



# SPADEWORK

January 2024 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs

for the first time in 2024

## President Michele wishes you ...

Happy New Year

It is great to see the impressive numbers attending holiday Bridge and heartening to see our juniors happy to compete and further their skills.

Our AGM will take place on Wednesday 7th of February at 6.15pm at the club rooms. Remits should have already been received by the Secretary and nominations are now closed. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lessons start on the 4th and 7th of March and run for

13 weeks. This year we will be trialling a

Facebook campaign as one of the strategies of attracting new players. However, there is still

a place for roadside notice boards and posters at strategic locations. Our club captain will be

sending out an email asking for people who are willing to have a notice board on their

property, please contact Teri if you can help. If you belong to any club etc. that has a notice

board on which you can attach a poster these will be

available soon. In anticipation, we appreciate your support. 'Word of mouth' has also proved to be an

excellent way to promote the game; please mention lessons to friends and relatives. Attracting new

players is integral to the success of our club.

Thank you to Gilda and Teri for co-ordinating and running a session for potential directors who may be

able to help take sessions in the future. Thank you to those who attended, and we may see some new faces

co-ordinating our sessions.

Good luck to all our players attending the Mini

Congress at Tauranga over Anniversary

weekend – may the cards treat you well.

**Michele**

Parking's at a premium in our public carpark but please leave disabled parks for licensed users

## Club Captain Teri says hi all ...

Welcome back to Bridge! Hope this year is a really good one for all of us! A couple of reminders:

1. Remember to contact your partner before the day of play, saves frustration.
2. Parking woes outside will continue to be with us I am afraid, so if possible, please park on Golf or Valley Road to leave the carpark for the folk less able to walk far. At the moment this is just directed at Monday and Thursday afternoon players.

A change in running sessions - A committee member will be coming around, with a clip board – looking for members to commit to help with the convenor's duties. We have broken it down into several parts, so it will not be onerous. The amount of work setting up and running a session is such that we need more help all the time from more members. Thank you. It is great to see so many people back playing after the break! Thank you for your support!

happy bridge - **TERI**

## REMINDER 2024

Members are being invoiced for Subs now, payable by end of Feb 2024.

Invoices will be emailed to all who have email addresses.

Home member \$60 pa. Associate \$37 pa.

Bank account will be on the invoice and in the front of your programme book p5,

## Dates for the Diary:

**AGM Wed** 7th February 6.15pm

ALSO it's that time of year again when our bridge tutors are dusting down their lecterns for

**2024 LESSONS** commencing

Monday 4 March 7pm or

Wednesday 6 March 1pm

please contact Teri if you can position a promotional lessons sign and if you're in a retirement village, watch for a poster near you.

## Bridge by the stars ...

**CAPRICORN:** You sometimes feel that you are getting nowhere with your bridge. Soon you will add a little spice to your system, try it out with your regular partner and improve your results.

**AQUARIUS:** You will be a calming influence on a rather excitable player. Keep your head, think more deeply and enjoy some long-awaited success.



## CLUB RESULTS

Mondays Nov '23	<b>Mount Eliza Cheese Handicap Pairs</b>	1st Julie Sheridan & Julie Downs 2nd Liz Dey & Elaine Kingsford 3rd Barry Crosby & Hanny Hepburn
Monday pm Nov '23	<b>Cobb &amp; Co Handicap Pairs</b>	1st Dianne Beveridge & Isobel McIntyre 2nd Rebecca Bartlett & Alan Withrington 3rd Liz Dive & Judith Somerville
Wednesdays Nov'23	<b>Bell Plumbing Handicap Pairs</b>	1st Jennifer Davies & Brian Cavitt 2nd Mike Nicholson & Carol Cullen 3rd Ross Petersen & Barbara Stimson
Thursdays Nov'23	<b>Golf Rd Handicap Singles</b>	1st Marlene Grant 2nd Roy Cooper 3rd Dianne Stevens
Fridays Dec '23	<b>Endeavour Pairs</b>	1st Shirley Knight & Hanny Hepburn 2nd Mike Nicholson & Carol Cullen 3rd Jenny Myhill & Barbara Stimson

**IDEA** - why not count up approx bridge days played each month and set up an automatic payment to cover your play - no more red reminders!  
e.g. if you play 2x a week = \$10 or \$40/month.  
3x a week would be \$60/month

### Xmas Lunch 2023

Well if you missed it, once again you missed a treat.

