

# Hamilton



## Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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## Newsletter - February 2023

### Club News

#### *Learners Lessons 2023 - on Tuesdays only*

This year's lessons are planned to start on Tuesday 28 February, with an afternoon session from 1 - 3 pm and an evening session from 7 - 9 pm. Do talk to family, friends, workmates and neighbours about coming and joining us to learn a challenging new skill.

Beginners should choose which session time suits them best, then try to stay at that time. The first two weeks playing mini-bridge are free, then \$50 for the remainder of the lessons.

Further information on the lessons is available from the Secretary or the [Club's web site page on lessons](#).

The lessons will be run by Cherie and Mereana.

Anyone wishing to express interest in taking part in the lessons is asked to email [lessons@hamiltonbridge.co.nz](mailto:lessons@hamiltonbridge.co.nz)



## **2023 Programme Books Available**

These are now available at the club for members to collect, either when you come in to play a session, or come into the office when it is open and collect your book from Julie. Books not collected will be posted out with your subscription invoice.

## **2023 Subs now due**

Invoices for member's 2023 subs will be handed out with the programme books. It is important for the financial health of our club that these are paid soon - the due date is 28 February 2023. There is no change to the subscription amount this year.

## **Table Money**

Unfortunately the New Year brings a cost increase for all of us players with Table Money increasing to \$5. The Club like everyone else has suffered with increased expenses and along with a reduction in the number of members playing we need to minimise our losses as much as possible. To help your Club the best thing you can do is for you to play regularly and to encourage your friends to also play. If you want to play but need a partner, read on!

## **Partner Required?**

Keen to play bridge but your partner can't make it? Or your regular partner has left Hamilton, given up bridge, is too busy at work?

Don't worry, the club has a solution for you! On Monday and Tuesday evenings you may turn up without a partner and the director will find a partner for you. Please however be at the clubrooms 15 minutes before the start time and tell the director that you need a partner.

For all other sessions we have a friendly partner steward for each session who will arrange a partner for you.

Their names and contact details are inside the front cover of your programme book. If possible, contact them a few days before the session you want to play so they have time to sort out a partner for you - problem solved!

Tuesday afternoon and Friday Richmond Room - contact **Judith Brooks**

Wednesday - **Barbara Daly** is the partner steward

Thursday - **Lois Jones** is the partner steward

Friday O'Neill Room - **Milwyn Rees** (Ph 856-1187) is the partner steward

## **Rugby Car Parking**

How can the club bring in extra income? One way is to sell car parking for rugby and other events held at the Waikato Stadium. Richard Wagstaff organised a group of 18 helpers over the Rugby Sevens weekend of 21 & 22



January to manage the car parking around our club building. In addition to the \$4000 prepaid car parking from the Sevens organisers for the weekend, the group raised a further \$1392 by clever configurations and the use of the grounds next door. Some of this

additional income is to be shared with Waikato Kindergarten and Plunket next door for the use of their car parking areas. Thanks very much to all the volunteer helpers (some shown in the photo above!) and particularly to Richard for supplying his caravan for shelter from the sun and a place to relax.

## **From the Director's Table**

**Visitors to our club.** It is important any visitors are introduced to the director before the session starts so table money can be collected from them and their name can be added to the scoring system if needed.

**Seating.** Please make sure you are seated at the table ready to play at least 5 minutes before the start time for your session. This means you have already got your drink from the kitchen! This allows the director to set up the movement for the session correctly - if this is wrong it usually means the whole scoring system needs to be restarted to correct it.

**Seating rights.** If you cannot easily move let the director know when you arrive, as the movement can require you to be seated at particular tables.

## **Grade Changes**

The latest grades have been published by NZ Bridge. These grades are valid for the whole of 2023. Congratulations to these members who have [changed grades](#):

### **Junior to Intermediate:**

Jan Hancox

Rachelle Meijer

Stephen Weir

Sue Collinge

### **Intermediate to Open:**

Kevin Birch

## **Pianola and X-Clubs**

Interested in how your bridge results compare with players from across NZ? You can do this! The results from all NZ bridge clubs that play the same boards at the same time are collected up in X-Clubs, re-scored and cross-added over all the clubs which use Compass - often within a few minutes of the last result to come in. The cross-adds appear on the X-Clubs website very shortly after all sessions are in. You can access these through the [X-Clubs Results](#) link on the club website.

