



## Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

# SPADEWORK

July 2025 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs



### from our special President Michele . . .

The vibrant hum of conversation, the laughter echoing off the walls, and the sense of unity that filled the room all bore witness to a successful tournament. The event was held on Saturday 19th July, drawing players from 22 different clubs.

A successful event is born out of meticulous planning and teamwork, with a special mention of Gilda and Teri.

Thanks to the committee members welcoming players and selling raffle tickets and all the helpers in the kitchen.

Thank you to all those who contributed to our extensive morning tea.

The 'icing on the cake' was the success of our own members, many of whom received prizes for their excellent Bridge.

We have been asking at most sessions for senior players to volunteer to help our junior and beginner players on a Wednesday afternoon 1pm - 4pm. This session has grown rapidly in numbers especially now our Brookies are also joining in. The format of this session is supervised casual play. It is proving very popular and is keeping many of our junior players actively participating in the game of Bridge. There is a list on the front table for helpers; we would like to see more names. You don't have to be the expert; you are there to facilitate and support.

Thank you to the team who are running the Monday skills nights held the last Monday of June, July, August and September. We are catering for beginner and advanced junior/intermediate levels. The topics are on the notice board in the training room.

If you are participating in 'Dry July' – well done – it's almost over.

Enjoy your Bridge - Michele Larnder

**STOP PRESS** from Annual BOP Interclub Teams event held Rotorua **Sunday July 27th** between Whakatane, Te Puke, Taupo, Tauranga, Rotorua and Mt Maunganui Clubs.

Our club won the **SHIELD**, best across 3 ranks. Team members-  
**Junior** - Lynette Steele, Elaine Genty-Nott, Jenny Fraser, Richard Roberts

**Intermediate** - Tina Dudley, Rosemary Wilkie, Ross Petersen, Barbara Stimson

**Open** - Bren Birss, Alan Parkes, Alan Currie, Graham Stern  
**Well done Mt reps**

### and from Teri, our Club Captain

Hi all - I remember being taught at bridge lessons that if you don't understand what the ops' bidding means, when it's your turn to bid – you may ask. However, that's not entirely correct; after a recent experience at the bidding table I was informed that unless I was intending to bid I was not allowed to ask. Curious now, I went looking into the Director's book – Laws of Duplicate Bridge – to no avail. Asked a few experienced players and directors - Hugh McAlister kindly gave me this answer to use. (thank you – Hugh)

"I don't know of any good reference to this, but my take on it is as follows

1. **LEGALLY**, you are entitled to ask (and be satisfied with the explanation) for an explanation of any bid ... but only when it is your turn to bid or play (at the end of bidding, **you can ask partner to table their lead face down**, if you are not on lead, and ask then). You can ask again in the middle of play, when it is your turn to play.
2. **ETHICALLY**, it is better not to ask during the bidding. The person not on lead will see dummy before they need to play.

A problem we see all too often is less experienced people asking automatically after an alert, more out of curiosity, than a desire to bid"

I must admit to a certain satisfaction when the Ops open 2C, and nothing is asked, nothing is said, and their partner doesn't bid as they have Club support ... and they miss their slam.

*Something to think about* **HAPPY BRIDGE**

**Teri**

Joanne McLean says Yay it's time to welcome the **Brookies** (see portraits here) into our midst. Some have already joined Monday pm sessions and are doing very well, so all were welcomed with a fun evening end of June - No partners needed - drawn partners with supper for all.

A skills evening was great and well attended. It's so good to pick up those extra bits and drill down deeper to consolidate our knowledge, and looking forward to the next one already.

## CLUB RESULTS

Mondays July '25	<b>Ocean Rd Pairs</b>	1st Kay Wright & John Laugesen 2nd Derek Webb & Julie Downs 3rd Kathy King & Rachel Olsen
Mondays 2025	<b>Championship Singles</b>	1st Bren Birss 2nd Margaret Wakelin 3rd Derek Webb
Mondays 2025	<b>Championship Singles Handicap.</b>	1st Judith Robinson 2nd Bren Birss 3rd Chris Gibson
Mondays June '25 pm.	<b>Moa St Handicap Pairs</b>	1st Phyllis Paul & Dianne Beveridge 2nd Mick Werren & Sue Werren 3rd Joanne McLean & Alan McLean
Wednesdays July '25.	<b>Fairway Ave Pairs</b>	1st Megan Richards & Alan Parkes 2nd John Sheridah & Julie Sheridan 3rd Carol Jones & Jenny Fraser
Thursdays July '25	<b>Harcourts Handicap Pairs</b>	1st Nikki Baguley & Jo Craig 2nd Jan Moyes & Dee Drew 3rd Don Espie & Stu Dumbleton
Fridays 2025.	<b>Championship Singles</b>	1st Bren Birss 2nd Barbara Stimson 3rd Carol Grant
Fridays July '25.	<b>Totara St Pairs</b>	1st Liz Gilbert & Hanny Hepburn 2nd Bob Callcut & Mike Nicholson 3rd Chris Gibson & Kathy King

### June'25 **Monday Teams** (20 teams entered, 6 rounds over 3 sessions)

1st **Bridgemates** - Julie Sheridan-Julie Downs-Gilda Rowland-Frances Ball-Fay Irwin.  
 2nd **Stern Looks** - Graham Stern-Bren Birss-Megan Richards-Alan Parkes-Jeannie Bruning  
 3rd **Four W's.** - Derek Webb-Margaret Wakelin-Kay Wright-Pat Ware

### June'25 **Monday Teams Handicap**

1st **Pepper & Salt** - Suzanne Lugton-Lorraine Murrie-Ruth Pepper-Christine Grant-Dot Forbes  
 2nd **The Winners** - Mike Nicholson-Carol Cullen-Barbara Stimson-Helene Paterson  
 3rd **The Dynamos** - Judy Bartlett-Jane Furnish-Margaret Guy-Erika Schofield

