CROCKFORDS BRIDGE CLUB INC.

NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter for members of the Crockfords Bridge Club Inc. August 2017

2017 Learners Class 2

President's Report

Hello Everybody

Our thoughts go out to the families and friends of the 2 members and 1 past member who passed away recently.

Ngaire Fougere. Ngaire passed away the day after playing Tuesday Night Bridge. She had been a much loved member for many years; she was involved in many areas of club life and was a Life Member.

Alison Chilvers. Alison joined the club as a beginner and she was playing and improving to the end. Her positive and cheerful demeanour will be sadly missed.

Betty Lawrence was a highly respected, competent Senior Bridge player for many years. She is survived by her husband, Bernie. Both were valued members of our club for many years.

They will all be missed in our community.

Good News: We have had a good number of new members from our learners' classes and so our numbers are on the up and up. It is great that the present series of lessons [the 3rd set for 2017] has 37 participants. So THANK YOU to all the members who put up notices in supermarkets and who handed out fliers. In particular, thank you to members who encouraged their friends and family to come and learn our great game.

Buddy System: The players who come out of the lessons need our support and encouragement. We already offer a few weeks of supported play after the lessons with an experienced member or two helping the whole group. The next step we need is to offer support after they have joined the Junior night. Each player or pair needs a more experienced player to take an interest in their progress, to chat to them weekly about how they went and to help with their bidding, play and partnership understanding. The buddy might consider offering to play with them on an open session or at home. Here is your chance to help out. Please let us know if you could help with this.

New Bridge Rules

As of 1 August 2017 the updated Bridge Rules come into effect. A summary of the changes….. as written by Craig Shanahan…… is included in this newsletter and has been on display at the club. Please make yourself familiar with these new changes. The full rules are able to be purchased and a pdf is available on request.

Thanks

Our thanks go out to all those who helped with the tournament. Some worked on the day in the kitchen and in the bar, and others provided food and helped in other ways. Your club thanks you.
Meantime,

Happy Bridging **Peter van Leeuwen**

2018… Here we come!

We need to start thinking about next year. There are some major issues to be considered. One issue that has become evident from recent deliberations is that we can't just stay as we are. Our club is asset rich and cash poor and we need to make some changes. We are lucky to have members who have been willing to get involved and to suggest many new ideas. We need to choose the right path that will take us into the future.

We have already had some great suggestions from existing members [thank you very much] but we need to get some more ideas.

One of the reasons we are asking for your input now is because our 2018 book may need to include some changes.

Questions we need to think about:

1. Do we **keep the same grades** as at present or reduce to 3 grades?

The Grades could be Gold, Silver & Bronze. The Bronze Grade would be the Juniors & beginners, less boards, improver sessions and much latitude, a place to be nurtured and for growth.		
Positive	**Negative**	**Interesting**
Less groups in the lower grades Less clashing of noise at Wednesday moves	Upheaval	You will get choice as to which grade you will go to

2. Do we **change the playing nights** to avoid the present clash with Christchurch?

At present Christchurch Bridge Club and Crockfords have Seniors on the same night, Tuesday. Possible alternative; Monday-Gold, Tuesday-Bronze & Wednesday- Silver		
Positive	**Negative**	**Interesting**
Senior players will be able to play 2 or 3 nights without having to choose clubs. Easier to get directors.	A change of playing night may be inconvenient for some players.	You will get choices as to which grade you go to.

3. We would love to know if you would support **Friday Night Open Bridge**?
It used to be SO POPULAR!

4. Handicap events?

Information: The handicap can be set by using a player's previous scores over a set time period and night(s). The "C" points are still awarded to the real [before handicap] results. Both handicap and usual results can be published. Prizes can be awarded to Handicap and Actual results		
Positive	Negative	Interesting
Adds interest as people who do not usually get a mention do now. It is a good measure of improvement	I can't think of any	If you have not played during the handicap period then you get a large advantage and would have to be disqualified from the handicap version of the event.

5. How important is **grading**?
Do we open up grading so players can play at their grade and at any higher grade.

Other clubs run without any grading other than Beginning players have their own session (Rangiora). All other sessions are open.		
Positive	Negative	Interesting
Good integration within the club. Everyone knows everyone.	Strength of competition.	Rangiora's numbers are climbing.

6. Should your grade have the **same number of events** as there are this year.

7. Would it be a good idea to **add a Teams event or a Swiss event**?

PLEASE NOTE: If you have some thoughts on these matters we want to know!
It may suit you to talk to one of the committee members or to put your thoughts in writing and put them in the suggestion box. However you do it…please give your ideas to us!

Thank you for reading this and thank you in advance for your input.

