



## **PRESIDENTS REPORT 2024**

**President: Trevor Smith**

I welcome you to the Annual General Meeting of the Paraparaumu Bridge Club 2024.

I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect upon some of the events of the past year and, along the way, to express my gratitude to all our members for their continued support of our Club.

### **COMMITTEE**

I would like to pay a personal and special thank you to the members who served on the Committee during the year:

Brett Windley as Treasurer, Anne Brunt as Secretary, Linda Pender as Vice President, Alan Stevens, Hugh Norton, Theresa Cook, Tina Connell-Pine, Gillian Travers, David Stagg and Gary Jenkins – they have all worked hard to keep the Club running smoothly, addressing situations when they needed addressing, and always looking for ways to improve the Club for the well-being of its members.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

I'd like to welcome our newer members who have joined this year, some as graduates of the lessons and some from the wider community. We value you all. You are the lifeblood of the Club, and we all hope for your continued enjoyment in playing at the Club.

I'd also like to recognise and thank the solid core of players whose engagement with the Club extends over many years; who have given great service to the Club in many roles and hopefully will continue to do so. If

new members are the Club's lifeblood, you, the senior members, are its backbone.

Our Club is successful and continues to be successful because of your dedicated efforts and support.

At the start of the year, our membership was 154 in January, dropping to 140 in March. But I'm happy to report that with the arrival of a great bunch of graduates from our lessons this year and other valuable new members, our membership has grown to 162 members.

## OBITUARIES

Sadly, during the year, we lost some colleagues, partners, and friends who will be greatly missed.

I'd like to mention them now.

Michael Cunniffe

Kaye Hay

Jane Gilbert

Marion Sillick (Life Member)

I feel it's appropriate we remember our former members and acknowledge their contribution to the Club.

Please stand for a moment's silence.

---

## THE YEAR THAT WAS

So, let's look at a few things that have happened this year.

## NAME SHEETS, CHECK SHEETS, AND STOP CARDS

One very noticeable thing is that our table tops became much less cluttered.

After talking with other clubs and observing when visiting for tournaments, we first removed name sheets and checksheets from our

tables. Then, on recommendation from the NZ Bridge Chief Director, we also removed Stop Cards.

A pity about the Stop Cards – I always considered *our* stop cards to be the best of any club – bold, robust, and strikingly red! The efforts of many other clubs seemed flimsy and poor in comparison.

## SALE OF OUR OLD BRIDGEMATES

The 26 Bridgemates that we used to use to record the session scores were languishing in our storeroom and were seemingly destined for the rubbish dump after a proposed sale to the Hutt Club fell through and no one else wanted them. Then NZ Bridge asked to borrow some for a congress tournament. We seized the opportunity and negotiated to sell all our ‘useless’ Bridgemates to NZ Bridge for \$720.

A win-win result for the Club!

## POLL TO CHANGE SESSION TIMES

We conducted a poll this year to ask members if they wanted to change our current Tuesday sessions by moving one session to Monday.

Just over 70% of members took part in the poll. After examining the results, the Committee decided the poll results did not show sufficient support for a change.

## LESSONS

This year’s series of beginner’s lessons produced a great bunch of dedicated members who are currently enjoying the game and showing impressive enthusiasm and promise.

Next year, the lessons will once again be free. Remember that lessons for 2025 start on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. We seem to always make this plea, but the most effective communication for making the community aware of our lessons has proven to be word-of-mouth, so please have a conversation

with family, friends, neighbours, and acquaintances and let them know about our lessons and be an ambassador for the Club and the wonderful game of Bridge.

This is an important role you all can play – spread the word.

Many people work so hard to run the lessons and recruit new members. Thanks for your efforts this year – they seem to have paid off handsomely.

Getting new members is always welcome, but we need to keep them in the Club. It can be scary for the first few weeks. It's natural to be worried about making mistakes, and just being told not to worry doesn't always help. It is vital that our more experienced players go out of their way to provide a warm, friendly, nurturing, and welcoming environment for our new players.

