

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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Newsletter Editor: Catherine Cameron

Newsletter - May 2025

From the President

Hello!

A lot has happened in the last 2 months. The committee has been very busy. Thank you to you all for your positive response to requests for help, requests to attend tournaments and your regular attendance at club sessions and general support. This year, so far, we have had the pleasure of welcoming 10 new members to our club. Some are new to the club, and others have returned after being away for a time. It has been wonderful that they have been able to find partners to play with. This really helps people to find their place in the club.

Partner Stewards: Partner Stewards are a mainstay to building up attendance. Technology plays an integral part but on its own is not especially personal. Following in Cynthia Clayton's footsteps, Lucie Armstrong is doing a magnificent job. Our poor night session table numbers are experiencing a comeback which is great to see. To assist the Stewards we ask that you put your name on the list or in the book for the following week or series. If your partner is unable to play, please do let the Partner Steward know so they can find a replacement easily without creating a lot of unnecessary phoning or texting to find a suitable partner.

Lessons: The lessons are going very well. We regularly have 28 learners on a Tuesday evening and 17 learners on a Thursday morning. Thanks to Mark Thomson and Cherie Barton for their dedication and to their many helpers at each session. What a great team effort! Soon the Lessons sub-committee will need to consider how to introduce them to club play. We will need your help and will let you know what is needed closer to the time.

Working Bees: Please remember that the club will run a working bee on the first Saturday morning of every month. Many thanks to all those members who turn up to help. There has been good feedback from members commenting on how much cleaner and tidier the rooms are looking. The kitchen is very tidy - now with labels on cupboard doors to help members find things. Richard Wagstaff is appreciating the extra help with ground and building maintenance. Please do consider coming from time to time to meet & work with others to keep our Club Rooms looking good.

Facebook: The club Facebook page is up and running and being updated regularly. Please consider becoming a Friend - the more 'Likes' we get and 'shares' the more awareness of the club everyone (including non-members) become. It is another avenue to advertise Bridge and our club.

Directors: Catherine Cameron, Mereana Cullen and I are in the process of working toward our Club Director qualification. This has meant a need to introduce a monthly roster offering everyone the chance to practise their new knowledge. We are now very fortunate to have 10 club members who are willing to assist with Directing. As well, we have a number of members who are willing to help with scoring. This means the Director does not have to do both jobs at the same time. Of course, the experienced Directors are very comfortable doing both jobs but for many of us we are grateful to have someone assisting. Thank you to those members who prepare the tables and tidy up the boards at the end of the session, tidy the room and see that the kitchen is left clean and tidy. Many hands make light work. ☺

Fast Fibre: This has been a long time coming. We tried to get it installed in 2020, to no avail. The clubrooms were considered, by the powers that be, to be in the CBD making it prohibitively expensive at the time because we were considered to be a business. With much persistence, Dave and

Richard have finally made it happen. This is a big step forward and will, we hope, make the computers work faster and make it possible to put in more security cameras in and around the building.

Until the next report, continue to enjoy your Bridge

Helen

Helen Rinaldi, President

Farewell to Jo Howell

Recently we farewelled our longest-standing member, Jo Howell. Jo first joined the club in 1969 and is now 93 years old. She has just left NZ to live again in England. We wish her the very best. A farewell for Jo and a celebration for her and our other members aged 90+ was held on a recent Tuesday afternoon.

Jo's longstanding membership has reminded many of us of the personalities and changes within the club over the years. First of all, there was a change of club rooms from the old villa in O'Neill St to architecturally designed Richmond St clubrooms. Both rooms at the present clubrooms were full. Smoking has since been eliminated, tea ladies are no longer required, heating of the Richmond Clubrooms has improved, dress standards are no longer what they were (e.g. men wearing ties). Table numbers have definitely declined and scoring has changed from manual scoring to electronic scoring. Manual scoring did create an opportunity for more socialising.

