

# Levin Bridge Club 1972-2022



## 50 years of Bridge in Levin



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## CHAPTER I "IN THE BEGINNING"

Bridge, in one form or another, has been played in Levin for as long as can be remembered. Initially of course, it was Auction Bridge that was played.

Contract was introduced world-wide in 1929 and it is believed that as early as 1933 a Palmerston North enthusiast came down to a friend's home in Levin to explain the intricacies of the newly developed game.

Mrs Smaill, wife of a local bank manager, was a keen and competent player of Contract and was responsible for introducing many others to this pleasurable pastime.

May Thomson upon her return from the Melbourne Centenary Bridge Tournament in 1934 was fired with enthusiasm and did much to promote interest in the game in Levin. She was an avid reader of books on the subject and any worthwhile information gleaned was always willingly shared with others.

From time to time players such as Kitty Lynch moved to Levin from other areas bringing with them a knowledge and love of the game.

In the years prior to World War II, about 30 people were independently enjoying games of Contract Bridge in their own homes.

These were gracious days and Bridge was a social occasion. Women dressed smartly in their best with a chic hat and of course, gloves. A Fox fur would often complete the outfit. Hours were spent making fancy tasselled Bridge Pencils with the aid of Sealing Wax; and Scorers, often covered in brocade or a similar material, became popular Christmas gifts. In the evenings long frocks were always worn with pearls, many rings and a lame, satin or velvet Bridge Jacket. One petite, middle-aged player in all her finery, used to ride to Bridge on her trusty bicycle. One dreads to imagine what would have happened if her long frock had become entangled in wheel or chain.

In Rubber Bridge there developed all manner of little idiosyncrasies. If a player failed to get reasonable cards, she would sit on her handkerchief, put it on her head, or walk round her chair. It was definitely considered unlucky to move away from your card if you had won the cut unless it was the Ace of Spades. Should cards become a little dull a "Goulash" would be held. By dealing cards three at a time instead of singly, there was a good chance of an interesting hand. It was customary to play for a penny per hundred points. Ostensibly this was to deter those who were inclined to overbid. Often a desire on the part of both pairs to "save" the Rubber would result in a prolonged game with more scoring above the line than below. Although some had a serious approach, for others it was a happy, chatty occasion. Honours assumed great importance and at times a pair would be in quite the wrong contract because of a compelling desire to claim 100 or 150 for honours.

"I'll open a Heart," declared Mrs McKay.  
"I'll bid a Spade," came her partner's reply.  
("Saw the darlinest hat I really must buy!")  
"We'll try Four Hearts - never say die!"  
"It'll depend of course where various cards lie."  
Dummy's hand goes down - there's a stifled cry.  
("I'll put on the kettle - you must all be dry!")  
A Club has been led - now I wonder why."  
She was to discover the reason as time went by!  
("I met your new neighbour - she seems rather shy.")  
The play then proceeds with a moan and a sigh  
"Four light Vulnerable! Guess I went a bit high!"  
("Has anyone heard? Did they catch that spy?")  
"My apologies, partner; but you'll not deny,  
With a hundred for honours it was worth a try!"

Large Bridge parties became a popular form of entertaining. Spacious rooms in the older homes proved most accommodating and often there would be 7 or 8 tables of Auction or Contract. Many well-known local identities participated including the parents and grandparents of some of our present day players - (Mrs Walker - Nola Fullarton's mother; Mrs Park - mother of Dot Wilcox and Nora Tomlinson; Mrs Clark (later Lett) - grandmother of Maud Hinde; Mrs Keedwell - grandmother of Denise Udy; and Mr & Mrs Walter Ryder - grandparents of Celia Roche and great-grandparents of Frances Minogue.

Mrs Clark would often hold "Flag Evenings" at her home in Salisbury Street where Reevedon is now situated. She was able to fit ten tables into her large front room. These flag evenings could be considered the Auction equivalent of "Teams of Four". Those with the same coloured flag moved from table to table to compete against the other groups.

Before and during World War II, Miss Emma Bowen who was Levin's first woman Borough Councillor, held regular Bridge evenings at her home in Queen Street (now Te Whanau). Several rooms were utilised with as many as 40 people participating. All sorts of odd little tables were used and benzene boxes were brought in if there were insufficient chairs. The many mirrors in the rooms were always carefully covered to avoid the possibility of anyone inadvertently seeing their opponent's hand. When the R.N.Z.A.F. Station opened in Kimberley Road (now the Kimberley Hospital and Training School) a number of Airforce personnel attended these evenings.

At this stage both Auction and Contract were being played. Sometimes there was even a mixture of the two. At a Bridge Party in aid of Patriotic Funds,(held at the home of Dr & Mrs Thompson) Contract players used one room while those who still played Auction used another. During the war, Bridge often provided an escape from boredom and routine. Four men who were later to become prominent members of the Levin Contract Bridge Club, changed from Auction to Contract while serving with the Armed Forces overseas. Alan Arcus first tried Contract on board ship while serving with the Fleet Air Arm. Pat Rae played a little in the Army and then when confined to hospital in England with a broken

leg, he picked up a book on Contract Bridge by Ely Culbertson and this he read from cover to cover. Charlie Wright found that Bridge helped to while away the hours when he had the misfortune to be in a Prisoner-of-War Camp. Murray Fletcher first played Contract on board ship while returning home after serving with the Army in the Middle East.

In the post war years the population of Levin increased dramatically as also did the popularity of Contract Bridge. A number of players moved to the town from other centres bringing with them considerable skill and experience. One such person was Mrs Willie Wilcox (mother of Dennitts) who came to Levin from Timaru. She was a brilliant player of Contract Bridge and her very presence helped to raise the standard of play.

#### THE START OF DUPLICATE

One or two enthusiastic Contract players from Levin decided to motor through to Palmerston North to try their hand at Duplicate Bridge. (This was when the Palmerston Club was still meeting at the YMCA) The game appealed greatly and before long these players, together with a few converts from Rubber, were regularly playing Duplicate in Levin. There were initially five tables. For a considerable time, they met at the home of Mr Arnie Larsen and for shorter periods at the homes of Nan Byrne and Kath Bertram. The group then moved to the "Galleon" tea-rooms next to Black's Service Station and soon there were about 30 people participating. Many of these players were to become Foundation Members of the Levin Contract Bridge Club. Cards for the group were donated by members and the original card-holders consisted of two squares of cardboard held loosely at the corners with brass paper clips. There were no directors of course and the rules governing Duplicate Play and many of the finer points were not well known. At times things were a little difficult, particularly if an expected player failed to arrive. On one occasion play was half an hour late starting because an elderly player had fallen asleep after her evening meal and was only woken by the phone when someone rang to ask what had happened to her. There were many little mannerisms and often facial expressions or voice inflexion would give an indication of a player's hand. When the bidding went - 1S/no bid/2S - and your partner (4th in hand) declared, "I double 2 Spades" you were left in no doubt as to whether the double was for "Take Out" or "Penalty". There were very few new players joining the group and so, to stimulate interest, May Thomson and Lilla Miller agreed to give lessons. (Those participating included Eileen Ryder, Rory Powell (Byrne), Grace Mitchell, Nola Fullarton, Tops Rae, Elsie Arcus, Gladys Kerslake, Frankie Romans, Jean Haley and Roma Carrington). These new players were just ready to join the others when, overnight, the "Galleon" was converted into a Fish & Chip shop; and so, for a time, Duplicate Bridge in Levin came to a standstill.

May Thomson had been-regularly having 2 or 3 tables of Rubber Bridge at her home in Weraroa Road. In 1966 these players decided to form a "Bridge Circle" and they hired a room in the National Party Building on the corner of Queen Street and Winchester Street. May Thomson was Convenor and Gwyn White was Secretary/Treasurer. The room was a small one and only accommodated 4 tables. There were a number of smokers in the group and, with everyone in such close proximity, the atmosphere became rather thick. As a result, some wanted

the windows open to let in the fresh air, but others complained bitterly because they were in a draught. After a short time the group moved to the Red Cross Rooms and Doreen Leach followed May Thomson as Convenor. This Circle still flourishes today with 5 or 6 tables meeting regularly in Thompson House to enjoy Cut-in Rubber Bridge. When the "Galleon" closed one of the Duplicate players approached this Circle with a view to the formation of a Bridge Club in Levin but at that stage there was little interest.

A few from Levin continued to play Duplicate at the Palmerston North Club. Lorna Burd, Marjorie Cooper, Essie McParlane and Bruce Jones regularly travelled to Wellington to play down there. The many experienced players at these two clubs proved extremely helpful. In the very early days, Lorna noticed that some of the pockets in the Wellington boards were painted Red whilst others were White. She cheerfully asked if they had run out of red paint. She was promptly given a lesson in Vulnerability!

In 1972 Con Mitcalfe came to Levin as Assistant Borough Engineer and he placed an advertisement in "The Chronicle" inviting anyone interested in the formation of a Duplicate Bridge Club in Levin to meet at his home in Essex Street on 15th May. Those attending included P. Barbour, Gwen Black, Lorna Burd, Jean Haley, Doreen Leach, Lilla Miller, Nan Peers, Barbara Tomlinson and Gwyn White. All were enthusiastic and it was decided to proceed with the idea. Con Mitcalfe agreed to visit the Palmerston North Club to find out about Rules and to obtain as much information as possible.

At this very first get-together there were of course the "Smokers" and the "Non-Smokers" but at least the lady sitting next to Nan Peers took adequate steps to protect the Mitcalfe's carpet....

Nan was intrigued when Gwyn opened her purse  
And took out a jar which she proceeded to nurse  
"PONDS VANISHING CREAM" said the label thereon.  
Nan tried to concentrate and listen to Con.  
But when the lid of the jar was slowly unscrewed  
She turned to watch - her interest renewed.  
And she saw our Gwyn with great panache  
Flick into the jar her cigarette ash!

## CHAPTER II "INTERMEDIATE INTERLUDE"

On 8th June 1972, the Inaugural Meeting of the Levin Contract Bridge Club was held in the Library of the Intermediate School. Con Mitcalfe became the Club's first President, Bert Burd was elected Secretary and Pat Rae was appointed Treasurer. Those elected to the Committee were - Mr M. Bright, Mrs L. Burd, Mr A. Larsen, Mrs L. Miller, and Mr O. Murray. In recognition of her efforts over the years to get a Bridge Club established in Levin, Mrs May Thomson was elected Patron.

Draft Rules were adopted and, by popular choice, Thursday was decided on as Club night.

Present at the Inaugural Meeting were - Mr & Mrs A. Arcus, Mrs G. Black, Mr M. Bright, Miss G. Brooker, Mr & Mrs A.E. Burd, Dr & Mrs Caselberg, Mr R. Coleman, Mr & Mrs J. Corry, Mrs P. Eskett, Mrs N. Fullarton, Mrs J.A. Haley, Mr P.R. Hope, Dr & Mrs A. Hull, Mrs G. Kerslake, Mr & Mrs A. Larsen, Mrs D. Leach, Mr & Mrs R. Long, Mrs D.H. McCarrison, Mrs L. Miller, Mrs A. Murray, Mr & Mrs O. Murray, Mrs N. Peers, Mr & Mrs A.G. Rae, Mrs C. Roche, Mr M. Ryder, Miss J.A. Slater, Mr O.G. Smeaton, Mrs J. Sorensen, Mrs H. Todd, Mr & Mrs D. Tomlinson, Mrs E. Walkley, Mr & Mrs J. White and Mrs E.D. Wilcox.

At the conclusion of formal business those present sat down to participate in their first evening of Duplicate. Even the intense cold could not dampen their enthusiasm.

Early in June they held their first meeting,  
In a newly built Library devoid of heating.  
Overcoats a-plenty were piled on the floor  
To stop the wind whistling under the door.  
Their hands were frozen and feet were numb.  
Some rather wondered just why they had come.  
But with the meeting over, cards were dealt  
And they almost forgot how cold they felt.

Some were there who claimed it was not only the cold that caused trembling knees and shaking hands. They were almost afraid to answer their partner's opening bid in case they were left to play the hand! At least two players were so nervous, that they vowed never to return. (One went home to take a stiff brandy and a sleeping pill.) But such is the attraction of Bridge that both were there ready to try again the following week.

Not all displayed such apprehension. One woman who had not even played Rubber Bridge was quite confident that she would experience little difficulty as she had played "Whist" in England. She was soon to discover that Bridge was just a little more complicated.



One gentleman will always remember a hand he was dealt on that first night. It contained 6 Spades (A Q J 10 x x) and 7 Diamonds (A K Q 10 x x x). What should he bid? After careful thought he opened 6 Spades. His wife who held the King of Spades (but very little else) put him to 7 Spades. They were the only ones to bid and make the Grand Slam - a memorable result for the newly appointed Treasurer and his wife.

For most, Duplicate was a new experience. Some had played a little Auction but others had only played "Whist" or "Five Hundred Even those who had played Rubber Bridge found the transition a little difficult. It seemed strange not to be able to claim for Honours and it took quite some time to become accustomed to place each card face down in a directional manner. (After winning a trick they wanted to gather up all four cards.) Then too, it was necessary to remember the lead. Everyone seemed to forget this and so one enterprising player began writing it down each time until told that it was not permitted. Those early days must have been interesting indeed. Con Mitcalfe would give a short talk prior to commencement of play to explain simple procedures but otherwise people were left to their own devices. Few were familiar with Conventions, or the system of scoring.

At time's ignorance appeared to be almost an advantage as Alan and Chris Hull will testify. On one occasion they were the only ones to bid and make a slam contract. Their meritorious performance was even recorded in the newspaper! Alan, who had previously only played "Five Hundred", decided to open 6 NT which in that particular game is a relatively conservative bid. Fortunately his wife, who had already passed, held quite a few points and the contract made. Many did not even consider the possibilities of a slam and the few experienced players who did asking with Gerber signed off smartly when they discovered that 2 Kings were missing.

Some players had an unusual way of holding their cards. Hilda Todd always fanned hers to the left and Mort Ryder somehow managed to hold his in a vertical column. It did not affect their game however, as both were particularly astute players.

Most played Goren with 4-card openers, although a few players used a system of 5-card openers that had first been introduced in Vienna in 1936. It was decided to hold classes for the benefit of those unfamiliar with the game. Small groups were tutored by Lilla Miller, Con Mitcalfe, Lorna Burd and Edith Walkley. For a short time those who had learnt from Con Mitcalfe appeared to have a slight advantage as they had been taught Acol. Their Club was always genuine - never short; and they opened with a weak No-Trump. Most members of the Club opened with a Strong No-Trump (16-18 points) and they presumed that these player's would-have the same point count As a result they often failed to compete for a part score. There was, of course, no alerting in those days. In time, however, the Acol players became marked men and women.

A month after the Club's formation, the Patron, (Mrs May Thomson), marked the occasion by holding a Social Hour for members prior to commencement of play.

On July 13th the Club welcomed the first players from Otaki Mrs E.M. McParlane and Mrs M. Cooper. Their journey to Levin was not always without incident. On one occasion they had just started on their way when the car stopped and refused to go. They could not miss their Bridge of course, and so the car was left on the side of the road, an SOS was sent for a friend to drive them up to Levin and they arrived only a few minutes late.

There was little available in the way of funds and Essie McParlane provided all the pencils and rubbers and members lent playing cards and Bridge cloths. Later a bolt of material purchased and a member of the Committee (Lorna Burd) made and trimmed 18 brown velvet covers. Four tables were donated to the Club and others were brought down by members each evening.

At the conclusion of play, a small group would retire to the warmth of the President's home to do the scoring.

The interlude at the Intermediate School was a brief one as the Club only used the Library there for a period of six weeks. The most lasting impression of those who played there, was the intense cold they felt, but many also recalled the warm feelings of friendship.

## **CHAPTER III "ST. JOHN'S SOJOURN"**

On 20th July, 1972, the Club moved to St. John's Methodist Hall in Kent Street, and the new venue proved highly satisfactory. Not only did it have security of tenure, but it also provided space for the anticipated growth of the Club. At first play was conducted in the Supper Room and this proved very cosy. Later, As numbers increased, the main hall in front was used. Although not quite as chilly as the Intermediate School, it was nevertheless extremely cold and draughty during the winter months. Odd little pieces of carpet were placed beneath the tables to help keep the feet warm and people wanted to sit N/S so they could drape a rug around their legs. Later, permission was granted for the heaters to be turned on an hour or so before the commencement of play and this made all the difference as the room was warm when players arrived.

One of the most urgent needs of the Club was a supply of boards for holding the cards. A sample was borrowed from Palmerston North and a local cabinetmaker cut the pieces of wood to the appropriate sizes. During Labour Weekend of 1972, Con Mitcalfe and Bert Burd nailed them all together and then Lorna and Bert sanded, varnished, painted and labelled them. These boards are still in excellent condition and are used for "Teams of Four", Learners Classes and whenever extras are needed. The formation of a second group necessitated a further supply and when Elsie and Alan Arcus went to England, the Club arranged for them to purchase the first white plastic boards as, at the time, these were unavailable in New Zealand.

