

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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Newsletter - February 2024



Welcome to a new bridge year!

Club News

2024 Subs now due

Invoices for member's 2024 subs were emailed out in December. It is important for the financial health of our club that these are paid soon - the due date is 28 February 2024. There is no change to the subscription amount this year.

Phone number changes / additions

Linda Lin 07 444-4120, 021 032-5572

Lesley Kuggeleijn 027 494-2414



New Gold Grandmaster

Congratulations to Liz Fisher who officially became a Gold grandmaster in December!

Liz became a grandmaster in 2012, then a Silver grandmaster in 2018. To become a Gold grandmaster requires 4000 A&B points including at least 2500 A Points.

That's a lot of successful tournament play! Well done!

Allan Morris, the chairperson of NZ Bridge, presented Liz with her Gold grandmaster plaque at the Thames Congress in early January.



Learners Lessons 2024

This year's lessons will start on Tuesday 5 March from 7 - 9 pm. These evening lessons will be run by Mereana. A daytime session may be run later in the year.

The lessons are the main way we recruit new members to the club so we encourage all members to let family, friends and anyone else they know who may enjoy playing bridge to give it a go!



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

2024 Changes to Bridge Programme

By now, many of you will have had a chance to look at the new programme book. (If not, collect one from the club either when you come in to play a session, or from Julie during office hours). There are a few changes to the programme this year. Read on for more details!

Monday evening

- Monday now has an individual pairs in April. To be counted in this competition you need to play with 3 different players. This is to encourage you to try new partnerships. (You can still play with the same partner but will not be part of the competition even if you win).
- Three pairs, in Autumn, Winter and Spring) have been changed to Butler pairs scoring (see below for more information on Butler pairs).

Wednesday evening

- Club Swiss pairs have been replaced by 3 Butler pairs, in Summer, Winter and Spring. The Open 5A Swiss Pairs tournament still remains.
- Teams events have been replaced by pairs events on 2 occasions - while the Club Team Championship and Winter Drawn Teams remain.

Thursday evening

- Two pairs, in Autumn and Spring, are now Butler pairs (see below for more information on Butler pairs). There are no Swiss pairs anymore.
- The Restricted Teams event has been replaced but the Elsie Pohio Teams remain (this event decides the teams for the Waikato Interclub teams so we would like plenty of entries especially from Juniors!)

Friday O'Neill room

- One Winter pairs event has been changed to Butler scoring (see below for what this means for you)

Other Sessions

The programme for Tuesday afternoon, Tuesday evening and Friday Richmond room have not changed.

What are Butler Pairs?

Butler pairs uses IMP scoring similar to Swiss pairs. The advantage over Swiss pairs is you don't need the same number of pairs each session. Like Swiss pairs you should always bid game if you think it is possible, and don't risk trying for overtricks if you might not make your contract as these are worth far less than in Matchpoint scoring (the normal pairs scoring).

Special trophies awarded at the AGM:

Most Promising Player (Mike Barton Trophy) - Judy Simonson

Most Improved Junior (Audrey Dixon Cup) - Marie Fenwick

Congratulations to both of you!

Grade Changes

The latest grades have been published by NZ Bridge. These grades are valid for the whole of 2024. Congratulations to these members who have changed grades:

Junior to Intermediate:

Don Weston

Janice Wilton

Jon Verhoek

Julie Hooper



Thank You!

Thank you to the people who donated presents for the Salvation Army under the tree at the club.

These were gratefully received.

Tournament Help required

Helpers are needed for our upcoming tournaments:

- collecting cups and keeping the tea / coffee area ready
 - loading and unloading the steriliser
 - providing food for morning / afternoon tea
- Please be ready to offer when a request is made.



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 partner and the director will find a partner for you. Please however 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 - contact **Cynthia Clayton** on 021 293-5940

Wednesday - **Barbara Daly** (021 070-0832) is the partner steward

Thursday - **Lois Jones** (854-0453, 021 155-1838) is the partner steward

Friday Richmond Room - contact **Cynthia Clayton** on 021 293-5940

Friday O'Neill Room - **Milwyn Rees** (Ph 856-1187 or 022 646-7709) is the partner steward.

From the Director's Table

Visitors to our club. It is important any visitors are introduced to the director before the session starts so table money can be collected from them and their name can be added to the scoring system if needed.

Seating. Please make sure you are seated at the table ready to play at least 5 minutes before the start time for your session. This means you have already got your drink from the kitchen! This allows the director to set up the movement for the session correctly - if this is wrong it usually means the whole scoring system needs to be restarted to correct it.

