



Karori Bridge Club

Newsletter – February 2026

Happy New Year to All our Members

We have another bumper issue of the newsletter, with only one more month of summer to go - after what has been described as the worst summer in a decade. Here's hoping February will bring some sunshine!

We have lots of exciting developments at the Club, but first, a very warm welcome to our new members:

- Charles Little
- Raewyn Devlin
- Chandra Gunawardana



Big News: Karori Bridge Club is Now a Registered Charity!

We're delighted to share some significant news about the future and formal status of the Karori Bridge Club. Over the past year, the Club has taken important steps forward in how it is structured and recognised.

Incorporated Society Status

In July 2025, the Club successfully re-registered as an Incorporated Society under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This was an essential first step and provides several key benefits:

- **Legal standing:** The Club continues as its own legal entity
- **Clear governance:** We operate under recognised governance structures
- **Tax efficiency:** The Club does not pay tax on profits or interest earned

The Leap to Registered Charity Status

When our Constitution was rewritten, it was deliberately drafted to meet the requirements for charitable status. Once our Incorporated Society registration was confirmed, we immediately applied to become a Registered Charity. After a six-month wait, we were advised on 14 January 2026 that our application was successful, with registration backdated to 7 July 2025.

This new status provides three key benefits for the Club:

- **Financial & tax:** Donee status allows donors to claim a 33.33% tax credit on any donations made to the Club
- **Funding:** Access to more grants available only to registered charities
- **Credibility:** We can now legally use the title *Registered Charity* or *Registered Charitable Entity*

This achievement reflects a great deal of work behind the scenes by the Committee, and in particular our Treasurer, **Alys Freeman**. Thank you Alys!

Help Us Grow the Game: 2026 Beginner Lessons Start This March! 🌱

We all know that Bridge is more than just a card game—it's a community, a mental workout, and a lifelong passion. This year, we want to share that passion with as many new faces as possible, and we need your help to make our upcoming beginner lessons a resounding success.

Taster Night & Mini-Bridge

Before the official lessons begin, we're hosting a free Taster Night. We'll be using Mini-Bridge to get people playing right away, bypassing the complexities of bidding to show them the pure fun of the game. It will be **Wednesday, February 18, at 7:30 pm** here at Karori Bridge Club.

We're asking every one of our members to bring a friend to this session. Think of that person in your life who loves puzzles, strategy, or just great company. Our goal is to get them hooked on the spot so they'll join us for the full course.

Lesson Logistics

Lessons this year will be once a week for 10 weeks. We will have some great instructors and will be using the brand new NZ Bridge curriculum. Please spread the word about the following details for the 2026 intake: it will start Wednesday, March 11 (and weekly thereafter), at 7:30 pm and cost \$60.00.

Registration & Contact Info

People can sign up via the following channels:

- **Email:** lessonsksbc@gmail.com
- **Phone:** 04 476 6179
- **Website:** karoribridge.com/lessons



We Need Your Boots on the Ground

To reach people outside our immediate circles, we need to get flyers into the hands of locals. If you have some time to help with flyer distribution by placing them in your favourite haunts, please let us know. We have printed flyers ready to go (featuring a handy QR code for quick registration). Any support in getting these out is hugely appreciated.

From the Director's Chair

A new series sharing helpful tips and advice from our Directors.

When you are defending, any card that is placed face up on the table, whether intentionally or by accident, **must remain on the table**. If you notice a card being picked up again, please pause play and remind the player, so the situation can be handled correctly. Returning a faced card to your hand while defending is not permitted under the Laws of Bridge. It's an easy habit to fall into, but being mindful of it helps ensure fair play and an orderly game for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation!



Karori Bridge Club

Back Wall Maintenance Update

Maintenance work is currently underway on the back wall of our clubrooms.

Last year, it was identified that the framing in the back wall (from the windows upward) had deteriorated due to long-term water ingress. The back windows have also been leaking for some time.

The cost to remediate this work was originally estimated at \$25,035, based on the assumption that the existing iron cladding could be reused. The Club was very grateful to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Lotteries Commission towards this important maintenance.

