

Palmerston North Bridge Club

President's Report April 2010-March 2011

This has been a year in which we have combined "business as usual" with some interesting developments. Your committee has worked very hard to ensure that playing Bridge is enjoyable and challenging for you, that there are opportunities for you to improve and that our amenities are conducive to playing our wonderful game. We have also embarked on some positive moves to encourage more people to learn Bridge and are currently planning a seminar/workshop to help in up-skilling our team of directors.

Club Rules:

Andrew, Teresa and Lorraine have given much time and careful thought to a revised set of rules and we are presenting these for your approval at this meeting.

Youth Bridge

For a number of years club members have been suggesting that we should do more to promote Bridge amongst the young. This year Tammy has convened a subcommittee relating to youth bridge and, with considerable help from Wayne, Ross and Amy, we have:

Developed a strategy for youth bridge

Run a holiday minibridge programme

Promoted Bridge and Bridge lessons at the Massey Clubs and Societies day on March 2

The incoming committee will need to look at how to better promote the Club's youth activities using our web site.

Teaching and Promoting Bridge:

Wayne, with Ross's help, ran the regular Bridge beginner's lessons attended by about 13-14, including some Standard American players learning Acol.

Stuart, in particular has been active in promoting Bridge. He has approached most of those who are members but seem to not be active with a view to encouraging them to return to play. He has also promoted Bridge, the Club and lessons to local Probus Clubs. Plans are also afoot to promote Bridge amongst retirement villages. We would welcome offers of advice and assistance from club members.

Improving Bridge in the Club:

Bridge Improvers classes have been held on a monthly basis throughout the year to a dedicated bunch of intermediate players. Plans are in hand to extend these to junior players during 2011 and we are working on sorting out the best time to hold these. Money collected from these has been earmarked to assist club members to travel and this year we were able to help Helen Muller to attend the Youth Weekend in Christchurch.

Gardens:

Andrew enlisted the help of Lyndsey Chadwick who prepared a plan for the Cook and Cuba Streets gardens with suggested plantings. He then led groups of club members on various working bees to prepare the grounds and plant them out. Lorraine is planting the space near the pedestrian gate with herbs and a lemon tree for use by the club when catering for tournaments. Susan organised the new path. I'm sure you are all impressed with the outcome.

Inside:

We have purchased a new freezer as an aid to catering. The lino in the kitchen and toilets has been stripped and re-surfaced – a vast improvement.

Bridge success:

Open:

Wayne Burrows (with Russel Wilson) won New Plymouth Open Pairs;
Lorraine Stachurski (with Mindy Wu) won Wanganui Open Pairs;
Lorraine Stachurski (with Mindy Wu) won Napier Open Pairs;
Alister Stuck (with Noel Woodhall) and Lorraine Stachurski (with Mindy Wu) won Napier Open Teams;
Wayne Burrows and Bob Hurley won Palmerston North Open Pairs;
Alan Doddridge and Pam Mason won the Hawke's Bay Christmas Cheer.

Intermediate:

Barbara Holland and Tammy Lynch won Feilding Intermediate Pairs;
Carolyn Brodie and Tammy Lynch won Otaki Intermediate Pairs;
Bev Beattie and Jo Haddon won Palmerston North Intermediate Pairs.

Interprovincial:

Wayne Burrows (with Pam Livingston) and Alister Stuck (with Noel Woodhall) represented Central Districts (together with Matthew and Mairi Bristow) at the Open Interprovincial and won that event.

Liz Burrows (with Sandra Coleman) represent CD in the Women's' event and Amy Thomson and Helen Muller played in the Youth event.

International:

Bob and Evelyn Hurley represented New Zealand in the Seniors' event at the APBF competition held in Hamilton.

General Comments:

Security is still of some concern to the club, with security cameras being unlawfully removed from the building, but most of the issues we have for our safety and the security of our property seem to be resolved now that we have the fence and a system in place for managing opening and closing the gates. We have on-going issues with our air conditioning unit and we must pay attention to the carpet and chairs. This year our friend Jeff Thomson (yes, he isn't a member), has been of great help in managing the repairs and maintenance aspects of the clubrooms and surrounds. Our sincere thanks to Susan and Jeff for their efforts.

There are still some concerns over grading and the numbers playing in the evening sessions. Constructive comments and suggestions about improving numbers and Bridge expertise in the various grades would be received with thanks. Daytime bridge seems to move from strength to strength, due in no small way to the efforts of Noeline and Don.

The financial affairs of the club are improving and I am grateful to the diligence with which Teresa has gone about her job. The time has come to start budgeting for some long-overdue items. It would be very easy to undo all of the good that has come from the frugality of the last few years by a few injudicious decisions.

The club has also benefitted greatly from the time and efforts of Lorraine our administrator and Andrew our secretary and thanks are due to them.

Despite some hiccups, this year has gone fairly smoothly. Your committee has functioned very well with people taking their allocated responsibilities very seriously and being most willing to take on *ad hoc* tasks and very supportive of efforts to move the Club forward when called upon I'm also impressed by the willingness of Club members to assist with tournaments and other domestic activities. In particular I would like to thank Wayne Burrows for his unerring work with beginners and youth bridge and Gayle Leader for her time and expertise in managing the bar. Such is the stuff of a successful club.

My thanks to you all.

Evelyn Hurley