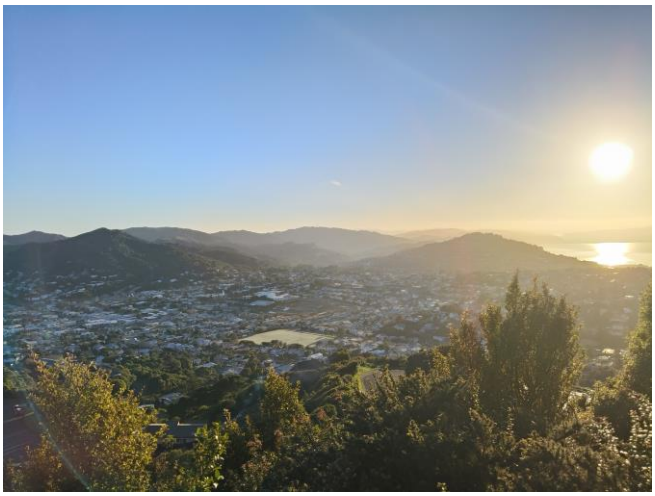
Karori Bridge Club

Newsletter – August 2026



Welcome to our New Members

We are coming towards the end of winter and hope everyone has kept warm and well as we head towards spring.

A very warm welcome to our new members: Darien Mahony, Trish Blacktop, Thomas Prince, Sarah Ellis, Bobby McDonald, Sahjaj Bajaj, Angela Foster.

Help Us Grow Our Club: Second Beginner Series Starts 9 September

Karori Bridge Club will be running a second series of beginner lessons starting on Wednesday, 9 September—and we need your help to get the word out!

Building our membership takes a collective effort, and personal recommendations are by far the best way to introduce new people to the game. Whether it's someone who has never played or a former player looking for a friendly way to brush up on their skills, your encouragement can make all the difference.

Who Can You Invite?
Friends and Family: Mention the lessons to anyone looking for an engaging new weekly activity.
Neighbours and Colleagues: Share the details with acquaintances who enjoy card games, puzzles, or social activities.
Past Players: Let former members or lapsed players know this is a welcoming, low-pressure opportunity to refresh their skills and get back to the table.

Details to Share:
Start Date: Wednesday, 9 September
Location: Karori Bridge Club
Format: Easy-to-follow, step-by-step guidance. Beginners and returning players are equally welcome, and no partner is needed to attend.

Please take a moment to pass along the flyer attached to the email to anyone in your network who might be interested. A quick chat or a forwarded email can go a long way in supporting our club!

AGM Reminder

A reminder that our **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Clubrooms on **Friday 28 August at 7.00pm**. We encourage members to attend and look forward to seeing you there.

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Property Update

The Club continues to invest in our premises to ensure it remains a comfortable, attractive, and welcoming place for members, visitors, and future generations of bridge players.

Fence on Western Side of the Building: Further testing has confirmed that the existing fibrous cement panels contain asbestos. Specialist removal will take place on 19 and 20 August, with construction of the new fence beginning on 20 August. There is no daytime bridge scheduled during this period, and the Club will remain open as normal. Main entrance access will not be affected, although extra care is requested while the work is underway. The Islamic Circle will also use our main entrance during these two days.

This work is being undertaken at the request of our neighbours, with the cost being shared between both parties. We agree that replacement of the ageing fence is timely and will be a worthwhile improvement to this side of our property.

Roller Blinds: Unfortunately, the sunfilter roller blinds that were initially installed did not sufficiently reduce the glare from the sun, making it very uncomfortable for afternoon players sitting at the north end of the room. We have now ordered block-out blinds, which will be installed on the window frames over the existing sunfilter blinds. We were fortunate to receive a very good price from Spotlight for this second set of blinds. Once installed, these will fully block out the sun and should resolve the problem.

Kitchen Upgrade: We have recently applied for a grant from NZ Community Trust (NZCT) to assist with upgrading our kitchen. NZCT is the same grant provider that generously supported our recent bathroom upgrade, and we are hopeful that this application will also be successful.

