



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

March 2023 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs

from President Michele -

Great to see the beautiful autumn weather is not distracting players from some great Bridge games. We are getting very good numbers of tables at all our sessions and the general ambience is pleasant and relaxed making for enjoyable Bridge. Welcome to all our new members who have joined us this year.

We hope to see many of you at our 1st Tournament of the year - our 3A Multigrade Pairs. Many thanks to our Club Captain Teri for the organisation of this event, Diane Roger for her work as convenor and thank you to all those helping in the myriad of ways that are required for such an event to run smoothly. Our Sponsor for this Tournament is Pacific Coast Village. Entry details are on the NZ Bridge website.

Lessons have got off to a good start and more details are included in a separate section of this newsletter. After our first Monday night session, we felt that the configuration of the room was not quite right. So yet again, we turned to the skills of Bernie Robinson and Andrew Sheridan to relocate the TV and notice board - we are very grateful for their help. Bernie also put up and took down all our notices about the lessons. They are an invaluable way to advertise; feedback from our students shows that 50% became aware of the lessons via this form of communication. The other key to the healthy numbers of learners we have this year was from club members encouraging family and friends to come and have a go - so a big thank you to our members.

We have a keen group of tutors who have offered to run skills sessions for our Novice and Junior players once a month. These sessions help develop playing skills that are not taught during the beginner programme. This month Helen Heuvel will be helping players with signals and discards and last month Judith Sommerville covered Stayman and transfers.

For our more advanced players we will be offering discussion sessions run by one of our open players Rachelle Pelkman.

These will take place at 6.30pm prior to our Wednesday evening session and run for 20 minutes. The topics and dates that these will take place will be communicated via our club email.

All the best in Bridge.

Michele

Club Captain Teri writes ...

Summer is nearly gone, but bridge remains.

"The real test of a bridge player isn't keeping out of **trouble** but in escaping once they're in" - (Alfred Sheinwold)

Keep out of **trouble** by keeping a personal score sheet, and don't rush to pick up your cards at the end of a board, wait until all four players are agreed on the result. These two tips could save a lot of angst. Another tip - don't touch or pull out a card from your hand before your turn - for an experienced opposition trying to do a finesse, this is a huge flag for them that the finesse will work!

Happy Bridge Teri

2023 Bridge Lessons for beginners ...

Our beginner classes have got off to an excellent start. We have 24 enrolled our Monday night session and a further 6 enrolled on Wednesday afternoon.

Graham Stern is taking the Monday lessons.

During April, Pamela Pedersen & Megan Richards will step in for him while he is away. The Wednesday group are taught by Gilda Rowland & Dianne Roger. Not only do we need good teachers for the lessons, but we also need a team of helpers who assist learners during the practical play part of the lessons.

The able assistants this year are Kay Burnie, Barry Crosby, Dianne Stevens, Francis Ball, Phil West, Mary Keane and Michele Larnder.

Isobel McIntyre fielded all enquiries and helped with welcome packs and name badges. A key member of the team is Annette Dand who ensures that each week the lesson notes are printed, and the boards are dealt for the play section of the lessons.

The 'newbies' are having lots of fun and are enjoying the experience of learning the game. The lessons have a very positive atmosphere, and this bodes well for a group of new members joining us later in the year.

Thought: why isn't there a gender neutral term for bridge rankings? Do all us girls have to strive to be masters?



CLUB RESULTS

Mondays Mar'23	Hot Pools Pairs	1st Barry Crosby & Martin Van Der Meys 2nd Dot Skousgaard & John Laugesen 3rd Bill Armstrong & Carol Grant
Mondays pm Feb'23	F Shrimpton Memorial Handicap Pairs	1st Laurelle Breen & Brian Breen 2nd Elaine Genty-Nott & Lynette Steele 3rd Philip Brown & Jude Brown
Wednesdays Feb '23	Ultimate Motors Handicap Singles	1st Diane Beveridge 2nd Julie Sheridan 3rd Audrey Gardiner
Fridays Feb'23	Pacific Coast Friday Pairs	1st Carol Grant & Flo Nield 2nd Joe Brown & Rachel Olsen 3rd Linley Hay & Anne Clarke

update from NZ Bridge 2023 Congress (and a great local appointment!)

Believe it or not, planning for Congress 2023 is well underway. Bridget Willcox (better known as Bridget Hannaway) has been appointed as Congress Events Manager. She will be ably supported by **Teri Logie** who assumes the role vacated by Lesley Chubb as **Congress Manager**. They have big shoes to fill but we are confident they will be successful. Please support them and make their lives a little easier. We want to see Congress grow in strength and numbers. We want to ensure Congress is a rewarding experience, with players wanting to return year after year.

* * Additionally, Teri will be looking for caddies to work at congress and is also looking to encourage junior and novices to enter.

In a novice game declarer calls director over to the table and tells him they are playing a slam contract and they have won the opening lead, played the ace and ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, and ruffed a diamond. The director, impressed, asks him why he has been called over. The declarer tells him that the contract is 6NT.

Thanking our Sponsors ... **ULTIMATE MOTORS Mt Maunganui**



150 Hewletts Rd
visit for the smallest Mazda to the
biggest 2023 Ford Ranger - something
to suit every bridge player stuck in
traffic.
ph 07 5790180

our club was sad to say a final farewell to **Jan Kirk** late February.
Jan was President in 2005 and 2006.

