

Westray Bridge Weekend 2019

For the second year running, a group of keen bridge players headed to Westray for a social weekend of bridge with opportunities to spend time walking or exploring the attractions of the island.

Most travelled out by ferry on Friday morning and checked in to their accommodation at The Barn, No.1 Broughton or the Pierowall Hotel. Bridge began when everyone convened after Lunch. Over the weekend there were four bridge competitions running: the Main Competition (four sessions); the Late Birds competition (one session); the Fun Competition (three sessions); and the Smarty Pants Competition (throughout the weekend).

The event was centred round The Barn, run by Teenie and Michael Marcus, which is an ideal venue for our bridge competition. On Friday evening we dined at The Pierowall Hotel and on Saturday we had a takeaway order from Jack's Chippy. Both were excellent and just as good as we had remembered from the previous year. Lunches were flexible with some eating out and others eating at The Barn where Gladys Marwick and Clinton Rendall provided enough delicious soup and extras to feed a small army. Everyone else also brought along food or drink contributions that were available for the group to graze on throughout the weekend.

All twenty four players took part in the Main Competition on Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday afternoon and Evening. After two full sessions of that competition on Friday, only four players had the stamina to stay up for the first scheduled Late Birds session and even they only managed to keep going for a short time. The Late Birds session, scheduled for after the Main Competition session on Saturday evening, never took place. Those who managed to stay up at all sat and chatted instead.

The three sessions of the Fun Competition were run on Saturday morning, Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. Only four took part on Saturday morning. On Sunday morning there were fourteen but six of them joined in only part way through the session and were awarded a very generous 500 points for each round they had missed in the session. That gave some of them much better points than had been there for the full session. Perhaps a re-think for late joiners next time. On Sunday afternoon twenty took part.

The names of the prizewinners are given below and the full results can be found on the Dounby Bridge Club website. Clinton Rendall organised and presented the prizes but the winner and runner up in the Main Competition, not being aware that they were in the running for prizes, had opted out of the Sunday bridge and were off walking on what was a beautiful sunny day and so were given their prizes on return to the Mainland. We did contemplate sending someone out to pick them up and drag them back for the Presentation and then take them back to where they had been but that would not only have spoiled their walk but also disrupted the Fun Competition that was still running.

Main Competition

1st Bunty Pottinger (13770 points), 2nd Sheila Walls (12910 points)

Late Birds

1st Katherine Kemp (2020 points)

Fun Competition

1st Malcolm Tipler (7640 points), 2nd Iso Tipler (7060 points)

Smarty Pants Competition

1st Linda Milne (39 points), 2nd Malcolm Tipler (31 points), 3rd Margaret Mainland (30 points)

Technically, Bunty Pottinger was 2nd with 37 points but, as the prize was a frozen Smartie Lolly and she was not there to eat it, Malcolm Tipler was upgraded to 2nd. Clinton Rendall, Iso Tipler and Margaret Mainland were all 4th= on 30 points but, after drawing for the third lolly, Margaret Mainland was upgraded to 3rd place.

Iris Clyde rounded off the presentation with a vote of thanks to Clinton Rendall for planning the event, supported by Iso Tipler who dealt with the administration and results, and to everyone who had brought food and drink contributions or helped in any way to make the event a success. We hope everyone did enjoy themselves.

By Iso Tipler