## SOCIAL BRIDGE

Social Bridge on Wednesday afternoons continues to provide a relaxed non-competitive environment where players can discuss the hands and improve their bridge skills. It has a dedicated following. Thanks to Eliza Thomson for convening and running this group.

## TOURNAMENTS

Tournament attendance has still not picked up to pre-Covid levels, a trend unfortunately echoed throughout the whole country. However, we have seen a gradual and welcome improvement.

Thanks to Hugh Norton for managing our tournaments this year.

In March, the Club hosted our Open Tournament with 10 tables, followed by our Intermediate Tournament with 15 tables in May. In this tournament, congratulations to Martin Wren and Lyn Berry who came third.

The Junior tournament drew 8 tables and our top pair were Anne Brunt and Sharon Henry, who also came third. Well Done.

To the surprise of some participants, we drew 16 tables for the Multigrade tournament on 13 October. Best performers from the Club were Gillian Travers and Dennis Lahman. Congratulations to you two.

At each of these tournaments, we received many compliments from participants regarding how well they enjoyed the tournament. We have a great reputation amongst the tournament players of our region. At our most recent Multigrade tournament, there were lots of positive comments not only about players' enjoyment of the day, but also, of course, the special feature always mentioned is the great lunch we provide. This provides a big attraction for people to play at our Club.

This is what we love to hear, so great job to all involved.

We held a very successful Winter Teams competition this year, with ten teams involved. Thanks to Gillian for driving this event. It's important that our members are familiar with the teams format so they can perform well in teams events, so that makes our Winter Teams sessions an important training event for the Club.

A highlight of the year was the special tournament to commemorate the Paris Olympics held in August. There were a host of countries represented, and amazing national costumes and mascots on display, but the Gold Medal was awarded to Ian Nicholls and Margaret Norrish representing South Korea. It was a great fun day, and it was very proper that an event of this stature was duly reported in The Kapiti News.

All our in-house competitions were very successful and well-attended. I think everyone who attends one of our in-house Sunday afternoons has a great time, and this year's recent Halloween afternoon was a perfect example. Good fun, great costumes, a good day all round.

Paraparaumu Club hosted the Kapiti Horowhenua Area Pairs (KHAP) tournament in 2024. This nine-session tournament ran through the year from March to November and attracted pairs from around the region. It provided some organisational and scoring challenges to which those members involved responded extremely well. I'd like to mention in particular our Head Scorer Jane McArthur whose efforts to produce a

ladder from a three series event, each of three sessions, with one series being online, showed real dedication and persistence. Thank you, Jane.

## INTERCLUB

I'm pleased to report that Paraparaumu was the winner of the Paraparaumu-Waikanae annual interclub challenge this year in April, our first win for a number of years. The tournament has been held for 32 years and the result is now Waikanae 17 wins, Paraparaumu 15.

Congratulations to Team Paraparaumu.

Unfortunately, we didn't fare as well in the Jackways Shield interclub competition with Kapi-Mana, finishing a close second. We'll try again next year.

We also had several pairs competing in the Rubber Bridge regional competition, progressing successfully through the initial rounds but unfortunately not to the final. Thanks to Gillian for organising our participation in the event.

## KITCHEN RENOVATION

As reported at the last AGM, the Committee reviewed our use of gas and decided it was uneconomic and should be disconnected. The decision was supported by the fact that the old gas stove was a hazard, being difficult to light. This presented a problem each time it was used and also was a negative factor when hiring the clubrooms.

In considering the kitchen area, the design of the cupboards was poor, resulting in extra work each time cups were transferred from the dishwasher to the cupboards.

Finally, a water leak in the southwest corner of the kitchen caused considerable damage to the bench and cupboards.

For these reasons, the Committee applied for funding to remove the gas connection and renovate our kitchen. Our application for \$30,000 was successful and our renovated modern kitchen is now fully functional. It has

received a unanimous tick of approval from those using the kitchen regularly and will be an attraction for potential hirers of our clubrooms. We lodged an insurance claim for the water-damaged area and received an amount of around \$5000 for repairs.

