



Hutt Bridge Club Newsletter

June 2023

News from the Committee:

Kia Ora and welcome to the June edition of Finesse

Dates for your diary

Saturday 17 June: Fun Tournament

Sunday 14 July: Matariki bridge day

Graduation

I was delighted to welcome the first of our 2023 graduates to the club at our recent Wednesday Mix'n'Mingle. Congratulations to each one of you for making it through the lessons.

Play, play, play – it will gradually become less daunting and much more fun!!



In the photo we have Tim Cooper, Elsie Studders, Jan Cooper, Gayle Carmichael, Velda Walters, Sammy Peters, Lynda Dean, Amy Haste, Jane Riley, Johan Olivier, and teachers Katherine Badcock and AJ.

Other Graduates who weren't able to come to our Graduation night were Chris Manson, Tamsin Vuetilovoni, Janet Paape, Elizabeth Gibb and Brendon Carr was a little late for the photo. Sam McDonald and Luke Hammer went straight into playing on Wednesday night after the second lesson.

A huge thanks to AJ and Kathryn Bradshaw, our teachers, and their helpers Loek Strik, Doug O'Halloran, Madeleine Askew, and other members who came along with their invitees.

Improving your bridge

Our 2022 survey of members told us that you're keen to improve your bridge. The Committee has been working on creating opportunities for you to do so. Here's the menu:

Saturday revision with AJ – this is your opportunity to come along and ask questions in a supportive small group environment. Suitable for new and less experienced players.

Fun Tournaments – this Saturday 17 June and next one is on 23 September. All are welcome, particularly newer, less experienced players playing with someone more experienced. Ruth can help with partner matching.

PaynPlay - Several members are taking advantage of the opportunity to play a series with one of our good players. If you are interested, please contact Ruth.

Improver Lessons Online – these are running now using a mix of Zoom and RealBridge. Suitable for anyone who knows the basics of bridge and wants to gain confidence with some conventions and general card play. \$6 per lesson and you can pick and choose your topic – see nzbridge.co.nz and the poster on the club notice board.

Intermediate Lessons - NZ bridge also has free lesson resources for intermediate players which can be reached by clicking on “Learn Bridge” on the NZ Bridge home page. Then “Lesson Resources”

Vil's Development Squad – Vil Gravis, our most accomplished player, is seeking interest from those serious about improving their bridge. Vil will soon be looking at establishing a ‘development group’ of keen Juniors, Intermediates, and prospective Open players. If you are keen to take part, register your interest with Ruth, our Club Manager, or contact Vil, villyn@xtra.co.nz. Everyone who is keen and willing to learn and improve will be considered for this.

We hope you will take advantage of what is on offer here!

Defibrillator

Our defibrillator is now on order, thanks to the generosity of four club members whose donations will cover the cost. Thanks to St John's, we will be offering Next Steps for Life training on using the defibrillator at the clubrooms soon – and will advise you of the dates as soon as we have them.



Public Holiday Bridge

Next up is Matariki – Friday July 14, come along and enjoy the bridge, the Matariki quiz and the shared kai.

Lesley Haines

Te Whakanui i a Matariki
Celebrating the Māori New Year

Nau mai Haere mai (Welcome)

Please join us at the Hutt Bridge Club
to celebrate Matariki
on Friday 14th July 2023 between 1pm - 5pm

It will be a fun filled afternoon of:

- Playing bridge
- Participating in a Matariki quiz to win prizes
- Sharing of kai (food)

What does Matariki mean and why is it important? Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. There are over 500 stars in the Matariki cluster. It rises in midwinter and for many Māori, it heralds the start of the new year.

Click on the links below to find out more on Matariki and answers to the Matariki quiz:
<https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/matariki-maori-new-year/what-sod-who-matariki/matariki-star>



Watch out for the Hutt Bridge Club's Matariki raffle. A beautiful necklace and bracelet made by Chris Pihema. The materials used were pounamu (greenstone), sterling silver, and Swarovski crystals. The tickets are \$5.00 each and it will be drawn on Matariki Day 14th July.

Around the tables

King's Birthday Bridge



Our Kings Birthday bridge was enjoyed by many. Congratulations to TJ Dolstra, who won the prize for the best Crown and to Kevin Garner for the top fur and everyone else in their finery. Congratulations also to the top NS pair, Mary Rundle and Prafulla Hegde, and to Ian Possenniskie and John Topp who were top EW pair.

Open and Junior Tournament Hutt Bridge Club on 14th May

A great and competitive day was had by all players with 18 pairs in the Open section playing 27 boards in each of the sessions and 12 pairs playing 22 boards in each of the sessions in the Junior section. Players came

from clubs all around the region.



Junior winners Janet Dobbie and Rupert Rokeby-Johnson



Junior Runners up Jan Marment and Peter Hawkes



Open winners Nelson Proctor and Peter Newell with President Lesley Haines



Open Runners up Marion Loader and John Donbavand with Lesley again

Upcoming tournaments

11 June Upper Hutt Open Pairs (Online)
11 June Levin Junior and Intermediate
14 June Wellington Open Poppy Roberts
18 June Kapi Mana Open
18 June Masterton Junior and Intermediate
24 June Wellington Main Regional Teams
2 July Kairangi Multigrade Teams
9 July Regional clubs teams playoff
16 July Karori Intermediate pairs
16 July Paraparaumu Junior Pairs
19th July Poppy Roberts
23rd July Wellington Open pairs
30 July Waikanae Multigrade pairs

Don't miss our first Fun tournament this Saturday with Play starting at 1:30. Happy to accept Junior-Junior pairs as well as those Novice and Juniors partnered up with more experienced players. Let Ruth know if you would like to play.

