

The banner features a photograph of a white building with a dark roof and a central tower, surrounded by greenery. A large blue cone-shaped graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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From the President

November 2017

Since the National Congress and the Labour Weekend Congress have both just finished it means that we are coming to the end of our playing year.

As in all of our tournaments and in the National tournaments this year we have had excellent representation from our club. I think this is a positive trend as more members are playing in tournaments. We have also achieved greater success in these tournaments.

I want to thank all those who helped run the tournaments, especially Ella Gray, because without help from club members these tournaments would not be successful. I gauge the success of a club by the volunteer contributions, without which we could not function. I am happy to acknowledge that many members have participated in the organisation of these events and I thank you for your continued support.

The AGM is on November 26 followed by bridge and then a Christmas themed dinner. I hope you are able to attend this event.

Happy Bridging

Nigel Gresson

Club Captains Chatter

Wow hasn't the year gone fast...the Club has run very successful tournaments and sessions this year and our Novice mini tournament during the Labour Weekend Congress was well received.

Thank you to Nigel and his committee, all directors, our tutors and other sub committees - fantastic effort, well done.

As we wind down for the Year, people will be looking to fill their books for 2018 - perhaps I can encourage you to reach out a little further and foster 1 or 2 new partnerships and look at playing on Wednesday nights a couple of times during the year.

I would really like to see Wednesday nights increase their table numbers; we can only do that if our members commit a month or two to these sessions. Our seniors support the Club in so many ways, it's time to return something back by lifting the player count on Wednesday nights.

Yes, the level is stronger though plenty of Intermediates and Juniors play in Restricted tournaments, Seniors boost Thursday night sessions with Restricted Teams and Monday nights, day and Summer sessions are always handicapped resulting in everyone experiencing playing at a more competitive level - this can only improve your play and what better way to do so, in your own Club environment?

If you want to give it a go, I will be only too happy to put aside some slots for you - let's make **2018** the year to *spice up* your Bridge play and *live* a little more **dangerously**.

Now for the quarterly chatter ...

Discards and signals

Don't you wish you knew what was in partner's hand, so you could make it difficult for the opposition to make their contracts?

When you pair up with a new partner, always ask what leads, signals and discards you are playing.

It certainly helps to know what they like and what they don't like. There are many systems out there to show each other your preferred suit; here is an example you may like to think about:

Suit Preference Signals - source - Defence Tricks by Hy Lavinthal

The concept and the principle of such suit preference signals began to be employed as early as 1933.

The principle of the suit preference method is that the player excludes the suit discarded and also the suit of the card played.

The rank of the suit preference card informs the partner which of the other two remaining suits is preferred - high card - the higher ranking of the two remaining suits and a low card - the lower ranking of the two remaining suits.

Here's an example:

North - South are playing 3NT with South as declarer.

West leads the ♣ Jack, and the first trick is won in the dummy with the ♣ Queen. East has no clubs, so discards the ♦ 3. This is a low card in the Diamond suit, meaning West should lead the lower of the two other suits, which is Hearts. Spades would be the higher suit.

The next time West wins a trick, following the principle of suit preference signals, West leads a Heart allowing the contract to be defeated via the Lavinthal Signal Method.

Without this suit preference signal the defenders would have to guess which Major suit to play.

Grab a book and find out something new - there are plenty of resources in the Club Library to rev up your game.

Oh, and one last piece of advice, your partner needs to read the book as well so together you can discuss, learn and develop what system works best for you both.

Defeat that contract!

Mereana Cullen

Club Captain

Members' News

Phone number changes / additions

Sue Aitken	856 1133
Dinah Armstrong	855 6922
Karen Berry	027 919 8821
Mike Everard	022 652 7457
Lucy Harper	929 3767
Ray Hancox	849 4136
Pam Hewitt	855 4156
Shaun Hewitt	021 0869 3118
Keith Jamieson	027 737 4121
Barbara Laird	560 4256
Mace Lee	560 4256
Jane Lee-Smith	839 3502
Jo Millington	022 652 7457
Mary O'Donnell	021 295 5951
Ruth Walden	855 2155

Table Money Increase

Table money will go up to \$4 a night starting 1 December 2017. Nobody likes an increase, but it has become necessary due to the amount of maintenance needed on the club's ageing building.



