

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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Covid-19 Special Newsletter - May 2020

From the President

In these unusual times I am still able to start this report on a positive note - the Committee is very pleased to announce that Laura Sommerville has been appointed as our new Club Captain, as well as continuing with the role of Welfare Officer in the short term. Laura has been a member of our club for many years (last century she reports). Laura's focus as Club Captain will centre around assisting our newer players as well as being the go-to person if any members have a problem they need help with. Laura has some ideas of what she would like to see happen around the club and will be discussing these with the Committee when circumstances enable a more normal routine. My thanks go to Mereana for her work as Club Captain over the last three years.

It is also very pleasing to hear of members who are organising activities to keep our Bridge minds active. One of these is Cynthia Clayton who is circulating quizzes which I hear have been quite challenging and some of which are included in this newsletter. Many thanks Cynthia.

As you will all be aware, the Club's income has basically been reduced to zero during this lockdown period, reducing the amount we will have available for major repairs and maintenance and capital expenditure items. To assist the club's finances, Richard Hooper has offered to continue his ground maintenance work at no cost to the club during winter. The Committee is grateful for his generous offer.

However, as Richard will be very busy outside the club during the spring growth, the Committee is organising a grounds team to attend to mowing the lawns, clearing the leaves, spraying the back carparking area and helping Margaret to keep the gardens neat and tidy.

If you are able to assist with any of these tasks, please contact Richard Wagstaff - rwagstaff@xtra.co.nz or 021 031 3887 - who will organise a roster system. I envisage we will need a team of at least six people, but of course, the more members involved, the less work for each. I will be volunteering for the lawn mowing brigade. Also, if you have any plants able to be transplanted easily, please let Margaret or myself know.

Many members are playing online and some are involved in hosting and directing online sessions. If you are still having problems and are interested in joining the online sessions, please contact Lois Jones, Cathy Nolen or myself - we will be pleased to help you.

Hopefully, it will not be too long before we can all meet again at the bridge tables.

Ella

"Situations Vacant" - Grounds-people

A team of at least 6 people is required. Duties will include -

- mowing lawns
- removing leaves
- spraying weeds
- general grounds tidy-up

Remuneration - \$0 and *lots of goodwill!*

Starting date - when lockdown returns to Level 2. Some equipment will be supplied. Please apply by email to our Head Groundsperson - Richard Wagstaff at rwagstaff@xtra.co.nz



Phone number changes / additions

Donggao Bi	09 827-6268
Gosha Hirsz	020 4117-6039
Helene Thygesen	027 570-5941
Mingmiao Wang	021 799-220
Olive Davis	855-3936, 027 438-7380
Valma Mackay	021 257-0718



From the Club Captain

Hello, I am Laura Sommerville your new Club Captain and Welfare Officer/Person. I first learned bridge last century at the Hamilton Bridge Club in O'Neill Street with Mrs Edith Head as tutor.

I later helped start the Cambridge Bridge Club. Then I had years away from bridge as I worked fulltime as a tutor in Nursing Education Waikato Polytech and found I could not get to sleep after evening bridge which did not work with early starts in clinical practice.

I returned to bridge in 2008 with lessons with Barry and Jenny.

I have become addicted to the game and am improving slowly. This proves that you can teach an old dog new tricks!

Speaking of dogs, my Schnauzer, Yogi continues to be a great friend and exercise companion during Lockdown.

I have been playing on BBO with friends, both casual and tournament games nearly every day.

Cynthia's quizzes and notes are really helpful, and I have them filed for future reference. Added to this, I have daily chats with family and friends and Family Zoom each Sunday.



As the Welfare contact person, I have sent cards to people I knew were unwell or bereaved and also phoned several who are alone during Lockdown. Please let me know about people I should contact.

I welcome suggestions for what you would like me to do in these roles.

My first thought has been for everyone to wear their name tag. This would help all members and foster friendships ...

Another thought is for new members to have a star or spot on their name tag to identify them, so they can be welcomed and supported as they venture into the "Big Room"

I look forward to seeing you soon at the real bridge table

Laura

Sad News

The first week of April was a very sad week for the Club with the passing of two of our members.

Prue Butler has been a member on and off since starting to play during the time when our current building was being constructed. She then took an extended break before coming back to surprise us all as an Intermediate graded player. Prue was on the committee for a period, helping a lot with the catering at the club. Outside the club this helping continued into the local community especially with refugee families. She was ever practical and is sadly missed by her family and a wide circle of friends. The Club extends our sympathy to Prue's family and friends.

Ken Duffield was a learner from a couple of years ago who played regularly on Fridays. Ken unfortunately passed away after a short illness. We extend our sympathy to Ken's family, friends and members of the Hamilton Club who played with and knew Ken.

The Covid-19 Chronicles

A special section recording what some of our members have been doing during the lockdown to fill in all the time released by not playing bridge. Many thanks to these members for agreeing to write these reports and for supplying their own lockdown selfies!