Jo's special memories of personalities are of Jewel Cresswell - a fearsome woman; Monica Heard - a big smoker; Grace Fuller - President, a big personality that filled the room; Alistair Beck - a young President whose mother was also a member of the club; Barbara Minogue - mayor of the city. Many trophies that are still being won were given to the club by some of these past members. I wonder how many memories are invoked for

those of you who have played Bridge for a long time. Jo's memories will be shared by many - no matter what clubs you have belonged to.



Jo cutting her birthday / farewell cake

Phone number changes / additions

Allison Smith	027 493-6291
Frankie Christie	027 214-2194
Graeme Hope	020 4103-9755
Jennifer Humphreys	021 107-1933
Jo Millington	021 0234-6618
Kevin Turner	021 072-3013
Lucy Schumacher	021 388-113
Mary Fear	020 442-6135
Nigel Judson	027 522-5829
Wendy Kelly	027 742-7763



SOUP and BUN Socials coming

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.



The first Soup and bun for this year is at 12:30 on 18 May, followed by one session of bridge starting at 1.15pm and finishing with afternoon tea, all for \$8.

A second social event is planned for Sunday 27 July, but check the Club website for any changes to this date.

Working Bee

Members should contemplate coming along and donating a little time into the club. Some new faces would be nice to see !

Thursday Night Teams start soon

Thursday May 15 is the start of the Elsie Pohio Intermediate & Junior Teams Championship. Any intermediate or junior players who want to play in a team, either for all 5 weeks or as a substitute, are asked to contact Helen Rinaldi before 12 May.

When you sign up to play in a Teams event at the club it is VERY IMPORTANT that you commit to play all sessions of the event. The draw is based on the number of teams and cannot be changed once the event is underway. If you are unable to play on a night for any reason you **must** find a substitute to take your place.

For many of our Junior players this will be their first experience playing teams. Some Dos and Don'ts for teams play:

DO - Bid games if they have a chance of making, particularly if you are vulnerable.

DO - Bid slams that have a chance of making

DO - Take risks to make your contract

DO - Take risks to defeat a contract

DO - Aim for the safest slam, game or part score

DO - Be careful when sacrificing - they are bidding chancy games so may not make their contract and if they double you it could be expensive

DO - Take care dealing with pre-empts - bad breaks are likely, they may go off - remember you are aiming for a positive score.

DON'T - Double your opponents at the 3 level and give them a chance of a 'free' game bonus for an overtrick

DON'T - Make risky overcalls, especially when vulnerable - a score of -800 (3 light) is a disaster!

DON'T - Sacrifice against vulnerable games

Car Parking helpers

This year we are well into the swing of offering car-parking as a major fundraiser for the club. Once again the Chiefs are doing well so far this Super Rugby season. There is one more home game at the Waikato Stadium in the regular season still to come - on 24 May vs Moana Pacifika - and hopefully more home games in the Super Rugby playoffs.

And, for the first time since 1961, France is coming to Hamilton in 2025 to face off against the mighty All Blacks. The game is at FMG Stadium Waikato, Hamilton on Saturday 19 July.

If you want to help with the car-parking, contact Richard Wagstaff.

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 from the club. *[If you are a current member and are not receiving Compa\$\$ emails from the club we have not got your correct email in our database. Please contact Julie and let her know your email].* To check your balance at any time, you can log into your individual Compa\$\$ account. First, 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. Remember to keep a record of your login settings!

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 usually 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.

Cynthia's Cards - For Sale



Cynthia Clayton produces a great range of greeting cards that cover every need you might have.

What many of our members may not realise is that the money raised from the sale of the cards comes to our Club. So rather than purchasing commercial cards why not get one of these stunning handmade cards and help our Club at the same time?

The cards are priced at a reasonable \$5 each. The current selection of cards is found on the table just inside the Richmond room door (or in the passageway on Fridays) or an extended

range on-line on our web site [here](#).

If nothing really suits then have a chat with Cynthia to see if she can make a special card for you.

