

FINESSE

HUTT BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Dates for your diary

Sunday 18 May

Hutt Open Swiss pairs/Junior
Tournament (Subsidised for Juniors)

Monday 2 June

King's Birthday Event

Monday 9 June

Beginners Lessons begin

Friday 20 June

Matariki Day Event



Play Bridge in a welcoming and supportive environment.

News from the Committee by President Lesley Haines

Kia ora anō (hello again),
Welcome to our May Finesse. I hope you have all been enjoying our recent Indian summer days, though I fear they are coming to an end.

I was very pleased that over 50 people came to our 2025 AGM on the last Sunday in March. A big highlight of the AGM was the award of Life Membership to Jill Herman, who has done many important leadership roles for the club and is now part of the Wellington Regional Committee. Jill, your life membership award is very well deserved - thank you Jill on behalf of all of us. We are very pleased to profile you further on in this Finesse. We also acknowledged Steve Graves for being our Treasurer for the past seven years. Thank you Steve. We are hoping that you will be joining Kathy and the rest of us around the bridge table when you have a little more time.

We are almost there with our new constitution. Some amendments were agreed at the AGM and, suitably amended, it will be submitted to the Companies Office for their consideration shortly.

Our 2025 Committee bears a close resemblance to last year's with two changes – James Fulton has stepped into the Treasurer role, and Doug O'Halloran is now the Vice President. Madeleine Askew remains on the Committee after several years as Vice President – thank you for your continued support for the Club Madeleine.

I took a break from bridge in April and, together with my husband Rick, we cycled a big loop in Northland, The Heart of the Octopus. We rode mostly on backcountry gravel roads, also an old coach road, a coastal walkway, a dedicated cycle track on an old railway line, and even some tar seal, and caught three ferries and one train to boot. The trip would have been even greater if we'd had a bit less rain!

And so back to bridge! I've been very happy to see many Club members playing tournaments, with quite a bit of success! Congratulations to all prepared to face the region's best! And I'm looking forward to being a buddy from next week for our first group of learners – a bumper crop of 30 expected to graduate in May.

My main job as President this year is to find the Club's next President. If you have any ideas about who I might approach please let me know, and I can have a chat about what is involved.

Ma te wa

Lesley



Movements

Around the Tables

Two more months of intense but social competition with more members joining in each session. Two of our newer, but very experienced players, Christine Chowchuvech & Tani Blackburn took out the Tuesday March Series.

We are looking forward to welcoming our 30 new players and are excited to see their contributions when they finish the beginner lessons.

Anzac Day Event

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou. We will remember them.



Our Anzac Day event started with a musical recognition of Ta Bom Gillies the last of the WW2 28th (Maori) Battalion. Lesley talked a little about her own family experience and the horrors of war, then AJ recited the “Ode of Remembrance” from the poem “For the Fallen” by Laurence Binyon

12 tables of us played bridge. The top North/South were Lyn Bruce & Vil Gravis and the top East/West were Jeffry Craanen & Diedre Stallinger. Sharon Kopschaninow & Madeline Askew and Jill Marsden & Jennifer Bodinetz were the respective runners up. The rest of us had a great time

**Vil Gravis is running a teams play learning discussion.
10 May 10:00am to about 12:30**

If you are new to interclub, or are looking for a refresher, this session will be useful to help you understand better play bidding and defence tactics. Let Ruth know if you are interested in coming to this discussion.

Tournaments around the region

At most of the tournaments around the region, we have had members of our club playing. This is an intensive session of bridge where you can develop both your bridge play and partnership bidding. A lot of our members play these tournaments and are ready to step up a grade to test themselves against good opposition. We don't all have the success of Jeffry and AJ but still enjoy the experience.

We have a **Hutt Tournament coming up on Sunday 18th May** and it would be great to have our Novices and Juniors compete in the Junior section and our Intermediates step up to play the Open Swiss Pairs, there will be a prize for top Intermediate pair.

There are many different movements that directors can choose and the chosen movement depends on whether they focus on the greatest number of boards that can be played or the least number of sit outs that are possible, or a combination of both. Usually this will be decided on by the director and sometimes the playing committee as this is dependent on what is considered suitable for the playing members at the session.

