

Welcome to another round up from your bridge club. A couple of reports from club tournaments, a hand to ponder and a cryptic number plate to solve.

INTERMEDIATE TOURNAMENT BRAVO AND THANKS TO BLOOM HEARING SPECIALISTS

At our Intermediate Tournament (late May) we learned that our previous sponsor, The Hearing Company, had just been taken over by Bloom Hearing Specialists.

Two of Bloom's audiologists, including Stephen Demo, the new manager for Bloom on the Kapiti Coast, turned up at the prize giving. Stephen Demo spoke to the players and emphasized that the company would continue to sponsor the tournament and continue all aspects of the previous sponsor's involvement with the Paraparaumu Club. So . . . no "doom and gloom", but many thanks to Bloom.

Stephen Demo left various materials for members that included free hearing test vouchers, 20% discounts on hearing aids and rewards for referring a friend/family member to Bloom Hearing.

Members, please remember that our relationships with our sponsors should be thought of as a "two way street". In this case, anyone with a potential hearing issue, or wanting a hearing test or even wanting their current hearing aid serviced, should certainly consider Bloom Hearing.

And finally, before moving to results, a word of thanks and praise to our Sponsorship Convener, Bill van Waas. Bill was quickly on the case and had contacted Bloom Hearing to outline and explain our previous sponsorship deal. Many thanks Bill, for helping to secure this valuable relationship.

RESULTS

Well, some good performances, but not enough to threaten pairs from various other clubs in the region. The winners were Angela Banks and Caroline Strachan (from the Hutt Valley), from Mark Noble and Vicki Maugham (Feilding) and Lorraine Gaffanay and Vicky Young (Waikanae).

Our best players on the day were Barbara Horner and James Jones (5th), Gillian Travers and Lyn Dash (6th) and Bob Jennings and Tom Tidey (7th). However, very worthy of note were Barbara Mador and Lyn Berry, who were top East-West after the first session. They did fade a little later but well done.

Lyn and Gillian picking up their prize from our sponsors.



And Lyn and Barbara collecting their session prize from Bloom Hearing Specialists



While Jane McArthur is quite happy with one of the many raffle prizes!



IN-HOUSE TOURNAMENT : THE LAW CONNECTION SPONSORED PAIRS

June 30th. Sixteen full tables, plenty of spot and booby prizes, a low-key but very efficient Director (Marie Groves), abundant refreshments, and many awards distributed through sections A to E (decided by rating points). Well, what more could you want? Distributions that split beautifully when you were declarer?? Of course. There did seem to be many hands with singletons and/or voids which led to some aggressive bidding.

Section A: won by Marion Sillick and Tom Tidey (and top North-South pair) from Anne Kerr and Julia England

Section B: won by Gillian Travers and Lyn Dash (see later note) from Chris Farrow and Anne Ricketts

Section C: won by Lorraine Borland and Kay Galyer by not just a country mile but the length of the Expressway to a far distant Keith and Marg Lees . . .

Section D: won by Lyn Boswell and Rachel Bruce from Joan Tait and Edna Garriock

Section E: won by Bob Jennings and Moira Wilson (who make a habit of picking up prizes in these events), from Barbara Compton and Rona Huggins.

But the brilliant result of the day's play must lie with Gillian and Lyn who were first in the East-West pairings and overall top placing with a stunning 75.77 %!!!

The day ended with tables laden with food – thanks to members’ contributions and the kitchen team led by Jill Browne and Noella Squire. With Jill playing in the tournament, Noella had a particularly busy afternoon. Well done. And final thanks for a cheerful and friendly afternoon to Tournament Manager Trevor Smith.

Worthy winners

Gillian and Lyn (75+ % !!!)



Marion and Tom were top
North – South and won Section A.



But perhaps the happiest of all the winners were gridders, Rachel Bruce and Lyn Boswell !

And Ngaira Mark in a familiar role: another raffle prize. (I guess, if you want to win, you have to take a ticket.) And not a bad prize either: a large bottle of gin, several tonic mixers and heaps of lemons.



HONOUR BOARD

The 70% Club. Yes, Gillian and Lyn have leapt to the top of ladder. ie their remarkable 75.77% in the recent In-House Tournament. Stafford Marshall and Jane Bradbury are next with 72%, then Doug Galyer and Michael Cunniffe on 71%. Three other pairs have at least climbed to the threshold – at 70%.

