



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

December 2024 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs



President Michele - in recognition -

I would like to thank our many volunteers for all their work this year and to you the members for your patience, your good humour and your support of the club. It has been another successful year, and it has been a privilege to be a part of it. Enjoy the break from Bridge and come back next year with a resolve to continue to grow your skills at this wonderful, challenging and often frustrating game. Have a joyful Christmas and a festive New Year. All the best **Michele**

from Club Captain TERN -

oops she's on holiday but asks that all of us contact new members from 2024 whose numbers didn't get into the new programme book. Please note those numbers are the notice board and please make the effort to welcome them or partner them for holiday bridge or in 2025.

small correction to your 2025

PROGRAMME BOOK.

p19 Friday Session.

Pilot Bay Singles August 1st 8th and 15th need an asterisk denoting a singles event meaning to qualify, players must play with a different partner each session.



What colour '26?

A young couple getting married found life was made up of 2 hearts and 1 diamond but after some years they found they could use a club and a spade !!!!!

Monday evening bridge sees our first competition sponsored by

Ryan Double Glazing

a new sponsors for 2025.

Please support our sponsors whenever you can - they support us.

Phone Chris 1st on 07-5750365 or enquire with Jo Craig, also heaps of info @ www.ryandoubleglazing.co.nz

Another outstanding effort by Mt Maunganui Club - four of our members

Lyn Bailie

Diane Rodger

Tina Dudley

Marcus Dudley

were joined by Leanne Curry and Megan Jolly from the Hamilton Club for a November weekend in Wellington, making up the Waikato Bays Intermediate Team to contest the Regional Champs. A sterling effort saw the team win 6 rounds and lose 6 rounds with 0 draws.

CLUB RESULTS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Mondays Nov '24 | Mount Eliza Cheese Handicap Pairs | 1st Riet Jansen & Bob Callcut 2nd Gloria Mouatt & Jenny Myhill 3rd Margaret Wakelin & Derek Webb |
| Mondays Dec '24 pm | Mauao Handicap Pairs | 1st Alan Lawton & Karyl Anderson 2nd Catherine Laffey & Grant Laffey 3rd Alison Thompson & Sue Ranger |
| Wednesdays Nov'24. | Bell Plumbing Handicap Pairs | 1st Tina Dudley & Rosemary Wilkey 2nd Frances Ball & Megan Richards 3rd Carol Cullen & Barbara Stimson |
| Thursdays Nov '24 | Forsyth Barr Handicap Pairs | 1st Tim Torr & Joanne McLean 2nd Ngaire Short & Mary Pettigrew 3rd Judy Waldvogel & Mac McCarthy |
| Fridays Dec '24 | Surf Rd Pairs | 1st Nancye Ward & Brenda Macfarlane 2nd Tim Torr & Joanne McLean 3rd Carol Grant & Flo Nield |

Wednesday Friendly Non-Competition Bridge.

Bernie Robinson introduces us to
the pleasure of casual and friendly Bridge Sessions

In the world of card games, bridge has long been celebrated for its complexity, strategy, and the camaraderie it fosters among players. While competitive bridge tournaments dominate most bridge clubs (as they should), there is a growing appreciation for a more relaxed version of the game — one that prioritises enjoyment and social interaction over high-stakes competition.

Enter the Wednesday friendly non-competition Bridge sessions, a weekly gathering that has become a staple for a small band of enthusiasts of our bridge club. Unlike its competitive counterpart, friendly bridge is all about creating an inclusive and welcoming environment. Players come together not to win trophies or master point rankings but to share their love for the game in a stress-free setting. The

Wednesday afternoon gatherings, up to 7 tables, epitomise this ethos, attracting individuals who wish to enhance their skills without the pressure of the clock and to have the ability to discuss the hands as they are played.

Emma Barber started the Wednesday sessions as a way to transition players fresh from lessons to the Monday night Novice and Juniors competition. Each Wednesday, players gather at the club, the atmosphere is casual, with plenty of chatter and laughter.

