



UPPER HUTT BRIDGE CLUB JUBILEE CELEBRATION BOOKLET

## **FOREWORD**

There's a grief that can't be spoken  
There's a pain goes on and on  
Empty chairs at empty tables  
Now my friends are dead and gone

Marius' solo - Les Miserables

During the days I spent contemplating what I would write here I listened to this song at a concert and realized just how many of our friends are now "dead and gone". But unlike Marius in his café our friends at the Bridge club are replaced by new ones and the club progresses on getting stronger and stronger.

It is wonderful to reflect on the many people (characters some of them) who have put in so much effort over the years that have made this club what it is today. It is only thanks to the founders and those that followed that the standards were set and we are a debt free club and (I believe) the friendliest one in this country.

Many of these characters are worthy of mention here but to mention one would mean I would be sure to forget someone else so I shall refrain from mentioning any of them. I'm sure many of you will recall them from time to time and that will bring a smile to your face. Though they are lost to us now they are not forgotten and this document will no doubt bring some of them to mind.

Pam has continued with this tradition and has put a lot of work into putting the history of our club together. It is a project that is long overdue and a history that could so easily have been lost forever.

My challenge to the future club leaders is that they ensure that the club continues with this work so the ever evolving history of the club is recorded and not lost or forgotten.

### **John Rosevear**

John Rosevear has been involved with our Club for many years. During that time he has led numerous initiatives especially when aspects of the game became computerized and we were all learning new ways to operate. John is a Life Member, has been President twice, has been running our learner lessons for 22 years and thanks to John many of the learners join our club. John always makes himself available to help and when I first joined the club I referred to him as "Mr. Bridge." He has on occasion told me quite clearly (and loudly) that my bidding on that board was not advocated by him in his lessons. Oops!

**1969-2019**

**Fifty years of fun, friendship and finessing**

He aha te mea nui o te ao

**What is the most important thing in the world**

He Tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

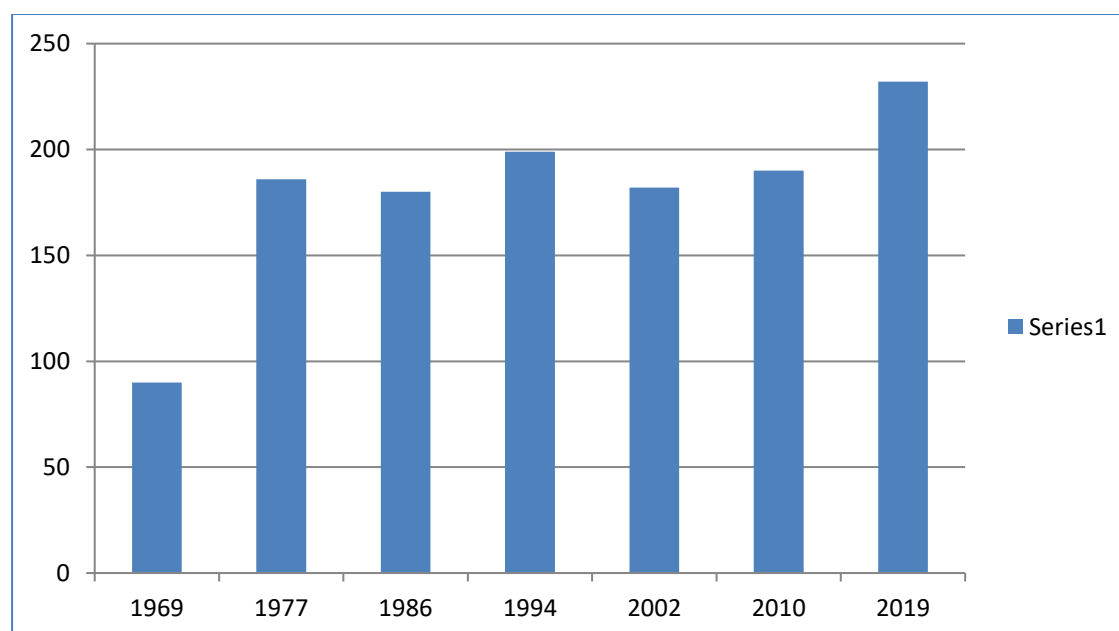
**It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.**

**Maori proverb**

The game of Bridge is alive and well in Upper Hutt. We have just celebrated in style and most successfully fifty years of Bridge in our Club. The Club rose from small but enthusiastic beginnings to this our Jubilee year when we have peaked with the largest number of members we have ever had.

A good reason to celebrate and look forward to, with excitement, the next 50 years.

**Upper Hutt Bridge Club Membership Growth**



## **In the beginning.....**

The Upper Hutt Bridge Club sprouted from the Women's section of the Upper Hutt Branch of the National Party. In the fifties, the Bridge Circle had been functioning for some time with "happy little social gatherings and fortnightly get-togethers at members' homes". The Leader reports that 16 women took part in June's meeting with a bright log fire, a delicious buffet and a dainty spring like touch provided by bowls of stylous and early japonica.

