

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2018 A special year

This year is the Club's 50th anniversary and I want to thank everyone who is helping to make it such a special event. No matter how great or small, your contribution is greatly appreciated. Arrangements for the anniversary lunch, which will be held at the Club on Saturday 14 July are proceeding well, and this will be followed on Sunday 15 July by our anniversary tournament. This promises to be a great weekend. Make sure it's in your diary.

The director

We owe special thanks to our directors, and I would just like to make three points about directing.

Firstly, we should all bear in mind that the Directors have spent many hours gaining the extensive knowledge they need to have of the laws of bridge. They give their time for free. They forgo some of their chance of success and much of the satisfaction they would otherwise get from playing, in order to help us to sort out the issues that arise at our tables. In view of that, when we call the Director we could at least say "**please**". I know I have been guilty of not observing this courtesy, but can I suggest you now join with me in saying "Director, **please**", when you need to do so.

Secondly, Law 9B1 (a) states: "The Director should be summoned at once after attention has been drawn to an irregularity."

However, it often happens that a player at the table offers their own suggestion as to how an irregularity might be rectified. This may not be correct, or perhaps offers only a partial explanation. This could result in an advantage or disadvantage to a pair compared with tables at which the board was played without such irregularity.

Even if you think you know what should happen, it is critical that the correct action or alternatives should come from someone independent from the four players involved. The Directors are trained to ensure fair and intended play and to maintain an even playing field.

So . . . the first thing to do after an irregularity of any kind, is to call the Director. And under no circumstances should any member try to dissuade a player from calling the Director.

Finally, there can only be one Director of a session. Even if you think you know the rules, or you are a Director yourself, the Session Director's authority needs to be respected.

Of course, if you really feel your partnership has been disadvantaged by a Director's decision, inform him or her, politely that you would like to appeal, and the he or she will arrange for an appeal to take place.

Do you have difficulty holding your cards?

I know that some of our members experience difficulty in organizing and then holding a full hand of thirteen cards. This can be due to physical disability or simply because of the size and shape of the member's hands. A few card holders are available at the club but your committee wants to make sure these are the best type to meet the need. For some members it is sufficient for the card holder just to enable the member to grip the thirteen cards while others, whose hands may tend to shake a little, need a card holder that rests firmly on the table.

If you experience any problem in this regard or are able to offer any advice about the best type of card holder, please call Brian Pender (President) on 04 905 5647 or 021 02666 961. The Committee would value your opinion.

Our newer members

Last year, as a result of very successful lessons run by Jane Bradbury, the Club gained many new members. They are now feeling their way through their first full year at the club and all of us need to think about making them really welcome. Perhaps one of the best ways to do this is to invite them to play with you.

If you can, please keep a session or two available in your programme for one of the newer members in our club and ask them if they'd like to pair with you once or twice. They will benefit from your experience.

Could you be the Club Archivist?

In reviewing the wonderful progress made by the Club, over the last half a century, I have been struck by the fact that while there is a lot of information about the Club and some good photos, these are often spread around a number of members and former members.

Is there someone who would take responsibility for collecting and storing such material at the Club?

We might call such a person the Archivist but we don't need special skills. We just need someone to collect, organize and store information and photos, so the valuable history is not lost. If you could take on this role, I'd love to hear from you.

(Brian Pender)

Our Very New Learners

Jane Bradbury has a particularly large group of learners this year (perhaps stemming from the radio ads in February?). **There are nearly 30 (!) in the classes**, which take place every Monday evening. Later in the year, as they start to move on to playing mini-sessions, you might like to offer to come along on a Monday evening and give Jane a hand (pun intended) with those bridge lessons.



Coming events

Upcoming tournaments in our local area include the Kapi Mana Multigrade Pairs (Sunday 6 May) and, importantly, our own **Paraparaumu Intermediate Pairs (Sunday 20 May)**, which is a tournament sponsored by The Hearing Company. The Otaki Multigrade Pairs will be held one week later (May 27).

Please remember our "in-house" tournament scheduled for Sunday July 15. This will help celebrate and acknowledge our Club's 50th Anniversary. It will also be a sponsored tournament (by Novella Café). Let's acknowledge the importance of this occasion in the club's history and get the rooms buzzing with a full house.

Recent club results

Notable winners in March = some of the usual suspects, of course, but those who were winners more than once in March's competitions were:

Bettine Grafton, winner of Monday's Easter Handicap Ladder and then pairing with Michael Cunniffe to win the Ruahine Pairs (Thursday)

Kevin MacManus, winner of the Rata Pairs (with Bill Grafton) and the Ngahina Pairs (with Robyn Michelson).

Robyn Michelson, winner of the Ngahina Pairs (with Kevin) and then the Takahe Pairs (with Pauline Reid)

And the **70% Honours table** now features 5 pairs, headed by :

Pauline Reid and Averil Wotton (74.9%) (!!!) followed by **Grant Franklin and Marg Lees** (74.6%) (!!) and then **Lyn Dash and Ray Cachemaille** (71.6%)

Reminders

Two ways of building our club funds (and keeping our subs down!)

Purchasing the Entertainment Club Books. This is organized by Jane McArthur and last year just over \$400.00 was raised. It would be great to increase that sum in 2018. The books are really impressive value at \$65, and include plenty of local (Kapiti) cafes and restaurants and vouchers for cinema tickets. You only have to use the available discounts a couple of times and you've already paid for the book. The entertainment card is particularly easy to use and is honoured by the establishments involved in a friendly, welcoming manner. See the table at the rear of our clubrooms for more details or contact Jane (especially if you have any questions) on 04 298 4105

Using the M and M Master Butchers cards. We get 5% discount on all purchases, if you follow the process. Take one of the cards from the table at the rear of our clubrooms and when you buy your meat at M and M Butchers (Kapiti Road) just show the card. They then stamp your receipt and you bring the receipt back to the red box on the table and drop it in. It's simple, but the receipts do mount up and it's a very effective way for us to build our funds. Remember, we get 5% every time we take the receipts in to be totalled up.

Help !

I'm trying to put a couple of pages together into a small booklet for the 50th anniversary in July. I've looked in the club archives and there are a few photographs from two particular occasions ie from when the club moved from the old rooms and into our present clubrooms (mid 1998) and from a ten year celebration of the clubrooms (2008).

These are indeed very useful but I'd appreciate any photographs possibly held by long, long-standing club members, especially of any prize givings or perhaps end-of-year functions or similar. Please contact me if you have anything at all re the early history of our club (Keith Lees @ 04 299 4747).

I do have the little booklet assembled by Jeanette Newport for the club's 30th anniversary in 1998 but that naturally stresses the background and history to the shift to the new clubrooms which occurred a couple of months earlier that year. Then, Jeanette noted that the building of our clubrooms had meant a great deal of time and dedication by our members throughout the 1980s and 1990s. She pointed to the 18 years of sustained fund raising. Present members do owe a debt of gratitude to those who created what we enjoy today.

Finally, thanks to all members for the time taken to restore the room to neat and tidy order for the following session. Boards and Bridgemates stacked away, tables tidied and chairs pushed under the table, yes, it all helps.