

FINESSE

HUTT BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

Dates for your diary

Thursday 29 February

Mix 'n Mingle

Sunday 3 March

Hutt Multigrade Tournament

Friday 22 March

Start of Interclub

Sunday 24 March

AGM at 5:00 pm,
preceded by an afternoon of bridge



Play Bridge in a welcoming and supportive environment.

News from the Committee

by President Lesley Haines

Kia ora tatou

2024 is in full swing with each session well into their second series. There's a full programme ahead with public holiday events through the winter months; our Fun Tournament; a special Play with an Expert Evening, the Hutt Challenge and the Loveblock NZ wide pairs later in the year. Interclub starts soon and our first tournament – Hutt Multigrade – is on Sunday 3 March. Our first set of lessons starts on Monday, February 26.

Behind the scenes, your Committee has finalised our 2023 year-end results, set our budget for 2024 and began preparing for our AGM on Sunday, March 24.

Four members leave the Committee this year – Margaret Carter, Joan Finley, Jill Herman and Ria Janssen. Margaret has done most of the oversight and reporting on our finances over the past three years. Jill has done several years on the Committee including two as President, during the testing times of full on Covid, and two as Past President. Ria and Joan have both been active on the committee for several years, provided lots of help with special events, sorted out the Club's liquor licence and more recently Ria has been doing the Club's supper shopping. Many thanks to each of you on behalf of all of us for your support for the Club over an extended period.

We have some new members lined up to join the Committee. If you haven't been approached and you would be interested in joining the Committee, please give me a call to chat about what is involved on 021 678 443.

I encourage you to come along to our AGM – it's a Sunday afternoon of bridge followed by drinks, nibbles and a brisk AGM. It's your chance to learn a bit more about the club and to make suggestions for our future. I would really like to see some of our newer members playing and joining the AGM that afternoon and I promise you that you will not get your arm twisted into joining the Committee!

Enjoy your bridge!!

Around The Tables

We kicked off the year on Monday 8 January with a small keen group of players. The table numbers have been building since then and now most of our players have started playing this year. Those that haven't we all look forward to seeing you again.

End of Year Celebration and Prize Giving

Of course, we started the prize giving with an enjoyable session of bridge kicking off at 2:30 in the afternoon. The top North-South pair at this session were Lynne Bruce and Vil Gravis with an overall top score of 70%. Madeleine Askew and Jennifer Bodinetz were the top East-West pair. See the prize winners of the "all year" series below.

Congratulations to our January 2024 and December 2023 series winners.

Monday January Pairs
Candice Ng & Simon Grant
Wednesday Ava pairs
Steve Denholm & David Tourell
Thursday Ruff 'n Sluff Pairs
Martyn Dowman & Ren Davies
Friday January Pairs
Candice Ng & Simon Grant
Monday Christmas Pairs
Candice Ng & Trevor Williams
Wednesday Cornwall Pairs
Sam MacDonald & Luke Hamer
Thursday Goren Pairs
Martyn Dowman & Madeleine Askew
Friday Bellevue. Pairs
Ren Davies & John Ansell

Congratulations to our 2023 All Year Series winners.

Monday
Sadie Williams Memorial Pairs
Kevin Bateman & Simon Grant
Tuesday
Shandon Golf Club Pairs
Vil Gravis & Lynne Bruce
Wednesday
Zampelles Café Pairs
Phillip King & John Topp
Thursday
Pairs
Jeffry Cranaan & Madeleine Askew
Friday
Hutt City New World Pairs
Vil Gravis & Lynne Bruce

2024 Lesson Program

Have any of your friends, neighbours or relatives expressed an interest in playing the great game of Bridge. We can handle new players to the game or anyone wanting a refresher or someone just wanting to learn so that they can play with their friends. The first 3 lessons are free to non members, so that you can see what it is about, and all lessons are free to club members wanting a refresher.

Tell all that are interested about our bridge lesson program this year and have them contact

Manager Ruth Brucker to secure a place.

hbcmgr@huttbridgeclub.nz

04 567 1058

Lessons Start
Monday Night
26 February
or 10 June.
Wednesday
afternoon
12 June

Upcoming Tournaments

- 19 February Masterton Open Pairs
- 28 February Poppy Roberts 5A Open pairs Prelim 1 Wellington
- 3 March **Hutt Multigrade Open Pairs**
- 9 March Wellington Intermediate Pairs
- 9 March Wellington Junior Pairs
- 16 March North Island Teams (F2F) Wellington Region
- 17 March Kapi Mana Multigrade Pairs
- 21 March Kapiti Horowhenua Area Open Pairs (1)
- 24 March Kairangi Intermediate Pairs
- 24 March Kairangi Junior Pairs
- 1 April Wellington Regional Mixed Open Pairs
- 3 April Poppy Roberts 5A Open pairs Prelim 2 Wellington
- 7 April South Wairarapa Intermediate Pairs
- 7 April South Wairarapa Junior Pairs
- 10 April Wellington Paul & Nick Lowe & Co Premier Teams 2024 All Grades
- 10 April Paraparaumu Open Pairs
- 14 April Upper Hutt Intermediate Pairs
- 14 April Upper Hutt Junior Pairs
- 18 April Kapiti Horowhenua Area Open Pairs(2)
- 21 April Victoria Multigrade Open Pairs 21
- 27 April Wellington Congress Swiss Pairs Open
- 27 April Wellington Congress Wellington Provincial Pairs Open
- 27 April Wellington Congress Intermediate Teams
- 27 April Wellington Congress Provincial Teams Open
- 27 April Wellington Congress Restricted Open Teams
- 28 April Wellington Congress Intermediate Pairs
- 28 April Wellington Congress Junior Pairs
- 28 April Wellington Congress Novice Pairs
- 28 April Wellington Congress Restricted Open Pairs

