Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

OCTOBER 2026 Editor: Julie Downs

Here's a repurposed first message from our

President Michele, ... currently enjoying Kuta, Ubud and Indonesian fare from Bali . . .

- a reminder, and to appreciate the work Julie Sheridan still contributes to our club . . .

Welcome to 2023. Already the year has had its challenges and we have been very lucky in the Bay of Plenty to have escaped the worst impacts of the extreme weather. However, even in our region landslides have meant the loss of homes. Thanks to Teri who has been co-ordinating with the Aero Club and had taken Bridge club contributions for people in Napier and Gisborne down to their centre. We did cancel 2 sessions on the Monday 13th February '23 when the conditions in Tauranga were threatening and the rescue centre was being used as a response headquarters.

At the recent AGM **Julie Sheridan** was unanimously voted a **Life Membership.** Most members are well aware of the large contribution that Julie makes to the smooth running of the club. Over the last two years I have been on the committee I have seen first hand just how much time and energy she puts in. Her IT and organisational skills and knowledge of the game of Bridge are truly impressive.

Our club mission statement is -

to provide a friendly, welcoming environment for all those who enjoy the game of bridge.

As a committee our aim to is make our Bridge sessions run efficiently to ensure all players enjoy their game. If there are aspects you think we can improve, please talk to a committee member and we will investigate the matter.

I look forward to this year as President of an exciting and thriving club and know I will be well supported by an extremely capable committee.

from the **'Michele Larnder Archives'**



Your bridge club needs you

Looking for admin enthusiast
Or Excel Expert
Or general help
To help out on a Saturday morning occasionally - see if there's something you can help with from the above list
possibly to be on the committee but not necessarily

contact Teri please.

Our October Spades are the

Saturday Team

- those, mostly committee members, who ditch their normal Saturday mornings to ensure effortless club happenings for the coming week.
- Their check list includes -
- *bathroom supplies restocked
- *post Compa$$ charges to players
- *Bridgemates charged
- *sufficient hands dealt
- *toilets presentable and rubbish free
- *blue ice cream tubs complete
- *update membership changes
- *produce notice list for following week
- *kitchen checklist ?stained cups, fridge clean, supplies and water cooler ok?
- *collate final comps and winners and trophies for the year
- *enough new packs of cards available
- *arrange for Wed social afternoon cards and hand records
- and, *clerical work - banking, reimburse directors
- *create 2027 programme book
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and our October ace, not Martha Stewart but our own decorator queen, Julie Hawkes.

Our new-look rooms, completed in 2022 were elevated by Julie re purposing our old notice boards with black hessian trim and matching any additional items or furniture since acquired with black paint.

Of note, the library book case, jigsaw stand and reading bureau. And touching up any bumps and scratches. thanks Julie.

Laugh corner

They were at a concert. Said she, a bridge addict, "What's that book the conductor keeps looking at? "That's the score," answered her escort.

"Oh. Who's vulnerable??

▽▽▽

CLUB RESULTS

Sept ’26 Mondays	**Beach Handicap Singles**	1st	Brenda Macfarlane
		2nd	Lynette Steele
		3rd	Margaret Wakelin
2026 Mondays	**Stat days Handicap Singles**	1st	Gloria Mouatt
		2nd	Elaine Genty-Nott
		3rd	Judy Bartlett
Oct '26 Mondays	**shoe&me Handicap Pairs**	1st	Carol Jones & Joe Brown
		2nd	Dot Skousgaard & Julie Sheridan
		3rd	Mike Nicholson & Flo Nield
Oct '26 Mondays pm	**Cobb & Co Handicap Pairs**	1st	Dianne Beveridge & Jude Brown
		2nd	Julie Frewin & Pamela Shea
		3rd	Dinah Warren & Coral Brander
2026 Wednesday Nights	**Championship Singles**	1st	Steve Larnder
		2nd	Marcus Dudley
		3rd	Julie Sheridan
2026 Wednesday Nights	**Championship Handicap Singles**	1st	Steve Larnder
		2nd	Helene Paterson
		3rd	Barbara Stimson
assOct '26 Wednesdays	**Mt Eliza Handicap Pairs**	1st	Megan Richards & Julie Sheridan
		2nd	Dianne Beveridge & Jude Brown
		3rd	Michele Larnder & Helene Paterson
Oct '26 Thursdays	**Handicap Pairs.**	1st	Lynne Corbett-Foy & Sandy Murray
		2nd	Eddie Paterson & David Gardiner
		3rd	Catherine Laffey & Rachael Fraser
Oct ‘26 Fridays	**Emerald Pairs**	1st	Richard Roberts & Jenny Fraser
		2nd	Hanny Hepburn & Brenda Macfarlane
		3rd	Helene Paterson & Lorraine Murrie

Room for a joke

Home Sweet Home

North “I get a really bad headache after a long bridge tournament”. East “Do what I do. I put my head on my wife's bosom, and the headache goes away." ... *The next day* ... North "Did you do what I told you to do?" East "Sure did and it works! By the way, you have a nice house!"

kiwi place names-themed **October '26 Thursday Handicap Teams** results

1st Team 'Hamilton' : Graeme Boyd, Bernie Robinson, Carol Jones, Kerry Crosby

2nd Team 'Kerikeri' : Emma Barber, Dot Skousgaard, Mary Keane, Susan Treadgold, Megan Richards, Judy Duncan

3rd Team 'Balclutha' : Jo Craig, Steve Larnder, Michele Larnder, Helene Paterson, Teri Logie, Lorraine Murrie, Mark Wardill

sad to note this month NZB have had to rule and discipline on a grave cheating incident (on line bridge) and bad language and director abuse by two top NZ players. Penalties imposed.

