

# Hamilton Contract Bridge Club



## Newsletter April 2007

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### North Island Teams

We hosted a most successful North Island Teams on 10-11 March with 22 teams competing. This is a major event on the tournament schedule and we had a strong field. The event was won by Scott Smith's team with some great results for teams involving some Club members – Jenna Gibbons' team was 2<sup>nd</sup> and Rosemary Don's team was 4<sup>th</sup>.

Jan Spaans put in a huge amount of work organising this event to ensure it ran as smoothly as it did and dealt over 20 boxes of boards. Thanks also to Val West, the House Committee and other volunteers who gave up their weekend to cater for the event.

#### Tournaments

We are hosting two tournaments in the next month, the Hamilton Open Pairs 5A on Saturday 14 April and the Hamilton Ladies (Open 3A and Intermediate 5B events) on Tuesday 1 May. I would love to see a huge participation from Club members in all of these events. You can enter on the sheets on the noticeboard in the Richmond Room or by e-mailing the Secretary.

If you are not playing but willing to help in the kitchen, please contact Val West. We would also welcome any contributions of food for morning tea on 14 April (by 9:30am).

#### Suggestions for Donation

Also in the last newsletter I announced the receipt of a very generous anonymous donation of \$10,000. I sought suggestions on how we

should spend this money and made the point that it would be nice to use this money in a way that has some profile rather than absorbing it into general running costs or use it for maintenance.

I have received a few suggestions but would welcome more or comments on the ideas we have received.

Most of the suggestions have had a theme of updating our facilities in some way. These have included modernising the kitchen with new benchtops; replacing or dyeing the carpet; improving the entrance way; purchasing a more efficient heating system (heat pumps); installing cupboards in the hallway replacing the coat racks; tidying and improving our street frontage; cutting down the trees in the carpark (primarily because of their interference with our underground services but also because of the mess they make).

An interesting and innovative suggestion is the BridgeMate wireless scoring system. This involves small electronic devices at each table into which you enter the contract and the result. These get transmitted back to the computer. Results are available immediately the session is finished. It also overcomes scoring errors. As far as we know, the system is not yet used anywhere in NZ but it is used widely in some countries such as Netherlands. A potential difficulty is that there isn't an interface yet with the NZCBA scoring system. If you are interested, more information is available at [www.bridgemate.com/](http://www.bridgemate.com/).

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me (phone 854 7704 or e-mail [don.wilson@clear.net.nz](mailto:don.wilson@clear.net.nz)) or a committee member. The suggestions need to cost no more than the funding we have available.

### **Masterpoint Charges**

I reported in the last newsletter that the New Zealand Contract Bridge Association (NZCBA) had decided to increase Masterpoint charges by just over 100%, effective from 1 April 2007. The issue that had particularly made the Committee unhappy was the very poor communication of this information to the Clubs. Also the short notice given.

The NZCBA has had vast feedback on this and have responded to the Clubs. They have apologised for the breakdown in communication and have deferred the increase until 1 July 2007 so that the required 3 months notice is provided. The need for the

increase is probably justified. As well as supporting the day-to-day running of the NZCBA, it will be used for a number of planned initiatives.

The Masterpoint charge for Club sessions is a levy for every player playing in each session. The current charge is 14c per player and the new charge will be 30c per player. So for a session of 15 tables, it will cost us an additional \$9.60. Your Committee has already decided that for this year at least, we will absorb this increased cost and other rising costs and keep table money at \$2.50 a session.

Incidentally I am told that table money at most other larger clubs is \$5 or more.

### **Autumn Social**

The Autumn Social and Chinese meal was most enjoyable. Numbers weren't great with 11 tables only.

### **Beginners Lessons**

There are over 30 people attending this year's beginners' lessons on Tuesday nights. We are indebted to Barry Jones and Jenny Millington for running the lessons once again. They do require some helpers each week to help manage the large number attending. Ideally we would like one helper per table. If you are able to help, please add your name onto the roster in the Richmond Room. The idea of the roster is that we don't end up with a feast and famine situation – too many one week and not enough the next.

### **Bar**

Compliance conditions have become more onerous. Not only are we required to have a liquor licence for nominated dates, we are now required to have a qualified and registered bar manager present while the bar is operating. Joan Egger and Pam Burns have attended the day-long course and are our registered bar managers. In addition the licensing agency extracts a fee from us annually.

### **Don Wilson**

## **NATIONAL CLUB TEAMS' COMPETITION**

You may be aware that the NZCBA is introducing a new competition this year. The winners of the competition will be the club in NZ with the best combined Junior, Intermediate and Open team. The scores of all club teams are added together in a match against another club.

Every club is invited to enter their representative teams into the qualifying round of their Centre. The qualifying round for our Waikato/Bays Centre is scheduled to be held on 30 June at the Hamilton Club. The winning club of the qualifying round is eligible to represent the Centre at the national finals. The finals will be held during the National Congress in Hamilton during the month of September.

As we all take pride in our club, we would like to send a team to represent us at the qualifying round and hopefully beyond. To find the strongest available team at Junior, Intermediate and Open level, it has been decided that our club team will be selected from the participating members in the 6 week Club Teams Championship, which will be held on Wednesday 16 May through to 20 June. The Match Committee is of the opinion that the strongest competition available in our club is currently the Wednesday evening session, and chose to select the teams from members playing on this night. Therefore, if you would like to be considered for playing for our club in this competition, you are advised to enter the Wednesday 6 week competition.

