

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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Newsletter - November 2020

From the President

Our final tournament of the year held over Labour Weekend means that our Bridge year is coming to an end. Hosting a multi-day congress, especially this year with the increased number of entries, is a huge undertaking. I was impressed with the members who responded to appeals for assistance, especially in the kitchen, and willingly contributed part of their long weekend to help. Particular thanks go to members Michael Neels, for maintaining the scoring, Cathy Nolen who dealt a small mountain of boards, Jane Sandelin and her team feeding the multitudes and to Richard Fletcher collecting the funds each day and quietly doing the little jobs that needed doing.

Special thanks to Metlifecare, our sponsors of this tournament. Several of our members live at the Metlife village. The enjoyment and benefits from Bridge that the Manager of the village observed in the mental health of these members inspired her to begin lessons this year which led to the offer of sponsorship that benefits the club. Make sure you say hello to Helen Jarman if you meet her at the table next year.

Our new Secretary, Julie Thorburn has settled into her role with quiet efficiency although she is finding the terminology of Bridge sometimes rather a mystery. Our move away from cash for table money is allowing Julie more time to take on tasks that have previously been completed by members.

Our lessons are finally coming to an end, with the graduates receiving their Certificates of Achievement. It has been a long and interrupted series of lessons for them this year - they are to be congratulated for their perseverance. Please make them welcome.

The maintenance and painting of the flat roof is well under way now the weather has improved. The next stage will be maintaining the turrets.

Another of our sponsors, Craigs Investment is bringing morning tea on Friday 6 November. If you are able, please come and join us. Friday morning bridge has become the busiest session at the club with the regular session in the Richmond Room and learners and advanced learners in the O'Neill room. Finding room for everyone next year when lessons start will be interesting.

Don't forget Melbourne Cup bridge on Tuesday afternoon - come and join us for bridge, fun competitions, afternoon tea, streamed live viewing of the race and of course, the sweepstake. Hats and appropriate race day wear please.

The AGM is on 22 November, followed by bridge and dinner. If you would like to contribute to the club by joining the committee, please let me know. All you need is a willingness to contribute constructively to a group endeavouring to do the best they can for our club.

As this is my last newsletter as President, I would like to thank all the members who have contributed to the club activities and operations over the last two years. The club is reliant on the goodwill and contributions of its members and it has been pleasing to see new faces helping out at different times, even with our limited bridge year. To be successful in what we achieve as a club, we need the support of many members' contributions, so please consider what contribution you can make to the club next year.

I wish all members a peaceful time over the Xmas and New Year break and more bridging in 2021 than this year has bought us.

Ella

Ella Gray

From the Captain's Table

Great to be back at bridge and, thanks to Lois for another fun 'Soup and Bun' day.

Good to see more members wearing name tags. This makes life easier for all members, not only new ones.

I do encourage everyone, especially Junior and Intermediate players, to enter tournaments. It certainly helps build up points as well as being a fun day with new and old friends.

Message to the Learner groups....

If you know of people who have not returned to play, please call them and encourage them to come back for the casual games (Summer bridge) to be held for you for the rest of the year.

Melbourne Cup day is coming soon on Tuesday November 3rd. New players are most welcome. Remember to wear a hat for the occasion - wear anything from your best to a fun creation!! You may win a prize!!

We are looking for more experienced players to play with Juniors on Tuesday evenings and Friday mornings. The most important aspect of this to give advice sparingly and kindly. Perhaps, if you are without a partner one day, offer to play in the teaching room.

Happy bidding

Laura

Club Captain

Club Secretary

The Club has a new Secretary, Julie Thorburn, who joined us in September after the second Covid Lockdown. Julie is the first secretary the Club has had for a long time who does not play bridge (has settled for the less exciting hobbies of reading & walking!) so an explanation may be required if it's a bridge subject you want to see her about

Julie is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons - 1pm...4pm as well as Friday mornings - 9am...1pm if you need to see her, otherwise an email to secretary@hamiltonbridge.co.nz will get to her.