It was felt that joining the National Association and participating in the Master Points Grading Scheme would improve the standing of the Club and help to stimulate interest. Steps were taken accordingly and, in August 1972 the Club became affiliated to the N.Z. Contract Bridge Assn. (Inc.). In 1973 the Club received a visit from the President of the N.Z. Bridge Association (Mr J. Fullarton) and he and his wife participated in the evening's play.

Competitions in the Club were introduced gradually. The first was a single four-night competition in June 1973. In August of the same year there was a trial evening where partners were drawn.

In 1974 three competitions were held, including one for graded pairs with a Senior and a Junior playing together. In 1975 a handicapping system was instigated and a Five-night Handicap Event was introduced with the best four scores to count. Players had a different partner each evening and there was a limit to the combined handicap of each pair. 1976 saw the introduction of the first full programme of competitions for the year. At the 1979 AGM handicapping was abolished and a 1-7 points system was adopted for all competitions.

The table money was 50c and those who came top one week did not have to pay any table money on the playing night immediately following. Although tables and chairs had to be packed away at the conclusion of play, no-one had to remain to do the Match-pointing as Owen Murray took the sheets home and did hem all.

A roster of directors was drawn up and then, as now, willing players would leave their own game and attend to the problems of others. For a considerable time the Club was fortunate in having Doreen Leach as a non-playing director; but when Senior players seated only a table away from her began to make their own decisions she felt a little fed up. There seemed little point in her sitting there all evening if she was not going to be called. Why is it that some players feel it unnecessary to call the Director?

In July, 1974, it was decided that players should cut for seating positions, with the highest card drawn to play North/South, with special dispensation at the Committee's discretion. At the 1976 AGM it was changed so that the player with the highest card had the choice of seats. This was applicable for many years although eventually it reverted to the original ruling.

With an increase in membership, the Club found it necessary to purchase 30 chairs as there were insufficient available at the hall. In 1976 new tables were also purchased. At first the tables were stored in a back room, and they had to be carried right through the Supper Room and through the Foyer. When the Methodist Minister saw this being done (often by ladies) he arranged for them to be stored in a cupboard nearer the playing room.

It was decided that Mrs McMinn should be engaged to organise the supper. Officially this was to consist of Tea and Biscuits but Kath Bertram's wholemeal bread and Lorna Burd's scones made a welcome addition. When classes were being held, the learners would join Club Members for supper. When a "B" group was formed, both groups synchronised their mid-evening break so that they could enjoy a chat together over a "cuppa". At one stage supper was served in the Foyer. During the entire time that St. John's Hall was used, Mrs McMinn continued to serve supper and she became very much a part of the Club.

Before the advent of the modern, more casual mode of dress, the ladies were always elegantly clad and the men wore suits. it may be debatable whether the manner of dress can in any way influence play; but on at least one occasion it had considerable effect!

Bidding revealed their point count was high  
So for a Slam, Mollie thought she would try  
"Four Clubs", she said - then things went awry  
For a certain lady chanced to pass by  
Wearing a skirt with a slit so high  
That it showed a goodly portion of thigh  
"No Bid" said her partner with a heavy sigh  
(It was somewhat distracting you'll not deny)  
Poor Mollie gave a stifled cry  
On hearing her partner's disastrous reply.

In 1977 the Club first donated Bridge reference books to the Public Library. This practice was to be repeated on several subsequent occasions.

Committee meetings were held regularly each month and on the playing night immediately preceding each meeting, members were asked if there was anything they would like to have discussed. A sheet was placed on the Notice Board so that at Supper time members could write down questions or suggestions. On the first playing night subsequent to the meeting, members were given a brief report on what had transpired.

The ever controversial question of smoking was raised in 1977 and although no actual ruling was made, players were asked to show consideration by refraining from smoking prior to supper. In 1980, however, a definite ruling stipulated that there should be no smoking before 9.00 p.m.

An extra evening of Duplicate to cater for learners was introduced in November 1973. There was considerable interest with 32 players attending. The 1976 classes of learners formed the first "B" group. They met on the same night as Seniors but in a different room. To cope with the influx of new players from the 1977 Beginners' Class the Junior night had to be altered to Tuesday. Bill Luhrs and Murray Fletcher assumed responsibility for this group. In 1978 it was decided that the top four "B" players should be promoted each year. Afternoon Duplicate was mooted in 1977, but numbers were insufficient to make it worthwhile.

1980 was a busy and eventful year for the Club. "Open Nights" were started, the Junior Room was first asked to appoint a representative to attend Committee meetings, new rules were adopted, by-laws were written, the Club became incorporated, and finally, the greatest achievement of all, the Club acquired its own rooms. What a year!

When the Club finally left the Methodist Hall at the end of 1980, it was with mixed feelings. The Church authorities had always been courteous and helpful. Stacking tables away and tidying up at the end of play may have seemed a nuisance at times but it somehow engendered within the Club a spirit of co-operation and goodwill. The obliging tea-lady and the friendly chats over supper were to be greatly missed. It is with considerable pleasure that members recall their sojourn in St. John's Hall.

## **CHAPTER IV "A DREAM OR A POSSIBILITY?"**

(In Search of Clubrooms).

"Twas but a dream - to have a home of our own  
Yet the thought was there - the seed was sown  
And from tiny seeds, mighty trees have grown."

The first tentative suggestion that the Club should give consideration to acquiring its own premises was made at a Committee Meeting in November 1975; but at that time the Club was small, and there was little available in the way of finance. It was felt also that Levin was particularly well endowed with suitable halls.

The matter was next raised for discussion at the 1979 AGM. Most of those present indicated that they were in favour of the Club working towards ultimately owning its own premises and accordingly a Sub-Committee was appointed to explore all avenues.

A detailed questionnaire was sent to members to ascertain their feelings on the matter and to gauge the amount of financial support there would be. The majority were in favour of proceeding with the idea. An appraisal had been made of the Dairy Factory Garage in Queen Street and members were asked if they thought the Club should purchase this building or whether the possibility of erecting an entirely new building should be explored. The voting on this was approximately even. That there would be considerable financial support forthcoming was evidenced by the fact that over \$12,000 was promised for debentures.

With such encouragement from members, the next steps were taken. Service costs to the Dairy Factory were investigated and the Club made an offer for this building. It was for considerably less than the asking price however, and the offer was turned down.

The possibility of erecting a new building was next explored. Negotiations with the Borough Council had resulted in a section on Council land next to the Old Folks Hall being available for the purpose but building costs proved prohibitive.

Various factory buildings were inspected as they came on the market but the location was usually unfavourable. The upstairs section of the Central Building in Oxford Street was inspected but was deemed unsuitable. Serious consideration was given to purchasing the Anglican Hall at Weraroa and enquiries were made with regard to costs for alterations and repairs.

Finally the Committee received advice from Mr Emmerson that his factory building in Tawa Street was available for purchase. In spite of the old machinery, the dust, the cobwebs and the mess, the Sub-Committee could see that it had potential. On 26th June, 1980, all Club members were invited to inspect this building so they could express an opinion. They agreed that it had possibilities and following negotiations, it was tentatively arranged for this building to be

purchased. First, however, it was necessary to obtain permission from the Borough Council for it to be converted into Clubrooms as it was situated in a residential area.

Neighbours in the immediate vicinity were interviewed to seek their co-operation and approval. It was explained that the premises would be used as a Clubroom only and would not be rented out to the general public so that there would be no noisy late night functions. An assurance was given that members would park on one side of the road only to avoid any traffic hazard. This personal approach paid dividends as all those interviewed agreed in writing that they would raise no objections if the disused factory was converted into clubrooms. Having their support and approval carried considerable weight when the Borough Council was approached. The Mayor, the Town Planning Officer and the Borough Engineer were all interviewed. The Club's application was subject to a "Conditional Use" hearing but fortunately no objections were received. The Borough Engineer said this was of considerable significance since the code clearly stated that for a place of assembly, sites should not be considered if they were within a housing area and isolated from other community facilities such as schools, shops and recreation area. He said that because there had been no objections and owing to the nature of the Bridge Club's activities, the code requirement would be waived. The Council imposed three conditions on the conversion: the Parking Area had to be screened; the vehicle entrance and access way had to be sealed within a reasonable time to the satisfaction of the Borough Engineer; and the street access from Winchester Street had to be closed as a vehicle entrance. After these lengthy procedures the Bridge Club was eventually given the go-ahead to convert the unused clothing factory in Tawa Street into Clubrooms. At a Special General Meeting on 31st July, 1980, the Committee was authorised to pay the sum of \$22,000 for the purchase of the building; and at the same time authority was given for the issue of Debentures to the value of \$25,000.

There were then several unexpected and very worrying delays; but with the help and legal expertise of Phil Comber, the purchase of the property was finalised on 30th September.

The original Building Sub-Committee had completed its task and was disbanded. Three new Sub-Committees were appointed - a Finance Committee, a Works Committee and a Fund Raising Committee.

Insurance was immediately arranged and decisions were made with regard to the basic alterations necessary. Plans were prepared by Bruce Jones and builders were approached for estimates, The tender of Mr Glass was accepted and work on the alterations began immediately.

A target was set for the Club to move into its own premises by February, 1981. With so much to be done, this was an ambitious undertaking; but nevertheless, one that was to be successfully achieved.

A dream was about to be fulfilled!

## **CHAPTER V "A DREAM BECOMES A REALITY"**

(Clubrooms of our own)

### FINANCING THE DREAM

A Finance Sub-Committee under the guidance of Elsie and Alan Arcus was appointed to arrange temporary loans, to handle debentures and to make payments as required.

Debentures to the value of \$25,000 provided the revenue initially needed to purchase the property and to begin the alterations. Each member of the Club was individually approached by a member of the Finance Sub-Committee to see if they would consider taking up Debentures. The strictest confidence was observed in order to avoid any embarrassment to members who were not in a position to help. Even later, when ballots for repayment were held, Debenture numbers only were announced. Each Debenture was valued at \$100. Some took up a single debenture, some as many as ten. A few preferred to make a small donation. The debentures were for a period of five years and there were three different types. Some realised 10% interest, some 5% and some were interest free. Eventually the issue was fully subscribed. At the end of the first year all interest payments were met and as a show of good faith, 5 debentures were repaid. At specially organised evenings, more were repaid in each succeeding year, and at the end of the five year period almost all had been repaid. An extension of six months for final repayment was agreed to by members and this meant there would be no need for a further issue. Some members, upon receiving payment, generously donated the money back to the Club.

All other avenues of finance were fully explored. The Kiwi Lottery Board and all known trusts were approached seeking grants but without success as most available funds from these sources were channelled through the Local Body Recreation & Development Scheme. The Borough Council was therefore approached and as it was necessary to state a specific need, the Club applied for \$2,000 (dollars) towards insulation. The application was declined, the Club tried again the following year and a grant of \$1,000 was received to level the floors and upgrade the front portion of the building. As some members lived outside the Borough boundary, it was decided that the County Council should also be approached; and from this source the Club received a grant of \$200 for chairs and heating. The practice of not having to pay table money if you had been a winner the previous week was discontinued so that the money saved could go towards the Building Fund; and it was also agreed that Prize Money should be abolished for 1981.

### FUND RAISING

At the St. John's Hall, quantities of lemons made their appearance weekly and members were invited to help themselves as they were free; but a box was placed alongside and it was suggested that those availing themselves of the offer might like to make a small contribution to the Building Fund. These so called "free" lemons were the start of what was later to become a regular and lucrative "Sales Table". Members began bringing along sewing, cakes, mushrooms and all manner of produce. The braid, cottons, pieces of material



and buttons that had been left behind in the factory building were sold or used to make saleable goods.

Members individually worked hard to raise funds. They sewed, they baked, they donated raffles, they held Bridge luncheons in their own homes, they organised Progressive Dinners and one member, Charles Hamilton-Williams, offered his services to the town as an "Odd-Job Man" with all the money earned being given to the Club. Firewood was donated for sale and Maude Hinde gave a series of Floral Art lessons.

The Fund Raising Sub-Committee, headed by Deryn Comber, arranged a full programme for the year with one major activity planned for each month.

Members contributed goods for a highly successful "Garage Sale" held at the home of Terry O'Callaghan. A Fashion Parade was held in our own Clubrooms and a cake stall was set up in the foyer of the old Regent Theatre. Members contributed not just a single cake but as many as a dozen.

As well as the weekly raffle on Club nights, a monster Easter Raffle was arranged, with tickets being sold in town. A "200 Club Raffle" realised the sum of \$1,000. One member greatly boosted the sales for this by taking up a position outside the T.A.B.

On December 13th a Garden Gala was held at Lorna Donnelly's home in Queen Street. There were games in which all could participate and a Sub-Teenage Beauty Contest. Ice Cream and soft drinks were sold, there was a Lucky Dip and a Chicken Wheel. There was a mammoth Plant Stall, a Children's Clothing Stall, a small Jewellery Bar, Cake and Sweet Stalls and a booth where Christmas gifts and novelties could be purchased. Members had been sewing, potting plants, baking and working hard for weeks. One member staggered in with her freezer crisper drawer filled with 14 loaves. Others baked pies, biscuits and cakes by the dozen. Afternoon tea was served on the terrace and altogether it was a highly successful function. Over \$1,000 was raised.

Rather less successful was the Jumble Sale. Someone had suggested that this was a good source of revenue but there are certain ladies in the Club who now refuse to believe this! They lumped clothing here, there and everywhere, nearly breaking their ageing backs in the process but only a few articles were sold.

Saturday evening Bridge was held on a number of occasions. Members paid to participate, partners were drawn and tea was provided. There was a small prize for the top and bottom players. Pot Luck Dinners were held and there were regular Bridge Luncheons with gallons of home-made soup being made and served. At these luncheons there was always a small mystery parcel which went temporarily to the first player taking a trick with a two of any suit. The parcel then had to be passed on to the next player achieving the feat. The person holding it at the end of the afternoon then retained it.

To further augment the Building Fund, an extra Tournament was arranged. In addition, on September 13th, 1981, Otaki Members of the Club ran a Closed

Tournament. They did all the catering and assumed full responsibility. As well as providing a thoroughly enjoyable day's Bridge, it was a great success financially and a second such Tournament was organised in 1983.

#### ALTERATIONS & WORKING BEES.

The original Convenor of the Works Sub-Committee was Bill Luhrs with Tom Bullock and Roger Parker following at a later date.

The first task was to clean up the old factory building. Machinery and anything saleable was realised upon. A battery of ladies set about cleaning the grease and dirt of ages from off the floor. What a sight they presented, lined up a yard apart across the width of the room, with heads down, bottoms up, scrubbing brushes in hand and with multi-coloured plastic buckets at their sides. They had brought hot water down in Thermos flasks and this was replenished from the home of a member living nearby. Members worked long and hard removing fittings, taking down the partition in tile office, repairing, painting and paper hanging. The work done by Roger Parker was monumental. Day after day he worked away, often on his own.

If you chanced to stroll down Tawa Street way  
You'd see Roger Parker there day after day  
Filling holes and cracks with infinite care  
And attending to anything in need of repair  
Climbing on scaffolding to paint the ceiling  
At a height Guaranteed to send one reeling  
And when the inside work had all been done  
He painted the outside in the blistering sun!

Structurally the main playing room did not have to be altered although a temporary supervisor's room at one end was removed. Major holes were repaired and smaller ones were stuffed with newspapers and plastered over. The interior of the roof had silver lining paper held in position with wire netting and bare rafters. Batts were installed and a Pinex ceiling was placed in position by the builder. When completed it had of course to be painted. Many a prayer was said for Roger Parker as he perched precariously on improvised scaffolding to complete this task. Window sills and frames had to be sanded and painted.

The President was appointed to paint the skirting  
But before very long her poor back was hurting  
So she lay on the floor in a most undignified way  
But the task was completed by the end of the day.

