



Newsletter of the Hutt Bridge Club
April 2019

**President's Column: Raewyn Dowman

Following the election of officers at our recent AGM the new Committee held its first meeting on Monday, 15 April 2019. The Committee will now meet on the third Monday of every month (mostly). The minutes from each meeting are also displayed on the notice board in the West side playing room for your perusal.

The elected officers are:

Raewyn Dowman – President

Steve Graves – Treasurer

Madeline Askew – Committee

Kathryn Badcock – Committee

Joan Finley – Committee

Jill Marsden – Committee

Tony Loveday – Committee

There was no nomination for the position of Vice President.

As you are aware there are many challenges facing the Club and one of these discussed by the new Committee was the need to continue to focus on recruitment and retention of members as well as encourage current and new members to attend more playing sessions throughout the year. The Committee also discussed ways in which we can increase our fundraising efforts and this year will include a variety of activities such as a Quiz night which is scheduled for 14 June, a movie night (August or September – date to be advised) and a garage sale scheduled for Saturday 2 November. If you are able to help with any of these please let Megan know. Also if you have any items that you would like to donate for the garage sale but cannot store until November, Megan would love to hear from you. Information about these fundraising activities will be promoted through Finesse, notices and on the

website. In order for fundraisers to be successful and raise money for the Club we need your support.

Happy bridging!
Raewyn

Club Happenings

** The AGM held on 24 March was very successful! Thanks go to Ryman Healthcare for another delicious spread.

** We are hosting interclub on Friday 17 May 2019.

** Our Open/Junior tournaments will be held on Sunday 19 May. **Note Juniors** the entry fee is heavily subsidised by the Ron Fisher Trust to \$15 per player. Lunch is provided with snacks and a complimentary drink following end of play.

** Bridge lessons for the new beginners are well underway with an average number of 23 people attending each week. Topics covered during the lessons will be put in the notices a week in advance. All members are welcome to attend.

** The NZ Bridge Youth Strategy 2018-2022 is now available. A copy is located on the noticeboard.

** **Put it in your diary:**

Quiz night is back **7pm Friday 14 June!!**

This is a major fundraiser for our club and we need your support. These evenings are a chance to get together as "bridgies" or bring family and friends to the club for a fun night.

** The Entertainment book for 2019/2020 is here! Order your book or digital membership today, flyers are in the foyer. The membership costs \$65, \$13 of which goes to the Club. Thank you for your support.

Bridge Successes

Congratulations to all the following members!

The following members have received recognition from NZ Bridge:

- Philippa Bartlett has been awarded a Certificate of Proficiency
- Neil Sargisson has been awarded a Certificate of Proficiency
- Paul Browne has been awarded with a rank change to Club Master
- With an achievement of 101A points and 256B points, John Donbavand has been awarded with a rank change to Master

** Saturday 16 March: The **Wellington Sixes** tournament was won by the Polish Club team with 4 of our members: Andeana Pilalis & Marian Loader (Intermediate pair) and Maciej Szczesny & Mariusz Tumilowicz (Open pair).

** Sunday 17 March: Phil Revell and his partner Ruth Brucker (from Wellington club) were session winners at the **Paraparaumu Open** tournament.

** Friday 22 March: **Interclub** results. Congratulations to our teams who had wins: Open team Hutt 1 captained by Maciej Szczesny; Intermediate team Hutt 1 captained by Simon Webber and Novice team Hutt 1 captained by Neil Sargisson.

** Sunday 24 March: A lovely afternoon was had at the **pre-AGM social bridge** session. Congratulations to Vil Gravis & Lynne Bruce for achieving the top North/South result and Raewyn & Martyn Dowman for coming top East/West.

** Sunday 7 April: Phil Revell & Simon Webber came 2nd overall at the **Victoria Multigrade** tournament. They also picked up a session prize, finishing first in the afternoon session of the tournament.

** Friday 12 April: **Interclub** results: Congratulations to Open 1 (Marian Loader's team) and the Novices (Neil Sargisson's team) on their wins. Also congratulations to Neil and partner Jacob Pilalis on their second placing in the first session (out of 136 pairs).

Welcome to New & Returning Members

Maureen Price
John Roseveare

Congratulations to our March winners:

Monday:

Derwent Lee Pairs

John Ansell & Trish McWatters

Tuesday:

Swiss Pairs

Nelson Procter & Vil Gravis

Wednesday:

Waterloo Pairs

Alan Boaden & Doug O'Halloran

Thursday:

Petone Pairs

Simon Webber & Andeana Pilalis

Friday:

Huia Pairs

Trish McWatters & Mary Rundle

Sad news

It is with great sadness that we advise that John McGrath passed away in April. John was a valued member of the Club and will be sorely missed. Our sympathy and support go to his family.

