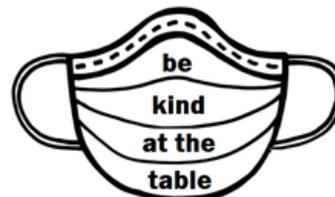


Palmerston North Bridge Club Newsletter

August 2020



President's Welcome

I am writing this in the middle of another crazy time in a year of crazy times. BUT I remain so buoyed by the wonderful commitment and kindness of everyone at our Club as we support Team NZ to get us through this pandemic as quickly and effectively as possible.

The tasks on the Committee's calendar for July/August include finalising the playing programme for 2020. The Committee felt that the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted our sessions to the extent that we did not have enough experience of how Tuesday nights (mixed social and open sessions) were progressing to feel confident about making any changes for next year. So, at the moment, we are proposing that we retain Monday Multigrade day sessions, Monday Novice Plus evening sessions, Tuesday Open evening sessions, Tuesday social bridge evening sessions, Thursday Multigrade evening sessions and Friday luncheon sessions. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any other ideas!

We hosted the National 15A Pairs tournament at the beginning of August. We had 42 pairs attend from all over New Zealand, including many Gold and Silver grand masters and international level players. Hosting a national tournament on behalf of NZ Bridge is one way that we can support our game and contribute to its success nationally. Thanks to the voluntary efforts of a team of our members, we also managed to make a financial surplus for the Club. Particularly, Robyn Anderson and her catering team generated a surplus in their catering budget which will go a long way to our improving bottom line in 2020.

We were also approached by the Electoral Commission and asked if our Club Rooms could be made available as a Polling Station and Advance Voting Station in the General Election. This will generate about \$2,000 in venue hire for the Club and, again, you will know how much we need these funds for our bottom line. BUT it does mean that the main room will be used during the day as a polling station (currently from 3rd October to 17th October inclusive). Our daytime sessions will need to be held in the back room, as will any other daytime hire events, during this two-week period. Yet again, I have to ask for your forbearance and support for this initiative.

Finally, a huge thank-you to Chrissy Thompson from the Julia Wallace Retirement Village for entering into a formal sponsorship agreement with the Club. The agreement sees the annual financial contribution increase (which, as above, is very welcome) and, particularly, Julia Wallace were keen to sponsor our members' tournament, the Spring Fling. As a result, the Julia Wallace Retirement Village Spring Fling will be held this year on Saturday, 7th November. Mark the date in your calendar and there will be more details in a future newsletter.

For more news about other upcoming events, please see below.

Meanwhile, thank you as ever, for your support and Happy Bridging!

Denise Servante

Tournament Results

Congratulations to the following pairs who have performed well in recent tournaments.

Feilding Charity Tournament	Jan Whyte Ken Bateman	4 th
	Alan Doddridge Jenny Wilson	5 th
	Morgan Booker Zheng Zhang	6 th
Wellington Open Pairs	Jack James John Davidson	5 th
Hawera Junior Tournament	Grant Elliot Terry Young	1 st
	Angela Harper Paul Harper	7 th
Hokowhitu Daffodil Day Tournament	Jan Whyte Ken Bateman	1 st
	Laura Griffin Tony Clear	2 nd
	Dianne Hunter Gayle Leader	4 th

Stop Press: We have just learned that Evelyn Hurley, Bob Hurley, Wayne Burroughs, Jan Whyte, and Ken Bateman have all been selected to play for Central Districts in this year's Interprovincial Championships. Well done to all of you, and good luck!

Gayle Leader

Kitchen Matters

Thank you to everyone who donated kitchen items, fantastic! We have plenty of cutlery but if you are clearing out cupboards we still require the following – lunch and dinner plates, side plates and dessert bowls. Serving platters and bowls would also be useful. The club owns a Crock Pot but could do with more. Our plan is to fully equip the kitchen for tournaments and room hireage. We could also do with another tea trolley.

At the 'A Point' tournament held recently we were able to cater for 90 people without using floppy and expensive paper plates. Christmas Cheer tournament entries number about 160 people so more is needed.

If you want to be rid of some stuff – throw it our way and please leave in the kitchen or office.

Many thanks.

Robyn Anderson

Future Events

Our Interclub match with Hawera and Wanganui will take place on Sunday 13 September (alert level permitting). We need players!! A total of 8 Junior, 8 Intermediate players, and 8 Open players are needed to form two teams at each level. Please sign up to express your interest, either at the Clubrooms or via email to admin@pnbridge.nz. Expressions of interest from pairs preferred. No prior Interclub experience required!

Please support our Club's Open Swiss Pairs scheduled for Saturday, 10th October. This year the tournament will be run in two grades, Open and Open Restricted. Players are eligible for the Open Restricted section if they have fewer than 100 A points. Online entries will open in the near future. We will also need behind the scenes volunteers to help the tournament succeed. Opportunities will be advertised at playing sessions in the latter half of September.

Another date for your diary: our Spring Fling is due to take place on the afternoon of 7th November.

Julie Bunnell

Lessons

This year's lessons have now finished, and our new players have 'graduated' and joined the junior room. Well done all and thank you to their buddies for easing the way. I did notice some of last year's beginners reluctantly removing their L plates and I am sure they will remember how nervous they felt!

September is mentor month. Bridge is a game where we are always learning and next month is an opportunity for some of our newer players to improve their No-Trump play. Ray Kemp has kindly offered to help teach Stayman and Transfers. We will also be playing practice hands, so it is also a good chance to revisit these conventions.