Second-grade runs of wallpaper were offered free of charge although the selection was limited. It was felt that a bold pattern was needed to hide the many faults in the walls beneath. After lengthy debates a red and gold paper was selected for the main playing room, the foyer and the toilet area. This was hung by Chris Hull and a band of willing women helpers. Drapes were chosen and made by Mrs Robb and net curtains were donated. Suitable notice boards were erected. New covers were needed for the Bridge tables but material of a suitable colour was unavailable in Levin. A trip to Palmerston North proved

equally frustrating. The only suitable material was an extremely expensive velvet. The President and Secretary did not have the heart to present the account to the Committee so they paid for it themselves. It was agreed that carpet should be laid in the Playing Room and Foyer as soon as possible. To facilitate its earlier purchase, the President offered to lend the money needed free of interest, provided it was repaid within a year. The Committee accepted the offer, discount was arranged, and the carpeting was purchased for \$3,625.00. A hard-wearing serviceable type was chosen, and a neutral colour was selected so that it would not conflict with any future colour schemes. Chairs were urgently needed, but for a time the club managed with the 30 purchased while in St. John's Hall, with metal and folding garden chairs and with an odd assortment lent by members. The Feltex factory was consulted and a design for chairs was decided upon. The Draylon covering was purchased at cost and as funds became available, orders were placed. The Feltex Manager, who incidentally lived next door to the Bridge Club rooms, proved most co-operative and a substantial discount meant that each chair could be purchased for less than \$40. Twelve were ordered initially and when the County Council Recreation Grant for \$200 came to hand this was used to purchase more. In addition, 20 chairs were donated by members. Heaters of all descriptions were also lent by members. (One with insufficient protection almost burnt the new drapes!) When and as finance became available the present safer panel type heaters were installed.

The kitchen floor had to be raised so that it was level with the rest of the building. When this and other essential repairs had been completed, the ceiling and walls were painted. For some considerable time the Club had to manage with bare boards but eventually lino was purchased for the floor. Old benches and cupboards miraculously came to light to be used as a temporary measure until the Club could afford something better. Two sink benches originally discarded by members were hastily salvaged. Although different in design, they were at least the same colour and they lined up (more or less) to form a double sink unit in the centre of the room. Lino covered work benches and shelves from the old machine room were cut to suitable sizes and re-erected in the kitchen with muslin curtains draped in front to conceal future contents. Cups for the kitchen were donated by Bruce Jones and in 1981 the Club purchased its own cutlery and china as hiring it for Tournaments was proving too costly. Four Hot-plates, an oven and a 'Zip' were donated by Olive Short, a stove was donated by Nan Peers and Lorna Donnelly supplied a refrigerator. At first the Club had to manage with the existing Zip and the one donated; but eventually an undersink hot water system was installed.

The Supper Room was lined as far as the old pinex removed from the factory office would allow. Later, Murray Fletcher provided enough for the work to be completed. (He was storing some for his daughter but decided that the Club's need was greater than hers.) Old, narrow work benches from the original building were arranged around the perimeter of the room; and trestles were made. The walls were papered and, at a later date, lino was laid to match the kitchen.

The toilet area was extended and the floor raised to conform with the rest of the building. One toilet was made large enough to take a wheelchair. When the builder had completed structural work in this area, the walls were papered and lino put down. Then it came to the fittings.....

The existing basins will just have to do  
But we'll buy new toilets for the ladies' Loo  
There's an old one about - a delightful green  
It'll do for the men if we give it a clean  
They need a urinal that's abundantly clear  
But unfortunately they seem to be far too dear  
Then an ad appears and Bill's off in a trice  
To buy one in Wellington for half the price.

The guttering on the South and west walls was rusty and had to be replaced. The roof and the exterior walls had to be painted.

The parking area was initially grass. The old motor mower donated was constantly breaking down and eventually gravel was spread in this area. Railway sleepers were required so that cars would not inadvertently back into the walls of the building. A local gentleman had just purchased a load of these to use on his farm. Before he quite realised what was happening, his sister, the Club President, had persuaded him that they should be donated to the Bridge Club. They were loaded back onto his truck and duly delivered to 17 Tawa Street! One of the conditions imposed by the Council was that the Parking Area should be screened. It was decided that Camellias would be more aesthetically pleasing than an ugly six-foot high tin or board fence. (Who knows, the may one day grow sufficiently to meet the height requirement!) It was also necessary to have a front lawn and hopefully the narrow strip of grass between the camellias fulfils this requirement. In compliance with the Borough Regulations the entrance way was sealed and a barrier fence was erected. Shrubs were purchased and placed in front of the building to enhance its appearance.

Apart from the main structural alterations that were carried out by a professional builder, Club members were responsible for all improvements. Their work was astronomical. It is estimated that over 700 man hours of voluntary labour had been contributed. Those who were unable to physically assist with Working Bees, helped in other ways. Often Thermos flasks of tea and hot scones would unexpectedly arrive on the scene.

#### THE OPENING.

Although the rooms had been in use for weekly play since the beginning of the year, the Official Opening was not held until 18th April. This function was attended by His Worship the Mayor (Mr. J. Bolderson); the County Chairman and his wife (Mr. & Mrs. J.S. Blenkhorn); the Patron of the Club (Mrs. M. Thomson); the builders; the sub-contractors; the Club's solicitor; and representatives of various firms who had helped. There was a good attendance of members; and immediate neighbours had also been invited. Club members were congratulated on all that had been achieved. Their efforts had provided a very valuable asset. It has been said that you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear; but the Levin Bridge Club came close to doing just that with the transformation of a

disused factory building into comfortable clubrooms. And this was achieved in less than a year, thanks to the enthusiasm, generosity and hard work of members. The manner in which everyone had pulled together throughout the Working Bees and the Fund Raising Activities had produced within the Club a wonderful spirit of co-operation, harmony and goodwill.

What had been a dream had become a reality!

At a Church Hall in Kent Street, Club Members used to meet  
They sat with all the heaters on, but still had frozen feet  
They had to set the tables up and oft were heard to moan -  
"Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful to have Clubrooms of our own!"

Then a certain factory building became available for sale  
It clearly had potential and must be purchased without fail  
Debentures soon were issued; and in many ingenious ways  
Members cheerfully set to work, essential funds to raise.

At the Working Bees that followed, all members lent a hand  
Patching, painting, papering - doing everything as planned  
And at the Official Opening, Club Members could not hide  
Their sense of satisfaction, their feelings of great pride!

## **CHAPTER VI "HALCYON DAYS"**

Following the opening of the Clubrooms, members were able to relax a little and enjoy the fruits of their labour. Membership continued to grow and the Club flourished.

There was a minor set-back when a freak storm caused rain to beat in under the outside door to the office. Some pinex and some pieces of carpet were ruined but fortunately it was covered by insurance. Steps were immediately taken to avoid a recurrence.

As a Bridge Club is a non-profit making organisation, the Borough Council was approached for an exemption from rates. The application was declined; but information on other clubs in Levin and on Bridge Clubs in other areas was immediately collated and a further application was submitted. This resulted in a reduction in the amount that had to be paid.

1982 was the Clubs 10th Anniversary and a Pot Luck Dinner was held to mark the occasion. Honours' Boards were presented by Beth Blenkhorn. "Open Nights" were introduced on Mondays, a phone was installed and contracts arranged for cleaning and lawn mowing.

In 1983 it was agreed that for the final night of each competition the top 7 players should be seated the same way with a table between each. In the Junior room this was to apply to the first 4 players. A move to introduce handicapping was lost. As Jack White, an original member of the Club, was no longer able to attend regularly he was made an Honorary Member. In May 1983 Afternoon Bridge was introduced for the winter months. Anne Pederson has continued to efficiently run this each Tuesday afternoon between May and October.

In 1983 the reading lamp in the corner disappeared and everyone rejoiced! With the aid of this lamp and very strong glasses, Dot Hastedt who had only partial sight had somehow managed to play Bridge, and to play it well! Further deterioration necessitated a delicate eye operation in America but she returned with her sight almost miraculously restored. No longer was the lamp needed, no longer did she have to sit N/S, no longer was she prevented from participating in events that involved written bidding. Is it any wonder that Club Members were delighted to see that lamp disappear!

In 1984 ventilation was improved and panel heaters were installed. A Pot Luck Dinner, was held and this was followed with a Debenture Draw and informal Bridge.

Written bidding was tried in 1985, but it created all sorts of problems. Bidding boards were used instead. These cut down the noise level considerably; and- for the hard-of-hearing they proved most helpful. On a number of occasions Alec Dixie and Syd Hinde acted as non-playing Directors.. At the 1985 AGM it was decided that the 1-7 points system should be dropped and that percentages

should be the sole criteria for competitions. (It reverted to the original points system in 1987.)

Fund raising during these years was confined mainly to Tournaments. A regular weekly raffle resulted in nearly \$1,000 being raised each year. A further grant of \$260 was received from the Levin Borough Council Recreation & Community Fund.

These were halcyon years. A friendly atmosphere prevailed in the Club and things ran smoothly.

## **CHAPTER VII "A CLUB DIVIDED"**

With the expansion of the Club the time was fast approaching when the formation of an Intermediate Group would be necessary. The first steps were taken towards the ultimate formation of such a group when a decision was made in 1980 that the 4 Juniors being promoted at the end of the year should become "Intermediates" but they would play in the Senior Room until such time as there were sufficient Intermediate players to form a separate group. If this original concept had been adhered to it perhaps may have saved a lot of heartbreak within the Club.

At a Special General Meeting held in August 1983 it was decided that a separate Intermediate Group should be formed. All sorts of possibilities were investigated, such as dividing the Seniors into an "A" and a "B" group, or having the Senior and Intermediate groups playing together on the same night. After months of work spent devising a system of grading, it was decided at the 1983 AGM that things should remain as they were.

At the 1984 AGM the Committee was charged with the task of "forming an Intermediate Group by 1986". This was done by the middle of 1985 so that players would be aware of the situation and could arrange partnerships for 1986. A simplified version of a system operating in New Plymouth was used to grade the Club. Percentages for the previous year were taken into account together with "C" points from the December, 1984 Computer Printout. The grading resulted in a Senior Group of 56, with the remainder being classified Intermediate or Senior Reserve. To alleviate the problem of spouses, friends and carloads being split up, it was decided, at first, that both groups should play on the same night (Thursday) until such time as the room was saturated; but this did not eventuate.

In September 1985, a Special Meeting was called to discuss dividing the Club into 3 groups - Junior, Intermediate and Senior. As there were so many Junior players eligible for promotion, it was decided that they should all be put into the Intermediate Room to play on Thursdays. From February 1986, onwards the Seniors played on Wednesday nights.

Not all members were happy when the Club was divided in this way. Gradings and groupings were felt by some to be wrong and unfortunately one or two members left the Club as a result of this.



## **CHAPTER VIII "DISASTER STRIKES"**

In 1986 there was a minor crisis. The floors in the kitchen and ladies' toilet collapsed. There had apparently been insufficient air vents in the original building; and unfortunately this had not been picked up when the alterations had been carried out. The blame could not be laid at anyone's door although one would have thought that the Building Inspector would have acted as a safeguard between the builder and the owner.

The Committee met with the Insurance Assessor, with Mr Glass (the builder who did the alterations) and with the Club's Solicitor. But it was one of those situations where no-one would accept responsibility and reimbursement towards the cost of replacing the floor was obviously not forthcoming.

The re-flooring of the kitchen and ladies' room and the ventilation of the whole building was essential and urgent. The existing kitchen joinery had been put in as a temporary measure five years previously and it was doubtful if this complied with Health Regulations. It was therefore considered expedient to update this at the same time.

On 4th April 1986, a Special General Meeting was called to explain the position to members. At this meeting the Committee was authorised to take out a mortgage up to \$10,000 to be used specifically on floors, ventilation and plumbing. Any money remaining was then to be used for new joinery in the kitchen. It was suggested that members be circulated to see if they would be willing to take out Debentures with interest rates of 15%, 10% or Nil%. Again members rose to the occasion and debentures for \$6,600 were issued. \$1,084 was received in donations and the Bank Manager agreed to the Club having an overdraft with a limit of \$5,000 at 22%. Jan Pirovano organised a highly successful Garage Sale and over \$700 was raised.

With such encouraging support, work proceeded immediately. A Working Bee was held to remove the old floor boards and Mr Neil Sim was engaged to undertake the necessary work. He was most helpful as also were the joiners and plumbers.

Joan Luhrs and Chris Hull spent many hours designing the joinery needed for the kitchen. Formica was used throughout.

Mr Nouwens, the husband of a Member offered to give the Club two days of painting and Rob Knuvers and Mark Kuijten put down the new lino in the kitchen. At the same time they laid carpet in the dining room and the Ladies Room. (This had been acquired very reasonably through a Club member.) Thanks to Audrey Sinclair concrete was laid at the front door.

1986 had involved a bigger maintenance programme than was ever envisaged but much was achieved. Undoubtedly the collapse of the floor had been disastrous - it had been worrying and expensive! And yet much good resulted as the Club now has a kitchen area of which it can be justifiably proud.

## **CHAPTER IX "SMOOTH SAILING"**

After the furore caused by the division of the Club and the anxious moments experienced with the collapse of the kitchen floor, everything ran smoothly for the next few years.

At the AGM in 1986 the pros and cons of G.S.T. were fully discussed and on the advice of the Club's Auditor it was decided to register.

During 1987 a new format was tried for the Championship Pairs event. One night of Championship play was held each month with a ladder recording progress. Members indicated that they preferred the old system of playing on 4 consecutive nights near the end of the year; and the competition reverted to this form in 1988. New rules were clarified by Bill Luhrs.

It was a sad blow for the Club when, in 1987, Val Harris left Levin to live in Australia. Val had served on the Committee for 5 years, had been Tournament Secretary for 4 years and had been a Senior Scorer. In addition she had been instrumental in persuading her husband, the Manager of Levin Travel Centre, to sponsor the Club's Open Tournament each year.

The Junior Room restarted in July 1987. Because there were so few members they were permitted to play on Thursdays as well as Tuesdays Senior and Intermediate players took turns directing in the Junior Room. Several evenings of Social Bridge were held. Members mixed by drawing names, Seniors playing with Juniors and supper being served at the end of play. An enjoyable way to mix the different groups in the Club. At one of these evenings a farewell was said to Alan Wright who was leaving the district. Alan was a Committee member for some years and often scored for our Tournaments. Tuesdays in 1988 were non-competition nights. Learning practice workshops and social evenings were held, enjoyed by all.

1988 saw the upgrading of the office. An immense amount of work was done by Gary Edwards transforming the area. He and Jim Boyce then papered and painted, a carpet was laid making a very pleasant and comfortable room for our scorers. A couch was purchased for the Ladies room, X-Pel-Air and vents were fitted, new notice boards erected and a tea and coffee machine was installed.

In 1989 the Parking area was tarsealed and the painting of white lines ensured orderly parking.

## **CHAPTER X' "CONTACT WITH OTHER CLUBS"**

Levin Members have had a long and happy association with the Palmerston North Bridge Club. Two ladies from Levin used to play duplicate at this club when it still, met in the YMCA Rooms. In 1975 a group of 30-players came down from Palmerston North to visit the Levin Club. When Monday afternoon Bridge started in Palmerston at their Linton Street Clubrooms, several car loads from Levin made the journey through each week. The Palmerston folk were friendly and helpful. Newer players from Levin gained greatly in confidence and learnt much in technique.

In March 1973, the Levin Bridge Club was host to players from Paraparaumu and a regular exchange of visits followed. In 1977 Paraparaumu suggested that the two Clubs should extend the interchange by playing for a shield and this they have continued to do annually.

In 1978, twenty-two players from Levin travelled to Waikanae to enjoy an evening of Bridge with members there. A return visit was arranged for later in the year; and the two Clubs met on several subsequent-occasions. When Waikanae members came to Levin in 1983, luncheon was served prior to the commencement of play.

The Otaki Bridge Club was formed in 1983 and from the very beginning there has been a strong bond between Otaki and Levin. There are a number of players who belong to both Clubs. In the first year Levin helped with tables and covers and lent Wooden Boards for their first Learners' Classes. In 1984 twelve pairs from Levin visited the Otaki Club and there have been many enjoyable matches in ensuing years. In 1986 and 1987, a Teams Match was held with Paraparaumu, Waikanae, Otaki, and Levin participating.

When Levin acquired its own Clubrooms in 1981 the Wanganui Club sent down 6 table covers as a gesture of goodwill and this was much appreciated.

A warm welcome has always been extended to visitors from other Clubs and there have been many over the years.

Tournaments have provided a further opportunity for contact with Players from other Clubs. There seems to be an affinity between those who indulge in the challenging game of Bridge and many lasting friendships have developed.

## **CHAPTER XI "TOURNAMENTS & COMPETITIONS"**

Before the actual formation of a Bridge Club in Levin, May Thomson and Nan Byrne attended a Tournament at the Chateau.

In October 1972, five pairs from Levin travelled to Palmerston North to participate in a Tournament there sponsored by Central Districts. For most this was their first experience of such an event.

Levin's first Tournament was held in August 1974. This was organised by Owen Murray with Kath Bertram assisting. It was not intended that this should be a money making venture. The Club was quite happy to meet any financial deficit. Forty-two couples participated and at the end of play all adjourned to the "Levin Hotel" for dinner and the Prize-Giving. This provided a fitting end to a highly successful event. In spite of a meal at the hotel and an Entrance Fee of only \$6, the Tournament showed a profit of \$54. Members assisted with Luncheon and Afternoon Tea.

