



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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From the President

February 2020

Welcome back to a new year of bridge ...

Your committee has three new members this year, Brett Glass, Lois Jones and Jane Sandelin. Many thanks to the 'retirees' from the committee, Mereana Cullen, Jenny Millington, Nigel Gresson and Cathy Nolen for their contributions to the club - Mereana after three years, Cathy after 5 years and Jenny having served 10 years as a committee member.

The new committee is currently prioritising capital projects that need attention and will be investigating using a variety of technology to improve the club organisation i.e. online partner booking, fewer cash-based systems and programs that will assist members with their bridge through analysis of their play and suggestions for improvement. These programmes, of course, come with a cost and some will only be viable if there are enough members using them. More information will be made available for feedback from members where necessary before they are implemented.

Once again, the car parking scheme has started with a very financially rewarding weekend with the Rugby 7's. Many thanks to Bruce Cresswell and the many members who assisted on Saturday and Sunday.

Our lessons this year will be starting on March 17th and 20th - please make an effort to encourage your friends, neighbours, grandchildren to either learn our fascinating game or expand their knowledge if they are already enjoying social bridge at home. We are using our Facebook page as part of our promotion programme this year. If you use Facebook, please ensure you are following [hamiltonbridge](#) and share the story as often as you can.

However, the best means of promotion is word of mouth. With our consistently ageing membership, we all need to commit to increasing the number of people playing bridge at the club. Mark Thomson is again leading the lessons' team and can be contacted at 027 222 9693 or markthomson@hotmail.co.nz. Jenny Millington and Barry Jones are continuing with their lessons for new players and revision sessions on Friday mornings at 9.30 - **all members are welcome to attend these revision sessions.**

Our first tournament this year is our new Intermediate, Junior and Novice Tournament on Saturday 7 March. This is an excellent introduction to tournaments for our new members and I encourage you to find a partner and enter. If anyone needs a partner for any of these grades, please let myself or our new Club Captain know and we will help organise one for you. Our Club Captain will be appointed at this month's committee meeting and will be available to assist all members.

Lastly, a reminder for the New Year to all our members - although Bridge is a competitive game, please make it an enjoyable game for everyone - greet the players coming to your table, be courteous with your enquiries, revealing with your explanations and polite at all times.

Happy bridging in 2020

Ella

Beginners Lessons

Lessons for beginners will start this year on Tuesday evening 17 March and Friday morning 20 March. The first two weeks playing mini-bridge are free, then \$50 for the remainder of the year. Please encourage your friends and family and anyone else you think may be interested to come and learn our great game.

Further information on the lessons are available from the Secretary or the [Club's web site page on lessons](#). Anyone wishing to express interest in taking part in the lessons can email markthomson@hotmail.co.nz

Grade Changes

Congratulations to the members who have moved up to a higher NZ Bridge tournament grade for this year following excellent results last year:

Open - Catherine Cameron, Karen Thomson

Intermediate - Eddie Tan, Jacqui Mackenzie, Jane Weir, Karen Harper, Lois Jones, Mark Hodges

Success for Hamilton Bridge Club members - they are off to Italy!!



The trials for the NZ Mixed Teams were held over last weekend in Christchurch with four Hamilton club members rising to the top of a very strong field.

1st place - Jenny Millington and Barry Jones (and teammates)

2nd place - Liz and Blair Fisher with former club members Sam and Jo Simpson

Jenny and Barry will be representing New Zealand at the World Bridge Championships in [Salsomaggiore](#) (try to pronounce that!) in August with our ex club members Sam and Jo Simpson completing the 6 person team for Italy.

Meet Our Members - Jo Millington & Mike Everard

I wonder how many of us play bridge against the most interesting people, and yet never really get to know them. I hardly knew Mike and Jo except to say "good evening" to, until I sat down with them one morning over a cup of coffee. We had a good chat and got to know each other just a little bit better.

I was a little bit nonplussed when I called to make an appointment and asked if they could meet me. "Were they working?", I asked, and what would be a suitable time?

"We're not working", was the reply, so we arranged a nice

civilised late morning appointment at the French Tart on River Road (advertisement) for a cup of coffee. I wondered how two such young people managed to live without working, which was my first mistake.

