



Table Talk

A newsletter from the
Taupo Contract Bridge Club
– November 2014

To receive an electronic copy of newsletters please give the Club your e-mail address. It will save us printing costs.....

Well, disappointing spring weather has not really cleared away any winter blues but it has not stopped us having some good sessions and events at the Bridge Club and we are now approaching the end of year activities with the Prizegiving night on Monday 8th December and the wind-down of the various sessions following that.

KEY DATES:

MONDAY: Final normal playing night December 1st

Tuesday: Final session December 2nd

Wednesday: Final night 10th December

Friday : Christmas session is December 12th

Prizegiving Night: This is on Monday the 8th December.

The rooms will be open at 5–30 and there will be a Pot Luck meal starting at 6pm. We expected to start the formal end of year awards by 6–40pm and then we will move into a fun evening of bridge starting about 7:10pm. Past-President David Taylor is preparing a format in which we will enjoy several partners during the play and probably finish up by about 10pm. *It always seems a pity when event winners are not present on this night, so do make the effort to join in, even if you are not able to stay on for the Bridge.* Our POT-LUCK meals have been very good this year so bring a small contribution and join the other members of your club on this special night. See you there.....

FAREWELL TO THE LANGDONS



Nigel and Jocelyn with the presentation card.....

We farewelled Jocelyn and Nigel Langdon on the 14th October just before they left Taupo for OMOKOROA and their new life in a retirement village. We had a very good crowd turn up for the event following Tuesday afternoon bridge: the Club ordered sandwiches and savouries from Darrel at the Golf Club and Nigel and Jocelyn insisted on proving some wine to which the club added some extra because of the large numbers present.

Tributes were paid by the President and other speakers detailing the work that they have done for TCBC over so many years: both have served as president and on the committee; Jocelyn has been our senior director, bridge teacher and fount of all knowledge on club as well as bridge matters; Nigel has worked behind the scenes (frequently as a jovial host behind the bar!); and together they have seen that the rooms have been opened up in good time on Wednesday nights. Jocelyn has been a stalwart of Friday bridge and both have helped with the Monday night sessions as senior fill-ins, while their names on our Honours Board provide testimony to their skill in our game. A signed card and a book were presented to them along with our best wishes for their life ahead. We will miss them heaps.



Jocelyn shows the gift book to some of the club members present

Summary of AGM:

As mentioned in a recent e-mail the Annual General Meeting at the end of October elected the following officers and committee for the coming year:

President: Patricia Tyler

Secretary: Stuart McKinlay

Treasurer: Rona Driscoll

Ex-officio Immediate Past President: David Taylor

Committee: Christina Gillett, Glennis McCarty, Barry Fitzgerald, Owen Nelson and Ralph Robertshawe.

You will note that we still lack a *vice-president* and *one more committee member*. Sadly there were no nominations for these vacant positions. We are open to offers, perhaps for the committee someone representing the newer Tuesday afternoon players, seeing it is now the best attended weekly session???

The financial report showed that we still have comfortable reserves after an active year and that the club can continue the present annual subscription and table fees.

Matters of interest raised in general discussion included the need for greater/better publicity, attention to our entry and exit gates and an investigation into starting time for the Friday playing

session to see if we can build up the numbers for this once very popular club day. It was agreed that we would survey members through the programme booklet/subscription mailing to see what response is forthcoming.

The Summerset Open 8B tournament in September was a great success: we had 14 tables with players from many outside clubs and it was good to see some of our newer players taking the opportunity to get tournament experience. We offered our many visitors morning tea on arrival and all were served a selection of delicious soups with rolls and a slice for lunch. As usual over drinks at the end of the day there was attractive finger food while awaiting the results. Our thanks go to Glenis McCarty and her great assistant Lauren Lehndorf for all their hard work in the kitchen and others who assisted as barmen etc. Also our thanks to those from the club who helped with food contributions for the day: everyone was well-welcomed, well-fed and we hope well-satisfied with their day (hospitality-wise if not bridge-wise!).



Warren Wilton & Sandy Davies and with sponsor rep Jane Thomson from Summerset.



