

# Bridge, more than a card game

**KELLEY TANTAU**

Bridge isn't just a game played by seniors on a Friday afternoon.

For some, it can mean international tournaments, bragging rights and the title of Gold or Silver Grand Master.

Hamilton bridge players Barry Jones and Jenny Millington have recently arrived home from the Commonwealth Bridge Championships and Gold Coast Bridge Congress.

At the two tournaments, both held in Australia, they came face to face with a number of teams from around the world.

This kind of fellowship is common when it comes to bridge, Jones said.

"It's a great way to meet people who you probably wouldn't normally meet, and you can play it anywhere in New Zealand or the world.

"We were coming in from Spain a couple of years ago and I randomly rung up a bridge club in Singapore and they organised that I met this lady and we had a game," he said.

"You're never short of friends when you play bridge."

Jones and his wife Jenny Millington have played bridge for more than 20 years. They both have Gold Grand Master titles.

At the Commonwealth Championships, they were the only pair representing New Zealand among 36 teams from 20 countries.

At the Gold Coast Congress, held one day after the Common-



Hamilton husband and wife Barry Jones and Jenny Millington met while playing contract bridge more than 20 years ago.

KELLEY TANTAU/STUFF

wealth Championship, they were among 2,000-3,000 players.

"Some people learn and just play socially, and that's all they want to do. But other people are really competitive.

"More than half only ever play once or twice a week at the club, but for the really keen ones you can play tournaments all over the

country."

For those who are looking for a bit more competition, Jones said there are ways to trial for provincial teams. You can also work your way to becoming a Grand Master.

However, less than five per cent of players have reached this status, Jones said.

Hamilton Bridge Club has lessons starting on March 6, free for the first two weeks, for those wanting a rough idea of how to play. There are sessions on Tuesday nights, 7pm-9pm, and Friday mornings, 10am-12pm. For information, phone Barry on 027 444 7127 or email [barrydjones@xtra.co.nz](mailto:barrydjones@xtra.co.nz)