

*Newsletter: February 2020*

I'm hoping that you all enjoyed those **three days of summer** we were lucky enough to have over the past months? My friend Sue, visiting from Little Rock last week, was lamenting our summer weather. I explained to her that we don't live here for the weather but more for the people, our friends and families, who enrich our lives. I trust that your view of our bridge fraternity embraces that idea?

As of Friday Feb 21 we received confirmation that the lease arrangement proposed by the **Invercargill Masonic Heritage Building Charitable Trust** is to proceed. Once the legal documents are signed by both parties a copy will be available on the notice board for anyone interested in reading the arrangements. An overview is that the lessees will have the use of the Harvey Kitto (east) room, and shared use of the committee room, toilets, the plant room and kitchen. We will retain sole use of the west room, the file room and secretary's office. IMHBCT intend to make some changes to their room on the understanding that if the lease is discontinued the room will be returned to its current state. This work is scheduled to commence fairly promptly, so you will be able to see the progress in the near future. All expenses will be shared, including power, phone, internet, rates, cleaning, and gardening. There is a clause that they may install heat pumps throughout the building at their expense, to minimise the current electricity expenses. There will be frequent reviews of the lease and if changes are to be made these will be discussed openly with both parties. If you have any questions please ask or contact me on 027 438 2213 or Sue Scott vice president on 027 207 8720 so that you get the facts, not rumours!

Our bridge year started with a very successful **Otago/Southland Regional Swiss Pairs** tournament in January. Thirty-two pairs were entered and there were entries from throughout the country. Greg and Bruce were second which was a good showing for the home club! We were lucky enough to have Murray Wiggins direct the tournament. Murray is chief director for NZBridge and he ran a very smooth event.

At the AGM in November 2019 the committee was asked to provide regular weekend tournaments that were appropriate for all our members and we have strived to accommodate those requests. Our **charity tournament** was held on Feb 15 and it was disappointing that only 44 members (11 tables) chose to support the event. We really hope that more of you can come along and enjoy the event next time. It was a great evening. Each year the bridge club committee chooses a charity which receives the table fees and raffle proceeds for the night. This year the committee was able to donate \$697 to the Graham Dingle Foundation which is a leading Child and Youth Development Charity that is building a positive, vibrant and successful New Zealand by empowering tamariki to overcome life's obstacles. Their proven programmes are sequenced to create a positive vehicle for change for young people aged 5 to 18 years old. Winners north/south were Jenny Shaw and Lee Davies and east/west Sherry & Jeff Elton. Club members are invited to submit the names of organisations and charities to be considered by the committee for the annual charity tournament which is held in February each year.

The next event on our calendar is the **Martin and Lobb Tournament on Feb 29**. This is a one session event starting at 7.30pm (please be seated by 7.20pm). Members are asked to bring a party plate per partnership and table fees are \$5. Handicaps apply and thanks to the

generous sponsorship from Martin and Lobb, and depending on the number of tables, there will be prizes for at least the top four placings. If you want to play and don't have a partner please call me, (numbers in the bridge book) and I will arrange a partner for you!

On March 7 we are holding the **Foveaux Communications Invercargill Open Pairs**. This 8B point event is aimed at more senior players but everyone is welcome to play if they want to. No handicaps apply and there will be two sessions starting at 10am. For those of you who are not playing the house committee is looking for volunteers to make sandwiches, slices, scones and snacks and/or to help in the kitchen throughout the day. Please call Bev Flint or Barbara Daley if you can help in any way. Their numbers are in the bridge book!

Sadly there have been recent incidents at the bridge table where members have displayed behaviours that do not meet **the Code of Conduct** set out by New Zealand Bridge. The attachment to this newsletter sets out what is expected of all members and it is hoped everyone will read it and practice what they read. The Code of Conduct explains more fully what is clearly stated in the World Bridge Federation Laws of Duplicate Bridge, that little blue book that directors carry with them. Law 74 is particularly relevant:

#### LAW 74 - CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE

##### A. Proper Attitude

1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.
2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.
3. Every player should follow uniform and correct procedure in calling and playing.

