



Website: hokowhitubridge.org.nz

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016

Chair Chat

October already! How did that happen?? I am certainly enjoying the longer hours of daylight and the warmer temperatures. I am also enjoying my current and recent bridge partnerships, and the occasional good result.

The next "special event" in our bridge year is the NZ Wide Pairs on Friday 4 November. Please do join in the fun! Play with a regular partner, or buddy up with someone new. Further details appear later in this newsletter.

And then it's not too long until end of year festivities in December. Please see the Save the Date notices later in this newsletter.

As well as end of year festivities, we will hold our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7 December. At the AGM, the Board will report to the members on the year's activities, make some recommendations with respect to 2017, and elect a new Board. There are opportunities available to become a Board member for 2017 – if you'd like to find out about what's involved in serving on the Board, feel free to have a "no obligation" chat with any current member.

Good bridging,

Julie Bunnell

A beaming Chris Abbey at his recent book launch. Good to see he had some supporters from the Bridge Club. Even a member from the past, Pat Nolan attended.



Tournament Achievements

There were fewer tournaments in the past month, as much activity was centred around the National Congress in Hamilton. Congratulations to

- Lorraine Stachurski, who placed 12th in the NZ Pairs (from a starting field of 164) and whose team placed 4th in the Point-A-Board Teams
- Alister Stuck, whose team made it to the final 8 in the NZ Teams competition, from a starting field of 108 teams
- Jan Whyte, whose team placed 4th in the Back to the Future Teams
- Alan Doddridge, Jenny Wilson and Jan Whyte, whose team placed 10th in the NZ Senior Teams

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

Wednesday Results

Congratulations to Mary Dunlop and Dorothy Davidson who won the September Pairs. The handicap section was won by Chai Young and Karen Thomas. This was the first month that the learners group played in the main room and they should all be congratulated for doing so well.

NZ Wide Pairs – 4 November 2016, 7:15 pm

Play in the NZ Wide Pairs! Open to all players of all levels who are members of the Hokowhitu Bridge Club. 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.

Entry fee is \$10 per player. Of this, \$5.50 goes to the NZ Bridge Foundation to support bridge in New Zealand.

The event is BYO beverages, with the Club providing nibbles.

There is a sign-up sheet on the notice board at the Club, or you can email your entry to hokowhitubridgeclub@gmail.com. We need registrations ASAP so that we can confirm our participation.

2017 Bridge Programme

The Board is currently preparing the playing programme for 2017, which will be released late December or early January. As you think about your potential partnerships for 2017, do consider widening your circle of partners. The Board encourages all Open players to play at least one monthly competition with an Intermediate player and one month with a Junior player, and all Intermediate players to partner a Junior player for at least one monthly competition. Open and Intermediate players are encouraged to take the initiative, as sometimes Junior players are shy about approaching more experienced players.

Hosts/Hostesses for 2017

Wednesday

Our Wednesday evening hostess, Maureen, has been in the role for at least ten consecutive years! Not surprisingly, she would like to hand over the host/hostess baton to another Wednesday player. Is anyone willing to take this on for 2017? If so, please contact Julie Bunnell as soon as possible. Of course, Maureen is willing to provide some tips and tricks to an incoming host/hostess.

Thursday

Joy Pearce has advised that she will be stepping down as Thursday hostess at the end of 2016. Joy has provided a splendid service to Thursday players for the past 3 years, and we thank her enormously for doing so.

One of our long-standing members, Trish Abbey, has agreed to take on the role of Thursday hostess. Trish has held this role in the past, and we are delighted she has indicated her willingness to do so again. Trish, who is one of the Club's four life members, has had a few years away from the bridge table so newer Thursday players may not know her yet. Trish will be sharing some afternoon teas with Thursday players so that they have a chance to meet her.

DUMMY'S BRIDGE BLOG!

