

CHRISTMAS DUPLICATE COMPETITION – Saturday 6th December 2008

“CELEBRATIONS, TWOS, SOME FAMILIAR WINNING FACES AT SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB”

Prior to 2007 the practice at the Club shortly before Christmas was to provide nibbles and niceties with a glass of wine on each evening of one week that the Club met for bridge. Last year at the instigation of John Prior – sadly no longer with us – the Club held a Christmas Duplicate evening, strictly members only, on a Saturday in December with a finger buffet to provide an opportunity for players from every location and session of the Club to join together for a friendly evening of competitive bridge. Such was the success that the second running of the event was held on Saturday 6th December 2008. Tickets were sold out one month before the event.

Ninety six members attended the event with players with representatives from all the Club's sessions attending including four members from Bournemouth and a welcome return to the Club of founder member Ethel Broughton whose holds the membership number '1'. She was warmly welcomed. Divided into two Sessions those present enjoyed a glass of sherry on arrival, the opportunity to buy tickets for a raffle, 24 hands of duplicate bridge divided by an excellent finger buffet which rather akin to the parable of loaves and fishes turned into a feast. In addition to the usual duplicate winners a prize was provided to the player who during the evening won most tricks with a '2' card. Surprisingly achieving this on 6 occasions Rob outstripped us all.

Seven of the eight players who achieved success last year played again this year with three of the them – Catherine, Mike and Ruth (this time with a different partner) – making the winners enclosure again. Well done them!!

Club President Len Turner celebrated his 90th Birthday recently and in honour of the anniversary donated the prizes for the event which he presented himself.

Concluding the evening Chairman Doug Edmonds thanked all those who helped in the organisation of the event - Len for providing and presenting the prizes and for running the bar when he was assisted by Dennis, Liz for preparing the buffet assisted by Dot, Shirley, and Sheena, Michael for 'setting up' and whatever else was needed, Elaine for selling the raffle tickets assisted by Dot, Mike for operating 'Bridgemate', Catherine for directing Session 'B' and George for directing Session 'A' and organising the event overall.

The friendliness and goodwill of the occasion can best be judged by the total absence of calls for the Directors for playing problems! Although not intended as a fund raising event the occasion generated £315 for the Charity. Well done to all!

Winners and photos.



The raffle ticket sellers – Elaine and Dot



Bridge and raffle prizes



The finger feast



Winners 'B' – N/S Mike & Catherine 64.20% E/W Eve and Maria Grazia 60.61%



Winners 'A' – N/S Ken and Daphne 56.63% E/W Ruth and Stephanie 60.80%.