



AUCKLAND NORTHLAND REGION NOVEMBER 2025



NEWSLETTER



Eds: Lysandra Zheng, Jane Stearns

CONGRESS AROUND THE CORNER

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Best of luck to everybody travelling to Palmerston North for our annual New Zealand National Congress!

FOLLOW THE ACTION!

BBO

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Head to **Bridge Base Online's** vugraph to watch contenders in the Regional Championships on Friday 7th November and competitors in the subsequent NZ Teams!



Auckland Bridge Club NORTH ISLAND TEAMS



Auckland-Northland in conjunction with Auckland Bridge Club are proud to have hosted the annual North Island Teams. Attracting a total of 28 teams, the winning team comprised of three Aucklanders in **Patrick Carter, Julie Atkinson, Zachary Yan, and Jack James**. Patrick and Julie, in particular, dominated the pair datums – bringing back an average of 1.55 IMPs per board.

The **ATKINSON** team's only loss was to runners up **Blair Fisher, Elizabeth Fisher, Tom Jacob, and Steph Jacob**, narrowly losing by 5 IMPs. Who said that overtricks don't matter at Teams?

Team **ATKINSON** finished with 113.82 VPs out of a total possible 160. Silver and bronze were a closer competition. Team **Fisher** came away with a 7-0-1 record and 103.36 VPs, yet the difference might have been as small as an IMP or two: Team **ZHU** (Julia Zhu, June Lei, George Sun, and Alice Young) finished on 103.27, with a match record of 6-0-2.



LOVEBLOCK NZ WIDE PAIRS CHAMPIONS

1st : Waiheke

Felicity Hannay & Bob Grover

2nd : Kerikeri

Diane Russell & Jolene Zink

3rd : Franklin

Barbara Lockyer & Neil Miller

Congratulations to our regional champions in the Loveblock Wines-sponsored *New Zealand Wide Pairs*, held on October 17th. A total of 818 pairs competed from across the country. Felicity and Bob delivered an outstanding performance, scoring 69.02% and placing 4th nationwide. Diana/Jolene and Barbara/Neil also shone with 66.51% and 65.60%, finishing 13th and 16th overall.

A special mention goes to Diana, Jolene, and Neil, all Intermediate players, and to Barbara Lockyer, a Junior player—an impressive achievement to reach the top 2% in such a strong field featuring many leading Open players.

WORLD STAGE SUCCESS



It was a huge effort — and a fantastic achievement — for the New Zealand–Australian team **WHAM** to defeat a top Russian team in the final of the **22nd HCL International Bridge Championship**, repeating last year's success.

The team included **Michael Whibley** and **Matthew Brown**, both current members of the New Zealand Open Team. Michael is now based in Argentina, while Matthew — who learned his early bridge in Whangārei — has since played from Auckland and now lives in England with his wife **Andi Boughey**, herself a New Zealand Women's representative. Proud mother **Tania Brown** is our regional treasurer – a family deeply entwined with bridge!

Their Australia-based teammates rounded out a strong international lineup, and the team's outstanding performance earned them an impressive **\$86,000 in prize money**.

KERIKERI QUAIL RIDGE SWISS PAIRS

Richard, a long-time tutor at the Whangārei Bridge Club, had a special reason to celebrate recently. His student, **Alan** — who first learned bridge several years ago in Auckland — returned to the game in 2021 and joined Richard's lessons to refresh his skills.

Richard and Alan totalled 96.34 VPs out of a possible 120 over six rounds of competition, finishing well above 2nd place Bill Humphrey and Patsy Walters, who scored 82.45 VPs.

The pair's first tournament win together was warmly received by the players. As an Intermediate player, Alan did exceptionally well to hold his own against strong competition and help secure victory in the 5A event — a fantastic achievement for both tutor and student!





Andrew Liu & Jerry Chen



Nancy Beck & Dave Beck



Sue Fitzgerald & Liz Forbes

Whangārei ASHBURY HEIGHTS PAIRS TOURNAMENT

Whangārei Bridge Club's brand-new tournament, sponsored by **Ashbury Heights Lifestyle Village** drew 25 tables spread across three graded sections.

Jerry and Andrew had a steady — and altogether outstanding — day in the Open, scoring 66.85% in the morning and following it up with 64.81% in the afternoon. Their consistent play saw them finish comfortably ahead of runners-up Ian Berrington and Fuxia Wen by more than 5%.

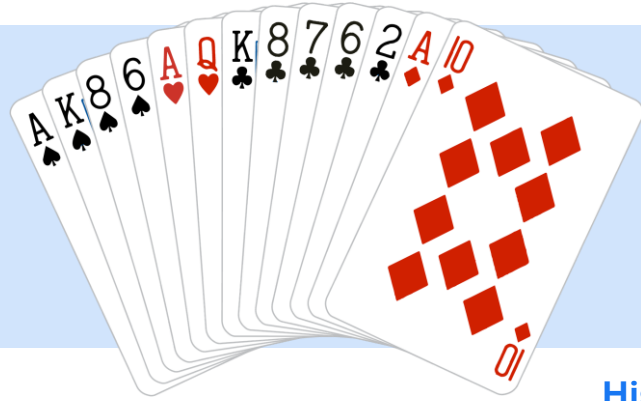
Dave and Nancy made a strong start in the Intermediate field with a fantastic 68.52%. The afternoon proved tougher at 47.45%, but their earlier success held firm — they narrowly claimed first place with an overall 57.99%, just 0.35% ahead of Juliet Golightly and Vanessa McGoldrick on 57.64%.

