

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Cameron

Newsletter - February 2025

From the President

Welcome to the 2025 Bridge year. I am very happy to work with you and for you as your new President for the next two years.

Sadly one of our Life Members, Joan Egger, passed away soon after the AGM. She was a warm and kind person who worked tirelessly for the club for many years. There would be few of you who did not know her.

Committee

Thank you to those members who willingly put their names forward for the committee. Each member has a clear area of responsibility or will play a strong supporting role.

President: Helen Rinaldi with advisory support from Hugh Barton

Vice President: Nigel Gresson - in charge of Match Committee

Treasurer: Merle Jonson

Membership/Lessons: Rosalind Millar with support from Helen Rinaldi

In-House Manager: Laura Somerville with support from Cathy Nolen

Technology: Dave Edson

Grounds & Building Maintenance: Richard Wagstaff

The committee have three goals for the year:

- To increase our membership through Lessons
- To improve our communication with you through regular emails and by being available at sessions to listen to your ideas and get to know the members better.
- Tidy up our administrative processes for easier planning and decision making

Playing Sessions

As you know COVID changed members' habits and many of our members stopped playing. We are very grateful to Cynthia Clayton who worked hard last year to increase the table numbers for **Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning** in the Richmond Room. Please give a big round of applause for Cynthia. This year Lucie Armstrong has taken over from Cynthia as Partner Steward for Tuesday and Friday. Thank you, Lucie.

For the **evening sessions**, WhatsApp is being used to communicate and request partners. We still have Partner Stewards if you need any assistance. Numbers on Monday & Thursday evenings are increasing. **Wednesday night** is in danger of being lost. The committee is in the process of working out if there is a way of salvaging this situation. Ideas from our Open players would be gratefully received. We will keep you posted. It will be a shame if Wednesday night is cancelled, as it is the night when our Open players compete with each other and offer an opportunity for Intermediate players to improve their standard of bidding, play and defence. Our Open players support our members in developing and improving the competitive side of their play. Our sessions on **Tuesday evening (mostly Juniors) and Friday morning in the O'Neill Room (social session)** have good numbers. We owe a big thank you to both Richard Hooper and Jenny Millington who direct, teach and support the players in these two sessions.

Evening sessions will be played in the O'Neill Room once daylight saving begins. It is a cosier room and it is easier to heat. We intend to have a TV screen installed in the room for the monitoring of the car park.

Maintenance

The committee is planning to have a regular Working Bee at the club on the 1st Saturday morning of the month. Richard Wagstaff will be looking for assistance with jobs around the Grounds and Building and I am sure help will be required in tidying/cleaning the kitchen. This will be announced regularly. Please consider coming and helping - if only for the camaraderie. On Monday February 17 Julie's office and the scoring room will be carpeted with the same carpet tiles that are in the Richmond Room and The O'Neill Room.

Room Hire

Our club rooms are acquiring a name for being a great place to hire for Clubs and Societies. We have many regular users as well as two Churches who hire our rooms on a Sunday morning and afternoon respectively. These users will not interfere with our Soup & Bun days or our Tournament schedule.

Thanks to you all for your support and I wish you all an enjoyable and successful year at the Bridge Table.

Helen Rinaldi

Club News

2025 Subs now due

Invoices for member's 2025 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 2025. This year the subscription increases by \$3 to \$110 for the year - NZ Bridge has increased their levy by \$4.60 but the club decided to absorb part of this increase for our members. If you have not received your subscription invoice please email the secretary.

Phone number changes / additions

Mary Fear 856-2021, 021 159-4600
Nigel Judson 07 210-1196



Grade Changes

The latest grades have been published by NZ Bridge. These grades are valid for the whole of 2025. Congratulations to these members who have changed grades from Junior to Intermediate: Bill Barwood and Jiwan Dhaliwal



Learners Lessons 2025

This year's lessons will start on Tuesday 18 March from 7 - 9 pm (Tutors: Mark Thomson and Pam Burns) and Thursday 20 March from 10 - 12am (Tutors: Cherie Barton, Lois Jones, Richard Fletcher). The lessons will run for about 12 weeks and cost \$80 or \$40 for a second family member or a learner aged 25yrs or younger.

