



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

20 Richmond St, Hamilton

phone: (07) 839-4547

email: secretary@hamiltonbridgeclub.org.nz

www.hamilton.bridge-club.org

From the President

August 2017

We are halfway through the bridge season and it is very pleasing to see our members winning and being placed in the many tournaments here and overseas. I will continue to encourage our members to enter tournaments as a way of improving their bridge.

Our own teams' competition has finished. Open winners are Barry Jones, Jenny Millington, Liz Fisher and Alan Parkes. Karen Thomson, Kim Thompson, Catherine Cameron and Trini Lin are the Intermediate winners. Karen Harper, Carissa Oliver, Karen Mackenzie and Michelle Stevens are the Junior winners. The winning teams represented the club in the recent Waikato inter-club championship. The club finished 2nd overall.

As we have two more tournaments to host may I ask all members to volunteer to help run these events. Even two hours in the kitchen or setting up is very helpful. It is really good if it is a combined effort so that the work does not fall on a few overworked members. Remember 'MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK'.

Thanks in anticipation for your assistance.

Nigel Gresson

Club Captain's "Chorus"

Our numbers have grown as our newest members join the sessions and begin their latest addiction. To everyone coming in from the lessons, welcome to our Club, you have chosen a game that will stay with you for a lifetime and we hope that you enjoy Bridge as much as we all do. Barry, Jenny, Mark and the team have done a cracker of a job and you have had the absolute best introduction from passionate people, passing on their thoughts, knowledge and the basics of a great system, ACOL. The resources used to conduct the lessons are certainly professional and being online - extremely user friendly.

NZ Bridge is tabling new suggestions to increase their contact regionally and also to assist in improving Club numbers and growing our game. The Club will be relaying this information to members once the decision to go ahead is confirmed and what method the delivery of this support will be.

Now let's talk Bridge - my thoughts this quarter lie with partner making a pass bid and the discussion around 1NT openings when holding a 5 card major. Do you remind yourself what the PASS actually means - partner is giving you valuable information, explaining their hand clearly and letting you know what their hand, 95% of the time, does not hold.

They are probably saying - **I do not have**

- 12 HCP to open
- A long suit 6 plus or 7 plus with 6-9 HCP to open pre-emptive, weak
- 8+ HCP and a 5 plus card suit to overcall, if in that position
- A hand to encourage a bid by doubling, which some play as a balancing double, some play 10+ HCP with no 5 card suit, there are many variations

So, before you make your bid after the PASS, digest the information your partner has provided, get a picture of what partner's hand could look like and remember that your opponents will play a similar system, so you should be able to get a good idea of what your right hand opponent holds as well.

I hope this tip reminds you to recall consciously what we subconsciously already know.

And lastly, should you open 1NT (12-14) with a 5-card major? There is always a lot of debate on this, many say no and lots say yes - some will do it only with a weak 5 card major.

An opening in no trumps provides a snapshot of the hand, showing both the balanced shape and limiting the points. So with a balanced hand and 12-14 HCP, in general you should do open 1NT even when you have a 5 card major. The problem with opening the major is that you can't rebid 1NT rebid (15-17 HCP) as this will promise more points than you have - it also creates an issue that if you rebid your major, it suggests you have a 6 card suit.

You can avoid these problems by opening 1NT, but it is matter of choice, as often you would do better opening the major - bidding is not easy!

This information comes from the Paul Marston book *The Language of Bidding* If anyone is interested in reading it, I'll make sure it is in the Library cupboard.

Finally, check out the tournament schedule - there is a feast of tournaments coming up including Congress - See you out and about!

Mereana Cullen

Club Captain

Table Vouchers

Did you know you can purchase \$3 table vouchers in advance? Think how convenient it would be not having to find small change each time you play bridge. It also makes life easier for the director and our secretary.

There are several ways of pre-purchasing the vouchers:

- Email the secretary with your details (name & bridge number) and pay by [internet banking](#) with code 'Vouchers'
- Via the director with an envelope containing your details and a cheque or cash at any bridge session
- See Yvonne during her office hours (see programme book)

You can choose how many vouchers you wish to pre-order, in multiples of 5 vouchers for \$15.

