

Presidents report 2025

Once again, it is a pleasure to deliver my report on behalf of the Club. To you, our wonderful members; thank you for all your participation, good humour, and positivity throughout 2024. You are what makes this club a great place to play Bridge.

Jane Dekker will present her treasurer's report. This will show that the finances of the club are sound. Jane is meticulous in her attention to detail and provides us with sound financial advice. An important contribution to our financial stability is the income from hosting the National Party information sessions once a month. This income offsets the steady decline in sponsorship money over the last 3 years. A hardworking team led by Gilda Rowland provided a sumptuous morning tea for this event.

We are very appreciative of our sponsors, and this is an area we would like to see further growth. We welcome onboard our new sponsors for 2025 Ryan Double Glazing and Helen Charteris. The donation of two new cups for Thursday events by Tim Torr was warmly received.

The vision for the Club is unchanged and this is to provide members with Bridge sessions that are efficiently run in a pleasant and non-obtrusive manner and to ensure all members have a positive experience. A key element in attaining this vision is the role of scorers and directors. Our directing team of Marcus Dudley, Jane Furnish, Helen Heuvel, Teri Logie, Gloria Mouatt, Gilda Rowland, Julie Sheridan, and Norm Silcock have provided excellent organisation and guidance during Club sessions. There is always room for more on the team, if this is an area of interest to you, Teri Logie will be only too happy to provide you with the appropriate advice on how to get the training and support. Our team of scorers also ensures that the sessions are correctly set up and we receive timely results. We would like to encourage more people to learn to score. It is not difficult, and learning how the results are processed is interesting. Thanks to our dealing team organised by Julie Sheridan ensuring we have accurate boards for every session of play.

2024 was a successful year for the club. Our tournaments were very well attended, and our July Tournament was fully subscribed. The success of this tournament was noted in an article by Richard Solomon on the NZ Bridge website. Gilda Rowland has taken over as our Tournament Secretary and is filling the role with her usual flare and efficiency. As always, she is very ably assisted by Teri Logie and Julie Sheridan.

Our Open team comprising Alan Parkes, Pamela Pedersen, Rachelle Pelkman, and Murray Wood won the Waikato Bays Teams event, it's good to see that Trophy in our club rooms.

The inaugural 'Fun over the Bridge' Teams event between Mt Maunganui and Tauranga was well attended for both sessions with a win to each. It is good to see the spirit of cooperation this event brings.

We celebrated our 60th Jubilee in style. The Club rooms looked festive in blue and gold, setting the tone for an enjoyable event. Carol Cullen was the creative director behind the great décor. Mike Nicholson and his team provided us with a very

entertaining quiz and Julie Sheridan organised a seamless afternoon of Bridge. Thanks go to the Jubilee committee of Diane King, Mike Nicholson, Carol Cullen, Robyn Knight, Dianne Stevens, Michele Larnder, Teri Logie, and Gilda Rowland. Judy Ducan baked an amazing cake for the event.

Membership numbers remain stable, and we have excellent attendance at our Monday and Thursday sessions. The Wednesday casual Bridge afternoon continues to grow, well attended by our newer members from the lessons. Thanks to Bernie Robinson for his work with the group. Joanne McLean has efficiently led Monday Junior Nights with Jane Furnish and Teri Logie directing. In 2025 we will be looking at ways to increase the numbers at this session as this is an important avenue for advancing our learners and developing the skills of our Juniors.

Lessons play an important role in meeting our constitutional requirements to teach and promote the game of Bridge. Our teachers in 2024 were Graham Stern and Gilda Rowland. They were supported regularly by Kay Burnie, Dianne Stevens, Annette Dand, and Michele Larnder. Annette deals all the lesson boards and the boards for Skills nights. Retention rates from lessons continue to run at about 60% and we are regularly reviewing our programmes to see if we can improve on this level. Following the lessons we ran 6 very successful skills evenings catering for the new learners and the more advanced Juniors. This format was successful and will be continued in 2025. One of our excellent tutors this year -Francis Ball – will take over the coordination of the skills programme this year. Rachelle Pelkman has continued to offer her Intermediate tutorials prior to play on Wednesday evenings. We sincerely thank her for sharing her expertise with the Club members.

The hard-working committee is the key ingredient to the success of the Club. They are an amazing group of people who bring a range of complementary skills to help with the organisation of our Bridge sessions. Their specific roles are:

Teri Logie: Club Captain and Administration

Julie Sheridan: Administration Assistant

Barbara Stimson: Secretary

Jane Dekker: Treasurer

Kay Burnie: Lesson support, membership administration

Dianne Stevens: Raffles, National Party morning tea committee, lesson support

Francis Ball: Skills coordinator

Isobel McIntyre: Thursday coordinator. National Party morning tea committee

Joanne McLean: Monday night coordinator, lesson support

We are losing Francis Ball from the committee this year, but she will continue to play a very valued role in the club. On all club occasions, Francis has been a very willing contributor. We thank her for her work.

Thanks, must also go to Julie Downs for her excellent work as our monthly Spadework magazine editor. Julie takes an active role in many aspects of the Club including directing and scoring. Her photographic skills are also invaluable in ensuring we have records of all significant occasions. Her special edition on the Jubilee adds to the already comprehensive Club archives.

If you have enjoyed your tea breaks, then take the time to thank Helene Paterson and Judy Waldvogel for their constant trips to the supermarket to ensure we are well-catered for. The bar team of Stephen Larnder, Judy Bartlett, and Gloria Mouatt have done a sterling job during our festive occasions. Thank you to Colin Holmes who has built a new lectern which will be very useful for many club events

In conclusion, my outstanding committee and supportive members continue to make my job as President enjoyable and rewarding.

Thank you

Michele Larnder

President

Mt Maunganui Bridge Club 2025