Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

07 839 4547

20 Richmond Street, Hamilton info@hamiltonbridge.co.nz

http://www.hamilton.bridge-club.org/

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Cameron

Newsletter - May 2022

From the President

Bridge - it's alive...

I guess it's fair to say that all Clubs across the motu are finding it difficult to rebuild and return to normal services

The whack of Covid has put not only our game but the entire basis of our normal daily grind into chaos as we try to find our true North again

We read NZ Bridge's guidelines and are attempting to kick start Hamilton Bridge Club back into life and the very basis of this genesis comes back to... the members

The core of our programme simply needs you playing

As the Committee strives to get bums on seats, we just need a few things from you:

Play bridge

Become financial

Tell a fellow bridge player to come back to play

Quite a simple but immensely effective plan

There's even a little bonus gift/competition on offer to returning players - no cost to you, it's just a little thanks as a coming back gesture from the Club so check out the website for the T & C's

Over the past few months, there have been some abrupt changes to the Committee and as we reposition and plan forward, the Chair is reviewing the Club's positions and their job descriptions for clarity in who does what, when how and why

The main commitment being that we are able:

- . to provide a respectful and positive environment for members to play Bridge
- . to see the Club is survive the next 2 years financially and create membership growth
- . to have Committee members provide the service that their positions demand with passion
- . to show that we have open and clear communication at all times

 So as the Club reopens it's face to face sessions and keeps its online Real

 Bridge connection, all we ask is:

Come on back, pay your subs, bring your bridge partners with you

See you at the table,

Mereana

Mereana Cullen, Acting President

From the Captain's Table

The year seems to be flying by!

At last we can have more "face-to-face" bridge and masks are voluntary.

We are ready to welcome back members who have stayed away due to Covid alerts.

An interesting note is on the notice board re bridge clubs, saying how important a friendly culture is for a club to survive.

So please phone members you know who have not played for a while and encourage them to come back. They will be very welcome! We cannot afford to lose members!

It is great to see more badges being worn!

This is very helpful for new players who find the "big room" scary!!

Real Bridge has been running well. Thanks to all the organisers.

Congratulations to Trini Lin and Catherine Cameron on coming second in our Ladies Day Intermediate tournament.

The next social day will be:

Soup and Bun on Sunday May 15

(Please Note date change due to Mothers' Day)

Let's make that a really fun day with as many as possible coming!

Perhaps a good time to phone a friend who has not played lately and ask them to come with you?

Cheers,



Laura Sommerville, Club Captain

Club News

Phone number changes / additions

Mary Ronke

021 143-4384



2022 Programme Books Available

These are now available at the club for members to collect. If you are playing only online, you can collect your programme book during office hours, i.e. 1-4pm on Tuesday and Thursday, or 9am-1pm on Friday.

Facemask Update - Facemasks are now optional

With the change in traffic light setting from RED to ORANGE, the Club has done what many of you have been asking for re the wearing of facemasks - removed the compulsory wearing.

The wearing of facemasks at the Club for all bridge is now optional. Please return to regular play as your Club needs you!

Members can also now bring visitors along to all sessions.

RealBridge will continue to be offered as an alternative to those who don't feel comfortable with this change at the Club.

SOUP and BUN Socials coming up

As the days get colder, what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than with a lunch of hot soup and a bun, followed by a social afternoon of bridge with your friends? There will be spot prizes as well as prizes for the winners. Lunch is at 12 noon on 15 May (note date change from that in the programme book), followed by one session of bridge starting at 12.45pm and finishing with afternoon tea, all for \$6. A second soup and bun is planned for Sunday 26 June, the last day of the new Matariki long weekend

Learner Lessons are go!

This year's lessons have fortunately not suffered from the Covid disruption of last year. Mereana is running the lessons on Tuesday evenings while Ella runs Tuesday afternoons. All up there are about 40 learners "working hard" at getting to know the basics of our great game, and having fun as well.