Firstly, they are not as young as I thought they were (I got a big plus for that!) and secondly, I learned - in the course of our conversation - that they are actually working very hard. And having fun doing it.

Jo and Mike joined the Bridge Club a couple of years ago, after doing the lessons which were run by big sister Jenny. They completed all but the last lesson, apparently, because they had a scheduled overseas trip. When they returned to NZ, they discovered that Jenny had entered them in the novice pairs at the National Bridge Congress, but they were rather



Mike and Jo won the Mike Barton Trophy 2018

reluctant to tell me their results, as they hadn't played bridge for a few months (they came last). I asked Jo if she had ambitions to become a Grand Master like her sister, but she didn't think there was enough time. After hearing how they fill their days, I wondered if there was enough time to turn up at the bridge club once a week.

Jo and Mike met in London, working together in IT, about 20 years ago. These days they take an annual trip back to the UK to catch up with Mike's three children, two grandchildren, and to have an "adventure" somewhere overseas.

We discovered that we had a few things in common - bridge (of course), careers in the IT industry, and a love of cooking! Mike and Jo even appeared on "Master Chef New Zealand" as a couple. But I was even more impressed with the things they do day-to-day here in Hamilton.

They have a [U-tube Vlog](#) - just Google "Nomad Life Kiwi" and you will see the most amazing videos which they produce and post regularly. Jo tells me that the title was selected since they do not really have a permanent address, as they usually house sit.

They also have a photography business "Action Snappers", these days concentrating on wedding photography. The name came from the beginning of their photography career on the south coast of England. Using their large telephoto lenses, they were able to get right into the action. You can check out the web site at www.actionsnappers.com and see some examples of their work. It is very impressive.

As if that wasn't enough, Jo is also a published author, writing under the name J. Meverington, derived from their joint surnames. If you just Google "Meverington Amazon" you will be able to find out about the author, and even order one of her books.

Next time you see Jo and Mike at the bridge table, just tell them how lucky we are to have them as members of our club.

Phil Thompson

Fund Raising and Car Parking

For several years now we have used our car park to raise funds. When there is a significant event in the vicinity, we park cars for a fee of \$10 to \$20. With around 100 positions to park a car we can make up to \$2000 a day with very little effort. Our only requirement is for volunteers to assist park the cars and to take payments. We spread these tasks over short periods, so no one is inconvenienced for any lengthy period.

This was the case over the Sevens weekend when we were able to schedule our volunteers for a maximum of 2 hours each. Over the Sevens weekend our volunteers (Joan Egger, Bill Bailey, Ann-Maree Byrne, Ken Duffield, Tim Seavill, Peter Craig, Geoff Walpole, Roger Johnston, Phil Thomson, Sam Armstrong, Angus MacDonald and Jane Sandelin) assisted with parking our guests and enjoyed the camaraderie of our guests. Along the way we welcomed ex-Mayors and occasional VIPs, fancy dress, and some witty conversations. It's a festive occasion! Many parkers asked after previous volunteers "How's Margaret?", "Where's Nigel?"

This year we hired the entire car park out to the NZ rugby union for the weekend. We also managed to park some other cars looking for space. Thanks also to Plunket who helped out with some parking due to a double booking.

Each year our revenues are enhanced by several thousand dollars due to this ongoing effort. This year the Seven's tournament netted our club \$5270. So that's a huge thank you to all involved, both past and present.

Now on to the coming events - to keep the parking income coming in the next few months there are eight evening Chiefs games where we will need volunteers:

Saturday 8th February

Saturday 22nd February

Friday 13th March

Saturday 4th April

Saturday 25th April

Friday 15th May

Saturday 9th May

Friday 22nd May

Bruce Cresswell

From the Directors Table:

Happy New Year to all. I must say that the times I have played this year have been very pleasant experiences. People have been lovely and friendly and what a difference this makes to one's overall experience. I know I have been guilty of being grumpy at the table from time to time and I am making a pledge to try and not be.

So, let's keep up the joy. When opponents arrive at your table say hello, apologise if they have been held up whether it was your fault or not.

