

# HOKOWHITU BRIDGE CLUB

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER



It's been really great to get the 2017 bridge year underway. I have been enjoying catching up with other members over the bridge table, as well as enjoying the challenges of the cards themselves. If only hindsight could be deployed in advance of playing a hand!

Participation has been excellent at both Wednesday and Thursday sessions, with 11-12 tables on Wednesdays and 7-8 tables on Thursdays. Thanks to our two new hostesses, Jill Hart (Wednesday) and Trish Abbey (Thursday), for their excellent efforts in matching up members who'd like to play.

The playing format in March will be an Individual Ladder for both Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. You need to play with a different partner for each session, so this is a great opportunity to play with some new partners. The winners will be determined by performance across the five sessions, but you don't have to play every session to take part during March. The Ladders are available for sign-up at February playing sessions, or you can contact Jill (for Wednesday) and/or Trish (for Thursday) and they'll be happy to arrange some partnerships for you.

As well as new hostesses, we also have a new helper setting up our tables on Wednesdays and washing up our dishes on Thursdays. Chalitha Gautamadasa, a Year 9 student at Palmerston North Boys' High, is our new helper. Do give him a friendly hello if you see him at the Club.

As some of you will be aware, the Bowling Club was recently burgled, with some items stolen and some damage resulting from forced entry. Luckily for us, it does not appear that any Bridge Club property was damaged or stolen. See the comments on Insurance later in the Newsletter.

Finally, best of luck to all members who are taking part in the Gold Coast Bridge Congress this month! Please bring some sunshine and warm weather back with you... Good bridging,

**Julie Bunnell**

CHAIR'S  
CHAT

# BRIDGE LESSONS

BEGINNER'S LESSONS: STARTING 1st MARCH

IMPROVER'S LESSONS: 20th FEBRUARY



Please keep spreading the word about our **2017 BEGINNER'S LESSONS**, which begin on Wednesday 1st March. Tell your friends, tell your neighbours, tell your workmates. A4 posters are available to display in your local shops, community centres, workplaces, retirement villages – wherever you can think of! Screen advertising at Downtown Cinemas is being sponsored by NZ Bridge during February. Print advertising in the Guardian and the Tribune has also been arranged by the Club.

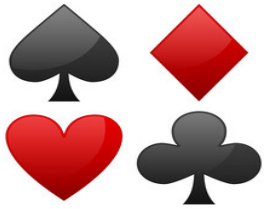
Lessons will be held at the Bowling Club – we'll use one of the locker rooms, as we did last year. Lessons will be held on Wednesday evenings, 7-9 pm, with a series fee of \$25.

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.

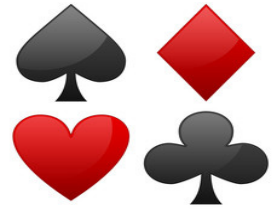
Please also note that "graduates" from our 2015 or 2016 lessons are welcome to attend any of the lessons if you would like to brush up on a particular topic(s). The sequence of topics will be the same as in 2015/2016.

The first **2017 IMPROVER'S TUTORIAL** will be held on Monday 20th February, with the topic of **Opening Leads**. The session is aimed at players at novice and junior levels, but is open to all club members. The session will be held at the Bowling Club, 7:15 – 9:15 pm. Gold coin donation, please.

The second session, on **Signals and Discards**, is scheduled for Monday 20 March. A reminder will appear in the March Newsletter.



# BOARD NEWS



Your Board met on 7 February and three of the main topics of discussion are described below. For all topics, the Board would appreciate feedback from members, preferably by email to [hokowhitubridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:hokowhitubridgeclub@gmail.com), or verbally to Julie B, Tim C or Graeme D.

## *Pianola*

Pianola is a software application developed for bridge clubs. It provides a suite of player-focused features and a suite of club administration tools. You can learn something about Pianola by visiting [www.pianola.net](http://www.pianola.net)

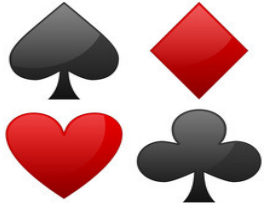
The founder of Pianola, James Ward, was in Palmerston North recently and Graeme, Derek, Jill and Julie had the opportunity to meet with James for a demonstration and discussion of Pianola. Based on what we saw, the Board is quite interested in undertaking a free three-month trial of Pianola during 2017.

