

# HOKOWHITU BRIDGE CLUB

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

## CHAIR'S CHAT



Not many sleeps now until our Intermediate Tournament on Sunday 30 April! Thanks to all club members who have already registered to play, volunteered to contribute items for morning tea, or offered to help behind the scenes. Still plenty of space available for additional pairs to register – just email your details to [hokowhitubridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:hokowhitubridgeclub@gmail.com), or contact Alastair MacGibbon. If you need a little assistance in finding a partner, contact Frank Dunlop. There are also a few more volunteers needed to help behind the scenes on the Sunday, so if you can spare a little time, do get in touch with Shirley Barnett, our Tournament Convenor.

It is great to have Jill Hart back on deck as our Wednesday night hostess. Thanks again to Maureen Watts for filling the gap so capably while Jill was away during March.

It's also been great to see an increase in table numbers on Wednesday evenings – between regular players and learners, we had about 60 people there last week! This does create a little bit of congestion in the parking lot, so please try to be considerate of others when you park.

We appreciate the lines marking the spaces are all but invisible in the evening, making this more of a challenge.

Our group of learners is progressing well, and I have really enjoyed helping out with the lessons on Wednesday evenings. They have completed the first seven lessons and gosh, they have done well! They will have a week of play amongst themselves on 19 April, then get back into the final three lessons from 26 April. Volunteers (two per evening) are needed during the month of May to help with the final few lessons, and then the initial playing sessions. Chat with Derek Knighton, our Lessons Administrator, if you could help in this way. Good bridging.

**Julie Bunnell**

# MARCH WINNERS



Three cheers for the winners of the *Individual Ladders* held in March. It's a real achievement to win an Individual Ladder, given that each week brings a new partner. Hip hip hooray to our first, second and third placed players, who were awarded "seasonally appropriate" prizes during the first April sessions.

Wednesday: 1st Peter Wiles                      2nd Frank Dunlop                      3rd Tony Paterson  
Thursday: 1st Anne Owens                      2nd Peter Wiles                      3rd Tony Fayerman

## TOURNAMENT NEWS

### **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.

- To volunteer to 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



## BOARD NEWS

Both the Board Chair, Julie Bunnell, and the Deputy Chair, Tim Coolbear, will be away in the near future. Julie will be away for a month from 26 April, and Tim will be away for the first three weeks of May. During their absence, Graeme Donaldson will be the Acting Chair, capably supported by Derek Knighton and Caroline McCartin.

At its meeting on 11 April, the Board considered two suggestions made in Dummy's Blog in the March Newsletter: introducing monthly competitions on Thursday afternoons, and instituting a scheduled tea/coffee break on Wednesday evenings. Very little feedback has been received by any Board members on either topic.

The Board has decided that we will introduce monthly competitions on a trial basis on Thursday afternoons, and review towards the end of 2017. The only change to current practice is that, in addition to the announcement of weekly winners, at the end of each month, the pair that has performed best across the whole month will receive a (very) modest prize.

The Board has decided that we will not introduce a scheduled tea/coffee break on Wednesday evenings, as this would very probably extend the finishing time each evening by approximately 15 minutes, to at least 10:30. Instead of introducing a scheduled tea/coffee break, the Board will instead schedule occasional evenings with a pause in play for supper. Our first such evening will be on 31 May, which is also our first Blind Date night for 2017. What would a date night be without refreshments?

## MEMBERS

We welcome back **Beryl Eaton** and we farewell **Robert Norris**.

## TOURNAMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to

- *Alister Stuck* and partner *David Macdonald*, who placed 2nd at the Paraparaumu Open on 19 March, and also to *Jan Whyte* and partner *Ken Bateman*, who placed 4th at the same tournament.
- *Graeme Donaldson* and *Frank Dunlop*, who placed 2nd at the Whanganui Intermediate Tournament on 2 April. They were pipped for the top place by 0.25% - a tiny margin indeed!
- *Jan Whyte* and team mates, who placed 2nd at the Hastings Open Teams on 25 March, and *Alan Doddridge* and *Jenny Wilson* and team mates, who placed 3rd at the same event.

Honourable mentions to

- *Lorraine Stachurski* and partner *Sarah Green*, who placed 5th at the Marton Open on 19 March, and to *Shirley Barnett* and *Julie Bunnell*, who placed 7th at the same tournament.
- *Alister Stuck* and partner *Russell Wilson*, who placed 6th at the Masterton Open on 26 March.
- *Jan Whyte* and partner *Carolyn Yeomans*, who placed 7th at the Waipukurau Open on 1 April, and to *Alan Doddridge* and *Jenny Wilson*, who were just behind in 8th place at the same tournament.

## IMPROVER'S TUTORIALS

A modest number of members attended the March Improver's Tutorial on **Signals and Discards**. No Improver's Tutorial is scheduled during April, due to scheduling conflicts with Easter and Anzac Day. But mark your diaries now for *Monday 29 May*, when an Improver's Tutorial on the topic of **Play Techniques** is scheduled. The session is aimed at players at Novice and Junior levels, and will also be suitable for those who have just completed lessons. Of course, all Club members are welcome to attend. A reminder will appear in the May Newsletter.

Additional sessions in June and July on **Playing No Trump Contracts** and **Playing Suit Contracts** are also planned. Further information to follow in June/July Newsletters.

