



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

March 2020 LockDown E-Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs

from President Diane -

Hope you are all keeping well and finding ways to fill your days now that we all have been instructed to stay at home.

I saw this recently and thought I'd share it with you. A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller, he can see by her name plate that her name is Patty Whack. "Miss Whack I'd like a loan of \$30,000 for a holiday". Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks him his name.

The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, my dad's name is Mick Jagger and he knows the Bank Manager well. Patty asks him what collateral he has to secure the loan. The frog produces a tiny porcelain pink elephant, small but perfectly formed. Very confused, Patty tells him she will have to consult with the bank manager, she then disappears into the back office. She tells the manager "there is a frog called Kermit Jagger who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000 and he wants to use this as collateral. She holds up the tiny pink elephant

"I mean what in the world is this"?

The bank manager looks at her and says "It's a knick knack Patty Whack give the frog a loan, his old man is a rolling stone"

(Hope you all sang it, I know you did!)

Stay safe and if you feel you need help in any way, please contact Jean Scott. **Diane**

... from NZBridge ...

You may be suffering a few withdrawal symptoms at not being able to get down to your club these days. So we will give you a bit of bridge on-line with a daily question about the bidding, defence or play of a hand....and then the following day we will feature the hand which they hope will be interesting, perhaps provoke some debate but at least gives you a daily diet of bridge

nzbridge.co.nz

And a new addition to the site is the **ABF Daily Bridge Column**, courtesy of Ron Klinger

Club Captain Teri has little to offer this month ... so here's a little Bridge humour from the internet ...

An article in AARP suggests Bridge offers intellectual and social stimulation, sharpens acuity, and strengthens the immune system. And you thought playing Bridge was just for fun!

Helen Sobel Smith (one of the greatest bridge players of the 20th century) often partnered with Charles Goren. When a woman asked Sobel, in the middle of a hand, 'How does it feel to play with an expert? The best female player in bridge pointed to Charles Goren and Sobel replied,

"Why don't you ask him?"

Alfred Sheinwold wrote "A real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in it. (Alfred Sheinwold was an American bridge player, administrator, international team captain, and prolific writer).

He also wrote:

"Count your winners and count your losers. If the total doesn't come to 13, count your cards."

BRIGHT IDEA from BREN

Some of us are not great at always finding our orange club programme.

Why not use the camera on your phone to take pictures of each page **now**, so you don't have a situation where you can't find your book and have no idea who your partner is!!

Thursday Players

2020 sees the start of a new aggregate competition for a newly donated trophy and cash prize for Thursdays. Thank you *Rosemary Collins* for creating this award which will be awarded annually to the player accumulating the most 'Thursday points'.

Points are awarded for placings and event participation over the year.

Updates of positioning will be updated weekly on a notice board list.

CLUB RESULTS

Mondays Mar '20 **Furniture Gallery Pairs**

Thursdays Feb '20 **Event CinemaS Handicap Pairs**

Fridays Feb '20 **New World Pairs**

1st Cecily Munro & David Munro
2nd John Laugesen & Diane Rodger
3rd Hanny Hepburn & Liz Simpson
1st Gloria Mouatt & Margaret Carmichael
2nd Ann Cooney & Diane King
3rd Margo Kirk & Yvonne Madden
1st Dianne Brown & Julie Downs
2nd Carol Grant & Flo Nield
3rd Mike Nicholson & Helen Heuvel

Bob Fearn

Who is Bob Fearn? Bob is a very important part of our bridge game. He is the author of **Compass**, our scoring programme. For 40 years - since he played bridge in The '80's Golden Age of Tokoroa - Bob has been developing Compass. His many updates have all been for free. To the best knowledge, Bob has never charged any clubs anything more than the initial \$400 setup fee - even when he has spent many hours helping clubs and scorers remotely. In 1998 the Fearn's moved to Seattle but Bob kept Compass evolving - at an even greater rate since he retired. It has been Bob's life work - a labour of love. It is now the very Rolls-Royce of bridge-focused applications. Examples within the scoring area are the many options available for a range of events, Scoring Assist Mode, Dealer Assist, NZB reconciliations, Remote Support, interfacing with four different scoring devices and much, much more. Outside of that Bob has done tremendous work on X-Clubs. Based on X-Clubs he has produced the prototype National Grading System which we know as XG's and which NZB is considering as a basis for the long-awaited national grading and handicapping system. He is currently nearing completion of a full interface with Hello Club - a system he considers a no-brainer for clubs to adopt.

WELCOME to NEW MEMBER

Belinda Ford.

BOOK REVIEW

Talking done at break time, looking at the books in our library cabinet, I was searching for "How to Improve Your Leads" (usually < 50% as 'Defender on Lead' on Pianola)! I picked up **#151**. A novel. A novel amongst our instructional bridge manuals? Killer leads forgotten, I signed up for a read.

The Cardturner by **Louis Sachar** is an entertaining novel relating teenage Alton Richards experiences when required to become 'cardturner' to his blind bridge player uncle.

There's a bit of good bridge advice along with the teenage humour in this book. For example, Alton is told there are no bridge rules "they're guidelines. It's not about memorising rules. You have to think. *What is my partner trying to tell me? What information does my partner need from me?*" On the bidding ... "It was a conversation. I imagine it's like learning a foreign language. After a while you stop translating every word in your head and start thinking in that language".

And finally after triumph in bridge and love, Alton states "Life will deal me many different hands, some good, some bad (maybe they've already been dealt), but from here on in, I'll be turning my own cards"

I did keep thinking this would be a great book for one of Bren's hesitant learners, explaining succinctly the competitive nature of bridge, the rational behind bidding and play, all within the thread of the compelling story line.

But I think you need to be more than a rookie player to appreciate the nuances of this book.

However, for my personal bridge, sadly there were no nuances for "Improving Your Leads", so I'm checking - any more novels in the bridge library cabinet? **ED**.

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For plenty of options, times, tickets and titles when we're allowed out!