



Mt Maunganui Bridge Club

SPADEWORK

September 2022 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs

from President Diane -

I feel our new club rooms are well and truly "broken in" after the lovely afternoon we had on Saturday. A big thank you to all who supported it and made it such a success. There were about 80 members there.

There's nothing quite like several glasses of bubbles then playing bridge, in many cases with partners you have never played with before. The fun and laughter was so good to hear.

I thanked many of our members for supporting the original resolution, without majority support this venture would never have got off the ground. I talked about the many hours spent planning and negotiating by Omanu Surf Club, our steering committee, Julie Sheridan, Bruce Inglis and Grant Aslibie (lawyer), and our committee. We can now all enjoy the perfect outcome. I think we have the best Bridge Club rooms in the country. I must mention our gratitude to Grant Aslibie who represented us through the project - all done for free. I must mention Donal and Ian from Omanu Surf Club, they were very professional and pleasant to work with and always acted in good faith and strived to obtain the best possible deal for our bridge club. Funds for this project came from the Provincial Growth Fund, TECT, NZ Charity Fund and Omanu Surf Club. The bridge club paid for the large sound-proof door, and new kitchen equipment as well as smaller items like shelving etc. There will be an opportunity to thank people at a later date.

Lastly a vote was taken to repeat the drawing for partners at social events and there was an overwhelming positive response. **Diane**

from Club Captain Teri . . .

Hello All

It's been a busy month, with moving, a tournament and then the Celebration day. Congress is next week so good luck to all our members who are playing.

A request – could all members arriving at a session – have a look and see if the mugs/tea/biscuits etc are set up ready to go. Please don't wait to be asked.

*A big Thank You to Sarah Stacy. She has been our Tournament Secretary (for 7 or 8 years – she thinks) and does it so well, keeps track of all the entries coming and going, but does not see all the fruits of her labour on the day. Thank you! Also thank you to all the partnership stewards (an all-year job) – this is much appreciated by all. Happy Bridge **Teri***



2 bosses take a break on moving day

Hurrah for RANK CHANGES

Joy McLiver = Certificate of Proficiency

Bob Kidd = Certificate of Proficiency

Bill Ridley = Club Master

GOOD SORTS you know how TV One does this on Sunday pms? Well, Thursday bridge has one too . . . well, amongst others for sure . . .

JUDY DUNCAN

catered beautiful club sandwiches for her bridge buddies, but unable to play on the day because of a fall and bruising, sacrificed her chance at a possible 70% (!) and delivered scrummy food for others to enjoy, then returned home to recuperate.

Many thanks Judy.

Don't forget - Thursdays 1pm start for the best social bridge event of the week.

Supporting our Sponsors

this month the club took advantage of an offer by **Bay Ultra Dry** to freshen up our chairs - thanks to Sue Gibbons for her initial cleaning effort.

Jonny of **Bay Ultra Dry** highly recommended for lounge suite and carpet cleaning also.

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CLUB RESULTS

Aug '22 Mondays Zita Reid-Able Tasman Champs Handicap Result	1 st Jose McDonald & Julie Downs 2 nd Chris Gibson & Anne Clarke 3 rd Nancye Ward & Judith Wilson
Aug '22 Mondays Zita Reid-Able Tasman Champs Raw Result	1 st Marion Kelly & Julie Sheridan 2 nd Derek Webb & Margaret Wakelin 3 rd Gilda Rowland & Frances Ball 4 th Jose McDonald & Julie Downs
Aug/Sept '22 Wednesdays Mt Evening Champs Raw Result	1 st Pamela Pedersen & Megan Richards 2 nd Julie Sheridan & Marion Kelly 3 rd Flo Nield & Shirley Knight
Aug/Sept '22 Wednesdays Mt Evening Champs Handicap Result	1 st Pamela Pedersen & Megan Richards 2 nd Rosemary Wilkie & Fay Irwin 3 rd Christine Grant & Micheal Crouch
Aug/Sept '22 Wednesdays Mt Evening Champs best Non-senior pair	Jeannie Bruning & Carol Jones
Sept '22 Thursdays Cunningham Handicap Pairs	1 st Carolyn Toy & Julie Hawkes 2 nd Vivian Mead & Isobel McIntyre 3 rd Dee Drew & Jan Moyes
Sept '22 Fridays Championship Pairs	1 st Carol Cullen & Mike Nicholson 2 nd Judith Wilson & Brenda Macfarlane 3 rd Noelene Shrimpton & Jose McDonald
Aug '22 Fridays Papamoa Mitre 10 Pairs	1 st Diane Moreland & Noelene Shrimpton 2 nd Chris Gibson & Kathy King 3 rd Nancye Ward & Jean Scott

RECENT RESTRICTED TOURNAMENT 17 SEPT

Best of Mt Maunganui players in overall results -

Bob Callcut & John Laugesen 3rd=

Shirley Knight & Trish Kidd 5th=

well done members

some **LOCAL** humour

Director Helen advised Monday players that at afternoon tea, coffee was at the front of the counter, tea behind.

