

A banner for the Hamilton Contract Bridge Club. It features a background image of a building with a green roof and a small cupola, surrounded by trees and a parking lot. A large blue cone graphic is overlaid on the left side of the banner. The text is written in various colors and fonts over the image.

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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www.hamilton.bridge-club.org

From the President

February 2018

Welcome back to a new year of bridge.

Some of our members have already had success. Barry Jones and Jenny Millington won the teams' event in Thames; Gary Foidl and Yuzhong Chen were winners of the Tauranga Provincial Teams. Congratulations on a great start to the year.

Our new secretary, Donna Prentice has been appointed. She started working the third week in January. As she is a club member, many of you may already know her. I know you will all make her feel welcome.

This is the only newsletter before our first big tournament (Hamilton Restricted) on Sunday April 15th. I would encourage you to find a partner and enter. Last year we had 70 club members play in this tournament. As two Open players cannot play together, there are many Open players looking for a Junior or Intermediate partner. If you need a partner please let Ella, Mereana or Nigel know and we will find one for you.

A reminder for the new year to all our members - although Bridge is a competitive game, please be courteous and polite at all times.

Finally, lessons start on March 6th so, if you know anyone who wants to learn this wonderful game, please bring them along.

Happy bridging 2018!

Nigel Gresson

Club Captains Chatter

Happy New Year to you all

As you fill up your play dates for 2018, can you spare a thought to adding 1 or 2 new partners into your calendar?

If you could add one less experienced and one more experienced person to your partnerships this year, you will find that you and our Club will be successful in growing the Game, providing support to fellow members and also increasing your own levels of play. Widening your partnerships helps deepen your Bridge knowledge and filters back to strengthening members' relationships and our Club's environment

Now let's talk defence

For declarer to succeed, there are 3 basic strategies to adopt other than winning trumps...

Ruffing losers in dummy

Establishing a long suit

Relying on finesses, endplays and defensive errors

It is our job as defenders to identify their strategy and seek to counter it

Pay careful attention during the auction because, especially if you end up defending, the very progress of the bidding may tip you off as to the likely shape of dummy and therefore to declarer's probable plan

- If dummy contains shortages which declarer may wish to take advantage of for making ruffs, lead trumps to cut down dummy's ruffing potential
- Indeed whenever declarer hesitates before pulling trumps, your thoughts should be to lead them

- If dummy contains a long establishable suit, attack the other non-trump suits aggressively, so that declarer will not have time to throw his losers away on dummy's winning tricks
- If dummy is relatively balanced, defend as safely as possible so you neither open up new suits nor provide declarer with free finesse

[From Paul Mendelsons' book - Bridge Winning Ways to Play Your Cards]

And just before I go - to help you put a plan in place when you arrive at a new table, announce what system you play - ACOL, weak NT etc. - then ask what the opponents play

This way you can effectively understand the communication of your opponents

See you at the tables

Mereana Gullen

Club Captain

New Zealand Representatives

Jenny Millington and Barry Jones have been selected as members of the 6-person team to represent New Zealand in the 5th Commonwealth Bridge Championships this year. The competition takes place on the Gold Coast from 14-18 February, just before the start of the annual Gold Coast Congress and is a lead up to the Commonwealth Games which are also held on the Gold Coast.

The club wishes Jenny and Barry well in the tournament. 25 teams representing 15 Commonwealth countries are competing and the three winning countries will be presented with Gold, Silver and Bronze medallions.

Members' News

New Club Secretary

Yvonne retired from the club after ten years of service. We now have a new secretary - Donna Prentice - who will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Friday morning (before the bridge session) and early afternoon. There is a new email address for you to use to contact Donna: secretary@hamiltonbridge.co.nz



Donna joined the Club after completing the 2016 bridge lessons and since then has played regularly on Thursday night and Friday mornings, so many of you will know her already. Please make Donna welcome in her new role and understand that while she will not know all the answers immediately, she will quickly learn how to solve any queries or problems you have.

Table Money Increase

Table money is now \$4 a night. The increase is needed due to the increasing amount of maintenance required on the club's ageing building (60 years young!), particularly the roof and the Richmond room carpet. This year we aim to paint the roof to extend its life a few years until a full replacement can be afforded. The committee hope to offset some of the cost with a grant, but the first requirement of a grant application is to show that the applicant is helping themselves. The table money increase is a way we can do this.

Other improvements to the building planned for the medium term include replacing the carpet in the playing rooms, painting the men's and ladies toilets and upgrading or replacing the heating system in the O'Neill room.