The Palmerston North Bridge Club adopted Pianola during 2016, so Hokowhitu members who also belong to Palmerston North will have some experience of Pianola. The Board would very much appreciate any feedback you are able to provide.

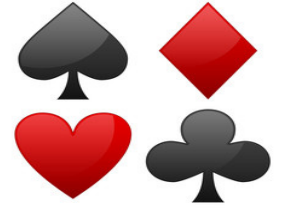
## *Insurance*

The Board has sought further information regarding insurance options, as signalled at the AGM. The Board has taken the decision to proceed with public liability insurance, to protect the Club should any of its members be responsible for substantial damage to the Bowling Club.

With regards to contents insurance, the Board is less convinced that this is worthwhile for the Club. In total we own about \$16,000 worth of tangible assets (replacement value). Insurance premiums for \$15K would cost approximately \$500 per annum, with a \$500 standard excess, a \$1000 excess in the event of burglary, and a \$2500 excess in the event of theft without forced entry. Apart from our dealing machine (which is not stored at the Bowling Club), our complete set of tablets, and our five sets of boards and cards, few of our assets would exceed the \$500 excess, let alone the \$1000 and \$2500 excesses. Moreover, the Board holds funds in reserve for a "rainy day", which could be viewed as a form of self-insurance. Again, member feedback is welcomed.



# BOARD NEWS (continued)



## *NZ Bridge – Board Elections*

Elections for the Chair and two Members of the Board of NZ Bridge will be held soon. As of 10 February, seven nominations have been received for the two Member positions on the Board, and two nominations have been received for the Chairperson position. Nominations close on 14 February, and elections will be held late February/early March.

The names and CVs of all candidates are available at [www.nzbridge.co.nz](http://www.nzbridge.co.nz). Our Club will be voting in this election, and your Board would appreciate receiving member feedback about which candidate(s) you feel we should or should not support, both for the Chair position and for the Members positions.

## *NZ Bridge – Morris & Henry Report*

All members are encouraged to read the Morris and Henry report regarding their review of recent developments within NZ Bridge. The report has just been released at [www.nzbridge.co.nz](http://www.nzbridge.co.nz).

Allan Morris and Stephen Henry undertook visits during January to most Regions to share information and to receive feedback from Clubs about the recent developments within NZ Bridge. Several members of Hokowhitu Bridge Club attended the Central Districts Regional meeting on 13 January; notes from this meeting were earlier circulated by email to all Club members.

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## *Subscriptions for 2017*

Thanks to all those members who have already paid their subs for 2017. 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".

You can also pay online for the \$20 or \$40 table cards – again, please remember to identify your payment with your surname and the reference "Card".

Our Club's account number is **03 0726 0499234 000**

# MEMBERS

## *New Member*

We are pleased to welcome Anne Cousins to the Club.

## *Resignations*

Jacque Rutgers, Kelvin Rutgers and Marcia Sinclair have decided to suspend their memberships for 2017. We look forward to welcoming them back when they are ready to return. Ray Richard's resignation is accepted with regret.

Two Summer Bridge sessions were held in January, attracting 8 and 9 tables on the two nights. A mix of Hokowhitu members and visitors from other Clubs enjoyed the two evenings.

Winners on the 18 January were

- NS – Shirley Barnett and Peter Wiles, 63.78%
- EW – Janice Coleman and Barb Robinson (Feilding), 66.28%

And on 25 January

- NS – Lorraine Stachurski and Alister Stuck, 62.71%
- EW – Roxanne Brassington (PN) and Rohan Wewala, 61.71%

Due to a technical hitch, we took a step back into the past on the first evening – with manual scoring necessary! Hard to remember that it was only a year ago we changed over to electronic scoring. All the electronics worked correctly on the second evening.

# REFLECTIONS ON SUMMER BRIDGE

# TOURNAMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Jill Clifton and Allan Mudford, who placed 5th in the Whanganui Picnic Pairs on 5 February, from a total field of 42 pairs. Hokowhitu was also represented by Alan Doddridge and Alister Stuck, Frank Dunlop and Tony Fayerman, and Jan Whyte and partner.

## ***Thursday 23 February – Play at Palmerston North Bridge Club***

All Thursday players should note that the session on 23 February will be held at Palmerston North Bridge Club, located at the corner of Cook and Cuba Streets. Play will begin at the usual time (1:15).

