

Invercargill Contract Bridge Club

Easter Newsletter 2019

Winter is looming. What a difference since daylight saving finished two weeks ago, darkness before bridge takes some adjusting to but...on the positive side... before we know it spring will be here!!!

This Sunday April 28 at 1.30pm Martin and Lobb are sponsoring our bridge game. Several people have commented that since this is called a tournament in the bridge book they don't feel they are experienced enough to enter. Each month the committee has tried to schedule a weekend or Thursday bridge session for all members, handicaps apply and we especially encourage newer members to have a go. You might be surprised at how useful a handicap can be as there will be spot prizes and one for closest to 50%. Afternoon tea will be served mid-afternoon so please bring a plate per partnership. Table fees are \$5 per player. We ask you to support these sponsored tournaments; they are for the betterment of your bridge, a good way to meet other bridge club members and a great way of acknowledging our sponsors (without them we wouldn't be playing bridge for \$5 on a Sunday and getting prizes too!)

We ask that you support all of our sponsors; they are listed in your bridge book on page 27.

The **ILT Murihiku Teams and Pairs** take place on May 4 and 5. This combined event is our flagship tournament and we would welcome your support. If you want to come and watch the "guns" accumulate their A points here is your chance. Kibitzing, as it is called, is a great way to learn. Of course there is no talking and you have to ask the director to ask the players at the table if you may observe. On the other hand every paid up member is welcome to enter a team of four on the Saturday and or pairs on the Sunday. Just so you know, anything is possible, that is how I achieved my first eight A points as a newish player in 1988 (there's not been much improvement since but I keep trying!!!). Entries are on line and there will be an entry list in the foyer. Entries close on May 1 at 0800. Sue Scott is our House convenor and, with her committee, is responsible for tournament food. If you could help with a tray of savouries, some fudge, a loaf of sandwiches, some cream cakes or your time in the kitchen please call Sue. Sue's number is 03 215 4070. If she doesn't need your contribution this time there will be other opportunities later in the year.

On **Thursday July 25** we are running an individual night. This format requires people to put their names on the list in the foyer to confirm they will be playing. Once your name is on the list we will be relying on you to turn up. A partner is not needed as you play with a different person every board. Believe it or not, it's fast and it is fun!!! To set up the night we need a prime number of tables and when we ran the first individual night in March we had seven tables. The feedback was positive, so positive in fact that we thought that more members might like to be part of a fun night at bridge. So this time, on July 25, we need 44 people to make up eleven tables. There will be a prize for the first junior, the first intermediate and the best overall (if not already placed) and we will have a "bring a plate" party supper on the night. Table fees \$5.

There are a few things that people have asked me to clarify:

We run **raffles** from time to time as ongoing fundraisers. If there is a raffle on the table everyone is welcome to write their name by a number and leave the appropriate money in the basket, taking the correct change as necessary. Sometimes raffle sales do not meet our hoped for target so the draws are delayed. We welcome donations of fresh or frozen food stuffs to add to raffles, please advise a committee member if you can help.

The bridge book **library** is self-service: you choose your book, take the card from the book, write your name and the date on it and leave the card in the box on the shelf. It is hoped you will read and return your book within a two week period. If there are bridge books you would like us to consider purchasing please let us know, equally, if you have a recent bridge book you'd like to donate please contact our librarian, Helen Chesterfield. Her number is 03 213 1484.

Fred's Book Exchange is also a self-service fundraiser. If you find books that you would like to purchase (the prices are on the wall) please place the correct amount in the bank bag on the floor beside the books. When you are finished with your purchases feel free to re-donate the books. This is a great fund raiser for the club and we appreciate Fred's efforts to sort, supply and maintain the book exchange.

This year we have **lists in the foyer** for members to write partnership names down for each series. We are encouraging convenors to actively pair up people, not just wait for a random phone call.

The purpose of the lists is to provide convenors with the names of those playing. When you call looking for a partner the convenor can look at the list (which they have photocopied) and see who is playing and who might be available as their name is **not** on the list. Committee members will willingly photocopy the list for any convenor who finds this a problem. Convenors can also look on line for nights two and three of a series but we acknowledge some convenors are not online so the list will be required.

The format for the **duty** list this year has changed. Each member's name is down once as the duty person. Sometimes, depending on your partner, you may be required to help a different partner when it is their turn for duty. The tasks for duty are listed on the fridge in the kitchen and everyone's attention is drawn to the last tasks, to ensure the drapes are pulled back and there is someone present to lock up at the end of the night. The pantry is unlocked so that the duty person can stock up tea, coffee and sugar before play.

Some weeks ago a request was made that **coats** should be hung in the cloak rooms, not on the chairs in the playing room. We would appreciate your cooperation with this. As directors it is particularly frustrating to have to shift coats and bags in the process of having to set up an extra table at the beginning of the night. We will not take responsibility for coats moved within the playing room. One suggestion was made recently, pop your keys in your coat pocket, hang your coat in the cloakroom and leave your bag at home.

At the AGM in November the committee was asked to review the process for promotion from Silver Reserve to Silver. In February a meeting of interested people was called and their ideas and suggestions were recorded. The match committee considered all submissions and at their March meeting made recommendations which were unanimously adopted by the full committee.

These changes are posted on the noticeboard in the foyer,

Promotions will be finalised after the penultimate Pairs night for the year (i.e. in 2019 that is after 5 November 2019) on the following basis:

- ♣ *Players having achieved the 55% criteria, having played 75% of the playing nights available on Tuesdays (excluding the Doris Hanan and Pam Bower series and the last night of pairs) will be promoted.*
- ♣ *Special circumstances may be considered, at the discretion of the Match Committee – either initiated by the Match Committee itself, or upon receiving written application from individual members.*
- ♣ *Not more than 10% of the playing members in the Division will be promoted in any one year.*

Players should accept promotion. Players who decline will be subject to a % handicap as determined by the Match Committee

All recommendations and decisions made by the Match Committee are submitted to the full Committee for discussion and ratification.

It should be noted that the cut-off date for promotions has no impact on

the Silver Reserve Pairs competition which will continue as recorded in the bridge book.

I'd like to acknowledge the wonderful work **Yvonne** is doing with club notices and monthly updates. Yvonne keeps us informed of results and upcoming events along with snippets and relevant points relating to the intricacies and rules of the game. I need to remind some of you that Yvonne is tournament convenor but she isn't the convenor for Mondays or Tuesdays or Thursdays. If you need a partner for anything through the week please check with the convenors in the book. It is their role to tell you who is playing or isn't playing and assist you with finding a partner.

It is with sadness we acknowledge the passing of several of our club members in the past four months. Our thoughts are with those who are bereaved, unwell, sad, or lonely; may they find a friend in our midst with whom they can find comfort.

To each of you...a happy and healthy winter season at bridge. Please call me or talk to me if you have any questions, concerns or compliments

Yours in bridging

Judith

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