From the President

This month, Nan shares a snapshot of the key findings from our recent member survey. A more detailed report will be shared with members and the incoming Committee early next year, followed by a fuller discussion once the Committee has had time to review the feedback.

A total of 151 members completed the survey, representing 45% of the Club's membership. The survey opened on 13 August and closed on 31 August. To calculate overall satisfaction levels, the strongly agree and agree responses were combined.

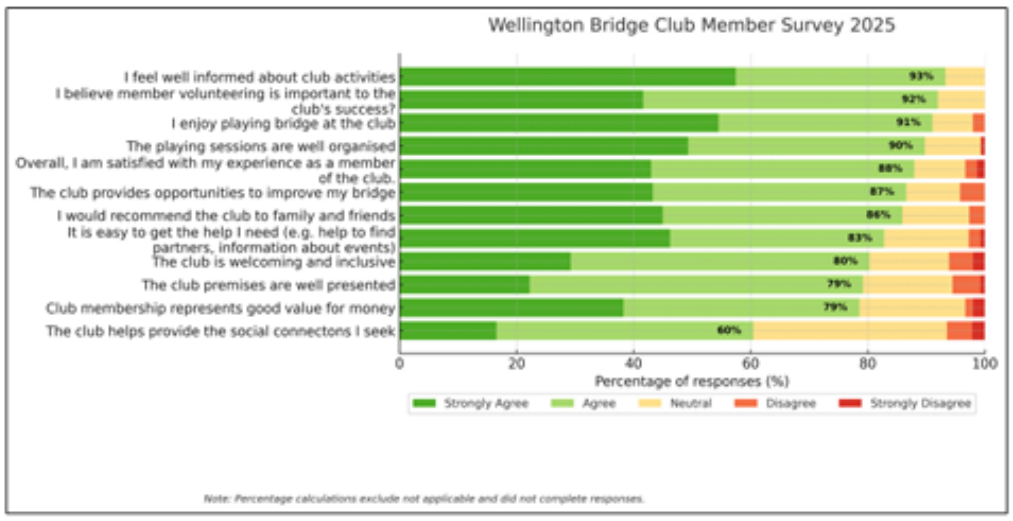
Key findings

The results show that members are highly satisfied with many aspects of club life.

- Nearly nine out of ten members (88%) are satisfied with their overall experience as club members.
- Most members are positive about communication, enjoyment, and the organisation of playing sessions.

The findings suggest that members value their bridge experience and the sense of belonging the club provides.

- 93% of members feel well-informed about club activities.
- 91% enjoy playing bridge at the club.
- 90% think the playing sessions are well organised.
- 87% agree the Club provides opportunities to improve my bridge
- 86% would recommend the club to family and friends
- 83% agree it is easy to get the help I need (e.g. help to find partners, information about events)
- 80% find the club welcoming and inclusive
- 79% agree the club premises are well presented
- 79% feel Club membership represents good value for money
- 60% agree the Club helps provide the social connections they seek



This snapshot provides an overview of members' satisfaction. A more detailed discussion of the survey results, including members' comments on what they value most about the Club, their suggestions for improvement, and other feedback, will be shared with members early next year. The incoming committee will consider this feedback in more depth and report back to members.

Christmas Cheer tourney

Get your entries in for the Wellington Regional Christmas Cheer tournament on lucky Saturday 13th December. It's fun event – you can even dress up as a Santa or maybe a Scrooge or a Grinch.

As well as bridge and a great Christmas dinner, the Regional Committee will be presenting the region's trophies for 2025

2026 programme books

Programme books for 2006 should be available after the AGM so you can start filling in your "dancecard" for next year.

More fun at AGM plus pizza

This year's AGM won't coincide with the NZ-wide pairs but you can still have fun. Our AGM is at 6.00pm on Wednesday 19th November to be followed by Pizza and then a fun bridge night for all (except the 8 teams in the Lowe & Co Premier Teams who are in for a more serious evening that hopefully is still fun).

