

Bridge club hosts steady clientele

By ANN TRENEMAN
Of the Emerald

Members play for 'blood, not money'

Two hearts. Pass. Two spades. Pass. Long pause. Three hearts. Pass. Five hearts. Double. Having dispensed with the formality of bidding, players settle down to the business of the bridge game.

And so begins another night of heavy bridge playing at the Finesse Bridge Club, 743 Country Club Road.

"We play for blood, not money," says Bob Freeman, one of the four owners of the club, although some nights there is an \$80 pot put up by the house. Other nights, the winner gets a free game.

Although it seems appropriate for a bridge club to be on Country Club Road, the club rules bear little resemblance to country club rules. Anyone can join. All that is required is the desire to play bridge and \$2, the fee for a night.

Novice players play bridge as well as the experienced.

"We have a steady clientele - they get hooked," Freeman says.

Eight games a week, every night but Sunday, up to 24 foursomes gather at the club to compete, listen to music and play bridge. Lessons are also offered for \$2 a shot at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels.

The Freemans say many University students find their way out to the club. The youngest players have been in their pre-teens and the oldest in their '80s.

"We get all ages here, and all professions, from lawyers to fencemakers," Freeman says.

When asked if some people view the club as a social affair or a computer dating service, Freeman answers, "Well, if you need a partner, we find one for you. It's an added service," he says smiling. Many people get a



A foursome of bridge players concentrate on their hands at the Finesse Bridge Club on Country Club Road.

partner and keep them he says, adding that some people who've met at the club, date outside of playing bridge.

"We've had the opposite happen," Vie Freeman another co-owner says, "We've had divorces among the players also."

She says, "A lot of husbands and wives don't play together because things can get pretty tense sometimes."

The Freemans, who have played bridge for 15 years, do play together.

Duplicate bridge, different from party bridge because the same

hand is rotated around to eight tables," is the main game played at the club, although party and precision bridge are played also. Duplicate bridge reduces the element of luck in getting a dynamite hand, and concentrates more on a player's skill to work with any hand.

The Finesse Bridge Club was formed five years ago by Vie and Bob Freeman and, Eleanor and Jim Rice, when they decided to sell their homes and build a bridge club. Now both couples live in spacious apartments above the club.

All but Vie Freeman hold jobs outside the club, although she says, "The club now pays for itself."

Most players do eventually join the American Contract Bridge League, according to the Freemans and begin to work on their Life Masters, which is "the ultimate goal for all bridge players."

Players receive local, regional and national points during various games. A Life Master must have accumulated 300 points and have 25 gold/national points, 25 red/regional points and 25 black/local points to be a Life Master. There are about 30 Life Masters at the club now.

Demos urge sanctions

The Lane County pre-primary Democratic platform convention recently passed an amendment asking Pres. Carter to impose economic sanctions on South Africa.

The amendment entails the withdrawal of all U.S. government and corporate investments in South Africa. It would also cut off all exports to and imports from South Africa.

The amendment was one of many passed at last week's con-

vention that will be considered by the state demo forum in determining the party's platform.

Other South African policies passed include: opposition of South African Rhodesian policies of apartheid, support of majority rule and the accompanying "one person — one vote" principle and termination of all export-import bank facilities used to support purchases of American goods by the South African government, its agencies and any private interests in the republic of South Africa.

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