

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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Newsletter - November 2021

From the President

THANKS TO ALL THE HELPERS

Since our last newsletter the club has had only a handful of sessions, some of which consisted of only a few tables. Therefore, there is little news to report on sessions.

While the club has been unused, we have completed some housekeeping:

During lockdown all the chairs were dry cleaned.

Many thanks to Liz Fisher for organising this job.

Many thanks also to Raewyn Grylls-Thomas and Tracey Hoff who washed all the table cloths and cleaned the cups.



The big news is that we managed to hold a 10A teams' event online using RealBridge, as part of our Labour Weekend Congress. This event was a huge success with 54 teams entered from across New Zealand and Australia. This would not have been possible without the support from NZ Bridge. We are extremely grateful for their assistance. In addition, a huge thank you goes to Ella and her match committee for putting this together in just two weeks. THANK YOU ALL!

This year's AGM will not include the usual prize giving. Instead, prizes for the individual sessions will be given out at the end of the last session.

If you're interested in serving on the committee please let Nigel or Mereana know.

I would encourage you to read Ella's article on RealBridge in this newsletter. As we may not be meeting face to face, this would be a great way to continue your bridge.

Happy Bridging, wherever it may be.

Nigel

Nigel Gresson

From the Captain's Table

It is hard to believe that it is one hundred years since the awful Flu epidemic of 1918 and here we are facing a similar situation.

Let's hope it will not be long until this time is just a memory and Covid will be a disease reasonably easy to deal with.

Many of you have been playing bridge on-line and have also completed Cynthia's quizzes.

A special THANK YOU to Cynthia for the quizzes and the ability to order her cards on-line.

Wonderful modern technology!!

We are so much more fortunate than our Auckland friends...

So, keep smiling, get vaccinated and we will see each other soon.

Cheers



Laura

Club Captain

Update your details for 2022

The 2022 programme book is now being prepared. Shortly you will be emailed the current contact details (phone numbers) that we have for you. Please take the time to check your contact details and either confirm they are correct or let the [bridge club secretary](#) know of any change needed. If any of your regular partners have a new email address that we may not be aware of, can you also let the secretary know.



Phone number changes / additions

Alistair Denize	021 231-2263
Anna Setiadarma	853-3990 / 021 106-0357
Gunawan Setiadarma	853-3990 / 021 133-0959
Jenni Bird	07 824-3520 / 027 295-7000
John Winter	07 547-4632 / 021 665-878
Lorraine Bird	07 824-3740 / 027 457-1506
Rodney Tarrant	847-3266 / 027 340-7452

Learners Lessons 2022 - now Tuesdays only

Due to the success of the lessons over the last 4 years, the O'Neill room is now running a second "NCs" bridge session with more of a social component on Friday mornings, necessitating a move for next year's lessons. All 2022 lessons will now be held on Tuesdays, with a daytime session from 1 - 3 pm as well as the usual evening session from 7 - 9 pm. Many thanks to Sue Collinge who has already organised friends to try out the lessons next year. Now is a good time for all members to be talking to family and friends about coming and joining us to learn a challenging new skill. Friday morning players can now choose whether to play in the Richmond room (generally more advanced players) or the O'Neill room for their weekly Friday "more social" dose of bridge next year.

2021 Learners / Lessons report – Ella Gray

The annual learners' classes started in March with a very good intake of keen students - 25 on Friday morning and 8 on Tuesday evening. Covid did not interfere with lessons this year until mid-August, but that did not impede on our numbers.

Both sessions had a change of tutor this year - Friday morning was taken by myself, with Jan Hancox assisting for the first few weeks to help organise such a large group of lively people. Tuesday evening sessions were taken by Mereana Cullen, assisted again by Roger Gunning, with Laura Sommerville and Lindsay Reid helping at the start.



Many of the Friday morning group were very pro-active with their learning - following on-line lessons in addition to the club lessons, attending the Tuesday night playing session, noting questions to be clarified and constantly puzzling over the quiz answers. Marie can even tell

you all the scores for any contract, vulnerable or non-vulnerable. How many of us can do that even after playing for 20 years?