2022 Subs now Overdue

Subscriptions for this year were due to be paid by the end of March. There are still a reasonable number outstanding. The club needs your payment to keep solvent, so if you have not paid yet, please do so soon. If the return of face-to-face bridge at the Club is still leaving you unsure about playing, talk to our secretary or the committee and arrange to have your current membership put "on hold" for a period. It will help us smooth our cash flow a little as we will not need to pay the \$23 NZ Bridge Levy that we pay for each member yearly. We will still be able to include you in our future budgets and planning.

If you want to play but don't have a partner, Monday and Tuesday nights don't require you to have a partner - just turn up 15-20 minutes before the session starts and let the director know. For other sessions, contact the <u>partner steward</u> for the session you wish to play.

Rugby helpers

Now that crowds are allowed into the rugby grounds again, we are again offering car-parking as a fundraiser. This started with the Chiefs-Crusaders game on Saturday 26 March. Still coming up at the Stadium are 2 Chiefs games against Australian opponents, maybe a Super Rugby semifinal and All Blacks vs Argentina on 3 September. If you want to help out, contact Richard Wagstaff.

Thanks for your support



For the second year in a row Covid has forced the cancellation of the Big Heart Appeal Street collection for the New Zealand Heart Foundation. I already had a collection bucket to hand, together with times and locations booked, to assist with this.

I brought the bucket to the sessions at the club for a week in February and would like to thank all those who put their hand in their pocket and so generously donated. Together you gave \$140.70 which the Foundation is most grateful for.

I thank you for your donations and tolerance of my imposition. Roger H Johnstone

Check your member balance with Compa\$\$

Want to know how much money you have in your Compa\$\$ account? No need to wait for an email when you who owe money to the club. Instead, log into your individual Compa\$\$ account at any time to check the balance. First off, you need to set up a username and password. Information on what Compa\$\$ is and how to set up as a user is found here. Please read the section on Compa\$\$ registration before setting up your user account. Once you have registered and logged in, a screen for Compass Scoring System will appear. Click on 'Check your wallet' and your account data for the last processed period will appear on your screen. You can change to any valid Compa\$\$ date range if you want to see earlier transactions. Credits for winning an event are only processed after the end of each month. Direct access to the Compa\$\$ login page from the club website is via the Compa\$\$ Balance link in the Results sub-menu on the Home page. This is the easiest way to get to the Compa\$\$ login screen. Also, a update that future emails from Compa\$\$ will come to you from a different email account (outlook.com), so don't be surprised by this change.

WINTER PRECAUTIONS

Now that the flu season approaches, and with Covid still around, it's time to prevent the spread of infection.

DO:

STAY at home if you are unwell
Turn your head away from the table when
coughing or sneezing
Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your upper arm
If possible get vaccinated for Covid and flu



DON'T:

Cough or sneeze on your hand Cough or sneeze on the cards you are holding

REMEMBER:

Wash your hands before and after bridge and use the hand sanitisers by the playing room doors or in the playing room

Thursday Night Face-to-face Bridge coming soon

The Match Committee has changed the order of events for Thursday Night bridge. The changes have been made because Team Events require Face-to-Face Bridge. To allow for this, the 3 events from 28 April to 14 July have date changes. The David Head Trophy - Individual Pairs began on 28 April and is being played online.

Remember that to qualify in this event you need a different partner for each of the four nights.

The next event will be the Thursday Winter Pairs from 26 May through to 9 June which will be played face-to-face.

Following these comes the delayed Elsie Pohio Intermediate & Junior Teams Championship, starting on June 16th, before the programme returns to that in the Programme Book with the Championship Pairs on July 21st.

RealBridge on Mondays

Monday face-to-face sessions have been poorly attended so far this year. The match committee has decided to change Monday night to a RealBridge night from the end of this month. A second reason is all Monday events are pairs which are the easiest to play on RealBridge. Monday RealBridge will start on Monday 30 May with the Monday Pairs B event. Currently it is intended to carry on with RealBridge on Mondays until the end of the year. All other sessions at the club will be Face-to-face from that date.

