

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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Newsletter Editor: Catherine Cameron

Newsletter - May 2024

From the President

Tournaments - two down and 5 to go for 2024 - great numbers for the Intermediate and Junior tourney in March with 2 pairs of novices joining the afternoon session of the Junior section - well done to them for dipping their toes into the fray. The next tournament we host is the midweek event on Tuesday, May 7th - the Craigs Investment Multi-Grade - formerly our women's day tournament but now men are welcome too! Entries are online and there will be a sumptuous afternoon tea - secure a partner and come along to play bridge for the day.

Carpet grants are proving successful - we have secured \$7,500 from one entity - and we will continue to reach out to two other avenues as we move to getting this project underway. We will look to minimise disruption to our programme and will update members as we get closer to the time of replacing the carpet. Thanks to Richard Wagstaff for submitting the endless number of grant applications - we are submitting applications every month to ensure that we seek additional financial support for all our projects; we do have to come up with around 30-40% of the projects' cost so securing grants funds is very important to the club. We will still

consider looking to future proof our building and potentially we may see a split between carpet and lino or wooden flooring.

Last month we purchased 2 larger urns to use for our tournaments and any other large events - these urns made life much easier and reduced the need for constant top ups and also stopped the power surge shut off that occurred in both rooms. We no longer require extension cords or need to constantly refill the urns.

Directors, again we would like to start another director's learner session to boost our number count. Ideally, we would like to see 3 more directors coming through from our current member stock. Let the Secretary, Julie, know if you are interested to join these sessions.

Lessons, the first set of these are still continuing and up to lesson 7. So far, we have seen 4 new members from this set. We have just started another set of lessons, also on Tuesday night, from 6pm with 9 attendees. Anyone can still join in at this early stage.

A Thursday afternoon group for improver lessons has just started, with the second session held on 2nd May from 1-4pm. All are welcome to join in. Currently the lessons are a refresher of the original lessons. These will be followed by a more advanced set - contact Cherie if you wish to know when these will begin.

IT improvements - the updating of our computer software in both rooms has begun. Meanwhile we have found a possible solution if we are unable to purchase any more Bridgemates. The EFTPOS system continues to work well for entry fees, top ups for table money and carparking payments. Remember this is available at all sessions if you need it.

Fundraising through our car parking agreement with the stadium users continues to be an ongoing source of new funds into the club bank account. We have a great team that does this job, but if you have a few hours spare to come down and help out please contact Richard Wagstaff. His crew are very well rehearsed for this duty but many hands make light work! Thanks to Roger Johnstone, Michael Davies, Stephen Weir, Nigel Gresson, Don Weston and my apologies if I have missed out others.

Suggestions - if you have something that you wish to raise or perhaps, we are not doing something as well as we could, please let us know. On the other hand, if we are doing a good job, we would love to hear this as well.

Secretary - as many members will know, Julie has broken her wrist and is having some time off work to allow it to mend. In the meantime, I will be covering her role until she returns.

Last words - I'm going to leave you with a tip from **Zia Mahmood**, a famous bridge player - I'm reading his latest book, *Bridge, A Love Story*.

Use your expert opponents' skills against them. Good opponents rely on weaker players to give them a road map when they (the experts) are declaring. If you are a weaker pair, the only person looking at your cards in defence is the declarer, not your partner. That's your secret weapon. So, use it!

Your opponent is playing 3NT after a 1NT - 3NT auction. If your side's agreement is to lead fourth best, try leading fifth best from five, or third best from four. It may not work, but confusing a top declarer is worth much more than confusing a less able partner. The declarer won't expect you to false card. Just think how much greater the pleasure will be when it works and the expert leaves the table muttering.

That's all for now until the next blurb.

Adios amigos and I will see you at the table.

Mereana

Mereana Cullen, President

SOUP and BUN Socials coming up

As the days get colder, what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than with a lunch of hot soup and a bun, followed by a social afternoon of bridge with your friends? There will be spot prizes as well as prizes for the winners.



Lunch is at 12:30 on 19 May, followed by one session of bridge starting at 1pm and finishing with afternoon tea, all for \$7 - NZ Bridge session charges have gone up this year. A second social event is planned for Sunday 30 June, but check the Club website for any changes to this date.