Report from Experience – Sue Collinge

A Touch on the "Touch and Go Side," Me Thinks

Well, who would have thought that our well planned, we thought, trip to Europe and Egypt would have us catching the coronavirus? Our flight via Shanghai was the first stage of worry. We thought that a change to travelling through Singapore was a more sensible option. What happened to listening to the voices in one's head? Normally such a reliable guide.

We left New Zealand in late February, full of eager anticipation. A few days exploring London, our favourite. An "Abercrombie & Kent" trip to Egypt. A week in Paris catching up with old friends. And finally, meeting up with two New Zealand

friends, Shona and Barry, in Amsterdam to participate on a river cruise {don't mention that word} exploring The Western Front. Europe in Spring sounded idyllic. London, as per usual was great. We even spent an early morning in the British



Museum with a guide and a few other hardy souls. We were there in order to get familiar with, some would say stolen, Egyptian treasures. We won't even mention The Rosetta Stone.

After a few days exploring we hopped on an Egyptian Air flight to Cairo to meet up with our fellow travellers. What an excellent trip this turned out to be. It started off well when we booked into the famous Mena House Hotel, right beside the pyramids. The trip carried on in this vein, and we eventually boarded The Sanctuary Sun 1V for our Nile Cruise. We then heard that another boat had been isolated because of the dreaded lurgy. Definitely not on our boat we were assured. Phew. We floated

down The Nile exploring all the usual sites. We disembarked and flew to Abu Simbel; everything was just fine.

After Abu Simbel, which was also amazing and definitely worth a visit, {if we are all ever able to travel overseas again} our flight took us back to Cairo. The excellent Four Seasons Hotel was our home for our last couple of days. By this time, we had purchased a box of surgical gloves. Fortunately, we had plenty of hand sanitizer and had been anal about our hand washing.

After our last days in Cairo we were to board another Egyptian Air flight to fly to Paris. We were spending a week there. A careful spot in the lounge was selected far enough away from any other passengers. Mind you they should have been worried about us. Halfway through a pre-lunch Gin and Tonic I started to feel a touch seedy. Probably psychosomatic, I thought, as Covid-19 had been on everyone's lips for a while. We boarded, and, unusually for me, I was off my food. This was most unfortunate as this was a large part of the cost! A couple of Panadol was a substitute. My legs got hot, a vivid imagination to be sure. On we went, not daring to think too hard about it.

We arrived in our boutique hotel in Paris. We could recommend it if you want something a bit different and handy to Gare du Nord. Whoops, we may not be travelling for a while. I lay on the bed and suggested that I wasn't feeling that well. Oh, neither of us were.

We spent the next five days in Paris thinking we would wake up better the next day. This, of course, was not to be. We were so sure of recuperating that we updated our wills! This caused our Hamiltonian lawyer to have a conniption. Our good friends, Shona and Barry, WhatsApped us twice daily. A welcome lifeline to the living. I am not sure what their next move would have been if we hadn't answered.

All of a sudden Paris was closing big time around us. The restaurants, by Government decree, had to all close at midnight. Our hotel was on the verge of shutting up. We emailed the New Zealand Embassy. We did get a reply but then it also closed. What was next for us? Perhaps a park bench?

Our trusty travel agent, Tania, came to our rescue. Thank goodness we hadn't booked this trip ourselves. That would have been a nightmare. "Get us out of here quickly", was my request. She managed to get us on the only plane going our way. We fronted up at The Charles de Gaulle Airport only to find shutters down everywhere. No cafes, no shops, planes all parked up on the concourse, and people were few and far between. The Emirates lounge was open. Another phew. Hopefully we would get out of here.

Yes; the plane duly took off, and fortunately, probably because of the last minute, eye-watering price, there were few in our cabin. The only two anywhere near us looked sicker than we felt. We thought we were on the way up. At Dubai we swapped planes. A short while after take-off we thought we had hopped on the wrong flight. Nobody looked like us. Our plane was on the way to Bali! The air steward assured us that we would finally end up where we needed to go, Auckland. This was the only way of getting there, at this late stage.

On arrival at Auckland Airport, we were confronted by long queues, everyone trying to get home to Mum. Luckily for us not too many direct questions were asked. Mind you a big job for someone later who did the contact tracing! An Intercity bus, fortunately with few passengers, brought us home to Hamilton. A short walk later, we arrived at River Road and home.

Now the fun started. A relation in the know suggested that we should get tested. We knew by then that we had probably had Covid-19. But we were, fingers crossed, over it. A negative test would be the result, and should we use up a valuable and scarce test? However, we were persuaded this was the way to go. The next day we drove to the carpark behind the Hamilton East Medical Centre. Don't get out of the car were our instructions. Two space suited persons arrived.

Talk about "Deep Throat"! Swabs were taken from most orifices. Not attractive. Home we drove.

