



Newsletter of the Hutt Bridge Club August 2019

**President's Column: Raewyn Dowman

It's great to be back in New Zealand even if weather is somewhat cooler than what we were fortunate to experience in the previous three months!

A lot of activities have occurred during that time and I would like to acknowledge some of these in this column. Firstly, the lessons were completed and the learners are now playing on a Wednesday night. A big thank you to AJ and the team who supported the learners during the lessons and to those members who mentored the learners through the buddy system. I will shortly be contacting all those who started the lessons to get their feedback and any suggestions as to how we can possibly improve our programme and of course use this information to aid retention in the future which is vital to our survival as a club.

Secondly, I would like to concur with Megan's sentiments in the June Finesse in thanking all those involved in making the Quiz night such a huge success. On that note other fundraising activities are in the pipeline. The next one is to have a film evening later in the year at the Petone Lighthouse and are waiting to see when a suitable film is available we think our members would enjoy. We will keep you updated with progress on this. The other fundraising activity is a Hutt Bridge Club garage sale. This is scheduled for **Saturday 2 November**. So when you feel inspired to do a bit of spring cleaning around the house and garden, please keep in mind anything you think that could go towards the garage sale. We will be asking for items closer to the date but if you have a problem with storage before then please contact the office and we will see if we can help.

The small number of people on the committee became apparent again recently when we were unable to have a committee meeting due to people being away and not having a quorum. This is not a desirable situation and I would urge members to

consider either making themselves available to be co-opted onto the committee or putting their name forward for the committee at the next AGM. I am aware a number of members have taken on a variety of roles in the club and it is time for others to make a contribution wherever possible. I am very happy to be contacted if you would like to discuss what is involved in being a committee member.

For those of you who aren't aware we are very fortunate to have Jill Herman recently join the committee and I am sure she will bring with her needed skills and experience. In closing I would like to thank Megan and the committee for overseeing activities during my absence. It was greatly appreciated.

Happy bridging!
Raewyn

Club Happenings

** Hutt Intermediate tournament:

We are hosting our Intermediate Tournament, kindly sponsored by Ryman Healthcare, on Sunday 11 August.

** Limited office opening hours 12-23 August:

Megan is away for two weeks from Monday 12 August returning Monday 26 August. The office will have limited opening hours over this period: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 11am to 1pm. Please ensure you have enough pre-paid tickets prior to Megan going on leave.

** Garage Sale: The club is holding a garage sale Saturday 2 November. If you have any items you would like to donate for the garage sale but cannot store until November, Megan would love to hear from you.

** Entertainment membership: The Entertainment book for 2019/2020 is here! Order your book or digital membership today, flyers are in the foyer. The membership costs \$65, \$13 of which goes to the Club. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming tournaments

Hutt Intermediate	11 Aug
Upper Hutt Multigrade	18 Aug
Karori Open	25 Aug
Otaki Intermediate/Junior	25 Aug
Wellington Intermediate/Junior	1 Sept
Victoria Intermediate/Junior	15 Sept
South Wairarapa Multigrade	22 Sept
National Congress	28 Sept to 5 Oct
Paraparaumu Multigrade	29 Sept

Bridge Successes

** Kairangi Multigrade Teams:

Congratulations to Team Watson comprising of Dougal Watson, Elizabeth Schuck, Nelson Procter & Peter Newell (Wgtn Bridge Club) who won the Kairangi Multigrade Teams tournament on Sunday 7 July.

** Kapiti Junior tournament:

Congratulations to Peter Hawkes and Paul Holder who won the afternoon session and came third overall at the Kapiti Junior tournament held Sunday 21 July.

** Interclub Friday 19 July:

Congratulations to both the open teams captained by Maciej Szczesny and Marian Loader, the Intermediate 1 team captained by Simon Webber and the novice team captained by Neil Sargisson on their wins.

** Kapi Mana Junior tournament:

Congratulations to Paul Holder and Peter Hawkes who finished 4th in the afternoon session and won the prize for the top Junior-Novice pair at the Kapi Mana Junior tournament held on Sunday 28 July.

