

# Hamilton



## Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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

## Newsletter - August 2020

### Stop Press

Due to the Lockdown extension by the NZ Government there is **NO Club Bridge at Hamilton until 26 August** unless lockdown dates are changed by the Government

### *From the President*

It has been rewarding to see the clubrooms busy with members and visitors enjoying both the competitive and the social aspects of playing bridge together again. We have a small number of members who have not returned to play during Level 1 - if you have noticed a member has not returned, please take the time to give them a call and ensure all is well with them.

*Tournaments* - the clubrooms were buzzing in July when we hosted the Open teams as well as the first of the new type of "Restricted Teams" competition to be held in NZ. Both the Richmond and O'Neill rooms were full with a very pleasing total of 30 teams playing.

*Lessons* - both sessions of lessons have started again, growing from the initial pre-Covid numbers to a total of 22 new-to-Bridge and 5 returnees who have decided to try to master the puzzle of Bridge for a second time. These lessons are a vital factor in the health of our club and many thanks go

to Mark Thomson, Mereana Cullen, Jenny Millington, Barry Jones and their helpers who have continued to take on the role of tutors to new bridge players.

*Compass\$\$* - huge thanks to David Edson for getting *Compass\$\$* bedded in to enable us to begin the new system with the restart of bridge; and to Mike Neels who has (mostly patiently) assisted me with learning the processing part of the system. You should all have received two account emails showing all your details of play and payments. Members are able to continue playing when their account is overdrawn, but only for a limited time. There will be some events, such as tournaments, that members will not be able to use their accounts for - these events will be detailed on the website later this month.

*Garage sale* - many thanks to all the members who donated such a wide range of quality goods for the three J's - Jane Sandelin, Julie Hooper and Judith Brooks - to organise and sell on Saturday 1 August together with the many members who assisted them. This endeavour has bolstered the club's funds by \$1500.

*Good news* - the National Bridge Congress will again be held (Covid-willing) in September/ October at a new venue at Karapiro. This is an ideal event, still on our doorstep, for all grades of players to enjoy - just think, a whole week of playing bridge, what more could you want? There are new events for juniors, intermediates and novices added to the regular list- check the article later in this newsletter and consider entering one or two of these.

After two and a half years of answering our phone calls, paying the bills and attending to all the other admin details, Donna has retired as our club Secretary (but not from playing bridge). Many thanks to Donna for the constantly cheerful and obliging manner she brought to this position and we are pleased she is continuing to play and flourish at playing Bridge (she has had some very good results lately).

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

***Ella***

## From the Captain's Table

Hello all

It was great to start bridge again in June after suffering weeks of withdrawal symptoms. Thank goodness for Bridge on Line AND Cynthia's quizzes.

We had a very enjoyable lunch organised by Jane Sandelin (again) to celebrate being together after shutdown finished. The Pairs competition went well too and players were complimentary about the day.

I encourage people to enter these Competitions. They are good fun and a learning experience too.

The Soup and Bun day organised by Lois Jones was enjoyable and relaxed. Do come to the next one - check the website for dates as some are being re-scheduled due to Covid level changes.

Since becoming more involved in club activities, I have become even more aware of the many people who contribute to make sure our club runs well. There are those who organise events and catering, deal cards, teach, direct, help behind the scenes etc, etc. Not to forget the President and committee and the decisions they have to make.

I am sure we want to thank them all.

More people are wearing their name tags! Thank you from the newer members!

Please tell me about members who are unwell or having problems so I can get in touch with them on behalf of the Club.

Overheard at the bridge table that someone told their doctor they had increased their exercise by electing to play East/West!

Happy bridging!

**Laura**



## Meet Our Members - Ian Ross

Ian joined the Club in the late 1970s - in fact he said that he and his friend John Leckie just turned up unannounced at the last lessons conducted at the bridge club premises when they were in O'Neill Street. Armed with "All About Acol" Ian and John set about taking the bridge world by storm, with another beginner of about the same vintage, Peter Kunac. (Peter went on to become a club president, bridge author and a life member of the club.)



Ian grew up in Taumarunui and became a boarder at New Plymouth Boys' High School, where he was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV coached by teacher J.J. Stewart (who went on to become the All Black coach from 1973-1976). He moved to Dunedin in 1958 to study dentistry, played in the Otago 2<sup>nd</sup> XV in 1960, and as an accomplished sportsman turned his attention to golf. While studying he was selected for the NZ Universities Golf Team to play Australia in 1962.

