



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

May 2026 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs



from our President Michele . . .

As May draws to a close our new learners are almost at the end of their formal lessons. NZ Bridge has developed new learning resources this year and the lessons have included more attention to play compared to the previous programme. The teaching and learning committee are to be congratulated on the immense amount of work they have dedicated to improving the resources they have provided for clubs to teach this great game to their students.

Supported on-line play is back following a successful season in 2025. This programme is for our learners, emerging and improving bridge enthusiasts. Now they can practice everything we taught them about bidding, declarer play, and defence, from the warmth of their own home!

Monday night offers part of our programme to integrate our new players into the game. This year we opened up play to our intermediate players and introduced two concurrent sections, enabling players to choose between and junior and intermediate sections. Recently our juniors decided to join the more experienced players, in order to further their playing skills.

As the learners graduate into playing sessions we may go back to the two-section format.

We would like to see more of our junior and intermediate players attend Monday nights. Far better entertainment compared to TV with supper and great company! Think about joining us.

The Omanu Charitable Trust, who own the building that houses our club rooms, has recently appointed a new building manager, Chris Emmett.

Prior to taking over this role Chris was Regional Manager of Surf Life Saving New Zealand and operated out the Omanu Rescue centre. Due to this, Chris has a good working knowledge of the building and the tenants. He will oversee all the compliance issues related to a building of this scale and he will also be our point of contact for any concerns.

"Many games provide fun, but Bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but Bridge prevents the rust from forming."

– Omar Sharif..

Club Captain Teri writes ...

Hi All

Just a reminder – please don't come to bridge if you feel you are becoming ill, feeling unwell or have the signs of a cold! Thanks

May I encourage all our members to enter into tournaments – particularly our home events. Te Puke Restricted Tournament last weekend was notable in the fact that so many of their members played.

Our Novice, Junior and Intermediate Tournament is on 18th July.

We can only take 30 tables, so now is good to enter!

System Cards – If you enter a tournament, you and your partner must have a system card.

There is a standard basic system card available on the NZ Bridge website or ask a committee member to issue you one. Having this system card is part of all tournament regulations which are found in the NZ Bridge Manual, and also included in supplementary regulations. The director can use it to answer any queries, plus your opposition has the right to study it.

And you can study theirs!

Monday Nights -

Restating President Michele's message, we're calling for more Intermediates and Juniors to Monday nights. Think of the benefits - TV is not as good for you as bridge! Cup of tea, a biscuit, company and a session all for 6 bucks!

Lucy Hollister is keen to find you a partner, phone 027 294 5562

Happy Bridge **Teri Logie**

sharpening our game -

When opening 1 club, it is correct to please explain how many clubs ie. 2 plus, 3 plus, 4 plus, **not** 'could be short'.

Additionally, a INT opener by partner needs clarification. Please explain ie. 11-14 pts, 15 - 17pts, 16-18pts.

CLUB RESULTS

Mondays May'26	AYC Handicap Pairs	1st Carol Grant & Helen Francis 2nd Mike Nicholson & Carol Cullen 3rd Suzanne Lugton & Barbara Stimson
Mondays May'26 pm	Stuart Pedersen Memorial Handicap Pairs NOVICE	1st Alison Thompson & Sue Ranger 2nd Catherine Laffey & Grant Laffey 3rd Claire Beard & Joy Elder
Mondays May'26 pm	Stuart Pedersen Memorial Handicap Pairs JUNIOR	1st Wayne Hunter & Kerrily Hodgson 2nd Janet Dunn & Joanne Bruce 3rd Brian Breen & Laurelle Breen
Mondays May'26 pm	Stuart Pedersen Memorial Handicap Pairs INTERMEDIATE	1st Jane Furnish & Peter Furnish 2nd Teri Logie & Michele Rogers
Wednesday April'26	Helen Charteris, Pianist, Handicap Pairs	1st Liz Dey & Michele Rogers 2nd Nikki Baguley & Mark Wardill 3rd Jane Furnish & Peter Furnish
Thursdays May'26	M H Rogers Optometrist Handicap Pairs	1st Dot Skousgaard & Julie Sheridan 2nd Gloria Mouatt & Janice Simpson 3rd Dixie Horne & Erika Schofield
Fridays May '26	Forsyth Barr Pairs	1st Bren Birss & Graham Stern 2nd= Jeannie Bruning & Joe Brown 2nd= Hanny Hepburn & Nancye Ward

Wednesdays May'26 (bird theme) Teams

1st Parrots	Graham Stern, Alan Parkes, Frances Ball, Tina Dudley.
2nd Kingfishers	John Sheridan, Julie Sheridan, Marcus Dudley, Alan Currie
3rd Peacocks	Julia Gardiner, Steve Larnder, Michele Larnder, Peter Uffindell

Wednesdays May'26 Handicap Teams

1st Sparrows	Christine Grant, John Strawbridge, Judith Somerville, Dianne Stevens, Isobel McIntyre
2nd Peacocks	Julia Gardiner, Steve Larnder, Michele Larnder, Peter Uffindell
3rd Ducks.	Barbara Stimson, Helene Paterson, Mike Nicholson, Carol Cullen, Ross Petersen

More Bridge . . .

