



Website: hokowhitubridge.org.nz

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

Chair Chat

I haven't spent much time at the bridge table since the last newsletter, as I have been on holiday with my family. The holiday was great, but it will also be nice to get back to bridge. Thanks to the other Board members who picked up extra little jobs while I was away.

Our Wednesday hostess, Maureen, has also had a short break away. Thanks to Michael Hardman for managing partnerships and substitutions while Maureen was away. On the subject of hostesses, please do remember to keep them up to date with your planned partnerships and absences. And say thank you to Maureen and Joy every now and then! They do a prodigious amount of behind the scenes work to make sure that partnership arrangements run smoothly.

Thanks to all those Wednesday night players who volunteered to partner one of our novice players during September. Smoothing the transition into the "main room" for the new players is important for the long-term well-being of the Club. Those of you who are opponents of new players also have a role to play – by being positive, patient and encouraging, and by refraining from offering unsolicited advice. If you can, remember what it was like when you were new!!

Good bridging,

Julie Bunnell

Bent Horseshoe Event – 30 September

The Kelburn Viaduct Municipal Ensemble Jug Band will perform at the next Bent Horseshoe event on Friday 30 September. The style of music encompasses rural blues and good-time music with a mix of original folk / blues thrown in. Their authentic sound is helped by some of the hand-made or 'found' instruments played that include the tea chest bass, washboard and jug.

Show starts 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$25, and can be booked by phoning Steve on 06 329 8808, or email steve@benthorseshoe.co.nz

NZ Wide Pairs – 4 November 2016



Our club will be taking part in the New Zealand Wide Pairs on Friday, 4 November, from 7 pm. This competition, which is sponsored by Babich Wines, covers the whole of New Zealand. Players at bridge clubs throughout the country play the same set of 24 hands at the same time, and the results are scored nationally. At the end of play, you'll receive a booklet that includes the hand records and commentary on how each hand could/should have been bid and played. Shortly after the competition, you'll find out how your partnership placed in the national field.

Details re food and drink arrangements will be included in the next newsletter. We aim for a social (as well as educational) evening!

Cost is \$10 per player, with about half of the entry fee going to the NZ Bridge Foundation to promote bridge in New Zealand. There is a sign-up sheet on the notice board at the Club, or you can email your entry to hokowhitubridgeclub@gmail.com. Don't delay – we need to have at least 12 pairs signed up by 20 October in order to confirm our participation with NZ Bridge.

Summer Bridge January 2017

Although spring has just arrived, some of us are looking ahead to the summer. The good news is that Summer Bridge at Hokowhitu will happen again in January 2017! This is a great opportunity to indulge in some bridge in a relaxed environment.

- Sessions are scheduled for Wednesday January 18 and January 25, usual start time of 7:15 pm, usual table money applies.
- Come to whatever dates fit your diary – you don't need to commit to playing both sessions.
- You can arrange a partner in advance if you wish, or come solo. If there are an odd number of players, then the Director (Graeme Donaldson) will form a partnership, so everyone gets a game.

Club Championships 2016

The 2016 Club Championships have just concluded, and were much enjoyed by those who took part. Congratulations to **Alan Doddridge and Jenny Wilson**, winners in the Tournament grade, with an average of 65.63%, and to **Derek Knighton and Rohan Wewala**, winners in the Progressive grade, with an average of 58.13%. Your names will be recorded for posterity, and your trophies will be awarded at the AGM/Christmas function. Well done also to the runners-up: Gayle Leader and Maureen Watts in the Tournament grade, and Tim Coolbear and Chai Young in the Progressive grade.

Congratulations to Ellie Bourke who recently celebrated her 90th birthday.



HAND OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER

DIVIDE AND CONQUER-"THE SCISSORS COUP"

Bridge is often a game of communications, each side struggling to preserve its own and destroy the opposition's. This hand is taken from a bridge classic by a doyen of Bridge in Britain, Terence Reese.

