

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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Newsletter - February 2022

From the President

Happy New Year and welcome to what will be a disrupted 2022.

The safety and welfare of our members is of paramount importance to our committee.

The committee has reviewed numbers playing and decided that bridge on Tuesday night, Wednesday and Thursday will be RealBridge, starting at the usual times. Monday night and the day sessions will be face to face with mandatory mask wearing. Depending on numbers attending, the committee may later decide if any other sessions need to be changed to Real Bridge.

Our first tournament is March 12 for Intermediates and Juniors which is to be played in either Real Bridge or face to face. Please start thinking about obtaining a partner now as it is only 4 weeks away.

Lessons start on Tuesday 15 March at 1 pm and 7 pm. Please note there will no longer be lessons on Fridays. The best promotion for our lessons are 'word of mouth' so if you know someone who plays cards please suggest they try Bridge. Mereana Cullen and Ella Gray will again be taking the lessons.

Hugh Barton has come onto the committee this year following Jane Sandelin's retirement. Thank you, Jane, for your contribution for the past 4 years.

Rachelle Meijer has taken over the running of Compass\$\$ so if there are any enquires regarding your balance etc., please email Rachelle at r_meijer@live.com.

Finally, please be assured that your committee is working hard to ensure the club is operating with your safety in mind. I would like to thank all those people who have contacted me with suggestions.

Happy Bridging

Nigel

Nigel Gresson

From the Captain's Table

Welcome back to the club!

These are very uncertain times but those who have been able to attend are pleased to be back. Masks are a pain, but at least we get some face to face bridge! As you will have read, we are going to have Real Bridge on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Barry and Jenny are continuing their half hour lessons on Friday mornings. They are very valuable, bite size sessions, with time for questions.

The committee are doing their best during this difficult time to provide options for games.

It was sad to see that our oldest member, Enid Trower has died.

It was an inspiration to see her still playing bridge at 100 years old.

Remember your responsibility to not come to bridge if you feel unwell.

If you have cold or flu symptoms, it could be Omicron, so play it safe

Isolate and call Healthline 0800 358 5453 for a test.

Please let me know of anyone who is unwell or having difficulty getting to bridge.

This could be a good time to organise your name tag!! Just call me for a form!!! We may have trouble remembering who is who when this all settles down!! Seriously, it does help newer members to know who they are playing.

Best wishes for a calmer year ahead. *Laura Club Captain*

Covid Vaccine Pass required

Covid 19 has certainly upset our normal way of doing things! We are requiring all members to bring along their Covid Vaccine Pass when you come to the clubrooms this year. The Pass can be on your phone or a printed copy - this is best left un laminated for scanning. If you are not vaccinated you will not be able to play - unless you have a medical exemption. This is to protect all our members. There will likely be some RealBridge available for those who are unvaccinated so everyone can play bridge in one form or another - keep an eye on the club website for more information.

To start the bridge year, our safety precautions for FACE to FACE Bridge are as follows:

- If you come to bridge you must be well with no symptoms of any illness
- All players will be required to show a current Covid Vaccine Pass to play in the Club-rooms
- The use of face masks is mandatory. Please bring your own
- The kitchen will be open but DO NOT share food or drinks
- You bring your own pen that travels with you
- Only South will handle the BridgeMate. East will verbally agree to the score
- Hand sanitiser will be provided at the entrance to the playing rooms and selected locations in both rooms. Please use it!
- Contact details will be recorded as per the government Covid requirements
- Friday Day Bridge will be in separate rooms with no mingling of rooms

Grade Change

As mentioned in our last newsletter, NZ Bridge has decided to remove only 10% of rating points for the 2021 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 Donna Prentice whose grade has changed from Junior to Intermediate.

Learners Lessons 2022 - now Tuesdays only

This year's lessons are planned to start on Tuesday 15 March, with a daytime session from 1 - 3 pm as well as the usual evening session from 7 - 9 pm. Do talk to family, friends, workmates and neighbours about coming and joining us to learn a challenging new skill.

Beginners should choose which session time suits them best, then stay at that time. The first two weeks playing mini-bridge are free, then \$50 for the remainder of the lessons.

