

**SUBSCRIPTIONS!!**

You only have a meagre few days to pay your 2021 subs at the discounted rate ie \$75.00 . . . from Monday 1 March, the sub will be charged at \$80.00. Only 5 bucks the difference but you might as well have it. Internet banking details are in your programme books. Or organize payment with your Treasurer, Brett Windley (021 078 8011).

**IN-HOUSE TOURNAMENT**

The first in-house tournament for the year will be held on Sunday 14 March (1.30) start time. These are popular events, generally played over one session, low key and somewhat more relaxed than tournaments open to players outside our club. Support for your club in events such as these is appreciated. This one in March is a Charity Tournament with the aim of raising money for a worthwhile cause – the Paraparaumu Women’s Centre. The entry fee is only \$15.00 per player.

**TOURNAMENTS**

Upcoming Tournaments in our region include the Kapi Mana Multigrade Pairs (March 7, the Kairangi Intermediate and Junior Pairs (March 21) and the Upper Hutt Intermediate and Junior Pairs (March 28) and the Levin Multigrade a week later (April 3 – note it’s a Saturday). **But if you want to give one of these competitions a good crack, what about entering in our own Paraparaumu Open on Sunday 28 March?** It’s an event sponsored by the Kapiti Retirement Trust (for prizes and expenses) so with a good sized field, the club could make some money. It’s \$25 per head but lunch and end-of-play refreshments are provided. We could do with filling the room and we could do with making a (gentle) profit !

**BRIDGE LESSONS**

Beginners (and refresher) lessons start on Monday March 15. Please encourage any of your friends/family/workmates/colleagues/neighbours/partners/lovers/ or even just casual acquaintances . . . to join the classes and learn how to play this great game. Ten weeks of lessons and then practice sessions with experienced and sympathetic club players

We do need an annual influx of some graduates from the learner classes joining the club to maintain our numbers. It has become particularly important after revenues from card money dropped so severely last year because of Covid lockdowns.

Many thanks to those members who have been pounding the pavements this last week, as they delivered leaflets advertising these classes, all over Paraparaumu and Raumati.

## THE 70% CLUB

Only two scores on the list so far for 2021. **Helen Edwards and Leon Hunia** were obviously paying attention to Jacinda right throughout 2020, because they “went hard and went early” in January, and **rattled up a remarkable score of 73.4% almost before the bridge year had begun. That'll be very hard to beat, AND they made that score on a Wednesday night. Well done.**

Your Editor and his patient partner, Marg, did manage 70% the very next night (and we were delighted with that) but I expect that will be outdone several times over the course of the year.

I doubt that Helen and Leon's score will be bettered.

## THE “WEDNESDAY GROUP”

A new initiative has been proposed. A regular, **informal**, learning session to be held each Wednesday from 1.00 to 3.00pm. The aim is to improve while, above all, having fun in a much more informal atmosphere than session bridge competitions.

The aims include encouraging some players who have been to lessons but have not joined the club to have further opportunities to learn in a user-friendly environment, to give players more time to discuss the bidding and play of the cards, in a non-competitive group setting, and to allow players to get to know some of their fellow members much better.

There will be **no masterpoints for these sessions** and the group should be able to operate with minimal oversight and support from the club ie the cards will be dealt and scored manually and participants will be invited to BYO refreshments (no kitchen duties needed). To cover clubroom overheads such as heating etc, a \$2.00 per person fee has been suggested.

If you're interested in attending such group sessions, check on the noticeboard in the clubrooms and /or call Trevor Smith (021 9094 232). A dozen players have already indicated their interest in joining a “Wednesday Group”.

## A CAUTIONARY TALE

Not much to report this newsletter, and no pics of winners and grinners from recent competitions, so I thought I might finish with a cautionary tale . . . at my own expense. It's also, I guess, about a big grinner.

It's one of the first boards of the evening and I'm sitting West, in between Ged Farnan (South) and Helen Edwards (North). Ged's the Dealer (Non Vulnerable) and Ged's holding:

♠ A 5   ♥ K J 10 9 8 5 3   ♦ A Q 7 6   ♣ -

While Helen's holding: ♠ K 2 ♥ A Q 7 2 ♦ K ♣ K 10 8 6 5 3

Long story short . . . they quickly establish the oh so solid fit in Hearts, and then Ged takes charge, asks for Aces (1) and then Kings (3), works out from Helen's oh so accurate responses that they have 3 Aces and he has a void in clubs, and they have all 4 Kings, and they have a huge Hearts fit . . . and soooooo **Ged goes straight to Seven Hearts!**

I'm sitting over the 7 Hearts and I've got nothing much at all but I do have the Ace of Clubs . . . and I'm thinking "well, he might have a void in clubs or he might not, he might be hoping to toss a singleton club loser on the high cards in his partner's hand, or he might have miscalculated Helen's responses, or if he does get his 7 Hearts, well we're heading for a bottom board anyway" ( ie too much thinking!) **So, I "double"!**

**Big mistake. Ged just grins. He redoubles!**

I lead the useless Ace of Clubs. He ruffs in hand, clears the trumps, and quickly claims all the 13 tricks. I concede (sheepishly). That's a mere 2240 points for a grand slam, doubled and redoubled, and a rock bottom for us.

Ged is gracious and courteous in victory. But at the same time, that great smile of Ged's is big, bigger than ever.

As we head off to the next table I can sense that my patient partner is looking just a little . . . well, sceptical? "At least they weren't vulnerable," I mutter, "that might have been really costly."

**At the Pianola Post Mortem, I realise that it was actually the "redouble" that gave Helen and Ged the outright top board and Marg and I the bottom board.**

**All 8 North-South Pairs made 13 tricks in Hearts, but 4 pairs were only in a mere 4 Hearts, 2 Pairs were only (only!) in the small slam, and 2 Pairs bid, and made, the grand slam in Hearts. Both of those Pairs were doubled by West, who both eagerly led the useless Ace of Clubs, but it was Ged who had seized the moment and redoubled to an outright top board. Well done Ged, a deserved grinner.**

**EDITOR: KEITH LEES**

(I am always interested to hear about an unusual hand or stunning play or devastating bid or amusing incident from the bridge table that might be suitable for your club newsletters.)