



SPADEWORK

April 2026 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs



... from our President Michele ...

8 REASONS TO PLAY BRIDGE

1. Bridge can be a lifelong pursuit.
2. Bridge will never bore you.
3. Bridge stimulates the brain.
4. Bridge exercises both sides of your brain
5. Bridge can improve your physical health
6. Bridge is social.
7. Bridge is a bargain.
8. Bridge is fun.

This month a special mention goes to two of our committee members. Barbara Stimson joined our committee in 2024 taking on the important role of Secretary. Meeting minutes are always written up accurately and in a timely manner. Barbara brings a sensible and measured approach to club issues - she is an asset to the club.

This year Janice Simpson took over the role of Treasurer, replacing Jane Decker who had held the position for six years. Janice has had a steep learning curve, particularly in relation to Compa\$\$\$. She has a wealth of knowledge and a high level of expertise, and her work over the last few months on our Club accounts has been prodigious.

Autumn is a special season of the year, heralding those cooler and wetter months.

Bridge becomes even more enticing.

Enjoy!!

Club Captain Teri says

Hi All

Thank you to all those who help out at sessions. We see you! Tidying the chairs at the end of a session when you would think there had been a mass evacuation at high speed! Those who collect the boards and put them back in order, also the table numbers, stay at the end of a session so that the scorer is not alone. Putting out the cups, biscuits, picking up abandoned cups, hanging out in the kitchen to keep the dish washing flowing along. Picking up rubbish, a myriad of small acts of help.

We do see you. And we thank you.

Happy Bridge Teri

reminder - Please top up your account for next month's play.

'Looking for a partner' trial

The Club is trialling an automated partnering page on our website. See 'Partnering' on the top line. If you are looking for a partner you may place an ad on the page or see if anyone else is looking for a partner. To use the service you need to create a profile and then log in. Choose the session you need a partner for and fill in your details or contact the person who is looking for a partner. The actual date of the session should be included in the message. Any feedback would be appreciated. Please send comments to Julie Sheridan at jjas@ihug.co.nz.

of course, we also now have a WhatsApp group to 'look for a partner' which has already had successes to match and mingle players.



CLUB RESULTS

Mondays March '26	Sunrise Pairs	1st Lyn Bailie & Derek Webb 2nd Jo Wenham & Riet Jansen 3rd Chris Gibson & Kevin Jensen
Mondays March '26 pm	Seeka Championship Novice Singles	1st Alison Thompson 2nd Coral Brander 3rd Lynley Drain
Mondays March '26 pm	Seeka Championship Junior Singles	1st Alan Withrington 2nd Joanne Bruce 3rd Karen Musgrave
Mondays March '26 pm	Seeka Championship Intermediate Singles	1st John Strawbridge.
Wednesday March '26	Luxe Cinema Handicap Pairs	1st Peter Uffindell & Steve Larnder 2nd John Sheridan & Rosemary Wilkey 3rd Marcus Dudley & Julie Sheridan
Thursdays April '26	Ultimate Motors Champs Handicap Singles	1st Sue Martin 2nd Jenny Bronte 3rd Judith Robinson
Fridays April '26	Papamoa Mitre 10 Pairs	1st Audrey Gardiner & Flo Nield 2nd Marilyn Rangihika & Rosemary Wilkey 3rd Barbara Stimson & Barry Crosby

What time?
"I can see that you learnt to play today but could you tell me what time today?"

Congrats to Jan Linwood
rank change -
Certificate of Proficiency to Club Master

Warm welcome to new members -

**Joy Bates
Kevin Jensen
Kevin Day**

- **NZ Bridge are offering LESSONS ON CARD PLAY TECHNIQUES FOR NEWER PLAYERS!**
- Choose to attend Sunday or Tuesday, OR BOTH for just \$8
- **Declarer Play in No Trump:**
- Sunday 10 May 4pm - 6pm and Tuesday 12 May 7pm - 9pm
- **Declarer Play in a Suit Contract:**
- Sunday 24 May 4pm - 6pm and Tuesday 26 May 7pm - 9pm
- **Registering is easy:**
 - Go to nzbridge.helloclub.com
 - Put money in your account
 - In Calendar, click on the lessons you want to attend
- Participants receive a link to RealBridge prior to each lesson, followed by an email after the lesson with the learning material.

MISPLACED - A player had made a bad bid and went down for 1400. "I'm sorry," said declarer to partner, "I had a card misplaced." Asked partner innocently, "Only one card?"

Mount Multigrade Tournament — Saturday April 18th 2026

April 18th dawned with the kind of weather that reminds you why New Zealanders are so good at indoor pursuits. Rain notwithstanding, players from across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty descended on our club in cheerful defiance of the forecast, representing every grade from Junior to Gold Grand Master and every decade from the twenties to the eighties — proof, if any were needed, that bridge is the sport where the oldest players are frequently the most dangerous.

The day began promisingly with a table groaning under the weight of member-provided goodies — the kind of spread that makes you wonder whether some people come for the bridge or the baking. Norm, doing what Norm does, directed the whole affair with his customary unflappable competence. If Norm is ever rattled, he keeps it very well hidden. The afternoon session provided brief but heart-stopping drama when the Bridgemates staged a collective protest, freezing after the first few boards. Fortunately we were not far into the afternoon session and were able to start again once the server had been persuaded to behave.

The day was not without its bidding mishaps. Helene and I managed at least two particularly annoying mistakes. A miscount by me resulted in opening 2NT with 24 points, thus missing out on a slam. Helene, not to be outdone, briefly forgot we don't use Michael's, my misunderstanding of her bid landing us in a contract that was quite ugly. I'm sure we weren't alone, and every partnership will have its tale to tell.

The atmosphere in the club was warm, friendly, and quietly competitive, with enough Gold Grand Masters circulating to keep the rest of us appropriately humble.

The tournament's most touching moment came courtesy of Gilda, who caused considerable concern by announcing to Kay Wright that her little boy needed to have four teeth removed but they hadn't told him yet. Kay's partner showed immediate and heartfelt sympathy. The sympathy evaporated, and was replaced by laughter upon the revelation that the patient in question was Gilda's dog Cooper, grandson to Kay's dog.

The day concluded in the best possible fashion — raffle, prize-giving, cheese and wine. Our own Murray Wood and Rachelle Pelkman took the tournament title, which we are claiming as a full club victory. Graham Stern and Alan Parkes took third place. The Junior/Junior section was won by Mark Wardill and Jo Craig. Congratulations to all of them and the many others who placed well.

Enormous thanks to everyone who made the day happen — the organisers, the caterers, and the many members who simply showed up and did what needed doing. You know who you are, and so do we.

Barbara Stimson



3rd placed Graham Stern &
Alan Parkes



1st Murray Wood & Rachelle
Pelkman with Jo Craig
representing the sponsor.



Junior section winners -
Mark Wardill & Jo Craig