



# SPADEWORK

September 2026 Newsletter Editor: Julie Downs



## President Michele's thoughts . . .

Day light saving starts this weekend – this marks the beginning of longer days and warmer temperatures. This makes evening Bridge much more inviting. If you are looking for some fun and stimulation join the Monday or Wednesday sessions.

We have now held the last tournament of the year and as always, it was a marked success. Thanks to our talented organisers -Teri and Julie - and the large team who help.

Monday 28th of September is the last of our Skills night.

These have been well attended and the feedback to date has been positive. These sessions are very beneficial to our newer players and add to their growing knowledge of the game. Thanks go to Gilda, Graham and Judith who have taught these sessions.

Also, a big thanks to all the helpers, having experienced players providing guidance is invaluable. I will be sending out a questionnaire to evaluate these evenings and to assist the Teaching and Learning Committee (Graham, Gilda, Judith and Michele) plan for 2027.

To finish I will share an insight on a benefit of playing Bridge I recently read in a Psychology/Bridge article.

"There are not many areas of human existence where one can experience one's own incompetence, in such a blatant way as is possible at the bridge table. Bridge shows us how incredibly incapable we can be. If we take a lesson from this, we may become a bit less smug and understand and accept our own limitations. Moreover, we become aware that everyone can produce a blunder. In some areas of human existence, it's easy to find excuses and convince ourselves that we haven't made that big a lapse, whereas in bridge our mistakes often stare at us unforgivingly without any camouflage whatsoever. Therefore, by playing bridge we learn to acknowledge, admit and cope with being imperfect.

Forgive yourself and apologise to the others".

(Tihana Brkljacic, Bridge Base online)

Your imperfect President: *Michele*

## September's Spades and Aces.

**Who?** the Spades, the dealers who put your cards into 4 slots, East, West, North and South hands for each board,

**What?** up to 26 boards per session, sometimes three sets, aligning the same hands nationwide so you have the luxury of comparing your results to players with your exact hand throughout NZ.

**How?** well, we have Compass Bridge software which programs our dealing machine to deliver the correct card to each hand for each board.

**When?** teams of dealers come to the club in their own time, unlock, deactivate the alarm, select the computer program, activate the card sorter and concentrate hard, including much cross-checking.

Simple you assume? no, imagine one card wrong, 12 instead of 13, incorrect board number, vul or not vul, red back cards instead of blue, black, green board or wine colour . . . all carefully labelled for the correct week, session and time.

Then a master sheet printout.

Additionally, the dealing machine is a mechanical instrument, moving, reading and sorting a deck of cards through metal guides - it can jam or malfunction and needs maintaining!

Most of us just turn up to bridge and assume we will enjoy a hassle free day of perfect bridge because of the work they do.

Thank you to these teams of **Spades**

**Allan & Jane**

**Sue & Dixie**

**Jane & Cindy**

**Rebecca & Catherine**

**Julie & Marilyn**

**Liz & Jan**

**Richard & Jenny**

**Jenny & Jenni**

and deputies

**Steve & Michele**

**John S**

and the **Aces** who do our shopping each week - such a problem choosing which biscuits and herbal teas to buy. And manoeuvring 6 big 2L milks into the fridge each week. Thanks -

**Helene Paterson & Judy Waldvogel**

## CLUB RESULTS

|                         |                                                 |                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mondays Aug '26         | <b>Zita Reid Championship Pairs</b>             | 1st Margaret Wakelin & Derek Webb<br>2nd Frances Ball & Graham Stern<br>3rd. Julie Downs & Mike Rudd           |
| Mondays Aug '26         | <b>Abel Tasman Handicap Championship Pairs</b>  | 1st Julie Downs & Mike Rudd<br>2nd Rachel Olsen & Joe Brown<br>3rd Barbara Stimson & Helene Paterson           |
| Mondays Aug '26<br>pm   | <b>Tui Handicap Junior/Intermediate Pairs</b>   | 1st Brian Breen & Laurelle Breen<br>2nd Wayne Hunter & Kerrily Hodgson<br>3rd Lynley Drain & Janice Thompson   |
| Mondays Aug '26<br>pm   | <b>Tui Handicap Novice/Junior Pairs</b>         | 1st Carol Fuller & Linda Oxenham<br>2nd Sue Arnold & Judith Russell<br>3rd Christina Wylie-Min & Mary Waldron  |
| Wednesdays Aug'26       | <b>Forsyth Barr Championship Pairs</b>          | 1st Marcus Dudley & Bettina Dudley<br>2nd Dot Skousgaard & Shirley Bain<br>3rd Julie Sheridan & John Sheridan  |
| Wednesdays Aug'26<br>b. | <b>Forsyth Barr Handicap Championship Pairs</b> | 1st Marcus Dudley & Bettina Dudley<br>2nd Dot Skousgaard & Shirley Bain<br>3rd. Nikki Baguley & Mark Wardill   |
| Thursdays Sept '26      | <b>Cunningham Handicap Pairs</b>                | 1st Judy Duncan & Merle Halligan<br>2nd Ngaire Short & Mary Pettigrew<br>3rd Helene Paterson & Michele Larnder |
| Fridays Sept '26        | <b>Seeka Championship Pairs</b>                 | 1st Graham Stern & Margaret Somers<br>2nd Janice Simpson & Roger Toplis<br>3rd Helene Paterson & Annie Barry   |

