



Palmerston North Bridge Club Newsletter

June 2021

President's Welcome

I am writing this welcome, from the other side of the world, in the middle of (your) night having finally managed to get all the right paperwork done to make the trip over to the UK for my Mum's 90th birthday this month. And guess what my siblings, her grandchildren, great grandchildren and I are planning for her? A Champagne Lunch! This is inspired by our very own 75th Jubilee Champagne Lunch which we held on 30th May at the Club Rooms. This gives me yet another reason to thank Robyn Anderson, the "brains" behind our Club celebration, for her vision and dedication to that event. It was a wonderful day in so many aspects - a fitting tribute to all those who have contributed to a Club and a game that has provided so much to so many over the decades.

Of course, one of the other people who made a singular contribution to our Jubilee celebration was Evelyn Hurley. Like so many of us, I received the news of Ev's unexpected death with a mixture of shock, disbelief and sorrow. Ev has also made a singular contribution to our Club. There is an African saying that when a tribal elder passes, it is as if a library has burned down. I have that same sense of the loss of knowledge, experience, humanity and personality. I want to extend deep sympathy to Bob, Karen and Bevan on their loss and sincere thanks to Heather Simpson, Ev's longtime friend, for creating such a fitting tribute to her for our newsletter.

Other news pales by comparison but Club business continues. Congratulations to our team who travelled to Wanganui on 20th June for the annual inter-Club event between Palmerston North, Wanganui and Hawera. They did very well but were just pipped at the post by Wanganui after a recount.

The North Island Pairs 20A tournament, which we are hosting on behalf of NZ Bridge and Central Districts, will take place on 31 July/1 August. Registrations are open online via NZBridge. Liz Burrows is our representative on the Tournament Committee and also Tournament Secretary - many thanks to her for undertaking this role and also to Robyn Anderson for again co-ordinating the catering. Please watch out for the jobs roster and help out if you can to support the Club to run another successful event.

We are looking forward to welcoming the recent graduates from the lessons into Monday evening sessions from July. Thanks again to Jack James and Maxine Keay for organising and delivering the programme. Welcome to all our new members - I hope that you enjoy playing here for the next 75 years!

Stay safe, everyone.

Denise Servante
President

Evelyn Remembered

Evelyn (and Bob) are amongst my oldest NZ friends and have been a major reason for my 50 years of enjoying playing bridge.

Ev and I both joined the PN Bridge Club in March/April 1971 and recognised that we had met 4 or so years earlier in practical classes at Massey when Ev (Hunt) was in the second year of her B Ag Sc degree and I was assisting in the classes as a postgraduate student. Subsequently, Ev, who was from a local dairy farming family, followed the Ag Economics pathway and we lost contact, until she returned from Australia after completing a masterate programme. We soon teamed up on club nights and then decided to enter a Junior tournament.

My fondest memories, apart from weddings, special birthdays and other Hurley family events, are of those first 2 or 3 years of playing with Ev in junior and intermediate tournaments, which were fiercely competitive events, mostly in the Wellington area. It soon became apparent that our basic Standard American bidding system was not ideal, so Ev arranged for mentoring by Bob Hurley and his partner Roy Wilkin in the new Precision bidding which had recently been developed overseas, based on the successful Italian Blue Club system. It took a while for me to realise that there was more to these regular mentoring sessions besides improving our play and bidding, and that Bob and Ev were developing another "partnership". In 1973, Bob and Ev were married and also formed their successful bridge partnership with both eventually becoming gold Grand Masters.

Bridge tournaments in the 1970s were very different from those we enjoy now. Even junior tournaments were two day events: Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday morning. Semi-formal clothes were worn for the evening event and dressing was far from casual. Smoking was permitted and by the end of two sessions on Saturday, the room was filled with a haze which was irritant to the sensitive eyes of non-smokers and made sleeping even more difficult.

The hands were dealt at the table and the hands and scores were recorded on travelling score sheets attached to the backs of boards; bidding was spoken and had to be remembered, as it was frowned upon to have to review the bidding because of inattention.

