



Hutt Bridge Club Newsletter August 2020

President's Column:

Dear Members

Earlier this month, Megan suggested it was time to think about producing another Finesse. Soon after, just when I thought there wasn't that much to say, the balloon went up again and here we are back in COVID-19 Alert Level 2 until the end of Sunday 6 September and once again the club is closed for playing bridge. So not much to say for a different reason, but here goes! It's a great way to keep in touch.

The club expects to reopen for playing bridge on Monday 7 September assuming our region has returned to COVID-19 Alert Level 1 or some other advice has been received. Having the club shut again provides a sharp reminder about observing those good basic rules to minimise the risk of infection so, when we get back, let's do it! They include staying home if you are unwell and maintaining high hygiene standards (wash and dry your hands and/ or use the hand sanitiser provided, sneeze or cough into your elbow or a tissue to then be disposed of).

While the club has been shut, some extra things have happened. Repeat special cleaning has taken place to keep our premises as safe and clean as possible. The resurgence wage subsidy (for 2 weeks) has been received. The new fence is up and there is no way this one will "fall down". We also hope to have the parking space lines freshly painted again. This has brought our attention to the poor practice of parking behind our properly parked cars towards the eastern side of the forecourt.

I have discussed this with our body corporate partner upstairs and we have agreed that this is to no longer take place during their normal business hours. This area is their driveway and they are entitled to move their vehicles in and out freely and an ambulance or fire engine has to be able to get to them as well into our side. Monday and Friday players are to please note that this requirement starts from when bridge resumes.

The current Alert Level 2 situation means there has been another interruption of almost 4 weeks to the club's playing programme and the number of sessions able to be played. This in turn has resulted in a further decrease to the number of eligible sessions for Series Winners, Ladder, and Monthly Pair events. I will let you know the adjustments as soon as the committee is happy with them.

Unfortunately, the lessons have also been interrupted. These have been going very well with 29 people attending and now paid up. Their schedule is now 3 weeks behind with 2 lessons still to go before the 3 buddy sessions commence. AJ and Megan will be in touch with all

buddies to see if you are still available on those rescheduled dates and the Wednesday night programme will be adjusted to accommodate a later graduation night.

The committee is very keen for these new players to get in some bridge playing experience before the end of this year in order to encourage their transition into a full year in 2021. It is very important that we use this now short window well to make them feel welcome and supported. So please buddies and other potential partners, think about arranging to play with these new members including making bookings with them for next year.

Well, there was plenty to say after all!

Please keep safe and stay well while waiting to get back to bridge.

JILL HERMAN

Bridge Successes:

Interclub results 17 July:

Congratulations to the following teams on their wins: Open Restricted (captained by Phil Revell); all the Intermediate teams (Tracey Mitchell, Simon Webber, Loek Strik & Jill Herman); Junior 2 & 3 (Jackie Upchurch & Neil Sargisson); & the Novice team (Bernice Singh).

Kapi Mana tournament 26 July:

Congratulations to Doug O'Halloran & Candice Ng who came top at the Kapi Mana Intermediate Junior Multigrade tournament.

Interclub results 7 August:

Congratulations to the following teams on their wins: Open (captained by Ken Barnett); Open Restricted (Phil Revell); Intermediate 1 and 3 (Tracey Mitchell & Loek Strik); 3 Junior teams (Joan Finley, Jackie Upchurch & Neil Sargisson); and the Novice team (Bernice Singh).

Hutt Intermediate tournament 9 August:

Congratulations to Kevin Moar and Wayne Stechman (Wellington Bridge Club) who came first, Megan Turner and Sue Storer who came 2nd and Jill Herman and Elaine Richardson who came 3rd. Session winners included Marian Loader and Simon Webber. Special thanks to Ryman Healthcare for sponsoring our tournament including providing the delicious nibbles for afterwards.

Congratulations to our July series winners

Monday:

Driving Miss Daisy Pairs

Vil Gravis & Russell Dive

Tuesday:

R H Watson Memorial Pairs

Marian Loader & Ken Barnett

Wednesday:

Knights Pairs

Candice Ng & Doug O'Halloran

Thursday:

Do-It-All Pairs

Zbyszek Ceregra & Nebojsa

Djorovic

Friday:

Hautana Pairs

Don McIlvrive & John Ansell

July Pairs

A.J. & Loek Strik



**L-R Debbie Komarkowski (Ryman Healthcare) with
 1st Kevin Moar & Wayne Stechman
 2nd Megan Turner & Sue Storer
 3rd Jill Herman & Elaine Richardson**

Upcoming Tournaments:

Wellington Intermediate	6 September
Victoria Junior	13 September
South Wairarapa Multigrade	20 September
National Congress	26 September to 3 October
Paraparaumu Multigrade	27 September
Kapi Mana Intermediate	11 October
Kairangi Open	23 to 25 October
Babich NZ Wide Pairs	30 October

Swiss Pairs & Teams

Swiss Pairs and Teams events require an even number of pairs in order to be run. In terms of easier organisation for these events it was decided at a committee meeting earlier this year that the cut-off for entries needs to be Friday 5:00pm of the week before the beginning of the event.

