



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club



February 2022 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs

from President Diane -

I hope you are all enjoying the glorious weather we are having, what a lovely summer it's been.

Our new club rooms are on track for us to move at the end of April, we will be looking for volunteers for the move over, so please give it some thought if you're able to help.

Covid continues to cause problems for some, hopefully we can see the light at the end of the tunnel before long, it will be great to get back to normal.

I hope you're all enjoying your bridge wether it's face to face or on real bridge or BBO.

Stay well and safe

Diane

from Club Captain Teri ...

In line with the Government advice and policy, which still allows gatherings - we plan to go ahead with the Mt Maunganui Multi Grade Tournament sponsored by Pacific Coast Village – Saturday 02 April 2022.

Of course this will be continually looked at in light of the changing and challenging times we live in. If you plan to play, book early, spaces are limited due to the size of our club. **Masks will have to worn, due to players coming from other regions.**

We are looking for a pair to be prepared to be standby to play if necessary on the day. A big Ask I know, but please think about it? The Club also needs servers for tea and coffee at 9am and then at lunch

(the participants are bringing their own lunches).

Lists will be passed around at each session for these volunteers as well as asking for plates for morning tea.

thank you all in advance

Happy playing **Teri**

2022 Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2022 are due by 28th Feb.

Home Club - \$60, Associate - \$37

Please pay to Club bank

a/c no 03 0374 0045537 001

and include your name, NZB number and the word 'subs' in the reference.

If you do not intend renewing your subscription please advise the Club by email to mtbridgeclub@gmail.com

Also the office is looking for a **computer monitor**. If anyone has a spare working one they would like to donate to the club it would be appreciated

and space for some silliness . . .

This elderly player goes to the Doctor for an annual checkup. The Doctor is impressed that the person is in even better health than the year before. Curious, the medic asks what is done for mental stimulation. The player answers that they love duplicate bridge.

The doctor, a bridge player too, says that's great.

"And what do you do for physical stimulation?"

"I sit East-West" is the reply.



Wife holds her bosom before her husband leads. He wants to lead a diamond, but he sees her holding her bosom, so he leads a heart. A diamond lead would have defeated the contract. He asks her why she was holding her bosom. She says: "I wasn't holding my bosom, I was trying to show a bust!"

Our Club History is now on our website under 'Articles'. Tabs include Life Members, Office Holders, Trophy winners and the Club History from 1964 -2002 and 2002 - 2022.

Much of the information has been taken from our monthly newsletter Spadework, the Minutes and members' recollections. Makes very interesting reading - check to see if you're mentioned.

Thanks Jean Scott, Gilda Rowland and Julie Sheridan for your great work compiling these records

CLUB RESULTS

Mondays Feb'22 **Ray White Papamoa Pairs**

1st Julie Downs & Frances Ball
2nd Graeme McLean & Joe Brown
3rd Riet Jansen & Bill Armstrong

Mondays Feb'22 **Ray White Papamoa Handicap Pairs**

1st Riet Jansen & Bill Armstrong
2nd Julie Downs & Frances Ball
3rd Graeme McLean & Joe Brown

Mondays pm Feb'22 **Esquires Coffee Handicap Pairs**

1st Peter Boynton & Mary Keane
2nd Phyllis Paul & Nora Pronk
3rd Dawn Buxton & Joanne Bruce

Thursdays Feb'22 **M H Rogers Optometrist Handicap Pairs**

1st Riet Jansen & Julie Downs
2nd Bev Small & Elaine Kingsford
3rd Marlene Grant & Helen Bourne

Fridays Feb '22 **Teekay Trust Pairs**

1st John Laugesen & Kathy King
2nd Carol Grant & Flo Nield
3rd Linley Hay & Rachel Olsen

our tutor for the march lessons is
Graham Stern.

Such lucky students to be coached by
the best!

Graham Stern and partner Alan
Parkes finished 3rd in the recent
Congress Restricted Open pairs
category.

This event was held on-line on the
'Real Bridge' platform.

Lessons 2022

Beginner lessons start on

Thursday March 11th, 7.00 to 9.30 pm

The cost is \$70. Please encourage friends,
family, neighbours and work colleagues to
come and learn our wonderful game.

Any club members are welcome at no
charge to attend any lessons. And yes,
lessons will be held at our new temporary
premises. Please ring Teri for further
information.