We all join in welcoming
NEW MEMBERS
Firstly, we welcome **the class of 2026**.
Also, new associate members,
Isaac Wong, Mark Burggraaf, Pamela Ann Shea, Julie Frewin

and regret having to accept resignations from Robyn Knight and Judith Wilson

Great to have more Rank Changes to share.
Novice to
Certificate of Proficiency
Alan Winstanley
Certificate of Proficiency to
Club Master
Jo Craig and Jan Moyes

Election grumbles *'cost of living crisis'* affects the club too. Treasurer Janice Simpson has supplied the following club monthly out goings - not the number of times you played each month . . . but club OPEX

Cleaning	$665
Admin/Acct	$1000
Directors Fees	$770
Electricity	$400
Internet	$126
Stationery	$40
Software	$62
Tea, coffee, biscuits etc	$430
Rent	$76
Air Con Servicing	$127
Lift Servicing	$102
Property Manager	$350
Insurance - Building	$412
Insurance - Contents	$140
NZ Bridge - Levies	$625
NZ Bridge - Sessions	$600



BEFORE: Our new neighbour presiding over the rear of our rooms sports a 'door to nowhere'. Access to bridge club or surf rescue?



AFTER: must have read **Spadework** and sorted the unsafe doorway a month later.

They say AI is good for everything - except when the human touch is needed. However, here's what AI generated when asked for a bridge story.

The Mysterious Missing Trick

It was going so well.

I had picked up a respectable hand, the bidding had gone smoothly, and I found myself in a contract that looked perfectly manageable. I could almost feel the good score coming.

Then I played the first card.

My plan seemed sensible. I had counted my points, considered my options, and decided I knew exactly what was going to happen.

Unfortunately, the other three players at the table appeared not to have read my plan.

One opponent produced a card I hadn't expected. My partner played another that raised a few questions. And suddenly, the contract that had looked so straightforward was beginning to resemble a crossword puzzle in a foreign language.

I paused. I thought. I reconsidered.

Surely there was a clever way out of this?

There was, apparently. It involved taking the trick I had just thrown away.

By the end of the hand, I had learned several valuable lessons: count your tricks, watch the cards, listen to the bidding — and never celebrate a contract before you've played it.

As we compared scores, someone asked, "How did you get on?"

"Brilliantly," I replied. "I provided the opposition with an excellent opportunity to improve their score."

And that, of course, is one of the great things about bridge. You can play for years, read the books, attend the lessons and still discover a completely new way to get it wrong.

There's always next week!

Happy bridging!

NOT BAD AI, wonder if Claude or Bot can replace tutors Graham Stern, Michele Larnder and helpers? Surely no - importance of the human touch.

- and Right - front of the original club rooms on the site now occupied by our building.





our decor queen bee,
Julie Hawkes

Final word on The Bridge Zone

For those who have never heard it, and for those who have listened in the past but got out of the habit of doing so regularly……

The Bridge Zone is a weekly radio broadcast that is available to all of us as a Podcast. It can be found on any podcast platform or via the NZ Bridge website. Or just Google it. The bridge Zone is sponsored by NZ Bridge, and is pitched to all NZ bridge players, whether they be Grand Masters or Novice players. It is hosted by Mereana Cullen and Barry Jones,
from Hamilton, who have been in the role for 430 episodes over eight years. They contribute many bidding and playing tips, and generally chat about what is happening in the New Zealand bridge world.

Each week they are joined by either The Judge (Julie Atkinson – hence "Judge Julie") or The Bailiff (Patrick Carter) who discuss such things as playing etiquette and directors' issues and problems.

This year they have been joined Mr Jin (Ross Longney) who puts the spotlight on all things Junior, Intermediate and Novice. That is in the JIN Club world. This has extended the focus
of The Bridge Zone to ALL bridge players.

respect for our Elders. . . .

recently Life Member Noelene Shrimpton turned 99 and not far behind, Life Member Nancye Ward 95, often partnered by Hanny Hepburn 96.

Also, relatively, hardly an elder, Life Member Julie Sheridan had an October birthday.

Further Elders of note . . .

"where's Flo? 86, oh, she got a lift up north. To family? yes, she wants to go floundering . . .
And how's she getting back. A long way, two bus trips, changing in Auckland"
comment from North - *oh she'll probably be driving the bus!.*

And Bob Callcut, 92, now residing in Whakatane, still gets out to play bridge at his new club Wednesday evenings. Trouble is, his facility locks the door at 7pm and Bob can't arouse anyone to let him back in!

This month, important news from **NZ Bridge** concerning grades and rankings.

Rank and Grading Changes - effective 1st January 2027.

The Board has resolved to make changes to both Ranks and Grades and this has meant the redefinition of some Tournaments. Rank Change A new rank, District Master, has been created and represents those players who are currently Local Masters but have 5 or more A points. A third of current members are Local Masters and this change will split that group approximately in two and give players a further step to aim for. The change will not impact events that these players can play in. Currently, Local Masters are able to play in Intermediate Tournaments. The updated definition of Intermediate includes both Local Masters and those District Masters with less than 200 rating points.

Grade Changes

Two new grades, **Restricted** & **Novice** have been created and the definitions of the other grades have been updated. Open Life Master or higher rank, Restricted Provincial Master, Master, or National Master or District Master with 200+ rating points Intermediate Local Master or District Master with fewer than 200 rating points Junior Club Master or Certificate of Proficiency. Novice Certificate of Proficiency not yet attained.

More info and clarity from NZB website.