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!

Flyers and information cards are available to give away.

Anyone wishing to take part in the

lessons is asked to email: lessons@hamiltonbridge.co.nz



2025 Changes to Programme Book

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 have already been a few changes to the book since it went to the printers. Read on for more details!

- **Taupo Intermediate tournament** is now on Sunday 2 March (changed as the Taupo Ironman is on Saturday 1 March)
- **Hamilton Craigs Investment Multigrade tournament** is now on Tuesday 13 May. Unfortunately NZB standing rules would not allow us to hold a tournament the same day as one in Auckland.
- **Incorrect player grade:** Don Weston is a Junior player this year.
- **Wednesday night programme:** Number of regular players is low this year so some events may not take place. Please check with the partner steward beforehand if you are not in the Wednesday WhatsApp group (the 5A Swiss Pairs and Championship Teams will definitely be held)
- **Hamilton 5A Swiss Pairs:** This tournament will be held online this year on the dates in the Programme book.

Special trophies announced at the AGM:

Most Promising Player (Mike Barton Trophy) - Cate Anderson

Most Improved Junior (Audrey Dixon Cup) - Maria Muller

Congratulations to both of you!

Maria was presented with her trophy by our president, Helen Rinaldi, at a recent bridge evening session (photo at right)





Thank You!

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

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!

For all evening sessions we have a WhatsApp group specific to that session to help you find a partner. Contact the partner steward listed below to be added to a group.

On 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 daytime sessions we have a friendly partner steward for each session who will attempt to arrange a partner for you.

Their names and contact details are also 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!

Monday - **Catherine Cameron** 858-4257 or 027 959-1972

Tuesday afternoon - **Lucie Armstrong** 854-9339 or 027 283-8837

Wednesday - **Barbara Daly** 021 070-0832

Thursday - **Lois Jones** 854-0453 or 021 155-1838

Friday Richmond Room - **Lucie Armstrong** 854-9339 or 027 283-8837

Friday O'Neill Room - **Milwyn Rees** 856-1187 or 022 646-7709

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 NZ bridge clubs that play the same boards at the same time are collected up in X-Clubs and re-scored over all the clubs which use Compass. The results 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.

Directors and Wannabe Club Directors


Thursdays at 10.30am - Richmond Room, starting now!

Several of our club members are meeting at the Club to learn the rules of bridge with the idea of becoming Club Directors. If you are interested in sitting the exam or just curious about the rules then please turn up.

Club director exams take place on 3 occasions this year - 22/23 March, 12/13 July and 18/19 October 2025

Our Mate - the Bridgemate

Here are some simple ways to get the most out of your Bridgemate.

1. Check that the people at the table are those whose names are on the screen (if past the front screen, click on Names on the board entry screen)
2. Check that the number on the boards you have are the same as the ones shown (in small print!) at the top right of the Bridgemate screen
3. Enter the number of the board  you are going to play (make sure the board is the right way up with North facing north)

Now - you are ready to take the cards out of the board.

If everyone follows this simple procedure we will not have fouled boards and the Director will be happy. 😊



Calling all Juniors and Intermediates!

On Saturday 15 March, Hamilton is holding a tournament day for Junior and Intermediate players (a separate tournament for each grade). Novices are welcome to play as well. 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.

On the tournament day there will be two sessions of play, starting at 10am, and you will need to bring your own lunch. More details on our webpage under tournaments.

Restricted Pairs

Sunday 6 April is the day the Club holds its annual restricted pairs tournament. In this tournament Open players cannot play together. 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. On three Thursday nights before the restricted tournament, starting 13 March, there is a *Multigrade Pairs* event scheduled for you to practice.

