

Whangarei Bridge Club



August 2023

Thank You Broome Family



Open Winner, Bill and Sulochna Humphrey

Junior: Laurie Butland, Tel Hudson Intermediate: Kevin Grundy, Kim Thomas
With tournament sponsor Jayne Broome

Back in April, we had the annual Broome Family Mixed Tournament. This is a special event that has separate Junior, Intermediate and Open sections. There aren't many tournaments that have a Junior section but Jayne thought that it would be good for the Club to run one. *(and you won't find many who disagree. Ed)* It was well attended with 40 pairs who came from as far afield as Auckland and Kerikeri. (12 open pairs, 21 intermediate and 7 junior)

Board 5 in the morning session was interesting. NS had 29 points and shapely hands. According to Jeeves there isn't a slam on but that didn't stop people bidding it. The natural slam is 6H but there is no play for that. 6D is difficult to bid – North wants his lovely Heart suit as trumps – but it can be made. East-West can defeat it by playing a Spade to the first trick then their Ace wins and West's Club King lies over South's AQ for a second trick. Any other lead lets North discard the Spade loser on his long Hearts. Unfortunately, the natural *safe* lead is a low trump. Meanwhile one of the Junior pairs discovered that 29 points does not mean that you can make 3NT.

You can see the Board here →

An Apology

The Editor – Whangarei Newsletter

I have just been through a traumatic house move. As a result, it was difficult to write the Newsletter and we have missed some issues. Well, the move is complete, my internet is restored and the computer is repaired. So normal service is resumed.

I apologise for not getting the paper out and will do my best to get the issues out each month in the future. But now we have some catching up to do.

If you have any comments, suggestions or if you have an article that you would like included, please mail them to me at WhangareiBridgeNewsgmx.com

Best Wishes Editor

We have a TV Celebrity.

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Board 5

Vul nil

Dealer N

		♠ Q7	
	N	♥ AKJ98	
	17	♦ AK93	
W 7		♣ 98	E 4
♠ AT864			♠ KJ953
♥ 752			♥ T64
♦ 72			♦ T84
♣ K42		♠ 2	♣ T7
		♥ Q3	
	S	♦ QJ65	
	12	♣ AQJ653	

The Towai Trophy

There have been two tournaments. The first was the annual Towai Challenge which is a head-to-head match between Whangārei and Kerikeri. Each club put up 6 teams – an A and a B team in each of the Open, Intermediate and Junior categories. There were two full matches. In the morning, the A teams played against A teams and the Bs against Bs. In the afternoon, the A teams fought the opposition’s B teams.

		Whang A	Whang B	Kerikeri A	Kerikeri B	Summary
Open	Round 1	12.95	18.09	7.05	1.91	31.04 – 8.96
	Round 2	4.31	16.38	4.31	15.69	20.69 – 19.31
	Total	17.26	34.47	10.67	17.60	51.73 – 28.27
Intermediate	Round 1	19.97	19.51	0.03	0.49	39.48 – 0.52
	Round 2	16.38	20.00	0.00	3.62	36.38 – 3.62
	Total	36.35	39.51	0.03	4.11	75.86 – 4.14
Junior	Round 1	6.10	19.58	13.90	0.42	25.68 – 14.32
	Round 2	16.38	5.08	14.92	3.62	21.46 – 18.54
	Total	22.48	24.66	28.82	4.04	47.14 – 32.86

Towai Tournament Results

Whangarei won all three matches to claim the overall trophy.

There were some points of interest. Both our Intermediate teams were very strong, particularly the B team. Winning a match by 19 Victory points is unusual. Winning one match by 19.51 and then the second match by 20-0 is unheard of. Our Open teams won by a comfortable 23 VP margin. Whangārei Open A scored competently but it was the B team with two huge wins that brought home the victory. The Junior teams won because Kerikeri do not have strength in depth. Kerikeri A were the best Junior team on the day but Kerikeri B were very inexperienced. The last time we played them, their current B team were inexperienced but they have improved tremendously. Our Junior teams will have to improve if we want to retain the trophy next year.

Open A	Open B	Intermediate A	Intermediate B	Junior A	Junior B
Glynis Bilton Len Dent Roger Bell John McIntosh	Neil Ruddell Tania Brown Peter Hiszel Stanley Abrahams	Kevin Grundy Helen Brodie Laura Maton Stewart Love	Roger Johnson Lww Orton Alan Pumfleet Juliet Golightly	Sandy Mahi Carlene Mason Judy Alison Anne Lovich	Laurie Butland Tel Hudson Glennis Christie Teresa Small

Our Teams

Spot the Convention

What is the circled bid?

Answer on Back Page



Northland Centre Teams

The Northland Centre Teams Trophy is open to all Clubs in Northland. As is usual in inter-Club teams competition, it is split into three sections, Open, Intermediate and Junior. Each competing club can put up one team for each section.

The Open section was a 4-way battle between Whangārei, Kerikeri, Paihia and Dargaville. Normally Teams compete head-to-head with each match result being converted into Victory points The Open teams each played three matches – one against each club. The winner was decided by adding up the Victory Points for each match. Actually, it was easier than that because Whangārei won all three matches.

