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Bay News

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# Bridge club attracting plenty of new players

Record numbers fronted up for Mount Maunganui Bridge Club's recent junior and intermediate tournament.

Ten clubs from across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty were represented by 116 players.

For the first time a novice section, which attracted 28 players, was part of the tournament.

"Many younger players are taking on this stimulating and intriguing game," says club president June Nightingale. "It is evident that there is a resurgence in the popularity of bridge in the Bay, with good numbers at lessons over the last three years."

Winners of the inaugural novice section were the young mother and daughter pairing of Vanessa and Sapphire Mercer from Waihi.

"Bridge is a wonderful way to spend time with your husband, wife or children. It is a warm and inviting atmosphere with fun and exciting challenges," says Vanessa.

The junior section winners were Jan Gyenge and Don Espie from Tauranga. Winners of the Intermediate section were June Nightingale and Nan Ward from Mt Maunganui.

Bridge is a card game for four



Mother and daughter Vanessa and Sapphire Mercer from Waihi won the novice section at the Mount Maunganui Bridge Club's recent junior and intermediate tournament.

players, two against two. A standard pack of 52 cards is used. Bridge is a trick taking game, and so has similarities with Five Hundred. Good players of Five Hundred will find that they have a lot more opportunity to exercise their skills when playing bridge.

Bridge clubs are very social, says June, and during a session each pair usually plays two or more hands each with many other pairs over a couple of hours.

Bridge lessons will start again early next year at the Tauranga Bridge Club and anyone interested can register their interest via the Tauranga or Mount Maunganui Bridge Club websites.