

October 2021

WHANGAREI BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS FROM OUR CLUB

We hope you are enjoying our return to bridge at the club. Thank you to all the members who joined our phone tree and called members during lockdown and to all who offered to shop or collect prescriptions. Thank you to everyone for wearing masks to support an early return to club play. See the update on club Covid Alert Level 2 requirements in this newsletter.

We farewell two of our committee members, Helen Brodie and Yvonne McKinnon. Helen has been at the forefront of many fundraising activities including the current transfer table initiative. Her work on the fundraising sub-committee has been greatly appreciated. Yvonne has been a member of the rejuvenation sub-committee and part of the team pounding the streets to bring new students to the game. A key person in arranging catering at our tournaments our thanks go to Yvonne for her contribution. We look forward to our AGM and the appointment of new members.

You will find insights from our recent survey and details of the fun Back to the Future teams event starting on Monday nights.

Whangarei Bridge Club Committee

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AGM

Our AGM set for 10 October at 1.30 pm (Covid willing). There is still time to nominate members for committee positions and to prepare and submit remits for consideration.

There will be no bridge following the meeting.

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DO YOU NEED SUPPORT?

If you would like a ride to a vaccination clinic or centre and are without transport please contact any committee member. We are happy to support you. We would like to remind members that if you need help at any time for anything then please let any committee member know. We are willing to help and you are never alone.

CLUB PHONE TREE

If you would be willing to phone some members during lockdowns and periods of isolation would you please let Lee know. We would like to build on our existing phone tree to lessen the load and make it as effective as possible.

PLAYING AT THE CLUB AT COVID ALERT LEVEL 2

- Stay home if you are sick.
- QR scan-in or sign-in to record every attendance is mandatory.
- Mask wearing is highly recommended at Level 2 but is no longer compulsory.
- No visitors to play from outside our club membership.
- The club encourages all of our members to have their two vaccination shots before returning to club play.

Why do we ask for your cooperation in this way?

Many of our members are older and with vulnerable health conditions. We need to act together to protect them and our wider Whangarei community. The Delta virus is far more virulent. If a member tests positive the message to others needs to go out immediately to go home and isolate. If you scan in using your smart phone this can be done in seconds by contact tracers. If you have to locate who played at the club, give names and numbers manually, they all need a phone call from a tracer – it can take many hours. During those hours they are potentially out and about spreading Covid.

Please make scanning in on entry to the club a part of your routine of coming to play.

At the Gold Coast congress for 2022 every player must produce proof of being fully vaccinated with two shots and two weeks having expired after the second shot, for their entry to play to be accepted or produce a medical certificate exempting them from having the vaccination.

Monday Back to the Future Teams Event – theme “W”

We are hoping for eight teams for our Monday night teams event starting 4 October. Sure to be a lot of fun, teams of four will compete in 2 x 8 board matches starting at 7pm. “Back to the Future” means that you will play with a different member of your team on each of the three nights. Your team needs a name, beginning with W, so put your thinking caps on! The last night of the event is dress-up and we look forward to seeing some innovative themed costumes. There will be prizes for best dressed. Still only \$2 per night table money until end 2021.

Pre-entry event – last entries taken Friday 1 October. Call/email Jane to enter.

CLUB SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all our members who took time to complete the recent club survey. The results will be considered at the first meeting of the new committee later in October.

A summary of the survey finds can be found [here](#).

Matters highlighted from the survey:

- The club newsletter is well received and well read.
- The club website is used regularly with results and news the most popular.
- The club facebook page was looked at by around 1/3 of responders.
- The change in evening playing time has had more positive than negative impact on players.
- Refreshments could be improved, plastic cups were not popular and existing stock of mugs could be replenished.
- The club is communicating well with its membership.
- The club is doing well with recruitment and nurturing new members.
- Club members are friendly and welcoming.
- More opportunities to play with senior players sought.
- Graded competitions giving more people an opportunity to win.
- Name tags/microphone/dishwasher/outdoor furniture all suggested.
- Men's restroom and disabled facilities need addressing.
- Time clock.
- Committee is seen as hardworking and an effective team.
- More opportunity for directors to develop by sharing sessions.
- Importance of atmosphere at playing sessions being positive.

RETURN OF CUPS AND TROPHIES

If you have any cups or trophies at home would you kindly return them to the club as soon as possible. We need to start engraving early in time for prizegiving.

REMEMBER REMEMBER THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER!

An important date for your diary. Every year players across New Zealand take part in the Babich NZ Wide tournament. Many clubs host a session, including here at Whangarei. We all play identical boards and the results are scored across the whole country. Up to 1,000 pairs take part. A booklet is published giving information on the hands you have played and a commentary on how the bidding and play might have gone. The scorers are up until around 1am collating the results countrywide. It is a lot of fun, so find a partner, and register to play. This is not a walk-in event – you cannot just turn up on the night.

NATIONAL CONGRESS 2021

The week long annual bridge tournament has been moved to a midweek to midweek event from 10-17 February. The details can be found [here](#). National Congress 2022 is planned for its regular slot in September 2022.

COMPUTER HELP

In our recent online survey a member offered their computer skills to support the club. The survey was anonymous so we cannot identify who this was. Thanks for the offer of help and would the volunteer please make themselves known to a committee member 😊

Financial support for the club for roof repairs

We have received a generous contribution towards roof repairs from Oxford Sports Trust. We have also applied for and received two resurgence payments from IRD. Repairs to the roof will begin as soon as possible using these funds.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT

Whangarei Swiss Pairs – schedule for 30 October. We are monitoring the Alert Levels and NZB guidance. We hope to be able to go ahead. Updates will be posted on the club website and club facebook page.

THEATRE NIGHT

The club outing to *Blackadder II* is now **Wednesday 1 December**. All ticket holders have been given an opportunity for a refund. There are now no refunds available and if you find you cannot attend you need to find someone to sell your ticket to. Rehearsals are going well, costumes are arriving, the set is being finished and the show will go on!! (Covid permitting)

September results round up

Monday morning Floral pairs: Winners - **Patricia Backhurst** and **Margaret Hooson**

Monday evening Individual Handicap:

A closely fought competition with just under 0.5% separating the first 4 places.

Winner – **Janelle McKenzie** – 61.91%

Runner-up – **Sheryl Badger** – 61.74%

Third – **Ruth de Bray** – 61.62%

Fourth and bidding and making his first ever slam – **Norman Tolra** – 61.54%

Tuesday evening Apple Pairs: Winners – **Janice Johnson** and **Barry Johnson**

Wednesday morning Neon Pairs Handicap: Winners – **Adam Okura** and **Anne Rosandich**

Friday morning Vanilla pairs: Winners – **Gayle Christiansen** and **Rod Christiansen**