

Newsletter



Happy Birthday Arch

During August frequent online player Arch Jelley celebrated his 100th birthday. Arch is the oldest coach in any sport operating at the top level in New Zealand, and probably the world. When he first started coaching in 1959, Walter Nash was Prime Minister, the Beatles were yet to be formed and construction had just finished on the (four lane) Auckland Harbour Bridge. He later guided John Walker's legendary career and has helped many others with their track and field events. Arch retired from coaching in 2000, content to put more time into bridge ("I'm addicted to it") and lawn bowls.

Read more of the NZ Herald article [here](#)

*Best wishes and many happy returns Arch,
From all your friends and members at Auckland Bridge Club*



Upcoming Events

To Diary

This Saturday
Billie Tohill &
Tudor Biggs Rosebowl
Register now!

Logan Campbell Retirement Village Teams Event
NOW ONLINE - 8th September

16 Hands with Andrew Robson
Friday 30 September at 7:30pm (just before Congress).
Andrew Robson will run the post mortem starting at 9:30pm.

Loveblock New Zealand Wide Pairs
Friday 11th November (evening) - at the club.

Modest Price Increase For Online Sessions

Thank you for the supportive feedback relating to the article published in the last newsletter dated 10th August.

As a reminder and to allow us to continue offering a full schedule of online sessions there will be a slight increase on the table fee from \$5 to **\$6 effective 1st September**.

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- Freaky Friday (Sunday) from our Director Sylvester
- Gratings and Rankings
- RBC Q&A's

.. and more!

Freaky Friday (Sunday!)

by Director Sylvester

Director Patrick Carter hosts a regular tournament on BBO on Sunday nights open to all Kiwis and their friends. The hand below came up on Sunday the 6th. It is a very pretty hand, even though it registers just 6.0 on the freakiness scale.

♠ -
♥ AKQJ109872
♦ A83
♣ Q

No surprise that your opponents are going to be bidding a lot of spades. How high are you going to compete opposite a silent partner?

Mark Robertson was determined not to be outbid and ended up in 6♥, facing this dummy after the lead of the ♠Ace.

♠ 65
♥ 43
♦ Q9764
♣ KT54

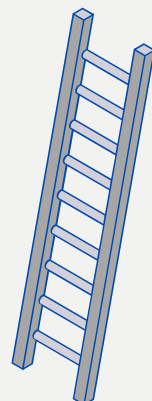
Three possible losers. He carefully ruffed with the ♥7 to preserve the ♥2 as an entry should the hearts split 1-1 for a guaranteed line for 1-off. But they didn't. Nothing left but to run a lot of hearts, and his luck was in: after some injudicious diamond discards by LHO, the ♦Ace felled the singleton ♦K, wrapping up 13 tricks and a 100% board.

Ladders For Online Sessions

are now available on the website for past months, and individual ladders are being emailed.

Check it out [here](#)

This is an experimental feature and is likely to evolve.





Do you know about Gratings & Rankings?

A member asked a great question recently, and we thought you may be interested as well so we have borrowed the following from the NZ Bridge website.

Remember Participation is key - play more, progress further, maximise your enjoyment..

GRADINGS- EFFECTIVE FROM 1 JANUARY 2021

Open

- Provincial Master or higher Rank

Intermediate

- Club Master or lower Rank and 30 or less Rating Points but 5 or more A Points or
- Club Master or lower Rank with more than 30 Rating Points or
- Local Master

Junior

- Club Master or lower Rank and 30 or less Rating Points and less than 5 A Points

RANKINGS

There are ten ranks accorded to holders of Master Points

| Rank | Aggregate of A & B Points |
|----------------------------|--|
| Certificate of Proficiency | 5 |
| Club Master | 20 |
| Local Master | 50 |
| Provincial Master | 100 (including at least 50 A Points) |
| Master | 200 (including at least 100 A Points) |
| National Master | 350 (including at least 175 A Points) |
| Life Master | 500 (including at least 250 A Points) |
| Grand Master | 1000 (including at least 500 A Points) |
| Silver Grand Master | 2500 (including at least 1250 A Points) |
| Gold Grand Master | 4000 (including at least 2500 A Points) |
| Emerald Grand Master | 8000 (including at least 6000 A Points) |
| Platinum Grand Master | 10000 (including at least 7500 A Points) |

[Click here to see our latest Grand Masters](#)



A player with less than 5 A & B Points is classified as "Novice". On reaching an aggregate of 100 Master Points, a Local Master who has not earned 50 A Points is accorded the status of Local Master - 1 Star. At 150 Master Points he becomes Local Master - 2 Star, with an additional Star for each additional 50 Master Points if he has not attained sufficient A Points. Similarly stars are awarded to masters of other ranks who have not attained sufficient A points for promotion to a higher rank. e.g. A one-star National Master will have acquired 700 plus total Points but not yet attained 250 A Points to move to the rank of Life Master.

Are You Interested in Becoming a Teacher or a Director? Want to learn more about how you can ?

We are looking for people interested in assisting our education department with the delivery of lessons. If you have had a teaching profession ideally and want to take part in this programme, please let us know. The course material is consistent, and the ideal teachers are people who encourage the development of thinking Bridge, allowing students to get 'creative' - no need to provide solutions to problems as we would love to see how they develop on their Bridge learning journey, in their own way.

To strengthen our pool of Directors we also welcome members who would like to pursue Director training. **Phone or call into see us in the office.**



Q&A on proposed union with Remuera Bowling Club (RBC)

Why?

