

Whangarei Bridge Club



September 2020

Northland Centre Trophy

Northland Centre is a teams' tournament between Dargaville, Kerikeri, Paihia and Whangarei. Each club enters three teams that compete for the Open, Intermediate and Junior Trophies. There is also an overall trophy.



We have a strong Open team but they had a setback when one of regulars had to pull out at the last minute. Luckily Len Dent stepped in but it meant that one of the partnerships hadn't practiced together. We were concerned when the first match was against the strong Dargaville team. Were we justified to be worried? No, a bit of it! Our team won 20-0. Even better the raw IMP score was 75-0 which meant that our team did not lose a single board. Put it another way, that was 16 boards without a mistake.

The Open team went on to beat Kerikeri and Paihia by smaller margins totalling a very respectable 49.22 victory points. They won 22 boards, losing 11 and drawing 15.

Our Intermediate team started by being beaten by the strong Dargaville team. This was enough to goad them into a substantial victory over Kerikeri. The third round was close when Whangarei beat Paihia by a single IMP. Nevertheless, it was enough to give them the Intermediate Trophy.

The Junior team varies in strength from year to year. It gets stronger as the players gain experience but they are weakened when their top players are promoted.

(Continued next column)



Your Newsletter



This Newsletter is written for you, the Club Members. If there are any features or articles that you would like to see, please send an email to the editor.

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Northland Centre Trophy

(continued)

Currently our Junior team is strong with four experienced members who have been together for some time, so they were quietly confident as they took on Dargaville for the first round. And their confidence was justified as they won all three rounds to take the Junior Trophy.

Finally, I must mention Olive Dent. We are lucky to have such an experienced Director.

Annual General Meeting

The Club's AGM took place on 28 August and had a good turn-out. It had the usual format of officers' reports followed by Committee elections and any remits.

Lee, our president, was pleased that we had weathered the Covid storm. We're hoping that there won't be any further interruptions next year. The national trend is for Bridge Clubs to lose members. Whangarei is one of the very few that has actually increased our membership. Lee didn't want to give a list of names for what was a whole Club effort but she did single out Richard for giving beginners lessons and Lyn for organising them.

Lee finished by thanking members for making our regular sessions a welcoming environment for new members.

Janice, the Club Captain, gave a very upbeat report. Our session numbers are increasing. This is in large part to the beginners coming from the lessons and liking our friendly atmosphere. To quote Janice, "No Club can survive without new members, so a sincere thank you for everyone's help."

One of the consequences of our popular sessions is we need more Directors. You can't run a duplicate session without a referee and it isn't fair to dump the duty on the same people all the time.

There were two Northland Inter-club Tournaments. The Towai Trophy between Kerikeri and Whangarei, and the Northland Centre Teams where we compete against Dargaville, Kerikeri and Pahia. Janice proudly stated that Whangarei won both tournaments.

Our Treasurer, Neil Ruddell, commented on his detailed report. He started with a single sentence. "Financially the Club is doing fine." That basically is what we wanted to know. There were some points of interest in variations between the 2021 figures and

2022 but these were easily explained. Things are looking good for next year.

Unfortunately, the Committee elections were all unopposed but at least that meant they were quick. Our new Committee is:

President	Lee Waters
Vice President	Richard Bland
Secretary	Kevin Grundy
Treasurer	Neil Ruddell
Assistant Treasurer	Olive Dent
Club Captain	Janice Johnson
Assistant Club Captain	Judy Allison

Ordinary Members	Judy Allison
	Nancy Beck
	Tel Hudson
	Kim Thomas.

There was one further item. Last year we tried an experiment on the way we score our monthly ladders. The idea was that you can drop the lowest score you make in a month. This meant that if you couldn't make one session you still had a chance to win the month. Well, we tried it and we didn't like it. A remit (ie. a motion) to restore the old system with every session counting was passed with acclamation.

There was a discussion of making tournaments more friendly for our less experienced players. One of the ideas was to make a mock tournament. This would be a special club session run under strict tournament rules just for practice.

The Meeting closed having taken just 35 minutes.

Spot the Convention

Find the answer on the back page



So You Want to Enter a Tournament

Actually, the chances are that various people are encouraging you to have a go. I will try to demystify the procedure. Pairs tournaments are similar to ordinary Club sessions. Teams tournaments are different and there will be an article next month but to-day is about pairs.



Janice, our Club Captain, talking to Whangarei's Intermediate team

Tournaments usually start in the morning and go on all day. The first thing you'll notice is a table of nibbles. The host Club usually provides some refreshment to start the day. If it's a home tournament here in Whāngarei, we ask that you bring a plate. If you are not sure what you are doing, the pre-tournament breakfast is a good time to buttonhole one of our more experienced players.

For a normal Club session, you simply turn up. If you don't have a partner then you call Janice and she will try to get one for you. Tournaments are different. It is your responsibility to find a partner and the pair of you need to register your names on the calling notice on the notice board.

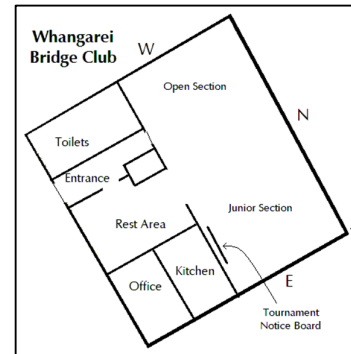
Once you register, you are duty bound to turn up. If we have an odd number of pairs in a Club session, we declare a phantom. We don't do that in tournaments. If there is going to be an odd number then will be some frantic ringing round to get a stand in. Obviously, that is not possible if a pair do not appear on the day.

