

A “round up” of various club activities, including some reports about our main purpose . . . playing bridge!

IMPROVER SESSIONS

These continue to take place at the clubrooms, every Wednesday at 1.00pm. These informal sessions are in the capable hands of Trevor Smith. Play a hand or two, examine and discuss some problems, both in bidding and play of the cards. A chance to have a longer discussion than the abrupt half-whispered comments as East-West advance (though sometimes it feels like a retreat!) to the next table during the regular club contract bridge sessions. Yes, a chance to talk to each other, mainly about bridge.

LEARNER LESSONS

These take place every Monday evening, (7.00 pm start) usually with 20-24 keen and curious beginners. The class is positively fizzing with anticipation about graduating to sessions in the club. Thanks to all those helping to organize, encourage and assist Sue Duncan in teaching the classes.

I did enjoy a true story from this year’s very first class. Everyone sitting neatly in fours at the tables, waiting . . . but one player short at the last table!

“That’s a real pity”, commented Sue, “couldn’t you quickly magic up another player, someone, anyone?”

“Give me just a moment, OK?” muttered your President David Stagg who then simply strolled outside and approached (I briefly considered “accosted” . . . but perhaps not, David is a real gentleman) a young woman who happened to be walking past the rooms. David posed a simple question. “Would you care to join me in a game of bridge?” The young woman was indeed up for a game she’d never seen, and stayed for the evening. And claimed she’d loved the night.

A particularly forward approach to problem solving, no?

TRAINING COURSE IN CPR

In late February, 5 club members and an assorted 11 friends, partners and supporters took part in a one night training session in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Techniques (CPR), held in our clubrooms and organised by Alan Stevens. The instructor was Rachael Evans, a fully qualified ambulance officer from the Wellington Free Ambulance. ,

Participants ended by practicing on a “dummy half” (no, this was not a game of rugby league) though a “dummy” did seem appropriate for a session in a bridge club.

Here, Tina Fulton demonstrates the exact amount of pressure needed to compress the chest.



(Will, I'd be extra, extra careful in the future, no more bidding blunders or you're in deep, deep trouble).

And here, Sue cheerfully responds to the Instructor's message that if you do crack a rib, that's much, much better than doing nothing and letting them die.



You do need quite a load of pressure to compress the chest and punch the heart into beating.

Note: Immediate CPR intervention increases the survival rate by 30%. And immediate use of a defibrillator increases survival rate by 80%. And the longer you take to start CPR or start the defibrillator, leads to a sharp decline in survival.

However, the nearest defibrillators, now the Community Centre is out of use, are at the Swimming Pool and the Council Building. Hmmn.

THE IN-HOUSE CHARITY TOURNAMENT

This was held in mid-March, not one of our sponsored tournaments but a tournament played to raise funds for a local charity. This year the charity selected was the Kapiti Women's Centre.

Louise Waterworth, the Manager of this local centre, spoke to the players as the scoring was being completed and explained some of the functions of such centres, including running a Women's Refuge Service, and the ever-expanding need for facilities, resources and access to counselling.

She thanked all the players and the bridge club itself for recognising the work carried out by this community organisation. The sum of \$780 has been forwarded to the Kapiti Women's Centre.

Thanks to Tournament Manager Trevor Smith, as well as Noella and Tina (kitchen), Ken and David (bar) and Helen (scoring).

I have to report that the day's outright winners were a visiting pair, from our neighboring club, Waikanae, Agnes Richards and Adrienne Gilbert. Warm congratulations to them. Louise Waterworth presents the prize to the winners.



Pauline Reid and Lucy O'Regan were second in Section A, Val Manley and Lou Macdonald were Section B winners, narrowly from Lorraine Borland and Nickey Bradley.

Here (below) Louise rewards Lou and Val for their bridge play. Well done both of you.



Collen Mankelow and Jane McArthur won Section C, from Pat McArthur and Jill Montgomerie.

Section D winners were Alan and Marsha Stevens, from Hugh Norton and Joan Tait.



Another group of cheerful prize winners, Alan and Marsha are delighted and I do like the way Marsha is holding onto that bottle of wine, as though it's just made to be tucked into her arm. It fits naturally and easily.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION (Thursday 17 March)

Members (well some of us) responded to the wearing of the green for Saint Pat.

A fine array of bow ties, to be sure, to be sure, to be sure, from Gillian, Trevor and Dennis (ah yes, and the green clover).



And what, may you ask, what happened to the photograph on the right ?

Sadly, the effects of much too much Guinness on our photographer. Let this be the solemn lesson of this newsletter.

Or perhaps all these players had simply celebrated too long and had themselves become . . . unsteady? Can you recognize any of them?



