



## Hutt Bridge Club Newsletter April 2020

### President's Column: Raewyn Dowman

#### Greetings

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well?

I'm sure we have all found these past few weeks challenging in a number of ways but also a chance to reflect on just how important family and friends are to us at this time. While isolating in a "bubble", keeping in touch is not always easy and this is where technology has come to the fore but not without a degree of stress involved for some of us!! Coming to grips with applications such as Skype, Zoom, Viber, FaceTime, and WhatsApp, to name but a few, has created a few headaches and a few not so savoury words from me!!

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"Our web site got 150 hits today!"

However, overcoming this hurdle has been worth it in order to "see" and enjoy time with family and friends, play some bridge, and conduct essential meetings.

I am aware that a number of our members are now playing bridge on the Bridge Base Online (BBO) site and this has been in part due to a few enthusiastic people who have "rallied the troops" and provided support and encouragement to get this up and running. Others have set up their own online bridge groups. Later in this newsletter you will find additional information on BBO to help get you started. However, if you need a wee bit of assistance to set up, then ring the Hutt Bridge Club on 5671058 and leave a message. We are happy to help wherever we can.

Being able to play online during this period of isolation has reinforced to me just how fortunate we are to have learned a game that is so portable. There are not many sports or hobbies which can be undertaken at a social or competitive level in person as well as online. However, it doesn't completely replace the benefits we receive from socialising with each other at the bridge club and I'm sure we all look forward to getting together again!

Unfortunately the lessons for 2020 were postponed before they had even started! This was very disappointing for the learners as well as us as a club. Having new people join our club adds greatly not only to our viability but also it provides us with an opportunity to have new and interesting people contribute to the fellowship of our club.

We are currently organising a newsletter to go out to the learners with an update on where things are at regarding their lessons and also suggestions for those who may wish to access online material in preparation for the start of lessons. Let's hope it's not too long before we can welcome the learners into the club.

In the last newsletter I made reference to club members saying they would like to make a donation in lieu of their playing money during the time of the club's closure. Thank you to all who have been very generous in your support of this. I can report that we have had just over \$1,300 donated so far. These donations will help offset some of the loss of income the club will incur from the reduced table money and reduced income from hiring of the facility.

If you would still like to donate money, then please use the Hutt Bridge Club bank account BNZ 02 0528 0379610 00 and include your name and state donation in the details section. You can claim a tax credit for donations over \$5. Please note we cannot use the direct debit system for donations.

A big thank you to the people who have been keeping in touch with our members who don't have a computer and therefore are not receiving email updates or Finesse from the club. I'm sure the recipients of your phone calls are very appreciative and welcome your calls.

Last evening our committee met via Skype. Continuing to meet on a regular basis during the club closure is important to ensure that ongoing administration requirements of the club are being met, as well as discuss how we are using this time of closure to prepare for the club's reopening. We will be keeping in touch with our dealers, directors, and playing committees as part of this preparation so everyone is prepared when we are permitted to open again.

Yesterday at the Prime Minister's press conference, Jacinda Ardern signalled to us that it is still likely to be some time before organisations such as ours are able to reopen. While I know many of us can't wait until that day, we do need to consider the demographics of our membership, the closeness of members during a game of bridge and the need to ensure the overall health and safety of our staff and members. These factors along with the government's guidelines will all be taken into consideration when making this very important decision. We will, of course, keep you updated on this as soon as we have more information available.

Take care and keep safe.

## Online Bridge

A number of bridge players around the country are enjoying playing online bridge. While there are many options available Bridge Base Online (BBO) is seemingly the most popular: <https://www.bridgebase.com/>

If you would like a step-by-step guide to using BBO email the club [hbcincnz@gmail.com](mailto:hbcincnz@gmail.com) and Megan will send you one.

If you are a more visual person then the following link will take you to a YouTube video on how to use BBO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MldFbBdea90>

## Monthly Member Profile: Lorna Goldingham



My name is Lorna Goldingham, nee Lawinski. I was born in Poland, and my mother's family owned a flour mill and my father's owned a bakery, so it's needless to say how they met. They married and had me in 1939, and my sister six years later.

