



Hutt Bridge Club Newsletter November 2020

President's Column:

Dear Members

There is a lot to tell you about various happenings since the last issue of Finesse and to let you know about other things coming up between now and the end of the year.

The most immediate item is that the club will be closed on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November. Those of you who live nearby will know that scenes for a television series are being filmed on those dates in our immediate area. The Hutt City Council has approved a traffic management plan including no parking areas and Stop/Go teams. There is a crew of 100 -120 involved plus many large vehicles including caravans, trucks, vans, plus cars and port-a-loos. The impact on the area will be significant with lots of comings and goings. As attending bridge would be severely impacted by the activity in the area including compromised access and lack of street car parks, the committee has decided to close the club for play. However, the good news is that our rooms and car park will be rented by the film company and the amount negotiated will be worthwhile in terms of both hire fees and compensation for the lost table money income.

This decision also means that the Thursday Cambridge Automotive Ltd Pairs and the Friday Bellevue Pairs series winners will now be awarded to the players with the best of 2 results.

The 2021 programme book and invoices will be available later this week. Also of interest for next year is that your rating points carried forward from 2020 will not this time be discounted by the usual 20%. With limited bridge played in 2020, NZ Bridge decided it would be unfair and act as a disincentive if they discounted the rating points for 2020. There are also changes in tournament grading bands which affects players who have recently achieved open status – this information has already been circulated.

Graduation night in October was a great success and it was a thrill to see 24 learners become club members. The committee is very grateful to AJ and his helpers and the buddies for supporting the lesson programme and pupils. Our thanks also go to Raewyn Dowman who delivered supper that night to 85 players! Wednesday night is now a very large group and there have been a few minor challenges while everybody settles down. Please remember that the graduates are allowed to refer to their system booklet until the end of the year and that it is important to make these new members feel welcome and supported and encouraged to continue their bridge journey into next year and beyond.

The Quiz night earlier this month was also a success making nearly \$800 for the club and our thanks go to AJ, our popular Quizmaster, and to Phil Revell for keeping track of the scores plus Raewyn Dowman and Madeleine Askew for the delicious sandwiches and Madeleine's

daughter for looking after the bar. And thank you members for the generous donations for the raffles and prize table. These prizes were won by teams made up of our members and their friends and families.

In October the club received a grant of just under \$3,000 from Hutt Mana Charitable Trust for new computers and a new printer for the office. The computers purchased were two for running bridge operations and one for the office and Chris Jared has been working hard to get everything up and running. Our systems are already faster and more reliable. Looking ahead, we are hoping to upgrade/replace our scoring devices early next year. The bridgemates have served us well but are now over 10 years old. Loek is looking into the options including applying for a grant.

The car park is looking good after its recent clean, repaint and improved signage including the yellow NP signs. I was reminded last Friday of the importance of good emergency access when we considered calling an ambulance for a member who became unwell at bridge during the afternoon.

Some of our parks are "tight"; please, if you do damage a car, do wait for the owner to emerge from bridge in order to make the proper arrangements. One of our members found her car damaged a couple of Thursdays ago with no note left and it requires panel beating. We can do better than this!

Over the Christmas/New Year period the playing room, east room and office are being painted. This will be lovely to come back to but does mean that the usual annual cleaning of the carpets, chairs and kitchen floor may not happen until later in January.

Interclub for the year finishes on Friday 27 November and the Saturday revision classes are on when advertised. It's not long now until our closing/prize giving nights and your playing committees will have plans underway to make these an enjoyable time. I look forward to seeing you there.

Last Finesse, I promised to start including items about bridge etiquette and ethics and common pitfalls, infringements and misunderstandings at the table. Vil has written some notes at the end of his "Corner" - read on to find out more about making a claim, being a good dummy and handling insufficient bids.

It's good to end this very full piece for Finesse thinking about the game. Until next time, happy bridging while keeping well and safe.

JILL HERMAN

Vacancy: Interclub Host needed for 2021

We are looking for an Interclub Host in 2021. The role of Interclub Host is to manage the bar and kitchen when we host Interclub. You would head up a small team of helpers. This role should not be confused with the Interclub Liaison role held by Jill Marsden. If you are interested please let Megan know.

Bridge Successes:

Interclub Friday 16 October: Congratulations to the Hutt 4 Intermediate team captained by Jill Herman, and our three Junior teams captained by Joan Finley, Jackie Upchurch and Neil Sargisson on their wins.

Interclub Friday 13 November:

Congratulations to the following teams on their wins: Open Restricted captained by Phil Revell; Intermediate 2 and 4 captained by Simon Webber and Jill Herman; and Junior 2 and 3 captained by Jackie Upchurch and Neil Sargisson.

Quiz Night!