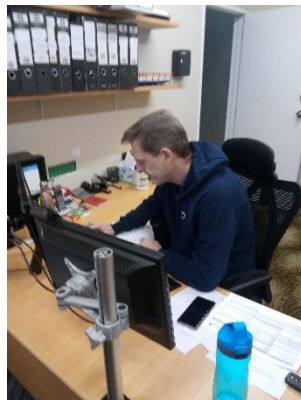
I am delighted that at least 95% of the learners who started the course have either completed it this year, or where they needed to 'drop out' due to their particular circumstances, intend to return next year. All those who finished the course have joined the club and we welcome them as new members.

The next challenge for us as a club is to retain these 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 more experienced players.

What I did in Lockdown - Ella

"So, what are you going to do in lockdown, Mum?" My daughter asked me this question at the beginning of the latest lockdown. When I told her what I had planned, she paused, and then replied, "That wasn't what I thought you would say".

So, what did I do? Well, on Monday night and then each night through to Saturday night for the first week of lockdown, I packed my dinner, my kettle & teabags, computer, and work files and set off for the clubrooms. At 7 o'clock I was online at BBO, playing in one of the many tournaments available. At 7.40 pm, my companion for the night would arrive, give the secret knock on the office window and if I was dummy, I would let him in.



If you think this was a romantic tryst, should I be so lucky! No, it was Hugh McGann arriving for his nightly stint to play in the biggest European Teams Qualifying Competition for the Bermuda Bowl. These matches were played on-line against 30 teams from England through to Russia. Each night, Hugh played at least 5 matches finishing between 3 to 4.30 am with a 'lunch break' at 1 o'clock. And why was I there? As an official qualifying event, each country needed an 'observer' physically present to ensure play was conducted under all the rules - the rest of the Irish team played together in Dublin and I was Hugh's observer in Hamilton.

So, did the night drag? - surprisingly not! Starting with BBO, onto computer work, the lunch break and then movies on Netflix together with 20-minute breaks between each match, the night went quite quickly although the 4.30 am finish was a push. Then it was home to bed until the next nightly stint. Luckily, I live in a very quiet neighbourhood. Did the Irish team qualify? Sadly no - they started the week very well, but then hit a few speed bumps. Considering most of the other teams comprised mainly professional bridge players and Ireland had just one professional, they did very well. It was a pity we needed to cancel our Irish themed Improver's night to support them, I'm sure that would have given them a boost.

Club Sessions on RealBridge

Due to the continuance of Covid level 3 in the Waikato, the match committee is preparing to hold our usual club bridge sessions online using the RealBridge platform. This is the program we used for the tournament held by the Club at Labour Weekend.

Many members have experienced sessions on this platform (or the slightly less well equipped BBO) and agree RealBridge is 'just like playing at the club'. Players move into the playing room, sit at a table with their partners and can chat together with their opposition and you can see each other. A practice session was held last Friday morning with 14 tables taking part and it all ran quite smoothly.

Full instructions for using RealBridge are here: [RealBridge Intro](#)

Equipment needed - a computer (Windows or Mac) or tablet (iPad or Android) that has a camera and microphone. This enables everyone to see and talk to you. (You can't however use a Smartphone)

Club sessions will start this week with the following sessions:

Monday evening at 7 pm

Tuesday - afternoon and evening

Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7 pm and

Friday morning at 10.00 am.

All members can play in any session - only basic systems on Tuesday night please. The links to these sessions will be posted on the website.

Non-members are welcome - please deposit \$3 table money in Account Number 01-0315-0381282-00 with your name and computer number.

Members table money at \$3 will be charged through your Compa\$\$ accounts. No Masterpoints (C points) will be awarded until NZ Bridge approval is received.

These sessions are currently planned to continue only during Level 3.

If you need any assistance with setting up your equipment or have any questions, please contact Nigel Gresson 021 295 8452.

No partner? No worries! Once in the Lobby use the chat to ask the Director for a partner. Play 20 - 24 boards, talk with your partner and other pairs as they join you at your table. Results will be published on the Hamilton website. Almost like the Real thing, but with your own drinks!

Melbourne Cup Afternoon - Tuesday 2 November

Unfortunately this social event will not go ahead, another victim of Covid-19. However, there will still be a RealBridge session in the afternoon to play cards - just not all the extras. But you could still wear your fancy hat and enjoy a glass of bubbles while playing!