Imagine the defenders are threatening a ruff. What can declarer do about it? Often the answer is to draw trumps-obvious! But sometimes declarer has to lose a trick in trumps first if the Ace is missing. On this hand the opening lead was the 2 of Clubs, an obvious singleton. East West had competed to 4 Spades after a preempt in Spades by West. The contract is 5 Hearts by South. If declarer wins the first trick and attempts to draw trumps, West will rise with the Ace, cross to his partner's Ace of Diamonds and give his partner a ruff. One off! As it seems fairly obvious from the bidding that the Ace of Spades is with West, it will be possible to keep East off the lead with the King of Spades, pitching the losing Diamond from hand and severing the communication between East and West and avoiding the ruff. This manoeuvre is known as the "Scissors Coup" for obvious reasons.

Happy Bridging, Alan.

Board 4 Dealer W Vul All	♠K54 ♥KJ2 ♦QT652 ♣Q7	
♠AJT9762 ♥A96 ♦43 ♣2		♠Q83 ♥4 ♦AK987 ♣J 965
	♠ ♥QT8753 ♦J ♣AKT843	

Tournament Achievements

Congratulations to

- Alan Doddridge, Jenny Wilson, and Jan Whyte (along with team-mate Carolyn Yeomans, Taradale) who WON the Napier Open Teams on 3 September

Honourable mentions to

- Graeme Donaldson and Frank Dunlop, who placed 5th in the Palmerston North Intermediate tournament on 10 September
- Michael Hardman and partner, who placed 7th in the Palmerston North Intermediate tournament on 10 September
- Alan Doddridge and Jenny Wilson, who placed 6th in the Hawera Open Pairs on 10 September

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

Bridge Buddies Still Needed for October and November

Are you a Wednesday night player without a partner for October or November? Would you be willing to play one month with one of our new, keen novice players? If so, please let Derek Knighton know as soon as possible, so he can finalise novice/buddy partnerships.

Improve your Bridge?

Everybody wants to play better bridge, right? Apart from trusting to luck, you can help yourself by making use of the Improvers' Teaching Materials on the NZ Bridge website. Go to www.nzbridge.co.nz, click on *Learn Bridge* (top menu) and then click on *Teaching Materials – Improvers* (drop down menu). There you will find topics such as Stayman (for no-trump bidding), Blackwood (for slam bidding), Opening Leads and much more! Why not challenge yourself to do one improvers' topic before the end of 2016?

DUMMY'S BRIDGE BLOG!

Well, there it is – the Club Champs for 2016 are done and dusted and Dummy and his/her (or her/his) partner featured amongst the also-rans – once again! Seventeen pairs participated – 9 in the Tournament Grade and 8 in the Progressive Grade – and one has to say that, up till the fourth round there were no foregone conclusions as to the winners in each grade. Then, in round 5 possible winners appeared! However, they had to survive the calculation of the best five out of six rounds and the dropping off of their worst score to allow calculation of the overall winning average percentage for 5 out of 6 rounds. This produced the following results:



Congratulations! Winners of the Tournament Grade 2016: **Alan Doddridge** and **Jenny Wilson**, who dropped off a 51.85% first round to give them an outstanding **65.63%** average and the trophy. Runners-up Gayle Leader and Maureen Watts (62.29%) and Michael Hardman and Stuart Malcolm (58.07%) maintained pressure through till the final round. Well done and thanks to all participants.

Congratulations also to the Progressive Grade winners: **Derek Knighton** and **Rohan Wewala**, whose stunning 72.02% final round cemented them into first place with an average of **58.13%**. Runners-up Tim Coolbear and Chai Young (53.18%) and Tony Paterson and Allan Young (52.59%) kept up pressure until the final round.

The Club Champs are something special and all participants are commended for playing their part.

Now comes the question – why is this newspaper cutting appearing on Dummy's page? Well, unable to find a suitable picture to cover the champs, Dummy found this old newspaper cutting dated 3 November 2002. It features the 10th Anniversary celebration of the formation of Caccia Birch Contract Bridge – the first incarnation of our club. Now known as Hokowhitu Bridge Club, of course. Hope you can read it!