

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Cameron

Newsletter - November 2023

From the President

Well hasn't this year flown by and there are as I write only 46 sleeps until Christmas.

The following paragraph is what was included in my September report.

Looking forward to 2024, we will need to decide whether we continue with the same number of night sessions.

We could combine the Monday and Thursday night face to face sessions therefore dropping one session.

Adding an online Real Bridge event for those who do not wish to come out another night and keep the face to face and run them simultaneously, with face-to-face starting 30 minutes earlier.

Or just provide a Real bridge option.

The regular players on Thursday have voiced that they wish the session to remain face to face which we acknowledge and at this stage we are still considering all options.

The recent Labour weekend congress was a great success and the Jubilee celebrations went well - it was a pity we did not have many current members that weren't playing in the tournament join the festivities -

Thank you to those who did come and my sincere thanks goes out to Richard Wagstaff for all his time and commitment over that weekend.

I mentioned that we would look to make improvements inside the Club and these remain the big projects for 2024 - we also have some ideas floating around for some indoor-outdoor flow areas which will enhance the use of the building.

The AGM is looming and we will be happy to discuss with any member looking to join the Committee - if you have some spare time to give to your Club, please let us know.

If you have any thoughts about the Bridge Programme that we offer or comments about the Club and how we could improve your experience with us, again please let us know.

Email to info@hamiltonbridge.co.nz or let myself, Richard Wagstaff or Julie know.

Two things we would like to increase are our Director numbers for next year and also the number of new people learning Bridge in 2024.

Our lessons are our main source of new players, so any friends, families or colleagues that may want to learn this addiction, we would love to make contact with them

Until next time

Happy bridging and see you at the table.

Mereana

Mereana Cullen

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 19 November

The AGM starts at 2pm, followed by a session of bridge and a meal. Come along and join us - there is a small charge for bridge and the dinner, but the AGM is free to attend with all members welcome.

After the AGM there will be a short Special General Meeting to vote on Constitution changes.

Selected Club Premium Trophies will be presented (with the majority of prizes presented at the final sessions of the bridge year).

Interprovincial Teams Competition - 24-26 November

The trials for this competition were held online on 6 May to select the team to represent Waikato-Bays against the 6 other provinces in New Zealand. The finals will take place, again online, on the weekend of 24 to 26 November. Our club members playing in the interprovincial finals are:

Open Team: Liz and Blair Fisher

Senior Team: Tim and Helen Healy

Women's Team: Jenna Gibbons (playing with Christine Gibbons)

Intermediate Team: Catherine Cameron and Nigel Gresson

Good luck to you all!

Club News

Update your details for 2024

The 2024 programme book is now being prepared. If you have changed your phone number during the year or no longer have your landline, can you please enter this on the printouts at the bridge club, or let the [bridge club secretary](#) know the change needed. If you or 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

Allan Longmire 021 108-1357
Francoise Campbell 855-6545 / 021 999-003
Jeffrey Chang 021 043-5188
Larissa Eyre 027 746-5657
Lisa Tregenza 021 0808-6067
Lyn Jones 021 061-0716
Michael Johnson 07 260-1122, 027 748-2270
Stewart Lawrence 027 443-3233



Leaving the Bridge Club

Although the Club is disappointed when members leave, we know that for various reasons this happens. When you have decided you will be leaving the Club, we ask you to please tell us of your pending departure.

This advance notice lets us plan your removal from the Clubs Systems - both Compass & Compa\$\$ - and to return any surplus funds we hold on your behalf to you. Also, it will let us advise NZ Bridge of your departure thus saving us some or all of the \$23 levy we pay annually for all members. If we are not informed, we will keep sending you invoices for your annual subscription along with including your details in the programme book.

So could we try for a tidy cut when you decide to part ways with Hamilton Bridge Club. Contact the secretary at the phone or email in the programme book or on the website or this link: [bridge club secretary](#).

This newsletter is sent to past members as well as current members, so receiving it does not mean you are still a member of the club if you thought you had resigned previously.

New Directors Needed

Have you ever thought of becoming a club director? Our club needs more directors - could you be one? Training in directing will be given along with help to pass the NZ Bridge exam.