Update your phone number for 2021

The 2021 programme book is now being prepared. A list of all members' details is on a table in the main clubroom. Please take the time to check your contact details and either confirm they are correct, add or change the details, or let the [bridge club secretary](#) know of any change needed.



Learners/Lessons report - Mark Thomson

The annual learners' classes started in March with a very good intake of keen students. Unfortunately, after only one class in March the course was halted, due to firstly, the Covid level 2 restrictions, followed by the lockdown.

To our pleasant surprise practically all who started came back after the lockdown, perhaps looking for some needed social contact. It wasn't too long later that another level 2 restriction set us back another month or so, but we were later able to resume for the 2nd time.

I was assisted with the Tuesday evening group this year by Karen Thomson, Mereana Cullen, Lindsay Reid and Roger Gunning and the Friday group was in the care of Jenny Millington and Barry Jones for their umpteenth year.

In all this year we have about 45 people who have finished the course(s) and we are certainly hoping that the majority of those will join the club. A number of learners who weren't able to finish have indicated that they are keen to start again next year due to the significant disruptions and lack of flow due to Covid.

The next challenge for us as a club is to retain the new members, as history tells us that the first year in the game is the most important in terms of retaining them as long-time members. So please do everything to encourage them and if you come to play against a learner, treat them decently as new players are always nervous when playing against experienced players. Many thanks to my group of assistants who have put in a lot of time this year with the learners and I'm sure Jenny will want me to thank Barry on her behalf.

Meet Our Members - Allison Smith

(Interviewed by Phil Thompson)



Allison and Malcolm met when she was seven years old, and Malcolm was a couple of years older. Allison told me that they have now known each other for 70 years. They had relatives with farms near Dannevirke and spent a lot of school holiday time together, with cousins, as they were growing up. After school Malcolm went on to Massey University, but after that they met up again and married in 1966. They have two children, a son and daughter now both in their

50s, and 4 grandchildren. (Several of you will have met their grandson William who frequently comes to Friday morning bridge in the school holidays.)

In 1980, Allison, Malcolm and family spent a year overseas when Malcolm worked as an Agricultural Consultant. They visited seven countries in Europe, and travelled extensively around the UK, but omitting Ireland because of the political situation at the time. On returning to New Zealand in 1981 and looking for something to help her "settle down" after a year of travel, Allison signed up for bridge lessons at the Hamilton Bridge Club. Allison had grown up in a bridge-playing family, and her parents had regular Saturday night bridge sessions with other couples: or as Allison said, the ladies played bridge and the gentlemen drank whisky.

Apparently, Malcolm refused to enrol and thought that bridge bidding was "organised cheating." But Allison came home from the first lesson, insisted that Malcolm come along to the next lesson, and the rest, as they say, is history. Malcolm was hooked, became addicted, and thus began the Smith family association with our great game.

Allison and Malcolm represented Waikato-Bays as Intermediates at the Inter-provincial tournament in Dunedin 1984, in Allison's words "...when we really didn't know what we were doing".

In the 1990s, Allison and Malcolm together ran the club lessons. Back then this required a major effort, as they did not have access to the huge

amount of material available today. Allison spent many hours assembling hands and typing notes - most of this sort of thing is readily available today. And while Allison has never actually served on the committee, she has been a huge assistance to Malcolm during his two terms as President.

Allison told me of playing in a tournament against Alan Turner and Bill Haughie many years ago, when these two eminent gentlemen were arguing heatedly about something which had gone wrong in a previous hand. Allison interrupted with "...come on, it's only a game of cards", and was immediately corrected in no uncertain terms!