Tournament Help required

Our club is hosting two large tournaments in July. The first is the National 15A Teams event over 2 days on 2 and 3 July. Then on 23 July we host the Hamilton Open Teams and Hamilton Restricted Teams. This means we will need helpers for these tournaments. The more members that help, the easier it is for everyone.

Helping can include any and all of:

In the kitchen (shifts of about 3 hours):

- making sandwiches
- meal preparation
- washing up
- collecting cups and keeping the tea / coffee area ready
 Your choice, dependent on where your skills lie

Providing food for morning / afternoon tea - preferably home-made

Contact Ella if you are able to help.



Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs) now Face-to-face

The Waikato area pairs is a friendly event played against members of other Waikato clubs, once a month for 6 rounds. Unfortunately the first two rounds were scheduled for RealBridge and had to be cancelled due to a lack of entries. The competition is now returning to face-to-face (along with most other tournaments) and no pre-entry is required.

The next heat of the WAPs is on Sunday 22 May at Cambridge. No preentry needed, just arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner, \$10 for the entry fee, and your lunch. See the other WAP dates further on in this newsletter or check your 2022 programme book.

NZ Bridge 2021 National Congress Results

The delayed 2021 National Congress (originally scheduled to be played at Mount Maunganui in September 2021) finally was played on RealBridge in February 2022. The shift to RealBridge meant that players from Australia and even Argentina were able to participate alongside our NZ players. These Hamilton club members scored in the top 10 in their events, an impressive result given the very high calibre of competition:

NZ Teams Qualifying: Hugh McGann & teammates 5th

Liz & Blair Fisher 10th

NZ Restricted Open Teams: Cherie Barton & teammates 4th

Mereana Cullen & teammates 7th

NZ Open Swiss Pairs: Liz & Blair Fisher 3rd

Intermediate Swiss Pairs: Elaine Rayner & Francoise Campbell 9th NZ Intermediate Teams: Phil Thompson, Ian Ross, Terry Wells &

Joan Craig 8th

Elaine Rayner, Francoise Campbell, Sue Collinge

& Lois Jones 9th

NZ Restricted Open Pairs: Alan Parkes & Graham Stern 3rd
New Zealand Pairs Plate: Blair Fisher & George Masters 2nd
NZ Pairs Consolation: Karen Harris & Malcolm Smith 5th

Brett Glass & Gary Foidl 6th

The 2022 Bridge Congress is still going to happen 1-8 October this year at Mount Maunganui, so schedule some time in your diary now!

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Open Swiss Pairs (week 1 of 3) Wednesday 1 June

National 15A Teams (2 days) Saturday 2 July
Hamilton Open Teams Saturday 23 July

Hamilton Restricted Teams Saturday 23 July

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Waik/Bays Interprovincial Trials Tauranga Saturday 7 May

Junior/Novice Tournaments:

Mt Maunganui Junior Pairs Mt Maunganui Saturday 16 July
Mt Maunganui Novice Pairs Mt Maunganui Saturday 16 July

Intermediate Tournaments:

Katikati Intermediate Pairs Katikati Sunday 15 May
Mt Maunganui Intermediate Pairs Mt Maunganui Saturday 16 July

Open/Restricted Tournaments:

Te Awamutu Restricted Pairs Te Awamutu Saturday 14 May Te Puke Restricted Pairs Te Puke Saturday 21 May Waikato Area Pairs (3) Cambridge Sunday 22 May Morrinsville Open Pairs Morrinsville Saturday 28 May Rotorua Open Pairs Rotorua Saturday 11 June Waikato Area Pairs (4) Thames Sunday 12 June Saturday 25 June Spa Town Open&Multigrade Teams Te Aroha Tauranga Tauranga Restricted Charity Wednesday 6 July Saturday 9 July Matamata Open Pairs Matamata Whakatane Restricted Pairs Whakatane Saturday 30 July Waikato Area Pairs (5) Matamata Sunday 31 July

Cambridge Sixes - Saturday 6 August

What are the Cambridge Sixes?