Hamilton Craigs Investment Day

Tuesday 13 May is reserved for the Craigs Investment Multigrade Pairs (Note this a change from the date in our programme book). This is an 8B 2-session tournament for all Open, Intermediate and Junior players. This is always a fun day so put it in your diary.

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Junior/Novice Pairs	Saturday 15 March
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs	Saturday 15 March
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	Sunday 6 April
Craigs Investment MultiGrade Pairs	Tuesday 13 May

(Note: changed as NZB had another tournament in Auckland on 6 May)

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior Tournaments:

Cambridge Junior & Novice Pairs	Cambridge	Saturday 29 March
Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 10 May

Intermediate Tournaments:

Taupo Intermediate Pairs	Taupo	Sunday 2 March
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(Note: change of date from in the Programme book due to Taupo Ironman!)

Open Tournaments:

Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1	Matamata	Sunday 9 March
Waihi All Grades Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 15 March
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	Rotorua	Saturday 22 March

Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 5 April
Matamata Open 8B Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 12 April
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 2	Te Aroha	Sunday 27 April
WaikBays Regional Trial (2 days)	Tauranga	Sat/Sun 3-4 May

WAIKATO-BAYS COMPETITIONS 2025

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 runs for 6 rounds with the overall top place-getters winning cash prizes. The first tournament is at Hamilton bridge club on Saturday 15 March. If your goal for 2025 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 2 March at Taupo bridge club, followed by Hamilton on Saturday 15 March, this competition covers eight intermediate tournaments throughout the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, with the last one in October at Cambridge. Good prizes are on offer for overall success.

Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs)

This competition in 2025 is aimed at open and good intermediate players. The competition runs for 5 rounds with prizes awarded to the winning pair of each round and to the top overall and top non-Open pair at the end of the competition.

The first heat for 2025 is on Sunday 9 March at Matamata. Please enter online up until the day prior. Play starts at 10am. The entry fee for each round is \$15, paid on arrival, and you need to bring your own lunch. The other WAP dates and locations are listed under tournaments in your 2025 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 2025](#)

Melbourne Cup Afternoon - Tuesday 5 November

The annual special Melbourne Cup event was held on Tuesday, November 5th starting at 12.15 (replacing the usual Tuesday afternoon bridge session). 52 keen players gathered in the clubrooms with many dressed in very fetching clothes and hats.

The bridge winners were Helen and Tim Healy (1st North-South and overall) with Val West and Raewyn Grylls -Thomas coming 1st East-West and second overall.

The Best Hat judges had a difficult time but awarded the prizes to:

- Best Hat: Doris Chapman for an elegant light grey hat
- Most Natural: Raewyn Grylls-Thomas for a very floral hat
- Wacky: a tie between Brent Rogers' bright green race hat effort and Cherie Barton's origami card flowers

A sumptuous afternoon tea followed, then after the race on the TV the lucky sweepstake winners were paid out by scrutineers Barbara Daly and Lucie Armstrong. Thanks to Judith Brooks for organising, Malcolm Smith for directing (and handing out chocolate spot prizes), and to Richard Fletcher, Richard Wagstaff, Jane Sandelin, Jenny Seavill and all the other helpers on the day.



Judith, Doris and Raewyn

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 17 November 2024

41 members turned up to the AGM to vote for who will be running our club in 2025, and to thank those who helped run the club in 2024.

Special congratulations to our "Most Improved Junior" player, Maria Muller and the "Most Promising New" player, Cate Anderson.

Helen Rinaldi is the new President in 2025, with Nigel Gresson as Vice-President. We now have a full 6 members of the committee. Welcome to Rosalind Miller and Laura Somerville who will help run the club.

The AGM was followed by bridge and a delicious Christmas dinner organised by Jane Sandelin and Nigel. The bridge winners were Cynthia Clayton and Ian Clayton for North-South and Cherie Barton and Mereana Cullen for East-West.