A further highly successful afternoon was enthusiastically enjoyed despite the extreme cold. Fortunately a bright fire burned and delicious afternoon tea was served at individual tables.

The next meeting of the group was described as bright with spring sunshine and bowls of Iceland poppies and fragrant freesias and the hostess wore a graceful frock of floral crepe.

The next meeting was described as a rendezvous in Brown Owl with four tables being played. This time the players were listed as Mrs..... followed by husband full name as was the habit then.

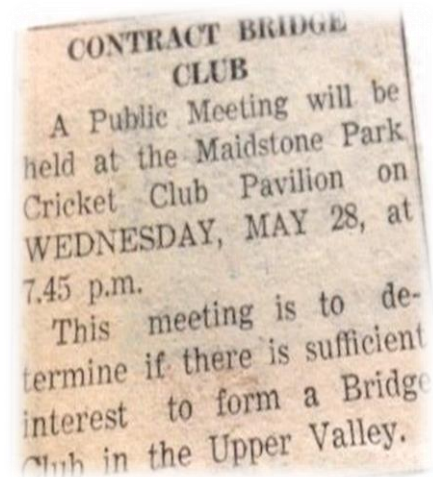
The final event for the year was at a lovely Mangaroa Valley country home with bowls of gay summer flowers and delicious afternoon tea where a silver trophy was presented to a "selected" player.

Many of these ladies featured in the establishment of the Upper Valley Club.

## **First steps.....**

The Wellington Bridge Club was the first established in the area approx. 1934 in response to an invitation from an American Otto Glen Doepel who invited people interested in competitive contract bridge to contact him. The Victoria bridge club was established in 1954 and in the late 60's there was an upsurge of interest resulting in the Karori, Kairangi, Kapi Mana and Lower Hutt (1966) club openings.

In 1969 an inaugural meeting was planned to determine if there was sufficient interest to form a Bridge club in the Upper valley.





It was a wet, miserable night when, upstairs at the Maidstone Cricket pavilion, the inaugural meeting was held with 62 attendees and 80 names recording interest in being foundation members.

The guest speaker was Dry Hutchison who had a very impressive record as a player and administrator of the game, being past President of the NZ Bridge Association and a founder member of the Wellington Bridge Club. He spoke eloquently of the pleasures to be derived from bridge and how clubs are flourishing throughout New Zealand and he was sure this club would fill a social need in the Upper Valley.

His interesting advice was, "Get your best out of the cards and enjoy your partner."

Stella Secker, who had experience from a London Bridge club, chaired the following meeting where a committee was elected and it was decided to call the club THE UPPER VALLEY BRIDGE CLUB.

Stella Secker went on to play in the New Zealand Women's team at the 6<sup>th</sup> Bridge Olympiad in Valkenburg,



Women's Champion Team that won the FEBF Championship in Taiwan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time 1981.



At Sydney with the Italian Men's Team.  
Omar Sharif 3<sup>rd</sup> from right.

## Moving on.....



The Leader reported the inaugural meeting as a larger attendance than expected and after the committee was elected and the club named, the Dutch Club, through Otto van der Veldt, offered 36 boards. Many tables were offered on loan and the Lower Hutt club donated 24 packs of cards. It was agreed that the Foundation member Sub would be \$8.

Hence a successful opening evening on June 5 1969 was enjoyed by all 48 players. At the meeting following, a decision was made to purchase cups, saucers, plates, teapots and.....two and a half dozen ashtrays! In August tea girls were employed at \$1.50 a night for Monday and Thursday nights.



The Maidstone Cricket pavilion was not an ideal venue security wise, as members were not allowed to park in the locked grounds at night so had to leave cars on the street and walk through under the dark trees. Although a

car was damaged and a car stolen a key to the gate was still refused. In addition, on each playing night, the rooms had to be set up and tables stored away after play.



In the early years, meetings were held in Committee members homes until 1971 when the club leased and moved upstairs in Taylor House. This was a good sized space but empty like a warehouse so.....many work bees followed to line the walls and build a kitchen in the 1500 sq.ft premises.

The members' skills and energy were employed painting, curtain making, flooring etc. all required to convert the premise to a reasonable but not ideal standard.

There were 122 members at this stage and it was mooted that members loaned the Club \$20.00 each to allow for suitable furnishings to be purchased and fans to be installed in the ceiling to extract smoke. This loan was interest free and to be repaid in 2 years.

By 1972 there were 3 Sessions a week, 156 members and 16 plus tables. Mr. Gray was running learners' lessons and was rewarded for his valuable work with....a box of cigars!

In 1973 a number of players from Witako prison were invited and welcomed to the club. A decision was made against providing sherry on those nights.