At the end of the session, scores were checked and match points allocated at the table and the scoring team took over the sheets and manually checked, entered and calculated the results as fast as possible. Ev and I helped in these scoring teams for local Senior tournaments, for which we didn't have enough B points to be accepted. The local bank managers were leaders of the scoring because of their ability to add up long columns of figures both accurately and quickly.

Ev and Bob have contributed much to our club over 50 years, as has been well covered during our recent 75th jubilee celebrations. What is particularly significant to me is their strong support of our club nights, despite falling numbers and a less competitive environment for players of grand master status. Ev will be sorely missed from our Tuesday night play, which has been my weekly chance to catch up with her activities. I thank her for being my first partner and contributing to my enduring love of the game.

Heather Simpson



Below is given an email from the Beauchamp Funeral Home about Evelyn's funeral (2pm Monday 28th June):

Please click here:

<http://beauchamp.co.nz/webcasting/bc/> to be directed to our webcasting page. The password for this page is: bfh81

Webcasts begin about 20 minutes before the start of the service. We encourage anyone planning to use this service to log on early so they can test their computer and internet connection. These broadcasts can also be viewed on iPads, phones and tablets.

Kind regards

The Beauchamp Team

Club and Tournaments Results

Congratulations to all Club members below who have achieved success in recent tournaments.

Grant Elliott Terry Young	1 st	Waipukurau Junior Pairs
Angela Harper Paul Harper	3 rd	
Craig Killington John Redmayne	4 th	
Morgan Booker Alistair James	2 nd	Otaki Multigrade
Anne Gordon Hans van Bunnik	3 rd	
Clare Veltman Carolyn Brodie	5 th	
Anne Gordon Julie Bunnell	2 nd	Hawkes Bay Congress Intermediate Pairs
Jan Whyte Ken Bateman	2 nd	Hawkes Bay Congress Swiss Pairs
Elizabeth Kemp Ray Kemp	5 th	
Anne Gordon Julie Bunnell Carolyn Brodie Gayle Leader	2 nd	Hawkes Bay Congress Intermediate Teams
Jack James Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin	1 st	Hawkes Bay Congress Open Pairs
Jack James Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin Rachael Pelkman Murray Wood	1 st	Hawkes Bay Congress Open Teams
Elizabeth Kemp Ray Kemp	5 th	Hawkes Bay Congress Multigrade Pairs
Jan Whyte Ken Bateman	3 rd	Hutt Open Pairs
Jack James Anne-Marie Russell	2 nd	Victoria Swiss Pairs
Wayne Burrows Claire Miao	3 rd	National Pairs
Laura Griffin Tony Clear	2 nd	Levin Intermediate Pairs
Debbie Marcroft Garry Hodge	3 rd	
Julie Bunnell Dianne Hunter	5 th	
Terry Young Grant Elliott	1 st	Levin Junior Pairs
Maxine Keay Malcolm Loudon	2 nd	
Angela Harper Paul Harper	3 rd	
Jack James Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin Bill Humphrey Paul Carson	1 st	Canterbury Congress Open Teams

Jack James Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin	3 rd	Canterbury Congress Open Pairs
Wayne Burrows Claire Miao Jan Cormack Pamela Nisbet	2 nd	Auckland Regional Teams

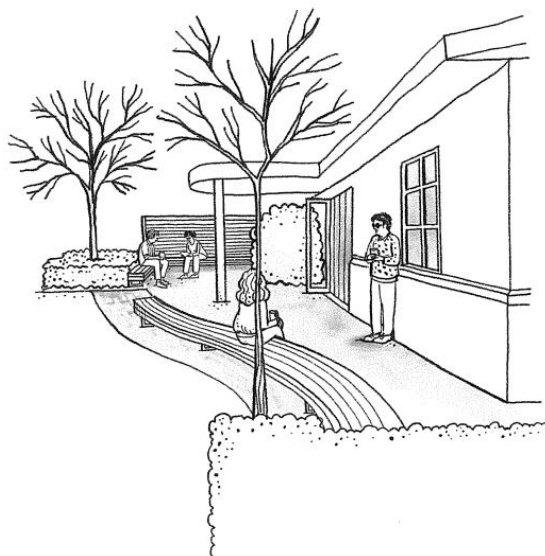
Congratulations to pairs who achieved a score of 70% or better since the last newsletter:

Maxine Keay & Grant Elliott	75.65%
Angela Harper & John Redmayne	72.22%
Prue Drake & Elwi Beshlawi	70.00%

Gayle Leader

Jubilee Courtyard

To follow on from our jubilee, the Committee is planning to develop the area immediately outside the door to the "Smoko Room" as a tranquil and beautiful "Jubilee Courtyard". Our member, Lyndsey Chadwick, a retired landscape designer, has created a fabulous design to make the most of the space and create a welcoming entrance to our club Rooms.



Of course, we need to fundraise for this project (it will not go ahead unless we raise sufficient funds). **Would you like to be part of this project? Are you able to help us?**

If you would like to donate funds towards this project, please pick up a leaflet from the Club Rooms, or email the President, Denise Servante at denise.servante@gmail.com.

Denise Servante

Palmerston North Bridge Club 75th Jubilee Celebration



To celebrate and commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Palmerston North Bridge Club (est. 31 October 1946), the Committee hosted a Champagne Lunch for all members past and present. The festivities were graced by over 120 current and former members - one of whom (Lorna Black) had joined the Club in 1955 - as well as our local MP, Tangi Utikere, the Chairman of the NZ Bridge Board, Allan Morris (+ Beverley, of course) and our "Celebrity" bridge player, Scott Smith. Following the lunch, we held two sessions of bridge with a pot luck supper in between.

The evening session of bridge was run as a "retro bridge session" with no tablets, bidding pads or pre-dealt boards. This was the brainchild of our director, Lorraine Stachurski - who even dressed in formal evening wear (as was the way in 1946!).

The whole day was a lot of fun. Here's some feedback from one former member which sums up many of the comments received:

The Champagne lunch was superb

The speeches were great

And the bridge fantastic fun especially the retro bridge in the evening

Many congratulations to everyone who contributed on what was a spectacular event.

Denise Servante

Mr Know-all

In the murky past, some ingenious programmers devised a method for calculating the optimum score for any given bridge hand. As a result, for most sessions, we can play a contract well (as we may believe) and then Mr Know-all computer may tell us we could have made an overtrick. This can be frustrating since the only way to make that extra trick might be to know where every card is and by performing a criss-cross squeeze followed by a throw-in.

Worse, of course, is that an opponent, observing the possible result, may comment on our under-performance. "Don't worry partner, they should have made an overtrick". OK, there may be a form of gamesmanship going on here but sometimes these observations are made out of ignorance. It is important to be able to distinguish between what one *can* make and what one *should* make.

Sometimes the optimal result may be achieved by employing what would normally be regarded as stupid methods. A hand that illustrates this point occurred in the April Swiss Pairs. This is what you pick up playing South with neither side vulnerable:

♠ A 10 7 5 2
♥ J 5 4 3
♦ K J 10 6
♣ —

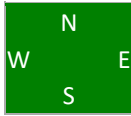
And here is the bidding:

West	North	East	South
	1♥	2♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

South has a tricky decision after East's five club bid. A five hearts contract looks possible but maybe North has some good club cards and it might be better to double. North does, indeed double and South is again in the hot seat when considering what to lead. Starting with the ace of an unbid suit seems like a reasonable idea, so the ace of spades is plonked on the table. Here are the four hands.

North Deals
None Vul

♠ —
♥ A K Q 10 9 2
♦ 7 5 4 2
♣ Q J 7

♠ K Q 8 4 3		♠ J 9 6
♥ 8 7		♥ 6
♦ 8 3		♦ A Q 9
♣ 10 9 5 2		♣ A K 8 6 4 3

♠ A 10 7 5 2
♥ J 5 4 3
♦ K J 10 6
♣ —

When North shows out of spades this seems to have been a pretty good choice. A follow-up spade leads to a ruff but this reduces North's clubs to a catchable QJ and NS take only one more trick, the ace of hearts. East was lucky when dummy showed up with four clubs and a good spade suit. Her five club bid could have been a very expensive sacrifice instead of -100. Worse, the omniscient computer says that NS can take five defensive tricks which would have been a top board for them. Although NS can make a heart slam no one has bid it.

