

Happy New Year everyone. As we roll into 2021 here is an update on what is ahead for us.

It's the last night of holiday bridge tonight so come along if you need some practice for the weekend tournament or if you just need to refresh your skills after the holiday break. If you require a partner give me a call on 215 4070 or 027 2078720

Friday bridge starts tomorrow so if you need a partner give Eileen Hughes a call on 217 3401 or 021 1114595 All bridge recommences Monday 17th.

Programme books are at the club for collection. About half have been collected already so those remaining after bridge on Wednesday will be posted out. As postage is not a cheap option if you are able to pass on any remaining book to any acquaintances that would be most helpful.

We have two raffles on the go at the moment. Thanks to a kind donation by Tom Wallis we have a wooden toy cot and thanks to a kind donation by Toyworld we also have a doll which is sleeping in the cot. Thanks to the committee the doll has some blankets to keep it warm and other toys have also been donated to make this a special raffle. As we have the Southland/Otago Swiss pairs tournament this weekend we also have another raffle with sundry items including meat and chocolates. Each raffle is \$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5. These are to be drawn at the end of the tournament so make sure you get a ticket in one or both over the next few days.

It's time to start getting your teams together. There is a list in the foyer of novice players who are eligible for Mixed Teams. Last year this competition was derailed with the covid lockdown so let's try again. A great competition to play in where a maximum of 2 silver players 1 Silver Reserve and 1 Novice player make up the team. Entry forms are also up for Mixed Pairs, Championship, Silver Reserve & Junior Teams.

Congratulations to Sandy Buzzard who is now graded Open. Also congratulations to the following members who have moved from Junior to Intermediate grade: Andrea McWilliam, Fred Warnaar, Ian Ellis, Linda Stevens, Margaret Hogan, Marie Kelliher, Michael Checketts & Pauline Todd. Due to the change to Open criteria now being Provincial Master and above ie at least 50+ A Points the following players have returned to Intermediate: Alan McRae, Bob Atley, Carol Scott, Daphne Devery, Irene Warnock, John Lonie, Kate Ramsay, Lorraine Kellett, Noelene Eason, Pat Tippen, Rae Dorricott, Richard Hishon, Ruth Holden, Sue Scott & Vivienne Clifford Marsh.

Congratulations to Judith Lawton & Yvonne Hughes who are our new representatives on the Otago/Southland regional committee. A huge Thank You to Marilyn Jackson who has stepped down from her role on this committee after many years.

An Open Day is being held at the club with the Freemasons on Jan 31st from 1-3 pm We are wanting a few tables of bridge players to showcase the club so if you are free give Karen Palmer-Hall a call to register your interest Ph 027 8846241. Look out for the write up in the Mid Week Southland Express. This is a great opportunity to promote our next Learners Class which is due to commence February 16th. Fliers will soon be available to pass out to all acquaintances.

After the weekend activities we will be holding a charity tournament for the Blair Vining Charity Hospital on Saturday February 13th 7.30pm. It will be \$10 per player and a plate per partnership for supper. Donations from all members are requested for raffles and prizes. An entry form will soon be up in the foyer. This is followed by Regal Floors Open Pairs on Saturday March 6th. This is an all day event and open to everyone. More details to follow.

Just a reminder that Handicaps have been removed from players who have declined promotion from Silver Reserve to Silver. This has been replaced by those players and partners no longer being eligible to win a series or end of year trophies for 2 years after declining promotion. For 2021 this criteria applies to Marianne Frisby who declined promotion this year & Neil Rodger who declined promotion last year.

Due to the number of keys issued and not returned from contractors and members alike it has been decided, for security reasons, to change the locks to the bridge club. This will be happening next week and Judith Lawton will be looking after the key register to ensure only those that have a genuine need to have a key ie dealers, committee, directors will be issued with one. Please contact Judith if you have any concerns Ph 027 4382213

Sincere apologies to Robyn Boylon as I had listed an incorrect phone number for her in my Xmas newsletter. Her actual phone number is 021 1404392

Finally we bid farewell to Fleming Jenson who passed away last week. Fleming enjoyed his bridge in Silver Reserve and was quite a character. R.I.P.

All the best to those playing bridge in the weekend. I shall be watching the results with interest from Auckland where Fred & I are escaping for the weekend to visit friends, see some Americas Cup action and check out the Orangutans at the Zoo.

Kind regards

Sue Scott

President