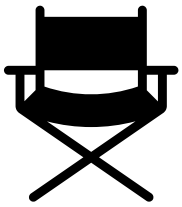
Maintenance to Exterior Windows and Replacement of Rear Lean-to Door and Iron Cladding:

This is another area of the building that requires attention sooner rather than later, as the exterior windows and rear lean-to door are in very poor condition.

We have obtained two estimates for the work and will be applying to the Lottery Community Facilities Fund for a grant towards the cost.

Karori Bridge Club

From the Director's Chair



Did you know there is a Law which states that no player is allowed to touch any cards other than his/her own during or after play except by permission? Obviously, this excludes declarer who can touch dummy's cards to designate a card to play.

Tournaments Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the tournaments survey. We received 59 responses, giving the committee a useful picture of members' experiences and interests. The responses indicate that while many members enjoy tournaments, particularly the opportunity to play challenging bridge, meet players from other clubs, and socialise with fellow bridge enthusiasts, participation is often limited by time commitments, family responsibilities, and the length of tournament days. Some newer players also reported feeling intimidated by tournaments or lacking confidence in their playing experience. Encouragingly, there is strong interest in future participation. Members indicated that partner-finding assistance, beginner-friendly opportunities, shorter events, and a welcoming atmosphere could help more people take part. Respondents commented on the value of good organisation, friendly behaviour, and opportunities to play against people from different clubs. The committee will use these findings to help shape future tournament planning and explore ways to make tournaments accessible and enjoyable for a wider range of members.

From Karori Bridge Club to the World Stage!

Aadhi Hariharan (2nd left in the photo) learnt Bridge at our Club in June 2021 He often played with Eason Lu before Aadhi's family moved to Australia. This year Aadhi was chosen for the Australian U21 team to represent Australia internationally, most recently in China at the 2026 World Youth Transnational Championships.

Aadhi was recently featured in the Australian Bridge Federation's player profiles feature, with a nice mention of Karori Bridge Club: https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/player-profiles/aadhithya-hariharan/

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Congratulations

Well done to all our recent series winners.

Monday Mixed Grade:
Mary McIntosh Pairs: Alar Treial & Jenny Coulter
Mabel MacFarlane Trophy: Alar Treial & Royce Johnstone
Christina Mander Salver: Stephanie Smith & Alar Treial

Tuesday A Grade:
Doreen Gates Trophy: Royce Johnstone
May Manoy Cup: Debbie Gapes & Alar Treial
Goddard Cup: Peter Delahunty & Jenny Coulter

Thursday R Grade:
Goodfellow Trophy: Natalie Winter & Andrew Mackenzie
Dottie Booth Memorial Trophy: Nic Sperring & Gerry Cooper
Alan Fearnley Trophy: Alan Watson & Soogi Lane

Thursday B Grade:
Ashwell Award: Linda Blum & Maree Corbett
Wednesday Cup: James Dearnley

Grand Slam

Pair	Date	Board	Slam	By	Made	Score
Roanna Chan/Seema Motwani	25/05/2026	12	7 H	W	=	1510
Eason Lu/Mariusz Tumilowicz	16/06/2026	4	7 H	W	=	2210
Eason Lu/Mariusz Tumilowicz	16/06/2026	9	7 S	E	=	2210
Gerry Cooper/Tom Chambers	28/07/2026	4	7 H	S	=	2210
Charles Little/Seema Motwani	28/07/2026	4	7 NT	N	=	2220
Cindy Johnson/Stephanie Smith	4/08/2026	16	7 H	S	=	1510

Karori Bridge Club

70% Club

72.44	Jenny Coulter/Alar Treial	25/05/2026
71.99	Mariusz Tumilowicz/Eason Lu	23/06/2026
71.69	Loveday Kempthorne/Alistair McMechan	25/06/2026
70.45	Mariusz Tumilowicz/Mindy Wu	30/06/2026
76.88	James Dearnley/Georgie Lawrence	2/07/2026
72.45	Michael Appleby/Ian Sellen	2/07/2026

Tournament News

It has been a busy time at the Club for tournaments recently, with several successful events held over the past few months. Very many thanks to all those who have given their time and energy to support these events, whether through organising, directing, catering, setting up, or helping behind the scenes. These tournaments simply would not happen without the contribution of our volunteers, and all your efforts are greatly appreciated.