The phone rang early the next day. We were now officially numbers 33 and 34 on The Ministry of Health's coronavirus list, and not on the recovered side. The DHB and Safehealth were on to our case. They checked up on us twice daily. Just checking to see if we hadn't fallen off our perches, I suppose.

After over a month, we are now on the officially recovered list. Are we a hundred



percent? We hope so and we also hope we have immunity. No one seems to know the answer to that question. Fingers are all crossed.

I am glad that Ella and the committee have temporarily closed the bridge club as we have many vulnerable, excuse the pun, members. I do think we go to the bridge club, and then we die, as we seem to be

standing often for a minute's silence. Fortunately for me, my funeral card is not yet on the notice board.

Thank you, Cynthia, for all your online tuition. I am still in the remedial group. Jenny, I need your help.

Thanks also to the wonderful Jacinda who listens to the experts and acts accordingly. Don't whack me Judith, as I am in this vulnerable group, who can get into Pak 'N Save in the over '70's queue easily. Those who qualify must try it. Definitely easier than Countdown, and yes, toilet paper is on the shelves. Excellent.

I am looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces again on Tuesday afternoon and Friday mornings. Thank goodness for BridgeBase and Francoise, Lois, Trini, Rob, Elaine, and Malcolm. Great fun playing bridge online and not one of us is pushing up daisies quite yet. Much more fun than catching up with chores at home Janeo! Finally, Marian, please keep those cards rolling in. Nothing can beat a good belly laugh. All the best to you all.

Sue

P.S. Ask me about the zinc lozenges

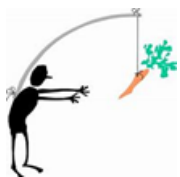
Learning in Lockdown - Joan Egger

I recently joined BBO(BridgeBaseOnline) so I could be able to have a game of bridge as it doesn't look as though there will be any activity at the Club in the near future! Once I registered and chose my user name (eggy78) I was away. It is fairly straight forward after that. I think the main thing to remember is when you are playing and you are going to make a bid that the opponents may not understand, you must press the EXPLAIN button and then make your bid. It is actually self-alerting and your partner cannot see the explanation, only the opponents e.g. you are going to open 1NT so before you do you *Explain* either 12-14 or 15-17 or whatever your point count is for this bid and then bid 1NT. Similarly, this goes for any bid which isn't straightforward, or any bid that would normally be alerted by your partner. Apart from this it is all pretty simple and a great way of keeping your hand in and wiling away the time! I am really enjoying it, but I must say I look forward to getting back to the Club and connecting with people face to face!



Joan (eggy78)

The Show Must Go On! - Mereana (and Barry) Lockdown - The Trials and Tribulations of the Bridge Zone



Barry and I would like to thank all the listeners who have clicked onto the Bridge Zone to listen and partake in our thoughts, opinions and general chit chat about the game we spend hours playing and getting maximum enjoyment out of frustration and sometimes delight. It's like a dangling carrot.

The impact that COVID-19 has had on the show's production has been extremely trying particularly since we have zero access to 89Free FM studios to create the next show.

As the show had a very high spectator KPI - we recently sailed past 6,300 hits - Free FM wanted us to continue bringing fresh material each week so the scramble to put a plan into place began before lockdown D-Day.



They managed to source recoding equipment for us, and after speaking with NZ Bridge, their support resulted in us being able to start a recording studio

at home with the correct tech gear.

Many thanks to 89Free FM for their assistance over this period and NZ Bridge for their faith in us ensuring that the Bridge Zone never sleeps.

Problem was, the tech was good, the user was frightened - you all know what it's like trying to use new stuff, old habits die hard and my IT savvy co-host was stuck in Te Kowhai, fat lot of help he was.

Week one, we got a show out and I still apologise for the poor sound quality - when you don't know what you don't know, you just get something out!

More and continued tech support from Free FM and we sorted the sound to a better quality, we are now producing something far better.

The issue with not being out and about is that your material begins to dwindle and we are back to relying on the good old chats over the phone, text and other things that I don't use - lol - Facebook and the like.

You'll see the portable unit with us at some tournaments and of course Congress, fingers crossed, and I'll let you into a little secret - Barry and I had new grey hair shoots leading up to the first show - thank goodness our fab friends came to the party.

Judge Julie was welcomed back in Week two and continues to be brilliant at educating us in life on BBO - it is so different and we are still learning how to self-alert - I mean normally partnership agreement is explained by the one sitting across from you and if they have no answer then the words - undiscussed - are spoken. Can you make a bid and explain as undiscussed on BBO? - wouldn't that be a hoot; people would think you have cabin fever.

So if you wish to make a weak 2 opening - normally a 6 card suit 6-9 hcp, announced by partner if asked - well on BBO if you want to make that bid you self-alert, so if you have a sexy looking 6 card suit and only 4 hcp, you're non vulnerable and Opponents are vulnerable, now is the hour!

So, the little angel on your left shoulder is saying - remember to self-alert please - so what do you alert? your system or what you have...

