



Palmerston North Bridge Club October 2009

News and Views

A well-liked and respected former member of the club died last month. Marlene Paewai played most of her bridge in Dannevirke, but she often used to come to Palmerston North, although less frequently in recent years. She was a canny player and was regularly successful in tournaments. She bid and played positively and was not afraid to take chances. Harold Orsborn has kindly provided a tribute to her later in this issue.

The Interprovincials at Hamilton provided a couple of good results for Central Districts. The Seniors were runners-up last year but went one better this time, winning their event. The team was dominated by local players, led by Bob and Evelyn Hurley, and Alan Doddridge playing with Jenny Wilson. The non-playing captain was Ken Bateman, and he gives his perspective on the event later in this issue. Wayne Burrows was in the Central Districts Open team that reached the final only to be beaten by Otago/Southland. I watched some of the match on BBO. The team had bad luck on two or three hands which resulted in big swings against them and effectively ended their chances.

In other Congress events, the Hurleys came fourth in the Plate whilst Alan Doddridge and Jenny Wilson continued their successful run coming second in the Congress Pairs, fourth in the Senior Pairs and fourth in the Senior Teams.

Our club team was pipped at the post by Hawera in the three way match held at Wanganui this month. Thanks to Liz Burrows who organized the teams, and to Teresa Thorn who helped with the catering.

As most of you will know by now, it was decided at the SGM last month to proceed with building a fence around our property as soon as possible. The SGM also resolved to release \$20,000 from the PNBC Capital Account for this purpose. That project is on hold at the moment. Some issues related to the most suitable fencing have been raised and are currently being investigated.

In addition to using our clubrooms for our own sessions, tournaments and lessons we also hire it out. Besides providing useful revenue, it helps to build links between different societies and clubs. If you do need to access the clubrooms when another group is using it, then please do so discreetly and ask permission if it may involve disturbance to their activities.

In the last newsletter I omitted to mention the sponsor of our Intermediate Tournament. Robert Harris were generous in their support, so next time you are in town and feeling peckish, pop into their café on the Square.

Lorraine is currently working on next year's Programme so please contact her or email the club (pnbridge@xtra.co.nz) if your address, phone number, or email address are not up-to-date.

Upcoming events include the Palmerston North Open on Saturday 31st October, and the Babich New Zealand Wide Pairs to be held on Friday 6th November. Further details can be found on the noticeboard.

Ray Kemp

Dealworms

Do you ever find a tune goes round and round your head until it starts getting annoying? It sometimes happens to me, particularly if I wake up in the night. This phenomenon is often called an 'earworm.' There are various suggested treatments. One approach is to think of another tune and slip that onto the turntable in your brain. The problem now, of course, is that the new tune may replace the old one and may be equally difficult to get rid of. My solution is to start thinking of the song "Happy Birthday to You," the reason being that it is such a dreary tuneless ditty that it could not possibly become an earworm.

So what has this got to do with bridge? Well, sometimes bridge deals can get into your head, usually because you did something wrong or have this nagging feeling that you should have made a contract in which you went down. These dealworms, as I call them, can be quite difficult to shake off.

Such a hand occurred on the last week of the Tuesday rotational teams in September. Sitting East, vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents, I picked up the following collection:

♠ AQJ43
♥ 4
♦ A6
♣ A8642

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
			1S
2D	Pass	3C	Pass
3H	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the queen of hearts, and West laid down an interesting dummy.

♠ 8	♠ AQJ43
♥ AK98	♥ 4
♦ QJT953	♦ A6
♣ T9	♣ A8642

It was disappointing to say the least that South failed to lead one of his spades. If he had done so, I could have claimed ten tricks more-or-less straight away. As it was, he had unwittingly removed a precious entry to the diamonds in dummy. Now I could only count six certain tricks (once I had driven out the king of spades), although surely the opponents had to lead something, and would eventually give me one or two more. Being distracted by these thoughts I did a foolish thing at trick two. I led the queen of diamonds from dummy, and when North didn't cover I let it run. South did not produce the king either so that brought me up to seven definite tricks. The downside was that I now had little or no chance of accessing the diamonds. I played off the ace of diamonds anyway but the king did not fall. I eventually collected seven tricks for two down.

