

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Cameron

Newsletter - February 2021

From the President

Welcome back to a new year of Bridge.

We have two tournaments for most of our club members very early in the calendar year: Sunday March 17th for all of our Intermediate, Junior and Novice players followed by our Restricted pairs on Sunday April 18th. Please think about playing in these tournament as they are for the average club member. With regard to the Restricted tournament everyone in the club is eligible, however, because two open players cannot play together there will be some open players looking for a partner. So, if you need a partner please ask Mereana, Nigel or Ella.

Lessons begin in March so if you know anyone who may be keen to learn Bridge please talk to them and encourage them to join.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny, Barry and Mark for the many years of teaching bridge to the newcomers. Their efforts have ensured that the membership of the club has been maintained. I applaud their commitment to the club and thank them for their service.

Finally, before Christmas there were a couple of unfortunate incidents of inappropriate dialogue between two players at the table. I encourage you to show respect and understanding to your fellow bridge players at all times. Last year was a difficult year and I think we all need to work together to make 2021 a good one.

Happy Bridging 2021!

Nigel

Nigel Gresson

From the Captain's Table

Welcome back everyone!

Summer bridge has been fun with good attendance of people keen to get back into the swing and see old friends.

It has been great to have many of our newer players back again.

Do encourage members to return.

Especially those who have not played for a while.

Lessons start again in March.

See if you can bring new people in!

For those who do not know, there is a bridge book library in the cupboard beside the cupboard with the bridgemates

Do please wear your name tag!

If you want a club name tag, just ask me or get one of the forms hanging to the right of the book sales table. Cost \$17.00.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Laura

Laura Sommerville, Club Captain

Meet Our Members - Mark and Karen Thomson

(An interview by Phil Thompson)



Mark and Karen attended the bridge lessons together at Hamilton Bridge in 2009. Karen had earlier attended lessons run by Malcolm Smith in the early 1980s, but had not really followed it up, so the 2009 lessons became a refresher course for her.



Their main motivation was to learn the game so as to play socially with neighbours, but after the classes they began playing regularly at the club. Mark in particular enjoyed the competitive element of bridge at the club.

For the first couple of years after the classes, they mostly played together, but as time passed, they found themselves arguing in the car on the way home and decided that it would be better if they played separately. Mark now admits that Karen was usually right! (I wonder whether this has happened to any other husband/wife bridge partnerships!)

Whilst they played socially with friends and neighbours, they started to develop independent partnerships. Mark began playing with Jeffrey Chang and developed a great friendship and partnership with him, winning the Waikato-Bays Intermediate competition in 2016 and winning two NZ Congress events in Swiss pairs in 2016 and 2018. At the same time, Karen was building up a successful club and tournament partnership with Kim Thompson and Cathy Nolen.

Mark and Karen have both been involved in assisting with the lessons at the club over the past seven years and remarked that the biggest challenge was to retain the learners as club members after the lessons were over. Mark often plays with new members after the lessons have

finished to help with building confidence, and to encourage new members to keep playing at the club.

Mark served on the committee for seven years, including two years as President in 2015-2016.

Besides bridge, they have other interests. They enjoy riding bicycle trails and completed the Otago Rail Trail and Timber Trail rides in 2018 and 2019. Mark is also a keen golfer (only returning to golf this year after a long absence through playing bridge). He considers he has made more friends from bridge than golf due to the number of people you meet at club and tournament bridge. Mark also took private Spanish lessons for 3 years which apart from being a stimulating exercise, proved useful when they travelled to Chile in 2005 and Peru in 2016.

Mark and Karen have both faced the problem of Intermediate v Open grading at bridge. As a result of success in 2016 Mark became an Open player for 2017 and recognised the big gap that exists between new Open players and the top players. He has hopes that more of the top players will play in tournaments with players of lesser ability so as to develop their game rather than wait until a player had "earned their stripes". He feels that a number of promising Junior and Intermediate players would improve rapidly through mentoring from the advanced players.

In January 2019, under the "old" rules, Karen ended up with 99.7 rating points, which NZ Bridge wanted to round up to 100 and thus promote Karen from Intermediate to Open grade. With some assistance and support, Karen stubbornly stood up to NZ Bridge, and finally got agreement that the rule for promotion was "less than 50 A-points and less than 100 rating points". She managed to finally convince somebody in Wellington that 99.7 was less than 100, and thus retained her Intermediate status for 2019.

Mark and Karen are great members of our club, and as a couple demonstrate that however you like your bridge, the bridge club is the place to be. Mark particularly enjoys the competitive nature of club events and studies the results on the internet, while Karen enjoys the competition and the sociability, but is happy to go home and forget about it! So whichever type you are, I'm sure you can relate well to at least one of them!

