



Website: hokowhitubridge.org.nz

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

Chair Chat

I write this having just returned from the Hawkes Bay Bridge Congress, held over Queen's Birthday weekend. The weather in the Bay (like many other places) was absolutely stunning, and the venue for the Congress was located along the seaside at Ahuriri, Napier. All of the playing rooms had wonderful ocean views, and lunch breaks were taken outdoors in the sunshine. Such a treat!!

The Congress was well attended, with the Hokowhitu flag flown by Alan Doddridge, Margaret & Harold Orsborn, Lorraine Stachurski, Alister Stuck, Jan Whyte, and Jenny Wilson (and me). It's a great way to spend a long weekend in Napier – and a great opportunity to play competitions in Swiss Pairs and Teams formats, something which we find difficult to arrange at Club level.

Closer to home, it's been fantastic to have the recently "graduated" learner group playing in the main room on Wednesday evenings. They will play as a separate group for a while longer, so they can build up their bridge playing confidence – and also their stamina for a full session of 24 hands.

Good bridging,

Julie Bunnell



Welcome to the learner's class of 2016

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

Winners of the May Harvest Pairs played in May were Tim Mordaunt and John Hogan and on handicap, Caroline McCartin and Pauline Brown.

Meet a New Partner at Bridge!

In the last week of June, everyone will have the opportunity to meet a new partner at bridge. On Wednesday 29 June and/or Thursday 30 June, the sessions will be conducted as Blind Dates. Everybody comes "solo", names go into a hat, and partnerships are drawn randomly. With a bit of luck, most folks will find themselves playing with someone new, or someone they've played with only rarely. For the Wednesday evening session, all players with surnames M to Z are asked to bring a plate, please, and we'll take a supper break.

Tournament Achievements

Congratulations to Graeme Donaldson and Julie Bunnell, who were the second-placed Intermediate/Open pair (and 6th overall) at the Otaki Multigrade tournament on 29 May. Congratulations also to Janine Fenelon and Rohan Wewala, who earned a respectable fourth place at the Palmerston North Junior tournament on 21 May.

And let's have a round of applause for Lorraine and Alister, whose team won the Open Teams Plate at the Hawkes Bay Bridge Congress on 5-6 June.

For upcoming tournaments that members may be interested to enter, please refer to your diary for details.

Daffodil Day Charity Tournament 2016

As noted in the last newsletter, our 2016 Daffodil Day Charity Tournament will be held on Sunday 14 August. If you haven't yet made a diary note, do so now! And it's never too early to think about a partner for the event.

As we did last year, we will be inviting members to contribute items for morning tea and/or post-play refreshments. Andrea Bennett will be looking after this aspect of the tournament, and will be seeking volunteers shortly.

Additional sponsors for the event are always welcome. If you have connections with a business or organisation that might be willing to come on board as a sponsor by contributing gift cards, vouchers, food items, or prize items, please let Julie Bunnell know as soon as possible.

Timeliness Reminder

All Wednesday evening players are reminded that our goal is to begin the playing session at 7:15 pm. A prompt start is important so that the session does not run too late in the evening. All players should be seated by 7:10, so that the Director can work out the appropriate movement for the number of tables, and announcements can be made. Let's all try hard to make this happen.

Bent Horseshoe Event in June

On the 25th June the Bent Horseshoe presents The Kelburn Viaduct Municipal Ensemble Jug Band. They will be a lot of fun playing some blues, country, and Americana.

Those of you with long memories may remember The Bulldog All Star Goodtime Band. Neil Worboys was a leading light in that band and now he appears again in another goodtime band.

Concert will start at 7.30 and will cost \$20. Yummy desserts will be available to purchase, also tea/coffee, and full bar service.

Bookings can be made by email to steve@benthorseshoe.co.nz, or by phoning Steve on 06 329 8808. Payment can be made on the night, or online to 12 3442 0023166 50.

Club Championships: 2016 Information

The 2016 Club Championships will be played over six weeks beginning on 3 August and concluding on 7 September. Members are encouraged to commit themselves to playing the full six weeks of the Club Championships.

The Club Championships will be played in two grades, "Tournament" and "Progressive". The winners in each grade will have their names engraved on an appropriate plaque, which will be presented to them at the Club's annual prize-giving in December.

Eligibility

Participation in the club championships is open to all members of the Hokowhitu Bridge Club who have paid the 2016 subscription.

Assignment to Tournament and Progressive Grades

Assignment to Tournament or Progressive grade will be based on two characteristics of the partnership:

1. Past Progressive Grade winner – If either member of the partnership has previously won the Progressive Grade competition, the pair will play in the Tournament grade
2. Partnership Rating Points – If the combined NZ Bridge Rating Points of the partnership is 25 or more, the pair will play in the Tournament grade

Please note that the Board reserves the right to make minor adjustments to Tournament/Progressive grade assignment to ensure suitable pair numbers in each grade.

You can find out your current NZ Bridge Rating Points by looking yourself (or anybody else) up on the NZ Bridge website. Go to www.nzbridge.co.nz and search by your NZ bridge number or by surname. We also have the list of 2016 Rating Points on display in the bridge cupboard at the Bowling Club.

Determination of Winners

Determination of the winners in each grade will be based on the best five scores obtained by a partnership. Subject to the substitution rule below, each partnership may drop their worst score from the calculation of rank. If a partnership is absent from one night of the competition then all of their remaining five scores will contribute. If a partnership is absent for two or more nights, they will no longer be eligible to win in the Club Championships.

Substitution Rule

A partnership is permitted a maximum of two substitutions during the six weeks of competition. If two substitutions occur, then it is mandatory to discard the score from one of the sessions containing a substitute.

Substitutes should be at a level similar to, or lower than, the person for whom they are substituting, with level measured by rating points.