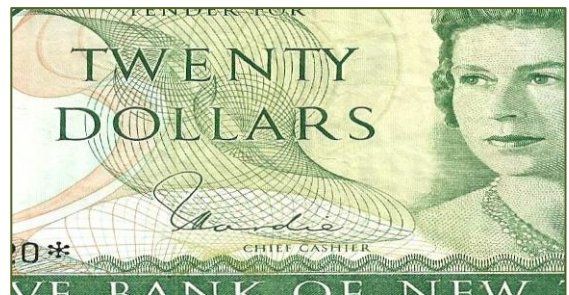
Later this year smokers were asked to cut down because smoke was playing havoc with the atmosphere and ventilation was not adequate. The Tournament director this year was given a bottle of gin!

An interesting item from 1974 AGM was discussion about the shortage of directors and perhaps ladies could be included but it was pointed out that ladies are exempt since their job was providing food!

A building fund had been established with the ultimate target a premise of our own. With this in mind discussions and negotiations were undertaken with the Upper Hutt Bowling Club to share premises built on council land but this idea was later dismissed.

At the AGM in 1976 a motion was passed that a penalty of 25% of available points would be imposed if a player discusses hands before the cards are completed and/or discusses after the director says to move.....interesting.

When reading through the minutes for 1976, I noted the signature of the secretary, Ray Hardie and at the time it seemed familiar to me. I later remembered where and in my banknote collection I discovered that he must have been Reserve Bank of New Zealand Chief Cashier. Later the banknotes were signed by the Governor of the Reserve bank.



The main items on the Agenda for 1977 were to increase the table money, or to cut out supper followed by much discussion about noise levels and player ethics which had not improved despite attempts to do so. The latter two plus slow play were a common theme through the years in the minutes.

In 1978 a council site in Poplar Avenue became available and plans were being drawn up by a sub-committee alongside possible finance ideas.

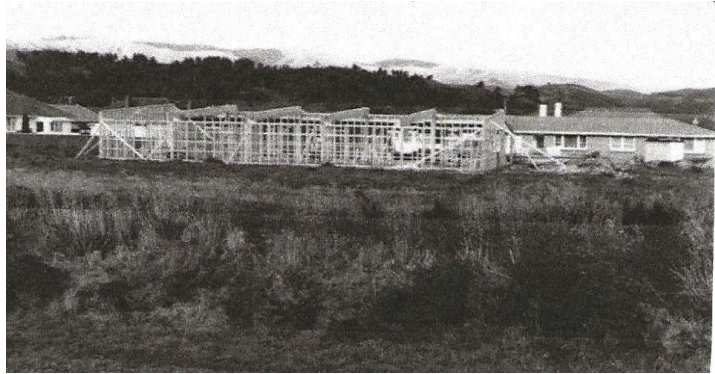


A Champagne Tournament was run in 1979 with a crate of champagne donated by Strouds. The same year the Upper Valley Bridge Club was name changed to Upper Hutt Bridge Club(inc).

### **In search of a home.....**

The momentum and desire to have our own premises was growing and in November 1979, the Pine Ave site was mentioned for the first time and a terms of lease negotiation occurred. At a

SGM it was decided to erect clubrooms on Council land at Pine Ave. The land was owned by Wellington Regional Council and leased to Upper Hutt City Council and would be subleased to the bridge club. It is noted that Barbara Topham,



Kath Hudson, Alex Duncan, Marie Parsons and John Bath were at this meeting. John Glasson was the driver of the project and had several comprehensive ideas for financing with the expected cost being \$75000. He produced a 12 page beautifully handwritten presentation to this end. The Club had \$25000 and the shortfall was filled by debentures and donations, an ANZ loan and a personal loan from John Glasson. Otto van der Velde was appointed building contractor and many workbees were planned to use volunteer labour to cut costs.



The ultimate cost of the building and decorating was \$82000 and would have been substantially more without the army of volunteers. The original structure was just a rectangle building which in later years was expanded with a North Room, a foyer entrance area and increased parking.

The opening ceremony was Thursday 11 December 1980. A HOME OF OUR OWN AT LAST!



## **Following years.....** Snippets from 1980-2019

Over the following year the lawn was planted, outside landscaped and lighting completed. The club also had to pay plumbing costs to connect to sewer just down the road. There was some acrimony about the club having to pay for all this in what is claimed to be Public Carpark on Council land.

Of interest at that time is that there was a smoking area during play, sherry was served at the end of play and Interclub Teams had to be selected by the Club Selector who at that time was Marie Parsons and two others. Also interesting was that a tournament had to be deferred because it clashed with Trentham Race Day! At this time members were rostered on to clean the clubrooms and tea and coffee was charged for.

Weightwatchers started as a tenant in 1981 and still rent our premises 38 years later.



The opening Plaque above the doors into the playing room was donated by John Glasson and there was much discussion about the need for a computer which was purchased and installed by the end of 1982.

In 1983 a cleaner was employed so the member roster no longer needed. At this time smoking was still in action down one end of Club and there was still a charge for tea and coffee.

In 1985 it was noted that tournament numbers had dropped and Saturday trading and the price of petrol were blamed. This year the Probus Club, now known as Rebus, began renting our rooms.

After lots of investigation it was decided to install 6 heaters in 1986 and this year silent bidding pads were trialled.

