



Newsletter of the Hutt Bridge Club
May 2019

** President's Column: Raewyn Dowman

As you are aware our lessons have been progressing really well and we have 20 learners who will finish their lessons on 27 May. Feedback from the learners last year was extremely positive, not only about how much they enjoyed the lessons and the support and guidance they received from AJ and the helpers, but also how grateful they were to the Buddies who helped them gain confidence through their patience and encouragement.

This year we will be using the same approach to integrate the learners into becoming full playing members through the Buddy system and a controlled merger into the Wednesday night playing sessions. Already we have members who have indicated they are prepared to be a Buddy to the learners but we will require a few more. Buddies are an important component to successful retention of new players and as a Club we need to nurture and support them.

Three Buddy sessions will be held on **Monday 10, 17 and 24 June** starting at 7pm. At the completion of these sessions the learners will have a graduation night. This will be held on **Wednesday 3 July** and is where the learners' achievements are acknowledged with a certificate. As well, they will get to play a limited number of boards with their Buddy (if available) and enjoy a special supper with the Wednesday playing group. The learners are taught standard ACOL and Buddies would be expected to play the system which the learners have been taught. Systems sheets will be provided to Buddies.

We understand this is a big commitment for members but if you want to be a Buddy and are available for the three Buddy sessions and Graduation night (if possible), or require additional information please contact Megan in the office by

Thursday 30 May. We would love to hear from you!

As I mentioned last year, should we be in the amazing situation where we have more members wanting to be Buddies than learners then we will need to pare down the list. However, we will still need to have people available to fill in as a Buddy if there is an unexpected gap.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support of the learners and ultimately to the Club.

Finally, some of you will be aware Martyn and I are travelling overseas and return early August. Finesse will continue to be published each month during this time but the June and July edition will not contain a President's column. As we do not have a Vice President, the duties undertaken by me have been divided up between all the Committee members and I thank them for taking on the added responsibilities while I am away.

Happy bridging to you all and I look forward to seeing you again in August.

Raewyn

Club Happenings

**The always popular 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.

Teams of up to six can be entered. There are two sign up forms on the wall, one to join a team and one if you already have a team. Please put your names up ASAP, \$10 each entrance fee thank you.

A donation of wine/chocolate/goodies would be most appreciated thank you and can be left in the red box in the foyer.

**** Garage Sale:** As a Club fundraiser, we are holding a garage sale Saturday 2 November. If you have any items you would like to donate for the garage sale but cannot store until November, Megan would love to hear from you.

**** Entertainment membership:** 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.



The Junior tournament sponsored by the Ron Fisher Trust was won by Yvonne & Graeme Fisher from Kairangi Bridge Club pictured below.

Upcoming tournaments

Karori Junior Pairs	9 June
Victoria Open Swiss Pairs	9 June
Masterton Intermediate/Junior	23 June
Kapi Mana Open	23 June
Wgtn Main Regional Teams	29-30 June

Bridge Successes

**** Our Open/Junior Tournaments held on Sunday 19 May were a huge success! Thank you to the many volunteers who made it such a great day! The Open tournament was won by Joan McCarthy & Nigel Kearney from Wellington Bridge Club. Also pictured is Gavin Murphy, General Manager, Gee and Hickton. We thank Gee and Hickton for their sponsorship.**



The full list of winners for each tournament were as follows:

Open Tournament:

- 1st Joan McCarthy & Nigel Kearney (Wellington)
- 2nd Peter Delahunty & Lynda Rigler (Karori)
- 3rd Paul Badcock & Bryan Cunliffe (Hutt)

Junior Tournament:

- 1st Yvonne Fisher & Graeme Fisher (Kairangi)
- 2nd Helen & Murray Climo (Wellington)
- 3rd Jane McDougall & Marilyn McLaughlin (Hutt)

** Saturday 20 April: Nebojsa Djorovic & Donna Upchurch (Wgtn Bridge Club) came 2nd overall at the Levin Multigrade tournament.

** Monday 22 April: Mariusz Tumilowicz & Barbara Tumilowicz (Karori Bridge Club) won the morning session and came 1st in the Silver Section of the Mixed Sex Pairs held at Karori Bridge Club.