The Cambridge Sixes is a fun concept aimed at getting more players from each bridge grade playing in tournaments. In effect, three tournaments take place simultaneously, a 3A for the Open players, a 5B for the Intermediates and a 3B for the Juniors. It is the only Swiss Pairs event specifically for Intermediates or Juniors. The first event was held in 2013 and since then numbers have grown each year. In 2016 it was held at the newly built Don Rowlands Centre at Lake Karapiro for the first time. This is a wonderful venue with all mod cons along with great views out over the lake. In 2020, Covid saw the Sixes cancelled, but it is on again in 2022.

What makes the Cambridge Sixes different is that entries must be made up of one pair from each grade. Open players who wish to try getting three A points must find an Intermediate pair and a Junior pair to come along with them. While there is prize money in each grade, most of the \$2000+ in prizes goes to the best performed Teams of Six when the scores get added across the grades. In 2016, a Hamilton team won the overall prize so why not have a go this year?

The day provides not only serious bridge but also a bit of fun between rounds with Trivia quizzes and prizes for the Teams judged to be wearing the most "distinctive uniform". All this for just \$40 a head.

What is Swiss pairs?

Swiss pairs has a scoring format which resembles teams scoring. In Swiss pairs it is the actual size of the difference in score that counts. Bidding to game is important, especially when vulnerable. But going down in a game contract is very expensive with this scoring, while making an over-trick gains very little. As declarer, it is most important to make your contract so don't take a finesse for an extra trick if there is a risk of going down. As defender, always look for a play that allows the contract to be beaten and take your chance.

Recent Events at our Club

Hamilton Junior & Intermediate Pairs - 12 March

These two Saturday tournaments meant several firsts for the club:

- Our first pairs tournaments run online using RealBridge
- First time directing online for Nick Whitten
- First time taking part in a RealBridge tournament for many of the junior and intermediate players
- And a first place for our club in the Intermediate tournament!

Eighteen pairs of Junior players and thirty-one pairs of Intermediates, from Warkworth in the North to Invercargill in the South, took part in these tournaments playing from home. A few technical issues delayed the start of both sessions but apart from this everything ran smoothly. Many participants commented on how much they enjoyed the RealBridge tournament experience and would like to see some online tournaments continue even once we are able to play face-to-face again.

Hamilton players did extremely well, achieving first and second in the Intermediate tournament and two pairs sharing third in the Junior tournament (see the names under tournament results further down this newsletter).

Many thanks to Nick Cantlon of Te Awamutu for stepping in as director for both tournaments when our own directors were playing in the Taranaki Congress held the same weekend.

Hamilton Restricted Pairs - Sunday 3 April

Players from Bluff to Orewa participated in this online tournament, with another excellent turnout of 38 pairs. Congratulations to Rachelle Meijer and Mark Thompson, 1st Open-Junior pair and 2nd overall. Ian Clayton and Trini Lin managed a creditable 4th equal overall and 3rd Open-Intermediate pair. 1st Junior-Junior pair was Irene McCaskill & Mark Beavan. Congratulations to you all.



Many thanks to the Cooperative bank for sponsoring this tournament.

Hamilton Ladies Day - Tuesday 26 April

This was a Ladies Day tournament with a difference - played online for the first time ever. Pairs of women from as far apart as Auckland and Geraldine in South Canterbury played in the tournament.

Congratulations to our Open winners, Kate Terry and Judy Pawson from Tauranga. Christchurch visitors Julia Thomas and Catherine Fitchett won the Intermediate section, with our own club members Trini Lin and Catherine Cameron second. Congratulations!

Unfortunately, as this was a RealBridge tournament, the players missed out on the delicious lunch usually provided.

Many thanks to our sponsor, Craigs Investment Partners.

NZ Bridge News

NZ Bridge Ranks Report 1 January - 31 March 2022

During each bridge year, NZ Bridge calculates the top A&B masterpoint earners by grade, culminating in an annual top 10 at the end of the year.

The first rank report for 2022 has recently been published, showing the top earners from 1 January to 31 March this year.

