



Spring special

- ❖ President's Patter
- ❖ Winners, Around the region & Wellington Club Champs
- ❖ Graduation #2
- ❖ NZ Bridge Youth Camp 2026
- ❖ Regional Champs & Wellington Sixes
- ❖ Lotto Fundraiser
- ❖ Etiquette
- ❖ What's coming up in October
- ❖ Hat's off to Quiz Night
- ❖ Thank you sponsors

Finesse

September 2026

Newsletter of the Hutt Bridge Club



**Hutt
Bridge Club**

PRESIDENT 'S PATTTER



Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou.

Hi everyone.

Spring has arrived with its usual mix of good days, bad days and days that cannot quite make up their minds – perfect bridge-playing weather! I hope you're enjoying your time at the table.

The Hutt Bridge Club Committee has been keeping busy with the usual work of running the club, along with a few building surprises to keep us on our toes.

The good news is that Sharmini Jones secured full grant funding of \$25,000 to tackle our leaking roof – no small feat! Simon and I also had a productive meeting with our fellow body corporate proprietor, Brian Ross, and agreed on the project. As I write this, our contractor is ready to begin repairs to the top roof. Once that work is complete, we can turn our attention to repairing the water damage inside the club. Simon will be managing the project for us, so it is in very capable hands.

Our other building adventure began when Paul Badcock spotted contractors next door preparing to concrete a path above our floor level. He warned them that this could send water our way and would not meet building regulations. Unfortunately, they carried on, and when Simon Webber approached them, they declined to put things right. Simon then met with the chief building inspector for Hutt City Council, who agreed to inspect the site. The outcome was that McDonald's had to develop a solution approved by both Simon and the building inspector. Probably about \$30,000 later, our building is protected again – a very good result for us, and a rather expensive lesson for next door. The project is due to be completed in September, so we look forward to welcoming back our on-street parking on Monday and Friday afternoons.

Simon and I recently attended a Wellington Regional Bridge meeting with delegates from other clubs. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that (thanks in part to our successful Interclub Programme convened by Jill Herman, an active Hutt Club member) – the Wellington region is one of the few self-funding regions in New Zealand and operates without a New Zealand Bridge subsidy. The region also helped fund our youth members' trip to the Youth Convention in Christchurch. We heard a short talk on Fairplay, including a suggestion that clubs introduce the Fairplay and etiquette reminders Todd Lust started us on last year. We also joined a player-retention workshop, looking at barriers to playing bridge and the different ways clubs are responding. We work hard on our club culture and on improving our bridge, but we are always happy to borrow a good idea – especially if it helps more people enjoy the game.

Enjoy the rest of the year at the bridge table – may the cards be kind, the brain sharp, and the company even better.

Mā te wā,

Doug



SERIES WINNERS



July	Event	Winners
Monday	Derwent Lee Pairs	Jeffry Craanen & Deidre Stallinger
Tuesday	RH Watson Memorial Pairs	Todd Lust & Heather Lust
Wednesday	Te Puke Trust Pairs	Rory McDowall, Paul Badcock & Philippa McDowall
Thursday	Do-It-All Pairs	Eleisha Hawkins & Deidre Stallinger
Friday	Hegde Pairs	Simon Webber & Jeffry Craanen
August	Event	Winner
Monday	Bob Scott Retirement Village Pairs	Ruth Brucker & Jeffry Craanen
Tuesday	The Bridge Boys Pairs	Madeleine Askew & Jennifer Bodinet
Wednesday	Whippets of Eastbourne Pairs	Colin Sarten & TJ Dolstra
Thursday	Thursday Swiss Pairs	Simon Webber & Marian Loader
Friday	Trimmer Pairs	Ruth Brucker & Jill Marsden
September	Event	Winner
Monday	Jan Devereux Memorial Pairs	Stephanie Grummitt & Simon Webber
Tuesday	Pitoitōi Pairs	Lynne Bruce & Simon Webber
Wednesday	Jason Brown Plumbing and Gas Pairs	Karen Grandy & Chris Manson
Thursday	Finesse Handicap Pairs	Ralph Robertshawe & Rowland Hempel
Friday	Doreen Watson Memorial Pairs	Beverley Lust & Rosa Mishkin

