

SOUTH WAIRARAPA BRIDGE CLUB



#10

NOVEMBER 2017

email :- swbridge@xtra.co.nz

website :- <http://www.southwairarapabridge.org.nz/the-south-wairarapa-bridge-club>

Thanks to Kath Banks, Lizzie Catherall, Martin Connelly, Alan Butler, Ed Hudson and David Steele for help in compiling this newsletter

From The Committee Meeting held on the 9th November.



- Alan presented a very comprehensive Financial report - we agreed that \$20,000.00 on term deposit be reinvested for another year and \$5,000 from the Saver Account be invested for 4 months. Alan's suggestion that the subs be paid by 20th December was lost – subs to be paid by 20th January 2018.
- Monday Night play and Monday night Convenor were discussed – (we will be discussing this again at our last meeting for 2017 on the 30th November so there will be a report about Mondays in our next newsletter.

- We will run a poll to decide whether we need to start at 6.00 or 6.30, as people coming on the train from Wellington are pushed for time. (More about this later in the newsletter)
- It was moved by Lizzie seconded by Kath that we move the AGM to October in the future, as it will make the programme booklet current as well as having the correct committee members listed on it. We will need to change our balance date – Alan and Lizzie are going to investigate further so we can bring it up at the AGM on February.
- Christmas Party/prize giving– we are collecting names for our Christmas Party on 7th December, starting at 6 pm. We have a great night planned - beautiful food catered by Cahoots and Glenys Almao, wine and bridge play with randomly selected partners. There is a list on the notice board for you to write down your names so we will know numbers – all club members are welcome. Cost \$25.00
- The 2018 programme book is almost ready to go. Katherine reported back from the sub committee regarding Calling the Directors and Appeals and we will add some pointers into the front of the Booklet.

Proposed new starting time

A big challenge to the NZ Bridge Association is to reverse the trend of declining numbers playing bridge. Your committee has been discussing this. We're aware that our starting time of 6pm is not accommodating to those we would like to attract to bridge: younger people still in the workforce or with family responsibilities. The 4.18pm train from Wellington frequently arrives at Woodside Railway Station very close to 6pm, making the dash to the Town Centre. The committee proposes that we trial from January for three months from January next year a **starting time of 6.30pm both evenings.**

Of course we seek your views on this proposal but we hope you will be open to giving this a go. We ask you to email your preferred starting time (6.00 – 6.30) to the club secretary Kath Banks swbridge@xtra.co.nz. How about doing it now? Deadline for your response is November 28th because we would like to put this information in the 2018 booklet

There once was a pencil called Frank! Actually there are lots 84 to be exact! They come in very smart looking round boxes of 6, look great – trim, stream lined, natural coloured pencils – what could be nicer I thought when I purchased them for our recent tournament – but - these pencils are causing quite a bit of consternation – apparently they are hard to sharpen and as they are round, they keep rolling off the table from time to time! Let me tell you the story about the pencils –

They are made by a New Zealand Company called Frank who have pledged that every time you buy a stationery item from them they will donate a school book to a child. To date they have given 45,000 exercise books to kids in need. The committee bought them for our recent tournament and the rumour that Frank Minehan had his name engraved on each pencil and then donated them to the club is false!!



Allan Joseph Workshop

Allan Joseph did not have the sixteen attendees high kicking in unison at his nearly five hour



directors' work shop, but he had them doing almost everything else. I know because I was there acting as his Girl Friday. I watched him skillfully steer the group through power point discussions on changes brought about by the 2017 Laws, Quiz and Answer sessions, and live table rulings.

If those attending thought they could relax after the tea break, they were wrong. Allan then launched them into directors' rulings and more on the spot live appeal hearings. This was true grit stuff. I have to



tell you members of the SWBC that your directors have what it takes: determination and fortitude because being a director requires all of that. It is no easy matter coming to grips with the Laws of bridge.

For a start the language used can be so obscure that interpreting a law is difficult even if you're sitting alone at your desk, table light adjusted. Making rulings on a bridge night, under pressure, plus running the room in effect as the "host" or "hostess" plus trying to keep a partner happy are all reasons why many people would shy away from directing. We as a club are very lucky indeed to have this group of men and women who have volunteered. We'll have more workshops with Allan 2018 to help them with the task, and we as members can help too by continuing to treat them with courtesy and respect.

Lizzie

An American Tourist asks an Scotsman "Why do Scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?"

To which the Scotsman replies "They have to go backwards, if they fell forwards, they will still be in the boat"

From Alan Butler

In our September newsletter Martin wrote about Masterpoints and our new scoring system called Compscore this article tells you how your Masterpoints relates to your Grading and Ranking – all this information is available on NZBridge website. <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz>

Master Points - What Are They All About???