After graduating in 1962, Ian moved back to Taumarunui and joined his father in dental practise, and enjoyed trout fishing in the Whanganui River. The river was well known as a great trout stream, except when Mount Ngauruhoe erupted from time to time which decimated the trout population, so Taupo became a secondary trout fishing destination.

After about three years in Taumarunui Ian moved to Hamilton to set up practice, and began playing golf firstly at Te Akau, and in the late 1960s at St Andrews, where he has been a member ever since, and Club Captain in 2014. He was a member of what was initially a dentist's Wednesday afternoon golf group, but which subsequently expanded to become a regular group of many different occupations. One of the members, John Ruscoe, coined nicknames for the players. Ian was designated the "Desperate

Dentist" so Ian is now known as "Desperate" to many of his friends. Ian still organises this weekly group, and his wife Joy has donated the "Des P Rat" cup as a trophy for the group to compete for. Ian told me that the "desperate" formula for a par 4 at golf is: 1 in the bush, 2 in the bunker, 3 on the green, and 4 in the hole. The formula evidently works very well, as Ian is a member of that small group of players who has "shot his age", and not only once!

The nickname has carried over to the Bridge Club, and for the last two or three years Ian has been a member of the "Des P Rats" bridge team at the Cambridge Sixes. Sadly the team has not won the tournament yet.

Not content with just sporting success, Ian initiated the St John Dental Emergency Service. Initially it involved the duty dentist staying at home by his home landline telephone for the entire weekend, with Ian organising the roster of dentists who participated. Some clunky radio equipment became available later which eased the weekend "lock-down" situation. Ian was then invited to join the St John committee and spent many years on the Board. His efforts were recognised when he was honoured as a Knight of the Order of St John in 1994.

Ian didn't play a lot of bridge from around 1980 until his retirement, but he has been a regular player at the club from about 2009. He is the sort of person who strives to be the best he can be at whatever he gets involved in: rugby, golf, St John, and of course bridge. Ian said that when he first started to learn bridge, he was advised to play with the best players he possibly could, and he did just that - although sometimes with just a little embarrassment. But the advice certainly served him well, and it is something he would recommend to new players today.



## Phone number changes / additions

Anna Kalma	027 518-3133
Eve Montgomerie	827-6854, 027 611-5571
Gary Foidl	021 179-9255
Helen Green	021 145-1931
Irene McCaskill	855-3654, 021 063-5435
Kevin Whyte	856-0036, 027 208-5048
Lois Jones	854-0453, 021 155-1838
Malcolm Giles	027 433-8828
Richard Solomon	027 245-5418



## Greeting Cards for Club Funds



As well as creating 27 quizzes over the Covid lockdown, Cynthia Clayton also keeps busy producing handmade greeting cards for all sorts of occasions. 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 on request Cynthia can make cards to order especially for you.

## From the Treasurer

As you can imagine, the Covid lockdown has depleted our funds from table money and room hire somewhat. To bolster the bank account balance, members have recently been busy with fundraising activities. With the help of a band of volunteers (Richard Wagstaff, Nigel Gresson, Margaret Boyd, Roger Johnstone and many others) our car parking efforts this year are approaching, and should exceed, \$10,000. Jane Sandelin not only came out for parking but with another group of members, (Judith Brookes, Julie Hooper, Laura Sommerville, Margaret Boyd to name just a few) organised the contributions donated towards the Garage Sale that raised \$1,500.

**Bruce**



## From the Directors table

### Once again - a plea to all our members !



Please arrive at the club rooms at least 10 minutes before the time set for play to start. This allows the director to know exactly how many tables there are in order to set up the best movement. When players arrive late, especially after the movement has been set into the computer, this makes everyone have to wait while it is all reset. Be kind to your fellow players and your director and make sure you allow enough time for

any slight traffic delays that may occur.

There have also been a number of 'no shows' recently. If you have a booking with someone you don't regularly play with or which was made before lockdown, please confirm with them that they are still able to partner you. If you are unwell, and as requested are not going to come to bridge, please let your partner know.

Finally, if you and a partner have signed up to a teams or swiss pairs event at the club and you are not able to make it to bridge for any reason, you must inform the director earlier in the day as these events need an even number of tables taking part.

If we all follow these simple requests we will keep the directors and players happy. Thank you.