So when the movement is not your favourite, let's just leave it to the Director to sort out and concentrate on our side of it,

Playing the hands



Jeffrey Craanen and AJ winning the Wellington Club Intermediate Pairs

Wellington Congress

While at our club we were playing our ANZAC Event some of our other Club members were playing in the Wellington Congress with great success.

Russell Dive an associate member of our club was seventh in the Open Congress Provincial pairs. Bernice Singh and Margaret Carter were 4th on the intermediate Pairs ladder with Neil Sargisson and Jacob Pilalis a bit further down.



In a great win, Stephanie Grummitt and David Haines won the Junior Pairs. (Stephanie did the lessons at the middle of last year)

We also had very good success in the Intermediate teams with Neil Sargisson, Jacob Pilalis, Peter and Dianna Snethlage taking second place and in third place was David Haines, Sam MacDonald, Eleisha Hawkins and Jeffry Craanen. Eleisha and Jeffry had the top pair score in this team competition.



Ian Pronk and David Haines competed very well against the open players in the Swiss pairs winning the top intermediate pair and finishing in the top half of the field of 60 other partnerships.



Wanted : Hutt Bridge Club President

Are you a master of the bridge table, with a knack for diplomacy and a sense of humour that can rival a stand-up comedian? The Hutt Bridge Club is on the hunt for a new President, and we need someone who can lead us to victory (or at least keep us entertained while we try).

Key Responsibilities:

Strategic Planning: Develop cunning plans to outwit opponents and ensure our club's dominance in the local bridge scene.

Conflict Resolution: Mediate disputes over trump suits and questionable bids with the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of a saint.

Event Coordination: Organize bridge tournaments, social events, and the occasional bridge-themed costume party (yes, really).

Public Speaking: Deliver inspiring speeches that make even the most mundane bridge hand sound like an epic tale of adventure.

Qualifications:

Bridge Expertise: Must know the difference between a finesse and a double dummy (and be able to explain it to the rest of us).

Leadership Skills: Ability to herd cats, or in this case, bridge players.

Sense of Humour: Essential for dealing with the inevitable puns and jokes about "bridging the gap."

Patience: Required for teaching new members and dealing with the occasional sore loser.

Perks:

Unlimited Snacks: Because no great bridge game was ever played on an empty stomach.

Bragging Rights: The title of President comes with serious street cred in the bridge community.

Fun Atmosphere: Lead a group of passionate, quirky, and slightly competitive bridge enthusiasts.

Action:

If you think you have what it takes to lead our merry band of card sharks, or have any suggestions regarding next year's President, please pass them on to Lesley or another member of the committee.



AJ's Review sessions on a Saturday morning

Be there at 10:15 for coffee and a 10:30 start. Bring along your bridge problems from the previous few weeks and work through the solutions with AJ or just come along to cover the topic of the day, usually notified in our session notes or on Facebook.

Congratulations to our March and April 2025 series winners.

March

Monday The Three Walkers Pairs

Jill Herman & Candice Ng

Tuesday Swiss Pairs

Christine Chowchuvech & Tani Blackburn

Wednesday Bob Scott Ret. Vill. Pairs

Ken Depczynski & Tjeerd Dolstra

Thursday Raldi Inc Pairs

Eleisha Hawkins & Jeffry Craanen

Friday Huia Pairs

Robin Hill & Elizabeth Parry

April

Monday Stellan pairs

Jill Herman & Candice Ng

Tuesday Eastbourne Pairs

Angela Banks & Madeleine Askew

Wednesday Pharoah Constr. Pairs

Esther Haines & AJ

Thursday Finesse Pairs

Jeffry Craanen & Marian Loader

Friday Penrose Pairs

Lynn Bruce & Nelson Procter

Facebook

Remember to look and follow our Facebook page compiled by Janet Paape. It is full of current and future activity. Hop on, have a look, and click on **follow**.

<https://www.facebook.com/huttbridgeclub/>

Be Nice Section (to ensure that we are a welcoming and supportive Club)

The English Bridge Union has the following suggestions



- Greet others in a friendly manner prior to start of play on each round.
- Be a good "host" or "guest" at the table.
- Make your system card readily available to your opponents and fill it out completely.
- Respond promptly to reasonable and justified enquiries.
- Make bridge enjoyable for yourself, partner & opponents.
 - Give credit when opponents make a good bid or play
 - Take care of your personal grooming.
- Ensure that your mobile phone is turned off.
- Enjoy the company as well as the game.

