

TABLE TALK

May 2026



TAURANGA BRIDGE CLUB | 252 Ngatai Road, Otumoetai 3110 | 07 576-5022 | www.taurangabridge.co.nz



WHAT'S HAPPENING/
COMING UP
(Make a note in your diary)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Pam Bell
Chris Buckley
Kevin Dawson
Simon Eminson
Marina Hicks
Libby Hotham
Suzanne Jansen
Jan Johnstone
Julie Lankshear

Astrid Martin
Mike Newton
Carolyn Parker
Cathy Parker
Pat Rutherford
Barbara Steele
Liz Swanston
Mark Wardill

Please make sure that your birth month is entered into Hello Club – no need to put the year

- Our 2026 **Bridge Lessons** are Wednesdays 11am & 7pm. The schedule is up on the noticeboard. *N.B. The classes are having play 'practice' at the moment so please check.*
- **Ōmokoroa** Novice, Junior & Intermediate Prs Saturday 30th May. *Please note the Novice Prs are BOOKED OUT.*
- **PLEASE NOTE... NO** Bridge Monday 1st June!! King's Birthday.
- Next **Friday drinks...** 19th June after play.
- Sunday Bridge... 12.45pm for a 1pm start. No partner required. Next session **21st June.** WEEKLY from then.
- **Bay Pairs Te Puke** Sunday 21st June

OUR APRIL WINNERS



MON	Evening Championship Singles <i>Metlifecare – Greenwood Park</i>	Judy Pawson <i>H & F Dillon Trophy</i> Stacey Hilton <i>Eileen Carter Trophy – Top Intermediate</i>
TUES	Autovillage Handicap Pairs <i>Farmer Autovillage</i>	Pam Batten & Beverley Petersen
WED	Lifestyle Block Pairs <i>Phil Mangos – Bayleys</i>	Robyn McLennan & Suzanne Jansen
	Play With A Mentor <i>Bureta Walking Group</i>	Simon Eminson & Olive Boyd
FRI	Easter Pairs	Rosemary Wilkey & June Barclay
	Watch the Crumbs H'cap Pairs <i>Fika Café & Bar</i>	Susanne McHowell & Gordon Webster





This month I wanted to put my director's hat on and attempt to clarify the rules around the "big hand" 2C opening bid and when it needs to be alerted.

The NZBridge manual states that the 2C game force opening bid is in such common use that it doesn't need to be alerted. However, the same manual also defines a game force opening bid as needing to have at least 20+ HCP or satisfying what has become known as "the rule of 29" which basically states that if your HCP count plus the length of your two longest suits equals 29 you can still open a game force 2C.

If you want to open 2C with hands containing less than 20 HCP that don't adhere to the rule of 29 then you need to do two things: 1) decide on your own partnership agreement for when you will open 2C and include it on your system card; and 2) make sure your partnership always alerts your 2C opening bids. It is common for partnership agreements to be based on losing trick count or playing tricks.

The other rule that comes into play is concerning psychic bids or psych bids for short. A psych bid is when a player makes a deliberate that is a gross misrepresentation of their hand. Their point is to mislead the opposition but the risk is that you are completely misleading your partner also.

The NZBridge regulations state that you are forbidden from psych bidding with the strongest bid in your system, which for most of us is our 2C opener. This means that if your system definition for your 2C opener is too vague, you may run afoul of the director if you bid 2C with a hand that has significantly less than 20 HCP. Your vague system agreement may not be enough to protect you!

Happy Bridging
Mike



AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Our complaint & concerns about the pedestrian crossing have been lodged with the City Council. PLEASE let Karyl know if you have any near misses or cars not stopping so we can report to the Council. They have NO plans to do anything with it at this time.

- Member's safety is our concern and for that reason we ask that ALL cars leaving the Bridge Club grounds turn LEFT, drive up to the round about to continue your journey home.
- If you're driving from the direction of town to park on the Railway land, please drive past the entrance, up to the roundabout and back down to turn left into the parking.
- When leaving the Railway land carpark, please turn left only & if you're heading to Ōtūmoetai / Bethlehem, turn right into Freyberg Street and around through Cherrywood Shops to Ōtūmoetai Road.

There have been several near misses on a fairly regular basis... Moving forward we MUST document exactly how many. Appreciate your input.

SILVER GRAND MASTER



A truly remarkable effort and very well deserved.

There are currently only 76 Silver Grand Masters in the country and for the final night of the Boston Cup the team of Kate, Judy P, Judy M and Christine changed their name to The Silver Four as all four of them are now Silver Grand Masters!

A MASSIVE CONGRATULATIONS TO KATE WHO HAS ACHIEVED THE RANK OF SILVER GRAND MASTER THIS MONTH!

To reach this amazing accomplishment she has amassed a combined 2,500 A and B points where at least 1,250 must be A points.

We are very lucky to have so many experienced players that are also more than happy to share their knowledge of the game with us all.



4 of a Major or 3NT?

♠ KJ97	♠ A85432	♠ Q10
♥ 752	♥ Q10	♥ 64
♦ KQ92	♦ A8	♦ 76543
♣ J6	♣ A85	♣ KQ109

**Dealer S, nil vul.
Contract 4H by S
Lead KD**

♠ 6	♠ Q10
♥ AKJ983	♥ 64
♦ J10	♦ 76543
♣ 7432	♣ KQ109

South	West	North	East
2H*	Pass	4H	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Bidding: South opens a textbook “weak 2”* (6 card suit, 6-10 hcp). North has 4 clear-cut winners (3 aces plus QH plus options for an overtrick – a diamond ruff, a long spade suit) and so bids 4H straightaway.