The Club held its second Tournament in 1976. Hot soup was served to players on arrival as many had travelled a considerable distance. There was only one small stove in the St. John's Hall and so Steak & Kidney pies and Shepherd's Pies were heated up at home and brought down to the hall at the appropriate time. At the conclusion of play, contestants walked across to Thompson House for drinks as these could not be served in the Church hall. The idea of giving coupons for two free drinks with others to be paid for, was first instigated at this Tournament. Everyone returned to the St. John's Hall for a buffet meal and the Prize-Giving. Cutlery and china had all to be hired and when most had departed, the hard-working Committee members could be seen counting this and packing it into boxes.

In August 1977, an intermediate Tournament was supported by a wide range of Clubs. Although 65 pairs entered, only 46 could be accepted. Raffles were introduced for the first time. A fork meal was served and again participants adjourned to Thompson House for drinks.

Subsequent tournaments followed the same format with a Junior and Intermediate Tournament being held in alternate years. In 1979, and again in 1980, Dot Hastedt's music was a welcome addition. It filled what is normally a "dead" period while players are waiting for results. Many sat quietly and just enjoyed listening, others gathered round the piano to sing and some even tried to dance in the limited space available. So popular was this interlude, that Dot was prevailed upon to play at the Dannevirke Tournament.

Tournaments are fun for those who participate but they are hard work for those responsible for the catering and Organisation. Originally the Club Secretary bore the brunt of the paper work involved; but for the 1978 Tournament, Betty Marshall was asked to handle this. When the Club began holding more than one Tournament a year it became increasingly obvious that a separate Tournament Secretary was needed. Val Harris became the first permanent appointment and she was followed by Bobbie McKenzie. It was later agreed that the Tournament

Secretary should become a member of the Committee with full voting rights. As well as sending out notices and advising Clubs of the results afterwards, the Tournament Secretary receives and acknowledges all entries. The playing room must be organised and name tags written. As it is essential to have even numbers, it is customary to arrange for a "Floating Pair" to be on standby. It is important that they should be a good natured couple as one minute they are playing and the next they're not. The Tournament Secretary's life is not always a happy one!

The entries come in and you accept them with glee  
You arrange all the tables - you need twenty-three  
And just when you think that everything's right  
You're awoken by a phone call late in the night  
A couple you've expected have both got the flu  
The Tournament's tomorrow - what should you do?  
You hastily phone through to your Floating Pair  
Asking them please to be sure they are there  
You arrive in the morning praying all will go well  
When you're Tournament Secretary you never can tell!  
Two players arrive and you don't have their names  
"Well, we sent in an entry!" one vehemently claims  
They're from a distance - you can't send them away  
So your Floating Pair must be asked not to play.

Since 1981, three Tournaments have been held each year - a Junior, an Intermediate, and an Open. Capable members have undertaken the onerous task of catering for these. They have worked on the principle, "Cater well, and they will come again!", and this has been exactly what has happened. In recent years the attendance at other Tournaments has fallen drastically and some have even had to be cancelled but those at Levin have always been well patronised. In 1984 Levin ran a N.Z.L.M. Tournament on behalf of Central Districts.

Beautifully arranged flowers have been a feature much admired at all Levin Tournaments. The Club has been fortunate in having gifted people like Minna Steele and Maude Hinde who have willingly given of their time and talent. The Club even had a special container made to show their work to advantage.

In recent years Levin South Rotary Club has held an annual Tournament to raise funds. Although voluntarily assisted by our Tournament Secretary, they do all the catering and most of the work themselves. Usually they make a small donation to the Club for the use of the rooms.

In 1985 a 3-session Progressive Tournament was introduced with one session being held in Wanganui, one in Palmerston North and one in Levin.

The profit from Tournaments has steadily increased and often by the end of the year, the Club has derived as much as \$4,000 from this source. On two or three occasions it has been arranged for outside organisations to do the catering; but usually the food is supplied by members.

1982 saw a computer being used for the scoring for the first time. Rory Butler from Waiopahu College prepared the programme for this and did the actual scoring. Now, of course, the Club has its own computer and a very capable group of members undertake this task.

The Dunhill Cup and the Dunhill Plate were two prestigious national events and for three years in a row, Levin players were chosen to represent Central Districts. Trials are held in each area to select a team for the Nationals. In 1978 two Levin players (Chris Hull and Beth Blenkhorn) along with four Palmerston North players were selected to travel to the Nationals in Auckland. What an eye-opener that proved to be! For the first time they heard of Psyche Bids, Cue Bids and fancy artificial bids such as the Italian Blue Club; but the incident they will always remember occurred when one player said "No Bid" and his partner tapped the table to let them know this showed an Opening Hand! In 1979 the Team for Central Districts was composed entirely of Levin players - Celia Roche, Beth Blenkhorn, Nan Peers and Jean Sorensen. The finals were to be held in Dunedin and because of the expense involved, it was decided to reduce the size of the team from six players to four. This may have saved Central Districts some money but it possibly cost them a placing. The team started out in grand style, but without a third pair to provide a much needed rest, the four players became completely exhausted. They were to realise that stamina was an essential requisite for such a high-powered, lengthy tournament.

Four Levin players set forth full of smiles  
To compete at Palmerston in the-Dunhill Trials  
There, by good fortune, they chanced to win  
And a memorable experience was about to begin.

They were off to Dunedin with expenses all paid  
Those four Levin players thought they were made!  
Their Silent Bidding they practised with zest-  
For all were determined to give of their best.

They started their play with a brilliant burst!  
At the end of the evening they were lying first  
But concentration diminished, tiredness took hold  
And they realised, alas, they were getting old!

In 1981 Beth Blenkhorn, Jill Cottle, Jean Sorensen and Nan Peers, together with two players from Palmerston North, represented Central Districts at the National Finals in Wellington. In 1981 Nan and Jean were again in the Central Districts team together with 4 players from New Plymouth.

In November 1981 "Simultaneous Pairs" was a new innovation and Club members have enjoyed participating in this event each year. The computerised hands are pre-dealt and are played on the same day by Clubs throughout the country. A sheet is received at the end of play showing the recommended bidding.

The "Epson World-wide Bridge Contest" was introduced in 1986. The booklets for this competition come in a sealed package which must be opened in front of two witnesses. Each pair then deals a board as directed and this is passed on to the next table. Each hand played scores points according to a given scale. The same hands are played at the same time throughout the world. At the conclusion of play each contestant receives a sheet with comments from Omar Sharif, a player of world renown.

The Club was fortunate in having their Open Tournament sponsored by Levin Travel Centre for a number of years. In 1987, the Levin Eel Trading Co. Ltd. offered to be the sponsor. Local Estate Agents, "The Professionals" sponsored the Intermediate Tournament in 1987 and the Junior Tournament in 1988. One of the local banks also sponsored a Tournament in 1987.

In the early days only a few players from Levin attended Tournaments; but then an enthusiastic group began participating regularly. Enjoyable weekends were spent in Hawkes Bay and Palmerston North, Wanganui, Masterton and Hawera. The shouts and cheers from the Levin contingent, if a member of the group chanced to gain a placing, were quite deafening. Their delight was obvious; and one would think that each and every member of the group had been personally responsible for the success. It was a proud moment for the Club when, in 1984, Dot Hastedt and Bobbie McKenzie topped the country in the N.Z. Local Masters Tournament. Today, many members of the Club enjoy the challenge of participating in Tournament play at all levels.

An "A" has been Dot and Bobbie's ambition  
And at last their wish has come to fruition  
With a magnificent win on Saturday last  
They earned themselves 4 and the "die was cast"  
It wont be long e'er they gain their fifth  
to mark this occasion please accept this gift  
It came from China- 'tis pure silk I believe  
(Twill save you wiping your nose on your sleeve)  
I guess you're still floating on a cloud  
And you must be feeling terribly proud  
I offer my congratulations most sincere  
Twas splendidly done my dear.  
Congratulations, Beth

## CHAPTER XII "C" POINTS & SCORING

Within a few months of its formation the Club decided it would be desirable to join the Master Points scheme. The object of this scheme is to stimulate interest in Duplicate Bridge, to provide a means of measuring and recording the achievements of players and to provide the N. Z. C. B. A. with a source of revenue.

"C" points determine ones grading. 100 "C" points convert to one "B" point. Five "B" points are required to become a Junior Master, twenty to become a Club Master and fifty to become a Local Master. Then there is quite a barrier. To be classified as a Provincial. Master fifty "A" points are needed in addition to 100 "B" points. Because "A" points can only be, obtained at Open Tournaments, many are destined to always remain Local Masters. On reaching an aggregate of 100 Master Points, a Local Master who has not earned the necessary "A" points is accorded the status of "Local Master - 1 Star". With 150 Master Points he becomes "Local Master 2 Star", and an additional star is added for each additional 50 Master Points. Marjorie Cooper is the only person in the Club who has attained the rank of Provincial Master and most of her "A" points were acquired while she was in Wellington. It is possible to rise even higher than the rank of "Provincial Master" and become a "Master Master", a "National Master", a "Life Master" and finally a "Grand Master". Perhaps someday, someone in the Levin Bridge Club will achieve such illustrious status.

When the Club used to meet in the Methodist Hall, Pat Rae, Bert Burd, Arnie Larsen, Ray Long and Owen Murray would stay behind to do the matchpointing. A few keen players would wait to hear the results and at times they would be literally breathing down the scorers' necks as they leant over to see how well they had done. Once matchpointing was completed, Con Mitcalfe took the sheets home to work out the percentages. In those days a top placing earned only 8 or perhaps 12 "C" points depending on the number of tables; and "C" points could only be collected on one playing night each week.

Later Owen Murray took over all the scoring. There were, of course, no computers in 1972 but Owen had a mind that worked like one. Without the aid of a calculator or an adding machine, he would matchpoint all the sheets and work out the results. Using long division, he would then calculate the individual percentages; and never once did he make a mistake! Then he had to work out the "C" points earned by members for the evening's play. Little yellow certificates were meticulously written out by hand. These were presented to members on the following playing night. When members had amassed sufficient to make it worth their while, these certificates were posted off to the N.Z. Bridge Association in Wellington to be officially recorded. Writing out the certificates involved considerable time and of course they had to be paid for by the Club. It was therefore suggested that if members did not wish to collect their "C" points they should notify the Secretary accordingly and, at the time, many players did this.

In 1977 it was suggested that players should be taught how to do the matchpointing so they could help with the scoring at the end of the evening, but



it was decided that this would hold up the people putting away the tables and chairs. Later in the year, however, Owen Murray agreed to show those interested how it was done. Levin players at a Tournament had found themselves at a disadvantage, as they were usually the only contestants unable to do the matchpointing at the end of play. By 1978 all members helped with the matchpointing and this proved of great assistance to Nan Peers who had taken over the onerous task of scoring.

In 1980 Jill Cottle and then Pat Mitchell were the scorers for the Senior Room. With the introduction of a "B" group another scorer was essential and this task was undertaken first by Bruce Jones, later by Syd Hinde, and then by Jean and Roger Parker.

At the AGM of the N.Z. Bridge Association in 1980, a decision was made to computerise "C" pointing with printouts being provided several times a year. Nan Peers became Matchpoint Secretary and she cheerfully and efficiently coped with the many teething problems involved with the advent of computerisation. One lucky member had her "A" points doubled and no amount of correspondence could persuade them to correct it. In 1981 Jan Hall took over as "C" Point Secretary. Shirley Marshall did this for a short time in 1985 and in 1986 Margaret Lang assumed responsibility.

Computerisation saw discrepancies arise for those members who, early in the Club's history, had not elected to take "C" point certificates. Their total on the first and subsequent print-outs was in no way commensurate with their ability as players.

“Certificates for "C" points were issued by the score  
Writing all the tickets out was really quite a chore  
Many posted off at once, all the scorer gave -'em  
Others couldn't see the point and didn't even save -'em.

The system changed, Computer printouts came to hand  
Members saw the "C" points and they couldn't understand  
Why players with ability weren't holding many more  
But they hadn't been collected in the years before!”

For several Tournaments Rory Butler prepared a programme and used the Waiopahu College computer to do the scoring. In November, 1984, the Club purchased its own computer. Val Harris was instructed in its use and later she and Alan Wright taught others who were interested in learning how to score. In 1987 John Jarvis was invited to Levin to further explain the computer's use.

## CHAPTER XIII "TUITION"

How could the Bridge Club ever expand  
If 'twere not for that intrepid band  
Of willing mentors who lend a hand  
By giving lessons carefully planned.

Mrs Smaill introduced many to the game of Contract Bridge immediately preceding World War II. May Thomson also taught many in they, in turn, passed their knowledge on to others. A number of people playing today owe their knowledge of the game either directly or indirectly to May Thomson.

There was an occasion in the early days of Contract Bridge when Truscott (after whom a Convention is named) and a team of American Bridge players toured New Zealand. They gave a lecture in Palmerston North and a few fortunate Levin players went up to learn and to participate in a question and answer session.

In the Levin Bridge Club's first year it was agreed offer tuition to prospective members. Experienced players taught small groups in their own homes and many players owed their start to people like Lilla Miller, Lorna Burd, Con Mitcalfe and Edith Walkley. Con Mitcalfe taught "Acol" to Murray and Kath Fletcher, Kay Johnson and Margaret Lang. Chris Hull and Val Harris were tutored by Lilla Miller. For 2 or 3 years Lorna Donnelly would have up to 6 tables with different players participating. After several evenings of tuition, they were told to go off and play for a while and return later for a refresher course.

In 1975 the first advertised Beginners Classes were held. These were conducted by Bruce Jones. Although not actually a member of the Club at the time Bruce had played in Wellington with Marjorie Cooper. She was aware of his ability and prevailed upon him to give lessons in Levin. Bruce willingly gave of his time and experience to teach potential members. As the lessons were held on the same night that Bridge was played it was only when the lessons were over that Bruce became a member of the Club. He maintains that learning Bridge can be a highly risky business as three members of his first Learners' Group became pregnant. Bruce claims however, that it was a mere coincidence and denies all responsibility.

Without a doubt, Bruce Jones proved a great acquisition to the Club. At the 1975 AGM he gave a short talk on ethics; and in 1976, 1977 and 1979 he was again prevailed upon to take the classes, earning the high regard of all who participated. Jean Gill and Roger Parker were two who attended the 1976 class and it soon became obvious that they were interested not only in Bridge but in each other. An interesting sequence followed -

Roger made the Opening Bid - Jean showed her Heart.  
Roger decided to Go Asking; - Jean gave a Positive Response.  
Roger replied with Diamonds; - Jean accepted his Bid.  
A Contract was made; and by the end of the year they were Partners for life!

A player (who was later to become President of the Club) recalls going to Bruce's classes and thinking that it was indeed a crazy game. With 13-14 points you could open One Club but with less than 10 points you could open Three Clubs!

Over the years people have had different reasons for learning to play Bridge. For some it was a challenge and for others it offered companionship. One elderly lady who was experiencing great difficulty in mastering the game declared that she must persevere as she considered it to be a social asset she should acquire.

In 1980 the Learner's Classes were in the capable hands of Bill Luhrs. The same year Bruce Jones ran a three session seminar covering Bidding, Playing and Defence. This was most informative and helped raise the standard of play within the Club.

In 1981 two separate classes were held. A group of people in Otaki had indicated their interest in joining the Club and Bruce Jones tutored these players in Otaki while Charles Hamilton-Williams took classes for those resident in Levin. In July of the same year two 30 minute coaching sessions were held prior to commencement of play and in October a 3-session Junior Workshop was held.

In 1982 May and Pat Mitchell took the lessons in Levin and Bruce Jones again tutored a small group in Otaki. Once a month Chris Hull ran a workshop for Juniors.

The Learners Classes in 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1987 were all taken by Chris Hull. Celia Roche taught a large group in 1986; and in 1988 Trish and Alec Dixie took over the task of introducing new-comers to the game. During 1988 small groups were organised with Seniors introducing Intermediate and junior players to various conventions and advanced forms of play.

With lessons over, it was then headfirst into the lion's den! On her very first night of play one member recalls picking up a hand containing 8 or 9 hearts. She was so elated she blurted out "Three No-Trumps" to block out all other bids. She had forgotten however that her opponents would be on lead. They played out all the other suits and poor Ann eventually managed to make two tricks!

Two players when they first started playing in the Junior Room decided to devise their own system of signals. (After all, if a player said "Four Clubs" he was really asking "Partner, how many aces have you got?") Talking about their wife's arthritis or mentioning gladioli had a definite meaning for them both. They were totally unaware of how unethical it was and of course they had to be asked to desist.

In 1978 Charlie Wright and Bruce Jones held an Instruction Course for Directors.