Remember that it is rude to criticise your partner or opponents in public, to be less than polite at the table, to gloat over good results or object, to a call for the tournament director, or to dispute or argue about a director's ruling, or generally to make any personal and disparaging remark.

Upcoming Tournaments and Events

- 3 May** Wellington Regional Championship trials (Intermediate, Open, Senior and Women)
- 4 May** Kairangi Junior Pairs
- 7 May** Poppy Roberts 5A pairs Prelim 3 Open
- 10 May** Masterton Open Pairs
- 15 May** Kapiti Horowhenua Open Area Pairs **3 (Online)**
- 18 May** [Hutt Junior Pairs](#)
- 18 May** [Hutt Open Swiss Pairs](#)
- 18 May** Paraparaumu Intermediate Pairs
- 25 May** Otaki Multigrade Pairs
- 8 June** Victoria Open Swiss Pairs
- 10 June** Wellington "Pink Ribbon" Fundraiser **(Online)**
- 11 June** Poppy Roberts 5A pairs Prelim 4 Open
- 15 June** Upper Hutt Multigrade Pairs
- 19 June** Kapiti Horowhenua Open Area Pairs **4 (Online)**
- 22 June** Kapi Mana Open Pairs
- 28 June** Wellington Main Regional Teams
- 6 July** Kairangi Intermediate Pairs
- 12 July** Wellington Regional Clubs Teams Play-Off

Member Profile – Jill Herman

Gathering my thoughts to write this piece has been quite a challenge for me. I don't like to talk about myself much (let me know if I've got that wrong!) and, although on the whole it's been a busy, full and happy life, there's not a lot to say without boring even myself.

My association with the Hutt Bridge Club began in 2001 when I attended bridge lessons with my friend, Ren Davies.

It has proved to be by far my longest stint at any hobby or interest. Bridge and the club mean a lot to me. I have been on several committees and worked at nearly every task in the club from cleaning to working in the office to being President during the difficult COVID pandemic years. I have been fortunate to meet and work alongside many wonderful members over the years and the club is in good heart thanks to you all.

I was honoured to have been made a Life Member at the recent AGM. Now to a little amount of non-bridge backfill information about me.

I'm the eldest of 3 girls – no surprise there, I guess. We were born in Hunterville in the Rangitikei where our father was a country vet. We moved to Palmerston North when I was about 10 and Dad took up a job at the then Department of Agriculture. We then moved to Wellington, settling in Lower Hutt, and I finished my secondary school education at Hutt Valley High School. I then went on to complete a BCA degree at Victoria University.

After working as a researcher for a sharebroker and then in the finance industry, I did the OE thing and travelled to London, where I lived and worked as a temp accountant and then later in a pub in Scotland. Of course, I travelled around other parts of the UK and to Europe. And, most importantly, I met my future husband there, Grant (a Kiwi also from Wellington!), in a wine bar in London. Where else!

Returning to NZ, Grant and I flatted in Wellington while saving for our first home which we eventually bought in Lower Hutt. After being the Academic Registrar at Wellington Teachers' College, I ended up working again in the finance industry as Assistant Group Treasurer for Petrocorp – the then state-owned petroleum company – this job involved managing huge loans, particularly the associated foreign exchange risk.

Children eventually came along in the form of twins, much longed for but a big adjustment.

We moved from Waiwhetu to Eastbourne when the twins were two and we have lived there in the same house ever since. My focus outside of part time work was then on settling into a new community mainly through joining things involving children. I was already involved with the Hutt Valley Multiple Birth Association (another Life Membership!) and became active in running local New Mothers Support Groups and Days Bay Playcentre. These groups were the source of great networks and many ongoing friendships.



Involvement in the community changed focus as the children got older. I was a member of the Muritai School Board of Trustees for over five years, and I helped establish and run an after-school care facility at the school and then a youth group. In 2011, I was honoured to receive an Eastbourne Community Board Order of Excellence Award for services to Mothers and Young People. During this time I was doing postgraduate university study, and I worked part-time as an accountant, mostly at Parliament and then for an event management company.

I'm now happily retired in Eastbourne. Our son and family live in Melbourne and our daughter, and her family are in Auckland. We have three grandchildren between the ages of 3 and 6 and we try to see them all as often we can.

