



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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From the President

August 2019

Tournaments: the clubrooms were buzzing in July when we held the Open Teams and Intermediate Pairs - both the Richmond and O'Neill rooms were full with a record 25 open teams and 17 intermediate tables playing. Not as many members featured in the winning line-ups as we would have wished and congratulations go to Hugh McGann who led the winning team with Yuzhong Chen's team in 3rd place. Carissa Oliver and Karen Harper took the prize for the top junior/junior pair in the intermediate pairs. Thanks again go to Jane and her team who catered throughout the day.

Members who play in our tournaments are expected to contribute towards providing morning tea for our visitors to assist our club to be welcoming hosts. One thing is certain, Jane will be tapping shoulders to assist her on 7 September when we host the Open Swiss Pairs and Junior Pairs. Sponsorship is always important for our tournaments to be viable. Currently, we have three generous sponsors, but we will always find a suitable spot for other businesses who would be interested in supporting events such as bridge tournaments or would like the naming rights to any of our session events throughout the year which is an inexpensive way of putting their business name into the club. We have a Wednesday night 3A

tournament that would benefit from a sponsor. Please let Nigel Gresson know if you are aware of any potential sponsors.

Inter-provincial teams: congratulations to five of our members who trialled and qualified to represent the Waikato-Bays region at the Inter-Provincial Competitions to be held in Christchurch in November - Yuzhong Chen and Noel Grigg (Open) Ella Gray and Michael Neels (Seniors) and Jenna Gibbons (Women's).

Our new bridge players have completed their lessons - the Tuesday nighters are now playing in with our regular session - remember, they will be carrying 'no X's please' cards, but of course they can X the experienced players.

The National Bridge Congress will be held in Hamilton in September/October and is an ideal event for all grades of players to enjoy - just think, a whole week of playing bridge, what more could you want. There have been new events for juniors and intermediates added to the regular list of events - check the notice board in the club and consider entering in one or more of the events.

The back car park has now been re-gravelled and the committee is currently in the process of obtaining an earthquake rating assessment together with applying for grants to assist in financing the maintenance to our roof. If you are aware of any association that has \$\$\$ available for grants to clubs, please contact Steve Hill.

Happy bridging and remember, playing tournaments is a great way to improve your bridge.

Ella

Ella Gray

Office Hours

The office hours listed in the current book have changed. Donna is now in the office at the following times:

Tuesday & Wednesday 8:00 - 11:00am

Friday 8:00 - 10:00am & 1:00 - 3:00pm

Club Captain's Chatter

We are heading into the most exciting month of the Bridge Calendar year for Hamilton city with National Congress late September. Hundreds of Bridge players hit Kirikiriroa and there is an event for everyone to play in. If you haven't already got your partner, then hurry up and find someone to enter - at the bare minimum, Intermediates, Juniors and Novices, 3 days of play is perfect for you - it's like playing lots of Club sessions in a row. The party on Saturday night returns this year and once you start coming to Congress, it will become a hard habit to break.

So a few must do's:

- Find a partner and get a basic system together. If you can't find one, contact Richard Solomon, who will steer you in the right direction
- Find teammates, - there are events for pairs, Swiss pairs and teams
- Pay earlier & get the early bird discount - nothing like value for money
- Have a few practise sessions, find another pair and host a few sessions at home

Good luck and see you there

And I admit, I failed 2 of the three goals I announced for this year, Remember these were - work closely with the junior players of the Club, look to sit the Directors exam and get even more Bridge players listening to the Bridge Zone show. Thankfully, I achieved one of them - more listeners to the "Bridge Zone" Show.

I'm sad to say no one approached me to help set up a plan or goals for them to knock off this year and I haven't gone ahead with Directing - instead opting towards a Teaching slant so I am heading off to Wellington to attend the Teachers' Seminar this month.

So fellow members, if you want to plan or improve your progress next year - why don't you come and catch up with me for a chat, the Club certainly wants to see their members get maximum enjoyment and support where possible for your Bridge - we all love the game so why not be the best you can be?

I shall leave you with a tip - whoever you play with, always agree on: Defence to oppositions opening NT, actions taken after your opening NT bid is doubled and whether or not your NT opening holds a 5 card major (my suggestion is yes).

See you at the tables!

