

Victoria Bridge Club Inc.



Newsletter – February 2017

From the President

Welcome back to the bridge table. We are starting the year with a one-off seminar for Wednesday and Monday night players which has replaced the normal club event. A great response has been received and if successful will hopefully be repeated.

We need 12 teams for Gladys Palmer and at this stage have only 4 teams entered. It would be great to see two or three teams from Wednesday players and of course also from Monday. Ring Jan if you want further information or are looking to join a team

Congratulations to Session Winners

There are a large number of victors to congratulate since the last Newsletter.

November 2016

Monday	Hyams Pairs	Jan Hughes & Judy Simpson
Tuesday	Stohr Pairs	John Hall & Janet McMEnamin
Wednesday	Hutt Pairs	Robyn McKenzie & Ilona Musil
Thursday	November Pairs	Val Cooper & Christina Mander

December 2016

Monday	Summer Individual	1 st Diana Halsted	2 nd Jan Hughes
Tuesday	Summer Individual	1 st Tim Heartt	2 nd Mary Jane Farrell
Wednesday	Summer Individual	1 st Louise Munro	2 nd Mary Prangnell
Thursday	Summer Individual	1 st Janet McMEnamin	2 nd Barbara Leach

January 2017

Tuesday	Individual Open Pairs	1 st Ruth Gotlieb	2 nd Ann Tyrie
---------	-----------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------

Victoria Pairs Dougal McLean Pairs

Jennie Flower & Lesley Rothwell
Joan McCarthy & Lyn Kimber

Inter-Provincial Competition 2016

The Inter-Provincial Competition of 2016 was held at the Otago Bridge Club in Dunedin over the last weekend of November.

The big news, of course, is that the Dougal McLean trophy was won by; Joan McCarthy (Mindy Wu, Sandra Coleman and Joan Waldvogel)

Victoria Bridge Club Inc.

2017 Inter Club Competition

This competition will start on **Friday, 17 March** and Victoria is aiming to field a full complement of teams. It represents a great opportunity to meet people from other clubs, play at different clubs, and compete against players of a similar standard.

We are looking for members interested in playing in the Novice division – which would be an excellent entry point for our Wednesday evening players – and anyone interested in participating is asked to contact our Club Manager, Jan Hart. (Entries must be lodged by 23 February).

Some Unusual Occurrences

It appears as though the playing standards normally associated with those attending on Tuesday evening might have slipped recently. Hopefully this will prove to be a temporary aberration rather than something potentially more serious (as reported in The Last Word which follows).

One such occurrence – whereby three or four members apparently ignored one of the Golden Rules of never under-leading an ace in a suit contract – resulted in a request that a suitable article outlining the “do’s and don’ts” of leads be attached to this newsletter. Unfortunately this has not been possible on this occasion. (But members wishing to learn more only need to Goggle “why you should not under-lead an ace” to be presented with a plethora of helpful articles).

But a more concerning situation did occur when declarer thought the contract was in hearts, ♥ when it was in fact in spades. ♠ This resulted in “him/her” trumping a number of their own winning tricks and – unsurprisingly – getting bottom board. What was most remarkable was the equanimity shown by “his/her” partner while all this mayhem was occurring.

Entries Called for Gladys Palmer Teams

This team’s event runs over nine rounds and is held on the first Thursday (evening) of each month. The first round will be held on **Thursday, 2 March**.

Pre-entries are essential and those wishing to play are asked to enter as soon as possible. (Teams may consist of four or five players, with “permanent” members not being permitted to substitute for other teams).

We would particularly like to see/encourage two or three teams from the Wednesday players

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Please Note the Date

this is to provide advance notice that the Club’s **AGM** will be held on **Thursday, 20 April** (7:30pm).

It is also an opportunity to ask members to seriously consider putting their names forward to serve on the Committee. These are not onerous positions, with just 10 meetings held each year – and our President maintains an excellent record of ensuring that meetings do not exceed the allocated one hour.

♠ Beginner Lessons ♠

This year’s lessons commenced on **Monday, 13 February 2017**. They are held over ten consecutive weeks (from 7:30pm to 9:30pm) and conducted by John Cormack; the cost is \$80 and this includes club membership for the remainder of 2017...

Mentors are needed to assist in helping with the practice hands. In the past, this has tended to be Tuesday night players but we encourage players from other nights to also come forward. You sometimes have a better understanding of what new players find confusing!

Victoria Bridge Club Inc.

♠ Tournaments Coming Up ♠

19 March	Paraparaumu	Open Pairs 5A
19 March	Kapi Mana	Intermediate 5B & Junior 3B Pairs
26 March	Masterton	Open Pairs 5A
9 April	Victoria	Multigrade Pairs 8B

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

Other Events

20 April AGM At the clubrooms, commencing at 7:30pm

Tai Chi Classes

A reminder, that these popular classes are held at the Club every **Sunday morning (at 10:00am)**, at a cost of just \$5 per session.

Everyone is very welcome and those interested in attending are invited to contact either: -
Joan McCarthy (385 1006), or **Gay Williamson (499 8288)**.



Gold Coast Bridge Congress

This event - being held from **18 – 25 February** - is growing in popularity (which perhaps may have something to do with the “quality” of Wellington’s “summer” this year!).

It is very pleasing that a number of Club members will be “flying the Victoria flag” at this event and they take with them the very best wishes from us all.

A Big Thank you to our Sponsors

Nat Dunning Law
BridgeNZ – Pat & Martin Oyston
Excel Digital Wellington
Trish Wheeler – Leaders Real Estate

Per club member Trish Wheeler’s, advertisement in our Programme Book, Trish will donate \$500 of the sale proceeds to the Victoria Bridge Club for each and every real estate listing referred to her by a member that leads to subsequent sale.

Members are encouraged to support our sponsors

Donation to the club

Recently Trish listed and sold a club members property. Thank you to Trish for the \$500.00 donation to the club.

If you are “thinking of moving” then contact Trish on **021 388 608** or email: twheeler@leaders.co.nz

Victoria Bridge Club Inc.

The Last Word

Have you noticed how some of the Club's leading players seem to have been "slightly-off-their-game" since the rise of Donald Trump? Well, a scientific study conducted prior to the American elections concluded that even the *possibility* of Trump becoming president had "subconsciously" and "irrationally" changed the behavior of elite American bridge players, making them "subtly deranged" and therefore more likely to bid no-trump contracts than in the past.

The study was undertaken by two renowned statisticians (Andrew Gelman of Columbia University and Jonathan Falk of NERA Economic Consulting), and presented at the International Conference on Machine Learning in New York in June 2016.

The researchers tested their hypothesis – namely, that even the possibility of a President Trump would make American bridge players (who are perceived to be more supportive of Democrats) bid no-trumps more often and try harder to win their no-trump contracts – by analyzing the bidding at prestigious American and European tournaments held 16 years apart ("before" and "after" Trump's rise).

The results were compelling: 12.6% of the American contracts "before" Trump's rise were no-trumps, increasing to 19.9% "after" he rose to prominence. And there was an even greater increase in the percentage of no-trump bids that succeeded – from 48.5% to 69.3%.

The study found no evidence of similar "derangement" amongst the European (Dutch) players.

Happy bridging everyone

