

# Whangarei Bridge Club



January 2023

## Welcome to 2023

A new year, a new beginning and let's get going. Main Club sessions begin in February with the Lavender Pairs on Wednesday morning 1 Feb. In the meantime, we have Holiday Bridge on Monday and Friday mornings in January. These sessions are informal – there are no trophies or monthly prizes up for grabs in January – but the winners get the usual 40 C points.

### Holiday Bridge Sessions

Mondays 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
Fridays 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January

They are all morning sessions starting at 10:30.

If you need a partner, give Janice a ring. She may be able to help you.

Don't forget the first tournament of the year.

Craigs Investment BOI Swiss Pairs and Holiday Pair on 14 and 15 January at Kerikeri

Happy Bridging!

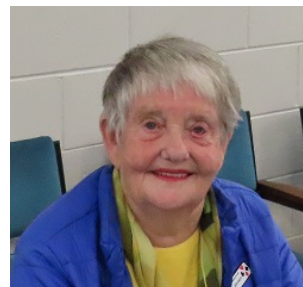
## Spot the Convention



Answer on Back Page

Hint! It's weak and has nothing to do with deer.

## A View From The Bridge



**Janice Johnson**  
Team Captain

I'm going to talk about the membership drive. "What membership drive?" I hear you ask. Well, whilst we don't have a specific drive just now, we are always on the lookout for new members.

Our numbers are good but people do leave and we need to replace them. A full session of 10 tables needs 40 players and that is a lot of people.

Our training team has done a very good job in bringing in new members and we hope that they will do the same this year. (This year's lessons begin on 13/14 March.)

Now is a good time to persuade a friend or neighbour to think about the game. Once lessons are underway it's a bit late. If every member brought just one new person to the lessons, we would be more than happy.

Last year the lessons brought in a record number of new members. Let's make it two years in a row

Remember, that this is your Newsletter and if there is anything that you would like to see here then email the editor at: [WhangareiBridgeNews@gmx.com](mailto:WhangareiBridgeNews@gmx.com)

## Xmas Party and Prizegiving

We had our Christmas Party on Saturday 10 December. It was nominally fancy dress with a Christmas Bells theme. There was a prize for the best costume.



The winning costumes

There were Secret Santa presents. To get one all you needed to do was just say how the Club could do things better.

We had various suggestions some serious and some joking. Meanwhile President Lee was

taking notes and has been following up by trying to implement the ideas. (Some of the joking ideas were very good.

And of course, many people brought a plate for our delectation and delight.



### **A Gentle Reminder**

Please be on time for the Bridge sessions. Ideally everyone should be seated 5 minutes before the session starts. (It allows the Director set up the movement.) If you are going to be late (or very tight to the start time) make sure someone knows. Sessions start on time. If you arrive after the start, you may be sent home.

## Director Please!

You can't run a duplicate session without a Director. It's a bit like footy. You can have a punt about with some mates but to have a proper match you need a ref. Bridge is the same. Four friends can sit at a table with a pack of cards and play a couple of friendly rubbers. (There is an article on Rubber Bridge on page 3.) Duplicate, on the other hand, with multiple tables and a movement to control needs someone in charge.

And that is where the trouble starts. We don't have enough Club Directors.

A Tournament Director needs to have an intimate and thorough grasp of all 93 Laws and 268 subsections. A Club Director, on the other hand, just needs a rough working knowledge of the rules. You simply need to know what is right and what is wrong.

Over 95% of all Director calls relate to just 4 problems. These are: Bid out of turn, Insufficient bid, Play out of turn and Revoke. These are covered by crib sheets with flow charts that tell the Director what to do. If a weird problem turns up, we have a complete set of the Laws. The index is your friend – Looking up the answer is easy.

When it comes down to it, a Director is mostly there to shout, "East-West move please!"

If you are prepared to direct a session, please let Lee or Janice know.



If you need the Director, stick your hand in the air and call loudly, "Director! Please." And keep your hand raised until the Director acknowledges your call.

# Fancy a Quick Rubber?

You are chatting to three friends and you have a pack of cards. What could be better than a game of Bridge? And the game you play is Rubber Bridge.

To play properly you should have two packs of cards. Before you start you cut for partners. The two highest play together with the highest card dealing. Dealer's partner should shuffle the other pack during the deal. When finished the shuffler places the cards to the right. (This is the left side of the next dealer.) Dealer starts the bidding and play continues normally. Once the hand is finished and scored. The player on Dealer's left in the new dealer. The new Dealer picks up the cards which should be on waiting on the left and passes them to the previous dealer to cut.