Thursday Programme and Start Time Changes

With winter approaching and evenings getting darker, all Thursday Bridge Sessions will start at 7pm until the start of Daylight Saving on Sunday 29th September. This allows an earlier finish to the evening's play. The start time will change back to 7.30pm on Thursday 3 October.

The Thursday programme for 3 events has changed to allow for the Anzac Day holiday. The new programme dates for Thursdays are:

April 4th to May 2nd (5 weeks): Intermediate and Junior Championship Teams held as Butler Pairs - new start time of 7pm from April 11

May 9th to May 23rd (3 weeks): now Thursday Winter Pairs

May 30th to June 13th (3 weeks): changed to Thursday Butler Pairs

The dates for the David Head Trophy Individual competition will then be as in the Programme book (4 weeks with 4 different partners starting on 20 June)

2024 Subs now Overdue

Subscriptions for this year are now overdue. Unfortunately, there are still a reasonable number outstanding. The club needs your payment to help keep solvent so, if you have not paid yet, please do so soon.

If you are unsure about playing this year, talk to our secretary or the committee and arrange to have your current membership put "on hold" for a period. It will help us smooth our cash flow a little as we will not need to pay the \$23 NZ Bridge Levy that we pay for each member yearly. We will still be able to include you in our future budgets and planning.

If you want to play but don't have a partner, Monday and Tuesday nights don't require you to have a partner - just turn up 15-20 minutes before the session starts and let the director know. For other sessions, contact the [partner steward](#) for the session you wish to play.

First Aiders required

The committee want to prepare a list of club members who have a (preferably current) First Aid certificate as first line help with any health events or accidents that occur at the club. If this is you, please let Mereana or any other committee member know, also whether your certificate is current or expired. The resulting lists will be displayed in the Richmond and O'Neill rooms.



Car Parking helpers

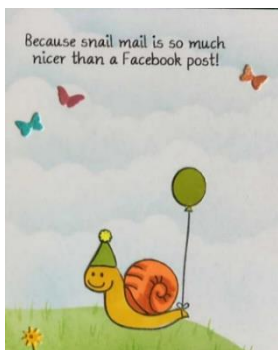
Again this year we are well into the swing of offering car-parking as a major fundraiser for the club. Once more the Chiefs are doing well so far this season. One more home game at the Waikato Stadium still to come on 24 May vs Hurricanes, and hopefully more home games in the Super Rugby playoffs.

If you want to help with the car-parking, contact Richard Wagstaff.

Check your member balance with Compa\$\$

Want to know how much money you have in your Compa\$\$ account? No need to wait for an email which is mostly only sent when you owe money to the club. Instead, log into your individual Compa\$\$ account at any time to check the balance. First off, you need to set up a username and password. Information on what Compa\$\$ is and how to set up as a user is found [here](#). Please read the section on Compa\$\$ registration before setting up your user account. Remember to keep a record of your login settings! Once you have registered and logged in, a screen for Compass Scoring System will appear. Click on 'Check your wallet' and your account data for the last processed period will appear on your screen. You can change to any valid Compa\$\$ date range if you want to see earlier transactions. Credits for winning an event are only processed after the end of each month. Direct access to the Compa\$\$ login page from the club website is via the [Compa\\$\\$ Balance link](#) in the Results sub-menu on the Home page. This is the easiest way to get to the Compa\$\$ login screen.

Cynthia's Cards - For Sale



Cynthia is a master with cards, either at the bridge table, where she is a Silver Grand Master, or at the design table where she produces a great range of greeting cards that cover a range of needs.

What many of our members may not realise that the money raised from the sale of the cards comes to our Club. So rather than purchasing commercial cards why not get one of these stunning handmade cards and help our Club at the same time?

The cards are priced at a reasonable \$5 each. The current selection of cards on the table is found just inside the Richmond room door (or in the passageway on Fridays) or an extended range on-line on our web site [here](#). If nothing really suits then have a chat with Cynthia to see if she can make a special card for you.

Cynthia can be contacted at the phone number in the Hamilton Club Programme Book or at this email address : cynclayton@gmail.com

WINTER PRECAUTIONS

Now that the flu season approaches, and with Covid still around, it's time to prevent the spread of infection.