AROUND THE REGION

Tournament	Congratulations to...	Placing
Hutt Intermediate Tournament	Eleisha Hawkins & Jeffry Craanen Stephanie Grummitt & Simon Webber Jill Herman & Kathryn Badcock	1 st 2 nd 8 th
Victoria Intermediate Pairs	Eleisha Hawkins & Jeffry Craanen	7 th
Victoria Junior Pairs	Mel Rowe & Amy Haste	2 nd
Upper Hutt Multigrade	Lesley Haines & Madeleine Askew Nathan Tucker & Eleisha Hawkins Marian Loader & Simon Webber Susan Flavin & Steve Denholm	4 th 5 th 8 th 9 th
Wellington Peter Benham Open Pairs	Ruth Brucker & Christine Chowchuvech	4 th
Karori Intermediate Pairs	Andrew Cushnice & Martyn Rew Jeffrey Craanen & Simon Webber	2 nd 8 th
Kairangi Intermediate Pairs	Eleisha Hawkins & Jeffry Craanen Stephanie Grummitt & David Haines	1 st 7 th

2026 WELLINGTON REGIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

	Hutt Bridge Club	OVERALL WINNERS
Open	Vil Gravis & Russell Dive	
Restricted Open	Madeleine Askew & Deirdre Stallinger	Winners
Intermediate	Jeffry Craanen & Simon Webber	Winners
Junior	Amy Haste & Mel Rowe	Winners
Novice	Dianne Fitzgerald and Fiona McArthur	





Graduation # 2

The graduates of our second set of lessons for the year gained their bridge 'badges' on Wednesday, 9 September. Another neat night of bridge for the small but perfectly formed group.

President Doug and Tutor AJ presented our new members with their goodies, then friendly bridge games eased the nerves as the games progressed.

The awesome supper showed everyone yet again, how welcoming we are.

CONGRATULATIONS to all our new members:

Grace Zhou, Allan Lee, Jill Nalder, Adrian Pronk, Maya Polaschek, Kim Barker, Helen Oram, Henry Bennett, Cathy Gamba, Ngaire Haines.



NZ Bridge Youth Camp 2026

The following words are by Rory McDowall, proudly our (and NZ's) youngest bridge club member.

This is Rory's account of her time at the NZ Bridge Youth Camp, in Christchurch from 4-9 September.

This is only the second time Rory has typed a story, so we've left it completely unedited.



When mum and I went to Christchurch bridge club, I met some new friends and first we played around with two packs of cards. We played spades, hearts and bridge. Finally we all got sorted into groups by what card we picked, then we chose team names. Mine was 7NT xx von - 13. Then we did a worksheet about leads. then we played 18 boards of bridge. then we all went to bed. To be fair it was 9:30 pm and we had to wake up at like 6:30 am the next day. The next day we played 24 hands and me and my partner came 5th. I guess we did not have an agreed system. Then we had lunch, for lunch we had hot dogs + milo. then we played some bridge bingo, and I almost completed a row. Next we did another lesson this time on discards they give you a sheet of questions and you talk to people and come up with an answer. The next day we finished the bridge bingo and then made a team of four. East and west moved to a different table. Our team came first for the first round with 87%, but at the end of all the hands we came second. we faced table 8 first. we beat them by 87% because they were in some bad contracts, like 4HX-5. Then we faced table 2. They sort of beat us. we did do pretty silly bids like overcalling 2D with 4 hcp and 7D. Afterwards we got certificates and a badge. The best part of the weekend was playing all the hands. The worst part was the flights. The first flight was really bumpy and the second I got a blocked ear that is still like that. Thank you to the bridge club for teaching me bridge and supporting me to go bridge camp. Especially to Robyn's dad who was called Ron.

Rory McDowall, aged 7





Regional Champions 2026

The Wellington Regional Club Championship were held at the Hutt Bridge Club on 12 July, with three of our five grades entered winning. The team were the overall winners for 2026.