Mid 1987 the clubrooms became freehold! The front porch was enclosed in 1988 and glass panels installed. The same month a new kitchen bench was installed and the kitchen painted.

This same year a complaint was made that the director had not moved players on and it was suggested that it may have been because he was listening to the cricket on the radio!

An interesting Christmas function in 1988 when it was suggested that non bridge playing partners could play Trivial Pursuit while waiting. The Masterton Challenge started this year and members hired a bus to go over the hill to play in what would become an annual tournament.

Smoking caused a drama at an AGM after 22 voted to allow smoking in the main playing room and 20 against. Two members promptly resigned.

Supper was still served on Monday and Thursday nights and play stopped about 10.45. It was also not until 1990 that supper was discontinued and self service tea/coffee introduced.

In 1992 John Church had been teaching learner lessons for 11 years when David Hughes took over.

Prior to 1993 there were social and country memberships as special discounted categories. At that time there were 15 social members and 4 country members.....converted to general members.

What is known as the North room was added to the building in 1995 for the cost of \$5500. The reason for this was added space for lessons, two added storage rooms and somewhere to lay out food while play in progress.

There was a recurring problem about this time of encouraging Monday players to play on Thursday. They felt this was out of their comfort zone.

In 1997 Saturday night Bridge was being played and John Rosevear began teaching the Learners lessons.

A formal lease for use of the WRC/UHCC land was eventually signed in 1999 nearly 20 years after we moved in.

A momentous year was 2002 with the purchase of a dishwasher, dealing machine and a computer scoring package. This year the beginner lessons became free and we scored a record number of attendees.

In 2003, Don Smith and Paley Downs orchestrated 16 more carparks. These were financed to the tune of \$14000 through grants and \$9000 from our club.

Dick Lynn, retired in 2006 after 20 years of solid service. He was 16 years as Treasurer to the club, is still our auditor and directs Wednesday afternoon .

In 2008 The Upper Hutt Bridge Club website was designed and launched as the result of Ken Wood's initiative and industry. It was subsequently looked after by Ivan Luketina. The chairs were all recovered and the entrance lobby renovated. An interactive whiteboard was purchased about this time as an aid with lessons.

A major development the next year was the start of Wednesday afternoon playing sessions. Peter and Dorothy Drake instigated and ran these sessions where you just came along and played with anyone if you wished. This has been very successful, an extra source of income and averages 12 tables.

In 2009 we celebrated 40 years as a club at a grand catered evening in the clubrooms. I believe 9 Foundation members attended.

In 2009/2010, the club, like the country was in a time of recession. Our club budget highlighted a need to review our costs and increase our income so... we increased our table money from \$2.00 to \$3.00 the first increase since the early nineties. Rentals were increased, first in 3 years and we managed to recover. Thanks to Peter Drake our Treasurer at the time.

2011/2012 was highlighted by the introduction of Bridgepads which was a learning curve for some but has meant simplified scoring so potentially less margin of error.



The Great Western Event

The insurance because of the Christchurch earthquakes rose by 50% and much equipment was in need of replacement.

In the 2012/2013 year two new ovens were purchased, instant hot water installed, the photo copier was replaced and a sun filter applied to high western windows.

The Office was refitted to be user friendly and technology upgraded so all the club was networked.

A Thursday junior session was started down the Northern end of room to accomodate players just coming from lessons. This has been a great success thanks to Ellie Blumsky (Convenor) and the table numbers have grown each year. Many still prefer to play in the less competitive atmosphere.

During the next few years the club was transformed and upgraded to the high standard it is now. Firstly new curtains, carpet, tablecloths, flowers, and paintwork renewed. Next all our chairs were recovered, the ladies was gutted and totally updated and the disabled toilet was also refitted. Lighting was also replaced and the vulnerable back windows fitted with bars.

These were major massively expensive jobs enabled by Brian Paquin's search for grants and his drive and personal time commitment to complete tasks.

This year 2019 our clubrooms have never looked better, we have 3 heat pumps installed and all looks cosy and elegant for the Jubilee celebrations.



## **Interesting themes.....**

As a club we receive great feedback from tournaments on the friendliness, the food and the tournament management and we are the cheapest club in the Wellington area to play at.

Over the fifty years the same issues appear and I expect some are common to Bridge Clubs universally.

In our club once the smoking problem had been resolved the remaining repeat offending areas throughout the years are:

- Slow play
- Noise level
- Ethics

Rather more interesting was a continuing “use of the tea trolley urn” debate.

Another recurring item was the mysterious pool of water that kept appearing in the ladies’ toilets.....this first started in the eighties and was still appearing in 2016.

Break ins through the back windows are now thwarted by bars and K9 regularly patrols the carpark ready to pounce on or deter people breaking into cars.

There was a spate of 6 and 8 legged invaders setting up house, or just visiting, stting off our burglar alarm. One evening the police monitored a burglar alarm callout at the club and Ken Wood had to attend. I believe he entered with trepidation as it was believed that the burglars were probably still in there but it was ultimately discovered that a spider had crawled across the alarm activator and all was well.

