



PRESIDENTS REPORT 2025

President: Bob Jennings

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Paraparaumu Bridge Club 2025

Taking on the club president's role was a leap of faith for me given the prognosis of the clubroom's ongoing leaks and the cure being replacing all rotten timber and re-clad the whole building.

It was not only me, but the new committee that had inherited the problem on behalf of all club members.

However, Trevor Smith's previous committee had plans and not just for the building consent. They had investigated funding sources and were ready in February to apply to the Lotteries Community Facilities Fund to obtain funds to undertake the recladding.

As you all know we did obtain the funding, but it was not all plain sailing. The club owes a great deal of thanks to Trevor Smith and Alan Stevens for working together to get us to where we are today.

Later in this report I'll touch on the journey to recladding the Clubrooms which I am pleased to report is currently well underway.

COMMITTEE

I would thank the members who served on the Committee during the year:

Vikki Clarke as Secretary, Rachel Bruce as Treasurer, David Stagg as Vice President, Trevor Smith as Immediate Past President (retiring), Alan Stevens as Building Manager, Hugh Norton, Theresa Cook (retiring), Linda Aarsen (retiring), Margaret Jamieson and Victoria Bolton – they have worked well to keep the Club running smoothly and to take on tasks as they arose.

Special thanks to our secretary, Vikki who has performed her role admirably and made my job a lot easier.

MEMBERSHIP

At the beginning of the year membership was 160 and currently stands at 164. We had an initial intake of over 35 students enrolled in the lessons commencing in February and from that around 12 new members joining the club.

OBITUARIES

Sadly, during the year, we lost some colleagues and former members.

Joy Haughy Colleen Mankelow Lou McDonald Stan Goodright

It is appropriate we remember our former members and acknowledge their contribution to the Club.

Please stand for a moment's silence.

THE YEAR THAT WAS

DIRECTORS

This year two of our long-standing directors, Marie Groves and Dennis Lahman relocated and were no longer able to provide their services. I would like to acknowledge their contribution and reiterate my thanks. It's nice to see Dennis making the trip out from Wellington occasionally to still play in the club.

This year we congratulate and welcome Jane Bradbury and James Winskill as new club directors. They successfully completed the Director's course and are helping fill the gap left by Marie and Dennis.

The director's job is an important one to ensure the smooth running of each session and handle issues when they occur. Our club does not have a lot of directors and our existing ones are unsung heroes who are very generous with their time. Thank you.

LESSONS

We owe many thanks to Trevor Smith for his teaching contribution and to his group of mentors who showed up every Monday night to support and encourage learning and

playing the game of bridge. This year 12 new members have joined and are starting to participate in club sessions. Welcome to you.

Next year, the lessons once again will be free. Trevor advises that NZ Bridge have improved the sessions with a 12week course. Lessons for 2025 start on the 9th of February. Making the community aware of our lessons has proven to be word-of-mouth and on-line so please have a conversation with family, friends, neighbours, and acquaintances and let them know about the lessons and the great game of Bridge.

Getting new members and then integrating them into playing club sessions is an involved process.

Trevor recently attended a teaching conference and came away with some new ideas. One which had been successful with other clubs to help with retention was to continue Monday nights as beginner's sessions through until the end of the year.

These would operate just like a normal club session but without the rigour and formality which would slowly be introduced and require a scorer, dealer, director and a mentor for each night.

SOCIAL BRIDGE

Social Bridge continued Wednesday afternoons. It has a considerable following and apparently there are now 50 people on the mailing list. Thanks to Eliza Thomson for convening and running this group. Eliza is stepping down, and we welcome a new member, David Smith who will take over the convening.

TOURNAMENTS

Thanks to Hugh Norton for organising our tournaments this year and for Trevor stepping in when Hugh was away.

In March, the Club hosted our Open Tournament with 13 tables, followed by our Intermediate Tournament with 16 tables in May. In this tournament, Elizabeth Steinbauer and reserve Jane Bradbury took out the afternoon session with a top score of 65.69%

The Junior tournament drew 10 tables and our top pairs were new members Chris Eales and Lyn Connor, 4th and Hugh Norton and David Stagg 5th.

There were 19 tables for the Multigrade tournament on 13 October, 3 more tables than last year. Tom Tidey and his partner were 2nd in the Intermediate Group.

Thanks to our scorers Jane McArthur and Ian Nicholls who prepare for the tournaments and are then on hand to set up the scoring and ensure the results are correct at the end of the day's play.

