

Invercargill Contract Bridge Club

Newsletter #1 – January 2018

Welcome back!

Amazing 2018 and nearly the end of January already. I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas/New Year break, and caught up with family and friends. May you have an enjoyable year at bridge, and may you also have some success.

There are a few initiatives that your committee has implemented for the 2018 year that I would like to update for you.

Congratulations

Firstly to Betsy Gray, Karen Palmer-Hall and Jo Smith on their promotion to the Silver Division from Silver Reserve.

And also the following grading changes.

Sue Scott to Open

And to Intermediate: Jeff Elton, Sherry Elton, Elizabeth Fraser, Margaret McDonald, Judith Scully, Kevin Scoropada, Shelia Todd and Fay Woodward.

Welcome

To new members Carolyn Selbie and Trish Clearwater playing in the Silver Reserve division.

Bridge Events

- **Teams Entries (including Mixed Teams):** The various team competitions will commence on 15th February and I would encourage you to come along and play on a Thursday night especially if you are wanting to improve your bridge. We are really keen to have a junior team competition in 2018. You do not need to be a new or novice player to play in this division.
- **Mixed Pairs:** Also on Thursday evenings, and a great opportunity to play with some stronger players. Starts on 8th February. Karen Palmer-Hall can be contacted for partners.
- **Charity Tournament (Number 10):** This evening tournament is to be held on the 17th February and is a handicapped event. All proceeds will go to Number 10, Youth Health Centre. We are seeking donations for the raffle. Please leave these in the box available at the front of the playing room. The entry fee is \$10 per person and a plate per partnership for supper please. Let us get behind this event and make it a success.
- **Learners' Classes for 2018:** These are starting on 6th March. Please help spread the word and help to grow this great game of ours. This year I really want us all to focus on increasing our membership. We are planning to move the learners into the playing room in their own section until they are more comfortable with the etiquette required for Tuesday nights. Our experience is that word of mouth is the best approach to encouraging new members – so please assist in “spreading the word”.

- **Foveaux Communications Invercargill 8B Open pairs:** This is being held on 10th March 2017. Please, please support our tournament - we have an excellent sponsor in Foveaux Communications - so there will be good prizes across all the grades.
- **Otago Southland Swiss Pairs:** This was held on 20th January and I am pleased to say very well supported by the Invercargill Bridge club. It was great to see a lot of our more junior players playing and enjoying the day. Congratulations to Moss Wylie and Anne Somerville, winners after a scoring correction. Special thanks to the house committee for organising the lovely morning tea, and nibbles though the day; to Geoff Eyles for helping the director with the computer; and to the Match Committee for their good support of this event.
- **Working Bee:** This was held last Saturday morning, thanks to all those that came along and helped made short work of a great tidy up of the gardens.

Invercargill Bridge Club Website.

Special thanks to Deirdre Glover for undertaking to keep this up to date. We are going to have the programme book online, along with convener's names, interesting hands' and update information about what is coming up at our club.

Please note that your online results are now available under the results tab.

Another useful website is the NZCBA website which now a lot more user friendly and easier to get around than it used to be, so please have another look around it if you were frustrated with it a couple of years ago.

Pianola

Jan Brown and Geoff Eyles have been working on the implementation of this new bridge data base. This year the club is providing this at no cost to you, so please give it a try to help us assess its value to members. As long as we have your email address you will get an analysis sent to you after each event played at our bridge club, with a wealth of information about how you played each of the boards, along with the opportunity to replay them. (Well that is the plan)

Supper

The committee has decided for 2018 to have players on Monday and Tuesday evenings to enjoy a ten minute supper break. The reasons why we want this initiative to succeed include:

- A warmer more friendly ambience.
- A few minutes of chatting between four people who otherwise may not take the time.
- A regular platform to welcome new members and players to our club.
- A chance for players to relax, catch their breath and stretch their legs.
- A chance for slow play and players to catch up with the rest of the room.

Our Building

This is a great asset to our club, and allows us to keep costs to you as players down. Ongoing maintenance is always happening, and this year we are going to have to replace the plumbing in the ceiling as it is all metal piping which has corroded and has started leaking.

Slow Play

The committee has decided that slow play will be discouraged by the removal of the board from a table by the director, when play has not started when the movement is called. This will not affect your score. If you have any concerns, please give me a ring.

A Big Thank You

To everyone that has helped, and continues to help in many ways at our bridge club.

And a Big Thank You to our Sponsors for 2018

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Yours in bridge

Anne Somerville