Monday Night Start Time 2018

Monday night players PLEASE DON'T FORGET that for all of 2018 bridge on Monday night will start at 7pm.

Grade Changes

Congratulations to these members who had excellent results last year and have moved up to a higher NZ Bridge tournament grade this year:

Open - Cathy Nolen, Mereana Cullen, Nigel Gresson, Shirley Power

Intermediate - Graeme Hope, Melinda Wang, Wendy Mortimer

Being Kind to the Opposition

Hamilton is an open club so tournaments apart it's possible to have vastly different abilities and experience playing at the same table.

With that in mind we want to promote an enjoyable atmosphere in our club:

- ☺ Greet others in a friendly manner
- ☺ Be a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table
- ☺ Make bridge enjoyable for all
- ☺ Enjoy the company as well as the game
- ☺ Avoid criticism or actions that might cause annoyance or embarrassment
- ☺ A little praise when due goes a long way
- ☺ Remember - not all are as competitive as you.....



Beginners Lessons

We will begin beginners' lesson sessions this year on Tuesday evening 6 March and Friday morning 9 March. These are a really good way to learn to play bridge, or to refresh your knowledge after a few years away from the game. Please let any of your friends or family who you think may be interested know about the lessons. If possible, learning with a friend or partner is always a good idea. Further information and a flier is available from Barry Jones, the club rooms or the [Club's web site page on lessons](#). To express interest in the lessons email lessons@hamiltonbridge.co.nz

7pm - 9pm
Tuesday Evenings
Begins: 6th March 2018

...OR

10am - 12
Friday Mornings
Begins: 9th March 2018



Hamilton Bridge Club

20 Richmond Street | Hamilton
www.hamilton.bridge-club.org

Phone: **Barry Jones**
027 444 7127

Mark Thomson
07 838 2399 (bus hours)

or Lindsay Reid
07 843 4091

Email: lessons@hamiltonbridge.co.nz

Sevens Parking

We had a very successful fundraising effort selling car parking for the sevens. A very big thank you to those members who gave up part of their weekend to help: Nigel, Margaret, Sam, Catherine, Jol, Kevin, Roger, Kay and Ken Duffield. We also sell car parking for Chiefs games so if you are able to help please let Nigel know and he can add you to his helpers list.

TWITs for 2018

The Waikato Inter-Club Teams competition will once again take place in our clubrooms on the 4th Friday of each month, starting Friday 23 March and ending on August 24. Now is the time to gather a team together to take part in this very enjoyable and social competition. There will be three grades - Oscars, Indies and Juniors - for Open, Intermediate and Junior players. Play will start promptly at 7pm, with lavish suppers and a glass of wine in the break between sessions, and all will finish by 10pm. The cost this year is only \$5 a head each night. Mike Neels is the organiser, phone him on 021 179 7686 if you need more information.

Hamilton Restricted Pairs

Our first tournament of the year takes place on Sunday 15 April.

The restricted tournament format encourages Intermediate and Junior members to play with an Open player. There are also prizes for other combinations such as Intermediate/Intermediate, Intermediate/Junior and Junior/Junior if there are enough of these pairs entered.

On the three Wednesday nights before the tournament, starting 28 March, there is a Restricted Pairs event scheduled. This is designed to give all the restricted partnerships time to practise playing together in the lead up to the tournament.

The club fully caters this tournament so we will be calling on members to help in any way they can with running the tournament on the day, including helping to set up, bringing morning / afternoon tea or helping in the kitchen.

The tournament is again sponsored by **Urge**, Jeffrey Chang's Coffee and Tea Boutique.



Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Restricted Pairs	Sunday 15 April
Hamilton Ladies Intermediate Pairs	Tuesday 1 May
Hamilton Ladies Open Pairs	Tuesday 1 May

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior/Novice Tournaments:

Waikato Bays Novice Pairs	Matamata	Sunday 11 March
Cambridge Junior Pairs	Cambridge	Saturday 7 April
Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 5 May

Intermediate Tournaments:

Te Puke Intermediate Pairs	Te Puke	Saturday 24 February
Taupo Intermediate Pairs	Taupo	Saturday 10 March

Open Tournaments:

Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1	Cambridge	Sunday 11 February
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 3 March
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	Rotorua	Saturday 17 March
Waikato Area Pairs 2	Te Awamutu	Sunday 18 March
Waihi All Grades Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 24 March
Tauranga All Grades 5A Pairs	Tauranga	Saturday 7 April
Waikato Bays Rubber Ducky Day	Putaruru	Sunday 8 April
Waikato Area Pairs 3	Waikato	Sunday 29 April
Taupo Open 5A Pairs (2 days)	Taupo	Saturday 5 May

