

HOKOWHITU BRIDGE CLUB

June 2017 Newsletter

CHAIR CHAT

It's great to be back at the bridge table! Of course, being on holiday in Ireland and Oman was great fun too, but my bridge did get a little rusty. Thanks to all members (especially other Board members) who picked up extra responsibilities while I was away.

I was particularly sorry to miss our Intermediate Tournament, which I understand was a great success. Special thanks to Shirley Barnett, the Tournament Convenor, for making sure everything went smoothly, and to her team of helpers.

My return to NZ was carefully timed so that I could attend the Hawke's Bay Bridge Congress over Queen's Birthday weekend. The HB Congress, which was celebrating its 25th anniversary, is a well organised and very friendly event. The competition at the higher levels is strong, but there is always the challenge of trying to play your best bridge. And what better way to mark the beginning of winter than with a bridge binge??



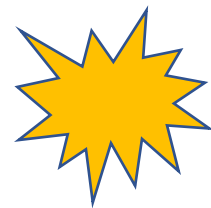
My team celebrating the Silver Anniversary at Hawke's Bay Congress!

As you will see in the rest of the Newsletter, there is lots coming up on the Club's agenda in the next few months, as well as our weekly sessions. Hope to see lots of you at lots of these events! Good bridging,

Julie Bunnell



RIOT of COLOURS



Saturday 24 June

Remember to register ASAP for the Riot of Colours Social Bridge Tournament on Saturday 24 June. The event is an in-house tournament hosted by Palmerston North Bridge Club, with Hokowhitu invited to participate also. Open to all ages and all experience levels – just find a partner and register with Lorraine ASAP! Prizes will be awarded to the players who most exemplify the Riot of Colours theme. Entry fee is \$25, includes free drink and nibbles at the end of play.

Improver's Tutorials



The next Improver's Tutorials are scheduled for
Monday 26 June, 7:15 pm – Playing No Trump Contracts
Monday 24 July, 7:15 pm – Playing Suit Contracts

These sessions are open to all Club members, but are especially suitable for those who have recently completed lessons, and those at Novice and Junior levels. No partner needed, just turn up on the night. Please bring a gold coin donation to offset cost of venue hire.

May Winners

Congratulations to all the monthly winners and runners-up for May:

Wednesday evening

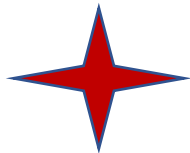
| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Overall Scores: | Gayle Leader & Tony Paterson | 59.25% |
| | Grant Irvine & Peter wiles | 56.71% |
| Handicap Scores: | Chai Young and Nick Finlay | 58.39% |
| | Gayle Leader & Tony Paterson | 54.53% |



(L-R: Tony Paterson, Chai Young, Nick Finlay; Gayle Leader not pictured)

Thursday afternoon

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Overall Scores: | Maria Lukkassen & Lita Poll-Verhaar | 57.92% |
| | Anne Owens & Betty McLaughin | 56.68% |
| Handicap Scores: | Maria Lukkassen & Lita Poll-Verhaar | 56.06% |
| | John Benton & Tony Fayerman | 54.79% |



Tournament Success

Congratulations to Alister Stuck and Lorraine Stachurski who (with teammates Andrew Tarbutt and Mindy Wu) placed 4th in the Open Teams Final event at the Hawke's Bay Congress. The Open Teams Final is the prestige event of the Congress, and making the top six for the final is awesome!! Congratulations also to Alan Doddridge and Jenny Wilson, whose team competed in the Open Teams Plate event (for the teams ranked 7th to 12th), and placed 3rd in their event. The starting field comprised 46 teams, so lots of competition!

Wednesday Evening Players

Bridge Buddies Needed

Supportive and encouraging partners are needed to act as buddies for the Novices in July (4 nights) and August (3 nights). The plan is that for July, the Novice group will play a separate competition, and then merge into the main room for August. If you don't already have a partner for one (or both) of these months, and you feel that you could be that supportive partner for a novice, please contact Derek Knighton as soon as possible.

Substitute Hostess Needed

Wednesday players will all appreciate Jill Hart's skills at arranging substitutes when needed. Well, Jill herself needs a substitute, as she will be away from 24 July until 7 September, a total of 7 Wednesday evenings. Could YOU be the substitute host/hostess for this seven week period? If so, please contact Julie Bunnell as soon as possible.

New Members

The Club is very pleased to welcome the following new members from the 2017 Learner group:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Joan Aupori | 021 150 7221 | 06 354 9195 |
| Jean Bell | 021 180 4440 | 06 329 0969 |
| Robin Fischer | 027 283 6853 | 06 358 6853 |
| Barbara Gawith | | 06 355 0851 |
| Catherine Kearins | 021 292 2536 | 06 359 4848 |
| Marilyn Korte | 027 440 8383 | 06 358 5755 |
| Graham Murphy | | 06 357 6869 |
| Angela Pivac | 021 246 6494 | 06 356 7636 |
| Sue Stewart | 027 471 1435 | |

We wish you many happy hours at the bridge table, and we look forward to partnering with you when you join the main room.

