



Newsletter Issue no.

2025/5

The Waikato Bays Region Intermediate and Junior Leagues Newsletter

The Waikato Bays region league season 2025 is all wrapped up.

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



The final events in both leagues were played in late October.

The final event for the Junior League was at Te Awamutu. With 10 tables attending and also the afternoon session a complement of 5 Tables of Novices joined the fun.

Your correspondent directed the day with marvellous assistance from newly qualified club director Deslee Howell. Deslee will surely be around to direct some Junior tournaments through 2026 – so be nice!!

The intermediate league continued with Matamata in September and then finished at Cambridge in October.

Thanks to all participants for getting along and taking part. Encourage other Junior and Intermediate players to enter the league tournaments in 2026.

Photo's of the fun

Te Awamutu Junior

With 8 Tables in the Junior section it appears some didn't compete as the league had been sown up prior to this heat.

Alan and Joanne from Mt Maignau took the honours again, repeating their success from their home tournament.

Paul and Diane from Cambridge had a fine morning with first N/S. Alan and Joanne were best E/W.

In the afternoon Bruce and Ken won one section and Iain and Larissa won the other.

Overall the final placings were:

Rank	Name	Clubs	T
1	Alan McLean & Joanne McLean	MtMa/MtMa	
2	Vicki Petherick & Maria Muller	Waik/Hami	
3	Bruce Bettany & Ken Couper	Morr/Hami	
4	Mike Sutherland & Joanne Sutherland	NewP/NewP	
5	Iain Paterson & Larissa Eyre	Hami/Hami	



Matamata Intermediate

A large field of 18 Tables duked it out iat Matamata.

All the best performing pairs in the league were present alongside some outsiders from other regions.

Sue and Steve from Cambridge won both AM and PM sessions whilst likewise Bill and Kerri were best pair East/West in the morning and one the section in the afternoon.

The wash up of the day looked like this:

Rank	Name	Clubs	Total MPs
1	Steve Hunt & Sue Keating	Camb/Camb	1060
2	Bill Leach & Kerri McCrae	MtAl/Auck	1007
3	Ross Petersen & Andrew Reynolds	Omok/Omok	990
4	Denise Whybrow & Nanda Costa	Camb/Camb	908
5	Julie Downs & Janice Simpson	MtMa/Taur	900



Cambridge Intermediate Tournament

Cambridge was the venue for the final leg of the Intermediate League

At the start of the day it was possible that anyone down to 10th spot could win the title.

However there was great performances from the top placed pairs.

Bill and Kerri won in the morning along with Luda and Heather in E/W. Home pair Irene and Tony won one section in the afternoon whilst Ross and Deirdre won the other section.

Overall the final placings were:

Rank	Name	Clubs
1	Irene Stewart & Tony Davidson	Camb/Camb
2	Heather Sharp & Luda Watts	Mata/Mata
3	Beth Kingsley & Moya Young	Mata/Mata
4	John Little & Graham Saunders	Waik/Waik
5	Michele Liddle & Deslee Howell	Mata/Mata



Profile Patch

Hilary Williams



Hilary first heard about bridge each week when my mother would leave the house and my father would say, 'don't trump your partner's ace', they would laugh or groan at this. It was when I learnt to play five hundred that I understood its meaning.

Hilary first learnt bridge in 2013 but did not play regularly for the first 5 years. In 2018 Hilary decided to commit to the game and once playing consistently was hooked!

Hilary runs her own catering company currently, which is rewarding and time consuming at the same time.

She is married to Dale, coming up on 40 years, and we have a son Luke. Unfortunately Dale is not a card player so relies on other bridge partners.

Hilary's birthplace was Taumarunui, and the family moved to Rotorua when she was 10. School and University took her around NZ and early working life also resulted in new places, but the lure of Rotorua remained strong (like something else we could mention!) and so Hilary finds herself well and truly based there.

Hilary recently joined a gym and enjoys sewing and has started to learn quilting. Hilary even dabbles in painting and has managed to sell two pieces, though she reckons not for their artistic merit!!

Hilary likes to have her life in balance and thus the choice to learn bridge. very much for the benefit to her brain function as she ages. However with the new conventions her partnership is learning she reckons that just makes her brain hurt!!.

Hilary reckons the most benefit from bridge are the friends she has made in the club and across the mutu. There is a small group of us who put a pin in the map, find the nearest bridge tournament and go away for the weekend. So far, Akaroa, Levin, Gisborne and New Plymouth. Wanaka and Kaikoura are coming soon.

Hilary's goal for bridge? Just enjoying the ride. and to keep playing with my wonderful partner, Christine, who accepts all my mistakes and we have a good laugh and enjoy good food together.

Hilary's favourite bridge moment was whilst playing against some NZ reps and managed to completely bamboozle them and managed 2 top boards. The best part is the NZ rep, still remembers it!!

The other lighter moment was whilst at the club one night and I was bitterly complaining that all North seats needed to get a free drink, as if we hadn't been there as North has no decent hands and were just there to make up number!

On the final hand, my partner bid, both opps bid, I passed, my partner bid again followed by opp, so I thought "bugger it I will go 5Ds", My partner said this will stop you complaining and went 6Ds. It shut me up, We were the only ones to bid it and then made it, sweet!!!! I have learnt to keep my mouth shut.

Final Standings

Junior Section

Well after 6 events the cream always rises to the top and so it has been in 2025.

The final top 10 are:

Rank	Name	Club	Points	Sessions
1	Iain Paterson	Hamilton	25	5
1	Larissa Eyre	Hamilton	25	5
3	Alan McLean	Mt Maunganui	18	3
3	Joanne McLean	Mt Maunganui	18	3
5	Vicki Petherick	Waikato	16	5
5	Maria Muller	Hamilton	16	5
7	Stewart Lawrence	Hamilton	15	3
7	Mark Beavan	Hamilton	15	3
7	Bruce Bettany	Morrinsville	15	4
10	Ken Couper	Hamilton	14	4

Well done Iain and Larissa. We expect that you and a couple of others will be joining the intermediate league next year!!

Intermediate Section

Rank	Name	Club	Points	Sessions
1	Bettina Dudley	Te Puke	29	8
1	Rosemary Wilkey	Tauranga	29	8
3	Ted Cliffin	Thames	27	7
3	Barbara McFarlane	Thames	27	7
5	Lyudmyla Watts	Matamata	26	8
6	Irene Stewart	Cambridge	24	7
7	Bob Strawbridge	Waitomo	23	8
8	Sheila Lister	Waitomo	22	7
8	Heather Sharp	Matamata	22	6
10	Judith Howard	Matamata	21	8
10	Nick Saunders	Te Awamutu	21	8
10	Graham Saunders	Waikato	21	6
10	John Little	Waikato	21	6

That’s all folks!

See you all in 2026 unless you have played so well you are longer eligible for intermediate tournaments!!

The Winners are:

