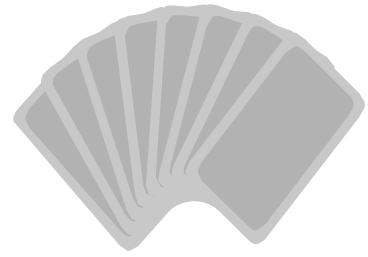


♠ GRAND ♥ ♦ SLAM ♣



Rotorua Bridge Club Newsletter #49

February 2026

rotoruacontractbridge@xtra.co.nz

www.rotoruabridge.nz

Happy New Year, everyone

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to the following Members who appeared on the NZ Bridge Final Ranks Report for 31/12/25:

Grace Wang and **Dennis van Maanen** who have been awarded a Certificate of Proficiency with 16 B points.

Nico Wihapi – Novice status with 4 B points.

Rotorua Christmas Tournament top Rotorua scores:

5th **Liz Wilcox** (Rot) & **Michael Wilcox** (Kair) 123.42%

13th **Ella Gray** (Taupo) & **Marie Milsum** (Rot) 113.60%

16th **Leonie Pritchard** (Rot) & **Mark Bendall** (Rot) 112.02

THANKS:

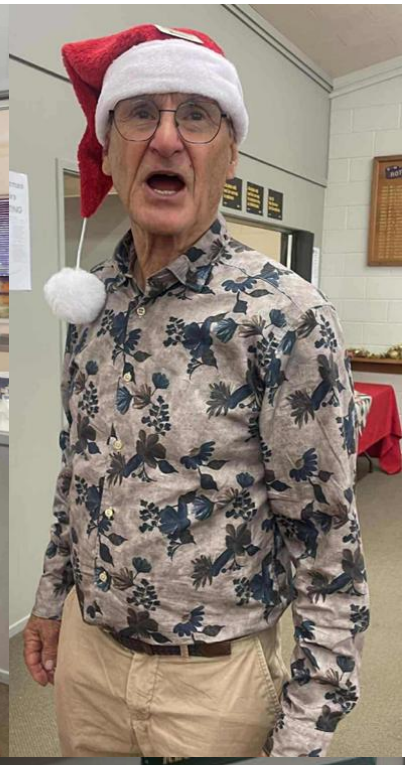
Monday Competition Trophy:

Thank you to Margaret and Trevor Hodgson who have kindly donated a trophy for the Monday Competition.

The Rotorua Christmas Tournament:

What an awesome success! The Christmas 'get-ups' were memorable. See photos below. Thanks to everyone who was involved, especially those who decorated the room beautifully, the kitchen staff who organised and served an amazing meal, those who organised the prizes, contributed to the bulging hampers and sold the raffles. To keep up the high standard of this tournament, any feedback or future ideas for improvements are welcome. Please contact Ruth Lewis 0274370500 or Wendy Fraser 021446996.







Dick Frizzell Print Raffle:

The SUITS ALL print was won by Dennis Van Maanen and Jess Bradley. The raffle raised \$1,620 less GST of \$211.30 leaving a net amount of \$1408.70 which is an awesome start to our Rotorua Youth Fund. Huge thanks to Dick's generosity and to Steve Chadwick for securing this fundraising opportunity for the club.



HOW CAN YOU HELP THE ROTORUA BRIDGE CLUB?

- **Rubbish Volunteer:** We are looking for a member/s who play Wednesday nights who would be **responsible for putting out the rubbish** bins every Wednesday night after play. Grateful thanks to **Jim Morgan** who has carried out this job, plus maintaining the toilet supplies for the club for many years. If you can help, please contact Bobbie 0274274151.
- **Sponsorship:** There are gaps in the club's sponsorship schedule. Do you know someone who would like to contribute **\$250 in Sponsorship** to the Rotorua bridge Club? This fee entitles them to exposure in the Bridge

book; newsletter; hallway; and on the club's TV screen (once system is up and running). Or maybe are you a person who is keen to lead the Sponsorship project for the club? Please contact Hilary Williams 0274820699, if you can help.

- **Safety List:** Our club safety officer would like to compile a list of people who have a current First Aid Certificate/medical knowledge and are able to help should an emergency occur. If you have these skills, please contact Tony 0274451843.
- **Interested in Directing?** The club is asking for expressions of interest in directing. Remember that learning to be a Director benefits your own play. If this is something you are keen to learn more about, contact Ruth Lewis 0274370500.
- **Lead Person for Improver Lessons:** The club is asking for someone who is interested in leading the Improver Lessons which are provided by NZ Bridge, for those members wanting to learn more. Support will be provided for this person. Please contact Val Honeyfield 0274826793
- **Calling all Intermediate Grade Players:** The club is also looking for Intermediate Grade players who are prepared to be on hand to support the above Lead person and these lessons. It is proposed these lessons will be on the first Monday of the month, starting April. All interested parties, please contact Val Honeyfield 0274826793

Registering for Tournaments:

There has been a change in the procedure for registering for NZ Bridge Tournaments. Please note this only affects those members who have never before registered on the NZ Bridge site. They will need to send an email with their name and bridge number to the club secretary, Christine,

cdevries@xtra.co.nz

which she will forward to NZ Bridge and the member will then receive their link for the tournament direct from NZ Bridge.