The main objective of these is to measure and record the achievements of players of duplicate bridge in clubs affiliated to the New Zealand Association. There are three categories:

C Points - earned by players who finish in the top third placings of each club or tournament session (in each direction if a Mitchell style movement is played) – At South Wairarapa Bridge Club we nearly always play a Mitchell Movement)

B Points - each one is equal to 100 C points. You can never have more than 99 C points, since once you earn another one, it converts to a B point. You can also earn a B point outright by winning a session at a B point tournament. If it is a 5B tournament you also earn five B points for winning it and then there is a sliding scale going down, depending on the number of pairs.

A Points - Awarded to players who are session winners or in the top placings of A point approved tournaments. The points awarded are on the same principle as with B point tournaments.

Regardless of the amount of pairs, you always get 40 C points for finishing first in a club session or in a 3B or 5B tournament session.

If there are 8-10 pairs the 2nd place pair gets 27 C points and the 3rd placed pair gets 13 C points.

If there are 11-13 pairs the C points are 30, 20, and 10, for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th respectively.

So if you are playing regular sessions it is not too hard to accumulate C points and remember 100 C points converts to 1 B point (B points do not convert to A points, you have to earn A points at an A point tournament).

But how does this all relate to your grading as Junior, Intermediate or Open? Now it gets complicated. Your grading depends on how many "rating points

<http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/ranking-competition-results.html> " you have. These are calculated by adding all your A and B points together but at the end of the calendar year this total is depreciated by 20%

So let's say in your first year of bridge you accumulate 6 B points. At the start of the following year you would have 5 **rating points**. The following year you earn another 15 B points. So 5 + 15 = 20, depreciate this by 20% and you would start the next year with 16 rating points.

It is the Rating Points that determine your **grade**. There are 3 grades: **Junior, Intermediate, Open**

As well as a grade, you also have a **rank** There are 10 ranks ranging from "Certificate of Proficiency" to "Gold Grand Master"

The vast majority of players in NZ are graded Junior and Intermediate and only elite players reach the upper echelon of being Grand Masters!

You can see your current Masterpoint total, grade, and rank at any time by visiting the NZ Bridge web site, clicking on Masterpoints, and entering your name or computer number. This is open information so you can look at anyone else's too!

Babich Pairs

We held the Babich NZ wide pairs on the 3rd of November.

John and Margaret Bath won E/W with a score 63.08%. Ed and Paul were first N/S with a score of 60 % and Trevor and Janice were second with a score of 59.62%

However the scores change when they are scored against all the other pairs who played (over 1000 pairs) - Margaret and John's score went up to 64.85% and they won an A points plus 80 C points Full results here <http://www.compassmate.bridge-centre.org/results/monthly>

Ed and Paul's score went down to 54.77% and Trevor and Janice's went down to 57.67%, but as theirs was the highest they won the A point and the 80 C points. Ed and Paul won 38C points, Congratulations to everyone who played – we finished off the night with wine and supper – it was fun! <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates,listing,3368,record-highs-at-the-babich.html>

Results

Thursday Night Individual

1 st Margaret White	55.83%
2 nd Linda Gibbs	54.93%
3 rd Lynette Downs	53.57%

Monday Night Individual

1 st Eslyn Beck	58.92%
2 nd Margaret Bath	58.49%
3 rd Andrew Beck	57.84%

Jellicoe Pairs

1 st Lizzie Catherall and Anna Donald	61.51%
2 nd John Bath and Alice Forward	58.47%
Liz Bondy and Paul Baines	55.41%

Scores over 65% since our last newsletter

23 Oct Lizzie Catherall and Anna McDonald	66.48%
26 Oct Katherine Gough and Linda Gibbs	67.86%
30 Oct John Bath and Alice Forward	67.08%
30 Oct Rosie and Paul Collins	68.64%
2 Nov Angie Smith and Marilyn Smethurst	67.06%
9 th Nov Neil Catherall and Katherine Gough	67.36%
13 th Nov Lesley Marsh and Kath Banks	65.00%

Beginners and Buddies

Tuesday night

At the moment the Beginners and Buddies are playing their first competitive series

I will put the winners in the next Newsletter

North

♠ 10 8 3
♥ 8
♦ K Q 8 4 3 2
♣ 6 5 4

West East

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

South

♠ 6 5 2
♥ 10 5 4
♦ 10 9 7
♣ Q 10 9 8

HCPs

5
18 15
2

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
North	-	-	-	-	-
South	-	-	-	-	-
East	5	2	7	7	7
West	5	2	7	7	7

There are not many times that we bid a grand slam and make it!! Last Thursday Well done Ruth and Ed bid and made 7 Hearts on this hand – Ed told me this is how the bidding went:-

Ruth: 1H
Me: 3H
Ruth: 4C
Me: 4S
Ruth: 5C
Me: 5S
Ruth: 7H
Ruth played and got them. She did great.
Cheers
Ed



At Allan Joseph’s workshop he told us that Directors should be beyond reproach when they are playing – David Steele took this to heart.