## Breaking news - Gold Coast Congress Cancelled

*"It is with great sadness that we have to announce that after much consideration we have decided to cancel the 2021 Gold Coast Congress. Due to the Covid-19 Restrictions currently in place and likely to be in place at the Convention Centre and elsewhere in 2021, an early decision had to be made. We will hopefully be celebrating the 60th event in 2022 - dates are 19th February to 26th February" - GOLD COAST CONGRESS*

## NZ Bridge National Congress Coming Soon (We hope)!

What do you do when your event booking is cancelled 3 months before the due date because the hotel has become a quarantine venue? In the case of the National Congress organisers - you spend a lot of time and effort hunting for the most suitable local replacement venue. This has now been decided - the 2020 Bridge National Congress will be held at the Sir Don Rowlands Centre, Lake Karapiro (near Cambridge).

Congress dates stay the same as advertised- from **Saturday 26 September to Saturday 3 October (unless Covid intervenes)**. Register now as entry fees for the main events and packages are discounted if paid by 31st August.

Visit the Congress [website](#) to enter or view events. There are no evening sessions this year and 9:30 starts most mornings.

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

**New Zealand Junior Pairs** - 2 daytime sessions on Thursday 1 October

**New Zealand Intermediate Pairs** - 2 sessions on Thursday 1 October

**Intermediate Swiss Pairs** - 2 sessions on Friday 2 October

**New Zealand Intermediate Teams** - 2 daytime sessions on Saturday 3 October. Special Prizes for teams with 3 or more Junior players and also for Junior pairs playing in the Intermediate pair events.

For all events, you must **enter in advance** - close-off is the day before the event but you are encouraged to enter earlier to help with their planning.

**Novice Pairs** - a single session on the afternoon of Saturday 3 October (A novice has less than three years' experience and was without a Certificate of Proficiency at 1 January 2020). Only \$10 for this session.

Do make sure you turn up on time - it is about 40 minutes non-peak driving from Hamilton to Karapiro, so check the event start time and plan your trip.

# NZBridge



## ***Sponsorship to NZ Bridge National Congress***

Waikato-Bays Region is sponsoring the entry fee for up to 4 players in the Thursday to Saturday events. See <http://www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org/congress> Applications for the lucky draw close 23 August 2020. Why not give it a go?

## ***Entertainment Books for Sale***

Are you someone who carries your smart phone everywhere? You will be pleased to learn the Entertainment Book is now 100% digital - no coupon clipping required - it's always there on your phone! The membership is now rolling, which means it's valid for 12 months from the date of purchase. Plus, you're supporting Hamilton Bridge Club with 20% of the purchase price donated directly to us.

The current regional membership for Waikato/Bay of Plenty is only \$69.99 (and currently offering 2 months bonus free membership). To join up visit <https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/> , enter your details, then choose Hamilton Bridge Club in the fundraising tab. For more information or help, contact Judith Brooks at the number in your bridge book.

## ***Inter Provincial Representatives***

The following members of our club have been chosen to represent WaikatoBays at the Inter Provincials in Wellington in November:

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

**Women:** Jenna Gibbons

**Senior:** Yuzhong Chen

**Intermediate:** Leanne Curry and Megan Jolly

Further info is on the Waikato Bays website Home page.  
We wish them all well at the competition.

## ***Continue keeping safe at bridge***

Now that Covid-19 has reared its ugly head again in Auckland, recent events in Australia show us how quickly an outbreak can spread. Because our bridge club members are in the at-risk group for both Covid and other winter illnesses, we still need to keep up our health practices such as continuing to use the hand sanitisers outside playing rooms before entering at the start of the session and after a toilet or cigarette break and to continue to follow the sensible health practices of **staying at home if you have flu-like symptoms or a cold** and washing your hands with soap and water. Tissues are still available in the playing rooms. Players are still required to move away from the playing table if you are anticipating sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose and re-sanitise your hands before returning to your playing table. Masks are still available for any member to wear during play.

## ***Our New Way of Paying to Play***

Don't forget to keep your table money account in credit by transferring regular amounts to the club bank account:

**01 0315 0381282 01**

Any members who do not use internet banking can pay their table money to the Secretary (not less than \$20 but preferably at least \$30 - we are not always able to provide change!). All table money is processed to your bridge account and deducted for each session you play. Please ensure your account has a positive balance of funds.