** 25 – 28 April: Neil Sargisson & Jacob Pilalis came first in the Novice Pairs at Wellington Congress.

** Friday 17 May: **Interclub** results: Congratulations to the following teams on their wins: Intermediate Hutt 1 (Simon Webber's team), Intermediate Hutt 2 (Jill Herman's team), Novice (Neil Sargisson's team) – currently in 1st place by 22 points – excellent achievement, and Hutt Junior 1 (Joan Finley's team) on their draw.

** Sunday 19 May: Angela Banks & Caroline Strachan won the Paraparaumu Intermediate tournament.

** Alison Sparrow won a session ticket for the best answer in Vil's Corner of April Finesse.

Congratulations to all these members!

*Monthly Member Profile:
Margaret Oxnam*



I was born in Wellington a long time ago and up to the end of my secondary education I lived in several places around NZ. My working life started at the BNZ. Opportunities for young women in banks at the time weren't great. I resigned eventually on obtaining a government position in the Public Trust Office in Nelson.

During my employment at the bank I met my husband to be, Keith, over the counter. We married three years later and a year later with both of us working in the government and with promotions we felt we could achieve in sight, we shifted to Wellington. We flatted in Wellington, whilst our house was being built in the Hutt.

In the early 1970s the Hutt Bridge Club had a notice in the Hutt News about Bridge lessons. The Club was positioned in those days in the central city area in Waterloo Road. We were taught the Goren system (the system of the day) by Alan Davidson.

Congratulations to our April winners:

Monday:

Avalon Medical Centre Pharmacy Pairs

John Ansell & Anne Wanden

Tuesday:

Kendons Pairs

Madeleine Askew & Jane Godfrey

Wednesday:

Queens Pairs

Peter Hawkes & Paul Holder

Thursday:

Finesse Pairs

Vil Gravis & Jeffry Crannen

Friday:

Sweet Vanilla Pairs

Arumugam Kumarasamy & John Ansell

When the series of lessons finished, a committee member, Dave Mattison took over as Convenor of the group (most of the learners' class of 60 odd remained in the group). Dave directed, did some tutoring, planned our programme, arranged partners, looked after us generally and instilled in us a great sense of enthusiasm.

We had a further year with this set-up and at the end of 1973 we were invited to become members of the Club. Most of the group took the offer up. I add that in those days the Club was growing like "topsy."

Moving on a few years, I suffered a real set-back from the death of Keith through heart failure. Thank goodness I had an interest like Bridge and that we had undertaken some travel.

During the 1980s the club through encouragement of a member, Harold Austen and others, said it was time the Club had its own club rooms and this led to where we are now. The addition of the West room and other improvements was part of the transition of a two-storeyed factory to Bridge rooms.

At the 1996 AGM the nominations for the committee were one short of the allowable number and so the matter was put to the floor. Doreen Watson, wife of one of the co-originators of the Club asked if she could nominate me and I accepted. This led to an eight years' stint on the committee, two years of which I was President.

One highlight of the Presidency was the acquiring of an "autodealer" at a cost of \$7,000. Committee members and others loaned monies to a fund to make up \$7,000 and table money was increased by \$1 per person. These \$1 payments paid off the \$7,000 lent by members.

Since the committee days I have continued to be involved at various times with a variety of tasks towards the functioning of the Club. I felt honoured to be awarded with Life membership about 8 years ago.

Apart from Bridge activities, I have held a number of Officer positions in other organisations but I have largely retired from these tasks now. I have endeavoured to make a contribution to whatever I have belonged to as I believe I should.

With the passing of my husband I have been fortunate through friends and others to be able to continue travelling. I would not like to travel on my own as some people do.

Nearly two years ago I sold my home I lived in for 49 years. I live now at Bob Scott Retirement Village, Petone. I am relieved I won't be shifting again. The de-cluttering aspect certainly has been a challenge.

Times have changed for Clubs and organisations but I do wish Hutt Bridge Club the best for the future.

