

FINESSE

HUTT BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

Dates for your diary

Friday Night 12 July
Quiz night

Sunday 31 August
Hutt Intermediate tournament

Sunday 13 October
Fun Tournament (Play with a Junior of
you can)

Labour Day 28 October
Public Holiday bridge event



Play Bridge in a welcoming and supportive environment.

News from the Committee

by President Lesley Haines

Kia ora tatou

I write this on the eve of our Matariki bridge event. The deep dark days of winter, and the reappearance of the Matariki constellation in the night sky is a time for remembrance, gratitude for the past and time to look forward to the new growth and longer days ahead. A good time to gather together and celebrate. Thanks to PAK'nSAVE for your sponsorship.

Our first group of learners for 2024 graduated in late May. Congratulations to each one of you! It was good to see several of you at our inaugural Play with An Expert evening on Friday 14 June - a fun and useful evening. Thanks to Nan Wehipeihana from Wellington Club for your sponsorship.

Our second learner group for 2024 is underway – last reported we had a group of 18. Thanks to AJ and his helpers for all of your work with the lessons.

Improver lessons are running on alternate Saturday mornings, thanks to Kathryn Badcock. There is a strong core group attending, and others choosing to come to particular topics that we are profiling in the weekly notices.

Improver lessons are being alternated with AJ's popular revision series – a chance to bring along your questions about hands that you have played recently.

It's been great to see many of our members continue to do well in regional events. A big shout out to Russell Dive and AJ, who did us proud by winning the Upper Hutt Multigrade Tournament on 16 June with a whopping 66% average.

Hutt Club teams are also doing well in the regional Interclub competition, currently Hutt is running 1st and 2nd in the Restricted Open class, and 1st in the Junior class.

Coming up soon is the Club Quiz – Friday 12 July with Quizmaster, Toni Kane. Time to get your teams organised for this highly popular annual event!

And hot on the heels of the quiz, we are soon hosting the Wellington Regional Club Champs - Sunday 14 July. Our selectors – Ruth Brucker and Madeleine Askew – are currently finalising the Hutt team.

Looking a bit further ahead, the Club's Intermediate tournament is on Saturday 31 August. Last year this was won by club members, Marion Loader and Simon Webber. You don't have to be intermediate to play – last year some of our junior pairs did well too.

Enjoy your bridge and see you around the tables!!



Hutt Bridge Club
KING OF (ALL) CLUBS

Quiz Night

Friday, 12 July, 7pm

- **\$15 a person - bring family & friends**
- **Teams of up to 6 or we'll find you one**
- **To book a table:**
 - **put your team or name on the list on the noticeboard, or**
 - **call Ruth on 567 1058, or**
 - **email: HBCMgr@huttbridgeclub.nz**
- **Bring extra cash to buy extra points and raffles (Eftpos available)**
- **BAR OPEN & light supper provided**



Around The Tables

We have had a busy May and June with many events and even the Regional Club Champs to be held at our club. We had lots of players in May but our June club nights were a bit quieter with the other events going on



Play with an Expert (3+1)

This was a great new event at our club that was enjoyed and appreciated by all taking part on Friday 14 June. Ten tables of three players and an expert played with the expert partnering each player, then discussing the play and boards.

Universally the feedback was let's have more, with fewer games and more "words of wisdom" from the experts. The event was sponsored by Nan Wehipeihana, vice president of Wellington Bridge Club. Thanks for introducing this to us Nan.

From Top left to Bottom right
Ann Martin, Esther Haines, AJ and Rosie West, and Trish Barnes and Madeleine Askew



Keesing McLeod Pairs 11 June a three-way tie for second.
How often does this happen? (I thought never.)

Rank	Pair	Name	Matchpts	%	Masterpts
🥇 1	14	<u>Kathryn Badcock & Madeleine Askew</u>	144	60.00	40
🥈 2	7	<u>Angela Duthie & Lesley HAINES</u>	135	56.25	31
🥈 2	10	<u>Ruth Gilmore & Robert Kusel</u>	135	56.25	31
🥈 2	12	<u>Peter McLeod & Murray Gough</u>	135	56.25	31
5	6	<u>Jennifer Bodinetz & Kevin Duggan</u>	131	54.58	5

2024 Lesson Program

Our final Novice Lesson Program has begun. Watch out for the players coming out of the last program and make them welcome when you meet them across the bridge table.

The Saturday Revision sessions are going strong. Take along your bridge problems to discuss with AJ.

On alternating Saturdays are the improvers sessions to help you make the next step up from the learners' program. You can go to individual sessions to just learn specific conventions and play.



Grandmaster Russell Dive helps AJ keep up his winning record this year winning the Upper Hutt Multigrade tournament on 16th June with a 66% average. Congratulations!

