

THE KARHOF TROPHY.

Ben Karhof, for whom the trophy was named, emigrated from Holland in 1951. He started the first Bridge Club in the Illawarra under the umbrella of the Dutch Club in 1955. He was a director and teacher and steadily bridge grew in the Illawarra.

His name stands proudly at the top of our Life Member honour board. His wife Henny, though she has not played bridge in a long time, was a regular IBA player and I remember her very fondly.

I will quote from a letter, from his brother, found in our archives about the trophy that bears his name. Ben's brother lived in Holland but was a welcome visitor to the club.

The Karhof Trophy was donated by Ben's brother "on the occasion of the inauguration of the new premises" as "a perpetual memento". And later in his letter came: "The bridge table has brought many people closer together. May it stay that way for a long time"

True sentiments indeed that span the centuries!

Jill MacRae

February 2022