## THE BUILDING

### REPLACING THE CLADDING

You all know we have a problem with the north wall of our building, and to a lesser extent, the west and south walls. In strong wind and rain conditions, the north wall has leaked and the carpet by the exit doors has become damp.

A professional inspection focusing on moisture testing has shown that the problem is due to cracks and faulty cladding joins and the lack of a drained cavity. The recommendation of the building inspector is that the cladding on the north wall should be replaced together with any compromised timber.

So, I'd like to answer a few questions you may have...

How much will this cost?

We won't know the exact amounts until we get quotes for the work, but a working estimate is that recladding the north wall may cost \$70,000 and recladding all four walls will cost approximately \$300,000.

Note that the total project would probably be spread over several years.

How urgent is the problem?

The professional recommendation is that the north wall should be replaced within 12-18 months and the west wall replaced within 2-3 years. The recommendation stated these timeframes could be extended by remedial work resealing the cracks and joins.

Last week, on the hottest day of the year, a working bee of Alan Stevens, Hugh Norton, David Stagg, and Roger Keene resealed all visible cracks and joins on the north and west walls.

How safe is the north wall?

Although the base plate of the north wall is showing signs of rot, the rest of the wall is sound and the wall is in no danger of collapse.

As long as the interior of the wall is not disturbed and we keep the area dry and ventilated, there is no danger of exposure to mould that may be present in the walls.

What has happened so far?

Following the Building Inspection, we engaged an architect to draw up plans for recladding all four walls and submit a Building Consent application, and also engaged a Quantity Surveyor to provide a schedule of quantities. With this information, we will be able to ask for quotes from recommended contractors for each wall to be reclad in stages.

So far, the cost to the Club for the professional engagements has been around \$5000. The Building Consent fee was a further \$7000.

We have met with the Mayor and put a case for financial help from KCDC. The Mayor offered several options and possibilities which are still being worked through. She has since communicated that Council realises the value of the club now that the Community Centre has been demolished, and has arranged a further meeting including the Council Chief Executive to further discuss what assistance KCDC can provide.

With regard to all the building-related items that the Committee has dealt with this year, I would like to make special mention of the work done by our Building Manager, Alan Stevens. With his engineering background, Alan has been invaluable to the Club – project managing and driving the upgrade to our kitchen as well as the investigation and remedial work around our leaky wall. A thank you from me and from all of us to Alan.

The state of our building and the health and safety of our members is of paramount importance. This is a big issue and it's important that everyone is fully informed. Much has happened very recently. At the conclusion of my report, I will introduce an extra item to the agenda and ask Alan to report on the current Health and Safety of the building. After that, if you have any further questions, we will be happy to answer them.

## FUNDING SUB-COMMITTEE

We have established a Funding Sub-Committee to:

- investigate and recommend fundraising strategies and sources,
- determine funding organisations that are available and suitable,
- produce a staged plan to secure the required funds in the required timeframe,
- Obtain the funding

Victoria Bolton is taking on the role of Funding Co-ordinator and will chair the sub-committee.

A draft funding plan has been prepared which outlines the focus of the sub-committee and the way forward. This plan is a working document but, for the information of members, a summarised version of the plan will be available on the table at the end of the meeting.

It may sound like a huge amount of money to raise, but the members of this sub-committee have extensive experience in fundraising and see no problem in producing and executing the plan for a staged fundraising effort to meet our requirements.

## ROOF REPAIRS

The Butynol covering on the flat areas of the roof above the kitchen and office is at end-of-life and needs replacing within the next few years.

We applied to the Lotteries Commission for a grant of \$33,000 to repair the Butynol roof, and we heard from the Lotteries Grants Board on 24 October that they had granted us... a partial funding of \$5,000.

The Committee will decide how best to use these funds.

## CLUB ROOMS HIRE

With the demise of the Community Centre next door, and our new and modern kitchen, our clubrooms have become an attractive venue for community groups to hire.

This year has been a productive year for hiring out our rooms.