Cynthia can be contacted at the phone number in the Hamilton Club Programme Book or at this email address : cynclayton@gmail.com

Bridge Club Constitution

As an Incorporated Society, the bridge club needs to have the Constitution updated before April 2026 in accordance with the updated Incorporated Societies Act. The committee has been working hard in the last few months rewriting the Constitution. Soon it will be posted on the webpage for all members to read and make any suggestions of changes they think should be included or removed. After this period, there will be a Special General Meeting to approve the new Constitution. For most members the changed version will have minimal impact apart from the need to keep the Club informed of their contact details while they are a member and for a period after they leave as this is a requirement in the new Act.

WINTER PRECAUTIONS

Now that the flu season approaches 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 / elbow

If possible, get vaccinated ([free for over 65's and some conditions](#)) for Covid and flu

DON'T:

Cough or sneeze on your hand

Cough or sneeze on the cards you hold

REMEMBER:

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



Exciting News from One of Our Own!

We're thrilled to share that one of our very own members, has written a new novel set in a bridge club in Hamilton! The book, titled *Lethal Finesse*, is a psychological thriller filled with suspense, intrigue, and a twist that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

The story follows Maggie, a regular at the bridge table, whose life is turned upside down when she begins receiving cryptic messages and unsettling pranks. As Maggie digs deeper, she discovers that someone knows more about her past than they should, and they're watching her. With a mix of deception and mystery, the novel explores not only tensions at the bridge table, but the shocking revelations that can unravel a seemingly normal life.

Be sure to check out *Lethal Finesse* by J. Meverington available on [Amazon](#). You might just recognise some familiar places along the way!

Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs)

The Waikato area pairs is a friendly event played against members of other Waikato clubs (and a few from further afield), on Sundays for 5 rounds. This is a great chance for intermediates to play in an "A" tournament.

The next heat of the WAPs is on Sunday 25 May at Cambridge. Enter online, then arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner, \$15 for the entry fee, and your lunch. See more WAP dates further on in this newsletter, [our website](#) or check your 2025 programme book.

Waikato/Bays Leagues

Waikato-Bays region has been running the Championship Leagues for over ten years. They are aimed at Intermediate and Junior players. Players accumulate points over the season to qualify for the overall league prizes.



Hamilton players currently occupy the top 6 places in the Junior league after two events, an excellent start to the competition.



Megan Jolly and Leanne Curry have done very well in previous years in the Intermediate league but are taking a break this year. How about some of our other Intermediate players having a go this year?

Leanne and Megan with the Cup for Intermediate League winners in 2024

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Craigs Multi-Grade	Tuesday 13 May
Hamilton Swiss Pairs (Online)	Wednesday 18,25 June, 2 July
Hamilton Open Teams	Saturday 12 July

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior/Novice Tournaments:

Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 10 May
Mt Maunganui Junior/Novice Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 19 July

Intermediate Tournaments:

Katikati Intermediate Pairs	Katikati	Sunday 18 May
Mt Maunganui Intermediate Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 19 July

Open/Restricted Tournaments:

Taupo Open Pairs	Taupo	Sat/Sun 10/11 May
Putaruru Open Pairs	Putaruru	Thursday 15 May
Te Awamutu Restricted Pairs	Te Awamutu	Saturday 17 May
Te Puke Restricted Pairs	Te Puke	Saturday 24 May
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 3	Cambridge	Sunday 25 May
Spa Town Open Teams	Te Aroha	Saturday 7 June
Spa Town Restricted Swiss Pairs	Te Aroha	Saturday 7 June
Rotorua Open Pairs	Rotorua	Saturday 14 June
Morrinsville Open Pairs	Morrinsville	Saturday 28 June
National Swiss Pairs(2 days)	Tauranga	Sat/Sun 5/6 July
Tauranga Restricted Charity	Tauranga	Wednesday 9 July
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 4	Morrinsville	Sunday 20 July
Matamata Open Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 26 July
Tauranga Ladies Multigrade Pairs	Tauranga	Wednesday 30 July
North Island Pairs 20A	Online	Saturday 2 August
Whakatane Restricted Pairs	Whakatane	Saturday 2 August

Cambridge Sixes - Saturday 9 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. Three tournaments take place at once, 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. Since 2016 it has been held at the Don Rowlands Centre at Lake Karapiro, a wonderful venue with all mod cons along with great views out over the lake.

