



From the President

February 2019

Welcome back to a new year of bridge ...

Your committee has two new members this year, Steve Hill and Bruce Cresswell, who will be bringing us new ideas for discussion. Many thanks to the two 'retirees' from the committee, Mark Thomson and Michelle Stevens, for their contributions to the club - Mark having served seven years as a committee member, including three as our Vice President and President, and Michelle for her organisation of the Soup n Bun afternoons. Mark has agreed to continue introducing new bridge players to the game and Michelle will continue stirring the soup.

Our secretary, Donna Prentice, has been through her first year with us - to quote, 'she has found the year challenging and interesting' and she enjoys connecting with and assisting members.

Once again, the car parking scheme has started with a very financially rewarding weekend with the Rugby 7's. Many thanks to Bruce Cresswell, Margaret Boyd and Richard Wagstaff for organising the days and to the many members who assisted them on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks must also go to Nigel Gresson who has been the organiser of this scheme for the last 12 years, raising 1,000's of dollars for the club's coffers.

Our lessons will be starting on March 15th and 19th - if you know anyone who is interested in learning this wonderful game, please encourage them to join us - and talk to friends and neighbours about attending the lessons or playing at the club, including players of bridge who you know are enjoying social bridge at home.

Our first tournament the club organises is always the *Restricted* to be held this year on Sunday April 14th. This is a great event to play in and I encourage you to find a partner and enter. Last year we had a record number of 76 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 of any grade, please let myself or Mereana know and we will organise one for you.

You will have noticed small additions around the clubrooms - the recycling bins for paper and recyclable food containers that have been placed in the playing room and the kitchen - please make use of these bins as much as possible, including for the milk containers. Also added is the identification of all 2018 winners of cups, plates and trays in the display cupboard - if you have a cup at home and would like it added to the display, just bring it back to Donna and she will add your label.

The committee appreciates new ideas and suggestions on improved ways of doing old practices - if you have constructive ideas, either talk to me or a committee member or send the Secretary an email. Remember, just as it takes a village to raise a child, a club is prosperous if all members contribute.

Lastly, a reminder for the new year to all our members - although Bridge is a competitive game, please make it an enjoyable game for everyone - greet the players coming to your table, be courteous with your enquiries, revealing with your explanations and polite at all times.

Happy bridging in 2019

Ella Gray

Club Captain's Chatter

2019 - Te tau hei whakapai ake i to kemu Bridge ... *the year to improve your Bridge game*

Have you a goal or a dream this year about your approach to Bridge? - or could it be that you are going to do what you did last year and play the same old bat times on the same old bat channels.

Why not splash out a bit?

Could you check out how many rating points you gained last year and seek to improve on that number in 2019?

Can you add 4 more tournaments to your diary - is 1 more tourney per quarter a big ask?

Perhaps, add a couple of new conventions to your armoury and plan for personal development

Ask an Open player to partner up - now there is a challenge - are you thinking, now who could tolerate my ambitions!

Whatever your thoughts are - Bridge is here to stimulate and provide entertainment for your soul - why not let the game take you to a giddy height and aim for the ride of your life this year?

Three of my goals this year are to work closely with the junior players of the Club, look to sit the Directors exam and get even more Bridge players listening to the Bridge Zone show.

I encourage all juniors to make contact with me and perhaps together we can make a plan for 2019 that can benefit not only you but the Club as well - let's aim for Intermediate level - or as close as.

Anyone that has a keen interest in learning the rules, perhaps we can start a study group - the club needs to keep growing the base for more Directors - Dallas provides the support here.

And the Bridge Zone - 30 minutes is all we ask from you without even breaking a sweat, to listen to the show - supported by NZ Bridge and Hamilton Club - click onto Barry, Bruce and I taking Bridge to the airwaves, it's an easy and often comical listen - your ears will have a ball! Every week we promote a new book, providing sustenance to your thirst for knowledge on things Bridge, National Tournament Director, Julie Atkinson joins the crew as our Resident Ruler, laying down the law as per the Bridge Bible and we introduce the NZ Hikoi - getting the gossip from other Clubs, and what's happening in their neck of the woods in Aotearoa. At the very least, your purpose is to attack this year with zest and start your own personal movement - don't just eat 1 prune - have the whole packet.

