



Newsletter Issue no.

1/26

The Waikato Bays Region Bridge Club Newsletter

Welcome and Committee News

A sincere welcome from the Region Committee.

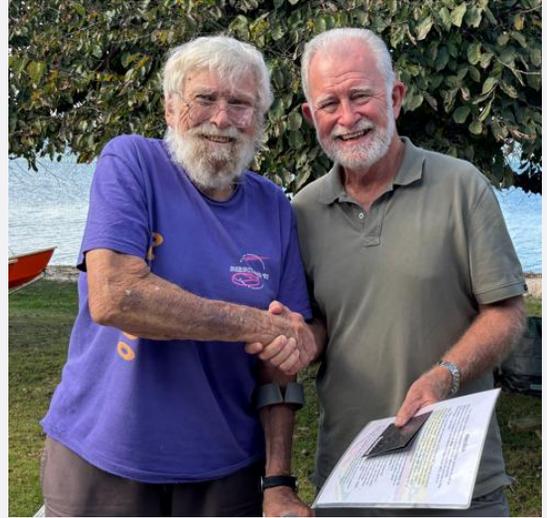
Well 2026 is well and truly underway so it is about time you had an update from your Region Committee, so here it is.

Although we haven't said much up to now a considerable amount of organising has been going on in the background.

On the committee membership front we have had a change of 50% of the team, including the passing of the baton of Committee Chair by Alan Dick to myself. This was identified in the last newsletter of 2025 by Alan.

Kevin Whyte and Gillian Corbett our former Treasurer and Minute Secretary have both decided to retire gracefully to spend more time with families and their garden. We would like to thank Kevin and Gillian for their service to the committee and by extension to the NZB for the benefit of bridge within our Region.

Alan Dick initially had intended to remain on the committee as both minute secretary and a handy reference for myself. Alan's health has forced a rethink, and with great regret he has decided to step down completely. We wish Alan all the best for the future and out immense gratitude for all he has done during his time with the Region.



The letter sent to Alan from the Committee on behalf of the whole region is attached to this newsletter and also available on the WB region website.

Greg Davenport has bravely stepped into the treasurer role and Judith Howard (one of our new members) has volunteered to be minute secretary.

In addition to Judith, Megan Richards and Gaylene Cumpstone have been co-opted onto the committee to ensure we have the required number of members and a quorum for any decisions we make.

If you visit our website <https://www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org/> (just click this link) you can see their wonderful visages in full technicolor. There is of course other very useful and enlightening information on the website, check it out.

Regional Championships 2026

A primary focus for this part of the year is the selection of the team to represent the Region in this years Regional Champs. The team consists of teams comprising:

- Open
- Senior
- Women
- Intermediate

Each team is made up of 4 players.

We were intending to hold pairs trials as part of the selection process, However, for a number of reasons there have been insufficient entries and the teams have been selected from those who entered for the trials.

The successful players who will represent the Region are:

Open

Barry Jones and Jenny Millington
Blair and Liz Fisher

Women

Christine Gibbons and Jenna Gibbons

Judy Pawson and Kate Terry

Senior

Hugh and Di McAlister
Gary Foidl and Yuzhong Chen

Intermediate

Catherine Cameron and Helen Rinaldi
Judith Howard and Nick Saunders

The first stage of the championship will be held online on 1st to 3rd May 2026 using Real Bridge. The top 2 teams from each category then will attend the second stage in person on the day before congress starts in Palmerston North.

GOOD LUCK to you all!!



Directors and Scorers Fora

Once again we have planned fora for all those interested in scoring and directing in any capacity or even thinking about getting involved.

We have decided to separate these two aspects this year.

First, the scorers forum will be on 23rd May at Cambridge Club. The primary focus will be on Compass VB which is about to be launched to replace the current Compass V6.

This will be followed by the Directors Forum on 7th June at Matamata Bridge Club, once again we have secured the services of Allan Joseph to present some of the content. There will be content on both laws and movements as well as other director related issues.

At each session pizza lunch will be provided. These sessions will run from 10am to about 4pm. Registration can be made on the NZB tournament website.

Any questions can be directed to Hugh McAlister on 027 2663488 or secretarywbbc@gmail.com.

Interclub Teams Events

- **Waikato**

The Waikato interclub teams will be held on 21 June at Cambridge Bridge Club.

Clubs are invited to enter their teams, please all clubs have to have all three teams entered (Open, Intermediate and Junior), if there any difficulties with this please contact Clare Coles, President Cambridge Bridge Club.

