

Newsletter

The Waikato Bays Region Junior and Intermediate Leagues

The Waikato Bays region league season is underway.

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

Junior	
Hamilton	March 15th
Cambridge	March 29th
Matamata	May 10th
Mount Maunganui	July 19th
Tauranga	August 30th
Te Awamutu	October 13th

Intermediate	
Taupo	Played
Hamilton	March 15th
Katikati	May 18th
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.

Of course the junior league hasn't begun yet with the first leg at Hamilton on March 15th. If you are a junior or novice player find a partner, register and have some fun on the day.

Last years winners of the Junior League were Luda and Heather from Matamata (joint winners as they played all the tournaments together). But you don't have to play with the same partner, it is an individual competition.

This year both have progressed to be Intermediate players so the field is more open this year in the Junior Section.

Luda and Heather continued their good form into the intermediate league in 2025. Making a strong showing at Taupo (see below).

Profile Patch

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On the subject of Luda lets get to know this rising star:

Luda is originally from Ukraine and emigrated to New Zealand in November 2019 to be with her boyfriend (to whom she is now married) they had corresponded for 12 years with his occasional trips back to Ukraine or Luda to NZ. A planned 2020 trip to Ukraine was cancelled due to the pandemic and with the war in Ukraine all plans to travel there are on hold. Luda hadn't heard about Bridge before coming to NZ. The game of Preference whilst at university exposed Luda to trick taking games. Luda's aunt by marriage introduced the game and she happens to be a member of Matamata bridge club.

Luda signed up however it was part way (most of the way through beginners lessons of 2021 and her first lesson was about Stayman! Which was a challenge and like going from 0 to 100kph in a nanosecond!

Bridge is now Luda's sole focus sports and games wise.

Luda's main current goal is to have a better understanding of the game. Her favourite moment so far has been the realization that a connection has been made with a partner.

Thanks for the insight Luda and good luck on your bridge journey.

The intermediate league kicked off with the Taupo tournament on 2 March.

There were 16 tables with a good field from around the region, plus a New Plymouth pair. Clubs from across the region featured Thames in the North, Waitomo in the West and Mount Maunganui over the Kaimais to name check the long travellers.

Of course the home club also had a good representation.

Two sessions were held a Webb Mitchell movement in the morning and then the field was split into two 8 table Howells for the afternoon.

The day was ably and expertly directed by Ella Gray.

Well done to all the place getters with Ted and Barbara from Thames taking the top

prize.

Rank	Name	Club	Total Points	Sessions	Taupo
					02-Mar
1	Ted Clifflin	Thames	8	1	8
1	Barbara McFarlane	Thames	8	1	8
3	Lyudmyla Watts	Matamata	6	1	6
3	Heather Sharp	Matamata	6	1	6
5	Bettina Dudley	Te Puke	4	1	4
5	Rosemary Wilkey	Tauranga	4	1	4
5	Colleen Mankelow	Taupo	4	1	4
5	Deslee Howell	Matamata	4	1	4
5	Michele Liddle	Matamata	4	1	4
5	Ruth Hennebry	Taupo	4	1	4
11	Nick Saunders	Te Awamutu	3	1	3
11	Kathryn Morgan	Rotorua	3	1	3
11	Jackie Pulman	Rotorua	3	1	3
11	Judith Howard	Matamata	3	1	3

The current league looks like this:

Last year's joint Intermediate champions were Megan Jolly and Leanne Curry.



The points gained for each leg does vary depending on the entry numbers, with bonus points for just for turning up to the leg, getting more than 50% overall and for winning a session outright.

The intermediates now look forward to the Hamilton Leg on 15th MARCH.