Wellington Sixes Tourney



Angus Kirtlan,
Angela Banks,
Jill Herman,
Stephanie Grummitt,
Marian Loader,
Amy Haste

Sue Brown
Ruth Brucker
Denise Barnett
Lee McDonald
Claire Stainton
Chris Manson



Lotto fundraiser

How it works



One of the club's biggest fundraisers is our weekly lucky Lotto number, based on the bonus number drawn on Saturday night's Lotto draw. Providing all 40 numbers are sold in a week the winner and the club each get \$100.

If a free number comes up and you're interested in taking part, snap it up quick by getting in touch with Ruth. It costs \$5 a week, and you can buy as many weeks as you like in advance.

Take me, for example, I buy 6 months' worth of my lucky number 12 for \$130. Ruth will remind me when it's about to run out and I can pay some more, or stop, if I chose. My lucky number has come up trumps twice in the last 6 weeks, how lucky am I! But remember, it's a game of chance and a fundraiser.

Thanks to everyone who continues to support us this way.



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COMMUNITY TRUST

**Helping keep the rain out
of Hutt Bridge Club
since 2026**



Elsie's Etiquette



*Welcome your
opponents with a smile.*



*If you're playing online,
make sure your internet
has a stable connection.*



*If you're playing online,
avoid background noise
like TVs, music or
animals demanding
your attention.*



*Keep the game moving,
keep to time.*



*Avoid talking about
specific hands – your
neighbour might not
have played it yet.*



*Don't show frustration
or gloat. Be respectful.*



*Don't offer unwanted
advice or criticism.*



*If you spill your drink,
sort it immediately.
Dilute with water and
stand on paper towels to
soak it back up.*



*Return the equipment
at the end of the session.*



Push in your chair.



What's coming up in October?



2 October – Hutt challenge

This year the Hutt Challenge is at Upper Hutt Club. It's a fun tournament to see which of the Hutt clubs takes away the trophy.

10 October – In House Fun Tournament

Our own fun multigrade tournament is open to all partnerships. We encourage more experienced players to team up with a novice or junior. It's free entry for juniors and Novices – sponsored by the Ron Fisher Trust.

16 October – NZ Wide Pairs

Previously the Loveblock pairs.

18 October – Movie Fundraiser

Forget about bridge for the evening, have a treat out for the evening and come and watch a remake of Jane Austen's **Sense and Sensibility**. Nibbles will be provided beforehand. Contact Ruth for your ticket and more information.



26 October – Labour Day event

Pop Along to the Club on Labour Day, for an afternoon of bridge. Bring a plate!

Hat's off for another awesome Quiz Night

The Hutt Bridge Club ran its annual quiz night on the last day of August 2026, and by all accounts everyone who attended had an awesome time. Thanks to a very generous bunch of sponsors and supporters **we raised almost \$3,000.**

There were a couple of interesting rounds of questions, one was 'Diana and Ralph'. The actual Diana and Ralph who were in the room, missed out on this round when, especially for them achieving their 65th wedding anniversary, Toni Kane (quizmaster) first popped it into another quiz late in 2025. It was lovely to surprise them. And the 'Cocks and Pussies' round just before supper got everyone worried, but it was just about roosters and cats – of course!



The ladies of the 'Hat's All Folks!' team looked particularly smart wearing decorated table-mats on their heads. Most crafty, elegant things they were too, as was their specially designed table sign. Last year they wore gardening hats – I wonder what next year will be.

In the prizes were...

1st: Troubled Walters

2nd: "In or of Rory"

7th: Kerplopusses

Many thanks to members of the club the following businesses for donating prizes:
Hills Hats Ltd, Cameron Harrison Butchers, Cupcake Sweeties, Hutt City Pools+ Fitness, Wellworks Pharmacy Boulcott, Hair by Alli, Sophia's Creations, New World Hutt City, Columbus Coffee, Pak'nSAVE Lower Hutt, Lighthouse Cinema, The Empire Petone, Janus Bakkerj, Bunnings Warehouse Petone, XCape Escape rooms.



Thanks to our club's sponsors



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JASON BROWN
PLUMBING & GAS



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