

FINESSE

HUTT BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

Dates for your diary

Monday 24 February

lessons began 7:00pm
(open free to all members)

Sunday 2 March

Hutt Multigrade Tournament

Sunday 20 March

AGM 5:00pm preceded by some bridge

Sunday 18 May

Hutt Open Swiss pairs
Hutt Junior Pairs



Play Bridge in a welcoming and supportive environment.

News from the Committee by President Lesley Haines

Kia ora anō (hello again),

Welcome to our February Finesse – the first of 2025!

I hope you have all been enjoying summer days – we have had some even in Wellington! I was lucky enough to walk the Heaphy track in the first week of February -five days in Kahurangi National Park. Highlights were: exploring the caves in the enchanted forest – a goblin forest on the Goulund Downs, with caves and underground waterways; swimming in clear mountain waters, and seeing some of our rarer native birds, including long tailed cuckoos and whio, blue ducks. Very special.

At bridge, 2025 is off to a roaring start, with good table numbers at most sessions. Last Friday night was our Pizza Night for newer members, with 23 in attendance – thanks to all who helped with that.

Saturday the 22nd Feb was afternoon tea for our next group of learners – 24 of them were to start lessons on Monday evening.

And our first tournament – the Hutt Multigrade – Sunday March 2 – is fast approaching. Thanks to those who have offered to help.

The 2025 Wellington Regional Interclub competition kicks off next month. This year our very own Jill Herman is the Regional Convenor. At the time of writing, it looks as though we will have three Restricted Open teams in the competition, four Intermediate Teams, two Junior teams and a Novice team. Great to see so many Hutt teams entering.

In this Finesse, you will see a call for members to consider training as a club director – we lost two of our regular directors last year, so we need to build our ranks. Could YOU be one of our new directors?

In the background, your committee has been beaver away on planning this year's events; continuing to roll out our new brand; finalising our 2025 budget and monitoring our progress against that, and facilitating the 2024 audit, which is underway.

Soon you will receive a copy of our proposed new Constitution, for your comment. We are hoping to have that approved at our upcoming AGM on Sunday, March 28. More about that later.

Ma te wa

Lesley



Around The Tables

The year kicked off with more players at the tables during January and February than recent years, all keen to get back playing bridge. Almost every day played had an extra two tables playing when compared with last year.

Junior Pizza Night

We had a Scrumptious Pizza night on Friday 14 Feb to welcome 23 of our newer Junior players back for the year and to put them with an experienced player at the table so that the evening could have a learning and bridge knowledge building element, as well as fun.



Thanks to all those club members both new and experienced who came along to make this evening a success. Of course, thanks to Ruth, our Club Manager, for organizing the evening.

Directors

As we continue to grow and thrive as a community, it becomes increasingly important to have knowledgeable and capable leaders to help guide our events and activities. A vital role we need to fill is that of Bridge Director. Bridge Directors ensure our games run smoothly and fairly, making each session enjoyable for all participants.

To achieve this, we are seeking enthusiastic members who are interested in training to become certified Bridge Directors. This opportunity will not only enhance your understanding of the game but also allow you to contribute significantly to our club's success.

Training will be comprehensive, covering the essential aspects of directing a Bridge game, including rules, regulations, and effective conflict resolution. Support and resources will be provided to help you every step of the way.

If you have a passion for Bridge and a desire to play an active role in our club, please consider this rewarding opportunity. Your involvement will be greatly appreciated by all members.

Contact Ruth or speak to one of our current directors if you're interested in joining the training program. Together, we can ensure the continued excellence of our club.

AJs 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.

Howell Movement

On a recent Tuesday night we had a shocker! Over 10 boards played with the wrong partnership playing NS and EW. We had to abandon scoring the evening play.

None of us want this to happen again.
So what can we do?

Everyone gets penalised so let's all be responsible. When South arrives at the table check the Bridgemates for the seating and partnerships involved.

When East/west arrive please politely ask South if they have checked the bridgemate.

If you do not move from your table please mark any pivots on the Howell table pairs Sheet with a line, then mark off the boards played.



Gold Coast Congress Feb 1 – Feb 6 2025

Ian Pronk

The congress had six divisions: Open, Intermediate, Restricted, Novice, Rookies, and under 10 masterpoints (similar to under 5 B points in NZ scoring)

About September last year, my sister who plays in the Restricted grade finally convinced us to come over to the biggest congress in the Southern Hemisphere, so we got organized. We played in a few tournaments here and tried to play at the club together as much as possible so that we work on our bidding and make sure we each knew what the other was talking about. Also, we practiced a lot on BBO, and thanks to AJ who often put together a table so that we could practice.

