

Trivia Bee judges (left to right): Joe Barwick, Pine Knoll Shores former mayor Joan Lamson and Walter Phillips

The town of Pine Knoll Shores and the Country Club of the Crystal Coast each had a team competing this year. Pine Knoll Shores residents John Clarke and Jerry and Janie Price were on the Country Club of the Crystal Coast team (CCCC—Plan Bee), and Debbie and Wyatt Laughinghouse from Morehead City and Paul Payne from Pine Knoll Shores were on the town's team (Tree City Beelievers).

The 30 teams were divided into six rounds of five teams each. The team in each round with the most correct answers (sometimes involving several tie-breaker questions) moved on to the championship round. "We had 21 tie-breaker questions available in case of a tie between teams and we used every one of them," said Ann Simpkins, one of the organizers of the event.

The six first-round champions were Ain't Nobody's Bees Ness, sponsored by Mac Willis Insurance Agency; Son of a Bee Sting, sponsored by Jim Segrave; City Bees, sponsored by the town of Morehead City; Shermanators, sponsored by Frank and Katie Sherman; Bee Seeing You, sponsored by Beaufort Vision; and Country Club of the Crystal Coast—Plan Bee, sponsored by Monika and Bill Bottlinger, Elaine and Tom Tempel and Betty and Richard Watson.

All eyes were on the stage as the teams made their way to compete for the trophy in the championship round. Questions were asked by Master of Ceremonies Ben Ball, local radio personality, and time ticked away as teams furiously wrote their answers. The championship round consisted of single-answer elimination questions from each category: sports, the arts, music, history and science. After thirteen questions, the Country Club of the Crystal Coast team finally won overall to take home the Bee. The winning question: "A change in the Chinese government's one child rule will allow couples to have two children if either parent is what?" The answer: "an only child."

"As the time for the Trivia Bee neared, I kept saying I didn't want our team to be the first one eliminated," said Janie Price, one of the team members. "The competition was spirited and fast moving and emcee Ben Ball kept it light and fun. We were so pleased to be able to support the important work of the Boys and Girls Club," said Price. John Clarke who also was on the team said, "Never having participated in a Trivia Bee, I really had no expectations on how we would perform until we actually got on stage at the event. While we were made aware of the categories and a few of last year's questions, there is little you can do to prepare

except use your own knowledge and rely on your team's knowledge to guide the answers," said Clarke. "Having to write everything down sure made it competitive and the short amount of time to answer forced you not to think too much, which was a good thing."

"This event could not have been as successful as it was without the support of our King Bee sponsor CenturyLink; Queen Bee sponsor First Bank; Bumble Bee sponsors CCPRO and Fat Fellas; and Honey Bee sponsors ACS Computers, Attorney Debra Whaley and Wells Fargo," said Simpkins. "The event raised \$9,000 for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Coastal Carolina, and we especially thank all those who participated on a team, sponsored a team or just came for a night of fun trivia," said Simpkins.

The Bee trophy will be on display at the country club for a year. When you see the sponsors and participants, be sure to thank and congratulate them. They made Pine Knoll Shores proud and contributed to a fine organization.

Photo by Janie Price



Pine Knoll Shores residents Barbara and Jim Fix won the 50/50 raffle at the Trivia Bee because they chose the CCCC—Plan Bee team as a potential winner—before the competition even began.