Nominations for the Committee are open and close on Wednesday 5th November. If you are interested in standing for Committee you can find the forms available in the lobby. You will need some-one to nominate you and a seconder

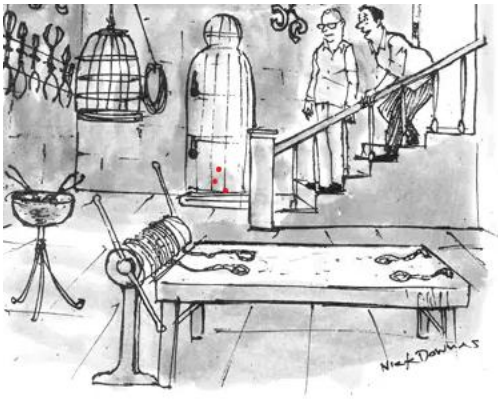
Go Welly for the Inter-Provincials

Good Luck to our Wellington Region Representative Teams for the Finals being held on the 6th and 7th of November. You can follow the matches online on https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/ .

The Wellington team includes:

Open: Alan Grant, Anthony Ker, Peter Newell, Martin Reid
Seniors: Graeme Norman, Patrick, Darcy, John Donbavand, Murray McMillan
Women: Anne-Marie Russell, Mindy Wu, Sandra Coleman, Bridget Hannaway
Intermediate: Lee Miller, Chris Woods, Martyn Rew, Andrew Cushnie

Basement upgrade



Having successfully installed the security gates the club is now upgrading the basement lighting and drainage and re-surfacing so there may be a bit of disruption to parking. Next step will be a wine cellar (not). A heads-up will let you know about parking.

Justus to hold the fort

Both Sandy McKirdy and Bridget Hannaway will be away during the National Congress from the 10th to the 14th of November so Justus Rozemund will be managing the office during that time and will be able to assist with any inquiries.

Club news

Reminders:

Tuesday night buddies –

Please let Wayne Stechman know if you can buddy someone coming our of lessons on Tuesday nights at the end of October and November – even if only one night.

New Wednesday night programme –

Don't forget these programme changes:

- **15, 22, 29 October** – Poppy Roberts Trophy Finals and Plate
- **5, 12 November** – McDermont Ladder 2 & 3
- **19 November** – Premier Teams Final 1, AGM Multigrade for all others

Welcome to new members

Kia Ora to new members Geoff Morphew, Kate Wolfe, Melissa Hodd

Congratulations!

Club winners

Monday – Pipitea Swiss Pairs: 1st Anthony & Kathy Ker, 2nd Barbara Tumilowicz & Walt Davis

Tuesday – Hand Trophy: 1st Mary-Jane Hayward & Sue Fish, 2nd Christine Wilson & Monique Percy
Tuesday – Tinakori Salver Pairs: 1st Tom Percy & Toby Moar, 2nd Alison Sparrow & Mary-Jane Hayward
Thursday – Robson Cup Teams: 1st Cindy Johnson, Stephanie Smith, Jean Williams, Sue Brown: 2nd Julie Holdgate, Pauline Edwards, Jack Richardson, Hilary Patton, Jo Rollo, Alicia Wright

Thursday – Stockman Salver Handicap Pairs: 1st Andrea Smith & Denise Barnett: 2nd Jean Williams & Toni Allwood

Friday – Spring Pairs: 1st Charles Cahn & Sue Brown; 2nd Gail Tippett & Donna Upchurch

Friday – Gladys Taylor Cup Pairs: 1st Kim Tate & Donna Upchurch, 2nd Ann Tyrie & Ross Quayle

Real winner was Richard Gawith pictured contemplating all that kai

Tournaments

Kapi-Mana Multigrade: – 1st Johnny Davidson & Jack James

Paraparaumu Multigrade: – 1st John Donbavand & Murray McMillian, 2nd Debbie McLeod & Greg Aldridge, 3rd Wayne Stechman & Denise Barnett

Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs: (Wellington) - 1st NS Kathy & Anthony Ker (pictured right), 1st EW Alan Grant & Nigel Kearney

Otago Southland Open Pairs: – 1st Alan Grant & Debbie McLeod

Wellington Matchpoint Swiss Pairs – 1st Anthony & Kathy Ker (pictured right with President Nan Wehipeihana) , 2nd Nigel Kearney & Colin Haywood, 3rd Ray Gruschow & Peter Delahunty

Ōtaki Swiss Pairs: 2nd Murray McMillan and John Donbavand (pictured); 3rd Luke Kelly and Chris Bolland; 4th Graham Stronach & Sandy McKirdy 5th Greg Aldridge & Charles Ker

Bridge talk

Up the Avon by not leading trumps

By Anthony Ker

Don't Touch the Trumps!

