



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

AUGUST 2026

Editor: Julie Downs 

in her third year, **President Michele** contributes her monthly column (no AI in sight) . . .

Welcome to another edition of our club newsletter! As we shuffle into a new month, it's always worth pausing to reflect on what makes our bridge club such a special place to play.

Yes, we come for the game. We come for the crisp thrill of a well-executed finesse, the satisfaction of making a tight contract, or the playful post-mortem over a hand that went delightfully off the rails.

Bridge is a game of sharp minds, bold strategies and endless learning. But if you ask anyone who has been sitting at these tables for a while, they'll tell you the real draw isn't just the cards — it's the community.

Every session, four people sit down at a table as partners and opponents, but they leave as friends. It's the shared laughter over an ambitious bid, the quiet encouragement when a dummy goes down, and the warm chat over tea during the break.

Our club thrives on this balance: competitive spirit paired with genuine camaraderie.

To our longtime regulars, thank you for continuously fostering such a welcoming, vibrant environment. To our newer members and recent class graduates, it is great to see you at sessions - never hesitate to ask questions, jump into casual games, or reach out if you're looking for a partner. We've all been in the seat where every conventional bid feels like a foreign language, and this club is full of people eager to help you grow.

Thank you to everyone—our committee, directors, scorers, newsletter editor, convenors and players—who keeps our club running smoothly week after week. Grab your favourite partner and let's make it a fantastic month at the tables.

Michele

July 'The Bridge Zone'

Teri really enjoyed listening to this show (you can find the link on the front page of NZ Bridge website). She's going to put it on her weekly *listen to* list.

And 13 mins into the show - Ross Longney – who played in our recent tournament, was very complimentary about us.

*"No hiccups in the scoring, beautifully directed by Norm Silcock – they did all three sections – top to the Mount for actually pulling it off. And what I was incredibly impressed by and just blew me away was the prizes went so deep to 12th place in the **Intermediate** and went to 7th place in **Juniors**. And as they stated Novice and juniors are the future of our sport and they went out of their way to welcome the juniors"*

ACES & SPADES

this month, a Spade and an Ace of service to our club. . .

First is **Kerry Crosby**, Welfare Officer

The role of the Welfare Officer is to keep in touch with sick or bereaved members or those feeling isolated or lonely or who may be in need of moral support or physical help. Kerry's skills, apart from the bridge table and at the keyboard, is for 3 years, diligently sending a lovely greeting card or making a phone call where appropriate. Thanks Kerry and here's hoping our members don't hear from you!



Second, these days when the sun is low and shines in on dummy or dazzles South, it's timely to remember **Sue Martin's** donation of our stylish pull blinds. Back in 2000 when our new premises were commissioned, there was no cash for blinds but thanks, were commissioned by Sue.

Additionally, Sue's Family are sponsors for all our Harcourts competitions.

Recent Rank Promotions

Novice to Certificate of Proficiency

Jim Lindsay
Karen Musgrave
Lucy Hollister

Certificate of Proficiency to Club Master

Mary Pettigrew
Bernard Lamusse

Club Master to Local Master

Liz Dive
Bernie Robinson

CLUB RESULTS

Mondays July '26 Ruth Corbett Memorial Pairs

1st. Flo Nield & Bren Birss
2nd Brian Lomax & Bill Ridley
3rd Pat Ware & Derek Webb

Mondays July '26 Ruth Corbett Memorial Handicap Pairs

1st Elaine Genty-Nott & Dixie Horne
2nd Brian Lomax & Bill Ridley
3rd Flo Nield & Bren Birss

Mondays July '26. pm Kaimai Overall Handicap Pairs

1st Dianne Beveridge & June Turner
2nd Alison Thompson & Sue Ranger
3rd Liz Dive & John Strawbridge

Mondays July '26. pm Kaimai Junior Handicap Pairs

1st Carol Fuller & Susan-Jane Davies
2nd Mary Waldron & Christina Wyllie-Miln

Mondays Aug '26 pm Fantail Handicap Pairs Junior/Intermediate

1st Jo Craig & Mark Wardill
2nd Teri Logie & Michele Rogers
3rd. Catherine Laffey & Lucy Hollister

Mondays Aug '26 pm Fantail Pairs Novice/Junior

1st Maddie Rudge & Carol Fuller
2nd Lorraine Hickey & Susan Norton-Westwood
3rd Susan-Jane Davies & Linda Oxenham

Thursdays Aug'26 Ryan Double Glazing Championship Handicap Pairs

1st Carolyn Toy & Jenny Bronte
2nd Margaret Guy & Julie Hawkes
3rd Lynne Corbett-Foy & Julie Downs

Fridays July '26 Ruby Pairs

1st Bren Birss & Bruce Inglis
2nd Ross Petersen & Julie Downs
3rd Mike Nicholson & Barbara Stimson

Fridays Aug '26 Lux Cinema Singles

1st Annie Barry
2nd Graham Stern
3rd Joe Brown

the Paul Nielson Memorial Trophy

is a silver salver donated by Peggie Nielson in memory of her husband Paul, club auditor in the 70's. The trophy was first awarded in 1984 for Wednesday play. The holders for 2026 are Junior - **Liz Dive** Intermediate - **Helene Paterson** congratulations!