Sue and Liz, in the Junior section, were unstoppable from the start, recording a stunning 72.25% in the morning — the highest score of the day across all sections! They backed it up with 65.42% in the afternoon to win their grade by a wide margin. Their average score was a full 13% ahead of runners-up Jillian Kearney and Ron Bywater, whose 56.00% earned a well-deserved silver.



THE SLAM ZONE

Your partner opens a Weak 2 Spades...
What do you do?



Dealer: S
Nil Vul

♠ AK86
♥ AQ
♦ AT
♣ K8762

♠ T
♥ J752
♦ Q965
♣ Q953

♠ J4
♥ KT9864
♦ K43
♣ JT

♠ Q97532
♥ 3
♦ J872
♣ A4

High scorers Sue and Liz did well to bid their way to 6♠ on these cards – a contract reached by only three pairs across the tournament!

Although the South hand isn't the most traditional pre-empt, one can't really be faulted for opening with a 6-card spade suit and good shape. North faces quite the powerhouse.

With AK of partner's suit, perhaps suspecting that South thus had something on the side to open, would no doubt be pleasantly surprised to hear of an ace. Slam isn't a *certainty* from there, but with a good source of tricks and no quick losers, North ends up being well rewarded for going a "bit further".

MT ALBERT BRIDGE CLUB

ARCH JELLEY: 103 YEARS YOUNG



17 tables came together at Mt Albert bridge club to celebrate **Arch Jelley's** remarkable 103rd birthday on Wednesday, August 13th. Before the bridge began, he cut the cake and delighted everyone with a speech – sharing some light-hearted advice he'd received from a friend. Forget the past, look forward to the future, and don't worry about the present – because his friend didn't buy him one!

There aren't too many people over 100 who still regularly play bridge – but few could match Arch's energy and enthusiasm, still creating new systems and writing booklets on the game.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

2026 BEGINNERS' LESSONS

Clubs can now plan ahead for their **2026 beginners' bridge lessons**, with \$300 available from the region towards their budgets to help support marketing and promotion.

Whether you're printing flyers, running social media ads, or advertising in your local paper, this funding is designed to help your club attract new players and grow the game.

It's also a good time to **check your accounts** — a reminder to claim any 2025 beginners' lesson expenses before **30 November**. Claims submitted after that date may not be reimbursed, so please get them in soon.

Apply for your club's funding today!

- ❖ **Tania Brown**
- ❖ AKNTHTREASURER@outlook.com



JAN CORMACK



ANR COMMITTEE UPDATES

Auckland Northland Regional Committee will farewell **Jan Cormack** from the end of 2025. Jan has brought her long years of experience to support the committee with particular focus on international/youth/women's bridge.

There is now an opening for 2026 for a **new committee member**. Skills particularly needed are:

- Support for **regional tournament** promotion and running in conjunction with our larger clubs.
- IT skills and time to support running **social media campaigns** for clubs and assisting with **RealBridge**.

If this sounds like you and you would be willing to give some time to support the Region, please contact **Jane Stearns** janelawrence50@hotmail.com to discuss.

UPCOMING *Tournaments*

AUCKLAND NORTHLAND REGION

22
NOV

EAST COAST BAYS

RESTRICTED PAIRS

RESTRICTED 8B

WHANGAREI

NORTHLAND CENTRE

OPEN PAIRS

OPEN 8B

29
NOV

WAIHEKE

RESTRICTED PAIRS

RESTRICTED 8B

07
DEC

AKARANA

CHRISTMAS OPEN PAIRS

OPEN 3A

13
DEC

MT ALBERT

OPEN SWISS PAIRS

OPEN 5A

27
28
20
DEC

PAPATOETOE

CHRISTMAS PAIRS

OPEN 5A

OVER THREE EVENINGS

27
28
20
DEC

AUCKLAND

NEW YEAR PAIRS

OPEN 5A

OVER THREE EVENINGS

FIND YOUR EVENT
[HERE](#) TO REGISTER



Congratulations
OWEN CAMP
SILVER GRANDMASTER

TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY NOV 29TH
10:30AM - Morra Hall Oneroa



Restricted 8B Tournament - Two sessions
To enter go to NZB website, login, go to Tournament List,
Search for Waiheke Restricted Pairs and enter there.
Entry fee is \$35 - pay online by direct credit to WBC Club:

Account: ASB 12 3114 0011 545 00 Ref (Your name), Particulars: (Your phone number)

Grades: Open/Intermediate, Open/Junior, Intermediate/Intermediate,
Intermediate/Junior, Junior/Junior.

Free lunch for all and prizes for all grades.

You will need to catch the 9am boat from Downtown terminal
Bus from ferry stops outside Morra Hall.

Generously sponsored by LifeCare Residences