Again, the great lunch provided for our tournaments is a great hit. Many thanks to Noella, Tina and helpers who put in a lot of work preparing the food and then presenting it on the day.

We had a couple of successes in regional tournaments with Jane Bradbury and Dale Wills coming first in the Waikanae Intermediate Pairs and Vikki Clarke and Francie Vagg coming first in the Intermediate-Junior Group of the Otaki Multigrade and 6th overall out of 42 pairs, an excellent result.

Waikanae Junior and Novice pairs. Well done to Corinda Taylor and her partner from Waikanae, David Chalmers, on winning the novice section. It was great to see a lot of support coming from Paraparaumu Bridge Club for the tournament.

Teams

The Teams competition was held in July and September this year, with ten teams involved. Gillian Travers again organised this event however, next year she is handing the reins to Linda Couch.

Thanks also to Francie Vagg for giving up her time to direct without accepting a fee. The other unsung heroes that made the teams event successful were the scorers Jane McArthur and Helen Edwards who beaver away on the office while the players are enjoying the Bridge.

Club Tournaments

Our in-house tournaments were very successful. These are relaxed, friendly events and usually well attended. The Halloween competition had its share of costumed participants so much so that it was difficult to tell which witch was which!

Interclub

This year Waikanae was the winner of the Paraparaumu-Waikanae annual interclub challenge this year in April. The result is now Waikanae 18 wins, Paraparaumu 15.

Kapi-Mana kindly hosted the Jackway Shield interclub competition this year while our remedial work is underway. Unfortunately, this gave them an advantage, and they retained the shield.

NZ Congress– Palmerston North

Some of our members attended the congress last week. An outstanding result was James Winskill and Chris Farrow coming 2nd out of 88 pairs in the NZ Intermediate Pairs which consisted of 4 sessions. I guess Waikanae will be taking credit too because James and Chris are members of both clubs. Congratulations to Chris and James.

FUND RAISING and REMEDIAL WORK PLANNING

The Funding Sub-Committee's role was to develop fundraising strategies and determine organisations to apply for to secure funding for the remedial work.

Currently the Funding sub-committee members are Victoria Bolton, Roger Simmons, Alan Stevens, Trevor Smith and the President (ex officio.)

The key potential source of funds was the Lotteries Community Facilities Fund with a pre-requisite being that the applicant must hold at least a third of the funds being sought.

Mark Wickens, our Quantity Surveyor had estimated that a total reclad of the clubrooms would cost over \$400,000. The building engineers had determined that the North wall needed immediate attention, and the South and West walls were problematic but did not need immediate repair. It was thought that staging the repair would be the most appropriate given we did not hold \$133,333 in funds

Funding Sources – Donations and Prepaid Subscriptions

Apart from existing funds we received generous donations from several members and loans in the form of 3 years prepaid subscriptions. A special thank you to our generous donors who made a very significant contribution.

Raffles

Human dynamo, Victoria Bolton, Calendar raffle girl, ran a raffle in March with a prize for every day in April. This netted the club \$10,000! Victoria has organised the current December Calendar raffle with tickets available to be sold up until the 28th November. All prizes have been donated with key sponsors being Coastlands, Nebulite Windows and Doors and Spectro Print. Ticket sales for this raffle have been slower. There are still 11 days for a final burst of selling.

Tablecloth Logos

Roger Simmons secured four tablecloth sponsorships valued at \$1500 each. The sponsorship is innovative and lucrative for the club so please support Milford,

Summerset on the Coast, Imagination Gin Distillery and Anne Humphreys of Harcourts. If you know of any business that could contribute, please let the committee or Roger know.

Gin

A novel fundraiser, not everyone's cup of tea, was promoting our very own bespoke gin distilled, sold by Imagination Distilling. Each bottle sold nets the club over 25% of the selling price which is currently \$80. We held a Gin Tasting and Launch night on the 6th of June which was well attended followed by a further tasting evening in October. So far over 115 bottles have been sold.

Applying for Funds

In late February an application was made to the Lotteries Community Facility Fund for one third of the cost to re-clad the building, with a decision date in June. However, early on the Fund advised us that they did not fund staged developments and that we would have to apply for the full amount. The encouraging aspect was that the Fund indicated that they would accept partnership funding in the form of grants from smaller funders. They also said that our application was comprehensive well presented.

Trevor withdrew our application and immediately started looking at organisations that might provide partnership funding.

