

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Cameron

Newsletter - November 2025

From the President

The club just successfully hosted our Labour Weekend Tournament. This is held over 3 days with more than 110 bridge players.

A huge thank you to Laura, Jenny, Jennifer, Tim, Rosalind, Merle, Donna and Hugh for producing fantastic morning and afternoon teas and lunches.

Thanks also go to Cathy, Richard Wagstaff and Richard Fletcher for their help and support.

The Annual General Meeting of the club is on the 23rd November at 2pm, followed by a session of bridge.

If you are interested in being on the committee, please talk to me or any other committee member. Nominations have to be given to the secretary by 9th November.

Happy Bridging

Nigel

Nigel Gresson, Acting President

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Melbourne Cup Afternoon - Tuesday 4 November

Our annual special MELBOURNE CUP event will be held on Tuesday, November 4th starting at 12.15 (replacing the usual Tuesday afternoon bridge session).

For only \$7.00 from your Compa\$\$ account, you can have a full afternoon of bridge and fun competitions. **The sweepstake must be paid separately in cash due to NZ Law.**

Just like the real Melbourne Cup there will be a 'Best Hat' competition, with categories for best hat, most natural hat (foliage and flowers encouraged!) and 'wackiest' hat - use your imagination!

Timetable of the Day:

- 12.15 pm: pay for your drawn horses
- 1 pm: play bridge
- 4 pm: afternoon tea and Best Hat judging
- 4.30 pm: watch the Melbourne Cup race on TV

Please bring a plate of food for the afternoon tea.

How about asking a friend who has not been to bridge lately, to play with you that day? They may enjoy it so much they start to play at the club again.

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 23 November

The AGM starts at 2pm and is free to attend with all members welcome. Selected Club Premium Trophies will be presented.

The AGM will be followed by a session of bridge and a dinner. Come along and join us for bridge and the dinner.

2025 Learner Phone numbers

Adele Van Weerden	021 236-1919
Aini Su	022 627-2939
Carne Greenbank	022 036-0099
Carolyn Downey	027 418-0744
Carwyn Davies	028 420-7931
Heike Ehrlenbach	027 343-7187
Jackie Hart	020 4029-5201
Jane Bursey	022 674-8307
Jill Schumacher	027 310-4604
Jo Watts	027 490-5325
Joan Robson	027 290-7112
Kate Marshall	021 899-156
Kim Dunn	027 315-2822
Kimberley Coker	022 422-4468
Lorraine Pinfold	027 209-7774
Manisha Dhote	022 126-0906
Maree Dunn	021 978-085
Nigel Corkill	021 938-605
Paul Spence	027 476-7475
Paula Cooper	022 653-4922
Pratap Kolluru	021 239-8245
Roy Skedgwell	021 116-5104
Sally Direen	021 0204-4000
Sharon Davies	027 478-7607
Sharon Reid	027 555-8886
Stephen Thwaite	021 230-7260
Steve Davies	027 245-0389
Sunita Narula	021 187-3391
Suzanne Cato	021 210-2032
Tobias Vainikolo	021 0286-1645
Wendy Franklin-Hill	022 075-6705
Wendy Pottinger	021 443-953
Yash Narula	021 895-755
Yvonne Szczuryk	027 517-0335



Update your details for 2026

The 2026 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 give the [bridge club secretary](#) 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.

If your name is not on the list and you will be playing bridge next year, please add it. If you know a member won't be playing again because they have moved away from our region or are no longer able to play bridge, please also note this on the list. We try to keep our programme book as accurate as possible and this is an important means for us to do so.

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 to you any surplus funds we hold on your behalf. Also, it will let us advise NZ Bridge of your departure which saves us some or all of the \$32.20 levy we each will be paying in 2026 as a member of NZ Bridge.

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](#).

Important Note:

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.

Learners Lessons in 2026

Lessons for 2026 will start around March - decisions on dates will be made towards the end of the year when they will be posted on the Club website. The lessons are likely to take place on a Tuesday evening and Thursday daytime 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 but enjoyable 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 please email Julie at contact@hamiltonbridge.co.nz 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.

Cynthia's Christmas Cards for Sale Now!

Cynthia Clayton has supported the club for many years by selling her hand-made greeting cards for all sorts of occasions, still only \$5 each.

Christmas is rapidly approaching and a real Christmas card is so much nicer than an 'e-card' for those you may not be able to see in person.

