



Hutt Bridge Club Newsletter July 2020

President's Column:

Dear Members

It's been a big month - well definitely for me anyway. We were able to resume playing bridge a month ago after the country moved to COVID-19 Level 1 and, at the end of the first week of being back, we were finally able to hold our AGM on Sunday 21 June.

The new committee is listed below. We are very fortunate to retain much continuity in this group, in particular having Raewyn Dowman as Immediate Past President and Steve Graves as Treasurer. Loek Strik brings some new blood and energy and we have already benefitted from his technical expertise after he was co-opted to join us in March. We will miss Jill Marsden who has been a long serving committee member, but we are lucky she will remain as the Interclub Liaison Officer for the club and will also continue in her role of providing pastoral and welfare care to members. As for me, it is a pleasure and privilege to be your new President and I hope we can all continue to work together to keep our club being a great place to come together to play the game we all love.

The AGM was preceded by a very pleasant afternoon of bridge and was then well attended with 50 members being present. We appreciated the delicious catering from our generous sponsor, Bob Scott Retirement Village, to accompany the drinks afterwards.

It was lovely to get together in this special way and it was a very informative and pleasant meeting. We learnt that generous donations from many of you along with the wage subsidy has meant that the club has comfortably survived the long three months we were closed for bridge.

Many of us are now enjoying getting back to bridge. Table numbers are slowly returning to normal levels and we continue to try very hard to do our bit to keep you as safe as possible. This includes enhanced cleaning regimes and extra protocols around bridge equipment, dealing etc. Our often-repeated requirements around player health and personal hygiene practices will remain in place permanently.

We wish to reduce further the amount of cash being handled by the Directors and Megan. Cash is certainly less popular out there! Our bank will no longer allow their staff to handle cash deposits so this has made the actual banking of it more complex and time consuming for Megan who now has to queue then feed it all into a special machine inside the banking

chamber. If you have not yet changed over to paying by direct debit and are prepared to do so, it would be a great help if you could. Megan can help you with the paperwork and any queries. Another idea is to buy the prepaid tickets from her using a cheque or online banking.

During lockdown, NZ Bridge was able to finish and produce a new manual which the club recently received. Full of useful information, we plan to use it as a source to update policies and procedures at club level and to help us try to deal with those thorny old issues around slow play and the occasional inappropriate behaviour. I wish to draw your attention straight away to the way appeals are handled. Our 2020 Club Programme booklet describes this on page 2. Should meeting this timeframe not be possible, then the proper course of action is to lodge your query/ appeal with our Club Manager at the first possible opportunity and it will be handled from there. We have recently appointed Nebojsa Djorovic to be the club's 'Appeals' Director and it is he who will consider an appeal on our behalf, taking advice from more senior directors if necessary.

The lessons have got off to a good start with 27 people attending. We are hosting Interclub when it starts this Friday and we are preparing for our Intermediate tournament on Sunday 9 August. Please enter to play (if eligible) or consider helping on the day. And arrangements have been made to replace the fence!

Meanwhile, happy bridging while staying safe, well and warm!

JILL HERMAN

2020-2021 Hutt Bridge Club Committee:

President: Jill Herman

Vice-President: Vacant

Immediate Past President: Raewyn Dowman

Treasurer: Steve Graves

Committee: Madeleine Askew

Committee: Joan Finley

Committee: Loek Strik

Committee: Kathryn Badcock

Welcome to new members:

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Robin Aitken

James Fulton

Bridge Successes:

Sunday 21 June: A lovely afternoon was had at the pre-AGM social bridge session. Congratulations to Vil Gravis and Lynne Bruce for achieving the top North/South result and Candice Ng and Megan Turner for coming top East/West.

Congratulations to the following members who have been awarded rank changes by NZBridge:

Geoff Sparrow – Certificate of Proficiency

Meryllyn McLaughlin – Club Master

Joan Norman – Club Master

Raewyn Dowman – Club Master

Candice Ng – Local Master (1 star)

Tom Plackic – Local Master (1 star)

Lorna Goldingham – Local Master (3 stars)

Simon Webber – Local Master (3 stars)

Congratulations to our June series winners

Monday:

Derwent Lee Pairs

Trish McWatters & John Ansell

Tuesday:

Tuesday Swiss Pairs

Lynne Bruce & Robin Hill

Wednesday:

Bob Scott Retirement Village Pairs

Paul Holder & Peter Hawkes

Thursday:

Petone Pairs

Elaine Richardson & Jeffrey

Craanen

Friday:

Huia Pairs

Mary Rundle & Trish McWatters

Raffle



From next week you will see on display in the playing room these gorgeous little people. Made by Stella Edwards they are to be raffled as one group. Raffle tickets cost one for \$2 or three for \$5.

Upcoming tournaments:

Wellington Restricted Open Pairs	26 July 2020
Wellington Open Pairs	26 July 2020
Kapi Mana Intermediate / Junior Pairs	26 July 2020
Waikanae Multigrade Pairs	2 August 2020
Hutt Intermediate Pairs	9 August 2020
Upper Hutt Multigrade Pairs	16 August 2020
Otaki Intermediate / Junior Pairs	23 August 2020
Karori Open Pairs	23 August 2020

Monthly Member Profile:



Catherine Chapman

My father taught me to play cribbage when I was about six. In those days we travelled by tram in Wellington and our tickets had a number e.g. A98 753. He would ask me to work out what it was as a crib score – i.e. fifteen 2, fifteen 4, fifteen 6 and 3 for a run makes 9. (The ace is low.)