Mereana Cullen

Club Captain

From the Directors Table:

Slow Play

Serial slow play is the bugbear of the director. It is also very wearying (and annoying) on the players behind you who have to catch up every round. If the table you are at is behind with the play:

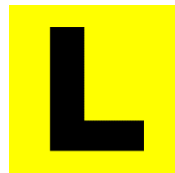
* Concentrate on playing the current hand. You should not be analysing the completed hands or talking about other things. Likewise, you should not be wandering off to get a cup of coffee.

* You should not be looking at what others have done on the Bridgmate. This does not mean you should rush your bridge - just cut out all the non-bridge matters until you have caught up.

* Please be aware that the obligation to catch up is on ALL players at the table. You might have been held up by others and it might not be your fault that you're running late, but that does not give you the right to hold things up further.

Learners graduate

This year's lessons have now finished, and the new graduates are playing 'real' bridge. We all know what a complex and confusing game bridge can be at first so please make them welcome. Why not offer to be a partner if needed? Be prepared to be patient with slow play and helpful with your comments until they find their feet. We want everyone to enjoy our great game!



WELL DONE!

New Gold Grandmaster - Blair Fisher

Congratulations to Blair who in mid-May officially became a Gold grandmaster! Just into his 30s, is he one of the youngest Gold grandmasters ever? Blair started playing bridge at age 14 in Te Awamutu, quickly became an open player, and in 2005 joined the Hamilton club. He became a grandmaster in 2010 aged 22, then a Silver grandmaster in 2015. What goal next for Blair? - well, NZ Bridge has recently added 2 new grandmaster ranks, Emerald and Platinum, and currently with only one player in Platinum and two in Emerald there is a new target to aim for!



New Silver Grandmasters - Sam and Jo Simpson



Jo and Sam

Sam and Jo Simpson, primarily members of Tauranga club, have this year joined the Hamilton club. Sam became a Silver grandmaster in May after becoming a Grandmaster in 2001. Jo has now joined him as a Silver grandmaster in August after becoming a Grandmaster in 2005. The pair have had a very successful year so far; winning the Waikato Bays Provincial Pairs at Tauranga in January, the Taranaki Open Teams final in March and most recently the North Island Pairs in Wellington in August. The rank of Silver grandmaster requires at least 1250 A points and 2500 Masterpoints overall, accumulated by successfully playing in many bridge tournaments. Congratulations!

Meet Our Members - Joan Egger

Joan is one of our longer-standing members, joining the club thirty years ago when a friend persuaded her to attend the lessons being run by Malcolm Smith. The friend has since given up playing but Joan persevered and has enjoyed the challenge of learning such a stimulating game. She became an Open player in 2013 and plays most Mondays and Wednesdays with Pam Burns, also Friday mornings with other regular partners.



Joan is an Aussie import, coming to New Zealand in her early twenties with a friend on an 'OE' working holiday, in those days by ship. The Tourist Hotel Corporation (THC) were always looking for staff for their hotels at that time and Joan started off in the THC at Milford Sound where she met her Austrian husband, Sepp, who was also working at the hotel. They spent time in the Hermitage at Mount Cook and the Wanaka THC, all beautiful parts of the country, before a visit to Austria for 18 months where their son was born. Quite an adventure for a young wife who didn't speak the language! On their return to Wanaka for the season (as the THC hotels were not open all year), Sepp was offered a permanent job as pastry cook at the newly opened Waikato Motor Inn in Te Rapa and so the young family headed to Hamilton. In 1969 they started in their own business, the Vardon Home Cookery in Te Rapa. Sepp has supplied delicious scones to our tournaments on many occasions!

Joan has seen many changes in the club over the years and has been involved with the introduction of these during her time on the committee including two years as President in 2008 / 2009. Initially, playing sessions were graded (apart from Monday nights when anyone could play as it still is now), with learners starting on Tuesdays then progressing to Thursdays when the tables in both rooms were full of players. You then had to be invited to play on Wednesday nights where the serious competition took place. Of course, there were no Bridgemates back then, with everyone doing manual scoring which Joan then entered into a computer to calculate the results. She also spent many years as a card dealer for the club. Australia's loss has definitely been New Zealand's and the Hamilton Bridge Club's gain!

NZ Bridge National Congress Coming Soon!

Ever wanted to know how you compare with players from all over New Zealand? Here is your chance! The National Congress attracts over 600 players and takes place here in Hamilton at the Distinction Hotel, Te Rapa, from **28 September to 5 October**. Register now - entry fees for the main events and packages are discounted if paid by 31st August. Visit the Congress [website](#) to enter or view entries.