The top two teams in each section will qualify for the final to be held at Matamata Bridge Club on 23 August.

- **InterClub Rules**

Please note the latest set of rules for team selection issued by the WB Region Committee in late 2025..

- **Bay of Plenty**

The Bay of Plenty Interclub Teams will be held at Rotorua BC on 26th July.

The top two teams in each section will qualify for the final to be held at Matamata Bridge Club on 23 August.



- **Club Information Day**

- Please look out for communication on a potential information day later this year.
- Please let the committee know your best contacts for promulgating this information. Email to secretarywbbc@gmail.com

Intermediate, Junior and Restricted Open Leagues

Once again the Region is supporting leagues for our lower graded players to encourage participation in tournaments. The program has been expanded this year to include a Restricted Open league.

The restricted open league comprises 5 swiss pair events held throughout the region during the year. Entries to these events (3A points) is restricted to those with a grade of National Master or below.

The intermediate and Junior Leagues are already underway with 2 events completed in each and the restricted open league begins in May.

The region have also provided trophies for the champions for all leagues for the first time. Good luck to all entrants in these events.

• Rubber Bridge

The 2026 Dan Gifford Rubber Bridge competition will begin in May with our region rubber bridge knockout competition with the top pairs going forward to the final which is held during the National Congress in Palmerston North.

Entries are open right now and a information and practice session will be held at Te Awamutu Bridge club on 12th April from 1pm for those players who are unfamiliar with this form of the game.

Contact Nick Whitten to enter or for information about the practice session. nickwhitten@xtra.co.nz or phone 07 889 7831.



PIPS (Card Play and Instruction Practice Sundays)

Once again we will provide this program for players with less than 2 years experience. All sessions will start at 1pm and this will be a roadshow event where clubs will host a session between now and November.

Venues have not been finalised currently and if a club is keen to host a session please contact Nick Whitten to register interest. nickwhitten@xtra.co.nz or phone 07 889 7831. We will also approach clubs to with some already booked, wathc out for posters advertising these events



Alan Dick

The Waikato-Bays Regional Committee wishes to put on record the many contributions of Alan Dick, who recently resigned from this Committee after many years of service to the Committee, the Region, to Rotorua Bridge Club (BC), and to NZ Bridge in general.

Alan is a staunch member of Rotorua BC, having joined in 1969, after attending lessons there. He took to bridge like the proverbial “duck to water”. Before long his many talents were recognised, and he was coopted onto the Committee. Alan served as Club President 3 times – in 1981-83; 2016-17; and 2023-24. In the words of Ruth Lewis, who joined Rotorua BC in 1987, “Alan was the driving force of the Club”.

Alan was an early advocate for the use of computers, he was one of our earliest IT specialists, and he used his skills to assist Forestry companies in the early days. He also used them, in partnership with Neil Dravitzki, in the early development of bridge scoring systems locally.

Alan’s energy and talents led him to the Regional Committee (then “Centre”) in the late 1980’s. He served an initial term on the Committee, then as Chairman. He has been described as a “good Committee member – he lets others do the talking, then makes critical observations.” “He was always very well organised”, says his long-time friend and bridge partner Heini Lux. “Committee work kept him really busy”. Alan was made a Life Member of Rotorua BC in 1990.

Alan is an accomplished bridge player. He and his partner won the Rotorua BC Championships no less than 12 times, between 1981 and 2024. He was made a Grand Master in 2019, and in his eightieth year, last year, he accumulated a creditable 14 A points to add to his tally. In addition, Alan has been an accredited Club Director for many decades, and is still active in the role at regional events.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Alan heard the call and returned to the Regional Committee in 2018, taking on the onerous Chairman role once again, in June 2022, a role which his deteriorating health forced him to relinquish in late 2025. During this time, Alan distinguished himself as a leader, championing a number of initiatives, and keeping an energetic group on task.

Alan is highly respected for his work at National level also. Our long-serving National Secretary, Alister Stuck, describes Alan as “a superb person; I appreciate what he has done for bridge over many years”.

Alan’s other love, apart, of course, from his lovely wife Margie, is sailing. Many years were spent pottering on his boat at the Tauranga Marina, until he sold it last year. He has been involved with “Sailing for the Blind” for many years, and still goes out with them.

Alan, we thank you; we appreciate you and salute you for all you have done for bridge in this country; and we look forward to many more tussles across the bridge table.

Waikato – Bays Regional Committee, March 2026