

## WBC News – June 2012

### PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY ....

Casual bridge fortnightly on Tuesday evenings – gather up your retired bridge friends! Next session 19 June  
Sunday 17 June – Wellington area clubs' playoff for NZ Club Championships.  
Wellington Mini Congress Friday 6 - Sunday 8 July at Wellington Bridge Club

Youth weekend Friday 3 August – Sunday 5 August – Billets needed please. Diary Saturday night 4 August to come and partner "a youth" in the evening session. Believe me it's a fun night and Richard Solomon has lots of chocolate prizes.

### Presidents Corner... Derek Snelling

I'd like to comment on the new initiative that Brad Tattersfield is driving for us, of sessions of "social bridge" on alternate Tuesday evenings. This is proving very successful and a great event for those interested in something less competitive or getting back into the game. Thank you very much Brad. Having been along to help for the first couple of evenings I am a little concerned with being referred to as providing advice from a "top player" at the end of the evening. A little daunting but no one's noticed yet!!

Congratulations to those who have been selected to represent WBC in the local round of the Club Championship playoffs this month. Best of luck we know you will do us proud.

**Obituary:** We record with sadness the passing of Jamie Linton. Jamie played on Tuesday nights.

**The next set of beginners' lessons with Alan Grant ...** commence Tuesday 19 June.  
Reminder please to spread the word. Details on the website or contact Bridget Willcox.

### **Regional Wellington Congress Pairs/Teams 10A Open - 6-8 July**

Check out details on our notice board. A highly recommended weekend. Put your entries in now.

**Congratulations** to John Cormack and Tony Thompson on their selection for the Seniors' team to represent New Zealand at the World Mind Sports Games in Lille, France, 9-23 August.

**Congratulations:** Alan Grant has achieved Gold Grand Master status. This prestigious feat is explained in the Master Point rankings below.

Rank	Aggregate of A & B Points
Junior Master	5
Club Master	20
Local Master	50
Provincial Master	100 (including at least 50 A Points)
Master	200 (including at least 100 A Points)
National Master	350 (including at least 175 A Points)
Life Master	500 (including at least 250 A Points)
Grand Master	1000 (including at least 500 A Points)
Silver Grand Master	2500 (including at least 1250 A Points)
Gold Grand Master	4000 (including at least 2500 A Points)

We are told prior to March this year there were 20 Bridge Gold Grand Masters in New Zealand, when two more were added; one of them being **Alan Grant** from our club, along with Barry Jones from Hamilton. Alan Grant is the third Gold Grand Master who is an active member of the Wellington Bridge Club – the other two being **Stephen Blackstock** and **Anthony Ker**. There are not likely to be any further Gold Grand Masters added for quite a while: The 23<sup>rd</sup> on the list, Michael Sykes from Christchurch, requires more than another 50A points to make it, and he typically doesn't earn that many each year, and while the 24<sup>th</sup> on the list John Wignall is closer in A points - he has historically earned master points at quite a slow rate. The next most likely active **Wellington Club** player to become a Gold GM is **Peter Newell**, who at his present rate of earning master points would get there in about 5 years or so. The 20<sup>th</sup> Gold GM was **Scott Smith** an ex-member of the Wellington club who made it to the 4000 mark recently in December last year.

## ***Hawkes Bay Congress held over Queens Birthday weekend***

The usual large contingent of Wellington Bridge Club players headed for Napier to play in the 20th anniversary congress. The Art Deco theme permeated throughout the weekend with the directors suitably attired and setting the standard and many of the players dressed up accordingly – lots of feathers, sparkly headbands, slinky dresses. It was a pleasure to play teams v our male opponents, one wearing a striking blue trilby and the other in his cap and plus fours. Congratulations to the following winners – and impressive results Peter and Lynda !!

### Walk in Pairs

- 1 Madeleine Askew & Phil Revell
- 2 Joan Waldvogel & Max Wigbout

### Intermediate Pairs

- 1 Julia Barnett & Suzanne Johnstone

### Open Pairs

- 1 Peter Delahunty & Lynda Rigler
- (7 of the top 14 pairs were from our club)

### Swiss Pairs

- 1 Peter Delahunty & Lynda Rigler

Open Teams There was a 1= and Grant Team was next by a whisker (Grant, Li, Davidson, Cleaver).

Intermediate Teams Brucker Team was 2<sup>nd</sup> (Brucker, Leach, Johnstone, Barnett)

## ***National Club Championships – Go Wellington!***

Teams selected to play in the regional play-off on Sunday 17 June are as follows. There are six clubs participating. Good Luck everyone – it will be fantastic to make the finals in Hamilton again.

### Junior

Tadek Gawor & Warren Tocker  
Keith Harris & Valerie Rhodes  
Shelley Best & Sue Lambourne

### Intermediate

Steven Coulter & Heath Tolley  
Michael Revell & Malcolm Greig  
Tereska Knap & Bridget Willcox

### Open

Ray Gruschow & Graeme Norman  
Annette Henry & Stephen Henry

## ***Reminder: Youth weekend –Friday 3 August – Sunday 5 August***

The 2012 Youth Weekend will be held at our club on the above dates. Calls for offers to billet and some kitchen assistance will be made next month.