If you are interested, then contact Mereana or Cherie to learn more.



Learners Lessons in 2024

Lessons for 2024 are likely to start around March with decisions on dates made towards the end of the year and posted on the Club website. The lessons are likely to take place on a Tuesday (afternoon or evening) or possibly Sunday afternoon with sessions running for around 2.5hrs. 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.

Compa\$\$ Account Updates

Wondering how much is in your Compa\$\$ account? Itemised account updates are emailed to all members most months. If you are not receiving these, we either do not have your correct email address or they may be going into your junk folder! To try stopping the emails going to "junk", add the email address compassmailnz@gmail.com to your email contacts address list. If you have changed your email address then email Julie at bridgeclubsecretary with your current email address.

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, providing plates of food for tournaments, serving on the committee, shopping, cleaning equipment, putting out rubbish, gardening and more.

THANK YOU all.

WAIKATO-BAYS COMPETITION RESULTS

Waikato-Bays League results

The Waikato-Bays Junior and Intermediate leagues both finished for the year in October.

The Juniors played the last of their 6 tournaments at Te Awamutu on 8 October. The overall winners were Keryn and Steve O'Brien from Tauranga, with no one from our club in the top 10 placings, but Don and Debbie Weston missing out by 1 point.

The Intermediates finished their 8 tournaments at Cambridge on 15 October. Megan Jolly and Leanne Curry came 1st equal in the individual standings after playing all the events.

Congratulations!

Thanks to all who took part in these tournaments.



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 next year!

Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs) results

The Waikato Area Pairs, mainly for Open players, ended on 27 August at Hamilton, including the AGM and prizegiving. Overall winners after 5 heats were Yuzhong Chen and Gary Foidl, with Ella Gray and Michael Neels in 2nd place. After winning the final heat, Stephen Weir and Melinda Wang won the overall prize for a non-Open pair.



Melinda and Stephen won the final WAPs heat and overall non-Open Pair

Recent Events at our Club

Waikato/Bays Swiss Pairs - Saturday 2 September

30 pairs met at our clubrooms for this enjoyable 10A event. With a number of NZ's best players away competing in Marrakech, Morocco, the field was more even than in some years. The tournament ran smoothly apart from an unfortunate partial power cut in the 6th round of 7 (due to an old-age equipment failure on the power pole which required some redirection of power to our scoring equipment and which WEL later fixed). Thanks to Mereana for overall organisation and to all the other club members who helped with running the tournament. Winners on the day were Jack James and George Masters, while the best result from our members was Brett Glass and Gary Foidl in 4th place.

Soup & Bun Social - Sunday 17 September

Our final soup and bun social of the year was a great success with lots of friendly chat, good food and 11 full tables of bridge players.

Stan and Helen Rinaldi came first overall, with Lucie Armstrong and Barbara Daly runners-up. Larissa Eyre and Iain Paterson, from the currently running Sunday learners/improvers lessons, came a very creditable fifth overall. Congratulations!

Many thanks to Laura for organising, Barbara for directing, Jane, Jenny and other helpers in the kitchen for preparing and serving a range of delicious food and to all the other helpers on the day.

Hamilton Congress 21-23 October

Labour weekend dawned clear and sunny, with the fine weather continuing all weekend, matched by fine bridge playing over the 3 days of competition in the tournament highlight of our club year.

The Shirley Waymouth Open Pairs on Saturday was won by Julie Atkinson and Patrick Carter of Auckland.

The Restricted Open Pairs winners were Pamela Pedersen and Megan Richards from over the Kaimais, with our own Rachelle Meijer and Duncan White second and our junior pairing of Mark Beavan and Don Weston a very respectable third.

The consolation Swiss Pairs on Monday was won by Christine Wilson and Barry Palmer from North Shore and Auckland, with Helen and Tim Healy the best of our club members, finishing in 5th place.

In the 2-day Waikato Bays Provincial Teams competition, the Ware team came out on top, with the Fraser-Hoskin team (including our own Barry Jones) in second place. Blair and Liz Fisher made up half of the 4th placed team.

Congratulations to all the successful players.

Hamilton 70 Years Celebration

Labour Weekend also saw the delayed (by one year) celebration of the Hamilton Bridge Club's 70-year anniversary.

