

Warkworth Bridge Club

# Newsletter – March 2026



**OUR CLUB**  
WITH HEARTS IN SPADES

Welcome to our latest newsletter – the newsletter to keep you up to date with events, competitions and people at the Warkworth Bridge Club. Many thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter.

## Coming Up at the Club:

- Mondays –** Kawau Competition – Mar 9, 16, 23 and 30<sup>th</sup>  
Singles – Apr 6, 13, 20 and 27<sup>th</sup> (new partner each week)  
Omaha Competition – May 4, 11, 18, and 25<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesdays –** Warkworth Pairs - Mar 3, 10, 17, and 24<sup>th</sup>  
Singles – Mar 31<sup>st</sup>, Apr 7, 14, and 21<sup>st</sup> (new partner each week)  
Garnett Pairs – Apr 28<sup>th</sup>, May 5, and 12<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesdays –** Championship Pairs – Mar 4, 11, 18, 25<sup>th</sup>, Apr 1, and 8<sup>th</sup>  
Rees Trophy – Apr 15, 22, and 29<sup>th</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Fridays Online –** March Pairs – Mar 6, 13, and 27<sup>th</sup> (Interclub 20<sup>th</sup>)  
April Pairs – Apr 3, 10, and 24<sup>th</sup> (Interclub 17<sup>th</sup>)

Our partner stewards are very helpful in finding a partner if required. Contact Jeanette for Mondays, Vanessa for Tuesdays, Trudy for Wednesdays, Lynley for Fridays - contact details in our bridge book.

## **Congratulations** Recent results from Club events are as follows:

- Monday:** Summer Competition – Karen Hartshorn & Graham Hartshorn
- Tuesday:** Introductory Competition – Celia Knighton & David Knighton  
Jeanie Fraser Trophy – Ross Longney and Rich Keen
- Wednesday:** Presidents Trophy – Celia Knighton & David Knighton  
Ron Barnett Trophy – Ian Lewington & Lynley Lewington
- Friday:** February Pairs – Allan Joseph and Rosa Mishkin (Wellington)

Congratulations to the winners and to all those who participated.

Great to see more players completing all series this year at all sessions.

## Committee Corner

- **Warkworth Tournament** - Our annual tournament was held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January – 16 full tables enjoyed Warkworth's friendly hospitality. It was a great success largely due to the hard work and planning by the Tournament Committee, and all the behind the scenes work by a number of club members – especially the kitchen crew. The overall winners were Mark and Gabrielle Bercich with our own Jeanette Grimmer and Paul Grimmer third. There were 21 Warkworth players playing including 6 Juniors. Thanks also to our sponsors – Lee Fish and New World, and our members for catering and raffle donations.



- **January Social** - this was held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January and was well attended by players from all sessions – novices to top Intermediate players. Hopefully we all got to meet and chat to players we didn't really know from other sessions. From this photo it looks like it was all serious but not so when there was a call for Chocolate to claim a spot prize based on play! Our next social will be a mid-winter event – we welcome suggestions.

- **Code of Conduct and the Recorder** - The Committee has been discussing matters that may be impacting the enjoyment of the game for some. The directors have been challenged to start session's promptly, to keep the noise at a minimum between rounds, and to not have people discussing the hands in a way that the next table can hear discussion of the bidding, the play or the result of a board. Our members need to help the directors with these requests in the interests of fair play for all.

I'm sure you all know this..... if there is an issue at the table, then one of you can and should raise your hand and call "Director please". But what if you don't want to do that at the time or what if an issue arises away from the table? It's timely for the club to introduce the role of the Recorder as recommended by NZ Bridge – someone who can assist with the resolution of any incidences of poor behaviour that you might prefer to be dealt with confidentially and – if possible - informally. We've also developed a formal Code of Conduct incorporating the appeals and complaints processes that the club will follow if an issue arises. This document explains the role of the Director, the Recorder and the Committee in the event an issue is raised with them. You will find the new document and a Privacy Policy on the club website. I am pleased to advise that Rex Manning-Voyce has been appointed as the Recorder and Rob Elcombe as the Privacy Officer and back-up Recorder. If you have any questions about the Code or Policy, please don't hesitate to contact Lynley or Sarah H.

- **Table Vouchers** – thank you to those who are paying online for table vouchers and collecting at the club – it means we are handling a lot less cash. Don't forget if you feel 10 vouchers is too many, you can pay \$20 for 4.

- **Scoring Training** – This was held by Steve Moore in February, so we now have some members who are keen to practice their new skills. Thanks to those more experienced scorers who are helping them learn the ropes.