# N.B.

# HAND OF THE MONTH



**Board 21**

**Dealer W**

**Vul E/W**

	<b>S A8</b> <b>H AJ63</b> <b>D 973</b> <b>C A432</b>	
<b>S KJ974</b> <b>H 872</b> <b>D AQ4</b> <b>C 105</b>		<b>S QT6532</b> <b>H KT54</b> <b>D 65</b> <b>C J</b>
	<b>S</b> <b>H Q9</b> <b>D KJ1082</b> <b>C KQ9876</b>	

This interesting hand cropped up in a recent evening session at Hokowhitu. North opened a routine 1NT [12-14] and East overcalled 2 Spades though this may be a little dangerous vulnerable with only 6 points. South had the choice between showing his 2 suiter in the minors with 2NT, if this is their agreement, or just going straight to 5 Clubs with a known Club fit. If Partner overcalls, West would be justified in bidding a direct 4 Spades if possible, but this would result in a 2 trick down doubled penalty of 500. If South gives North the option of choosing his best minor with a 2NT bid, North will then play the hand in 5 Clubs. Tim Coolbear, who I played the hand against, chose a very sensible direct 5 Clubs. This contract is totally infrangible played from the South hand but played by North, a Diamond lead through South's King Jack will take the contract 1 light with the Ace of Spades to lose also. So much for clever scientific systems!!

**Happy Bridging Alan.**

**BENT  
HORSESHOE  
EVENT**

**Saturday 18 February, 8 - 10:30 pm**  
**Darren Watson & The Dangerous Experts**

Ex-Chicago Smoke Shop frontman Darren Watson is celebrating 30 years of playing the blues in 2017. He's bringing his kick-ass young band that includes Little Bushmans Rick Cranson on drums, Miles Calder & The Rumours' Steve Moodie on double bass, and Roseneath Centennial Ragtime Band's killer pianist Dayle Raymond Jellyman. Expect classic, danceable 50s and 60s rhythm and blues alongside Watson's cutting originals.

Tickets (\$30 each) are available online at <http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2017/darren-watson/palmerston-north/tickets>



It's now two weeks into the New Year and the first edition of the Newsletter for 2017 is in preparation. With a new editor, Dummy's agent suggested "continuation as usual and see what happens", so here we go. First of all, welcome to Janine, the new editor, our best wishes go to you for taking on this important communication role. We must ensure Janine gets all the support she needs as she is taking on studies as well, so has to manage her time most efficiently. We should bear that in mind when she calls for contributions.

First of all, after the two well-attended Summer Bridge warm-up sessions, it was great to see interest inspiring Wednesday night's 11 tables and Thursday afternoon's 8 tables at the first rounds of February pairs. Everyone appeared to be carrying their 2017 Programme booklets and were, encouraged by the hostesses, attempting to get their partners booked for the rest of the year. Well done to Jill Hart and Trish Abbey in getting the New Year off to such a promising start. The second week, with Wednesday achieving a dozen tables and Thursday 8 tables again, showed off what a friendly Club should be like with a good spirit of camaraderie dominating the competitive nature of the game. Long may it continue. It's one of Grand Slam Limited's objectives.

Another thought and that has to do with the status of Bridge players participating, especially on Wednesday evenings. From Grandmasters to rank beginners, everyone appears to be enjoying themselves. The results were pretty obvious with a couple of surprises to give hope to the newbies. Dummy's creative thought is that maybe the time had come to really use the handicap system that we feature in our two-fold results and allocate the C-points to the Handicap top 3 or 4 winning pairs. The Grandmasters won't mind, they've got plenty of points!

Dummy has to remark on the character of the characters that broke into the Hokowhitu Bowling Club and created such unnecessary mayhem as they broke down doors (literally kicking them into splintered pieces) and mindlessly damaging anything and everything they saw during their burgling spree. The facts that they ignored the liquor in the bar and netted only an aging laptop computer and an aged out-of-date television, sums up the mentality of these criminals. One doubts that they'll be arrested as their lack of expertise brands them as pretty amateurish and unlikely to provide any links leading to arrests.

So, as far as Dummy is concerned, Blog No 10 comes to an end. Whether it is published or not is in the hands of the new editor. So Dummy wishes Janine all the best and gives her assurance that, if wanted, she/he is happy to contribute to the Newsletter. So, happy Bridging to one and all and may 2017 be the year when all your dreams come true.



**HOKOWHITU BRIDGE CLUB**

[www.hokowhitubridge.org.nz](http://www.hokowhitubridge.org.nz)