See you at the tables... *Mereana*

Mereana Cullen

Club Captain

Beginners Lessons

Lessons for beginners will start this year on Friday morning 15 March and Tuesday evening 19 March. Please encourage your friends and family to come and learn our great game. Any member who introduces a new player to the lessons (with that new player continuing after the first week of mini bridge) will receive table vouchers for one event.

Further information on the lessons are available from the Secretary or the [Club's web site page on lessons](#). Anyone wishing to express interest in taking part in the lessons can email lessons@hamiltonbridge.co.nz

Bridge	Lessons
Start Friday 15 th March 10am - 12noon	or Start Tuesday 19 th March 7pm - 9pm

Meet Our Members - Billie Phillips

(The first of a series of stories on members of our club - thanks to Phil Thompson for this interview):



One of the club's oldest members is Billie Phillips, who turned 95 years old in January this year.

Billie trained as a nurse at Dunedin hospital. She had known her husband John as a young child, they met again, and she married John many years later. Billie played the cello, and John was a violinist, a foundation member of the National Orchestra, which has subsequently become the NZSO - the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. In the early years, based out of Christchurch, they travelled together by train and bus

to the various orchestra venues as air travel was not an option in those days. However, the traveling became too difficult with a young family, so John took up teaching and then joined the Country Library Service, and Billie and John moved to Hamilton in the early 1960s.

Billie worked at the Waikato Hospital, and was instrumental in setting up the Infection Control system in Waikato Hospital in the early 1980s prior to her retirement.

Billie told me her parents played bridge, her mother keenly and her father reluctantly! (I hope I didn't get this the wrong way around!). After she retired, she attended lessons at the Hamilton Club, in 1982, and two of her classmates were Malcolm and Allison Smith!

Billie has been a regular player since her lessons at Hamilton Bridge Club all those years ago. I asked her how she won her single A-point in 2011, but she honestly could not remember. But in every other year she has been a consistent performer. She is a lovely lady, and a pleasure to meet at the bridge table. I look forward to being as popular in 20 years' time!

Phil

Grade Changes

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

Open - Eunice Eccles, Phil Thompson

Intermediate - Beth Kingsley, Bruce Cresswell, Don McPherson, Janice Wilton, Leanne Curry, Maria Lelieveld, Megan Jolly, Richard Wagstaff

Phone number changes / additions



Beth Kingsley	021 170-4432 (wrong number in book!)
Jacquie Loney	027 371-2254
Jenna Gibbons	027 687-1142
June Scott	855-1010
Michelle Paterson	854-1525 / 021 259-9988
Peter Ramsey	849-0928 / 027 697-3199
Wendy Ramsey	849-0928 / 027 697-3195

TWITs for 2019

Do you enjoy playing teams bridge? Or have you never played teams before? Then the Waikato Inter-Club Teams (TWITs) is for you! This friendly fun competition is held in our clubrooms (mostly on the 4th Friday of each month) starting Friday 22 March and ending on August 23. Now is the time to gather a team together to take part in this very enjoyable and social competition. There are three grades - Oscars, Indies and Juniors - for Open, Intermediate and Junior players. Play will start promptly at 7pm, with cheese and a glass of wine in the break between the 2 sessions, and all will finish by 10pm. The cost is only \$5 table money each night. Look for the poster in the clubrooms or on the website for further information.

Advice for newcomers (courtesy of Zia Mahmood):

- * Have **fun** when playing bridge
- * **Forget** your bad results
- * **Focus** on the hand you're playing now

Event Car Parking

Hiring out the Hamilton Bridge Club Car Park for events at the FMG Stadium has been a very successful fund raiser for some time. This year at the NZ Sevens tournament we raised over \$3,000 for our Club.