If you'd like to learn more about X-Clubs there is lots of detail under the About tab.

Players of X-Club deals can also register to receive Pianola session report e-mails - for FREE! - see the button on the right-hand side of the X-Clubs Home page. This is the ultimate in results reporting. Your playing history builds up on-line and you can look back at every game you have played, even filtering by partner if you like. Here you can get more information about your playing game, including:

- Personal results history

- Your average score with different partners

- Your score as declarer, defender - even as dummy

If you wish, you can also opt into Pianola-Plus, the only part of the service for which you must pay. Read up on Pianola at [www.pianola.net](http://www.pianola.net).

### ***Calling all Juniors! Intermediates! & Novices!***

On Saturday 11 March, Hamilton is holding a tournament day especially for Novice, Junior and Intermediate players. This is a great chance for anyone who has never entered a tournament before to play in a friendly atmosphere. Talk to your regular partner about playing, or if they are not available ask at the club for anyone else who wants to play. Practising with your partner before a tournament is a good idea so you can discuss and understand your partnership bidding, discards and general playing style etc.

If you have less than 5 A+B points you can enter the Novice tournament which is only one session after lunch - the Junior and Intermediate pairs play two sessions starting at 10am. You can check how many A+B points you have at the NZ Bridge masterpoints page [Search Masterpoints](#) - just enter your name or bridge number.

### ***Restricted Pairs***

Sunday 2 April is the day the Club holds its annual restricted pairs tournament. In this tournament Open players cannot play together, so Intermediate and Junior members are encouraged to partner with an Open player. There are also prizes for other combinations such as Intermediate/Intermediate, Junior/Junior, Intermediate/Junior and Novices if enough of these pair combinations are entered (however this doesn't prevent any of these combinations playing together). On the three Wednesday nights before the restricted tournament, starting 15 March, there is a *Restricted Pairs* event scheduled for you to practice.

### ***Hamilton Ladies Day***

Tuesday 2 May is reserved for the annual Ladies Day - a fun Open and Intermediate 2 session tournament reserved for women only.

# Upcoming Events

## COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Novice Pairs	Saturday 11 March
Hamilton Junior Pairs	Saturday 11 March
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs	Saturday 11 March
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	Sunday 2 April
Hamilton Ladies Intermediate Pairs	Tuesday 2 May
Hamilton Ladies Open Pairs	Tuesday 2 May

## EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

### **Junior Tournaments:**

*Note: the Morrinsville Junior Restricted scheduled for Friday 17 February has been cancelled*

Cambridge Junior & Novice Pairs	Cambridge	Saturday 15 April
Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 29 April

### **Intermediate Tournaments:**

Taupo Intermediate Pairs	Taupo	Saturday 25 February
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### **Open Tournaments:**

Waihi All Grades Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 4 March
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	Rotorua	Saturday 18 March
Matamata Open 8B Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 25 March
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1	Morrinsville	Sunday 26 March
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 1 April
Tauranga Open 5A Teams	Tauranga	Saturday 15 April
Waikato Bays Rubber Ducky Day	Putaruru	Sunday 16 April
Waikato Area Pairs 2	Thames	Sunday 23 April
Taupo Open Pairs (2 days)	Taupo	Saturday 30 April

## **WAIKATO-BAYS COMPETITIONS 2023**

These aim to develop partnerships and a better grasp of the game. At time of publishing this newsletter, Waikato Bays has not confirmed whether the competition will be funded again in 2023, so check their website in coming weeks for more information.

### **Waikato/Bay of Plenty Junior League**

This is for 6 rounds with the overall top place-getters winning cash prizes. The first tournament is at Hamilton bridge club on Saturday 11 March. If your goal for 2023 is to be an Intermediate, playing in the Junior tournaments will give you a chance to get well on the way.