Babich NZ Wide Pairs - Friday 12 November at 7.30pm

This event is played at the same time in most bridge clubs throughout New Zealand. Everyone plays the same hands and as well as the result at our club, it is scored across the whole country with prizes awarded for the top scores nationwide including for juniors and intermediates. A booklet containing commentary on each hand is given to all players afterwards, so you can discuss how you could improve your bidding and play. All this for \$12 with money raised being used to support Youth bridge. In the only too-likely event that we are still in lockdown on this date, the pairs will be run using a RealBridge session at our club.

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 21 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 for the AGM need to be in writing with the Club Secretary by Saturday, 13 November 2021 and notices of business need to be received by Saturday 6 November. Instructions on how to do this under Level 3 will be posted on the club website.

If Waikato is still in level 3 on 21 November, the AGM will either be held one week later or may become an online Zoom meeting. In either case members will be updated closer to the time.



WAIKATO-BAYS COMPETITION RESULTS

Waikato-Bays League results

Unfortunately, for a second year Covid intervened and the Waikato-Bays leagues were affected by cancellations when no play was possible. Only tournaments played at Covid alert level 1 were included in the league competitions so that players did not feel pressured to play at level 2. The Juniors played their last tournament at Mt Maunganui on 17 July. The competition was reduced from the 6 planned to the best over 4 tournaments (one more than in 2020!). Stephen Weir finished 3rd overall and Rachelle Meijer was 4th. Well done!

The Intermediates finished at Te Awamutu on 14 August, with 5 tournaments held out of the 8 originally planned. Megan Jolly and Leanne Curry played all these rounds, resulting in 6th equal in the individual standings.

And finally, the Restricted Open league was completed at Rotorua on 19 June. Alan Parkes and Graham Stern came 10th equal after the 6 tournaments were completed, despite playing in only 2 and 1 of the events respectively!

Congratulations to you all!

Waikato Bays will email the prize winners and prizes will be paid into their bank account numbers. Sadly, there will be no prize giving as such.

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 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!

Greeting Cards for Club Funds

Cynthia has kept busy during lockdown making and selling more of her handmade greeting cards. These are reasonably priced at \$5 each, with money raised donated to our club - each year Cynthia has a target of \$1000 raised for our club.

Cards are available for contactless letterbox pickup or delivery, or to hold until the club reopens - whenever that may be!

Below is a selection of some of her Christmas cards, or check the link below for her currently available range which covers all sorts of occasions. Cynthia can also make cards to order especially for you if you want something different.

To order cards, email Cynthia on cynclayton@gmail.com

Use the reference number by each card to make your order.

[Cynthia's current range of cards can be found here](#)

There is now a link to Cynthia's cards under Articles on the club website.



Recent Events at our Club

Waikato/Bays Swiss Pairs - Saturday 4 September

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

Soup & Bun Social - Sunday 4 October

Another victim of the Covid lockdown!

Hamilton Congress 24-26 October

As Labour Weekend approached with Auckland still in Level 3, some of the questions for the Match Committee were - are we going to cancel the tournament? If no, will it be viable if the many Auckland players who always enter, are unable to play this year? Players from around the country have already entered, they will need to cancel their accommodation, so do we cancel? We needed to make a decision.

Then some of us started playing on the RealBridge platform, being able to see and talk to our partners and the opposition. We were asked, why don't you run your tournament on RealBridge? Well, we couldn't think of a good reason not to try - the NZ Bridge board were contacted, permission granted, the poster changed and re-sent, players who were already entered notified of the changes and we were away, with under three weeks to organise the first NZ on-line tournament.

Many Zoom meetings later - with the NZ Bridge board, the RealBridge people in London and our Director (who had no experience directing on RealBridge) - much upskilling with practice events and many hours of administration, we were ready to start. New entries had flooded in over this time until we had 54 teams entered.

We held sessions to practice prior to the event - everyone turned up for the first one, the first 10 boards were played and then, our screens went blank! No-one knew what had happened, until the news came - the server in France had gone down, so that was the end of that practice session. Ah well, at least we would be aware if that happened during the actual tournament. Two more sessions were held with no complications and all was set for the opening day.

