

Victoria Bridge Club Inc.



Newsletter – April 2017

From the President

This is my last newsletter as President as I have served my 3 years. It has been a privilege and an honour for me and I leave the position in the confident knowledge the Club is in good heart. We have a very harmonious and hard-working committee. Pat Knight has agreed to be President for the forthcoming year on the basis that Derek Gill will join the committee and stand for president in 2018.

All current committee members are standing again other than Grant Sinclair who is retiring as he will be away from Wellington a good part of the coming year. Grant will be a loss as he has not only looked after maintenance issues but has also edited the monthly newsletter. Thank you Grant for all you have done. We look forward to seeing you at the Club when you are in Wellington.

I look back on the last 3 years and what we have achieved. The results from each session posted online almost immediately. The attendance levels have improved (especially recently) but most importantly we have as a committee made a conscious decision to foster and encourage new members. Rocky Douché and Teenah Handiside have been towers of strength in this regard. We have set aside a Saturday afternoon for the committee to meet and discuss the ideas promoted by Jane Stearns which we are sure will bear fruit.

The committee reached the view that top players terrify newbies and that we should ask more junior players to manage and assist in the transition from the learners' class to Wednesday night and at the Monday night training sessions. Our hope is that by doing this we will retain those who have attended the lessons who are the lifeblood of the Club.

Finally, I thank all those who supported me during my presidency - the committee members, life members, members who have willingly volunteered to do chores without any recognition and our secretary/manager Jan Hart. Without all these people and particularly without Jan my task would have been daunting if not impossible.

♥ Welcome to a New Members ♥

A very warm welcome is extended to the Club's following new members: **Ann Green, John Green, Diana Warring and Vivienne Spanjaard**

Congratulations to the March Session Winners

Monday	Freyberg Pairs	Pip Murdoch & Barbara Hunter
Tuesday	McIntosh Pairs	Kay Austad & Joan McCarthy
Wednesday	Wellington Pairs	Gwynn Narraway & Mary Prangnell
Thursday	March Pairs	Alex Drummond & David Esterman

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Flying the flag for Victoria - Tournament Successes

It was great to see **Joy McNicoll** and **Ann Tyrie** notch up a second placing in the open section of our Victoria Multigrade tournament (held on 9 April), and **Liz** and **Peter Olsen** come storming home to claim top position in the Intermediate/Junior Pairs section.

Ann Tyrie's excellent form continued when she and (**Ross Qualye**) combined to take 2nd place at the Karori Mixed Sex Pairs Tournament held on Easter Monday.

Spare a Thought for the Director

In the interests of "keeping the field up with the clock" the Director occasionally has the unenviable task of trying to hurry some members along. But imagine the conundrum the Director would face if a table bid (in a perfectly legitimate fashion) the longest possible auction possible in the game of bridge.

Believe it or not, the total number of bids and calls possible in one auction is 319. (Yes, **319** and – for any "doubting Thomas's" – the full details are held by Jan Hart).

Allowing a scant five seconds for every bid or call, an auction of 319 bids or calls would therefore take a minimum of **26 minutes and 35 seconds** to complete - **before** a single card was played. Imagine the congestion that would have occurred behind that particular table.

♠ Tournaments Coming Up ♠

30 April	Upper Hutt	Open 5A & Junior 3B Pairs
7 May	Kapi Mana	Multigrade Pairs 8B
13-14 May	Victoria	Wellington Region IP Trials
21 May	Hutt	Open 5A & Junior Pairs 3B
21 May	Paraparaumu	Intermediate Pairs 5B
28 May	Otaki	Multigrade Pairs 8B

Full details of all these events are posted on the Club's notice board

Other Events

28 April 2017 Interclub Round 3 at Wellington & Hutt Bridge Clubs

2017-2018 Committee

At the AGM (held on 20 April) the following Committee was elected for the 2017-2018 year:

President: Patricia Knight

Treasurer: Marilyn Goddard

Committee: Jeannie Buxton, Margot Davenport, Denny Davidson, Rocky Douché, Derek Gill, Robyn Green, Teenah Handiside, Maeve McCarthy, Helen Philpott, James Young

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Newsletter from Chairman of NZ Bridge

As reported in last month's Newsletter there have been some recent changes in the composition of the Board of NZ Bridge, with **Alan Dormer** (from the Auckland Bridge Club) taking over as chairman.