Some of our club Grand Masters have been busily and very successfully playing tournaments in these first 3 months of this year.

Congratulations to:

Blair Fisher - 1st ranked Gold Grand Master and above

Barry Jones - 7th ranked Gold Grand Master and above

Jenny Millington - 9th ranked Gold Grand Master and above

Liz Fisher - 2nd ranked Silver Grand Master

Recent Regional Tournament Successes by our Club Members



RealBridge

Waikato/Bays Provi 1 st 3 rd	Blair & Liz Fis	•	RealBridge
Tauranga Congress 1st 3rd	Blair & Liz Fis	30 January sher & teammates s & teammates	RealBridge
Hamilton Intermedia 1 st 2 nd	Karen Thomso	12 March on & Cathy Nolen therine Cameron	RealBridge
Hamilton Junior Pai 3 rd equal 3 rd equal	Rachelle Meij	12 March er & Stephen Weir & Mike Everard	RealBridge
Kelly Peirse Memori 2 nd 3 rd	Jenny Milling	19 March ton, Barry Jones & te air Fisher & teammat	
Hamilton Restricted		3 April er & Mark Thomson	RealBridge
Cambridge Junior Po 3 rd		9 April & Mike Everard	RealBridge
Hamilton Ladies Int 2 nd		26 April therine Cameron	RealBridge
Matamata Junior Po 1 st Rachel	airs le Meijer & St	30 April tephen Weir	Matamata

http://www.hamilton.bridge-club.org/

Blair Fisher & George Masters

Taupo Open Pairs

1st

30 April



Monday Opening Pairs Scratch

1 Pam Burns & Olive Davis

2 Tracey Hoff & Nigel Gresson

Handicap

1 Pam Burns & Olive Davis

2 Elaine Rayner & Dave Edson

Tuesday Day Opening Pairs Scratch

1 Helen Healy & Tim Healy

2 Barbara Daly & Lucie Armstrong

Handicap

1 Helen Healy & Tim Healy

2 Barbara Daly & Lucie Armstrong

Tuesday Evening Opening Pairs Scratch

1 Sean Dwyer & Jacqui McDougall

2 Armand Petrin & Donnalea Whitcher

Handicap

1 Lou Roughton & Mary Cave-Palmer

2 Armand Petrin & Donnalea Whitcher

Wednesday Summer Pairs Scratch

1 Barbara Daly & Ella Gray

2 Lindsay Reid & Richard Fletcher

(2 nights only played)

