

Hello again, fellow bridge tragics, and kia ora koutou

THE BREAKERS RESTAURANT AND BAR PAIRS ie an IN-HOUSE TOURNAMENT

This was held in early May and 30 pairs competed against each other, and Tournament Manager Trevor Smith had also determined that the field would be further delineated into five sections, each with 6 pairs.

Section A winners and worthy overall winners of the tournament as a whole were Lucy O'Regan and Pauline Reid. Congratulations to them on a fine performance. Second in that section were Val Manley and Francie Vagg.

Section B winners were Jean Crafts and Robyn Michelson and perhaps more noteworthy is that they were placed second across the whole field. Well done. Marie Groves and Lorraine Borland were second in Section B.

Linzee Inkster and James Jones achieved first place in the next section (C) and this newish partnership pairing were also fourth overall. They seem on a bit of a roll – they recently won the Raumati Pairs (played on Thursday nights, April). Second in this section were Brian Pender and Ray Cachemaille.

Section D winners were Lyn Boswell and Nan Page and second here were Lou Macdonald and Rae Lutman and Section E was won by Edna Garriock with Lyn Berry and Myfanwy Skuse in second place.

Twenty players placed in the various sections and of those twenty, seventeen were women and only were three men . . . Hmnnn.

THE BLOOM HEARING PARAPARAUMU INTERMEDIATE TOURNAMENT

This two-session tournament attracted a wide, wide swathe of competitors looking for a tough game of bridge. They came from everywhere . . . 36 pairs in all and from Karori, Upper Hutt, Levin, Hutt Valley, Palmerston, Martinborough, Kapi Mana, Victoria, and from along the Kapiti Coast ie Otaki, Waikanae, and Paraparaumu.

All the more pleasing that when it came to the top of the list, to the spoils taken by the outright winners, they were two of our very own . . . Francie Vagg and Pauline Reid! They were tucked in behind the leading pack after the first session, but steady, calm and skilled play saw these two through to the outright win (with 66% in the second and final session).



Pauline and Francie are congratulated by president David Stagg . . . but where are the prizes?

The second place getters were from Hutt Valley, Jeffry Craanen and Simon Webber, and they must have felt some real confidence after leading at the halfway mark (with 67%!) but perhaps they compounded in the straight for they only scored 50% in session two and dropped from the lead.

Third place was gained by a pairing from Waikanae, fourth place by a Palmerston pair, fifth place by a partnership from Kapi Mana, and then our club was up there again with sixth place going to Bob Jennings and Tom Tidey. Well done guys.

Thanks again to Trevor Smith, and the teams running the kitchen, the bar and the scoring, for two very well-organised tournaments.

NEW MEMBERS

We are fortunate to be able to welcome some new members to the club, many of them coming from the lessons for beginners of course. You may well know or recognize the names of some of these new people?

And they are members who need to feel welcomed and wanted at our clubrooms. They will be introduced to play over the coming weeks and months. Here is the list of new members. Their contact details will be on the club noticeboards. You might even like to ask one of them if they'd like to play a session or two with you.

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Paula Morgan | Tim Fletcher | Doug Monks |
| Trish Starr | Rex Temperton | Jenny Clark |
| Anne Frizelle | Winnie Graham-Smith | Andy Steele |
| Christine Rice | Adrienne Watkin | Alison Steele |
| Shirley-Anne Morrow | Deborah Peters | Linda Aarsen |
| Phillipa Wynn | Carol Monks | |

SALES/PRODUCE TABLE

This venture to raise funds for the club is ticking along but it could do with more support from members. It's situated just inside the main entry door, on the left. What could you contribute to the table? Spare garden or fruit tree produce is welcome as well as items such as books and glossy magazines. **Please note that payment is by donation ie there is no fixed price on the goods, if you see something you like, just make a donation that suits you. Remember all money collected goes to the club.**

Books from last year's Improvers Classes are also available. These provide a useful summary and detail extensions of the ACOL bidding systems. The cost is \$10.00 per booklet and you can pay in cash or by internet banking.

THE WEDNESDAY GROUP

The **"Wednesday Group"** is settling in very well. Since early March, between 16 and 26 people have regularly come along at **1-3pm each Wednesday to play a few informal hands in a friendly, social atmosphere.**

In a normal club session, talking about the hands is discouraged. At the Wednesday Group players are **encouraged to ask questions and discuss** bidding, hand evaluation, playing techniques, strategy, etc., before, during, and after the hands are played.

A learning topic is introduced at the beginning of the session. Examples so far have been opening leads, scoring and sacrifice bidding, making extra trump tricks, and details of the Stayman convention.

This Group is open to anyone who wants to improve their play through relaxed discussion with other players or by chatting with or asking one of the more experienced players present.

You don't need to have a partner. If you do, that's fine, but there'll be spare people available.

No need to enrol, register or commit to every Wednesday; you just come along whenever you can.

To cover club costs such as heating now that winter is approaching, a \$2 table fee is charged with payment expected only when your fees accumulate to around \$10 (i.e. after 5 weeks). Payment of the table fee can be made in cash or with your MST card.

BINGO NIGHT (with Trevor Smith as MC and organiser extraordinaire)

You're invited to the Mightiest, Most Magnificent, **BINGO NIGHT** (Ever).

You won't have been to a Bingo night like this before.