Update your phone number for 2018

Producing the 2018 programme book is now underway and a list of all members' details is on a table in the club rooms. Please take the time to check your contact number and correct or add the details. We are trialling a change in the listing of members' names where the new book will have members' names listed in alphabetical order of first name. We hope this will make it easier to find the person you want to ring!

Monday Night Start Time 2018

A survey of Monday night players showed almost 100% enjoyed the earlier start time of 7pm over winter with about 70% asking for the same start time for the whole year. After considering these results, the committee has decided that for 2018 bridge on Monday night will start at 7pm for the whole year.



Books Wanted!

Looking for some reading material for the holidays? The book table in the Richmond Room has books (mostly fiction) available for members to take in exchange for a gold coin. The avid readers in the club would like a change in the selection of books, so have a look through your collection at home and bring along any books that you are happy to donate to the club.

TWITs results

What is a TWIT? Those who have been taking part know that it is a player in the very first 'The Waikato Interclub Teams' competition. From March to September this year teams have been converging at the clubrooms on the 4th Friday of each month to play team bridge, meet people from other clubs, and enjoy wine and cheese in the break between sessions. Although it is mainly a social event intended to improve players' knowledge and ability at playing teams, there have to be winners and Hamilton teams had some great results.



Placings in the top 3 were achieved by these Hamilton teams:

Open section: Blairwitch 1st

Intermediate section: Hamilton Mosaic 1st and Int-Agers 2nd

Junior section: Bright Sparks 2nd and Hamilton Blend 3rd

This was a very enjoyable competition which is intended to be repeated in the coming year. Keep an eye out for next year's event and be ready to organise a team or take part as a regular member or a substitute.

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

New Zealand Wide Pairs

Friday 3 November

Melbourne Cup Afternoon

Tuesday 7 November

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Open and All Grades Tournaments:

Thames Xmas Party

Thames

Sunday 12 November

National Teams (2 days)

Tauranga

Saturday 18 November

Te Awamutu Xmas Party

Te Awamutu

Saturday 18 November

Waikato Xmas Party

Waikato

Saturday 25 November

Rotorua Xmas Party

Rotorua

Saturday 2 December

Huntly Xmas Party

Huntly

Sunday 10 December

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER

Starts 2pm

Followed by Bridge and

Christmas Dinner

\$10 per person



Committee nominations and any notices of business are required in writing with the Club Secretary by Sunday, 19 November 2017

2016 Trophy winners, please return trophies to the Club as soon as possible for cleaning



SUMMER BRIDGE

Note the dates for some Tuesday nights in the current (2017) bridge book are wrong - see below for the correct dates.

Hamilton club runs Summer Bridge 3 times a week (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) in the months of December and January except for the Christmas and New Year holiday weeks.

Summer Bridge is open to ALL grades and ALL players (members of all bridge clubs). On Thursday nights and Friday mornings you will need to have organised your own partner, but on Tuesday nights you can just turn up and the Club will find you a partner on the night - please be there before 7.15 if you need a partner. Table money of \$4 applies. Summer Bridge is stand-alone scratch, with NS and EW winners each night given a voucher for a free session of bridge at Hamilton.

