



Website: hokowhitubridge.org.nz

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016

Chair Chat

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2016!

I hope that you have enjoyed the transition to monthly newsletters. Big thanks go to Margaret Williams, who hardly even blinked when the Board said at the end of 2015 that we wanted to move from quarterly to monthly production. Margaret has cheerfully edited and distributed our newsletter throughout 2016. Even better, she has agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor for 2017.

The 2016 Board has held its last formal meeting. My sincere thanks to all members of the Board, whose generous donations of time and expertise help keep the Club in good health.

Please do take note of the information later in this newsletter about our end of year functions. If you are a newer member, don't be shy or anxious about attending our AGM – you won't be pressured into service, and it's a chance to raise any questions or suggestions that you may have. There's also an opportunity to applaud prize winners for 2016, and socialise with your bridge friends over food and drink.

The first newsletter of 2017 will appear in January. Until then, best wishes for the festive season!

Good bridging,

Julie Bunnell

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.

NZ Wide Pairs

Our Club held a successful heat of the New Zealand Wide Pairs on Friday 4 November. Fourteen pairs participated, and enjoyed some challenging bridge, along with nibbles and drinks. A total of 998 pairs competed nationwide, spread across 59 clubs. Congratulations to our top pair, Lorraine Stachurski and Alister Stuck, who placed 28th in New Zealand. Our second NS pair, Gayle Leader and Maureen Watts placed 37th nationally, and our top EW pair, John Hogan and Stuart Malcolm, placed 102nd nationally. None of our other pairs broke the 200 barrier. If you are interested in looking at the New Zealand results, go to www.compass.bridge-centre.org

Tournament Achievements

Congratulations to Alister Stuck and partner Russell Wilson (New Plymouth) who placed second in the New Plymouth Anniversary Pairs on November 12th.

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

Wednesday Results

Congratulations to Jacquie and Kelvin Rutgers who won the October Pairs. The handicap section was won by Nick Finlay and Frank Dunlop.



Thursday Afternoon Christmas Party – Thursday 1 December

The Thursday Christmas Party will be held on Thursday 1 December. There will be a luncheon followed by the final Thursday bridge session for 2016. On the day, please arrive by noon and bring a plate of food to share. The Club will provide beverages.

If you'd like to attend and have not already spoken with Joy Pearce, please contact her no later than Friday 25 November (telephone 357 3217), so that she can make sure everyone attending has a partner.

The Thursday Christmas Party will also include the presentation of the Scott Plate to the Thursday player with the highest total points for the year.

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.

Check Your Details, Please

If any of your details are incorrect in the 2016 programme booklet, please let Graeme Donaldson know by 30 November. We will then correct any errors for the 2017 edition!



AGM and Prizegiving – Wednesday 7 December

It's time to celebrate notable bridge achievements for 2016 and the upcoming festive season. As we have done in the past, the Annual General Meeting will be held in association with the Club Prizegiving and Christmas Party.

Date: Wednesday 7 December
Time: From 5:30 pm, AGM to commence 6 pm
Food: Please bring a small plate of food to share
Drinks: Cash bar operating from 5:30
Cost: Gold coin donation towards expenses

The documents for the Annual General Meeting will be sent out in a separate email, with printed copies made available for members not on the Club's email list. In that email, you should receive

- Agenda for 2016 Annual General Meeting
- Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting
- Chair's Report for 2016
- Financial Report for Year Ending 15 March 2016
- Nomination Form

Could YOU be a Board Member?

Five of the existing Board members have indicated that they will seek re-election for 2017, with Andrea Bennett opting to step down from the Board and Paul Orsborn resigning earlier in the year due to work commitments. This means there are vacancies on the Board for new members (as our maximum size is seven) and of course, elections will be held if there are more nominees than places! Please do give this opportunity serious consideration, and feel free to approach any existing Board member for information about what's involved. If you don't want to be a Board member yourself, but you'd like to nominate someone who you feel has something to contribute, please approach that person and complete a nomination form.

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.

Summer bridge sessions are also available at Palmerston North Club, located at the corner of Cook and Cuba Streets. Visitors are welcome, membership not required, table money \$5 per session. Arrange your own partner or come solo and match up at the session.

- Monday afternoon sessions begin 12 December and continue until 30 January. Play starts at 1:15 pm; please arrive at least 10 minutes ahead of start time.
- Tuesday evening sessions begin 13 December and continue until 31 January. Play starts at 7:30 pm; please arrive at least 10 minutes ahead of start time.

Volunteers Needed

We need some volunteers for a summertime maintenance job: Our new table cloths need their annual washing. The tablecloths can be machine washed but need to be dried without using pegs – either indoors on a drying rack or outdoors on a windless day. Two or three volunteers would help spread the load. Please let Margaret Williams know ASAP if you can assist her.

DUMMY'S BRIDGE BLOG!

The first week of November's "End of Year" Pairs competition boasted 10½ tables with our "newbies" beginning to settle into playing and contributing to the competitive fun that HBC is known for. The second week saw a drop-off to 7 tables as the beginners had a final lesson introducing them to Stayman and Bridge conventions in general. Dummy understands they'll be back boosting table numbers on the 16th, but reverting to "ace-asking" lessons on the 23rd, which should bring them right up to competitive status for the last night of the year on the 30th. One thing Dummy believes should be stressed a little bit stronger for all players, is that the "Handicap" adjustments to results help keep all players' performances in touch with (and in comparison to) everyone else who has played exactly the same boards. Handicap results announced each week after the standard results, provide a level playing field from which each individual pair's performance can be evaluated.



One last thought from Dummy! The Board must be congratulated and praised for the introduction of electronic scoring pads. They have speeded up play with South only having to tap a few buttons and East press a tick and it's onto the next board. However, that most important part of this challenging game we play – the quick glance to see what play possibilities there were in the four hands – is being lost. The slip of paper beneath the board hardly gets a glance nowadays and, once East has ticked South's input, it's onto the next board - obliterating a valuable learning

opportunity. The tablets show the results of all plays and only South (and enquiring Easts) ever get to see that detail, which increases with the progress of play. Then, to cap it all, after the final round, the tablet actually gives preliminary results!

What about establishing a simple routine at the close of each hand when South presents the tablet so all four players can see the display? Plus, after playing the final board, each player is given a moment to look at the preliminary results for the day? This will only add about 20 seconds per board and could become a routine that speeds up play as players will find they forfeit these procedures if they are not ready to move when Director rings the bell! Remember that used to be the routine? So much better than that American voice booming "There *is* 5 minutes left . . ."

Wooden Card Tables – Free to Good Home!

We still have six of the older wooden card tables that are surplus to requirements. Any member/s who wish to take a table (or two, or six) should do so ASAP. If you are not attending bridge this month but would like one or more tables, please contact Julie Bunnell. Any tables remaining at the end of November will be donated to charity.

Discussions at New Zealand Bridge

Some members will be aware that discussions have been held by the Board of New Zealand Bridge about possible changes to its governance structure. Three open letters have been circulated in the past fortnight to all Clubs: one from Alan Turner (current Treasurer) and two from the current Chair, Arie Guersen. The letters from the Chair are also available at www.nzbridge.co.nz

The Board of Hokowhitu Bridge Club is preparing a response on behalf of the Club, which will be forwarded in the near future to NZ Bridge. Copies will also be sent to Central Districts Regional Committee and to all of our members (via email). Our primary concerns focus on process issues.

Bent Horseshoe Event

The last Bent Horseshoe event for 2016 will be held on Saturday 3 December. No details available yet – watch for posters at the Bowling Club.