Thursday Opening Pairs Scratch

1 Barbara Daly & Val West

2 Joan Egger & Colleen De Luen

Handicap

1 Barbara Daly & Val West

2 Sam Armstrong & Phil Thompson

Friday Richmond Summer Pairs Scratch

1 Lindsay Reid & Sam Armstrong

2 Olive Davis & Joan Egger

Handicap

1 Ross Stewart & Elaine Rayner

2 Olive Davis & Joan Egger

Friday O'Neill Summer Pairs Scratch

1 Kevin Brown & Marie Fenwick

2 Mary Mackwell & Ian Gilbert

Handicap

1 Jacqui McDougall & Geoff Turner

2 Mary Mackwell & Ian Gilbert

Monday Summer Pairs Scratch

1 Catherine Cameron & Barbara Daly

2 Pam Burns & Olive Davis

Handicap

1 Catherine Cameron & Barbara Daly

2 Pam Burns & Olive Davis

Tuesday Day Summer Pairs

Scratch

1 Val West & Jenny Seavill

2 Elaine Rayner & Tim Healy

Handicap

1 Val West & Jenny Seavill

2 Margaret Boyd & Lee Cook

Tuesday Evening Summer Pairs

Scratch

1 Lou Roughton & Mary Cave Palmer 2 Irene McCaskill & Mark Beavan

Handicap

1 Raewyn Higginson & Alan Grant

2 Lou Roughton & Mary Cave Palmer

Wednesday Summer Swiss Pairs

Scratch

Scratch

1 Barry Jones & Karen Harris

2 Richard Hooper & Lindsay Reid

Thursday Summer Pairs

1 Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron

2 Barry Jones & Karen Harris

Handicap

1 Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron

2 Ranjith Cooray & Roger Gunning

Richmond Charles Holland-Goodwin Pairs

Scratch Handicap

1 Lindsay Reid & Ian Ross 1 Moira & Alistair Steyn-Ross

2 Helen Healy & Tim Healy 2 Lindsay Reid & Ian Ross

Friday O'Neill Pairs A Scratch

1 Don Weston & Debbie Weston2 Geoff Turner & Jacqui McDougall

Handicap

1 Geoff Turner & Jacqui McDougall

2 Rodney Tarrant & Lois Follas

Monday Pairs A Scratch

1 Catherine Cameron & Richard Hooper 2 Rachelle Meijer & Jon Verhoek

Handicap

1 Rachelle Meijer & Jon Verhoek2 Catherine Cameron & Richard Hooper

Monica Heard Handicap Trophy Scratch

1 Sam Armstrong & Ross Stewart2 Cherie Barton & Nigel Gresson

Handicap

1 Sam Armstrong & Ross Stewart2 Val West & Elaine Rayner

Wednesday Restricted Pairs Scratch

1 Cherie Barton & Lois Jones 2Joan Egger & Val West

Handicap

1 Rachelle Meijer & Mark Thomson 2 Cherie Barton & Lois Jones

Lil Goodger Trophy Scratch

1 Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron2 Roger Gunning & Ranjith Cooray

Handicap

1 Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron2 Roger Gunning & Ranjith Cooray

Richmond Anne Archbold Pairs Scratch

1 Lucie Armstrong & Richard Fletcher2 Sue Collinge & Trini Lin

Handicap

1 Lucie Armstrong & Richard Fletcher2 Jenny Seavill & Tracey Hoff

Friday O'Neill Pairs B Scratch

1 Debbie Weston & Don Weston2 Michael Davies & Roger Johnstone

Handicap

1 Debbie Weston & Don Weston2 Heather Douglas & Angie Singh

Tuesday Evening Ray White Pairs Scratch

1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
2 Trene McCaskill & Mark Beavan

Handicap

1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
2 Trene McCaskill & Mark Beavan

Tuesday Day Autumn Pairs Scratch

1 Sam Armstrong & Tim Healy 2 Angela Lovell & Trini Lin

Handicap

1 Angela Lovell & Trini Lin2 Elaine Rayner & Ian Ross

Thursday Autumn Pairs Scratch

1 Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron2 Thelma Jean Bird & Duncan White

Handicap

1 Thelma Jean Bird & Duncan White 2 Lois Jones & Ian Ross

Monday Autumn Pairs Scratch

1 Barbara Daly & Catherine Cameron 2 Pam Burns & Joan Egger

Handicap

1 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones 2 Barbara Daly & Catherine Cameron

Alder Trophy Individuals Scratch

1 Tim Densem 2 Sean Dwyer

Handicap

1 Tim Densem2 Sean Dwyer





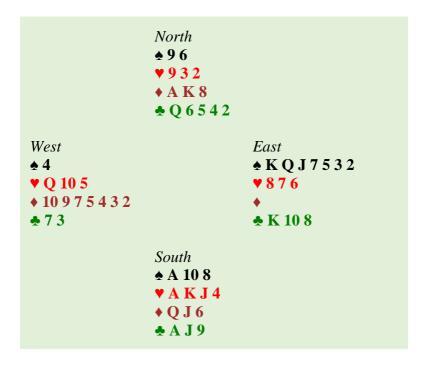
Bill: My cardiologist says I can't play bridge.

Tom: Why not? Do you have a heart problem?

Bill: Nope. He's just played with me enough to know I'm hopeless.

From Lindsay's File

Challenge 18



How can South make Five No Trumps when West leads the Spade 4?

The answer will be published on Club's "the website puzzle corner" soon after the newsletter is published.



It is important to preserve your entries to the hand where you are setting up a long suit