



SPADEWORK

June 2026 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs



from our President Michele . . .

We are past the longest day and the Matariki stars point to the longer days ahead – all the better to play Bridge. Our Monday and Thursday sessions are very well attended with a spirit of lively and enjoyable competition. Please note the upcoming Skills sessions being run on the last Monday of the month for the next four months. There will be sessions for both beginners and improvers. The club email will keep you informed of the topics and everyone is welcome. A great thanks to Gilda, Graham, Judith and Pamela, for their time presenting these sessions.

The lessons have now officially been completed and
27 learners graduated last week.

Here is a profile of our class:

6 current members repeating the lessons

5 players who have learned at other clubs

16 total newbies to the game.

2 of our newbies are **departing** for other towns leaving **14 new members** who are just starting their bridge journey at the Mt Maunganui Bridge Club.

We will continue to support them with sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you are an experienced player and able to help on Wednesdays, we would very much value your time.

It is invaluable to have a player of Graham Stern's ability leading the teaching team. We appreciate the time and effort he puts into lessons, reducing the complexity to a level that is intelligible to someone new to the game. NZ Bridge is also to be thanked for all the work that has been done on the modules for our learners. We have extended the length of the lesson programme to 16 weeks. As a consequence, we have seen a much higher retention rate.

However, this does mean a big commitment from the teaching team. Kay Burnie has supported Graham and myself for all sessions and Dianne Stevens is always there on Wednesdays.

A would like to thank the team for their amazing support this year.

Michele

*this month sees a new column for
Spadework to be billed as*

'Aces and Spades'

our first **Ace**, **Gilda Rowland** commends the members who keep the club treasurer happy and our club sustainable with -

NATIONAL PARTY – “SUPER BLUES”

As many of you already know (because you've enjoyed some of the leftovers!) Mt Bridge Club hosts Tom Rutherford's (MP for Bay of Plenty) electorate “Super Blues” monthly meeting and morning tea.

The meeting consists of morning tea, followed by introductory comments by Tom, a guest speaker and question time. Speakers are MPs from different electorates throughout the country and in May we heard Shane Reti speak to an enthusiastic audience of 100! (A trifle disconcerting when we were advised there would be 75 in attendance!) The Club has regular rostered volunteers and we went from nervous hosts and caterers to experienced “staff” within a very short space of time. **Dianne Stevens, Isobel McIntyre, Sharyn Martin and Jane Larsen make up one team**, and **Erika Schofield, Carolyn Toy and Carol Jones** make up the other team. We also now have a list of 6 or 8 “casuals” who are happy to be called upon when someone's away. Some kind Club members donate baking, bread, and sandwich fillings occasionally which is a great help as well as helping defray Club costs.

The Club has been hosting this group for three years now and in 2025 made a profit of over \$5,000. Of course this would be \$0,000 if the “staff” were being paid!!! It's a massive contribution from these wonderful workers and the Club is privileged to have such enthusiastic members.

Gilda - Coordinator.

CLUB RESULTS

Mondays June '26
pm

**Bunnings
Handicap Pairs**

1st. Lucy Hollister & Jo Craig

2nd Joy Elder & Ann Dorey

3rd. Rose Curtis & Alan Winstanley

Wednesdays June '26.

**Atlantic
Handicap Pairs**

1st Tina Dudley & Rosemary Wilkey

2nd Rebecca Bartlett & Judy Bartlett

3rd Barbara Stimson & Carol Cullen

Thursdays June '26

**Baywave
Handicap Pairs**

1st Graeme Boyd & Bernie Robinson

2nd Bob Callcut & Helene Paterson

3rd Ngaire Short & Mary Pettigrew

Fridays May '26 **Championship Singles**

1st Ross Petersen

2nd Mike Nicholson

3rd Carol Grant

North plays very slowly. They are asked to speed it up a bit. Reply: "I'm sorry, but I can't think and play bridge at the same time."

Over **King's Birthday** long weekend, a troupe of keen players attended the annual **Hawkes Bay Congress**. Success for Mt Bridge Club players included -
Open Swiss Pairs, out of 60 pairs, Bruce Inglis & Alan Currie 5th, Julie Sheridan & Claire McAllister 9th
Welcome Pairs 1st Julie Sheridan & Claire McAllister 4th Alan Parkes & Graham Stern
Intermediate Teams 1st Kevin Jensen (Mt) and team mates 2nd our Mt Team =
Barbara Stimson Teri Logie Jane Furnish Peter Furnish (pictured right) -
Open Teams - 6th Marcus, Tina and teammates



our SPONSOR

RYAN DOUBLE GLAZING

was a generous donor of spot prizes at the recent Omokoroa tournament. Annie Barry was lucky to win a packaged quartet of chutneys.
thanks Jo and Co.

Congratulations and Acclaim - recent Promotions

Certificate of Proficiency to Club Master

**Dee Drew
Kerrily Hodgson**

Novice to Certificate of Proficiency
Wayne Hunter

Learn from two successful partners

better to understand, tweak, refine or adjust your established partnership.

Graham Stern and Bren Birss are offering their skills to propel your bridge relationship to a top-scoring level. All details on the notice board or see Graham or Bren.

EVER WONDERED

WHAT A B and C POINTS ARE FOR OR MEAN?

