



# Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

20 Richmond St, Hamilton

phone: (07) 839-4547

email: [secretary@hamiltonbridgeclub.org.nz](mailto:secretary@hamiltonbridgeclub.org.nz)

[www.hamilton.bridge-club.org](http://www.hamilton.bridge-club.org)

**From the President**

**February 2017**

Welcome to a new year of Bridge!

As you will observe, the building has been painted inside and out to give us a fresh start for the year.

Lessons start Tuesday 7th March and Friday 10th March so, if you know of anyone who would like to learn Bridge and meet new people, please tell Jenny Millington or Mark Thomson.

Our first big tournament is the Restricted on Sunday April 2nd. This is an ideal opportunity for a Junior or Intermediate to play with an Open player, as two Open players cannot play together.

There will be lots of Open players looking for partners, so if you are looking for a partner please tell Mark, Ella or Nigel and you will be offered a partner. This year's tournament will be sponsored by Jeffrey Chang's Coffee and Tea Shop, Urge. Please support him.

Happy Bridging for 2017 and please try to make Bridge a more pleasant experience for each other.

***Nigel Gresson***

**Club President**

# From the Club Captain

## Baptism Of Fire

New member, New Year, New Role, New Partners and New Systems - what more could a Bridge player ask for?

It has been almost 3 months since I transferred to Hamilton Bridge Club from Palmerston North and my introduction has been very nice, thank you all for making me feel welcome!

I have managed to taste some podium finishes, a Grand Slam, a few bottom boards (who's counting?) a couple of nights as a buddy director and landed a spot on the committee - whoop whoop.

So... what does a Club Captain do? Here are some of my thoughts on that:

- Make themselves known to all members
- Be available to discuss and deliver members views back to the Committee
- Have up to date knowledge on the current plans and events of the Club
- Actively promote the Club with a view of increasing membership
- "Test" the culture of the Club and provide honest feedback

A couple of quick things to get the feel of the role and I am sure that Nigel and the committee will have some duties lined up as well. I would like to hear the members' thoughts - bricks and/or bouquets - I am sure everyone has at least one comment on what the Club does well and where we can improve so I am expecting lots of feedback.

Things Coming up at the Club:

**Directing** - Are you interested in directing? I would love to get a study group started to share thoughts and knowledge. Anyone keen to join me?

- Tournaments** - Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1 on February 12th which we are hosting. Get your partner organised and submit your entry.
- Hamilton Restricted Pairs on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you need assistance to find a partner, let me know.

And I will start my regular feature, designed to create discussion, perhaps to enlighten, which could be good enough to add to your armoury or simply be ignored - the best thing about Bridge is that you (and your partner) can make your own minds up.

### **How many points do you need to bid Stayman?**

What do you think? Is it points based, what are the options, why do we need it, is there anyone who doesn't use Stayman, how come you have to ALERT IT when you open 2NT, what do you mean how many points do you need?

I will post the opinion of my source on the notice board for all to see.  
Until then - keep looking after each other.

*Mereana Cullen*

**Club Captain**

### ***Partner Stewards***

Want to play bridge on Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday morning but don't have a partner? Call the partner steward for that session who may be able to help you find a partner:

Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning: Judith Brooks phone 852 5644

Wednesday night: Lindsay Reid phone 843 4091

Thursday night: Margaret Boyd phone 849 6536

**Monday or Tuesday nights anyone is welcome to turn up before 6:45 (or 7:15 Monday in summer) and the director will organise your partner.**

# Members' News

## *Phone number changes / additions*

Tipa Goodwin	027 4770721
Ruth Ivey	846 3524
Bob Jones	027 4703 644
Peter Kington	849 1013
Chris Lewendon	850 9076
Darrell McLean	825 9096
Margaret Slack	947 9267
Jane Stearns	021 134 5560
Duncan White	855 2150

## *Bereavements*

The Club expresses its sympathy to the families and sadly notes the passing of the following members last year:

Mike Barton, Director and Grand Master

Eileen Brunt, long time Club member

Pat Thomsen, long time Partnership Steward

Paul Hobbs - Te Awamutu, but former long-time Hamilton member

## *Changes of Grade*

These members had excellent results last year which have earned them a better NZ Bridge tournament grade this year:

**Open** - Jeffrey Chang, Mark Thomson

**Intermediate** - Catherine Cameron, Kay Dixon, Trini Lin, Ian Ross, Trevor Stephenson, Kim Thompson

## ***Change to Monday Night Start Time this April***

Following surveys and consultation over the last two years, the committee has decided to trial earlier starts on a Monday night during the non-daylight saving weeks. During daylight saving bridge will start at 7.30pm. But once the clocks go back on April 2, bridge on Monday night will start at 7pm - mark April 3 in your calendar now!

