



available to you mid-November. At that time you will also receive your membership invoice for 2020 as we did last year.

Happy bridging!
Raewyn

Newsletter of the Hutt Bridge Club October 2019

**President's Column: Raewyn Dowman

What a good choice for our movie fundraiser. Thanks to all those members, friends and family who supported this through purchasing tickets or making a donation. The fundraiser and raffle raised \$1,000 for the club. Particular thanks to Bob Scott Retirement Village who provided the fabulous nibbles for the fundraiser as well as providing transport for some of the residents who live at the village. It was extremely generous and appreciated.

The Hutt/Upper Hutt Bridge Challenge held recently was a resounding success. As usual the Upper Hutt Club were wonderful hosts and made us very welcome. Nineteen pairs from the Hutt Club participated on the night and it was a closely fought contest with the Hutt Club coming out on top to retain the cup. We look forward to hosting Upper Hutt Club members at the challenge next year.

Our last fundraiser for the year is the garage sale coming up on Saturday 2 November. Details are outlined later in this newsletter.

At our recent October meeting the Committee considered the draft budget for 2020 along with membership subscription and table money. It was agreed that there would be no increase in table money and subscriptions for the coming year but to mitigate potential increases in fixed costs we have identified potential areas for increased revenue through sponsorship, increased membership and fundraising.

The HBC 2020 programme booklet is going to the printers shortly. You will notice we have had an increase in the number of sponsored series and again we are very grateful for our sponsors' support. We are aiming for the booklets to be

Club Happenings

** Garage Sale: It's garage sale time! Saturday 2 November 8:30 to 11:30 at the club. Items can be dropped during the week, any time during office hours or when you come in for bridge sessions. Please place directly in the East room.

** Working Bee:



The club is holding a "working bee" on Saturday 30 November from 9am to 11am. Tasks will be allocated out on the day and include cleaning of cupboards, shelves, ovens, sweeping, replacing foam covers on playing tables, clearing paths and general tidying of areas within the club. We will ask for helpers closer to the date.

Upcoming tournaments

Babich NZ Wide Pairs	1 Nov
Waikanae Intermediate/Junior	10 Nov
Masterton Multigrade	17 Nov
National IP Finals	23 Nov
Wgtn Region Christmas Cheer Open	14 Dec
Suzanne Duncan Open Pairs	27-29 Dec

Bridge Successes

**** Interclub 20 Sept:** We hosted Interclub on Friday 20 September. Thank you to Diana Pratchett, Madeleine Askew and Bernice Singh for their help on the night. Congratulations to the following teams on their wins: Open 1 captained by Maciej Szczesny, Intermediate 3 captained by Kathryn Badcock and the novice team captained by Neil Sargisson.

**** Paraparaumu Multigrade tournament:** This was held Sunday 29 September. Congratulations to Hannah Revell & Phil Revell who came 2nd in both the morning and afternoon sessions and finished 4th overall.

**** National Congress:** Congratulations to Neil Sargisson & Jacob Pilalis who won the Novice Pairs. Also congratulations to Russell Dive and Russell Wilson (New Plymouth) who won the Congress Pairs.

**** Interclub 18 Oct:** Congratulations to Novice Hutt 1 (captain Neil Sargisson), Intermediate Hutt 2 (captain Jill Herman), and Intermediate Hutt 3 (captain Kathryn Badcock) on their wins.

**** Annual Hutt/Upper Hutt Challenge:** Well done team, we retained the cup! Congratulations to Elaine Richardson and Jill Marsden who were the top scoring pair for Hutt. Thank you Upper Hutt for being super hosts again and making us feel very welcome.

**** Rank changes:** NZ Bridge has awarded the following members with rank changes:
Murray Gough – Club Master
Hans Jorgensen – Local Master

**** Certificate of proficiency:** In addition Ellie Boyd has received a certificate of proficiency.

Congratulations to all these members!