WAIKATO/BAYS COMPETITIONS

An ideal way to improve your bridge is to play in one of the competitions that Waikato/Bays run. When you play in these tournaments you get to meet bridge players from all across our region, have plenty of practice at bridge bidding and play, and most importantly have fun while doing so.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Junior League

This competition runs for 6 rounds with the final top 6 place getters winning cash prizes. The first round takes place at Cambridge bridge club on Saturday 7 April.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Intermediate League

Starting on Saturday 10 March at Taupo bridge club, this competition runs for 9 rounds after which the top 10 place getters win cash prizes. Congratulations to our members who finished in the top 10 for 2017 - Tracey Hoff, Nigel Gresson and Karen Thompson.

Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs)

This competition runs for 6 rounds. Prizes will be awarded to the best pair at each heat and overall and to the top non-Open pair.

The first heat of the WAPs was at Cambridge bridge club on Sunday 11 February, with the second taking place at Te Awamutu on Sunday 18 March. Pre-entry is required for the Te Awamutu heat only. For all other heats, just turn up on the day between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner, \$10 entry fee, and your lunch, for an interesting day's play.

Visit <http://www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org/wapdates> for the complete list of 2018 dates and more details.

Tournament Success by our Club Members



2017

Thames Christmas Party	12 November	Thames
2 nd	Liz & Blair Fisher	
3 rd	Jenny Millington & Karen Harris	
Te Awamutu Christmas Party	18 November	Te Awamutu
1 st	Richard Fletcher & Gwyn Lobb	
Waikato Christmas Party	25 November	Waikato
1 st	Liz & Blair Fisher	
2 nd	Jenny Millington & Barry Jones	
3 rd	Karen Harris & Ian Clayton	
Rotorua Christmas Party	2 December	Rotorua
1 st	Karen Harris & Ian Clayton	
2 nd	Blair Fisher & Jo Simpson	
Huntly Christmas Party	10 December	Huntly
3 rd	Jenny Millington & Grant Jarvis	

2018

Thames Summer Festival	12-14 January	Thames
John Eldridge Open Teams		
1 st	Jenny Millington, Barry Jones & teammates	
3 rd =	Karen Harris & teammates	
3 rd =	Yuzhong Chen & teammates	
Barclay Swiss Pairs		
2 nd	Yuzhong Chen & William Liu	

Waikato Bays Provincial Pairs

4th Jenny Millington & Barry Jones

Congress Teams Qualifying

3rd Gary Foidl, Yuzhong Chen & teammates

Congress Provincial Teams Final

1st Gary Foidl, Yuzhong Chen & teammates



Barry Jones and Jenny
Millington - John Eldridge
Trophy winners at Thames
Summer Festival



Provincial
Teams
Winners: Gary
Foidl, Jeffrey
Luh, Yuzhong
Chen and Hank
Ping



2017

Tuesday Evening Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Eddie Tan & Mark Hodges
- 2 Tracey Hoff & Jim Lynn

Handicap

- 1 Norman Thomson & Ian Gilbert
- 2 Jacqui Mackenzie & Lesley Kuggeleijn

Jack Vase Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Mereana Cullen & Brett Glass
- 2 Liz Fisher & Barry Jones

Handicap

- 1 Mereana Cullen & Brett Glass
- 2 Liz Fisher & Barry Jones

Thursday Restricted Teams

- 1 Barry Jones, Richard Wagstaff, Catherine Glyde, Jol Glyde
- 2 Alan Parkes, Mary Fear, Angela Lovell, Vaughan Samuelson, Terry Wells

Melbourne Cup Day

Scratch

- 1 Phil Thompson & Jo Howell
- 2 Judy Coulshed & Bob Treloar

Handicap

- 1 Judy Coulshed & Bob Treloar
- 2 Phil Thompson & Jo Howell

Monday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Cathy Nolen & Karen Thomson
- 2 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Cathy Nolen & Karen Thomson
- 2 Pam Burns & Joan Egger

Tuesday Afternoon Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Val West & Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 June Rogers & Jo Howell
- 2 Heather Crosbie & Nolene Vail

Tuesday Evening Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Marian Kingham & Helen Green
- 2 Megan Jolly & Graeme Hope

Handicap

- 1 Marian Kingham & Helen Green
- 2 Ann-Maree Byrne & Angus MacDonald

Ethel Johnson Teams

- 1 Lucie Armstrong, Rodney Harris, Liz Fisher, Karen Harris
- 2 Ella Gray, Yuzhong Chen, Gary Foidl, Mark Thomson