As we know Jan was a very friendly person, a hard worker and enthusiastic about anything she took on. When she joined the bridge club she soon became a member of the committee and always a keen helper. Jan was also great in the kitchen on Tournament Days, slaving away with Daphne Ansell. Latterly, Jan moved to retirement village Pacific Coast. She was among the first residents and soon became very involved there and especially enjoyed singing in their choir. After a while she resigned from the bridge club as it clashed with village activities. She was plagued by ill health in later years but we were pleased to welcome Jan to our new building opening late last year. She was a very caring person as was borne out by the very large number who turned out for her service at the Tauranga Yacht Club. She will leave happy memories to many people and we too will have memories of Jan Kirk as her name scrolls through on our digital past Presidents honours board.

News from our sister club @ Tauranga who are sad to farewell two 'greats' from their ranks.

Alan Turner was a major contributor to bridge as a player, teacher, administrator and NZ Bridge board member. His passing is the loss of another personality who influenced and shaped our game. In 2018 Alan was awarded a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for his many years service to bridge.

Administrator **Norm Silcock** leaves after 25 years for further adventures. However, Norm has agreed to continue as our tournament director and trouble shooter for most bridge related matters. Norm will be replaced by Omokoroa bridge identity Tracey Mancer.

One of our newest committee members is Provincial Master **Frances Ball**. Here she shares her earlier life experiences and introduction to the bridge table.

I grew up in Upper Hutt, trained as a Medical Laboratory Scientist at the Lower Hutt Hospital, met and married husband Reg in Wellington. It wasn't long before we moved to the Waikato and I joined the laboratory at Waikato Hospital. Little did I know that Ross Peterson had worked there before me and only found this out last year when I met Ross at the bridge table! This was in the 80's. I also met Spadework editor Julie Downs at the lab, and together with a few others, started bridge lessons and also played in our lunch hour. I think there were 5 or 6 of us, and even with shift duties, we were usually able to get a four. Julie and I were keen too and had lots of fun practising our new found knowledge, dangerous though it was. My Mum and Dad had played bridge at home and Dad at the bridge club.

Dad was a good bridge player but always keen on a gamble - gambling 3NT that is! Pretty unusual for the conservative accountant he was.

It wasn't long before we were on the move again to Auckland where Reg and I turned up early for our first night of bridge at Akarana Bridge Club. We were turned away and told to return at 7.30 by a guy in ripped shorts, a zinc covered nose and bare feet. The caretaker we thought, but no, he was the president. It was the under 30's club and heaps of fun. Anything went, including yelling out a smart remark in the middle of a game. Lionel Wright had the loudest laugh and I quickly settled into playing with his wife Noleen.

(for those that don't know, Lionel Wright is frequent NZ rep bridge player)

It was here I learnt never to be afraid of the better players but to learn from them as much as you can.

Also in Auckland we played social bridge at someone's place - I clearly remember a great night at the home of Michele (your new president!) and Steve Larnder.

Then came the children, 3 in 3 years and 2 days. You could say they kept me busy for a while but gradually I made it back to the bridge table. I really enjoyed the different discussions, not babies, boobs and sleepless nights but who was with who, joking, world happenings, different personalities, interesting people and fun. I entered a few tournaments over the years and there was the odd year that I didn't play but always returned.

Once I was asked by Lionel to do a little job. He, Mike Cornell (Gold Grand Master) and Malcom Sims had formed a betting syndicate where one would score horses and run a weekly programme that would allocate their fund of \$3000 to the scored horses in a set horse race. Lionel was going away for 3 weeks and asked me to run the programme that would tell me how to place the bets at the TAB over the phone. Never having done this kind of thing before I was told there would be \$9000 dollars in the fund. First week no trouble, I placed the bets on the big race but the 2nd week when I tried to place the bets, I was told I couldn't. "What's the problem?" I asked. Reply . . . "There's no money in the account. Hows that? Someone took the money out on Wednesday." That's the nature of the beast.

Years went by, and one day in Auckland I was asked by this lady if I remembered her. I didn't. It was Julie D and luckily she remembered me and we talked lots. Many years later I was asked the same question by the same lady who got the same answer. This time it was at Te Puke at the Bay Pairs last year. Reg and I had left Auckland and rented in Rotorua where our daughter lives, while waiting to move into our Papamoa house. I played with a lovely Rotorua man at Te Puke and Julie recognised me again, thank goodness.

Happily, she introduced me to bridge at our Mt Maunganui Club, Tauranga Bridge Club and Tauranga croquet.

Happy Bridging.

"How to read Your Opponents Cards -The Bridge Experts Way to Locate Missing High Cards"

By Mike Lawrence

After being asked to review a book from the Library, I discovered they had a copy of the Mike Lawrence's book that I had recently purchased. If you are interested in working on how you "think" about bridge, not so much the technical card play of what to do with a given card combination or how to execute a squeeze or how to bid that skinny slam, this could be the book for you.

I have several of Mike's books on various topics, he writes well, clearly explains his points without getting overcomplicated or long winded. The title tells all in 170 odd pages. Mike discusses how to take in all the information given at the table in the bidding and the leads and card play, then actually think about that with a purpose and use it to help you play the hand.

Mike starts you off with examples of this process and builds on it through successive chapters but you don't just get to read about how to do it, each chapter ends with a quiz and he suggests you don't move on to the next chapter until you have understood the thought processes in the previous chapter and quiz questions even if you haven't got every answer right.

A great book to help you organise your thoughts about how to play and defend the hand, find that missing K, work out if your partner has a side entry and plan the play of the hand after making some informed deductions, it will help bring out your inner Sherlock Holmes.

I actually would prefer it if you didn't read it, as it will make it easier for me when I play you at the table, especially now I've read and reviewed it.

Megan Richards.

and further instruction . . .

From 12 April at 6.30pm on Wednesday Nights
Rachelle Pelkman has volunteered to share her knowledge and experience in bite sized bits for 15 minutes before start of play. We can all benefit from this. everyone welcome, even if you don't stay for the session.