

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2010

From the President

Greetings to you all,

I guess the **GREATEST** news since our last newsletter is that we have retained our rear car park as part of our lease with Hamilton City Council.

Further on in this bulletin there will be an outline of events that took place regarding this issue. However I want to particularly acknowledge and thank our Treasurer Richard Loughnan and our Legal advisor Don Shirley from McCaw Lewis for the assistance and time they gave to me and ultimately to you our members in ensuring that we overturned the Council committee's recommendation to Council that Phoenix House (our neighbours) take possession of that piece of land.

With the onset of cooler weather the number of tables per session is increasing. However it would be really pleasing to see some of our Friday morning players also coming along on a Tuesday afternoon. Both these sessions though competitive are really sociable and enjoyable events.

Wednesday nights are still low in numbers and our Committee are very keen to see some more members attending. We would love to see some of the "old" faces back playing regularly again too.

The one way to improve and challenge yourself at Bridge is to play better players and learn from their experience.

Though you may think this is daunting and you may not win or be second or even third the amount of pleasure you get from testing your wits against these members is **EXTREMELY** rewarding!!!

So Tuesday night players have a go occasionally on a Monday or Thursday night and Thursday night members how about Wednesday at some time???

Today (Saturday) I arrived at the Club rooms to find Margaret Boyd and Anne McCarthy down on hands and knees tidying the gardens and inside was Anne Archbold cooking Anzac biscuits for our Tournament tomorrow ... last weekend during the V8s many of our members spent several hours each helping park cars (thanks Ewen for all your organisation and time) .

Without the assistance of these members and so many others of you who help our Club so willingly it would not be possible for you and me to enjoy the benefits that our membership brings. My personal thanks to you all.

Best wishes and “rug” up for the winter weather ... a game of bridge in our warm rooms will be a wonderful way to while away the hours during those long, cold days!

Lucie Armstrong
President

Land Lease Renewal *(Report from Richard Loughnan)*

Following the article that appeared in the Waikato Times in early April (copy on Club noticeboard), this is what took place leading up to that article. As you may or may not be aware, our club rooms are situated on leased land. The owner of the land is Hamilton City Council and our old lease had a 33-year term expiring on 31st March 2010. Although we own the building, we do not own the land. The land is officially part of a recreational reserve Beetham Park, which is designated for community use.

In May 2009 we wrote to the City Council requesting we be granted a new 20 year lease, which is the maximum term allowed under current Council rules. They acknowledge our application and advised it would be at least 6 months before they would respond.

In December 2009 we received a letter advising that Council management had received application from our neighbours Phoenix House, to also use the land behind our building. They asked us for a proposal on why we should retain the land or share it with Phoenix or give up completely. We submitted the proposal stating that we wanted to retain the car park exclusively. The main grounds for us retaining was that we did not want our members parking on the street, particularly at night and we needed the land for future expansion.

The process from here was that Council management were to make a recommendation to a Council committee meeting consisting of half the Hamilton City councillors. The committee then make recommendation to full Council. Unfortunately Hamilton City Council management recommended to the Council committee that Phoenix should get the land exclusively. They gave us 4 days notice before the committee meeting of their decision.

Fortunately the committee meeting was postponed for a week giving enough time to talk to councillors and prepare a 5 minute presentation to the committee.

Lucie Armstrong made the presentation to Council committee in a very professional and compelling manner. After 30 minutes discussion by the Council committee they unanimously agreed to grant us a 20-year lease including the back car park. This was ratified by the full Council meeting a week later on the 7th April.

We therefore have full use of our site for the next 20 years.

Partner Steward Thursday Evenings 16 June-mid-July - phone Joan Egger.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Patrick Cittadini
Alex Ho
Dong Qiao
Frans Van Den Bos

Notices

Cheery Notes

If you know of any member that is in need of a “**cheery-note**” from the Club (eg illness), please let Sheila Smith know.

Sponsors

- We are very fortunate to have several sponsors who advertise in our Bridge book.
- Just recently one of our members who used Tony Mannington the plumber advised she was most impressed with his prompt service and professionalism. It was the first time this year he had been contacted by a Bridge Club member.
- If we want to continue to request sponsorship we all need to utilise their services.
- So please if you need a specific job done then how about having a flick through our book to see if we have someone advertising who could fulfil your requirements.

V8 Car Parking

The V8 car parking effort put in by a few members 16-18 April was very successful for the Club's coffers. A big thank you to Ewen Ritchie (our car parking wizard), and to members who volunteered and helped out and over the three days.

TWO ITEMS of request concerning our premises

- Would smokers PLEASE on re-entry to the building during sessions please LOCK the FRONT DOOR behind them. It is very easy for someone to slip in while we are playing and unlock a door or window in the O'Neill room. I (President) have recently personally found or been made aware that this has happened!!
- Also if you are the last person to leave the premises at the end of a session would you please check all the lights are turned off and all the doors and windows closed ESPECIALLY the FRONT DOOR.
- If you do not have a key please ring myself or a Committee member before you leave. This has also become a problem over recent weeks.

Silver Grand Master

Congratulations to Jenny Millington on achieving the status of Silver Grand Master.

Tournament Reminder

Ladies Day – Hamilton Club – Tuesday, 4 May – see Club noticeboard for information.

Results Update

Congratulations to the following members:

Monday Evening

Pairs A	S	Blair Fisher/Liz Fisher
	H	Margaret McLeod/DonGao Bi
Pairs B	S	Pamela Tait/Margaret Riley
	H	Pat Cittadini/Ross Stewart
Pairs C	S	Ken Foster/Anne Macindoe
	H	Mary Fear/Audrey Dickson

Tuesday Afternoon

Peggy Perry	S	Judy Coulshed/Mont Cameron
	H	Daphne Blakely/Pat Knight
Monica Head	S	Anna Farrell/Jewell Cresswell
	H	Pam McEwing/Bev Don

Tuesday Evening

Pairs A	S	Nick Yeoman/Pauline Yeoman
	H	Francoise Campbell/Ian Campbell
Pairs B	S	Anne Macindoe/Bea Hovens
	H	Nick Yeoman/Pauline Yeoman

Wednesday Evening

Pairs A – Butler	S	Brett Glass/Trish Cardno
	H	Nick Whitten/Janice Bell
Coralie O'Connor	S	Michael Curry/Barry Jones
	H	Brett Glass/Richard Hooper

Thursday Evening

Pairs B	S	Blair Fisher/Liz Fisher
	H	Ranjith Cooray/Natalie Muller

Friday Morning

Pairs A	S	Rua Freeborn/Joyce Catchpole
	H	Dawn McKenzie/Audrey Dickson
Charles-Holland Goodwin	S	Anna Farrell/Lesley French
	H	Sheila Hollinger/John Pocock
Pairs B	S	Jewell Cresswell/Anna Farrell
	H	Jerry Gehrke/Liz Gehrke

Restricted Pairs – 25 April 2010

	1st Place	2nd Place
Junior/Junior	Lynn Currin/Anne Archbold	Bea Hovens/Anne Macindoe
Intermediate/Junior	Andi Boughey/Jennifer Black	-
Intermediate/Intermediate	Pamela Trenouth/June Rogers	Don Wilson/ Michael Neels
Open/Junior	Helen Muller/Liz Fisher	Nick Cantlon/Morna Kerr
Open/Intermediate	Blair Fisher/Natalie Muller	Peter Buckland/Richard Hooper