When the little devil on your right shoulder, is saying hurry up, do it, do it, make the bid, you know what the jolly bid is, you're just stuck on the explanation ...

BBO rules are - no psyching - that's lying so you have to adjust the alert slightly, write 6 card suit 4 - 9 hcp.

The Opponents are the only ones who see it, partner thinks otherwise, and you sit there feeling pleased with yourself or not.

I learnt this the hard way - by a phone call and a growling - it's exactly what I didn't do, I put down the system so I lied or psyched - whoops - won't be doing that again.

Now our other friend, Professor Samantha Punch of Stirling University in Scotland, contacted us and asked if we could volunteer to participate in a BAMSA - Bridge a Mindsport for All. Sam writes:



Whilst we recognise that the health consequences of Covid-19 are by far the most important and distressing, there are also significant economic and social impacts. Government guidance to stay at home and engage in social distancing means that our everyday lives have been massively disrupted.

Covid-19 is impacting the bridge community in a range of ways, and these changes regarding bridge may be, to differing degrees, positive or negative. As sociological researchers, we would like to understand the diverse issues that the bridge community is currently facing and how it is responding (or not) to these.

We would be delighted if you would share your experiences of bridge in the time of Covid-19.

Keep *B*ridge Alive

So join us and share your reflections- there are short, medium and long versions of ways to provide your personal experiences and to be involved simply email us and we will send

you the information of what is asked and then you can deal directly with BAMSA.

Email: bridgezonestow@gmail.com

I hope you enjoy playing multiple times on BBO during this horrid lockdown, click on the links to the Bridge Zone on either the Hamilton Bridge Club or NZ Bridge websites, listen and have a laugh, you might pick up a tip or two, share the link with a fellow player and continue to support something NZ Bridge grown and Kiwi made. You will note a cameo role of Cynthia Claytons cards, so just touch base with her if you are in need of one for that up and coming occasion. Until we meet a Bridge Club near you, have fun, stay cough and fever free and at HOME. Later...

Mereana



P.S. Don't worry about my grey hair - I dyed mine this weekend, yet I know Barry is going greyer by the day. He is completing some directing on the BBO sessions and that is like pouring Maxicrop onto his head.

A Quiz in Time - Cynthia Clayton

I've been asked to write about our lockdown life and, more particularly, the bridge email group I've set up during this time. Being retirees, the lockdown is not nearly as big a change to our lifestyle as it is to so many of the working population and Ian and I have found it fairly easy. We do of course miss our friends, bridge, cafe visits etc. However, we've been doing hour-long daily walks, gathered large amounts of mushrooms and taken on a couple of painting projects. So, our days are well occupied.

During one of our last bridge sessions at the club, Judith Brooks happened to pass the comment about how she was going to miss her bridge during lockdown, (and then promptly bid and made 7NT against us on the first hand!). So when the lockdown actually started, I remembered that comment and decided to set up an email group for a few players I've been asked to help privately over recent years, along with some of the keen daytime players who are home alone. Just the people I had email addresses for really.



So, from the beginning of the lockdown I've been sending out daily emails - quizzes one day, answers with full explanations the next, and, on the days in between, tips and notes on various topics for people to consider while they have plenty of time on their hands. I made it very clear that I didn't expect to see any of the quiz results so that there was no embarrassment or pressure to do well - just hopefully to learn a little along the way. And I am hearing privately from some players that their quiz percentages are improving. but am only aware so far of one 9/9 result. My old box of bridge teaching folders that I've kept through three house moves, thinking each time I should throw them out, has come in very handy!

Surprisingly, the group has now grown to about 40 and includes some players I've never met. Having not taught bridge for over 20 years since we left Hawke's Bay and because the group numbers had increased so much, I recently decided to not only run my quizzes past Ian, but to also ask Barry and Jenny for their answers,

just to ensure our thoughts are in line with current teaching methods and I'm grateful that they willingly agreed. So far, we are all in agreement on the answers - phew! In fact I now have a fairly high powered panel of FOUR Gold Grand Masters (one anonymous who is participating just for fun and to fill in their lockdown time) submitting answers to me which has also made it a lot more fun for me. Interestingly, the anonymous panellist pointed out that I only had 12 cards in one hand which had gone unnoticed by the other four of us!

I've recently sent out Quiz No 12 and have No 13 under way. In between the quizzes, I've sent out notes on the following topics:

- Michaels Cue Bids and Unusual Notrump overcalls
- Negative Doubles
- Card Play
- Defensive Play
- Reverse Bids
- Slam Bidding
- Third Seat Openers
- Responding to Takeout Doubles
- 3 pages of "A Couple of Tips"

While this has been time consuming, I currently have plenty of that and I'm really enjoying the distraction, the discussions and questions and I understand from the feedback that others are too. Quite a few of the group are also enjoying playing on BBO for the first time which is wonderful, but a lot are not interested in that, so this contact is aimed to keep minds on bridge for those of us not playing online. I've been asked how long through this unprecedented time I'll continue sending something out daily. I have no idea but will definitely continue throughout Level 3 while we're advised to remain in our bubbles. The quizzes are easy for me to make up (not the answers sometimes) but finding topics for the days in between is becoming a bit challenging - I've now exhausted my 20+ year old teaching notes. Quizzes 1 and 2 below in this newsletter are from what seems ages ago. If anyone wishes to join the group or for me to just send them the answers to 1 and 2, other quizzes or any of the notes mentioned above, please email me at cynclayton@gmail.com.

Stay safe, and let's hope it's not too long before we meet again at the club to enjoy the game we love.

Cynthia

QUIZ 1 – What do you bid next?

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | S
1S
P | W
X
? | N
2S | E
P | S 4
H AQJ5
D AK982
C K74 | You are West
Nil vul
..... |
| 2 | S
1H | W
P | N
? | E | S 3
H J4
D Q9652
C KJ632 | You are North
NS vul
..... |
| 3 | S
1H | W
P | N
? | E | S 6432
H 53
D Q32
C AJ43 | You are North
All vul
..... |
| 4 | S
1S
2NT | W
P
P | N
1NT
? | E
P | S J8
H A9852
D K53
C 754 | You are North
NS vul
..... |
| 5 | S
1S
2NT | W
P
P | N
1NT
? | E
P | S 4
H QJ9854
D J6
C K574 | You are North
Nil vul
..... |
| 6 | S
1D
1NT | W
P
P | N
1S
? | E
P | S AT932
H T2
D 54
C Q873 | You are North
EW vul
..... |
| 7 | S
3C
? | W
P | N
3S | E
P | S 8
H 52
D Q53
C AQJ9532 | You are South
Nil vul
..... |
| 8 | S
1D
1NT | W
P
P | N
1S
? | E
P | S Q932
H 83
D 5
C KQ9532 | You are North
NS vul
..... |
| 9 | S
1NT
(12-14) | W
P | N
P | E
? | S QJT64
H 87
D AJ73
C 63 | You are East
NS vul
..... |

QUIZ 2

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | S
1S | W
? | N | E | S 43
H AQJ32
D KJ6
C AQ5 | You are West
EW vul

..... |
| 2 | S
1S | W
X | N
P | E
? | S 632
H AK642
D Q8
C 852 | You are East
All vul

..... |
| 3 | S
1S | W
P | N
? | E | S QJ53
H AJ862
D 3
C A42 | You are North
All vul

..... |
| 4 | S
1D
2H
P | W
P
P
P | N
1H
4H | E
P
P | S 8
H JT73
D Q62
C KQJ52 | You are East
Your lead?

..... |
| 5 | S
1S
P | W
X
3H | N
P
P | E
2H
? | S 8432
H KJT84
D 3
C 842 | You are East
All vul

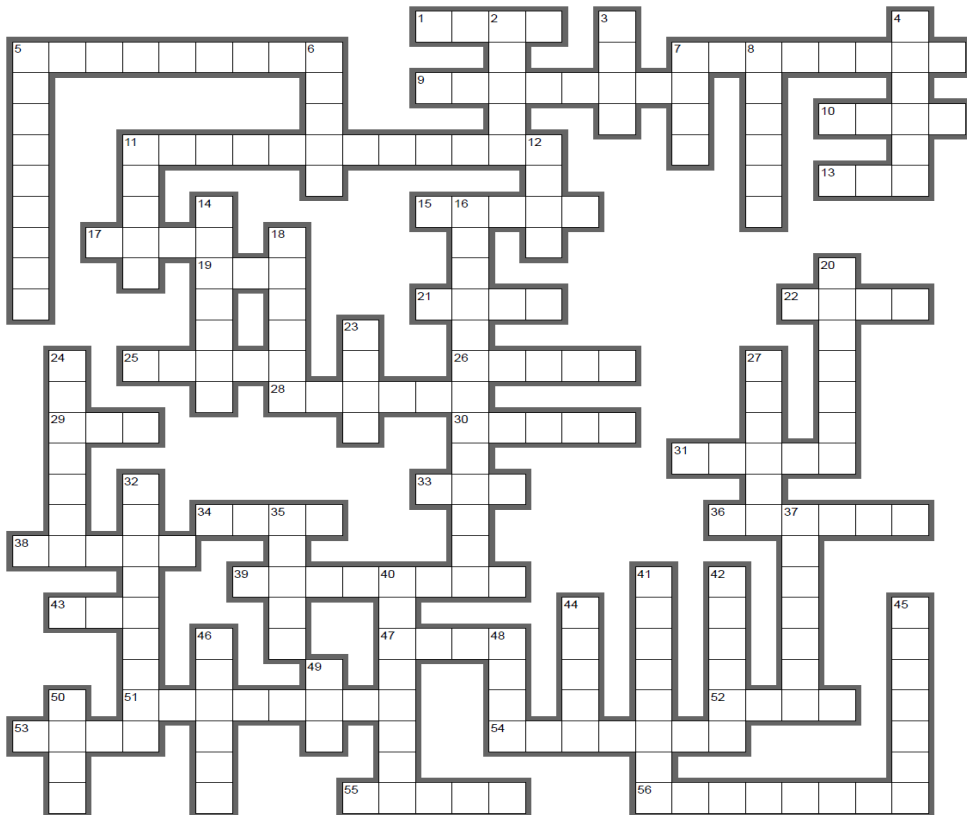
..... |
| 6 | S
1C
2H | W
P
P | N
1H
P | E
P
? | S QJ54
H 83
D AJ732
C 92 | You are East
Nil vul