Monthly Member Profile: Marian Loader



Twenty six years ago, when I was expecting my first child, we moved to Napier. I asked the city council for a list of clubs, my grandmother was a keen bridge player so the choice was easily made.

I wasn't sure I would find work straight away, but was soon juggling three jobs; one knitting designer jerseys; one analysing data on kiwi fruit sugar levels and ripeness to predict the best time to pick and conditions to store and ripen (to maximise its transportability and shelf life) and another modelling the condition of NZ roads. I'm glad I also learnt bridge, my teacher at the Napier club was Cynthia Clayton (a fantastic player, teacher and all round inspirational person). Two pieces of advice from Cynthia which have always been top of mind when I play even now:

Before you open the bidding:

- think is this a 1NT opener – don't bid a suit if it is, you won't have a rebid!
- what is your likely rebid ?

When you play the contract:

- count your tricks and plan the play of the cards – before you play the first card from dummy (and many is the time I have not done this and been sorry!)

I took to bridge rather keenly in Napier and with some success. I played many of the local Junior tournaments including all Queens birthday weekend. But the old adage that it takes a life time to master is certainly true, and I hope I never tire of trying to play better! Over the years, I don't believe I've been more than 2-3 months without a game of bridge. Even teaching my babies how to feed from a bottle at a very young age (and their dad how to feed them) so I could get back to it!

Fret not, my family (husband Peter, daughter Kate, and sons Dan and Jack) see plenty of me too, and work – my house work (mostly) and garden (more often) get their share of my attention. Peter would rather be playing table tennis, but does still enjoy the odd game of bridge too, and one day we may even play regularly together. The kids have all tried it, but are not ready to commit to it yet!

I moved to the Hutt around 20 years ago, and again bridge provided friendship, fun and a sense of belonging in a new community.

A few years back I was flattered into believing I had the skills and aptitude required to be a director. I'm not sure Joseph was right about that. I don't have a voice that carries – but I do try to remember that a director's job, first and foremost is to facilitate a pleasant night for all, and I hope that I (mostly) do that.

I hope to see more of you all, back at the clubs around NZ soon.

Vil's Corner:

So many of us say we don't like No Trumps, especially 1NT, either from a play or defence point of view. But there is a great deal to be learnt, and gained from an appreciation of what No Trumps is about. Here is a very ordinary deal I have discussed in a booklet on "Twos and No Trumps".

Board 1 Dealer N Nil Vul

	♠ 765	
	♥ 742	
	♦ 743	
	♣ AK107	
♠ 983		♠ KJ4
♥ AQ85		♥ 1093
♦ AQ6		♦ K10852
♣ 864		♣ J2
	♠ AQ102	
	♥ KJ6	
	♦ J9	
	♣ Q953	

After two passes, South opens 1NT which is passed out. West leads the five of hearts: "fourth highest of longest and strongest". This runs round to declarer's jack and declarer then takes all the clubs, ending in dummy, and then finesses the queen of spades. When that holds, declarer makes 1NT. Pretty much what would happen a lot of the time.

But there is much more to these 'ordinary' No Trump hands than we think. Let's make WEST dealer, and say West opens 1NT. This time, North opens the defence by leading the ace of clubs. This, with most players, asks for "attitude" and South encourages. The defence now take four club tricks, ending in the North hand. North shifts to a spade, through dummy's KJx and South makes the queen when declarer puts in the jack. Whatever the defence does now, there is only one more trick available, the ace of spades, and declarer has seven tricks via five diamonds and two hearts via a heart finesse.

It seems that South can make 1NT, and so can West. That, after all, is not surprising, since NS and EW have half the points each, and declarer will normally have the edge in the play. But is that so? Should it be so? Would YOU have preferred to be South, or West, as declarer in 1NT? Or would you have preferred to be defending instead?

Not all these questions are answered in the booklet, but it will give the reader an insight into No Trump play. The booklet is available from the club's office for \$10, \$6 to cover printing costs and \$4 as a donation to the club. Much more on this topic is covered in my new email series. If you would like to be in receipt of this series direct from me, let me know. The series will also be available on the "X-Clubs" web site.



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Happy Bridging!