To keep the parking income coming in the next few months there are seven evening Chiefs games where we will need volunteers:

Friday 15th February

Saturday 2nd March

Friday 15th March

Saturday 13th April

Friday 19th April

Saturday 11th May

Friday 24th May

Bruce Cresswell has the schedule up on the notice board and welcomes volunteers to register in order to share the workload around. Helpers are needed from 5.30 pm to around 7.30 pm. As a reward for your efforts, after your session there will be a coffee and a glass of wine at Bruce's place over the road along with the TV broadcast of the game if you want to linger awhile.

A huge thanks to Nigel Gresson and Margaret Boyd for their past and current enthusiasm in getting the show up and running and also to Richard Wagstaff for being everywhere. Also thanks to all those who contributed over the recent Sevens weekend.



Mike Kelly with Sevens fans

Bridge Wisdom

- ❖ It's not usually the first mistake that gives you a bad board, it's the second one. You often make the second mistake because you are still focusing on the first one. Don't let one mistake cause another!
- ❖ When in doubt, put the opponents on lead - why should you make the mistake?

From the Directors Table:

New Year's Resolutions

Welcome to a new Bridge year. Here are 3 resolutions we can all make to ensure the game is more enjoyable for players and directors.

- * Be **seated** on time (5 minutes before play starts) - late arrival makes setting up the movement very difficult for the Director and worst case could result in your being unable to play!
- * Play to the clock - slow play spoils the game for everyone
- * Turn off or mute your cellphone - if you cannot manage that then please leave it at home or in the car.

Hamilton Restricted Pairs

The first tournament of the year at our club is on Sunday 14 April. This is a restricted tournament which means that two Open players cannot play together while Intermediate and Junior members are encouraged to play with an Open player. There are also prizes for other combinations such as Intermediate/Intermediate, Intermediate/Junior, Junior/Junior and Novices if enough of these pairs are entered.

It is always a good idea to practise with your partner before a tournament so you can discuss and understand your partnership bidding, discards and general playing style. On the three Wednesday nights before the tournament, there is a *Restricted Pairs* event starting 27 March.

The club fully caters the Restricted tournament so if you are not playing and you can spare a little time to help with running the tournament on the day, morning / afternoon tea or helping in the kitchen during the day or with the room setup on the day before, let Ella know.

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Restricted Pairs	Sunday 14 April
Hamilton Ladies Intermediate Pairs	Tuesday 30 April
Hamilton Ladies Open Pairs	Tuesday 30 April

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior Tournaments:

Cambridge Junior Pairs	Cambridge	Saturday 30 March
Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 4 May

Intermediate Tournaments:

Te Puke Intermediate Pairs	Te Puke	Saturday 23 February
Taupo Intermediate Pairs	Taupo	Saturday 9 March

Open Tournaments:

Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	Rotorua	Saturday 16 March
Waihi All Grades Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 23 March
Waikato Area Pairs 2	Te Aroha	Sunday 31 March
Tauranga All Grades 5A Pairs	Tauranga	Saturday 6 April
Waikato Bays Rubber Ducky Day	Putaruru	Sunday 7 April
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 13 April
Waikato Area Pairs 3	Thames	Sunday 28 April
Taupo Open 5A Pairs (2 days)	Taupo	Saturday 4 May

Tournament Success by our Club Members



2018

Babich NZ Wide Pairs 1 st	2 November Brett Glass & Gary Foidl	58 Clubs
Zelda Morris Provincial Pairs 2 nd	3 November Liz Fisher & Blair Fisher	Napier
Te Awamutu Christmas Party 1 st 2 nd	17 November Yuzhong Chen & Jenna Gibbons Gary Foidl & Brett Glass	Te Awamutu
National 15A Teams 3 rd	17 November Blair Fisher & teammates	Wellington
InterProvincial Teams 2018 2 nd Women Teams	24-26 November Jane Stearns, Di Emms & teammates	Auckland
Rotorua Christmas Party 1 st 3 rd	1 December Yuzhong Chen & He Yuan Gwyn Lobb & Kathryn McFadyen	Rotorua
Huntly Christmas Party 1 st 2 nd 1 st Junior/Junior 1 st Intermed/Junior	9 December Jenny Millington & Grant Jarvis Yuzhong Chen & William Liu Leanne Curry & Megan Jolly Bruce Cresswell & Irene Stewart	Huntly