Quick retort "where's the milo?"

Quieter query "where's the wine?"

... **AND** a booboo by PMG rep sponsoring our recent Restricted tournament, "hello bowlers ..." lol.

ALSO ...

19th Sept marked Life Member Noelene Shrimpton's 95th birthday. No brain fade here - Noelene and partner Diane Moreland won NS with 66.86% on the day! They also bid and made 7NT = top board.



Decorations at opening day
Saturday 24 Sept '22



Shared lunch

*Another stunning history from one of our members, the imitable precision player, **ANNIE BARRY**...*

Born in Oponake, a young Annie moved to Auckland and later in 1972 married John. In 1975 they both joined the Fire Service, Annie at 23 as a control room operator, and John as an operational firefighter. Several years later she decided she needed to fight fires rather than sit in an ops room. But Annie knew she would have to do something to make her application stand out as there were no female firefighters in the Commonwealth back in 1977.

So after training up for the very strenuous pre-entry test she set to studying for a degree in Fire Engineering, condensing a four year course into one year. She became the first woman to obtain the Degree and then fired sparks through the Fire Service when she applied for the next recruits course. Although the Equal Opportunities Act had been passed in 1975, the Fire Service deemed themselves above ever having to have women in the Service and continually refused her application. Finally after a three year battle involving the Human Rights Commission, she was accepted onto a recruits course, becoming Australasia's first professional female firefighter.

"I was so apprehensive at that stage as I was 'Grannie Annie' on the course and just hoped I could put my money where my mouth was after kicking up all the fuss!"

A great sportswoman, Annie competed in many events and in 1988 was age group runner-up in the *Kiwi Lager Ironman* and in 1990 won Gold at the World Firefighter Games in the *Toughest Firefighter Alive* competition. That year she was also awarded the **Queen's Service Medal**. Annie retired in 1996 after 21 years service of working in a totally male dominated field.

Annie's other life outside the Fire Service involved her and hubby John building two big boats and a house, although she said John was the one with the talent.

"I was absolutely useless and was relegated to constructing things not seen by other people. I was the original Miss Rip, Shit and Bust".

The Barrys lived on their second launch for seven years, cruising and diving the coast and then one day, fatefully got hooked on golf. After 30 years of boating they sold everything up, imported a bus from Japan, had it converted into a motorhome and took to the road for 10 years playing golf throughout NZ and Australia.

It was while travelling in Australia that her two books '**Playing with Fire**' and '**Never Say Old**' were published, both a humorous record of their lives thus far.

Annie was first introduced to bridge on a cruise.

"I took to it like the proverbial duck to water and couldn't wait to get home to do some lessons."

These were online lessons as the Barrys were then house or farm sitting between countries.

"I was not a good passenger travelling between sits so we always shared the driving but this came to an abrupt end as I would happily sit there for 2 or 3 hours, laptop on knee, practising hands, oblivious to the countryside flying by".

John was happy not having to entertain Annie while driving, apart from the odd

"bloody hell Annie, can you turn that volume down"

Finally in December 2015 the Barrys settled at Papamoa Beach, their first base in 23 years. Annie joined the Te Puke Bridge Club and then in 2019 joined the Mt Maunganui Bridge Club.

"I figured it was time to take the training wheels off and move to a bigger club which would provide more challenges and more competition. I absolutely love it, the people are so friendly and I love the fact that the concentration in the room is often broken by hoots of laughter and that to me is what it's all about".

Annie's book, '**Playing with Fire**' is available in the library and she has '**Never Say Old**' available for sale. Ed.



Mike Nicholson and Liz Dey with valuable club assets
MOVING DAY 3rd Sept '22



Gilda's Derek touchup
painting with
supervisor Julie
Hawkes
MOVING DAY
3rd Sept '22