##### B. Etiquette

As a matter of courtesy a player should refrain from:

1. Paying insufficient attention to the game.
2. Making gratuitous comments during the auction and play.
3. Detaching a card before it is his turn to play.
4. Prolonging play unnecessarily (as in playing on although he knows that all the tricks are surely his) for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.
5. Summoning and addressing the Director in a manner discourteous to him/her or to other contestants.

##### C. Violations of Procedure

The following are examples of violations of procedure:

1. Using different designations for the same call.
2. Indicating approval or disapproval of a call or play.
3. Indicating the expectation or intention of winning or losing a trick that has not been completed.
4. Commenting or acting during the auction or play so as to call attention to a significant occurrence, or to the number of tricks still required for success.
5. Looking intently at any other player during the auction and play, or at another player's hand as for the purpose of seeing his cards or of observing the place from which he draws a card (but it is appropriate to act on information acquired by unintentionally seeing an opponent's card).
6. Showing an obvious lack of further interest in a deal (as by folding one's cards).
7. Varying the normal tempo of bidding or play for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.
8. Leaving the table needlessly before the round is called.

The Spring Newsletter 2019 outlined the committee's concerns regarding **slow play**. Unfortunately there are some members who have still not taken heed of these concerns. NZBridge guidelines allow six and a half minutes to bid and play a board and 30 seconds to move to the next table. The committee continues to encourage directors to remove boards from those who have not commenced their second board when there are three minutes or less remaining in the 13 minute round.

Over the past years there has been confusion and discussion regarding how **handicaps** have been assessed and recent research has identified the most recent, January 2005, minute under which handicaps should have been applied over past years. Any and all current handicaps applied under that 2005 ruling still stand. For clarification, and so there is no further confusion, at our meeting on Feb 19 2020 we rescinded the previous minute and replaced it with more concise wording. The new minute reads:

***Moved:*** *That Silver Reserve players who qualify for promotion and decline, will receive a handicap of 2%. If promotion criteria are achieved in any subsequent year and promotion is again declined, a further 2% handicap will be added, and retained for one year. A 2% handicap will remain in place until promotion is accepted.*

Lindsay/Annie

Carried

This was carried unanimously and, we hope, clarifies the situation for the future.

#### **And now onto more cheerful things:**

The **individual night** is scheduled for Thursday March 29. We need a prime number of tables to make this night work and our goal is eleven tables...44 players. There is a cup for the best player from each division and one for the best novice too. Those who played last year told us they really enjoyed the format. You don't need a partner and every hand is played with a different person so all you have to do is put your name on the board at the front of the room and turn up on the night. If for some reason you can't play that night it is really important that you find a replacement or let a committee person know. The event needs 44 people ... or if there is enough enthusiasm 52, so please put your name down so we can arrange for a fun night.

On **August 29 & 30** this year we are holding the **South Island Pairs**. This 20 A point event will attract players from throughout the country and we are planning a great show for our northern visitors. For that we need your support. Are you able to billet one or two people for a weekend? Could you make a pot of soup? Would you be available to serve lunch on the Sunday? Or make a batch of scones? We need caddies, people who will pass the boards from one table to the next as required. We need willing helpers who will all be shown what to do and when to do it! Can you help? Call Sue or me if you can. PLEASE keep that weekend free; either to play or to help. We really want this weekend to be a success and your support is vital!

Please mark these **club** events in your bridge calendar; they are, with the exception of Aug 22, all fun tournaments and suitable for everyone to enjoy.

Feb 29          Martin and Lobb tournament

April 4       ILT tournament  
May 10       Lindsay Trophy  
May 31       Club tournament  
July 12       Toyworld tournament  
August 2      Club tournament  
August 22     Southland Real Estate Junior Pairs and Intermediate Pairs  
October 3     Club tournament  
Nov 22       Evans Trophy

The list is incomplete but as you can see, there is lots of bridge to play. We hope to see you at the bridge table

Yours in bridging

Judith

**Quote for the month**

there are *three* kinds of bridge players: (1) those who can count and (2) those who can't!