Kings Birthday Bridge

was all fun with some royal regalia on Display.

To the left Esther Haines and mum Holly Walker with Rosie West.

Below Judy Voyce



Facebook

Remember to look and follow our facebook page compiled by Janet Paape. It is full of activity.

Hop on, have a look, and click on **follow**.

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

Interclub

Playing Interclub is a great way to meet members from other clubs throughout the Wellington region. I think I started playing as a novice about two years after I completed the lessons in 2000, graduating to junior level and then to intermediate grade. Until Covid we played at various clubs one Friday night a month between March and November. Along with the competitiveness of bridge, it was a social evening with a drink and chippies afterwards. It was also a perfect way to form a partnership with another player of the same level.

Currently Interclub bridge is part of the online offering and uses Real Bridge which is a great easy to use program which combines bridge play with a social media type video chatting. It has a good how-to-use section and allows you to check that your camera and microphone are working before you start your bridge session.

Each team has four players (with a sub) at either novice, junior, intermediate or open restricted level. Pairs can see and talk with the opposition and after 12 boards you then play the other pair of the opposing team. Many people in the region have been playing Interclub for years and years and we encourage our novice and junior members to consider playing in 2025. Once you start, it becomes as much a part of your bridge life as attending a session night at the club.

I am very happy to answer any questions you may have or help you to put together teams.

Jill Marsden
Interclub Liason



Congratulations to our May & June 2024 series winners.

Monday May High Street Pairs

Candice Ng & Jill Herman

Tuesday May Margaret Oxnam Memorial Pairs

Simon Webber & Aaron Starr

Wednesday June Queens Pairs

Angela Duthie & Mary Anne Mills

Thursday Punga Pairs

Eleisha Hawkins & Vil Gravis

Friday May Totara Pairs

Kathryn Badcock & Jill Marsden

Monday June Lincoln Pairs

Madeleine Askew & Graham

Goudge

Tuesday June Keesing McLeod Pairs

Jennifer Bodinetz & Kevin

Duggan

Wednesday June Naenae Pairs

AJ Jennings & Rosie West

Thursday June Shona McFarlane Retirement Village Pairs

Paul Badcock & Ken Barnett

Friday June Jan Deverux Memorial Pairs

John Ansell & Vil Gravis

Upcoming Tournaments

14 July Wellington

Regional Clubs play-off

17 July Poppy Roberts 5A

Pairs Prelim 4 Open

16 May Kapiti Horowhenua Area

Pairs 5 Open

21 July Karori Intermediate Pairs

21 July Paraparaumu Junior Pairs

28 July Wellington Open Pairs (online)

4 August Waikanae Multigrade Pairs Open

15 August Kapiti Horowhenua Area Pairs 6 Open

18 August Upper Hutt Multigrade Pairs Open

25 August Karori Open Pairs

25 August Otaki Intermediate/Junior Pairs

31 August Hutt Intermediate pairs

01 Sept Kairangi Multigrade Teams Tournament Open

08 Sept Wellington Sixes All Grades

15 Sept Victoria Intermediate/Junior Pairs

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

One of our players noted some improvement areas

1. "Us blokes" need to watch ourselves on Hal Movements. We need to be careful as we cross the room so as not to bump into other players as we rush "point-2-point".
2. East, pass the Bridgemate to North after you have confirmed the score so other players can see the results
3. Discussing the previous hand at the next table rather than greeting your opponents isn't nice.
4. Look at your idiosyncrasies and habits to ensure that they are not annoying to other players

A special recognition for "Mario" of The King's Service Medal

CEREGRA, Mr Marian Tadeusz

Deceased. His Majesty's approval of this award took effect on 14 May 2024, prior to the date of death.

For services to the Polish community and veterans

Mr Marian Ceregra is an elder of the Polish community in Wellington and has been Chairman of the Polish Ex-Servicemen's Association, Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantow (SPK) since 2009, having been a member since 1990. As Chairman of SPK, Mr Ceregra has maintained a continuous connection with the Polish government to support its members and their families financially and to obtain recognition for their World War II service, assisting with completing documentation and applications. He has organised celebrations for days of Polish national and armed forces significance, as well as for ANZAC day, for many years. He has had a leading role in representing SPK in meetings with the government and Polish officials nationally and internationally.

He has been a member of the Polish Association in New Zealand since 1990 and held executive roles with the associated Bridge and Film Clubs and choir. He has edited the Polish newsletter 'Wiadomosci' and continues to contribute to the publication, reporting on community issues and successes, and obituaries for community members. He is committed to documenting the history of Wellington's Polish community, recording events as a videographer or photographer for posterity. For a number of years he maintained the 7,000 book library at Dom Polski in Wellington. Mr Ceregra's service has been recognised with several medals from the Polish government.