Online Supported Play Sessions for Novice and First year Junior players on Sunday afternoons will start and run through June, July and August.

When starts Sunday 21 June 16:00 – 18:00
Register for individual sessions or the whole season.

Each session costs \$5, or the whole season costs \$25. Attend one or all for the cost of the season.
Register on the **NZB Helloclub** website.

<https://nzbridge.helloclub.com/public/event/69ec001cc9364fcca119cca1/online-supported-play>

Sister Club Tauranga is thrilled to share with us that their very own **Kate Terry** has reached the lofty heights of **Silver Grand Master.**

For those of you that might be curious about just what it takes to reach this remarkable achievement: you must earn 2,500 combined A and B points with at least 1,250 of those being A points. For context, if you win a club session you essentially get 0.4 B points...

So make sure to congratulate Kate the next time you see her at the bridge table, which could be a while since she's now in Rarotonga on holiday.
Impeccable timing!

Not Silver Grand Masters, but many of our **Mt Maunganui Club** members have excelled at **Bridge Tournaments** over the last month.

16th May - Swiss Pairs held at Te Awamutu **Marcus Dudley** and Aini Su 2nd overall.
Lyn Bailie and Dianne Rodger, commendable 10th out of 38 pairs

23rd May - TePuke Restricted Pairs **Bob Callcut and John Laugesen** 3rd overall and best Intermediate pairing.

24th May - Round 2 Bay Pairs held at the Tauranga Club, overall results

6th **Tina Dudley and Rosemary Wilkey**

7th and best Intermediate pairing **Janice Simpson and Julie Downs**

8th **Joy Bates and Frances Ball**

9th **Ruth Sweatman and Kay Wright**

10th **Marcus Dudley** and Grace Wang



Janice Simpson & Julie Downs, top intermediate pair, Bay Pairs, Tauranga



Te Awamutu 2nd, Marcus Dudley & Aini Su

Available is the latest update to the **NZ Bridge Marketing and PR Plan for 2026**, focused on Regions and Clubs Strategic Activation. A key priority this year is ensuring that everyone feels included in - and able to contribute to - a shared national story about bridge as a welcoming, social, and intellectually rewarding activity.

We would love Regions and Clubs to be active participants in the plan by sharing local stories, ideas, initiatives, and successes. Whether through events, community partnerships or simply showcasing the enjoyment and connection bridge brings, every club has something valuable to contribute.

Thank you again for the energy, commitment, and effort that you all continue to contribute to bridge. The momentum behind bridge visibility and engagement is building, and we would love as many clubs and regions as possible to help shape the next stage of that journey.

If members would like to read 19 pages of NZB marketing strategy, please consult NZB website

A little JOKE

A Mt player loves voids. Once they had only 12 cards including a spade void. Director comes over and finds the Spade Ace under the table and gives it to the player. "Now you've gone and ruined my whole hand" player

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Jensen from Rotorua.
Mark Newman

CHANGES AND RANK PROMOTIONS

Novice to Certificate of Proficiency

Sue Ranger
Alison Thompson

. . . the big hand . . . The Rule of 29

Note: that when Bidding **2C**, and you are **NOT** playing the **Rule of 29** - your partner must alert this - do not announce it, circle the bid. If asked, state - it is "game forcing" "game encouraging" or whatever your system is.

The **Rule of 29** in bridge is a guideline used to determine if a hand is strong enough to justify an artificial, game-forcing **2C** opening bid, even if you fall short of the traditional 22+ High Card Points (HCP).

How to Calculate the Rule of 29

Add your **HCP** and the total number of cards in your **two longest suits**. i.e of 29 Total = HCP+ Length of Longest Suit + Length of Second Longest Suit. Apply It If your total is **29 or more**, your hand is powerful enough to force a game contract.

- You can consider opening **2C**, even with as few as 19 HCP, if your suit distribution is long and highly trick-playable.

Example

Suppose you hold a hand with 19 HCP and a 6-5-1-1 distribution (6 spades, 5 hearts, 1 diamond, 1 club).

- HCP: 19
- Longest suit: 6
- Second longest suit: 5
- Total: $19 + 6 + 5 = 30$

Because 30 is greater than 29, this hand qualifies for a strong 2C opener despite having fewer than 22 points

“Note: The Rule of 29 is a supplemental guideline rather than an unbreakable law. It is particularly noted in the NZ Bridge Manual as a metric for Game Force hands. Always discuss with your partner beforehand if you plan to use it!



2 good things happen at month's end -
Spadework is published and
Time to top up your Compa\$\$ account

President Michele has noted above how well the lessons are going for 2026. But tutor Graham Stern reports there's still a way to go. He has yet to cover 'big' hands, pre-empt and weak 2's but is really pleased with the tenacity of his group and we hope to see them join our regular sessions before too long.

