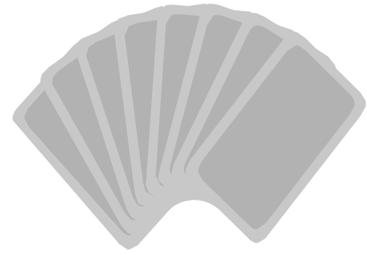


♠ GRAND ♥ ♦ SLAM ♣



Rotorua Bridge Club Newsletter #50

March 2026

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www.rotoruabridge.nz

Hello everyone

THANKS:

Bookshelf/Jigsaw Display:

Thank you to **Dennis van Maanen** for finding and donating the recently acquired item of furniture to hold jigsaw puzzles and books. Also, many thanks to those who helped manoeuvre it from the truck into the clubrooms.

Rubbish Bin:

Thanks to **Tom Heard** for volunteering to put out the club's rubbish bins on Wednesday and to **Pete McKellar** for being the stand-in when Tom is away.

FAREWELL:

Farewell and all the best to **Richard Foster** for his move to the South Island. We will miss your joviality and those gatherings at Eastwood Happy Hour.



LIVE LONG & BE HAPPY



PLAY BRIDGE

© WORDS & UNWORDS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ōmokoroa Update:

Please note the following event is not listed in the tournament schedule in the pink book. The Intermediate/Junior/Novice Pairs are to be held on **Saturday 30th May 2026** at Ōmokoroa. Entries close Thursday 28th May at 11pm. For further details check the board at the club or NZB website. This is a great opportunity for newer players to play in a tournament.

Rotorua 1b Thulin Handicap Pairs:

Please note that this popular Rotorua-Only Tournament has previously clashed with other tournaments, so this year it has been set for Sunday 23rd August 2026.

Rotorua 3A Swiss Pairs:

This is another amendment to the pink book. The Rotorua 3A Swiss Pairs, (previously entered as Rotorua Restricted 8B Pairs), takes place on Saturday 12th September 2026.

Kelly Peirse 10A Teams Event:

This event is set for Saturday 21st March. \$45 per player. Entries close Thursday 19 March, 12 am midnight. A reminder to all experienced or confident Rotorua Junior and intermediate players to enter. It is a seeded event, so after the first round, you will draw opponents of similar level. Remember to bring cash as there will be a hamper raffle. If you would like to contribute to the hamper, please leave goods, clearly labelled at the club. Any queries please contact **Wendy Fraser** 021446996.

Refresher Lessons:

A series of refresher lessons covering the material in the Beginner Lessons will be offered on **Monday evenings 7-9pm on 16, 23 & 30 March**. All welcome. This is a great opportunity, especially for those who have completed lessons within the last 3 years.

Improver Lessons:

The committee is looking to follow the Summer Bridge Sunday sessions format, using the NZ Bridge Improver and Intermediate Lessons over the winter

months. Each person will get the handout, be able to ask questions, and play the boards with lots of discussion. Dates will be worked out so they don't clash with BOP/Waikato tournament days. Dates and topics to be advised at the beginning of April. **Sessions to start after Easter.**

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

To toss or not to toss?

It is mandatory to toss if you don't have sitting/moving rights at the table. If you are not confident using the bridge-mate machine, you may ask East/West for assistance. Remember that the final seating decisions are subject to the Director's discretion.

Wednesday Night Sessions:

To be finished the Wednesday night session by 10.15pm, members are kindly requested to:

1. Be sitting at their table by 6.45pm
2. Play to the timer
3. Reduce chit chat between boards
4. Play any catchups during the tea break

Session Results:

There have been some recent hiccups which have prevented the session results being emailed out to members. Did you know that if results are not emailed, you can look online? Go to NZ Bridge website, 'Results', then 'Event Calendar' and you can check results and apparently even replay the board.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BRIDGE MATES:

Sadly, last month's prize was unclaimed. There was plenty of discussion at the tables, but no guess was submitted. The answer was **Dave Matthews** who went to Dartford Grammar School in Kent at the same time as Mick Jagger, (albeit a few years behind Mick).

This month's question is: **Who placed the first geocache outside of the USA?** Please reply to Bobbie by text/or Monday/Friday WhatsApp or email mortytorty@hotmail.com First responder receives the statutory worm juice and chocolate fish.

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 8 Mar	Matamata Waikato Area Pairs 1 st Round
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
Sat 11 Apr	Matamata Open Swiss Pairs
Sun 12 Apr	Whakatane Bay Pairs Round 2
Sun 18 Apr	Mt Maunganui Multigrade 5A
Sun 19 Apr	Hamilton Restricted Pairs 8B

BRIDGE TIPS:

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

Start of Play and Opening Lead:

The auction has finished with three passes. There is a 'presumed' declarer and a defender on opening lead. No-one is meant to say "you're declarer" or "you're on lead"; but you can ask if it's your lead at any time, and partner can answer. If the opposition say "it's your lead" when it's not, you are protected by Law 41.

We make the opening lead FACE DOWN.

Mainly because it may not be your lead! Partner can quickly speak up, "NO". In this situation the Director should be called and give permission for the face-down card to be retracted. This is a formality, but it could prevent defenders having some kind of sneaky system. Also, when the lead card is face-down, partner can ask questions about the auction, and if there is misinformation from the auction then the face-down card can be retracted, and the auction should be reopened, the non-offenders' last call can be changed.

If you have made a face-down opening lead, you CAN'T change your mind, this is improper behaviour.

I like partner to say "thank you" when they are happy with the face-down

opening lead.

Faced opening lead from wrong defender. (Law 54)

If a defender leads face-up when it's not their opening lead, the Director should be called, the card should stay face-up on the table. The Director will give Declarer five options:

- Accept the lead and play on, dummy goes down and Declarer plays next from hand.*
- Accept the lead and become Dummy, partner becomes Declarer. Dummy plays next.*

(You'd choose these options if you like the lead; and it may matter which hand is visible as dummy, or who has the stopper.)

- Demand a lead of the suit of the faced card. The card gets picked up, it doesn't have to be played to this trick (and it is UI [Unauthorised Information] to partner).*
- Forbid the lead of the suit of the faced card. The card gets picked up (and it is UI to partner). If the leader wins the trick, this prohibition can continue.*
- Allow any lead. In this case the face-up card remains face-up on the table as a Major Penalty Card (MPC) and must be played at the first legal opportunity. And the lead restrictions on partner still apply if they come back on lead with the MPC still there.*

Note that declarer cannot demand the lead of another suit.

Declarer should think carefully about these five options. They may not consult partner.

More tips will be included in the next newsletter.

BRIDGE PLAYERS



**DO NOT HAVE
TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA**

© HOBBS & UNIVERSIS

PARTNERSHIP STEWARDS:

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

Monday Afternoon: WhatsApp & Gill Nelson 021 115 1058

Wednesday Evening: WhatsApp & Dawne Sharplin 021 458 009

Thursday Evening: Marie Milsum 027 427 5727

Friday Afternoon: WhatsApp & 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.

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- 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