The big day came, we held our breath and it all went like clockwork. Most of the players had never played with screens on the tables (where you are unable to see your partner and one opponent), no-one had ever played 80 boards in a NZ 10A tournament or in an online tournament that awarded A points, so it was a first from many aspects.

But it was a strange ending to a tournament - some people sat around in the playing room chatting, but without a prize giving and afternoon tea to enjoy, most people just logged off the programme and they were - gone.

In a star-studded field for this Waikato Bays provincial teams online tournament, two of our club members finished in the top 3 placings. Congratulations to Liz and Blair Fisher who, along with their team members Clare Miao from Auckland and Wayne Burrows from Palmerston North, finished 3rd overall after two days of online bridge.

Jenny Millington and Barry Jones (with Patrick Carter and Julie Atkinson of Auckland the other members of their team) finished in 10th place out of the 54 teams entered.

THANK YOU!
thank you!

Thanks to all the volunteers, without whom we would not be able to enjoy our bridge.

These are the members who donate their time to dealing, scoring, cleaning up after tea, plates of food for tournaments, on the committee, shopping, cleaning equipment, putting out rubbish.

THANK YOU all.

CAMBRIDGE SIXES 2021

If you have never played at Cambridge Sixes - and if you get the chance, do play as it is a fun day for everyone - you may not realise that dressing up as a team is an important part of the day.

Once again, our club members put in a great effort in the 'dress-up' part of the event with one of our teams even winning the prize for best-dressed team - Congratulations to the 'I Scream' team, especially to Mereana and Cherie for designing the winning costumes!

Below are some photos of our club members dressed up for the event - if you want to know who they are, this link gives you team members and results for all teams:

[Cambridge Results](#) Go to 'Events older than 60 days'



I Scream (for Ice Cream)



Kiwi Olympia



A pair of Pirates



Royals

NZ Bridge National Congress 2021 Rescheduled

The 2021 National Congress (which was to be held at Mount Maunganui at the end of September) could not take place because of Covid restrictions. It was decided to postpone this event and so the 2021 Congress will now take place from Thursday 10th February to Thursday 17th February 2022 at the Trustpower Baypark Arena in Mount Maunganui. Player grades for this Congress will be your 2021 tournament grade. The events for Novices, Juniors and Intermediates are all scheduled over the weekend to make it easier for players in these grades to take part. The actual 2022 Congress will still be held next year in the usual late September / early October school holiday slot i.e. there will be two Congresses in one year! The February Congress will have a revised timetable - go to the Congress website for more information and to put in your entry: [NZ Bridge Congress](#)

NZ Bridge International Squads for 2021

Once again, no face-to-face international bridge was possible in 2021, a disappointment for players from our club who were selected as 2021 international squad members. Congratulations (and commiserations) 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). As a consolation some international events were organised on RealBridge. In early October the Australian Bridge Federation organised the Margaret Bourke Invitational Teams. This event involved 30 strong teams from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Korea and Indonesia. One of these teams was NZ Mixed made up of Jenny Millington and Barry Jones, Liz and Blair Fisher and Jo and Sam Simpson. This team finished 2nd in the event, a truly impressive result! Coming up is a Tri Series between New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia on 11th and 12th December, again to be held on RealBridge. Hamilton players included in the teams selected by NZ Bridge are: Women (Cartner NZ team): Jenna Gibbons (playing with Christine Gibbons) Mixed (Fisher NZ team): Liz Fisher, Blair Fisher, Barry Jones, Jenny Millington (along with Jo and Sam Simpson)

Good luck!

Covid-19, Online Bridge and Masterpoints

(From NZ Bridge)

Undeniably Covid-19 and the Delta variant has impacted our lives more than we thought possible. Lockdowns and restrictions have curtailed club and tournament bridge. We are hopeful the current outbreak is peaking, and some form of normality will resume. How quickly this will happen is however anyone's guess.

If we are going to move forward and foster playing of the game, we need to acknowledge that online bridge will be part of the mix, particularly when we are restricted from playing face to face. Three options were available - play online without masterpoints; take our time to work through the issues and draft new regulations; undertake a trial. The first is not really an option as tournament players would refrain from playing. The second will take time and undermine the call for more bridge. The third on balance is a good opportunity to test matters.