The new selection of cards, both Christmas and others, are on the tables at the club rooms, or on request Cynthia can make cards to order especially for you.

In the interests of recycling, the cellophane protective bags can be returned to the cash box as they are able to be reused.

The photo shows a few of the many new designs that Cynthia has come up with this year.



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 12 October. Iain Paterson and Larissa Eyre topped the League with 25 points each (the next highest score was 18 points). Maria Muller, Stewart Lawrence, Mark Beavan, Bruce Bettany and Ken Couper all also finished in the top 10 placings - a great result for Hamilton club! Well done!

The Intermediates finished their 8 tournaments at Cambridge on 19 October. Top 10 finishers from our club were Irene Stewart at 6th overall and John Little 10th. Just five points covered the top six places. Congratulations!



Iain and Larissa receive their prizes

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.

Playing the League is good fun and improves your bridge. So why not book your partner(s) in ready for next year.

Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs) results

The last of the 5 Waikato Area Pair events for 2025, intended for Open, Intermediate and keen Junior players, was held on August 31 at Hamilton. Hamilton players featuring in the prize-winners on the day, were Barry Jones and Blair Fisher, finishing a very clear top, while Catherine Cameron and Helen Rinaldi won the prize for best non-Open pair and Cathy Nolen and Nigel Gresson were runners-up in the non-Open category. For the overall series prizes, Leslie Quilty & Noel Grigg of Matamata were the winners with Helen Rinaldi and Catherine Cameron top non-Open pair over the series.

2025 WaikatoBays Interclub Teams Winners Decided

The finals of the WB Interclub Teams were contested at Matamata club on Sunday 24 Aug. For this event each side of The Kaimais puts up their top two teams in each grade ... twelve tables in all. Each team played the others in their grade in a round robin format of 16 board matches. Hamilton teams played in the Intermediate and Open grades with our Open team winners of their grade.



Barry, Jenny, Karen and Mike - Open winners of the WB Interclub Teams

Recent Events at our Club

Waikato/Bays Swiss Pairs - Saturday 6 September

With 50 pairs playing, both rooms were needed for this enjoyable and competitive 10A event. Club members Blair and Liz Fisher came 1st with Barry Jones and Jenny Millington finishing in 3rd place in the big field.

Catherine Cameron and Trini Lin won the Intermediate pair prize.

Thanks to all those club members who helped with organising and running the very successful tournament - a real team effort! Thanks to Irene Stewart from AFT Pharmaceuticals for being the Sponsor for the day and presenting the prizes.

Soup & Bun Social - Sunday 21 September

The last soup and bun social event of the year was enjoyed by 9 tables of bridge players. Again, Jenny Seavill and her kitchen team supplied a delicious range of soup and sweet treats which encouraged a lively atmosphere on the day.

Our director, Cherie Barton, playing with Karen Harris, came first North-South in a very close result, while Mark Beavan and Richard Wagstaff topped the East-West combinations. Handicap prizes went to Judith Brooks and Colleen De Luen and Pam Burns and Olive Davis. As usual a number of spot prizes were spread around the room with the prize for going 3-light in a contract once again the first to be awarded! Many thanks to Jenny for overall organisation and all those who helped on the day.

Hamilton Congress 25-27 October

The Hamilton Labour weekend Congress started well for Hamilton players. The Shirley Waymouth Open Pairs on Saturday was contested by 28 pairs, with Jenna Gibbons and Julian Foster winning the tournament. Yuzhong Chen playing with Ben Wang from Auckland were the top Restricted pair (and finished 11th in the field).

In the 2-day Waikato Bays Provincial Teams competition of 26 teams, the team of Blair and Liz Fisher playing with the Simpsons finished in second place.

The consolation Swiss Pairs attracted 38 players on Monday, with Hamilton players finishing in the top 3 placings - Jenna Gibbons 1st, Gwyn Lobb and Richard Fletcher 2nd and Jenny Millington and Barry Jones 3rd.

Congratulations to all the successful players and thank you to all those who helped with the organisation and running of the 3 tournaments.



Tim, Hugh, Roz, Laura and Jenny - our wonderful kitchen helpers

Coming Events

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Thames Xmas Party	Thames	Sunday 2 November
Te Awamutu Xmas Party	Te Awamutu	Saturday 22 November
Waikato Xmas Party	Waikato	Saturday 29 November
Rotorua Xmas Party	Rotorua	Saturday 6 December
Taupo Xmas Tournament	Taupo	Sunday 14 November

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

Regional Championship Teams Competition Finals Coming

With the entries for the Regional Championship trials not reaching the minimum needed in each division, the teams to represent Waikato-Bays against the 6 other "NZ Bridge" regions in New Zealand were chosen from the existing entries.