You'll learn things that you never even knew you needed to know.

You'll have more fun than a kitten in a carton of cotton balls.

This is Bingo but with a difference, and ***you won't/don't want to miss it.***

Do you know the expression "FOMO"? It stands for "Fear of Missing Out". And that applies here . . . ie you don't want to miss out, do you??

WHEN: Friday 25th of June at 5pm (ie after the Friday afternoon session)

WHERE: At our clubrooms

WHO: Bring yourselves and friends/spouses/partners and significant others

FOOD: Nibbles provided, but BYO refreshments.

PRIZES, PRIZES, PRIZES: Three games (time permitting) with a prize for each full house!

HOW WILL IT WORK?: For each game, your first bingo card is free

Extra bingo cards (up to 5) can be purchased for \$1 each. All cash collected will be added to the prize pool.

Finally, a quote that only those of a certain age group will understand: "**BE THERE -- OR BE SQUARE!**"

SLAM CLUB

Update (to 6 May). Does Jane Bradbury already have an unbeatable lead? She has 18 slams bid and made, and the next best, Gillian Travers, is well behind with a mere 13. Then the pack, with

Pauline Reid, Ray Cachemaille, Doug Galyer, and Dale Wills, all on 12 slams. Editor's note: Jane has won this somewhat informal competition four times in the last seven years. Take her on.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

The Levin Intermediate and Junior Pairs will be held on 13 June. Then there is the Upper Hutt Open Pairs (same day, June 13) and the Kapi Mana Open Pairs (June 20).

But you might want to "lock in" two important tournaments ie another Paraparaumu In House event, the Law Connection Sponsored Pairs (June 27) and the Paraparaumu Junior Pairs (on 18 July)

AND HERE'S ONE BRIDGE TRAGIC WHO IS MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE

(This item culled from the NZBridge website)

Sonya Adams. You may not have heard of Sonya, but Sonya is having a huge impact at the Wanaka Club which has just started **two Learners sessions at the club with 44 attending**, more than double the usual number.

"I'm so passionate about the game that I just decided to spread the word and recruit new members to our club and surrounding regions."

The new members she has found are much younger than usual with the majority in the 40's and 50's. Sonya is not a bridge teacher herself but has played the key role in attracting beginners. Indeed, it was only a couple of years ago that Sonya went through the classes herself. She just fell in love with the game and wants everyone to be playing.

She ran a Bridge Awareness Campaign, on Facebook, in the media, around town in Wanaka and then most prominently at the huge two- day Wanaka A & P Show, the largest such show in the South Island with some 45,000 people attending from all around New Zealand.

There were 562 trade sites divided into two categories with a prize for each of the Large and Small Sites, just one prize in each category. **The Small Trade Site's award went to Sonya's bridge site.**

The site was set up in such a way that it became a drawcard for people to sit and observe/listen; had huge numbers stop by and achieved remarkably large numbers of contact details from interested persons from Wanaka and elsewhere (even North Island people!).



Sonya's "Bridge Awareness" site at the Wanaka A and P Show. You couldn't miss it.

Sonya enlisted the help of volunteers from the local club to play in two- hour rosters and at peak times encouraged these players to dress up with large animal faces. Commentators explained to the passers-by what was happening at the tables. Members helping at the stand wore 'Queen of Hearts' outfits, and walked around the show drawing attention to themselves and talking about playing Bridge.

Sonya employed a magician to do three, card trick shows each day. She had bridge and card giveaways, brochures, a flyer about the up-coming Wanaka Club lessons. She took names of interested people with out of towners' names and emails to be passed on to clubs in their area.

Sonya attends the Wanaka Learner classes as one of the helpers and communicates with all those learning by email after every lesson and gives them encouragement before, during and after the lessons. **44 have started the lessons and another 28 will start later this year!** Sonya will be ensuring that they do not forget this commitment. She will also be ensuring where possible that the new players move on to club sessions, with the help of supervised play.

"DIRTY TRICKS"

You might want to watch out for this movie. I don't know if it will be screened locally but it is scheduled to begin at Wellington's Roxy on 20 June.

It's listed as a comedy/doco and also as a true crime/comedy and tells the complex story of **Lotan Fisher**, a young Israeli bridge player who was regarded as a prodigy and bridge genius,

before his downfall in 2015 after accusations and allegations of cheating. For a time he was considered the greatest player in the world. **The Michael Jordan of bridge.**

Fisher and his partner, Ron Schwartz, were stunning the world of top international bridge and the money was rolling in (the best players can earn upwards of a million dollars a year), then the barrel abruptly stopped turning and they were both banned by international bridge authorities for several years. They have a life ban on their partnership.

Fisher still denies that he was cheating. In the film he explains, "I never cheated but maybe I did bring it on myself".

I did enjoy the comment made by the movie's Director, Daniel Shivan, after he tried to work out what this frustrating game is all about. He interviewed many of the world's best but he also visited scores of bridge clubs to check out the fascination felt by many bridge fans.

"I was going to all these small bridge clubs and I was counting on people being super nice and relaxed," he says, "but everywhere I went they were ruthless. People were at their club to win. There were all these nice senior citizens but they were into their bridge for blood".

No, Daniel, no. Come along to the Paraparaumu Bridge Club and have a gentle chat with us.

EDITOR: KEITH LEES

