

November 2021

WHANGAREI BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS FROM OUR CLUB

Welcome back to bridge and we hope you are all enjoying your return to the tables after the alert level changes.

We have a new committee for the 2021/2022 season and welcome Nancy Beck and Judy Allison to join Lee, Neil, Olive, Glenys, Janice, Kevin, Kim, Richard and Jane. Thanks to Yvonne and Helen who found their tenure a little longer than expected owing to lockdowns!

We have news of the upcoming NZ Wide Pairs event and commentary on the new alert level system and how it may impact our club.

Whangarei Bridge Club Committee

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MONDAY EVENING TEAMS

Our fun teams event that was interrupted after the first week will resume on Monday 1 and 8 November. The 10 teams participating in this event should note the dress-up night will be on 8 November. This replaces the event advertised in the Monday evening programme. If you know you cannot play on either of those dates – please contact Jane asap as subs will need to be found. If you would be willing to sub in at short notice – please contact Jane.

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SUCCESS OF TRANSFER TABLE

Thanks to Helen Brodie for organising this. The transfer table was popular with our members and raised \$285 for the club.

MOBILE PHONES

A polite reminder – we thank you for turning your phone to silent mode during all playing sessions. If you know you may have to take a call – please mention it to the director before the start of play.



BABICH NZ WIDE PAIRS – FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER AT 7PM

An annual event where the nation plays the same boards on the same night. Up to 1,000 pairs enter and it is the biggest competition held in NZ for clubs.

Whangarei will host its heat of the event. The entry fee of \$10 includes:

- A glass of the sponsor's product 😊
- Chips and dips
- A booklet after play describing all the hands and likely auctions and outcomes
- **Pre-entry** is encouraged – sign-up in clubrooms
- Only Whangarei members will be able to play at this event.

A team of scorers work into the night to produce results online to see who leads the nation.

This is an A-pointed tournament and means that players need be able to play at tournament speed of 6.5 mins a board plus 30 seconds between rounds. It is generally not suitable for those very new to the game.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

We still hope that our Charity tournament in aid of St John may be able to go ahead. Keep Saturday 27 November free in case we return to Level 1.



THE NEW ALERT SYSTEM AND VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

As a club our first concern is our members' wellbeing. We know that a large proportion of our members fall into the more vulnerable 65+ age group with some having significant underlying health issues. We will be guided by New Zealand Bridge and its recommendations but would like to give our members an initial outline of how moving from "elimination" to "living with Covid" may impact on our club into the future.

Vaccination certificates – these are likely to be available in December. The committee will be reviewing their use and relying on medical and legal expertise in any decisions made.

Traffic light system – when Northland DHB secures the necessary level to move into this system it is clear that the club will need to comply with any mandate given by the Government. This system gives a choice of either moving or not moving into a vaccination certificate environment for our venue.

As a club, we do have to look at the possible overall impact on enjoyment of the game on all of our members if we have to keep restricting numbers, closing the club, and cancelling tournaments. There is also a financial impact. We have to fund the costs of running the club and our income is severely depleted if play is suspended or our money earning tournaments have to be cancelled. Whilst we are applying for Government resurgence payments when we can to help offset our drop in revenue, these payments will not be available if we were to choose to be a venue where vaccination certificates are not used.

We do not wish to cause divisions or lose any of our much valued members. Sometimes, when looking at the bigger picture, decisions need to be made that not everyone will agree with. We ask for your consideration and support for the committee, who are all volunteers, with the best of intentions for our club.

Whilst next steps are considered – please reach out to any committee member if you have views that you wish to have taken into account. A simple guide to what the traffic light system may mean for our club is set out later in this newsletter. We are awaiting further advice from New Zealand Bridge.

We would encourage any member not currently vaccinated to take this opportunity to speak with a vaccination service provider to gain the best information on any concerns they may have about becoming vaccinated.

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NORTHLAND CENTRE PAIRS – 13 November

This event is now scheduled to take place at Whangarei Bridge Club (not Kerikeri).

SIMPLE GUIDE TO TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM AND OUR BRIDGE CLUB

Green

- a. If we are a venue with vaccination certificates required - uninterrupted club and tournament play.
- b. If we are not a venue requiring vaccination certificates - up to 100 people, **1 metre distancing = no bridge**

Orange

- a. If we are a venue with vaccination certificates required - uninterrupted club and tournament play.
- b. If we are not a venue requiring vaccination certificates - **up to 50 people, 1 metre distancing = no bridge**

Red

- a. If we are a venue with vaccination certificates required - up to 100 people, **1 metre distancing = no bridge**
- b. If we are not a venue requiring vaccination certificates - 10 people - **2.5 tables = no bridge**