## ***Club Fundraisers***

Each year the Club organises various fundraising activities so we can maintain and upgrade our building and equipment. These include the sale of Entertainment books (coming later in the year), Soup and bun events and Quiz nights. Please support these. Last year, Cynthia donated the proceeds of her card sales to the club, which will help fund a "plumbed-in" water cooler. Many thanks Cynthia for this special fundraiser.

## ***Defibrillator Installed***

The heart defibrillator donated to the Club by the Cardiology Clinical Trials Unit of Waikato Hospital has been installed in the foyer beside the Richmond Room doors. NO training in its use is necessary as it is self-prompting with speech commands when used. However some basic training on its use will be given to the committee and directors shortly - Club members will be invited to attend if interested. Do not be concerned when the alarm sounds when the door is opened to access the Defibrillator; this is intentional and is a means to summon additional help. The alarm once activated can only be silenced using the key which is pinned to the notice board in the scoring room.



## ***Beginners Lessons***

We will begin the annual beginners' lesson sessions on both Tuesday evening 7 March and Friday morning 10 March. These are a really good way to learn to play bridge, or to refresh your knowledge after a few years away from the game. Please let any of your friends or family who you think may be interested know about the lessons. Further information and a flier is available from Mark Thomson or the [Club's web site page on lessons](#).

## ***Extension Classes***

Barry and Jenny will be running a series of monthly sessions on Friday nights for those who want to improve their bidding and playing skills. The first three sessions will be at 7pm on Friday 10 February, 10 March and 7 April.

Turn up on the night with \$5 and bring your own drinks and nibbles, if you wish, for a social session afterwards.

*The first session is primarily aimed at those who have been through beginners classes in the last couple of years.*

It will start with a short refresher on what you've already been taught.

We'll talk about bidding with points and without them.

Following that we'll play some hands and discuss them.



## *Hamilton Restricted Pairs*

Sunday 2 April will be our first tournament of the year (and don't forget it is the end of daylight saving so clocks go back that morning!).

The restricted tournament format encourages Intermediate and Junior members to play with an Open player, together with sections for Intermediate/Intermediate, Intermediate/Junior and also Junior/Junior combinations if there are enough of these pairs entered.

On the three Wednesday nights before the tournament, starting 15 March, there is a Restricted Pairs event scheduled. This is designed to give all the restricted partnerships time to practise playing together in the lead up to the tournament.

The club fully caters this tournament so we will be calling on members to help in any way they can with running the tournament on the day, helping set up, bringing morning / afternoon tea or helping Jane Sandelin in the kitchen.

The tournament is sponsored by *Urge*, Jeffrey Chang's Coffee and Tea Boutique.



### **Find Out What's On**

Don't forget to check the door behind the Director's table when at the clubrooms. This will tell you what's coming up at our club - there may be sign-up sheets for you to complete if you want to take part.

# Upcoming Events

## TOURNAMENTS COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1	Sunday 12 February
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	Sunday 2 April
Hamilton Ladies Intermediate Pairs	Tuesday 2 May
Hamilton Ladies Open Pairs	Tuesday 2 May

## OTHER EVENTS IN OUR REGION

### *Junior/Novice Tournaments:*

Waikato Bays Novice Pairs	Matamata	Sunday 12 March
Cambridge Junior Pairs	Cambridge	Saturday 8 April
Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 6 May

### *Intermediate Tournaments:*

Taupo Intermediate Pairs	Taupo	Saturday 11 March
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### *Restricted Tournaments:* (Only one Open grade player in a pair)

Te Puke Restricted Pairs	Te Puke	Saturday 4 March
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### *Open Tournaments:*

Waikato/Bays Provincial Pairs	Tauranga	Saturday 28 January
Tauranga Mini Congress Teams	Tauranga	Sat 28-Mon 30 January
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	Rotorua	Saturday 4 February
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 18 March
Waikato Area Pairs 2	Te Awamutu	Sunday 19 March
Waihi All Grades Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 25 March
Tauranga All Grades 5A Pairs	Tauranga	Saturday 8 April
Waikato Area Pairs 3	Te Aroha	Sunday 30 April
Taupo Open 5A Pairs (2 days)	Taupo	Saturday 6 May



# WAIKATO/BAYS COMPETITIONS

Why not take part in one of these competitions this year? Playing in tournaments is a lot of fun, you get to meet bridge players from all across our region and you get to practice a lot of bridge bidding and play.

## Waikato/Bay of Plenty Junior League

This competition runs for 6 rounds with the final top 6 place getters winning cash prizes. The first round takes place at Cambridge bridge club on Saturday 8 April.

## Waikato/Bay of Plenty Intermediate League

Starting on Saturday 11 March at Taupo bridge club, this competition runs for 9 rounds with the final top 10 place getters winning cash prizes.

## Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs)

This competition runs for 6 rounds. Prizes are awarded to the overall top 5 pairs, the top Open/Intermediate pair and the top 2 non-Open pairs.