Member Profile

Janet Paape

In the bustling streets of Wellington, the fairy godmother of fashion, Janet Paape, gracefully stepped into retirement at the age of 76. Her legacy in the world of fashion retail was not just marked by a trail of devoted customers but by a team that adored her. As the curtains closed on her career, she found herself at the threshold of uncertainty, wondering how this new chapter would unfold.

Retirement, however, didn't mean slowing down for Janet. Oh no, she wasn't about to trade her stylish shoes for slippers just yet. With the enthusiasm of a teenager discovering a newfound freedom, she embraced Pilates as her daily ritual. The once bustling fashion maven now found solace in the rhythmic stretches and controlled movements, transforming her mornings into a symphony of rejuvenation.

Adding a dash of adventure to her routine, Janet took to hill walking in her suburb of Lowry Bay. Armed with headphones and motivational speakers, looking wonderful and wearing stylish runners, she was conquering hills with the spirit of an explorer, proving that age was no match for her zest for life and timing every walk to monitor improvement. Yet, she realised that keeping her body active was only part of the equation; her agile mind, accustomed to the fast-paced world of fashion, needed stimulation.

Enter Juliette Lister, a neighbour with the key to Janet's mental acrobatics – Bridge. Introduced to this card game, Janet was immediately smitten. The intricate dance of strategy and skill captured her heart, providing the mental challenge she craved. However, when someone dared to suggest that becoming proficient in Bridge would take three to four years, it was like throwing down a red rag in front of a bull. Challenge accepted.

Armed with determination and a deck of cards, Janet immersed herself in the world of Bridge. Hours of study and playing online and with each passing day, her proficiency growing at a rate that has pleased her beyond her wildest dreams. The once uncertain retiree was now a bridge fanatic and her husband a bridge widow, proving that age is no barrier to mastering new skills.

Yet, Janet's story doesn't end with personal triumphs. Guided by a principle of giving back, she threw her hat into the ring for the Bridge club's committee. With a wealth of experience, she hoped to contribute her skills and enrich the lives of fellow bridge enthusiasts.

But Janet's social life wasn't confined to the world of cards. She's continued her love of classic and modern sports car groups, attending their social functions with the same grace that she exhibited on the fashion runway. The wheels of her life continued to turn, fuelled by a passion for connection and laughter.

In the grand tapestry of Janet's retirement, every thread is woven with inspiration, resilience, and a touch of humour. Her journey reminds us that retirement isn't the end; it's a vibrant new beginning. So, here's to Janet Paape – the Pilates queen, hill-walking adventurer, bridge maestro to be, and eternal enthusiast – proving that life's adventures don't have an age limit.



Book Review

Points Schmoints **Bergen's Winning Bridge Secrets**

by Marty Bergen

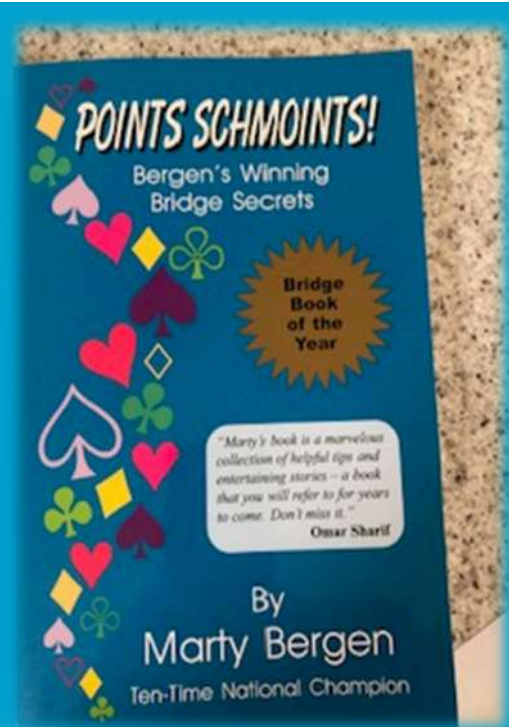
Vil refers to this book in his discussion in the next page, and as we have it in the library, let's have a look at it.

"Points Schmoints" by Marty Bergen is a bridge book that offers tips and insights for improving your bidding and play. The book is divided into 18 chapters, each covering a different topic, such as hand evaluation, opening bids, responses, rebids, competitive bidding, slam bidding, declarer play, and defence. It is written in a clear and conversational style, with many examples, quizzes, and summaries. The book is aimed at intermediate to advanced players who want to learn from one of the most influential and successful bridge authors and players of all time.

