

# HOKOWHITU BRIDGE CLUB

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER



## CHAIR'S CHAT

I do hope that you have been enjoying your bridge during the late summer/early autumn. If you have not yet returned to the bridge table for 2017, we'd love to see you back on Wednesday evenings and/or Thursday afternoons. Just give the relevant hostess a call, as Jill and Trish will be pleased to assist.

For me, the most exciting bridge news of the past month is that our beginners' lessons began on Wednesday 1 March. The first two sessions covered Bridge Basics and 1-Level Suit Openings and Responses. On behalf of the whole club, I'd like to extend a special welcome to all those attending lessons. We're delighted that you have started learning this amazing game called bridge, and hope that you'll have many happy years of card play ahead of you.

During March both groups are playing Individual Ladders, giving everybody the opportunity to play with some new partners (or with some old friends). Both members of a pair carry the score for that session across the competition, and the individuals with the highest total scores across the five weeks will be declared the winners.

Good bridging,

**Julie Bunnell**

# TOURNAMENT NEWS

MARK SUNDAY 30th APRIL 2017 IN  
YOUR DIARY



## 2017 Intermediate (and Junior) Tournament Sunday 30th April

### Tournament Convenor: Shirley Barnett

There are a range of jobs that need to be done before and on the day and I will be asking people to sign up and help make this a successful tournament. Making items for morning tea and/or helping on the day are the main jobs.

- To volunteer for morning tea and/or help on the day please talk to (or email) **Shirley Barnett** on 021 254 5119 or [s.j.barnett@massey.ac.nz](mailto:s.j.barnett@massey.ac.nz)
- We also need club members to play in this tournament and I would encourage all of you who are junior or intermediate to consider playing – it is a great day and a good way to improve your bridge.
- To register to play in this tournament please email [hokowhitubridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:hokowhitubridgeclub@gmail.com) or contact **Alastair MacGibbon** on 021 0225 9083 or 06 358 3903
- If you would like to play but don't have a partner please contact **Frank Dunlop** on 06 325 8235 who will act as matchmaker

Property Brokers has again agreed to be the major sponsor for the Intermediate Tournament, which is very much appreciated. A big shout-out to **Tim Mordaunt!**





## BOARD NEWS

### *Board Elections*

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, elections are underway for the position of Chair of NZ Bridge and for two Board members. Members of the Hokowhitu Bridge Club Board have carefully considered the CVs of all candidates, as well as supporting documentation circulated by some candidates. At its 7 March meeting, your board decided to vote for Alan Dormer as Chair, and for Claire Coles and Jane Stearns as NZ Bridge Board members. The election closes on 14 March, and results should be known later in the month.

### *Insurance*

The Board has now put in place Public Liability insurance to the value of \$2 million. This insurance protects members (and in particular, the Directors of Grand Slam Limited) in the event that a Bridge Club member is responsible for substantial damage to the Bowling Club premises. We probably should have initiated this kind of insurance at the point we moved to the Bowling Club, but better late than not at all.

No member feedback on the topic of Contents Insurance was received. Accordingly, the Board has confirmed its preliminary view that self-insurance is the most sensible choice with regards to our tangible assets.

## IMPROVER'S TUTORIALS

The first improver's tutorial for 2017 was held on Monday 20 February, and about a dozen club members learned about Opening Leads.

The second improver's tutorial for 2017 will be held on *Monday 20 March*, on the topic of *Signals and Discards*. The session is aimed at players at Novice and Junior levels, but all Club members are welcome to attend. The session will be held at the Bowling Club, 7:15 – 9:15 pm, with gold coin donation please.

## TOURNAMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to *Alister Stuck* and partner Russell Wilson who were ranked 6th at the Hawera Picnic Pairs on 12 February. Alister and Russell actually were top overall on raw scores, but the event is scored on a handicap basis so they had to settle for a lower placing.

## MEMBERS

### *New Members*

We are pleased to welcome *Barbara and Don MacDonald* to the Club.

Please add their contact details to your programme book.

Barbara	06 357 0222	021 0669862
Don	06 357 0222	

### *Resignations*

*Bruce Allen's* resignation is accepted with regret.

## THANK YOU MAUREEN

### *Wednesday Hostess*

The Board is very grateful to *Maureen Watts* for stepping back into the familiar role of Wednesday hostess at short notice, while Jill Hart recovers from a stay in hospital. Jill anticipates being back on deck by April, and we look forward to seeing her then.

