

Ho! Ho! HO!!! Yes, yes, I know 'tis the season to be flooded with sentimental Christmas newsletters . . . but there are certain traditions to maintain.

A very brief round up this time, virtually all focussed on the **Forsyth Barr Sponsored Christmas Pairs**, held on Sunday 13 December, which also serves as our end-of-year finale.

By the way, Forsyth Barr have been a sponsor of this Bridge Club for over 25 years. That is an enduring relationship and itself an impressive performance. They are obviously prepared to take a long term view of their “investment” in us.

Twenty tables filled the room – itself a richly colourful scene with the Christmas trimmings and the impressive efforts made by members to “dress to impress” with red and green and glitter and gold and plenty of deft touches, including a fine range of earrings (some that flashed), hats, antlers and even some Santa themed socks !



Here, Brian respectfully tips his hat. A true gentleman. And you could bring out that clobber for St Patrick's Day too, Brian.

The clubrooms seemed packed with good cheer – helped by the array of food (provided by all of you!) and organized by Noella, and the flow of wine and assorted drinks watched over by resident barman Ray Cachemaille (who always dresses for these occasions).



A great combined effort from Marin Wren and James Jones. I was considering them for the Editor's Award for Elan and Elegance but they were pipped almost at the post . . . see later!

**Our thanks must reach out to Trevor Smith for managing such a pleasurable afternoon.** For most of the day he seemed to be doing it all: running the raffles, drawing and delivering the spot prizes, introducing the sponsor's representative, playing the role of MC, as well as directing a full field of 20 tables AND playing bridge. He was perhaps very fortunate that Tina, his bridge partner, remains so unfailingly cheerful and calm.

When the hurly burly was done, when the bridge battles were lost and won, Trevor turned us to the results. Crunch time and for a moment the room was almost quiet.

**Leon Huia and Helen Edwards won Section A, from Averil Wotton and Lynda Evans. In Section B, Ruth Futter and Tom Ranson prevailed from Claudia Duncan and Jos Graves. Pat McArthur and Dennis Lahman took Section C and Lyn Boswell and Nan Page were second. Keith and Marg Lees won Section D from Bob Jennings and Moira Wilson in second place. Section E winners were Trish Schroder and Linzee Inkster (and more to come about that in just a moment . . . from Tom**

and Lorraine Tidey. Section F? Here, the winners were Davis Stagg and Brett Windley and second were Teresa Cook and Maureen Knox.



Ruth and Tom. Don't you just love their whole attitude and spirit ?





**And a similar cheerful approach from Dennis and Pat.**

Overall, across all six sections the tournament winners were Keith and Marg, second were Linzee and Trish and Ruth and Tom were third, Helen and Leon were fourth. **This was a wonderful result for Linzee and Trish in particular. To come in second and ahead of so many very experienced and capable players is remarkable. Trish is a relative beginner. Well done the two of you.**



**For me this was THE result of the day! Linzee and Trish** (with Matt Beilensohn from the Sponsors—how does someone that looks so young get to be a respected Financial Adviser?

I won't go through the prize winners of the various Christmas Pairs competitions, nor the raffle winners, but one award given on the day is of more interest. **Jane Bradbury** had to share the 2020 **award for the most slams bid and made** during the course of the club year. Last year she won it by a country mile but **this time she had to share it with Doug Galyer**, both having bid and made 35 slams!

**And the 70% club** ? All the usual suspects feature once again. In the year's "top ten" by percentage, Jane and Doug both appear four times (with various partners), but Dale Wills and Jane are right at the peak of this grouping, with an astonishing score of 79 %!!! Fay Mullen and David Blair are a noteworthy entry on this top ten listing with a score of 71% recorded in March (and where have you two been since then? I've been waiting for the repeat.)

And now? Now you have to wait for your bridge fix until 2021. Club Play starts again, the week beginning Monday January 11. Study those more obscure bridge bidding conventions over the break and then bring us your best game in the New Year.

Oh yes, you want to know who did finally attain the highly prestigious "**Elan and Elegance**" Award.(Remember, absolutely no correspondence will be entered into by the sole Judge.)

Yes, I was considering Martin and James, as well as several other cheerful combinations such as Elva and Chris and the Cachemailles, but in the end, I just couldn't go past these two.



Here are Leon and Helen collecting their wine for winning Section A, but look at the ensemble! Yes, it is Christmas (the twinkling lights and the matching hats) but Christmas with just a touch of studied . . . finesse? Helen is always well dressed but here Leon is really sharp, a dude! Well done!!

Have a lovely, lovely Christmas. It's been a tough year with Covid and a tough year for many of our members. You deserve a great break and come back recharged in the New Year. All the very best to you all.

"He sprang to the sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he rose out of sight,  
**Merry Christmas to all – and to all a good night!"**

**EDITOR: Keith Lees**