## ***IP Teams winners... Congratulations.***

### Open Winners:

Charlie Cahn, Nigel Kearney,  
Alan Grant & Anthony Ker

### Senior Winners:

Tony Thomson, John Cormack,  
Brian Cleaver & Peter Benham

### Women Winners:

Janet Woodfield, Mindy Wu,  
Joan McCarthy & Kay Austad

### Intermediate Winners:

Ruth Brucker, Nan Wehipeihana,  
Suzanne Johnstone & Pam Skogstad

## ***A Rocky Road in Denver***

We have recently spent 10 days in Denver, Colorado, the first 4 days sightseeing and playing social bridge, and 6 days participating in the Rocky Mountain Regional Congress. We met our very kind hosts, Don and Anita Heitler, who are a couple of Denver's top bridge players, on BBO (Bridgebase Online). In fact we met "Mr BBO" himself, Fred Gitelman, and he has promised to come and see us all in New Zealand and play at our club.



**Jenny, Fred Gitelman (Mr BBO), Susan**

The Congress is similar size to our National Congress – sessions 1 pm and 7pm. Entries are on the day (\$11 per session) and there's crowds of people queuing for entries, lots of noise, and then miraculously, it seems, they all find their way to a table and play. We played Pairs, Knock Out teams, Board-a-Match and Swiss Teams.

Our rocky road started with the Charity Pairs followed by a day of Knock out teams. Next came the "board a match" (BAM) with team mates – this was new to us and was described as "tough" – we play 2 x 12 board matches, and when you score up with your team, for each hand you score 1 point for a plus score, ½ a point for a drawn score and 0

for a loss score. We scored 14½ / 24 – this put us 1<sup>st</sup> in Flight C, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Flight B and 16<sup>th</sup> overall and we had our photos taken for the honours board! We were amazed as there were 48 tables and a number of US international players and "pros" participating. We met some of the "pros" playing with their clients, eg Fred Hamilton.

The downside of these team matches is you shuffle and play, so there are no hand records to analyse later. In our next Knock Out team we won our first four games and made the semi-finals (Grade 4) and for what it's worth we now have ACBL masterpoints – we finished 280 / 1196. We've also been invited to stay and play in Las Vegas, so who knows!

### **Highlights:**

- ✦ We were fantastic "ambassadors" for New Zealand, definitely boosting our prospective tourism numbers! People quickly gravitated to us and we became known as the New Zealand ladies.
  - ✦ **The Bar:** conditioned by the bar trolley at our club, every evening at 9pm Susan raced up the escalator returning with 2 large glasses of chardonnay. If we weren't noticed by our kiwi accents, we were recognised by our wineglasses.
  - ✦ Party in Mr and Mrs "Millionaire's" suite in the hotel – another couple who have promised to come to New Zealand;
  - ✦ Rockies v Seattle Mariners baseball game.
  - ✦ Our taxi driver, originally from Ethiopia, used to be P Diddy's chauffeur in New York.
- And lastly ✦ our weak 1NT.

PS: can we please put "Board-a-Match" on our programme next year? **Susan Laersonson & Jenny Delany**

## The East/West Divide

Have you ever wondered why Hamilton and Cappelletti are the same system? Fred Hamilton from the West Coast of America (currently living in Las Vegas) thought up the "Hamilton" convention at a party in Gatlinburg,



Tennessee, in 1972. Also at the party were a number of well-known bridge players – Rodwell, Meckstroth and others. Fred explained to them all how his idea for a new system would capture both one and two suited hands as a defence to 1NT. Imagine his surprise when in the 1980's, Cappelletti (from the East coast) published his own clever "new" system! Incidentally, Fred has 16 National US Championships, 16 seconds in US Nationals and 3 World Championships to his name.

Here's Fred Hamilton with Susan and Jenny at Denver.

## The Sherlock Holmes Hand

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South West North East      N-S      Vulnerable  
 3♦      P      3♥ P  
 3NT\* P      6♦ All Pass

\*As this pair plays, 3NT = the default bid without support for Hearts

♠AKQ3 ♥AQ10965 ♦92 ♣A	Dummy West      East Declarer	♠1094 ♥J432 ♦A6 ♣ KJ86
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Opening lead: 8 of Hearts

Declarer wins the Ace, and plays the 2 of Diamonds.

**How should East defend and why?** No pressure. It's the last round of the Swiss Teams at the recent Jacksonville Sectional. Your team is in second and you're playing the leaders. If you win the round by double digits, you win the event. Your teammates stopped in 5♦ and made 6, so there are 25 Imps at stake on this hand: you will be +720 (12 Imps) if you set 6♦ and minus 750 (13 Imps) if you don't. There is an easy conclusion, but **the easy conclusion is wrong! Don't jump to conclusions.** What conclusion could you jump to? The easy conclusion is that partner led his singleton Heart and declarer has Kx.

