

Happy New Year and welcome back to Bridge for 2023 and our first Newsletter.

Thursday Programme

The Thursday night programme kicks off this week with Lee Davies and Cheryl Foley organising New Year Pairs. Please let Cheryl know if you need a partner.

Mixed Pairs start on 16 February followed by Teams on 23 February, one of the top competitions at the Club. So get yourself a team and pair together and keep an eye out for more promotional news from Lee and Cheryl.

Junior teams are played on the Teams nights. There is a list of 48 Junior players (NZ Bridge ranking) in the foyer to make up teams for this competition. It would be great to get a larger number of entries this year from this group.

Club Promotion

We are working on more promotional material with the Otago Southland coordinator including having a tent at the Southland A&P Show at Donovan Park on Saturday, 4 March. If you are willing to help out with playing a few hands and talking with people please get in touch with Karen Palmer-Hall. The Wanaka Club held a very successful event at the Wanaka A&P Show attracting numerous new members.

We are also working on some better signage at Elles Road, Facebook advertising and What's On In Invers. We have beginners / learners lessons commencing again with Jill McMeeking in March so if you have any friends, family or past learners who want to give the game a go please encourage them.

Otago Southland 10A Swiss Pairs

A very successful tournament was run on Saturday, 14 January. Directed by Stewart Strang with helpers Jan Brown with dealing, Geoff Eyles with scoring and Janice Hodson and her team excelling again with food and running the kitchen. People travelled from as far afield as Whangarei, Wellington, Christchurch, Ashburton and Timaru. It was also great to see so many Silver Reserve players giving the popular Swiss format tournament a go.

Winners in the three evenly split grades were:

- Div 1 - Moss Wylie and Anne-Marie Russell (Wellington)

- Div 2 - Viv Clifford-Marsh (Balclutha) and Graham Dale (Balclutha)
- Div 3 - Sue Whelan and Jean Adelizzi

Holiday Bridge Winners

The last night of Holiday Bridge was held on Thursday, 12 January with nine tables. The winner of this handicap event this year was our newest Grandmaster Tony Winters, runner up was Sue Scott, third Pauline Sutherland. Well done Tony, Sue and Pauline.

Winton 50th Anniversary

The Winton Bridge Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in December, in conjunction with their annual prize-giving, with a gathering of past and present members. A few stories were recounted by current President, Ron Evans and member Joan Scarlett put together a Booklet of the Club's history, including photos and past winners. A copy of the booklet is in the library for people to view.

Interestingly, the Winton Pairs trophy is called the Invercargill Pairs as the trophy was donated by the Invercargill Bridge Club when Winton was established.

Security

We had a rare incident at the Club following a holiday bridge evening where the Police were called due to a very disturbed young man outside the Club, He ended up breaking a window on the East (Mason's) side of the Club. A reminder for us all to be careful on leaving the building and in dealing with such individuals. Well done Jan, Marilyn, Yvonne and Karen for handling the situation and having the common sense to leave together.

The Perks or Perils of Online Bridge

On a humorous note, two of our bachelor members encountered a rapid increase in their heart rate when playing on-line with the Auckland Bridge Club mid-week pre-Christmas. They logged onto a table with a couple of ladies. One of the ladies had logged on earlier, popped in the shower and forgot her camera was on and reappeared in her birthday suit. Our two gents acted very calmly, pointed out the situation to the very embarrassed lady who quickly gathered up some clothes and made a rapid exit. Fortunately for all concerned they four did not get to "play" against each other during the evening.

Programme Books

These are at the front of the playing room. Please collect yours if you haven't already. The remaining ones will be posted out. There is an error on page 3. The Rowena Jackson Swiss Pairs is on 11 November (not 28 October).

Prize Winners for 2022

In case you missed our great prize-giving Xmas afternoon the prize winners for 2022 are attached to this email. Some prizes are still to be collected from under the playing clock.

And here's a fantastic Stuff article on Leon Meier, a NZ youth player from Christchurch, who played at our Club a couple of times last year. Something to send to your friends and potential new members.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/130946640/bridging-the-gap-the-young-bridge-players-taking-on-the-older-hands>

Happy bridging.

Greg Buzzard

President

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