In another tournament, Allison and Malcolm were playing together and after a bidding misunderstanding, ended up playing 5 Diamonds with a 3-2 Diamond fit (hands up who hasn't done something like this before!). Malcolm was in the process of either apologising (or justifying?) one of his bids, when Allison said quietly "we'll talk about it on the way home". The surprised opponent then asked if they were married, and when Allison replied "Just", they said "Oh, newly-weds". Alison replied: "I said 'Just'!" These days Allison is not playing many tournaments, but as a lot of you will know from Cynthia Clayton's quizzes, the Smiths and the Claytons quite regularly play "girls v. boys" matches. Rather than using rubber bridge scoring, where the luck of the deal is very influential in selecting winners and losers, they have devised a much more competitive scoring system, where the score awarded relies on bidding and making the correct contract.

Allison is not playing regularly in the evenings these days, but she is a regular and popular player at the Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning sessions.

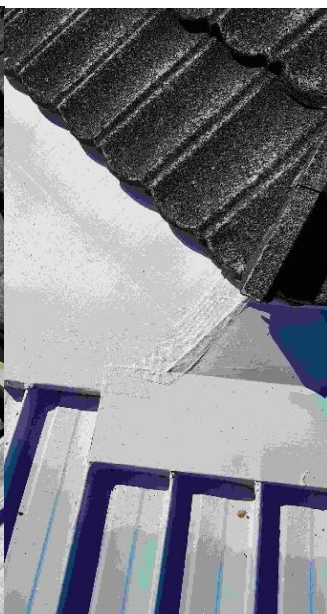
Be Kind to Your Directors

Just like us, our directors like to get home at a reasonable hour. So, when you have finished with your cup, please return it to the kitchen. And if the tray is full put it in the steriliser and push the far right button to start it. After play finishes, tidy the pens and pad away, return the Bridgemate to the cupboard and take the scrap paper to the recycling bin near the door.

Roof Report

The roof of our building has been deteriorating over the years and needs either replacement or rejuvenation (don't we wish the latter could happen to our own bodies!). Our member Jol Glyde has been working on the flatter areas of the roof for a while now to preserve the roof and extend its life for a few more years hopefully preventing the water leaks we have been having at times.

The photos show the original rust issue, after the effect of the rust converter, and the primed surface with water proofing applied to the high-risk areas. Top coating is still to be applied.





Our member Brett Glass changing a lightbulb in the main room!

(Brett's full time job is as an Electrician so this is not such an uncommon position he finds himself in here. If you do need an electrician Brett is a sponsor in the Club's programme book so why not give him a call)

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

(Note - NZ Wide Pairs was moved to Friday 30 October so has been played)

Melbourne Cup Afternoon - Tuesday 3 November

Come along on Tuesday 3 November @ 1pm for:

- ◆ a sweepstake on "the race"
- ◆ a hat competition with different categories:
 - Stunning
 - Wacky
 - Au naturel
- ◆ quick draw raffle
- ◆ bridge - prizes for gross and handicap
- ◆ a wonderful afternoon tea
- ◆ live screen streaming of "the race "
- ◆ Kay's famous chocolate eclairs
- ◆ and other wondrous things

All this for only \$6!

Special Morning Tea - Friday 6 November

One of our sponsors, Craigs Investment Partners, invites everyone along to a special morning tea at 11am on Friday 6 November. This will take place during the usual Friday bridge session so bridge will finish somewhat later that day.

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 22 November

The AGM starts at 2pm, followed shortly after by a session of bridge and Christmas Dinner. Come along and join us - only \$10 for bridge and the dinner, the AGM is free to attend.

Nominations and notices of business for the AGM need to be in writing with the Club Secretary by Saturday, 14 November 2020



Changes to NZ Bridge Gradings 2021

NZ Bridge has revised the ranking points for Gradings which will take effect from 1 January 2021. The new criteria are:

Open

- Provincial Master or higher Rank

Intermediate

- Club Master or lower Rank and 30 or less Rating Points but 5 or more A Points or
- Club Master or lower Rank with more than 30 Rating Points or
- Local Master - up to 50A points

Junior

- Club Master or lower Rank and 30 or less Rating Points and less than 5 A Points

Current Open players who are Local Masters (up to 50 A points) will now revert back to Intermediate players.

