

The Morrinsville Bridge Club came into being in 1976 following a casual conversation between Jim Crawford and Phillipa Kilpatrick both of whom are current members. An advertisement was placed in the local press, asking for expressions of interest in such a club. Support was received immediately from a number of players, many of whom were travelling to the Hamilton, Waikato or Te Aroha clubs to take part in competitive Bridge. There were also many others keen to learn the game.

At the inaugural meeting of the club which followed Mr Owen Hetherington was elected President. Sadly he died suddenly and prematurely later that year.

There were 66 foundation members, six of whom are still playing in the club today. The club gained an additional 25 members from the first lessons.

The original venue for the club was the Morrinsville Senior Citizens' Hall which was adequate in all respects except heating! In the mid 1980s the club received an invitation from the Morrinsville Bowling Club to rent their new premises under construction at the time. The club has continued to rent these rooms ever since.

Today the club has about 60 members and averages 10 tables at the weekly club session held on Tuesday evenings.



Jim Crawford (co-founder)



Phillipa Kilpatrick (co-founder)



Owen Hetherington (first president)



Ian Clarke (foundation member; better known for his prowess on the rugby field)