Members' News

Phone number changes / additions

Bill Bailey	825 9877
Ken Duffield	846 3294
Lois Follas	855 2811
Sheila Horner	854 1504
Bob Jones	846 3312
Lesley Kuggeleijn	849 8006
Glenys Lynn	855 1725
Jim Lynn	022 103 5750
Mary Mackwell	850 1434
Don McPherson	021 733 423
Heather Matthews	829 8888
Rick Matthews	829 8888
Linley Robb	855 3617

Beginner Lessons Update

The beginner lessons started in early March and the Tuesday group have now commenced play in the main room. The Friday group are currently playing as a group before branching out further.

For myself, Barry Jones, Jenny Millington, Roger Gunning, Lindsay Reid, and Karen Thomson, it has been a long road, but a rewarding one in the end when you see the learners take their first steps and play against other members.

Attracting new people to learn the game is not easy with a multitude of other activities available to choose from. Also, we do experience some drop off in numbers over the period of the lessons which is disappointing but unfortunately a reality.

The next challenge for us is to get the learners to join the Club and to retain them for as long as we can.

I would sincerely like to thank those mentioned above who have given up an enormous amount of their time in teaching the learners and bringing new life into the Club.

Mark Thomson

Directors' Corner

New world-wide Bridge Laws came into effect on 1 August this year. Some of the changes that players need to know about are:

- The board is to remain in the centre of the table and correctly orientated - this is intended to reduce the risk of cards being returned to the incorrect pockets [*and a reminder, when at a Phantom table, if you look at the cards, please be careful to replace them in the correct pockets*]
- Dummy can now attempt to prevent an irregularity by any player, but cannot draw attention to one that has already occurred until play ends, except for correcting a mistaken explanation by declarer. Dummy still cannot ask if a defender has revoked.
- If a player gives an incomplete or incorrect explanation of partner's call, then the partner must call the Director before the opening lead to correct the explanation (they can call them sooner)
- A loss of concentration is not a justification to change a legal call
- Players can look at (but not show others) the card they played to the last trick until either player from their side has played to the next trick
- Players must not say there is a partnership agreement when there isn't one e.g. by stating an opinion as if it was an agreement, or by saying 'I'm taking that as...' Just say 'Undiscussed'

For more information on the new Laws, go to the NZ Bridge website [Bridge 2017 Laws](#)

Finally, remember that when anything unusual happens at the bridge table call the Director, even if you think you know what the ruling is. That is what the Directors are there for!

Recent events at our club

Ladies Day - Tuesday 2 May

Can you imagine the club rooms buzzing with women in their best finery, playing bridge? Apparently this was Ladies Day in the early days but now player comfort is supremel! 19 tables of women, playing in either the Open or Intermediate section, had a very enjoyable time at the tournament this year. Club members Judith Brooks and Sheila Smith won the Intermediate section, with Jane Weir and Sue Collinge winning the best Junior pair - Well done! Many thanks to Jane and the team in the kitchen for the delicious food provided.

Waikato/Bays Interclub Teams - Sunday 25 June

27 tables, representing 9 clubs covering all the Waikato region, packed the club rooms for the Waikato part of this event. After 8 hours of bridge, our Open and Intermediate teams came 2nd in their sections and, with our Juniors 5th in their section, the final result was 2nd overall club in the Waikato. The Open and Intermediate teams from our club now progress to the Waikato/Bays Interclub teams Final at Cambridge on Sunday 27 August, where they will compete against the other top 2 teams from both Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

Soup and Bun # One - Sunday 18 June

On almost the shortest day of the year, 44 club members gathered for a hot cup of soup (thanks Michelle!), a chat with friends and a session of bridge. A new all-of-club handicapping system (based on rating points) was trialled to even out the playing field of junior, intermediate and open class players. Any comments on the system are welcome. Prize winners on the day were Leanne Curry & Liz Fisher, Ian Ross & Phil Thompson, Deane & Brenda Hogg and Zheng Zhang & Mereana Cullen. After the bridge a number of players (and our director Joyce in her fairy outfit!) crossed the back car park to watch the Lions players training for the Chiefs game.

Many thanks to all those who helped with these events!