2017 Summer Bridge:

Tuesdays at 7:00pm - November 28, December 5, 12 (no partner required)

Thursdays at 7:30pm - November 30, December 7, 14 (partner required)

Fridays at 10:00am - December 1, 8, 15 (partner required)

2018 Summer Bridge:

Tuesdays at 7:00pm - January 9, 16, 23 (no partner required)

Thursdays at 7:30pm - January 11, 18, 25 (partner required)

Fridays at 10:00am - January 12, 19, 26 (partner required)

(The Waikato Bridge Club runs summer bridge on Monday nights if the above dates and times don't suit)

Recent events at our club

Waikato/Bays Regional Pairs and Hamilton Junior Pairs **- Saturday 9 September**

The regional pairs was a very popular and highly contested tournament, with a record 46 pairs of Open players including current Grandmasters and former New Zealand representatives. The play was a Swiss pairs format with pairs playing a total 72 boards in 9 rounds of 8 boards at a time, moving up and down the "pecking order" according to each result. After more than 7 solid hours of high-class bridge play, the winning pairs were found. Hamilton players did extremely well coming in 3rd, 4th and 8th place in the top 10.

A wet Saturday was forecast and so it turned out to be but 32 pairs of Junior players in their own tournament kept warm and dry within the club rooms. Hamilton players achieved good results finishing 3rd, 5th, 8th and 10th in the top 10.

Well done to all pairs who took part in the tournaments.

Many thanks to all those members who helped out on the very successful day, especially Ella Gray for organising and scoring, Joyce Catchpole for directing the Junior tournament, Nigel Gresson for overseeing the playing rooms and Cathy Nolen for dealing so many sets of boards. Thanks also to all those other members who willingly gave up their time to help with the kitchen, setting up and sorting out the club rooms and in other ways.

Waikato Area Pairs final result

The "WAPs" is a 5A tournament with each of its six sessions held in a different club around the Waikato. On Sunday 20th August the last round was held at Morrinsville, where as usual for the final the bridge was followed by pizzas and wine. Congratulations to these top finishers from our club:

1st Kevin Whyte and Clare Coles

3rd Diane Emms and Jane Stearns

5th Richard Fletcher & Lucie Armstrong

Hamilton Congress Pairs - Saturday 21 October
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs - Saturday 21 October
Waikato Bays Provincial Teams - Sunday 22 October
Waikato Bays Consolation Pairs - Sunday 23 October

The Labour Weekend holiday meant a busy long weekend of bridge at the annual Hamilton Congress with the four events listed above all being held over consecutive days.

Sponsorship of the Congress weekend events by Te Rapa New World meant more prizes on offer as well as a delicious range of food much appreciated by all players.



Many thanks especially to Ella who not only organised the weekend but also was in charge of the kitchen arrangements and to Cathy for dealing the great many boards needed for such an event. Thanks also to all the other helpers whether in the kitchen, setting up the venue, or just generally helping to make the event so successful.

Once again, the club hosted a very successful tournament, with a number of our members featuring in the prize list.



Tournament Success by our Club Members



Waikato Area Pairs 6 20 August Morrinsville
1st Richard Fletcher & Lucie Armstrong
2nd Michael Neels & Eunice Eccles
3rd Malcolm Smith & Alan Parkes

Waikato/Bays Interclub Teams 27 August Cambridge
2nd Open Liz Fisher, Alan Parkes, Jenny Millington, Barry Jones

Waikato/Bays Regional Pairs 9 September Hamilton
3rd Barry Jones & Jenny Millington

Hamilton Junior Pairs 9 September Hamilton
3rd Megan Jolly & Graeme Hope

Matamata Intermediate Pairs 17 September Matamata
3rd Phil Thompson & Nigel Gresson

Te Puke All Grades Pairs 14 October Te Puke
1st Liz & Blair Fisher
3rd Yuzhong Chen & Gary Foidl

Te Awamutu Junior Pairs 15 October Te Awamutu
2nd Karen Harper & Maggie Fisher

Hamilton Intermediate Pairs 21 October Hamilton
2nd Don McPherson & Donna Prentice
3rd Jenny Seavill & Mereana Cullen

Hamilton Congress Pairs 21 October Hamilton
2nd Barry Jones & Jenny Millington

Waikato/Bays Provincial Teams 23 October Hamilton
3rd Jenny Millington, Barry Jones & teammates