Should you decide to leave the Club any balance owing will be repaid to a nominated bank account. The repayment is not available on demand but will take place as soon as possible. Any credits to your account due to a session prize are not repayable as cash - these can only be used for a bridge session.



## **Upcoming Social Events!**

The Club has been working hard with our new Club Captain on improving social events for us to enjoy. Some of these social events may have to change - the August Soup & Bun scheduled for 16 August has been postponed until later in the year.

**September Soup and Bun** - Join the socialising on a Sunday afternoon for lovely soup, great company, bridge and prizes. Just \$5 for a soup and bun lunch (starting at 12 noon) followed by a session of bridge. The first Soup & Bun was a fun occasion for those who attended - it is a way to catch up with others and meet new people in a very friendly atmosphere.

**Melbourne Cup Day** - On Tuesday 3 November Judith Brooks and her team will provide prize winning opportunities, and a men's and women's best dressed. Bruce's Quiz will reappear and Jeffrey Chang will bring five of his fabulous teas for an afternoon tea tasting.

**A Special Anniversary** - Did you know our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be in 2022? We need to begin planning for this milestone. With the help of Lindsay Reid, we have already begun preparing a history of our club for members which will be released at the same time.

## **Tournaments at our Club - Players and Helpers Needed**

We are hopeful that the next tournaments scheduled at our club will go ahead, but check the website regularly in case we have to cancel.

### **Waikato/Bays Regional Swiss Pairs**

This is a very big event with many players expected so we need plenty of helpers! Please can our Junior and Intermediate players make an extra effort to volunteer to help on Saturday September 5. Any Open players who do not wish to enter the tournament will be very welcome too.

### **Hamilton Congress (Labour weekend)**

Our annual Club Congress is 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.

## Recent Events at our Club

### **Welcome Back Bridge Lunch - Friday 19 June**

After almost 3 months of no bridge during Covid 19 lockdown, we finally started playing again on Tuesday 16 June. Numbers were down for the first week as we got used to going out at night again.

To celebrate being able to play 'real' bridge, a lunch was held on the first Friday back (our most popular weekly session). 33 members enjoyed the 'bangers and mash' and catching up with all those members they hadn't seen in person for weeks.



A lovely orchid and a thank you card were presented to Cynthia on behalf of everyone who received her fantastic quizzes and lessons during lockdown - the latest was Quiz 27 by the end of lockdown.

If anyone missed out and would like to try the quizzes, contact Cynthia [cynclayton@gmail.com](mailto:cynclayton@gmail.com)

### **Hamilton Open and Restricted Open Teams - Saturday 11 July**

What better way to celebrate the end of lockdown and the country being at Alert level 1 again than attending a tournament at Hamilton Bridge Club? Many players agreed and there was an excellent turnout of 16 Open Teams in the 5A competition and a very encouraging 14 Teams in the new 'Open Restricted' competition (for players with less than 100 'A' points) - the first of these events to be held.

Hamilton players managed 3rd in both sections with Liz & Blair Fisher, Michael Curry & Jenna Gibbons in the Open section and Terry Wells, Roger Gunning, Eileen Lumsden & Joan Craig succeeding in the Restricted Open. Many thanks to Jane and her kitchen helpers for all their work and to Ella for organising another smooth-running day.

# Tournament Successes by our Club Members



<b>Spa Town Open Teams</b>	Hamilton	Saturday 27 June
1 <sup>st</sup> Liz Fisher, Blair Fisher & teammates		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Helen Healy, Tim Healy & teammates		
<b>Waikato Area Pairs "5"</b>	Thames	Sunday 5 July
1 <sup>st</sup> Yuzhong Chen & James Yang		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jenny Millington & Barry Jones		
<b>Hamilton Open Teams</b>	Hamilton	Saturday 11 July
3 <sup>rd</sup> Liz Fisher, Blair Fisher, Michael Curry & Jenna Gibbons		
<b>Hamilton Restricted Open Teams</b>	Hamilton	Saturday 11 July
3 <sup>rd</sup> Terry Wells, Roger Gunning, Joan Craig & Eileen Lumsden		
<b>Auck/Northland Regional Teams</b>	Franklin	Sunday 19 July
3 <sup>rd</sup> Liz Fisher, Blair Fisher & teammates		
<b>Matamata Open Pairs</b>	Matamata	Saturday 25 July
2 <sup>nd</sup> Barry Jones & Jenny Millington		
<b>Waikato Area Pairs "6"</b>	Hamilton	Sunday 2 August
1 <sup>st</sup> Helen Healy & Tim Healy		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Yuzhong Chen & James Yang		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jenny Millington & Barry Jones		
<b>Waikato Area Pairs - overall 3 sessions</b>		
1st Jenny Millington & Barry Jones		
2nd Kevin Whyte & Clare Coles		
<b>Hamilton Open Swiss Pairs</b>	Hamilton	Wed 22 Jul-5 August
1 <sup>st</sup> Gary Foidl & Brett Glass		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jenny Millington & Barry Jones		

