



Website: hokowhitubridge.org.nz

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017

Chair Chat

Happy New Year! Here's to a year of good health, good fortune, and good bridge.

We closed the 2016 bridge year with two excellent occasions.

On Thursday 1 December, the traditional luncheon plus bridge afternoon was held. There was an abundance of delicious food contributed by members, which was enjoyed before a relaxed afternoon of bridge. There were 10.5 tables, with Mary Scott and Peter Wiles taking the NS honours, and Julie Bunnell and Heather Cooper taking the EW honours. Joy Pearce was presented with a gift from the Thursday players, thanking her for her excellent services as hostess from 2014 through 2016.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 7 December, and was attended by about 35 members. The business of the meeting was smoothly transacted in about 45 minutes, leaving plenty of time for socialising and for enjoying the variety of tasty treats that members had made. There was also an opportunity to say thank you to some key individuals who help make our club run smoothly, and to recognise special achievements in the bridge arena. A list of prize winners appears later in the newsletter.

Looking ahead to 2017, I recently read something that recommended ditching resolutions and replacing them with objectives, which resonated with me. I'd like to be bold and suggest an objective for each club member of playing with (at least) one new partner in 2017. If each of us expands our partnerships by one, then that will be some 40 new partnerships amongst club members.

Good bridging,

Julie Bunnell

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Jill Clifton	Mob 022 074 2698	
Liz Finlay	Home 359 – 1112	Mob 027 449 5240
Allan Mudford	Mob 021 263 6228	

Board Portfolio Holders for 2017

The 2017 Board of Directors held its first meeting on 14 December. As part of that meeting, we discussed portfolios for 2017 and agreed on the following:

Chair	Julie Bunnell
Deputy Chair	Tim Coolbear
Secretary	Graeme Donaldson
Treasurer	Caroline McCartin
Lessons Admin	Derek Knighton

Members will note that there is a strong strand of continuity from 2016 in the above portfolios. Members will also note that we are running with a very "lean" board – the minimum number of 5 required by our constitution – so we will be looking to members outside the Board to assist or lead specific projects.

Tournament Achievements

Congratulations to Alan Doddridge and Jenny Wilson, who placed 6th at the Palmerston North Christmas Cheer tournament on 3 December, from a field of 60 pairs. It was a close competition: The winners were 0.10% ahead of second place, who were 0.10% ahead of third place.

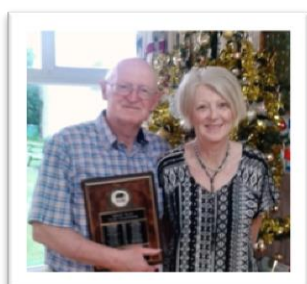
For upcoming tournaments that members may be interested to enter, please refer to your diary for details.

Prizes and Awards

A number of prizes and awards were made at our end of year functions.

- The Oscar Trophy was awarded to **Joy Pearce**. The award of the Oscar is decided by the previous recipient, and is made for a notable contribution to the Club. In making the award, Anne Richards noted Joy's tireless work as Thursday hostess, always conducted with warmth and friendliness, and her welcoming approach that promoted the culture of our Club.
- The Most Improved Player award, which recognises the Wednesday player who has made the greatest improvement over the playing year (as measured by change in handicap), was awarded to **Tim Coolbear**.
- The Points Cup, which is awarded to the Wednesday evening player with the highest total points for the year, was awarded to **Gayle Leader**.
- The Scott Plate, which is awarded to the Thursday afternoon player with the highest total points for the year, was awarded to **Frank Dunlop**.
- The runners-up in the Club Championships 2016 received certificates:
 - Tim Coolbear and Chai Young in the Progressive Grade
 - Gayle Leader and Maureen Watts in the Tournament Grade
- The winners of the Club Championships 2016 received individual trophies
 - **Derek Knighton and Rohan Wewala** in the Progressive Grade
 - **Alan Doddridge and Jenny Wilson** in the Tournament Grade

Congratulations to all recipients!



New Life Member – Graeme Donaldson

A very special award was made at the conclusion of the prizegiving. On behalf of the current Life Members, Mary Scott announced the award of Life Membership of the Hokowhitu Bridge Club to **Graeme Donaldson**. In her presentation to Graeme, Mary made reference to Graeme's contribution to the Club over many years as a member, administrator, teacher and director. Congratulations Graeme!!



Bridge Programme 2017

You should have received your 2017 bridge programme in the post by now or within the next few days. If you have not received your copy within the next week, please contact Graeme Donaldson. Please take the initiative and arrange your own partner for February, and then let Jill Hart (Wednesday) and/or Trish Abbey (Thursday) know your plans. Remember that our newer members need partners and may hesitate to approach more experienced players, so take the initiative and ask one of them!

Note from Joy Pearce

Joy has asked that a note is included in this newsletter to say how overwhelmed she was at the generous gift of a \$100 Farmers card from the Thursday players and to say a big thank you to everyone.

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.

Lessons 2017

- Our 2017 lessons will start on Wednesday 1 March, and run for about 10-11 weeks (depending on whether an Easter break is taken).
- Lessons will be held at the Bowling Club – we'll use one of the locker rooms, as we did last year.
- Lessons will be held in the evenings, 7-9 pm, with a fee of \$25 for the series.
- Alister Stuck has once again volunteered to be our tutor, and Derek Knighton will provide administrative support for the lessons and coordinate the transition of the learners to the main room.
- Lessons will conclude in early May, and we expect that the learners will play amongst themselves for the rest of May and all of June.
- We anticipate that “bridge buddies” will be needed in July to ease the learners into the main group of players. Please consider volunteering your interest in being a bridge buddy to Derek Knighton. It's a great way to give back to the game!
- Please start spreading the word to friends, neighbours, colleagues, social contacts (and so forth!). Cards and posters will be available to club members to distribute from late January/early February.
- Screen advertising during February will be sponsored by NZ Bridge. Print advertising will also be arranged by the Club.

