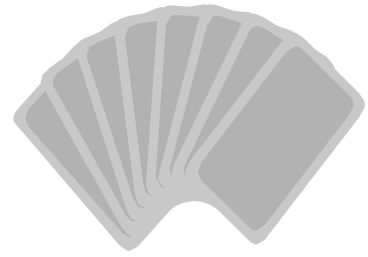


♠ GRAND ♥ ♦ SLAM ♣



Rotorua Bridge Club Newsletter #51

April 2026

rotoruacontractbridge@xtra.co.nz

www.rotoruabridge.nz

Hello everyone

THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS:

Bridge Lesson Library Promotion:

Thanks to **Dawne Sharplin** for organising the roster for the Rotorua Public Library to promote the upcoming Bridge Lessons. Also thanks to those who made themselves available on the roster. Having our members out in the public eye certainly raises people's awareness of Bridge. Our members shown below definitely enjoyed themselves.



Kelly Peirse Teams Event

This event attracted 24 teams, who played from 9.30 am to 7pm! It was a very successful event and thanks to everyone involved. The Reserve Team of **Kathryn Morgan, Paul Rogers, Phil Skinner & Dave Matthews** were required to play. The tournament was won by the Jarvis Team: Grant Jarvis, Gary Chen, Jack James & Wayne Burrows. Congratulations to the local team of **Suellyn Caudwell, Hilary Williams, Christine De Vries & Wendy Blackman**, who won the Handicap Prize.



Bridge Dealing:

A big thank you to **Marian Irvine** who in combination with **Christine Kampfraath** has been organising the dealing of the Bridge boards for the last five years. Marian is stepping down from this role, and the committee would like to hear from members who are interested in taking over this task – ideally a dealing team of a few people. This could require a commitment of once a week/fortnight depending on what the dealing team decides. If you can help the club in this area, please contact **Ruth Lewis** 0274370500.

The Bridge Zone Radio Show:

Members are encouraged to tune into this Radio Show. You can listen to the latest and previous weeks broadcasts. Congratulations to **Dawne Sharplin** who was commended and thanked for asking a great question which was discussed at length on the Bridge Zone Radio Show. Dawne asked for advice on how to get from Intermediate to Open Player? To hear this advice tune into the 11 March episode on the NZBridge website [NZBridge/AllNews/The Bridge Zone Radio Show](https://www.nzbridge.org.nz/all-news/the-bridge-zone-radio-show)

Congratulations to **Grace Wang** who is mentioned by Ross Longney (aka The Jin{Junior Intermediate Novice} Man) in the 18 March episode. At that stage Grace featured as No. 3 Junior in the monthly statistics from NZ Bridge. Well done, Grace!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Raise the Roof Tournament:

Heads up about this Tournament which will feature on Sunday 14th February 2027 with a Valentines theme.

Improver Lessons:

The committee will follow the Summer Bridge Sunday sessions format, using the NZ Bridge Improver and Intermediate Lessons. As May is a very busy month with Tournaments, the lessons will be held on the following Sundays at the clubrooms from 1pm – 4 pm: **7th, 14th, 28th June and 5th July**. Note no lesson on 21st. Each person will get the handout, be able to ask questions, and play the boards with lots of discussion. Table money will be charged. The committee will call for registration of interest at the beginning of May. Further details in the next newsletter.

Club Directors' Training:

Those members interested, please contact Ruth Lewis 0274370500. There is an information sheet on the club noticeboard on your right as you enter the clubrooms. The online learning begins 4th July 2026. These courses are free to candidates as all expenses are covered by NZ Bridge. Recordings of these lessons will be made available to members to learn in their own time after the lessons are finished.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

Covid Reminder:

Unfortunately, covid is still lurking. Remember if you have any **flu-like symptoms, then please stay home**. If you think you are well enough to attend, **please wear a mask**. There are no longer any masks at the club so remember to bring your own. You will notice that there is a bottle of hand sanitizer in the box on every table. These bottles are refillable from the sanitizer supply in the office so please do not throw out the empty bottles.