The book is considered a classic and a bestseller in the bridge world, and it has won several awards, such as the ABTA Book of the Year and the IBPA Book of the Year. It is praised for its originality, practicality, and humour. The book is also known for introducing some of the author's famous conventions and methods, such as Bergen Raises, DONT, and the Law of Total Tricks. (Some of our club members use Bergen raises when playing with 5 card majors) Other useful advice and wisdom may help you win more points and more games.

"Points Schmoints" is not a comprehensive or systematic guide to bridge, but rather a collection of tips and secrets that can make a difference in your bridge results. The book is not meant to be read from cover to cover, but rather to be browsed and consulted as needed. The book is also not meant to be followed blindly, but rather to be adapted and modified according to your style and preferences. The book is meant to be fun, as well as educational and enlightening.

However, the book is also a treasure trove of bridge wisdom and humour that can enrich your bridge experience and enjoyment. The book is a must-have for any bridge library and a great gift for any bridge lover. At least enjoy it from our library.



Wrote with the help of Microsoft Copilot

Vil's Corner

Here are my thoughts on the posers we looked at in our final Finesse for 2023.

1. Match Points Dealer East all vulnerable

♠

♥ AKQJ107

♦ 8743

♣ A76

You are SOUTH.

East opens 1NT. What do you bid?

Well-known US player and author Marty Bergen's favourite saying is "Points, Schmoints". If you just count your points and come to 14 and your tutor has taught you that you only double a weak 1NT opening if you have at least fifteen or more points, you will probably bid 2H. That is unlikely to get you the best outcome. Consider doubling 1NT. If, in the unlikely case that it is passed out, you can guarantee to defeat it by at least one trick in the worst-case scenario. And if either West or North bids, you can now bid your hearts.

2. Teams Dealer N All Vul

You are South and your hand:

♠ J875

♥ A862

♦ AJ7

♣ AK

The bidding has been:

W	N	E	S
	1C	NB	1H
NB	1NT	NB	?

North's 1NT rebid is 15-16. You have no other agreement with this partner.

What do you bid and why? Let's say you take the simple approach and ask for aces with 4C and then for kings, and when you find partner with one ace and three kings, bid 6NT and watch partner play it. But what if your partner has bypassed a four-card spade suit and chosen to rebid 1NT? Some players might do that, especially if they play 'checkback' and can find the spade fit later, if necessary.



3. You are West and after rebidding 1NT have ended up in 6NT.

♠ AQ62	♠ J875
♥ KQ5	♥ A862
♦ K9	♦ AJ7
♣ Q973	♣ AK

As the reader will realise, this is the same problem as No.2 but now it is West who is playing 6NT. You can't afford to lose a spade if you can help it, so finesse the normal way: lead a spade from dummy and play the queen from hand if South plays low. You must hope that South has a doubleton king. If not, you'll still have some chances to make the slam.

However, if you are West in the better slam, 6S, you can afford one trump loser but not two, and there is a 'safety play' available. Lay down the ace of spades! You don't want to lose the finesse to a singleton king! Which leads us to this month's poser with a session ticket to win, and all you have to do is give one very short answer.

In the above deal you are West and in 6S and you have learnt all about safety plays and you play your ace of spades at trick two.

The question is:

- If North follows with the NINE and South with the THREE of spades, which card do you play next?
- If North follows with the THREE and South with the NINE of spades, which card do you play next?

All those choosing the correct card will be in a draw for a session ticket, and anyone with a good answer as to WHY they would play the card they choose will also be in the draw for a session ticket. Couldn't be easier could it? So give it a go!

In the coming issues of Finesse I will give the readers some basic tips rather than posers, and anyone with any questions are welcome to send them in. A session ticket will be there for the best QUESTION rather than the best ANSWER, so if your question will lead to a helpful tip from me, give it a go!

Our session ticket winner from the previous Finesse was Sam Macdonald. As a regular contributor to our posers, well deserved, Sam.

Pay'n Play – do you want to improve your game by playing a few sessions with a handpicked experienced player?

If so, then Pay N Play could be for you. Madeline Askew has handpicked a bank of experienced players who are willing to play with less experienced players and give them a bit of coaching. The deal is that you pay their table money. If you want to give this a go, please contact our club manager Ruth Brucker.

KEESING M^cLEOD
LAWYERS

aib GROUP
INSURED

RYMAN
HEALTHCARE

Shandon Golf Club

NEW WORLD
Hutt City

PHARAOH
CONSTRUCTION LTD

GEE & HICKTON
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Serving Wellington families since 1946

KIWI
Cafe

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.

A new sponsor on the high street near the bridge club

ZAMPELLES

Do-It-All Building Services

JASON BROWN
PLUMBING & GAS

PAK'nSAVE
OUR POLICY: NZ'S LOWEST FOOD PRICES
LOWER HUTT

BNI



BP 2Go Taita

CAPITAL
ELECTRICAL SERVICES

And for our Fund Raising Raffle

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

Editor: Doug O'Halloran

