

FINESSE

HUTT BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 EDITION

Dates for your diary

Monday 23 October

Labour Day Bridge Event

Tuesday 24 October 7:30

Mix 'n Mingle to encourage new people to play on Tuesday night. Existing and new partnerships are great but we will arrange partners for individuals who come along on the night

Friday 10 November evening

Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs

Sunday 10 December 1 pm

Club End of Year Christmas Bridge



Play Bridge in a welcoming and supportive environment.

News from the Committee by President Lesley Haines

Kia ora tatou.

It's a busy time in the Club's Special Events Calendar with four special events in the remaining months of 2023:

- Labour Day Bridge on Monday, 23 October;
- Tuesday night's Mix'n'Mingle on Tuesday, 24 October;
- Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs on Friday, 10 November;
- Club End of Year function on Sunday, 10 December.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Fun Tournament on Saturday, 23 September. It was great to see seven novices playing and enjoying themselves.

What a wonderful evening it was with a room full of 16 tables of Bridge players on Friday, 6 October playing our annual Challenge with the Upper Hutt Bridge Club. We have a special relationship with Upper Hutt Bridge Club, share some players and occasionally make up competitive teams together for competitions such as interclub when a team needs a few extra players. The evening is a competition for a Challenge Cup, which our club retained, but this result was really just an afterthought to the enjoyable night of bridge playing in a sociable environment. The picture above shows Upper Hutt President Andrea Carson and Director AJ presenting the Challenge Cup to me for Hutt Bridge Club.

Programme 2024

We will be scheduling bridge on public holidays through the cooler months – Anzac, King's Birthday, Matariki and Labour Day.

We'll also be holding a Fun Tournament to provide a "tournament taster" for our new and less experienced players, and a Play with an Expert evening for players with more experience.

We will be offering three sets of lessons in 2024, two in the evenings with AJ and an afternoon session with Kathryn Badcock.

Improving your Bridge

We're also focusing on opportunities for you to improve your bridge;

- Regular Saturday revision classes with AJ;
- Mini Lessons with Kathryn Badcock and Madeleine Askew are running periodically on Wednesday 6 - 6.30. These are proving popular – watch the notices for dates.
- Vil's Development Group is well underway. Attendees are finding this fun and very valuable.
- Pay'n'Play is still available – please contact Ruth who can team you up with a partner.

Enjoy your bridge!



Around The Tables

Graduation of new group of players 6 September

AJ tutors another group to the joys and tribulations of playing Bridge.



From Left Grant Herman, Doug O'Halloran (helper), Dave Burt, Suzy Costello, Annette Davidson, Bernadette Clarke, Mel Lowe, Stephen MacAskill, AJ Jennings (Tutor), Wendy Walker, Jim Sutherland, and Falcon Clouston.

Fun Tournament 23 September

In our second Fun tournament this year many of our newer players were introduced to the idea of Tournament play. This was supported by the Ron Fisher Trust. Ron was a former player who still supports the development of Novices and Juniors. The multigrade tournament was won by Robin Hill and Prufulla Hegde, an Intermediate/Open pair. But everyone had a "fun" time.

Chris Manson and Stephen MacAskill were the top Novice/Novice pair.



TJ and June Dolstra were the top Junior/Junior Pair.



Maureen Linford and Sharyn Bowen were the top Novice/Intermediate



Our newest novice participants were identified by their orange pens.





Jennifer Bodinetz and Ian Posseneskie were the top North South



James Abel and Mary Ann Mills were the top Novice/Junior Pair

National Grades within the New Zealand Bridge System

Have you noticed in our notices we often give out certificates denoting player's grades and wondered what this is all about?

There are twelve ranks accorded to holders of Master Points

Rank Aggregate of A & B Points

Certificate of Proficiency	5
Club Master	20
Local Master	50
Provincial Master	100
(including at least 50 A Points)	
Master	200
(including at least 100 A Points)	
National Master	350
(including at least 175 A Points)	
Life Master	500
(including at least 250 A Points)	
Grand Master	1000
(including at least 500 A Points)	
Silver Grand Master	2500
(including at least 1250 A Points)	
Gold Grand Master	4000
(including at least 2500 A Points)	

and 2 more ranks

Players Granted a New Grade this year

After being a Novice the first ranking that you get is a Certificate of Proficiency which requires 500 C points or winning 12.5 times on a club night. Those awarded Certificate of Proficiency this year to date are: Ian Pronk, Debbie Komarkowski, Elisa and John Mendzela, Jill Nickel, Mary Anne Mills, Zsuzanna Sinclair, Helen Poulsen, Shirley Ulusele, Maureen Wagg, and Mike Ward.

The Next Grade is Club Master which requires 2000 C points or winning 50 Club nights: Those awarded Club Master this year to date are Bernice

Singh, James Abel, Tony Martin, Margaret Carter, and Robert Kusel

The following grade is Local Master which Tony Martin, Robert Kusel, and Ria Janssen have achieved this year earning more than 5000 C points.

Congratulations to our August and September series winners.

