



Hutt Bridge Club Newsletter September & October 2020

President's Column:

Dear Members

It was good to be able to return to bridge four weeks ago and even better that we are now at COVID-19 Alert Level 1. This is likely to be as good as it gets for some time so we need to remain used to observing those personal health, hygiene and contact tracing protocols often mentioned by the experts and regularly reminded about at our Club.

All of a sudden, we are in the last quarter of the year and the committee and Megan find ourselves busy getting ready for the end of the year and preparing for next year. The 2021 programme book is well underway and is on time to be issued by mid-November. Not surprisingly, some sponsorship has not been renewed due to unfortunately changing financial circumstances for some Hutt businesses. This means – as well as less income for us – that some series have gone back to former names.

Interclub is resuming next week on Friday 16 October and we are hosting that session. There are now two sessions in November and the Wellington Regional Committee expects there to still be a meaningful result despite the number of matches being less than usual.

The Babich NZ Wide Pairs is on Friday 30 October and being hosted by Wellington and Upper Hutt Clubs. This great event is well worth attending to play very interesting boards against a nationwide field.

Last Friday night we hosted the Upper Hutt Challenge. It was a most enjoyable night with 14 tables and a lovely supper was provided by our members. Unfortunately, we have not retained the cup this year – it was a very close match. We will have to pull our socks up next year.

We only have time for one fundraising event this year. It is to be a Quiz night on Friday 6 November. Please save the date. AJ will be our popular Quizmaster once again and more details will be announced soon.

The carpark lines will be repainted next Wednesday 14 October, weather permitting. Preparatory cleaning will happen the previous afternoon so there may be no lines left to guide parking on that Tuesday night. Be careful! The carpark is therefore unavailable on Tuesday afternoon and all of Wednesday, hopefully the lines will be dry for Wednesday night parking. The painting will make it very clear where we can and cannot park and we will be reminding our Body Corporate partner upstairs to not use our parks when we need them.

The lessons have finished and the buddy sessions are well underway. It is all going very well despite the delays and interruptions this challenging year have sent their way. Most attendees completed the course and this stickability will serve them well in bridge as the rest of us already

know. The committee is very grateful to AJ and his helpers and the buddies for supporting the lesson programme and pupils. This has involved at least 10% of our membership which is just fantastic. Graduation night is Wednesday 21 October. It is very important to make these new members feel welcome and supported and encouraged to continue their bridge journey into next year and beyond.

Now seems a good time to remind ourselves about “being kind” at the bridge table. As all our sessions are open to all members, there will sometimes be stiff competition and sometimes not. It is important to remain welcoming to all players and to be gracious in both victory and defeat. Just a reminder that any system permitted by NZ Bridge may be played at any playing session and carrying a system card is encouraged. However, in fairness to our junior players, it would be appreciated if players would avoid using more complex systems on Wednesday nights.

I am planning on including items in future about bridge etiquette and ethics and common pitfalls/ infringements/ misunderstandings at the table. Don't worry, these will be written by more knowledgeable players than myself! Not that I've asked them yet!

Meanwhile, happy bridging while keeping well and staying safe.

JILL HERMAN

Bridge Successes:

Karori Junior tournament 27 September:
Congratulations to John Roseveare & Neil Sargisson who were top East/West at the Karori Junior tournament held on Sunday 27 September. Congratulations also to Bernice Singh and Margaret Carter who received the top Novice prize.

Hutt/Upper Hutt challenge 2 October:
At the annual Upper Hutt / Hutt challenge on Friday 2 October, Hutt put in a great effort but congratulations go to Upper Hutt who won the most percentage points and claimed the Challenge Cup. Congratulations to Vil Gravis and Lynne Bruce who came first overall.

Awards from NZBridge:
Congratulations to the following members who have received awards from NZ Bridge:

Steve Hockley – Certificate of Proficiency
Suzanne Townsend – Certificate of Proficiency
Wendy Pharazyn – Certificate of Proficiency
Jacob Pilalis – Club Master
Dianna Snethlage – Club Master
Peter Snethlage – Club Master
Neil Sargisson – Club Master

Congratulations to our August & September series winners

Monday:

Bob Scott Retirement Village Pairs
Trish Dive & Russell Dive
Flowers on High Pairs
Lorna Goldingham & Louise Beale

Tuesday:

Waiwhetu Pairs
Vil Gravis & John Donbavand
Knit World Pairs
Paul Badcock & Simon Webber

Wednesday:

Jason Brown Plumbing & Gas Pairs
Colin Sarten & A.J.

