

WBC News – April 2009 Busy months ahead!

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY :

Fundraiser Multigrade Tournament! Players from all Wellington clubs welcome - Friday 8 May at 7.30 pm

Please, please we need your support – Congratulations to **Liam Milne and Michael Whibley**, our WBC members, who have been selected to play in the Youth Team representing New Zealand at the PABF championships in Macau on 18 June 2009. We would like to raise **\$2000.00** towards their expenses. Please check our website for tournament details and buy plenty of raffle tickets! If you can't make the tournament, all donations appreciated. Please send to the Club marked "Youth fundraiser".

Raffles are a good money spinner and share the load: please bring a grocery item on club nights so we can make up some hampers. Unwanted Christmas presents also make ideal raffle prizes!

Good News... our club will be hosting the **Centre Island Teams** on the weekend of 15-16 August. Last time we held this in 2007, the players reckoned we were the best restaurant in Wellington, thanks to superb catering by our members!

We need more billets please – thank you to those who have offered. Our club is hosting a **National Youth Training Weekend** organised by Richard Solomon 21-23 August 2009. We will need to billet approximately 15 players. If you can give one or two of them bed and breakfast Friday 21 and Saturday 22 August (or even one of those nights) and possibly deliver them to the club in the mornings, please tell Dot or Jenny Delany.

National Teams Club Championships, Sunday 14 June (Wellington Region playoff). Check Notice board for details.

Open/Junior Tournament held recently

Thank you for your support to boost numbers to 8 tables Junior and 17 tables for the Open. A busy day for director Allan Joseph who ensured the day ran smoothly. It is always uplifting for the organisers when players say how much they enjoyed the tournament. Sincere thanks go to members of the committee and those who helped with the excellent catering.

Congratulations to the prizewinners:

Junior:

- 1st **Paul Maxwell/Gail Tippett**
- 2nd **John H Elliott/ Shirley Robertson**
- 3rd **Glenn Bush/Michael Cox**
- 4th **Martyn Rew/Heath Tolley**

Open

- 1st **Bruce Hoffeins/Phyllis Hoffeins**
- 2nd **Alan Grant/Anthony Ker**
- 3rd **Patrick D'Arcy/Dean Sole**
- 4th **Alister Stuck/Noel Woodhall**

Results from recent tournaments

Main Centre Pairs

- 1st **John Davidson/Ashley Bach**
- 2nd **Tony Thomson/John Cormack**

Nationals at Easter

Congratulations to **Michael Whibley**, a member of the winning Open Team. Michael will play in Macau and Brazil this year.

Congratulations to **Alan Grant** and **Anthony Ker** who have been selected to play in the NZ Open Team at the PABF Championships in Macau; and to **Michael Gibson** representing the Seniors team.

Stephen Blackstock is the NPC for Youth.
Tony Thomson is the NPC for the Seniors.

Bridgepad Etiquette: Allan Joseph has recommended that South be responsible for scoring and East confirms by pressing Next. A check must also be made that the number of the board being played is correct.

We welcome...

Magnus Jonsson and Karitas Sigurdardottir, new members from Iceland who are here for a few months and play regularly on Tuesday nights.

Tuesday night Improvers' Classes

Kerry Geertson has at least 30 keen players for his improvers classes commencing next Monday evening. The committee has long realised the need for ongoing support for Tuesday players and it's great to see such a good response.

Appointment of "Club Recorder and Advisor"

Occasionally, things happen at the table about which we are uncomfortable, but which we don't feel call for a director's intervention. If this happens to you, then the person to speak to is the Club Recorder and Advisor. That person is available to discuss behavioural or ethical issues and if they become aware that a player or players are consistently causing problems then they can speak with them.

The Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of **Pat Darcy** as Club Recorder and Advisor."

Alan Turner and Graham

Wakefield were the successful nominees in the recent elections for two positions on the Board of NZ Bridge.

News from Ed Porter – Wellington College

The Wellington College Bridge group was inaugurated by **Alan Grant** six years ago, and its notable 'graduates' include **Liam Milne and Pieter Vanderpoel**. The group meets once a week, on Tuesday lunchtimes, and sessions through the first term have been run by **Ed Porter**.

