



Hutt Bridge Club Newsletter January 2021

President's Column:

Dear Members

2020 with its many challenges is behind us and we are already one month into our new bridge and financial year. We need those subscriptions paid (due now if not paid already) and more members returning to play to get the year off to a good start. Make the most of being able to play bridge in New Zealand at a club (except do stay home if you are unwell). Please use the COVID-19 contact tracing service and regularly wash your hands or use the provided sanitiser.

You will notice how nice our playing room is looking with its fresh coat of paint and now the floors and chairs have been cleaned as well. The premises (and hence us all) have really benefitted from the maintenance and repairs, improvements and spring cleaning and other attention that club committees have managed to get done in recent years.

I recently had a chat to our Appeals Director, Nebojsa Djorovic, about managing slow play. We agreed that applying penalties is a last resort in a club such as ours that values the social aspect of bridge, but we also agreed that players can help the Director manage this aspect of our sessions by remembering and observing the following guidelines:

- Be aware of time – the clock is for the players not the Director who is always on time.
- Greet your opponents but don't discuss your day.
- Make your opening lead/ first card play/ put dummy down before doing the bridgemate entry or updating your personal score card.
- If you are Declarer, do not reach over and play the cards from Dummy.
- Claim when you can (see Vil's column in the November 2020 Finesse).
- Don't discuss the results until after you have played all the boards in the round and you can then be sure if you still have some time to spare.

The Notices section below lists upcoming special events of interest as our year gets underway. We look forward to seeing you play, attend or help at some of these as well as coming to our regular bridge sessions.

Until next time, happy bridging while keeping well and safe and enjoying the summer.

JILL HERMAN

Notices:

Saturday revision classes: Saturday revision classes start up again Saturday 20 February. Want to brush up or have a niggling question answered? All are welcome including non-members. There is a slight increase in price for this class in 2021. Cost:

\$8 for members

\$12 for non-members

Lessons: Start date: Monday 15 March. Flyers will be available soon but in the meantime tell your family and friends.

Interclub: Interclub starts 26 March. This year there is an increase in table money to \$8 per session. Get your team together now. Enter your team on the noticeboard or email hbcincnz@gmail.com.

AGM: Put it in your diary Sunday 28 March 5:00pm. An afternoon of bridge will precede the AGM. More details to follow.

Welcome to Returning Members:

Jan Marment

Upcoming Tournaments:

Waikanae Open	7 February
Hutt Multigrade	28 February
Wellington Sixes	6 March
Kapi Mana Multigrade	7 March
National 15A Swiss Pairs	13 March
Masterton Open	21 March
Kairangi Intermediate/Junior	21 March
Upper Hutt Intermediate/Junior	28 March
Paraparaumu Open	28 March

Hutt Bridge Club is proudly sponsored by:



2020 Trophy Winners:

Monday

Sadie Williams Memorial Pairs:

Simon Grant & Kevin Bateman

Runners Up:

Lee Bailey & Janet Hunter

Founders Ladder:

Shirley Wiseman

Tuesday

Shandon Pairs:

Lynne Bruce & Vil Gravis

Shandon Pairs Handicap:

Jennifer Bodinetz & Jill Marsden

Founders Ladder:

John Donbavand

Wednesday

Hutt Pairs:

A.J. & Loek Strik

Founders Ladder:

Alan Boaden

Thursday

Thursday Pairs:

Madeleine Askew & Jeffry Craanen

Thursday Pairs no SS:

Phil Revell & Martyn Dowman

Founders Ladder:

Jeffry Craanen

Friday

Hutt City New World Pairs:

Robin Hill & Miriam Swinson

Runners Up:

John Ansell & Prafulla Hegde

Founders Ladder:

Mary Rundle

Congratulations to our November & December Series Winners

Monday:

Athlone Pairs

Shirley Wiseman & Catherine Ng

Monday Christmas Pairs

Lee Bailey & Janet Hunter

Tuesday:

Eric McCarroll Memorial Pairs

Kevin Duggan & Robin Hill

Precision Pairs

Marian Loader & John Donbavand

Wednesday:

Brendan Foot Supersite Pairs

Bridget Garner & Alan Boaden

Random Pairs

Peter & Dianna Snethlage

Thursday:

Avalon Podiatry Clinic Pairs

Elizabeth Schuck & Dougal Watson

Cambridge Automotive Ltd Pairs

Dianna & Peter Snethlage

Friday:

Sherwood Pairs

Prafulla Hegde & Mary Rundle

Bellevue Pairs

Prafulla Hegde & Arumugam Kumarasamy

Monthly Member Profile: Kathy Graves



I first was interested in Bridge as a teenager when I would go to a friend's house in Levin and see her parents playing bridge with their friends. I loved playing cards and wanted one day, to learn.

That day happened at the Hutt Bridge Club in 1988 where we attended lessons on a Thursday night with a room packed full of beginners. It was a busy night. Steve would pick me up from Johnsonville where I worked for an Insurance Company. We would go into Wellington for ballroom dance lessons and then back to the Hutt for bridge lessons. We must have been very keen as it wasn't easy getting up for work the next day! We learned 5 card majors back then and then a few years later the club changed over to Acol. I thought I would mix up the 2 systems, but it is amazing how you can just change to another.