## Memories



Unfortunately I don't know when this was taken but these members are still playing regularly.

The following group of pictures come from some negatives found in the director's table dated 1992.



David Hughes

Otto Vanderveldt

John Glasson

Joan McIlroy & Pat Duncan



David Hughes and the Christmas Spirit.



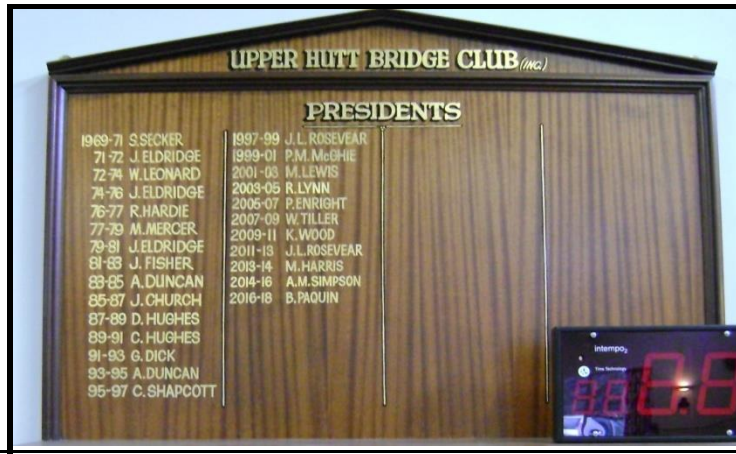
Barbara Bagley & Tommy Mercer



Sheila Flaws, Carol Shapcott & Kay Ferguson. Ella McKelland, Barbara, Tommy Mercer.



## **Leaders...**



Upper Hutt Bridge Club has been very ably led by capable and hardworking presidents and committees, all with their vision of how our club should be. It is thanks to their visions and leadership that our club continues to grow membership and has well equipped premises, welcoming all.

## **The Lifeblood.....**

1978	FW Gray
1984	J Eldridge
1988	M Mercer
1991	J Glasson
1994	A Duncan
1997	J Church
1997	D Hughes
1998	PR Duncan
2000	R Lynn
2003	M Renner
2003	J Rosevear
2005	N Church
2011	D Smith
2012	B Pritchard
2014	M Lewis
2016	K Wood
2018	K Hudson

**Life Membership is bestowed upon those individuals who have contributed greatly to the Club, in recognition of their hard work and dedication often over many years.**

**While reading through old minutes and records searching our history I was amazed at what has been achieved over five decades.**

**These people have been the “movers and shakers” Who have been at the centre of the progress through the decades.**

**We are fortunate to still have Life Members playing in our Club and they are the source of many memories.**

**I will share a few .**

### **Kath Hudson**



When Bridge Lessons were advertised in the Leader Heather Morrison asked Kath to go with her and they were told that if they joined the club they would be counted as Founder members. The lessons were given by Stella Secker who was a marvelous teacher and who had taught at a London School of Bridge. Kath said she considered that they were very lucky to have the benefit of her experience.

They played Monday and Thursday nights at the Cricket Pavilion and it was very noisy with no carpet. After the move to Geange street they had their own entrance and were involved in many working bees.

Kath talked about the formal standard of dress required at the evening tournament sessions. However, she told me that it wasn't long before scruffy young men from Wellington turned up in what were probably the only clothes they possessed. They were brilliant players but that didn't deter some of the older members from "tutt-tutting" and saying they should be outside playing sport instead of bridge.

Kath said that our club quickly gained a reputation for providing the best catering in the Wellington region and usually attracted 25 tables. There was often a waiting list for cancellations.

The following is a direct quote from Kath.

The first committee deserves to be honoured for establishing our club. All of our committees have worked very hard for the club, but in 1969 they had NOTHING to work with.

Kath was on the Bridge committee, a Foundation member and the Friday Convenor for many years until just recently.

### **Merelle Renner**



I visited Merelle at her home and spent an entertaining hour listening to her bridge stories.

Merelle first became involved with bridge when her sister who played in Paraparaumu suggested she play and she discovered that lessons were about to begin. At that time, the Upper Valley Bridge Club operated one evening a week from the rooms above Taylors' shoe shop. She met Avis Lipross there and they became partners and friends. Meryl played with groups of friends on Saturday night for many years. When it was discovered that Merelle had a typewriter, this led to her becoming the Masterpoint secretary. Prior to computers of course, all the results for Monday, Thursday and Friday had to be typed out and posted to NZ Bridge.

Merelle commented on how the dress code was markedly different in the early days with men wearing suits and ties to bridge and trips to the Wairarapa Tournaments involved packing dressy clothes and long dresses.

Bridge career highlights for Merelle were winning the Babich Nationwide Pairs partnering Kumar and the Wellington Women's Senior Pairs with Pat Duncan.