From the 2024 Annual Report

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

- The roof refurbishment is finally completed
- Secured \$17,000 in grants for the roof repairs
- Completed the roll-out of the new carpet in the playing rooms. 2 working bees were held to uplift the old carpet
- Secured \$10,500 in grants towards the carpet replacement
- Streamlined our Compa\$\$ transactions for easier management
- Completed a review of the Constitution to be voted on in 2025
- Conducted Beginner lessons and Improver lessons for club members — thanks to Cherie Barton and Pam Burns
- Worked on increasing the hireage of the building to community groups including a long-term hire to a Congolese group
- Security cameras installed on the front car park
- Maintenance on the grey water pipes was completed



Regional 2024 Results

Every year the 7 bridge regions of New Zealand play each other in a Teams event. The 2024 competition was played over 2 days in Wellington in late November. Overall Waikato/Bays came 4th, with Canterbury the

convincing champion region.

Top 3 results for the Waikato/Bays teams, with Hamilton club members shown:

Open Team 3rd place: Hugh McGann, Liz & Blair Fisher

Women's Team 3rd place: Jenna Gibbons

Seniors Team 3rd place: Yuzhong Chen, Gary Foidl

Baden-Wilson Results 2024

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 2024 have now been announced. Congratulations to Liz Fisher, the top female for the third year running. Blair had won top male the previous 2 years, but finished 5th against tough opposition, with Leon Meier of Christchurch taking out the coveted top spot.

Regional Championship Teams 2025

NZ Bridge runs the Regional Championship Teams each year between the 7 regions of NZ (our region is Waikato Bays). Each regional team is made up of an Open, Women's, Senior and Intermediate. The trials scheduled for May 3 and 4 will only take place if there are sufficient entries, so start entering other tournaments now to form a solid partnership if you wish to trial. The finals will be held from 29 November to 1 December.

NZ Mixed International Trials for 2025

The Mixed International Trials will be held in Auckland on the 14th - 17th February, with players competing to represent NZ at overseas events including at Denmark in August.

The event will be a knock-out with a quarter-final, semi-final and final. Each stage will consist of 4 x 20 board stanza.

The draw for the Quarter-finals is:

Liz Fisher, Blair Fisher, Jo Simpson, Sam Simpson vs
Michael Johnstone, Paula Gregory, John Kruiniger, Liz Fitzgerald

Patrick Carter, Julie Atkinson, Jenny Millington, Barry Jones vs
Alan Grant, Anne-Marie Russell, Johanna Perfect, Hamish Brown

Michael Ware, Pam Livingston, Jan Cormack, Leon Meier vs
Anne Sommerville, Murat Genc, Kate Davies, John Patterson

Ian Berrington, Fuxia Wen, Jan Alabaster, Graeme Tuffnell vs
Stephen Henry, Annette Henry, Lysandra Zheng, Tim Pan

The 4th stanza of the finals will be broadcast on BBO starting at 4pm on Sunday 16th February. You can watch these on [vugraph](#).



The Law of Total Tricks (LTT).

This is a guideline which says that the total number of cards held by each partnership in their longest trump fit equals the total number of tricks available in their best trump contract. This applies to both sides when bidding.

The Law is sometimes interpreted to mean that one side can profitably contract for a number of tricks equal to its own combined trump length; for example, if you know you have a nine-card spade fit you can compete to 3♠.

It can be wise to consider vulnerability when following this law, especially when bidding to higher level contracts.