Seating rights. If you cannot easily move let the director know when you arrive, as the movement can require you to be seated at particular tables.

Pianola and X-Clubs

Interested in how your bridge results compare with players from across NZ? You can do this!

The results from all NZ bridge clubs that play the same boards at the same time are collected up in X-Clubs, re-scored and cross-added over all the clubs which use Compass - often within a few minutes of the last result to come in. The cross-adds appear on the X-Clubs website very shortly after all sessions are in.

You can access these through the [X-Clubs Results](#) link on the club website. If you'd like to learn more about X-Clubs there is lots of detail under the About tab.

Players of X-Club deals can also register to receive Pianola session report e-mails - for FREE! - see the button on the right-hand side of the X-Clubs Home page.

This is the ultimate in results reporting. Your playing history builds up on-line and you can look back at every game you have played, even filtering by partner if you like.

Here you can get more information about your playing game, including:

- Personal results history

- Your average score with different partners

- Your score as declarer, defender - even as dummy

If you wish, you can also join Pianola-Plus, the only part of the service for which you must pay. This gives you even more information on your playing.

Read up on Pianola at www.pianola.net.

Calling all Juniors! Intermediates! & Novices!

On Saturday 16 March, Hamilton is holding a tournament day 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. Practising with your partner before a tournament is a good idea so you can discuss and understand your partnership bidding, discards and general playing style etc.

If you have less than 5 A+B points you can enter the Novice tournament which is only one session after lunch - the Junior and Intermediate pairs play two sessions starting at 10am. 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

Sunday 7 April is the day the Club holds its annual restricted pairs tournament. In this tournament 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 three Wednesday nights before the restricted tournament, starting 13 March, there is a *Restricted Pairs* event scheduled for you to practice.

Hamilton Craigs Investments Day

Tuesday 7 May is reserved for the Craigs Investments Day - an Open and Intermediate 2 session tournament for all (this replaces the Ladies Day and is now open to Men as well).

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Novice Pairs	Saturday 16 March
Hamilton Junior Pairs	Saturday 16 March
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs	Saturday 16 March
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	Sunday 7 April
Hamilton Craigs Intermediate Pairs	Tuesday 7 May
Hamilton Craigs Open Pairs	Tuesday 7 May

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior Tournaments:

Cambridge Junior & Novice Pairs	Cambridge	Saturday 20 April
Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 11 May

Intermediate Tournaments:

Taupo Intermediate Pairs	Taupo	Sunday 3 March
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(Note this date has changed to avoid clash with Taupo Ironman!)

Open Tournaments:

Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1	Te Aroha	Sunday 10 March
Waihi All Grades Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 16 March
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	Rotorua	Saturday 23 March
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 6 April
Matamata Open 8B Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 13 April
Tauranga Open 5A Teams	Tauranga	Saturday 20 April
Waikato Area Pairs 2	Matamata	Sunday 28 April
WaikBays InterProv. Trial (2 days)	Tauranga	Sat/Sun 4/5 May

WAIKATO-BAYS COMPETITIONS 2024

These aim to develop partnerships and a better grasp of the game. Both the Junior and Intermediate leagues are individual competitions so you don't need to play with the same partner each time. The leagues are generally quite social and good fun with the added bonus of meeting other players from throughout our region.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Junior League

This is for 6 rounds with the overall top place-getters winning cash prizes. The first tournament is at Hamilton bridge club on Saturday 16 March. If your goal for 2024 is to become an Intermediate, playing in the Junior tournaments will give you a chance to get well on the way.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Intermediate League

Starting on Sunday 3 March at Taupo bridge club, followed by Hamilton on Saturday 16 March, this competition covers eight intermediate tournaments held in Waikato and Bay of Plenty, with the last one in October at Cambridge.

Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs)

This competition in 2024 is aimed at open and intermediate players. The competition runs for 5 rounds with prizes awarded to the winning pair at each heat and to the top overall and top non-Open pair at the end of the competition.

The first heat for 2024 is on Sunday 10 March at Te Aroha. Pre-entry is requested for this heat but not required for other heats where you can just arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner. The entry fee for all heats is \$10 and you need to bring your own lunch. The other WAP dates are listed under tournaments in your 2024 programme book.

Intermediate players are encouraged to attend the WAPs, along with our regular open players, to experience the friendly WAP sessions and have a chance to win A points. More information can be found at their webpage

[WAP dates 2024](#)

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 19 November 2023

Close to 40 members turned up to vote for who will be running our club in 2024, and to thank those who helped run the club in 2023.