Another highlight was when the club was approached to allow three prisoners from Wi Tako (Rimutaka) Prison to play at our club and Merelle was asked to pick them up each session. She related how she signed them out and in again from the prison and there was never an ounce of trouble. I read in the minutes for that time it was discussed and decided not to have alcohol, as was usual, on those nights. Merelle also recalled two young students from Upper Hutt College joining the club and these young lads were very clever and progressed on to other clubs and successes in bridge.

Merelle enjoyed every moment of playing in the club for pushing 45 years and allowed me to share the poem she wrote.

### **Bridge From A Beginner** by Merelle Renner Life Member (dcd)

All players think they are able

To play Bridge right at the top  
But with my partner across the table  
My ego comes in for the chop

His forehead is creased and wrinkled  
As he glares at me with a frown  
"Oh partner!" he says, "If you'd done this or that  
We wouldn't have gone one down."

"If only you had watched for signals  
You would have seen my high-low."  
I cower across the table  
While he goes on in full flow.

"Why did you lead top of nothing  
Instead of from four to the Jack?"  
He shakes his head in perplexity  
At the foresight I seem to lack.

"Why didn't you take your ace while you could?"  
Or "You should have trumped that trick!"  
I'm beginning to think that I must be  
As thick as the proverbial brick.

They made 6 spades when they should have been light  
And I say to myself "Here's trouble!"  
But how was I to know what to do  
When he made a Lightner Double.

I took the finesse when the queen would  
have dropped

Another wrong decision  
It seems I am no good at playing ACOL  
Perhaps I should change to precision.

I underbid, I overbid, I'm timid  
I can't seem to please him at all  
But if I do make a good contract  
It's because he made the right call.

But one of these days I will get angry  
When he gets me into a flap  
And I'll pick up the cards from the table  
And throw them into his ..... lap.

And so I say to all players  
To your partners be gentle and kind  
And if they should do the incredible  
Don't take it to heart and you'll find

That partnerships won't be broken  
And you will win much fame  
For your tactful behaviour  
If not for your brilliant game.



Stayman, Landy or Blackwood  
I know them and others too  
But I haven't yet learned about Michael's cue bids,  
And how do you do a Trump Coup?

I gave the opponents a ruff and a sluff  
And saw the scowl on his face  
But then I committed the worst sin of all  
I trumped his winning ace.

I'm certain I must be a failure  
And I tremble at the knees,  
For he says I should have made that game  
If only I'd thought of a squeeze.



**Ngaere Church** .....Life Member

John and Ngaere joined the Upper Hutt Bridge club in the late 60's. Friends of theirs had recently taken lessons and wondered if they would be interested in doing the same. Ngaere had never played any card games so she was wary but John was keen because he had played a bit during the war. They decided to give it a go and joined the next class. Bill Gray was the teacher in those days- and Ngaere said, "The poor man had his work cut out when I arrived."

However as time went by and her heart ceased to pound when she found herself having to play a game in No Trumps, Ngaere realised that she was enjoying bridge. The clubrooms were in Geange Street then and it was amazing that in such relatively primitive conditions they were able to host tournaments.

On Club nights they would stop for supper when trays would be delivered to the tables bearing a teapot, a water jug, milk jug and a plate of biscuits- all very genteel!

As time progressed John was asked if he would take over the teaching job and Ngaere became secretary for a few years.

Ngaere commented on the exciting time when the current rooms were built- the amount of voluntary labour that went into the building was astonishing. Ngaire hopes that all new members find the club a friendly place and they get as much enjoyment from the sessions as they did and Ngaire still does.

Ngaere was Thursday convenor for 27 years until very recently. When Ngaere was granted Life membership it was spoken of the variety of roles Ngaere had undertaken in the Club. There was Secretary, Interclub Secretary and Thursday Convenor but most remarkably she actively encouraged new members by

always being willing to play with them and support less experienced players to move from Monday to Thursday.

Our beautiful brass bell used at every session has been donated by Ngaire Church in memory of John.

### **Dorothy Smith**



Dorothy joined the Club in 1972 after attending lessons by Bill Gray, the then current teacher. They played only on a Thursday night and in those days each player had to take a turn directing.

One evening Tony Barrett who sat at the Director's desk was listening via earphones to the annual Government

budget. In between hands he announced the rise in cigarette prices and there was a collective moan from all the smokers. Ashtrays were on all tables then.

There were also rosters for the weekly cleaning and for kitchen assistance during tournaments.

The most embarrassing occasion that Dorothy could recall was when we were hosting a Tournament and unfortunately the clubrooms had been pre-booked! After a desperate phone call the Lower Hutt Club came to the rescue and those that could not be contacted found a redirection notice on the door on arrival. We had to transport all our food, tea, coffee, sugar and alcohol.

Sadly, there have been many times when players have been taken ill and have to go home or to hospital, but Dorothy can recall one evening when play stopped completely. It was the first night of the Monday Junior Pairs when....after just five hands, a lady member suddenly collapsed and died. The ambulance, police and fire Brigade arrived and no one was allowed to leave till they had completed their duties. We were all in shock.