Blind Dates

The Wednesday players mixed and mingled at a Blind Date evening on 31 May. Fun at the bridge table was complemented by a superb supper that was enjoyed by all. The recently graduated learner group joined in the fun, and acquitted themselves admirably!

Congratulations to the top pairs on the night:

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|--------|
| NS | Alan Mudford & Tony Fayerman | 64.03% |
| EW | Jill Clifton & Rohan Wewala | 65.14% |



(L-R: Tony Fayerman, Alan Mudford, Jill Clifton, Rohan Wewala)

And a special mention for the top placed pairs including a recent graduate:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Catherine Kearins & Tim Coolbear | 3 rd EW | 55.35% |
| Angela Pivac & Derek Knighton | 4 th EW | 55.33% |

How close are those results??

The Blind Date for Thursday afternoon players will take place on the last Thursday in June, so look for results in next Newsletter.

AED Available

Members with sharp eyes may have noticed that there is now an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) at the Bowling Club. The AED was purchased and donated by the Hokowhitu Football Club, who also use the venue. The AED is located on the bottom shelf of the trolley by the bar. An AED is a vital first response tool in helping someone survive a cardiac arrest. Even if you've never seen one demonstrated before, don't worry – just open the case and the recorded instructions will begin.

Upcoming Events

Daffodil Day Charity Tournament – Sunday 13 August

Our annual Daffodil Day Charity Tournament is only two months away, on Sunday 13 August, so time to arrange your partner and register. Behind the scenes preparation is gearing up, and there will shortly be calls for volunteers to contribute morning tea or supper items, or to help on the day. We also ask members to contribute at least one item suitable as a playing or raffle prize. You can start bringing your contributions for prizes NOW and place in the marked container at the Club.

Save the Date:

25th Anniversary Celebration – Sunday 17 September

The Hokowhitu Bridge Club, which began life as the Caccia Birch Contract Bridge Club, is approaching its 25th anniversary. The Board, in consultation with the Life Members, has agreed that we should mark the occasion in a suitable way. All current and past members will be invited to attend a fun and festive afternoon of bridge, followed by a (catered) meal. Invitations due to go out next month, but in the meantime please reserve the space in your diaries!!

Car Park – Marking and Security

Good news - the marking lines in the Bowling Club parking lot have just been repainted! Your Board decided to fund the repainting project, which should make it easier for members to park courteously. Special thanks to Tim Coolbear, who was the driving force in arranging for the work to be done.

On the security side, our sympathies to Chai Young, whose car window was smashed and golf clubs stolen during a recent Wednesday evening session. Tony Fayerman also reports that his aerial was damaged about the same time. We certainly hope this was a one-off occurrence, and that no further similar events occur. Do remember to lock any valuable items out of sight, or leave them at home.

Hand of the Month

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Board 5 Dealer N Vul All | ♠AJ973 ♥T43 ♦4 ♣JT63 | |
| ♠KQ85 ♥Q76 ♦532 ♣Q84 | | ♠64 ♥AJ9 ♦AJT96 ♣AK2 |
| | ♠T2 ♥K852 ♦KQ87 ♣975 | |

IMPROVING OUR OPENING LEADS

How often do we as bridge players say to ourselves, "If only I hadn't made that silly lead!" If you're anything like me, it's pretty often. So I thought it would be a good idea to share a few of my thoughts with you on this important topic. After all, we have this decision to make on about 25% of the hands we play.

If there is one very important piece of advice to share, it is "LISTEN TO THE BIDDING!" Often the clues are available by paying attention to how the opponents reached their contract. So instead of automatically playing the fourth highest of your longest suit [which is perfectly OK on many hands], there are many occasions when there is a better choice.

Take this hand for example. The opponents are playing ACOL and the bidding has proceeded 1D from East, 1S from West, 1NT from East and 3NT from West.

So what do we know about the opponents hands? East has a Diamond suit - likely with honours. West has a Spade suit – bid only once, denied by East.

It would be interesting to know if West has 4 or 5 Spades, so it might be a good idea to ask declarer if they have an agreement to check on the length of the Spade suit.

With 5 spades West may well enquire to find out if his partner has 3 spades - thus playing in a nice 5-3 fit. If the answer from Declarer is yes, they have an agreement to check, then a Spade lead is a great idea as we now know our partner must have 5 spades. (Clearly with 5 Spades in the West hand, a Spade lead would not be so tempting.)

Armed with the knowledge that West has only 4 Spades, off we go with the 10 of Spades. Declarer plays the KS and our clever partner ducks but encourages with the 9[or 3] whichever is appropriate.

Now declarer is lost. He cannot keep us off lead as we have the Diamond honours and another Spade sets the contract, losing 2 Spades, 2 Diamonds and a Heart.

With any other lead, declarer makes 9 tricks - 1 Spade, 2 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and 3 Clubs.

Happy Bridging, *Alan*

Playing Session Cards

Remember that you can pay online for a playing session card. Five-session cards are \$20 and ten-session cards are \$40. Our account number is

03 0726 0499234 000

To identify your payment, please include your surname and either \$20 card or \$40 card in the details.

