**From the President:** I think you will all have to agree that 2015 has been a good year for the club, when you look at our achievements. We have increased the membership, going against the trend being experienced by most Bridge Clubs in New Zealand. We have five more Directors who have passed the “Club Director” qualification. We have got most of the roles/tasks performed within the club documented and on our web site. Some of our members have enjoyed success in the Wellington region tournaments. Congratulations have been given to them but congratulations again. We lifted the Jackways Shield off Kapi-Mana and enjoyed some success in the other Interclub events.

I would like to thank all those who made themselves available to serve on this year’s committee, and also thank all those who have made themselves available to perform the various roles/tasks outside committee that keep the club ticking along. We can always do with help and it would be appreciated that, if you can contribute, you please volunteer your services.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all and your families an enjoyable and safe festive season and look forward to seeing you at Bridge next year. Merry Christmas. Ian

**From the Directors – Claiming:**  Be very careful when you claim a contract. No matter how obvious it may seem to you, the safe and proper way to claim is to explain exactly how you intend to play the cards - one by one.  Saying "they are all good” is not sufficient. If you claim without explaining how you intend to play the cards, and there is a trump still with the opposition, the opposition is within their rights to call the director. The director will require the claimer to repeat the statement made at the time of the claim, and hears any objections to the claim. The director is then obliged to award a trick to the opposition if the claimer made no statement about that trump, and, it is at all likely that the claimer was unaware a trump was still out, and a trick could be lost to that trump by any normal play.  (Law 70C).

**Painting the Building:** As the weather integrity of the building could be compromised by the cracks that are starting to show we are going to paint the exterior of the building in January/February. This will be done with volunteer labour from the club. Therefore in the New Year we will be asking for willing helpers. By doing this we will save ourselves $10,000:00 plus and have some fun while doing it. The council have asked that we paint the building the same colours as the community centre, which are Dulux Hakataramea for the walls and Grey Friars for the trim.

**Novice Nights:** At the conclusion of the 2016 lessons evenings of bridge will commence on Mondays. All novice/juniors will be encouraged to come, other members will be most welcome to attend. The evening will commence with a discussion, a question and answer session followed by bridge. People won’t need to arrange partners for these nights because the Director will be non-playing meaning that if an odd number turns up they can slip in and make up a pair. No “C” points will be awarded but table money will be collected to cover costs.

**2016 Programme Book:** The Horowhenua-Kapiti and Waikanae Interclub dates are not correct in the book. We will advise you of the correct dates once we have sorted them out with the other clubs involved.

***Reminder:*** *Subscriptions for 2016 are now due.  Your invoice and payment options are on the second page of your programme book.*