There are no strict time limits and players are encouraged to help one another, discussing strategies and learning from mistakes without judgment. A mid-session break provides an opportunity to chat, share tips and discuss the boards played. This can't be done on competition days as others may not have played those boards. The emphasis on fun and kindness makes Wednesday bridge sessions an excellent way to reinforce the rules of the game. Without the pressure of competition, players can focus on developing their skills and enjoying the mental stimulation that bridge offers.

If you wish to come along to Wednesday session you are more than welcome, we start from about 12.45pm to 4.00pm, but we have been known to finish later when people have been enjoying themselves.

Sessions cost \$3.00 cash only. All we ask is a kind and friendly attitude.

The Wednesday Friendly Non-Competition Bridge sessions stand as a testament to the idea that games can be as much about connection as competition. For those seeking a delightful midweek escape, there's no better way to unwind, engage your mind, and make lasting friendships than at the bridge table.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the more experienced players who have helped out, in particular **Michele Larnder** and **Annette Dand**.

If you'd like to join, just turn up on 8th January and find **Bernie Robinson**

Success in 2024 - Changes in Rank -

Alan McLean - Certificate of Proficiency to
Club Master

Sandy Hastings - Novice to Certificate of
Proficiency



An outstanding event was held 30 November '24, our Christmas Party and Prize Giving.
 Congrats to all winners and thanks to all the members who choreographed this happening.



Left - the Trophies



Right - the Spread

Below - a Sample of happy winners



Winners - Zita Reid/Abel
 Tasman Mondays Pair
 Helene Paterson & Frances Ball



Winners - Thursday Aggregate
 Ladder
 Judith Robinson & Michele Larnder



Winners - Cunningham Thursdays Pairs
 with Michele -
 Ben & Loes de Kleijnen



... and not to be left out - Jan Russell & Kath Harvey present themselves with a gilded Xmas tree to acknowledge their happy partnership

Also to acknowledge and thank **Joy Holmes** who each year, provides a prize for the pair who score closest to 50% at our (drawn partners) Xmas party bridge session. 2024 winners were Life Member Jean Scott & Nikki Baguley.

the following abridged article was compiled by, and thanks to, Hugh McAllister, Tauranga Club and Mike Neels, Compass expert

UNDERSTANDING BRIDGE HANDICAPS

This article is an attempt to explain the handicapping system currently used - partly to try and answer concerns that the system is possibly flawed, unfair or illogical.

A "handicapping system" in sports or games, is defined as "the practice of assigning an artificial advantage through scoring compensation given to different contestants to equalise the chances of winning" (Miriam-Webster Dictionary).

The theoretical aim is to give everybody an "equal" chance of winning. In bridge terms, an ideal handicap system, working perfectly, would mean every one getting 50%. In practice, of course, this never happens because -

1. Primarily, because we as players never play exactly to the same standard consistently from one day to the next.

2. Despite playing theoretically "correctly", we are not always rewarded for our efforts

3. Because no handicapping system is perfect.

These important limitations should be remembered in any discussion about handicapping systems..

Our system employs the Compass scoring software, used by a number of Clubs around New Zealand.

Approximately 45 Clubs and 4,000 players use the **same** deals on the **same** days, and our results in our Club are automatically compared, every event, with results obtained by thousands of others around the country - a scoring system known as X-Club. If you are interested, you can access these results by clicking "results", then "X Club" on our website. Heaps of info there and you can also elect to receive an email summary each time you play.

In a nutshell, the system looks at everyone's last 2,000 hands played (at a mean of 25 hands per session, this equates to 80 sessions, or 6-12 months for most people).

Compass compares your results with all those in X-Club. It is even clever enough to factor in the strength of the opposition you played against in every handicap, the influence of partnerships (many play better with one or more partners, a concept known as "synergy") and even takes into account "current form." Our handicap is recalculated by the Compass software automatically **every week**.

THE NUTS and BOLTS

Firstly, you need to have played at least 200 boards (8 or 9 sessions) to get a registered handicap. The more scores that are included, the more "steady" the handicap. The handicap of a partnership is simply the sum of your two individual handicaps, divided by two.

We compare our results with other Clubs (X-Club) as the more information included, the more accurate the result. The Compass system, used by many Clubs in NZ, and the amazing power of computerisation, allows such comparisons relatively easily.