Welcome to New Members

Helen Bourne

Sharyn Martin

Marlene Grant

Janice Simpson

also ... sorry to have resignations from
long-time members

Linley Edwards

Marilyn Wallace

Corrine Levy

and congrats to
to **LEE SINCLAIR** on attaining her
Certificate of Proficiency,

SUPPORT our SPONSORS

long-term supporter of Mt Maunganui Bridge Club is

Mayo Jewellery

@ Central Parade 532 Maunganui Rd.

Owner Mark Mayo specialises in
jewellery repairs, stone replacing
and remodelling.

Very important, watch batteries
are available from Mayo
Jewellery. You can never find the
right one when needed!



The firm has been at Central
Parade for **30 years**, obviously a popular and
successful business.

ph. 5756582.



... shout out to our esteemed gentlemen players ...

1pm Thursday bridge is cruising along with coordinator Isobel very happy with the 11 - 13 table turnout each week.

But at present, Fred and Bernard have complete monopoly of the women players attending. There's been a request for tall, handsome men with some \$\$\$ to join in Thursday's fun. But anyone is welcome! make up a pair. All events are handicap with the first Thursday each month a special fun day. Each session is followed by BYO socialising.

(left) Thursday 'after match function'

PROGRESS on NEW CLUBROOMS ...



ROOM WITH A VIEW



LIFT INSTALLED

... here the inimitable Mike Nicholson shares his bridge education and experiences over the years ...

At the age of seventeen I found myself awarded the position of prefect in the grammar school I attended. This position entitled you to some privileges which I forget now, but included a prefect's hut and whilst it was not a great help with the curriculum, it offered invaluable assistance with the broader education of a seventeen year old boy.

Here I learnt bridge! Not what a beginner learns in a bridge club, but the concepts only and from students who knew little more than myself. I learnt how to cheat by claiming the tricks and finessing the queen through the boy who strongly objected when I won with my small honour! I knew about basic point counts, basic bidding, and little else.

What I did have though was card sense, and so playing the cards was somewhat natural.

In my first job, post university, I joined in lunchtime bridge with the same inadequate set of skills. The same set of skills I took with me to live and work in Scotland for two years. There, more for something to do than to 'set the heather alight' with my bridge skills, I joined the village bridge club. When I say village, I mean a tiny place which was very cold in winter! I managed to extend my bridge experience with my regular lady partner who owned and ran the local saw mill! We travelled to local tournaments, which was an unsettling experience. Not because of my bridge inadequacies, but more the death defying car trips along wild Scottish roads in winter. (I did manage to roll my car into a field, on ice, one winter's morning).

On returning to a more urban life and more lunchtime bridge, my wife and I took a trip to the USA. For part of the trip we stayed with my wife's sister. Her mother-in-law was a bridge player and it was deemed courteous to invite me to play a game with her. She turned out to be a large, very loud, 'take-no-prisoners' exponent of bridge. So I had to learn Standard American in 30 minutes before we left for the game and therefore another set in inadequate skills acquired,

'A—Col' was not acceptable. We actually managed to come top overall, and for my success the American Bridge Association awarded me one forty-second part of one Grand Master point. I have to say I have not added to that total in the intervening 50 years! Family were waiting for me to get home by ambulance, fearing a partnership failure, and so relief was massive.

Holidaying a few years ago in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, it turned out bridge was played in a beach bar several times a week! This clearly catered for the North American snowbirds, and ladies turned up in outfits which would not look out of place in a Oscar Ceremony! I of course wore my 60's Urban Trash. After early retirement, I played occasional bridge and in Stratford on Avon, partnered a 90 year old - not a brilliant player, but with a brain as sharp as a needle. She is now 105. But not playing bridge.

Our partnership ended with my emigration to NZ, joining Tauranga Bridge club.

I moved from Tauranga to the Mount bridge club and ended up playing with a beginner, but a beginner with a huge determination to learn the game. To match this I decided I had better 'up my game'. And so, some 50 odd years since I should have done, I decided to learn to Bridge properly. This time around, Standard American!

So having descended now to the base of the bridge, I can only marvel at the richness of experience that bridge has given me. I still marvel how 52 cards can generate such fun for so many people. Long may it continue!