Looking at the hand later, it is not obvious how NS can generate so many defensive tricks. Can you see the approach they must take?

The first lead must be a low spade from South! Underleading an ace in a long suit against a suit contract is usually a bad idea and when the opponents are at the five level it could be suicidal. In this case, however, it is the only way to go. Whatever declarer plays from dummy, North ruffs with the seven of clubs. She must then do the unthinkable and underlead her AKQ of hearts to return to partner's jack.

South leads another low spade which allows North to ruff with her jack of clubs. A diamond return by North leaves East with a problem. If she takes the finesse then this loses and another spade ruff occurs so she must rise with the ace of diamonds to stop the rot. She can take out trumps but South still has the ace of spades to cash and also the king of diamonds. Voila – five tricks for the defence.

This method of defence could be regarded as brilliant but with only one or two cards swapped around it would be disastrous. So the computer is a results merchant. As the saying goes in golf when a player makes a bad shot that plops into the hole "it's not how but where".

Ray Kemp

North Island Pairs 31st July – 1st August

Our Club has been given the privilege of hosting the North Island Pairs at the end of July. It is a good fundraiser for the Club but the event requires a lot of volunteers to make it happen.

As it is over 2 days, several meals need to be provided. Early next week a list of tasks that need to be done for this event is going to be placed on the noticeboard.

This includes tasks like:

- Being a stand-by pair
- Providing a morning tea plate
- Helping with the morning and afternoon teas and the lunches
- Being a hostess during the sessions

Please feel free to volunteer for these tasks by writing your name on the notice or by contacting me directly:

e.burrows@massey.ac.nz.

Yet again the lunches/afternoon teas are being organised by the amazing Robyn Anderson. If anyone is particularly interested in helping Robyn please contact her directly.

Liz Burrows

Interclub – a Short-lived Success Story

Our annual Interclub match with Hawera and Wanganui was held on Sunday 20th June, at the Wanganui Clubrooms. We assembled two Junior, two Intermediate, and two Open teams to compete against similar teams from the other Clubs.

The two trophies, which we had won in 2019, were removed from the cabinet and polished to a shine. Car pooling was arranged. Reserves were on stand-by just in case.

Our Club provided a delicious morning tea, and after a welcome and a few instructions from the Director, play began at 10am.

Each team played four 12-board matches against the competing teams at their level. The day was exceptionally well organised and hosted by the Wanganui Club. Play ran very smoothly, with a break for lunch after the first two rounds. Most had brought their lunch, though one team member was spotted sitting in his car at lunchtime, having zipped around to the local fish and chip shop (he did share the chips)

One of the top scores was from the Junior A team on Board 17 in Round 2. When his 1 Heart opening bid was doubled, Elwi Beshlawi calmly re-doubled. Unexpectedly both the opponents passed, and Elwi went on to make 2 Hearts for 1120. At the other table the opponents made 2 Hearts, giving our team 14 IMPS on the hand, and a match win of 39 to 1.

At the end of play, drinks from the bar, along with more hot food, nibbles, cheese and fruit provided by Hawera, and time to chat while we waited for the results.

We were announced as the winners, with Hawera 2nd and Wanganui 3rd, and delighted to bring home the Frances Ewington Jug for the 3-way Competition, and the Wilkin Cup for the 2-way Competition with Wanganui.

