



Hutt Bridge Club Newsletter January & February 2020

President's Column: Raewyn Dowman

It is always nice to sit down at a bridge table and look forward to a competitive and friendly encounter. The popularity and universality of the game of bridge relies heavily upon players being well-mannered and courteous. This attitude towards each and every player is expected at the Hutt Bridge Club and should be maintained at all times. If we all make that special effort, the play and the atmosphere are enjoyable for one and all.

There are a number of things we can do, and should do, to assist the director and our fellow players to achieve this goal and these are highlighted later in this edition of Finesse and displayed on the noticeboard. Please take time to read these.

The 54th AGM is scheduled for Sunday 22 March so please save this date. Details around organisation of the AGM will be announced shortly in the weekly notices, on the website and on the noticeboard. We are now actively canvassing members to make themselves available. It is imperative that we get new members on our committee. If you would like to know more about the variety of activities undertaken by the committee, please talk to current committee members or Megan. We would love to hear from you. Nomination forms are available from the office.

Happy bridging!
Raewyn

Welcome to new members:

Wayne King
Diana & Ralph Robertshawe
Brian & Susie Walshe
Judy Bishop
Rowland Hempel
Camille Sinclair
Marie Gibson

Notices:

Interclub: It's not too late to get a team together. Email hbcincnz@gmail.com by Wed 26 Feb.

Keep well: Stay home if you feel unwell. There are hand sanitisers throughout the club and a 5L refill container in the cleaning cupboard, so when the small containers get low, don't throw them away.

Saturday revision classes: Want to brush up or have a niggling question answered? AJ is running a Q&A session every Saturday at 10:30am in the playing room. All are welcome including non-members. Cost:
\$5 for members
\$10 for non-members

Lessons 2020: Start date: Monday 16 March. Pick up a flyer off the table in the foyer, tell your family and friends and check out the Hutt News in the What's On section over the next three weeks.

Bridge Successes

NZ Bridge has awarded Diana Pratchett and Geoff Wane with the rank of Club Master and Alison Sparrow with a Certificate of Proficiency.

In 2019 the Wellington Regional Bridge Committee ran a Rookie League competition for new players. Four members of our club won prizes! Congratulations to:

- Suzanne Townsend & Steve Hockley for “having the most attendances of those not in the first three placings.”
- Neil Sargisson who came third overall and
- Jacob Pilalis who came second overall



Congratulations to our January winners

Monday:

Stellin Pairs

Candice Ng & Caryl Turner

Tuesday:

Stokes Valley Pairs

Jane Godfrey & Jennifer Bodinetz

Wednesday:

Puriri Pairs

Ken Depczynzki & Mario Ceregra

Thursday:

Goren Pairs

Phil Revell & Jeffry Craanen

Friday:

January Pairs

Elaine Richardson & John Ansell

Upcoming tournaments

- 1 March Hutt Multigrade
- 7 March Wellington Sixes
- 8 March Kapi Mana Multigrade
- 14 March North Island Teams (Wgtn)
- 22 March Masterton Open
- 22 March Kairangi Int/Jnr
- 29 March Upper Hutt Int/Jnr
- 29 March Paraparaumu Open

Courtesy at the bridge table

Bridge is a great game which we all enjoy. However, there are a few things that can dampen that enjoyment or create frustration. Here are some reminders of how you can be considerate and reduce slow play:

- Value your partner and greet new opponents as they arrive at the table.
- Be polite to other competitors and volunteers.
- When you are on lead, make your lead before entering information into the bridgemate or writing the contract on your scorecard.
- Acknowledge good play by your opponents.
- Respect our directors.
- Move promptly when the director calls move – don't continue the discussion.
- Finish playing all the hands for each round before starting any conversations.
- Don't analyse each hand as it finishes. If at the end of the round, when all the scoring has been done, then there may be time, but do it in a low voice so that neighbouring tables can't hear.
- If feeling irritated STOP – **S**top, **T**ake a breath, **O**bserve, **P**roceed, because after all, it's just a game.

Monthly Member Profile: Neil Sargisson



I had a 25+ year gap between learning to play bridge and getting into regularly playing it with any dedication.