One of his objectives is to improve communications with all bridge clubs and – to this end – his communication. **"From the Chair #01" is attached.**

Well – here we are in the Chair, effective as of that auspicious date of 1st April. I have often smiled when I read of important changes taking place on that date; but humour is an important part of life and bridge so let's hope the date was a good omen.

Even before I was "installed", things got quite busy: thanking most of the lovely people who were kind enough to send congratulatory messages (I am particular grateful for John Skipper's support) and even attending my first regional meeting.

We had the first meeting of the new Board on the 2nd April, and I was most encouraged by the positive forward looking approaches taken to issues – sure there were one or two backward looking moments, but nothing sufficient to derail our united approach on working for the betterment of bridge and bridge clubs in particular. The Board minutes will be online in a few days, and I hope that as time goes by we'll be able to be more expansive than seems to have been recent practice. But regardless of the minutes themselves, and they must naturally be somewhat formalistic, it is my intention to publish a less formal "Notes from the Chair" piece after every meeting, and hopefully even more regularly.

We received a very promising report from Karen Martelletti on progress with changes to the website to allow clubs to manage their members and upload masterpoints automatically. It is currently undergoing a trial run with three clubs. A few "bugs" have been sorted out, and it should be ready to go operational in a few months. Karen's report will be attached to the Board minutes.

We sorted out what committees we would have this year, although we didn't have time to allocate individual responsibilities to Board members. That will obviously be an early priority. An exception was the Conduct and Discipline Committee which I had previously chaired. That responsibility was given to Len Anderson of Dunedin – thanks Len. Fergus More of Invercargill was reappointed as Hon Solicitor. Thanks for offering your services for another year Fergus... Another early priority will be filling the vacancy that exists on the Board. A notice seeking expressions of interest will go out shortly.

We did appoint myself and Alan Turner to the Constitutional Review Committee. Alan and I will co-opt other help on to the committee in the weeks to come, and start a consultation process with a view to having any major changes ready to go to next year's AGM. Please start thinking about any changes you'd like to see, or even send your ideas in now.

An issue which has been raised after the election is the non-publication of the votes received by each candidate. I gather that NZB has never released the voting figures. We decided that it was time to break with this tradition, and as of next year the voting figures will be made public. As to this year's results, we decided that individual candidates could get their figures from the Returning Officer if they wished; but that no public announcement of the list would be made.

One of the areas which has attracted much comment of late is the issue of master points, ranks and grading. As I commented during my campaign, I reckon there may well be potential for getting greater participation if a few changes were made. This issue needs a lot of thought, and has to be done well. I'm sure that whatever we come up with will attract healthy criticism; but at least I trust that no one will be able to say they never got a chance to have their say.

So there we are – less than 2 weeks in, getting my "feet under the table", learning how much there is for me to learn, and enjoying the prospect of working with a great team united for the good of the game.

Alan Dormer
NZB Chair



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The Last Word

It is often said that three activities a couple should never attempt to undertake together are: learning how to drive, hanging wallpaper or playing bridge together. (Many would add a fourth; namely, trying to teach the other how to play golf).

The most famous illustration of the dangers that can occur when couples play bridge together occurred on the evening of 29 September 1929, when John and Myrtle Bennett of Kansas City hosted their friends for a friendly game of Rubber Bridge. Unfortunately the Bennett's formed a far from ideal partnership, with John being in the habit of slapping his wife during moments of extreme frustration.

Towards the end of the evening (when the Bennett's earlier commanding lead had evaporated), John Bennett opened one spade with his wife (who held what their opponents subsequently described as "a rather good hand"), putting him into game. Bennett managed to fail in his contract by two tricks and - during the finger pointing that followed - was revealed to have opened on less than the requisite points. His wife then described him as a "bum bridge player" and - as a consequence - the overall situation rapidly deteriorated.

In attempting to flee his house Bennett was shot by his wife, the police summoned, and Myrtle Bennett charged with first-degree murder for the shooting death of her husband.

The trial of Mrs. Bennett did not go down in the annals of jurisprudence as one of the more fair and even-handed examples of justice in action. Despite having chased her husband through their house, shot at him four times, and having hit him twice, Mrs. Bennett was acquitted on the grounds that her shooting of her husband was accidental. (Others thought that she should have been found not guilty on the grounds of "justifiable homicide" based on John Bennett's poor bidding and play).

The Very, Very Last Word

**IF YOU HAVE TIME
TO DO HOUSEWORK
YOU'RE NOT
PLAYING ENOUGH
BRIDGE**



Happy bridging everyone