DO:

STAY at home if you are unwell

Turn your head away from the table when coughing or sneezing

Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your upper arm / elbow

If possible, get vaccinated ([free for over 65's and some conditions](#))

for Covid and flu

DON'T:

Cough or sneeze on your hand

Cough or sneeze on the cards you hold

REMEMBER:

Wash your hands before and after bridge

and use the hand sanitiser by the playing room doors or in the playing room



Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs)

The Waikato area pairs is a friendly event played against members of other Waikato clubs, once a month on Sundays for 5 rounds. This is a great chance for intermediates to play in an "A" tournament.

The next heat of the WAPs is on Sunday 26 May at Cambridge.



No pre-entry needed, just arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner, \$15 for the entry fee, and your lunch. See more WAP dates further on in this newsletter, [our website](#) or check your 2024 programme book.

Waikato/Bays Leagues

These are the Championship Leagues which the Waikato-Bays have been running for over ten years. They are aimed at Intermediate and Junior players. Players accumulate points over the season to qualify for the overall league prizes.



For **Juniors** a six-event series runs from the Hamilton Junior tournament in March through to the Te Awamutu Junior in October. Generous prize money is up for grabs for those who do well throughout the series. The eight **Intermediate** events are from Taupo in March through to Cambridge in October and again generous prize money is on offer.

The competition awards points both for participation and for success (a bonus point each for turning up, points for final placing, getting over 50% average for the day or winning a session outright). The more of the tournaments you play in, the more points you will collect and the higher your chances of a prize.

In 2024 both leagues are individual competitions so you can either play with the same partner each competition, a different one each time, or a combination.

It is good fun and gives you a chance to develop sound partnerships and a better grasp of the game. Please book your partner(s) in for as many of these excellent tournaments as you can manage!

Bill Barwood is currently 7th equal in the Junior league after two events, while 4 players from Hamilton are in the top rankings of the Intermediate league after the first two events, with Megan Jolly and Leanne Curry aiming to repeat last year's success in the league .

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Craigs Multi-Grade	Tuesday 7 May
Hamilton Swiss Pairs	Wednesday 19,26 June, 3 July
Waikato Interclub Teams	Sunday 23 June
Hamilton Open Teams	Saturday 13 July

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Waik/Bays Regional Team Trials *Online* Sat/Sun 4/5 May

Junior/Novice Tournaments:

Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 11 May
Mt Maunganui Junior/Novice Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 20 July

Intermediate Tournaments:

Katikati Intermediate Pairs	Katikati	Sunday 19 May
Mt Maunganui Intermediate Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 20 July

Open/Restricted Tournaments:

Taupo Open Pairs	Taupo	Sat/Sun 11/12 May
Putaruru Open Pairs	Putaruru	Thursday 16 May
Te Awamutu Restricted Pairs	Te Awamutu	Saturday 18 May
Te Puke Restricted Pairs	Te Puke	Saturday 25 May
Waikato Area Pairs (3)	Cambridge	Sunday 26 May
Spa Town Open Teams	Te Aroha	Saturday 8 June
Spa Town MultiGrade Swiss Pairs	Te Aroha	Saturday 8 June
Rotorua Open Pairs	Rotorua	Saturday 15 June
Morrinsville Open Pairs	Morrinsville	Saturday 29 June
North Island Pairs 20A	<i>Online</i>	Sat/Sun 6/7 July
Tauranga Restricted Charity	Tauranga	Wednesday 10 July
Waikato Area Pairs (4)	Morrinsville	Sunday 21 July
Matamata Open Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 27 July
Tauranga Ladies Open Pairs	Tauranga	Wednesday 31 July
Whakatane Restricted Pairs	Whakatane	Saturday 3 August

Cambridge Sixes - Saturday 10 August

What are the Cambridge Sixes?

The Cambridge Sixes is a fun concept aimed at getting more players from each bridge grade playing in tournaments. In effect, three tournaments take place simultaneously, a 3A for the Open players, a 5B for the Intermediates and a 3B for the Juniors. It is the only Swiss Pairs event specifically for Intermediates or Juniors. Since 2016 it has been held at the Don Rowlands Centre at Lake Karapiro, a wonderful venue with all mod cons along with great views out over the lake.

