

Victoria Bridge Club Inc.



Newsletter – March 2017

From the President

Our Annual General Meeting is approaching and the Club always needs an injection of new blood to ensure that we do not stagnate. In the past, the Committee tends to be loaded with experienced players who were generally from Tuesday night. This imbalance has been corrected and we now have an excellent representation from all levels. It is important though to have top players who have a depth of experience on the committee. If you fall into this category, please consider offering your services and wisdom.

I will be standing down as President at the AGM as required by the Constitution but am happy to continue serving on the committee. We are a hard-working and congenial group. The meetings are not too long and the workload is not too onerous.

We are hosting a Multigrade tournament at the Club on Sunday, 9 April 2017. We want to have a strong club presence **at all levels**. It starts at 10 AM and is a great opportunity to have a concentrated dose of bridge and a lot of fun. If you haven't played in a tournament before, then you should try it. The entry fee is \$25.00 (BYO lunch).

Robyn Green is the convenor and if you are looking for a partner either;

- contact her on 383 6381 or email robyn@greennewman.co.nz or
- telephone Jan our club manager or
- Contact the convenor of the session you normally play at.

Congratulations to February Session Winners February 2017

Monday	Hadlee Pairs	Robyn Green & Helen Shaw
Tuesday	Ross Pairs	Lorraine Inglis & Allan Joseph
Wednesday	Tinakori Pairs	Robyn & Peter McKenzie
Thursday	February Pairs	Joy McNicoll & Ann Tyrie

Waving the Victoria Flag - Tournament Successes

Congratulations to **Robyn Freeman-Greene, Dale Lacey, (Steve Gray and Lindsey Guy)** for their 1st place victory in the Nelson Open Teams Event on 11 March 2017.

Very well done also to **David Macdonald (and Alister Stuck)** for their second placing at the Paraparaumu Bridge Club's 5A Open Pairs Tournament held on the 19th March 2017.

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With Sadness

It is with much sadness that we must report the death of club member **Caroline Boyd** who tragically died when struck by a car while out walking last weekend. Caroline joined the club late last year, having attended the 2016 Beginner lessons.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Please Note the Date

All members are cordially invited to attend Victoria's **AGM** to be held on **Thursday, 20 April** (7:30 pm).

This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to “have their say” and pass on their views on what they would like to see happening at the Club to the incoming Committee, as well as to acknowledge the contributions which individuals have made to the running of the Club.

Also, it's not too late to put your name forward to serve on the Committee in the coming year (with nominations open from 24 March until Friday, 7 April). 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. Nomination forms are available from the office.

Observing the Correct Etiquette

Much of bridge's popularity is attributed to the high standard of etiquette that is observed by players. Few other modern games lean so heavily on the expectation that participants conduct themselves in a highly civilized manner.

The Golden Rule is “**courtesy**” and – in this context – recent remarks made by our President (dealing with the protocol for addressing the Director), are repeated.

When calling the Director, please first mention to the other players at the table that you are going to check with the Director – so as not to alarm them with a sudden and unexpected loud interjection. Raise your hand and clearly speak in the direction of the Director “*Director please*” – in a friendly tone of voice. (It is rude to scream “*Director!*” several times in rapid-fire succession – not giving the Director an opportunity to acknowledge you – and not using the word “*please*”). Please leave your hand raised until you are acknowledged by the Director and subsequently explain the reason for calling them in a calm and respectful tone of voice.

2017 Inter Club Competition

The first session was held on Friday, 17 March. Victoria has entered four teams; Open, Open Restricted, Intermediate and Junior
We wish all teams every success during 2017

♥ Welcome to a New Member ♥

A very warm welcome is extended to **Shirley Jones** (who took lessons at the Club last year).

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Results of Elections for NZ Bridge Chair and Board Positions

It was positive to have a number of candidates prepared to take on these important positions, with two standing for the position of Chairperson and eight seeking selection for the two Board vacancies.

Following the elections earlier this month, the successful candidates were **Alan Dormer** (from Auckland) as Chairperson and **Clare Coles** and **Jane Stearns** (both of Cambridge) as Board members.

These people commence their term of office on 1 April 2017, when they will join the other Board members Karen Martelletti, Alan Turner, and Noel Woodhall

♠ Tournaments Coming Up ♠

2 April	South Wairarapa	Intermediate 5B & Junior 3B Pairs
9 April	Victoria	Multigrade Pairs 8B
17 April	Karori	Regional Mixed Sex Open 3A
22-25 April	Wellington	Wellington Congress 10A
30 April	Upper Hutt	Open 5A & Junior 3B Pairs

Attention is particularly drawn to the **Wellington Regional Congress** being held at the Wellington Bridge Club from 22 to 25 April. There will be separate divisions for Open, Intermediate, Junior and Novice players, with the organiser's particularly anxious to encourage the largest possible numbers of Junior and Novice participants.

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

Other Events

31 March 2017		Interclub Round 2
20 April 2017	at the clubrooms	AGM – 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)**.

Lost and Found

A blue men's jersey (Zinity brand) was left behind during the afternoon session on **Thursday, 16 March** and is awaiting collection in the men's bathroom.

The other items, which have been at the club for sometime are

- Macpac gore-tex jacket, two tone blue - size M
- Ladies 'Episode' fawn padded jacket, snake skin fabric lining
- Ladies brown padded ladies jacket - black collar - label Mossimo Dutti
- Black ladies 3/4 coat - size XL

Please collect from the club as soon as possible.

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The Last Word

At times the seemingly relentless march of technology can give rise to much anxiety; be it as a result of robots carrying out functions previously the domain of manual workers, or tiers of middle managers able to be superseded by advances in information technology.

And even chess grandmasters are routinely being beaten when up against computers.

So what might the future hold for those who apply their wits to contract bridge?

Well – so far at least – it has been a one-sided contest, with the best artificial intelligence being unable to achieve any consistent success when matched against bridge players from the upper echelons. A variety of reasons have been advanced as to why the “human element” still holds the upper hand in bridge.

- Whereas chess is a game of “complete information”, bridge is a game of “incomplete information” and – at best – probabilities.
- Bridge is a partnership game involving two distinct parts: bidding and the playing of cards. Computer software is particularly adept at card play – which is to be expected as good card play has an “absolute” element to it.
- In comparison the bidding of a hand is more open to human invention (as there will always be situations where an element of feel or intuition must be applied – even when following the most prescriptive bidding system).
- There are numerous legitimate ways to use the available bids to communicate the strengths and weaknesses of your hand to your partner, and to obstruct the bids your opponents might be about to make.
- “Nuisance bids” add another dimension of complexity.
- Bridge requires one to deduce, what, one’s partner, or opponents might do, in a given situation. But what they might do depends on what they think you might do - and so on ad infinitum. Devising an algorithm to solve such conundrums seems some way away.

May the importance of the “human factor” long prevail!

Happy bridging everyone