Special congratulations to our "Most Improved Junior" player, Marie Fenwick and the "Most Promising New" player, Judy Simonson.

Mereana Cullen continues as President in 2024, with Richard Wagstaff continuing as Vice-President. Welcome to Karen Harris and Maria Muller as new members of the committee.

The AGM was followed by bridge then Christmas dinner. The bridge was won by Cynthia Clayton and Ian Clayton for North-South and Gwyn Lobb and Richard Fletcher for East-West.

From the 2023 Annual Report

Over this year, your committee has ticked off a number of achievements:

- The roof is currently under refurbishment and has been washed, treated for moss, about to be sealed
- Secured 4 grants to improve the lady's accessible toilet and for roof repairs
- Celebrated our 70th Jubilee anniversary
- Improved our plumbing situation (we were experiencing multiple blockages)
- Men's and ladies' toilets have been deep cleaned
- Streamlined our Compa\$\$ transactions for easier management
- Refreshed the internal skirting by painting
- Completed the initial steps for replacing the carpet in both rooms
- Improved our external security lighting by adding more lights
- Completed a review of our Constitution — thanks to Dave Edson and Hugh Barton for the enormous amount of time spent to ensure we are compliant when the new Inc Soc Act 2025 comes in and we will be seeking adoption of various changes and upgrades by giving the members time to review the workings and to provide any feedback

- Conducted 2 sets of beginner lessons and 2 sets of Improver lessons for club members — thanks to Cherie Barton and Richard Hooper
- Agreed to keep updating the honours boards
- Secured the hire of our building over the festive season whilst the Club is unattended

Next year (2024) the projects in mind are:

- carpet replacement
- update of bridge mates — repair / refit ones that are out of action
- refresh of internal walls and noticeboards placement
- upgrade of bar and kitchen areas including possible relocation of scoring room

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 previous 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 about bridge bidding or play, or any ideas for topics to be discussed in future, feel free to email them with your thoughts!





Interprovincial 2023 Results

Every year the 7 bridge regions of New Zealand play each other in a Teams event. The 2023 competition was played over 2 days on RealBridge in late November. Top 3 results for the Waikato Bays teams, with Hamilton

club members shown:

Womens Team 1st place: (Jenna Gibbons)

Open Team 3rd place: (Liz & Blair Fisher)

Overall the Waikato/Bays team finished as 3rd region, behind Auckland/Northland and Otago/Southland.

Baden-Wilson Results 2023

The Baden Wilson trophy is for the top overall 'A' point earners in a calendar year based on points earned in New Zealand only.

The winners in both sections (female and male) for 2023 have now been announced and both winners are from our club! Congratulations to:

Top Female - Liz Fisher, Hamilton

Top Male - Blair Fisher, Hamilton.

Liz and Blair also won both sections last year - can they make it a triple?

Regional Championship Teams 2024

The Interprovincial Teams competition has been renamed by NZ Bridge to the Regional Championship Teams. Each regional team is made up of an Intermediate team and various Open teams. The trials will take place online on May 4 and 5 so start thinking now about whether you wish to enter. The finals will be held in Wellington from 29 November to 1 December.

NZ Bridge Online Strategy - 2024 Weekends

The NZ Bridge Online Strategy Working Group have announced that once again on one specified weekend each month clubs with tournaments on these weekends can elect to run their event face-to-face or online. Alternatively, they can apply to swap with other clubs.

NZ Bridge's seven major regional events (North Island Teams, North Island Pairs, South Island Teams, South Island Pairs, National Teams, National Pairs and National Swiss Pairs) may also be held in-person or online.

All other club weekend tournaments, mini congresses etc. will be run face-to-face as currently scheduled. However, applications to transition to online will be considered in emergency situations (e.g. weather or health-related).

It is expected that almost all Junior and Intermediate tournaments will be face-to-face.

NZ Bridge will be running online Matariki tournaments on Friday 28 June and these will be separate tournaments for each grade.

The trial online weekends for 2024 have not yet been announced. These may be available in February after this newsletter is published. To find out whether a tournament is online or face-to-face (in-person) go to the NZ Bridge tournaments page: [Bridge Tournaments](#)

LEAD OUT OF TURN - WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I am about to play as declarer and the wrong opponent has led a card. What should I do? First, and most important, call the director to your table. This is one of the most common reasons for a director to be called and for this reason it is a good idea to understand your rights under the Laws of Bridge.