Beginners Lessons 2021

Lessons for beginners will start this year on Tuesday evening 16 March and Friday morning 19 March. The first two weeks playing mini-bridge are free, then \$50 for the remainder of the lessons and then bridge for 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 is available from the Secretary or the [Club's web site page on lessons](#). This year we have a change of instructors with the lessons being run by Ella and Mereana. Anyone wishing to express interest in taking part in the lessons is asked to email lessons@hamiltonbridge.co.nz

Grade Changes

As mentioned in our last newsletter, NZ Bridge has changed the tournament grades for this year for some previously Open players. This means the following members' grades have changed from Open to Intermediate:

Catherine Cameron, Cathy Nolen, Colleen de Luen, Elaine Rayner, Joan Egger, June Rogers, Karen Thomson, Nigel Gresson, Pam Burns, Phil Thompson, Phillipa Kilpatrick, Thelma Bird, Val West.

The other decision made was to not remove rating points for the 2020 bridge year (normally 20% are deducted each year) as a result of reduced opportunity to play due to Covid club closedowns and cancelled tournaments. Congratulations to Angela Lovell whose grade has changed from Junior to Intermediate.

Phone number changes / additions

Alan Grant	021 0884-0664
Bill Barwood	021 678-114, 839-5522
Bob Niemiec	021 063-9890, 853-6303
Debbie Weston	027 430-5626, 850-5309
Don Weston	027 456-9152
Ian Moore	027 470-6070
Jiwan Dhaliwal	027 435-4926, 854-1695
Kevin Brown	021 614-747, 849-0475
Lou Roughton	027 452-7105
Margaret Gilbert	021 150-6157
Mary Cave-Palmer	027 256-5069
Mary Revell	022 308-5284
Michael Davies	027 488-9014
Oli Oliver	027 478-6493
Pam Moore	027 289-6344
Raewyn Higginson	022 088-6755, 842-5766
Ruth Niemiec	021 180-4067, 853-6303
Sally Wilson	027 681-8673



Car Parking

Once again this year we will use our car park to raise funds. When a Chiefs rugby match (or other major event) is on at the FMG Stadium we park cars for a fee of \$10. With around 100 positions available to park a car we make around \$1000 a time with very little effort. All we need is volunteers to assist with parking the cars and to take payments. If you are able to volunteer it only takes 2 hours each event - contact Nigel or Richard Wagstaff.

This year there are four evening Chiefs games that need volunteers:

Saturday 5th March

Saturday 27th March

Saturday 17th April

Friday 23rd April

Partner Required?

Keen to play bridge but your partner can't make it? Or your regular partner has left Hamilton, given up bridge, is too busy at work?

Don't worry, the club has a solution for you! On Monday and Tuesday evenings you may turn up without a pre-arranged partner and the director will find a partner for you. Please be at the clubrooms 15 minutes before the start time and tell the director that you need a partner. For all other sessions we have a friendly partner steward for each session who will arrange a partner for you.

Their names and contact details are inside the front cover of your programme book. If possible, contact them a few days before the session you want to play so they have time to sort out a partner for you - problem solved!

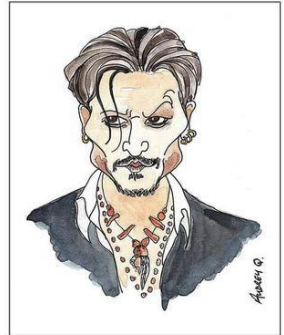
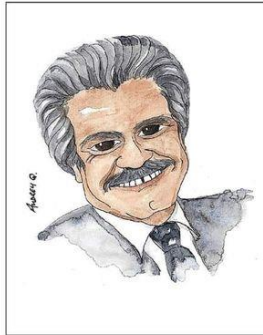
Tuesday afternoon & Friday - Judith Brooks is still the partner steward
New partner stewards in 2021 are:

Wednesday - Barbara Daly

Thursday - Lois Jones

WANTED

Bridge Partner



- Who plays like **Omar Sharif**
- Who looks like **Johnny Depp**
- Who has the patience of **Mother Teresa**



Calling all Juniors! Intermediates! & Novices!

On Saturday 27 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 bridge number.

Restricted Pairs

On Sunday 18 April the Club holds its annual restricted pairs tournament where two Open players cannot play together so 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 pair combinations are entered (however this doesn't prevent any of these combinations playing together). On the three Wednesday nights before the restricted tournament, starting 24 March, there is a *Restricted Pairs* event for you to practice.

Help needed

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 Nigel know.