My father was also a pilot with the Polish Airforce. I don't remember the war but I do remember being bundled up in the middle of the night, and I was carried out somewhere near trees and a river and told not to make a noise. While Dad was away at war we lived on a huge German farm. They were very kind people who looked after us all, and mainly the women worked with the children.

When the war ended people were immigrating to all parts of the world, mainly America, Canada, England, Australia and France, although many other places too. My family couldn't decide if they wanted to go or stay. When they did decide the only place was New Zealand. So here I am!

We came out to New Zealand in October 1950 on the Hellenic Prince and docked in Auckland. We then travelled by train to Pahiatua; I don't remember too much about the train journey – I must have gone to sleep! We went to school in Pahiatua to learn English and I enjoyed that as I spoke German and Russian as well at the time. German and English have a lot of similar phrases so that helped me learn English.

Our first posting in New Zealand was in Whangarei on a farm with sheep and cows. Dad rode a horse. After some time, we moved to Te Awamutu, to another farm. I

went to a convent school by bus, but we did not go to church on Sundays as we didn't have a car. I remember that one Monday a nun asked who went to church on Sunday and I was the only one who didn't go. I felt quite ashamed, so after that I got up very early each Sunday and started walking to church. I was scared of dogs and as I walked I came across lots who followed me down the road. I just walked faster and thankfully some kind person gave me a lift back home.

We then moved to Tirau. Dad worked at the NZ Butter Factory. We were there a long time and we went to school and caught up with grades. I had to start school at Standard 1 and was tall for my age which was embarrassing being with little ones. I won prizes with sewing, knitting and basketball. I was Goalkeeper and loved it! Swimming was another thing I loved – I don't know why as when I was younger I nearly drowned!

Then my father died when I was 14-15 years old.

We moved to Rotorua and my mother remarried 2-3 years later. I did not like my stepfather – he was a know it all – but perhaps that was a rebellious teenager talking! I went to High School in Rotorua. When I left I had – and still do have – an inquisitive mind. I wanted to get into a job involving investigations like criminology or something similar. My mother had an old-school perspective, and I had to go into sewing, so I didn't follow the pathway I would have liked to, and unfortunately regretted it, not fulfilling my dreams.

So at 16-17 years old, I decided to go to Wellington and stayed at the Polish Girls Hostel in Lyall Bay, which was run by nuns. The nuns came out with the children in 1943. I got a job at Teagel Smith and Sons in Wakefield Street, Wellington. They were an automotive firm selling parts to garages all over Wellington. I went to night school during this time to learn shorthand and typing, and was in reception and enjoyed it. I also went tramping some weekends and it was most enjoyable.

After a while I had had enough of Wellington so I decided to go back to Palmerston North to stay with family, and I got a job at the Singer Sewing Company in the office, and then ended up teaching the ladies to sew who were much older than me. My classes grew in numbers. I then met John who also worked for Singer but was based in Dannevirke at the time and worked as a salesman. He taught me to drive and my mother liked him. I married him when I was 20 years old. I made my wedding dress along with 3 bridesmaids' dresses and flower girl's dress. The daughter of a lady who I taught to sew was my flower girl, and they are a very friendly family and I still keep in touch with my flower girl.

We had 3 girls and 3 boys. My first son was still-born, and then a year later Anne was born in Palmerston North. Fiona was born in Blenheim where we lived for a few years, and Karyn was born in Lower Hutt, and then we moved back to Palmerston North and we had David 1966. 11 years to the day later I had Peter. Peter had cerebral palsy. He died when he was 10 ½ years old and it was a lot of hard work during the time that he was with us, but a lot of love was had. All the input was there

with him, but not the output. It must have been very frustrating for him. I learnt one day that he could read and when I read I watched his eyes following the words, and more times than not he finished before me because he looked around and as soon as I turned the page his head went back down.