Vil's Corner

It seems that our readers don't have any problems with their bidding. Not one reader sent in any bidding problems, so no session tickets this month! However I have had a number of people commenting about the rules and regulations as they relate to the opening bids of 1C and 1NT and the requirement to announce their meaning when partner opens either. Also, when and when not, to alert a bid, in particular the 2C and 2D opening bids.

But before we get into the proprieties, let me give you just one bidding problem. The answer will be at the end of this article, so I hope you will actually be encouraged to read it and take some notice.

You are South and neither side vulnerable, West is dealer and opens 1C, North passes and East bids 1H. What would you bid with the following hand:

- ♠ K7
- ♥ AQJ1043
- ♦ 92
- ♣ A43

Now back to the task in hand. Let me briefly explain some things that can irk both your opponents and the director.

Not announcing the 1C and 1NT. By now, everyone should know that the moment partner opens 1C or 1NT you must announce the meaning. While I myself don't see it as necessary, there are good reasons why this rule has been introduced. Unfortunately, many people have still not got the message.

And what should the partner of the opener actually say?

In the case of a 1NT opening. "12-14", "13-15", or "15-17". Unless it could be off shape like 5422 or 6322, that is all you have to say, no need to add 'balanced'.

In the case of a 1C opening, it should also be an easy matter to say "4 plus", or "3 plus", which are by far the most common. Saying "could be short" is meaningless and should be avoided. If you're playing some unusual system where your partner insists that you respond to a 1C opening, then you must alert the 1C bid, not just say "forcing" or "could be short" but also alert it and, IF ASKED, give a full explanation.

2C and 2D: Many people play the 2C and 2D opening bids as two different versions of strong hands, whereas many others play 2C as the only strong, forcing bid and 2D as a weak two. The 2C opening is part of standard Acol and does not need to be alerted, but if your 2D opening is another strong bid that is not natural, you should alert it as well as your 2C opening. I don't believe a weak 2D opening should be alerted, because it is natural, nor an old fashioned Acol 2D bid that is an 8+ playing tricks hand with a diamond suit. Opponents are always entitled to ask, but without any alerts, bids should be taken as natural and not conventional.

And another thing that many people do that they should NOT do, is to alert a bid and immediately launch into explaining its meaning. You must NOT do that, because

- once a bid is alerted, it is the opponents' prerogative to ask about its meaning, and
- your explanation of it may just alert your partner as to what you think it means, and that is unauthorised information.

Another thing I hear quite often is "what do you understand by partner's bid?" We can all agree that understanding partner's bids is often difficult if not impossible, so such a question is likely to get the explanation that it deserves, meaningless. The question should be; "what does that bid mean according to your system". Or as many of the more experienced players ask, simply: "how do you play that?" And you should then not go into any rigmarole about what you take it to mean or what you think it might mean, that is also giving unauthorised information to your partner. Simply say what it is according to your system, or if you don't know, just say "undiscussed", which is something I personally think is a cop out but an answer that many of the more 'senior' players seem to get away with when they should know

better. But 'undiscussed' is a more likely case in many of our new partnerships.

Now back to the beginning. Have you thought about what you would bid? The answer should be: PASS. I have had situations where players have asked the bidder's partner whether the bid is natural. That is totally out of order. If any bid by opener OR responder is NOT natural it will be alerted, so by asking you are clearly conveying unauthorised information. You should pass because any other bid will tell your partner the wrong thing. The only thing you can do is to pass and if opener rebids their clubs or maybe 1NT and that is passed, you can now bid 2H which should be perfectly clear to partner.

Finally: you are always entitled to ask a question when it is your turn to bid, but asking the wrong question at the wrong time can lead to possible accusations. That can be especially the case when you or partner have to make the opening lead. If YOU are on lead, you should ask for a full explanation of the bidding if you are not sure, but if your partner has the opening lead, even if you are in the pass out position, do not ask questions that might be construed as hoping to influence the opening lead. Just remember, there is a time and place for everything, and that goes for alerts as well as questions.

Hutt Bridge Club is proudly sponsored by:



JASON BROWN
PLUMBING & GAS

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Happy Bridging!