Prize giving, then as bubbles flowed, musician

#### Ruth Sweatman

coaxed us to Christmas singing, culminating in the conga = a Latin American dance of African origin, usually with several people in a single line, one behind the other . . .

then a scrumptious lunch, followed by pav and strawberry dessert.

#### Thanks for your effort committee.

Partners were drawn for bridge and 2 players who were no strangers to each other at the corner table rehashed the bidding of a previous board.

Bidding got to 4C from north, 4NT from south  
5C from north, 5NT from south - surely slam was on!!  
turns out, both were asking, one in C and one in NT  
oh dear, bottom board. Better luck next time.

and, oh dear again, here's a song we hashed . . . with apologies to younger members . . .

"Bridge Club, Bridge Club,

Give me your answer do!

How do you keep us oldies with something to do?

It must be the cards that thrill us

Or cups of tea and chit chats.

We'd love to play

Ev'ry single day

Just for fun or for something to do!

*Sorry to say a last farewell to Ray Guy who has been a stalwart of our club, along with wife Margaret for many years.*

*Back in 2005 Ray was elected vice-president when Jan Kirk held the reins assisted by secretary Sarah Stacey and club captain Daphne Ansell. Ray project managed a new roof and fresh colour scheme for the old clubrooms - endless work, thank you Ray.*

*Ray always had a joke to share and here's one of his.*

#### Secret of a Happy Marriage -

My wife and I have the secret of making a marriage last. Twice a week we go to a good restaurant, have some great food, fine wine and a little companionship. She goes Tuesdays and I go Fridays.

*The club also acknowledges and farewells Erika's husband Brian Schofield.*

*And in November Murray Knight was farewelled by Shirley and family. Murray helped with dealing and handy man chores for many years. We will be sorry to lose Shirley as she moves closer to family later in the year.*

With a great turnout of 18 tables, the final Thursday bridge for 2023 was followed by its usual popular gathering, this time bolstered by karaoke with no prompts - music only - broadband didn't connect for the occasion.

However the festive celebration was oiled by proceeds from a Xmas Cake Raffle - Judy Duncan made the cake, and despite cake envy and lots of crossed fingers, well done, Vivienne Peters won the prize.

Judy also supplied lovely sandwiches and savouries too.

Anyway, on the day

1st NS Diana Bennets & Sandy Hastings

!st EW Jo Craig & Nikki Baguley

### BIG welcome to new members -

Mike Rudd  
Andrew Pickering  
Keith Hitchcock  
Brian Laird

. . more from **Annie Barry**'s travel if you haven't seen it . .

as she headed from Cape Town up the Atlantic coast of  
Africa to Namibia . . .

The ship is identical to the last one we were on so already we feel very much at home even if we are considered 'newbies' having jumped on two thirds of the way through the voyage. Even better is the fact that the ship is half empty and I should think we are the only Kiwis on board, because by all accounts all the Aussies and Kiwis jumped ship in Cape Town.

The good news for me is that they have a bridge teacher on board with regular lessons and an afternoon bridge session. My initiation into contract bridge on board playing with Americans could be summarised in one word - SCARY! The teacher's name was Cindy and Cindy was from North Carolina and had an accent which sounded like a floor saw cutting through metal. The first time she pointed out the error of someone's ways I got such a fright I nearly fell off the chair. *'Bloody hell, what the f\*\*\* was that?'*

I thought. I then realised why her husband was sitting quietly down the back of the room especially when she announced to the class that she loves playing bridge but not with her husband Randy. Poor old Randy (do they actually know what 'randy' means in Kiwi lingo?). I think not. Anyway suffice to say that the Americans are a very serious lot when it comes to bridge but I'm working on it!