In 1984 Dr Blackstock and Peter Newell, two extremely competent Wellington "A" Grade players and N.Z. representatives ran a coaching evening in Levin that was informal, informative and enjoyable.

## **CHAPTER XIV "SHARING WITH OTHERS"**

The Code of Ordinances covering "Places of Assembly" stipulates that, unlike a Hall, Clubrooms cannot be hired out to other organisations or members of the general public. The Club may however, at the discretion of the Committee, allow other suitable groups to share its facilities.

The Friday Afternoon-Bridge Circle was offered the use of the Clubrooms when they first opened but they elected to remain where they were.

The Dutch Card Club used the Supper Room on a number of occasions but with the growth of their club, it became too small and they requested permission to use the main playing room on a regular basis. The Committee felt however that it was unwise to tie up this room on the only free night available as it may in the future be needed for Learners Classes or other Bridge Club activities; but permission was granted for the Dutch Club to use it on occasional nights. This they have continued to do. Each year they host a Tournament with visitors from other towns coming to Levin to play their Dutch card game.

Members of "Save the Children Fund" have, on two occasions, used the Clubrooms to present a "Fashion Show". The Bridge Club is not in a financial position to make charitable donations but by allowing its rooms to be used free of charge it is making a worthwhile contribution to the Organisation concerned.

With this same thought in mind, the Altrusa Club was allowed the free use of the rooms to run a Bridge Luncheon so that funds could be raised for the Levin Fire Brigade to purchase Air Bags for their rescue equipment.

The Club also co-operated by allowing the rooms to be used free of charge when Grace Mitchell organised a Rubber Bridge Tournament to raise money for the P.N. Hospice.

The Levin Bridge Club has enjoyed a long and happy association with the Mah Jong Circle. In 1977 this group asked if they could use some of the Bridge Club tables until such time as they were able to accumulate sufficient funds to purchase their own and their request was acceded to. In 1982 the Circle was granted permission use the Clubrooms each Thursday afternoon. They have meticulously adhered to all requests with regard to parking and the use of the kitchen. They have at all times refrained from smoking in the main playing room so that the air would not be polluted for the Bridge players in the evening. They use their own table covers and before leaving each afternoon, the rooms are always set up ready for Bridge at night. Before selling or disposing of their folding tables, they graciously asked if the Bridge Club would like some to be retained. Three were kept and these tables are stored in the office so that the Bridge Club can use them for Learners Groups or when extra are required for tournaments. To show their appreciation for being able to use the rooms, the Mah Jong Circle makes a substantial donation each year. (At first this was \$200 but it was voluntarily increased to \$300, and finally in 1987, of their own volition

they contributed the sum of \$400.) Their generosity meant that the Bridge Club could hire a cleaner instead of members having to do the work themselves.

Annually since 1983, members of the Levin South Rotary Club have been granted permission to use the Club's facilities to run a Charity Bridge Tournament. Funds raised have enabled city children to enjoy a day in the country, donations have been made towards the immunisation of the world's children against polio, and other worthwhile causes have been supported. To show their appreciation of the Club's co-operation, they always make an appreciable donation.

On two different occasions, members of the Bridge Club have been granted permission to use the rooms for daytime family celebrations.

## **CHAPTER XV "PUBLIC RELATIONS & PUBLICITY"**

The Club's first major exercise in Public Relations occurred when the purchase of the factory building in Tawa Street was contemplated. The President made a point of visiting all residents in the immediate vicinity. They were assured that the Clubrooms could not be rented by groups that would indulge in excessive drinking or hooliganism; and there would be no noisy discos or functions that would carry on into the wee small hours. They were assured that Club members would park on one side of the street only so there would be room on the other side for the cars of friends visiting.

This early contact with the neighbours was to pay dividends. No objections were raised when an application was lodged with the Borough Council to convert the premises into Clubrooms. Later they kept a watchful eye on the place. One gentleman who lived next door was stone deaf but he didn't miss a thing that went on. When alterations were being carried out, building materials were left unattended but no vandalism or petty theft would have escaped his eagle eye. Improvements being made were a source of interest to retired folk in the area. Later when the Clubrooms were completed, if a window was inadvertently left open or a light left on, one of the neighbours would always give a ring. If there were motor bikes wrongfully using the property or there were any suspicious characters about they would immediately advise the President or Secretary. When the concrete at the entrance had just been laid, a neighbour and his friend were out walking in the evening and noticed that children had left footprints all over it. He immediately contacted the Secretary and she held the lantern while Mr Knutsen and his friend proceeded to level off the wet concrete in the dark. Until the Club could afford to install its own phone, a neighbour granted permission for the Club to use hers in cases of emergency. As a gesture of goodwill, all neighbours were invited to the Official Opening of the Clubrooms.

The Club allowed access through its property so that people in the vicinity could use the right-of-way as a short cut through to Winchester Street. The Borough Council had stipulated that this must be sealed off to vehicular traffic but the Club put up bars only so that it could still be used by pedestrians or people on bicycles. It was used extensively by elderly people and children going to school. The gesture was appreciated by those living in the locality. Subsequently the property behind the Bridge Club Rooms changed hands and the new owners put up a padlocked gate so that this access way was blocked off; but at least the Bridge Club had shown its goodwill by originally making provision for its use.

### PUBLICITY

In 1977 Tops Rae was appointed the Club's first Publicity Officer. For a number of years she saw that the results were published regularly; and periodically there would be a report on Club activities. From time to time photographs of members playing Bridge would appear in the local newspaper and these provided good, free publicity.

In 1982 the "Bridge It" column first made its appearance in the "Weekly News". It was first written by Ann Hogg with Deryn Comber taking over in 1986, followed by Les Pridmore in 1988. This regular two-weekly Bridge Column contains news of Club activities, reports of the success of local players in Tournaments, and usually finishes with a challenging hand with different bidding possibilities and varying results. It is surprising how many non-players read this column with interest. In 1989 A. Dixie took over as Editor.

To publicise the Club, and for the convenience of members, it was decided in 1980 to display the Bridge results on a Notice Board in the Library. Over the years the Club has donated a number of books to the Public Library.

In 1987, as a means of promoting the Club, members played Bridge in the Levin Shopping Mall. Extra people were there to explain the game to members of the public.

#### CO-OPERATION & GOODWILL

In 1984, a donation was sent to the Invercargill Bridge Club for their Flood Relief Fund.

In Levin, when the town held a "Races & Roses" Carnival, they invited all Clubs in Levin to co-operate by organising a function during the week of festivities. The Bridge Club arranged one of its Tournaments to coincide with the celebrations. In keeping with the theme, each player on arrival, was presented with a rose to wear. The event was listed in the programme and it provided valuable publicity.

In 1988, the Club made a small donation to the friends of Horowhenua Hospital towards the purchase of a Flexible Sigmoidoscope.

By allowing its rooms to be used free of charge by charitable organisations the Club has shown goodwill and has indirectly made a contribution.

## **CHAPTER XVI "END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS"**

The first End-of-Season Party took place at "Te Kowhai" in 1972. The AGM was held first and this was followed by drinks, dinner and dancing. It was felt that incorporating the AGM would assure a greater attendance than usual for this meeting.

In 1974 and 1975 a Dinner and Social Evening was again held at "Te Kowhai". Non-playing husbands and wives were invited to this function. The Prize-giving was held in conjunction with the AGM on a separate occasion and, at this, Bruce Jones gave a short talk on Ethics. Cut in Rubber Bridge followed.

It was not until 1978 that the Prize-giving was divorced from the AGM. It then became a part of the end-of-year celebrations. For many years the Christmas Function followed the same pattern with drinks and dinner at "Te Kowhai" followed by the Prize-giving ceremony. A pianist was engaged and many enjoyed dancing once the formalities were over.

Something new was tried in 1984 and 1985. A Pot Luck Christmas Dinner was held in our own Clubrooms. For those who wished to stay, Social Bridge followed the Prize-giving Ceremony.

The Donnelly Jugs were first introduced in 1986 and these were competed for at the end of year Christmas functions in 1986 and 1987. Play commenced at 1.30 p.m. with a handicap system being used so that 2 Juniors playing together have 5% added to their score and a Junior and a Senior have 2.5% added. An Intermediate and a Senior playing together lose 2.5% and two Seniors playing together incur a penalty of 5%. At the conclusion of play, at approximately 4.30 p.m., husbands and wives were involved for drinks and a Social Hour. A finger meal followed and the Christmas Cake was cut. The presentation of prizes concluded a very pleasant function. Lorna Donnelly has often donated a delicious Christmas Cake for this occasion. In 1988 the end of year function reverted to drinks, then a Pot Luck Dinner followed by the Prize-Giving. This was also held at our Clubrooms.



## **CHAPTER XVII "TROPHIES"**

Over the years members have been generous in their donation of trophies to the Club. All are competed for annually.

### SENIORS:

McPARLANE TROPHY - A silver tray for individual competition presented to the Club by Essie McParlane in 1975.

MAY THOMSON TROPHY - A silver sweet dish also presented in 1975. During May's lifetime, half a dozen bottles of champagne always accompanied this trophy.

MARJORIE COOPER ROSE BOWL - Presented to the Club in 1979 for individual competition.

PARKER PLATE - Presented by Jean and Roger Parker for Individual competition.

KERSLAKE PAIRS Donated by Gladys Kerslake in 1987 for a Pairs event.

BLENKHORN VASES Donated in 1988 to be competed for annually in the Teams of Four event.

CHAMPIONSHIP CUP - Presented by Lorna Donnelly in 1987 for the Senior Championship Pairs.

SENIOR POINTS PRIZE A Pewter Tankard donated by Bruce Jones for presentation to the Senior Player gaining the highest total points for the year.

### INTERMEDIATE:

WRIGHT FAMILY PAIRS Presented by the Wright family for a Pairs Event.

ANNANDALE PAIRS TROPHY - Presented by Val Swatridge. Named after their property in Arapaepae Road.

BURN TROPHY - Donated by Trish and Alec Dixie who reside in Burn Street.

LUHRS TROPHY - Donated by Joan and Bill Luhrs for a Pairs Event.

CARGILL CUP - Presented to the Club by Pixie White who lives in Cargill Street.

BLENKHORN VASES - Donated in 1988 to be competed for annually in the Teams of Four event.

SORENSEN INTERMEDIATE POINTS CUP - A tankard to be presented to the player gaining the highest number of points during the year. Donated to the Club by Jean Sorensen.

TRAVEL CENTRE CUP - Intermediate Championship Pairs Cup donated by Val and Jeremy Harris.

JUNIOR:

BRUCE JONES CUP - Presented in 1977 for competition among Juniors.

HAMILTON-WITLLIAMS TROPHY Presented by Charles Hamilton-Williams while he was President in 1979.

WHITE TROPHY - A silver sandwich tray donated by Mr & Mrs H.J. White and used for a pairs event.

JUNIOR POINTS TROPHY - A pewter tankard presented by Beth Blenkhorn for the Junior player gaining the highest total points for the year.

OPEN:

TOPPER CUPS - Donated in 1987 by Chris and Alan Hull. To be presented to the pair attaining the highest percentage on any playing night, whether in the Junior, Intermediate or Senior room.

LORNA DONNELLY JUGS - Presented in 1986, to be used as a means of fund raising for the Club. For the first two years these were competed for at a function held in conjunction with the Club Christmas Party. In 1989 the Committee transferred the event to the month of April. These Jugs may be won by players from either Otaki or Levin Bridge Clubs.

## **CHAPTER XVIII "OFFICE BEARERS"**

We owe a debt of gratitude you'll not deny  
To those office bearers of years gone  
by!

Over the years the Club has been fortunate indeed in the calibre of its office bearers. They have devoted a great deal of time and energy to assisting the Club; and they have capably guided it along its way.

Not many can boast that at one time their Club was entirely in the hands of Chartered Accountants and yet such was the case in the early days of the Levin Bridge Club. The President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Scorer were all registered accountants.

Twice in the Club's history the Secretary has become the President. The first was Bert Burd and the second was Charles Hamilton-Williams.

The Treasurers have always had their problems. It is hard to work out how the table money can be 10 Cents short. Often it is difficult to gather in all the subs; and the introduction of G.S.T. caused quite a few headaches.

The praises of Committees are often left unsung, but over the years a series of competent Committee Members have worked long and hard in the interests of the Club.

For many years it was the custom for the Committee Meetings to be held in the home or office of successive Presidents. On one occasion it was arranged for a meeting to be held in Bert Burd's office in the Parker Building. The Committee duly arrived but there was no sign of the President and his office was locked. Believe it or not, the meeting was held in the cramped confines of a Member's car that was parked in the Service Lane.

### **SECRETARIES**

" records the minutes with infinite care  
And types all the letters as you are aware"

### **TREASURERS**

"balances the books and collects the cash  
Making sure its not spent on anything rash".

## Update after the 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

"Bridge In Levin" the booklet compiled by Beth Blenkhorn covering the club's progress from its inception until 1989, was a very extensive account and also dealt with Bridge generally in those early Levin years.

As a result of a special meeting in 1995 it was agreed that the supper room would be named the "Beth Blenkhorn Room" in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the club. A suitable plaque and photograph are now in place in that room.

This follow on to "Bridge in Levin" is to bring the club history up to date and include an account of our 25th anniversary celebrations.

Over the years much thought and effort has gone into improvements and hopefully repairs to the floor which collapsed due to inadequate ventilation will ensure no further problem.

The club we enjoy today is the result of the foresight and dedication of those early members whilst the calibre of successive office bearers and committees has ensured a well maintained building and sound financial position.

What changes have been made to the building since the official opening held on 18 April 1981.

A new computer was bought 1992/93 and other assets such as the timer, trophy display cabinet, supper room extractor fan and refurbishment of the men's and women's facilities were added. The double glass doors were altered and are now less draughty and folding doors were fitted between the playing and supper rooms. Then came a new stove and fridge-freezer for the kitchen and new tables for the supper room.

During the 1995/96 recess the interior was completely redecorated and subsequently chairs were re-upholstered and new curtains hung. After lengthy negotiations the floodlighting of the car park was approved and is now functioning.

Since "Bridge in Levin" was written the deaths of four former presidents and two foundation members must be noted:

**A.E. Burd** - Foundation member and president from 1973/79. Bertie was a great worker in the club's cause and the original duplicate boards were made by him and painted by Loma, his wife.

**Beth Blenkhorn** - Beth was president from 1980/81, the period of negotiation for the Tawa St. property. These few words encompass many hours of planning by Beth and her supporters.

**C.J. Wright** - Charlie served the club as president from 1982/83 and his experience in other organisations was invaluable to the growing club.

**Lyn Harper** - We were dismayed to learn of Lyn's problems at the beginning of our Jubilee year. Lyn had served the club well as president from 1990/91. Her death in March came earlier than expected.

**Nan Peers** - A foundation member who for many years took on the job of scoring - before the days of computers, but done with the competence Nan achieved in anything she undertook.

### **The Lorna Donnelly Bequest:**

This considerable bequest came as a complete surprise. Lorna had worked tirelessly from that inaugural meeting. Older members will recall the generous offer of her home and gardens for a fund-raising garden party. It was an extremely successful occasion. Also to be remembered the fine trophies, Christmas cakes, and raffles, also time given to teaching new players. Lorna was a dedicated Bridge player.

At the AGM 1996 it was the club's pleasure to grant Lilla Miller life membership. Lilla is another foundation member and her many contributions over the years made this a well deserved honour. She too has been a dedicated worker for the club. An avid reader of Bridge books, she was ever ready to help players wishing to improve their game and also taught new players.

For the continued growth of the club, new members are being sought by offering learners' classes annually and these have been ably run by Bertie Burd, Bruce Jones, May & Pat Mitchell, Bill Luhrs, Celia Roche and Trevor Willis, Trish & Alex Dixie, Chris Hull, Deryn Comber. The class for this anniversary year was run by president John Miller and Bill Taylor with the assistance of Sue Scrimshaw, Bryan Green and Dave Bennet.

Initially such people as Lilla Miller, Lorna Burd/Donnelly, Edith Walkey and May Thomsen tutored small groups.

The Junior, Intermediate and Open Tournaments continue to attract out of town players and have been happy and successful events. Our more competitive players follow the tournament circuit, often doing well.

Alf Hastedt records their successes on the white board in fine style.

During the year each district has elimination rounds to find their representative pair to take part in the Dan Gifford Memorial Rubber Bridge Tournament which is part of the Annual National Congress at Rotorua.

In 1996 Dot Hastedt and Betty Thomas were the Central District representatives. They met up with the seven other pairs and played one round on Saturday and Sunday morning and then played the Wellington pair of Rod Dravitzki and Charles Kev in the Friday night final. They were defeated by these two young men who had also won the NZ Pairs that afternoon.