Arriving in Broadbeach on Friday afternoon, we were happy with our prep and tried to cobble together a systems card in case others asked, harder said than done! Saturday morning at about 9am we wander down to the Exhibition Centre, the venue for the event, for a 10am start. We were amazed at the size of the place but found the organization to be so good that we knew where we were to be within 5 minutes of arrival. We were playing in the Novice section (Club master and below in NZ points) so, sat at the purple tablecloth tables for the entire event. 10am, the 88 pairs in novices started, as did the other 1,000+ pairs in the other grades. Day 1 was qualifying for the finals, the top 28 pairs made the 'A' final, the next 28 the 'B' final, the next 16 the 'C' final and the last 16 in 'D' final. Each qualifying round was 9 tables of 3 boards, so 27 boards. Round one of qualifying we finished 6th E/W with 56%, round 2 5th E/W with 60% which allowed us to qualify 5th E/W and 6th overall. We were both absolutely stoked by this, as we were hoping to finish in the top half. Day 2 and 3 were finals, and qualifying scores were wiped so everyone started on 0 again. Sunday, day 2, was two sessions of 27 boards, and Monday was one more session of 27, so that you played every other team in your final group over 3 boards.

Scores were updated on the big screen after every three boards, and after 12 boards we were coming 18th, so not the best of starts. After that we stopped looking—didn't want to know! We did improve and ended up in the first session in 8th place with a score of 54%. The afternoon session went really well for us, scoring 58%, coming 3rd, putting us 4th overall, and in a position to dream! Unfortunately, Monday was not the best of days and we finished 18th in session 3 with our worst score of 48%, but just hung on to 4th overall. Job very well done, we thought, achieving much higher than we thought possible, would have been even higher if Ian didn't stuff up Gen's ace asking bid—whoops! Practiced Roman Keycards, but when it was needed, it left my brain!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Marge Henry

Ian Pronk and his daughter Genevieve started playing bridge at the Hutt Bridge Club in NZ about two years ago. Ian has become a passionate devotee and Gen supports her Dad as her work and social schedule allows.

I am a member of Toowong Bridge Club and Ian is my little brother. I persuaded him and Gen to attend this year's GCC as it would be their last chance to go to a Congress here.

They have played in the Novice section and came 4th overall - pretty amazing as Gen would only be regarded as a Rookie by ABF standards.

Toni Bardon found them another couple to play in the teams, so good luck to them for the next three days. I, an average Restricted player, am a very proud big sister and auntie.



Ian Pronk, Marge Henry and Gen Pronk

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Novice Pairs Finals Final A Results - Overall

Place	Pair	Sess 1	Sess 2	Sess 3	Total	MPs
1	10 Michael ZHU - Zhan WAN	54.40	56.98	59.85	171.24	11.19
2	28 Jessie PELENATO - Bridget O'BRIEN	61.67	54.13	50.90	166.70	7.83
3	2 Neah WILLIAMS - David HICKIE	61.93	54.56	48.82	165.31	5.60
4	5 Ian PRONK - Genevieve PRONK	53.98	57.83	48.25	160.06	3.73
5	20 Helen JONES - Kevin RIDGWAY	54.50	51.14	53.09	158.73	2.80
6	4 Kenneth BAKER - Scott GROUT	41.20	53.85	63.45	158.49	2.24
7	26 Minu SHAH - Ajita SHAH	54.47	60.11	43.70	158.28	1.87
8	1 Gordon TRAVERS - Sharon MICHAEL	48.73	51.57	56.40	156.70	1.60
9	8 Julie MCPHAIL - Anne FLEMING	53.76	48.72	53.89	156.37	1.40
10	16 Dina CHARPENTIER - Anne DENNIS	47.21	48.86	58.35	154.42	1.24
11	9 Tim LEBBON - Richard COLLIS	45.07	62.54	45.24	152.85	1.12
12	22 Helen SUMMERS - Marion DAVEY	49.91	51.00	51.69	152.60	1.02
13	25 Morry FREEDMAN - Stella JANSEN	49.09	47.86	54.81	151.76	0.93
14	3 Paul BIRKBY - Debra BIRKBY	52.86	48.86	49.98	151.70	0.86
15	27 Kevin O'LOGHLIN - Glen GARRICK	50.15	49.72	51.10	150.96	0.80
16	23 Robin TREGENZA - Liz KENIHAN	48.30	48.29	52.56	149.16	0.75
17	18 Sue MITTERMAIR - Annie SHOTTER	55.26	41.31	50.88	147.45	0.70
18	21 Val SMITH - Mary-Louis DWYER	54.50	49.43	43.12	147.05	0.66
19	13 Divyesh SHAH - Rina SHAH	44.50	47.58	54.03	146.11	0.62
20	14 Margaret CUSACK - Rhonda KHONG	50.56	45.44	48.75	144.75	0.59
21	24 Jill BRABON - Beverley LOWCOCK	52.22	51.00	41.22	144.44	0.56
22	11 Anne-Maree BROOKS - Tracie MCRORIE	45.24	47.01	49.19	141.44	0.53
23	15 Kate WARD - Kerry FLANAGAN	49.73	44.44	47.04	141.21	0.51
24	7 Jeff NEWTON - Tsachi PILOSSOF	47.52	49.72	43.96	141.20	0.49
25	19 Penny TALLEY - Anne MOASE	43.60	51.85	44.20	139.66	0.47
26	6 Marianne CERKESAS - Ivan BENKO	48.85	43.87	43.50	136.23	0.45
27	17 Louise LEATHAM - Cindi DAMIAN	46.95	38.75	44.02	129.72	0.43
28	12 Michael BRAHAM - John BELLINGHAM	34.56	43.59	48.02	126.16	0.41

The mornings were light from about 5am, temperature was mid to high 20's and we were 100 metres from the beach in our accommodation, so an early morning swim was a must! But the nights were tough—too hot, and absolutely knackered by 8:00pm, thinking is tiring!