When the Lead Out of Turn (LOOT) is the opening lead, then the person who should be declarer has some options:

- 1 Accept the lead and put their own hand down as dummy so their partner plays it;
- 2 Accept the lead and put partner's hand down as dummy. If they choose to do this then dummy goes down straight away and plays fourth, rather than second;
- 3 Not accept the lead in which case it reverts to the correct person. If declarer decides to do this, they have two further options:
 - a) Demand or forbid the player on lead to lead the suit that was led incorrectly. If this option is chosen, then the card incorrectly led is picked up;
 - b) Tell the person on lead to make a normal lead in which case the card incorrectly led is a major penalty card to be played at the first legal opportunity. If this is chosen, then the person who leads must make a lead based on the bidding and their normal methods. They cannot be influenced by their partner's card.

What choice should I make?

You would only choose to accept the lead if you could see it had some advantage for you. For example, you might have a 7 count and your partner has 19 so it might be wise to lay your hand down. Perhaps they led a king to your singleton ace and this is helpful to you. Or you may have a more experienced player as your partner and decide they should play the hand! Similarly, you would demand or forbid a lead of the LOOT suit only if it had some advantage to you.

Tauranga Mini Congress	27-29 January	Tauranga
Restricted Open Pairs	3 rd	Mereana Cullen & Kevin Birch
Congress Teams Qualifying	2 nd	Jenna Gibbons & teammates
	3 rd	Gary Foidl, Yuzhong Chen & teammates
Congress Teams Final	2 nd	Gary Foidl, Yuzhong Chen & teammates
	3 rd	Jenna Gibbons & teammates
Congress Teams Plate	2 nd	Liz & Blair Fisher & teammates

Wanted

Some of the club's laptops are very dated and no longer able to be updated - they are still running Windows 7.

If anyone has a more recent laptop (or two!) that they are prepared to donate (or sell cheaply) to the club this would be greatly appreciated.

Contact Julie in the office or any of the Committee with your offer.





2023

Wednesday Butler Pairs

- 1 Jenny Millington & Barry Jones
- 2 Cherie Barton & Karen Harris

Thursday October Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Cherie Barton & Karen Harris
- 2 Melinda Wang & Catherine Cameron

Handicap

- 1 Cherie Barton & Karen Harris
- 2 Marilyn Webby & Alison Orchard

Friday Richmond Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Olive Davis & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Kim Thompson & Ella Gray

Handicap

- 1 Heather Crosbie & Bob Jones
- 2 Barbara Daly & Mereana Cullen

Friday O'Neill Pairs D

Scratch

- 1 Mike Johnson & Iain Paterson
- 2 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies

Handicap

- 1 Mike Johnson & Iain Paterson
- 2 Judith Noble & Sheila Horner

Monday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ella Gray & Richard Fletcher
- 2 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper

Handicap

- 1 Ella Gray & Richard Fletcher
- 2 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper

Tuesday Afternoon Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Val West & Barbara Daly
- 2 Ian Clayton & Tim Healy

Handicap

- 1 Val West & Barbara Daly
- 2 Jenny Seavill & Margaret Boyd

Tuesday Evening Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Tim Densem & Ron Snoek
- 2 Marian Kingham & Helen Green

Handicap

- 1 Maria Muller & Merle Jonson
- 2 Marian Kingham & Helen Green

Thursday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Cherie Barton & Karen Harris
- 2 Melinda Wang & Catherine Cameron

Handicap

- 1 Aengus Moore & Tim Macindoe
- 2 Cherie Barton & Karen Harris

Friday Richmond Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Olive Davis & Mary Ronke
- 2 Mary Girvin & Lois Jones

Handicap

- 1 Verna Beech & Joan Craig
- 2 Mary Girvin & Lois Jones

Friday O'Neill Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mike Johnson & Iain Paterson
- 2 Michael Davies & Roger Johnstone

Handicap

- 1 Mike Johnson & Iain Paterson
- 2 Cate Anderson & Merle Jonson



Count dummy's points, your own and estimate declarer's points to calculate how many points partner probably has. Do not try a defence that requires partner to have more high card points than is possible.

Thank You Lindsay!

For the last 8 years Lindsay Reid has provided a puzzle in each newsletter for members to enjoy solving and learning from the answers supplied. Lindsay has now retired (or run out of puzzles!) but many of the puzzles published over the years are on our website at [website puzzles](#). A very experienced player (he's a previous NZ Teams winner) Lindsay Reid is a familiar figure at the club on Wednesday nights and Friday mornings. Thank you, Lindsay, for entertaining and educating us over the years.