Membership Sub-Committee.
[Alan Stevens and Jill Crossland are the Committee members involved with this sub-committee]

Congratulations

New Zealand Bridge

The following people have had a Rank Change :-

Local Master 9*	**Elena Udy**
Local Master 3*	**Gerard Moot**
Local Master 1*	**Jill Crossland** **Prue McMillan** **Stella Yaxley**
Local Master	**Rosemary Olsen** **Beverley Parlane** **Francis Sim** **Doug Williams**
Club Master	**Simon Cobb** **Matthew Conibear**

Certificate of Proficiency awarded to :-

Brian Le Vaillant
Elizabeth Schumacher

Law Changes effective 1st August 2017

Introduction

The changes to the laws are designed to achieve a bridge result whether by play of the board or an assigned adjusted score by the director. There will be fewer artificial scores ie 60%, 40% etc.

Notwithstanding the various law changes, REMEMBER, offender's LHO may still accept the unlawful action. eg Insufficent Bid, Bid out of Rotation, Lead out of Turn etc.

Take the Law into Your Own Hands

Law 682(b) – Claim or Concession of Tricks

The effect of this law is that the non-claiming or non-conceding side may request that play continues. All four players must concur. If dummy is absent their consent is implied. The claim or concession is void and not subject to adjudication by the director. There is no 'unauthorised information' from the claim or concession and if cards have been faced they are returned to hand and there are NO penalty cards.

If consent is not forthcoming the director adjudicates as usual.

Important - the result as played out stands.

Centre of the Universe

Law 7 - Placement of Board

The board to be played shall remain in the centre of the table, correctly oriented, until play is completed.

Note - 'Shall' is the second strongest usage instruction in the Laws and failure to comply may result in a procedural penalty. You have been warned.

Your New Friend

Law 23 - 'Comparable Call'

This wholly new law has application in relation to Insufficient Bids, Pass, Bid and (Re)Double out of Rotation. The director will explain when a comparable call may be made. What is a 'comparable call?' Ready?

Definition

A call that replaces a withdrawn call is a comparable call, if it:

1. has the same or similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call, or
2. defines a subset of the possible meanings attributable to the withdrawn call, or
3. has the same purpose (e.g an asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call.

One More Thing

Law 26 - Lead Restrictions. Only a suit NOT specified in the legal auction may be prohibited.

Laws 30, 31 and 32 - Pass, Bid or Double out of Rotation. Your New Friend, 'Comparable Call' may be a factor, but, the worst that can happen is 'offender's' partner may have to pass for one turn only, unlike the old laws when partner had to pass for the rest of the auction.

Craig

NOTICE BOARD

Inter Club Teams 20th August

Teams of Four from Senior, Intermediate and Junior Grades
We will approach best players in each NZ Bridge grade based on this year's Club results

Fundraiser

The new entertainment book is now available and the cost is $65.00 with $13.00 going to the club. Order forms are in the foyer or as you enter from the rear carpark.
Pea Straw Fundraiser : Still a few bales available for $10 per bale.

RANGIORA EXCHANGE - RESULT

On 9th July at Crockfords Bridge Club

Crockfords Team Total (Moving Pairs)	Rangiora Team Total (Stationary Pairs)
613.78	686.22

Congratulations Rangiora –
Full Results on Crockfords Web Site

CROCKFORDS ALL GRADE - RESULTS

On 23rd July at Crockfords Bridge Club

Place	Players	Sessions Played	Score
1	MAX MORRISON / RICHARD LAPTHORNE	2	63.97 %
2	PAM TIBBLE / SARAH GARLAND	2	57.74 %
3	Mike Small / Mary Small	2	57.58 %
4	Darryl Dowthwaite / GWYNETH HOPKINS	2	57.42 %

Winners: 1. Max Morrison / Richard Lapthorne

Open: 1. Pam Tibble & Sarah Garland
2. Darryl Dowthwaite & Gwyneth Hopkins

Intermediate: 1. Mary Small & Mike Small
2. Ken Johns & Jack Lyon

Junior: 1. Simon Cobb & Matthew Conibear
2. Jacob Dominic & Francis Sim

Congratulations to the Crockfords players Mary & Mike Small who were placed first in the Intermediates and also to Simon, Matthew, Jacob & Francis who were placed first and second in the Junior Division. Well done.
Full Results on Crockfords Web Site.

