

Invercargill Bridge Club – October 2024 Newsletter

Hi All

Welcome to the middle of spring!! The last few months have been amongst the best bridge playing weather in my 25 years in Southland but not conducive to farming, golf or other outdoor activities. Here's hoping for a turn for the better leading up to Xmas.

National Congress in Tauranga

A bunch of Invercargill Bridge Club players recently escaped the incessant rain and headed up to Tauranga for the National Bridge Congress and again met with success. Congrats to **Tash Lundin and Karen Palmer-Hall** for an oh so close second in their opening event, the Intermediate Pairs where they finished second and missed first by a whisker – 0.06% over the two sessions. Karen graduated to an Open player with the A points collected in the event. Well done to you both. Their pairs result was backed up in the final intermediate teams event with Wanaka team mates with another second placing which included beating the leading team, comprising Queenstown players, in the final round.

The Congress was well attended by our Club with 10 players present, despite Air New Zealand's best endeavours to not get some of us there. Kevin Skoropada and Moss Wylie made the NZ Pairs final and Kay Shand, Marilyn Jackson, Harry Shepherd and I made the plate final. Sandy Buzzard made the restricted pairs final with ex Club member Paul Tomlinson.

New Club Grand Master

Congratulations to Kevin Skoropada who became a Grandmaster during the congress week. We look forward to a rapid advancement to a Silver GM Kevin given the speed you have got to GM. Thankyou also for attending the NZ Bridge AGM and providing the Club an update on NZ Bridge activity.

NZ Representative Fundraiser Tournament

Thank you to everyone who contributed either through donations, raffle purchases and prizes or playing, it was a great result with over \$1,800 raised to assist Anne with some of her costs. We will email out links to the results page when play commences and you can track how Anne and her team is going. Good luck and play well Anne.

Annual Meeting Date and Committee Nominations

The Annual Meeting for the Club is on Wednesday, 13 November from 7pm.

Nomination forms are now distributed around the Club with nominations for Committee etc. required to be in by Wednesday, 6 November. We are especially looking for more Silver Reserve players to represent the Tuesday night players and provide more ideas, contributions and future leadership for the Club.

Goulash Pairs is Back on 17 October

The Committee decided to contribute financially to our four club members attending the Interprovincial Championships in Wellington in November. Thursday, 17 October will now revert to a Goulash night as originally noted in the programme book. Be prepared for some crazy distributions, bidding and results.

A reminder Thursday, 14 November is now a replacement night for teams following the fouled board night a few months back.

Series Winners and Tournament Results

Wednesday - Wallacetown Pairs, Carol Scott and Faye Woodward 56.55 from Eileen Hughes and Lyn Gutsell 55.64 and Marilyn Jackson and Sandy Buzzard 54.74

Tuesday – Clair Graham and Margaret Hogan 60.37, Mary McIntosh and Juilene Sheat 56.88 and Julie McDonald and Debbie Lambeth 56.18

Monday – Oreti Pairs, Harry Shepherd and Ian Chamberlain 63.13, from Bruce Batchelor and Bob Atley 59.76 and Marilyn Jackson and Sandy Buzzard 54.26

Well done to Harry Shepherd and Kevin Skoropada for a tight win in the Winton 8B tournament, they pipped Kay Shand and Marilyn Jackson with Moss Wylie and Lindsay Glover third.

Ron and Dianne Evans took out the Gore 8B tournament with a come from behind win with a 65% afternoon score.

Kevin Skoropada with a Dunedin partner also took out the 5A pairs in Alexandra in September with Moss Wylie and me third.

Patricia Dunne / Sue Whelan, and Janet and Colin Thomas were the NS and EW winners in the Clubs inaugural E Hayes and Sons tournament. Margaret Hogan / Diane Hayward and Janice Hodson / Michael Checketts were second, with Jane Carroll / Jan Brown and Judith Lawton / Lynn Darnill third.

Tournaments in Our Region in October / November

Saturday 12 October – Balclutha 8B Open Pairs

Sunday 20 October, - Invercargill Foveaux Communications club tournament

Labour weekend, 26 – 27 October Otago Southland Congress in Dunedin

- 10A Open Teams and Pairs
- 5B Intermediate Teams and Pairs

Saturday, 2 November Invercargill Rowena Jackson 5A Swiss Pairs

Friday night, Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs – we are hosting the event this year

Swiss Pairs is a great event for all levels to play, as after a couple of rounds you will be playing against people with similar scores and abilities. Prizes for Open, Intermediate and Junior grades.

The NZ wide pairs event on the Friday night is being hosted by Invercargill this year (Winton was last year) and is great opportunity to build some bridge knowledge with books supplied after the event discussing the bidding and play methods on each hand.

SBS Bank our locally owned bank has very disappointingly advised Clubs in the region, including the Bridge Club, that they are no longer supporting our organisation(s) and are closing our operating and deposit accounts. We are in the process of transferring to Kiwibank, so please pay your tournament entry fees in cash on the day. It maybe time to think about supporting those who support us too.

We will notify members of the Clubs new Kiwibank account number when this is opened for payments in the future.

Entries for both these events are via the NZ Bridge web site, on the notice board or by emailing the club.

Whitcombe and Tombs Monday Night Series

A reminder you can play with any number of partners (ranging from one to four – it's your choice) during this four-night event.

Promotions

It is fast approaching the end of another bridge year, so if you are considering applying to play in Silver on Monday night please write to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee has decided to follow NZ Bridge's lead and we will no longer be using STOP cards. NZ Bridge has advised players should wait 8-10 seconds before bidding after a jump bid (that assumes you notice). NZ was apparently in the vast minority of countries still using STOP cards.

Greg Buzzard
President