What makes the Cambridge Sixes different is that entries must be made up of one pair from each grade. Open players who wish to try getting three A points must find an Intermediate pair and a Junior pair to come along with them. While there is prize money in each grade, most of the \$3000+ in prizes goes to the best performed Teams of Six when the scores get added across the grades. In 2016 a Hamilton team won the overall prize - can we do it again this year?

The day provides not only serious bridge but also a bit of fun between rounds with Trivia quizzes and prizes for the Teams judged to be wearing the most "distinctive team costume", morning tea and lunch included. All this for \$50 a person.

What is Swiss Pairs?

Swiss pairs has a scoring format which resembles teams scoring. In Swiss pairs it is the actual size of the difference in score that counts. Bidding to game is important, especially when vulnerable. But going down in a game contract is very expensive with this scoring, while making an over-trick gains very little. As declarer, it is most important to make your contract, so don't take a finesse for an extra trick if there is a risk of going down. As defender, always look for a play that allows the contract to be beaten and take your chance.

Recent Events at our Club

Hamilton Junior & Intermediate Pairs - 16 March

A very successful pair of tournaments were held at the bridge clubrooms on Saturday 16 March. As this was the same day as a Chiefs game, Richard and his parking team were kept busy directing players' cars to the appropriate parking areas.

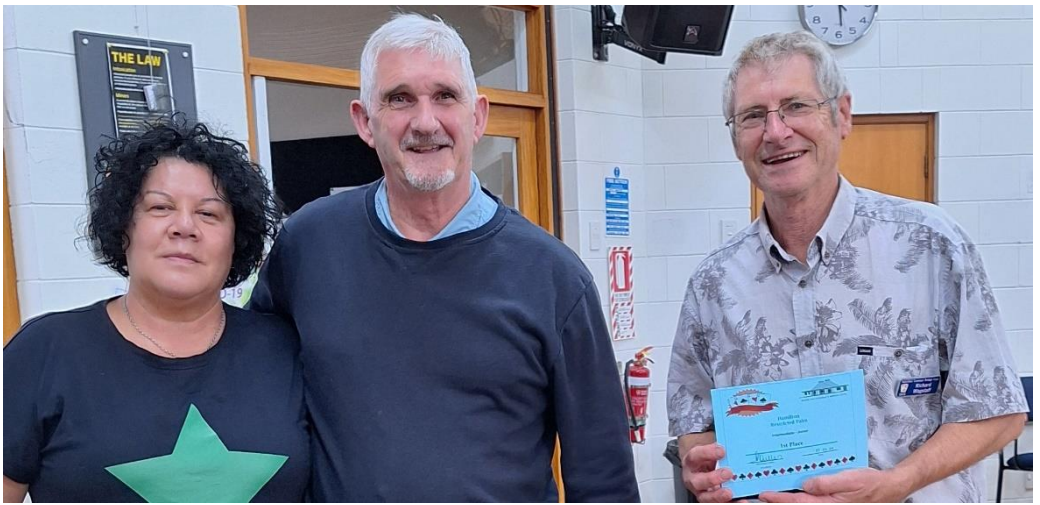
28 pairs of Intermediates took part along with 20 pairs in the Junior tournament and 2 Novice pairs in the afternoon. Winners came from East Coast Bays (Intermediates) and Matamata (Juniors). Players from our club finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Intermediate tournament. [See photos here](#)

Hamilton Restricted Pairs - Sunday 7 April

20 pairs took part in this face-to-face tournament. Pairs from Papatoetoe (Angela Signal & Rob Davies) and Te Puke (Bettina Dudley & Marcus Dudley) took out the first 2 places, with our own Barbara Daly & Duncan White in 3rd place. Other place-getters from our club in the stratified competition were Richard Wagstaff & Stewart Lawrence (1st Intermediate - Junior) and Iain Paterson & Larissa Eyre (1st Junior - Junior)



Mereana, Duncan & Barbara



Mereana, Stewart & Richard



Larissa, Iain & Mereana

Congratulations to you all!

Thanks to Cherie for directing, to Mereana for organising the tournament and to all those who helped on the day.