There are **events for novice, junior and intermediate players** too, so this is a great opportunity for members from our club to take part:

Novice Pairs - a single session on the afternoon of Sunday 29 September (A novice has less than three years' experience and is without a Certificate of Proficiency)

New Zealand Junior Pairs (a new event) - 2 sessions on Friday 4 October (morning/afternoon)

New Zealand Intermediate Teams - 3 sessions on Thursday 3 October (morning, afternoon and evening). Junior players are welcome to play too.

New Zealand Intermediate Pairs - 2 sessions on Friday 4 October

Intermediate Swiss Pairs - 3 sessions 5&6 October (Friday evening / Saturday morning & afternoon). Prizes for Junior pairs too!

NZBridge

Sponsorship to NZ Bridge National Congress

Waikato-Bays Region is sponsoring the entry fee for 4 players from our region to play at the National Congress. To be eligible you must have played at least 2 tournaments in the region since 1 September 2018 and also not have played at Congress more than once in the last 5 years. More details at <http://www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org/congress> Applications for the lucky draw close 25 August 2019 at 6pm. Why not give it a go?

90 Years of Contract Bridge

The inventor of contract bridge, Harold Stirling Vanderbilt, devised the rules of contract bridge while on a cruise in 1925. He was fascinated with the idea of making the then-popular game of auction bridge into a game of skill, and therefore more interesting.

The first vital step was that only those tricks that were bid for should count toward game. Then he added those features that caused contract to sweep auction aside - vulnerability; higher scores, including big bonuses for bidding and making slams; and a brilliantly conceived scoring table so exquisitely balanced that, through the exercise of sound judgement, the side with the poorer hand had a chance to minimise losses, at the same time that it proportionately penalised reckless bidding. Vanderbilt was also the first player to invent a unified bidding system for contract. His system included an artificial and forcing opening bid of one club with a one diamond negative response - an idea that is the basis of some of today's successful systems. He also espoused the strong notrump and weak-two bid. He was the author of four books, the first, *CONTRACT BRIDGE BIDDING & THE CLUB CONVENTION*, published in 1929; the last in 1964.

Amid a welter of honours that he received in bridge and outside it, Vanderbilt's prowess as a player is sometimes overlooked. From 1910 to 1920 his partnership with I B Elwell was recognised as the strongest in US auction bridge. In 1932 and again in 1940 he won the Vanderbilt Cup, the most prestigious of all National Team Championships. Born in 1884 into a very wealthy family and inheriting a fortune at 36, he also found fame as the yachtsman who successfully defended the America's Cup three times between 1930 and 1937, a feat acknowledged on the cover of Time magazine.



Thanks to Lindsay Reid for this article

Recent Events at our Club

Waikato Interclub Teams - Sunday 23 June

Teams from six clubs battled it out in Hamilton for the title of top Waikato team. Representing our club were Open: Michael Curry, Karen Harris, Blair Fisher, Liz Fisher; Intermediate: Megan Jolly, Leanne Curry, Catherine Glyde, Jol Glyde; Junior: Francoise Campbell, Vaughan Samuelson, Bryan Robb, Linley Robb. Overall, the Open team finished 2nd, the Intermediate team 3rd and the Juniors 4th. The overall winning club was Waikato with Hamilton as runners-up.

Hamilton Open Teams & Intermediate Pairs - Saturday 13 July

The club rooms were full to bursting for these well-attended tournaments! 25 Open teams and 34 Intermediate pairs, most from out of town, competed for the honour of winning these tournaments. In a classy Open field, three of the top 4 teams featured a Hamilton member - Hugh McGann in 1st, Yuzhong in 3rd and Dan Lulu in 4th. In the Intermediate pairs Trini Lin and Catherine Cameron managed 4th place, Bruce Cresswell and Vaughan Samuelson 5th and Carissa Oliver and Karen Harper won the top Junior prize. Many thanks to Jane and her kitchen helpers for all their work and to Ella and Mike for organising a smooth running day.

Waikato Area Pairs Heat 6 (Final Round) - Sunday 4 August

Thirty pairs of keen bridge players competed in the final round of the Waikato Area Pairs competition for this year, with the first 3 placings all featuring Hamilton players.

The prizegiving afterwards for the overall leaders calculated over the 6 rounds also strongly featured Hamilton players: Yuzhong Chen (along with Herman Yuan) were convincing overall winners, with Richard Fletcher and Lucie Armstrong in third place.