I grew up in Hawke's Bay, into a family of card players. I learned crib, euchre and 500 as a youngster. Many evenings were spent around the family table playing cards as a family.

I went to bridge lessons incidentally, when I was 18 years old, because my grandmother wanted to learn and I was her designated night-driver. Mum and dad had learned the previous year and the thinking was that if my grandmother and I learned we would have an instant foursome for playing bridge at home.

While I learned to play bridge at a relatively young age, my big passion at the time was athletics. I left school having won a number of age-grade national titles over cross country, 1500m and 2000m steeplechase, as well as one Australian title over 2000m steeplechase – in a time which is still a New Zealand under-18 record, more than 30 years later! – and I wanted to pursue a dream of becoming an international athlete and running for New Zealand at the biggest events.

I chased my dream by spending a summer in Brighton, England, running on the same track that Steve Ovett ran as a young athlete. It was while I was over in England that I came to the realisation that there was a significant gap between how good I was and what I needed to do to get to that elite level that I dreamed about. I decided that I needed a career, because running wasn't going to pay the bills. I returned home to New Zealand and enrolled at teachers college.

I continued running, but also transitioned into the next stage of my life – becoming a teacher. While I didn't quite crack it onto the big stage, I took a lot of pride in the success of some of my friends that I trained with who made Commonwealth and Olympic teams, as well as my younger brother who went to three Commonwealth Games as a 50km walker, winning a silver medal in Melbourne in 2006.

After three years of teacher training in Palmerston North, I returned to Hastings where I taught at Flaxmere and Havelock North Primary Schools for many years. It was a career promotion to being a deputy principal that brought me and my young family to Wellington. After stints at Tawa and Silverstream Schools as deputy principal, I landed my first (and so far only) principal position – at Wilford School in Petone.

After being a football coach, netball manager and athletics official for my children, I returned to bridge again in 2018, I gained some time for myself again and decided to give bridge another go. I attended a couple of lessons with AJ and much of what I had learnt so many years ago returned very quickly. He encouraged me to jump straight into Wednesday nights.

I have really enjoyed my short time playing bridge – meeting and playing with wonderful, friendly people. I have already experienced some highlights in my first eighteen months of playing bridge; playing with Jacob Pilalis and winning the Novice tournament at Congress in Hamilton, being part of the club team that finished second in the Novice interclub and partnering with AJ to win the Hutt Pairs.

I love the competitive side of the game and the challenges that it brings; that you are always learning, from every single hand.

Vil's Corner

Welcome back to bridge! Readers had all the time in the world to work on the double dummy problem from December but no correct answer was received. Well done Candice Ng, who came closest. A session ticket is on the way. How should NORTH play this hand in 5H when East leads the KING OF SPADES?

Board 5 Dealer N NS Vul

	♠ 1074	
	♥ J10652	
	♦ 93	
	♣ KJ7	
♠ AJ532		♠ KQ986
♥ 9		♥ Q843
♦ 7542		♦ Q10
♣ 1043		♣ Q5
	♠	
	♥ AK7	
	♦ AKJ86	
	♣ A9862	

Deep Finesse always finds a way to make contracts that sensible people might not. Nevertheless such 'double dummy' problems can be very instructive and help improve your declarer play considerably.

Here is how DF will make 5H: DF can see that the diamond suit will run, AND the queen of clubs fall doubleton, so to make 5H you can afford to lose two (but only two) trump tricks. After ruffing the first spade enter hand with the king of clubs and ruff a second spade with

the ace or king. Now cash dummy's last heart. The next step is crucial: cash the club ace in dummy to remove East's exit card and play three top diamonds, discarding the last spade from hand. East ruffs the third diamond and now must lead a spade. Declarer ruffs and leads the jack of trumps, East winning the queen. A further spade lead is ruffed and declarer now takes out East's final trump and the jack of clubs is also good. The expert declarer would surely have played this hand quite differently and failed, but that's why double dummy problems can be fun.

This month's comp: send in up to THREE tricky bidding problems that you may have encountered. The best ones will feature next month in another competition.

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Hutt Bridge Club is proudly sponsored by:



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Happy Bridging!