Recent Tournament Successes by our Club Members



2024:

Taupo Xmas Party 10 November Taupo
1st Karen Harris & Marcus Dudley

Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs 15 November Various Clubs

Cambridge 1st E-W Karen Harris & Cherie Barton

Cambridge 2nd E-W Lois Jones & Mary Girvin

Cambridge 2nd N-S Malcolm Smith & Ian Moore

Huntly 1st Brett Glass & Emma Russell

Huntly 3rd Joan Craig & Eileen Lumsden

Te Awamutu Xmas Party 23 November Te Awamutu
1st Karen Harris & Barry Jones

Waikato Xmas Party 30 November Waikato
3rd Richard Fletcher & Gwyn Lobb

Rotorua Xmas Party 7 December Rotorua
2nd Michael Curry & Christine Gibbons
3rd Gary Foidl & Ant Hopkins



Mike Curry, playing with
Christine Gibbons, came 2nd at the
Rotorua Xmas party

2025:

Thames Summer Festival	10-12 January	Thames
Walk-in Pairs (1 round only)	1 st	Gary Foidl & Ant Hopkins
	2 nd	Liz & Blair Fisher
Festival Open Swiss Pairs	3 rd	Liz & Blair Fisher
John Eldridge Open Teams	1 st	Yuzhong Chen & teammates
	2 nd	Blair & Liz Fisher & teammates
Tauranga Mini Congress	25-27 January	Tauranga
Congress Teams Qualifying	2 nd	Barry Jones, Jenny Millington & teammates
Congress Teams Final	1 st	Blair & Liz Fisher & teammates
Congress Consolation Pairs	3 rd	Gary Foidl & Yuzhong Chen

Partnership Rules:

A few pointers that will help make your bridge partnership harmonious.

- Always return partners suit unless the lead indicates differently, or declarer or dummy seem to be holding the strength.
- Don't deceive your partner i.e. don't win with the ace if you also hold the king.
- If in doubt, believe your partner even if the outcome is not successful.
- Try to help your partner; things don't always look the same from the other side of the table.
- Don't criticise your partner; I'm sure they don't make mistakes on purpose





2024

Monday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Barbara Daly & Pam Burns
- 2 Richard Hooper & Mark Thomson

Handicap

- 1 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones
- 2 Barbara Daly & Pam Burns

Tuesday Afternoon Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Kim Thompson & Richard Fletcher
- 2 Duncan White & Judith Brooks

Handicap

- 1 Ken Couper & Kevin Brown
- 2 Duncan White & Judith Brooks

Tuesday Evening Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde
- 2 Don Macpherson & Irene Stewart

Handicap

- 1 Jo Millington & Mike Everard
- 2 Bill Barwood & Jiwan Dhaliwal

Thursday Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Karen Harris & Cherie Barton
- 2 Kim Thompson & Karen Thomson

Handicap

- 1 Jo Millington & Mike Everard
- 2 Kim Thompson & Karen Thomson

Friday Richmond Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Olive Davis & Mary Ronke
- 2 Lucie Armstrong & Richard Fletcher

Handicap

- 1 Ken Couper & Kevin Brown
- 2 Olive Davis & Mary Ronke

Friday O'Neill Finale Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner
- 2 Colleen White & Cherie Barton

Handicap

- 1 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner
- 2 Colleen White & Cherie Barton

2025

Monday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Pam Burns & Olive Davis
- 2 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper

Tuesday Day Opening Pairs

Scratch

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

Tuesday Evening Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Bill Barwood & Jiwan Dhaliwal
- 2 Lou Roughton & Mary Cave-Palmer

Thursday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper
- 2 Pam Burns & Adele Schofield

Friday Richmond Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Barbara Daly & Phil Thompson
- 2 Linda Lin & Cynthia Clayton

Friday O'Neill Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner
- 2 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies

Handicap

- 1 Pam Burns & Olive Davis
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Helen Rinaldi

Handicap

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

Handicap

- 1 Lou Roughton & Mary Cave-Palmer
- 2 Ken Couper & Nigel Judson

Handicap

- 1 Pam Burns & Adele Schofield
- 2 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper

Handicap

- 1 Barbara Daly & Phil Thompson
- 2 Richard Wagstaff & Mark Beavan

Handicap

- 1 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner
- 2 Rodney Tarrant & Lois Follas