Top Results –July 2017

Congratulations to the "Top Guns" for each grade in July 2017

Senior

Peter Story / Tony Crow	65.19%
Peter van Leeuwen / Adrienne Shadbolt	64.73%
Peter Udy / Peter Story	62.22%

Handicap Score

Sondra Tregenza / Jane Jackman	76.27%
Joan O' Malley / Agatha Sim	70.35%
Peter van Leeuwen / Adrienne Shadbolt	69.97%

Senior Reserve

Helen Garden / Heather Robertson	68.45 %
Beverley Parlane / Meredith Smith	65.48%
Simon Cobb / Mathew Conibear	63.69%

Intermediate

Bryan Morgan / Nick Mein	61.90%
Janet De Lu / Debbie Hosking	61.15%
Janet De Lu / Debbie Hosking	59.00%

Junior

Brian Le Vaillant / Richard Williams	70.31%
Jean Lindo / Ellie Burt	68.75%
Robert Whitla / Norma Horne	62.13%

Open (Thursday Afternoon)

Geoffrey Norris / Peter van Leeuwen	65.50%
Tony Crow / Darcy Preston	63.50%
Jenny Story / Elena Udy	63.39%

Open (Thursday Evening)

Geoffrey Norris / Peter van Leeuwen	64.81%
Richard Williams / David Price	63.75%
Richard Williams / David Price	61.11%

AS AT JULY 31

Bridge pro unveils his secrets as a hired gun

If you've got a bridge tournament you simply must win, then Daniel Korbel is the man you want sitting on the other side of the table. But it'll cost you.

For the past six years, the 30-year-old has made a living as a hired gun at major bridge tournaments around North America. He's paid by well-heeled players to be their partner in card games they really, really don't want to lose.

"If you're worth $200 million, you'd certainly hire a gardener and a maid and whatever else. What's the difference with a bridge pro?" Korbel said. "Some of these guys just love to win. If you're very competitive, this is a good way to improve your chances."

Unlike poker tournaments, bridge tournaments rarely have prize money. Instead, professionals earn their living through these affluent "sponsors" — players who happily pay upward of $30,000 or more to a top pro to be their teammate at a week-long national tournament.

A smaller regional tournament might net a pro $5,000 to $9,000 for seven days' work, Korbel said. Some of his clients have included doctors, lawyers and judges, he said, and generally people with the spare cash to buy their way to bridge bragging rights.

If you're among the best, professional bridge playing can offer a cushy life. The top pros in the U.S. commonly haul in as much as $200,000 a year, thanks to sponsors that include some of the richest men in America — from Bill Gates to Warren Buffett.

It's not uncommon for some multi-millionaires to hire as many as five professionals to make up their team, using the pros to substitute in and out of long tournaments. Some players are so in demand they're hired on retainer for a year to play at several tournaments.

Korbel wouldn't say how much he earns playing bridge, but it's enough to live comfortably and is his main source of income.

He moved to Waterloo from Toronto more than a decade ago to study computer science and later English at the University of Waterloo.

By then, Korbel was already playing bridge at a serious level, to the point he took a few years off school to travel from tournament to tournament, honing his chops. He still stays sharp by practising ways to keep his concentration at its highest level — a skill that goes a long way in bridge.

"I was 19 when the bridge bug really got me," he said. "I played as much as I could. When I couldn't play in a tournament, I'd play on the internet or read bridge books."

A few years earlier, his father's friend had given him a book on bridge. That was his first introduction to the challenging card game, most popular among seniors, that has its own complicated acronyms and language.

"I read it and I had no idea what it said. So I read it again and I still had no idea," Korbel said. "Since then, it's always captivated me. It's the best game that man has ever invented, in my opinion ... If you like the game, it can hold your attention for a lifetime."

Korbel is still a young man in an older person's game, but he's had remarkable success in a relatively short career. He started playing for Canada's junior national team, then graduated to the senior circuit in 2007.

At August's World Mind Games in France, a global showdown between the best bridge, chess, checkers, go and Chinese chess players on the planet, he and his partner were ranked third in the world. Six times, he's finished in the top 10 at North American Championship events.

Part of his job as a professional is to protect his teammates from other hired pros during games, and to keep his affluent partners happy.
"It's like a marriage in that sense," he said. "I try very hard to keep things in perspective. A lot of the people I play with are highly successful … they've done a lot with their lives. Just because I happen to be very good at a card game, I try to not let it go to my head."