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Novice Pairs	Saturday 27 March
Hamilton Junior Pairs	Saturday 27 March
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs	Saturday 27 March
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	Sunday 18 April
Hamilton Ladies Intermediate Pairs	Tuesday 27 April
Hamilton Ladies Open Pairs	Tuesday 27 April

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior Tournaments:

Morrinsville Junior Restricted	Morrinsville	Friday 19 February
Cambridge Junior Pairs	Cambridge	Saturday 10 April
Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 1 May

Intermediate Tournaments:

Taupo Intermediate Pairs	Taupo	Saturday 27 February
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Open Tournaments:

Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1	Matamata	Sunday 14 February
Waihi All Grades Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 13 March
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	Rotorua	Saturday 20 March
Waikato Area Pairs 2	Te Aroha	Sunday 28 March
Tauranga Open Teams	Tauranga	Saturday 10 April
Waikato Bays Rubber Ducky Day	Putaruru	Sunday 11 April
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 17 April
Waikato Area Pairs 3	Morrinsville	Sunday 25 April
Taupo Open 5A Pairs (2 days)	Taupo	Saturday 1 May

WAIKATO/BAYS COMPETITIONS 2021

These aim to develop partnerships and a better grasp of the game. Visit [League Dates](#) for the complete list of 2021 dates and more details.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Junior League

This competition runs for 6 rounds with the overall top place-getters winning cash prizes. For 2021 the prize money pool is \$720 shared over the top eight placings. The first tournament is at Hamilton bridge club on Saturday 27 March. If your goal for 2021 is to be an Intermediate, playing in the Junior tournaments will see you well on the way.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Intermediate League

Starting on Saturday 27 February at Taupo bridge club, followed by Hamilton on Saturday 27 March, this competition has 8 rounds finishing in October. The top 10 overall place getters win a share of the \$960 prize.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Restricted Open League

This competition is mainly for newly Open players, but anyone can enter up to National Master grade (up to 250 A points) and below. Starting on Saturday 30 January at Tauranga bridge club and ending in October at Hamilton Congress, this competition has 9 rounds. Double points are given for the 3 'A' tournaments in the schedule. The top 10 place getters overall win cash prizes from the total pot of \$1080.

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 14 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. The WAP dates are listed under tournaments in your 2021 programme book EXCEPT that the 3rd round is now on Monday 26 April (not Sunday 25 which is ANZAC Day).

NEW for 2021 - Taranaki Congress

New Plymouth club is holding a 5½ day event, the Plymouth International Taranaki Congress, from Saturday 6 March to Thursday 11 March 2021. Following the popular format of the Gold Coast Congress, all play will be daytime only, finishing at 6pm each day to allow players to rest, relax, dine out and visit the sights of New Plymouth.

The starting weekend is a pairs competition, followed by 2 days of teams qualifying, concluding on the final days with the teams finals and Swiss pairs for everyone else. Open pairs and teams competitions will be 15A, with the Swiss pairs a 10A event. Included are restricted open pairs and teams (5A), restricted to those players who are National Master (up to 175 A points) or below. There are also intermediate / junior events.

For more information and the flyer visit the [NZ Bridge tournament entry webpage](#) and choose the event which interests you. The flyer is available under each event listing.

New Plymouth is not far away from Hamilton so put these days in your diary now and join the numerous Hamilton Club open players competing. Let's support this great initiative from New Plymouth!

A Thought for the Year

Hamilton is an open club so at club sessions it's possible to have vastly different abilities and experience playing at the same table.

With that in mind we want to promote an enjoyable atmosphere in our club:

- ☺ Greet others in a friendly manner
- ☺ Be a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table
- ☺ Make bridge enjoyable for all
- ☺ Enjoy the company as well as the game
- ☺ Avoid criticism or actions that might cause annoyance or embarrassment
- ☺ A little praise when due goes a long way
- ☺ Remember - not all are as competitive as you...

KINDNESS IS FREE
SPRINKLE
THAT STUFF
EVERYWHERE

Last year at our Club

New Zealand Wide Pairs - Friday 30 October 2020

Each year bridge players from all over New Zealand take part in the Babich NZ wide pairs, with prizes including bottles of wine from the sponsors. The players all play the same hands and receive a booklet afterwards which analyses the bidding and the play.

In 2020, 888 pairs from 57 clubs took part including 13 pairs at our club. Sam & Jo Simpson came top at Hamilton with Jenny Millington & Barry Jones only 0.12% behind. A computer UPS failure (what a day for it to happen!) meant the session started a little later than planned but fortunately it was resolved with no more problems on the night.

Melbourne Cup Afternoon - Tuesday 3 November 2020

What is the Melbourne Cup well-known for? Is it the spectacle of the occasion with more than 100,000 people flocking to the course to party, show off their race-day fashion and generally have a good time? If so, Hamilton Bridge Club achieved what Melbourne was not able to in 2020 with no racegoers allowed into Flemington on the day. This didn't stop 24 pairs of Hamilton bridge players, most sporting race-day hats, turning up on Melbourne Cup day for bridge, a sweepstake, a 'best hat' competition, a raffle of a cup-shaped cake (another special Jane creation!) and the race on the large projector screen, accompanied by a delicious afternoon tea arranged by Jane. The best hat awards went to Jan Hancox ('Posh'), Melva Johnstone ('Natural') and Barbara Daly ('Wacky!'). Winners of the bridge Cup were Kay Dixon & Jenny Millington with Bill Bailey & Shirley Fransham winning the handicap result in a very successful event. Thanks to all involved with the organisation of the afternoon.