The clubrooms were suitably decorated over the weekend, with the celebrations leading off with canapes and drinks before dinner on Sunday evening.



Several past Presidents spoke on highlights of their time as President while Alan Morris (by Zoom due to Covid) talked about Shirley Waymouth, name sponsor of the Congress Open pairs, and sponsor of the new sign on the front of the building.

Shirley was a Life Member of both the National Association and the Hamilton Club and died earlier this year. She dealt for club, region and National Congress starting before dealing machines were available. She also excelled in pre-computer scoring. A family member of Shirley was there to present the winners with their prizes at the dinner. Read more about Shirley on the Club website <https://www.hamilton.bridge-club.org/shirley> Thanks to Mereana for organising the very successful Celebration.



Liz and Blair Fisher received their prize at the dinner

Melbourne Cup Afternoon - Tuesday 7 November

Our regular Tuesday afternoon session of bridge was replaced by a special Melbourne Cup event on Tuesday 7 November.

Members turned up wearing their race-going finery including special hats for the hat competition.

Cherie, the director, caused a lot of hilarity when she donned a horse's head at the start - too hot to wear all afternoon!



Winners of the bridge prizes on the day were:

Overall: Elaine Rayner & Colleen De Luen

North-South: Jenny Millington & Barry Jones

East-West: Phil Thompson & Lindsay Reid

Hat competition results:

Best Hat - Tracey Hoff

Most Natural Hat - Lucie Armstrong

Wackiest Hat - Brent Rogers



After the viewing of the race on the TV, all present enjoyed a very generous and sumptuous afternoon tea.

Thanks to Judith Brooks for organising a most enjoyable and entertaining event.

CAMBRIDGE SIXES 2023

With 34 teams all arriving at the 'starting blocks' on time on Saturday 5 August the annual Sixes tournament was off to a great 'Sporting' start on a beautiful day at the Sir Don Rowland Centre, Lake Karapiro. This year the theme of the costume competition was Sports - very topical with the FIFA World Cup in full swing! And in keeping with the theme, the overall Team winners were the Soccer Fans from Hamilton / Waikato clubs.

Congratulations to the prizewinners from our club:

1st Overall Gary Foidl, Yuzhong Chen, Jon Verhoek, Rachelle Meijer & teammates



3rd Intermediate Jon Verhoek & Rachelle Meijer:





Upcoming Events

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Te Awamutu Xmas Party	Te Awamutu	Saturday 18 November
Waikato Xmas Party	Waikato	Saturday 25 November
Interprovincial Teams Final	Online	Saturday 25 November
Rotorua Xmas Party	Rotorua	Saturday 2 December
Taupo Xmas Tournament	Taupo	Sunday 10 December

The Xmas party events are always very popular. If you wish to play in any of them, make sure you enter early!



REPORT FROM MARRAKECH

By Barry Jones and Jenny Millington

Early in 2023 we played in the NZ Trials in an attempt to qualify for the NZ Mixed Team to go to Morocco for the World Championships. We weren't close to being successful so decided on a couple of bridge trips to Australia instead. First the Gold Coast Congress in Broadbeach, then the Barrier Reef Congress in Cairns.

Upon returning home from Cairns after having spent all our money ;), the NZ Chef De Mission phoned to ask if we were available to replace a pair that were no longer able to attend. A once in a lifetime chance to play bridge in a world championship and just the weekend to think about it. Of course we said yes.

We arrived in Marrakech, Morocco a few days before the event started in late August and had time to check out the magnificent "Palais De Congress" where the event was being held, straight across the road from our apartment.

The New Zealand Mixed Team members at Marrakech



We started the event poorly with 2 losses but then went on a 5-match winning streak, getting into the top 8 (8 teams qualify for the next stage) on day three.

Unfortunately, we couldn't sustain that and although the team won a total of 10 matches, we finished in the bottom half of the field of 24 countries.

The overall experience was incredible, with the opportunity to play against a number of world champions.

The event was very well run from the opening ceremony to the playing conditions and closing ceremony.