It is said that many a contract is lost by hasty play to trick one, but it was trick two that was my downfall. I should, of course, have played off the ace of diamonds and then another one. If this did not bring out the king then I should have continued leading diamonds from dummy until it did. There was then a good chance that a defender would eventually lead hearts again, not realizing that I had no entry.

So it seemed that I stood a good chance of making the contract, with the correct play and as long as the defence made a mistake. However, looking at the hand records later, the computer reckoned I should *always* make 3NT whatever the defence. Here are the four hands:

♠ 8	♠ 96	♠ AQJ43
♥ AK98	♥ 7532	♥ 4
♦ QJT953	♦ 84	♦ A6
♣ T9	♣ KJ753	♣ A8642
	♠ KT752	
	♥ QJT6	
	♦ K72	
	♣ Q	

Even double dummy it is difficult to see how EW can always come to nine tricks, but the key is that the opponents have to lead something. As long as declarer plays ace and another diamond when he gets in, NS eventually run out of options and have to give declarer access to dummy's diamonds or concede tricks in the other suits. Interestingly, if South had been tempted to take his king of diamonds at trick two and had led another heart then I could have spectacularly ditched my ace of diamonds on the king of hearts and run the rest of the diamonds from dummy. Maybe next time.

So what is the cure for a dealworm? Why, writing an article about it, of course!

Ray Kemp

A Captain's Lot

At the Interprovincial Teams event this year in Hamilton I was fortunate to be the non-playing captain for the Senior Team. Our team members were Bob and Ev Hurley playing Precision Club, John Pitts and Murray Andersen (Hastings) playing Symmetric Relay and Alan Doddridge and Jenny Wilson playing Acol.

The format of the teams event is to play twelve board double round robins against the other provinces (Canterbury, Auckland, Wellington, Waikato and Otago/Southland.)

After the double round robin the top two teams play off against each other in two twelve board matches to determine the winner and runner-up.

After the first round robin, the Central Districts Senior team had a very slight lead over Auckland and Wellington. At the end of the second round robin we finished second to Auckland. Central Districts therefore qualifying to play in the final against Auckland. We had had 6 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses.

In the final I chose to play our strongest and most consistent pairings: the Hurleys and Alan Doddridge and Jenny Wilson. The final was somewhat of a one way affair and we won the first 12 board stanza 19/11 and the second one 20/10.

Throughout the competition all team members played well. Bob and Ev were very steady and strong. They were the backbone to the team. Not to be outdone, Alan and Jenny played good bridge and they were very consistent. On paper John and Murray were a very strong pairing but the combination of playing a very complicated bidding system (Symmetric Relay) and a limited playing build up before the competition saw them not at their best. Once we had got to the final, the winning team had effectively picked themselves.

If you happen to be the non-playing captain of a winning team your duties are easy. The team is happy and spirits are high. The main responsibility becomes to give all your playing team members an equal opportunity to play. However, if the team had a good win, I would keep the winning combination together for the next match. Even though a pair had sat out for one match, being in a winning team they were happy to sit out again. In this respect I was lucky to have a good and harmonious team.

I spoke to a couple of other non playing CD captains whose teams were not going as well. I am sure that their reports would be a lot different from mine!

Ken Bateman

Marlene Paewai



It was a great shock and loss to the Dannevirke Bridge Club and NZ Bridge to hear of Marlene Paewai's accident in Sydney causing her death on 22/9/09.

She had a passion for bridge which she shared with others. She played in the National Congress, when she could, and played in every game possible.

Marlene held the office of President in 1984/5 and Secretary 1999 to 2009, resigning at our last AGM. Marlene was also a member of the Waipukurau Club and a past member of Palmerston Nth Club. Occasionally, she visited the Hawera Club where her family was from.

We could learn a lot from the high standard of etiquette Marlene displayed at the bridge table along with caring for our older members in bringing them to bridge.

Marlene loved her family dearly and shared their highs and lows with us along with talking bridge with her family. We thank the family for inviting bridge members onto the Marae to share with them our love and stories of Marlene on Sunday and to say goodbye. On Monday was our final farewell to Marlene at the Marae, a wonderful insight into the caring environment that surrounds her and her family where we were made very welcome.

Unfortunately, Marlene has missed seeing us make her a Life Member of our club which was planned for our AGM. Her last game of bridge was on 16th September in Dannevirke and her score was 83.33%, the highest score recorded in our club. Marlene went out on a high. Haere Mai to our dear bridge friend.

Harold Orsborn