Having been successful in obtaining funding for the kitchen renovations from Pub Charity Ltd. Trevor and Alan contacted them and explained our situation and they encouraged us to make an application to them to bridge the gap between our existing funds and what the Lotteries Community Facilities Fund might fund. In making an application two competitive quotes to do the re-cladding were required.

Alan immediately arranged for Tenders to be called for suitable building companies who could undertake the work. These closed at the end of April and were considered by the building sub-committee on 5th May.

Armed with actual tender amounts, application for partnership funding was then made by Trevor to Pub Charity Ltd. in early May. On 30th May we were notified that the application was approved. We now had the pre-requisite one third funds to apply for re-cladding the whole building!

Trevor then got the re-application to Lotteries underway only to find they had redesigned their application form! He had to re-fit the key information from the earlier application into the new layout. Application was made in time to meet the next

Lotteries Community Facilities Funding deadline of 25th June. Decision time was 17th September.

We then proceeded on the basis that our application would be successful. We had two preferred tenders. Each used different pricing methods, so further evaluation was necessary to choose the successful applicant. The building companies were made aware of our situation, and if our funding application was successful, we would aim for a start date of 28th October. They also knew the alternative!

We had to look for venues to continue playing the remaining programmed sessions for the year. Various venues were considered but the logistics to set up tables and have the computer and tablets working was a big hurdle.

When we approached the Waikanae Club they were very receptive with a “how can we help?” attitude. Only one of our sessions clashed with Waikanae’s. We were able to shift the Tuesday night session to Wednesday night. There were only 3 other individual clashes which needed accommodating. A remarkable fit and so handy!

Lotteries Community Facilities Fund advised us on the 17th September that our application had been successful!

That same night we had a Funding Sub-committee meeting. It seemed appropriate to celebrate this remarkable milestone and so, while attending to business, “Bridgin the Gap” came into its own!

Preparing for the Re-cladding

Alan followed up with the following matters: liaising with Mark Wickens to finalise the contract with the preferred builder, CD van der Meer Builders; Nebulite measuring up for Window and Door replacement; Construction Insurance being arranged; KCDC as ground lessor being notified; and a working bee the day after the Halloween tournament.

The working bee had plenty of helpers. The curtains and blinds were taken down and the table and chairs stacked over to near the notice boards. Sponsor acknowledgments were taken down and all fixtures and fittings on the inside of the external walls removed,

On the 28th October CDV Builders prepared the site, put up temporary fencing and started work on the building. Paraparaumu Bridge Club played its first session at Waikanae Bridge Club.

This relocation required organisation with the Waikanae Bridge Club regarding building access, operation of the Kitchen, Computer and Tablets. Trevor was heavily involved in this, meeting with Directors on site and acquainting scorers with their roles. Theresa Cook organised the biscuits. The Waikanae Club is kindly provided tea and coffee. Needless to say we are very grateful to the Waikanae Bridge Club for accommodating us.

We still have access to our clubrooms on arrangement with the builders so that administration work can continue and the week's dealing carried out. Trevor decided he would do the week's dealing in one go rather than have the dealers come in and do their sessions dealing. He said "it was no big deal" but you ask the usual dealers!

If you now drive past our club-rooms you will see that the recladding is well underway. A real success story with great planning. As I intimated at the start of this report, we owe a great deal of thanks to Trevor and Alan for their huge involvement in getting to where we are today.

CLUB ROOMS HIRE

Room hire steadily increased this year. There have been a couple of private hires.

The Mahjong group hires the clubrooms on Thursday afternoons on a regular basis.

Our main hirer has been Hora te Pai, a health organisation. They have hired the rooms 16 times contributing \$ 2,400 to the club. Next year they plan to use us again and have tentatively booked some dates in February.

KCDC has also indicated an interest in using our rooms when we restart in February 2026. So the future looks promising as an ongoing means of generating funds for our club.

Special thanks to Margaret Jamieson who has managed the hirage during the year. Margaret has been there to open up, disable the security and then close up with a tidy up where necessary and then locking up afterwards.

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 had to be done before April 2026. Our Club Rules were changed to meet the new regulations which required formal approval at a Special General Meeting (SGM).

Trevor along with Brett Windley took on the initial task of identifying the and additions and alterations necessary occur to our constitution.