Christina Gillett collects her and partner's session prize

Our Director was Rona Driscoll who had us all in a one section Mitchell movement in the morning and then in two 7 table Howell section in the afternoon with the morning N/S players in one section and the E/W in the other so that we ended up playing against every other pair in the tournament during the day – well planned Rona. David Taylor organized the scoring, and such is modern technology that he was able to produce the results at the Clubrooms while he was at home, probably playing with the kittens!

The full results are on our website, but for the record the winners were:

1. John Kelly and Michael Nees from Rotorua and Cambridge
2. Doug and Bobby Couchman from Hastings
3. Warren Wilton and Sandy Davies from Tokoroa - Sandy well-known as a former member.

The best Taupo pair were 2nd Club members Gil and Dermot Murphy (6th) (home club is Franklin in Pukekohe) followed by David Hamilton and Ralph Robertshawe (8th). Amongst the session prize winners were Christina Gillett and Chris Jones.

Our grateful thanks are due to our Summerset by the Lake sponsors who were represented at the prizegiving by their Manager Jane Thomson – their sponsorship turns a possible loss into a satisfactory gain for the club.

RECENT HAPPENINGS:

The **Cambridge Sixes** is in its second year and two teams travelled up for the day from Taupo. Each team consists of a pair from each of the 3 grades, playing for a grade prize but the overall prize is to the team with the best combined total. Though neither team featured on the prize list we had a great day with terrific hospitality from the local club. Many teams dressed especially for the occasion with

24 teams from New Plymouth to Auckland to the Hawkes Bay. The overall winners were from the Auckland Bridge Club led by Patrick Carter.



Here the Taupo Flyers are mainly beaming – Joan, Rosemary, Christina Gillett, Sheila Taylor and Warwick and Patricia Tyler our Club president.

Our other team was the Tauhara team - Driscolls, Kim Chung and Lauren Lehndorf, and Garth Robinson and Ralph Robertshawe. The flowers on the table are a gift to Rona, not a prize!

As you can see the Cambridge Town Hall was beautifully decorated and the food almost beyond belief! A great event which will be held in May next year so think of having a good day out with these great hosts.!

NZ - Wide Pairs:

We ran a heat of this popular event at the end of October organised by Richard Solomon – sadly your editor had to miss the event when old friends chose to come and stay that evening. With 9 tables TCBC had one of the bigger turn outs in the country. After an excellent pot-luck meal the serious business of playing against the rest of NZ began. Our heat winners were N/S **Patricia Tyler and Pam Bury** with 56% closely followed by Rona and John Driscoll with 55% while E/W winners were **Elke and Friedrich Weber** with a massive 71% followed by Rosemary Ritchie and Joan Berg with 61%. The results were then re-scored against all the 960 pairs throughout the country and final places announced – it was no surprise to find Elke and Friedrich 4th overall in NZ with 69.65% with Rosemary and Joan coming in a very respectable 33rd. The Webers are a German couple from Hamburg who were on holiday in Taupo and had played several sessions at the club during the preceding week: they are well-experienced European players and it was no surprise to find them mentioned in dispatches. It was pleasure to have them with us and perhaps their success will bring them on another holiday to Taupo. The overall winners were Sandy and Rod Dravitski from Masterton. Thanks are due to Richard Solomon for all his work and the excellent booklet on how to bid and play the hands which he provided for the contestants after play was over for the evening.

Voucher system for playing sessions: A reminder that this convenient method for paying table money is available for all sessions. Pre-paid orders can be made to the director at any playing session during the week, or directly to treasurer Rona Driscoll.

Breaking News: Having just won our Club Championship which concluded on Wednesday for the second time, **Rona and John Driscoll** have also won the Rotorua Club Championships travelling over on Thursdays nights to play there! That is some record, surely....Congratulations on a double success!

*The committee extend the Christmas Season greetings to all and look forward to you resuming play in the New Year: **Wednesdays** resume on **7th January**, **Fridays** on **9th January**, **Mondays** start on **12 January**, and **Tuesdays** on the **10th February**.*