Monday afternoon, sadly for dad, was shopping time, and off to the outlet mall we went, happily for Gen!

Tuesday–Thursday was the teams, and the organizers had teamed us up with the team that finished 17th in the pairs, so we knew we would be competitive. Each day was 4 matches of 14 boards. Day one started with three small losses, about 10.5–9.5 and one big loss so we were not that well placed. Around this time Gen was feeling unwell, to the extent that she could not play the last two days of the teams so a fill in was found for me for the last 8 matches, and we won 6 of these to finish with a 6 win, 6 loss record, and 17th of 26. Overall we played 303 boards over the 6 days, and would both like to go again if the tournament continues.

This was published in the daily bulletin.

TABLES

Tables as of Thursday night: 7,683
 2024 comparison: 6,483 tables
 2020 comparison: 8,200 tables

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.

Congratulations to our January & February 2025 series winners.

January

Monday and Friday January Pairs
Simon Webber & Ian Possenniskie

Wednesday Ava Pairs

Amy Haste & James Able

Thursday Ruff n Sluff Pairs

Tani Blackburn & Ruth Brucker

February

Monday Daysh pairs

John Williams & Evan Voyce

Tuesday Bob Scott Retirement Village Pairs

John Topp & Martyn Dowman

Wednesday Woodvale Pairs

Brendan Carr and Loek Strik

Thursday Acol Pairs

Peter & Dianna Snethledge

Friday Kings Pairs

Mary Rundle & John Ansell

Upcoming Tournaments and Events

- 2 Mar** Hutt Multigrade pairs
8 Mar Wellington Intermediate/Junior Pairs
15 Mar National teams Wellington Open (F2F)
16 Mar Kapi Mana Junior Pairs
20 Mar Kapiti Horowhenua Open Area Pairs (**Online**)
30 Mar Hutt AGM
30 Mar Victoria Multigrade Pairs
2 Apr Poppy Roberts 5A pairs Prelim 2 Open
6 Apr South Wairarapa Intermediate/Junior Pairs
13 Apr Upper Hutt Intermediate/Junior Pairs
13 Apr Paraparaumu Open Pairs
17 Apr Kapiti Horowhenua Open Area(2) Pairs (**Online**)
21 Apr Wellington Regional Mixed Pairs Open
25-27 Apr Wellington Congress

3 May Wellington Regional Championship trials (Intermediate, Open, Senior and Women)

18 May Hutt Junior Pairs

18 May Hutt Open Swiss Pairs

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/>

Kenneth (Ken) Foon Chin

January 7 1957 - December 12 2024

Ken was born in Dunedin and was the eldest of five children. His parents ran restaurants in Dunedin and Ken learned to cook from an early age. His love of food and cooking continued throughout his life and he was well known for his dinner parties as a chef extraordinaire.

However, he was rarely seen at his dinners as he was too busy in the kitchen preparing and cooking the numerous courses.



Ken went to Otago Medical School and became a GP, running his own practice in Taita for over 25 years. He had a strong bond to the local community he served and was well known for working long hours and being available to his patients out of work hours.

He married Malee, a Thai, and they had 2 sons, Garrett (who lives in London) and Jeffrey (who lives in Auckland). He loved racing and was the honorary surgeon to the Wellington Racing Club at Trentham for many years. He would have his two young sons with him most race days. As well as racing he was an able tennis and table tennis player and was a member of the Stokes Valley table tennis club for years. He was also a keen Warriors follower. He used to get treated with VIP status when he went to a casino in Australia or New Zealand.

Ken was a collector. He had a room in his house dedicated to his miniature alcohol collection (mostly whisky), even though he didn't drink alcohol! He also had a stamp collection that consisted of some rare and expensive specimens. His Pokemon collection was also extensive.

Ken was very generous. He was known for buying beautiful and expensive presents for his godchildren and others. Every year he would host a Christmas party for close friends and their partners at the Grand Century Chinese restaurant. He would bring a large chilly bin full of great wines and other beverages. These parties were always full of fun and laughter. The last one was the Sunday night before he died.

We know Ken for his bridge prowess and for his help on the committee. He instigated our fund-raising weekly raffle based on the Lotto bonus ball. As one of his bridge partners I remember his strong play but perhaps even more memorable was the apprehension that his partners developed as you waited for his appearance at the last possible moment.

Ken had not been well for some time. He suffered from kidney and heart disease but he never allowed these to interfere too long from his enjoyment of horse racing and Bridge.

Kua hinga he totara i te wao nui a Tane - a great totara tree has fallen in the forest of Tane.

Rest In Peace, Ken.

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