



Newsletter of the Hutt Bridge Club
March 2019

**President's Column: Raewyn Dowman

The Hutt Club is very fortunate to have some loyal and longstanding sponsors as well as some relatively new ones and we are extremely grateful for their support. Finding and retaining sponsorship for clubs is not easy and we need to ensure that any sponsor we have we use their products or services wherever possible and let them know that it is because of their support to our club. The Committee discussed at a recent meeting how we can further publicise sponsor support and agreed that we will advertise several sponsors' logos in each Finesse commencing with this edition. Our programme sponsors names are listed in the front inside cover of the programme booklet and their logos are displayed on our website. You can simply access their website by clicking onto their logo!

Happy bridging!
Raewyn

[Hutt Bridge Club AGM](#)

** The AGM will be held on Sunday 24 March at 5pm. There will be free bridge from 2:30 pm.

[Bridge Successes](#)

** Hutt Multigrade Tournament: Our first tournament for the year was held on Sunday 3 March. A huge thank you to Gee & Hickton for sponsoring the tournament and to all the volunteer bakers and helpers who made it such a successful day.

Congratulations to Maciej Szczesny and Mariusz Tumilowicz who came third overall. Also congratulations to AJ and Mereana Cullen (from Hamilton Bridge Club and the NZBridge Radio show) who were the winners for the first session.



Mariusz Tumilowicz & Maciej Szczesny with Raewyn Dowman



AJ & Mereana Cullen with Raewyn Dowman

Congratulations also to the following members:

** Elizabeth Schuck has been selected for the NZ Youth Squad.

** Nelson Procter and John Donbavand won the Waikanae Open tournament on Sunday 10 February.

** Sylvia Jurkiewicz and Barbara Tumilowicz (Karori Bridge Club) came second in the Rookie Pairs during the Gold Coast Bridge Congress. Also, Maciej Szczesny and Mariusz Tumilowicz came second in the Restricted Pairs during the Gold Coast Bridge Congress.

Monthly Member Profile: David & Shirley Wiseman



Shirley

I was born in Hamilton and grew up on a farm. Following college, I trained at Waikato hospital and qualified as a registered nurse in 1955. I married in 1956 and as my husband was a regular soldier, we moved around N.Z. One of the interesting postings was Waiouru where we spent five years and in 1969 we went to north-east Thailand. The N.Z. Army engineers were part of a Colombo Plan initiative needed to guide and assist in building a feeder road in the north-east. There were ten families and twenty-five unaccompanied soldiers living in Mahasarakham, close to the Laos border. I was the Honorary nurse for the Base and also supervised correspondence lessons for my three children. The lessons were flown from Wellington and returned by the Air Force. It was a very interesting time.

On returning to N.Z. I was able to work at different hospitals nursing in neo-natal units caring for premature and sick babies.

In 1985 I attended the bridge lessons and then joined the Hutt Bridge Club. This has been one of my wisest decisions. I really enjoy bridge and our club. I play three days a week, have played in many tournaments, inter-club and been on the committee twice, and have made many friends.

David and I were married in 1989 and he took the lessons and joined the club in 1990. We have spent many absorbing hours at the bridge table.

Congratulations to our February winners:

Monday:
Kebbell Pairs
Simon Grant & Kevin Bateman

Tuesday:
Melling Pairs
Nelson Procter & Lynne Bruce

Wednesday:
Otaki Pairs
Neil Sargisson & Paul Holder

Thursday:
Acol Pairs
Elaine Richardson & Martyn Dowman

Friday:
Kings Pairs
Trish McWatters & Lynne Bruce

Welcome to New Members

Elisa & John Mendzela
Eva Jacobson

Upcoming tournaments

- Victoria Multigrade Pairs.....7 April
- South Wairarapa Int/Jnr.....14 April
- Regional Mixed Sex Pairs Open (Karori)...22 April
- Wellington Regional Congress25-28 April

David

Sports have always been an important part of my life, starting at the age of 13, playing for Kilbirnie Cricket Club. Then table-tennis and lawn bowls, and umpiring two sports, plus a keen interest in chess. I started work at the BNZ in 1947 and progressed for nine years when I decided to leave the security, safety, salary, and pension to travel overseas.

My first venture was to South Africa in 1958. I didn't know anybody there or anybody who had been there. Flying was very expensive in those days - no jets and travel by ship was the sensible transport. It took 3 days to sail from Wellington to Sydney, (not 2 hours!), and over 3 weeks to Durban. There I purchased a car and spent a year of total enjoyment exploring and experiencing unusual adventures in a wonderful, friendly country. I worked in accountancy in Capetown and Johannesburg. Then I jumped on a ship to Italy and joined up with two Kiwi friends. We toured most of Europe in a brand new Land Rover (not mine). So with many more overseas trips, I have seen a lot of the world. The highlight was Victoria Falls in full flood but other strong memories are the Trans-Siberian Railway, Mount Rushmore carved Presidents, Orient Express, Twin Towers and climbing Mt. Vesuvius. My final working years were spent owning a coffee lounge in central Wellington - 5 years, and a bookshop in Bowen Street, now replaced by a government tower.

My interest in bridge began when Shirl learned to play and although I play just once a week I find the game captivating and challenging. I was involved in the purchase of our first dealing machine (\$7000) including the software, bar-coded playing cards and boxes of numbered boards and then co-opted willing members to learn to deal each playing session.

Vil's Corner

In this issue, I am reproducing some questions that I have posed in my Thursday review for March 14. Readers' input will be very valuable for further discussion and all readers of Finesse are urged to give me their input. The best contribution will be rewarded with a session ticket. Please give it a go!

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

♠ KQ987
♥ KQ87
♦ AK8
♣ 7

2. What would be your opening bid holding:

♠ AQ73
♥ QJ
♦ AKQ
♣ K754

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

♠ 7
♥ AK
♦ AJ105
♣ AKQ1075

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

♠ Q42
♥ 63
♦ KQ954
♣ K102

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

♠ 4
♥ A7
♦ AKQJ973
♣ K93

Please remember...

** Please remember to alert your partner's one club and one no trump opening bids.

** Also, please make sure you arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of play, particularly if you have seating rights.

*Top Bridge player suspended under
Antidoping Rules*



Geir Helgemo, one of the world's top bridge players was suspended by the World Bridge Federation after failing a drug test.

Last month he was suspended after a random test found the presence of synthetic testosterone and Clomifene, a medication typically used to treat infertility in women that can also increase testosterone levels in men. While initially unsure of how the drugs got into his system eventually he admitted that he was trying to control his weight and had been taking supplements with unknown ingredients. Mr Helgemo has been stripped of all titles and medals from the 2018 World Bridge series and is suspended until November 2019.

Read more at this link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2019/mar/01/world-no1-bridge-player-suspended-after-failing-a-drugs-test-geir-helgemo>

Ever heard a player say things like these?

Ten things a bridge player would never say ...

1. This club (playing area) is always the right temperature – never too hot or too cold.
2. Free coffee? No thanks.
3. Cool! A four-board sitout.
4. No, I don't think tournament fees are too high.
5. I can always count on my partner to remember every convention on our card.
6. No gossip, please. I'm not interested.
7. More new Alerts! More new Alerts!
8. One thing I can say about bridge players – they sure know how to dress.
9. No matter which direction we sit, the cards always go our way.
10. I don't feel like bridge today, thanks. I'd rather jog and work out.

– Marilyn White, Toronto

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Happy Bridging!