**STOP!** Were you listening to the bidding? Declarer denied support for Hearts when partner freely bid 3♥ over the opening preempt. That must be at least a 6 card Heart suit. **With Kx of Hearts, wouldn't South have raised?** Of course. So partner must have found the brilliant lead of the 8 from ♥K8. After what looked like a singleton Heart lead, what plan would South follow? South could pitch one Club on the Q of Spades. But how to get rid of the third Club? Trying to ruff a Club before drawing trump requires Spades to break 4-3, and no trump promotion while South gets back to his hand twice: one time to ruff a Club and another to draw trumps. And then if East wins the Ace of trumps, the defence will have another chance to promote a trump. So South will look for another line. Suppose South tries to draw a round of trumps instead? The lead makes it look like East has KJxx of ♥, so a double ruffing finesse in Hearts would be 100%. If West wins the trump Ace and returns a trump to prevent a Club

ruff, South will have 3 entries to the dummy. He draws trump, crosses to dummy twice, takes the double ruffing finesse in Hearts to set up a Heart pitch for the third Club, and uses the third entry to cash the established Heart. If East continues a Heart, South plans to ruff high, draw trump, and then follow his double ruffing finesse plan. If East removes one of South's entries by returning a black suit instead of a trump, South can fall back on a Club ruff in dummy. Since one round of trump has been played, the defence will be slightly less likely to promote a trump. On the actual lie of the cards, that line of play would work. So East must continue with a second trump. Instead South won the Heart Ace and led trump. East went up Ace and returned a Heart. South ruffed high, and received a gift when the King of Hearts dropped.

Why is this "The Sherlock Holmes Hand"? In the Sherlock Holmes mystery "*The Sign of the Four*," Holmes says: "... when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." It was impossible for South to have Kx of Hearts and not raise 3♥ to 4♥. The truth that remained was that partner had found the improbable lead of the ♥8.

The full hand:

		N-S	Vulnerable		
		♠AKQ3			
		♥AQ10965			
		♦92			
		♣ A			
♠J652	<i>North</i>	♠1094			
♥K8	<i>West</i>	♥J432			
♦ 105	<i>East</i>	♦ A6			
♣ Q9732	<i>Declarer</i>	♣ KJ86			
		♠87			
		♥7			
		♦KQJ8743			
		♣ 1054			
<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>		
3♦	P	3♥	P		
3NT*	P	6♦	All Pass		

\*3NT = the default bid without support for Hearts

The opening lead created a losing option for declarer. On a routine lead, declarer would draw trump and ruff out the Heart King. After the 8 of Hearts lead, if East returns a trump, South will take the double ruffing finesse in Hearts to set up a pitch for his third Club. That line fails. [Thank you John. Ed]

**Playing Numbers:** The following are comparative figures for the calendar year to date:

May	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Total
2007	968	1760	1924	448	5100
2008	904	1822	1632	574	4988
2009	1222	1804	1740	558	5343
2010	1104	1846	1670	562	5196
2011	1040	1880	1842	634	5418
2012	982	2042	1974	658	<b>5656</b>



## Gossip/Chat

Some people find bridge exhausting!!  
And this was only after Pairs all day  
Saturday at the Hawkes Bay Bridge  
Congress.

**Paul Maxwell, Peter Heazlewood, Ruth  
Brucker and Jane Windle with guess who  
on the bed?**

## Results from Recent Tournaments

### Marton Picnic Pairs – 27 May

1st Derek Snelling & John Luoni

### Paraparaumu Intermediate – 20 May

1st Sue Johnstone and Pamela Skogstad

### Victoria Swiss Pairs – 10 June

1st Alan Grant and James Li

2nd Johnny Davidson and Peter Benham

### Hutt Open

Alan Grant and Anthony Ker

2nd Andrea Gluyas and James Li

## Welcome to our new members...

Trish Thomas, Oscar Jay, Kristine Shand, Brian Pratt, Elaine Cooper, Eirlys Hunter, Jill Martin, Bernardine Pool, Grace Millar, Annabel Leask, Mira Trifunovic

## Results from Club Nights

### Tuesday – Nita Robson Cup Teams

1<sup>st</sup> Paul Devadatta, Jolene Zink, Kathy O'Halloran and Megan Booth

2<sup>nd</sup> Jude Lucas, Karen Eriksen, Tim Grant and Brendan Maxwell

### Wednesday - Jubilee Cup Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Stephen Blackstock and Stephen Henry

2<sup>nd</sup> Annette Henry and Anthony Ker

### Suzanne Duncan Swiss Pairs

1st Peter Newell and Martin Reid

2nd Karl Hayes and John Luoni

Thursday – **May Manoy Trophy:** 1<sup>st</sup> Martyn Rew & Paul Cushnie; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cheryl Scott & Andrew Cushnie

Friday – **Moturoa Pairs Salver:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Slowey & Mhairi Smith; 2<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Allen & Paula Jenner