Thursday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Roger Gunning & Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Handicap

- 1 Angela Lovell & Vaughan Samuelson
- 2 Roger Gunning & Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Friday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Liz Fisher & Blair Fisher
- 2 Terry Wells & Phil Thompson

Handicap

- 1 Terry Wells & Phil Thompson
- 2 Liz Fisher & Blair Fisher



**"IT IS A READING GROUP, LORETTA ... WE SIT
AROUND TRYING TO READ EACH OTHER'S HANDS."**

Last Year at our club

Melbourne Cup Day - Tuesday 7 November 2017

Twenty-one pairs of bridge players gathered in the club rooms on the first Tuesday in November to watch the Melbourne Cup (shown for the first time on the new projector), partake in a sweepstake, and enjoy a social afternoon of bridge. Phil Thompson & Jo Howell were first past the post with Judy Coulshed & Bob Treloar a head behind.

New Zealand Wide Pairs - Friday 3 November 2017

Once a year all bridge players in New Zealand can take part in the Babich NZ wide pairs, playing the same hands as everyone else. This year for the very first time more than 1000 pairs competed, at 59 clubs. The hands are interesting, challenging and enjoyable and all players receive a booklet which analyses the bidding and the play. Barry Jones and Jenny Millington came top in the session held at our club and a creditable 16th overall, but the best achievement from our membership this year was 6th in NZ to Brett Glass and Gary Foidl who competed at Huntly. Well done!

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 26 November 2017

60 members turned up on a warm Sunday afternoon to hear how the club went in 2017, what is planned for the year to come and to applaud those who won the trophies competed for during the year. The AGM was followed by social bridge and a Christmas dinner. Ian and Cynthia Clayton scored highest in the scratch bridge, with Brenda and Deane Hogg winning the handicap competition. Jane Sandelin and the kitchen team produced a delicious dinner and the room was transformed from a bridge playing room and back again in record time by many helpers. Warm thanks to all those who helped the club throughout the year in so many different ways.

From Lindsay's File

SMART END PLAY.

North

♠ A Q J 3

♥ A 10 6 3 2

♦ 7 6 4

♣ A

West

♠ K 9

♥ K 7

♦ 5

♣ K Q J 10 9 6 3 2

East

♠ 7 6 4

♥ Q 9 8

♦ 9 8 3 2

♣ 8 7 5

South

♠ 10 8 5 2

♥ J 5 4

♦ A K Q J 10

♣ 4

How can South make 6 Spades with K clubs lead from West?

Experienced players are well aware of the fact that an even distribution of four trumps each between declarer and dummy is an ideal one in play. Frequently this produces an extra trick than can be achieved with a five-three trump distribution. In this deal South ended up in an optimistic slam. The required play illustrates the advantage of an even trump distribution between declarer and dummy and also demonstrates an effective end play at the same time.

The answer will be in the next newsletter (May 2018) or if you don't want to wait that long it will be on the Results noticeboard at the bridge club soon!

ANSWER TO LAST NEWSLETTER'S POSER

Double Simple Coup

North

♠ 7 2

♥ Q J 6

♦ Q 8 6 2

♣ Q 10 5 3

West

♠ 8

♥ 4 3

♦ J 10 9 4 3

♣ K J 7 6 4

East

♠ J 6 5 3

♥ 10 9 8 2

♦ K 7

♣ 9 8 2

South

♠ A K Q 10 9 4

♥ A K 7 5

♦ A 5

♣ A

How can South make 6 Spades with J diamonds lead from West?

When West led the diamond Jack, North covered and East's King forced the Ace. Provided the trumps broke there was nothing to worry about since South had only one outside loser - the 5 of diamonds. But when South cashed the Ace and King of spades, West showed out on the second round to disclose that East held the Jack covered.

Declarer set about picking up this control card. The first step was to cash the Ace of clubs, then cross to dummy with the Jack of hearts and trump a club with the four of spades. The Queen of hearts served as an entry to table for another ruff with the nine of spades. South's trump holding was now reduced to the same length as East's.

The Ace of hearts followed. When West failed to follow, declarer knew the plan had succeeded for East was placed with the remaining heart.

At the eleventh trick declarer led the losing diamond 5. West won and now led the King of clubs. East was trapped, holding the Jack and six of spades while South sat over them with the Queen and ten. Regardless of which card East chose to play, South could overtrump and take the last two tricks.