The Board decided and resolved to run a trial subject to a set of supplementary regulations which will shortly be posted. The regulation of most significance is the event will be played on RealBridge. To participate you must have video and audio, no exceptions. Video and audio permits transparency. Above all the success of this event is dependent on players personal integrity. We are hopeful that the findings will allow us to move forward quickly and have in place a new set of online regulations.

Covid Survey Results:

Two weeks ago, we asked Clubs to help us get a feeling as to the number of players who were vaccinated. We are delighted with the response which supported the belief that players support the vaccination regime. The underlying response is that the vast majority (>90%) are fully vaccinated. It shows we care, and we can have confidence when returning to the Club.

Rating Point Roll Over:

With continued disruption to our playing calendar this year we have agreed to reduce the rating point depreciation rate from 20% to 10% for the roll over scheduled for 1 Jan 2022.

Recent Tournament Successes by our Club Members



Cambridge Sixes

Cambridge

Saturday 7 August

1st Open

Hugh McGann & Clare Coles

3rd Open

Linda Lin & Chris Trower

3rd Intermediate

Colleen De Luen & Val West

Te Awamutu Intermediate Pairs

Te Awamutu

Saturday 14 August

3rd

Cathy Nolen & Nigel Gresson

Waikato/Bays Provincial Teams

Hamilton

Monday 25 October

3rd

Blair Fisher, Liz Fisher, Clair Miao, Wayne Burrows

Upcoming Events



EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Te Awamutu Xmas Party

Te Awamutu

Saturday 20 November

Waikato Xmas Party

Waikato

Saturday 27 November

Rotorua Xmas Party

Rotorua

Saturday 4 December

Taupo Xmas Tournament

Taupo

Sunday 12 December

Unfortunately, with the Covid situation in NZ and particularly in the Waikato, these may not happen so check on NZ Bridge or with the club involved closer to the time.

Summer Bridge

SUMMER BRIDGE - MIGHT START 23 NOVEMBER?

If life gets back to "normal" over the holiday season, the Hamilton club plans to run the usual Summer Bridge 3 or 4 times a week, except for the week before Christmas and the Christmas and New Year holiday weeks. Keep an eye on our website for any updates on what is happening at the club.

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.

2021 Summer Bridge:

Tuesdays at 1:00pm - November 23, 30, December 7 (partner required)
Tuesdays at 7:00pm - November 23, 30, December 7 (partner required)
Thursdays at 7:30pm - November 25, December 2, 9 (partner required)
Fridays at 10:00am - November 26, December 3, 10 (partner required)

2022 Summer Bridge:

Tuesdays at 7:00pm - January 11, 18, 25 (partner required)
Thursdays at 7:30pm - January 13, 20, 27 (partner required)
Fridays at 10:00am - January 14, 21, 28 (partner required)

Club Results

Tuesday Afternoon Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Kevin Whyte
- 2 Helen Healy & Tim Healy

Handicap

- 1 Helen Healy & Tim Healy
- 2 David Taylor & Margaret Boyd

Hamilton Winter Swiss Pairs

- 1 Michael Curry & Brett Glass
- 2 Karen Harris & Ian Clayton

Monday Pairs D (2 nights only due to power cut on final night!)

Scratch

- 1 Gosha Hirszt & Helene Thygesen
- 2 Val West & Pam Burns

Handicap

- 1 Gosha Hirszt & Helene Thygesen
- 2 Val West & Pam Burns

Tuesday Evening Winter Pairs

Scratch

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

Handicap

- 1 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry
- 2 Alistair Denize & Mark Beavan



A bridge player I know can only play by rhymes. These are the favorites:

- (1) When the dummy is to your right, lead the weakest suit in sight.
- (2) When the dummy is to your left, lead through left.
- (3) Don't be cute, lead partner's suit.
- (4) The lead of top of three small is worst of all.
- (5) The one who knows, goes.
- (6) You will lose face if you underlead an ace.

From Lindsay's File

Challenge 16



North

♠ K 9 7
♥ A Q 8
♦ A Q 9 3
♣ J 8 3

West

♠ 5 3 2
♥ J 10 2
♦ J 10 8 6
♣ 7 5 4

East

♠ A Q J 10
♥ K 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 7 5 2
♣

South

♠ 8 6 4
♥ 9
♦ K 4
♣ A K Q 10 9 6 2

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

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