Great to have regular reporting of **Tournament Successes** for Spadework.  
 28th June Morrinsville Open B Restricted 1st overall & 1st Open/Open Section **Marcus Dudley & Alan Parkes**

### 10 years ago welcomed **NEW MEMBERS**

Dixie Horne  
 Rae Holmes  
 Jenni Calderwood  
 Teri Logie  
 Mary Pettigrew  
 Grant Rowell

### Upgrade of Rank -

Certificate of Proficiency to Club Master  
**Elaine Genty-Nott**  
 Club Master to Local Master  
**Richard Roberts**

**Saturday 19 July** we hosted another successful tournament, this time, for **Intermediate, Junior** and **Novice** players. The room was chokka with 4 novice tables, 8 Junior and 20 Intermediates. As always, kudos to Gilda Rowland and her team of helpers and kitchen volunteers who kept up our reputation as a hospitable and friendly club and heaps of prizes.

Great to see  
**Coral Brander** and **Lucy Hollister**,  
along with 3rd place-getters  
**Noel Henwood** and **Wayne Hunter** launching into  
the noisy, daunting tournament foray of the  
**Novice Section**



**Intermediate Champs** on the day  
Diane Rodger & Annie Barry with President Michele



Kay Wright & Hillary McKenna 6th  
Intermediate



Top of the Pops **Junior winners** - Alan (preparing for  
photoshoot) and Joanne McLean with Michele Larnder



Ecstatic Jenny Fraser & Richard Roberts 3rd Juniors



Rebecca Bartlett, Joanne Bruce, - 4th Junior comp





Dismay Friday 11th July when Life Member **Noelene Shrimpton** (left) arrives to find the lift out of order due to a power outage at the Mt.  
After Noelene's puff up the stairs, retired medical assistant Bill Ridley wheels Noelene through the door.



Again, Friday 11th July, lights out at the club, emergency lighting only but 10 tables never-the-less. Hasty organising by Julie S and Teri condensed tables and players into the brightest area - the training room, and 30 board play commenced with manual entries and scoring. Phone camera has compensated for low light here - it was dark! Thinking was that wine and nibbles would do for afternoon tea, but the lights came on so it was tea and coffee as normal.



Monday evening 7th July saw 'Welcome New Brookes Night' with 'Thank You' flowers and card to Michele for all her hard work over the past 13 weeks, ably assisted by heaps of helpers.



A new addition to our rooms is the bookcase and contents set up by **Dianne Stevens**. She and hubby are avid readers and Dianne says bridge players are readers too. No Danielle Steele, Jeffrey Archer or Stephen King here, but titles like -  
***The Code Book*** - secret history of codes and code breaking.  
***A brief History of everyone who ever Lived***  
***What If?*** serious scientific answers to Absurd Hypothetical Qs  
oooh what about -  
***Uncle Tungsten*** - the man who mistook his wife for a hat  
***Collapse*** - How societies choose to fail or survive  
and much much more with not a bridge book in sight.  
(Check our other superb library if that's the bedtime reading you prefer)  
Read and pass on or add to your book collection.  
Thanks Dianne for expanding our horizons.

the chair of NZB reports -  
Membership through June grew by 210. Lifting NZ overall  
membership to 12,804.

if you missed it - **from NZ Bridge - please note, tournament players -**

Questions have been asked about the introduction of further ranks above Emerald (hmmmm, not us), the adjustment of gaps between ranks which are not consistent, and how ranks might affect eligibility for graded tournaments. In particular should a player with <50 A points, with rank of Local Master and therefore intermediate in grade and with 20+ stars be eligible for intermediate tournaments? NZ Bridge is asking for feedback on the rankings system and in particular answers to the three points noted above. Please provide feedback submissions to [john.skipper@nzbridge.co.nz](mailto:john.skipper@nzbridge.co.nz) by 10 August 2025. Once submissions have been considered, a draft proposal will be published before a final recommendation is made to the Board of NZ Bridge, hopefully by the end August 2025

*ALSO*

### **ONLINE INTERMEDIATE LESSONS START AUGUST**

The NZB Teaching and Learning Committee has organised online Intermediate lesson – suitable for those who have played a few years.

**Cost:** \$20 for set of 3 lessons or \$8 single lesson

**Where:** Register and pay through HelloClub and you will receive the RealBridge link...

<https://nzbridge.helloclub.com>

**Time:** Lessons are 4-6pm Sundays, repeated 7-9pm the following Tuesdays. Log on at least 15 minutes early, check your camera and microphone, as you will be playing the practice hands.

**AND**

ONLINE  
**IMPROVER  
LESSONS**



THREE WEEKS STARTING  
SUNDAY 10 AUGUST

**\$8 PER SESSION OR \$20 FOR SERIES  
EVERY SUNDAY FROM 4 - 5.30 &  
REPEATED TUESDAYS 7-8.30PM**

**REGISTER AT  
NZBRIDGE.HELLOCLUB.COM**

**FOR INTERMEDIATE/EXPERIENCED  
JUNIOR PLAYERS**

#### **Alert!**

Bren Birss has found someone had stolen her identity four years ago and obtained all sorts of credit in her name and had unpaid credit of thousands of dollars.

It is free and quick and easy to get a credit check at [www.centrix.co.nz](http://www.centrix.co.nz)  
You only need proof of identity such as your drivers licence.

#### **Note from our Treasurer Jane**

It's a great idea to anticipate what / how many sessions you will play in the coming month, deposit that amount before the end of this month to keep your account in credit

It has already been suggested a monthly automatic payment to your Compa\$\$ account will take care of all your bridge finances.