- **Shared document for Directors, dealers, Scorers and Housekeeping** – we have sent out a shared document for those who have assisted in these areas in the past or indicated a willingness to assist. Each session needs one of each of the above – and we would like to share the load. We have introduced a housekeeping role – responsible to ensure clubrooms are ready for the next users. Julie Snowsill is coordinating this spreadsheet – please contact her if you have any queries. Many thanks to those who have entered their name in the sheet – we look to keep the next 3 months filled

- **Facebook** – Don't forget to join our Facebook group (Warkworth Bridge Club) so it can be used more to promote events and help find partners. There is a weekly post about what is coming up at the club and any club news plus members are welcome to post any bridge news or if looking for partners.

- **Library** - Julie Atkinson has kindly donated a book Card Play Technique or the art of being lucky by Victor Mollo & Nico Gardener. This looks a very clear easy to read book with many exercises.

Our books continue to be a rich source of interest and help for those players wishing to advance their game. We will be contacting people shortly who have been studying any book for over 6 months. It is time you shared it with others! If you wish to promote a bridge book from our library, please write a review for the next newsletter.

## **Julie Atkinson Lesson and other Lessons**

There has been an intensive training spree over the last 5 weeks before the Beginner Lessons start on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Stayman, Transfers, 1NT X Escape, Intermediate lessons on Combating Interference over our 1NT and Competing over the oppositions 1NT have all been presented, some for the first time at our club. This intensive training ended on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March with Julie Atkinson's Play Technique Lesson, which was well attended by 30 of our members, was very informative and gave lots of tips. We have probably all taken away different things from this lesson depending on where we are at with our bridge. Expect some interesting bidding and play by our improving players at the club soon. Thanks to Kathryn for organising, sorting the dealing of the playing boards, hosting Julie, and for running a raffle in December which reduced the cost to members. We look forward to seeing Julie again!

One of the things that I learnt which will be of use to a number of our members is the Bridge Master option in BBO (Bridge Base Online). Open BBO, Click Solitaire, and then see Bridge Master option on right – it tells you the contract and you plan and execute your play (hopefully using techniques from Julie's lesson!) This is free! Different levels are available.

**The Bridge Zone** - This is on Free FM89 – weekly on Wednesday afternoon, but you can listen at any time. Ross Longney has a regular spot as The JIN Man – JIN for Junior, Intermediate and Novice. Some interesting tips and bridge information.

## Director's Corner

We currently have 7 members working on being recognised as Club Directors – some are further through the training than others and are currently directing at club. Please support them as they progress.

Julie Atkinson kindly gave a couple of hours of her time to assist Heather and Kathryn with their director training. Julie is one of approx. 10 National directors and has taught other directors in the past so we were very lucky to have some dedicated time with her. One of the topics covered was Explanation of calls. All players should be aware of this rule.

Law 20 F - Explanation of calls. (abridged by Kathryn)

1) During the auction any player at their turn to call may request an explanation of the opponent's auction by asking the callers partner what they understand by their partner's call. (NB The laws use the word call. A Pass or double are considered to be calls but they are not defined as "bids").

2) During the play period either defender, at his turn to play may request an explanation of the opposing auction. At his turn to play from his hand or from dummy, Declarer can request an explanation of a defender's call or card play understandings. (eg what did your partner's card play signal to you? After you led a 9♠ and partner played a 2♠.)

4) a) If a player realises during the auction that his OWN explanation was erroneous or incomplete, he must summon the director before the opening lead is faced and correct the mis-explanation. They can call the director sooner but is not obliged to do so. The director will deal with the result of what has occurred.

5) a) When it is a player's partner that has given the wrong information he MUST NOT correct the error during the auction, nor may he indicate that a mistake has been made.

b) The player must call the director and inform his opponents that in his opinion their partner's explanation was wrong but only at the first opportunity, which is:

1. For a DEFENDER, at the END of PLAY.

2. For DECLARER or Dummy, after the final pass of the auction. (Before the opening lead).

Example: East opens 1S. South can ask WEST, "What is your system when opening a Major?" but cannot ask EAST. If East was asked, then their answer could be ... "You need to ask my partner." This is more instructive and friendlier than "I can't tell you", or "You can't ask me". If WEST gives the WRONG answer, East can't alert them to that fact.

If East or West become the Declarer, they should call the director BEFORE the opening lead is faced.

Tip: If you have a new partner and have not discussed your system, just say "We do not have an agreement" or "I have forgotten our agreement".

Do not make up or state what you THINK your partner's response or bid means.

That could be mis-leading your opponents and is giving information to your partner.