The Quiz night held Friday 6 November was a lovely evening and successful fundraiser with much fun had. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and to AJ for being MC extraordinaire, Phil Revell, Madeleine Askew & Raewyn Dowman for their work in the kitchen and on the bar. Congratulations to Body & Sole who came first, Over The Hill who came second and The Poodles who were third.

Congratulations to our October series winners

Monday:

Park Avenue Pairs

Kevin Bateman & Simon Grant

Tuesday:

Tuesday Teams

Marian Loader

Simon Webber

John Donbavand

Prafulla Hegde

Wednesday:

Pohutukawa Pairs

Neil Sargisson & John Roseveare

Thursday:

Epuni Pairs

Martyn Dowman & Jeffrey Craanen

Friday:

Shona McFarlane Retirement Village Pairs

Wendy Cooper & Catherine Chapman



Body & Sole 1st L-R

Dean Sole, Trish Dive, Vil Gravis,
John Dive, Russell Dive



Over the Hill 2nd L-R

Diana & Paul Pratchett, Kerry Pratchett & Monique Zwart, Jill Herman (in background)

Welcome to New Members: Carol Storer

Upcoming tournaments:

12 Dec Wgtn Region Xmas Cheer Open (Wellington)

27-29 Dec Suzanne Duncan Open Pairs (Wellington)

Monthly Member Profile: Jeffry Craanen



I was born in the early 60s in a small township in The Netherlands called Bodegraven. I am the 3rd of 4 children. I have an older brother and sister and a younger brother. My mum is Dutch and my dad was born in Indonesia.

The first time I heard about bridge was when I was probably about 10 years old. My teacher (who I really liked, LOL) and her husband (who was the principal at the same primary) were both top Dutch bridge players, although that didn't mean anything to me at the time.

When I went to college in Holland, I came across a card game called "Klaverjassen". This game has a lot of similarities to Bridge in the fact that you must bid a contract before you start playing and you play it with a partner. Some of the guys at college were playing this game in their lunch break. I was intrigued by this and watched them play all the time, asking questions whenever I didn't understand something.

At some stage they were one person down and asked me to fill in, which I was quite happy to do. It turned out that I was a natural at the game and I kept playing it for several years.

In 1992 I came to NZ with my then partner. The idea was to travel and work in NZ, then go across to Oz to travel and work our way back to Holland via Asia. This never eventuated, since we both fell in love with the country. We had our first daughter (Maxine) in 1994 and decided in 1995 to go back to The Netherlands to see the family, show off our baby girl and sort out our possessions which we had stored for the time that we were away. In 1996 we came back to NZ to live here for good and in 1999 we welcomed our 2nd daughter (Fleur) into the world. Not long after, I hooked up with a Kiwi girl who had two daughters of her own and I tell you, having five girls in one household (at times) certainly made me appreciate the (male) cats, LOL. The girls are now all grown up and my stepdaughters both have one child each (one 10-year-old boy and one 5-year-old girl) that call me "Opa Jeffry" (opa is Dutch for grandfather).

Sometime about 10-12 years ago a friend of mine advised me to go to Bridge lessons, which I duly did, and I have never looked back. I am forever thankful to him for advising me to go and learn how to play. I really love the game, the challenges and the friendships it has given me with some of the members of the HBC.

I have lived in the Hutt for most of my time here in NZ, but even after moving to Woodridge (most people have never heard of this subdivision, which is nestled at the back of Newlands) I still stayed a member of the HBC. On a good day it'll take me about 20min to get to bridge, but I have had days that it took me almost an hour! I had to quickly ring my partner to tell them that I was on my way, but was probably going to be late. That's Wellington traffic for you! Only once or twice I have had to ring my partner to cancel. I didn't like doing that, firstly because I don't like letting my partner down and secondly because I very much enjoy my Thursday nights at the Bridge Club.

Some people might wonder what my personalised license plate means (DUTCHF). Let me explain this to you. I am a (Flying) Dutchman and have been a chef for about 30 years of my life, so if you read it out, it pretty much says DUTCHEF (but without the "E").

After many jobs at a variety of hospitality businesses I started work at Interislander almost 8 years ago. I started out as half warehouse person and half administrator and slowly worked my way up the ladder. I am now the Warehouse Supervisor, a role I enjoy, but that certainly has its challenges at times. I am shore-based luckily for me, because I'm no good on boats.

Vil's Corner:

Here are last month's bidding problems and what our panel thinks

1. Dealer North ALL Vul

The bidding has been:

W	N	E	S
	1S	NB	1NT
2C	2D	3C	?