To convey the changes in a straight-forward way to the Committee then Members and finally the SGM Trevor developed a spreadsheet document with a column displaying each clause of the old constitution. A second column listed the changes that were necessary and the third column displayed the proposed new Constitution incorporating the changes.

A special meeting of the committee went through the document clause by clause discussing and amending if appropriate. The document was then forwarded to past presidents for their comment. Following that the document was circulated to the whole membership who would have diligently scrutinised the document.

Suffice to say the new constitution was considered at SGM on 11th August 2025 and approved and adopted after a couple of minor amendments.

Our secretary applied for re-registration as an incorporated society under the new Act straight after the meeting including the new constitution and we were notified later that week of the new registration. Seemed a bit of an anticlimax after all the effort that had gone into making sure that we complied with the legislation.

However, a job well done and I would like to reiterate the vote of thanks passed at the SGM thanking all the people who worked on the new Rules and Constitution, especially Trevor for all his time consuming hard work.

VOLUNTEERS

The Club is run by over 50 members who carry out over 60 separate roles for the Club.

Many of the volunteers have been mentioned earlier and some that deserve special mention are:-

KITCHEN and BAR

Theresa Cook has overseen management of the kitchen operation and ensured regular kitchen supplies are plentiful and on hand.

Theresa is stepping down from the committee and passing this role on to Robyn Kopua who I'm sure will do a great job under Theresa's tutelage. Theresa has also been in

charge of the Trophies and ensuring they are all polished for presentation. Thank you for your contribution, Theresa.

We cannot forget Noella Squire and Tina Connell-Pine for their dedication ensuring all Tournament participants are well fed. The preparation that goes into catering for the regional tournaments is immense. With preparation in the days leading up to the event as well as heating and serving on the day.

I was advised that Noella and Tina were stepping down from the role as Noella is not able to lift the heavier items. Tina sacrifices a day of work to contribute. There may be a reprieve in the catering situation but as yet this has not been confirmed.

Thanks also to Ray and Margaret Cachemaille for managing and running the bar. Ray always manages to produce a bottle of wine for prizes or a special occasion. He quite likes playing Bridge too!

DEALERS, SCORERS and CONVENORS

Thanks to these volunteers who contribute week after week

Dealers - Marsha Stevens, Marie Hammond, Margaret Lees and Linzee Inkster
Scorers - Jane McArthur, Ian Nichols, Kay Matheson, Sandra Windley, Margaret Jamieson, Linzee Inkster, Brian Pender and Francie Vagg
Conveners - David Stagg, Hugh Norton, Tom Tidey, and Jocelyn Graves.

Jocelyn is stepping down this year. She says she has been convening since when she learnt Bridge around 2003. Many thanks Jocelyn.

CLUB RECORDER

Keith Lees, our Recorder, helps when members have issues they consider should be addressed. He advises that he has had a quiet year which is reassuring. Thanks Keith.

FINANCIAL

Rachel Bruce has done a fine job of managing our financials this year. She has been ably assisted by Linda Aarsen who carried out banking, invoicing, and computer updates. I saw our previous treasurer Brett Windley stepping in to help out when Linda was away. They have had a busy time handling with the many raffle transactions and associated banking which Victoria Bolton is now doing. Linda is stepping down from the committee this year so we thank her for her contribution.

PROGRAMME BOOK

Jane Bradbury has been updating and preparing the Programme Book for next under the watchful eye of Dale Wills. The book is almost ready to go and sponsors are being confirmed and their current advertisements reviewed.

Just a digression here, I was looking back through some old minutes and noted that Dale was awarded Life membership in 2011 and had been a member then for 33 years. He was the top director then and had a vast knowledge of the club operation. He's been a member now for around 47 years!

We have decided next year's programme book will be made available early in the New Year once we are back in our own club rooms. We will arrange a small celebration and present the certificates and trophies for those successful winners in this year's competitions. The 2026 Programme Books will also be available to allow members to organise session bookings for the new year.

CONCLUSION

I'd like to thank the committee for having confidence in appointing me your President given there were not many takers. It's been a busy year and an eye opener for me to become involved in all aspects of the Bridge Club's operation.

We still don't have a vice president who will succeed for the 2027/2028 years. I would ask you all to encourage some you think would be suitable for the role and have them to join the committee, they will be most welcome!

Thank you for all the support and encouragement I have received during the year. Next year we will have a water-tight building and a renovated interior ready to fulfil our mission statement:-

"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."

Thank you.

Bob Jennings
President
Paraparaumu Bridge Club

17th November 2025