### **Waikato/Bay of Plenty Intermediate League**

Starting on Saturday 25 February at Taupo bridge club, followed by Hamilton on Saturday 11 March, this competition covers the eight intermediate tournaments held in Waikato and Bay of Plenty, with the last one in October.

### **Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs)**

This competition is definitely going ahead in 2023 and is aimed at open and intermediate players. The competition runs for 6 rounds with prizes awarded to the winning pair at each heat and to the top overall and top non-Open pair at the end of the competition.

The first heat for 2023 is on Sunday 26 March at Morrinsville. No pre-entry needed, just arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner, \$10 for the entry fee, and your lunch. The other WAP dates are listed under tournaments in your 2023 programme book.

Intermediate players are encouraged to attend the WAPs, along with our regular open players, to experience the friendly WAP sessions and have a chance to win A points. More information can be found at their webpage

[WAP dates 2023](#)

## Last year at our Club

### Melbourne Cup Day - Tuesday 1 November 2022

Sunny and hot in Hamilton but wet and thundery in Melbourne - it was a much better choice to join the crowd at the bridge club for this afternoon!

27 pairs of bridge players, many very smartly dressed, came along on Melbourne Cup Day for bridge, a sweepstake, a 'best hat' competition, a raffle of a horseshoe-shaped cake (beautifully made by Jane), a delicious afternoon tea and of course to watch the race. The hat awards went to Catherine Cameron ('Best'), Cherie Barton ('Natural') and Judith Brooks ('Wacky!'). Winners of the Bridge Cup were Helen & Tim Healy, with Chris Goulding & Richard Wagstaff winning the handicap result in this very enjoyable event. Thanks to all involved with the organisation of the afternoon.



*Catherine's Hat*



*Barry and Nigel having a good time!*



*Angus, Cherie and Roger*



*Judith, Laura and Raewyn*



## ***Annual General Meeting - Sunday 20 November 2022***

About 40 members turned up to vote for who will be running our club in 2023 and to thank those who helped run the club through some challenging times in 2022.

Special congratulations to our "Most Improved Junior" player, Debbie Weston and the "Most Promising New" player, Kevin Brown.

Mereana Cullen continues as President in 2023, with Richard Wagstaff stepping up as Vice-President. Welcome to Laura Sommerville, Michael Davies and Chris Goulding as new members of the committee.

The AGM was followed by bridge then a Christmas dinner. The bridge was won by Cynthia Clayton and Ian Clayton for North-South and Olive Davis and Gail deFrance for East-West. Handicap winners were Richard Hooper and Julie Hooper North-South and Jacqui McDougall & Oli Oliver East-West.

Jane Sandelin managed "a double" to both play and organise a special dinner to provide a fitting end to the official bridge year.

### ***The Bridge Zone***

Did you know our own Barry Jones and Mereana Cullen star in a weekly radio show on the subject of bridge? With the help of NZ Bridge, Barry and Mereana present an hour each week on Free FM ( 89.0MHz on your radio ). The show is live on Wednesday at 10:30am, but all podcasts are available [here](#). The show covers all sorts of bridge topics and is aimed at all those interested in playing bridge. They have a special email address for the show:

[bridgezoneshuffle@gmail.com](mailto:bridgezoneshuffle@gmail.com)

If you have any questions about bridge bidding or play, or any ideas for topics to be discussed in future, feel free to email them with your thoughts!





## ***Interprovincial 2022 Results***

Every year the 7 bridge regions of New Zealand play each other in a Teams event. The 2022 competition was played on RealBridge in late November with Auckland as hosts. Top 3 results for the Waikato Bays teams, with

Hamilton club members shown:

**Womens Team 3<sup>rd</sup> place:** (Jenna Gibbons, Cherie Barton, Karen Harris)

**Senior Team 2<sup>nd</sup> place:** (Ella Gray, Michael Neels)

Overall the Waikato/Bays team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> equal place, behind Wellington and Auckland/Northland.

## ***Baden-Wilson Results 2022***

The Baden Wilson trophy is for the top overall 'A' point earners in a calendar year based on points earned in New Zealand only.