After the bridge we took a 6 day tour through the Atlas Mountains including a camel ride through the desert, on to Fez, finishing in Casablanca from where we flew out. Little did we know that as we were in the air, Morocco was struck by a devastating earthquake. A narrow escape! We really felt for the wonderful friendly Moroccans we had met during our time there.

Jenny at the back, then Barry. Jenny's camel is Jimmy, Barry's Christian. In front is Bob Marley



NZ Bridge National Congress 2023 Results

For the second year the 2023 National Bridge Congress took place at Mercury BayPark Arena, Mt Maunganui, over the last week of September. More than 600 keen bridge players took part. Successful players from our Club included:

Congress Pairs - 3rd Jenna Gibbons & Julian Foster

NZ Open Pairs Final - 4th Blair Fisher & George Masters

5th Jenny Millington & Barry Jones

Martelletti Cup - Liz Fisher & Kathy Yule

NZ Open Pairs Plate - 2nd Jenna Gibbons & Julian Foster

Congress Open Pairs - 1st Blair & Liz Fisher

NZ Mixed Pairs - 5th Brett Glass & Mary Chamberlain

NZ Restricted Swiss Pairs Final - 4th Mark Thomson & Jeffrey Chang

NZ Open Swiss Pairs - 1st Blair & Liz Fisher

All the results and more information at [NZ Bridge Congress](#)



Liz and Blair had a successful NZ Congress, winning 2 events together. Liz was also awarded the Martelletti Cup (with Kathy Yule) for the Best Women's Pair in the NZ Open Pairs. Congratulations to you both!

Matamata Intermediate Pairs Matamata Sunday 10 September
2nd Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Mt Maunganui Restricted Pairs Mt Maunganui Saturday 16 September
3rd Alan Parkes & Megan Richards

Cambridge Intermediate Pairs Cambridge Sunday 15 October
2nd Catherine Cameron & Nigel Gresson

Congress Restricted Open Pairs Hamilton Saturday 21 October
2nd Rachelle Meijer & Duncan White
3rd Mark Beavan & Don Weston

Waikato/Bays Provincial Teams Hamilton Monday 23 October
2nd Barry Jones & teammates



Duncan and Rachelle came second
in the Hamilton Congress
Restricted Open Pairs



Mark and Don (both Juniors)
came third in the Hamilton
Congress Restricted Open Pairs

Summer BRIDGE

SUMMER BRIDGE STARTS TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER

The regular programme of bridge for the year ends with the AGM. After this, Hamilton club runs Summer Bridge on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays over the summer break, except from 11 December 2023 to 14 January 2024 when there is NO BRIDGE (note the 2024 later start). 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 \$5 table money and give it to the director or pay by EFTPOS. Summer Bridge is stand-alone scratch, with NS and EW winners each night earning a free session of bridge at Hamilton.

2023 Summer Bridge:

Tuesdays at 1:00pm - November 21, 28, December 5 (partner required)
Tuesdays at 7:00pm - November 21, 28, December 5 (partner required)
Thursdays at 7:30pm - November 23, 30, December 7 (partner required)
Fridays at 10:00am - November 24, December 1, 8 (partner required)

2024 Summer Bridge:

N.B. - No Summer Bridge this year during the week starting 8 January

Tuesdays at 7:00pm - January 16, 23 (partner required)
Thursdays at 7:30pm - January 18, 25 (partner required)
Fridays at 10:00am - January 19, 26 (partner required)



Club Results

Friday Richmond Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ella Gray & Mary Ronke
- 2 Tim Healy & Helen Healy

Handicap

- 1 Peter Kington & Ian Ross
- 2 Ella Gray & Mary Ronke

Friday O'Neill Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Sheila Horner

Handicap

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Sheila Horner

Tuesday Afternoon Clayton-Greene Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Tim Healy & Helen Healy

Handicap

- 1 Helen Rinaldi & Nigel Gresson
- 2 Jane Sandelin & Cherie Barton

Tuesday Evening Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Bill Barwood & Jiwan Dhaliwal
- 2 Jacqui Mackenzie & Karen Mackenzie