With the likely spread of Covid through the community in the early part of this year, the lessons may be partly or all online or may have to be re-scheduled or broken into a number of parts.



Further information on the lessons is available from the Secretary or the [Club's web site page on lessons](#). The lessons will again be run by Ella and Mereana. Anyone wishing to express interest in taking part in the lessons is asked to email lessons@hamiltonbridge.co.nz

NZ Bridge New Learners' Website

For new players and those curious about the game, there is now a webpage - www.playbridge.co.nz - which is aimed at non-bridge players and to capture enquiries from those keen to know more about the game. A number of Tauranga Bridge Club members star in the "Why we love bridge" video on the front page. Eventually there will also be an online teaching portal.

2022 Programme Books Available

These are now available at the club for members to collect. Later on, uncollected books will be posted out to members. (The late delivery is due to waiting for more clarity around Covid and then holiday breaks).

New Gold Grandmaster

Our member, Jenna Gibbons, became a Gold Grandmaster in December last year, joining the elite group of 40 players in New Zealand of Gold standard or higher (5 of these belong to our club!). To become a Gold Grandmaster requires 4000 A&B points of which at least 2500 must be A points (only earned in special tournaments). This requires many years of successful bridge playing. Jenna became a Grandmaster in 2007, a Silver Grandmaster in 2014 and a Gold Grandmaster in 2021 - a 7-year sequence! Congratulations!



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 the partner steward

Wednesday - **Barbara Daly** is the partner steward

Thursday - **Lois Jones** is the partner steward

New Member Phone Number: Mary Ronke 021 143-4384

From the Director's Table

Isn't it great to be able to meet our friends again at the bridge club! But those of us who have been playing RealBridge will have to be careful for the first few weeks or the Directors could be very busy. With RealBridge we were prevented from making so many mistakes - no bids out of turn, no insufficient bids, no leading from the wrong hand, and even more important, no revokes. We all hate revokes - especially when we are the ones who have offended! But it is important to know what to do when an established revoke has occurred. When a revoke happens - don't call the director when it is discovered but keep note of which trick it is, play the rest of the contract, then call the director - otherwise you may not get the benefit of the revoke!!

Hesitations - We should always play the cards in tempo i.e. no long pause before playing the next card. Prepare beforehand what you will do when declarer plays towards the AQ on table, or towards the King on table and you hold the Ace. Then if you are going to play low, do it in tempo. This is as important in RealBridge as in face-to-face play.

In Bidding, you can think about what you might bid but, if you take some time then pass, partner cannot take advantage of your hesitation but must bid just on the cards in their hand and according to your system.

REALBRIDGE at the Club

RealBridge is the name of the package the club uses to play bridge online. The club will start RealBridge on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights from 8th February.

This allows those who do not wish to come to the club in person to still play. The main requirement needed to play RealBridge is a laptop, or a desktop computer with a webcam and microphone (so you can be seen and heard by other players!). Information on playing RealBridge is on the back page of your 2022 Programme Book or at this link:

[Introduction to RealBridge at Hamilton](#)

If you have problems getting started on RealBridge, contact Nigel and he will organise for someone to help set you up. Once setup it is very easy to use.

Why I Like RealBridge - a Personal View

I'm a social player - I play as much for the social contact as I do for the pleasure of playing the game.

When a return to F2F (Face to Face) bridge was suggested, I found myself preferring to stay in front of my computer screen. Why?

Well for a start it's more sociable! When you've finished a round you can chat to the people at your table without worrying about bothering other people ("Shh some of us are still playing").

Moreover, you can discuss the hands. Not just those at your current table but previous hands too. Everyone plays the same boards at the same time, so you won't meet someone who hasn't played the hand.

Plus, the results are available in front of you - you can see who bid the grand slam, and who made it.

Speaking of which, if you like looking at the hands afterwards, you can do so immediately while it's still fresh in your mind, rather than hours later when the results appear on the website.

On top of that, the bidding and play are available for you (unlike F2F). So not only can you see who bid the grand slam, but how, and how they made it. Just don't comment on your partners hand before its played!

