



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

April 2024 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs



from President Michele . . .

Welcome to our April newsletter. Our 1st tournament of the year "Multigrade Pairs" attracted a good field of 22 tables. This was similar to last year but the profitability for the club was very different due to the changes in the NZB levy. Gilda has completed a rundown of costs for this tournament; it makes interesting reading (see below). She has assumed the role of tournament Secretary and is doing an excellent job, supported by Teri, Julie S, Dianne and a myriad of others. We are hosting the second day of the Bay Pairs this Sunday – good luck to all our players.

It is interesting to reflect on what we remember about people. How many can name the winner of the Monday Singles Championship last year (unless of course you were the winner)? However, I am sure you can recount vividly an incident at the Bridge table when someone was critical or aggressive. You will also recall the player who warmly complimented your good play or defence, even if it meant they consequently scored a bottom board. This will be a particularly strong memory if you are a new player to the game.

How do you want to be remembered? There are plans for more Intermediate skills sessions throughout the year and in July Rachelle Pelkman will be running chat sessions on more advanced Bridge skills. Keep watching the newsletters and email for updates.

I was sorry to receive the resignation of Anne Clarke. Anne has made a large contribution to the club over many years, and we wish her and Fred the very best.

**Happy Bridge
Michele**

Club Captain Teri says hi all ...

Hope you are all enjoying the milder weather? However, rainy days and long winter evenings are perfect for bridge.

Thank you to all our club members who have helped make our two tournaments this month a success. We could not do it without you!

There have been a few murmurs about slow play. You do have the right to think and take your time to play within reason – however if this is impacting on the second board and the opps now have less time to play - it is unfair. Also, by not moving in a timely manner, the next pair sitting down have less time to play. Avoid post-mortems and discussions – this slows the play down, and others can hear you.

As always, please call the Director if you have any concerns during play.

Happy Bridge Teri



Mower-man extraordinaire Phil West pimps our property ready for the Bay Pairs Tournament Sunday 28th April

DID YOU KNOW?

The most common hand pattern you can hold is 4-4-3-2 and occurs about 21.55% of the time.

The second most frequent pattern is
5-3-3-2 at 15.52% and
5-4-3-1 at 12.93% of the time

**Change in Rank - congrats to -
Brian Breen
Certificate of Proficiency to Club Master**

CLUB RESULTS

Mondays April'24.	Papamoa Mitre10 Pairs.	1st Graham Stern & Barry Crosby 2nd Shirley Knight & Mike Nicholson 3rd Joe Brown & Audrey Gardiner
Wednesdays Mar '24	Tivoli Cinema Handicap Pairs	1st Caren Van Der Meys & Martin Van Der Meys 2nd Ross Petersen & Barbara Stimson 3rd Mike Nicholson & Barry Crosby
Thursdays April'24	Ultimate Motors Championship Handicap Singles	1st Julie Sheridan 2nd Dee Drew 3rd Lynette Steele
Thursdays April'24	Mount Hot Pools Handicap Pairs	1st Lynette Steele & Elaine Genty-Nott 2nd Ben de Kleijnen & Loes de Kleijnen 3rd Marg White & Kay Pearse
Fridays April'24	Ray White Papamoa Friday Pairs	1st Annie Barry & Flo Nield 2nd Trish Kidd & Shirley Knight 3rd Ross Petersen & Barbara Stimson
Fridays early 2024	Terrace Ave Singles	1st Ross Petersen 2nd Barbara Stimson 3rd Jean Scott

Bridge by the Stars

Taurus

You have been under some stress lately but you may even surprise yourself this month with a rapid improvement in your game. You are usually sound and solid - be more adventurous!



Farewell to Anne Clarke and Fred Clarke

who are shifting back to Hamilton, near their daughter. Going with them is a new member of the family, an excitable little miniature poodle called "Pepsi" (a handful to be sure). We wish Anne and Fred well in this new chapter of their life.

Anne has been an active member of our bridge club, being on the committee for many years, Vice-President 2016 and President three years 2017 - 2020.

In her working life, Anne was a Home Economics teacher and is still a wonderful baker. If you called around for a cuppa, there would always be delicious home baking to enjoy. She willingly provided plates for tournaments and was renowned for her beautiful club sandwiches. As President, Anne was a stickler for time and for quiet when making announcements. She would call for silence and if people were talking, she would wait patiently, and one time, she waited and waited and waited, then said "thank you Martin"!

Anne was always a friendly face at the bridge table and always elegantly dressed.

She and Chris Gibson were bridge partners for many years, often playing in tournaments together. They both were regular partners in the Cambridge Sixes Teams.

This team was initially Kaye Robertshaw and Shirley Knight (Open pair), Anne Clarke and Chris Gibson (Intermediate), Pamela Pedersen and Bren Birss (Junior). They were the "**Mount Misfits**". Each year, Chris and Anne were the Intermediate pair with various others making up the team. Great fun was had devising outfits for the following year's Sixes.

Anne was usually the instigator of dress up ideas. So they became the

"**Six No Frumps**",

"**The Mythical Mount Mermaids**",

"**Turkish Delight**"

and "**7th Heaven**" (angels).

Prizes were awarded for the best dress ups and the last three above actually took out 1st prize! That was good because the bridge itself didn't bring us any prizes! says Chris.

Thanks to Chris Gibson and Shirley Knight for the above reveal of Anne's Bridge Club lighter moments.

Chippacketproject

It would be fantastic if members could please collect silver-backed crisp packets for this worthy cause. There is a nationwide project to make these into waterproof blankets, pillows and carrying bags for people living on the streets.

Information is at <https://www.chippacketproject.org>

If possible please cut down one side of the packet and carefully pull the bottom apart (not cutting it, as the glue is important, then rinse in warm soapy water and leave in the box in the foyer under the name badges.