Movie night fundraiser

The Downton Abbey fundraiser on Monday 14 October was a very successful night. Thank you to all who bought tickets or made donations. Also a big thank you to Bob Scott Retirement Village for providing delicious nibbles and transport. This event raised approximately \$1000 for the club.

Congratulations to our September winners:

Monday:

Flowers on High Pairs

Lindsay Byron & Don McIlvrive

Tuesday:

Knit World Pairs

Madeleine Askew & John Donbavand

Wednesday:

Jason Brown Plumbing & Gas Pairs

Jacob Pilalis & Andeana Pilalis

Thursday:

Overtrick Pairs

Shirley Wiseman & Jeffry Craanen

Ruffnsluff Pairs

Gerry Williams & Janet Mathews

Friday:

Doreen Watson Memorial Pairs

Vil Gravis & Prafulla Hegde

Monthly Member Profile: Phil Revell

Bridge.

I love it!

It's been a big part of my life. I play two or three times per week as well as interclub and as many tournaments as I can find time for. It's a wonderful hobby and I am truly grateful for the interesting and friendly people I have met and formed relationships with.

For me cards started with my grandmother. She was stone deaf, almost blind and had by all accounts been a very canny bridge player. She instigated a regular game of "Five Hundred" at our house on Sunday afternoons. She had a special pack of cards with large symbols and numbers and we would write our bids with thick black felt pens so that she could make out what was happening. Almost like real bridge!

Bridge proper started 25 plus years ago at the Hastings club. I was at the time flatting and a flyer turned up in the letter box for bridge lessons.

Not long after that I found myself living in a fishing town called Hammerfest about 500 km north of the Arctic Circle in Norway. The small local bridge club was a fair reflection of the town's population, mostly comprised of younger males intent upon disposing of their incomes. The sessions were 30 or 36 boards and five hours long. No 7 minute time limit per board there! There was usually a waitress in attendance delivering drinks to the table where smoking and drinking was the norm. The bridge was intensely competitive and a fair amount of sledging was going on. It made for very exciting bridge.

I moved to Wellington 20 years ago shortly after my daughter Hannah was born and began playing at Karori and Tuesday nights at the Hutt. I would guess half of the people playing Tuesdays at the Hutt now were playing then. That's one of the many things I love about bridge. You can keep playing for decades if not a life time and not really get past it. There is always something new to learn or improve upon.

Three or so years later a lovely woman named Madeleine asked me for a series. I managed to persuade some friends to host us for dinner and bridge so we could practice. The bridge went terribly that first series but all else went well and fifteen plus years later we are still together. We are both quite competitive with our bridge both when playing together or against each other. This can lead to some spirited conversations at times! Having said that it's magic really, how else could we both be better than each other all of the time.

After ten or so years of playing I attended the lessons for a second time with my daughter Hannah. She has played off and on since then and I feel proud and privileged to be able to play with her when we can find the time. Again a very rewarding experience.

On the subject of lessons although I was a reasonable intermediate at that time I was pleasantly surprised at how much I learnt while attending the lessons then given by Bryan Cunliffe. I came to realise how much I had missed the first time around and believe it improved my understanding of the game. I would encourage you all to consider getting involved with the lessons. AJ does a great job and I am sure he has more room for helpers. The club needs to keep membership up by teaching and retaining new players. For the helpers there is a sense of