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

If so, then **Pay N Play** could be for you.

Madeleine Askew has handpicked a bank of more 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.

Congratulations to our May series winners.

Monday High Street Pairs

Robin Hill & Evan Voyce

Tuesday Margaret Oxnam Pairs

Mary Rundle & Martin Dowman

Wednesday Queens Pairs

AJ Jennings & Amy Haste

Thursday Finesse Pairs

Jeffrey Craanen & Nebojsa Djorovic

Friday Totara pairs

Simon Grant & Shirley Wiseman

Interim leaders for the monthly pairs

Monday Sadie Williams Pairs

Simon Grant & Kevin Bateman

Tuesday Shandon Golf Club Pairs

Vil Gravis & Lynne Bruce

Wednesday Zampelles Cafe Pairs

Phillip King & John Topp

Thursday Pairs

Madeleine Askew & Jeffry Craanen

Friday Hutt City New World Pairs

Member Profile: Vil Gravis



Addicted to Bridge

I am definitely not, but who could blame me? It all started when I was 11. I was aboard the "Ms Nelly", a wonderful ship on the way from Germany to Australia, which took more than a month, so there was little to do but join the adults in their card games, much to their annoyance. Of even more annoyance was the fact that I seemed to have a natural talent for any card game they played and continued to beat them at their own games. Bridge did not feature at the time, and it was another 12 years or so before it captured my imagination. But a bit of background first.

My parents were leading a very happy and settled life in a rural Latvian town, where dad was the headmaster and mum a teacher. Then, the war erupted, and our family was driven out as refugees from the horrors of being squashed between the Communists and Nazis. Thus, after finding refuge for some years in post war Germany, we were accepted as a refugee family in New Zealand in 1951. Travel by ship took over a month, with a brief stopover in Cape Town, South Africa. It was a lovely, smooth, and sunny sailing the whole time, so time was spent either sunning on the decks or playing cards.

Now let me fast forward to the 1960s. University days which were spent more in the common room playing bridge than studying. A small group of students had discovered the game of bridge, and there was a regular call heard in the common room for "fourth for bridge!". You don't have to guess who was always looking to fill in. Soon the bridge developed into more than common room stuff and, with the help of one of New Zealand's all-time greats, Bruce Bell, some of us joined the Auckland Bridge Club and started playing

tournaments. I developed a partnership with Tom Winiata, and we quickly won a number of Open tournaments in the greater Auckland area. Tom was offered a position in Wellington in his field of computer programming and systems, and I decided to also move to Wellington, along with two other friends also looking for the attractions of the capital city.

Tom and I immediately joined the Wellington Bridge Club and were, condescendingly, admitted to the B Grade! Undaunted, we immediately applied to play in the NZ Trials, and made the team from the club's B Grade, not unnoticed by a few people with red faces. Also not unnoticed was the fact that we were the first under 30 pair to represent New Zealand, and uniquely a Maori-Latvian combination.

After our first short lived international experience, Tom took off for his OE and I then continued to play at Provincial level with a number of different partners, winning one national title and placing in a number of others. I must admit that club play interested me more, where many club titles followed at Wellington and later, Victoria, a club I joined in the late 1970s. I did a lot of teaching, mentoring, and writing for the NZ Bridge Magazine.

In 1987 I joined the Hutt Club when serendipity saw me meet my wonderful partner Lynne and her two very supportive sons (though they insisted we don't marry as they did not want their mum to be called Mrs. Lynne Gravis!) She is still Lynne Bruce of course, as you may see on the club's honours board.

A new family (my own three kids now live in Australia), and I have loved every moment of it. Lynne, I must say, is a very fine player who should be doing more than just playing at the club, but both of us love our club play with no desire for anymore. That is as far as our addiction to bridge goes!

Editor's Note: Vil has been a Grand Master for more than fifty years! What an achievement! Vil represented NZ touring Australia which included a test match series against a very highly ranked Australian open team, as well as a fourth placing in a Far Eastern Bridge Congress when it was last held in Wellington in the 1970s (with Nelson Procter)

Vil's Corner

Finesse June 2023. This Month's Poser

Each month we will be presenting the reader with a poser that comes from actual play at the Hutt Club. This month's poser comes from play on Thursday 25/5/23.

Here is the actual deal:

Board 15 Dealer South NS Vul

♠ A74
♥ Q85
♦ AQ109
♣ AJ10

♠ 1085

♥ 10

♦ KJ84

♣ Q9542

♠ QJ62

♥ J7

♦ 7653

♣ K63

♠ K93
♥ AK96432
♦ 2
♣ 87

It should not be too difficult for NS to reach a small slam in hearts, played by South. But that is not the question. Deep Finesse says that NORTH can make 7H but SOUTH can make only 6H. Here is the question: WHY?

The short answer will need only five words, but a longer one might also involve play to make 7H OR 7NT. As usual, a session ticket for the first correct short answer to "Why can SOUTH make only 6H whereas NORTH can make 7H?". And TWO session tickets for a full and correct analysis.

STOP PRESS

How serious are you about improving your bridge? Vil will soon be looking at selecting a 'development group' of keen Juniors, Intermediates and prospective Open players. If you are keen to take part, register your interest with the Club Manager or talk to Vil. Everyone will be considered for this as long as they are keen and willing to learn and improve.

Watch This Space!



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Happy Bridging!



LOWER HUTT



JASON BROWN
PLUMBING & GAS