In February, a Mahjong group arranged to hire the clubrooms on Thursday afternoons on a regular basis. This arrangement has now been running smoothly for 10 months.

Apart from this group, we have hired our rooms to KCDC groups such as a waiata group, a first aid training class, and a morning tea to commemorate the Te Newhanga Community Centre next door.

As for the future, we already have a hire booking for a birthday party in January.

We'd like to expand the hiring of our clubrooms, so if anyone is aware of a community group, or Club, or person, looking for premises on a one-off hire or regular basis, please talk to someone on the Committee.

## SPONSORSHIP

We wanted to add a new in-house tournament this year as we had a gap in our schedule. Our Life Members generously sponsored a new tournament at the end of June. A big thank you to all our life members for this sponsorship. You, in particular, have all given so much to the Club and you continue to do so.

Unfortunately, we said goodbye to one of our Sponsors, Tuatara Brewery, who donated regular monthly prizes to the Club. The Brewery has moved to Upper Hutt.

Thanks to the work of our Sponsorship Manager, Tina Connell-Pine, we have retained all of our other regular sponsors for our 2025 tournaments and we welcome a new sponsor.

One of our members, Aashish Suri of Terramark Real Estate and Rental Management has agreed to sponsor our June in-house Tournament.

Terramark will also donate \$250 each year for three years to the Club for every rental agreement signed by club members, and \$1000 for every member-initiated house sale. Check the fine print for details.

So, I'm sure you've all worked it out – all we need to do is arrange the sale of 300 houses through Terramark Real Estate and our funding requirements to reclad the clubrooms are solved.

Sponsorship is always important to us, and now even more so with our significant extra funding requirements. If you know or can think of a sponsorship opportunity, please let us know.

## INCORPORATED SOCIETY ACT 2022

In 2022, a new Incorporated Societies Act was passed, requiring all Incorporated Societies, such as our Club, to re-register and provide a new constitution in line with new regulations. This must be done before April 2026. Our Club Rules must be changed to meet the new regulations and this may require a Special General Meeting next year, but on initial investigation, the changes required are not extensive or difficult.

---

## VOLUNTEERS

The Club could not exist and none of our accomplishments would have been possible without the tireless efforts not only of our Committee but also our group of dedicated volunteers. Their commitment, hard work, sacrifice of time, and passion for Bridge have been instrumental to the long-term success of our Club.

You may think that the Club is managed and run by a small group of people but there are over 50 members who perform a significant voluntary supporting role for the Club. And these people perform over 60 separate roles for the Club.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them for their invaluable contribution. The Club would simply not function without their help and dedication.

Our Directors, Scorers, and Dealers are three groups of hard-working members who deserve special mention – many of these people have been providing excellent regular week-upon-week day-after-day service to the Club for many years. They deserve our heartfelt thanks.

I'd like to mention in particular a few of our team of volunteers.

## KITCHEN and BAR

Our regular kitchen supplies have been managed this year by Theresa Cook, who has satisfied our voracious appetites with food and hot drinks.

A special mention to Noella Squire for her tireless and sterling efforts in running the Kitchen for all tournaments. Noella doesn't only heat and serve the lunches; she prepares many food items at home, from garden to stove. At the recent Halloween tournament, Noella supplied and boiled 60 eggs then split and refilled them to produce 120 stuffed eggs. I can personally attest that they were delicious.

Noella has had help from Tina Connell-Pine, Kay Adamson, Marg Lees, Yvonne Rowe and others who have pitched in – a big thank you. As I mentioned earlier, the lunches we provide for our national tournaments bring a lot of credit to the Club.

Thanks also to Ray and Margaret Cachemaille for managing and running the bar, and providing us and our guests with friendly and efficient service to wind down after a long day's Bridge.

## CLUB DECORATIONS

I'd like to acknowledge a dedicated core team of Linda Pender, Theresa Cook, Gillian Travers, and Tina Connell-Pine who have organised the decorating of our club over the last few years for special seasons or events such as Christmas, Halloween and the Olympics. Their hard work, innovation and flair have turned these events into days to remember. Vice-President Linda has also performed the important role of Almoner for many years, so thanks to Linda and the decorating team.