{Thanks to Google… money is US$}

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THE STRANGEST GRAND OF ALL

Answer from last month newsletter
What do you think North's heart holding was ? - ♥ K 4

N/S Vulnerable
East Deals

NORTH
♠ 9 8 7 3
♥ K 4
♦ J 8 7 5 4 3 2
♣ -

WEST
♠ A K Q 6 2
♥ J 9 3
♦ -
♣ A K Q J 5

EAST
♠ J
♥ Q 8 6
♦ A Q 9 6
♣ 10 9 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ 10 5 4
♥ A 10 7 5 2
♦ K 10
♣ 6 3 2

North led a diamond. Why not?! Declarer finessed and then ruffed the king, drew trumps and played J before ruffing another diamond and discarded three hearts and one diamond on the run of the spades. Five trumps, five spades, A and two diamond ruffs added up to 13.
So, this grand needed the A off lead, a 4-3 spade break and a heart holding in the North hand such that a heart could never be led.
It all happened.
Great timing: great grand.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Bridge Library

The Club's Library of Bridge Books is located in the playing room on the West wall close by the entrance to the kitchen. There are about a hundred books and they are for the use of all members.
A self-issue system operates. Just put your name and the title in the spiral-spine notebook which sits on one of the shelves.
Return of the book is expected after one month.
Access to the library is available outside of the playing session times.

Happy Reading

Historical Dates

New Zealand Contract Bridge Association

The New Zealand Contract Bridge Association was formed in 1936 and is the official body for contract bridge in New Zealand. It is a member of the South Pacific Zone of the World Bridge Federation. Presently there are 112 affiliated contract bridge clubs in New Zealand and contact details for each club can be found on the clubs link. Clubs are divided into six geographic centres: Auckland, Waikato/Bays, Central Districts, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago/Southland.

Crockfords Bridge Club

- In the year 1934 a small group of card players met in the Federal Hotel and decided to form a bridge club. The name Crockfords came from the club in London. Premises were leased by the Club in the Press Company building in Cathedral Square, where the Club remained for 10 years. The next move was to Stewart Dawson's building in High Street. In the year 1952 the Bridge Club was relocated to the present site on Riccarton Road.

Below is a picture of the Crockford Bridge Club taken June 1934 at the Christchurch Press Building.

Crockford Bridge Club

Sub-Committees & Key People and Jobs :

Bar & House : Supplies, Training, Rostering	**Alistair Douglas**, Ross Glub, Graeme Black
Building & Grounds Repair & Maintenance, Major Works	**Rob Freeman**, Alan Stevens, Graeme Black, Graham Wheal, David Lockyer, David Price
Education Arrange Lessons, Helpers, Teachers	**Robin Jones**, Helen Garden, Martin Robinson, Richard Williams
Employment	**Peter van Leeuwen**, Alistair Douglas, Beverley Parlane
Finance Accounts, Insurance, Employment, Grant Application	**Brian Le Vaillant**, Peter van Leeuwen, Meredith Smith, Alistair Douglas
Governance Health & Safety, Incorporated Societies	Margaret Scott, Ben Frampton, Peter van Leeuwen
Marketing Promoting Lessons, Advertising, Programme Booklet, Sponsorship, Newsletter, Web Content, Venue hire	**Richard Williams**, Derek Jones, Geoff Norris, Alan Stevens, Barbara Ryan, Rob Freeman, Beverley Parlane
Membership, Fun stuff, Events, Pastoral Care	**Alan Stevens**, Jill Crossland, Grade Convenors
Operations Dealing, Directing, Information Technology	**Peter van Leeuwen**, Jan Barrow, Megan Brunel
Operations - Directors Training, Rostering, Professional Development	**Jan Barrow** & Team
Operations - Dealers Training, Rostering	**Megan Brunel** & Team
Operations - IT Maintenance, Training, Development, Website	**Peter van Leeuwen**, Simon Cobb, Nick Mein, Brian Morgan
Tournaments Advertising, Entries, Host, Cater	**Peter van Leeuwen,** Jan Barrow, Grade Convenors, Peter Gordon, Margaret Collins
Venue Hire Venue Hire & Rental, Term of use, Promotion	**Alan Stevens**, Rob Freeman, Mike Small, Barbara Ryan
Strategic Plan Volunteers	**Jill Crossland**, Alan Stevens, Darryl Dowthwaite, Marcia Admore, Alistair Douglas, Peter van Leeuwen, Matthew Conibear, Peter Gordon, Richard Williams, Geoff Norris, Mike Small, Beverley Parlane, Derek Jones.

CROCKFORDS BRIDGE CLUB INC.

OFFICE BEARERS 2017 / 2018

President :	Peter van Leeuwen
Vice President :	Alan Stevens
Treasurer :	Brian Le Vaillant
Committee :	Jill Crossland Alistair Douglas Ann Ferrari Rob Freeman Robin Jones Richard Williams

Grade Convenor's for 2017:

Senior	Rosemary Olsen
Senior Reserve	Murray Wright
Intermediate	Martin Robinson
Junior	Cathy Roseveare
Thursday Night	Ann Ferrari
Administrative Secretary :	Carol Singh

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

We would like to provide variety in the Newsletter and welcome any contributions from members, notices, articles, items about community activities and such like. If you would like to contribute to the next issue Contact :

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