Tournament Success by our Club Members



Taupo Open Pairs (2 days) Taupo Sat/Sun 4/5 May
1st Barry Jones & Jenny Millington

Putaruru All Grade Pairs Putaruru Thursday 16 May
1st Lucie Armstrong & Joan Egger

Te Awamutu Restricted Pairs Te Awamutu Saturday 18 May
3rd Michael Neels & Karen Payne

Te Puke Restricted Pairs Te Puke Saturday 25 May
3rd Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Waikato Area Pairs (4) Matamata Sunday 26 May
1st Jenna Gibbons & Christine Gibbons
2nd Dan Lulu & Karen Harris
3rd Lucie Armstrong & Richard Fletcher

Morrinsville All Grades Pairs Morrinsville Saturday 8 June
1st Dallas Dagg & Ella Gray
2nd Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Rotorua Open Pairs Rotorua Saturday 22 June
1st Gary Foidl & Ant Hopkins
2nd Jo Simpson & Sam Simpson

Spa Town Open&Multigrade Teams Te Aroha Saturday 29 June
1st Barry Jones, Jenny Millington & teammates
2nd Liz Fisher, Blair Fisher & teammates
3rd Michael Curry, Jenna Gibbons & teammates

Waikato Area Pairs (5) Morrinsville Sunday 7 July

1st Yuzhong Chen & Herman Yuan

3rd Jenna Gibbons & Christine Gibbons

Hamilton Open Teams Hamilton Saturday 13 July

3rd Yuzhong Chen & teammates

Matamata All Grades Pairs Matamata Saturday 27 July

1st Jenna Gibbons & Christine Gibbons

Hamilton Open Swiss Pairs (1/3) Hamilton Wednesday 31 July

1st Karen Harris & Liz Fisher

2nd Barry Jones & Jenny Millington

Waikato Area Pairs (6) Hamilton Sunday 4 August

1st Ian Clayton & Cynthia Clayton

2nd Barry Jones & Jenny Millington

3rd Jeffrey Chang & Herman Yuan

Greeting Cards for Club Funds

Many of us find we are frequently needing get-well cards, sympathy cards, and the odd special birthday or thank you card as well. So rather than buying commercial greeting cards, why not buy a selection from the lovely handmade cards that Cynthia Clayton produces? These are reasonably priced at \$5 each, with money raised donated to our club. See the selection on the table at the club rooms, or Cynthia can make cards to order especially for you.



Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Waikato/Bays Regional Swiss Pairs	Saturday 7 September
Hamilton Junior Pairs	Saturday 7 September
Hamilton Congress Pairs	Saturday 26 October
Hamilton Congress Teams	Saturday 26 October
Hamilton Congress Intermediate Pairs	Saturday 26 October
Waikato/Bays Provincial Teams (Qualify)	Sunday 27 October
Waikato/Bays Consolation Swiss Pairs	Monday 28 October
Waikato/Bays Provincial Teams Final	Monday 28 October
New Zealand Wide Pairs	Friday 1 November

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior/Novice Tournaments:

Te Awamutu Junior Pairs Te Awamutu Sunday 13 October

Intermediate Tournaments:

Te Awamutu Intermediate Pairs Te Awamutu Saturday 17 August
Matamata Intermediate Pairs Matamata Sunday 15 September
Cambridge Intermediate Pairs Cambridge Sunday 20 October

Restricted Tournaments:

Thames Restricted Pairs Thames Sunday 8 September
Rotorua Restricted Pairs Rotorua Saturday 14 September
Mt Maunganui Restricted Pairs Mt Maunganui Saturday 21 September

Open Tournaments:

Tauranga Ladies Pairs Tauranga Wednesday 14 August
W/Bays Interclub Teams Final Cambridge Sunday 25 August
Waitomo Veteran Pairs Te Kuiti Thursday 10 October
Te Puke All Grade Pairs Te Puke Saturday 12 October
Taupo All Grade Pairs Taupo Saturday 19 October



Club Results

Tuesday Individual Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith
- 2 Phil Thompson

Handicap

- 1 Malcolm Smith
- 2 Joan Egger

Club Teams Championship - Barbara Minogue Trophy

- 1 Ian Clayton, Karen Harris, Jenna Gibbons, Michael Curry, Hugh McGann
- 2 Jenny Millington, Barry Jones, Blair Fisher, Liz Fisher

Van Selm Memorial Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Pam Burns & Val West

Handicap

- 1 Pam Burns & Val West
- 2 David Edson & Elaine Rayner

Elsie Pohio Intermediate Teams

- 1 Jenny Seavill, Ian Ross, Bryan Robb, Linley Robb, Joan Hanson
- 2 Megan Jolly, Leanne Curry, Catherine Glyde, Jol Glyde, Sam Armstrong