Hamilton Open & Intermediate Pairs - Saturday 15 July

A huge turnout of 14 tables of intermediate players and 22 open teams filled our club rooms to near capacity on a cold winter's day, but the heat of competition (plus the heat pumps!) kept everyone warm. Competition was fierce, with Nigel Gresson and Ian Ross - 2nd in the Intermediate pairs - and the Clayton team - 4th in the Open teams - the most successful of our club members. Thanks to Val and her team of kitchen helpers and all the other club members who helped with organising and running another successful day of bridge.



Nigel and Ian – 2nd Intermediate pair

Soup and Bun # Two - Sunday 6 August

52 members came along for our second winter time soup and bun lunch, the vote on the new constitution and a friendly afternoon of bridge.

The Special General Meeting approved the new Constitution for the Club. A summary of the changes is on the website and a printed copy at the club rooms.

The bridge winners under the all-of-club handicap system were Joyce Catchpole and Judith Brooks, followed by Mereana Cullen and Cherie Barton, with Kevin and Anne McCarthy in third place. Well done!

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Upcoming Events

THURSDAY NIGHT RESTRICTED TEAMS, FROM 12 OCTOBER

This is a team's event for players of all grades. Each team is to consist of **one player from each playing grade** (open, intermediate and junior), with a second junior or intermediate player.

The event takes place over 4 Thursdays with one substitute per team allowed. [**Substitute must be of equal or lesser grade than the player they are substituting for**].

An entry sheet will be available at the club closer to the time. Pre-entry of your team is needed by **Friday 6 October**. Each team will require a name, so use your imagination! Wearing something to match your name is strictly optional.

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Waikato/Bays Main Regional Pairs	Saturday 9 September
Hamilton Junior Pairs	Saturday 9 September
Hamilton Congress Pairs	Saturday 21 October
Waikato/Bays Provincial Teams Qualifying	Sunday 22 October
Waikato/Bays Consolation Pairs	Monday 23 October

Helpers are needed for:

- Hamilton Junior Pairs and Waikato/Bays Main Regional Pairs

This is a very big event with many players expected so we need plenty of helpers! Please can our Intermediate players make an extra effort to volunteer to help on Saturday September 9. Any Junior or Open players who do not wish to enter the tournaments will be very welcome too.

- Hamilton Congress (Labour weekend)

Also a big event, which runs for 3 days. We would prefer to have a separate group of helpers for each day, so lots of helpers are needed.

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior/Novice Tournaments:

Te Awamutu Junior Pairs	Te Awamutu	Sunday 15 October
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Intermediate Tournaments:

Te Awamutu Intermediate Pairs	Te Awamutu	Saturday 19 August
Matamata Intermediate Pairs	Matamata	Sunday 17 September
Cambridge Intermediate Pairs	Cambridge	Sunday 29 October

Restricted Tournaments: (Only one Open grade player in a pair)

Thames Restricted Pairs	Thames	Sunday 10 September
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Open and All Grades Tournaments:

Waikato Area Pairs (6)	Morrinsville	Sunday 20 August
Rotorua Open Pairs	Rotorua	Saturday 16 September
Mt Maunganui Open Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 16 September
Rotorua Open Pairs	Rotorua	Saturday 16 September
Waitomo Veterans Pairs	Te Kuiti	Thursday 12 October
Te Puke All Grades Pairs	Te Puke	Saturday 14 October
Taupo All Grades 8B Pairs	Taupo	Saturday 28 October

Finding Tournament Results

Have you ever wanted to know how your friends got on at a recent tournament? Now there is an easy way to do so. Just click on the link labelled [Other Clubs Results](#) on the website Results sidebar, then choose the club for which you want results. The list covers all Waikato/Bay of Plenty clubs, apart from Hamilton - we have our own separate link!