BBO (BridgeBase online) was a saviour for our bridge players during the 2020 pandemic.

Newer members probably haven't thought how keen players coped during the Covid lockdown, being unable to visit the clubrooms for face to face sessions. Back then, players assiduously logged on to BBO and arranged partners to join staged tournaments, many organised by the

late **Karen Martelletti**, Silver Grand Master, and **Kate Terry** of the Tauranga Club.

President Diane Rodger wrote in March that year

"Hope you are all keeping well and finding ways to fill your days now that we all have been instructed to stay at home". and by June 2020

"A very big and warm welcome back to our bridge Club, it will be great to see you all and to enjoy your company at the bridge table. While BBO has filled a big gap and has been most enjoyable especially our Tauranga/Mount tournaments (thanks to Karen and Kate) there is nothing like getting together and enjoying the social aspect of bridge. You will see the committee has been busy during the closure of the club - we will slowly be moving to a cashless club using compa\$\$", and planning was underway to build our present clubrooms.

Some members have never stopped joining friends on-line, teeing up a 4 to fit more bridge into their week. Anyway, now BBO is moving to a user-pays model with a membership plan, and mostly, these payers feel it's a good investment (less ads) and not too expensive even though it's priced in \$US.

Another spin-off from the Covid days are on-line Teaching and Learning Sunday supervised play sessions finishing on 30th August. This format has been very popular again this year with 20-24 tables playing most weeks - as are several national annual tournaments conducted solely via the internet. These events are always advertised on our noticeboard should you wish to join.

A great contingent from our Mt Maunganui club boosted numbers at Te Puke Club's annual cancer fund raiser -

DAFFODIL DAY

Saturday 22 August.

and on the day, members were rewarded with raffles and prize money.

And the Cancer Society benefitted by over \$1200.

Thank you Te Puke.



1st NS with director Marcus Dudley - Carol De Luca & Annie Barry



2nd NS Carol Grant & "Grannie" Flo Nield (says Marcus).



and Left, two old i.e. former, work colleagues, Liz Gilbert and John Laugesen 3rd NS.

A second event held on Sunday the same weekend was the final **Waikato Bays Teams** held at the Matamata Club.

Top clubs - Thames, Waikato, Hamilton, Rotorua, Te Puke, Matamata/Morrinsville, Mt Maunganui and Tauranga grades battled to honour their lineage.

Sadly for the Matamata Club, they had a burglary Saturday night losing their wine cellar and club computer. So private devices and PC's were commissioned for timers and scorers.

Also sadly, our Mount club Open team were unable to accept any congrats from Megan Richards, Waikato Bays rep, even though Megan played for our team.

Better luck next year.

Welcome back to travellers from the northern hemisphere - those who experienced extreme high temperatures, a dry Danube and a solar eclipse. Happy to have our director Norm, treasurer Janice, committee member Kay and players back at the club.

an anonymous contributor, alias 'Love' relates : I lost a trick -

warning follows.

Beware of Law 70C

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 - Rules 68, 69 & 70 - Claims and Concessions

These laws cover the time when you lay down the remainder of your cards and claim the rest without playing them.

How the Rules Work

- **Immediate Stop:** Play stops as soon as a claim is made and the remaining cards are faced on the table.
- **The Claim Statement:** The claimer must state how many tricks they want and explain the order of cards or line of play.
- **Calling the Director:** If an opponent doubts or rejects the claim, they must call the tournament director immediately.

Beware of Law 70C

The Tournament Director must award a trick or tricks to the opponents if a claim has an outstanding trump and specific conditions are met.

the Director gives a trick to the defenders when all three of these points apply:

- **No mention:** The claimer did not mention that outstanding trump in their claim statement.
- **Unaware:** It is likely the claimer did not know a trump was still in the opponent's hand when they claimed.
- **Vulnerable:** A normal line of play could lose a trick to that remaining trump

In Short – Draw trumps or state how you are going to play the remaining cards

Skills Nights held last Monday each month -

so, just in time for
Monday August 31st

Topics 31st Aug
Leads, Signals & discards - Gilda
No trump play - Graham

Topics - 28th Sept
Loser Count - Gilda & Judith
Declarer Play - Graham



Our new neighbour presiding over the rear of our rooms sports a 'door to nowhere'. Access to bridge club or surf rescue?

Welcome to this month's New members

Judith Russell
Sue Arnold

and a note of interest (to some)
Whakatane Bridge Club
is administered by two lad co-Presidents. This
incumbency, they explain, makes it's so easy being
able to share the load of club commitments.