What a week! What terrible weather! Who stole Summer 2016/17? Dummy has received the agent's "hurry up" to produce the April Bridge blog and, with Easter weekend providing the timeline, been very tempted to say "no way"! Then Mother Nature, in the form of Cyclone Cook, took over and the plans of thousands of prospective holiday-makers had to be changed. Not least the Dummy's! With the prospect of heading to the bach put on hold, now he is trying to make sense at the computer keyboard on Good Friday, with his mind lazing in a hammock, enjoying the sea air and watching the birds pass by on their way to the beach.

Advance apologies for this month's Blog content which could get quite muddled considering the circumstances. A quick review of the last month shows that Ladders are a popular start to the Bridge playing year. Congratulations to the March winners.

Interesting to see that some of the new players coming through from last year's Lessons are already featuring in the C-points. And, although Dummy hasn't had a chance to suss out the new Learners, the silence that emanates from the classroom appears proof that we have a group of serious players in the making under 'Professor' Alister's expert tutelage.

This edition of the Newsletter marks Dummy's Bridge Blog's first birthday. This is Blog 12. So, Dummy has to find something momentous to mark the occasion. Unfortunately, with a mind imagining the surfboard catching towering waves at the beach (not really!) – more like plucking up the energy to head for the fridge and another beer, nothing creative comes to mind. So, Dummy reverts to the past, as usual. In an earlier blog, the Board was praised for the introduction of the electronic scoring system and how well it was working. Be interesting to hear if any consideration has been given to, firstly, some time to compare notes at the end of each board and, secondly, a quick review of the overall standings after the last board is played. The latter does not need any timing adjustment as the next step is out the door – heading for home!

Coming up on Sunday 30th April is the Club's 5B-Point Intermediate Tournament. It's a great opportunity to cement partnerships and experience competitive Bridge in surroundings that mirror the World Champs, only on a smaller scale. Playing two sessions means keeping concentration going for 48 or so boards against experienced players from a number of clubs. You never know you might be hooked on Tournaments and heading for the NZ Championships in the not too distant future! Find a partner and register your entry with Alastair McGibbon or email the Club. If it's not your scene, no problem! Just continue to enjoy the friendly rivalry that underlies our Club competitions. Long may that last!

# HAND of THE MONTH



**Board 5**

**Dealer N**

**Vul All**

|                                                               |                                                               |                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                               | <b>S K2</b><br><b>H AQJ3</b><br><b>D KJT72</b><br><b>C 62</b> |                                                               |
| <b>S AQT873</b><br><b>H 5</b><br><b>D Q98</b><br><b>C K73</b> |                                                               | <b>S J954</b><br><b>H KT8</b><br><b>D A43</b><br><b>C AT4</b> |
|                                                               | <b>S 6</b><br><b>H 97642</b><br><b>D 65</b><br><b>C QJ985</b> |                                                               |

## *Strip and End Play*

Sometimes when planning a declarer play, it becomes necessary to manoeuvre our opponents into opening up suits for us when it wouldn't be in our interests to do so. Such a technique is called the "strip and end play". This hand turned up several weeks ago in a local daytime session and neatly illustrates the play.

North opened 1D. East with a balanced 12 count sensibly passed, as did South. West overcalled 1S, North passed and East now bid 2D, a cue bid enquiring the strength of the overcall and West duly raised to game.

North led 6C and West sat and thought. It looks as though we might have a few losers here - KS, AH, a Club and possibly 2 Diamonds. Let's plan the play. North rates to have most of the points, so probably has the AH. So a small heart to the King on table may flush out the A, giving us a pitch on the KH - club loser away!! So off we go, winning the Club lead in hand and playing a small heart to the table. Success - the Ace pops up and North exits with his second club. We win this on table and pitch our losing club. The next part of our plan is to strip both hands of hearts and give North a very nasty decision to make. One he cannot get right! So we play our last Heart from table and trump it in hand.

Now for the good bit - knowing North has all the remaining points, we play the AS and if the King does not drop, we play another Spade for North to win. Poor North cannot win - he either plays a diamond away from his K J or plays a Heart to give us a ruff and sluff. 10 tricks made!!

**Happy Bridging , Alan.**



### *Bridge Books Available to Borrow*

Want to learn bridge tips and tricks from the experts? Alan Doddridge has donated a number of bridge books to the Club; a list of these books appears as an addendum to this Newsletter. The books are currently stored at Graeme Donaldson's house, as we don't have storage space at the Bowling Club. If you'd like to borrow a particular book, just let Graeme know and he will bring it along to the next playing session. Graeme can be contacted on 06 358 6156, or 027 811 9733, or at [graeme.d@inspire.net.nz](mailto:graeme.d@inspire.net.nz)

Thank you very much for your kind donation, Alan!



BRIDGE  
BOOKS

## A NOTE FROM "PROFESSOR" ALISTER

### *2017 Lessons*

Our classes have run for 7 weeks now and this week (Wednesday 19th April) we will take a break and will be playing in the main room in a separate section.

Our numbers fluctuate between 8 to 12 people each week and everyone is making great progress with the basics. We have 3 more formal lessons after which we will move to the main room again to play in a separate section and progressively increasing the number of board played.

It is a good opportunity for me to acknowledge Derek, Julie and Janine who have given up their own bridge sessions to help out with the lessons. Thank you guys I really appreciate it. One thing that a number of our new people have noticed is the great atmosphere in which bridge at our Club is played. The friendly relaxed atmosphere is how it should be, and will go a long way to helping our new players move from the class to the playing room.

# HOKOWHITU BRIDGE CLUB

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