Upcoming tournaments

Wgtn Inter-Provincial Trials.....11-12 May
Paraparaumu Intermediate Pairs.....19 May
Hutt Open / Junior Pairs.....19 May
Otaki Multigrade Pairs.....26 May

Monthly Member Profile: Martyn Hartigan

I was born in London in 1946 and after some years in the Merchant Navy I enjoyed a career in the footwear industry with Clark's shoes. In 1990 I answered an advert in the foreign section of the Sunday Telegraph for a role in New Zealand with Hannah's Shoes. My wife Christine with our three children Lucy, Alice and Freddy moved to Lower Hutt and became NZ citizens. We are now the proud grandparents of next generation kiwis Gracie, Jonty and Clarke.

I retired in 2014 and started to learn bridge and have played poorly ever since. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all club members who have agreed to partner me and help during this time. With the success of the club's recruitment and AJ's teaching, the Wednesday sessions continue to grow. Moving on to play at other sessions can be very daunting but made easier by the kindness and patience of all the Hutt players. I look forward to many more years playing at the Hutt Bridge club.



Vil's Corner

In last month's Finesse I set some bidding problems. Good to get so many sensible answers, thanks to all contributors. This month's session prize goes to Alison Sparrow, one of our newest members. Well done Alison!

For what it's worth here is my take on the problems:

1. You are West and after two passes, South opens 1H. Your bid holding:

♠ KQ987
♥ KQ87
♦ AK8
♣ 7

A simple overcall of 1S is best. Why? Because if partner shows you some support, that support would be voluntary and you could then happily bid to game. If you double, partner's response will be forced and you may end up underbidding or overbidding.

2. What would be your opening bid holding:

♠ AQ73
♥ QJ
♦ AKQ
♣ K754

2NT is what the book says but there are too many losers because the QJ will only be worth the points if partner has the Ace or King. If playing natural 4 card suits I would open 1S, otherwise 1C. If partner can't respond you are probably in the best place.

3. All vul, partner is dealer and opens 3S. Your bid?

♠ 7
♥ AK
♦ AJ105
♣ AKQ1075

*Hot off the Press: Welcome to the first
Platinum and Emerald Grand Masters!*

How much trust do you have in partner? A vulnerable pre-empt should be a good one and if you know partner won't open 3S on tram tickets, slam must be possible if not probable. Bid 5S which asks partner to bid slam with a good suit: AKxxxx or AQJxxxx would qualify but would partner bid 7S with AKQxxxx? Possibly. 3NT is a unilateral decision and in effect says you don't trust partner to have a good spade suit and can make 3NT on your own. Which camp do you fall in?

4. You are not vul vs vul opponents. After two passes, what would you bid holding:

♠ Q42
♥ 63
♦ KQ954
♣ K102

A very light opening bid third in hand could work out but are you prepared to then pass anything partner bids? Favourable vulnerability does make it very tempting. Despite the temptation I would pass but if you do open 1D and partner bids 1H, go through with it and rebid 2D and start praying.

5. You open 1D and partner bids 1S. Your next bid?

♠ 4
♥ A7
♦ AKQJ973
♣ K93

2NT based on point count is the book bid but now that partner has shown some spades and enough to respond, what are the chances of not making at least nine tricks in 3NT. Bid what you think you will make, not what the point count dictates, why risk being left in 2NT.

This month's challenge: send in three bidding problems, the best three will be posed in the next Finesse and as usual there will be a session prize for the best contribution.

There is a small select group of Gold Grand Masters who until very recently had no further targets for which to aim. NZ Bridge has recently established two new marks of achievement, Platinum and Emerald Grand Masters.

The targets are tough to achieve. See the definitions below for the two new ranks:

Platinum Grand Master: 10,000 master-points of which at least 7,500 are A Points.

Emerald Grand Master: 8,000 master-points of which at least 6,000 are A Points.

During Auckland Easter Congress NZ Bridge President, Allan Morris, presented the first plaque in each category to Michael Ware (Platinum) and Grant Jarvis (Emerald).



Platinum: Michael Ware Emerald: Grant Jarvis

Michael Ware: Leaving out decimal points and C Points, Michael has, as at 23 April 2019 7945 A Points and 1942 B Points. Although that adds up to 9887 master-points Michael, along with all other affected players, is still to receive master-points earned in Australian Congresses this year. So, with those, Michael has achieved 10,000 master-points!

Grant Jarvis: Grant has 6101 A Points with 2672 B Points, a total of 8773 master-points.

New Zealand Bridge is currently updating the software to include the two new ranks.

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Happy Bridging!