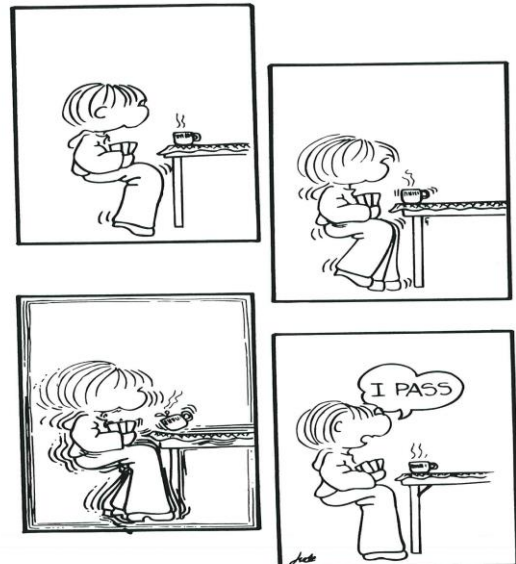
Our success was short-lived though, when we received a letter of apology on Tuesday, from the tournament organiser, and the director. It seems the final scores had been incorrectly calculated, with the result that we were beaten by Wanganui - by just 6 points. Hawera were in 3rd place.

Despite this it was a friendly and enjoyable day. A huge thanks to all who took part, and to our reserves, and we look forward to another great competition next year.

Maxine Keay

You must be joking

Two for the price of one from Tony today.



Tony Fayerman

Grading Review

The Grading Review Working Party, which was established at the end of 2020, has made its first report to the PNBC Committee. In light of that report, the Working Party has been asked to seek feedback from the membership regarding some of its recommendations. The purpose of this newsletter item is to invite feedback from all members about certain recommendations.

The Working Party was asked to review the Club's system of grading members who play in evening competitions into four "metallic" grades of Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze grades, plus an Ungraded category for daytime players. The Working Party was also invited to consider related issues, such as the eligibility rules for graded competitions, the allocation of graded competitions to playing nights, and any other pertinent matters.

The Working Party made nine recommendations to the Committee at its meeting on 14 May. The Committee has accepted six of those recommendations, namely that

1. Palmerston North Bridge Club retain a club grading system that is separate from the NZ Bridge grading system, and that
2. The Club grading system retain its current four levels of Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze.
3. That the eligibility and participation rules for graded competitions be clarified as follows:
 - a. For graded competitions, only pairs composed of players of the designated or lower grade are eligible to win the competition. Players in a partnership may be of different grades, provided both are at or below the designated grade.
 - b. Players of any grade may participate in most competitions. However, Platinum and Gold players may not participate in the Bronze Championships, and Platinum players may not participate in the Silver Championships.
4. That Directors of Club Championships (and other graded competitions) be asked to consider Howell movements and/or seeding when players of higher grades are participating in a graded competition.
5. That any bidding systems may be used in club sessions, subject to the exception that; temporary restrictions on bids/systems may be applied for a short period on Monday evenings when welcoming new players.
6. That the current algorithm for calculation of Points Cup winners be retained without amendment.

The Committee felt that three other recommendations made by the Working Party warranted wider discussion amongst the membership:

- A. That the Ungraded category be discontinued from 2022, and that all players currently in the Ungraded category be assigned to a grade based on level of ability, as assessed by the Regrading panel for 2021.
- B. That the criteria for promotion to a higher grade be amended to (a) specify that the sessions to be considered for assessment must be played with a player at the or lower grade, (b) change winning appropriate grade Champs in two years out of three to winning appropriate grade champs in three years out of same five, and (c) remove performance in A-point tournaments as a criterion for promotion.
- C. That the distribution of graded competitions be as follows
 - a. All Bronze and Silver competitions to be held on Monday evenings.
 - b. All Gold and Platinum competitions to held on Tuesday evenings.
 - c. That Thursday evening become a full Multigrade night, with all events held on a Handicap basis. That is, monthly winners would be determined on the basis of handicaps; C points would be awarded on the basis of raw scores.
 - d. As a minor consequence - that the Silver Butler Pairs and Gold Butler pairs be discontinued and replaced by a Multigrade Butler Pairs played on Thursday evening.

The Working Party anticipates that the proposals to remove the Ungraded category and the proposal to adjust the allocation of competitions to playing nights will be of particular interest to members.

