



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

June 2020 (post covid-19 lockdown)

Editor: Julie Downs



from President Diane . . .

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.

Please make yourselves familiar and take seriously the new protocols aimed at keeping us all safe, there is still covid-19 out there and there remains a global pandemic, so we need to be vigilant and keep up our safety protocols. At supper time we do ask everyone to use tongs for biscuits and wash your own cups in the hot soapy water and place them in the dish sanitiser.

Thank you.

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\$\$, more about this to come, there will be lots of support for those who are not familiar with on-line banking, and we are looking at Sept/Oct for this, in the meantime, NO COINS or TABLE MONEY please. You will need to purchase your vouchers with \$20 notes and leave the vouchers on the table. In a few weeks there will be an eftpos machine available, so all you will need then is your bank card, but please be aware there is a small charge if using a credit card.

There has been some changes to the program, please refer to our web site as the list of changes are there, for those who would prefer a print out of the changes there are copies at the front table.

Our Intermediate, Junior and Novice Tournament will be going ahead on the 18th July, would love to see many of our club members joining in. A very special invite to our Novice players, you will find it fun and a great achievement, so please consider entering and coming along. If you have any questions regarding this tournament I'm happy to help out.

I hope you all felt fully informed throughout our club closure.

It will be lovely to see you all. **Diane**

There's a riddle among bridge teachers:
How long does it take to finesse.
Answer: about a year.

Remember - every refused finesse costs half a trick on average.

Life has been a little challenging (no bridge!) but some of our members have known terrible times.

Mike Huymans was born in Holland during World War II and observes, rather laconically, that he managed to survive. He went to high school in Amsterdam and served in the Dutch army in the 1950s. It was during his time in the artillery that he learned to play bridge.

"The commander was a young man who belonged to one of the high society and he did not like the soldiers' card games," says Mike. "So he taught us bridge". The system was called Culbertson - one opened with three tricks in hand and supported your partner with 1.5. We had lots of fun with it, especially when stationed in Germany. It was mid-winter and -35C."

Mike married in 1955 and has six children. He later moved to New Zealand and, after not playing bridge for many years, in 1975 saw a local newspaper advertisement and joined the Morrinsville club with his wife.

They were taught Acol and the "multi-two" system, which is what he still plays. In 1977, the family relocated to the Mount.

And, of course, he joined our bridge club.

During his long membership, Mike has been elected president twice, served as club captain, wrote the first "Spadework" and enjoyed many moments of glory.

Of course, there have been many refinements in the game over the years. Mike has particularly appreciated the introduction of better systems and the use of scoring boxes on the table, giving instant results.

But his highlight was being made a life member. Although he also loves travel and has been back to Europe nearly a dozen times, Mike says the club is his second home.

"It's where all my friends are. You have no idea how much I appreciate the friendship and the rivalry," he says. "I also feel proud that I was part of the club's growth and helped in that."

Needless to say, he can't wait to get back to the tables ...

- Interview by Club Captain Teri

Warm clothes for kiwi fruit workers

Thank you so much to the generous members who donated clothing, blankets and bedding.



Bren reported to the Committee she delivered an entire carload of warm clothes and bedding to the Te Puke seasonal workers' accommodation. Many thanks to our wonderful Club members for their generosity. The

kiwifruit workers were very grateful. They would love any more spare blankets that people have, as they find the nights particularly cold. Thanks,

Bren ph 5752474. mob 0272560774

Proposed new programme for Bridge Lessons.

Lessons at the Mount Bridge Club will restart on

Thursday 25th June

with a revision, then continue each Thursday with extra optional practice sessions at 2.30 most Sundays.

25.6.20 revision
2.7.20 balanced hands
9.7.20 responder's rebids
16.7.20 overcalls
23.7.20 revision
30.7.20 takeout doubles
6.8.20 pre-emptive openings
13.8.20 strong opening bids
20.8.20 revision and **graduation**

Extra practice will be offered most Sunday afternoons.

Participants can still also access Tauranga's Tuesday lessons, but should just check with Carolyn Parker that the same lesson is being taught that week. Her number is 576 4204 or 027 4357457.

Then on **Monday 24th August** we will introduce participants to supported Monday play with a 'Welcome new Brookies' evening, when the regular Monday evening players bring supper and show them what a lovely, friendly group they are joining!

It would be great if the wonderful regular helpers can let me know which lessons they will be available for. Thanks.

At present we have no idea how many will wish to continue lessons now and how many would prefer to restart next year. A separate email is being sent to the participants encouraging them to continue lessons now. **Bren**

New systems for payment.

The committee are introducing a 'staged approach' to eliminate the need to handle cash (notes & coins).

1. June 2020, we will not accept coins. Members need to bring \$20 notes only. There will be no change available. PLEASE bring your \$20 notes with you or your pre-purchased vouchers.

2. From 1 July 2020, we will not accept cash (notes or coins). Members will purchase vouchers using their eftpos/debit card or credit card at the club. A \$1 dollar transaction fee will be included for those using a debit or credit card (not if using an eftpos card). Visitors will pay by card at the club. Members will need to allow time before start of play for purchasing their vouchers. PLEASE always bring your bank card with you.

3. By the end of the year we are planning to have Account Management Software (Compass\$). Members will no longer purchase vouchers. Members will have an account with the club and are required to have a \$10 minimum balance of funds at the end of each month. Members will receive monthly notification of their account balance by email. Members are encouraged to keep their account in funds by setting up an automatic weekly or monthly transfer from their bank account to the club's bank account. Alternatively, they may top up their account by using their eftpos/debit or credit card at the club before start of play. Visitors will pay by card at the club before start of play. PLEASE always bring your bank card with you. **JANE**

From Monday night reporter Sharyn -

Thanks ...

A big shoutout to those troupers in our (and Tauranga) clubs who arranged for many of us to play online during the lockdown period.

A special thank you to our **Emma Barber** who organized our Monday night players to play casually against one another on 'BBO' (Bridge Base Online). I hope you had fun, and could practice your bidding and playing techniques?

A big 'thanks' also to those in both Tauranga and Mt Maunganui clubs who facilitated the competitive games on BBO. Well done to any of our Monday players who were brave enough to take on the experienced competitors!!

In Support of our Sponsors

Rialto Theatre

Devonport Rd Tauranga ph 5770445

Good News - the Rialto is one of the few theatres that have opened post lock-down!

But wait - there's more . . .

All screenings Mon - Fri only \$10.

(excludes any special opera or theatre showings).

As usual there's assisted listening, comfy arm chairs and mini trays in all 3 theatres.

It may pay to book as this fantastic offer is bound to be popular once the news gets out.