If there's a sit out, you can chat to your partner instead of having to sit there quietly (or find somewhere else to go). Again, you can look at the hands you've already played.

Your performance so far is a true assessment. No waiting for other pairs to play the hand before you find out how well you did.

And more... no having to go out when it's cold and dark and wet, no getting stuck in traffic. No weak or cold coffee. Alcohol if you're so inclined, though it might not be good for your bridge playing!

Best of all, the session runs more quickly so if you play at night, you will probably finish half an hour earlier than F2F, a big bonus if you work the next day!

So, if you haven't already, why not give it a go?

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Note: These tournaments may shift to online

Calling all Juniors! Intermediates! & Novices!

On Saturday 12 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 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 3 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 16 March, there is a *Restricted Pairs* event for you to practice.

Hamilton Ladies Day

The afternoon of Tuesday 26 April is reserved for the annual Ladies Day - an Open and Intermediate tournament reserved for women only.

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Novice Pairs	Saturday 12 March
Hamilton Junior Pairs	Saturday 12 March
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs	Saturday 12 March
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	Sunday 3 April
Hamilton Ladies Intermediate Pairs	Tuesday 26 April
Hamilton Ladies Open Pairs	Tuesday 26 April

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

NZ delayed 2021 National Congress **Online** 10-17 February 2022

Junior Tournaments:

Morrinsville Junior Restricted	Morrinsville	Friday 18 February
Cambridge Junior & Novice Pairs	Cambridge	Saturday 9 April
Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 30 April

Intermediate Tournaments:

Taupo Intermediate Pairs	Taupo	Saturday 26 February
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Open Tournaments:

Waihi All Grades Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 5 March
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	Rotorua	Saturday 19 March
Matamata Open Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 26 March
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1	Te Aroha	Sunday 27 March
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 2 April
Tauranga Open Teams	Tauranga	Saturday 9 April
Waikato Bays Rubber Ducky Day	Putaruru	Sunday 10 April
Waikato Area Pairs 2	Morrinsville	Sunday 24 April
Taupo Open Pairs (2 days)	Taupo	Saturday 30 April

WAIKATO-BAYS COMPETITIONS 2022

These aim to develop partnerships and a better grasp of the game. Visit [League Dates](#) for the complete list of 2022 dates and more details. During these Covid-interrupted times always check online if the tournament is still going ahead, and whether it is face-to-face or on RealBridge.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Junior League

This competition runs for 6 rounds with the overall top place-getters winning cash prizes. For 2022 the prize money pool is \$720 shared over the top eight placings. The first tournament is at Hamilton bridge club on Saturday 12 March. If your goal for 2022 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 26 February at Taupo bridge club, followed by Hamilton on Saturday 12 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 29 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 27 March at Te Aroha. 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 2022 programme book.

Last year at our Club

New Zealand Wide Pairs - Friday 12 November 2021

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 2021, 750 pairs from 44 clubs took part including 7 pairs from our club playing online via RealBridge. Jenny Millington & Barry Jones came 5th overall in New Zealand, an excellent result. Well done!

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 21 November 2021

Fortunately, the Waikato changed to Covid Alert Level 2 earlier in the week that the AGM was scheduled. This meant the club could hold a face-to-face Annual General Meeting. About 40 members turned up to learn who will be running our club in 2022 and to thank those who helped run the club through the difficult times in 2021. Special congratulations to our "Most Improved Junior" player, Rachelle Meijer, and the "Most Promising New" players, Jiwan Dhaliwal and Bill Barwood.

Nigel Gresson continues as President in 2022, with Mereana Cullen as Vice-President. Welcome to Hugh Barton as a new member of the committee.

The AGM was followed by the first session of face-to-face bridge in several months and a

Christmas dinner. The bridge was won by Malcolm and Allison Smith for North-South and Julie and Richard Hooper for East-West. Jane Sandelin managed to both play and organise



Toasting the end of another Covid-affected year

a special dinner - a fitting end to the official bridge year.