Recent Regional Tournament Successes

Hamilton Intermediate Pairs	16 March	Hamilton
2 nd	Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron	
3 rd	Nigel Gresson & Tracey Hoff	
Waikato Area Pairs (1)	17 March	Te Aroha
1 st	Helen Rinaldi & Catherine Cameron	
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	23 March	Rotorua
1 st	Liz & Blair Fisher & teammates	
2 nd	Yuzhong Chen & teammates	
3 rd	Hugh McGann & teammates	
Mt Maunganui Multi. Pairs	6 April	Mt Maunganui
2 nd	Liz & Blair Fisher	
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	7 April	Hamilton
3 rd	Barbara Daly & Duncan White	
Matamata Open Pairs	13 April	Matamata
1 st	Cherie Barton & Karen Harris	
Tauranga Open Teams	20 April	Tauranga
1 st	Karen Harris, Michael Curry, Jenna Gibbons & teammate	
2 nd	Helen Healy, Tim Healy & teammates	
3 rd	Jenny Millington, Barry Jones & teammates	
Cambridge Novice Pairs	20 April	Cambridge
2 nd	Ian Gilbert & Mary Mackwell	
Waikato Area Pairs (2)	28 April	Matamata
2 nd	Liz & Blair Fisher	

International Representatives 2024

The World Bridge Games will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 23 October to 5 November 2024. Jenna Gibbons (playing with her mother Christine Gibbons) is in the Women's Team, while Jenny Millington, Barry Jones, Blair and Liz Fisher are all in the New Zealand Mixed Team.

Congratulations and Good Luck to you all!



Winners of the Mixed Team trial

2024 National Congress

The 38th New Zealand National Bridge Congress takes place at the Mercury Baypark Arena in Mount Maunganui from Saturday September 28th to Saturday October 5th 2024.

Event info and to book: [NZ Bridge Congress 2024](http://www.nzbridge.org.nz/congress2024)

For general enquiries or to organise teammates contact Bridget on 027 243 8321 or Bridget@nzbridge.co.nz

Extra teams event • Events for all levels • Morning Seminars • Quiz Night • Fancy Dress

Early Bird Registration closes 31 August. All early bird entries go in the draw to win one of 4 free entries.



Club Results

Monday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Pam Burns & Olive Davis
- 2 Don Macpherson & Donna Prentice

Handicap

- 1 Don Macpherson & Donna Prentice
- 2 Pam Burns & Olive Davis

Tuesday Day Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Jenny Millington
- 2 Ian Ross & Ross Stewart

Handicap

- 1 Ian Ross & Ross Stewart
- 2 Stewart Lawrence & Margaret Boyd

Tuesday Evening Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Maria Muller & Merle Jonson
- 2 Iain Paterson & Larissa Eyre

Handicap

- 1 Maria Muller & Merle Jonson
- 2 Iain Paterson & Larissa Eyre

Wednesday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Barry Jones & Jenny Millington
- 2 Linda Lin & Yuzhong Chen

Handicap

- 1 Karen Thomson & Kim Thompson
- 2 Mereana Cullen & Dan Lulu

Thursday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Karen Harris & Cherie Barton
- 2 Melinda Wang & Cathy Nolen

Handicap

- 1 Melinda Wang & Cathy Nolen
- 2 Karen Harris & Cherie Barton

Friday Richmond Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Mark Thomson
- 2 Judith Brooks & Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Stewart Lawrence & Bob Jones
- 2 Ian Clayton & Mark Thomson

Friday O'Neill Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner
- 2 Cate Anderson & Merle Jonson

Handicap

- 1 Cate Anderson & Merle Jonson
- 2 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner

Monday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Olive Davis & Pam Burns
- 2 Karen Thomson & Cathy Nolen

Handicap

- 1 Olive Davis & Pam Burns
- 2 Marilyn Webby & Ranjith Cooray

Tuesday Day Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Val West & Colleen De Luen
- 2 Janice Wilton & Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Val West & Colleen De Luen
- 2 Tracey Hoff & Cherie Barton

Tuesday Evening Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Christine Murphy & Ruth Ivey
- 2 Cate Anderson & Margaret Gilbert

Handicap

- 1 Cate Anderson & Margaret Gilbert
- 2 Christine Murphy & Ruth Ivey

Wednesday Summer Butler Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Linda Lin & Yuzhong Chen
- 2 Karen Harris & Barry Jones

Thursday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Leanne Curry & Megan Jolly
- 2 Melinda Wang & Catherine Cameron