Hamilton is hosting the first heat of the WAPs on **Sunday 12 February**. No need to pre-enter, just turn up on the day between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner, \$10 entry fee, and your lunch, for an interesting day's play. (Pre-entry will however be required for the following heats at Te Awamutu and Te Aroha in March and April).

New in 2017 is Grandmaster Hot Spots. Help will be available from Grandmasters on a rolling basis during the lunch break at each WAP heat. Players will be able to individually ask questions and get advice from a Grandmaster.

# Directors' Corner - Alerting (by Barry Jones)

## Introduction

It is an essential principle of the game of bridge that you may not have undisclosed agreements with partner, whether in bidding or in play. Your agreements must be fully available and fully disclosed to your opponents. Your principle should be to disclose, not as little as you must, but as much as you can, and as comprehensibly as you can. A failure to follow this policy may result in an adjusted score, where opponents have been damaged.

Your agreements include not only specific agreements but also partnership understandings that have arisen through partnership discussion or experience. The opponents are entitled to know about these understandings.

Natural calls in general do not require an alert but there are exceptions:

- 1) The bid is natural, but you have an agreement by which your bid is forcing or non-forcing in a way that your opponents are unlikely to expect.

*Examples:*

- Responder's first-round jump shift on weak hands
- A non-forcing suit response by an unpassed hand to an opening suit bid (whether or not after intervention)

- 2) The bid is natural, but its meaning is affected by other agreements, which your opponents are unlikely to expect.

*Examples:*

- A natural NT overcall in the direct position, which does not promise a stopper in the opener's suit
- A jump raise of opener's 1-level bid, which is weak or pre-emptive
- A single raise of partner's suit, which may be strong or forcing, e.g. 1♦ - 2♦ forcing

## Cue Bids Defined

In this article, a cue bid of an opponent's suit is defined as a bid of any denomination bid by the opponent or of a suit shown by the opponent's bid.

*Example:* If an opponent opens 1♦ showing spades, then 1♠ and 2♦ are both cue bids. Similarly a 2NT overcall of 1NT is also a cue bid.

## Self-Alerting Calls Defined

There are four different types of self-alerting calls:

- Doubles
- Redoubles
- Cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit
- All conventional bids at the four level or higher, but **excluding** conventional opening bids

In addition to the above, the following bids are in such common use that they are deemed to be self-alerting:

- 2♣ Game Force opening bids (and 2♦ negative responses); alert other uses
- Simple Stayman 2♣ responses to 1NT opening bids and the 2♦ response denying a 4-card major

These calls carry their own alert and should not be alerted.

## Explanations

Merely to name a convention (e.g. Michaels, Lebensohl, etc) is not an acceptable explanation.

There are many variations of most conventions, and a more specific explanation is normally required. Similarly, the use of "standard" or "natural" to describe calls, signals or leads is rarely sufficient - nor the terms "weak", "strong" or "intermediate" - without appropriate qualification.

*More from Barry on Alerting in the next newsletter!*

## **Recent events at our club**

### ***Melbourne Cup Day - Tuesday 1 November 2016***

A large contingent of Hamilton members made an imaginary trip to Melbourne on the first Tuesday in November to watch the Melbourne Cup, partake in a sweepstake, and, even better than a real trip, combine it with a social afternoon of bridge. The bridge winners on the day were Stewart Lawrence and Trini Lin, with Malcolm Smith and Ian Clayton runners-up. A great time was had by all.

### ***New Zealand Wide Pairs - Friday 4 November 2016***

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to compare your bridge scores with players from all the other clubs in New Zealand? Well, the NZ wide pairs is the one night of the year when members can come along and play the same hands as about 2000 other players. This is always a very interesting, challenging and enjoyable evening's bridge. Afterwards, players are given a booklet analysing the bidding and the play. Last year, when the results of 998 pairs from 59 clubs were collated, our own Barry Jones and Jenny Millington came top of all New Zealand. Well done!

### ***Annual General Meeting - Sunday 20 November***

60 members turned up on a sunny Sunday afternoon to learn who will be running our club in 2017 and applaud those who won trophies in 2016, followed by social bridge and a Christmas dinner. Ian and Cynthia Clayton won the bridge, with additional prizes given to those who were most generous to their fellow players. Jane Sandelin, Judith Brooks and Margaret Boyd with their team of helpers produced a delicious dinner. Thanks to all those who helped the club throughout the year and to the outgoing Committee members for keeping the Club in good heart.