Members who would like to read the full report of the Grading Review Working Party may request a copy from the Club Secretary, Gayle Leader. The full report provides discussion of each change recommended.

Comments, feedback, suggestions, and the like are invited from all club members upto 10th July. Written comments are preferred, so that the Working Party has a record of points made. The easiest way to do this is by email to secretary@pnbridge.net.nz. Members of the Working Party can also make themselves available to talk with groups of players if that would be helpful.

Morgan Booker, Julie Bunnell, Maxine Keay, Ray Kemp: Grading Review Working Party 2021

Stop, Look and Listen

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A J 7		♠ 10 9 5 4 3 2
♥ K 10 5		♥ A 3
♦ A 9 4 2		♦ K Q 5
♣ A 5 4		♣ Q 6

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

In this hand from Thursday evening teams bridge, ♥7 was led from North to West's 3NT. Firstly will 4S make? Playing out the suits from the top, we can take 4 spade tricks, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and a club for 10 tricks. We are playing a teams format so now know that we must make 3NT to salvage this board. It is important to evaluate the dangers in this hand. If North is on lead again, they may shunt a club through the queen->king->Ace leaving clubs wide open.

Now we should move on to our top tricks: 7 and a potential 8th if diamonds break 3-3 (or some other favourable breaks). We have chances for a 9th trick in either spades or clubs. In clubs we can play a low club towards the queen and hope that the king is in north (seems unlikely on this auction). We can now deduce that our 9th trick should come from spades (our long suit). The safest way to play this suit is going to be taking a double finesse in spades. We win the ♥A on table and call for the ♠10. South discards ♣3. Here is where identifying the club problem comes in handy. If we let North win this trick, they may play a club through the queen and establish the suit before we get our 9th trick in spades.

What do we now know about South's hand? Looks like a 0544 or a 0643 or a 0634 (maybe some 07xx hands). What about high card points? Surely South has ♥Q and ♥J, maybe ♦J, that takes us to 4 HCP. South must surely have ♣K and probably ♣J too. Our cheeky idea of leading up to ♣Q twice is now out of the picture. We are two tricks in and this is looking pretty bad.

We should find a holding for South that allows this contract to make and play South to hold this hand (if we are wrong, we were going down anyway). It would be ideal for South to only have 6 hearts as then when south is on lead, only 4 tricks can be run. This leaves south to be 0643 or 0634. If we can strip out the diamonds from South's hand. He must exit a club around to our queen. Since we placed ♣K with South, this will make the queen our 9th trick. We now cross to the king of diamonds 2-6-K-3 and play ♦Q: Q-7-4-J.

With ♦J out of the way we should now finesse South for the outstanding 10 (by playing small to the 9) and cash ♦A. The astute might argue that North could have been false-carding from JT6 and when we play our finesse North will win. This is true; however, the statistical best line follows Restricted Choice. After the successful finesse and play of ♦A we have the following theorised position:

♠ J 7		♠ 9 5 4 3
♥ K 10		♥ 3
♦ —		♦ —
♣ A 5 4		♣ Q 6

♠ —
♥ Q J 9 8 4
♦ —
♣ K x

Declarer has 6 tricks taken. North's hand is mostly unknown as I have not given their discards, but at the table, I would have paid little attention to them anyway. It is easier on the memory to just remember if I let North in, it is over. We have tricks 7 and 8 (KH and AC) but recall that 4S is making on this hand. We must make that 9th trick, no matter what the risk. Here we can play the king of hearts and if our interpretation of the layout is correct we can exit the ♥10. South must win (else 9th trick) and after south rattles off 4 heart tricks it will be South to play, left with:

♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ A 5		♣ Q 6

♠ —
♥ —
♦ —
♣ K x

A fatal endplay for the 9th trick. Here is the complete deal.

♠ A J 7		♠ 10 9 5 4 3 2
♥ K 10 5		♥ A 3
♦ A 9 4 2		♦ K Q 5
♣ A 5 4		♣ Q 6

♠ —
♥ Q J 9 8 4 2
♦ 10 8 7 3
♣ K 7 3

Jack James