## Interclub Tournaments

Auckland/Northland Region Interclub competition starts this month – we have entered 2 Intermediate Teams and 1 Junior team. This is a very enjoyable and competitive event played over 9 months online on a Friday evening with teams from Auckland and other regions participating. We are hoping to repeat our great results from last year – time will tell. Due to the unavailability of some regular players, there are a few gaps in our roster which is up on the

noticeboard – (Junior player 19<sup>th</sup> June, and 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Intermediate Player 24 July). If you can help fill these gaps, contact Graeme Duhs – a great way to see what it is all about!

## Slam and Grand Slams



After bridge sessions have finished for the year, we run a report of Slams and Grand Slams made at our club events. The results are on the noticeboard. Ross Longney won both trophies for 2025 – 3 Grand Slams and 13 Small Slams. Congratulations Ross!

Ross also earned the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of A and B points for an Intermediate player in NZ in 2025 per NZ Bridge Rank reports.

If there is no clear winner, the trophy is not awarded.

In case anyone is wondering, our trophies are currently away being engraved.

## Tournaments

Ross Longney plays tournaments almost weekly including Gold Coast Online and, with Steve Moore, playing in the Auckland Regional Championship Trials. Alan and Jan France, Graeme Duhs and Rich Keen, have been other tournament players this year other than those who played in our tournament. Hot off the press – Ross and his partner won the East Coast Bays tournament on Saturday! And Graeme and Rich were second Intermediate/Junior Pair - Congratulations!

## Auckland Regional Bridge News

The Auckland Northland Regional Committee produces a monthly newsletter. This contains information on the bigger picture in the bridge world. Stories from our clubs across the region, information on activities and training available and expert discussion on hands. Every member of an affiliated club is entitled to receive the newsletter. It is free of charge. If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter subscribe [here](#).

Click [here](#) to subscribe

## 2026 Bridge Lessons

Beginner lessons start Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – 3-5pm with Jeanette and Jan, or 7-9pm with Kathryn. If some of your friends are wondering what you do at bridge, or why you are so mentally alert – let them know about our lessons! Kathryn is the contact for lessons. If any existing club member would like to repeat the beginner lessons, please also get in touch with Kathryn. The only charge will be to cover resources.

Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> March is a practice night – all welcome.

NZB are running 2 intermediate online training sessions in April. See Noticeboard for details.

Competitive bidding when WE open; Sun 12<sup>th</sup> April; 4–6pm repeated Tues 14<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm

Competitive bidding when WE Overcall; Sun 19<sup>th</sup> April 4–6 pm repeated Tues 21<sup>st</sup> 7-9pm

## Dates for your Diaries

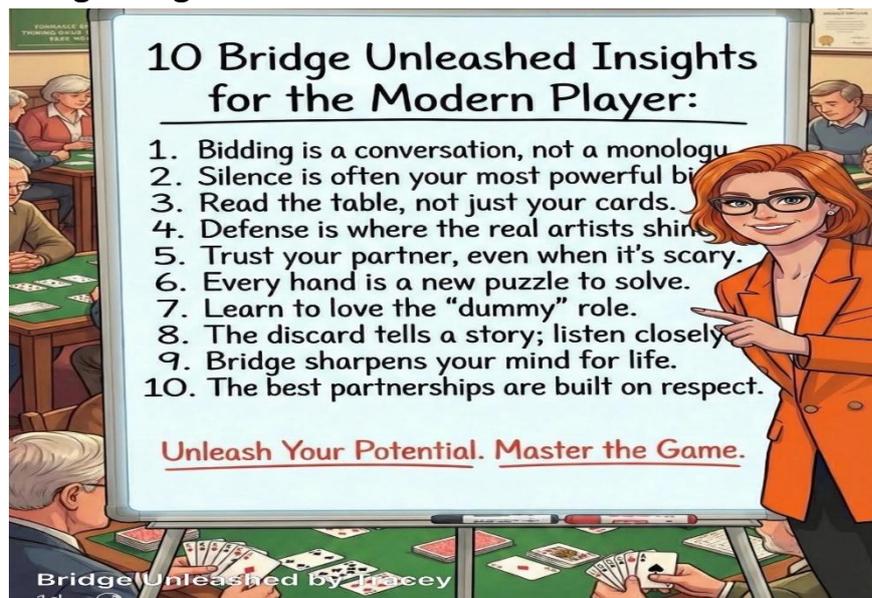
**Bridge lessons** – start March 19th

**Rees Trophy** Wednesday evenings 2026 –April 15, 22, 29 and May 6<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday players please keep your new bridge books free for this competition to be available to play with players looking to move to Wednesday evening sessions. It is a handicap event too! This will be at a relaxed pace (around 7 mins per board).

## Recent Competition Winners



## Bridge Laughs



Should you have an article or event you think we would like to know about, please contact Lynley. When you come to bridge the most important thing is that, whether you win or lose, you enjoy your games! **Have fun!**

Lynley, Club President, and the Bridge Committee