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 \$3000+ in prizes goes to the best performed Teams of Six when the scores get totalled across the grades.

The day provides not only serious bridge but also some fun between rounds with Trivia quizzes and prizes for the Teams judged to be wearing the most "distinctive team costume". This year the dress-up theme is something starting with the letter 'T'. Morning tea at 9am and a light lunch are included in the \$50 a person entry fee with bridge starting at 9.30am.

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 - 15 March

A very successful pair of tournaments were held at the bridge clubrooms on Saturday 15 March. 44 pairs competed, coming from north of Auckland down to New Plymouth in the West, then in the East from Thames down to Te Puke. The Juniors had 20 pairs from Franklin to Tauranga and even a player all the way from Ashburton!

A great result for Hamilton club on the day, with local pairs winning both tournaments: Trini Lin and Catherine Cameron in the Intermediate pairs, and Iain Paterson & Larissa Eyre in the Junior pairs. Stewart Lawrence and Mark Beavan came 2nd in the Juniors.



Iain and Larissa won the Junior pairs - seen here with our president, Helen

[See more photos here](#)

Hamilton Restricted Pairs - Sunday 6 April

42 pairs took part in this successful tournament. Our club members did particularly well, coming first in all sections.

Congratulations to you all!

Winners were:

1st Junior-Junior : Debbie Weston & Don Weston

1st Junior-Intermediate : Mark Beavan & Richard Wagstaff

1st Junior-Open : Yuzhong Chen & Freddie Chan (10th Overall)

1st Intermediate-Intermediate : Trini Lin & Helen Rinaldi (6th Overall)

1st Intermediate-Open : Megan Jolly & Blair Fisher (1st Overall)

Other good results were:

3rd Intermediate-Intermediate : Phil Thompson & Ian Ross

7th Overall : Leanne Curry & Liz Fisher

Thanks to Nigel for organising the tournament, Jane for running the

kitchen, Richard Fletcher for collecting and collating all the payments on the day and to all other members who helped on the day.



Megan and Blair - 1st place at the Hamilton Restricted Tournament - being presented with their prize certificates by President Helen Rinaldi

Recent Regional Tournament Successes

Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1 9 March Matamata
2nd Lucie Armstrong & Richard Fletcher

Hamilton Intermediate Pairs 15 March Hamilton
1st Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron

Hamilton Junior Pairs 15 March Hamilton
1st Iain Paterson & Larissa Eyre
2nd Stewart Lawrence & Mark Beavan

Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams 22 March Rotorua
2nd Yuzhong Chen & teammates
3rd Blair and Liz Fisher & teammates

Cambridge Junior Pairs 29 March Cambridge
1st Stewart Lawrence & Mark Beavan
2nd Sean Dwyer & Kevin Lawrence
3rd Iain Paterson & Larissa Eyre

Mt Maunganui Multi. Pairs 5 April Mt Maunganui
1st Liz Fisher & Blair Fisher
3rd Gary Foidl & Yuzhong Chen

Hamilton Restricted Pairs 6 April Hamilton
1st Megan Jolly & Blair Fisher



International Representatives 2025

Blair and Liz Fisher have qualified for the NZ Mixed Teams run by the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation in Hefei Anhui, China from 17-25 May 2025. Jenna Gibbons (playing with her mother Christine Gibbons) is in the Women's Team that goes to Herning, Denmark in mid-August
Congratulations and Good Luck to you and all NZ team members!