Dorothy was a Committee member and then Monday night convenor for approx 18 years until very recently. She says that in all those years one thing has not changed.....the friendly spirit that exists among members in our club.

## **Alex Duncan**

Alex related the following from his memories of the club.

Alex's wife Pat joined 2 years before him and was like him taught by Bill Gray. Pat played at the Hutt Club so they could play on different nights and still look after their family. Their son Grant was taught bridge by his mother and partnered Alex in many tournaments. Bridge nights were remembered as great social occasions with a high standard of dress required. The table money then was \$1.50.

Alex remembers the paramount need for more space as the club grew.

He remembers the generosity of members buying debentures. He recalls everyone helping with fundraising to pay back quickly.



The Grand Opening Tournament was very formal with 28 tables.

A highlight of Alex's bridge career was winning the Kairangi Tournament with Barbara Bagley. This was played over 2 days and they won 3 sessions. Alex was Club President twice, performed other committee positions for 18 years being actively involved in many developments and is still a dealer.

Alex said, he had a very supportive wife who helped him a lot.

## **Bill Pritchard.....**

Bill's name featured prominently in the earlier days of the club as did his wife Esme. Bill was a director and Esme the committee Secretary. They are still keen players attending regularly.

## **Ken Wood .....**

Ken has been President, Secretary and still runs refresher lessons each year based on Peggy Millidge's plans. The Bridge Programme is compiled very efficiently by Ken each year. He is the Office expert, a director and is always willing to help and listen.

## **Exports.....**



Some members have moved away over the years and some are now playing celestial bridge.

There have been a few couples who met and married through bridge.

← A 2003 "posh" farewell party held by bridge friends for Janet back off to US and then to UK.

Maureen and Colin Gibbs were regular and generous players for many years and here is an extract from a poem written by Maureen about their departure to Whakatane.

*We are leaving our Upper Hutt Bridge Club  
And all the mistakes that we made  
But thanks for the good humour and camaraderie  
And thanks to all who gave us their time.  
So thanks for the fun and the friendships  
And thanks for the games and the parties  
Thanks for the good times and memories  
Over all those wonderful years.*

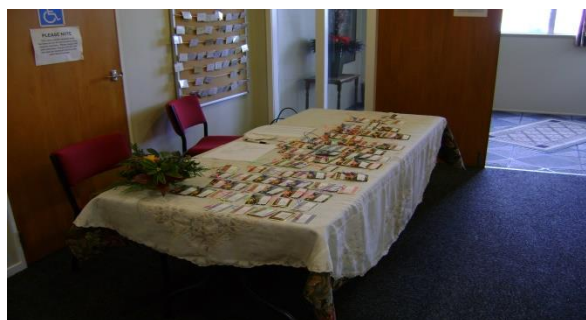
John Bath was a Committee member for many years then he and Margaret moved to Tawa and then to Tonga and ultimately Martinborough. They come over the hill to most of our Tournaments.

### **And so let the celebrations begin.....**

Fifty years has passed since the Club Foundation till now so time to celebrate.

On the weekend of 3-5 May 2019 all the year's planning that had gone before came to fruition starting with Friday's afternoon play in 60s/70s dress.

The afternoon opened with the ringing of the Church bell by Ngaire and the President of the UHBC Biddy Rush declared the festivities begin.







## **Winners.....**



Best dressed Sheena and Dennis Smith.



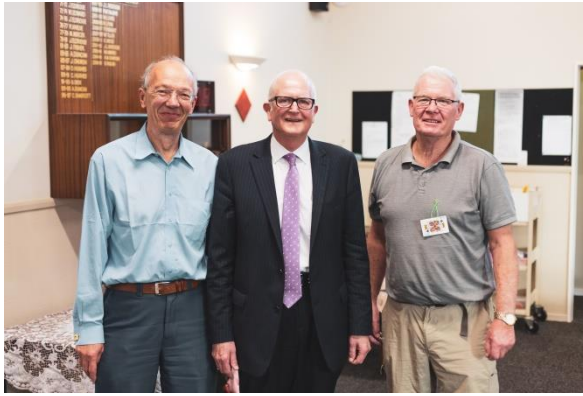
Ellie Blumsky and Haf Poland.



Beryl Mc Callum and Graeme Manning



Carol Mc Connell and Corrie Brown



Charlie Villain and Charles Anderson



Helen Weston & Trish Poland..Ministry of Food.



Maureen Mendoza thinking.....



Irish hippy Robert Stewart

**Presented by Caroline Strachan in Celebration of our Jubilee**





## **The cake cutting.....**

The jubilee cake was cut by our only Foundation Member still playing Kath Hudson and Sarah Rooker a new member from this year's classes accompanied by the Upper Hutt Mayor Wayne Guppy.



**The Jubilee Dinner.....** Jubilee play continued on Saturday morning and afternoon and also Sunday morning. A highlight of the weekend was the Jubilee Dinner at the Royal Wellington Golf Club.











