



Taupo Bridge Club newsletter

April 2016

Editor: Rona Driscoll

Welcome to the new look Taupo Bridge Club monthly newsletter. The newsletter will appear around the middle of each month, so as to incorporate news from the committee meetings. As the timing may vary, we will continue with the email reminders now that the club has email lists set up on the club computer. If you know anyone who is not receiving the emailed newsletters, do let me know and I will add their address to the list.

New life member

First of all, congratulations to Ralph Robertshawe, our newest life member, and of course many thanks to Ralph for editing the club newsletter over the last few years.

Ralph was elected a life member at a special general meeting on 5 April. Here is the president's recommendation:

"I thought you might be interested to know how Ralph learned to play bridge. Well it was at age 8 with his mother and father and some other children. No wonder he is such a good player!

His association with Bridge clubs started in Masterton in the 70's, where he became President. He then moved to the Waikato where he was a bridge tutor and Director. Next stop was Auckland where he was on the committee.

From 1979 the Robertshawes had a house in Taupo and Ralph became a member of Taupo Bridge Club and played occasionally in the school holidays until he retired and moved here in 1997. Ralph helped Colin Jackson with teaching bridge and took over when Colin was away.

He became a committee member and in 2001 became President and stayed on the committee as Immediate Past President in 2003. Then in 2011 Ralph became Vice-President during Rosemary's 2nd term as President and remained on the committee as a very active member until the end of last year.

Some of the practical things Ralph has done include organising the painting of the fence twice as well as the lovely white posts which are a shining beacon, especially at night.

Ralph wrote our first newsletter in 2011 and only relinquished the task earlier this year. I think you will agree that his newsletters were informative and interesting and enjoyed by all.

Ralph has been a director since coming here and in 2013 sat the Director's exam and passed with flying colours the 90% minimum mark for a pass.

As a Director myself I have been very grateful to Ralph for turning up most Tuesdays to see if we had anyone needing a partner. If we did he stayed and played and if not he would cheerfully go home. Even on Monday nights he has come in especially to help if we had somebody without a partner. If you ask Ralph to do something, the answer is always Yes, I can do that.

I recommend Ralph to you as a person well worthy of Life Membership."

Beginner's lessons

Currently around 14 people are attending beginner's lessons, which started on 5 April and finish on 12 July. Do look out for these new players later in the year as they move into the club. In the meantime, if anyone would like to come to any of the lessons as a refresher, just contact Rona.

Improver's lessons

Lesson 3, on the topic of card play, will be held this week – 2pm on Wednesday and 7pm on Thursday. All welcome.

Lesson 4, No-trump Play, will be on Wednesday 18 May at 2pm, repeated on Friday 20 May at 7pm

And supervised play is on every Wednesday, 2-4pm, unless there is an improver's lesson instead.

Usually the supervised play session uses cards from a previous session at the club, and results are posted on the website. Occasionally there is a slide presentation on a bridge tip at the start of play. All welcome, whether you are a new player, a returning player, want a chance to practise, or just want to play some more bridge. Just turn up.

Recent results

Taupo Bayleys Intermediate 5B tournament: 22 pairs played in this event, won by Hamilton's Mark Thomson and Jeffrey Chang, with an average of 58.33% over the two sessions. The top Taupo pair was Ralph Robertshawe and Garth Robinson, who were second overall with 58.75% average. Thank you to all club members who took part – playing, organising, cooking, helping in any way – without you, we cannot hold these tournaments.

Monday March Pairs: Frank Weeks / Bernie McLean

Wednesday Tongariro Pairs: Garth Robinson / Ralph Robertshawe

Friday Rimu Pairs: Wene McMillin / Catherine Adams

It was great to see a carload of our newer players heading over to the Cambridge Junior tournament recently. I don't think they brought home any prize money, but I'm sure they had a good day all the same. There are many tournaments advertised on our noticeboards, so do think about playing in one.

Committee news

Items from the Committee Meeting held Tuesday 12th April

1. Two new members were elected: Margaret Spiers and Graham Froggett. Please ensure these new members are made very welcome.

It was with regret that John Paine's resignation was received. The Club now has 209 registered members.

2. John Paine's resignation created a vacancy on the Committee which we are pleased to inform you has been filled by the appointment of Bernie McLean.

3. The Club's website is to be upgraded. Derek Rankin has kindly agreed to develop this new site which will be much more user friendly. Thank you Derek.

4. Our insurers have approved the replacement of our burnt out air conditioning system. The replacement system which we hope will be up and running late May, will have 35% greater heating and cooling capacity compared to the old system. The total cost of the replacement system will be close on \$22,000.

The cost to the Club will however only be \$3,500 made up of the \$500 insurance excess and a \$3,000 contribution to the upgrade.

5. A reminder that the Club will host the PAK 'n' SAVE All Grades 5A tournament on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th May. All Club members are eligible to enter. We will need a spare pair, so if can help in this way it would be greatly appreciated. Please enter directly on the Waikato Bays website or if this is not convenient put your name and your partners name on the sheet attached to the notice board and the Secretary will transfer your entry to the Waikato Bays website. Food for the Sunday luncheon will be provided by Daryl Morris Catering from the Golf Club.

6. Rosemary Ritchie has kindly offered to organize a Sunday Teams event once a month over the cooler months. This could be another winner like Rosemary's Tuesday session. Details will be provided separately.

More news welcome

Along with every newsletter editor comes a plea for more material! If there is anything else you would like to see included, let me know.

Till next time, happy bridging.....