Tournament Success by our Club Members



Waikato Area Pairs 3	30 April	Te Aroha
1 st equal	Richard Fletcher & Linda Lin	
3 rd	Clare Coles & Kevin Whyte	
Hamilton Ladies Intermediate Pairs	2 May	Hamilton
1 st	Judith Brooks & Sheila Smith	
3 rd	Raewyn Grylls-Thomas & Tracey Hoff	
Hamilton Ladies Open Pairs	2 May	Hamilton
3 rd	Diane Emms & Jane Stearns	
Te Awamutu Restricted Pairs	20 May	Te Awamutu
1 st	Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron	
2 nd	Blair Fisher & Nigel Gresson	
3 rd	Zheng Zhang & Mereana Cullen	
Katikati Intermediate Pairs	21 May	Katikati
2 nd	Cathy Nolen & Karen Thomson	
Te Puke Intermediate Pairs	27 May	Te Puke
3 rd	Tracey Hoff & Graeme Hope	
Waikato Area Pairs 4	28 May	Matamata
1 st	Kevin Whyte & Herman Yuan	
2 nd	Alan Parkes & Malcolm Smith	
Morrinsville All Grades Pairs	10 June	Morrinsville
1 st	Malcolm Wilson & Gillian Corbett	
2 nd	Richard Hooper & Rodney Harris	
3 rd	Helen Healy & Tim Healy	

Spa Town Open Teams 2 nd	1 July Barry Jones, Jenny Millington & partners	Te Aroha
Rotorua Open Pairs 1 st	2 July Ian Clayton & Richard Solomon	Rotorua
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs 2 nd	15 July Nigel Gresson & Ian Ross	Hamilton
Mt Maunganui Intermediate Pairs 2 nd	22 July Tracey Hoff & Graeme Hope	Mt Maunganui
Waikato Area Pairs 5 2 nd 3 rd	30 July Malcolm Smith & Alan Parkes Gary Foidl & Yuzhong Chen	Tokoroa

Monday Night - Change of Hours on 25 September...

Monday night players, don't forget that the start time will revert to 7.30pm from 25 September, giving you more time to enjoy the daylight outside before heading off to bridge !

Kitchen News

It is important to return cups to the kitchen 20 minutes before end of play at the latest. The cups need to be put through the steriliser which then needs to be unloaded before running it through the drain cycle and turned off ready for the next day's session. This all takes time! Returning the cups before the last round of play starts means that all the helpers can leave shortly after play finishes.



Club Results

Monday Autumn Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Karen Thomson & Roger Gunning
- 2 Dallas Dagg & Ella Gray

Handicap

- 1 Chris Jones & Paul Stevens
- 2 Karen Thomson & Roger Gunning

Alder Trophy Individuals

Scratch

- 1 Eddie Tan
- 2 Graeme Hope

Handicap

- 1 Eddie Tan
- 2 Graeme Hope

Eileen Hartstone Trophy Individuals

Scratch

- 1 Lindsay Reid
- 2 Diane Emms

Handicap

- 1 Maria Kalksma
- 2 Kasthuri Rajan

Tuesday Morning Individuals

Scratch

- 1 Audrey Dickson
- 2 Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Audrey Dickson
- 2 Lucie Armstrong

Van Selm Memorial Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde
- 2 Karen Thomson & Cathy Nolen

Handicap

- 1 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde
- 2 Karen Thomson & Cathy Nolen

Friday Autumn Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Sheila Smith & Ian Clayton
- 2 Bruce Cresswell & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Sheila Smith & Ian Clayton
- 2 Norma Cooke & Joan Lowe

Grace Fuller Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Leanne Curry & Graeme Hope
- 2 Janice Wilton & Donna Prentice

Henry Handicap Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Val West & Shirley Fransham
- 2 Sheila Smith & John Paterson

Monday Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Cathy Nolen & Karen Thomson
- 2 Phil Thompson & Colleen De Luen

Thursday Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Cathy Nolen & Ella Gray
- 2 Zheng Zhang & Yuzhong Chen

Friday Pairs A

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Allison Smith
- 2 Lucie Armstrong & Joan Egger

Tuesday Afternoon Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Barry Jones & Blair Fisher
- 2 Bruce Cresswell & John Paterson

Alasdair Beck Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Graeme Hope & Megan Jolly
- 2 Leanne Curry & Donna Prentice

Handicap

- 1 Janice Wilton & Donna Prentice
- 2 Brenda Hogg & Deane Hogg

Handicap

- 1 Jane Sandelin & Lucie Armstrong
- 2 Val West & Shirley Fransham

Handicap

- 1 Ross Stewart & Mary Fear
- 2 Nan Johnston & Coralie Robinson

Handicap

- 1 Cathy Nolen & Ella Gray
- 2 Roger Gunning & Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Handicap

