



# PRESS KIT

[www.playbridge.co.nz](http://www.playbridge.co.nz)





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# WAHT IS BRIDGE? FAQ'S



## How Many Players?

Bridge is a card game for four players, two against two.



## How is it Played?

Bridge is a trick taking game and shares similarities with Whist and Five Hundred.



## Is it Hard?

Bridge can be played and enjoyed at all levels - from novice to masters.



## Where can I Play?

You can play Bridge casually or on a regular basis - both online and in clubs.





# ABOUT BRIDGE

Bridge is a card game for four players, played as a partnership two against two using points of the compass to designate their position at the table. They use one pack of cards at a time and the pack contains fifty-two cards (no jokers). Having shuffled the pack the cards are dealt clockwise, one at a time until each player has 13 cards, after which the bidding phase begins.

One Bridge deal, or hand, takes approximately 7 minutes to play. This includes both the bidding and the subsequent play. At a Bridge club, a Bridge session involves around 20 deals though if you are playing at home, you can play as few or as many as you like.

Most club and tournament play involve some variant of duplicate Bridge, in which the cards are not re-dealt on each occasion, but the same deal is played by two or more sets of players (or “tables”) to enable comparative scoring. Duplicate Bridge removes the luck of the draw from the competition – ie being dealt all the best cards!

▶ [Watch clip explaining Bridge basics here](#)



**BRIDGE IS A GAME FOR LIFE. PLAYED BY ALL AGES, ACROSS THE WORLD, BRIDGE BECOMES A LIFELONG FASCINATION AND AN INSTANT COMMUNITY FOR ALL WHO PLAY IT.**



# WHERE YOU CAN PLAY BRIDGE

Bridge can be played casually or regularly – online and in clubs.

There are 110 affiliated clubs in New Zealand from Kerikeri in Northland down to Invercargill in the South. Find information clubs across the country **here**.







BRIDGE COMBINES STRATEGY,  
LOGIC, INTUITION AND FUN  
TO CREATE THE BEST GAME  
YOU'LL EVER PLAY.





# LEARNING BRIDGE



Most local clubs are running lessons in the new year. Please contact them directly (local Bridge club contacts [here](#)) to find out details.

You can learn to play on your own, as a pair, or in a group.

With the help of friendly club players, all learners can soon pick up the basics of Bridge ... but the subtleties and strategies take a while longer.

Lessons/supervised play usually takes place over several months at a Bridge club whilst learners become au fait with the terminology and learn the “language” of Bridge.

To master the game might take a lifetime!

▶ [Watch advice to new players here](#)



# FAMOUS BRIDGE PLAYERS



“when all else fails – sport, love, ambition – Bridge remains a solace and an entertainment.”

**W. Somerset Maugham,**  
Author and playwright



“No matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the Bridge table.”

**Martina Navratilova,**  
Tennis legend



“I love Bridge – everybody that is good at Bridge is going to be good at a lot of things.”

**Bill Gates, Microsoft**  
founder and billionaire



Watch clip about who  
plays Bridge here





# NZ NATIONAL BRIDGE CONGRESS EVENT

The New Zealand National Bridge Congress sees the best Bridge players from across the country come together to compete and celebrate the card game they love.

This event will be hosted for the first time in Palmerston North from Saturday 8th to Saturday 15th November 2025.

The New Zealand National Bridge Congress will be attended by top international players to watch, such as Michael Cornell, Michael Ware, Geo Tislevoll and champion partnerships like Martin Reid and Peter Newell alongside personalities like Barry Jones and Mereana Cullen, Judge Julie (Julie Atkinson) and Pam Livingston (Kermit) of Bridge Zone fame.

Bridge is a game for all ages, and there are some exciting young rising stars who will be in attendance, including Jack James, Leon Meier, Jeremy Fraser Hoskin. Matt Brown and Michael Whibley who will be bringing their enthusiasm and skill for the game to the congress event.

It is wonderful to also see competitive family teams in attendance, such as mother and daughter teams Andi Boughy and Carol Richardson and Jenna and Christine Gibbons, who will be competing at international level.

The event regularly attracts 600+ players during the week, including international players and brings over \$1 million in revenue to the area.



**NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL  
BRIDGE CONGRESS**

**PALMERSTON NORTH  
FUNCTION AND CONFERENCE  
CENTRE, 354 MAIN STREET,  
PALMERSTON NORTH**

**8-15 NOVEMBER 2025**







BRIDGE NOT ONLY INTRODUCES YOU  
TO A WHOLE NEW COMMUNITY OF  
PEOPLE, BUT RESEARCH STUDIES  
HAVE SHOWN THAT BRIDGE  
ALSO BENEFITS YOUR PERSONAL  
WELLBEING AND BRAIN HEALTH.



# BRIDGE IN NEW ZEALAND



NZ Bridge Inc is the governing organisation that oversees Bridge in New Zealand and is one of 104 countries affiliated to the World Bridge Federation.

New Zealand Bridge has around 13,000 registered Bridge players who belong to 110 affiliated clubs from Kerikeri in Northland down to Invercargill in the South. The game is truly international with millions of registered Bridge players all over the globe.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** [www.playbridge.co.nz](http://www.playbridge.co.nz)

 **@NZBRIDGE**

 **@NZBridge**

Interviews are available on request.

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[ACCESS IMAGES HERE](#)