As it turned out we banged into Randy and Cindy in a bar the following night and the two men hit it off quite well. In fact, by the end of the night we had all agreed to meet at the bottom of the pier the following morning so we could travel together in a taxi and do what was on our hit list in Walvis Bay. Firstly, Randy was absent. He had taken some malaria tablets which had him coughing from the other end, so now it was just the three of us and we had to be extra careful. Cindy and I had already discussed tactics. "I'll go for the eyes, Annie and you do the testicles". Righto, we had a game plan and I felt quite confident about my part, having recently had the practice . . .

So now, safely back home, **Annie** is putting her new found 'Scary Cindy' skills to use vs holiday bridge players. But not with a saw cutting metal accent, pleased to say.

**Important changes from the '23 to '24 Year - Promotions** Phillippa Edwards > Club Master  
Rebecca Bartlett > Certificate of Proficiency

#### **NZ Bridge Grade Changes**

##### **Junior to Intermediate.**

Cathy Parker  
Keryn O'Brien  
Steve O'Brien  
Michele Larnder  
Carol Jones

##### **Intermediate to Open**

Pamela Pedersen  
Frances Ball  
Megan Richards

**Intermediate**  
Marilyn Rangihika

#### **OUR SPONSORS**

As we move towards Bridge in 2024, let's remember a couple of things.

Firstly, for many sponsors the last few years have been difficult, business-wise.

Also, if you look through the list of sponsors at the back of our new programme book, you will see that many businesses are directly or indirectly connected to members of our club. Let's therefore make 2024 a year when we really do what our promotional tv screen says, and

**'support our sponsors'.**

and thanks to those members who (maybe, coerced) secured sponsorship.

Following on from the latest raft of articles which seem to indicate that our Mount bridge members are seemingly threatened wherever they travel on the globe, **Mike Nicholson** thought he would add a similar, but more minor experience to the now sizeable catalogue of mis-adventures!

Before NZ citizenship, (BC actually, I was in Rome on holiday with my wife when a boy and a girl, not more than 11 years old rushed toward me, waving what appeared to be an open map.

As I was an experienced British traveller, I simply repeated in my much used unintelligible Italian-English that I was not interested in buying any maps. In the few seconds it took for them to deliver their pitch, I realised they could not be selling maps, and instinctively grabbed my thigh where I carried my folded Italian money. Needless to say there was no money.

Before I explain what happened next, lest you think me some super hero, in an instant (or a fit of pique) I grabbed the kid and pinned him to the river wall by twisting his arm up his back. Then came that pivotal moment - what the \*\*\*\* do I do now! Of course there were no police visible and obviously some possibility of a knifing, but I wanted my money back!

At that moment, what happened? Along the walkway came two American women - very tall and strong but not overweight. They asked if I had a problem - yes!! 'this bastard has stolen my money' - they walked over to the youth and in a voice which would put the fear of God into anyone said 'give him his money!'

Out of boy's pocket came my money and sundry other transactions. With my money recovered, I freed the kid, they disappeared and we continued our Italian perambulations.

There are several observations to make pertaining to the incident.

Firstly, do not put folded money into a thigh pocket without considering how fat your thighs are and/or how narrow is the tailoring of your trousers. Secondly, how good it is to realise the benefits of the NATO and 5 Eyes alliances!

Thanks **Mike** for those travel tips and hurrah for plastic money and PIN numbers now.



2023 Xmas festivities



Committee co-ordinators



Fairy Steve and two elfin assistants -  
Kay Burnie and Jenny Myhill



Yes! one of these can be yours in 2024.