The Slam Club. Irene Galloway (26 slams bid and made) is being pushed by both Jane Bradbury and Kevin MacManus (both on 25 slams).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plenty of tournaments in the next weeks, and the information is all in your 2019 programme booklets. **But please support our own Junior Pairs, on Sunday 21 July.** Entry is \$25.00 with lunch provided and light refreshments and a drink at the end of play. Players to be seated by 9.45. Time to put into practice all that you've learned in the improvers' classes . . .

On the same day, there are the Levin Open Pairs for our senior players and a week later Kapi Mana are having their Junior and Intermediate Multigrade tournament.

Finally, what about considering the Waikanae Multigrade Pairs (4 August) and / or the Otaki Junior and Intermediate Pairs (25 August)?

NEW CHAIRS SURVEY

The Club is looking to replace its ageing chairs. The plan is to complete the purchase in time for the start of the New Year. While this may seem some way off, the time frame needs to allow adequate time for consultation; research of possible options and investigation of possible outside sources of funding e.g. a Lottery Grant.

A small group comprising Brian Pender, Rachel Bruce and Francie Vagg, has been established to investigate options, costs etc. To help the group, a survey of club members is about to be carried out to find out which features of chairs are most important to you. Such as . . . is it the comfort of the padding, the ability to move the chairs easily, or maybe good lower back support? On the other hand, perhaps you are able to offer advice to the group on some other aspects of the purchase, e.g. the availability of a particularly suitable type of chair or a useful source of funding. All your comments and suggestions will be very welcome.

So please look out for the survey and make sure you participate in it.

CLASSES FOR IMPROVERS

President Tony Davies reports his absolute delight with the numbers of members opting in and the success of the classes, skillfully taught by Suzanne Duncan. Tony has had plenty of positive feedback from the first session and another 40 plus members have enrolled for the second and last session, Sunday 7 July.

A HAND

This hand comes from Ron Klinger's column in the Sydney Morning Herald. When the dealer (East) on your right passes, what would you do with : ♠ A9 ♥ KQJ743 ♦ AQ5 ♣ KJ

Klinger was asked, "Should I have bid 2C?" However, instead South opened 1H, which was passed out. Only three pairs bid to 4H, which makes. The rest of the room stopped low. This was the full deal.

North : ♠ 753 ♥ 92 ♦ K874 ♣ Q1094

West : ♠ J1094 ♥ A104 ♦ J96 ♣ 874

East : ♠ KQ82 ♥ 86 ♦ 1032 ♣ A632

South : ♠ A9 ♥ KQJ743 ♦ AQ5 ♣ KJ

Klinger's reply? "***Don't expect to get every hand right.*** Opening 1H was perfectly reasonable. Yes, despite the 6 hearts, a 2NT opening (21-22 or 20-22) is perhaps an option, but you'll have to knock out the HA and you only have 1 stopper in each black suit.

You are not strong enough to open 2C if your understanding is that it is forcing to game. If you can bid 2C:2D: 3H (9 playing tricks in hearts), then a 2C opening is reasonable, though you do NOT want partner to bid 3NT next.

It was feasible, however, for North to respond 1NT to South's opening 1H. If South does get INT in response, then 4H is straightforward. Yes, I know, I know, 1NT is really supposed to be 6-9 points, but ***being one point short is not a criminal offence.*** (Klinger's comments and Editor's italics.)

So . . . next time you put dummy on the table and partner looks at you, just a bit grimly, for having responded a tad light, just smile sweetly and add, "but as the great Ron Klinger says, it's not a criminal offence".

TO FINISH

To finish . . . this time with a cryptic pause. During the In-House Tournament, I passed the tea break at the far nor-west corner of the room. Later, at the end of the day, Ian Mitchell became the jovial barman but at that moment Ian was sitting South and he seemed to be in a deep, deep reverie. I inquired if he was brooding on a previous hand but Ian is never one for post mortems. He just grinned, pointed out the window toward the car park. "See that," he gestured. "It must mean something, but what? I've been trying to work it out all afternoon."



The number plate belongs to one of our members. Who? That's the easy part. The next test is, what does it mean? Answers to the Editor when you next notice me at the bridge table. No prize but I guess those of you who like crosswords and especially cryptic crosswords, will know the satisfaction in solving a small puzzle. One clue = nothing to do with bridge.

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