



CROCKFORDS BRIDGE CLUB INC.

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Weekly News Monday 26 July

Dear Members

Below is a paragraph copied from the latest communication from NZB. I thought it was worth repeating, especially in the context of a new class of learners commencing tonight, and our most recent graduates of the learner classes developing confidence as they play in the Junior grade.

"While we all understand bridge is a tough game and inevitably there will be some new players who decide it is more complex and demanding than they bargained for, the surveys undertaken across the country are unequivocal with regards to the biggest reasons we can control. These are all connected to the club environment the new player finds themselves in. It is very simple. New players expect and deserve a welcoming, comfortable, and non-critical place to play bridge. They do not like to be the recipients of rude, boorish, and critical behaviour or to witness other pairs engaging in the same, including berating each other for mistakes. The biggest reason people leave bridge is because of bad behaviour and a non-welcoming environment. The biggest reason for the success of some clubs is precisely because they create a place to play bridge where such things don't occur or have been eradicated under the influence of a warm, welcoming culture, completely averse to anti-social behaviours. In my long journey through the game, I am sad to say that I have observed that, although some top players can be aloof and unfriendly, the worst behaviors are often exhibited by intermediate pairs, lording it over beginners. This is a total turn-off!"

I am grateful to all the players on Monday and Thursday nights who treat everyone, including newcomers with courtesy, respect and patience, but this is not always the case. Our beginners are the future of our club and we need to nurture them. Members of other grades – please note that we are not exonerated. Being aloof and unfriendly is not acceptable, nor is causing embarrassment to others by criticising your partner for any perceived fault.

Life Member

A big thank you to Arthur Keegan who has made a donation to the club to "make up" for the fact that he has not played this year! Arthur is 98 and played regularly until Covid. He is facing a health challenge, but remains positive and looking forward to reaching his goal of 103!!

Improver Lessons

There is an attachment with this newsletter detailing the schedule of improver classes. Thank you to Karen Stevenson who has put this together, and a special thank you to all our tutors. The classes will all be held on Friday evenings.

Rangiora Exchange

This is now less than two weeks away and we need three more pairs to enter, please. It is a very enjoyable afternoon of bridge, to be held at Rangiora, on Sunday August 8. The entry form is on the main noticeboard.

Best Result

Congratulations to senior players Simon Cobb and Matthew Conibear who scored 68.01% on Tuesday night.

Happy bridging.
Kind regards

Jan Barrow