..... |
| 7 | S
1C
1NT*
P | W
P
P
P | N
1H
3NT | E
P
P | S K63
H 52
D KJT62
C 532 | You are West
Your lead?

..... |
| *1NT rebid = 12-14 Std American | | | | | | |
| 8 | S
1C | W
? | N | E | S T3
H KQT
D A432
C KJ92 | You are West
NS vul

..... |
| 9 | S
1H
? | W
P | N
1NT | E
P | S AKJ6
H AJ6542
D A
C Q2 | You are South
Nil vul

..... |



Across

Down

1. Bidding this can create a nervous look from ones partner (4)
5. One of the two bids it is compulsory to announce (5,4)
7. When guidance of a non religious nature is required (8)
9. Pass a car on the highway (8)
10. No cards in this suit (4)
11. What all top bridge players collect (12)
13. Lowest level bid (3)
15. One of the top two suits (5)
17. Arrange..... (4)
19. Highest ranking card (3)
21. Every card is a member of one of these (4)
22. Pole vaulters do this to a bar (4)
25. A garden implement (5)
26. A set of four cards played by each player in turn (5)
28. Led out of turn (6)
29. Play all the winners in a suit (3)
30. Declarers partner (5)
31. A second bid by a player (5)
33. High card points (3)
34. What you don't want your partner to do if you have a big hand (4)
36. The number of cards in a suit (6)
38. When partners come to a decision (5)
39. A spectator (8)
43. Two hands that are productive together (3)
47. A bidding system (4)
51. Multi tournaments at the same location (8)
52. Scoring method distinct from Match Points (4)
53. The order of denominations or suits in the bidding (4)
54. Card played when unable to play the suit led (7)
55. The president of the US (5)
56. Adjacent honours (8)
2. Tells the opponents all is not to be taken literally (5)
3. 12...14 point INT (4)
4. A beginner (6)
5. Only one card in a suit (9)
6. 52 cards make one of these..... (5)
7. The result of distributing the cards..... (4)
8. Not Contract Bridge (6)
11. Clubs or Diamonds (5)
12. Some players are known for this "trait" (4)
14. Asking for a 4 card major (7)
16. Applied by a director to bring redress (8,5)
18. Ace asking (6)
20. Higher than the next legal bid (4,3)
23. Four card or xxxx card..... (4)
24. A bid that requires a response (7)
27. This single letter can have a lot of different meanings (6)
32. More than the contract required (9)
35. A land locked country in Europe leading the team (5)
37. The highest scoring suit or denomination (2,5)
40. Changing "back" after 1NT (8)
41. One always plans on making this (8)
42. Bidding the opponents suit (3,3)
44. Swiss ? (5)
45. The act of determining the contract (7)
46. Greater than a "ten" (6)
48. The first card (4)
49. Black and..... cards (3)
50. The sun rises..... (4)

What is BBO?

Bridge Base Online (BBO) is a website started in 2001 in Las Vegas which offers free online multiplayer bridge play. Since anyone can register and play for free, it is common to find thousands of players from all over the world at any time. BBO only has 15 words in its vocabulary which makes this worldwide participation possible. Numbers playing have skyrocketed due to Covid-19 lockdowns around the world so at extremely popular times (when America is awake) numbers playing have had to be limited to around 40000 players. Fortunately, we live in a time zone where not so many people are playing - commonly around 14000 during our daytime. All selections are done via mouse-click so people with different languages can play together.

BBO also allows player chat, and for observers ("kibitzers") to watch the players. Records of all hands played are kept, and publicly accessible, enabling comparisons with other players of the same hand.

Need a Bridge fix so how can I play?

Playing is very easy and a lot of fun. In most instances you are better off you if have a partner but BBO offers the options of 3 automated opponents (robots) if that doesn't work for you. If you want to talk about it first, Ella in her part of this newsletter mentions names of people from the club who can help you. Before you register, a lot of the options for playing require you to have a partner so when you register get one of your usual bridge partners to register at the same time and you are both then good to go.