The Dan Gifford Memorial Rubber Bridge Tournament was set up to promote interest in Rubber Bridge and is an important segment of Congress. As such it is worthy of greater interest at District level. That interest was evident with the record entries for 1997, attributed to the article which appeared in the Bridge magazine. With it possible for two L.O.L's having combined ages of 144 years to play to the final, the incentive for more participants was there. Also the prize money is the best.

This year our Levin club has again produced the Central District representative pair, Anna and Dave Herries and we wish them well at Rotorua. Because so many pairs entered, Central Districts are also sending the runners-up, Ian and Cynthia Clayton.

The trophies donated since Beth's book was written are:

1. The Slam Cup by Jan Pirovano (1989)
2. The Lang Trophy for highest points ex computer. Senior (1992),
3. The Lang trophy for highest points ex computer Intermediate/Junior (1992)
4. President's Individual - Deryn Comber (1993)
5. The Chester Trophy - Les Pridmore (1994).
6. The Doddridge Trophy - Brenda and Alan Doddridge (1997)
7. The Gwyn White Trophy - ex Friday Rubber Bridge Tuesday afternoon.

### **THE 25TH CELEBRATIONS:**

It was a lovely winter's day when we began assembling for our 25th anniversary celebrations. The rooms had been prepared on the previous day and looked splendid. Maud Hinde's beautiful floral arrangements put the final touch to the tables and balloons bedecked the rafters. A great collection of photos and newspaper cuttings from 8 June 1972 through to the present, were displayed on the notice boards adding interest to the day. A lot of photographic material was added thanks to Jim Boyce, a former president and keen photographer. Jim had agreed to be the official photographer for the day and has given us a comprehensive coverage of the day's events.

The cake which had been made by Chris Hull was a great success and the way it was iced well suited to the occasion.

And then the guests began to arrive and a happy buzz ensued until it was time to be seated and for the president, Dr. John Miller to welcome those present and make apologies for those unable to be there. We were sorry that Con Metcalfe, the first president was unable to come, he had written making his apology and offering his good wishes for a happy occasion.

The President then presented Lilla Miller with her life membership badge. We were so pleased she was able to be with us as her health had not been 100% of late. She did enjoy the day.

The foundation members who were present received suitably inscribed name badges, these were Dr. Alan Castleberg, Nola Fullarton, Dr. Alan & Chris Hull, Nan Larsen, Dorothy Lyall and Jean Sorenson. Badges inscribed with club name and computer number were available for those wishing to order them. These have drawn many favourable comments since we began to wear them.

Before the meal May Flynn and Deryn Comber accompanied by Ann McLeod at the keyboard entertained us with a song and dance act. Ann had written the words and May & Deryn performed like veteran troopers. The applause was indicative of the audience appreciation.

Then President John called upon the Rev. Rory Redmayne to offer up thanks for the meal about to be served.

The caterers are to be congratulated on the part they played, a lovely meal and no mean feat to serve hot meals to such a large number. The duties of wine waiter and bar attendants were in the able hands of three young people from The Learning Centre, an opportunity to put their training to the test.

After the main course Dr. Alan Hull, a foundation member gave a brief account of early club years. Then it was time for the dessert followed by the cutting of the cake which was the shared duty of Lilla Miller and Kath Bertram.

Once the dining tables had been cleared away and the card tables put back in place, those who wished to remain for Bridge waited while this was arranged.

It had been decided to run the play as an individual event and Anna & Dave Herries organised this and kept players moving in the right direction. We are grateful to Anna & Dave for their efficiency and for the hours they spent scoring the event manually.

The prize for the highest percentage was won by Dorothy Mackay and there were bottles of wine for four other highly placed participants, Nola Fullarton, Alan Hull, Sue Scrimshaw and Lou Polon.

It was such a happy day and fortunately none of us knew how close to a disaster we had been. The following day it was obvious we had a major sewerage problem and there was no Bridge until Thursday night while the car park was dug up for the sewer line to be renewed.

Everybody contributed to the success of the day and many of us won't be around for the 50th but your Jubilee Committee of Chris Hull, Bobbie McKenzie, Sue Scrimshaw and Betty Thomas have had great pleasure to be involved in arranging the celebrations and sharing in the happy time.

The Levin Contract Bridge Club (Inc.) has done well for its first twenty five years and it is over to us and those who follow to maintain this result.

## **TITBITS, DECISIONS & OTHER INTERESTING HIGHLIGHTS from the CLUBS MINUTES 1992-2022**

### **From the 1992/93 Bridge year:**

The introduction of certificates to supplement the trophy presentation system was lost on a show of hands at the AGM.

The upgrading of the supper room as a project to commemorate Beth Blenkhorn's outstanding contribution was wholeheartedly supported.

Prices were to be obtained for a white coat for the parking attendant, on tournament days.

Part of the floor in the corner of the playing room, collapsed. Repairs to be left till end of Bridge year.

Quotes to be obtained to supply & install woodgrain folding doors between playing & supper rooms.

Quote accepted for installing door to outside, near Bridge room wall.

A sound system installed on a trial basis. Shelves to be built to install the loudspeakers. A microphone was donated (T Stroud).

Club members to be reminded of etiquette whilst playing. This has slipped at our club.

Prizes of \$10 for winners of competitions & \$20 for championship winners.

Approval given to purchase a new computer.

### **From the 1993/94 Bridge year:**

J McKenzie thanked for supplying results to the local papers for the last four years.

The purchase of 6 educational Bridge videos (Ron Klinger) was approved.

Security of the clubrooms was discussed in some detail, including considering paid security on a regular basis. Keys changed, bolts fitted & hinges made tamper proof. Quotes for sensors obtained. Members asked if 50c levy should be retained.

Car park spaces on either side of the 'Keep Clear' sign by the front door be reserved for those who need assistance when walking. (Needless to say intoxication will not be considered adequate reason for using these spaces.)



Thursday night play again discussed, especially level of attendance, with views of players to be considered.

A start-up kit purchased to be used to encourage the teaching of Bridge at Horowhenua College.

Concern expressed about dirty ashtrays being left after completion of Bridge. Enquiries to be made about purchasing an expel air to assist with the satisfactory dispersal of smoke.

Concern expressed by members about the 'springboard' effect of the floor in the North West corner.

Wednesday night: lack of directors of a high standard & also the ethics of many senior members is shocking.

Sincere thanks to R Lunt for taking over the task of getting weekly club results to the Chronicle.

Decision made that the charge for tea/coffee be side-lined.

50 cents paid towards car security in recent months (not yet needed) will be put towards repairing the clubroom floor.

### **From the 1994/95 Bridge year:**

Members voted for cash prizes rather than table money vouchers.

Slow return of Klinger videos created a call for all to be returned and reissued in a more organised way.

Lorna Donnelly had left the Bridge Club \$30,000 in her will.

A letter received expressing disgust at the behaviour of the so-called top Bridge players at the Rotary tournament.

A new 'Atlas' stove has been installed.

Valuation for clubrooms updated to now be \$218,000.

A discussion group for directors to be held.

The amount of water used by the urinal in the men's toilet is causing concern.

84 chairs repadded & recovered.

Suggestions for how the Donnelly bequest could benefit the club were asked for from the members.

Three college students with their teachers played at the club on Thursday night.

A suggestion to purchase a photocopier.

A toll bar to be considered for the club phone, as a protection against it being used by unauthorised persons.

**From the 1995/96 Bridge year:**

A tribute was recorded to the late Mrs Lorna Donnelly by Maude Hinde.

12 copies of Klinger's 'Basic Bridge' were purchased at a 50% discount.

3 Contract Law books were purchased.

Levin Public Library advised they would be reluctant to let the books donated to the library be returned to the club.

3 Klinger video tapes missing.

The committee to consider providing some form of umbrella stand.

The roof painting has been completed.

Comments on the apparent deterioration in manners of club players, especially at the beginning of the evening's play.

Noted that during play dummy has been handling the cards before being directed to do so by the declarer. Also notes that more gratuitous comments are being made.

A bookshelf for our Bridge books to be purchased.

\$1,000 to be used to establish a Contingency fund.

The whereabouts of the club's instructional video-tapes is still to be ascertained.

A member has suffered severe bruising, falling over the tree at the entrance door. Tree to be pruned hard or removed.

The Sinking fund is now to be renamed the Contingency fund.

A free standing mobile heater to be obtained.

Car park's lighting to be improved immediately, floodlighting being installed on a new pole, with provision for the addition of power lines, if necessary, to operate extra deterrent devices.

**From the 1996/97 Bridge year:**

A small plaque, in memory of Lorna Donnelly's bequest to the club, is to be displayed in the club room.

Life membership has been granted to Mrs Lilla Miller.

A combined Life Members/Honours board to be provided.

The book case is now in place.

Betty Thomas thanked for her sterling work in updating the Club's history, for the silver jubilee.

Comments on the density of smoke in the supper room & kitchen. At present, the only way to alleviate this is to open the ranch slider door. Other avenues of coping with this will be explored.

President's Honours board to be updated & spelling of Mark Kuijten to be corrected. Board to be adapted to include names of Life Members.

The earlier club history (by Beth Blenkhorn) & Betty Thomas's up to date to be brought together. A specimen copy is expected to be ready for the Silver jubilee.

A copy of 'Klinger's basic Bridge' to be kept in the book shelf.

Members to be made aware to put their names into library books when borrowing same.

Proposal that the computer should be upgraded to at least 4 MB & preferably 16 MB of memory.

The feasibility of providing a room for smokers, by altering the store room to accommodate the scorer, & allowing the smokers to use the office as their room to be investigated.

A proposal that smoking will be banned in all parts of the clubrooms at any time, apart from the smoker's room, was passed unanimously.

It was decided that it would not be economical to purchase a photocopier, as it wouldn't be used to its full potential.

**From the 1997/98 Bridge year:**

Kath Bertram awarded Life Membership.

A complaint about smoke wafting into the playing room.

Decision made to not go ahead to purchase property at rear of clubrooms.

Plastic stools, suitable for boards & coffee to be purchased.

Timer to be fitted to pole lights, however still necessary to switch off when leaving clubrooms at night.

History of club now completed and copies available at \$12 each.

**From the 1998/99 Bridge year:**

A Quay computer & printer purchased.

Weekly news to be approached re monthly articles on Bridge.

Rubber Bridge to be introduced on Friday nights if demand there.

Decision to purchase photocopier with a service contract made.

Four free standing fans to be purchased.

Request to consider if smokers' room be converted to a bar room. Quotes sort.

2 litre jugs to be purchased for water instead of purchasing a water unit.

A dishwasher to be investigated.

Quotes for building outside, including a ranch slider, roof over eastern end & a pergola over south west decking.

Grant applications made for a dishwasher & photocopier.

Invitation to re-join interclub teams was declined.

**From the 1999/00 Bridge year:**

AGM approved (unanimously) that the club shall become a no smoking club within the clubrooms.

Biscuits to be provided for Tuesday afternoon sessions.

Fumigation of rooms to be done.

Cordless microphone to be purchased.

Volunteer to make little cards with the winners' names on them & place in the trophy display cabinet.

Due to success of bar-b-que & response to questionnaire on having more social days, decided to have pot lucks approx. every 6 weeks.

Club to purchase new (Bridge) books.

Majority of Special General meeting allows the committee to spend up to \$12,000 for the purpose of building a decking & paving in the area on the south west side of the clubrooms, to a constant state.

**From the 2000/01 Bridge year:**

Margaret Laing approved as Life member.

Three quotes received for fire alarm.

\$500 provided to purchase new books for library, with a strong recommendation that a "Bridge Encyclopaedia" be purchased. Thereafter \$100 per year.

100 chairs to be ordered & new pink tablecloths to go with new chairs.  
Suggestion for a memory wall or a photo collage for last 5 years.

New shelving for library to be considered.

Considering having 'house captains' for each playing night.

A compulsory duties list for Wednesday night to be arranged so every member has a turn at cleaning kitchen, locking windows, empty rubbish bins in both toilets & playing room is left tidy.

Sunday fun afternoons & evenings were very enjoyable.

A suggestion book to be arranged so members can put their complaints or what they would like to see happen in the club on one side & on the other side what action has been taken.

A local (ant) exterminator contracted at the cost of a dozen Lion Red.

**From the 2001/02 Bridge year:**

Bookshelves installed.

Need someone to look after library.

A dozen more Klinger books to be purchased, if needed.

Four more Law Books to be purchased for library.

A continuously hot water zip to be investigated.

All carpet to be considered for replacement, approx. cost \$12,000.

\$1,000 donated to set up annual awards in Dave Herrie's name.

A \$500 donation received from Levin Performing Arts for carpet.

A new HP Laser jet printer to be purchased.

**From the 2002/03 Bridge year:**

Planning for a new competition called the Dave Herrie's multi-grade to be played on a Friday evening. There will be a trophy each for senior, intermediate & junior winners.

Remit passed: Committee members who miss two consecutive meetings without an apology are deemed to be no longer committee members.

Remit passed: The club shall be managed by a President, Vice President, Immediate past President (ex officio), Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Secretary & five ordinary members, plus one member representing each playing group.

Money raised from Davie Herrie's multi-grade evening to be donated to library to purchase books.

Approval to purchase a card dealing machine, cables, software, cards & boards, approx. cost \$8,800.

D Cockram offered to do training of dealing machine.

Mahjong authorised to put up a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary plaque in the rooms by the piano.

Need for an umbrella stand for wet weather inside doorway.

**From the 2003/04 Bridge year:**

During speech about the origin of the Bridge club it was mentioned about the falling membership & it was suggested, one night a month, senior players could join with the junior players.

Decided that drinks, apart from water, be barred from the playing room.

Decision was made to purchase floor standing model water purify.

Water cooler installed. Needs to be cleaned every three months.

Resolved to purchase a photocopier.

Holes in roof fixed.

Concern about slow play, especially on Wednesday nights.

Drinks once again will be allowed in the playing room, on a trial basis.

Members have approached committee members, asking if there were going to be any more fun nights.

New computer & printer to be purchased.

Library books go missing & then found!!

By-Laws to displayed on the club room walls.

Committee to look into promotion & relegation of players between the Wednesday & Thursday rooms.

### **From the 2004/05 Bridge year:**

Working party to look at By-Laws & Constitution.

Bees in the roof to be eradicated.

Holiday Bridge went very well.

Emailing of results is not mandatory, but a friendly service.

Newsletter items: Jam & ink on cards, slow play on Wednesday & in general. Gestures, mannerisms & hesitation, some guidelines/reminders.

The 'wet day tree' to be set up again for anyone wanting a quick game on the weekends.

Committee to purchase sticky stuff for the tops of tables, to stop the cloths slipping.

System cards to be used for Championship nights.

A book sale of library books.

Librarian felt that the library needed a complete overhaul. No catalogue could be found. 90 % of the books are over 50 years old. More books needed to be purchased. It was agreed that a certain amount of money be set aside for books.

### **From the 2005/06 Bridge year:**

Several books are missing from the library.

Concern expressed regarding the large number of 5c coins in table money.

Monday evenings – more support required.

Rainy day winter Sunday Bridge suggested. A ring around system will be required.

Pest control people have sprayed for insect infestation.

Kantor CD to be purchased. (Teaches Topics & Declarer Play)

Barbara Seagram CD to be purchased (Practice Your Slam Bidding & Practice NT Bidding).

Emailing results – guidelines & procedures being prepared.

Concern expressed over CD copyrights.

Replacement Bridge teacher to be offered trip to Christchurch for training.

ACOL: If there is support lessons may be undertaken.

For security reasons, police advised not to display results in the window.

Investigation on the establishment of a website.

Two copies of Klinger's "Power & Shape" have been ordered.

Some library tapes need upgrading & more use of the library to be promoted.

**From the 2006/07 Bridge year:**

Bobbie McKenzie awarded Life Membership.

Quote accepted to fit heat pump.

Air conditioning installed & care will be needed to ensure unit is operated successfully.

Need considered for buddy system to retain members.

Dealing machine: Pre-set hands can be arranged which was considered advantageous for beginners lessons.

Website: some delays due to lack of experienced person with the site.

Name badges: To look at producing new badges which will require a rack to display them.

Grant from Horowhenua College to cover lesson providers.

Library is being utilised by the beginners.

10 year plan: Unable to locate a copy of this document at this time.

Table money: It is unofficially accepted that members playing the first three sessions with beginners are exempt from paying table money. This issue is to be clarified.



To seek funding for data projection.

Suggested that we support the 'Join-a-club' feature in the Chronicle.

**From the 2007/08 Bridge year:**

Jim Boyce awarded Life Membership.

Approval up to \$8,000 to upgrade & reseal the carpark, including a judder bar.

Playing results to go into Wednesday's Chronicle Weekly News.

Roof is a problem & will eventually need to be replaced.