## DUMMY'S BRIDGE BLOG

Well, Bridge is well and truly underway for 2017 with tables averaging eleven on Wednesday evenings and nine on Thursday afternoons. The Board must be rubbing its hands with glee at the table money being generated. More important, though, the friendly atmosphere, coupled with strong competitive attitudes, proves the Club's original formation philosophy for enjoyable Bridge is working. Congratulations to February Pairs Winners – Frank Dunlop and John Benton – and Runners-up – Mary Scott and Maureen Watts. Interesting that, of 26 players who played all four sessions, 8 were recent graduates from lessons. Dummy did some research into the Thursday afternoon competition and it seems tradition dictates that these popular daytime sessions have no monthly summary ladder producing an overall winning pair. What they do have, and this strikes a regular Wednesday evening player as worth considering, is a break for refreshments and a chat. What say the Board considers expanding Thursday afternoons to have an overall winning pair (with attendant pen prizes) from April? And, following that thought, Dummy suggests a 10-minute break for a cuppa and a chat be introduced on Wednesday evenings! Shock! Horror! But why not? It might even chivvy up playing time and East/West moves, while contributing to the social side of a pleasant competitive evening. Enough stirring! Great to have Shirley Barnett giving early notice of the Club's 5B Junior/Intermediate Tournament on 30th April. This is the first of our two annual tournaments with the Club playing its part in developing Bridge in our region. As Shirley said, she needs support from volunteers for a myriad of tasks that provide the background interaction to a successful tournament. Just as important, of course, is taking part by actually playing in the tournament. Dummy also confirms a welcome back to Grant Irvine – an original Foundation Shareholder from 1992 and one half of the very first Progressive Championship winning pair in 1993. Also a special welcome to Don and Barbara McDonald as full playing members. With such a start to 2017, Dummy's agent took a pic showing 11 tables in action, confirming our pleasant venue. Despite the aged surroundings, upgraded lighting, air-conditioning and Club equipment all contribute to a pleasant environment for playing our chosen game. And, don't forget the improved digital scoring system – long may Grand Slam Limited progress.



# HAND of THE MONTH



Board 4

Dealer S

Vul All

	<b>S Q8</b> <b>H AKT5</b> <b>D 65</b> <b>C KQ965</b>	
<b>S 6543</b> <b>H Q</b> <b>D KQJT874</b> <b>C</b>		<b>S AKJ9</b> <b>H 643</b> <b>D 93</b> <b>C T742</b>
	<b>S T72</b> <b>H J9872</b> <b>D A2</b> <b>C AJ8</b>	

As we all know, when the opposition opens with a pre-empt, finding the optimal contract becomes much more difficult. This is mainly because we surrender several levels of bidding making it more difficult to accurately explore the hand. The other complicating factor is the likelihood of a bad break in your trump suit because the pre-emptor has so many cards in his own suit, leaving less space for the other suits. This month's hand comes from the Ivy Dahler Swiss pairs event at the Gold Coast Bridge Congress held recently at Broadbeach. This is a really well organised and "fun" bridge event held every February and catering for all levels of expertise from expert to novice. On this particular hand, Jenny was sitting North. West opened 3D. Now we have a problem. Do we double? If we do, what are we going to do if partner bids 4S? If we bid 4C we may miss out on a Heart contract. I think 4C is the safest bid because of the value of a long trump suit against a possible bad trump break. As it happens, 5C is a safe contract with 4 Club tricks, a Spade ruff, the A of Diamonds and 5 Heart tricks. While 5H makes for a slight better score, IMP's scoring meant Diamonds making 4 had a huge deficit of minus 8 IMP's. Better to be brave and BID!!

**Happy Bridging Alan.**

## HOKOWHITU BRIDGE CLUB

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



# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Some reminders on Etiquette and Rules: Graeme Donaldson

## *Dummy's rights*

- Dummy may ask declarer (but not a defender) when he has failed to follow suit to a trick, whether he has a card of the suit led.
- He may try to prevent any irregularity by declarer.
- He may draw attention to any irregularities but only after play of the hand is concluded.
- After Dummy's hand is faced, Dummy may not touch or indicate any card (except for the purpose of arrangement) without instruction from declarer.
- Dummy must not participate in the play, nor may he communicate anything about the play to declarer.

## *Inspection of tricks*

So long as the winning side has not played to the next trick, declarer or either defender may until s/he has turned their last card face down on the table require that all cards played to the trick be faced. Until a card is led to the next trick, declarer or either defender may inspect but not expose their own last card played. Thereafter until play ceases the cards of quitted tricks may not be inspected except at the director's specific instruction.

## *1C & 1 NT openings*

The length of the club opening should be announced - for example "could be as short as two" or "4 or more". Likewise, the strength of the no trump should also be announced - for example "12 - 14" or "16 - 18".

The director must be called for any irregularity; if there is a dispute involving card play, a possible revoke or tricks taken, the cards shouldn't be moved or turned until the director arrives.

Conversation at the end of a board or a round should be quiet and discrete especially when confirming or discussing the result of play. The next table to play the board do not need to know that a slam contract was missed or that if a specific card was led the contract could be defeated. This apart, it can be distracting for those still playing when the noise level increases.

## *A Reminder*

Play is scheduled to commence at 7.15pm (Wed evenings) and 1.15pm (Thurs afternoons) and players should be seated 5 minutes before start time. This allows announcements to be made and the director can decide the movement for the session so that play can start on time.