2019

Thames Summer Festival

11-13 January

Thames

Waik/Bays Walk In Pairs 1st

Gary Foidl & Ant Hopkins

John Eldridge Open Teams 3rd

Michael Curry, Ken Yule & teammates

Tauranga Congress

26-28 January

Tauranga

Congress Teams Plate 1st

Blair Fisher, Liz Fisher & teammates

Congress Teams Plate 3rd

Yuzhong Chen, Gary Foidl & teammates

Waikato Area Pairs 1

10 February

Cambridge

1st Ian Clayton & Cynthia Clayton

2nd Jenna Gibbons & Christine Gibbons

3rd Kevin Whyte & Clare Coles



2018

Tuesday Evening Pairs B

Scratch

1 Jim Lynn & Lesley Kuggeleijn

2 Jo Millington & Mike Everard

Handicap

1 Anita Bree & Gary Bree

2 Jo Millington & Mike Everard

Spring Swiss Pairs

1 Barry Jones & Michael Curry

2 Yuzhong Chen & Liz Fisher

Thursday Restricted Teams

1 Val West, Pauline Hills, Terry Wells, Bill West, Ranjith Cooray

2 Alison Orchard, Marilyn Webby, Laura Sommerville, Barry Jones, Mary Fear



2018 Continued...

Monday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Liz Fisher & Leanne Curry

Handicap

- 1 Liz Fisher & Leanne Curry
- 2 Michael Curry & Barry Jones

Tuesday Afternoon Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Lucie Armstrong
- 2 John Paterson & Shirley Fransham

Handicap

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Lucie Armstrong
- 2 John Paterson & Shirley Fransham

Tuesday Evening Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Stephen Baptist & Lynnette Flowers
- 2 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Handicap

- 1 Stephen Baptist & Lynnette Flowers
- 2 Anatole Ivanow & Donna Prentice

Spring Teams - Ethel Johnson Cup

- 1 Jenny Millington, Barry Jones, Lindsay Reid, Nigel Gresson, Ian Clayton
- 2 Karen Thomson, Brett Glass, Mark Thomson, Jeffrey Chang

Thursday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Michael Curry & Nigel Gresson
- 2 Roger Gunning & Wendy Mortimer

Handicap

- 1 Roger Gunning & Wendy Mortimer
- 2 Ian Ross & Ross Stewart

Friday Finale Pairs

Scratch

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

Handicap

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Ian Clayton
- 2 Mary Fear & Melva Johnstone

WAIKATO/BAYS COMPETITIONS

2019 - the year to improve your bridge! Playing in one of the Waikato/Bays competitions is an ideal way to do this. These tournaments will give you plenty of quality bridge and the chance to meet bridge players from across our region in a friendly atmosphere.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Junior League

This competition runs for 6 rounds with the final top place getters winning cash prizes. For 2019 the prize money has been quadrupled to a pool of \$1080 to be spread over the top ten placings! The first tournament is at Cambridge bridge club on Saturday 30 March. If you have ambitions to become an Intermediate, playing in the Junior tournaments is one of the fastest ways to achieve this.

Congratulations to our members who finished in the top 10 for 2018 - Megan Jolly, Janice Wilton, Don McPherson, Richard Wagstaff

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Intermediate League

Starting on Saturday 9 March at Taupo bridge club and ending in October, this competition has 8 rounds. The top 10 place getters at the end win cash prizes, with the prize money for 2019 doubled from last year.

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 10 February, with the next round at Te Aroha on Sunday 31 March.

Please note that the third WAP in April is at Thames not at Waikato as listed in the programme book (due to a late change of venue). No need to pre-enter, just turn up on the day between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner, \$10 for the entry fee, and your lunch.