East/West Tournament

This year it was KBC's turn to host the friendly East/West Tournament with Kairangi Bridge Club. Held on 23 May, the event attracted an excellent turnout, with 32 players from each club enjoying a great day of bridge, friendly rivalry, and hospitality. Sadly for Karori, Kairangi managed to retain the trophy. We'll be spending the next 12 months plotting how to claim it next time! Congratulations to Kairangi on their win, and thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the day such a success, including Natalie, Director Donna, and all the wonderful helpers on the day.

Karori Junior Pairs

This junior tournament was held at KBC on the afternoon of Saturday 6 June. The tournament had 14 tables. As always, thanks to all those who supported the club by helping out on the day and making the event a success. Thanks too to Tustin's Panel and Paint for sponsoring the tournament.

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Well done to Linda Blum and Maree Corbett from KBC for taking away the top novice pair prize!

Other prize winners were:
1st: Phil Gavey & Liesbet Gavey
2nd: Peter Roscoe & Lori Fernando
3rd: David Hamilton and Martin Dowse

Karori Intermediate Tournament
Held on 19th July, the tournament had 16 tables and a strong set of competitors. It was another enjoyable and successful event, supported by many members of KBC – many thanks as always to you all. Thanks again to Tustin's for their generous sponsorship of the event. The prize winners were:

1st: Todd Beardsworth & Cathryn Bridge
2nd: Andrew Cushnie & Martyn Rew
3rd: Sushila Kumar & Mary Scott

Well done to Martyn and also to KBC's Alicia Wright and Chandra Gunawardana who won top E/W in the afternoon session.

Karori Open Swiss Pairs Tournament – this Sunday 23 August
At present, we have only four Karori members registered - we'd really love to see more of our own members supporting this tournament. If you're available, please consider entering and joining us for an enjoyable day of bridge. **Grab a partner and get your entry in — we'd love to see a stronger Karori turnout!**

Name Change for Wellington Regional Mixed Pairs Tournament
The Committee has managed to successfully change the name of the Wellington Regional Mixed Pairs tournament to the **Wellington Region Easter Monday Open Pairs Tournament**. The reason for this was that as a club, we aim to be inclusive and welcoming to all players and prefer tournament formats that reflect that approach.

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Matariki Cup

Our annual Matariki Cup bridge session was held on Friday 10 July - we had a great turnout, with 44 people attending and playing bridge. The event was combined with our Midwinter Luncheon, with everyone bringing a plate of food to share. As always, there was a wonderful selection and plenty for everyone to enjoy.

Lars Fagerstrom once again made his beautiful mulled wine, which has become a much-loved part of this occasion and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Thank you Lars!

A special thank you goes to **Bobbie Monigatti**, who organised the event and put a great deal of time and effort into making the afternoon such a success. Bobbie's day became even more memorable when she partnered Susan Freeland to win the Matariki Cup. Congratulations to you both!

Thank you also to Anthony Gamboni for managing the bar. Thank you to everyone who attended, contributed food and helped make this such a warm and enjoyable midwinter celebration.

Thank you!

Bonus Ball Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Club by buying a Lotto Bonus Ball. We're delighted to have all 40 numbers sold and the fundraiser now up and running.

Each week, the holder of the Bonus Ball drawn in the official Lotto draw wins **$100**, with the Club also receiving **$100**. It's a great way to have a little fun while helping raise valuable funds for the Club.

Good luck to everyone who has entered — we hope to see plenty of happy winners over the coming weeks, while raising much-needed funds for Karori Bridge Club.

Karori Bridge Club

Notices

Venue for Hire

Remember that the KBC club rooms are available to hire for events with discounted rates available for charities and community groups. Contact Natalie Winter (Club Manager) on 04 476 6179 or email karoribridge@gmail.com if you would like to make a booking or for further information.

And finally.....

All the very best from your KBC Committee: Jean, Alys, Karen, Olivia, Sarah, Sue, Alicia, Linda, and Anne