2025 National Congress

The 39th New Zealand National Bridge Congress is at the Palmy Function and Conference Centre in Palmerston North, from Saturday November 8th to Saturday November 15th 2025.

Most sessions will commence at 9.30am or 1.30pm, apart from NZ Open Teams finals rounds. For the first time, the NZ Open Teams is now a 40A event and the NZ Open Pairs a 30A event. In the new format all NZ Teams events start on Saturday 8th November 2025.

There is no longer an early-bird discount. However, all players who have paid in full by 15th October 2025 go in a draw, with one of four chances, to win their entry fee back! Youth players get a 50% discount on any Congress event.

For all event information and to book, start at: [NZ Bridge Congress 2025](#)

For general enquiries or to organise teammates contact Bridget on 027 243 8321 or Bridget@nzbridge.co.nz

Congress features include:

- Events for all levels
- Morning Seminars
- Quiz Night
- Fancy Dress



Club Results

Monday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Helen Rinaldi

Handicap

- 1 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Helen Rinaldi

Tuesday Day Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Duncan White & Sam Armstrong
- 2 Cynthia Clayton & Judith Brooks

Handicap

- 1 Peter Levin & Gael Levin
- 2 Duncan White & Sam Armstrong

Tuesday Evening Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Bill Barwood & Christine Murphy
- 2 Karen Mackenzie & Maggie Fisher

Handicap

- 1 Bill Barwood & Christine Murphy
- 2 Karen Mackenzie & Maggie Fisher

Lil Goodger Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Pam Burns
- 2 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Handicap

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Pam Burns
- 2 Mary Fear & Jan Hancox

Richmond Charles Holland-Goodwin Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Richard Fletcher & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Linda Lin & Ian Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Mark Beavan & Mary Fear
- 2 Richard Fletcher & Cynthia Clayton

Friday O'Neill Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner

Handicap

- 1 Ian Gilbert & Mary Mackwell
- 2 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies

Monday Autumn Pairs

- 1 Helen Rinaldi & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones

- 1 Helen Rinaldi & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones

Thursday Multigrade Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Karen Thomson & Kim Thompson
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Catherine Glyde

Handicap

- 1 Aengus Moore & Frankie Christie
- 2 Karen Thomson & Kim Thompson

Monica Heard Handicap Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Elaine Rayner & Janice Wilton
- 2 Helen Healy & Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Elaine Rayner & Janice Wilton
- 2 Anne Clarke & Doris Chapman

Tuesday Evening Ray White Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Graeme Hope & Alan Grant
- 2 Cate Anderson & Merle Jonson

Handicap

- 1 Graeme Hope & Alan Grant
- 2 Cate Anderson & Merle Jonson

Richmond Anne Archbold Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Elaine Rayner & Ross Stewart
- 2 Mary Ronke & Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Elaine Rayner & Ross Stewart
- 2 Donna Prentice & Dave Gilling

Friday O'Neill Pairs A

Scratch

- 1 Cate Anderson & Merle Jonson
- 2 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner

Handicap

- 1 Cate Anderson & Merle Jonson
- 2 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner

Monday Individual

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson
- 2 Pam Burns

Handicap

- 1 Barbara Daly
- 2 Pam Burns

Thursday Autumn Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Pam Burns & Cathy Nolen
- 2 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper

Handicap

- 1 Pam Burns & Cathy Nolen
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Lucy Schumacher

Alder Trophy Individuals

Scratch

1 Debbie Weston

2 Don Weston

Handicap

1 Debbie Weston

2 Cate Anderson

Tuesday Day Autumn Pairs

Scratch

1 Ian Clayton & Jenny Millington

2 Duncan White & Richard Fletcher

Handicap

1 Duncan White & Richard Fletcher

2 Tracey Hoff & Laura Sommerville



- *In a suit contract, when dummy has a long strong suit and no other entry, you may be able to cut declarer off from dummy by leading that suit*

"The difference between a brave bid and a foolhardy bid is largely a matter of result"



Finally...to all the Mothers reading this