Koha for Donated Goods:

It has been suggested that members may like to contribute a koha for the vegetables/fruit/other produce which often appears at the bridge club. If you wish to donate to the club (**and it is not compulsory, but voluntary only**) then for ease of collection, please pop your koha in the library money box.

WELCOME BACK PIZZA NIGHT:

This popular event took place Wednesday night, 28 January 2026. The club provided pizzas and there was fun bridge after the food – a most enjoyable night with over 60 members attending.



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BRIDGE MATES:

Congratulations to Colleen Allen and Shirley Gainsford who won the December quiz. The answers were 'Phil Skinner' and unbeknown to me 'Shirley Gainsford'.

This month's question is: **Who went to school with Mick Jagger?**

Please reply to Bobbie by text/or Monday/Friday Whats App or email

mortytorty@hotmail.com First responder receives the statutory worm juice and chocolate fish.



Congratulations to **Grace Wang**, an Australian NZ Medalist. Grace has recently attended a Canberra Youth Congress in Australia as a member of the NZ Youth Foundation. The medal was awarded for the Trans-Tasman Teams Event, where the 2 NZ Teams competed against 2 Australian teams. NZ won beating both Australian Teams. Well done, Grace!!!

TOURNAMENTS:

Remember to check both the club noticeboard and NZ Bridge website www.nzbridge.co.nz for all details of upcoming tournaments.

Upcoming Tournaments:

Sun 22 Feb	Mt Maunganui Bay Pairs (Heat)
Sat 28 Feb	Taupō Intermediate 8B Pairs
Date tbc	Waihi All Grades Pairs
Sat 14 Mar	Hamilton Intermediate and Junior Pairs
Sat 21 Mar	Rotorua Kelly Peirse 10A teams
Sat 28 Mar	Cambridge Novice 40C/Junior 3B Pairs

BRIDGE TIPS:

The following tips have been provided by a qualified Director in Canterbury and will be provided in instalments in subsequent newsletters.

Introduction:

The Laws contain many legal restrictions on what players can and cannot do.

"Each player counts his cards face down to be sure he has exactly thirteen;"

"No player shall touch any cards other than his own"

"After the final pass either defender has the right to ask if it is his opening lead"

"... the defender on presumed declarer's left makes the opening lead face down"

"Dummy may not leave his seat to watch declarer's play of the hand."

"Until his side has led to the next trick, declarer or either defender may inspect, but not expose, his own last card played."

These are all pretty clear-cut as long as you know them.

Beyond this there are Laws about Unauthorised Information, Review and Explanation of Calls, Partnership Understandings which set out complicated rules for the players' behaviour. I will look at these in more detail over the coming weeks.

And finally there is **Law 74 - Conduct and Etiquette** which gives formal examples of do's and don'ts. There are three sections !

A. Proper Attitude

1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.
2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.
3. Every player should follow uniform and correct procedure in calling and playing.

More will be included in the next newsletter.

PARTNERSHIP STEWARDS:

Remember to contact your partner prior to the beginning of a new competition so there are no OOPPS moments!!!!

<u>Monday Afternoon:</u>	<u>WhatsApp</u> & Gill Nelson	021 115 1058
<u>Wednesday Evening:</u>	<u>WhatsApp</u> & Dawne Sharplin	021 458 009
<u>Thursday Evening:</u>	Marie Milsum	027 427 5727
<u>Friday Afternoon:</u>	<u>WhatsApp</u> & Bobbie Fluker	027 4274 151

SPONSORS

We are very grateful for all our sponsors. Please make use of the following Sponsors' services, if you can. Let them know that you belong to the Rotorua Bridge Club and appreciate their sponsorship.

- Hillcrest Upholstery
- Steiners Interiors by Reputation
- Dawson Insurance NZ Brokers
- Craigs Investment Partners
- Harcourts Rotorua - Luke Van Den Broek
- Canon - Jenny Forbes 022 493 1016
- Arvida Glen Brae

Please send any suggestions or contributions for the newsletter to me at mortytorty@hotmail.com

Happy Bridging

Cheers Bobbie Fluker