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BRIDGE MATES:

Congratulations to last month's quiz winners: Barbara Richardson and Robyn Spurdle. Peter McKellar was the first person outside of the USA to place a geocache on 12 May 2000.

There is [a memorial plaque in a picnic area just out of Rotorua.](#)

This month's question is: **Whose artwork was a finalist in the Rotorua Museum Art Awards 2026 at the Sir Howard Morrison Centre?**

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:

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
Sat 9 May	Matamata Junior Pairs
Sat/Sun 9/10 May	Taupo Open Swiss Pairs
Thurs 14 May	Putaruru Open Pairs
Sat 16 May	Te Awamutu Restricted Open Swiss Pairs
Sun 17 May	Katikati Intermediate 5B Pairs
Sat 23 May	Te Puke Restricted 8B Pairs
Sun 24 May	Tauranga Bay pairs Round 3
Sun 24 May	Cambridge Heat - Waikato Area Pairs
Tues 26 May	Hamilton Craigs Investments Multigrade Pairs
Sat 30 May	Ōmokoroa Intermediate/Junior /Novice Pairs
Sat 30 May -Mon 1 June	Hawkes Bay Congress

BRIDGE TIPS:

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

Dos and Donts - before the auction

Some things are part of the Laws, some things are just accepted practice.

Players are expected to be seated at least 15 minutes before the session starts, this helps the director see how many tables there are, and if any players are missing. The Director then has the authority to ask players to move if it is necessary for the movement (e.g. if there are two phantoms). Some clubs play

a Mitchell movement where North-South are stationary. Some clubs even allow players to book a North-South position in advance, sitting rights. The Director may accommodate a player who has asked in advance to be stationary (or moving), but it's not required by law, you just couldn't keep everyone happy. We should toss a coin at the start to see who sits NS and EW. (and at our club whoever wins the toss must sit north south).

Law 7D states "Any contestant remaining at a table throughout a session is primarily responsible for maintaining proper conditions of play at the table." So, if you are stationary then you are responsible for the boards being played in the correct orientation and order.

Once you start in a certain position, you are required to stay in that position, so you can't switch between East and West for different rounds (Law 5A). If you're changing directions then one player is North and West, the other is South and East.

In most clubs in New Zealand, South is in charge of the bridgemate and East approves the result. This is not compulsory, and they do it the other way in the UK, USA. Some players like to give the tablet to Dummy to enter the contract and lead, I think this is just a distraction. Best practice is for South to enter the contract and opening lead while dummy is being displayed. If South is dummy then they should put dummy out first and then do the bridgemate.

Law 8A2 specifies that North is responsible for moving the boards to the next table, I doubt most players know this. They can ask E/W to move them on.

System - *you should agree your system before you start a session. Okay, if you're playing with someone new then you kind of agree on the basics and then add things as you remember. You must not look at your cards and then say "are we playing transfers?" You may carry a system card or notes, but you are not allowed to look at it once the auction has started (Law 40).*

When you arrive at a new table you should greet your opponents, this is basic courtesy. You should also stop talking about the previous round, partly out of courtesy but also so as not to provide any information to your opponents - "if you jump then we'll get to slam". Before play starts you are supposed to give a brief description of your system - Acol / Standard American / 2-over-1 / Precision / Polish Club. If you're not sure what the opponents mean then you

can ask for more detail. At tournaments the players are required to carry a System Card and give it to the opposition. In high-level events these system cards are published online prior to the event so the players can prepare for their opponents.

You must not take your cards out of the board if the opposition aren't present (Law 7C). You are required to count your cards (Law 7B2) and you should shuffle them before returning them to the board at the end of play (Law 7C). You must not touch another player's cards (Law 7B3).

You are not allowed to observe how a player sorts their cards, although I can't find this in the laws. Some experts don't even sort their cards, or have different random ways, it's not smart to always have your spades on the left. You need to be careful about voids, don't switch a batch of cards because you have a void, people will notice. Some players sort their cards under the table and also play them from under the table so the opponents can't see where they're pulling a card from.

Once you're ready to bid, pick up your pencil! Best practice is hold on to your pencil until the auction has ended, don't bid and then put it down on the table, it looks dodgy. It's ok if you're consistent, but it's too easy to convey your emotions. And don't tap your pencil on the table please.