I took up bridge after returning in 2000 from the Netherlands where we had lived for a year through Grant's work with Shell. I have loved playing bridge, and it was a great shared interest with my father - but not to be with Grant, though he did try and attended our lessons a couple of years ago. However, Grant has been a great support to me at the club - he has also facilitated a couple of planning workshops and water blasted the carpark!

Outside of family and bridge, I'm a member (along with Lesley Haines) of our local Eastbourne community choir. I'm also in a book group that's been meeting monthly for well over 20 years. I was a member of an art buying group for many years and I've continued this interest with Grant – those of you who have been to our home will know that our art collection now outstrips the wall space.

I'm now on to my third big dog – Nellie is an SPCA rescue dog – and she ensures that I get regular walking exercise along our lovely promenade.

I still love travel and am delighted to be part of "The Old Chooks on Tour" group with Angela Banks, Kathryn Badcock and Jill Marsden from our club. This is such a great example of how bridge and our club has brought many wonderful people and strong friendships into my life. I have already written in Finesse in June last year about our trip to Vietnam and Cambodia. We are now looking forward to going to Japan together later this year. Watch this space!

A Hand Write-Up From Vil Gravis

Had to include this one for anyone who has had the misfortune to partner the editor with his more hopeful bidding. Occasionally, there is a place, especially with some encouragement from partner. (I don't need much) This time the misfortune was for the opposition. - Editor

Vil Gravis writes a regular blog in the X-Clubs website which you can get to from our club website or follow the link below. - A recent board write-up from Vil's X-Clubs Blog

<https://www.compassmate.bridge-centre.org/blog?page=1>

When was the last time you (successfully) bid game with a combined nine count? And when was the last time you (also successfully) sacrificed against a cold slam, also with a combined nine count? Both those things could have happened on the very first board of our deal from X-Clubs on Tuesday 25/2/25.

Board 1 Dealer N Nil Vul

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| ♠ K | | |
| ♥ AJ52 | | |
| ♦ AKQ542 | | |
| ♣ A4 | | |
| ♠ Q763 | | ♠ AJ10982 |
| ♥ 7 | | ♥ 109643 |
| ♦ 7 | | ♦ 10 |
| ♣ Q987652 | | ♣ 3 |
| ♠ 54 | | |
| ♥ KQ8 | | |
| ♦ J9863 | | |
| ♣ KJ10 | | |

North might open 1D (my choice) though some might open a more optimistic 2C. Over 1D East has two choices of bid: a weak jump overcall of 2S or a Michaels cue bid of 2D. Or, I suppose some Easts might even overcall just 1S. All these bids should tell West that the deal is a freak. If North opens 2C, an intrepid East might still bid 2S. All roads should lead to Rome, but it seems that few did, with most NS pairs ending up in a prosaic 5D, making with an overtrick. But where's the fun in that?

I have great admiration for the EW pairs who launched into 4S, some even doubled, and more so for the one or two who tempted fate by sacrificing in 5S when NS bid to 5D. Tempting fate, because that could well result in NS bidding their slam, but hey! If you're prepared to push opponents into a slam then you should be prepared to either defeat it or bid one yourself. Few pairs, even the more advanced, would take the push to a slam having decided to play in 5D, and in fact only a few pairs did bid the slam, and some EW pairs did find the sacrifice and scored over 85%! Sadly, some who did sacrifice in 6S and were doubled were down three. Why down three when Deep Finesse says EW can make ten tricks?

It looks as though a trump lead and trump continuation will result in declarer losing two hearts and two aces, but sadly for some who had the temerity to bid 6S as a sacrifice, their declarer also turned the top into a bottom, that was the difference between -300 and -500! If you sacrifice, you have to have your wits about you when you end up playing the hand!

HURRY-UP
SHOE REPAIRS

aib GROUP
INSURED

RYMAN
HEALTHCARE

GEE & HICKTON
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Serving Wellington families since 1946

NEW WORLD
Hutt City

KEESING McLEOD
LAWYERS

MW-BUILD

Do-It-All Building Services



Our Business Sponsors

Our Sponsors are an important part of the funding and support for our club. Please show your appreciation by considering their goods or services when you make a purchase.

Finesse is a newsletter of the Hutt Bridge Club

Address: 1 Park Ave

Phone: 567 1058

Email: manager@huttbridgeclub.nz

Web: hutt.bridge-club.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/huttbridgeclub/>

Editor: Doug O'Halloran