# Tournament Success by our Club Members



**2016**

**Cambridge Intermediate Pairs** 30 October Cambridge  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jeffrey Chang & Mark Thomson

**New Zealand Wide Pairs** 4 November All NZ  
1<sup>st</sup> Jenny Millington & Barry Jones

**Thames Christmas Party** 13 November Thames  
2<sup>nd</sup> Yuzhong Chen & John Wang

**Waikato Christmas Party** 26 November Waikato  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Foidl & Brett Glass

**National Inter-Provincial Teams** 26-27 November Dunedin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Mark Thomson, Jeffrey Chang & team

**Rotorua Christmas Party** 3 December Rotorua  
1<sup>st</sup> Yuzhong Chen & Gary Foidl  
2<sup>nd</sup> Liz Fisher & Sam Simpson

**Huntly Christmas Party** 11 December Huntly  
2<sup>nd</sup> Liz & Blair Fisher  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tim & Helen Healy

**2017**

**Thames Summer Festival** 6-8 January Thames  
Barclay Open Pairs  
3<sup>rd</sup> Blair Fisher & Michael Curry



**2016**

**Monday Pairs F**

**Scratch**

- 1 Joan Egger & Pam Burns
- 2 Coralie Robinson & Colleen De Luen

**Handicap**

- 1 Coralie Robinson & Colleen De Luen
- 2 Robert Rowe & Mary Fear

**Melbourne Cup Day**

- 1 Stewart Lawrence & Trini Lin
- 2 Malcolm Smith & Ian Clayton

**Grace Fuller Trophy**

**Scratch**

- 1 Mark Hodges & Eddie Tan
- 2 Karen Harper & Carissa Oliver

**Championship Pairs**

**Handicap**

- 1 Karen Harper & Carissa Oliver
- 2 Graeme Hope & Marz Sutherland

**Friday Pairs C**

**Scratch**

- 1 Val West & Shirley Fransham
- 2 Eileen Brunt & Bob Treloar

**Handicap**

- 1 Val West & Shirley Fransham
- 2 Betty Smith & Eve Galloway

**Monday Finale Pairs**

**Scratch**

- 1 Joan Egger & Pam Burns
- 2 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones

**Handicap**

- 1 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones
- 2 Joan Egger & Pam Burns

**Tuesday Afternoon Finale Pairs**

**Scratch**

- 1 Cynthia Clayton & Ian Clayton
- 2 John Paterson & Shirley Fransham

**Handicap**

- 1 Cynthia Clayton & Ian Clayton
- 2 Angela Lovell & Trini Lin

## Tuesday Evening Finale Pairs

### Scratch

- 1 Eddie Tan & Mark Hodges
- 2 Leanne Curry & Graeme Hope

### Handicap

- 1 Eddie Tan & Mark Hodges
- 2 Janice Wilton & Lynnette Flowers

## Ethel Johnson Teams

- 1 Barry Jones, Karen Harris, Mereana Cullen, Richard Hooper
- 2 Brett Glass, Gary Foidl, Michael Neels, Lesley O'Hara

## Thursday Finale Pairs

### Scratch

- 1 Ella Gray & Dallas Dagg
- 2 Ross Stewart & Ian Ross

### Handicap

- 1 Bob Forsyth & Kevin McCarthy
- 2 Ross Stewart & Ian Ross

## Friday Finale Pairs

### Scratch

- 1 Blair Fisher & Liz Fisher
- 2 Val West & Cynthia Clayton

### Handicap

- 1 Thelma Bird & Lesley McNamara
- 2 Val West & Cynthia Clayton




## Stop Cards

There are Stop Cards on each table for anyone who wishes to use them. Stop cards are used when a player is going to make a Skip bid which misses out one or more bidding levels. The Stop card should be placed face up on the table to Left-Hand Opponent (LHO), before making the Skip bid. After allowing for any alert that may be required and any questions by LHO to be answered, the person who made the bid waits for approximately 10 seconds (but less at one's own discretion) before removing the Stop Card and LHO may bid.

It is a good idea to get into the habit of using them, especially if you intend to play in tournaments. They are compulsory in 'A' point tournaments and recommended in others.

# From Lindsay's File

How can South make 5 Diamonds with a K hearts lead from West?

	North	
	10 8 7 6 5	
	10 4 3 2	
	8 3	
	A 3	
West		East
K 3		J 9 4
K Q J 5		9 8 7 6
7 6 4 2		K 5
8 7 6		K 10 9 2
	South	
	A Q 2	
	A	
	A Q J 10 9	
	Q J 5 4	

Answer in next newsletter (May 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 4 Spades with a K clubs lead from West?

South must make a brilliant play at trick one to make the contract. This is to play a low club from dummy and a heart from hand. The next club lead is ducked by North and ruffed with the seven. The jack of spades is led and this must be captured by West, otherwise South will make all the trumps. If West then leads a spade the trick is taken in the North hand and another heart discarded on the Ace of clubs. Now the last club is trumped and all the trumps are played. West must keep two diamonds and the ace of hearts. When thrown in with a heart, the only play is a diamond into South's A Q.