Handicap

- 1 Leanne Curry & Megan Jolly
- 2 Julie Hooper & Jane Sandelin

Richmond Charles Holland-Goodwin Pairs 8 mar

Scratch

- 1 Brian Dingwall & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Tim Healy & Helen Healy

Handicap

- 1 Heather Crosbie & June Rogers
- 2 Brian Dingwall & Catherine Cameron

Friday O'Neill Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Lois Follas & Rodney Tarrant

Handicap

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Lois Follas & Rodney Tarrant

Monday Autumn Butler Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Richard Hooper & Mark Thomson
- 2 Helen Rinaldi & Pam Burns

Monica Heard Handicap Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Tim Healy & Mark Thomson
- 2 Ian Clayton & Barbara Daly

Handicap

- 1 Judith Brooks & Tracey Hoff
- 2 Tim Healy & Mark Thomson

Wednesday Restricted Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Jeffrey Chang & Yuzhong Chen
- 2 Brett Glass & Jon Verhoek

Lil Goodger Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Karen Harris & Cherie Barton
- 2 Stan Rinaldi & Helen Rinaldi

Handicap

- 1 Alison Orchard & Jan Hancox
- 2 Adele Schofield & Cathy Nolen

Tuesday Evening Ray White Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Don Macpherson & Irene Stewart
- 2 Mary Cave-Palmer & Lou Roughton

Handicap

- 1 Don Macpherson & Irene Stewart
- 2 Mary Cave-Palmer & Lou Roughton

Richmond Anne Archbold Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mary Ronke & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Richard Fletcher & Barbara Daly

Handicap

- 1 Mary Ronke & Cynthia Clayton
- 2 Val West & Duncan White

Friday O'Neill Pairs A

Scratch

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner

Handicap

- 1 Jane Lee-Smith & Judy Simonson
- 2 Lesley Kuggeleijn & Geoff Turner

Tuesday Day Autumn Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Tim Healy & Helen Healy
- 2 Nigel Gresson & Richard Fletcher

Handicap

- 1 Jenny Seavill & Judith Brooks
- 2 Stewart Lawrence & Margaret Boyd

Monday Individual

Scratch

- 1 Barbara Daly
- 2 N/A

Handicap

- 1 Barbara Daly
- 2 N/A

Alder Trophy Individuals

Scratch

- 1 Jiwan Dhaliwal
- 2 Mary Cave-Palmer

Handicap

- 1 Cath O'Connor
- 2 Jiwan Dhaliwal

Hamilton Teams Championship

- 1 Jenny Millington, Barry Jones, Liz Fisher, Michael Curry
- 2 Richard Solomon, Anna Kalma, Karen Harris, Jenna Gibbons

Thursday Elsie Pohio Butler Pairs [after 4 weeks]

Intermediate

- 1 Cathy Nolen & Karen Thomson
- 2 Mary Girvin & Lois Jones

Junior

- 1 Jiwan Dhaliwal & Bill Barwood
- 2 Don Weston & Jan Hancox

Friday Richmond Individual

Scratch

- 1 Mary Ronke
- 2 Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Mary Ronke
- 2 Mary Girvin

Friday O'Neill Individual

Scratch

- 1 Laura Sommerville
- 2 Merle Jonson

Handicap

- 1 Laura Sommerville
- 2 Merle Jonson

Cynthia's Quizzes

If you are missing Lindsay's puzzles, Cynthia is providing a weekly email quiz which includes learning information in the answers.

These quizzes were composed during lockdown as a refresher and Cynthia has agreed to repeat these again four years later. They are Acol based because that is the system being taught, but they are also suitable for players using other systems. Most of the questions are fairly generic.

Cynthia originally sent the draft quizzes and answers out to a panel of four Gold Grandmasters for checking, so they should be fairly correct 😊 That panel came on board at Quiz 11 (of 47) and so this year's quizzes started with Quiz 11 which was emailed out on 2 March. One quiz is sent out each Saturday morning and the answer sheet usually on Sunday afternoon. You can do them in your own time, nobody will be checking them but hopefully they will be helpful. If you would like to be added to the email group (there are still almost 6 months' worth to come), please email Cynthia at: cynclayton@gmail.com.



- *In a suit contract, when dummy has a long strong suit and no entry you may be able to cut declarer off from dummy by leading that suit*

"The difference between a brave bid and a foolhardy bid is largely a matter of result"