As there is a good chance that our top players will be overseas or decide to play in an event at the Congress instead of the Club Team competition, it is anticipated that our team will consist of sub top Open and Intermediate players and good and upcoming Junior players.

There are plenty of good Junior and Intermediate level partnerships playing at our club on the Monday and Thursday evening who I would like to encourage to enter the Wednesday teams event. You can enter as a pair and be coupled to another pair who have not been able to make up a team.

The selection process during the Wednesday six week Teams event will be done through Datum scoring per pair. This may sound rather technical, but it is something that happens in the background and will have no effect on you during the play.

The winning team will have first right of refusal to play for our club. Then second and so on. When a team with not all Open players ends up high in the rankings, the Intermediate or Junior players of that team, will have first right of refusal to play for our club in the Intermediate and Junior team. Again it trickles down the line until we have a club team of 4 Open, 4 Intermediate and 4 Junior players.

Members playing in the qualifying round but unavailable for the final are allowed to be substituted.

## **Jan Spaans**

### **DIRECTOR'S CUT**

Remember when calling the Director to add a **PLEASE**. It will probably get them to your table a bit quicker than just yelling "**Director!**".

The only thing that may be written on a bidding pad is your bid. If you want to make notes on the slip of the board number and the lead, it must be done after the board is played.

Etiquette at the table is something else to remember. When moving to a new table, say "hello" to the new opposition. Do not continue with post mortems. This goes for North-South as well. Remember that East-West may not have played the hand you are discussing and you may be giving away information. This means they will be unable to play that board when they come to it and they end up with a 60% board which will probably be a top board for the room.

When you have finished play for the session leave the table tidy, chairs replaced, and rubbish put in the bin.

**SMOKERS** - When you are going outside to have a smoke please make sure you lock the front door upon returning to the room. We have had people sneak in there in the past and things have gone missing.

Well that's all for now. Good bridge everyone.

## **Maureen O'Halloran**

## Easter Raffle

The Easter raffle for the donated food items was very popular with ticket buyers. Perhaps we should have another later in the year. If more members donated items we would be able to offer more prizes. Many thanks to all those who did donate grocery items for the Easter raffle. It provided some very worthwhile prizes and contributed to our profit. Winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Healy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Josie Van Weerd
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Don Wilson

## INTERESTING WEBSITES

A relatively recent development on the Internet has been the Blog. What is a Blog, you may ask? Blog is short for weblog. A blog is a newsletter that is frequently updated and generally represents the personality of the author. A personal diary. A daily pulpit. A collaborative space. A political soapbox. A breaking-news outlet. A collection of links. See Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/blog>) for more information.

Well it had to happen. Now we have Bridge Blogs.

Here are a few to get you going.

- Vikings in Space [www.vikingsinspace.nl/](http://www.vikingsinspace.nl/)
- Tyler's Bridge Blog [tylerbridge.blogspot.com/](http://tylerbridge.blogspot.com/)
- Bridge Review [www.bridgereview.com/](http://www.bridgereview.com/)
- Poor Bridge of the Week [www.poorbridge.com/?pbotw=index](http://www.poorbridge.com/?pbotw=index)
- Cuebidding at Bridge [www.cuebiddingatbridge.blogspot.com/](http://www.cuebiddingatbridge.blogspot.com/)

Send me an e-mail ([don.wilson@clear.net.nz](mailto:don.wilson@clear.net.nz)) about your favourite bridge website(s) with a few notes about the site and we will share it in the coming newsletters.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the programme booklet was published.

Archie Badger  
Rose Don  
Marinoto Deacon  
Pat Gread  
Alison Jenkins  
Heather Kneebone  
Chris Lyons

Anne Muir  
Ann Ring  
Deborah Rodgers  
Warren Rodgers  
Sally Wise  
Colleen Woodham  
Rosie Woods

## **RESULTS**

Following are the results of competitions since the last newsletter.

### **Monday Night**

Pairs A	Yuzhong Chen & Kevin Gaskin
Pairs B	Rae & Bill Barwood
Pairs C	Margaret Hallen & Betty Smith

### **Tuesday Afternoon**

Pairs A	Betty Nowland & Beverley Searle
Handicap	Keitha Burton & Audrey Dickson
Peggy Perry Trophy	John Paterson & Ivy Wells
Handicap	Freda Stephenson & Margaret Boyd
Monica Heard Trophy	Mona Corlett & Billie Phillips
Handicap	Lucie Armstrong & Helen Healy

### **Tuesday Night**

Summer Pairs	June Scott & Patricia Thomson
Pairs A	Elaine Hickel & Sally Curran
Pairs B	Maria & Arthur Lelieveld

### **Wednesday Night**

Pairs A	Henry Cresswell & Tim Healy
Handicap	Jan Spaans & Kevin Gaskin

Pairs B Handicap	Brett Glass & Richard Hooper Yuzhong Chen & Maureen O'Halloran
Ethel Johnson Trophy Handicap	Graeme Stern & Alan Parkes Joan Egger & Pam Burns

### **Thursday Night**

Pairs A Handicap	Duncan Cape & John Turner Lynn Currin & Joan Stanford
Pairs B Handicap	Colleen de Luen & Val West Shirley Johnstone & June Rogers
Pairs C Handicap	Pam Burns & Don Wilson Waveney Harwood & George Byett

### **Friday Morning**

Pairs A Handicap	Tim & Helen Healy Beryl Howlett & Dorothy Sherwood
Holland-Goodwin Trophy Handicap	Audrey Dickson & Lois Warren Barbara Henton & Sheila Smith
Pairs B Handicap	Josie van Weerd & Val West Bev Dow & Eve Galloway