- 1 Lucie Armstrong & Joan Egger
- 2 Ruth Ivey & Jane Muggeridge

Handicap

- 1 Bruce Cresswell & John Paterson
- 2 Nolene Vail & Bryce Bethell

Handicap

- 1 Graeme Hope & Megan Jolly
- 2 Leanne Curry & Donna Prentice

Monday Pairs C

Scratch

- 1 Barry Jones & Lois Jones
- 2 Pam Burns & Val West

Handicap

- 1 Raewyn Grylls-Thomas & Judith Brooks
- 2 Barry Jones & Lois Jones

Winter Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Gary Foidl & Yuzhong Chen
- 2 Jeffrey Chang & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Jeffrey Chang & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Tipa Goodwin & Richard Hooper

Peter Kunac Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Lindsay Reid & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Liz Fisher & Blair Fisher

Handicap

- 1 Graeme Hope & Donna Prentice
- 2 Shirley Fransham & Joyce Catchpole

David Head Trophy Individuals

Scratch

- 1 Bill West
- 2 Catherine Cameron

Handicap

- 1 Bill West
- 2 Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Tuesday Evening Pairs A

Scratch

- 1 Deane Hogg & Brenda Hogg
- 2 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Handicap

- 1 Deane Hogg & Brenda Hogg
- 2 Ruentong Neave & Heidi Eschmann

Monday Mid-Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Liz Fisher & Leanne Curry

Handicap

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Verna Beech & Anne McCarthy

Wednesday Butler Pairs

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Ian Clayton
- 2 Karen Thomson & Brett Glass

From Lindsay's File

How can South make 3 No Trumps with 4 spades lead from West?

Perfect Squeeze

	♠ 7 6 3	
	♥ A K Q 7 4	
	♦ 5 2	
	♣ 7 3 2	
♠ K 10 8 4 2		♠ J 9
♥ 8 3		♥ J 10 9 5 2
♦ J 8 4		♦ K 10 9
♣ K 8 4		♣ A 9 6
	♠ A Q 5	
	♥ 6	
	♦ A Q 7 6 3	
	♣ Q J 10 5	

3 NT BY SOUTH

A sure sign of the bridge expert is the sequence in which the cards are played. It should be logical, with all the precision of a mathematical progression.

Take this deal. Any departure from the order of playing the first eight tricks would bring inevitable defeat. Can you find the winning play?

Answer in the next newsletter (November 2017) or, if you don't want to wait that long, it will be on the Results noticeboard at the bridge club soon!

ANSWER TO LAST NEWSLETTER'S POSER

How can South make 7 Hearts with a Q diamonds lead from West?

When West led Q of diamonds against South's grand slam in hearts, declarer paused to survey the dummy. Provided trumps broke evenly, South could see 13 sure winners. If West held four trumps - too bad; if East should have four trumps there was still a chance.

In no hurry to discard the spade losers, declarer took the opportunity to reduce trump length by ruffing the lead in hand with the 3 of hearts - a vital preliminary step as it turned out. Next the A and K of hearts were played, discarding a small club or spade from dummy, and the sad news was out. How nice it would have been at this stage to have a trump left in dummy to take a simple finesse and pick up East's J of hearts!

But this was wishful thinking and it was quite hopeless to play side suit winners, for then declarer would eventually have to trump and play the hearts from hand, meaning East would make the Jack. The only chance was to finesse dummy's Q of spades at the third trick. This won, so one spade was then discarded on the K of diamonds, followed by the ruff of a small diamond with the four of hearts.

Crossing to the A of spades, the last small diamond was trumped with the 6 of hearts, the A of clubs was cashed and a club led to the Q of clubs followed by the lead of dummy's A of diamonds. If East trumped, South can overtrump and make the rest of the tricks. But East followed suit and South threw the K of clubs. The 12th trick lead was a spade from dummy. East had to trump with the 9, South overtrumped with the 10 and then won the last trick with the Q of hearts, in what the theorists term a 'triple simple coup'.