Those of us who learnt games as children are very fortunate, being set up for enjoyment throughout our lives.



My life was also influenced by my father's job. He was a bank officer so we moved often. To turn down a promotion would guarantee there'd never be another. Consequently I went to three primary schools, one intermediate and three secondary schools. The last move, as a "new girl" into the sixth form at Wellington Girls College was the end for me. I couldn't get away fast enough!

I left school a "loner" and now bitterly regret not going to university. Instead I trained as a school dental nurse. That had its challenges, working in remote towns in the King Country. I married young and had to leave my job ("they" didn't allow married dental nurses) but I worked for a local dentist until my bank officer husband was moved to Auckland. (He was with a different bank, but they treated their staff the same way!) Then came the babies – missed out on three-under-three by two days!

Again we moved a lot, but gained interesting experiences especially in the dramatic and operatic societies in small towns. The marriage did not survive, and in Taupo, needing a job to support my children, I joined the local radio station, interviewing and announcing. Broadcasting expanded my experience into news and current affairs and took our little family to New Plymouth and Napier.

Then it was to Wellington for six years with the Forest Service and eight with the Fire Service doing media management and internal communications. Restructuring hit many in the 90s so

I took the pay-out and bought a children's wear shop in Karori Mall – an experience which drove me broke, but kept my little grandson very well dressed! Fortunately I was rescued by a job with the Securities Commission, the forerunner of today's Financial Markets Authority.

Retiring some eight years later my energy (any left over from bridge) goes into the Citizens Advice Bureau and more recently U3A Hutt Valley.

I first learnt contract bridge in the 1960s playing the Culbertson and Goren systems, and we also played at home. On joining Hutt Bridge Club around 1990 it was a step up to learn ACOL at excellent classes run by Joyce Bennet.

Now I help at Hutt Bridge Club's learners' classes, relishing the opportunity to enable people to "invest" in an enjoyable pastime that will last into their retirement and old age.

Vil's Corner:

Firstly, an apology. The previous "Finesse" included the wrong "Vil's.Corner" article. Half of it should not have been there! That was entirely my fault.

Last month's opening lead poser came from a booklet that was a work in progress at the time. The booklet is now available from me, A.J. or Megan at the office, for \$10.

I have also been covering the topic in my "X-Files" before resumption of the X-Files when play at the "X-Clubs" resumes. Here is the first one:

X-Files 60

While we are waiting for play to resume in "X-Clubs", I have decided to resume the "X-Files" anyway. That is because my booklet on "Twos and No Trumps" has been printed and is now available to interested players. The "X-Files" will continue and discuss deals that feature the "Twos and No Trumps" themes. To get the most benefit from the following "X-Files" I suggest that all readers should also have a booklet that they can read fully, make notes from, and discuss with a partner.

But let's have a look at this week's deal, from a recent on line session:

Dealer E NS Vul	♠ Q109763	
	♥ 2	
	♦ AQ108	
	♣ Q6	
♠		♠ AJ4
♥ 1098764		♥ KQ
♦ J7632		♦ 105
♣ 83		♣ KJ9752
	♠ K852	
	♥ AJ53	
	♦ K9	
	♣ A104	

East opens 1C and South overcalls 1NT. I think most of us would agree with that bid, though some might prefer to double. I believe that a 1NT bid is more meaningful and flexible than a double, which is, in anticipation, most likely to elicit a response in diamonds, and what then? As it happens, a double would result in an immediate 4S bid by North, and there would be nothing further to talk about. But when South overcalls 1NT, there IS a lot to talk about!

We will talk about that next time, but until then, think about how things might turn out after South overcalls 1NT.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for future X-Files, just email me at villyn@xtra.co.nz

Finally, here is a reproduction of part of the booklet. If you find this excerpt helpful, you should read "Twos and No Trumps" in its entirety.

Chapter 9: Why transfers?

The first thing that I stress is that you never transfer to a suit of fewer than FIVE cards. If you want to bid four card suits, you can use Stayman. Yes, you can bid four card suits, but only when they are your SECOND suit, or even your THIRD suit in extreme circumstances (i.e. your hand is 5440 shape). The second important thing about transfers is that you can bid a weak hand by asking partner to bid your long suit, and only if your partner has a very big supporting hand (within the given limits) should your partner choose to bid anything other than your suit at the lowest level.

By using transfers you can also bid TWO suits 'for the price of one' For example, partner opens 1NT, you transfer to 2H with a bid of 2D, and when partner does as told, you then bid 2S. Without transfers, you would not have been able to show both suits without bidding the second suit at the THREE level, if at all. But here you are, having bid both hearts and spades, and still at the the two level. Of course, you must have a hand that justifies that bidding, and that would have to be one with five hearts and four spades and at least 10 HCP, but you can see the efficiency of such bidding. **Booklets on "Twos and No Trumps" are available from Vil, A.J. or the club's office, just \$10 a booklet.**

Hutt Bridge Club is proudly sponsored by:



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Hutt Bridge Club

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Happy Bridging!