**More...**



**Saturday and Sunday.....**



Michael Carson and Peter Skinner

Robert Flaws and Diane Rogers

Charles Colpman



### **More Winners.....**



Brian & Caroline

Kumar, Lynne & Paley Downs

Margaret & Graeme Dick

### **The Jubilee Tournament Results...**

#### **Friday afternoon:**

N/S	Open	Charlie Villain	Charlie Anderson
	Intermediate	Corrie Brown	Carol McConnell
	Junior	Beryl McCallum	Graham Manning
E/W	Open	Mary Fowke	Faye Turner
	Intermediate	Sheena Smith	Dennis Smith
	Junior	Haff Poland	Ellie Blumsky

#### **Saturday morning:**

N/S	Open	Anna Herries	Vivienne Cannell
	Intermediate	Diane Rodger	Sandy Peters
	Junior	Cathy Colpman	Charles Colpman
E/W	Open	Denise Barnett	Nigel Kearney
	Intermediate	John Bath	Margaret Bath
	Junior	Bruce Jenner	Pat Williamson



**Saturday afternoon:**

N/S	Open	Graham Dick	Margaret Dick
	Intermediate	Mary Hammond	Corrie Brown
	Junior	Maureen Mendoza	Judy Dixon
E/W	Open	Jenny Wiggins	Susie Pattison
	Intermediate	Paley Downs	Lynette Downs
	Junior	Ellie Blumsky	Doreen Shields

**Sunday morning:**

N/S	Open	Robert Flaws	Diane Rodger
	Intermediate	Carol McConnell	Linda Bitchener
	Junior	Michael Carson	Peter Skinner
E/W	Open	Brian Cunliffe	Caroline Strachan
	Intermediate	Adrienne Pittams	Tim Marwick
	Junior	Sandy Peters	Charles Colpman

***Congratulations to you all.***

**With Congratulations in mind .....**

The club received the following:

♠ From Peter and Dorothy Drake who were unable to attend.

*Congratulations on attaining 50 years of play. Well done! Enjoy your games this weekend and have fun. Will be thinking of you all.*

♠ From Doreen Shields

*I have just got home from the Jubilee Dinner and I also played in the afternoon session. I want to say a big thank you and congratulations to the Jubilee committee for all their hard work. I had a wonderful time today!*

♠ From Meg Harris

*I want to thank the Jubilee and Club Committees sincerely for the most amazing Celebration of the 50 years our club has been in existence. Our founding members certainly did a very good job in setting up the founding Constitution and standards of the Club which I believe have prevailed over the years. I realise at the beginning when the celebrations were mooted there was a certain amount of criticism but I am sure that any member who thought that way was proved to be totally wrong. The two committees obviously took on board all suggestions and fine tuned the whole weekend to make it the huge success it was. Those who did not attend missed out on a lot of fun and a huge amount of very happy memories, not forgetting the bridge we all played.*

*Another big thank you for all the fundraising that went on so the extras could be covered by these efforts. I cannot think of anything that could have been improved on and any little problem that might have arisen was immediately cared for and fixed. It was a huge undertaking for a small club like ours but so well done.*

*There were also a lot of volunteers who assisted with the smooth running of the celebration and please pass on my sincere thanks to all those involved in such a momentous and happy event.*

*Many many thanks and congratulations to you all.*

♠ From Diane Roger

*I recently attended the 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee as a past member.*

*I would like to congratulate the club on a well run and fun 3 days which was clearly enjoyed by all who attended. It was great to renew acquaintances with people from my past and to see that the friendly philosophy of the club remains intact.*

*It was great to see the refreshing décor of the club room especially the curtains. I would like to thank Ken for arranging partners for me and also to thank Sandy and Robert.*

*Congratulations to the Jubilee Committee, it was clear to see the hard work that went into such an event. Thank you all.*

♠ From Warwick Tiller

*A short, well done message to you all. Very enjoyable!*

♠ From Trish Mahoney

*Thank you all for the hard work, excellent planning and great management of the recent jubilee. You had an ambitious plan and it was executed so well.*

*A most enjoyable and entertaining weekend. We are very fortunate to have people of vision and competence leading our club. Well done.*

♠ From John and Margaret Bath

*We want to congratulate the club on a very successful event celebrating 50 years as a Bridge club in Upper Hutt. The time and effort put in by your Jubilee Committee is appreciated and this was obviously a huge contributor to the success. It was great catching up with past players and your life members Kath Hudson and Alex Duncan (two we knew from our days in the club).*

*We wish the club all the best for the next 50 years.*

### ***The Jubilee Committee...***

President: Wayne King  
Secretary: Mary Anderson  
Registrations: Cheryl Jones and Ken Wood  
Food: Trish Poland and Helen Weston  
UHBC President: Biddy Rush  
Legal: Kumar Bajaj  
Chronicle: Pam Harding

This Upper Hutt Jubilee Celebration booklet has been compiled from recollections of members, minute books and memorabilia archived at the Clubrooms.

Although I have made every effort to check the facts, there may be omissions (please forgive) and inaccuracies. For these I do apologize and hope that the next fifty years is well archived leading to a future centenary.

Pam Harding