However, once the iron cladding was removed, it was found to be badly rusted and unsuitable for reuse. As a result, new iron cladding has been required at an additional cost of \$4,000, increasing the overall cost of the project.

The builders have been asked to stop work at 1.00pm on Mondays and Fridays to avoid disrupting bridge sessions. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, work on Friday 23 January ran later than expected causing some disruption, for which we apologise.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while this necessary maintenance is carried out.



Friday Bridge – Change to Playing Arrangements



Friday bridge is social bridge, with everyone welcome and includes a shared afternoon tea (please bring a plate). C points are awarded for these sessions.

In the past, when we had only three players at one table, they would continue to play using a fourth player from another table. A director has recently advised that this practice is not permitted under the Laws of Bridge, as it can give an unfair advantage to the fourth player.

To resolve this, we will keep a list of people who may be able to come in at short notice to make up a pair. If you can help, please contact the Club on karoribridge@gmail.com to be added to the list. If no one is available, the names of unpartnered players will be drawn from a hat, so the same person is not always the one to miss out. Unfortunately, if we have an uneven number of people, one person will be unable to play. Please note that a phantom pair is still permitted. Please do continue to come if you don't have a partner, as often there are several people without partners. We have also recently started using tablets for scoring on Fridays, thanks to David Ainsworth and Nick Bishop who have learnt how to operate the scoring software on the computer. Bobbie Monigatti continues to be our wonderful organiser for Friday bridge.



Karori Bridge Club

Congratulations

Congratulations to all our KBC **Christmas Prizegiving** winners

Club Championship (Presidents Cup): Chris Bolland & Peter Delahunty

Glanville Salvors: Peter Delahunty & Jenny Coulter.

C point Trophy- A Grade: Jenny Coulter.

Doug Clark Tray: Sarah Sawrey.

John Jarvis Cup: Janet Lockett & Nic Sperring.

Lois Thompson Memorial Trophy: Stephen Sawrey.

Novice C Point Trophy: Christel Viljoen .



And well done to all our recent **series winners**.

Monday Mixed:

Thelma Ayers Trophy: Arvind Zodgekar

Mary Weatherly Trophy: Ross Craig

Tuesday A Grade:

Olga Dent Trophy: Peter Delahunty

Huntleigh Jug: Olivia Sawrey

Thursday R Grade:

Harrison Trophy: Janet Lockett

Thursday B Grade:

Chris Brown Jug: Michael and Megan Huddleston

Combined Thursday R & B Grade:

New Year Pairs: Ian Sellen

70% Club

71.25	Andrew Mackenzie/Ross Craig	21/1/2026
71.70	Ian Sellen/Michael Appleby	22/1/2026
71.35	Barbara McKenzie/Ross Murdoch	23/1/2026



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.

Andrew Smith

Christina Leech has been in contact with Andrew Smith at Te Hopai. He advises he is feeling a little better. He thanks the club for their good wishes and sends his regards to everyone.

Bowen Plumbing & Gasfitting

We're delighted to welcome Bowen Plumbing as the newest Gold Sponsor of our Club. If you are looking for a plumber, please consider using Rob - we've received excellent feedback on his work. Ph: 027 250 0611



Wellington Regional Mixed Pairs Tournament

This tournament is being held at Karori Bridge Club on Easter Monday, 6th April. This is an all-day mixed pairs 5A tournament. Please register and support the club. Further information is on the club and NZBridge websites

Thank you!



Karen Falconer is the epitome of a team player and does a fabulous job as our Club Secretary. This role is substantial, and can be tedious, but Karen undertakes it with efficiency and unflinching good humour. She is one of the unsung heroes of our club and deserves a huge vote of thanks.

A Valentine Day's bridge joke

On Valentine's Day, a couple sit down at a romantic restaurant to celebrate. Just as the food arrives, the husband's phone rings. He answers — and before long he's completely absorbed in a discussion with a friend about a bridge hand. Minutes stretch into hours as his friend explains, in painful detail, how he went down in six spades. When the call finally ends, the wife is in tears. "How could he be so inconsiderate?" she says. "That was terrible!" The husband sighs and nods. "You're right, my love. All he had to do was take a finesse."

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