There are many wonderful things about belonging to a Club such as ours, but high on the list is making friends.

OLD CHOOKS ON TOUR

In April, four friends made through bridge and self-described as 'Old Chooks' – Jill Marsden, Angela Banks, Kathryn Badcock and me, Jill Herman - went on a fantastic holiday together touring Vietnam and Cambodia. We were away for nearly three weeks – of course you missed us! – on a group tour run by TripADeal. There were 16 in our party, the other 12 were very nice Australian travelling companions. It was a very well-organised tour, excellent value for money, with lots of activities and outings, and good hotel accommodation.

Highlights included our day and night on Halong Bay on board a 'junk', a few days in the ancient town of Hoi An decorated with beautiful lanterns, and extra time in Siem Reap where we visited Angkor Wat on a very hot day (41 degrees) and to where the two Jills had also ventured earlier that day to see the famous sunrise there. We also enjoyed the delicious food, including a cooking class, and some shopping.



Vietnam and Cambodia both rely on tourism as they recover from horrible histories and, more recently, COVID. The people are very friendly and helpful. The extremes of poverty and wealth are very obvious. Also noticeable is the amount of plastic rubbish on the roadsides and in the waterways. And teeming scooter traffic in the cities certainly takes some getting used to.



Some of us were very brave – Jill Marsden went down the Cu Chi tunnels. These are near Ho Chi Minh City and were the location of the Viet Cong's base of operations during the Vietnam War (the locals call it the American War). And some of us were just silly – I blame the heat! And, of course, sometimes we played bridge!





It was all a lot of fun, and we are all already looking forward to our next holiday.

Jill Herman for The Old Chooks

Book Review

Guide to Better Acol Bridge Ron Klinger

“Guide to Better Acol Bridge” by Ron Klinger is a valuable resource for bridge enthusiasts seeking to elevate their game beyond the basics. With a focus on bidding improvement, this book provides practical insights and examples that enhance both declarer technique and defensive play.

Klinger’s clear writing style makes the text accessible, even for beginners. Each chapter seamlessly blends bidding strategies with illustrative hands, reinforcing key concepts. Whether you’re a self-learner or part of a bridge course, this book caters to both scenarios.

This book is useful if you are considering adapting Acol to bidding only 5 card majors. Klinger provides insights into the concept of 5-card majors within the context of bridge bidding. The book aims to help players advance beyond the basics of Acol bidding. While it emphasizes better bidding techniques, each chapter also includes examples of play. These examples highlight areas of winning declarer technique and defensive play. At the end of each section, you’ll find revision tests. These tests allow you to measure your progress and reinforce your understanding.

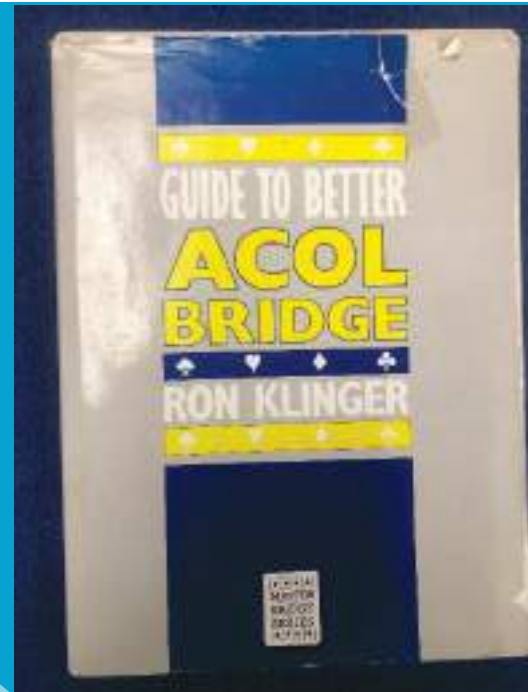
Whether you’re learning on your own or participating in a bridge course, this book caters to both scenarios.

About the Author

Ron Klinger is one of the world’s leading bridge teachers and writers with many bridge books to his credit. He is also an Australian Grand Master and a World Bridge Federation International Master.

We have the book available in our Bridge Library.

Written with the AI help of Microsoft Copilot



Vil's Corner

Vil has written an absorbing technical piece in the Finesse for much longer than I have been in the Bridge club. His passion for the game and commitment to helping others improve has always shone through his writing.

Vil has decided that there will be no more "Vil's Corner" in the Finesse but his weekly articles can be read online via the Hutt Bridge Club online page

<https://www.hutt.bridge-club.org/node/520>

or on the CompassMate platform or the X-Clubs web site that has all the X-Clubs results.

<https://www.compassmate.bridge-centre.org/blog/356>

Any Hutt Club player who would like to receive Vil's bidding and play questions and answer them is welcome to join his panel, just send him an email.



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