"OH, THANK HEAVENS!! A FOURTH!"

Bidding and play are identical to normal duplicate. The difference is the way the hands are scored.

We	They

You can score rubber on a normal sheet of blank paper. It's divided into two columns which are normally marked 'We' and 'They'. The only unusual thing is the horizontal line across the middle of the page. In the example on the left we've coloured the line blue to make it stand out.

Scores bid and made go below the line. All other bonuses and penalties are scored above the line. So, if you bid 3♠ and make 5 then you score 90 (3 × 30) for 3 bid tricks and 60 (2 × 30) for 2 overtricks above the line. Rubber scoring is very simple. Minors score 20 for each trick, majors score 30 and NT scores 40 for the first trick and 30 thereafter. There are no Game or Part Score

bonusses. (You don't get 300 or 500 points for game nor 50 for a sub-game bid.) The scores are carried over from one hand to the next. When the points below the line add up to 100, you score a game and a second line is drawn. When you have a game on the board, you are Vulnerable and undertricks are more expensive. (Both sides start off as Non-vulnerable. This explains the meaning of **N-Vuln** and **Vuln** that many beginners find confusing.) The first side to get two games wins the rubber and gets a rubber bonus. You get 700 points for a 2-0 rubber and 500 points for a 2-1 rubber.

We	They
700	200
60	
90	40
20	
100	70

The score card on the right shows a completed rubber. We bid 3♠ and made 5 giving us 90 below and 60 above. (Black) They bid and made 1NT for 40 below. (Blue) We then got 1♦ for 20 below. (Green) This added to our previous 90 making 110 giving us game. They bid and made 2NT scoring 70 (Purple) but this doesn't add to their previous 40 because of the line under our game. We then went two off. Because we were game up, this was a Vulnerable penalty of 200 (Red) which went above the line in the They column. Finally, we bid and made 3NT for 100 below the line. (Brown) This was an immediate game score and being our second game gave us Rubber which is marked by the double underline. Since we won the Rubber by 2 games to nil, we got a 700 point bonus. Adding the scores gives us the win by 970 to 310. (Continued on next page.)

# The Back Page

(Rubber bridge continued)

Some people score honours. If you have all 5 top trumps in one hand (yourself or your partner) you score 150 points above the line. If you have 4 of the top 5 honours you score 100 points. In No Trumps all 4 Aces count as 4 honours and are worth 100 points. Note that, although it's unlikely, Defenders can score honours.

Among skilled players, honours can be used to mitigate a sacrifice but for normal players they are an irritating random additional score. Many players simply ignore them. If you play Rubber bridge, you should check to see whether you are scoring honours before looking at the first hand.

## A High Score by a Life Master

That doesn't seem strange because we expect our top players to produce high scores. The trouble is that Margaret Hooson was at the wrong end of 4♥x-4. That cost 2000 points.

By the way, we aren't having a go a Margaret. On the contrary. The other side had a laydown vulnerable 5♠ and the sacrifice could have been a top board. Alas! Everything was wrong and the hand turned to custard. Margaret thinks -2000 might be a Club record. It certainly was for her.

## Spot the Convention



It's the Weak No Trump.  
Specifically, it's 12 point NT to 14 point NT.



## Water Damage to Club

The recent heavy rain has caused some damage to the ceiling of the club room. It shouldn't cause us any direct problems (It's not over the playing area.) but it isn't good. The Committee are aware of the problem and are taking steps to get it repaired. It will take time so we ask for your patience.

## Rubber Bridge on You Tube

There is a series of Rubber Bridge games under the title Championship Bridge. The series is hosted by Charles Goren, the famous bridge author.



John Gerber

The players are also famous. We have all heard of John Gerber. Many of us play his Ace asking convention. Now you have a chance to see him play.

To watch the first game you can go directly to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hyk-N6CTJBU> or you can go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for 'Championship Bridge'.

## Subs

This may be the last item but it is important. Your subs are now due. If you have paid then, Thank You. If you are still thinking then get in quick and get your early bird discount.

The Annual Fee is \$70.

If you pay before the second week of February then you get the Early bird discount.

Discounted fee is \$60.

All paid up members can retake the 2023 lessons for free.