All substitutions for the Club Championships will be arranged by the Wednesday evening hostess, Maureen Watts. Substitutes must also be current financial members of Hokowhitu Bridge Club, other than in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the hostess.

Visitors

Visiting pairs may take part in one or more sessions of the club championships. Any visiting pair will be treated as a "phantom" for scoring purposes.

NEW MEMBERS

We have lots of new members to welcome this month! A very warm welcome to all those joining the Club, and may you have many happy bridge sessions at Hokowhitu.

Please note names and telephone numbers in your programme book.

Bev Charlton	356 0094	021 034 4021
Tony Fayerman	357 7834	
Glenice Malcolm	358 3409	021 189 5695
Stuart Malcolm	358 3409	
Barbara Passman	354 9080	

And from the Learner group:

Bruce Allen	355 0092	021 071 8955
Belinda Armitt		021 269 2979
Nick Finlay	359 1112	027 449 5234
Warren Good	357 3705	027 224 9530
Adam Gouwland		020 4079 5236
Alastair Johnstone		021 885 497
Mary Lock	359 3484	
Donald Meikle-Cameron	356 8344	020 4002 1347
Raymond Richard	356 8517	
Karen Thomas	354 5638	027 443 5862

DUMMY'S BRIDGE BLOG!

Here we are into June and there's no doubt Winter is here! Cool is not so cool when you're cold! May's Harvest Pairs produced the anticipated overall winners and it was good to see the Handicap section producing some new winning names. Congratulations to all – may your prizes never need an ink refill!

The first June session had 13 tables – 10 locked into the aptly named Alpine Pairs and three occupied by our new batch of learners getting the taste for competitive Bridge on the carpeted section of the building, while the rest of us clattered around on the uninsulated timber dance floor. What's wrong with the heating system? The southern heatpump belts out uncomfortably hot air and the northern unit blows neither hot nor cold!

The second June session saw a drop in numbers – on account of the cold, perhaps? – and the Learners kept their 3 tables going with some assistance from the odd phantom players. As far as Dummy knows Thursday numbers have been up in the 7 to 8 tables region. All sounding very good for the Club's stability.

Last Wednesday, after dinner, Dummy missed a cuppa and waited for an opportunity to nip to the kitchen for a brew. No chance at all as ended up playing under time pressure all evening. So, hurried home straight after the last hand to slake the thirst and thanked modern technology for the webpage results later. Noticed the Learners' breaking for refreshments, so why can't the regulars go back to that 5 minute tea-break we used to have years ago? Chance for a stretch of the legs, some nourishment and a few seconds of idle chit-chat. The new electronic scoring pads are saving a lot of time, so, why not a few social minutes each evening? Thursday afternoons manage to have a break, why not Wednesday evenings?

Which brings one to an important point. As play progresses, more and more information is reflected on the electronic scoring pads, leading up to a pretty good reflection of the final results directly after the last board of the session is played. Perhaps we could have an extra minute in the final round where South (in charge of the score pad) lets the other three players view the overall situation on the tablet?



Now, here's a thought! Have you noticed the Club's signboard? Have you seen any evidence of football being played (either indoors or outdoors) on the Bowling Club premises? Dummy knows they play on the domain, so is this sign a "social" connection. First thought is that our signage needs upgrading. Secondly, the bar springs into mind as a future development on the social side for our members. Why not?

Just a thought or two from a "silent" Dummy as is required by the Rules of Contract Bridge.

HAND OF THE MONTH – JUNE

The Side Suit Misfit

This hand turned up at a recent session at Palmerston club. As well as finding the best contract, it

also illustrates the difficulty of playing a contract with an extreme misfit in the side suits. East was dealt the following collection : S. K 4 H. Q. 9 6 3 D.Void C. A T 9 6 5 3 2. At first sight it may look tempting to pre-empt with 3 Clubs but what about your 4 Hearts? If partner has Hearts the suit may be lost for ever. Pass seems out of the question, so we are left with one club. With only 9 points this seems a little frisky, but seems to me to be the best alternative. West, with a void in Clubs and 6 Diamonds bids one Diamond and East now has the chance to show the Heart suit. West with a 6 loser hand jumps to 3 Hearts and the contract is set at 4 Hearts.

South leads the Diamond King. As you can see from the hand below, we are going to need a bit of luck to bring home a game contract with only 20 high card points. With so many potential losers we are going to have to do some ruffing and set up one of our long suits to discard some losers. Clearly a 7 card suit is easier to set up than a 6 card one, so Clubs it is. A good hint in setting up a suit is to avoid as far as possible shortening the trumps in the long suit hand. This way you preserve your entries. We are going to need at least 2 entries to the East hand to set up the Clubs, as we will need to ruff twice in the West hand.. So the King of Spades has to be an entry. So at trick 2, after winning the A Diamonds, we nervously lead a small spade to the King. We're in luck! The A S pops up from North..North exits with another Diamond which we reluctantly have to ruff in hand. Now we play the Ace of Clubs, pitching a Spade and ruff a club in dummy. Back to hand with a spade and ruff another club with the Ace of trumps.[this is necessary to preserve communication]. Now the King of trumps and another trump to the Queen in hand. Now we have only the 9 of Hearts and established Clubs. All there is left to do is play on Clubs until South trumps in and ruff the return. Making 5! It took me several days to work out this play so I have nothing but admiration for the only person in the room who succeeded in making 5 at the table!!

Happy Bridging, Alan..

	♠ AT65	
	♥ J2	
	♦ T983	
	♣ Q84	
♠ 983		♠ K4
♥ AK85		♥ Q963
♦ A76542		♦
♣		♣ AT96532
	♠ QJ72	
	♥ T74	
	♦ KQJ	
	♣ KJ7	