The winners in both sections (female and male) for 2022 have now been announced and both winners are from our club! Congratulations to:

Top Woman - Liz Fisher, Hamilton

Top Man - Blair Fisher, Hamilton. Blair was also a winner in 2015.

This is probably the first time a husband and wife have won both awards in the same year - well done!

## ***NZ Bridge New Learners' Website***

For new players and those curious about the game, there is now a webpage - [Play Bridge NZ](#) - which is aimed at non-bridge players and to capture enquiries from those keen to know more about the game. A number of Tauranga Bridge Club members star in the "Why we love bridge" video on the front page. Eventually there will also be an online teaching portal.

## ***NZ Bridge Online Strategy - 2023 Trial Weekends***

The NZ Bridge Online Strategy Working Group have announced the weekends during 2023 which will form part of the online bridge trial. Clubs with tournaments on these weekends can elect to run their event in-person or online.

NZ Bridge's seven major regional events (North Island Teams, North Island Pairs, South Island Teams, South Island Pairs, National Teams, National Pairs and National Swiss Pairs) may also be held in-person or online.

All other club weekend tournaments, mini congresses etc. will be run in-person as currently scheduled. However, applications to transition to online will be considered in emergency situations (e.g. weather or health-related).

The trial online weekends for 2023 are:

February 18 & 19

March 18 & 19

April 15 & 16

May 20 & 21

June 10 & 11

July 8 & 9 - Hamilton Open 5A Teams is on July 8

August 12 & 13

September 16 & 17

October 14 & 15

November 11 & 12

To find out whether a tournament is online or face-to-face (in-person) during these weekends go to the NZ Bridge tournaments page: [Bridge Tournaments](#)

## ***Recent Tournament Successes by our Club Members***



**Thames Xmas Party**      13 November      Thames  
3<sup>rd</sup>      Jenna Gibbons & Christine Gibbons

**Te Awamutu Xmas Party**    19 November      Te Awamutu  
2<sup>nd</sup>      Blair Fisher & Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin  
3<sup>rd</sup>      Richard Fletcher & Gwyn Lobb

**Waikato Xmas Party**      26 November      Waikato  
1<sup>st</sup>      Richard Solomon & Carol Richardson  
2<sup>nd</sup>      Gary Foidl & Yuzhong Chen  
3<sup>rd</sup>      Karen Harris & Barry Jones

**Rotorua Xmas Party**      3 December      Rotorua  
1<sup>st</sup>      Blair Fisher & Jo Simpson  
2<sup>nd</sup>      Liz Fisher & Sam Simpson  
3<sup>rd</sup>      Jenna Gibbons & Christine Gibbons

**Taupo Xmas Tournament**    11 December      Taupo  
2<sup>nd</sup>      Yuzhong Chen & Karen Harris

**Thames Summer Festival**    6-8 January      Thames  
Barclay Open Swiss Pairs    2<sup>nd</sup>      Richard Solomon & Brett Glass

John Eldridge Open Teams    1<sup>st</sup>      Blair & Liz Fisher & teammates  
2<sup>nd</sup>      Karen Harris & teammates

<b>Tauranga Mini Congress</b>	29-31 January	Tauranga
Waikato Bays Provincial Pairs	1 <sup>st</sup>	Blair & Liz Fisher
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jenny Millington & Barry Jones
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gary Foidl & Yuzhong Chen
Restricted Open Pairs	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mereana Cullen & Kevin Birch
Congress Teams Qualifying	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jenny Millington, Barry Jones & teammates
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Blair & Liz Fisher & teammates
Congress Teams Final	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jenny Millington, Barry Jones & teammates
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Blair & Liz Fisher & teammates
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gary Foidl, Yuzhong Chen, Jenna Gibbons



Blair and Liz Fisher won the Waikato Bays Provincial Pairs at the Tauranga Mini Congress and were also members of the team which came second in the Congress Teams Final, along with Sam and Jo Simpson. Blair is bending his knees to fit comfortably into the photo!