Thursday:

Swiss Pairs
Vil Gravis & Nelson Procter

Friday:

Doreen Watson Memorial Pairs
Vil Gravis & Prafulla Hegde

Upcoming tournaments:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Kapi Mana Intermediate | 11 Oct |
| Kairangi Open | 23-25 Oct |
| Babich NZ Wide Pairs | 30 Oct |
| Waikanae Int/Junior | 8 Nov |
| Masterton Multigrade | 15 Nov |

Monthly Member Profile: Alan Boaden



I first learned bridge when I started work at Statistics NZ in the mid 1970's. This was a short but quite defining part of my life. We used to play bridge in our lunch hour and sometimes after work. I never went to lessons, I simply learned by watching and talking to people. I think we played Goren or Standard American.

After a while some of us joined the Wellington Bridge Club and I played there – and later at the Hutt Club. Together with some partners, I learned Precision. I thought it was a great system. Again, no lessons. We learned from books and sharing knowledge.

Times were different then. Scores were recorded manually on cards. You needed to know, or work out, how many points you got for say 2 Hearts making 3, and for the dreaded 2 down doubled vulnerable. This had some learning benefits for beginners as you became more conscious more quickly of the risks and benefits of contracts.

Also, these were the good old days (not!) when people smoked at Bridge clubs. The room would be filled with haze by the end of the evening. I clearly remember one person who didn't even smoke his cigarettes. He would light up at the start of a hand then put his cigarette in an ash tray to smoulder away while we played!! I would reek of tobacco when I got home and would need to wash my clothes the next day.

I got lots of enjoyment from social and competitive bridge in those days. It was one of three great benefits that I gained from working at Stats NZ.

However, by the early 1980's, Sue and I had two young children and I was getting busier and busier at work. Then we went to the UK for two years. We lived in Sheffield, a coal and steel city, all through the UK Miners' Strike when Maggie Thatcher battled with the unions. Somewhere at this time bridge fell by the wayside. I didn't play for more than 30 years.

Going back in time for a moment, I had few clues about careers when I left school. I had a variety of jobs including an earlier spell in England when I worked for a year as a guard on the London Underground. I spent 8 hours of the day or night travelling up and down the Piccadilly line. I also learned to drive a train as the guard has to be ready to replace a driver

if they fall ill or whatever. And there were occasional dramas with football fans, unattended bags at the time of IRA bombings etc.

The second big benefit I gained from Stats NZ was that I was introduced to economics. I started studying economics part-time at university then for a while full-time and that became my profession. I joined the Reserve Bank and worked there for 25 years. I worked much of that time in the Economics Department. But in 2004 I was appointed project manager for the "Silver Coin Project". This entailed the withdrawal of the old clunky 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent coins (among the largest in the world) and the introduction of the new smaller lighter coins. It was a massive project involving many outside parties, eg banks, retailers, the Foundation of the Blind etc, and an international tender for the minting of new coins, the sale overseas of 2,000 tonnes of recovered old coins (valuable nickel and copper) ... The project took over my life for 2 years. When it finished I was appointed Head of Currency at the Reserve Bank. I spent 6 years in that position. Then I retired.

One day, in 2016, Sue told me that she was going to go with a friend to bridge lessons at the Hutt Club. I said that sounded like a good idea. It also reminded me how much I used to enjoy bridge. Then Sue and I started playing social bridge with Philippa and Marilyn on Monday afternoons – as we still do. Then I started playing at the Club on Wednesday nights, then some Thursday nights, then online bridge with Loek, Jay and others.

I have noticed some differences of course from the past. Electronic scoring means results can be available within minutes of the end of play and are distributed online. In the old days we had to wait a week to see results. More importantly, you can now see and learn from what other people's contracts, leads and results were on each board. There are also online sources of information and advice. And hardly anyone plays Precision today.

I'm really pleased I started playing bridge again and I really enjoy playing at the Hutt Bridge Club. Sue and I have made lots of friends and we have had lots of fun.

An observant reader may recall that I said there were three important benefits I gained from working those few short years at Statistics NZ. As well as Bridge and Economics, the third and most important one was that I met Sue there. 😊

Vil's Corner:

How many of our readers play on Thursdays? Those who do not should seriously consider it, because the Thursday deals always produce some really great hands. Thursday 24 September was no exception. Here are some bidding problems for readers. I have asked my panel of Open players for their opinion, and will collate their responses. Finesse readers, as well as readers of my "EVil Files", can take part by sending in their answers. The highest scoring answers, as scored by the panel, will win a session ticket, and for entries from those outside our area, a copy of my booklet on Twos and No Trumps.

Please note: I have put the hand with the bidding problem as SOUTH in every instance, for convenience and consistency. All problems are from a MATCH POINT session.

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

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

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

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

5. Dealer N ALL Vul

The bidding has been:

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

Your bid, holding:

♠ KQ2
♥ A
♦ A1032
♣ Q10864

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Happy Bridging!