When asked for explanations of your bid give the best explanation you can give, i.e. rather than "weak", explain the bid as 6 card suit with 6-9 points. If you want to know what a particular bid means from the opposition ask for an explanation of the whole auction, not just the bid you want to know about, that way you won't give unauthorised information to your partner. If you don't want to bid, wait till the auction is over before making your enquiries. You can ask before you lead or if your partner is on lead ask your partner to lead face down, once the lead is on the table but before it is faced you can ask.



A few more tips to make playing an enjoyable experience for all:

- Give credit when your opponents make a good bid or play.
- Ensure that your mobile phone is switched off.
- Enjoy the company as well as the game.
- Avoid the use of language that others may find offensive or even socially unacceptable.
- Take care to summon and address the Director in a courteous manner - and remember, the Director is your friend, there to help you.

Dallas

Calling all Juniors! Intermediates! And Novices!

On Saturday 7 March, Hamilton is holding a tournament day especially for Novice, Junior and Intermediate players. This is a great chance for anyone who has never entered a tournament before to play in a friendly atmosphere. Talk to your regular partner about playing, or if they are not available ask at the club for anyone else who wants to play. It is always a good idea to practise with your partner before a tournament so you can discuss and understand your partnership bidding, discards and general playing style.

If you have less than 5 total A+B points you can enter the Novice tournament which is only one afternoon session - the Junior and Intermediate pairs play two sessions. You can check how many A+B points you have at the NZ Bridge masterpoints page [Search Masterpoints](#) - just enter your name or number.

Restricted Pairs

Sunday 19 April is the date of our restricted pairs tournament where Open players cannot play together, and Intermediate and Junior members are encouraged to partner with an Open player. There are also prizes for other combinations such as Intermediate/Intermediate, Junior/Junior, Intermediate/Junior and Novices if enough of these pairs are entered. On the three Wednesday nights starting 25 March before the restricted tournament there is a *Restricted Pairs* event for you to practice.

Help required

If you are not playing in a tournament and you can spare a couple of hours to help with running the tournament (this could be helping in the kitchen, collecting cups and washing them or looking after the morning or afternoon tea) please let Ella or Jane know.

How to Enter a Tournament on NZ Bridge

All our tournament entries are now being done through NZ Bridge. To enter a tournament you need to first register with NZ Bridge (you must have a valid email address to register). This only has to be done once, but you do need to remember your password to login in future.

To enter a tournament at our club find the tournament in the list on our [Club website](#) and click on the link for entries. This will take you to the tournament entry on NZ Bridge.

For a tournament at another club, login to NZ Bridge, choose the tournament you wish to enter, and click on ENTER HERE.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY	

Event name: Waitangi Day Pairs (Tues)

Event date: 6 February 2018

Contact name:

Phone:

Email:

← Your Name, Phone and Email will appear here

If you have any special requests regarding this entry please contact the venue directly.

Players

Enter either an NZB number or name: "Jan" or "Jan S" or "n sm" will all eventually find "Jan Smith". If you cant find the person please contact the NZB Secretary

Player 1 REMOVE

Player 2 REMOVE

ENTER

In the Tournament entry window, your contact details will display along with your computer number. Your Name will appear as Player 1 by default. Enter your partner in the Player 2 field (it is best to search using a computer number). **Important!** - **Wait until the player name appears in the drop-down list.** You must then click on their name in the drop-down list, which will place their details in the Player 2 field. **NB: Even if there is only one name appearing in the drop-down list, you still must click on the name.**

For Teams, repeat the process for the rest of the team members.

Hints:

- If you are entering for someone else, click on REMOVE to take your name out of the entry screen.
- If you wish to read more about the event, click on the name of the event in NZ Bridge. This will display any useful information the host club has recorded (start time, event cost, venue, lunch etc)
- Only the person who made the entry can edit it

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Novice Pairs	Saturday 7 March
Hamilton Junior Pairs	Saturday 7 March
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs	Saturday 7 March
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	Sunday 19 April
Hamilton Ladies Intermediate Pairs	Tuesday 28 April
Hamilton Ladies Open Pairs	Tuesday 28 April

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior Tournaments:

Morrinsville Junior Restricted	Morrinsville	Friday 21 February
Cambridge Junior Pairs	Cambridge	Saturday 28 March
Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 2 May

Intermediate Tournaments:

Taupo Intermediate Pairs	Taupo	Saturday 29 February
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Open Tournaments:

Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	Rotorua	Saturday 8 February
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1	Matamata	Sunday 16 February
Waihi All Grades Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 14 March
Waikato Area Pairs 2	Te Aroha	Sunday 29 March
Tauranga Open Teams	Tauranga	Saturday 4 April
Waikato Bays Rubber Ducky Day	Putaruru	Sunday 5 April
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 18 April
Waikato Area Pairs 3	Morrinsville	Sunday 26 April
Taupo Open 5A Pairs (2 days)	Taupo	Saturday 2 May

WAIKATO/BAYS COMPETITIONS 2020

These aim to develop partnerships and a better grasp of the game. Visit [League Dates](#) for the complete list of 2020 dates and more details.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Junior League

This competition runs for 6 rounds with the final top place-getters winning cash prizes. For 2020 the prize money pool is \$720 over the top eight placings. The first tournament is at Hamilton bridge club on Saturday 7 March. If your goal for 2020 is to become an Intermediate, playing in the Junior tournaments will see you well on the way.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Intermediate League

Starting on Saturday 29 February at Taupo bridge club, followed by Hamilton on Saturday 7 March, this competition has 8 rounds finishing in October. The top 10 place getters at the end win a share of the \$960 cash prize.

NEW! - Waikato/Bay of Plenty Judith Howard League

This new competition is aimed at newly-Open players, but is for anyone of Provincial Master grade (up to 50 A points) and below. Starting on Saturday 14 March at Waihi bridge club and ending in October, this competition has 7 rounds. The top 10 place getters at the end win cash prizes, plus there will be bonus prizes each round, for a total pot of over \$2000 generously sponsored by Judith Howard of Matamata.

Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs)

This competition runs for 6 rounds. Prizes are awarded to the winning pair at each heat and at the end to the top overall and top non-Open pair. The first heat of the WAPs is on Sunday 16 February at Matamata. No pre-entry needed, just arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner, \$10 for the entry fee, and your lunch. Visit [WAP dates](#) for the complete list of 2020 dates and more details.

Tournament Success by our Club Members



2019

Thames Christmas Party	17 November	Thames
1 st	Gary Foidl & Yuzhong Chen	
Te Awamutu Christmas Party	23 November	Te Awamutu
1 st	Kevin Whyte & Kate McFadyen	
3 rd	Brett Glass & Gary Foidl	
Waikato Christmas Party	30 November	Waikato
2 nd	Jenny Millington & Barry Jones	
3 rd	Liz & Blair Fisher	
Rotorua Christmas Party	7 December	Rotorua
1 st	Kenneth Yule & Kathy Yule	
2 nd	Blair Fisher & Jo Simpson	
Huntly Christmas Party	15 December	Huntly
1 st	Liz & Blair Fisher	
3 rd	Jenny Millington & Grant Jarvis	



Thames Summer Festival	10-12 January	Thames
John Eldridge Open Teams	1 st Liz & Blair Fisher & teammates	
	3 rd Barry Jones, Jenny Millington & teammates	
Barclay Swiss Pairs	2 nd Liz & Blair Fisher	



Club Results

2019

Thursday Swiss Pairs

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Trini Lin
- 2 Shaun Hewitt & Roger Gunning

Monday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper
- 2 Verna Beech & Kevin McCarthy

Handicap

- 1 Julie Hooper & Merle Jonson
- 2 Jenny Seavill & Anne McCarthy

Tuesday Afternoon Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Nolene Vail & Heather Crosbie

Handicap

- 1 Nolene Vail & Heather Crosbie
- 2 Judith Brooks & Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Tuesday Evening Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Julie Hooper & Donna Prentice
- 2 Megan Jolly & Leanne Curry

Handicap

- 1 Julie Hooper & Donna Prentice
- 2 Geoff Walpole & Marian Kingham

Spring Teams - Ethel Johnson Cup

- 1 Helen Healy, Leanne Curry, Liz Fisher, Joan Egger, Pam Burns
- 2 Lindsay Reid, Nigel Gresson, Jenny Millington, Barry Jones, Kim Thompson

Thursday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Jenny Seavill & Bryan Robb
- 2 Judith Brooks & Tracey Hoff

Handicap

- 1 Jenny Seavill & Bryan Robb
- 2 Vaughan Samuelson & Maria Lelieveld

Friday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Lindsay Reid & Phil Thompson
- 2 Ian Clayton & Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Lindsay Reid & Phil Thompson
- 2 Angus MacDonald & Ewen Ritchie

Last Year at our Club

New Zealand Wide Pairs - Friday 1 November 2019

Each year bridge players from all over New Zealand take part in the Babich NZ wide pairs. The players all play the same hands and receive a booklet afterwards which analyses the bidding and the play.