So, to tell you a little bit about myself and Steve. I was raised in Levin and after completing my secondary schooling I completed my nursing training at Palmerston North Hospital. I then went on my OE to London. And that's when I first met Steve, on a 42-day Contiki trip of Central Europe in August 1984. After the tour, we ended up flatting in two separate flats next to each other in Camberwell Green, Southeast London. Then these two flats amalgamated 9 months later when we went to a house in Southfields just down the road from Wimbledon Tennis Courts. We were lucky to tour many other countries in our time overseas and we arrived back home in December 1987. Steve had a job organised in Dunedin. I had wanted to live in Auckland, so we compromised by meeting halfway. We settled into a flat in Waterloo. We purchased our first house in Bauchop Road and our first daughter Nicola came along in April 1991 and then Sarah, in June 1994. And of course, when the children came along, we had to play on separate nights as we had no family here to help with babysitting. So, I played on Wednesday nights and Steve played on Tuesday nights.

I have worked in a few different jobs. I worked as an Interviewer in a Nanny Agency in Kensington – London; Life Underwriter for Medical Life Assurance Society; Westpac Bank and Swiss Re Life and Health; as an Administrator/Fundraiser for a Not for Profit Organisation and I'm now currently working doing Admin work in CCU at Hutt Hospital. And in these 30 years of working since having our children, I have continued to work part time which has allowed me to be involved with the various Plunket, Kindy and School committees when the girls were there. I have learned a lot about fundraising and finally finished being a Trustee on the Board of Trustees at Sacred Heart College.

In the last few years, I thought it was time to take up some other interests, so I have taken up golf and I am also involved in the floral art club. I do enjoy playing bridge on Tuesday nights and playing Interclub on Fridays. I am doing my best to encourage our friends to take up bridge and do the lessons!

Steve was raised in Dunedin and after completing his Commerce degree at Otago University worked in Dunedin. He was seconded to London to work for Peat Marwick (which is now KPMG.) On returning from London, he started working for a very small accounting firm in the Hutt with only two Directors - Calvert, Hayward and Co. This later merged with Kendons of which he became a part owner in 1998.

Steve is very busy in his job as Managing Director. In addition he is a Trustee for Life Education Trust, Hutt Valley – a position he has held for 22 years. He is currently also Hutt Bridge Club's Treasurer. Steve enjoys going to the gym and participating in the bike classes. In the last few years, we have been completing the different cycle trails and Great Walks in our holidays. We recently completed the Round the Mountains Cycle Trail (out of Queenstown) and the Abel Tasman Walk.

Vil's Corner:

Welcome to the new bridge year. Some of our newcomers have been recipients of the "Newbie Files", a holiday programme to help them understand the game better. Even some of the 'oldies' found some of the things covered useful as a 'refresher'. Here is an excerpt from one of the later files.

Let us now look at the deal shown earlier. Bit by bit, so we can learn something about the play. Every deal is different and every deal consists of a number of sub sets, some more than others. This one can be broken into a number of such parts, each of which will teach us a lot about card play, so let's look at these things one at a time.

Dealer W Nil Vul

	♠ KQ1063	
	♥ Q8	
	♦ 1062	
	♣ 975	
♠ 84		♠ A2
♥ AJ932		♥ 764
♦ A42		♦ QJ98
♣ K108		♣ A432
	♠ J975	
	♥ K105	
	♦ K75	
	♣ QJ6	

1H from West, 2C from East, 2H from West, 3H from East, pass from West. North leads the SK.

First thing to look at is the spade suit. North might well have made a cheeky overcall of 1S but we aren't discussing bidding. West has ended up in THREE HEARTS, a reasonable enough contract given the combined EW hands.

North leads the king of spades. Against a TRUMP contract, it would be too risky to lead a low card from this holding, because there is too much chance of declarer's or dummy's jack scoring an unexpected trick. When you lead a LOW card, you are hoping that partner can turn up with a big enough card to help firm up any tricks you have in the suit, but the lead of the king from the North hand will serve to create at least one certain spade trick for the defence, and that could make all the difference.

North's opening lead is made much easier because North also has the TEN to back up the KQ. Keep in mind that declarer will almost always be short in your longest suit, so to expect to be able to set up TWO tricks is too optimistic; one trick without risking giving away an unnecessary trick to declarer, is what North should hope for. If South has the ace, it will be a pleasant surprise to North and the two spade tricks may still come to the defenders.

The fact that South knows that North also has the queen of spades could make all the difference to the defence. For instance, if South were to have the doubleton ace, South would be able to overtake the king lead and return the second spade in the knowledge that North would lead a third one for South to ruff, if such a play was necessary. That is why understanding opening leads by partner is so important, defence is a partnership game as much as is bidding.

If any reader of Finesse would like a copy of all the 26 "Newbie Files", I can email them all if requested, but there is a small charge for that, \$7.50 on request. I will also be continuing with a series of articles reviewing play on Wednesday sessions. These reviews will be available on the "X-Clubs" web site, but I can email them direct each week to anyone who would like to receive them direct, at a cost of \$10 which will cover the Wednesday play series for the next six months, one a week.

For more details and payment arrangements please email Vil at villyn@xtra.co.nz

Finesse is a newsletter of the
Hutt Bridge Club

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Happy Bridging!