Concern expressed over late posting of results on website.

Quotes obtained for reroofing, \$20k & \$14k.

Application made for grant funding for roof & carpark.

Honours Boards need updating.

Grant to hand from Horowhenua College for Bridge tutors.

A trial for Friday afternoon Bridge.

Moved to unlimited internet access.

All library books to be retuned for stocktake. Older books to be disposed. A secure area for the newer books required. Not proceeded with.

New photocopier to be purchased.

Future AGM's to be moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of November.

**From the 2008/09 Bridge year:**

The AGM approved the new constitution.

The AGM allowed the committee to expend up to \$20,000 to fix the roof.

Members to be made aware of the appeal process if they consider an injustice has occurred.

Grant of \$7,000 for re-roofing project obtained.

Application to Charities Commission for the club was declined.

Re-roofing all complete (Mar).

Some expensive Bridge books have gone missing.

Electronic scoring: Bridge NZ are happy to trial units at the club.

The cost of a new dishwasher to be included in next year's budget.

Bridge Pads: To be trialled in the clubrooms by NZ Bridge (Sep).

Budget to include \$10,000 for Bridge pads.

**From the 2009/10 Bridge year:**

AGM approved spending up to \$10,000 on electronic Bridge pads & software.

Jean Sorensen awarded Life Membership.

Proposed paving deferred 12 months.

Printer to be replaced.

Library books: Cabinet to be unlocked each playing night.

Bridge pads (25) to be delivered (Apr).

Question over whether piano needs to stay in clubrooms.

Software for dealing machine to be updated.

Investigation on whether internet be upgraded to broadband.

Quotes for revamping office to hand.

Training system required on Bridge pads for Tuesday players.

**From the 2010/11 Bridge year:**

At AGM, motion lost to buy a defibrillator.

10 year plan almost complete. Suggested incoming committee plan for a further 10 years.

Grant received for 5 office cabinets.

Building sub-committee to be formed to oversee the office refurbishment.

40<sup>th</sup> celebrations to be further discussed.

Updated scoring programme to be installed.

Bridge pad No 13 is missing!!

40<sup>th</sup> anniversary: History of the club to be written up until December 2011.

Toilets to be replaced before 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Funding to be obtained to replace cooktop.

Approval to spend up to \$250 on books.

New books purchased totalling \$218. List to go in newsletter.

**From the 2011/12 Bridge year:**

A new grading system for members approved.

A new cooktop purchased.

The Chronicle approached to cover the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Chris Hull is updating the club history.

Trophy history to be written up.

New table cover to be purchased.

Grant received for \$5,000 for heat pump.

Grant received for \$3,500 for lighting.

New toilets have been installed.

Small loss made on 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Reminder about overdue library books.

Holes in wall in ladies toilet to be fixed.

Material for table covers chosen after discussion.

**From the 2012/13 Bridge year:**

Eunice Wright was made Patron of the club.

Top Club competition to be discussed.

Discussion on how to make Thursday night more enjoyable.

Club team championships to be competed in.

Grading sub-committee's system adopted.

Beginners were allowed to refer to a sheet of notes for up to 6 months of play.

Rubber Bridge: It was felt that Monday night was the best night to hold this event.

**From the 2013/14 Bridge year:**

Suggestions put forward to help falling numbers on Thursday night.

Bill Luhrs awarded Life Membership.

More discussion on Thursday night.

Grant received for \$2,000 towards a dealing machine.

Grant received for \$3,200 towards windows & stationery.

GST dispute in budget.

**From the 2014/15 Bridge year:**

More discussion on Thursday nights during the AGM.

Dorothy Mackay awarded Life Membership.

From property report: A capping board is required??

Membership retention discussed with no final conclusions.

A new website developed with no cost to club. Bryan Green to be club webmaster.

A NZ Bridge study shows that 60% of membership lost is caused by verbal comments & lack of etiquette at the playing table.

Thursday night again discussed with no easy solutions.

Membership has decreased by 21 who have died & 26 who have stopped coming. Why is this? What makes people stop coming? Need ideas to know what it is that makes people want to stay.

Constitution: Change of name to Levin Bridge Club.

Buddy system working well for Thursday. Table money to be waived for buddies.

Wednesday night roster not working because people don't check the rosters.

**From the 2015/16 Bridge year:**

Engraving of cups will no longer happen, however information will still be recorded in written form & electronically.

Consideration to have a Zero Tolerance Policy.

Club has a Recorder. A document to be put forward to describe what a Recorder is for.

Club 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming soon. Something to be organised.

**From the 2016/17 Bridge year:**

Club has replacement insurance on building. However if the building is destroyed, Council zoning regulations will not allow us to rebuild on this site – there is a caveat on the title.

Zero Tolerance Policy to be progressed. Details & flow chart should be on clubroom wall & website.

Bryan Green awarded Life membership.

NZ Bridge Board still very fragmented.

Afternoon tea for 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, planned.

Constitution has been reviewed.

Building Warrant of Fitness to be finalised.

Fence post has been broken.

The website is currently incompatible (but could be updated) with 'finding a partner'.

Insurance renewal proposed. Values may be understated.

Relative compliance certificate for building has been issued.

Pianola currently being trialled.

Changing bank to Kiwibank to assist with internet banking.

Inventory to be kept on spreadsheet.

New notice "to flush" sign in men's toilet.

Invalid stickers being arranged for women's toilet.

Front hedge hides Bridge club sign. New sign in front of hedge completed.  
Recent fire drill revealed a few discrepancies.

To investigate lights at the two exits by the front row hedge. New light has been installed at end of front hedge. Light will not work if there is a lack of sunlight.

Suggestion that the once successful Sunday socials be considered.

Suggestion that club's profile could be enhanced with more photos displayed.

Thursday night: Longer breaks & fewer boards played have been initiated & this should encourage better socialisation.

Monday & Friday sessions numbers are somewhat disappointing.

A pie warmer would assist catering at tournaments.

Council have erected a "Bridge Club" sign on the corner of Parker Ave & Tawa St.

Overhaul of key register required.

Director's cheat sheet are currently being updated.

9 year plan issued to committee members to review.

New printer had been purchased.

Kitchen & drinks cupboard now open & close satisfactorily.

Building requires water blasting to remove moss & lichen.

### **From the 2017/18 Bridge year:**

Constitution: Updates will be attended to ASAP.

\$40 Bridge vouchers now available.

Nesting Pairs: (Not birds in the roof!!) It is essentially a YouTube Bridge training session aimed at Intermediate players encouraging the formation of partnerships & learning new techniques.

Leek in men's toilet has been repaired. (Are the Welsh at home!!)

Website needs to be peer reviewed.

Prize giving: Not all members in favour of presenting trophies at end of play of competitions. Formal prize giving night to remain. All members to be surveyed.

9 year plan to be changed to a 5 year plan, 2018-2023.

Constitution: Admin details have been completed & the relative changes forwarded to the Incorporated Societies office for ratification.

Dealing machine repaired as rubber roller had been damaged due to heat.

Easter tournament considered a success.

Whiteboard to be installed in supper room – for training purposes.

Agreed that all paper should be recycled.

The Scrabble club to use clubrooms on a Sunday every 2 months.

A suggested handicap system be used for Thursday night to encourage more experienced players to play to bolster experience of some Thursday players.

Some Intermediate players feel disadvantaged on Wednesday nights due to Open players dominating the points available. Requested separate competition. The club has insufficient (Open) players to be able to do this. However Championships will be two separate competitions.

Redecoration of clubrooms: Quotes to be arranged so grants can be applied for. Grant applications have been made.

Club email address changed due to spam. (Do we eat it?)

Bridge section in Chronicle well received. Suggested members should voice their approval with the editor of paper to ensure continuance.

### **From the 2018/19 Bridge year:**

Chris Hull awarded Life Membership.

Grant of \$7,500 received for club redecoration.

An updated scoring programme to be investigated.

Library needs a tidy up, de clutter & the catalogue updated.

Past President's board to be transferred to website.

Suggestion of a weekly Bridge problem to be considered, via email to members, with solutions to follow a few days later.

Where there is a phantom in playing room, the director will now toss to see which way the phantom sits.

Library: New shelving & all non-essential books have been culled.

5 Green Bridge books ordered for lessons.

Bridge pads reaching end of useful life. Replacement to be investigated.

Air-conditioning: Summer problems will be temporarily solved with winter mode. Suppliers to be contacted for advice to solve summer situation.

Solar light at end of hedge appears to work intermittently. Due to lack of sunlight not currently working. Solution to be investigated.

Additional promotion required for Monday nights & Friday afternoon sessions.

Lights in hallway & deck are now all functioning.

First Aid box being updated.

Review of current computer & scoring tablets.

Multigrade Swiss pairs was very successful.

Friday Bridge to be terminated, unless someone is prepared to actively market it.

Interclub selection process requires some refinement.

Appellant time to challenge discussion agreed at 15 minutes & thereafter not confined to exact time limits.

**From the 2019/20 Bridge year:**

Bridge scoring pads to be replaced.

Mark Kuijten awarded Life Membership.

Friday Bridge will carry on, need at least 3 tables.

Grant applied for Scoring Tablets.

Kitchen door to be modified to be an approved fire escape door.

Significant Jubilee (50<sup>th</sup>) coming up.

Scoring tablets have arrived.

New computer has been installed.

The office window to be removed during club's recess. Quotes received.

A review of the club's Recorders responsibilities to be discussed.

No longer having Bridge on Friday afternoons, due to lack of support.



Newsletter to remind members to: toss for sitting positions, check that heat pump is turned off at end of night, & zero tolerance policy.

All keys to be recalled and the locks to be re-keyed.

**From the 2020/21 Bridge year:**

Friday afternoons may be reinstated on a once a month basis.

A survey of past members who have left in recent years to ascertain reasons why.

A survey of members to find out "What does the club do well" & "what could we do better".

Discussion on having a management team for complete oversight for Wednesday & Thursday nights.

Data management policy to be put on website.

Interclub selection policy to be redrafted & circulated.

Scorer training to take place in October.

10A Swiss Pairs tournament on 17 Jul 2022 to be called "Levin 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pairs" approved.

Funding applied for lessons, now received.

Flowers bought for Eunice Wright for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Fibre internet installed.

Alarm system requires an upgrade.

Open Multigrade Tournament was a successful day.

Two black director's books missing.

Key register has been updated.

26 members completed survey. Responses to be analysed.

Sitting rights need to be applied for, whether permanent or temporary.

5<sup>th</sup> anniversary to be weekend of 9 July 2022.

Arising from survey: A social committee will be formed in 2022. To endeavour to find someone to set up a Facebook page for finding partners.

**From the 2021/22 Bridge year:**

Friday Bridge: Felt best at once a month than fortnightly.

Scorer training will be held.

Easter tournament was a success

Covid setting under orange: No team or Swiss pairs

RealBridge to be demonstrated, face to face

## **The Memories of a Past President - Deryn Comber**

*What major challenges did the club have to work through in your time as President?*

Painting and papering the club rooms ourselves

*What major initiatives happened during your time as President?*

Maintaining the ongoing Bridge lessons, demonstrating Bridge in the Levin Mall complex, to encourage beginners. Improving the scoring system.  
Turning an old factory into a Bridge club

*What were the major issues that were not resolved during your time as President?*

Table ethics by certain past players.

*Who were the people who most supported you in your time as President & in what way?*

The whole club, especially Les Pridmore and the committee. We lost our daughter during my time as President and the support from all was incredible and supportive

*Who were the characters in the club (outside of those who supported you as President). Give some insight into these people?*

Dot, though nearly blind, she could twinkle the ivories, stern Beth, whose heart was as big as her bark, Lilla who was there to help us beginners as was Celia & Nan. Lorna, her first words to me "you wouldn't have won this competition if it wasn't handicapped" welcome to the Bridge club. She was a great baker and produced us yummy cakes. Held lots of Bridge morning teas for Save the Children

*What were the changes, you saw, in the Bridge world, during your time as President?*

It was starting to become more computerised especially with scoring. Chris (Hull) and I used to tally the scores each Thurs morning by hand, a challenging job.

## **The Memories of a Past President - Cath Bennet**

*What major challenges did the club have to work through in your time as President?*

The years I was president saw many changes, probably the more significant one being the discussion and decision to purchase the dealing machine. A step that was seen as necessary to embrace and anticipate the advancement of technology. This meant a sizeable investment by the club as well as the actual machine and program it was necessary to purchase cards to be used. The large sum involved was substantially subsidized by a donation from pub charities. New photocopier/printer and computer were also purchased, fences repaired/replaced by members, new net curtains installed in the playing room. Repairs to men's toilets was necessary and both toilets redecorated.

*What major initiatives happened during your time as President?*

The advent of the dealing machine caused a request to not take drinks, aside from water, into the playing area, also players were requested not to use hand cream which may have soiled the rubber pickups on the dealer

*What were the major issues during your time as President?*

The club experienced some discontent during my tenure, with the able assistance of a supportive committee, was allayed and harmony restored.

*Who were the characters in the club (outside of those who supported you as President).*

A character I recall is Kath Bertram as she often misplaced her Bridge book and was sometimes heard to ask other players if she was booked with them. I remember hearing her say; 'a fine mess you've gotten me into' obviously referring to lax bidding, her forgetfulness was also with her house keys, as one time in her eighties necessitated her climbing through her bathroom window. I still remember the sound of her small car revving furiously as she drove out of the carpark.

Anna Herries' made a generous donation and the committee decided on a competition for a one night multigrade event to be called 'The Dave Herries Multigrade' in honour of her late husband, a renowned player who had represented NZ

# The Memories of a Past President -Dorothy Mackay

## 2007 – 2008 period

*What major challenges did the club have to work through in your term as President?*

- The continuous need to apply for funding, in order to offset the cost of major improvements or simply to update our equipment inside the building. During these 2 years around \$15,000 was given to the club in the way of grants.

*What major initiatives happened during your term as President?*

- The decision was made to move away from teaching Standard American and to teach the Acol approach
- Successfully ran daytime Bridge lessons
- Jim Boyce was made a Life Member
- Holiday Bridge introduced to be played in December and January. Well supported as many members did not go away.
- Wednesday night championships split into 2 blocks. Members found it difficult to commit to six straight weeks.
- In 2008 Friday afternoon Bridge started as a winter event
- For 2 years funding was received from Horowhenua Community Education to pay those who taught Bridge at the club

*What were the major issues not resolved during your presidency?*

- There was on going work re the new constitution which NZ Bridge required
- We were never able to get rainy day Bridge off the ground, probably work now with most members having access to computers
- Signposted the need to have the roof replaced. It was done in 2009 after funding was found towards the cost

*Who were the people with most supported you in your time as president and in what way?*

All the committee were willing workers. Mike and Colleen Murray did the task of secretary and treasurer with aplomb. Cath and Dave Bennet, although not on the committee, undertook to run Sunday afternoon socials, which started with lunch and were well supported by members

## 2011 – 2012 period

*What major challenges did the club have to work through in your term as President?*

- The continuous need to plan ahead so that funding could be applied for future work to be done. During these 2 years the office was revamped,

toilets changed to dual flushing, new cooktop for kitchen, The 20 year old timing clock replaced, need for more Bridge boards (the club has close to 550 boards at a cost close to \$10 each plus the cost of cards!), heat pump in supper room and the old style down lights were replaced with fluorescent lights. A total of over \$15,000 was again received in funding from various organisations

- How to keep tabs on the library books. The club was spending around \$350 a year on books but in reality they were just making up for the books that members had borrowed and not returned.

*What major initiatives happened during your term as President?*

- Eunice Wright became our first Patron
- Wayne Burrows approached to run some lessons for Intermediate and senior players. These proved popular and happened in subsequent years as well.
- Pot luck dinner and raffle raised \$258 for the Christchurch Bridge Club, after the earthquake.
- Membership cost split to show how much the club kept and how much was NZ Bridge levy.
- Introduction of a sign in book for Monday night players.
- It was decided to purchase a lockable cupboard for the library books with any committee member able to open it for members to access. New books were purchased and added to the book list on the computer with date of purchase.

If the club had not been organised and applied for funding the club's finances would have been in a poor state considering what has happened over the last 2 years and membership fee and table money would have had to increase.