Waikato/Bays Consolation Pairs 23 October Hamilton
1st Brett Glass & Gary Foidl

Hamilton Results at NZ Bridge Congress

Why would 665 bridge players converge on Hamilton at the beginning of October? They all wanted to take part in the NZ Bridge Congress held at the Distinction Hotel in Te Rapa. The following Hamilton club members scored in the top 10 in their events (top 5 for Novices), an impressive result given the very high calibre of NZ and international competitors:

Novice Pairs: Graham Hope & Megan Jolly 2nd, Deane & Brenda Hogg 5th

NZ Open Restricted Pairs: Diane Emms & Jane Stearns 7th

Congress Pairs: Karen Harris & Liz Fisher 8th

Back to the Future Teams: Yuzhong Chen & Teammates 3rd

Richard Fletcher & Teammates 8th

Same Sex Pairs: Alan Parkes & Graham Stern 6th

Point a Board Teams: Yuzhong Chen & Teammates 4th equal

Brett Glass & Teammates 10th equal

NZ Seniors Teams: Ian Clayton & Teammates 8th

Tim & Helen Healy & Teammates 9th

Open Swiss Pairs: Liz & Blair Fisher 8th

And last but very much not least, special congratulations to Barry Jones and Jenny Millington who were half of the team that came 3rd equal in the New Zealand Teams event. This is the premier Teams event in New Zealand each year and is a wonderful result. In the same event Diane Emms and Jane Stearns with their teammates (Jena Robinson and Ed Roggeveen who many members will also know) achieved the best result for a team with less than 250 average A points.



Club Results

Friday Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Liz Fisher & Blair Fisher
- 2 Malcolm Smith & Michael Neels

Handicap

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Michael Neels
- 2 Robert Rowe & Mary Fear

Clayton-Greene Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Allison Smith & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Malcolm Smith & Lucie Armstrong

Handicap

- 1 Kay Dixon & Graeme Hope
- 2 Melva Johnstone & Mary Fear

Monday Pairs D

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Ian Clayton
- 2 Karen Thomson & Cathy Nolen

Handicap

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Ian Clayton
- 2 Verna Beech & Margaret Boyd

Tuesday Evening Winter Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Graeme Hope & Megan Jolly
- 2 Heidi Eschmann & Maria Lelieveld

Handicap

- 1 Graeme Hope & Megan Jolly
- 2 Heidi Eschmann & Maria Lelieveld

Hamilton Open 5A Swiss Pairs

- 1 Michael Neels & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Olive Davis & Mary Ronke

Thursday Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Zheng Zhang & Ella Gray
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Trini Lin

Handicap

- 1 Karen Harper & Carissa Oliver
- 2 Wendy Mortimer & Margaret Boyd

Peggy Perry Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Malcolm Smith & Judith Brooks
- 2 Shirley Fransham & Terry Wells

Allen Family Trophy Individuals

Scratch

- 1 Brenda Hogg
- 2 Liz Kelly

Thursday Swiss Pairs

- 1 Pam Burns & Val West
- 2 Kevin McCarthy & Judith Brooks

Weymouth Trophy Championship

Scratch

- 1 Liz Fisher & Blair Fisher
- 2 Wendy Mortimer & Trini Lin

Monday Championship Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Melinda Wang

Tuesday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Megan Jolly & Graeme Hope
- 2 Bob Treloar & Judy Coulshed

Hamilton Bridge Championship

Scratch

- 1 Brett Glass & Gary Foidl
- 2 Lindsay Reid & Yuzhong Chen

Handicap

- 1 Shirley Fransham & Terry Wells
- 2 Trini Lin & Angela Lovell

Handicap

- 1 Liz Kelly
- 2 Brenda Hogg

Handicap

- 1 Wendy Mortimer & Trini Lin
- 2 Sue Collinge & Jane Weir

Handicap

- 1 Phil Thompson & Lois Jones
- 2 Anne McCarthy & Merle Jonson

Handicap

- 1 Megan Jolly & Graeme Hope
- 2 Nolene Vail & Heather Crosbie

Handicap

- 1 Brett Glass & Gary Foidl
- 2 Lindsay Reid & Yuzhong Chen

Thursday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Richard Wagstaff & Barry Jones
- 2 Anne McCarthy & Margaret Boyd