It's amazing how quickly time flies if you are having fun! Wednesday evenings this month have been great with 11 tables – 44 players – battling it out in a highly competitive, but still friendly fashion. Numbers have been boosted by an influx from Alister Stuck's lessons and it won't be long before the new players encompass some of the game's subtleties and become forces to be reckoned with. The standard of Bridge is constantly improving and the thrill of earning C-points and/or being top of the Open or Handicap competitions will soon spark the desire to embrace some of the subtler communication skills that set up great partnerships. Well done to all the newbies partaking in your first monthly competition. May you learn to love this highly competitive game and, while seriously participating, never lose sight of the Club's goals and commitment encompassing enjoying the spirit of friendly sociability.

Dummy dropped into Thursday Bridge a few weeks back to collect something left behind the night before and was most impressed to see seven tables – 28 players – in action. Couldn't help noticing a once prominent member, who hasn't been around (except at the Christmas party), playing with one of our senior members. Is this a sign of a return to Bridge? Thursdays are really doing well – 7 tables average and 8 tables on the 13th, according to the webpage. Well done Joy!

GRAND SLAM LIMITED
INCORPORATING
CACCIA BIRCH
CONTRACT BRIDGE



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RULES

* The Rules of CACCIA BIRCH CONTRACT BRIDGE are based on the understanding that the Club is operated by a non-profit-making company - GRAND SLAM LIMITED.

The Company is registered pursuant to the provisions of The Companies Act 1909 and, as a consequence, the powers and duties of the Directors of the Company are contained in the Articles of Association. As are the rights attaching to the Shareholders of the Company. It is the Company and its constituent members who will control the operations of the Club.

The Rules are:

1. That the Club shall be operated by the Board of Directors of Grand Slam Limited, a non profit-making company.
2. The Club shall promote the game of Contract Bridge in the Manawatu.
3. The Club shall at all times abide by the Rules of the New Zealand Contract Bridge Association.
4. The Board of Directors of Grand Slam Limited shall by resolution make such rules as they deem necessary to the operation of the Club to achieve the stated purposes contained in 2 and 3 above.

There's nothing in Dummy's files to back up this blog, so, a raid on the archives found a 1992 outline of the original Rules under which the Hokowhitu Bridge Club operates. Perhaps a little background to the Club's philosophy can make the playing experience even more enjoyable. This extract shows the major differences between the standard Bridge Club structure operating as an "incorporated society" and our Board-managed set-up obligated to furthering Bridge in the Manawatu.

The spirit of committed competitive Bridge being played in a sociable and friendly environment is an essential part of our Club's culture. Long may it continue.

Summer Bridge January 2017

Have you put the Summer Bridge sessions in your diary yet? January 18 and January 25 are the two dates we have booked. Usual start time of 7:15 pm, and usual table money applies. Visitors from other Clubs welcome.

Arrange your own partner, if you wish, or come solo and find someone on the night. If there are an odd number of players, then the Director (Graeme Donaldson) will form a partnership, so everyone gets a game.

Save the Dates

Two important dates for your diaries:

- The Thursday afternoon Christmas party will be held on Thursday 1 December. There will be a bring-a-plate luncheon followed by an afternoon of bridge.
- The Club's AGM, Prizegiving and End of Year function will be held on Wednesday 7 December, from about 5:30 pm. Details in next newsletter.

Bent Horseshoe Event – Friday 28 October

Paul Ubana Jones is the guest artist at the next Bent Horseshoe event on Friday 28 October. Paul Ubana Jones immigrated to NZ in the late 1980s, and has had a successful career spanning three decades. He's a great guitarist and vocalist, with musical influences from blues, rock, folk and jazz. Watch for posters at the Bowling Clubs for details of show time and ticket price. You can book ahead by phoning Steve on 06 329 8808, or email steve@benthorseshoe.co.nz

If anyone has any articles or suggestions regarding the newsletter, please feel free to contact Margaret Williams.

