



Table Talk January-February 2017

Welcome back to another year of bridge.

We officially started the year with the Opening Night on January 26, with nibbles and a convivial time before play started at approximately 7.30.

7 tables played a rainbow movement, where people rotated around, playing with a different partner at every rotation, and 2 tables played their own separate movement.

"C" points were not part of the night, people scored themselves, and then at the end added up their "plus" and "minus" marks to give themselves an overall score. The top scores playing each way received a box of chocolates as their prize.

Sorry, no photos of the fun, as your editor was too busy being convivial to take any...



A big thanks goes out to Barbara Daly and Margaret Robertson for organising everything, and barman David Morel ☺

Interclub players required

It's the start of the year, and soon it'll be the start of the Interclub competition for 2017.

What's Interclub? do I hear you say. Interclub is a Wellington Region graded team competition played between all the clubs. The matches are played monthly on a Friday night – below are the proposed dates.

<u>Round No.</u>	<u>7.30pm Friday Night Dates</u>
1	17 March
2	31 March
3	28 April
4	26 May
5	23 June
6	28 July
7	25 August
8	22 September
9	10 November



If you're interested in playing, we need team members for all grades – Novice, Junior, Intermediate, Open Restricted, and Open. Organise yourself a team, and write the names on the sheet on the noticeboard by **February 24** to enter.

Club Sponsors: Summerset Village Aotea; Dianne Tredger; Well Hung Joinery; Helloworld; Margaret McKeefry; Nigel Horne; McCabe and Company; Phil Clark

What's coming up in March?

Kerr Cup -- 3 March 2017

The annual match with Kairangi is coming up fast!

So, find yourself a partner, and enter on the form on the noticeboard. All grades of players are welcome – indeed, the more the better!

Lessons are starting soon

March 13 is the start date for lessons, so if you know someone who is keen to play, now's the time to let them know.

And, just a heads up, March is also when we have our:

Junior/Intermediate Tournament – 19 March 2017

As always, we need volunteers to help on the day, and players to play ☺ As it's a Junior/Intermediate tournament, pairs can be Junior/Junior, Junior/Intermediate, or Intermediate/Intermediate. So, fix that date in your diary now

Club Play

Keen to play, but don't have a partner? – phone

Gaye (238-9904) for a Monday partner,

Annette (234-8916) for a Tuesday partner,

John (233-6122) for a Wednesday partner, and

Pauline (234 8499) for a Thursday partner

Championships

The monthly championships have begun, but don't despair if you've missed the first one. The eight best scores are counted to be in the running, so all is not lost! Remember though, substitutes are not counted.

February competitions

Monday: Lash Pairs

Tuesday: Mansfield Pairs

Wednesday: Elsdon Pairs

Thursday: Keningston Pairs

Tournaments

February 12 – Waikanae Open Pairs

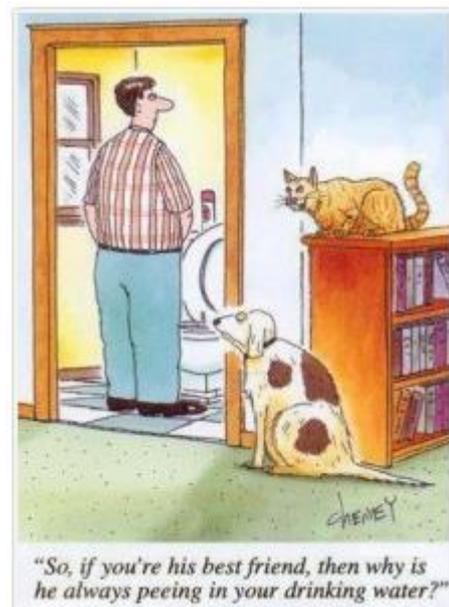
February 26 – Masterton Junior & Intermediate Pairs

March 1 – Wellington Poppy Roberts begins

The Committee has learned with some sadness that John Crighton passed away early in January, and we send our condolences to his family.

New member:

We're pleased to welcome back Tony Davidson. Tony's contact number is 478-1998



What's happening at NZ Bridge? – the saga continues

On January 12 Margaret Robertson and David Morel attended a meeting held at Wellington Bridge Club. Margaret took these notes from the meeting.

Present:

- Alan Morris & Stephen Henry who were chairing the meeting and preparing an independent report for NZ Bridge on how clubs & regions feel about any restructuring.
- Tony Sutich & Joan Waldvogel (members of the Wellington Regional Committee)
- Representatives from local bridge clubs - Wellington, Victoria, Karori, Kairangi & Kapi Mana

Alan Morris & Stephen Henry began the meeting by pointing out that they were independent & not employed by the Board to undertake this consultation – they had offered to do it because they could see that it needed to be done.

The NZ Bridge board has agreed to make no changes until after Alan & Stephen have filed their findings.

The following points came out of the discussions

1. Current board is fragmented
 - behaviour around the board table is not "best practice";
 - lack of trust between board members;
 - lack of communication/transparency in boardroom discussions & decisions
 - board has two minute books, one of which isn't "published"
2. The board has the power to change the constitution, but they should have the mandate of the bridge community before they do. It currently has a management function supported by two paid staff, and all the volunteers in the bridge community.
3. They do not have a budget for 2016/17.
4. NZ Bridge needs to work out, and show, whether their improved business plan is sustainable. How much do they need to invest to improve the future?

Areas the board should be focussing on:

- How does the board make its administrative process more effective? How is the national bridge organisation run in other countries?
- How should NZCBA help grow clubs at the grass roots level? The target age group should be 45+, not youth.
- What is the value of the international programme?
- What does the board need to do to meet the needs & expectations of the average bridge player? Does s/he get value for his levies?
- What support does NZCBA provide for clubs that are in crisis?

What next?

We are still waiting on the report from Alan and Stephen.

Arie Guersen (the Board chair) has decided not to stand for re-election



Just a selection of the photos taken at the 2016 Christmas Party and Prize-giving by Radha Sandilya.

If you weren't there, you missed a great night filled with friendship, laughter, good food and good company. So, mark it in your diary now – the next Christmas Party is on Friday December 1.

A BEAR WALKS INTO A BAR...

A bear walks into a bar and says to the bartender, "I'll have a pint of beer and a..... packet of peanuts."

The bartender asks, "Why the big pause?" (boom boom!)

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