

## WHANGAREI BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2022



### NEWS FROM OUR CLUB

We continue “Business as Normal” at the club with our playing sessions well attended and we have hosted two tournaments in March which have been well attended in light of current settings.

The latest announcements from the Government regarding Covid and a change to settings meant the committee met out of cycle to review whether to keep the club as a vaccinated venue. At this time there will be no change to this status but it will be reviewed as a standing item on the committee’s agenda each month. More information is contained in this newsletter.

The committee has reviewed the feedback from our club survey last year and information on the projects on the horizon in the next year are set out in this edition. Installation of a disabled toilet at the club is the first major project we are working towards currently.

Many thanks to our members who have supported the recruitment drive for lessons. A special thank you to those who have attended at the library sessions to find new students of the game and to all members who have brought someone new along to lessons this year. Thanks to Kim Thomas for putting the road signs up and suffering an ACC claim from his hammer missing its target. 28 new students of the game came in our first week. Our club cannot grow without the help and support of our members and it is really appreciated.

Stay safe and well and please reach out to any committee member if you need support over the coming weeks or if you find yourself in isolation.

**Whangarei Bridge Club Committee**

## **Covid protocols**

The rules around settings in the Covid pandemic are changing. The committee met out of cycle to discuss the impacts of these changes and what it means for our club.

For now, the decision taken last year to make the club a vaccinated venue from 3 December 2021 remains unchanged. The committee agreed to have the status of the club as a standing item on their agenda each month for review.

1. Masks are highly recommended.
2. Vaccination pass must be shown to enter the club.
3. Members no longer need to scan in using the QR codes.

These protocols may change at short notice - please have a mask with you in case this is needed in future sessions.

## **Improvers Lessons Tuesday evenings**

Join Grandmaster John McIntosh for weekly improver lessons Tuesday evenings starting at: 6.15pm on Tuesday 29 March. No partner needed.

## **Regional and National competitions – time to enter**

The **InterProvincial trials** for the Auckland/Northland Region will be held **online** via RealBridge over the weekend of 7 and 8 May. This gives a great opportunity for our intermediates, open and women pairs to take part in a strong field. For more details and to enter online go to NZB.

The **National rubber bridge competition** gets underway with the pair to represent Northland/Auckland to be decided through regional heats. This year the heats will take place either in person or online – avoiding long journeys to opponents. Rubber bridge creates a much more level playing field with minnows often finding their way through the heats to the final.

**Entries close 10 April.** Enter online via NZB.

## TOURNAMENT ROUND-UP - MARCH

### CRAIGS INVESTMENT PAIRS TOURNAMENT - Whangarei

Many thanks to the many club members that helped to make this tournament a success. Our first face-to-face tournament of 2022 in Whangarei was a masked, fun day with many of our Whangarei players taking part. A lovely spread that lasted through lunch from our members' baking and delicious pumpkin soup provided by Dave and Nancy Beck (Nancy grows them, Dave cooks them!). Thanks to Judy Allison for her help in the kitchen, to Kevin for manning the bar at the end of play, and Helen and Janice for taking care of the raffles.

11 tables took part and thanks to Hilary Edmunds and Maureen Simmons for playing as our reserve pair to avoid a phantom.

The tournament was a very close affair ending in a dead heat for first place. Congratulations to **John McIntosh** and **Jane Stearns** finishing joint winners with Paihia's Roger Topliss and Peter Hirzel.

### CRAIGS INVESTMENT PAIRS TOURNAMENT – Kerikeri

Outstanding success for **Yvonne McKinnon** and **Laura Maton**. Numbers meant the junior and intermediate players were joined in with the open players. Tremendous play by our two Whangarei intermediates saw them finish as winners – many congratulations.

### 100% BARRELLS OPEN TEAMS – Whangarei

12 teams took part – with three making the journey from Auckland. Thanks to our club players who joined in to make a 12<sup>th</sup> team when one had dropped out.

Making it to third place on the podium were club players **John McIntosh** and **Jane Stearns** with Kerikeri pair Bill and Sulochna Humphreys.

## **Northland/Auckland Regional Committee**

Club members are invited to step forward to be a part of the regional governance board for the Auckland/Northland region. For information on what this entails and the skillsets that are useful – contact Grant Jarvis  
gjarvis@xtra.co.nz

### **Club Projects**

Our club survey gave the committee some priorities from the membership view point. Thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey and give your feedback. Here are the main outcomes from a review of the feedback given:

- The club will work towards installation of a disabled toilet.
- The newsletter will continue in its current format as popular with members.
- The club facebook page is not well used by club members and so less commitment in time will be given to updating this – unless a social media savvy member would like to put their name forward to look after this.
- The existing stock of mugs have been thoroughly cleaned – many thanks to Judy Allison for undertaking this task as well as a deep clean of the kitchen.
- The comments regarding refreshment standards have been noted. Efforts are being made to keep the coffee granulated and a variety of tea available.
- Future capital projects where grants may be applied for to include:
  - Magnetic name tags
  - Microphone system
  - Dishwasher to replace steriliser
  - Outdoor furniture and outdoor seating area created
  - Refurbishment of the men's toilet area
- More opportunity for directors to develop by sharing director duties at playing sessions and being coached/mentored by existing directors and a practical hands-on directors session with Allan Joseph to be investigated.

Some guidance to our members on two matters raised within the survey:

1. For graded competitions – do check in the programme book for the graded opportunities that arise. Several events during the year have an open/int/jun trophy attached to them. On Tuesday evenings there are opportunities for more junior players to play with an Open player.
2. It is important that the atmosphere at the club is welcoming and friendly. If any club member is making your time at the club uncomfortable or unpleasant – please speak to one of the committee. Only by addressing issues as they arise can we ensure a great playing atmosphere for all our members.

### **Upcoming tournaments:**

2 April – Whangarei Broomes Open pairs, Broomes Intermediate/Junior Pairs

The format for this event will depend on entry numbers. Please put your entry through immediately if you would like to take part.

9 April – Paihia Quail Ridge Twin Salver Pairs

16-18 April – Auckland Bridge Club Easter Congress ONLINE

(for details click [here](#))

25 April – Anzac Day Charity Tournament – Whangarei

30 April – Kerikeri Dolphin Pairs

### **Club results:**

Mon evening Novice Championship Pairs

Winners: **Julie Kelsall** and **Judy Allison**

Fri morning Teal Pairs Winners: **Tony Simmonds** and **Kevin Grundy**

## **St John health shuttle for members and looking for volunteer drivers**

Whangarei St John recently took over the health shuttle service for Whangarei and surrounds from Red Cross. St John kindly donated an AED to the club in 2021. This supportive association continues, and they wanted to let all of the bridge club members know of the availability of this service. It is a koha service available weekdays and must be booked at least 24 hours in advance. The shuttle is wheelchair capable with automated lift and also has an automated step and grab rails if not using the wheelchair lift to onboard. If you have difficulty reaching your appointments – call 0800 WAKA ORA to book.

St John also need volunteer drivers to take people to their healthcare appointments and to support the community. If you have some time to offer to St John to become one of their drivers contact Jane Stearns who can give you more details. Discussions are also underway for the provision of the shuttle to help our club members with transport to tournaments at weekends, especially those with disabilities or wheelchair users.



*Happy Bridging!*