Annual General Meeting - Sunday 22 November 2020

Our last official event of 2020 was the Annual General Meeting. About 40 members turned up to learn who will be running our club in 2021 and to applaud those who won trophies in 2020. Special congratulations to our "Most Improved Junior" player, Hugh Barton, and the "Most Promising New" player, Rachelle Meijer.

Nigel Gresson was elected President for the next two years, with Cherie Barton joining the Committee as Treasurer, and Rachelle Meijer as a new member of the committee. Ella acknowledged the difficulties caused through the year by Covid 19 and thanked all those members who helped the club throughout the year, with a special thank you to David Edson for his work on the technology used by the club, along with the programme book and website. Many thanks to all those who helped the club throughout the year.

The AGM was followed by social bridge and a Christmas dinner. The bridge was won by Nigel Gresson and Ella Gray (outgoing and incoming Presidents!) with Mark Thomson and Rachelle Meijer topping the handicap result. Jane Sandelin managed to both play and organise a delicious dinner - a fitting end to the official bridge year.

New Life Member - Joan Egger

At the Annual General Meeting the contribution to the club by Joan Egger over 30 years was acknowledged with her election as a Life Member to unanimous applause. Joan has run many aspects of the club, including as scoring steward, partner steward, dealing steward and bar custodian at various times over these years.

She was involved with the introduction of much of the technology used by the club - Compass in 2005, dealing machines in 2007 and Bridgemates around 2010.

Joan is a great addition to the Club's Life Members. Congratulations!



Recent Tournament Successes by our Club Members



2020

National Teams 15A 3 rd	7-8 November Karen Harris & teammates	Auckland
Te Awamutu Christmas Party 1 st 2 nd 3 rd	21 November Tim Healy & Helen Healy Brett Glass & Gary Foidl Dallas Dagg & Ella Gray	Te Awamutu
Waikato Christmas Party 1 st 3 rd	28 November Olive Davis & Mary Ronke Brett Glass & Gary Foidl	Waikato
Rotorua Christmas Party 1 st 3 rd	5 December Michael Curry & Christine Gibbons Liz Fisher & Sam Simpson	Rotorua
Taupo Christmas Party 1 st 2 nd	13 December Blair Fisher & George Masters Barry Jones & Jenny Millington	Taupo

2021

Thames Summer Festival John Eldridge Open Teams	8-10 January Liz & Blair Fisher & teammates	Thames
Tauranga Mini Congress Congress Teams Plate	30 Jan-1 Feb Liz & Blair Fisher & teammates Yuzhong Chen & teammates	Tauranga



Club Results

2020

Monday Finale Pairs

Scratch

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

Handicap

- 1 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones
- 2 Peter Kington & Sonya Roberts

Tuesday Afternoon Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Tim Healy & Helen Healy

Handicap

- 1 Ian Clayton & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Bill Bailey & Heather Crosbie

Tuesday Evening Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Julie Hooper & Donna Prentice
- 2 Kay Dixon & Don Macpherson

Handicap

- 1 Armand Petrin & Donnalea Whitcher
- 2 Vicky Holloway & Mary Helm

Spring Teams - Ethel Johnson Cup

- 1 Karen Harris, Jenna Gibbons, Ian Clayton, Cynthia Clayton, Christine Gibbons
- 2 Lindsay Reid, Nigel Gresson, Jenny Millington, Barry Jones

Thursday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Trini Lin
- 2 Cathy Nolen & Adele Schofield

Handicap

- 1 Cathy Nolen & Adele Schofield
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Trini Lin

Friday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Linda Lin & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Barbara Daly & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 Angela Lovell & Lois Jones
- 2 Sue Collinge & Allison Smith



Always think of your rebid before making your opening bid and your "partners response" before making that second bid!

From Lindsay's File

Challenge 12

<i>North</i>	
♠ 10 7 6	
♥ J 10	
♦ A	
♣ A K J 7 4 3 2	
<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ Q J 9 5 3 2	♠ 4
♥	♥ A K Q 9 8 4
♦ 9 8 7 6	♦ 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8	♣ Q 6 5
<i>South</i>	
♠ A K 8	
♥ 7 6 5 3 2	
♦ K Q J 10 2	
♣	

How can South make Five Diamonds after West leads the 10 of Clubs?

The answer will be published on Club's "[the website puzzle corner](#)" soon after the newsletter is published.

Heard at the Table:

There's no game like Bridge. You start to play with three friends and finish with two.

