

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2011

President's Patter

It is hard to believe we are in the winter season with temperatures as warm as early summer.

We have catered for winter with our automatic heating having been put on. So please dress accordingly (layers) to allow for the warm room.

I trust by now you are all using the TV as your means of updating information about the Club's goings on. Thank you to Don Wilson for updating this EVERY week. I personally enjoy seeing the results of members who have won the various sessions during the week and also members who have achieved great results at tournaments.

We certainly have had some tremendous results from members at tournaments ... CONGRATULATIONS to you all.

I would like to encourage particularly our Junior and Intermediate players to view the tournaments on the notice boards (which with the renovations will now be outside the Secretary's office) and attend one of these tournaments.

I am sure you would enjoy the bridge and would meet many players of your ability.

During the past months we have hosted many tournaments at our Club ... Waikato Area Pairs, Ladies Day, North Island Teams, Interclub Teams. All have been very successful and my sincere thanks to our chief organisers Jan Spaans and Sue Wright.

Thank you for your tolerance during the renovations but I am sure the end result will have made these small challenges well worthwhile. Sincere thanks to Richard Loughnan who has made a huge commitment and effort working alongside our builder.

I would also at this time like to acknowledge your Committee. I have been on many Committees but have never worked alongside an ENTIRE TEAM who have all worked so tirelessly to ensure that your club has the highest standards and is working as effectively as possible. I thank them all for being so ready and willing to assist as required.

Stay well and avoid the winter nasties.

Good bridging!
Lucie Armstrong
President

Obituary

Jean Diwell, a current member, sadly passed away earlier this month. Jean mostly played on Tuesday evenings. Jean was a music teacher and a few years ago spent her summer vacation teaching music in New York.

Hamilton Bridge Club (*Richard Loughnan*)

As most of you will have seen our entrance foyer upgrade is taking shape. As at the middle of June the interior painting and tiling is nearly finished. New automatic opening glass doors will be installed and some exterior painting around the entrance completed. New signage is also planned and a new trophy cabinet will be installed into the entrance foyer. While the building work has been an inconvenience, the result will be worth waiting for.

Some members have asked how the club has afforded the major upgrade. The large majority of the entrance way upgrade, was paid for by a very generous anonymous donation that was tagged for this purpose.

Raffles (*Anna Farrell*)

The rafles are selling well. Thanks to those members who donated prizes, the Club members who bought tickets and congratulations to the winners. The sales table is showing a good profit – so keep it up. Thanks.

Club Notices *(Don Wilson)*

The introduction of the screen show on the TV to display weekly club notices seems to be working very successfully.

Most notices are not being read by directors unless they are very important or particularly relate to a session. So do take the time to view the notices while you have a free moment at the table.

The screen show contains a lot more information than we were able to provide through director's notices. There are progress and final results from the club events for the previous week, tournament results, upcoming events at the Club and elsewhere in the region as well as the usual notices. There is also scope for advertisements from sponsors.

If you do have appropriate information to be included in the screen-show please contact the President or the Secretary.

Tournaments *(Sue Wright)*

The club has hosted two tournaments recently - the North Island teams and the Waikato Bay of Plenty Interclub teams. There were 24 teams (104 players) for the North Island event and 32 Teams (128 players) for the interclub teams. The North Island teams was a catered event by the club and I'd sincerely like to thank all the members who helped with the catering. The Interclub event was a much more low key occasion. Thank you to our members who provided morning tea and thanks to the those members who helped in the kitchen.

The Secret Weapon of the Pairs Player

One of the most useful weapons in the arsenal of the bridge player is the takeout double.

It comes in many forms and is known as a responsive double, support double, sputnik double and numerous others.

It's not all good news though – far from it. Unfortunately it is one of the most misused and abused bids around.

You will see it used when it shouldn't be and not used when it should!

The most important feature when doubling an opening bid is a shortage in the suit opened and support for the other 3 suits.

DO NOT double when you have length in the opener's suit – this is a common error which often leads to a ridiculous final contract.

If you have an opening hand that does not qualify, PASS unless you are balanced and at least strong enough to overcall 1NT (15 to 18 HCP).

If you feel that you are not competitive enough in the auction these days, double is the answer.

In this modern world of weak jump overcalls, featherweight non jump overcalls and the like, it is not always easy to find out where your side belongs.

I suggest you and your partner agree to play double as takeout up to and including 3 spades unless one of you has opened the bidding at the 2 level or higher. Note well that most of this country's top players now also play double as takeout when the opponents make a natural overcall over your 1NT.

It will include when one of you opens the bidding and either your right hand opponent bids or your left hand opponent bids or raises up to the 3 level.

The main requirement of any double is at least 3 card support for all of the suits other than the one you are doubling and enough high card points to want to compete for the final contract.

Like any convention you need to use it at the right time but next time you would like to compete and don't know what to bid – at least consider a double, it is often the answer (as long as you've discussed it with partner first!).

Give it a go and you can look forward to a lot more bidding and the chance to either make a contract yourself or push the opponents one level higher where you have a better chance to take them light.

One word of caution though, if the opponents bid something and you would like to penalise them, you must pass smoothly (no hesitating or agonising allowed!) and wait for partner to make a takeout double for you to pass.

If the opponents overcall and you have length in their suit, partner is almost certainly be short in that suit. As you all know this is the main requirement for a takeout double.

So good luck and good doubling.