*of note . . .*  
this month  
sees the  
4th  
anniversary  
moving to  
our  
'new  
rooms' . .  
yet still the  
front door  
bangs in  
the wind . .



If you are a regular listener to the Bridge Zone, you will know that Mr Jinn contributes items for **Junior, Intermediate, Novice** players and likes to have some stories, gossip even, to add to the results of Jin Club tournaments.

Unless he's competing, he misses out on some of the tales that make up the rich tapestry of our game. We have wee anecdotes to share with the Jin Club, and other listeners, so Teri will forward

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via email. So, listen to see if we are 'in the news'.  
from Ross Longney "Mr Jinn", **The Bridge Zone**

### Important Rules - *yeah, right* -

**Rule of Eleven** — the inevitable trick total whenever you bid a slam.

**Eight Ever, Nine Never** — the status quo whenever you raise 2 NT to 3 NT.

**Second Hand Low** — the easiest way to lose your aces on defence.

**Leading Through Strength** — a surefire way to make your queens disappear.

**What "Graham or Michele taught"** — tips that work on lesson deals, but never do in real life.

*Well Done* to two members

*Rank promotions*

Certificate of Proficiency to Club Master. **Ngaire Short**

Club Master to Local Master

**Nikki Baguley**

**Tauranga Club** held their Intermediate, Junior and Novice Pairs tournament August 29th.  
Successes from our Mt Club -



2nd Intermediates - Janice Simpson & Ross Petersen with Tauranga President/Director, Mike Newton



Winners! Junior section, Mark Wardill & Jo Craig



5th Juniors - Wayne Hunter & Kerrily Hodgson



Novice afternoon session at Tauranga, 21 boards.

Here's Lorraine Hickey, partner Susie Norton-Westwood (left early!), congratulated by Mike. 2nd with a great 66% result.

overheard at our recent tournament . . .

**Ops** - "Your partner hesitated. You gained information from that hesitation...."

**Response** "If I got information each time my partner hesitated, I would have an encyclopaedia"



### Dummy's Rights and Wrongs

During play Dummy's actions are significantly limited.

1. One right dummy **does** have, is to attempt to prevent an irregularity from occurring. Dummy may ensure declarer leads from the correct hand. However, once the irregularity has occurred, dummy can no longer say anything - it is up to the defenders to point out the infraction.
2. Dummy may check that partner **hasn't revoked** when he fails to follow suit. "Having none?" is ok.

Some things Dummy might want to do but **cannot**, include -

- **tell** partner they have a trick pointed the wrong way after a lead has been made to the next trick
- **ask** a defender if they have revoked.
- **express** surprise at declarers choice of card from dummy
- **encourage** partner to play a card you know is good
- **play** a card before it is called for by declarer, even if it is a singleton
- **call** the director before anyone else has drawn attention to an infraction.

**At the end of the hand**, dummy now has the right to point out any infractions they noticed during play.



Another great **Restricted Pairs** tournament was staged Saturday 19th September '26 by Mt Maunganui Bridge Club with members from 7 visiting clubs attending.  
This time, a tournament of deputies - Bernie Robinson deputising for President Michele, and Teri and team deputising for event organiser Gilda. As expected, the tournament ran smoothly with happy players, excess catering and drinks to follow. Below - accolades for our members -



Bernie, presenting himself and partner Wayne Hunter envelopes for 2nd, Junior/Junior section.



Intermediate/Junior winners - Flo Nield & Bill Ridley



Chris Gibson, Elaine Genty-Nott - 2nd Intermediate/Junior pairing



Fay Irwin and Mary Keane 3rd Intermediate/Junior pair.



Tournament catering  
Ann Dorey,  
assistants  
Dianne Stevens and  
Carol Cullen



Barbara Stimson and Helene Paterson 3rd, two Intermediates pairing



Julie Sheridan accepting envelope for partner Riet Jansen 3rd Open/Intermediate comp.