The club programme book for next year will include these new gradings.

NZ Bridge National Congress 2021

Despite NZ Bridge's best efforts, the 2020 National Congress (which was to be held at Karapiro) had to be cancelled because of Covid restrictions on Aucklanders' gatherings. The next Congress (and the following 2 years) will be held at the Trustpower Baypark Arena in Mount Maunganui from Saturday 24 September to Saturday 2 October 2021 (just before the school holidays). After next year Congress will revert to the usual school holidays dates. Don't delay if attending, book your accommodation now!

NZ Bridge International Squads for 2021

After no international bridge in 2020, let's hope 2021 will be more successful. NZ Bridge has released the list of international squad members for 2021 and there are players from our club included. Congratulations to Karen Harris and Jenna Gibbons (in different Women's pairs) and Blair and Liz Fisher, Barry Jones and Jenny Millington (in the Mixed pairs). Commiserations to Barry and Jenny on missing out on the 2020 trip to Italy (which was cancelled for obvious reasons).

Waikato-Bays Competition Results

WAP Wrap

The Waikato Area Pairs are usually contested over 6 heats at 6 different Clubs but this year with Covid Lockdowns only 3 heats were able to be held. The final heat was held at the Hamilton Club and best on the day were Tim and Helen Healy who scored an impressive 72% in the first session, setting them up to win comfortably over the 2 sessions.

However, the overall winners of the 5A event were Jenny Millington and Barry Jones who squeezed past second place-getters Kevin Whyte and Clare Coles from Cambridge.



Waikato-Bays League results

As with everything else this year the Waikato-Bays leagues were affected by cancellations when no play was possible.

The Juniors played their last tournament at Te Awamutu on 11 October. The competition was reduced from the 6 planned to the best over 3 tournaments. Vaughan Samuelson and Francoise Campbell finished 9th equal in the top 10 placegetters overall in our region.

The Intermediates finished at Cambridge on 18 October, with 5 tournaments held out of the 8 originally planned. Megan Jolly and Leanne Curry played all these rounds and finished 4th equal in the individual standings.

And finally, the newly-minted (and possibly the one-and-only played) Waikato / Bays Judith Howard League for restricted Open players was completed at Hamilton at Labour weekend. Elaine Rayner and Ross Stewart came 5th equal after the 4 tournaments were completed. Congratulations to you all!

What are the League competitions?

The competitions aim to encourage Junior and Intermediate players to play in tournaments in the region and to encourage players to form partnerships, although you can play with different partners as well. The more of the listed tournaments you play in, the more points you will collect and the higher your chances of a prize.

The competitions award points on an individual basis both for participation and for success (final placing and a bonus point each for turning up, getting over 50% average for a day or winning a session outright). The top 10 placegetters overall win cash prizes.

What is in it for the players?

It is good fun and gives you the impetus to develop sound friend/partnerships and a better grasp of the game. So why not book your partner(s) in for as many of these excellent tournaments as you can manage!

Books, Books, Books

The book table in the Richmond Room has books (mostly fiction) available for members to take in exchange for a gold coin. The avid readers in the club are always looking for new books. Have a look through your collection at home and bring along any books you are happy to donate to the club, or take some of the existing selection home for holiday reading.



The club Library cupboard also has a selection of bridge books available for loan. Why not use the holiday break to swot up on something to improve your bridge? Maybe a new system (or refresh your knowledge of the system you play already!), a new convention or improving your defence play - books on these are all to be found in this cupboard.

Recent Events at our Club

Waikato/Bays Swiss Pairs - Saturday 5 September

Unfortunately this tournament was cancelled due to our second Covid-19 lockdown.

Soup & Bun Social - Sunday 4 October

With Covid level 2 behind us we were finally able to get out and socialise, long may it continue! On a sunny spring day, 16 pairs of club members came to the clubrooms to enjoy lunch and a session of bridge. Bill Bailey supplied home-grown pumpkin for one of the soups, much appreciated by those who chose this option. Taking home the prizes were Ian and Cynthia Clayton and Malcolm and Allison Smith for the highest scores, with Ian Ross and Phil Thompson and Joan Craig and June Rogers winning the handicap awards.

