

Well . . . Perhaps not so much “it was the best of times, it was the worst of times” but it is certainly the strangest of times. It’s a cliché, but it’s true that often you don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone. I’d just love to be back to enjoying the banter and the challenge of playing bridge at the club. A simple enough pleasure, no? But now it’s gone.

This newsletter is a little late. I had originally intended to put out an April newsletter straight after the scheduled Kapiti Retirement Trust Open (for March 29) but that was of course cancelled, due to Covid-19, along with all other play at the club. So this newsletter is limited, not so much to report.

First, some words from the President, Tony Davies.

“These are troubling times and I hope than everyone is coping with an enforced stay in (luxury) jail.

I hear various tales about how members are keeping in contact with family and friends and filling in their days. An innovative approach seems vital.

Sadly, I have to inform everyone that two of our members have passed away, Carol Hill in March and Ian Mitchell just 10 days ago.

Jenny Prendeville has been busy reorganizing our website which now carries some new bridge information and members will find several links to where you can play bridge on-line.

Since the club closed, the committee has been reviewing our finances. With no income but some ongoing charges, it is unlikely that there will be an increase in our contingency fund this year. There may even be a small decrease in the value of our investments. Nevertheless, I am confident that our club remains in a reasonably comfortable financial position and able to ride out this pandemic.

On a brighter note, our clubrooms have recently been revalued for insurance purposes. Our clubrooms now have reinstatement value of \$1,000,000, up from \$803,000 just three years ago. Because we have to include estimates for inflation and for demolition (in case of fire or other disaster), we will be insuring our rooms for \$1,093,000.

And the value of the contents has also increased (to \$99,000 from \$94,000 last year), mainly because of the 100 new chairs.

Finally, be safe and follow the guidelines, especially when going to the supermarket – a dangerous activity these days. I really look forward to the time when I can advise that the club will be reopening.”

Tony Davies

Before moving on to the rest of this newsletter, I would also wish to extend sincere condolences to the family and friends of Carol Hill and Ian Mitchell. I know their partners at the bridge table will be hurting.

On a happier note, I do have a couple of pics from the In-House Koastal Locksmiths Pairs from February 23. Oh yes, and the results too.

32 pairs competed, in 6 sections. Section A was won by Jane Bradbury and Marie Groves, from Kevin MacManus and Frances Vagg. Not surprisingly, Jane and Marie were the overall winners of the tournament and with a very reasonable percentage of 65% .



Here Marie looks delighted while Jane seems to be still puzzling . . . “I wonder if I should have led low to the Queen on Board 4 . . .?”

In section B, Jean Crafts and Robyn Michelson were the winners, (and in the overall tournament result were placed second) from Averil Wotton and Sue Wilcox. Ian Nicholls and Laurel Nalder won Section C, from Lyn Dash and Gillian Travers.



Here, Tony Davies seems to think that he too is part of the winning team . . . Jean and Robyn are very happy with their prize.

The winners of Section D were Brian Pender and Ray Cachemaille (and in 6th place overall). Section E winners were Moira Wilson and Linzee Inkster and the final section (F) was won by two good mates, mates over a long time, David Stagg and Ian Mitchell.



Moira and Linzee certainly show how to demonstrate . . . sheer triumph!

Paraparaumu players again in winning form.

Very shortly before the start of the “Lockdown” era, a team of four Paraparaumu players (though here representing Metlifecare Kapiti Village) took out the gold medal in the bridge section of the Kapiti Coast Inter Village Sports competition. A formidable team, led by Judy MacManus and including Robyn Michelson, Doug Galyer and Kevin MacManus. A “Teams of Four” competition.

Kevin’s droll comment = “not surprising Judy was captain, she’s the captain at home too.”



Another team in that same competition was also comprised of Paraparaumu Club players. A strong team of Dale Wills, Marion Sillick, Irene Galloway and Lou MacDonald, representing the Kapiti Retirement Trust, was nudged into third place.

Bridge On Line

Playing bridge on line is the go when club bridge has gone. As Tony mentioned, Jenny has put up on our club website some suggestions for links to setting up Online bridge, especially note the “Free Bridge Downloads” and “Online Pairs for NZ Players”.

The NZ Bridge website offers some good options, including Bridge Base Online (BBO) which seems to be rapidly becoming the preferred place to join the Online bridge family. If you haven’t used **Bridge Base Online (BBO)** you can register and get yourself ready to go at <https://www.bridgebase.com>

Why not call one of your usual partners, and then the two of you can give it a go. There are tutorials to explain how it works, and you can opt to play at different levels. And you don't have to play for 3-4 hours. You can opt to play for an hour, before logging out from the table. You can even set it up to play for an hour each day (you do have to book time) with three of your bridge "mates". You do need to be at your 4 separate computers, of course.

From our "bubble" Marg is interconnecting with three other "bubbles" and playing online bridge for about an hour each afternoon. Her partner is another member from our club and they are usually playing against another pair who are in two Tauranga "bubbles" (one is an ex-member of Paraparaumu, Judy Waldvogel). It may take a while to register and set it up (follow the tutorial instructions) but once that's all done, well, you're up and running on BBO.

There is also the opportunity to watch some high powered play on line, via BBO. For example, a New Zealand team played an Australian team, Thursday 9 April. There will be future matches too, between members of the current NZ and Australian Open teams, available on something called "Vugraph", probably on Thursday nights. More information from the NZ Bridge website.

Also on that website, is a **Daily Bridge problem** set and answered by Richard Solomon. He poses the bidding/play problem, then you can mull it over before he explains the answer the next day. It is very informative and an easy bridge "fix" for each lockdown day. (You can even get the Daily Problem e-mailed to you).

And a big "shout out" for a stunning debut on "Seven Sharp"

Just lovely to see Kaye Hay's cheerful and smiling face on "Seven Sharp" this week. All positive, as ever, despite the Covid-19 "lockdown" and even smiling as she dealt a deft slap to rugby (and league!) players who spit on the pitch. However, Kaye is a great, great follower of rugby (and it is a real pity that she has so little love for the magnificent Highlanders . . .). **Well done Kaye.**

Remember (and appreciate) our sponsors whenever you can.

Somehow Irene Galloway and I were talking about the importance of sponsors in contributing to club finances. She thought that Forsyth Barr (who sponsor the popular In-House Christmas Pairs) had been a really long term sponsor of the club. Later, Irene showed me her programme book from 1995. There is Forsyth Barr listed among the sponsors and Irene thinks the company has maintained that role over at least those 25 years. Not a bad effort. (And a couple of familiar names on the 1995 Committee list, such as Irene herself and a young . . . Dale Wills!)

Making a donation to our local community foodbank: These times are tough for many people and all foodbanks are reporting increased requests for assistance. However, they are receiving fewer food donations via supermarkets. If anyone would like to make a donation to our local community foodbank you can internet money to 12 3157 0048639 00. You can request a receipt for tax purposes. This will enable the foodbank to buy essential items.

Finally, a grim glimpse of bridge in Covid-19 conditions. This from a club somewhere in the United States. Note the gloves and face masks, though no effort at maintaining two metres of separation . . . they don't seem to understand the notion of social distancing.!!! This is dangerous and **NOT** the way to go if you want to play bridge. Get Online instead.



Is that 5 boards per table ? You wouldn't want to be "Phantom", would you? I do like the tables with the green felt-like cover and the suit symbols in the corners, that's rather smart, but attempting to play bridge dressed and imprisoned like that is not for me . . .

Until the boards are laid on the tables and once again we wish each other "good bridging", stay safe guys.

EDITOR: KEITH LEES