Cheers, Barry Jones

Sponsorship *(Don Wilson)*

Many other bridge clubs tap into sponsors as a useful supplement to their income. Apart from the advertisements in our programme booklet, the Hamilton Club has none.

There must be scope for us to do something about this. For instance to sponsor a tournament or even a club event.

Do you have contacts you could approach on our behalf? Perhaps friends who have influence in local businesses or maybe you are a very good customer of a business. For example, a local supermarket such as Pak n Save, Countdown or even Nosh could be a really good sponsor for a tournament. Or, a bank or real estate company? Depending on what they are sponsoring, we may not be talking about big dollars here. If the sponsor wants a direct return on their sponsorship, offering a discount to members is an incentive to support some types of business.

If you can, please do try any openings you have. Don't leave it for someone else.

A Little LAUGH

A fellow had made a bad bid and gone for 1400. "I'm sorry," he said to his partner, "I had a card misplaced." Asked his partner innocently, "Only one card?"

A doctor, concerned about the physical condition of one of his bridge-playing patients, during a regular check-up asked, "Do you get much exercise?" "Only when I sit East/West"

Did You Know?

43.6% of all slam contracts fail.
62.7% of all bridge players are women.
97.8% of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up.

New Members 2011

Welcome to the following new members:

Name
Barbara Black
Rob Cameron
Nandy Costa
Margaret Crawford
Annette Edwards
Lee Furness
John Gilbert
John Green
Chris Jones
Sara Klinkhamer
Bob Laing
Marion Livingston
Kate McFadyen
David McHaffie
Katrina McHaffie
Sylvia Manning
Elsie Nelley
Robert Nicholls
Vanessa Nicholls
Brian Paradine
Allyn Robertson
Graham Robinson
Rosli Schurmann
Paul Stevens

Partner Steward - Thursdays

Please contact Joan Egger who will be acting partner steward for Thursdays from 11 July to 8 August, in Margaret Boyd's absence.

For Beginners (Anne Macindoe)

A good web-site for beginners to look at is one hosted by the Te Awamutu Bridge Club at www.contractbridge.net/teawamutu/. If you go to this site and look under the "Learning" tab you will find lots of interesting and useful information ranging from general bridge tips to an explanation of how masterpoints and matchpoints work. There is also an easy to understand section on basic bridge laws and some problem hands to test yourself on!

Results Update

Congratulations and well done to the following members (apologies for any omissions):

Monday Evening

Pairs B	S	Richard Fletcher/Gwyn Lobb
	H	Margaret McLeod/Sally Maud
Pairs D	S	Donggao Bi/Karl Schicker
	H	Sheila Hollinger/Joan Murphy
Van Selm Mem Pairs	S	Blair Fisher/Liz Fisher
	H	Kevin Gaskin/Nick Yeoman
Pairs E	S	Pam Burns/Eileen Brunt
	H	Anne McCarthy/Verna Beech

Tuesday Afternoon

Peggy Perry Trophy	S	Bev Dow/Cathy Nolen
	H	Frances Johns/Nora Franks
Monica Heard HCP	S	Lesley McNamara/Henry Cresswell
	H	Margaret Ayo/Dawn McKenzie
Pairs B	S	Anna Farrell/Rua Freeborn
	H	Margaret Ayo/Pam McEwing
Individual	S	Audrey Dickson
	H	Shirley Fransham

Tuesday Evening

Pairs A	S	Jean Thompson/Liz Gehrke
	H	Bronwyn Norman/Heidi Eschmann
Pairs B	S	Anne Macindoe/Richard Loughnan
	H	Kay Dixon/Angus MacDonald
Alder Trophy Individual	S	Tangi Habib
	S2	Maria Lelieveld
	H	Shirley Murphy
	H2	Barbara Kinzett
Pairs C	S	Jim Sutherland/Marz Sutherland
	H	Syd Wesley/Shirley Wesley
Autumn Teams	S	Malcolm Giles/Eileen Joyce
		Tracey Hoff/Raewyn Grylls-Thomas

Wednesday Evening

Kelleway Plate Indivi	S	Brett Glass
	S2	Mike Barton
	H	Ross Stewart
	H2	Lindsay Reid
Multiple Teams		Cynthia Clayton/Jenny Millington Janice Bell/Nick Whitten
Barbara Minogue Teams		Brett Glass/Dan Lulu Richard Hooper/Yuzhong Chen
Winter Champ Pairs	S	Gary Foidl/Yuzhong Chen
	S2	Lindsay Reid/Brett Glass
	H	Pam Burns/Don Wilson

Thursday Evening

Pairs B	S	Pam Burns/Don Wilson
	H	Margaret Riley/Nolene Vail
Winter Pairs	S	Maureen O'Halloran/Cathy Nolen
	H	Mary Fear/Ross Stewart
Pairs C	S	June Rogers/Margaret Riley
	H	Anne Archbold/Ken Foster

Friday Morning

C Holland-Goodwin	S	Dawn McKenzie/Rua Freeborn
	H	Lois Warren/Audrey Dickson
Pairs B	S	Ian Clayton/Lindsay Reid
	H	Rua Freeborn/Dawn Fookes
E Hartstone Indivi	S	Jewell Cresswell
	S2	Audrey Dickson
	H	Henry Cresswell
	H2	Lesley McNamara
Pairs C	S	Bob Treloar/George Sherrell
	H	Shirley Fransham/Val West
Pairs D	S	Rua Freeborn/Audrey Dickson
	H	Eve Galloway/Ria Bos
