

Newsletter No 3

The Waikato Bays Region Junior and Intermediate Leagues

The Waikato Bays region league season has almost reached its half way stage with 3 tournaments in the books for the Juniors and 3 down for the intermediates

This year the following tournaments are scheduled in each of the leagues as follows:

Junior	
Hamilton	Played
Cambridge	Played
Matamata	Played
Mount Maunganui	July 19th
Tauranga	August 30th
Te Awamutu	October 13th

Intermediate	
Taupo	Played
Hamilton	Played
Katikati	Played
Mount Maunganui	July 19th
Te Awamutu	August 16th
Tauranga	August 30th
Matamata	September 14th
Cambridge	October 19th

This newsletter will keep competitors abreast of the progress of each League and hopefully some interesting facts and news.

The next tournaments are to be played together at Mount Maunganui. Make sure you have your entry sorted, and if you have some novices interested in tournament play encourage them to enter the Novice section for the afternoon.

Matamata Junior and Katikati Intermediate Tournaments

The Matamata Junior tournament marks the halfway stage for the Junior league and there were 10 table entered with some Novices pairs included in the entries and 10 waikato club represented. After 2 excellent sessions the top 6 looked like this. Ian Bond directed with much aplomb and control.



The Juniors battle it out at Matamata



Vicki and Maria and Donnalea and Karen discuss the last board (or was it the morning tea?)



Ian restores equity at the table



Karen has clearly had a great day regardless of results!



Caption this one folks!

At the wash up of it all the final placings were:

Rank	Name	Clubs	Total MPs	Total %	NZB Grade	Sess1	Sess2
						Percent	Percent
1	Larissa Eyre & Iain Paterson	Hami/Hami	531	122.91	JJ	69.21	53.70
2	Vicki Petherick & Maria Muller	Waik/Hami	514	118.98	JJ	65.97	53.01
3	Nikki Baguley & Mark Wardill	MtMa/Taur	506	117.13	JJ	64.12	53.01
4	Grant James & Bruce Bettany	Morr/Morr	493	114.12	JJ	52.08	62.04
5	Olive Boyd & Andrea Cawley	Taur/Taur	471	109.03	JJ	50.93	58.10
6=	Susanne McHowell & Graham Wallis	Omok/Omok	455	105.33	JJ	48.15	57.18
6=	Mark Beavan & Stewart Lawrence	Hami/Hami	455	105.32	JJ	56.25	49.07
	Maxine Vickers & Patricia						



Session Prize Karen and Wayne



Lindsay and David



Vicki and Maria Second Place



Larissa and Iain First Place

At Katikati later in May the Int League continued with 44 pairs competing over 52 boards during the day. Norm Silcock directed in his normal unflustered way to make the day so friendly and relaxed.



Session underway at Katikati

The competition was friendly but committed throughout the day. The top 6 of the tournament looked like this at the end of the day:

Rank	Name	Sess	Subs?	Total	Average	1	2
						18May	18May
1	Margaret Stubbenhagen & Geraldine Maddox	2	.	122.21	61.11	65.02	57.19
2	Graeme Hope & Robert Knyvett	2	.	120.28	60.14	55.77	64.51
3	Denise Whybrow & Nandy Costa	2	.	118.89	59.45	56.41	62.48
4	Bob Strawbridge & Sheila Lister	2	.	118.31	59.16	66.67	51.64
5	Sabrina Peters & Nita Knight	2	.	115.78	57.89	65.11	50.67
6	Janice Simpson & Ross Petersen	2	.	114.60	57.30	63.55	51.05



Christine and Hilary Defending Resolutely



Denise and Nandy (3rd)



Margaret and Geraldine (Katikati) (1st Place)

Profile Patch

Sean Dwyer Junior from Hamilton BC



Sean is originally from South Africa but has been in NZ for 21 years. He was originally in Auckland for 13 years but has now been in Hamilton for eight years and loves it there. He started playing bridge in 2020 but this was rudely interrupted by Covid. It was a dreadful year as his mum was one of the first people to die from Covid back in South Africa where it ended up being particularly devastating. This heartbreak and Covid interruptions made it a rocky start to playing bridge.