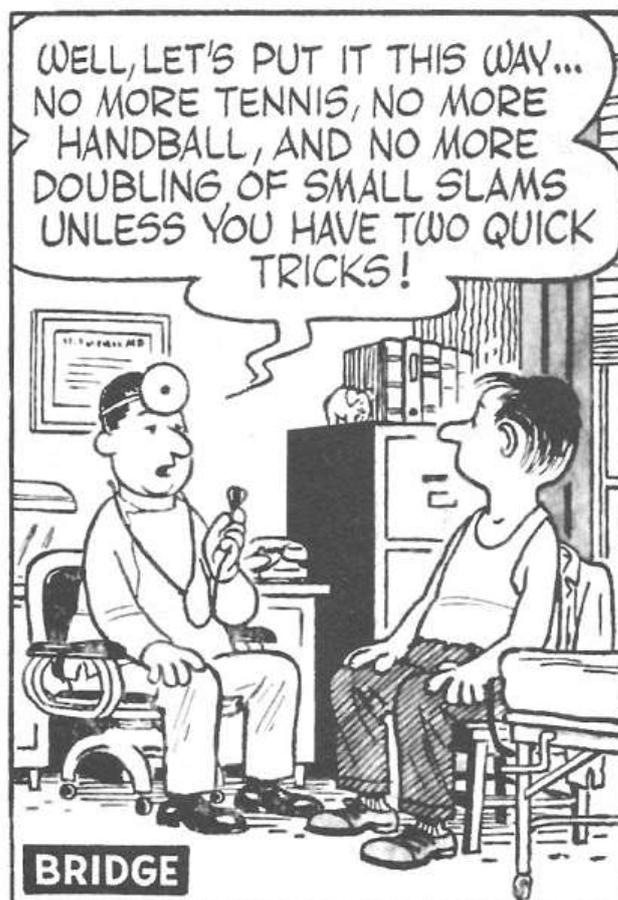
reward that comes from helping as well as the chance to further your own game.

Well that's all folks. I look forward to playing for another 25 years if not longer, slowly improving while enjoying the company of the people at the table and hope you all do as well.

Table money protocol

- Can you please ensure the method of payment is written down on the session sheet for each player
- If you are paying by direct debit can you please remember to sign
- Also please remember to write your table number

Some bridge funnies...



The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once she's in it – Alfred Shwinwold

The difference between genius and stupidity at the bridge table is that genius has its limits – Anon

Years ago there were only two acceptable reasons for not leading partner's suit:

- (1) having no cards in the suit;*
- (2) having a death wish. – Anon*

I favour light opening bids. When you're my age, you can never be sure that the bidding will get back around to you again. – Oswald Jacoby at 77

A married couple are not speaking to each other after a horrible game and are driving home from a distant bridge tournament. They pass by a field where there are many donkeys. The husband breaks the silence by asking the wife: "relations of yours?" "Yes" she replies, "In-laws". – Eddie Kantar

Dummy apologizing for getting the partnership too high says: "I was hoping you had a second suit." Partner says: "I didn't even have a first suit." – Eddie Kantar

Vil's Corner

You are West in a match point pairs session and hold this hand:

Dealer E NS Vul

- ♠ AK7643
- ♥ AJ842
- ♦ 4
- ♣ 8

Your partner opens the bidding with 1D and you respond 1S. 2C from partner. You bid 3H and partner bids 3NT. What do you bid next? Have a think before I reveal partner's hand.

In the whole of X-Clubs, only ONE West chose to bid 4H. It just would not occur to me that the contract should be anything other than 4H or 4S but clearly that is not how the rest of Monday afternoon New Zealand bridge players see it. Now let me show you the East West hands:

- ♠ AK7643
- ♥ AJ842
- ♦ 4
- ♣ 8

- ♠ 10
- ♥ 103
- ♦ Q8652
- ♣ AKQ103

As the reader can see, this is about as bad a hand as East could have in support of a 4H contract by West and 3NT is not impossible, but let's say you as West have made the decision to bid 4H, which is what every West would have bid 50 years ago. In 4H, North leads the ace of diamonds and follows with the jack. How would you play the 4H contract?

This should not be a difficult problem and we have a session ticket for the best answer, so please give it a go.

Hutt Bridge Club is proudly sponsored by:



JASON BROWN
PLUMBING & GAS



YOUR KNITTING SPECIALISTS

Flowers On High



Finesse is a newsletter of the
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Happy Bridging!