We are often told tales of hapless declarers walking the embankment because they didn't draw trumps. However, playing trumps immediately is only right about half the time. There may be more important considerations, such as taking a ruff in dummy, preserving entries, taking an urgent discard or setting up a crossruff, to name a few.

Here is a case in point. This hand arose in the first session of the Wednesday night Poppy Roberts Pairs final. You have a nice hand and are first to speak:

♠ QJ987
♥ A
♦ AKQ4
♣ KQ6

In most natural systems West must decide between opening 1S and risk being dropped there (as could easily happen here), or open 2C game force, for which his hand is a couple of points light and may get the partnership too high if his partner really has nothing.

Precision players have no such worries:

West	East
1C	1D
1H	1S
2S	3S
4S	Pass

1C = 16+ points any shape, forcing

1D = 0-7 points artificial negative

1H =19+ points any shape, forcing

1S = 0-4 points artificial negative

2S = 5+ spades, 19-22 points, natural

3S = I have spade support and one trick for you

4S = Thank you, that's all I need!

BOARD 16		
BD: 16	♠ 532 ♥ QJ8 ♦ 963 ♣ J752	**Dlr: W** **Vul: EW**
♠ QJ987 ♥ A ♦ AKQ4 ♣ KQ6		♠ T64 ♥ K7643 ♦ 72 ♣ T43
	♠ AK ♥ T952 ♦ JT85 ♣ A98	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N					
S					
E	2	2	2	4	2
W	2	2	2	4	2

	4	
21		3
	12	

Thanks to the artificial spade bid East is the declarer and must plan the play after South leads the Jack of Diamonds, won by the Ace. Should you draw trumps?

Absolutely not! The defence might be able to take out three rounds, leaving you with no entry to the KH and losers in clubs and diamonds. Instead unblock the Ace of Hearts at trick two. Now should you draw trumps?

No, it's still too early. You may get to your hand with the ten of spades and discard a diamond on the KH, but you still have problems in clubs. Unless South is kind enough to play the Ace when the suit is led you have no entries to lead up to the clubs honours a second time and must concede two club tricks for one down. Instead cash the King of Diamonds. Now what?

It's tempting to ruff a diamond immediately and discard a club on the king of hearts. This was the line of play chosen at a couple of tables. After discarding the club declarer led a trump, preparing to claim the contract for the loss of two spades and a club. He was in for a disappointment when South took out two

rounds of trumps and led his last diamond for his partner to ruff the Queen of Diamonds. There is a neat way to avoid this. Can you see it?

----------The Queen of Diamonds is a liability. Get rid of it by cashing it before taking the ruff! You discard a club on the Queen of Diamonds. The only risk is that South has found the lead of the Jack of Diamonds from Jx and can ruff the third round. No problem here. Next you trump the fourth round of diamonds with the 6 of spades. Now should you lead trumps?

No, you must first discard a club on the King of Hearts. Now should you draw trumps?

It's still too risky. The defence might be able to lead hearts twice and dump their clubs. Then you might never make a club trick. It's better to lead a club now. The defence take the Ace of Clubs and play another. Now should you lead trumps?

You could, but there's no need. Dummy's last five cards are QJ987 of spades and you have the ten. Simply claim 3 of the last five tricks giving the opponents the ace and king.

4S made = 17 matchpoints out of 20 (one pair was doubled), an 85% board.

4S 1 down = 5 matchpoints out of 20, a 25% board.

Next time you play a trump contact ask yourself – should I draw trumps immediately, or is there a good reason not to?