



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

July 2022 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs



from our President ...

I'm sure many of you will be wondering when will we be moving into our lovely new club rooms. As you will be aware we are well behind our moving date, but that is becoming the norm these days, COVID has had an impact. This is partly the reason why we are behind our intended moving date. The latest hold up is the lift. It was late arriving, it's now installed and the tiling is now underway, then we will need to wait for council compliance.

As soon as we know you will all be the first to be informed. Once we have moved in we will have a

fun event,

more than likely the weekend after the move.

If anyone has a wheelchair or walker tucked away and no longer needed, we would be most grateful to take it off your hands. It will be nice to have them on hand in case anyone has difficulty accessing the building.

Again, a gentle reminder to you all, if you are unwell, coughing, feverish etc please stay well away from the bridge club. If you have been playing at the club and then find you are positive for COVID please let me know so all those members involved can be informed. Your anonymity will be maintained. While we strongly encourage the wearing of face coverings, it is not compulsory. We want everyone to feel safe and well.

The first question I get asked after we have had a positive COVID case is "were they wearing a mask?" A reminder also influenza is predominant right now.

Take care, stay safe.

Diane

Club Captain Teri writes ...Hello

Yet again a big thank you to all who helped with making our tournament on 16th July such a success. Too many to name you all. And thanks everyone for supporting the raffle.

Just a reminder - Please let everyone at the table have a chance to view results. Only confirm your result and then put the Bridgemate in the middle of the table for all to see. I am sure it will be appreciated.

*Looking forward to the move to the
NEW CLUB ROOMS*



*– thanks to those committee members and others who have put so much time in dealing with this, there have been LOTS of meetings, organising and negotiating to get to where we are –
THANK YOU*

TERI

REMINDER # 1

Tauranga Bridge Club @ 252 Ngatai Rd

High tea and bridge fundraiser.

Sunday 14 Aug @ 1pm

\$20 ticket for

food, fun, friendship, bridge, awesome auction

ph 07 552500 or 07 5765022

for more info. No partner needed!

REMINDER # 2

don't be shocked if you're turned away from bridge because you've forgotten to top up your

COMPA\$\$

account. No, that won't happen but please ensure you are in credit - check your balance on your emailed monthly statement and top up if necessary.

CLUB RESULTS

Mondays June '22	Dorothy Aitken Handicap Pairs	1st Graeme McLean & Joe Brown 2nd Annie Barry & Julie Sheridan 3rd Kerry Crosby & Carol Jones
Mondays July '22	Pacific Coast Pairs	1st Pamela Pedersen & Julie Sheridan 2nd Barry Crosby & Margaret Jones 3rd Helen Heuvel & Gilda Rowland
Wednesdays July '22	Belfast Lough Pairs	1st Bren Birss & Pamela Pedersen 2nd Graham Stern & Barry Crosby 3rd Shirley Knight & Marcus Dudley
Thursdays June '22	Van Dyk Handicap Pairs	1st Mary Keane & Susan Treadgold 2nd Carol Jones & Caren Van Der Meys 3rd Marlene Grant & Helen Bourne
Fridays June '22	Friday Champs Singles	1st Annie Barry 2nd Noelene Shrimpton 3rd Shirley Knight
Fridays July '22	Robertson's Menswear Pairs	1st Bren Birss & Pamela Pedersen 2nd Kathy King & Flo Nield 3rd Chris Gibson & Anne Clarke

Welcome to new members. . .

Margrit Fullemann

Athol Ryan

Ronnie Ryan

and congrats for **rank changes** to -

Michele Larnder = Club Master

Micheal Crouch = Certificate of Proficiency

A well-balanced player makes up for his
inadequacy in the bidding with his
ineptitude in the play.

Did you hear about the player who wanted to learn
bridge in one day? They bought 35 copies of
"Five Weeks To Winning Bridge."

Sorry, partner. I woulda led my singleton... but I
couldn't find it. it was so small.

Your ed. heard about a documentary film, **Aces & Knaves** on the half-hour weekly slot "The Bridge Zone" podcast sponsored by NZB. And here's what I found on-line. You may be able to pay to view . . .

Aces & Knaves is a documentary for and about us—the millions of people who discover the game of bridge and never let it go. It's a tale about why we're obsessed with points, partners and proving our mettle, told by world champions and mere mortals alike. It's about bruised egos and yes, cheating in this high-stakes battle of brain vs. brain. And interviews with neurologists will convince even those who have never picked up a hand, why bridge is head and shoulders above every other mind sport.

Aces & Knaves is about the math, the logic and the concentration required of every player. But it's also about heart. Bridge is an emotional roller coaster on an endless loop—we beat ourselves up when we make mistakes and we soar when we win.

Like the game itself, **Aces & Knaves** is illuminating and high energy. As we all know, the amount of adrenalin flowing in a roomful of bridge players could power Tauranga.

The documentary delves into the high emotional and financial stakes that have driven some top players to **cheat**. Is that failing a vestige of the competitive urge to survive in the wild? It certainly feels that way! And neuroscientists we've spoken to have something to say about that.

Listen in to the bridge radio show A half-hour weekly slot "The Bridge Zone"

FOR THOSE THAT DIDN'T CATCH **MIKE HUYMANS'** OBITUARY ON THE WEBSITE -

"quiet please".

An authoritative, sonorous **"quiet please"** delivered with a strong Dutch accent - always commanding silence for faltering directors and scaring players into speechlessness.