The finals will take place in Palmerston North on the weekend of 6 and 7 November (the two days before the National Congress starts). Our club members playing in the regional finals are:

Open Team: Liz and Blair Fisher, Barry Jones and Jenny Millington

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

Good luck to you all!

NZ Bridge National Congress 2025

The National Bridge Congress is being held at Palmerston North Function and Conference Centre, 354 Main Street Palmerston North from Saturday 8th November to Saturday 15th November 2025.

Several of the events are now booked out - a smaller venue and a new location may have helped - so if you are still thinking of playing do check what events are still available before you leave.

CAMBRIDGE SIXES 2025

32 teams of 6 players gathered at the Sir Don Rowland Centre, Lake Karapiro, on Saturday 9 August for the annual Cambridge Sixes tournament day of great bridge, fabulous food, tantalising trivia, unbeatable raffle and dastardly dressup!

The theme of the costume competition was "Something starting with 'T'" - leaving lots of scope for imagination.

The 2nd place overall team was 'The Chef', mostly players from the Waikato Bridge Club with team members Yuzhong Chen and John Little also members of Hamilton club. Yuzhong and his regular partner Herman Yuan came 2nd in the Open competition while Irene Stewart and Don Macpherson were 2nd in the Intermediates. Congratulations!

summer Bridge

SUMMER BRIDGE STARTS TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

The regular programme of bridge for the year ends on the week of the Annual General Meeting.

After this, Hamilton club runs Summer Bridge on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays over the summer break, except from 15 December 2025 to 5 January 2026 when there is NO BRIDGE.

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 from other clubs will need to pay \$5 table money to the director by EFTPOS or bring cash.

2025 Summer Bridge (partner required):

Tuesdays at 1:00pm - November 25, December 2, 9

Tuesdays at 7:00pm - November 25, December 2, 9

Thursdays at 7:00pm - November 27, December 4, 11

Fridays at 10:00am - November 28, December 5, 12

2026 Summer Bridge (partner required):

Tuesdays at 7:00pm - January 6, 13, 20

Thursdays at 7:00pm - January 8, 15, 22

Fridays at 10:00am - January 9, 16, 23

2026 regular bridge starts on Monday 26 January



Club Results

Tuesday Afternoon Clayton-Greene Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Richard Fletcher & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Duncan White & Helen Rinaldi

Handicap

- 1 Richard Fletcher & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Peter Kington & Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Tuesday Evening Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Cath O'Connor & Vicky Holloway
- 2 Richard Hooper & John Farmer

Handicap

- 1 Cath O'Connor & Vicky Holloway
- 2 Donnalea Whitcher & Armand Petrin

Monday Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Helen Rinaldi
- 2 Richard Hooper & Mark Thomson

Handicap

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

Thursday Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Karen Thomson
- 2 Richard Hooper & Mark Thomson

Handicap

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Karen Thomson
- 2 Ross Stewart & Mary Fear

Tuesday Afternoon Peggy Perry Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Tim Healy & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Helen Healy & Donna Prentice

Handicap

- 1 Don Weston & Debbie Weston
- 2 Tim Healy & Cynthia Clayton

Tuesday Evening Allen Family Trophy Individuals

Scratch

- 1 John Farmer
- 2 Sean Dwyer

Handicap

- 1 John Farmer
- 2 Alan Grant

Thursday Spring Pairs

- 1 Lois Jones & Graeme Hope
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Cathy Nolen

Handicap

- 1 Lois Jones & Graeme Hope
- 2 Adele Schofield & Alison Orchard

Friday Richmond Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Linda Lin & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Ian Ross & Phil Thompson
- 2 Lindsay Reid & Lois Jones

Friday O'Neill Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ken Couper & Kevin Brown
- 2 Geoff Turner & Michael Davies

Handicap

- 1 Ian Gilbert & Mary Mackwell
- 2 Milwyn Rees & Jutta Morgan

Tuesday Afternoon Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Michael Curry & Jenny Millington
- 2 Kevin Turner & Duncan White

