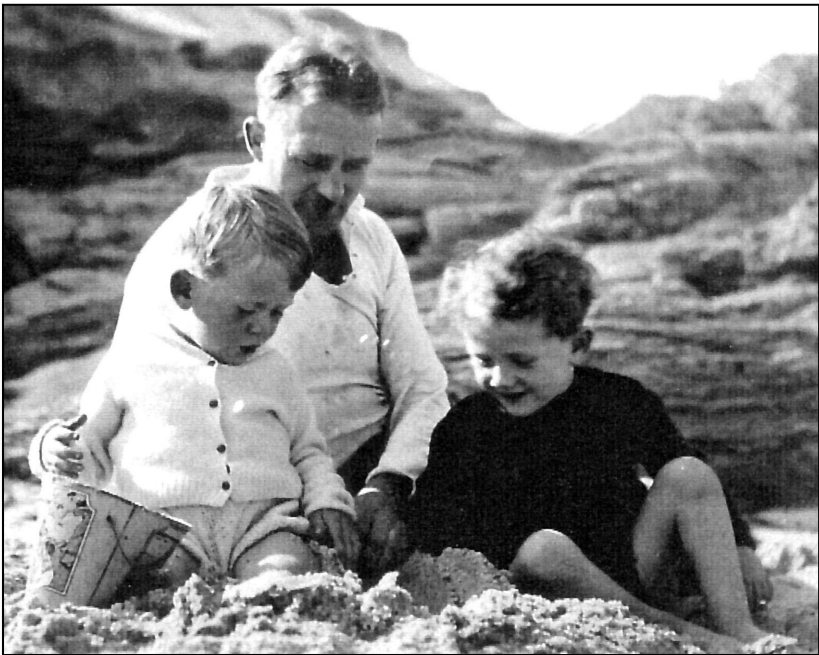


* Key player in the foundation of the Club in 1936; member of Otago team vs Crockfords 1935; delegate to inaugural meeting to form NZCBA, seconding Ashley Duncan’s motion.

Ina Arthur described Ron as a ‘likeable rogue’. In 1933 he donated a Challenge Cup for local competition. This was later presented to the winners of the home & away Otago vs Crockfords match. JM leaves us with a partial record of the first reported hand played at the Club at the end of 1936 in which he wrote that he learnt a lesson he would never forget against Ron Mathieson – presumably doubling Ron, though his partner should take the blame for failing to defeat the game.

(Punctuation was important in those days: the dash sign was used to set off a compound appositive, as with the cards to their suit; commas separated card designations & all abbrevs. used periods (IN.T. for 1 No Trump). Grammarians will notice, however, that the bidding designations other than IN.T. were regarded as entities and so not hyphenated. What a relief! Reports did not to use abbrevs., therefore I will present the report in the style of the times).

Dealer: West	♠ - 7,6	S.	W.	N.	E.
Vulnerability: E.-W.	♥ - 3	-	1♥	2♦	2♠
	♦ - A,J,10,9,7,5,3	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
	♣ - 10,5,4	Double	All Pass	
	Unknown				
♠ - 8,5,4					♠ - A,Q,9,2
♥ - A,K,J,4,2					♥ - Q,8,5
♦ - 8,6					♦ - Q,2
♣ - A,Q,8					♣ - J,6,3,2
Ron Mathieson					John Fulton
	♠ - K,J,10,3				
	♥ - 10,9,7,6				
	♦ - K,4				
	♣ - K,9,7				
	John McIndoe				



Ron Mathieson with sons, Roger & Ross, at the beach in the 1940s

There were no negative doubles in those days so John Fulton called two spades over North’s cheeky overcall (a weak jump overcall of three diamonds these days would be preferred). Ron rebid his hearts and his partner went on to game. John McIndoe, sitting South holding good cards over the spade bidder, tried his luck with a double. North led Ace of diamonds but failed to find the killing spade switch, continuing with another diamond in case partner’s four of diamonds was a singleton. John won the King of diamonds and got off lead with a heart. Ron drew

three rounds of trumps finishing in dummy & took the club finesse. When this won, he drew the last trump, cashed his Ace of Clubs, said “Tut, tut!” to John McIndoe, and played his third club. John was end-played and had to lead into dummy’s spade tenace, declarer’s second spade loser going away on the established club.

Ron was a very competent and astute exponent of the game. He appeared to be clumsy in arranging and handling his cards, frequently dropping them on the floor but the clumsiness vanished as he played his cards. He smoked a terrible hand-rolled cigarette, never used an ash-tray but just blew the ash off the end until it was burned to the butt and went out. He played a lot of tournaments in the late 60s/ early 70s in the N. Island often partnering Paul Hobbs (Hamilton) or Paul Warren (New Plymouth). In the 1972 masterpoint list he was ranked 32nd in New Zealand and a National Master. He went on to achieve the rank of Life Master before his death in 1975.