A points are awarded to players who finish in the top placings of approved tournaments, and to all session winners of Pairs Tournaments approved for the award of A Points. Fractional A points are awarded to the winners of each match in approved A Point Match-Play (teams).

B points are awarded to players who finish in the top placings of approved tournaments which do not qualify for the award of A Points, and to all session winners of Pairs Tournaments approved for the award of B Points.

C points are awarded to players who are successful in any one session of play organised by a licensed club, Region, or the NZ Bridge. B Points are not convertible to A Points. C Points are converted to B Points in the ratio of 100 C Points to one B Point.

So all you 'C' pointers, you probably have B points too - check yours on line at <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz>

Saturday 30 May '26 saw a great turnout at the **Omokoroa Bridge Club** tournament with Intermediate 12, and Junior 10 tables.

We had a great turnout of juniors from the Mt club; **Kerrily & Wayne, Alison Love and Sue Ranger**, best Novices on the day and thanks **Philippa Edwards** for partnering an Omokoroa player.

Ross Petersen reports -

This was the first tournament in over 10 years, held in the spacious Omokoroa Sports Pavillion, to be hosted by the club. The club uses the space along with other community groups which explains the mirrored walls (for ballet dancers). For a nominal rent, the club has storage for tables and bridge kit, use of a great kitchen and unisex toilets.

The organisers were concerned in the lead-up that all the right boxes had been carefully ticked, resources were sufficient and that the space and wireless communications would be adequate to cope with a much larger crowd than we are normally accustomed to at the Club.

We need not have worried. As the day approached and the numbers enrolling swelled, it was apparent that things were falling into place. Extra tables, tablecloths and stools were obtained, some kindly lent by our neighbour Katikati, and a grant enabled the purchase of additional tablets. Extensive testing of the layout and software capability and the securing of suitable sponsors was clinched by Mark Lynch and Andrew Reynolds of the Tournament sub-committee.

On the day there were raffles, spot prizes and many prize envelopes. 22 tables was a record for our club - luckily Mark had tested the spacing so that no-one could accidentally swing a full cup of coffee into the face of an adjacent declarer. By all accounts everyone had an enjoyable day- the sun shone through the windows to warm some sore shoulders in the afternoon, and there were frequent trips to the trestle tables laden with good old Omokoroa home baking!

President, **Hannelore Kemme** noted: 'We feel the tournament was a huge success. We had participants from ten Waikato-Bays clubs. I felt a very happy buzz after play; people were enjoying drinks and nibbles and we received many compliments. I am proud of all involved and all who came!'

Congratulations to all participants who travelled to the tournament for helping to make the day such a success for our Omokoroa Club members. We truly appreciated the support of our sister clubs, of which the Mount Club was a prime example'.



left -
Alison Love & Sue Ranger -
winners
Novice section,
Omokoroa



Intermediate winners
Omokoroa
Janice Simpson & Julie Downs



MORE DRAMA @ OMOKOROA'S TOURNAMENT - story from **Annie Barry** . . .

Well I guess in anyone's language, **7 penalties** by one player in rugby is 'sin bin' material, but **7 penalty cards** in one bridge hand is a big faux pas.

My partner Flo had opened the bidding with 1H. Opps followed with 1S and I countered in hearts thinking to myself a possible slam was in the offing. Not to be outdone, opponents bid 5S whereupon Flo doubled. With no hesitation, **I'm laying down my dummy's hand before the opposition has time to lead.**

One look on Flo's astonished face with eyes leaving their sockets said it all.

Oh bloody hell, What had I done, how could I be so stupid??

Director Mike was summoned to face the shock of most of my hand neatly laid out for all to see.

"Hmmm" says Mike "lets see, 7 penalty cards in all. Just keep them all on the table and declarer, play on" Yes, 0%, but I did get a mention at Prize Giving as "a person, not to be named, who gave director his first ruling on a situation he had never come across before".

Despite Annie's **faux pas extremus**, she and partner Flo Nield scored a commendable NS 2nd place with 54.5%

Address and Emergency Contact details

Many of our records are out of date. Please reply to mtbridgeclubnews@gmail.com with your name, address and emergency contact details so we can update our records.

Good time to top up your account for next month's play.

mega-stars **Teri Logie** and **Gilda Rowland** competed in the recent BOP pairs at Te Puke. Whilst they mostly battled against NZ rep players and open graders, undaunted, Teri bid to slam in 6D.

x goes opponents
xx bids Teri
yes, 6D xx made for a score +2230

Well done team!

it's end of June and our king pin tutors Graham Stern & Michele Larnder are looking forward to launching their bridge disciples into their 1st skills night 29th June. (schedule to right >>>)

-any grades welcome

Seated at 6.50pm for 7pm start please.

"Welcome to New Brookies"

kicks off 6th July when our newest members start to play in the regular Monday night programme.

DATE	ADVANCERS TOPIC	TEACHER	JUNIOR TOPIC	TEACHER
29 th June	Transfers	Judith	Gerber/Blackwood	Michele
27 th July	Couples	Gilda	Escape 1NTX	Michele
31 st Aug	FBA	Kate Terry	No trump play	Graham
28 th Sept	Loser Count	Gilda & Judith	Declarer Play	Graham



4th round of **BAY PAIRS**, hosted by Te Puke, was held Sunday 21st June.
3rd overall and top non-open pair were Annie Barry and Flo Nield (left).
4th overall Dianne Rodger and Lyn Bailie (right)