

Newsletter - January 2015

Happy New Year and Welcome back to Bridge for 2015

This newsletter is aimed at keeping you up-to-date with what is happening in the club, and to alert you to how you can assist us with keeping things running smoothly.

Firstly – congratulations!

- to Jan Baird, upon her promotion from Silver Reserve to Silver.
- to Barry Bouton and Murray Oliver for promotion from Intermediate to Open tournament ranking.
- to Richard Beauchamp, Diana Eason, Diane Hayward, Dwyllis McStay, Karen Palmer-Hall and Bill Scully on their promotion from Junior to Intermediate tournament ranking.

Teams Entries

The entry list for all forms of teams (Championship and Mixed) are on the Noticeboard in the Foyer. There is also a list of eligible “Novice” players for Mixed teams, to assist. Please get your entries in as soon as possible, as the first night of Championship Teams is on Thursday, 5 February 2015; quickly followed by Mixed Teams the following Thursday (12 February), and then Mixed pairs on 19 February 2015.

If you are interested in playing in any of these competitions, but are not sure how to get into a team/get a partner – please contact Yvonne Hughes, Christine Dallas or John Clarke, who will all be more than happy to assist.

Tournaments

We have just completed our first tournament for 2015 – which was the Otago/Southland Regional Swiss Pairs, held here in Invercargill last Saturday. There were 11 tables – the tournament was well supported by our Invercargill members, but unfortunately not by our fellow Otago/Southland clubs. We did have visiting participants from Auckland, Wellington and Canterbury.

Congratulations to Moss Wylie and Bruce Batchelor, for winning. Second place went to Bradley Johnston and Tony Biddington (Canterbury), and Third place went to Geoff Eyles and Peter Anstice. Overall, the day went well, and a huge thank you to Geoff Eyles (computer) and Lee Davies, Cathy Flawn and Christine Dallas (House Committee) for the smooth running of this event.

The next Tournament on our books is the Bay Audiology sponsored Intermediate and Junior Pairs, to be held here on Saturday, 14 February 2015. Entries are now being taken (form on the Noticeboard). Please, please support our tournament – we have excellent sponsors available, good prizes and raffles available. It is great to play against people from your own grades, and for those who haven't played in tournaments before – these are a great starting place. This year we have adopted the “Bring Your Own Lunch” format, which is becoming more popular, and to assist in keeping the entry fee to a minimum. The Entry Fee is \$20.00.

The first evening tournament for 2015 is our Charity Tournament on Saturday, 21 February 2015. This year the selected Charity is Ronald McDonald House, in Invercargill. Entries are being taken for this tournament now. To assist in being able to make a generous donation to this Charity, members are asked to donate prizes and items for the raffle. The Entry Fee is \$10.00 per player, plus a plate per partnership. All proceeds from this tournament are donated to the Charity – let's make it a good one!

Learner's Classes

- commence on 17 February 2014.
- spread the word to your family, friends, whanau, colleagues, neighbours – there will be flyers for those who are willing to do mail box drops in the areas you live. Please also take a notice to put up in your workplace/supermarket/Church Hall, etc.

Updated Tournament Dates 2015 for your Programme Book

There were some late changes made to the programme book, and a revised page has been printed off for insertion into your book. These were made available at the same time as you were to collect your programme book. If you have not already updated that page, please do so now. More updated pages are available from the Director's table in the playing room.

Toilet Upgrade Update

You will see that the plan for the toilet upgrade has returned to the Whiteboard in the foyer. This plan remains unchanged from that which was presented and adopted by the club at its Special General Meeting in 2013. Tenders have been called for this work, and the contract has been let to Sherlock Homes (who provided the lowest tender, and who also have an excellent reputation in Invercargill). It is hoped that building will commence in April – building consents are currently being obtained.

To date we have received the following donations towards this project:

\$20,000 from the Southern Trust

\$23,400 from the Community Trust of Southland

\$20,000 from the ILT

Fundraising Update

The Bridge Club has combined with Hockey Southland and Autism NZ to undertake a fundraising event at Ascot Park Hotel on 27 March 2015. Tickets will be \$45.00 and supper is provided during the evening.

It involves a "cutter Debate" – the first of its kind in Southland – will be short, sharp and entertaining, involving teams of speakers debating "Men are better than Women". There will be auctions and raffle prizes, plus a shop selling donated items throughout the evening.

The Bridge Club is required to provide 20 auction items and to sell 20 tables of 10 tickets. Please start putting the feelers out to your friends and colleagues now. Items gathered so far include a rugby jersey from Richie McCaw, a signed cricket bat from Brendon McCullum, a fishing expedition to Foveaux Strait, a fishing trip to the Bay of Islands, surf and turf packages, etc.

Do you know anyone about to buy a car, or a washing machine, a range, a heat pump, or other such large item. Let us know and we can approach the supplier and get a deal organised – this doesn't impact on your purchase, but is another way to get additional funds/items donated to this event and in return the supplier becomes a sponsor and gets advertising rights.

We need your help to bring more such valuable auction items/raffle prizes, as well as selling tables of tickets.

More information will be provided – but we need to make this a success, as the aim is to raise \$10,000 for the Bridge Club from this event. The subcommittee working on this is lead by Judith Lawton, and includes Robyn Reidie, Lindsay Glover, Murray Oliver, Kath Glover, Karen Palmer-Hall, Sue Scott and Jan Brown. Please contact any of these members re your donations/assistance you can provide.

Handicaps

There is still some ongoing adjustments being made to the handicaps that are provided for members for various handicap tournaments/teams/competition events. We ran a trial over the Holiday Bridge period and were not completely convinced we had it right. Further adjustments are being made, and these will be further trialed over the Learners Anniversary pairs series on Thursday night, and reviewed at that time.

We know we will never please everyone. The intention is to try to be as fair as possible to all. The latest version of the Handicap system is available on the Noticeboard. If this is further amended, that will also be notified via the Noticeboard. It is always a good idea to keep a watch on the Noticeboard.

Start Times

This is just a gentle reminder for all that you need to be seated **10 minutes** prior to the commencement of your playing session, to assist the Directors in being able to confirm the movement with the Scorer, and to allow play to commence on time. You may not have noticed, but this requirement is listed in the Programme Book.

Protocol Booklets

More copies of this valuable resource are available on the Director's table in the playing room. Please feel free to help yourself.

Vacancy for a Cleaner

You will recall that Pam Innes retired from her long-serving role as Cleaner of our rooms last year. We have had an interim cleaner assisting in the meantime, but are looking to employ someone on a permanent basis who can undertake this role. This is a paid role, involving on average four hours per week, hours worked to suit the individual largely. Please contact Karen Palmer-Hall, Sue Scott or Jan Brown if you know of someone who may be interested, or want to take the role on yourself.

A big Thank You, and please support our Sponsors

Without their help we could not provide the tournaments, facilities and events that are made available to you all –

ILT

SBS Bank

Bay Audiology

Toyworld Invercargill

Foveaux Communications Ltd

Rowena Jackson Retirement Village

Martin & Lobb Optometrists

Green Acres, Invercargill

Email Addresses

To assist in keeping you all up-to-date with what is happening within the club, we would like to co-ordinate an email database of all members. This will be used purely to email out newsletters, advance notice of tournaments, fundraising events and general happenings within the club. Please complete and return the portion at the bottom of this newsletter with your details.

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Email Address

Member's Name: _____

Email Address: _____