A slowly declining membership accelerated during the last couple of years by Covid means it is necessary to address the Club's future. We have cost overruns which are not sustainable long term. All expenditure has been reviewed and controlled where possible, meaning a big increase in participation is our only option for a brighter horizon.

What is the proposal?

To create a vibrant, multi-sport, multi-activity centre at RBC's Market Road site. We believe the clubs can be better together with renovated facilities, new offerings, modern fittings, attractive and fit for purpose premises. We want to add a social dimension to our club with a proper café and bar. In short, we want you to use Market Road for more than bridge.

To date approximately \$4,000 has been spent on early investigative concept work, without commitment. We want to ensure members are onboard with a full understanding of the Boards vision, so briefings for members and visits to RBC's 6 Market Road premises are being planned. If the proposal progresses both memberships will have opportunities to vote.

The proposal is that the clubs equally fund Resource Consent application(s) to

- add 50 parking spaces to Market Road making 100 in total (there are 60 at Remuera Road).
- remodel and upgrade the existing Market Road clubrooms, add new bridge playing areas and a commercial café/bar.
- install a new lift and build an entrance atrium.

Consents might cost each club \$50,000. We have a detailed Planner's Report which suggests a positive outcome.

However, either club may withdraw at any time during consenting but would have to pay the other club's costs.

Consents could take 12 months to October 2023 before architects, engineers and constructors are engaged.

Armed with satisfactory consents we would sell 273 Remuera Road and merge the two clubs.

An optimistic timeline is to move to Market Road in December 2024. Should temporary premises be required we will re-visit venues such as Ellerslie racecourse. The proceeds from the sale of 273 Remuera Road will pay for the Market Road upgrade and leave a surplus to invest.

At all stages we will engage professionals for advice on tax, legal structures, design, and matters arising.

The Incorporated Society Act does not allow funds to be distributed to members.

What other options have been explored?

- Move to a smaller site: at least 20 sites have been considered, and none possessed four qualities: felt safe, plenty of parking, attractive and nearby.
- Sell a slice of our land: As a big section it is more valuable than as multiple small sections
- More rentals and grants: Rental returns are insufficient and grant bodies are reluctant to help.
- Increase subscriptions and table money: some members are happy to pay more, others won't. It is a competitive world, and we think the increased income from price rises would quickly disappear. On-line bridge has changed behaviour.
- Ask for donations: few people gift their precious money to cover on-going operating expenses – relying on donations isn't a viable or bankable business strategy.

Tell me about RBC

RBC, just a few minutes' walk away, is a wonderful but run-down site with potential and space. We can't think of a better nearby property to call home - it could be fabulous. We've been talking with RBC on-and-off for seven years. RBC owns their 12,200 m2 site freehold (AKBC 3,520 m2). Their land is valued at \$5.5 million by Auckland Council as playing fields, our premises at \$18.25 million. RBC has 150 members, AKBC 655 (plus about 1,000 visitor/casual members). RBC's financial outlook is stable, partly because they hold popular business bowls events during summer.

How much will rejuvenating Market Road cost?

Millions, and we won't know until professionals work it all out and this won't happen until after satisfactory consents are granted by Auckland Council.

How will it run?

The proposal code named Market Road Clubs (MRC) will comprise of the assets of both clubs. MRC will have a board looking after and administering the property as well as matters such as billing. Committees representing each activity - initially bowling and bridge - ensuring that busy bowls and bridge days do not clash.

A commercial standard bar and café are an important part of the new offering. We want your club to be more than just a bridge venue, and in the future, it may be appropriate to add extra activities to the Market Road offer.



Hello Club Top Ups

Top ups online are easy
Go to akbc.co.nz website
Click the members tab at the top
Click [LOGIN TO HELLOCLUB]
Then enter your:
User name (*usually your email address*)
Password (*contact the office if you need to reset*)

please
ensure you always
have a credit
balance
in HelloClub

Can You Help ?

Do you know of a business that might like to sponsor an online event? It could be a one-off, a month long series or ideally on a more regular basis..



We would love to discuss the benefits with anyone who may be interested so please let the office know contact details

Spotlight on a Member

Member Marie Ewbank's nephew, Roderick Fry, has authored the extraordinary story of their family history which will be an interesting read - see [here](#)

Do you know someone who would like to join AKBC?

If you know of anyone wanting to become a member please have them contact us by phone or email - we would love to welcome new members to our Club.

Club Sessions

Face to face sessions are being assessed frequently to consider additional sessions.
We encourage your continued support to play at the Club and help increase the numbers

Tuesdays - 7.15pm

NB: Tuesday night club sessions this month are PAIRS - not a teams event as advertised in the booklet.
Please come along with your partner as we will love to see more people attending

Wednesdays - 2 sessions: 11am and 7.15pm
Lesson at 6.45pm with Patrick for those wanting to learn more

NB: Evening session - you do not need to have a partner ..just come along

Fridays - 11am

Thursdays - Supervised session at 9.30am with a lesson and play beginning at 10am

See our **RealBridge** page on our website for the extensive schedule of **online** sessions

NB: Sundays - Supervised sessions are only online for August & September, starting with a lesson at 9.30am - play begins at 10am

Improvers Session RealBridge Online

*Encouraging Junior
Members to play*

*Wednesdays
7:15 pm*

21 Boards
7 rounds of 3 boards
Finishing around 10pm

T&C's

- You will need a Hello Club Account
- A professional Director will be directing the session
- This is not a supervised session, meaning you cannot ask for help with how to play or what to bid.
- Please be online with your partner by 6.45pm
- For help with getting on RealBridge please see the instructions on AKBC's website