## CLUB RECORDER

The Club Recorder is an essential position. Keith Lees, our Recorder, has helped when members felt issues should be addressed. We thank him for his sympathetic ear and wise words.

## DIRECTORS

Brian Pender has led our Directors Group that meets bi-monthly, bringing current issues, reviewed rulings, and curly problems to the table to discuss. One of the issues that keeps reappearing is slow play. No one is ever happy with slow play, but remember, it affects the whole room and is very hard to manage. If you need to take a little time to ponder a problem, do so by all means, but then please try to keep up with the rest of the room. Patience is needed. Help the Director do his job.

Our Directors perform an essential job to run each session efficiently and get the best and fairest results for all players. It's important that our Directors and the job they perform are acknowledged and respected.

### Volunteer Thank You Afternoon Tea.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, on behalf of the Club, the Committee hosted a Thank You Afternoon Tea for all our Volunteers. It was a very enjoyable get-together to recognise a very important group of people.

I invite the meeting to show your appreciation for our amazing team of volunteers.

*Applause*

---

## FINANCIAL

### HONORARIA AND PAYMENTS

The 2023 Annual General Meeting tasked the Committee with considering an increase in the honoraria paid to the treasurer and secretary as the current payments had not been reviewed for “at least eight years”.

The Committee agreed to present a resolution to the 2024 AGM and will recommend that the honoraria be raised from \$500 to \$600.

In May, the Committee decided on a payment of an honorarium to the Lessons Tutor of \$150.

For the information of members, in addition to these payments, the Club makes an annual payment of \$200 to Bob Fearn for Compass and Compa\$\$ support, and gifts a \$100 dining voucher to the Auditor.

A full update on the Club's financial position was in the papers emailed to you and will be covered by the Treasurer.

My thanks to Brett, who is stepping down this year. The Treasurer has a crucial job requiring regular attention and activity to keep the Club's financial wheels rolling and under control. Brett, who has been treasurer for four years, has kept those wheels well-oiled and running smoothly, checking in regularly and keeping an eye on our financial state even when on holiday overseas.

I'd also like to thank Linda Aarsen who has assisted Brett throughout the year with banking, invoicing, and computer updates.

FINALLY

My thanks to you, our members, for the privilege of being your President for the last year.

We have challenges ahead of us, but our members have always shown solid support, and the Club is in good shape.

We must remember that we are a not-for-profit organisation with reasonable reserves. Let's not lose sight of why we are here. As stated in our mission statement on our website, our focus is:

To provide an enjoyable bridge-playing experience for all levels of players and to encourage all players to further develop their skills in a friendly, competitive, and challenging social atmosphere.

For the future, our emphasis needs to continue to be on attracting and retaining more members while still being caring and responsive to the needs of our existing members.

Looking ahead, I'm very optimistic about the future of our Club. We have a strong and solid club. Our table attendance is growing, and I want to see that continue so all our members can benefit while we continue to explore new opportunities for growth, host popular and rewarding tournaments, and, above all, strive to create an even more inclusive and supportive environment where everyone feels welcomed and valued.

In conclusion, I'm proud of what we've achieved this year as a bridge club. To ensure we move boldly into the future, I encourage all of you to be involved, share your ideas and your passion, and, as members, continue to contribute to the success and growth of our Club.

So, I'll see you all back at the tables at the end of this year and into the next, enjoying the challenges and rewards of this great game that we love.

We're approaching the end of the year, and although this is looking forward a month or so, my very best wishes to you all for a safe, happy Christmas and a happy, enjoyable, and fulfilling New Year.

Thank you for being part of the journey this year. Let's continue to foster our friendships, let's continue to exercise our minds engaged in a pastime we enjoy, and let's continue to create ever more lasting memories.

That's what our Club is about.

I'm sure the small group of people who started this Club 56 years ago would be proud of their Club today and the members here tonight.

Thank you.

Trevor Smith  
President  
Paraparaumu Bridge Club  
November 2024