Elsie Pohio Junior Teams

- 1 Darrell McLean, Phil Longville, Jane Sandelin, Julie Hooper, Paul Stevens
- 2 Jo Millington, Mike Everard, Ian Gilbert, Norman Thomson, Patricia Thomson

Friday Autumn Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Barbara Daly & Verna Beech
- 2 Kay Dixon & June Rogers

Handicap

- 1 Barbara Daly & Verna Beech
- 2 Kay Dixon & June Rogers

Grace Fuller Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Karen Harper & Carissa Oliver
- 2 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Handicap

- 1 Karen Harper & Carissa Oliver
- 2 Mike Everard & Jo Millington

Henry Handicap Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Sheila Smith & John Paterson
- 2 Malcolm Smith & Allison Smith

Handicap

- 1 Sheila Smith & John Paterson
- 2 Jane Sandelin & Lucie Armstrong

Winter Drawn Teams

- 1 Karen Harris, Cherie Barton, Joan Egger, Pam Burns, Merle Marr
- 2 Lindsay Reid, Barry Jones, Kim Thompson, Karen Thomson

Monday Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Cathy Nolen & Karen Thomson
- 2 Elaine Rayner & David Edson

Handicap

- 1 Cathy Nolen & Karen Thomson
- 2 June Scott & Patricia Thomson

Thursday Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Leanne Curry & Megan Jolly
- 2 Trevor Stephenson & Tracey Hoff

Wardlaw Trophy & Rose Bowl

Handicap

- 1 Leanne Curry & Megan Jolly
- 2 Trevor Stephenson & Tracey Hoff

Friday Pairs A

Scratch

- 1 Linda Lin & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Val West & Ross Stewart

Handicap

- 1 Linda Lin & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Val West & Ross Stewart

Tuesday Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Jenny Millington & Kay Dixon
- 2 Bruce Cresswell & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Jenny Millington & Kay Dixon
- 2 June Rogers & Nolene Vail

Alisdair Beck Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Karen Harper & Carissa Oliver
- 2 Maggie Fisher & Helen Green

Handicap

- 1 Lynda Millington & Christine Murphy
- 2 Maggie Fisher & Helen Green

Winter Swiss Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Brett Glass & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Jeffrey Chang & Yuzhong Chen

Monday Pairs C

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Ian Clayton
- 2 Richard Hooper & Mark Thomson

Handicap

- 1 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones
- 2 Stephen Weir & Stephen Baptist

Peter Kunac Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Lindsay Reid & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Ian Ross & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Ian Ross & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Lindsay Reid & Cynthia Clayton

David Head Trophy: Individual

Scratch

- 1 Phil Thompson
- 2 Catherine Cameron

Handicap

- 1 Vaughan Samuelson
- 2 Phil Thompson

Tuesday Evening Pairs A

Scratch

- 1 Vicky Holloway & Lesley Kuggeleijn
- 2 Stephen Weir & Jacqui Mackenzie

Handicap

- 1 Trevor Scott & June Scott
- 2 Vicky Holloway & Lesley Kuggeleijn

Monday Mid-Winter Pairs

- 1 Richard Hooper & Mark Thomson
- 2 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Richard Hooper & Mark Thomson
- 2 Chris Jones & Paul Stevens

Restricted Teams - President's Salver

- 1 Cynthia Clayton, Brett Glass, Kim Thompson, Karen Thomson
- 2 Megan Jolly, Leanne Curry, Michael Curry, Liz Fisher

Friday Winter Pairs

- 1 Judith Brooks & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Billie Phillips & Sheila Smith

Handicap

- 1 Billie Phillips & Sheila Smith
- 2 Melva Johnstone & Joan Craig

From Lindsay's File

Challenge 1

North

♠ A 9 8 2

♥ A 9 8 2

♦ 7

♣ 5 4 3 2

West

♠ Q J 10

♥ Q J 10

♦ J 10 9 8

♣ 10 9 8

East

♠ 7 6 5 4 3

♥ 7 6 5 4 3

♦ 6

♣ 7 6

South

♠ K

♥ K

♦ A K Q 5 4 3 2

♣ A K Q J

Given you can see the cards in all 4 hands and defenders make the best decision they can, how can South make Seven No Trumps after West leads a club?

The answer will be on the Results noticeboard at the bridge club very soon and published on [the website puzzle corner](#) about a fortnight after the newsletter is published.