Your bid, holding

♠ J10
♥ 654
♦ AKJ72
♣ 1073

Panel majority: 3D. I can't help but disagree. Partner has four diamonds headed by the queen at best. You have a HUGE hand in support given that your first bid was a limited bid of 1NT. Opponents have bid clubs so partner has a singleton at best. Partner is not going to bid any further if you bid 3D, why would she? A bid of 4D is surely more meaningful, with good prospects of game in either spades or diamonds. One panelist did opt for 4S which unfortunately did not make given best defence but 5D can't be touched.

2. Dealer North EW Vul

The bidding has been:

W	N	E	S
	1D	NB	1H
NB	1S	NB	?

Your bid, holding

♠ A852
♥ KQJ4
♦ 63
♣ Q62

Panel majority: 4S. This is not a hand to bid any more or any less. Slam is highly unlikely and a raise to 3S very pessimistic. Just bid your game and let partner show them how to make a slam if that is possible. At match points, bidding 4S and making six will usually score about 85% with such hands.

3. Dealer West ALL Vul

The bidding has been:

W	N	E	S
NB	1H	NB	2C
NB	3H	NB	?

Your bid, holding

♠ 6
♥ 10
♦ AQ943
♣ KQJ1042

Panel majority: 4D. Surely a slam in either minor must be on? 6C is the most likely but why not see if partner can support diamonds? 4H is an option but only for pessimists in my opinion.

4. Dealer North Nil Vul

The bidding has been:

W	N	E	S
	2C*	NB	?

* game force or 22-24 balanced

Your bid, holding

♠ Q108
♥ Q8
♦ A862
♣ A1064

Panel majority: 2D. This was clear cut with our panel but not our readers.

The experience of the panel is the difference. A 2D response will allow opener to describe their hand further, and a slam is certain anyway but a grand slam is possible. A bid of 3NT immediately does tell opener some things but South should be better placed to bid the correct slam once North makes a rebid. There is no danger in making a 'waiting' bid of 2D as partner has forced to game, unless she rebids 2NT (23-24) in which case you will bid a straightforward 6NT. All readers opted for either 2NT, 3NT, or an immediate, but rather crude Gerber 4C or Blackwood 4NT.

5. Dealer N All Vul

The bidding:

W	N	E	S
	1C	NB	1D
NB	1H	NB	?

Your bid holding:

♠ KQ2
 ♥ A
 ♦ A1032
 ♣ Q10864

This presents a problem for those who play 'fourth suit forcing' at any level. Some of the panel play 1S in this sequence as fourth suit forcing but others would bid 2S as fourth suit forcing. At the time, a 1S bid was raised to 4S and South then asked for key cards and bid 6NT which made in comfort, but oddly enough, 7S was makeable on the 4-3 fit. Panel majority: 1S or 2S

This month's winner of a session ticket is Phil Revell.

The frustration of not claiming. As a frequent director, I am continually frustrated by slow play. Sometimes the play is not easy and I can understand a bit of thought is needed, but at other times, when it is clear that declarer has the remaining tricks, I see declarer continue to play the hand out to the bitter end. Or, when declarer has a loser in a suit that opponents have AKQJ between them, declarer continues to pound out the trumps in the hope that both defenders will discard all their high cards on declarer's last trumps. It should be clear when this cannot happen, and declarer should claim and concede the obvious loser or losers to the defenders. Claiming in clear situations helps speed up the play and won't annoy others, so do keep that in mind.

When a claim is made, you cannot ask declarer to play the hand out. Declarer has to state the line they will take and if you have any doubts, you should call the director, who will be able to judge the merits of the claim. Once a claim is made, the hand cannot be played out to the finish.

Some other things I should mention. If declarer leads from the wrong hand, EITHER defender has the option of accepting the lead. Don't just jump in and tell declarer, your partner may be quite happy to accept the lead.

And as regards revokes, many dummies seem to not know that it is their one and only allowable duty to question whether declarer has followed suit. As dummy, you have nothing to do and have few rights, but ensuring that declarer does not revoke should be the one thing you can help with. I'm not suggesting that you question declarer every time she does not follow suit, but do try and help declarer. What I don't like is dummy banging the table every time declarer is in dummy. Unless declarer is obviously going to lead from their own hand when they are in dummy, there is no need for it and I'm sure it annoys opponents as well as declarer.

Finally, a word on insufficient bids. Any insufficient bid by an opponent can be accepted or rejected by the next person to bid. Nearly every time that I am called for such an infraction, the bid is not accepted. Many times I can see quite clearly that it would be to the next player's advantage to accept the insufficient bid, but the automatic reaction seems to be: "No, I don't accept it". When you call the director and get the ruling, think about it before you automatically say it. Accepting an insufficient bid could well get your side out of hot water instead of in it!

Hutt Bridge Club is proudly sponsored by:



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Happy Bridging!