There are many excellent guides written by others who have been down this path before showing with pictures how to get going on BBO - one of the better guides is by Karen Martelletti from the Tauranga Bridge Club. She goes through the process step by step, even noting the differences between an iPad and a PC where relevant, so have a look [here](#)

If you find this document a little overwhelming, these links break it into smaller parts -

[BBO Registering](#)

[Hosting a table to play](#)

Once registered, where to play? - there are a number of options from "self-drive bridge" to the organised sessions by clubs like Waikato Bays or Auckland Bridge.

Self-drive - have a group of 4 who want to play together ?

- First find a time and day when all are available to play & then login to [BBO](#), select '**Casual**' then '**Start a table**' and '**Start Table - Relaxed game**'
- Now enter the usernames of your partner and opponents - use '**Reserve**' for the others and '**Sit**' for yourself
- The others will now receive an invitation once they log on
- If you add these people as "friends" first it makes it easier to start the game

Organised sessions - Some NZ Clubs are running sessions with different options - some where you and your partner join or some without a partner (individual events where you will be allocated a partner).

If this interests you, the Waikato Bays website is the place to go and has the added bonus that you might get to play against people you know. The better players from our Club tend to be found at the regular sessions hosted by the Auckland Bridge Club.

The sessions found on the Waikato Bays website are hosted by the various clubs in this area with session times and events on most days - the best method here is a regular check of the [Waikato Bays website](#) for the [latest details](#)

For some events you will need to register first as a WB player to join that event - see the [Waikato Bays website](#) for details where this applies (this tends to be events that are restricted to intermediate, juniors and novices)

Another point of contact for useful and up to date information is Eunice Eccles, the NZ Bridge's Regional Bridge Mate (RBM) for the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. Eunice sends out a regular email with information on coming events including tournaments and lessons. During the lockdown she has also added bridge playing tips (useful "Rules" to guide decisions) to information about BBO tournaments. Contact Eunice at eunice.eccles@nzbridge.co.nz if you want to be added to the list. If you wonder what else an RBM does, have a look [here](#)!



**BBO in lockdown
offers lots of
possibilities!**

BBO Advice from an Expert

BBO (Bridge Base Online) is the only substitute we have for face to face bridge at the moment and to be fair it does have some advantages apart from the obvious one - you are safe from the Coronavirus.

I started playing on BBO nearly 20 years ago and believe it or not it had only just started and it was not unusual to go online and find 3 people waiting for a 4th!

We even got to play with the founder of BBO, Fred Gittleman.

The last few weeks there have been well over 40,000 isolated bridge players most days.

I've been directing once or twice a week and the noticeable advantages are:

- You can't revoke,
- You can't make an insufficient bid,
- You cannot lead out of turn,
- Explanations are given by the person who has made a bid so you shouldn't get any incorrect explanations,
- There is virtually no unauthorised information between partners because they can't see each other.

If you didn't know better, you might think you've died and gone to heaven!

The only thing you have to be careful of is self-alerting any bid the opponents might not understand and writing a full explanation of suit lengths and point range in the bidding box where you bid BEFORE you actually make the bid.

The other thing you have to be careful of is the misclick - on either the wrong bid or the wrong card - there is no way back if you get that wrong.

If you just want to dip your toe in the water before you actually log in, look below the big red "play bridge now" button the 2nd box down on the left marked "matchpoints", click on the "play now" button and off you go with 3 robots at your table. You will be playing 5 card majors and 15-17 NT and those crazy robots can't always be trusted but it's a lot of fun and you even get a percentage on each hand.

Once you actually pluck up courage to log in, there are tournaments to play in at least twice a day and they're absolutely free!

There are also lots of resources on there to read, forums to follow or contribute to, or you can just find an interesting table to go and watch - some even have commentators commenting on the bidding and play (Vu-graph).

Yes, it's all absolutely free and you don't have to drive to the bridge club.

Good luck and maybe I'll see you online?

Cheers,

Barry

And now for some of our usual articles...

Recent Events at our Club

Hamilton Intermediate, Junior and Novice Pairs - Saturday 7 March

We were lucky to have scheduled a first ever combined Novice / Junior / Intermediate tournament early in the year. It was a sunny and warm early Autumn day. 53 pairs took part with Hamilton strongly represented by 27 pairs.

Hamilton pairs did wonderfully well, taking out all 3 major prizes for both the intermediate and novice pairs, and 1st and 3rd for the junior pairs (see all their names in the tournament results section of this newsletter).

The tournament was played in a friendly and sociable atmosphere with many visitors commenting on the delicious food available to players. Thanks to Ella and Dallas for organising and directing the tournament and to all those who helped with the setup, running and tidying up afterwards.



Hamilton Restricted Pairs - Sunday 19 April

Cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions

Hamilton Ladies Day - Tuesday 28 April

Currently postponed due to Covid-19. We hope to be able to run this later in the year.

