
Bridge Bulletin ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
Queenstown Bridge Club
January 2021

Happy New Year and welcome to another year of fun, friendships and fulfillment! In keeping with the times, our bulletin will now be sent by email attachment monthly.

Annual General Meeting A full house turned up to thank last year's committee, discuss general business, and choose our new committee for the 2021 club year. After a close vote (special thanks to every member who put his or her name forward), congratulations and thank you to our new committee:

Chris Wood, President (see his message below); Sue Wilson, Treasurer; Lynnette McLennan, Secretary; Viv Todd, Minute Secretary; Robbie Caldwell; Kristen Guthrie; Jos van Hees; Hamish McDonald; Ernie Sutton

Skyline Pairs In a very close finale, winners of the Skyline Pairs were Lynda Baker and Anna Elms with an average of 62.18%, followed by Vivian Todd and Jane Gunn-Lewis with 61.85%. Handicap winners were Jo Booker and Jeni Hughes with 57.46%.

Teams Start this week on Thursday February 11. This emphasis this year is on a competitive and convivial night of bridge. Supper will be available (bring your own cup) and the bar open after play. Form your team and let Ernie know you're in it to win it!

Friday bridge Friday bridge at the Event Centre is relaxed, welcoming and fun! We now play three-session series (play two Fridays with the same partner to qualify). If you are coming, let Karen Jamieson know (027 600 6329). Be seated by 12.50 pm so play can start at 1.00pm, for a 4.00 pm finish.

Common mistakes and misconceptions Did you know that you **MUST** count your cards, **face down**, before you look at them? If you don't, you could be penalized, and your opponents awarded an adjusted score if you have fewer or more than 13 cards.

When you are on lead, you must place your card face down on the table to allow either opponents or defenders (but not dummy) to review the auction and/or request an explanation of an opponent's call. Once down, this lead card can only be withdrawn at the instruction of the Director.

Looking Ahead to 2021 – from our President, Chris Wood

2020 was a tumultuous year for our club, and more than anything else my hope is for a COVID-free year where we can continue to meet friends and exercise our minds. As I said in my Report at the AGM, if further COVID-related lockdowns do raise their ugly heads, we will deal with them as they arise.

I would like to pay special tribute to Phil Hensman and Betty Turnbull. They have served the committee and our club incredibly well for many years and I look forward to drawing on their expertise in the coming year.

This year my first focus will be enhancing the pathway for new members to know about the

game of bridge, decide they want to learn it, have a vibrant, structured learning environment to develop their skills, then an easy pathway into joining club play.

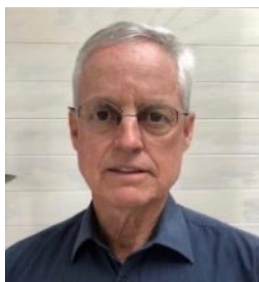
We are already heading down this track. Our own club teachers are developing a structured teaching “curriculum” and using technology in the teaching process. We have Friday bridge sessions as a welcoming introduction to club play. I will be asking the Committee to support this environment in any way that is needed, including any teaching equipment that may be needed.

This year, I approached Wakatipu High School suggesting we introduce a “Schools Bridge Academy” during term time next year where students or staff who wanted to learn bridge could do so, ideally during “clubs” time. My suggestion has been passed on to a senior teacher for consideration. I will be following this up as soon as the school year kicks off next week. I have already been approached by several current club members who would enjoy picking up the teaching reins in such an environment.

Secondly, I want to create an opportunity for we mid-level players to further enhance our playing skills. A few months ago, I attended a class at Millbrook held by a visiting Auckland bridge teacher, and what a class it was. We spent a day looking at numerous card combinations between declarer and dummy, then were challenged to describe how we would play them, given a certain lead. This was an outstanding session with more than a few surprises. I would like to introduce such sessions for our own members.

Finally, I welcome any ideas from members for things they would like to see in the club. I am open to suggestions. The Committee is there to serve the club so please get in touch with us at any time.

Happy bridging everyone. With the calibre of the new and existing Committee members we have, I am genuinely looking forward to serving you as President.



Chris

All contributions to Bulletin welcomed by email to mary_christensen@live.com