On the other hand, this Irish Colleen stayed the course and looks ready to break into a stirring Irish Riverdance at a moment's notice, to be sure.



Well done, Jean. And I did like the jaunty angle of the equally jaunty hat!

THE PARAPARAUMU KAPITI RETIREMENT TRUST OPEN

Yes, an “open” event draws the big name players including some masters of the NZ bridge world, and they came from Wellington, Stratford and Hawera, Feilding, Palmy, the Hutt, and all the clubs along the Kapiti Coast. These were the “gun” bridge players of our region (and some were nationally recognized) so, well done to all from our club who took the opportunity to play against some of the best.

After two sessions, the outright winners were Alan Grant and Anthony Ker from Wellington, followed immediately by another two pairs from the Wellington Club, John Luoni and Brian Cleaver and then Joan McCarthy and Joan Waldvogel.

Our best results, from some of our own best players, were Doug Galyer (playing with a Levin member) in 6th place, Dale Wills and Jane Bradbury in 7th place and Murray Phillips (pairing with a Wellington player) finished 10th. In that esteemed company, these were indeed very good results.

Again, the club's thanks to Tournament Manager, Trevor Smith and the usual team of cheerful and willing helpers. A well organized and friendly event is particularly important when hosting so many from so far afield.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SOCIALS

Happy hour Fridays are proposed for the fourth Friday in every month, starting after the Friday day session finishes. Note: the drinks will operate on a BYO basis.

This first of the Friday happy hours will occur this coming Friday 23 rd April and coincides neatly with St George's Day. St George's Day has never been widely celebrated in NZ but members are certainly encouraged to display an affinity they may hold for "Engel-land" such as red rosettes, the red and white colours, red roses, bowler hats, swords and long bows.

Come along and join fellow members in conversation and have a drink or two in your own comfortable clubrooms.

COLLEEN MANKELOW

The club wishes Colleen all the very best with her upcoming move away from the Kapiti Coast. Colleen has been such a willing volunteer on so many occasions but above all in her role as our Treasurer over the past six years. She was perhaps "encouraged" to take on that job initially, but she has proved to be tireless, organised and unfailingly cheerful despite the many demands on her time and energy.



Colleen in contemplative mood as a few friends from the club say farewell. Colleen, you've given us a great deal over those last few years. All the best to you.

THE 70% CLUB

Back in the first newsletter for the year, I suggested that the score achieved by Helen Edwards and Leon Hunia in late January (73.44%) could well remain unbeaten throughout 2021. Well, it was smashed almost immediately by Claudia Duncan and Francie Vagg who reached 73.61% just a month later. (Ok, OK, "smashed" might be just a tad exaggerated, but still impressive.)

Pat McArthur and Kevin MacManus are lurking with intent, hovering just behind, on 71%.

INJURY RECORD

In keeping with Health and Safety protocols and requirements, the club now maintains an "Incident Record Register". For any accident or even "near miss incident" members are asked to note the details (the book is to be kept under the noticeboards). Note When/What/Where/ Who in the book and it will be investigated to see if the hazard (or possible hazard) can be dealt with so it doesn't happen again.

Of course, accidents in the clubrooms will be rare events but, for example, someone might trip on a small obstruction and kitchens do tend to have such incidents.

Thanks to Alan Stevens for seeing that we are compliant in this regard.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Well, not really a book now as you have to access these discounts via a digital App. This has been a "nice little earner" for our club over recent years. So, **yes, it is a fundraising venture but it also delivers real savings to the members who opt to take up a subscription.**

The main use seems to be for dining discounts, but it also offers reduced rates for accommodation, travel, family activities, car hire and general shopping. There are various membership options, some for longer terms, but the **simplest option is a one-year membership which incorporates Wellington and more specifically the Kapiti Coast. That costs \$69.99 for one year.**

Please note: our club retains 20% of all sales generated within the club. The App can also be shared with up to four family members.

Jane McArthur is our organizer for this fundraiser. Please contact her if you are at all interested. She would welcome the chance to answer any questions you may have.

Jane = 298 4105

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Two crucial dates. Two particularly important club tournaments.

The first is very close ie the **"In-House Breakers Pairs"**, a one session event to be held on Sunday May 2, 1.30 start. These In-House Tournaments are slightly more informal than open contests and are always popular – get you partnership organized now.

The second is the **"Bloom Hearing Intermediate Pairs"**, a two session competition to be held on Sunday May 16, with the first session starting at 10.00am and the second at 1.30pm. Note: the entry fee for this tournament is \$25.00 but a ploughman's lunch is supplied as well as refreshments at the close of play.

Please give real consideration to entering these events, taking on the challenge and supporting your club all at the same time.

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