Once everyone has picked up their pencil then we can start the auction. It's courtesy for Dealer to wait until everyone seems ready, but if you take 30 seconds to count and sort your cards, I'm already bidding sorry.

More tips 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!!!!

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:

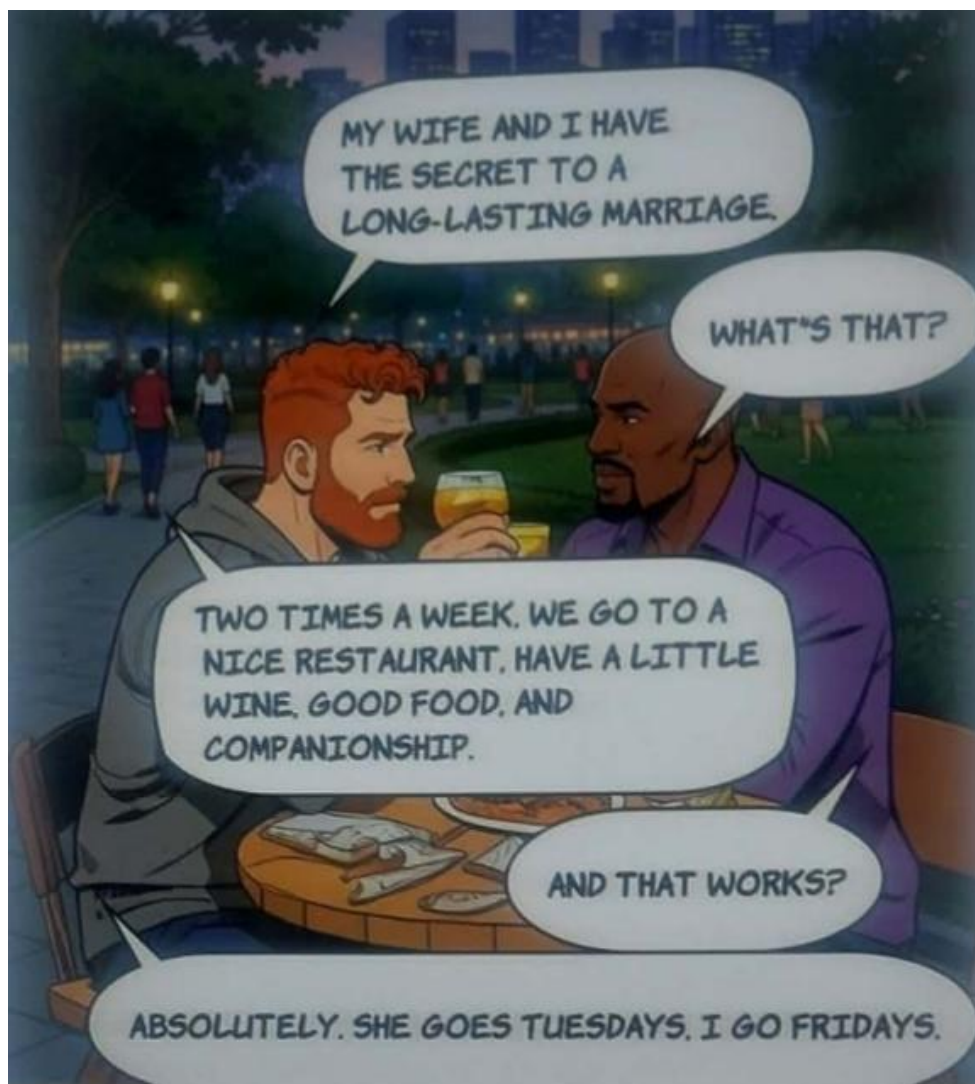
WhatsApp & Bobbie Fluker

027 4274 151

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- Canon - Jenny Forbes 022 493 1016
- Arvida Glen Brae





Happy Easter from the Rotorua Bridge Committee

Remember Holiday Bridge this Easter Monday
A Partner is required

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

Happy Bridging
Bobbie