Handicap

- 1 Richard Wagstaff & Barry Jones
- 2 Anne McCarthy & Margaret Boyd

Friday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Blair Fisher & Lindsay Reid
- 2 Joan Egger & Joyce Catchpole

Handicap

- 1 Jane Sandelin & Michael Scott
- 2 Nolene Vail & John Paterson

Tuesday Evening Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Eddie Tan & Mark Hodges
- 2 Brenda Hogg & Deane Hogg

Handicap

- 1 Brenda Hogg & Deane Hogg
- 2 Janice Wilton & Megan Jolly

Monday Spring Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson & Jeffrey Chang
- 2 Peter Kington & Sonya Roberts

Handicap

- 1 Mark Thomson & Jeffrey Chang
- 2 Peter Kington & Sonya Roberts

Galbraith Trophy

Scratch

- 1 June Rogers & Judith Brooks
- 2 Colleen De Luen & John Paterson

Handicap

- 1 June Rogers & Judith Brooks
- 2 Mary Fear & Melva Johnstone

Friday Pairs B

Scratch

- 1 Blair Fisher & Liz Fisher
- 2 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith

Handicap

- 1 June Rogers & Heather Crosbie
- 2 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith



From Lindsay's File

Double Simple Coup

North

♠ 7 2
♥ Q J 6
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ Q 10 5 3

West

♠ 8
♥ 4 3
♦ J 10 9 4 3
♣ K J 7 6 4

East

♠ J 6 5 3
♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ K 7
♣ 9 8 2

South

♠ A K Q 10 9 4
♥ A K 7 5
♦ A 5
♣ A


How can South make 6 Spades with J diamonds lead from West?

When trumps break badly, it is possible at times to pick up defenders' winners by means of a reduction play. After the bad break was discovered on the second round of trumps, declarer needed a trump coup, along with being lucky enough to discover the side suits favourably distributed.

The answer will be in the next newsletter (February 2018) or if you don't want to wait that long it will be on the Results noticeboard at the bridge club soon!

ANSWER TO LAST NEWSLETTER'S POSER

Perfect Squeeze

	♠ 7 6 3	
	♥ A K Q 7 4	
	♦ 5 2	
	♣ 7 3 2	
♠ K 10 8 4 2		♠ J 9
♥ 8 3		♥ J 10 9 5 2
♦ J 8 4		♦ K 10 9
♣ K 8 4		♣ A 9 6
	♠ A Q 5	
	♥ 6	
	♦ A Q 7 6 3	
	♣ Q J 10 5	

3 NT BY SOUTH

How can South make 3 No Trumps with 4 spades lead from West?

West led the 4 of spades against South's game effort (in both senses of the phrase!). When East played the Jack, declarer had to win with the Queen. Otherwise a spade continuation from East would be disastrous.

Declarer could not afford to use the only entry to dummy at the second trick. Instead a small diamond was led from hand, which East won with the nine. It would not help the defenders at this stage to make their club winners.

The time had come to venture at this stage, and East found the best return - another spade. Declarer won with the Ace.

At the fourth trick South crossed to the dummy with the Queen of hearts, then played the Ace and King of hearts, discarding a small spade and club.

Dummy's remaining diamond was led at the seventh trick and the Queen was successfully finessed.

The Ace of diamonds dropped the opponents' remaining two diamonds together. This left declarer with two winning diamonds, sufficient to ensure game.

No doubt the result was lucky, but declarer did play faultlessly. The defence had no chance of beating the contract as the cards lay and were played, but any slip on South's part would have made defeat a very elementary process.