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| **News from the Timaru Bridge Club – March 2024** |

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Carole’s Communique`

I am hopeful that you are all off to an enjoyable and promising start to the new bridging year.

Your committee has recommitted to staying focussed on the recruitment of beginners and retention of our members. We see a friendly and inclusive culture as being most important in making learners and club members feel welcome. You may have picked up on these vibes.

Beginners’ Lessons

Just in case you haven’t seen the sign, these get underway on **April 10,** and will run for 12 weeks. The cost is $60, which includes membership for the rest of the year. Lessons are free to our members.

We acknowledge that you are our best referrers and this is a plea for you to shoulder tap your friends and family. Look for an article in the Courier and flyers will be available soon.

Contact Grant on 027 2332312 to register.

Thank you to Grant and Joe who have agreed to be our tutors.

Zero Tolerance

Your committee has agreed to follow NZ Bridge’s zero tolerance guide as we want to ensure that playing bridge at our club is enjoyable for all. Our Directors have the right to assess disciplinary penalties and we have approved a policy for management of unacceptable behaviour at the bridge table. **A Director should be called straight away if a player behaves in an unacceptable way.** This policy is applicable at all times and there will be a reminder at every session.

Please see the notice board for the zero tolerance guide and our Club policy.

Club By-Law Amendment

You may recall receiving a notice clarifying your playing rights at the end of last year. Your committee has now resolved that the Club By Law no 6 Playing Rights of Members be amended to reflect the understanding that players are entitled to play in higher divisions and win any C points and prizes. The previous By Law stated that players could not play in any other division, except with the approval of division chairpersons or following a general invitation.

The Club Constitution requires that this change be displayed for 21 days and during this time any 15 members may request the motion be put to a General Meeting of the Club.

Therefore please see the noticeboard for the By Law amendment notice.

South Canterbury Congress 20 and 21 April

This year's congress will be held on the 20/21 April, 2024.  Of course, we do need a minimum number of teams/pairs for the tournament to run.  This is a great opportunity for the club members to support the club in either a teams event on the Saturday, which has an Open and Intermediate section or a pairs event on the Sunday with Open, Intermediate and Junior sections.  We would like to encourage Juniors to enter the pairs on the Sunday as there are very few events divided into the three grades.  See the notice board for more details.

This is also a major fundraiser for the club. Please support us.

Anne-Marie Pavletich

Tournament Secretary

Congress Catering

We need help to cater for this two day event. We require baking for pre play morning tea. We need help with after play food and kitchen help.

I have put a sheet on the noticeboard where you can write your name. Or contact me directly.

Chris Darvell. 022 0646004

Many thanks in anticipation.

Too Much Information Card

As part of the club's ongoing drive to improve the bridge experience for new players we will soon be introducing a green or TMI card. We anticipate this will be used by bronze players, particularly when playing up a grade, or on Friday afternoons.

It is a small laminated card that novice players may place on the table to advise more advanced players (in the most polite way possible) that they would prefer not to receive advice on what they should have played or bid in a particular circumstance.

When used by a player, they are not allowed to be doubled for penalty except where 1NT X is left in.

Of course, the use of the TMI cards is voluntary and novice players can still ask for advice if and when they want it.

Grant Patterson

Jim Burford

As of writing, Jim is in surgery. It’s expected to take most of the day with a team of 5 surgeons taking massive skin grafts to hopefully cover both his legs and maybe his back too. This will be harvested from his 56% unharmed skin. Considering the setbacks he has experienced; this is an enormous stride. I know you all send him prayers and healing thoughts.

Fundraiser for Jim

A Flyer will be appearing soon with the details, but we ask you to mark **Saturday afternoon May 25** and keep if free.

A mixture of serious and fun bridge with some quirky twists. Lots of fun and entertaining events are being organised to empty your pockets but also to reward you.

If you are unable to attend the event your generosity to help in other ways with our tea menu, raffle donations are always appreciated.

Dorothy Bain 021445959 (Organiser)

Working Bee

Volunteers are needed to support our working bee on **Saturday morning 13 April** to get the club looking spick and span before Congress on 20 April.

Please put your name beside any of the tasks on the noticeboard you would be happy to assist with. Cleaning products and morning tea provided.

We need to catch up with the cleaning not routinely done by our cleaning contractor. This includes both the inside and outside of our windows, laundering of playing table cloths, cleaning of bar area, cleaning kitchen cupboards, rubbish bins, etc.

Claire Neilson

Subscriptions

A reminder that club subscriptions are now overdue and we would appreciate your payments as soon as possible please.

Suggestion Box

We would appreciate your suggestions.

Car Parking

A reminder to please pull up to the front and park within the white line when parking alongside our building.

Membership

We have received the following resignations…

Kate Dobbin

Sue Wills

Joan Fentiman

Frances Henderson

Ian van Delft

Despite our best efforts these phone numbers were inadvertently missed from our programme book…

Claire Neilson 021 247 9301

Jan Mitchell 688 5652

Toni Lee 686 0468

The Principles of Card Play by Paul Marston.

So far you may have concentrated on your bidding but now you would like to play the cards well. This book shows you how to play well on the straightforward 95% of hands. Just learn how to use a short list of principles and you will be well on the way. You can be a successful player without having a computer brain!

It is available on the Bridgenz.co.nz website for $32.00. I have ordered my copy!

Tournaments Outside Timaru.

March 16 Ashburton Anniversary Pairs.

March 24 Rangiora All Grades

 April 6 Mid Canterbury Pairs

April 7 Waimate All Grades

April 13 Otago Autumn Teams

April 14 Otago Autumn Int / Open Pairs