There are generally enough participants to establish three or four tables, some of which will play Minibridge and some who play 'real bridge'. With only 45 minutes of play available, Ed says it is important to keep the accent on card play rather than teaching too much about bidding. In general the students play a couple of hands, then Ed gives a five minute talk on a basic aspect of card play – such as "second hand generally plays low and third hand should generally play high" – and that normally leaves time for a couple more hands.

Ed says the standard varies greatly, with some students showing a clear and immediate aptitude for the game, with others playing primarily for social reasons. Intriguingly he has noticed a nearly pathological desire to duck every trick – something which is almost counter-intuitive to the 'normal' way with newer players, which seems to be to proudly get big honour cards on the table at the first available opportunity. Indeed, Ed has even witnessed, more than once, a declarer carefully ducking the only remaining card in a suit!

Ed and Alan would welcome assistance from anyone who is available to 'fill in' when neither of them are available – something which is liable to be the case in the upcoming second term. A modest reimbursement to cover travel expenses is available, and you would need to be at Wellington College from 12.30 to 1.30 on Tuesdays. If you are able to help at all, please see Alan, or contact Ed on 801-6774 or ed@portercapital.co.nz. Thank you.

Playing Numbers – no recession here!

The Club has 402 members as at 31 March 2009. It is exciting to note our total number of players in March was the 2nd highest since 2006.

2005	2770
2006	2862
2007	2738
2008	2616
2009	2792

“I think men as a class play better than women”

Helen Sobel

Helen Sobel (1910-1969) was an American bridge player, arguably the best female player of all time, winner of 33 national events. Partnered with **Sally Young**, Helen won the Women’s Pairs Championship in 1938 and 1939. They were so far ahead of their field that **Oswald Jacoby** commented they could have come over into the men’s section and walked off with that too. Helen’s name began to appear on other major trophies usually from now on with **Charles Goren** her favourite and longstanding partner. In 1941 and 1942 she was ranked, on the basis of master points and tournaments won, as the No. 1 bridge player in America.

Contemporary men players paid her what was then, to them, the supreme compliment by saying she played a “man’s game”. She admitted she thought like a man at the bridge table, chiefly because years of competition against male opponents had made her familiar with their point of view. Helen felt the essential differences between what might be called a woman’s game and a man’s was that men showed more aggressiveness, assertiveness and drive. But in certain other and equally important respects she considered women to be naturally superior. They were, she believed, more perceptive, subtler, more flexible and more responsive to partner’s intentions.

She went on regarding men players: “Men are my favourite partners. They are also my favourite opponents. I think men as a class play better than women. If this be treason make the most of it. Men have greater physical stamina for one thing. Men appear to have greater powers of concentration. I say “appear to have” because I don’t really believe they can concentrate any better; it’s just that they do. Few women are willing to stop thinking of family, clothes, beauty, appearance, men and other interests in order to bend every effort toward excelling at a game. A man is quite willing to partner a fellow he doesn’t even like; he’ll return your lead even if you just burned his house down – provided he is satisfied that this is the best percentage play he can make. But he will

not return his best friend’s lead or his boss’s lead or his sweetheart’s lead if he thinks he has figured out a better plan. And he expects his partner to do likewise, even when his partner is a woman.”

“But a woman – let’s face it – may refuse to return partner’s lead if she happens to be annoyed with her partner. Or she may return his lead out of love and loyalty even when she knows darn well there’s a better play available. Men don’t expect this and don’t understand it. So if you are going to play with a man, you will do well to try to adopt his single-minded pursuit of the best percentage chance and accommodate yourself to his way of thinking.”

And the often quoted phrase: **Helen Sobel** was once asked how it felt playing with a great expert (**Charles Goren**). “Ask him,” she replied.

Extracts from “Tales from the Bridge Table” by John Clay

Overheard:

Thursday night:

“We better toss. Have you got something to toss Gunter?”

Says Gunter looking at his wife “Yes, you !”



Results from Club nights:

THELMA WYLDE PAIRS

1. Jocelyn Grainger & Bernie Marwick
2. Paul Maxwell & Helen Stott

SCHNEIDEMAN SALVER TEAMS

1. A Ker, A Grant, K Hayes & C Cahn
2. M Wu, J Woodfield, T Lenart & R Freeman-Greene

J ROBSON CUP PAIRS

1. Jenny Delany & Bridget Hannaway
2. Martyn Rew & Heath Tolley

HOBSON PAIRS

1. Alex Drummond & Michael Stride
2. Hilary Harper & Brian Meads