Hamilton Congress 24-26 October

Hamilton club was a winner with 4 well-attended tournaments over Labour weekend. Happy players appreciated the planning and hard work of the organisers, including Ella Gray, Michael Neels and Jane Sandelin, and their teams of helpers over the 3 days.

Hamilton club members also did well, with the main Teams event having 5 of the 10 finalist teams, and the top 2 teams, featuring players from our club. Well done!



Nigel still playing with only 3 seconds left on the clock! Blair & Liz Fisher finished 5th in the Congress Pairs

Recent Tournament Successes by our Club Members



Tauranga Open Pairs 2 nd	Tauranga Blair Fisher & Liz Fisher	Saturday 26 September
Cambridge Open Swiss Pairs 2 nd	Cambridge Barry Jones & Jenny Millington	Sunday 27 September
Matamata Open Pairs 1 st	Matamata Barry Jones & Jenny Millington	Saturday 3 October
Waitomo Open Pairs 3 rd	Te Kuiti Michael Curry & Jenna Gibbons	Thursday 8 October
Taupo Open Pairs 2 nd	Taupo Jenna Gibbons & Christine Gibbons	Saturday 17 October
Cambridge Intermediate Pairs 1 st	Cambridge Josie van Weerd & Beth Kingsley	Sunday 18 October
Hamilton Congress Open Pairs 2 nd	Hamilton Yuzhong Chen & James Yang	Saturday 24 October
Hamilton Restricted Open Pairs 3 rd	Hamilton Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron	Saturday 24 October
Waik/Bays Provincial Teams Final 1 st 2 nd	Hamilton Michael Curry & teammates Liz & Blair Fisher & teammates	Monday 26 October
Babich Nationwide Pairs 1 st N-S 1 st E-W	Hamilton (and all NZ) Jenny Millington & Barry Jones Sam Simpson & Jo Simpson	Friday 30 October
NZ overall results can be found at this link: Babich results		

Upcoming Events



EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Thames Xmas Party	Thames	Sunday 15 November
Te Awamutu Xmas Party	Te Awamutu	Saturday 21 November
Waikato Xmas Party	Waikato	Saturday 28 November
Rotorua Xmas Party	Rotorua	Saturday 5 December
Taupo Xmas Party (was Huntly)	Taupo	Sunday 13 December

The Xmas parties are always popular so if you are planning to enter, don't wait, do it now!

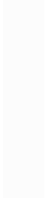


A bit of Humour for the Holidays:

Telling your suitcase there is no summer holiday this year can be tough. Emotional baggage is the worst.

A friend has decided she and her husband don't want kids. They're going to tell them at dinner.

My husband and I went shopping in masks. I brought the wrong husband home. Stay alert everyone!



summer Bridge

SUMMER BRIDGE - STARTS 24 NOVEMBER

For those who have spare time over the holiday season, the Hamilton club runs Summer Bridge 3 times a week except for the week before Christmas and the Christmas and New Year holiday weeks.

Summer Bridge is open to ALL grades and ALL players (including members of ALL bridge clubs). For all sessions you will need to have organised your own partner before you arrive. Visitors will need to bring \$4 table money. Summer Bridge is stand-alone scratch, with NS and EW winners each night earning a free session of bridge at Hamilton.