If we get too many tables, we must divide the pairs into sections. For some tournaments, particularly if there is only one section, you just sit where you please. Other times, you either take any seat in a particular section or you must go to a specific

table. Check the notice board. If you aren't sure, ask someone.

As a guide, if we have several sections, the Junior Section is at East end of the room and the Open Section is at the West end.

When the second session starts after lunch, you need to check the notice board to find your seat. The North-South pairs will be mixed with the East-West pairs to give an overall winner.



Most tournaments require that you fill in a system card. This is easy. Just download one from the NzBridge web site <https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/nz-bridge-system-card.html>

The [NZB Acol System Card \(Basic 2 pages\)](#) card is the one you want. The system card details all the conventions that you use. It's like a crib sheet but it's not for you. You can't consult it but your opponents can. You can look at your opponent's system card. If you need help with your system card just email the Newsletter Editor. WhangareiBridgeEditor@gmx.com

Tournaments are played to strict, formal bridge rules. In theory so are our Club sessions so no change there. The main difference is that all unusual bids should be alerted. When your partner makes a bid that has a special meaning, you circle it. Your opponents can then ask you what it means. Of course, alerting works for you as well. When the other side make an artificial bid, you can ask them what it means. There is an example on the back page.

A tournament is a long day. You normally expect 30 boards in the morning followed by another 30 in the afternoon and that can be tiring. But you do have lunch to recuperate. (Do remember to bring lunch.) So keep calm and play easy.

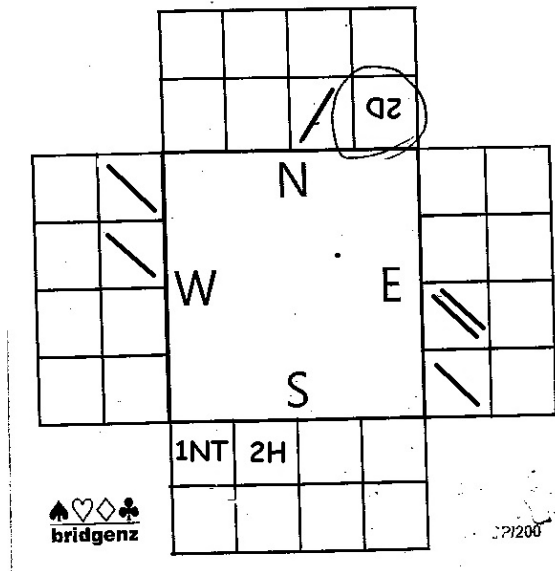
Do remember that the most important thing is to have fun.

The Back Page

Alerts and Explanations

You aren't allowed to pass secret messages to your partner. Your system card has a list of all your artificial conventions but you cannot expect the opponents to remember your entire system so you have to alert any artificial bids your partner makes. You alert by circling your partner's bid.

Here is an example. South is the dealer.



North's 2D is circled by South. East now knows it is artificial and can ask South what it means. But not having any interest in bidding, East simply passes. After South bids 2H West could ask the meaning but wisely also keeps quiet. After everyone passes, West asks for an explanation before leading a card.

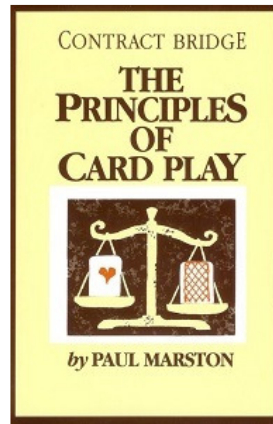
That is often the best way. If you have no interest in the answer, don't ask during the bidding. But if you don't understand a bid, you should ask for an explanation before making the opening lead.

Spot the Convention

Tartan Twos
 This is an advanced convention where an opening bid of 2♥ or 2♠ shows either a very strong or a weak hand

Published by Tel Hudson for and on behalf of Whangarei Bridge Club all at 17 North Street Whangarei 0110

An Excellent Book



Elementary bidding is relatively easy to teach because there are hard rules. Card play is more difficult because, even at a simple level, every rule of card play has exceptions.

Paul Marston shows how applying certain principles can unravel the mess of card play rules.

Lyn Nelson has negotiated a special deal where each book costs just \$24. To order your copy call Lyn on 0211 554 645.

Drivers Wanted

Could you help St John and the club by becoming a health shuttle driver? An ordinary driver's licence is needed and St John train you in use of the vehicle and first aid. Just one weekday a month is asked as a commitment (you can offer more) and in return you can drive club members to tournaments at the weekend if you are taking part. Speak to Jane Stearns if you are interested.

St John
Here for Life

Make a difference in your community

Health Shuttle Volunteers needed

People need access to community transport for their health related appointments – Our health shuttle volunteers can help and make a real difference. This is a great opportunity to join the St John whānau and give back to your local community.

If you're keen to help, follow our easy online application process – just scan the barcode or visit join.stjohn.org.nz and apply for job #47642.

APPLY ONLINE HERE

If you would like to discuss this role before applying please call Stephen Robinson on 027 544 7281