I became a naturalised New Zealander in 1963. In 1971, John began a knitting and sewing shop which is now called Knit World. We had a shop in Queens Drive in Lower Hutt where the car parking building is now, and when the lease expired we purchased the building where Knit World is currently. We have an office upstairs and have 9 shops throughout New Zealand, and operate our mail order from the Lower Hutt office too. Knit World is family owned and run, and I was the manager of the store for over 26 years, and then tried to retire - but that didn't happen so quickly.

When our eldest daughter Anne got to the age to go to college we bought a house in Hautana Street opposite Sacred Heart College, and eventually the 3 girls went there and David went to Intermediate and then won a scholarship to St. Bernard's College.

I taught lots of sewing classes, teaching people how to sew with knit fabrics. Throughout that time I made many wedding dresses for people too – I must have been too cheap! I even put my prices up and people still continued to come to get me to sew their wedding dresses. I also played squash, badminton, croquette, mah-jong, went to Scottish Country Dancing, and worked at the Samaritans for 10 years, which was a very interesting experience...

Throughout the years that we were married, John and I travelled quite a bit, and we visited Poland and met my uncles and aunties and cousins. At that stage my Polish was not too bad, but now I can understand it more than I can speak it.

Bridge has been my saving grace over the years. We win some and we lose some but that's what it's all about. I enjoy the challenge and being around all the people, and some have become close friends.

Life is a journey with many curves and that was what I learned about life and people.

Thanks to you all.

## Vil's Corner

How many readers tried playing on line during the lockdown? If you did, I hope you enjoyed your experience. Here is a story about my experience on line some time ago.

Dealer S All Vul

|        |           |         |
|--------|-----------|---------|
|        | ♠ 94      |         |
|        | ♥ 97652   |         |
|        | ♦ 8732    |         |
|        | ♣ 94      |         |
| ♠ Q8   |           | ♠ J53   |
| ♥ KQ97 |           | ♥ J103  |
| ♦ 965  |           | ♦ QJ104 |
| ♣ QJ87 |           | ♣ 653   |
|        | ♠ AK10976 |         |
|        | ♥ A       |         |
|        | ♦ AK      |         |
|        | ♣ AK109   |         |

This was a very uncharacteristic hand for me, sitting South. The North hand would have been much more typical of the type and quality of the hands I am usually dealt. So it was hardly surprising that I took a very optimistic view. I opened 2C, 2D from North. 2S from me, 2NT from North. This I understood to be a second negative. 3S from me, half expecting North to pass but North was experienced enough to know we were in a game forcing situation. North raised to 4S. I could hardly resist bidding six, knowing full well that I had pushed North's button all the way. Surely partner could have SOMETHING of some value?

West was a formidable fellow by some alias like "Magnifico" (I have forgotten his exact username) and his profile said "World Class". He led the king of hearts. I made short work of the play. Ace of hearts, ace king of clubs and a club ruff. Back with a diamond and another club ruff, which was over ruffed by East. A hopeful heart from East was ruffed and I then drew trumps and claimed.

Maybe I shouldn't have been so annoyed by West's egomania but I could not help but make the comment: "If you are world class how come you could not find the lead to beat the slam?" His reply was terse and to the point: "impossible, idiot!" and he then disappeared from the screen.

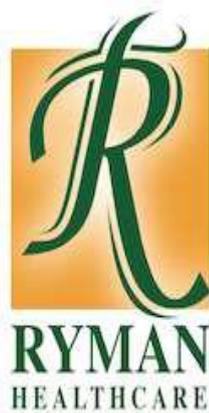
Here is another lead problem, one that will be featured in a series I am working on during the lockdown:

The bidding has been 1NT on your right, pass from you, 3NT on your left. What do you lead holding:

♠ 1098 ♥109 ♦ AQ10862 ♣ A2

*The best answer will, as usual, win a session ticket for when club play resumes. Stay home and stay safe in the meantime.*

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Happy Bridging!