To help with organisation please register with me if you intend to join us. I have extended the invitation to other local clubs so if you know anyone please encourage them to come. Please bring a partner or let me know well in advance.

Anne Gordon

It never rains but it pours

What is your reaction when you hear meteorologists talking about a hundred year flood? I get puzzled. First of all if they mean that the likelihood of a particular flood is one in a hundred for any particular year then why don't they say so? Do they think that the public is so dumb they can't understand the idea of simple probabilities? Even if one accepts the terminology it is difficult to believe these estimates. Just a couple of weeks ago I heard a weatherman on the radio defending the concept saying that we have to understand that it doesn't mean that such a flood is only going to occur once every hundred years. Apparently, it may occur two or three times a decade and then not at all for several hundred years.

The problem, as I see it, is that some meteorologists seem to regard floods as random events where the likelihood of future ones can be predicted by looking at past statistics. Are we supposed to believe that the past is a good predictor of the future? Anyone who has not been living in a cave for the last few years or is a global warming denier, knows perfectly well that the climate is changing so basing future weather predictions on past experience is pretty much a waste of time.

OK, I'll get off my soapbox and get back to bridge. Here is a hand my partner picked up in the first week of the August Monday afternoon sessions.

♠ A K Q
♥ A Q 2
♦ A Q 10 7 3
♣ A K

This was a week for sitting North-South. In addition to six slams there were six other game hands our way out of a total of 26 boards. My partner was feeling pretty tired after playing three of the slams, four game hands and two part scores when we came to the last set of the day. Having already having had considerably more than our fair share of the cards I don't think she could believe the collection she picked up. Here are all four hands.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

♠ A K Q
♥ A Q 2
♦ A Q 10 7 3
♣ A K

♠ 10 6 2		♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ 7 5 4		♥ K J 10 8
♦ 9 5 4 2		♦ J 6
♣ J 10 6		♣ Q 8 4

♠ J 8 4
♥ 9 6 3
♦ K 8
♣ 9 7 5 3 2

How are you going to bid North's hand in any system without just closing your eyes and taking a punt? As one can imagine there were a variety of final contracts ranging from one diamond (a little cautious) to four slams of various kinds. We ended up in three no trumps which made six due to a fortuitous heart lead from East. This gave us a good board as it turned out since only one of the slams made – bid and played by our very own Tony Fayerman. As he commented, he and his partner, Terry Young agreed that they would go for everything in that session. A spade lead was of no help, but, as he modestly added, he managed to muddle through.

According to the computer, North can always make six no trumps. It is not easy to see how this could be done without a heart lead, and I suspect most of us would take the heart finesse and go down in the contract. However, if you are sure that the king of hearts is offside then North can strip the hand and throw East in so they have to lead away from their hearts.

Just as we were getting over seeing such a big hand, we came across an even more outrageous one six days later in the Hokowhitu Daffodil Tournament. Here is board ten from the afternoon session.

Board 10 ♠ Q 7
East Deals ♥ 10 7 3 2
Both Vul ♦ 9 7 6 5
♣ 7 6 4

♠ A K J		♠ 8 4 3
♥ A J 5		♥ Q 9 6 4
♦ A K 2		♦ Q J
♣ A K Q J		♣ 10 9 5 2

♠ 10 9 6 5 2
♥ K 8
♦ 10 8 4 3
♣ 8 3

This time it was one of our opponents who was lucky enough to pick up a monster hand. Yes, West's hand contains thirty high card points. Unfortunately, for us West got to six no trumps and misplayed it, losing contact with dummy and was therefore unable to take the spade finesse to get a twelfth trick. With nothing else to try she played for the drop of the queen of spades and ended up with most of the match points – the story of our day.

So how often would one expect to be dealt a thirty point hand? According to Wikipedia it is a one in five hundred thousand chance. Assuming computer dealt hands are random (which they obviously aren't but that is another story), and you played four times a week then this means you would expect to pick up such a hand, on average, once a century. Yes folks, West had picked up a hundred year bridge hand.

Ray Kemp

Photos from the North Island Pairs Tournament



North Island Pairs

On the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of August the Palmerston North Bridge Club hosted the North Island National Pairs. This event was a resounding success with 42 pairs participating (even some cheeky buggers from the South Island). Overall, the event was excellently catered by members of the club, with a special thanks to all those involved in the organisation and running of this tournament. It was amazing to see nine pairs from our club participating in a strong national event.

The format of the tournament was as follows: on the first day the list of players was split into three groups of 14 with one group going off to play a 13 round Howell and the others playing a normal Mitchell movement. For round two, the EW pairs in the Mitchell played a Howell, the NS pairs played as EW in a Mitchell with the group from the Howell. Round 3 followed the exact same switch (EW to Howell, NS to EW and Howell to NS). This was a nice format for the qualifying as it allowed everyone to play everyone else.

On the second day, the 42 pairs were stratified into groups to play 2 sessions of Howells; 14 in the final, 14 in the plate and 14 in the consolation.

In terms of playing this event, it was far from daunting. I checked in with some of our players, who said “whilst the first few boards were scary, after about the 6th board I got the hang of it and the players were nice”. It just goes to show that not everyone is as scary to play against as I am.

Some notable results from our club were the partnerships of Wayne Burrows - Clair Miao, Lorraine Stachurski - Debbie Mcleod and Jack James - Kate Davies, who all made the final.

Jack James

You must be joking



From the web