Improvers' Sessions 2017 – Dates for Diaries

A series of Improvers sessions has been planned for 2017. These are aimed at players at novice and junior levels, but are open to all club members. The sessions will be held on Monday evenings at the Bowling Club, 7:15 – 9:15 pm.

The first two sessions are scheduled as follows:

Monday 20 February	Opening Leads
Monday 20 March	Signals and Discards

Farewell – Margaret Williams

Margaret Williams, a long-standing member of our Club and keen participant in both Wednesday and Thursday bridge sessions, has decided to move to Napier and will be leaving at the end of January. We will miss Margaret very much, but wish her all the best for her transition to Hawke's Bay life.

Janine Fenelon has graciously agreed to fill the gap as Newsletter Editor for the next three months. Please send any contributions to her at jci@slingshot.co.nz

Wednesday Results

The End of Year Pairs was won by Alister Stuck and Peter Wiles with an average score of 62.33% for the month. On handicap the winners were Caroline McCartin and Chris Abbey with an average score of 59.92%.

DUMMY'S BRIDGE BLOG!

Well, here we are – in 2017 already! New Programmes (and Invoices) are on the way and it's interesting to see that, aside from March's "Individual Pairs", it's all "Pairs" and no "Teams". Suppose that reflects what is happening at Club level generally, but no doubt that, at international level, traditional team play will remain popular. It's a pity that interest in Teams at Club level has drifted down to the point of no longer being played. Perhaps some introspective thinking such as a special trophy (or trophies), with miniatures for the team members (in both Open and Handicap options)? A local business might even promote it by donating Team Prizes that will stimulate the team spirit, increase the number of players and encourage participation in this format of Bridge. Just another Dummy thought!

In conformance with Club tradition, the AGM went off very well, with the camaraderie and refreshments dominating the business-side of the evening. The Prize-giving showed off the fact that our playing levels are improving with new-faces collecting the "silverware". One traditional award-of-interest is the "Oscar" trophy. Previous winners nominate their successor and Anne Richards awarded the 2016 Oscar to a most-deserving winner – Thursday afternoon hostess Joy Pearce. Congratulations! Surprise of the evening was the award of Life Membership to Graeme Donaldson. It is about 8 years since the last life membership was awarded and the current Board (with the Secretary excluded) unanimously confirmed the nomination from the four existing Life Members. Graeme's contribution began in earnest when he represented the Club on the Caccia Birch House board for 8 years and, over the past five years, in addition to being secretary, he has brought the Club into the digital age with the computerised dealing and scoring process. Congratulations – well deserved. Dummy would also like to applaud the Board for it's catering arrangements for the AGM. The food was excellent – showing we have some amazing chefs in the Club.

One last thought from Dummy! Our Board embraced regular monthly newsletters in lieu of the annual 3 to 4 issues of the previous 20 odd years. Emailed to the majority of the Club, the newsletters have become most beneficial in communicating what is going on within the Club, as well as acting as a membership retainer and history medium. The unsung hard worker behind collating each issue has been Margaret Williams. And she is retiring! Not only as the Editor, but also from Hokowhitu Bridge Club! She's moving to the Hawkes Bay and Dummy understands this is her last literary effort. Not even a chance to say "goodbye", she'll be off before the first Bridge session of 2017. So, while there might be other farewells to Margaret in this Newsletter, Dummy would like, on behalf of the ordinary members of the Club, to wish her everything of the best in her new lifestyle. We will miss your warm smile, friendly chatter and competitive Bridge play. You'll always be welcome here!



Subscriptions for 2017

The invoice for your 2017 subscription should have arrived with your bridge programme. Payment by the end of February would be appreciated. Online payment is preferred; please remember to identify your payment with your surname and the reference "Subs 2017"

HAND OF THE MONTH-JANUARY

Board 4 Dealer S Vul All	♠ 943 ♥ QJT97 ♦ KT97 ♣ 9	
♠ ♥ AK ♦ 8542 ♣ AKQJT76		♠ Q765 ♥ 2 ♦ AQJ63 ♣ 432
	♠ AKJT82 ♥ 86543 ♦ ♣ 85	

This remarkable hand was dealt for the opening session of summer bridge at Palmerston North club recently. South may open 2 Spades but may pass, hoping to show his 2 suited hand later. Over 2 Spades, West would be wise not to double as he doesn't want to end up defending 2S doubled. So his choices appear to be either 5 clubs or 4NT, asking east to bid his best minor. Alternatively he could just blast 6 Clubs! This was my rather unscientific choice at the table, with a fortunate result. Without the spade bid by South, life is a bit easier, West can open a game force 2 Clubs or a precision 1 Club and once East has shown a positive result with a 5 card Diamond suit bidding slam is a breeze.

Interestingly, North South has a very nice sacrifice in 6 of a major going 2 off doubled in Hearts and 3 off in Spades. If North South have an opening bid showing at least 5/5 in the majors, this would be easier to find with the known double suit fit.

Happy bridging, Alan.