NZ Bridge 2021 National Congress now in February 2022

The 2021 National Congress (which was to be held at Mount Maunganui at the end of September) could not take place because of Covid restrictions. It was decided to postpone

this event. Now the 2021 Congress will take place from Thursday 10th February to Thursday 17th February 2022 online using RealBridge. This means you don't have to travel to play, so why not have a go? All you need to take part is a laptop or a computer with a webcam and microphone. The events for Juniors and Intermediates are all scheduled over the weekend to make it easier for players in these grades to take part. Player grades for this Congress will be your 2021 tournament grade.

The February Congress has a revised timetable - go to the Congress website for more information and to put in your entry: [NZ Bridge Congress](#) Practice sessions for RealBridge will be held on Monday 7 February at 9:00 am, Thursday 10 February at 9:00 am and Monday 14 February at 9:00 am. RealBridge links are found at [Try RealBridge](#)

The actual 2022 Congress will still be held this year in the usual late September / early October school holiday slot i.e. there will be two Congresses in one year!

Interprovincial 2021 Results

Every year the 7 bridge regions of New Zealand play each other in a Teams event. The 2021 competition was played on RealBridge in late November with Auckland as hosts. Results for the Waikato Bays teams, with Hamilton club members shown:

Open Team 2nd place: (Blair and Liz Fisher, Richard Solomon, Anna Kalma)

Women Team 3rd place: (Jenna Gibbons, Jenny Millington)

Senior Team 3rd place: (Gary Foidl, Yuzhong Chen)

Recent Tournament Successes by our Club Members



Tauranga Mini Congress (Online)	29-31 January	Tauranga
WBays Provincial Pairs	1 st	Blair & Liz Fisher
	3 rd	Jenny Millington & Barry Jones
Congress Teams Qualifying	2 nd	Jenna Gibbons & teammates
Congress Teams Final	1 st	Blair & Liz Fisher & teammates



When on lead against 1 No Trump, if you don't have a long suit and partner has not bid, lead an unbid major

The Bridge Zone

Did you know our own Barry Jones and Mereana Cullen star in a weekly radio show on the subject of bridge? With the help of NZ Bridge, Barry and Mereana present an hour each week on Free FM (89.0MHz on your radio). The show is live on Wednesday at 10:30am, but all podcasts are available [here](#) . The show covers all sorts of bridge topics and is aimed at all those interested in playing bridge. They have a special email address for the show: bridgezoneshuffle@gmail.com

If you have any questions or ideas for topics to be discussed in future, feel free to email them with your thoughts!





Club Results

2021 (All this play was online via RealBridge)

Monday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Gwyn Lobb & Olive Davis
- 2 Karen Thomson & Cathy Nolen

Handicap

- 1 Gwyn Lobb & Olive Davis
- 2 David Taylor & Lois Jones

Tuesday Afternoon Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Lucie Armstrong & Barbara Daly
- 2 Ian Ross & Jenny Seavill

Handicap

- 1 Ian Ross & Jenny Seavill
- 2 Angela Lovell & Trini Lin

Tuesday Evening Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Jiwan Dhaliwal & Bill Barwood
- 2 Irene McCaskill & Mark Beavan

Handicap

- 1 Irene McCaskill & Mark Beavan
- 2 Mary Cave Palmer & Lou Roughton

Wednesday Finale Pairs - Ethel Johnson Cup

Scratch

- 1 Barry Jones & Karen Harris
- 2 Richard Hooper & Mark Thomson

Handicap

- 1 Richard Hooper & Mark Thomson
- 2 Barry Jones & Karen Harris

Thursday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Cameron & Trini Lin
- 2 Raewyn Grylls-Thomas & Jenny Seavill

Handicap

- 1 Raewyn Grylls-Thomas & Jenny Seavill
- 2 Lois Jones & Phil Thompson

Friday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Barbara Daly & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Thelma Jean Bird & Duncan White

Handicap

- 1 Barbara Daly & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Helen Healy & Tim Healy

Friday NC Finale Pairs

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Lois Follas & Hugh Barton

- 1 Lois Follas & Hugh Barton
- 2 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies

From Lindsay's File

Challenge 17

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

How can South make Six Diamonds when West leads the Ten of Hearts?

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

A thought to finish...

The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once you're in it!