Monday Bob Scott Ret. Village Pairs

Lee Bailey & Angela Duthie

Tuesday The Bridge Boys Pairs

Phil Revell & Madeleine Askew

Wednesday Wingate Pairs

David & Christine Tourell

Thursday Swiss Pairs

Nebojsa Djorovic & Zbyszek Ceregra

Friday Trimmer Pairs

Candice Ng & Shirley Williams

Monday Jan Devereux Memorial Pairs

Tjeerd Dolstra & Heather Mulholland

Tuesday Pitoitoi Pairs

Paul Badcock & Bryan Cunliffe

Wednesday Jason Brown

Plumbing and Gas Pairs

Ken Depczynzki & Mario Ceregra

Thursday Overtrick Pairs

Deidre Stallinger & Jeffrey Craanen

Friday Doreen Watson Mem. Pairs

Madeleine Askew & Ruth Brucker

Upcoming Tournaments

19 October Kapiti Horowhenua Area Open Pairs

29 October Masterton Multigrade Pairs

29 October Waikanae Junior Pairs

5 November Waikanae Intermediate Pairs

10 November Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs

12 November Kapi Mana Junior/Intermediate Multigrade Pairs

16 November Kapiti Horowhenua Area Open Pairs

Member Profile

Mario Ceregra

Marian Ceregra, one of our more successful Wednesday night players was born in Ceglow, in Minsk county, Poland about 13 km east of the city of Minsk, in 1928. We know him as Mario.

Marian was 11 years old when WW2 started with the invasion of Poland. Before the war and during the Invasion he lived in Sosnowiec in Southern Poland where his father worked in the railways and was active in the Home Army. In their home, there was a radio hidden in the bread-baking oven where they could listen to the war news from France and later London. Then the family would print the news for local distribution by young people. This was a dangerous job and if caught they would be sent to Germany or shot. The family also used to sabotage train wheels by putting sand into the wheel oil. Even more dangerous they used to look after Jews who escaped from the "Deportation trains".

Then the Russians came in 1945 by which time Marian was about 17 years old and the family was moved to the so-called "recovered territories" to a place called Polczyn Zdro in the North of Poland. Because Marian's father had been in the Home Army he was secretly tried and got a 5-year sentence in prison. They also wanted to throw Marian out of the Polytechnic but a change in Government brought Gomulka to power, Marian's father was released, and Marian was able to finish his studies. He got married in 1952 and had a baby daughter, Theresa.

While working towards his electrical engineering diploma he also was told to work with the Energy systems, at first in Posen and then was transferred to Slupsk where his son Zbyszek was born. Following his parents Marian and his family moved to Central Poland where he worked for Zakladach Energy Zone, Warsaw. During this time, he finished his studies at Warsaw University.

With his parents, Marian's family decided to get out of Poland and got a chance to go to Iraq so on 22 July 1977 left Poland permanently. This opportunity came up because Poland used to sell its specialists to other countries and receive a lot of money for them.

Marian worked for the Iraqi state organisation of Electricity in Baghdad, Dibil, Kirkuk and Basra up to the Iraq/Iran war. His family visited him in those days. At this time, he had his passport Iraqi documents and cash stolen, all of which he had intended to deposit at the Polish embassy. There was a good relationship between Iraqis Kurds and Poles and Marian's driver was a young boy who used to visit the Polish Army camp of General Anders to get food for his family.



On Wednesday 6 September a few days before his 95th Birthday, we sang Happy Birthday to Mario at Bridge. He promptly invited us back in another 5 years time.

To take care of Family matters Marian returned to Poland during the Iraq./Iran war but during this time he already had a private contract in his pocket for Nigeria. However, he was not allowed to legally leave the country but through Bribery and personal contacts, he obtained a passport to go to Spain, and then to Lisbon, Portugal. War intervened again with a civil war in Nigeria. The Nigerian ambassador advised Marian not to go to Nigeria despite his future employer assuring him of safety

He decided to go to “Rich and Beautiful” Zimbabwe, which at that time was true. He initially worked in Harare and afterwards in huge Iron and steel mills in Redcliff (between Harare and Bulawayo). While he was there his daughter Theresa arrived. She was already a doctor with a husband and two sons. They left during emergency times as tourists to Greece. Work and living conditions were very good in Zimbabwe but wages were small. Meantime conditions were changing with Mugabe forcing European people out of the country. The firm that Marian was a director of, was closed down due to a misunderstanding, so Marian got another job with the South African owners at smaller remuneration.

Marian says that his passport got stolen for the second time in Zimbabwe and then for the third time in South Africa. He could no longer get a Polish passport outside of Poland but he did manage to get a new passport from “The World Service Authority”, Washington USA, together with a certificate “Registered Citizen of the World Government”

In 1989 Marian and the whole family arrived in this beautiful Country, but that was an illusion. Previously in Iraq and Africa, the work was waiting but here in NZ, it was the end, he could put away his certificates. Employers were amazed at many interviews, “How can one be an Engineer after finishing some Polytech.” Perhaps a change was needed to fix machines or to be an electrician, but some exams would need to be passed. Tens of dispatched CVs and nothing then came a telephone call with a simple question. Do you understand Russian and electricity.? The next day the employer interviewed Marian at his home, and he was offered a job the next day on the condition that he was prepared to travel to the Russian Federation with a New Zealand firm that had won a contract for building objects in secret. He worked for Best Forsyth Electrical Ltd in Hastings for 10 years and was responsible for the installation of substations and had to translate electrical projects from English into Russian as well as supervise and carry out inspections. He also obtained at the same time the qualification of Registered Electrical Engineer.

