

Invercargill Contract Bridge Club Newsletter #1 - 2016

Welcome back!

We hope you have had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas/New Year break, and are ready to get back into Bridge for another year.

This newsletter is just to update you on a few things that have happened in the interim, and to alert you to some upcoming events that we would welcome your involvement in.

2015 AGM

There were a few changes made to the Committee at the last AGM, with some retirements/resignations. This has resulted in a vacancy still existing on the Committee, as well as an imbalance of representation, with only one representative from Silver Reserve. It would be great to have someone from the Silver Reserve division put their hand-up to come on to the Committee. It is not a large commitment, but it is extremely important that we have a wide representation on this group, to ensure we hear everyone's views. Please, if you are at all interested, let Jan Brown, Sue Scott or Christine Dallas know, and we will follow-up.

Congratulations!

We have been advised of the following ranking changes that have occurred. Congratulations to everyone concerned:

From Junior to Intermediate Grade – Marie Chilton, Pat Dennis, Barbara Fahey and Faye Woodward.

From Intermediate to Open – Noeline Eason, John Lonie and Sue Scott

And unofficially, but we understand that Geoff Eyles, with his recent success at a tournament in Dunedin (with partner Harry Shepherd) has earned the status of Grand Master. We look forward to presenting his certificate later in the year. Well done Geoff!

Fundraising

Yes I know it's a dirty word, but the Committee is mindful that there is still much to be done with our building and updating of equipment, and that cannot be funded out of the standard subs. At the AGM it was confirmed the next project would focus on the front foyer entrance – with the provision of automatic sliding doors to assist with ease of access into the building. To advance this project, we will be holding a quiz night later in the year, which all members will be asked to contribute/support. More details as they come to hand.

An extra special **Thank You** to Richard Beauchamp for the donation of the lovely toy pedal car that is at the front of our playing room. This pedal car will be raffled off as a special raffle, at \$2.00 per ticket. There is a separate raffle book in place now – please support this raffle – it is a wonderful prize. The raffle will be drawn at the Quiffs tournament, being held in April.

Bridge Events

- ***No Fears Bridge:*** Commences this Thursday, 21 January 2016. Basic Bridge rules apply – i.e. Stayman (no transfers), no multis, standard Ace Asking. Get a partner and come along on Thursday night – you can play with anyone within your own division, or mix with someone from another division. If you want to play, put your name down on the entry form in the foyer, or contact John Clarke or Pat Dennis, who will assist you.
- ***Teams Entries (including Mixed Teams):*** The various teams competitions will commence immediately following the No Fears Bridge competition, on a Thursday. We encourage all to get their entries in as soon as possible – forms are in the foyer for this purpose.

In particular, it would be great to have a separate Junior Teams competition this year – which can only occur if there are sufficient entries from Junior ranked players, so get together and make-up a team for a once a month commitment. Playing in these teams competitions can really help you progress with your Bridge play. If you have any queries about these competitions, just ask any Committee member, or a senior player, who will be able to assist.

- **Charity Tournament (Arthritis Foundation):** This tournament is scheduled for Saturday, 20 February 2016. All proceeds go to the charity. As a result, we are seeking donations of prizes/raffles for this event, and boxes will be made available at the front of the playing room for you to leave them there. The entry fee is \$10 per person and a small plate is to be provided per partnership, for supper. Let's get behind this event, and make it a great success!
- **Learners' Classes for 2016:** These are scheduled to commence towards the end of February, so please help in spreading the word about this opportunity, so that we can help to grow this great game of ours (as well as our club). Our experience has shown that the best approach is word of mouth from our existing members – so please assist in “spreading the word”.

Other Bits and Bobs

- **Spring Clean:** The House Committee is co-ordinating a “spring clean” on Saturday, 23 January 2016, from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon. Many hands make light work. It will involve a general tidy-up of cupboards, window cleaning (insides only – Grant Milne recently did the outsides for us – thanks heaps Grant!!!), etc. Many hands make light work, so it would be great to see anyone who could assist on the day.
- **Archivist:** We are looking for someone who would be interested in helping us maintain a Record Book for the Club. It will involve inserting photographs, writing-up winners of events, special Awards achieved, etc. You are not required to research the information, as much has already been gathered, but you would be responsible for ensuring the Record Book that has been purchased is updated with the information we have, and information you are provided with by the Committee, as it occurs. If you are interested, please let Sue Scott know.
- **NZ Contract Bridge Association Website:** Don't forget this is an excellent resource that is available for you to access. You can find out your rating/master points/grade, access teaching/improver information, and generally keep up-to-date with what is going on across the country with Bridge. www.nzbridge.co.nz is the address.
- **Playing Cards:** Older playing cards that can no longer be used through our dealing machine, are available for purchase at \$1 per pack. Grab a pack or two for practising with, or giving to your children/grand children to play with. They are available under the clock in the main playing room.
- **Pencil/Pen:** As our old pencils break/wear out we are moving to the use of pens for bidding. This will occur over the next year, as we use up current stocks of pencils and leads. If anyone is wishing to sponsor the club by providing marked pens, please let a Committee member know.
- **Sponsors:** As always, our club could not operate without the support of its generous sponsors. They are listed in your programme books, but just as a reminder, they are: Invercargill Licensing Trust; Toyworld, Foveaux Communications, Martin & Lobb, Southland Real Estate Ltd, Quiffs Hair Salon and Rowena Jackson. Please support our sponsors, and when you do, let them know you are with the Invercargill Bridge Club, and you appreciate their support too!

Happy Bridging in 2016!