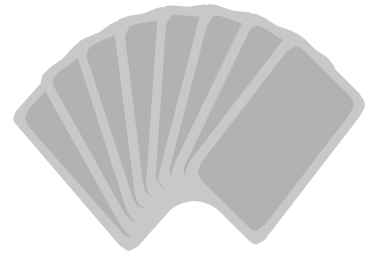


# ♠ GRAND ♥ ♦ SLAM ♣



Bridge Newsletter template

Rotorua bridge Club Newsletter #39

1 March 2025

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[www.rotoruabridge.nz](http://www.rotoruabridge.nz)

Hello Everyone

## **CONGRATULATIONS AND COMMISERATIONS:**

Congratulations to Liz Wilcox, who is a Grandmaster and was rated the 18th best woman on the Baden Wilson Table for most A points earned in NZ, as at 1/1/25. Well done Liz!

We are very sad to hear that Allan Rockell is resigning from the club. "Rocky" has been the longest serving member of the Rotorua Bridge Club. The club thanks you very much for your many years of support. Go well, Rocky.

## **2025 PROGRAMMES**

There are still some programs on the table by the door waiting for their owners. If you know/see any of these members, it would be lovely if you could please deliver their program to them.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

If fees are paid **before 28 February 2025**, the cost will be \$80 rather than \$85. Payment can be made online to account number 12-3155-0172046-00

## **ART IN THE PARK**

This was a most successful day for Rotorua Bridge with a stall near the main entrance and a steady stream of people passing by and showing interest. Many thanks to Val for her hard work, and all her helpers, including Roger, Heini, Dennis who helped setup and dismantle. Lots of club members took part in a most enjoyable and successful day, and Val has many contact numbers of possible new members. Remember to keep spreading the word.

## **BEGINNER CLASSES**

Beginner classes will be run on Wednesdays 7pm and/or Sunday afternoons 2.30pm.

Commencing Wednesday 2nd April and Sunday 6th April 2.30-5pm. Classes run for 12 weeks.

The flyer for the lessons is attached with this newsletter, so feel free to send to friends and family, who you think will be interested.

## **Beginner Lesson Advertising**

As part of our recruitment programme for the lesson series beginning in April, **we are looking to have a group playing Bridge in the Library in town.** If we can organise for this to happen, we will be able to advertise the lessons on the Library's big screen. We are asking for a couple of hours of your time at a time when it suits between 9 and 3. Please fill in the paper on the table inside the door as you enter the clubrooms with your name, preferred day/s and times available. As we need to get this up and running next week, if possible, please offer your time as soon as possible. Thank you from Val.

## **Request for Help at Beginner Lessons**

Val and Margie are looking for expressions of interest in helping with this year's Beginners' classes. The lessons will end mid-July with the Welcome Dinner on 23 July. If you are available for a few, some, or all lessons, please text or email Val [val.honeyfield@xtra.co.nz](mailto:val.honeyfield@xtra.co.nz)

Val and Margie will be grateful to anyone who can commit to most of either Wednesdays or Sundays but also those, they can call on at short notice.

## **IMPROVER LESSONS**

**Who For:** Players who feel they have the basics of Bridge under their belts, are playing regularly and want to start developing systems or conventions, they can use to help the bidding and playing process. These lessons will aid the understanding of what each of you are telling your partner about your hand or how to ask a question about your partner's hand and how to respond.

**By whom:** Hilary and Kathryn will be running a new series of Improver Lessons at the club. No table money is required.

**When:** Starting Monday 17 March for 4 nights - 17, 24, 31 March and 7 April. 7pm start for a 40/50-minute instruction/discussion and then play a few hands to practise what you have learnt. Each session will be 1.5/2 hours long.

### **Topics to be covered:**

Bidding to Slam

Transfers after a 1NT opening

All the rest about 1NT

All about the Double - X XX

Also some extra information about playing techniques, scoring, which contract is best to play in (NT/Suit), signals and discards. Handouts will be available.

If you have any questions, please contact Hilary on 027 482 0699 or email [hildale@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hildale@xtra.co.nz) Hope to see you there.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

Remember to check both the club noticeboard and New Zealand Bridge website [www.nzbridge.co.nz](http://www.nzbridge.co.nz) for all details of upcoming tournaments. **Note**

**from Val:** Novice and Juniors can play in any of the graded tournaments, including 'Restricted'. It's also enjoyable to car-pool where possible.

### **Upcoming Tournaments:**

Sunday 2 March Taupo Intermediate 5B - closing date 27 February

Saturday 15 March Hamilton 3B Junior Pairs/ 5B Intermediate Pairs - closing date 14 March

Saturday 15 March Waihi All Grades Pairs – closing date 13 March

Saturday 22 March Rotorua Kelly Peirse 10A Teams – closing date 22 March

Sunday 6 April 8B Hamilton Restricted Pairs - closing date 4 April

## **LEARNING ONLINE**

Several free learning opportunities are available to improve bridge skills. Graeme Tuffnell from New Zealand hosts live-streaming sessions every Monday at 8 p.m. He reviews the first 10 hands from Sky Bridge's daily game, which runs from 6 p.m. Monday to 5:59 p.m. Tuesday. If you can't catch the live stream, past sessions are available on [graemetuffnell.com](http://graemetuffnell.com)

Before tuning into Graeme's stream, players can participate in a free daily deal on SkyBridge, which he reviews. A subscription costs approximately NZ\$18 monthly and provides unlimited access to Sky Bridge games <https://skybridgeclub.com/>

Additionally, players can enhance their skills through Intobridge. They can play five boards daily for free, selecting the Acol bidding system during setup. After completing these boards, users can watch a video explaining the thought processes of international players. For further practice, players can also compete in five daily games against others with similar ratings. Unlimited access to Intobridge is available for around £11 per month.

## **BRIDGE BOARDS**

Hello from Christine and Marian. We deal the boards for each session. To make dealing easier it would be great if all the boards are returned to the box at the end of each session. Please note:

- The boards need to be in numerical order and facing the same direction. Each box has "please place boards this way - no. 1 first".
- We place a copy of the Hand Analysis in each box for you to take at the end of the session. Any spares are placed in the holders in the foyer. Please advise the director if we are not making enough copies of these so that we can increase the number.
- If you come across a broken or chipped card, please place a bidding sheet with the card number in the slot under the board, thus ensuring that the next table playing this board can't see this information.

Thank you for your help with this. It makes a huge difference when preparing the boards.

## **PARTNERSHIP STEWARDS**

Please remember to contact your Partner before each event starts. This will ensure you are not left without someone to play with and having to go home.

Monday Afternoon: Regina van der Sluis.....020 4161 7772

Wednesday Evening: Hilary Williams.....027 482 0699

Thursday Evening: Marie Milsum.....027 427 5727

Friday Afternoon: Bobbie Fluker.....027 427 151

## **SPONSORS**

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of our sponsors.

Please support these local businesses who are generously supporting our Bridge Club:

- Hughes and Associates - John Hughes
- The Refinery
- Hillcrest Upholstery
- Bug Squad Pest Control
- Steiners Interiors by Reputation
- Dason Insurance NZ Brokers
- Craigs Investment Partners
- Harcourts Rotorua - Luke Van Den Broek
- Canon - Jenny Forbes 022 493 1016
- Genuine Catering

Please make use of our Sponsors' services if you can and let them know that you belong to the Bridge Club and appreciate their sponsorship.

Please send any suggestions or contributions (especially tournament results) to me at [mortytorty@hotmail.com](mailto:mortytorty@hotmail.com)

Happy Bridging

Bobbie Fluker