And for many bridge players this will be an enduring memory of

Mt Bridge Club Life Member

Mike Huymans

who died Wednesday 6 July aged 91.

Mike, with that resonate voice, arrived in New Zealand from the Netherlands in 1961 with wife Diedre and four children. The family lived in Taupo and Morrinsville before retiring to the Mount in 1984. Mike and Diedre had recently moved to care in Katikati.

Previously Mike had learned to play bridge when serving in the Dutch Army, and had played in Morrinsville, so it was natural for him to join our club where he twice became President in the early nineties. Our recently demolished rooms were enlarged during Mike's tenure, with debentures raised from members. He remembered there being 32 tables at some club sessions! There's lots more about Mike's involvement in the club's history, latterly compiled by Jean Scott. Of course he was a respected director too, especially for teams. Mike's contribution to the Mt Maunganui Bridge Club was recognised in 2010, becoming a Life Member.

But Mike himself recounted that the greatest battle fought in his time as President was around smoking at the table. Each table had two ashtrays and nearly everyone smoked and the room had a blue haze - there was a special appointee to empty ashtrays during tournaments! When the club became smoke free, there were large ashtrays outside chained to the seats. Lots of members sat outside at the tea break "puffing away" said Mike who admitted being one of them.

That's one part of our history we won't miss!

Friend Hanny Hepburn frequently played with Mike, and remembers having to resist 'pulling faces' at the risk of being reprimanded. But a successful partnership nevertheless, Mike was an astute bridge player too. Hanny also recounts how away from bridge, Mike was a strong Dutch Club member and would dress up in the Dutch tradition as St Nicholas every 5th December - not unlike the jolly man in red with whiskers that we know, but rather as a bishop with a mitred hat and large koru shaped staff.

So now it's **"quiet please"** for Mike as the family and our Bridge Club remember our Life Member. Although Mike attended bridge at the 'bowling club', he missed seeing the new structure erected on the footprint of the club Mike helped to fashion. However Mike's Life Member photo will go with us to the new clubrooms and take a permanent spot on the wall designated for Life Members. Thanks for your help to make the Mt club the successful, thriving friendly place it is today.

big Success for Mt Maunganui Bridge Club at the recent Bay of Plenty **Interclub Teams** challenge. This event is held annually at Rotorua, this year on 24 July.

Mt Maunganui member entrants.

OPEN Julie Sheridan with Marion Kelly & Graham Stern with Marcus Dudley came second and are now off to Hamilton for further challenges.

INTERMEDIATE Julie Downs with Gilda Rowland & Pamela Pedersen with Bren Birss came third

JUNIOR team Isobel McIntyre with Michele Larnder & Kathy King with Rachel Olsen

Congratulations to all contenders.

News from NZ Bridge latest update . . . Bridge Across The Ditch, 12 July 2022

by Douglas Russell, Auckland.

Covid and its ongoing aftermath have had a profound effect on our lives, not least on our favourite pastime.

But there have been positives. One of these has been the development of the outstanding new online platform RealBridge, developed in Cambridge in the UK as a response to the widespread curtailment of face-to-face bridge. Many now see RealBridge as the go-to venue for the online game.

While I am sure that we would all welcome a return to the good old days, it is certain that RealBridge is here to stay, and that it has opened up many new possibilities. One of these materialised on Tuesday 12 July, when no fewer than 248 players took part in a match between the Auckland Bridge Club and Sydney's North Shore Bridge Club. This was the culmination of much hard work between Auckland's Sylvester Riddell and North Shore's Gary Barwick, who must be congratulated in this hugely successful and enjoyable venture.

A very successful **Junior and Intermediate Tournament** was held for the last time in our temporary premises, Saturday 16 July. Committee member Mike Nicholson assured all that our next tournament will be held at "the resort and casino" - of course he means our new clubrooms.

No wonder we have such a great reputation for staging tournaments - wonderful morning tea, wonderful helpers, wonderful organisers, wonderful participants, wonderful 'after match' hospitality. This year we hosted pairs from

Mt Maunganui Waikato Matamata

Tauranga Waitomo Cambridge.

Rotorua Putaruru. Taupo

Hamilton Whakatane. Te Puke Thames

Unfortunately, visiting pairs cleaned up the top prizes but in the Junior section Annette Dally and Michele Rogers excelled, and in the Intermediate section, Phil with Gill West and Gilda Rowland with Julie Downs did well.

Of special note was the novice pair ie. new learners, **Lynda McCalman** and **Amber Rowe** who played in the Junior section in the afternoon session and saved the section from having a phantom as had occurred in the morning. They loved the experience and will be bolstering Monday night sessions and our next tournament too.

The day was sponsored by **PMG** property investment firm and Matt McHardy warned us we are losing financial ground, and to beat inflation, invest with them.

Phone 021 1934550 for more info.

Thank you **PMG**, very generous cash prizes were awarded.

Ever heard a player say things like these? Ten things a bridge player would never say -

1. This club (playing area) is always the right temperature - never too hot or too cold
2. Free coffee? No thanks.
3. Cool! A four-board sitout.
4. No. I don't think tournament fees are too high.
5. I can always count on my partner to remember every convention on our card.
6. No gossip, please. I'm not interested.
7. More new Alerts! More new Alerts!
8. One thing I can say about bridge players - they sure know how to dress.
9. No matter which direction we sit, the cards always go our way.
10. I don't feel like bridge today thanks, I'd rather jog and workout.

Marilyn White - Toronto