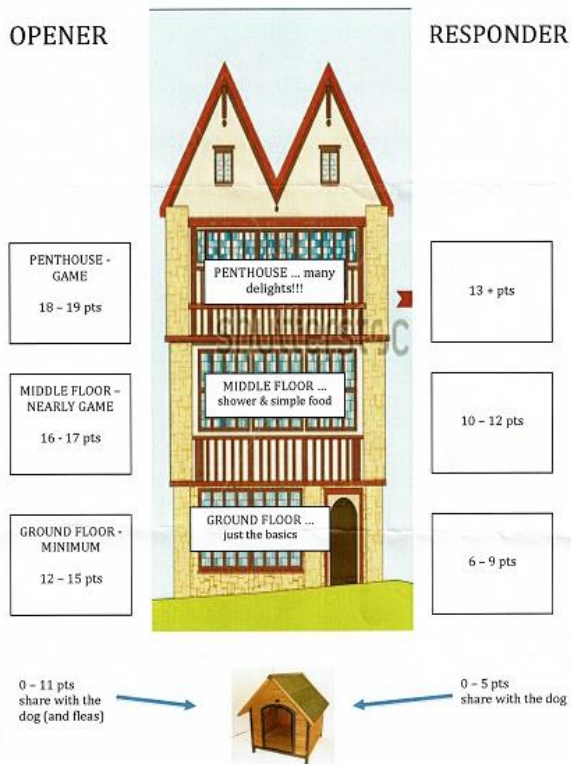
Hokowhitu Bridge Club



Third Place Carol Dickson and Barb Robinson

Feilding Bridge Club

OPENER



RESPONDER

DUMMY'S BRIDGE BLOG!

The *Dummy* is defined by Wikipedia as: "The partner of the declarer. Dummy's cards are placed face up on the table and played by the declarer. Dummy has few rights and may not participate in choices concerning the play of the hand."

This Dummy's first Blog for the HBC's Newsletter begins with this leaked picture of the fascinating House of Contract Bridge. The illegible details explain the "do's" and "don'ts" of Opener's bidding and Responder's responses while clambering up from Ground Floor basics to Penthouse delights. Thus providing a basic pattern to the bidding once you've avoided the doghouse.

Sneakily, last Wednesday, Dummy seized an opportunity to observe 12 aspirant Bridge players climbing that staircase and that was quite an eye-opener. Most of us playing in the main room are so engrossed we have little thought for the newbies learning our game tucked away in the male changing room. So, it was quite a surprise for Dummy to discover three assisting mentors and an ultra-cordial Professor Alister at the whiteboard tutoring three full tables engrossed in climbing the Bidding stairs.

Ranging in age from young to mature, with fairly equal representation of the sexes, this motley crowd of learners was embracing their sixth lesson as Alister steered them up the staircase with pre-dealt hands to compliment the notes. Each player had a chance to play out a contract and nothing beats the eye-glint of self-satisfaction when a game contract is made! With

lessons concentrating on a slow logical methodical process embracing the basics of Bridge, this class looks like a future force to be reckoned with when they graduate to the main room.

To the twelve of you – a warm welcome to HBC and we look forward to playing with you when you move into the main room. Special welcome to Karen and Warren, who are returning to the game after playing at Caccia Birch House some years ago. Dummy is certain you'll all enjoy both the game and the company at this friendly club. Keep cool – till after school!

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Individual Ladder Results

Both Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon groups played an Individual Ladder competition during March, in which players had a different partner for each session. The best four (of five) sessions counted towards the competition.

The overall winner for Wednesday evening was Michael Hardman (60.68%), with Maureen Watts (57.08%) just edging out Peter Wiles (57.04%) for second place. With handicaps taken into account, the winner was Chris Abbey (55.61%), with Muffy Saville-Wood as runner-up (55.01%).

The overall winner for Thursday afternoon was Anne Owens (58.70%), with Heather Cooper (58.27%) in second place and Margaret Williams (56.56%) in third place.

Congratulations to all winners and place-getters!! And many thanks to our hostesses, Maureen and Joy, for their sterling efforts to make sure everyone had a (different) partner for each session.

TOURNAMENT NEWS

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

| April | May |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 23-25 Wellington Regional Congress (all grades) | 1 Upper Hutt Open Pairs |
| 23 Wellington Provincial Pairs | 1 Upper Hutt Junior Pairs |
| 24 Wellington Provincial Teams | 7 Feilding Intermediate Pairs |
| 25 Wellington Congress Swiss Pairs | 7-8 Taupo Open Pairs |
| 30 Gisborne Open Pairs | 8 Kapi Mana Multigrade Pairs |
| 30 Hastings Junior Pairs | 14-15 CD IP Trials(all grades) |
| 30 Hawera Junior Pairs | 21 Taradale Tierney Teams |
| | 21 Palmerston North Junior Pairs |

Tournament Results – Double Happy

Congratulations to Lorraine Stachurski, who won the Marton Picnic Pairs on Sunday 20 March, playing with Sarah Green (Hawera).

A week later, on Saturday 28 March, Lorraine Stachurski and Alister Stuck won the Levin Multigrade Tournament. Well done you two!!

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: FOLLOW-UP

Due to an administrative glitch, the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting were not circulated prior to the 2015 Annual General Meeting, and hence could not be confirmed at the 2015 AGM.

To address this situation, the 2014 AGM Minutes were circulated to members by email in early January 2016, with an opportunity to suggest corrections or amendments. As no suggestions for amendments or corrections were received, the 2016 Board has now confirmed the 2014 AGM Minutes.

Further, at its March meeting the 2016 Board has also approved a motion that the Club's Financial Reports for the year ending 31 March 2016 be reviewed, rather than audited. This decision accords with our practice over the past several years. Bruce Wilson has graciously agreed to again serve in the role of Reviewer.