Handicap

- 1 Judy Shaw & Lee Cook
- 2 Kevin Turner & Duncan White

Monday Championship Pairs

Scratch

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

Handicap

- 1 Don Weston & Kevin Turner
- 2 Olive Davis & Pam Burns

Tuesday Evening Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Steve Davies & Sharon Davies
- 2 Cath O'Connor & Vicky Holloway

Handicap

- 1 Steve Davies & Sharon Davies
- 2 Cath O'Connor & Vicky Holloway

Thursday Spring Butler Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Jan Hancox
- 2 Lois Jones & Graeme Hope

Handicap

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Jan Hancox
- 2 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde

Friday Richmond Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Sue Collinge & Trini Lin
- 2 Malcolm Smith & John Little

(2 weeks only)

Handicap

- 1 Sue Collinge & Trini Lin
- 2 Malcolm Smith & John Little

Friday O'Neill Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Steve Davies & Bruce Bettany
- 2 Deryl Northcott & Geoff West

Handicap

- 1 Ruth Niemiec & Bob Niemiec
- 2 Steve Davies & Bruce Bettany

Tuesday Afternoon Galbraith Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Jenny Millington & Michael Curry
- 2 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Mary Fear & Margaret Boyd
- 2 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith

Monday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper
- 2 Olive Davis & Catherine Cameron

Handicap

- 1 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper
- 2 Olive Davis & Catherine Cameron

Tuesday Evening Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Adele Van Weerden & Pam Burns
- 2 Steve Davies & Sharon Davies

Handicap

- 1 Adele Van Weerden & Pam Burns
- 2 Jane Lee-Smith & Helen Green

Thursday October Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde
- 2 Dave Edson & Catherine Cameron

Handicap

- 1 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde
- 2 Dave Edson & Catherine Cameron

Friday Richmond Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Barbara Daly & Duncan White
- 2 Olive Davis & Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Mark Beavan & Richard Wagstaff
- 2 Barbara Daly & Duncan White

Friday O'Neill Pairs D

Scratch

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Kevin Brown & Stephen Thwaite

Handicap

- 1 Kevin Brown & Stephen Thwaite
- 2 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies

Recent Tournament Successes by our Club Members



Cambridge Sixes

Cambridge Saturday 9 August

- 2nd Intermediate Irenee Stewart & Don Macpherson
2nd Open Yuzhong Chen & Herman Yuan
2nd Team Yuzhong Chen, John Little & teammates

Te Awamutu Intermediate Pairs Te Awamutu Saturday 16 August

- 3rd Don MacPherson & Irenee Stewart

WaikBays Interclub Teams Final Matamata Sunday 24 August

- 1st Open Jenny Millington, Barry Jones, Michael Curry, Karen Harris
2nd Intermed Megan Jolly, Leanne Curry, Catherine Cameron, Helen Rinaldi

Waikato Area Pairs (5) Hamilton Sunday 31 August

- 1st Barry Jones & Blair Fisher

Waik/Bays Regional Swiss Pairs Hamilton Sunday 6 September

- 1st Blair & Liz Fisher
3rd Barry Jones & Jenny Millington

Tauranga Open 5A Teams Tauranga Saturday 27 September

- 2nd Blair Fisher, Hugh McGann & Teammates
3rd Yuzhong Chen, Jenna Gibbons & teammates

Te Awamutu Junior Pairs Te Awamutu Sunday 12 October

- 2nd Maria Muller & Vicki Petherick
3rd Bruce Bettany & Ken Couper

Waitomo Restricted Pairs **Te Kuiti** **Thursday 16 October**
1st Duncan White & Barbara Daly

NZ Wide Pairs **Various** **Friday 17 October**
1st E-W Cambridge Karen Harris & Cherie Barton
1st Huntly Gary Foidl & Brett Glass
1st N-S Te Awamutu Liz Fisher & Blair Fisher
1st E-W Te Awamutu Jenny Millington & Barry Jones

Cambridge Intermediate Pairs **Cambridge** **Sunday 19 October**
1st Irene Stewart & Tony Davidson

Shirley Waymouth Open Pairs **Hamilton** **Saturday 25 October**
1st Jenna Gibbons & Julian Foster

Waik/Bays Provincial Teams **Hamilton** **Monday 27 October**
2nd Blair Fisher, Liz Fisher & Teammates

Waikato/Bays Swiss Pairs **Hamilton** **Monday 27 October**
1st Jenna Gibbons & Julian Foster
2nd Gwyn Lobb & Richard Fletcher
3rd Jenny Millington & Barry Jones