** NZ Bridge has released the latest round of rank changes with the following successes for club members:

** The following members have been awarded certificates of proficiency:

Robert Kusel
Rob de Bique
Daphne Williams

** The following members have achieved the rank of Club Master:

Julie Newsome
Paul Holder
Martyn Hartigan
Jane McDougall
Trish Whitaker

** With 105 A points, Paul Badcock has been awarded the rank of Master.

Congratulations to all these members!

Congratulations to our July winners:

Monday:

Driving Miss Daisy Pairs

Vil Gravis & Heather Jared

Tuesday:

R H Watson Memorial Pairs

Marian Loader & Ken Barnett

Wednesday:

Knights Pairs

Neil Sargisson & Dianna Snethlage

Thursday:

Do-It-All Pairs

John Ansell & Arumugam

Kumarasamy

Friday:

Hautana Pairs

Vil Gravis & Nelson Procter

Monthly Member Profile: Robin Hill

I was born in Otorohanga, went to Primary school there and spent my secondary schooling at New Plymouth Girls High as a boarder. I trained as a teacher before returning home to take up a teaching position. In 1962 I married my husband Rex who was a Banker with the National Bank of New Zealand and as a result we moved about and lived in various places including Whakatane, Masterton, Auckland and Wellington and in each place I worked as a Primary School teacher.

I have belonged to the Hutt Bridge Club since 1991, when I retired from full time teaching and started lessons with Jacqui Beder who gave beginner classes for the club.



I enjoy playing Bridge and still love playing the game and trying to meet the challenge each hand brings. Belonging to and playing at the club you meet lovely people from all walks of life and make new friends.

I was on the Bridge Club Committee for some years and served a term as President. I recommend all players take a turn on the Committee to fully understand the running of the club and to provide new ideas.

When I'm not playing cards, I'm busy with the advantages of living in Wellington and other hobbies, like gardening, attending arts events, my monthly book club, and weekly exercise classes as well as enjoying our family and two granddaughters who live in Wellington.

My mother played bridge till the last year of her very long life - I hope to do the same!

Vil's Corner

This deal from X-Clubs must surely be a world first. I wrote it up for readers of my "Evil" series. This is a shortened version for Finesse readers, and there is a prize of a \$10 petrol voucher for anyone who can continue the story with an alternative version.

Dealer E NS Vul

♠ A62
♥ 9754
♦ QJ
♣ AQ87

♠ J9743
♥
♦ 7632
♣ J532

♠ Q1085
♥ K1082
♦ K1095
♣ K

♠ K
♥ AQJ63
♦ A84
♣ 10964

East opened 1D. South overcalled 1H and a very adventurous West bid 1S. North had his full values and bid 4H. East bid 4S. Two passes to North, who bid 5H. This was music to East's ears and he doubled, but West was so ashamed of his two count that he retreated to 5S. That wasn't going to cost much not vulnerable, was it? North was now so enraged that he bid 6H! East could not get his double out fast enough and there was no further bidding.

West opened the defence with a very orthodox lead, the spade four. Declarer played the ace (!) from dummy. Then the four of hearts, and when East followed with the two, the three (!) from his own hand. West discarded a spade. Still in dummy, declarer now switched to diamonds. The jack was led and held when East, declarer and West all played low. Declarer then took a second heart finesse, the five to the jack. Then declarer played the ace of diamonds and East followed with the king, why not, the ten was also high. A diamond ruff in dummy followed and then came the crucial play: declarer called for the ace of clubs! East's king fell. A final trump finesse to the queen, and the ace took care of East's king. Dealer was then able to continue with the ten of clubs to finesse against West's jack for the last three tricks. Just the one overtrick in his doubled small slam!!

Now dear reader, this story is true, to some extent anyway because it was a genuine X-Clubs deal and was played ALMOST that way by South. But what it must surely be is a world bridge first, the only deal where the deepest finesse possible was taken, and where four tricks all contained an ace winning over a king!

For those who think the play was hard to believe, I have a challenge: show me how the play will go if East covers the first trump lead from dummy and declarer still makes a grand slam and you will win a \$10 petrol voucher, which will make a change from the usual session ticket (“conditions apply”).

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Finesse is a newsletter of the
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Happy Bridging!