Sean plays bridge with his husband, Kevin. This practice is not recommended by some and to be fair, it has been a bit of a rollercoaster with some nights very frosty in the car on the way home. Kevin only started in 2022 and is not nearly as competitive. A dear friend at the club often has to remind Sean that "It's only a game!"

Their goal is to finish in the top half of the junior tournaments this year and have a couple of podium finishes. Unfortunately, they did not play in the Hamilton tournament but finished 2/24 in the Cambridge one and 10/20 in Matamata, so thus far the goal is being achieved.

A favourite bridge memory is during the Cambridge tournament Kevin bid 4 Clubs with the intention of inviting to 5. Sean though took this as asking for aces and dutifully replied 4 Spades as he had 2 aces. Not wanting to go to Slam, he expected either a pass or 5 Clubs. Desperate, Kevin then went to 5 Clubs, saying to himself, "Please PASS, Sean!!". Sean of course answered correctly with a 5 Hearts and Kevin then very reluctantly, with the colour having drained from his face, signed off at 6 Clubs. The amazing feat was that it should not have been called but they got it and as a result got a top board!! The couple they played against are from the same club and this catapulted Sean & Kevin ahead of them in the final placings by a mere 0.16%. If anyone ever thought that luck does not play a part in bridge - think again !

Sean is very social and loves spending time with friends and family especially their daughter who lives with her partner in Auckland. Sean loves playing cards - all sorts - poker, rummy etc and many a weekend is spent playing cards with friends and even neighbours.

When not working (a sad necessity as Lotto hasn't been forthcoming his way - yet), Sean also plays tennis but his biggest passion outside of bridge is Community Theatre. He has been actively involved in theatre for over 40 years either on the stage or on the odd occasion as a director too. Since being in Hamilton he has tread the boards in Te Awamutu, Morrinsville and three times at Riverlea in Hamilton. Last year in April he was in Morrinsville's production of "Stepping Out". He had the only male role out of a cast of 10 so was delighted to get the part. He had to learn to tap dance in this play which like Bridge, was certainly a challenge. And then in October 2024 he was seen in Playbox's production of "One Flew over The Cuckoo's Nest" at Riverlea.

[ED] Thanks Sean for providing the insight into your Bridge journey.

League Positions

The top three from left to right at the Cambridge Junior Tournament

So the current standings for each league are:

For the Juniors after 2 rounds:

Rank	Name	Club	Points	Sessions
1	Stewart Lawrence	Hamilton	13	2
1	Mark Beavan	Hamilton	13	2
3	Iain Paterson	Hamilton	12	2
3	Larissa Eyre	Hamilton	12	2
5	Kevin Lawrence	Hamilton	6	1
5	Sean Dwyer	Hamilton	6	1
7	Cate Anderson	Hamilton	4	2
7	Diane Brown	Cambridge	4	2
7	Paul Phillips	Cambridge	4	2
7	Olive Boyd	Tauranga	4	2
7	Mike Everard	Hamilton	4	2
7	Jo Millington	Hamilton	4	2

For the Intermediates after 2 rounds:



Rank	Name	Club	Points	Sessions
1	Ted Clifflin	Thames	15	2
1	Barbara McFarlane	Thames	15	2
3	Rosemary Wilkey	Tauranga	9	2
3	Bettina Dudley	Te Puke	9	2
5	Heather Sharp	Matamata	8	2
5	Lyudmyla Watts	Matamata	8	2
7	Catherine Cameron	Hamilton	7	1
7	Trini Lin	Hamilton	7	1
9	Michele Liddle	Matamata	6	2
9	Bob Strawbridge	Waitomo	6	2
9	Sheila Lister	Waitomo	6	2
9	Deslee Howell	Matamata	6	2

Well done to all competitors and we now look forward to the May events and the half way point for the Junior comp.