

PRESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

Hello and welcome back and a Happy New Year everyone.
I hope you all have an enjoyable year of bridge ahead of you in 2026.

As we start the New Year, this newsletter's a big one so make yourself comfy.....

OPENING DATES FOR 2026

- Silver Division Monday 19 January 2026 7.15pm
- Silver Reserve Division Tuesday 20 January 2026 7.15pm
- Wednesday afternoon Wednesday 21 January 2026 1.15pm
- Thursday Evening Thursday 22 January 2026 7.15pm
 - **New Years Pairs**, you are encouraged to play with somebody of another division
 - Two Silver Reserve people may play together, but if two Silver players play together, they are not eligible to win the series.
- Friday Lunchtime Started Friday 9 January 2026 11.00am

- **MIXED PAIRS** Thursday 12 February 2026 7.15pm
- **TEAMS** Thursday 19 February 2026 7.15pm
- **MIXED TEAMS** Thursday 26 February 2026 7.15pm

Its time to be thinking about getting your entries in for these competitions for the 2026 year.
If you have any questions, please contact Judith Lawton 027 438 2213.

INTERCLUB TEAMS 2026

Expressions of interest can be submitted to Tony - 021 252 0415.

At present there are 2 likely teams from Invercargill. Any chance of more???

In addition, any chance of an Intermediate Team???

Play will be once a month on a Wednesday evening at Gore, Winton and Invercargill alternately.

Details will follow once entries are finalised.

PAIRS COMPETITION 2026

Don't forget the changes to the Pairs competition in Silver and Silver Reserve Division for 2026.

This year we are splitting the Pairs into two categories, Pairs Championship and Plate Division.

A qualifying series of 7 nights will be held on the following dates:

PAIRS 2026 SILVER DIVISION – qualifying nights

- Coldstream Pairs, Monday 19 and 26 January and 2 February
- Pairs, Monday 9 February

NATIONAL BRIDGE RANKINGS

The club wishes to recognise the national level achievements of its club players for the 2025 calendar year.

NZ RANKINGS

- **Platinum, Emerald and Gold Grandmaster**
 - Moss Wylie 10th position
- **Silver Grandmaster**
 - Anne Sommerville 12th position
 - Greg Buzzard 13th position
- **Grandmaster**
 - Harry Shepherd 11th position
 - Lindsay Glover 15th position

BADEN WILSON – most A points earned in New Zealand (male)

- Moss Wylie placed 19th this year, achieving 202.6 A points for the year

BADEN WILSON – most A points earned in New Zealand (female)

- Anne Sommerville placed 14th this year, achieving 141.82 A points for the year

Congratulations to you all!

With such great talent in the club there is definitely hope for the rest of us..... 😊

FRIDAY BRIDGE

PRIZES

Last year there had been discussion about offering a monthly prize for Friday Bridge, but nothing had been confirmed.

The committee has now addressed this and I can confirm that a monthly prize will be provided (in similar vein to the series prizes offered on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays) however the intention is NOT to change the nature of Friday Bridge – that there is no series as such, and therefore no series winners.

For the 2026 year, a monthly prize (of 3 playing vouchers per person) will be provided to the top handicap score achieved by a pair in a calendar month (including April and the Betty Davis Trophy month).

2025 PRIZEGIVING UPDATE

Following the end of prizegiving last year, it was discovered that the wrong criteria had been used to establish the winners of both the Whitcomb and Tombs Trophy and the Doris Hannan Trophy. The criteria that had been used was that outlines I the programme book for 2025.

However, we subsequently became aware that a revised criteria had been circulated to all

members via the Presidents Newsletter, in April that year. This significantly altered the final results, such that both trophies were incorrectly awarded.

The recipients on the day (Whitcomb and Tombs – Megan Dowd; and the Doris Hannan – Lou Smith) have both been advised of the situation, in person. Again, to both of you, on behalf of the committee, my apologies for this situation having arisen, and your understanding has been much appreciated.

As a result, we will be correctly awarding the trophies to the successful winners – Bruce Batchelor for the Whitcomb and Tombs Trophy; and to Margaret Hogan for the Doris Hannan Trophy. These will be formally presented to those winners on their respective nights, at the first opportunity (along with the relevant prizes). Congratulations to you both.

As a committee, we have discussed how this error occurred. To endeavour to ensure this does not happen again in the future, we are taking steps to ensure that all are fully aware of the relevant criteria for all trophies and are clearly displayed in the playing room going forward. We will be providing laminated sheets with that information underneath the trophy shelf in the playing room, beneath the relevant trophies.

Again – our apologies to all concerned over this situation arising.

Good bridging everyone!

Tony Winters