Volunteers at a church in Papamoa join these into strips, then they are sent to Auckland where they are finished by more volunteers and coated with plastic, which is donated by **Mitre 10**. Thank you so much for your help, **Bren**

Also, please note that **Mitre 10 Papamoa** has generously sponsored a Monday pairs in April with more to follow . . .

Supporting our Sponsors

If you're in the search for quality shoes, you couldn't do better than to pay a visit to

shoe&me 

Downtown at the Mount, **shoe&me** have been **sponsoring us since 2016** and have a superb range of both men's and women's casual and dress shoes with all the 'best' brands.

Recently, **shoe&me** have moved to a bigger, brighter store, now at 162 Maunganui Rd. When visited, it was noted the store was abuzz with cruise ship customers, the shoe display was attractive and well laid out with exceptional styles.

Manager Christine and her helpful staff offer Gold Card discount and when you call in, make sure they know you are from the Mt Maunganui Bridge Club.

Or have a preview www.shoehandme.co.nz

*Our second new committee member for 2024 is **Joanne McLean** and here she philosophises on life -*

It seems to be we are who we are when we are born. I come from Wellington and had an adventurous upbringing that mainly featured a bach in the wilds of Palliser Bay. There my sister and I scaled the surrounding bush clad hills, explored rocky turbulent rivers, built driftwood fires on the stony beach and enjoyed the sound of thunderous surf at night.

I moved out of home and into Wellington City at a young age and despite a good job was bored with city life. So skydiving came to the rescue. This was way back in the day when we used old ex army parachute gear and I was a lightweight little thing. While everyone else on our jump would drift nicely down and land, I would often catch thermals and stay up or be blown miles off course. I did learn to spiral my parachute down, great fun in itself, to avoid landing in a paddock of heifers that surrounded the airstrip we used.

When the new square parachutes came out I was overjoyed as the old gear was so large I used to have to pull up the shoulder straps in free fall before deploying my chute and live with the indignity of getting grazed under my nose on the chest strap. While my new fitted square parachute was being manufactured I borrowed jumping equipment and unfortunately, a modification on the equipment jammed. I ended up using the reserve parachute in an unstable position causing some of the lines to go over the parachute creating unbalanced sides. Thus I spun wildly into the ground in a very painful landing.

The resulting injuries caused me to move to Papamoa where I lay on the beach to recover for the summer . . . until my new equipment arrived! Being here and skydiving with the Tauranga skydivers resulted with me getting gloriously saved at the Mount Baptist Church as part of a movement of God among the skydiving scene. This I am very thankful for as it turned my life around from a willingness to throw it away recklessly.

Then being in my 20's with an unbridled enthusiasm for getting to know God better I joined YWAM (Youth With A Mission) and went to Holland to train. Many adventures in YWAM saw me join a drama dance team of 30 travelling throughout Holland and Spain performing a full-on musical called 'Toy Maker and Son'. When I came back to NZ I joined a team being put together to travel throughout NZ in a yellow bus with 30 others. One of those others was Alan and we have now been married for 40 years with 4 children and so far, 2 grandchildren.

You may have gathered that I am a natural risk taker and haven't seemed to inherit a cautious gene. No surprise that this translates to other factors in life including bridge. Bridge has definitely moderated some of my risk taking to a more measured approach, although I still have a tendency to take life threatening decisions far too quickly . . . just as well I married such a cautious man!

Thank you Joanne and we can expect some innovative ideas to emerge from committee meetings now.

NZ Bridge - Player levy increase

New Zealand Bridge revenue is sourced through a player affiliation fee and through a participation fee. So, any change in player numbers and/or participation results in a correspondent increase/reduction in revenue.

The present affiliation fee of \$20 plus GST per annum was set in 2014. Of course, all costs have increased. We have reviewed all our costs, capping, or eliminating what we spend to balance the books. Notwithstanding our budget for this year is still in deficit. We have therefore concluded we need to make changes in 2025 and 2026.

The following will apply from 1 April 2025. The change equates to an increase of 63 cents a month for 2025 and a further 63 cents a month in 2026 per player.

Allan Morris
Chair
NZ Bridge Inc

and more admin . . .

WaikatoBays Regional Committee.

The current term of office for regional committees ends on 30 June and it is time to call for participants for a new term. If members are remotely interested, please contact Teri for a nomination form.



following our recent *April Mt Maunganui 2024 Multigrade tournament*, Tournament Secretary Gilda's comments and review follows -

All 96 participants had a great day out and 32 of them walked away with a prize envelope! The Club could not host tournaments without support from you – our wonderful members. You get shoulder-tapped to offer morning tea plates, and help in the kitchen and bar at various times throughout the day. So many of you! But mention must be made of Helen Heuvel and Robyn Knight who started the day as kitchen helpers and finished the day being part of a standby pair. Multi-talented!

You may think "what a great money spinner for the Club" and at first glance we would all agree.

\$25 entry fee x 24 tables = \$25 x 94 = \$2,350 (2 stand-ins don't pay)

But wait ...

NZ Bridge requires participation payment 26.33% or \$618.70

This includes paying for the A points

Prize money of 41.28% or \$970

Director/scorer, nibbles, bar costs, consumables - 24.57% or \$577.38

Leaving a grand total of \$183.92 profit.

Add the raffle which made \$330.59

Final amount \$514.51.

And when you factor in all the work involved...

In the days of significant sponsorship we were laughing, but sadly those days are no more.

Hope this is interesting and enlightening for our members.

Top Mount Player results and photos on our website.



no no no
How do you want to be
remembered at the bridge
table?
asks President Michele

HOW SHOULD YOU HAVE
PLAYED TEAT HAND?



UNDER AN
ASSUMED NAME