Funding is available as long as someone is prepared to put in the time and the committee is planning ahead

*Who were the people with most supported you in your time as president and in what way?*

Bryan Green and Alan Sissons were invaluable for their insight as to what was required inside and outside the building. Joy Rose could always be relied on to go the extra mile. Colleen and Mike continued to be reliable as Treasurer and Secretary

## **The Memories of a Past President - Bryan Green**

*What major challenges did the club have to work through in your time as President?*

Reroofing the building - and finding funding to do so.  
Charities commission initially declined us as a charity but after providing further information we were accepted as a charity  
Community Education Funding was lost from Lessons

*What major initiatives happened during your time as President?*

The building was reroofed, completed in February 2009  
Investigation of electronic scoring began in April 2009. Remit to purchase was in the 2009 AGM. Delivered on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010  
Dish washer replaced  
Jean Sorenson was elected as a life member  
Inter club with Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Otaki started in 2010  
New Printer purchased  
Beginnings of a revamp to the office and storage room  
Upgrade to Broadband

*Who were the people who most supported you in your time as President & in what way?*

Dorothy Mackay - grant getter extraordinaire  
Alans Sissions managed the building including the reroofing and work in the car park. The rest of the committee were allocated specific jobs, and all did them with aplomb.  
Roger Calderwood implemented the electronic scoring system and training.  
As I was working full time, I was pleased at the way the committee stepped up and got on with it when I was not available during the day.

*What were the changes, you saw, in the Bridge world, during your time as President?*

The move to electronic scoring at the table.

*Notes of interest*

The committee discussed Swine flu and Colds etc in July 2009. Quite pertinent to today  
It was also noted that the table money balancing was a concern for the treasurer. It has not ever really changed.

# **The Memories of a Past President -Janet Olliver**

Taking over as President in November 2019, it was my expectation that things would continue to run like clockwork as had been my experience since I joined the club as a new player in 2015.

## **Major challenge**

Two months later of course a novel coronavirus was just beginning to be talked about, with the WHO declaring the epidemic a global health emergency on 30 January 2020. Named COVID-19 soon after that, and declared a pandemic in early March, NZ was soon plunged into full Alert Level 4 lockdown by 25 March.

Needless to say, that COVID-19 continued to have a major impact on the club throughout my term as President. The committee fully closed the Bridge Club for 6 weeks during that first lockdown with 2 shorter closures required later in 2020 and mid 2021. On top of this policies and processes had to be put in place to maintain the safety and wellbeing of members at the different alert levels. These had to be constantly reviewed as Government advice and guidelines changed over time. This included the changes needed to be put in place late in 2021 when Vaccine Passes became a requirement, as part of the new Traffic Light System, due to the growing threats of the Omicron variant.

The committee was hugely supportive, and showed great cohesion, over this time. Decisions had to be made quickly, programmes of play modified, and new systems developed overnight. Open communication with members was key to gaining understanding and acceptance of changes being made. Members adapted quickly and all played their part in keeping the club a safe environment for social and tournament play to continue.

## **Initiatives**

Early in 2020 the club retired its old Bridge Pads, replacing them with touch screen tablets and new software. The changeover coincided with the first lockdown which brought challenges around training of scorers and introduction to members. Once in place however this technology upgrade proved to be a welcome improvement.

Several policies were developed in my two years due to problems experienced with existing processes. Firstly, was an Appeals Policy and Procedure introduced in January 2020, and secondly a Selection Policy for Interclub events introduced early 2021.

## **Issues**

The 2020 year was stressful and unsettling for all. A small group of members became disgruntled as the year drew on. The committee spent some time addressing issues directly as they arose but went on to circulate a confidential club survey mid 2021 asking for positives, negatives and suggestions for change. The results were inconclusive – most respondents were happy with how the club was running, with just 2 or 3 expressing strong negative views. The committee circulated all responses, providing comments and feedback alongside these. By and large people seemed more settled and satisfied during 2021.

## **Key people**

I was lucky to be supported by a strong and hard working committee. In particular Bryan Green played a key role in our financial management during a time of reduced income, as



well as providing the oversight necessary for our Bridge sessions ran effectively. Likewise, Barbara Taylor was invaluable for her leadership of the Thursday night Junior room. Retention increased significantly with her strong focus on providing a fun and supportive environment.

Importantly, however, the club was fortunate to have a large number of experienced and longstanding members, many of whom contributed to all the things that need to be done for a club to function well: running lessons for beginners, dealing, scoring, directing, maintenance and repairs, running and catering for tournaments, convening sessions, and so on. I was grateful to be surrounded by this large, supportive team.

### **Looking ahead**

The Bridge world is faced with many challenges as the pandemic continues. Face-to-face Bridge play poses a number of safety issues, with online social play and Bridge tournaments becoming increasingly popular. Maintaining a physical building, a cohesive club membership, and ensuring sufficient income levels, will become issues future committees will need to address.

My time as President was best described as 'interesting' with never a dull moment! I watch with interest how things evolve in the future.

## **COMPETITIONS and Trophies as of 2022**

### Wednesday Night Events

Doddridge Pairs	Open
	Intermediate
Marjorie Cooper	Individual
Wright Swiss Pairs	Open
	Intermediate
Presidents Individual	
Teams 1	
Thomson Individual	
Championship Pairs	Open
	Intermediate
Winter Pairs	Open
	Intermediate
Parker Plate	Individual
Luhrs Pairs	Open
	Intermediate
Teams 2	
Annandale Pairs	Open
	Intermediate
Kerslake Swiss Pairs	Open
	Intermediate

### Trophies Donated By

Alan & Brenda Doddridge  
 Bernice Wenham  
 Marjorie Cooper  
 Charles & Eunice Wright  
 Peter Moody  
 Deryn Comber  
 Beth Blenkhorn  
 May Thomson  
 Lorna Donnelly  
 Val & Jeremy Harris  
 E McParlane  
 Bob & Helen Harrison  
 Jean & Roger Parker  
 Bill & Joan Luhrs  
 Cath & Dave Bennet  
 Les Pridmore  
 Val Swatridge  
 Betty & John Miller  
 Gladys Kerslake  
 Pam Denton

### Thursday Night Events

Fairfield Pairs  
 Bruce Jones Pairs  
 Hamilton - Williams Individual  
 Clarke Pairs  
 Championship Pairs  
 Burns Individual  
 Horowhenua Pairs  
 Winter Individual  
 Cargill Pairs  
 Mackay Pairs  
 Bertram Individual  
 Heatherlea Pairs

### Trophies Donated By

Ann McLeod  
 Bruce Jones  
 Charles Hamilton Williams  
 Margaret Clarke  
 Betty & John Miller  
 Alex & Trish Dixie  
 Bryan Green  
 Sue Scrimshaw  
 Pixie White  
 Dorothy Mackay  
 Kath Bertram  
 Alan & Chris Hull

OTHER TROPHIES

Trophies Donated By

Senior Points Trophy	Bruce Jones
Intermediate Points Trophy	Jean Sorensen
Junior Points Trophy	Beth Blenkhom
Lang Points Trophy (Highest points ex new class)	Margaret Lang
McKenzie Points Trophy (Highest points 2 <sup>nd</sup> year ex new class)	Jeanette McKenzie
Topper Cup (Highest percentage gained on Wednesday or Thursday night)	Alan & Chris Hull
Grand Slam Cup (Player with the most Grand Slams from in Competition year)	J Pirovano
Lorna Donnelly Jugs (Winners NZ Wide Pairs Levin Heat)	Lorna Donnelly
Dave Herries Multigrade (Open / Intermediate / Junior Christmas Competition)	Anna Herries

List of Life Members

1996	Miller *	Lilla
1997	Bertram *	Kath
2000	Lang *	Margaret
2006	McKenzie	Jeanette (Bobbie)
2007	Boyce *	Jim
2009	Sorensen *	Jean
2013	Luhrs *	A (Bill)
2014	Mackay	Dorothy
2016	Green	Bryan
2018	Hull	Chris
2019	Kuijten	Mark

\* Deceased

## Secretaries

1972 – 1973	Burd	Albert (Bert)
1973 – 1976	Arcus	Elsie
1977	Hamilton-Williams	Charles
1978	Parker	Jean
1979 – 1980	Roche	Celia
1981 – 1983	Fullarton	Nola
1984 – 1985	Swatridge	Val
1986 – 1987	Gelling	Jill
1988 – 1989	Anderson	Evelyn
1990	Allen	Eve
1991	Irving	Gail
1992 - 1993	Harding	Ann
1994 - 1997	Apperley	Des
1998	Green	Bryan
1999 – 2000	Miller	John
2001 – 2004	Bayley	Tricia
2005 – 2010	Murray	Michael (Mike)
2011 - 2013	Irving Gail & Stewart Gae	
2014 – 2015	Turner	John
2016	Barrack	Rosemary
2017 – 2019	Murray	Michael (Mike)
2020 – 2021	Murray	Colleen
2022	Harris	Christine

## Treasurers

1972 – 1977	Rae	Pat
1977 – 1978	Parker	Roger
1979	Lang	Margaret
1980 – 1981	Arcus	Elsie
1981 – 1982	Parker	Roger
1983 – 1991	Sorensen	Jean
1992 – 1994	Campbell	Margaret
1995 – 1998	Taylor	William (Bill)
1999	Sorensen	Jean
2000 – 2001	Green	Bryan
2002 – 2003	Cave	June
2004 – 2006	Green	Bryan
2007 – 2010	Murray	Colleen
2011 – 2012	Green	Bryan
2013 – 2016	Long	Lynne
2017– 2022	Green	Bryan

## **Committee members & Vice President 1993-2022**

- 1993: Bryan Green, Ruth Munro, Ann Pedersen, Edward (Ted) Stroud, Eunice Wright.  
VP: Les Pridmore TS
- 1994: R Lunt, Bryan Green, Jeanette (Bobbie) McKenzie, Edward (Ted) Stroud,  
Des Apperley,  
VP: Jim Boyce TS: Bernice Wenham
- 1995: Jeanette (Bobbie) McKenzie, Dot Hastedt, Margaret Campbell, Rita Lunt, Bryan  
Green, Edward (Ted) Stroud.  
VP: Joan Julian TS: Bernice Wenham
- 1996: Jeanette (Bobbie) McKenzie, Bryan Green, Anita Morgan, Audrey Sciascia,  
Edward (Ted) Stroud.  
VP: John Miller TS: Bernice Wenham
- 1997: Jeanette (Bobbie) McKenzie, Edward (Ted) Stroud, Bryan Green, Terry McGaffin,  
Audrey Sciascia.  
VP: Sue Scrimshaw TS: Bernice Wenham
- 1998: Bernice Wenham, Anna Herries, Terry McGaffin, David (Dave) Bennet.  
VP: Sue Scrimshaw TS: Chris Hull
- 1999: Anna Herries, John Kerrison, David (Dave) Bennet, Joan Luhrs, Denis Mallon.  
VP: Bryan Green TS: Chris Hull
- 2000: Anna Herries, Mary Crawford, Audrey Sciascia, David (Dave) Bennet,  
John Kerrison, Ken Carmichael.  
VP: Denis Mallon TS: Trish Bayley
- 2001: Anna Herries, Mary Crawford, John Kerrison, Sue Sturt, Sue Scrimshaw,  
Ken Carmichael.  
VP: Cath Bennet TS: Dorothy Mackay
- 2002: Anna Herries, Sue Sturt, Sue Scrimshaw, Ken Carmichael, Edward (Ted) Stroud:  
VP: Cath Bennet TS: Dorothy Mackay
- 2003: John Turner, Sue Scrimshaw, Alan (Bill) Luhrs, Ken Carmichael, Sue Sturt,  
Joyce Kirk, Denis Mallon, Rita Benefield  
VP: Robert (Bob) Harrison TS: Dorothy Mackay
- 2004: June Cave, Denis Mallon, Ken Carmichael, Sue Scrimshaw, Joyce Kirk,  
Alan (Bill) Luhrs, John Miller, Rita Benefield  
VP: Robert (Bob) Harrison TS: Dorothy Mackay
- 2005: Chris Hull, Jim Boyce, Rita Benefield, Jeanette (Bobbie) McKenzie, Sue Scrimshaw.  
VP: Dorothy Mackay TS: Sandie Wright
- 2006: Chris Hull, Jim Boyce, Rita Benefield, Jeanette (Bobbie) McKenzie, Sue Scrimshaw.  
VP: Dorothy Mackay TS: Sandie Wright

- 2007: Rosemary Barrack, Rita Benefield, Sue Scrimshaw, Alan Sissons, Jill Humphries\*.  
VP: Bryan Green TS: Sandie Wright
- 2008: Rosemary Barrack, Ruth Munro, Joy Rose, Sue Scrimshaw, Alan Sissons.  
VP: Bryan Green TS: Sandie Wright
- 2009: Liz Brownlie, Eric Churton, Robert (Bob) Harrison, Sue Scrimshaw, Alan Sissons.  
VP: Dorothy Mackay TS: Gay Calderwood
- 2010: Eric Churton, John Easterbrook, Peter Moody, Alan Sissons, Ron Humphries.  
VP: Dorothy Mackay TS: Gay Calderwood
- 2011: Stafford Ball, John Easterbrook, Gail Irving, Mary Forward, Gae Stewart,  
June Shepherd.  
VP: John Turner TS June Shepherd
- 2012: John Easterbrook, Stafford Ball, Ian Levelt.  
VP: Mark Kuijten TS: Joyce Kirk
- 2013: Joyce Kirk, Stafford Ball.  
VP: Colin Markwell TS: Sharon Wanden
- 2014: Stafford Ball, Rosemary Barrack, Chris Hull, Dorothy Mackay, Brian Taylor.  
VP: Colin Markwell TS: Sharon Wanden
- 2015: Rosemary Barrack, Douglas (Doug) Bolitho, Jim Heald, Dorothy Mackay, Mark  
Kuijten, Brian Taylor, Gae Stewart.  
VP: TS: Sharon Wanden
- 2016: Douglas (Doug) Bolitho, Roger Calderwood, Darryl Small, Val Smith, Brian Taylor.  
VP: Jan Fryer TS: Sharon Wanden
- 2017: Jan Fryer, Janet Olliver, Darryl Small, Trish Tough.  
VP: Val Smith TS: Sharon Wanden
- 2018: Mark Kuijten, Stafford Ball, Jan Fryer, Darryl Small, Trish Tough.  
VP: Janet Olliver TS: Sharon Wanden
- 2019: Mark Kuijten, Jan Fryer, Darryl Small, Trish Tough.  
VP: Janet Olliver TS: Sharon Wanden
- 2020: Mark Kuijten, Jan Fryer, Darryl Small, Trish Tough.  
VP: Michael (Mike) Murray TS: Barbara Taylor
- 2021: Mark Kuijten, Trish Tough, Val Smith, John Olifent, Lorraine Easton.  
VP: Michael (Mike) Murray TS: Barbara Taylor
- 2022: John Olifent, Trish Tough, Janet Olliver, Sue Scrimshaw\*  
VP: vacant TS: Barbara Taylor
- \* Seconded TS Tournament Secretary



## Presidents



Mr C Mitcalf  
1972-1973



Mr A Burd  
1973-1977



Mr C Hamilton-  
Williams 1978-1979



Miss B Blenkhorn  
1980-1981



Mr C Wright  
1982-1984



Mr P Mitchell  
1984-1985



Mrs C Hull  
1986-1987



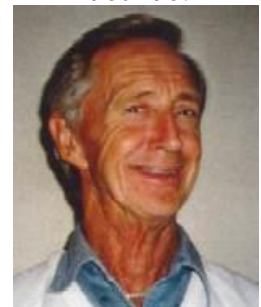
Mr M Kuijten  
1988-1989



Mrs L Harper  
1990-1991



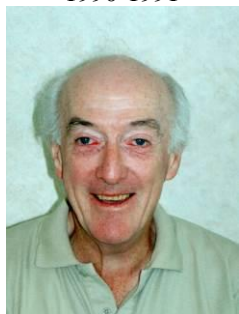
Mrs D Comber  
1992-1993



Mr L Pridmore  
1994



Mr J Boyce  
1995-1996



Dr J Miller  
1997-1998



Sue Scrimshaw  
1999-2000



Denis Mallon  
2001-2002



Cath Bennet  
2003-2004



Robert (Bob) Harrison  
2005-2006



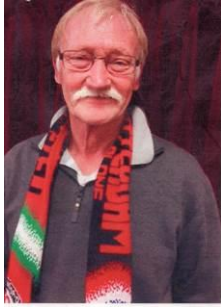
Dorothy Mackay  
2007-2008



Bryan Green  
2009-2010



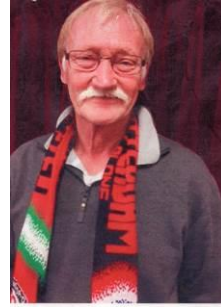
Dorothy Mackay  
2011-2012



Mark Kuijten  
2013-2014



Colin Markwell  
2015



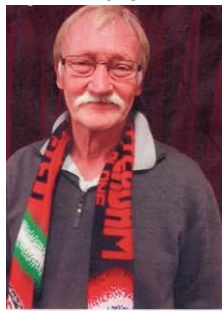
Mark Kuijten  
2016-2017



Val Smith  
2018-2019



Janet Olliver  
2020-2021



Mark Kuijten  
2022-