Visit <http://www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org/wapdates> for the complete list of 2019 dates and more details.

Last Year at our Club

New Zealand Wide Pairs - Friday 2 November 2018

Each year all bridge players in New Zealand can take part in the Babich NZ wide pairs. The players all play the same hands and receive a booklet afterwards which analyses the bidding and the play.

At the end of 2018, 986 pairs from 58 clubs took part including 15 pairs from our club. Michael Curry and Jenna Gibbons came top at Hamilton while club members Gary Foidl and Brett Glass topped the whole country playing at Huntly club. Congratulations!

Melbourne Cup Afternoon - Tuesday 6 November 2018

And we're off! Although there were some suggestions that the Melbourne Cup would not be run on the day owing to bad weather earlier that day in Melbourne, eventually everything went off without a hitch. Twenty-one pairs gathered in the club rooms to play bridge, partake in a friendly sweepstake and then watch the race. Scratch winners on the day were Ian and Cynthia Clayton with Anne McCarthy and Margaret Boyd winning the handicap race.

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 25 November 2018

Our last official event of 2018 was the Annual General Meeting. About 40 members turned up to learn who will be running our club in 2019 and applaud those who won trophies in 2018, followed by social bridge and a Christmas dinner. Ella Gray was elected President for the next two years, with the club members present giving a very warm round of applause to our hard-working out-going president, Nigel Gresson. Nigel presented a bunch of flowers to Allison Smith in thanks for her assistance throughout the year. Laura Sommerville and Prue Butler were popular winners of the bridge. Jane Sandelin managed to both play and organise a delicious dinner. Thanks to all those who helped the club throughout the year.

From Lindsay's File

Vienna Coup

One of the nice plays in Bridge is the renowned Vienna Coup. It entails voluntarily playing your control card in a suit so an opponent now has the winning card in that suit. But this preliminary step is a Greek gift for it allows the application of a subsequent squeeze. Here is an example.

North

♠ Q 5 2
♥ K Q 9 4
♦ Q 8 5
♣ A 10 9

West

♠ J 10 9 6
♥ 8 3
♦ K 7 4
♣ 8 7 3 2

East

♠ 7 4
♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ J 10 9 3 2
♣ 6 5

South

♠ A K 8 3
♥ A J 10
♦ A 6
♣ K Q J 4

How can South make 7 No Trumps with J spades lead from West?

The answer will be in the next newsletter (February 2019) or if you don't want to wait that long it will be on the Results noticeboard at the bridge club soon!

ANSWER TO NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER'S POSER

Grand Slam Coup

How can South make 7 Hearts with J spades lead from West?

Against South in seven hearts, West led the Jack of spades won by the Queen in dummy.

Counting up the tricks, declarer had 14 winners - provided the heart suit broke. As this is one more trick than needed it was possible to take out a little insurance against a bad break.

If there are five hearts in West's hand it is just extremely bad luck. But if East has five hearts there is a chance the suit can be picked up, provided declarer goes about things in the right way.

With the object of reducing South's trumps to five cards also, the five of spades was led at the second trick and ruffed with the four of hearts. The Ace and King of trumps followed and disclosed the dire news when West failed to follow. Now South felt most satisfied with the precautionary play.

Next the Ace and King of diamonds were cashed, followed by the King of clubs and a cross to dummy at the eighth trick with the Ace of clubs. On the spade King, South threw the six of diamonds. The Ace of spades was led next. If East ruffs, South over-trumps as low as possible, draws the remaining hearts at once and comes home on top cards. But East threw a club and South discarded the Queen of diamonds.

East was left with three trumps and South with the remaining three sitting over them. A club from dummy at trick 11 permitted declarer to pick up the last three tricks to win the lot.

Accept my word, if declarer failed to trump the losing spade at the second trick the contract will never be made against good defence. All East must do then to beat the slam is to refuse to trump when dummy's winners are led out. Eventually declarer will have to lead hearts from hand and East will make the 10 of trumps.