In “No Trumps”, when one opponent is known to hold considerable length in a suit and the other opponent consequently will have few cards in that suit, it may be wise to adopt a holdup play (don’t take the first offered trick in the suit) after the first lead of that suit rather than win a trick cheaply.



**2022**

**Thursday Swiss Pairs**

- 1 Karen Thomson & Kim Thompson
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Trini Lin

**Friday Richmond Pairs B**

**Scratch**

- 1 Mary Ronke & Olive Davis
- 2 Barbara Daly & Lindsay Reid

**Handicap**

- 1 Raewyn Grylls-Thomas & Tracey Hoff
- 2 Mary Ronke & Olive Davis

**Friday O'Neill Pairs E**

**Scratch**

- 1 Chris Goulding & Michael Davies
- 2 Hugh Barton & Laura Sommerville

**Handicap**

- 1 Chris Goulding & Michael Davies
- 2 Tim Seavill & Peter Craig

**Monday Finale Pairs**

**Scratch**

- 1 Pam Burns & Olive Davis
- 2 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones

**Handicap**

- 1 Pam Burns & Olive Davis
- 2 Janice Wilton & Donna Prentice

**Tuesday Afternoon Finale Pairs**

**Scratch**

- 1 Lucie Armstrong & Barbara Daly
- 2 Helen Healy & Tim Healy

**Handicap**

- 1 Lucie Armstrong & Barbara Daly
- 2 Lois Jones & Donna Prentice

**Tuesday Evening Finale Pairs**

**Scratch**

- 1 Irene McCaskill & Mark Beavan
- 2 Lou Roughton & Jiwan Dhaliwal

**Handicap**

- 1 Irene McCaskill & Mark Beavan
- 2 Oli Oliver & Jacqui McDougall

## **Thursday Finale Pairs**

### **Scratch**

- 1 Nigel Gresson & Cherie Barton
- 2 Ian Ross & Phil Thompson

### **Handicap**

- 1 Nigel Gresson & Cherie Barton
- 2 Don Macpherson & Richard Wagstaff

## **Friday Richmond Finale Pairs**

### **Scratch**

- 1 Ian Clayton & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Lindsay Reid & Phil Thompson

### **Handicap**

- 1 Don Macpherson & Donna Prentice
- 2 Anne McCarthy & Jenny Seavill

## **Friday O'Neill Finale Pairs**

### **Scratch**

- 1 Marie Fenwick & Kevin Brown
- 2 Hugh Barton & Laura Sommerville

### **Handicap**

- 1 Tim Seavill & Peter Craig
- 2 Marie Fenwick & Kevin Brown

## ***Which Type of Bridge Player are you?***

Samantha Punch, a professor at Stirling University and a Scottish champion bridge player, started Bridge as a Mindsport for All (BAMSA) in 2013. BAMSA established a new academic discipline, the sociology of bridge. BAMSA has three key goals:

- transform the image of bridge,
- encourage more people of all ages to play,
- ensure the card game continues to thrive

Dr Punch's research has identified 4 types of bridge players:

- Socializers who play for fun and to meet people (probably the most common type)
- Competitors who want to do well against others
- Self-improvers who like to challenge themselves to do better
- Mind-gamers who want to work out how other people think

Of course, many of us fall into more than one category but one would be strongest. So, which type are you?

# From Lindsay's File

## Challenge 21

	<i>North</i>	
	♠ K 9 7	
	♥ A Q 8	
	♦ A Q 9 3	
	♣ J 8 3	
<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>
♠ 5 3 2		♠ A Q J 10
♥ J 10 2		♥ K 7 6 5 4 3
♦ J 10 8 6		♦ 7 5 2
♣ 7 5 4		♣
	<i>South</i>	
	♠ 8 6 4	
	♥ 9	
	♦ K 4	
	♣ A K Q 10 9 6 2	

**How can South make Six Clubs after West leads the Jack of Hearts?**

The answer will be published on the Club's "[the website puzzle corner](#)" soon after the newsletter is published.

**A thought to finish...**

Count both your losing and your winning tricks.

If the total does not come to 13, count your cards.