In 2019, 1012 pairs from 57 clubs took part including 16 pairs at our club. Cathy Nolen and Ella Gray came top at Hamilton with a very creditable 68.15% which was enough to propel them to 14th place in the overall standings. Well done!

Melbourne Cup Afternoon - Tuesday 5 November 2019

26 pairs of bridge players, many very smartly dressed, turned up on Melbourne Cup day for a soup and bun lunch, bridge, videos of past races featuring famous New Zealand horses, a quiz and a sweepstake, all followed by afternoon tea. The best dressed punter was Melva Johnstone, with Sue Collinge winning the best hat award. Bridge winners were Ella Gray & Barry Jones followed closely by Phil Thompson & Kim Thompson. Many thanks to Margaret Boyd and Julie Hooper for preparing lunch, and to Jane for the afternoon tea.

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 17 November 2019

Our Annual General Meeting was held a week early this year to allow our president to take part in the Interprovincial finals the next weekend. Four committee members retired this year - Jenny, Nigel, Cathy and Mereana. Many thanks to them for their valuable contributions to the club over the years, also to Trevor Stephenson who retired after 10 years of dealing boards. Ella thanked all those members who helped the club throughout the year, including the carpark attendants as this is a great fundraiser for the club.

A session of social bridge followed the AGM. 16 pairs took part, with Ian & Cynthia Clayton winners, Julie & Richard Hooper runners-up.

Jane Sandelin once again organised a delicious Christmas dinner to round off the afternoon.

TWITs for 2020 - Now on Sunday afternoons!

Do you enjoy playing teams bridge? Or have you never played teams before? Then the Waikato Inter-Club Teams (TWITs) is for you! This friendly fun competition is held in our clubrooms over 6 Sundays, one each month, starting Sunday 8 March and ending on September 20. Play will start promptly at 2pm and finish by 5pm. The cost is only \$5 table money each Sunday which includes wine and cheese after play finishes.

Now is the time to gather a team together to take part in this very enjoyable and social competition. There are three grades - Oscars, Indies and Juniors - for Open, Intermediate and Junior players. Look for the poster in the clubrooms or [on the Waikato Bays website](#) for further information.

Our Club Library

Did you know that our club has a library of bridge books which are free for members to borrow? Reading about bridge is an excellent way to learn about new systems or better ways of playing - leading, discards, and squeezes for example. The library books are found in the cupboard in the Richmond room next to the cupboard holding the bridgemates.

These library books were purchased in 2012 and may be a good place to start or ask your director for recommendations:

25 More Bridge Conventions	Barbara Seagram & David Bird
25 More ways to compete in the bidding	Barbara Seagram & David Bird
25 bridge conventions	Barbara Seagram & David Bird
Bridge card play made easy	David Bird
Mysterious Multi	Mark Horton
Bid Better Play better	Dorothy Truscott
50 More winning tips	Ron Klinger
Power of Shape	RonKlinger
Modern Losing Trick Count	Ron Klinger
52 Great Bridge Tips	David Bird
52 More Great Bridge Tips	David Bird

From Lindsay's File

Challenge 4

North

♠ 6 4 3

♥

♦ 10 6 5 4 3 2

♣ 8 4 3 2

West

♠

♥ K Q J 10 6 5 4 3 2

♦ Q J

♣ K Q

East

♠ Q 10 8 7

♥ 7 6 5 2

♦ 9 8 7

♣ 10 9

South

♠ A K J 9 5 2

♥

♦ A K

♣ A J 7 6 5

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

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

Heard at the Table:

A Bridge game is a test of your skill against your opponent's luck.