Marian retired from electrical engineering in 2000 but continued work in the Polish community. In the Polish association in Wellington, he worked in the charitable section coordinating the Polish School, the dancing group “Lublin and Orleta” and also was the editor of the “Polish News” in Wellington.

Marian was initially secretary and then President of the Polish ex-soldiers organisation (SPK) and went to London several times for meetings of the World Federation of SPK. This charitable work was recognised by the Polish community with several awards.

Marian continued to work in the Polish Library and sing in the Local church choir at Avalon. He was interested in Tourism having been in 34 countries with many films and photographs. He started playing Bridge at the Hastings RSA in 1991 and played at the Polish club in Wellington and is now a valued member of the Hutt Bridge Club.

LIBRARY AND BOOK NEWS.

You may have noticed that our bookcase (donated by Norma Bridges – what a great surname!) at the north end of the playing room has had a big tidy up. Vil Gravis kindly sorted the books in the bridge library section (top 2 shelves) – we gave away the culled ones some time ago.

Jan Marment has agreed to be our librarian. Thank you Jan. She has catalogued the books and has noticed that some are missing and/or have been out for a long time. Please check at home and return the borrowed books that you have had out for say more than a month. We will continue to use the red exercise book for managing the issuing – please fill it in when you take out a book and then again when you return it.

Jan is also looking after the sales books on the lower shelves. This is an easy fundraiser for the club earning a few hundred dollars every year. These too have been sorted and culled; some fresh titles would be great to receive if you are having your own tidy up.

Some new books have been purchased for the library. One of them is actually a novel and is reviewed below by Doug O'Halloran.

Other purchases include those recommended by Russell Dive and Vil. They are pictured above and are on the shelf to borrow. There are also two books by Vil in the library. Please let me or Jan know if you would like any others purchased or have any other bridge books to donate.

Happy reading!

Jill Herman



Book Review

Murder By Natural Causes

Helen Erichsen

Helen Erichsen has an academic background in sociology, psychology, and criminology. She is married to bridge professional Espen Erichsen and is an accomplished player in her own right who has represented England several times. Her debut novel "Murder by Natural Causes" was borne out of insomnia and has received positive reviews on Goodreads with an average rating of 4.15 out of 5 stars from 129 ratings and 66 reviews.

The book is about Cilla, a 22-year-old contract killer who specialises in "dry jobs," murders that appear to be caused by natural causes. Her main client is Vladimir Haugr, the owner of TGR's bridge club in London. In return for a flat, a retainer and expenses, Cilla does five jobs a year. The book follows Cilla as she tries to reinvent herself and avoid getting caught. She does play bridge as well, but this does not feature strongly in the book.

Some will see similarities with Villeneuve, the main character in the TV Series "Killing Eve"

A review by Bing.com describes the book as "an intense, dark, edge-of-the-seat thriller. An intricate, thoroughly consuming storyline that is brilliantly written and plotted. This is a story of the relentless persecution of a female assassin, daring to break out of the stereotypical mould.

We own this book in the bridge club, and I invite you to borrow it for a read, I enjoyed it.



Vil's Corner.

Our Monday Development Group have been getting some interesting bidding and play problems so here is your opportunity to take part without 'being there'. There will be three session tickets on offer for the best answers to these three posers

1. Match Points Dealer East all vul.

♠

♥ AKQJ107

♦ 8743

♣ A76

You are SOUTH.

East opens 1NT. What do you bid?

2. Teams Dealer N All Vul

You are South and this is 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?

3. Now for a declarer problem. You are West this time and it is teams. You open 1C, 1H from partner and you choose to rebid 1NT (15-17). Partner bids 6NT. Not a great slam.

♠ AQ62

♥ KQ5

♦ K9

♣ Q973

♠ J875

♥ A862

♦ AJ7

♣ AK

Why did you bid 1NT instead of 1S?

6S is where you should be. How, and WHY, would you play 6S when North leads the four of hearts?

But now you are in 6NT and North leads the same card, the four of hearts.

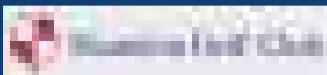
WHAT is your PLAN, and WHY would you play the hand the way you have planned it?

And, how and WHY would you play 6NT if North leads the four of diamonds?

Lots to think about, so a session ticket for the best answer to each question. Why not go for the TRIFECTA. Answers to the club or villyn@xtra.co.nz

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.



Our Business Sponsors

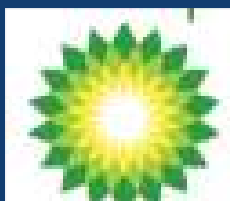
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Happy Bridging!