Mangawhai put up Intermediate and Junior teams so those tournaments were 5-ways. Rather than formally having a complete set of head-to-head matches, which would have taken 2 days, the teams made a sort of Mitchel movement so that each team played 6 boards against each other team in each session. Rather than trying to convert to VPs, the Director simply posted the raw IMP count for each match. The ranking was done by total IMPs.

Rank	Open		Intermediate		Junior	
	Team	VPs	Team	IMPs	Team	Imps
1	Whangārei	52.88	Dargaville	52	Mangawhai	54
2	Kerikeri	24.73	Whangārei	19	Paihia	14
3	Paihia	21.54	Kerikeri	-7	Whangārei	2
4	Dargaville	20.85	Mangawhai	-26	Dargaville	-8
5			Paihia	-28	Kerikeri	-62

So, congratulations to Whangārei Open, Dargaville Intermediate and Mangawhai Juniors. It was a satisfactory day – even for those of us who didn't win. Teams scoring feels like it's the purest form of the game. Pairs always seems artificial. 3NT+1 can give you a top score when the correct contract should be 4S. (And 4S can be a bottom.) With Teams scoring it is correctly interpreted as an insignificant 10 point swing. (Note 10 points is converted to zero IMPs. The minimum swing that scores is 20 points for 1 IMP.)

Meanwhile Dargaville Intermediate have thrown a shot across our bows for the Tangiteroria Cup.

Be Polite or It Could Cost You

There have been reports across New Zealand of abusive players. This is unacceptable. Not only is it unpleasant but it is exactly the sort of thing that can put off new players. Law 74 is very clear. I like Law 74B-2 that says, "A player should avoid any remark that ... might interfere with the enjoyment of the game." The rest of Law 74 talks in legalese about specific things that are not good. NZ Bridge have decided to come down on offenders like a ton of bricks.

The Director has always had the right to punish infractions with an adjusted score. Recent communications from NZ Bridge have upgraded this to a duty. In particular, they say that the Director should not give a warning. Instead, the Director must immediately award an adjusted score on the first offence. There must not be a second offence because the Director would be obliged (no ifs, no buts, no maybes) to expel the offender from the session AND report the matter to the Club Committee.

The full laws are here: <http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/2017-laws-of-duplicate-bridge/>.

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Our TV Star

Bernard Collins is not a bad bridge player. (See below for an example.) But that is not why he is here. No! He is a World Class bench press expert. This weekend he will be attempting to press 85 kg. This would be the Southern Hemisphere record for a 90-year-old. He was on TV3 at 8:30 on Wednesday 23rd talking about it. (And check TV1 Sports on Saturday and TV1 am on Monday 28th.)

Many years ago, as part of a political campaign we were delivering election leaflets. Our team was spearheaded by Stop-At-Naught Nell. A small lady, who at 80 years old, thought nothing of delivering 1,000 leaflets in a day. One of the team commented, "I hope I am as good when I'm 80." The reply from the rest of the team was, "I wish I was that good now." Most people in the Club would say that about Bernard.

But we don't care about World Records, (*Not true. Ed*) it's bridge that matters. So here is hand from a Thursday evening. Bernard is East

Vul EW		Dealer N
	♠ 98754	
	N ♥ K76	
W 19	6 ♦ J952	E 7
♠ 3	♣ Q	♠ KQJ2
♥ AQ3		♥ J954
♦ AQT763		♦ 4
♣ AK3	♠ AT6	♣ 8642
	♥ T82	
	S ♦ K8	
Lead ♠A	8 ♣ JT975	

Whilst everyone else (Thursday is expert night) went off in Diamonds Bernard piloted his way to 9 tricks in No Trumps. 600 points for a top board.

Spot the Convention



2D is a reverse bid. But you shouldn't write it as 2S

The AGM – You are in control.

The Club AGM is on Sunday 27 August at 13:30. At that time we shall elect next year's Committee and hear reports.

We shall also hear Remits. What's a Remit? Well, it's a proposal as to how the Club should do things. Since the AGM is a plenary meeting then if a Remit is passed then that sets the Club's policy. Equally well if a Remit is voted down then that bright idea is dead for another year. Aside from other considerations it's worth going to the AGM just to make sure that no silly decisions are made.

By the way, if there is something that is really bothering you then come to the AGM and tell us how it is. Of course, if you really want to change things then stand for Committee.

Stop Cards – What are they?

You have all seen them. There are two on every table. But there is no mention of Stop cards in the Laws of Bridge. Their use is regulated by the Code of Conduct.

How are they used? When you make a skip bid, that is you bid higher than the minimum, (For example you open at 2 level or you bid 3 Diamonds over 1 Heart.) you place the Stop card in front of your Left-Hand Opponent (the next person to bid), silently count 10 seconds then pick up the card. Nobody is allowed to bid while the Stop Card is deployed.



Why? It comes down to Law 73 that says calls should be made without undue hesitation. Normally you know what you are going to bid but if an opponent makes an unusual bid, you may need time to think. That is what the Stop card gives you. But note that if the Stop card is played you must not play nor may you show impatience because Law 73 also forbids undue haste.

By the way if your opponent jumps without playing the Stop card, you can spend as long as you like thinking.