Handicap

- 1 Bill Barwood & Jiwan Dhaliwal
- 2 Don Weston & Debbie Weston

Monday Pairs D

Scratch

- 1 Duncan White & Helen Rinaldi
- 2 Pam Burns & Val West

Handicap

- 1 Pam Burns & Val West
- 2 Melinda Wang & Stephen Weir

Thursday Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Ross Stewart & Cherie Barton

Handicap

- 1 Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Roger Gunning & Ranjith Cooray

Tuesday Afternoon Peggy Perry Pairs

- 1 Tim Healy & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Cherie Barton & Tracey Hoff

- 1 Judith Brooks & Raewyn Grylls-Thomas
- 2 Tim Healy & Cynthia Clayton

Tuesday Evening Allen Family Trophy Individuals

Scratch

- 1 Armand Petrin
- 2 Mary Cave-Palmer

Handicap

- 1 Armand Petrin
- 2 Mary Cave-Palmer

Wednesday Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Brett Glass & Michael Curry
- 2 Jeffrey Chang & Yuzhong Chen

Handicap

- 1 Stephen Weir & Richard Wagstaff
- 2 Jeffrey Chang & Yuzhong Chen

Thursday Daffodil Pairs

- 1 Roger Gunning & Ranjith Cooray
- 2 Stan Rinaldi & Helen Rinaldi

Handicap

- 1 Roger Gunning & Ranjith Cooray
- 2 Stan Rinaldi & Helen Rinaldi

Friday Richmond Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Mary Ronke & John Little

Handicap

- 1 Eileen Lumsden & Joan Craig
- 2 Mary Ronke & John Little

Friday O'Neill Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Hugh Barton & Laura Sommerville
- 2 Milwyn Rees & Jutta Morgan

Handicap

- 1 Milwyn Rees & Jutta Morgan
- 2 Hugh Barton & Laura Sommerville

Tuesday Afternoon Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Elaine Rayner & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Ian Ross & Tim Healy

Handicap

- 1 Elaine Rayner & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Colleen De Luen & Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Monday Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Olive Davis & Pam Burns
- 2 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper

Handicap

- 1 Olive Davis & Pam Burns
- 2 Cathy Nolen & Barbara Daly

Tuesday Evening Spring Pairs

- 1 Vicky Holloway & Cath O'Connor
- 2 Karen Mackenzie & Jacqui Mackenzie

Handicap

- 1 Maria Muller & Merle Jonson
- 2 Donnalea Whitcher & Armand Petrin

Wednesday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Brett Glass
- 2 Jeffrey Chang & Mark Thomson

Handicap

- 1 Richard Wagstaff & Stephen Weir
- 2 Malcolm Smith & Brett Glass

Thursday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Melinda Wang & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Roger Gunning & Ranjith Cooray

Handicap

- 1 Melinda Wang & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Roger Gunning & Ranjith Cooray

Friday Richmond Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Olive Davis & Richard Fletcher
- 2 Duncan White & Mary Ronke

Handicap

- 1 Dave Gilling & Bob Jones
- 2 Don Weston & Richard Wagstaff

Friday O'Neill Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Chris Goulding & Michelle Paterson

Handicap

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Milwyn Rees & Jutta Morgan

Monday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Helen Rinaldi & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Karen Thomson & Cathy Nolen

Handicap

- 1 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones
- 2 Karen Thomson & Cathy Nolen

Tuesday Afternoon Galbraith Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Duncan White & Barbara Daly
- 2 Nigel Gresson & Joan Egger

Handicap

- 1 Norma Cooke & Heather Crosbie
- 2 Angela Lovell & Trini Lin

Tuesday Evening Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Maria Muller & Merle Jonson
- 2 Jiwan Dhaliwal & Bill Barwood

Handicap

- 1 Maria Muller & Merle Jonson
- 2 Larissa Eyre & Iain Paterson

From Lindsay's File

Challenge 24

Caught in a Trap



North

♠ 7 5 4

♥ K J 8

♦ K Q J

♣ Q 6 5 3

West

♠ K Q J 10 6

♥ 10 6

♦ 9 5

♣ K 9 8 7

East

♠ 9

♥ 9 5 4 3 2

♦ 8 7 6 4 2

♣ J 10

South

♠ A 8 3 2

♥ A Q 7

♦ A 10 3

♣ A 4 2

How can South make Three No Trumps when West leads the King of Spades?

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