Tournament Success by our Club Members



Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams Rotorua Saturday 8 February

1st Malcolm Smith, Karen Harris & teammates

3rd Blair Fisher & teammates

Waikato Area Pairs 1 Matamata Sunday 16 February

1st Michael Curry & Kathy Yule

3rd Yuzhong Chen & Herman Yuan

Morrinsville Junior Restricted Morrinsville Friday 28 February

1st Chris Trower & Theo Stempher

Taupo Intermediate Pairs Taupo Saturday 29 February

2nd Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Hamilton Novice Pairs Hamilton Saturday 7 March

1st Judy Cooper & Rachelle Meijer

2nd Alistair Steyn-Ross & Moira Steyn-Ross

3rd Michelle Paterson & Chris Goulding

Hamilton Junior Pairs Hamilton Saturday 7 March

1st Vaughan Samuelson & Francoise Campbell

3rd Julie Hooper & Jane Sandelin

Hamilton Intermediate Pairs Hamilton Saturday 7 March

1st Graeme Hope & Trini Lin

2nd Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

3rd Roger Gunning & Ian Ross

Waihi All Grades Pairs Waihi Saturday 14 March

3rd Ross Stewart & Elaine Rayner

Upcoming Events (these may not happen !)

These events are subject to relaxation of the current lockdown and whatever the conditions are when level 2 is introduced shortly. Also it will be dictated by whether clubs and NZ Bridge wish to continue with hosting them. Check on the news bulletins on the [NZ Bridge website](#) to see which events have been cancelled.

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Waikato/Bays Interclub Teams	Sunday 14 June
North Island Pairs (2 days)	Sat/Sunday 20/21 June
Hamilton Open Teams	Saturday 11 July
Hamilton Open Restricted Teams	Saturday 11 July
Hamilton Open Swiss Pairs (1/3)	Wednesday 22 July
Waikato Area Pairs (6)	Sunday 2 August

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior and Novice Tournaments:

Mt Maunganui Junior/Novice Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 18 July
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Intermediate Tournaments:

Mt Maunganui Intermediate Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 18 July
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Restricted and Open Tournaments:

Morrinsville Open Pairs	Morrinsville	Saturday 6 June
Rotorua Open Pairs	Rotorua	Saturday 13 June
Spa Town Open/Multigrade Teams	Te Aroha	Saturday 27 June
Waikato Area Pairs (5)	Thames	Sunday 5 July
Tauranga Restricted Charity	Tauranga	Wednesday 8 July
Matamata Open Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 25 July



Club Results

Wednesday Rainbow Pairs

- 1 Barbara Daly
- 2 Megan Jolly

Monday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Allison Smith & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Malcolm Smith & Ian Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Allison Smith & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Melinda Wang & Catherine Cameron

Tuesday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Jane Weir & John Paterson
- 2 Malcolm Smith & Allison Smith

Handicap

- 1 Jane Weir & John Paterson
- 2 Laura Sommerville & Cynthia Clayton

Tuesday Evening Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Leanne Curry & Megan Jolly
- 2 Julie Hooper & Donna Prentice

Handicap

- 1 Leanne Curry & Megan Jolly
- 2 Armand Petrin & Donnalea Whitcher

Thursday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Elaine Rayner & Ross Stewart
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Trini Lin

Handicap

- 1 Elaine Rayner & Ross Stewart
- 2 Raewyn Grylls-Thomas & Roger Gunning

Friday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Lucie Armstrong & Barbara Daly

Handicap

- 1 Peter Ramsey & Wendy Ramsey
- 2 Angus MacDonald & Heather Crosbie

Wednesday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Barry Jones & Jenny Millington
- 2 Olive Davis & Ella Gray

Handicap

- 1 Olive Davis & Ella Gray
- 2 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Monday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Ian Clayton
- 2 Pam Burns & Barbara Daly

Handicap

- 1 Pam Burns & Barbara Daly
- 2 Malcolm Smith & Ian Clayton

Tuesday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Phil Thompson
- 2 Tim Healy & Malcolm Wilson

Handicap

- 1 Tim Healy & Malcolm Wilson
- 2 Ian Clayton & Phil Thompson

Tuesday Evening Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Hodges & Eddie Tan
- 2 Angus MacDonald & Donna Prentice

Handicap

- 1 Diana Preece & Angela Hackett
- 2 Angus MacDonald & Donna Prentice

Thursday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Trini Lin
- 2 Phil Thompson & Sam Armstrong

Handicap

- 1 Nigel Gresson & Judith Brooks
- 2 Roger Gunning & Ranjith Cooray

Charles Holland-Goodwin Memorial Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Barbara Daly & Colleen De Luen
- 2 Cynthia Clayton & Olive Davis

Handicap

- 1 Barbara Daly & Colleen De Luen
- 2 Jenny Seaville & Val West

Wednesday Summer Swiss Pairs

- 1 Lindsay Reid & Richard Hooper
- 2 Brett Glass & Malcolm Smith

Challenge 5

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

How can South make Three No Trumps after West leads the five of Hearts?

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

Tip of the Day:

Don't play too hastily from dummy at trick one.
More contracts are lost at the first trick than at any other