## Upcoming Events

These events may be cancelled due to Covid restrictions so check online before deciding to take part

### COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Waikato/Bays Regional Swiss Pairs	Saturday 5 September
Hamilton Congress Open Pairs	Saturday 24 October
Hamilton Congress Restricted Open Pairs	Saturday 24 October
Waikato/Bays Provincial Teams (Qualifying)	Sunday 25 October
Waikato/Bays Consolation Swiss Pairs	Monday 26 October
Waikato/Bays Provincial Teams Final	Monday 26 October
New Zealand Wide Pairs	Friday 6 November

### EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

#### ***Junior and Novice Tournaments:***

Tauranga Junior & Novice Pairs	Tauranga	Saturday 29 August
Te Awamutu Junior Pairs	Te Awamutu	Sunday 11 October

#### ***Intermediate Tournaments:***

Tauranga Intermediate Pairs	Tauranga	Saturday 29 August
Matamata Intermediate Pairs	Matamata	Sunday 13 September
Cambridge Intermediate Pairs	Cambridge	Sunday 18 October

#### ***Restricted Tournaments:***

Thames Restricted Pairs	Thames	Sunday 6 September
Rotorua Restricted Pairs	Rotorua	Saturday 12 September
Mt Maunganui Restricted Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 19 September

#### ***Open Tournaments:***

Waitomo Veteran Pairs	Te Kuiti	Thursday 8 October
Te Puke Open Pairs	Te Puke	Saturday 10 October
Taupo Open Pairs	Taupo	Saturday 17 October





# Club Results

## **Peter Kunac Trophy**

### **Scratch**

1 Barbara Daly & Ella Gray

2 Ian Clayton & Linda Lin

### **Handicap**

1 Barbara Daly & Ella Gray

2 Ross Stewart & Mary Fear

## **David Head Trophy: Individual**

### **Scratch**

1 Trini Lin

2 Nigel Gresson

### **Handicap**

1 Trini Lin

2 Bryan Robb

## **Tuesday Evening Pairs A**

### **Scratch**

1 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

2 Christine Murphy & Ruth Ivey

### **Handicap**

1 Christine Murphy & Ruth Ivey

2 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

## **Restricted Teams - President's Salver**

1 Kim Thompson, Josie Van Weerd, Ella Gray, Karen Thomson

2 Terry Wells, Ranjith Cooray, Anna Kalma, Richard Solomon

## **Monday Mid-Winter Pairs**

### **Scratch**

1 Karen Thomson & Cathy Nolen

2 Joan Egger & Pam Burns

### **Handicap**

1 Catherine Cameron & Melinda Wang

2 Stephen Weir & Stephen Baptist

## **Friday Winter Pairs**

### **Scratch**

1 Ella Gray & Michael Neels

2 Sue Collinge & Trini Lin

### **Handicap**

1 Sue Collinge & Trini Lin

2 Ella Gray & Michael Neels

## **Clayton-Greene Trophy**

### **Scratch**

1 Malcolm Smith & Kevin Whyte

2 Tim Healy & Malcolm Wilson

## **Championship Pairs**

### **Handicap**

1 Sheila Smith & Margaret Boyd

2 Malcolm Smith & Kevin Whyte

Challenge 6

*North*

♠ K 5 3

♥ A K

♦ A

♣ 10 9 6 5 4 3 2

*West*

♠

♥ Q 6 5 4 2

♦ 10 8 7 4

♣ A K Q J

*East*

♠ 9 8 6 2

♥ 3

♦ J 9 6 5 3 2

♣ 8 7

*South*

♠ A Q J 10 7 4

♥ J 10 9 8 7

♦ K Q

♣

How can South make Six Spades after West leads the King of Clubs?

The answer will be published on the club's website puzzle corner soon after the newsletter is published.

**Tip of the Day:**

Consider the significance of the opening lead and try to place the missing honours in the suit led