2020 Summer Bridge:

Tuesdays at 7:00pm - November 24, December 1, 8 (partner required)

Thursdays at 7:30pm - November 26, December 3, 10 (partner required)

Fridays at 10:00am - November 27, December 4, 11 (partner required)

2021 Summer Bridge:

Tuesdays at 7:00pm - January 5, 12, 19 (partner required)

Thursdays at 7:30pm - January 7, 14, 21 (partner required)

Fridays at 10:00am - January 8, 15, 22 (partner required)

(The Waikato Bridge Club runs summer bridge on Monday nights if the above dates and times don't suit you)



Hamilton Open 5A Swiss Pairs

- 1 Gary Foidl & Brett Glass
- 2 Lesley Chubb & Brian Gallaher

Monday Pairs D

Scratch

- 1 Liz Fisher & Leanne Curry
- 2 Karen Thomson & Cathy Nolen

Handicap

- 1 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones
- 2 Liz Fisher & Leanne Curry

Tuesday Evening Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry
- 2 Judy Cooper & Rachelle Meijer

Handicap

- 1 Ruth Ivey & Christine Murphy
- 2 Judy Cooper & Rachelle Meijer

Thursday Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Ross & Nigel Gresson
- 2 Josie Van Weerd & Cathy Nolen

(4 weeks only)

Handicap

- 1 Ian Ross & Nigel Gresson
- 2 Richard Wagstaff & Don Macpherson

Friday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Michael Neels & Ella Gray
- 2 Kevin Whyte & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Michael Neels & Ella Gray
- 2 Jenny Seavill & Laura Sommerville

Wednesday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson & Brian Gallaher
- 2 Joan Egger & Pam Burns

Handicap

- 1 Mark Thomson & Brian Gallaher
- 2 Joan Egger & Pam Burns

Thursday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Ross & Phil Thompson
- 2 Nigel Gresson & Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Handicap

- 1 Ian Ross & Phil Thompson
- 2 Nigel Gresson & Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Monday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Val West & Joan Egger
- 2 Mark Thomson & Ella Gray

Handicap

- 1 Stephen Weir & Stephen Baptist
- 2 Adele Schofield & Jan Hancox

Galbraith Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Allison Smith
- 2 Val West & Elaine Rayner

Handicap

- 1 Bill Bailey & Margaret Boyd
- 2 Malcolm Smith & Allison Smith

Friday Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Olive Davis & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Helen Healy & Tim Healy

Handicap

- 1 Peter Kington & Sheila Smith
- 2 Thelma Bird & John Paterson

Tuesday Evening Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Judy Cooper & Rachelle Meijer
- 2 Julie Hooper & Donna Prentice

Handicap

- 1 Judy Cooper & Rachelle Meijer
- 2 Julie Hooper & Donna Prentice

Spring Swiss Pairs

- 1 Brett Glass & Gary Foidl
- 2 Richard Fletcher & Gwyn Lobb

Thursday Swiss Pairs

- 1 Jenny Seavill & Colleen De Luen
- 2 Phil Thompson & Sam Armstrong



When you can ruff in the short-trump hand
it is probably the right line of play

Challenge 11



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

How can South make Six Spades after West leads the King of Hearts?

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

I'm Giving Up Bridge!

I'm giving up bridge - tonight's my last night
It's "amen" to Stayman, - I give up the fight.
The insults and muddles - are giving me troubles,
And I can't sleep at night - for thinking of doubles.

My cards are all rotten - and who's playing what?
What the heck's trumps? - I think I've forgot!
So for now it's all over - I'm off to the back wood,
I'm bidding goodbye - to Gerber and Blackwood.

I can't stand the hassle - I can't stand the pain,
I'm picking up bad cards - again and again.
I'm giving up bridge - tonight's a bad night,
Declarer is horrid - and nothing's gone right.

My partner's a dope - and I'm losing hope
And when he says "double" - I know we're in trouble.
My points are not high, - and I'm wondering why
He keeps on bidding - right up to the sky.

We're in seven spades - and all my hope fades,
When surprise, surprise, - his high bidding pays.
We're winning all tricks - the defenders feel sick,
And I have to admit - my partner's a brick.

But I'm giving up bridge - tonight's my last night.
Farewell to conventions - I give up the fight!
So I leave with few words - but some that are true,
Bridge is a game - not for me, but for you.

So be kind to your partners - and don't mind their cheek,
For it's only a game - oh! I'll see you next week!

Author unknown