This is David’s story about the same hand:-

At supper time David overheard Ruth talking about a big hand and bidding and making a grand slam He and Andrew had made 7 on two previous hands but they had not been biddable, and he was not sure what hand Ruth was talking about but

“When I picked up my hand for board 4 I felt that this could be the 'big hand'. My bidding went 1S , Andrew went 2C, I jumped to 3H showing at least 5S and 4H and 16+ points. Andrew went 4H. I passed again feeling this was the 'big hand'. I could have asked for Aces (using Blackwood) which would provide the two aces I needed to at least bid 6H. If the bidding had used Gerber then the kings could have been found then 7H or 7NT

I could have ignored the information I overheard and continued bidding to the Grand Slam but it is not in my nature. I would not have gained any satisfaction from having prior knowledge.”

Well done David – I wonder how many of us would have done the same thing!

At our September meeting of the SWBC the committee agreed that a sub committee be set up to review club protocols with reference to the Zero Tolerance Policy, Club constitution and NZB Rule Book.

The subcommittee has presented out report to the committee –

Some of our recommendations are:-

- More Education for our Club members and Directors. You can look forward to more classes with Mindy Wu and other senior players, director classes with Allan Joseph, and another exciting teaching series called “Nesting Pairs” More about that after our next committee meeting
- More information in the front of the Programme Booklet regarding Calling the Director and Appeals including the following bullet points
 1. All players need to maintain a high standard of courtesy to all
 2. The director must be given due respect when called
 3. The director cannot be argued with at the table
 4. The director must be called for any infringement or uncertainty at the table
 5. The procedure if the ruling by the director is challenged must be clearly understood by all
- **Every new member will receive a “New Player Pack”** with information about the club – this will apply to new members from other clubs and members joining the club for the first time. The pack will contain a letter from the President welcoming them to the club, tell them about the Monday and Thursday night Conveners and how they can help them find partners and also help them if they have any other concerns, fundamental rules of the club – arriving on time, paying the table money each session, courtesy to other players at all times, duties of South, North, East and West and helping with supper duties..
- **We recommend expanding the roles of the Monday and Thursday conveners** so they can act as a link between the players and the administration of the club. Their present role is to find partners for players who can't find one, set up the room so that it ready for play and lock up at the end of the night. They are in contact with all the members who play on a particular night and could be the person that can be approached if someone has a problem or grievance. It was suggested that they could submit a report to the committee each month of any problems that have arisen. This initiative could prevent little niggles growing in big grievances

Don't forget to add your name to the Christmas Party is on the Notice Board - 2018 Programme book will be given out on that night too

SWBC and Wellington Regional Interclub Competition

One of the ways that the regional committee tries to promote bridge is through the interclub competition with monthly Friday night play between teams representing the region's clubs. The support from clubs varies. For example Paraparaumu had only one team entered for 2017 in contrast with the SWBC which enthusiastically embraced the competition with a Junior team and four Intermediate teams.

There are guidelines around the teams, with most having 3 pairs with a captain who is responsible for organizing who plays each month and ensuring fair distribution of the travel money made available by the SWBC committee. Team members must be graded either at or below the team level. For example a Junior player can play "up" in an Intermediate team or an Open team but the reverse can't happen. Interestingly the region has created in addition to the Open, Intermediate and Junior divisions two for the purpose of Interclub: Open Restricted and Novice. See the committee's definition below. *

The 2017 Interclub competition ended last Friday with a mixture of final results for our five teams.

<http://www.southwairarapabridge.org.nz/interclub-bridge>

At the end of each year the NZBCA uses points gained over the year by members (C, B and A) to calculate the following year's rating points and grade. Once this is done clubs are asked mid to late January to send information about their teams to the regional committee and the year's interclub planning gets underway. The deadline for this return is usually towards the end of February.

Although it is early times yet, and teams are fluid the conversations will be getting underway. It seems very likely that 2018 we'll once again have Intermediate and Junior teams entered for Interclub and pleasingly under Martin Connelly's mentoring a Novice team as well.

* **Open Restricted** – intended to cover the lower end of Open grade and the higher end of Intermediate grade. Guideline for the lower end of Open grade players in 2017 preferring to play in Open Restricted, is no more than 180 Rating Points and no more than 80 "A" points as at 1 January 2018.

Novice – as a guideline we intend this grade to cover those players who have played no more than 3 years (started 2014 or 2015) and have no more than 10 "B" points as per NZ Bridge rating reports as at 1 January 2018.

Interclub Dates set for 2018:

<u>Round</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>night</u>	
1	16 March
2	6 April
3	4 May
4	25 May
5	22 June
6	27 July
7	7 September
8	12 October
9	9 November



Have a great Month – Katherine