Lead: None are attractive... but the KD is the “least unattractive”. Jx is usually a poor choice; touching honours beat split honours.

Play: At first glance you have 3, probably 4, losers (clubs are likely to split 4-2, and the chances of ruffing one is slim).

Do you see a better way?

You have a good chance of setting up the spade suit (you will need to ruff 3 times, and you have 4 entries).

Take AD and start on spades immediately. Play AS and ruff a spade.

Then back to dummy with a trump, and ruff an other spade.

Back again to dummy with a second trump (noting both opponents follow, as hoped and expected) and ruff a third spade, leaving 2 spade winners. You now take out the last remaining trump and cross to dummy with AC, and enjoy the two small spade winners... that’s 11 tricks, an overtrick.

Lessons:

1. North could have asked about South’s 2H bid by bidding 2NT (a convention known as Ogust). South would reply 3C with a poor suit and a poor hand, 3D with a good suit but poor hand, 3H with a good hand but poor suit, and 3S with both a good suit and a good hand, as here. In this case North felt positive and just went to game (aces are very valuable at higher levels and with distributional hands).
2. The play was fairly straightforward...one would expect the trumps to break 3-2, and the spades and clubs to break 4-2, as indeed was the case. North correctly identified the potential for the long spade suit to offer chances of over tricks.
3. North could have bid 3NT... (s)he would expect partner to have AK of hearts, and so could count 6 heart tricks and 3 aces... 3NT easy! But (s)he correctly identified better chances for overtricks in hearts.
4. In Pairs tournaments, the overtricks are vital. In Teams tournaments it is more important to choose the most “comfortable” game contracts... the score here was 450 for N/S... but scoring 400 for 3NT would be nearly as good in Teams, and the play would be a lot easier!
5. One last point... if the North hand also had QC, you might have been tempted to take the club finesse... if the club finesse loses, the opponents will knock out the AC entry, and the plan to set up spades won’t work... so which is better statistically?
 - i. The Club finesse is a 50% chance
 - ii. Depending on a 3-3 split in clubs is around a 35% chance
 - iii. To set up the spades, you only need a 3-3 OR a 4-2 split in spades, which is over 75%.

Hugh McAlister

BOUQUETS

Dave Jaggard thank you for your help with our front door recently, also for checking out the folding doors and also grateful for your sponsorship!! You’re a star!

Sue Sherwood our kitchen superstar... Thank you for your hard work at our recent tournament. You are very much appreciated!

Jackie Blue our wonderful Tournament Director... Thank you for everything you do to make the wheels turn smoothly!

Pat Ware Superwoman! Thank you for stocking up the supplies this month. Everyone is very grateful!!



Do you enjoy ‘rules’ and procedure?

We need new Directors.

To be a Club Director you don’t need to sit an exam and we have fabulous Directors who will mentor you. You’ll be able to ‘shadow’ them as you learn. Why not give it a go?

ALERTING & EXPLAINING
BIDS IN BRIDGE**Ethical Foundations**

Bridge ethics rest on three principles:

1. **Full disclosure**
2. **No unauthorised information**
3. **Equal opportunity to compete**

Alerting and explaining bids support all three. The beauty of Bridge lies in its balance of secrecy and transparency: you may conceal your cards, but you must not conceal your agreements.

Why Alerts Matter

Without alerts and explanations:

- **Opponents may misinterpret artificial or unusual bids.**
- **Unauthorised inferences could creep in.**
- **Competitive balance suffers.**

Alerts ensure that when a bid does **not** mean what it appears to mean, opponents are notified immediately.

What Is an Alert?

An **alert** is a formal notification that a bid has a special or non-natural meaning. Examples of bids that typically require an alert:

- **Artificial bids** (e.g. Stayman asking for a 4-card major after 1NT)
- **Transfer bids** (e.g., Jacoby Transfer)
- **Unusual 2NT** showing two specific suits
- **Cue bids** used conventionally rather than naturally

By contrast, most natural bids (e.g. "1♥ showing hearts") do not require an alert.

For example, after a transfer sequence:

1NT – 2♦ – 2♥

If asked about 2♦, the correct explanation is: "Transfer to hearts."

You do not add: "She probably has five hearts." That would be speculation unless explicitly part of your agreement.

Announcements vs. Alerts

Some regulations use announcements instead of alerts for common treatments. For instance, after a 1NT opening:

- You are required to announce the range (e.g. "12–14") rather than alert it.
- Transfers may be announced as "Transfer."

COMMON SITUATIONS
REQUIRING CARE

1. **Conventional Overcalls** Systems like Landy over a 1NT opening usually require alerts.
2. **Negative and Support Doubles** If your double does not show strength in the suit bid but instead has a conventional meaning, it generally requires an alert.
3. **Pre-empt with Agreements** If your 2♦ opening shows something unusual (e.g., a weak two in a major or a strong hand), it must be alerted.

What Happens if You Forget?

Failure to alert properly can lead to:

- Director rulings
- Score adjustments
- Procedural penalties (in serious or repeated cases)

The goal is not punishment but restoration of equity. If damage occurred because of misinformation, the director may adjust the score to what would have happened with proper disclosure.

Alerting and explaining bids support all three. The beauty of Bridge lies in its balance of secrecy and transparency: you may conceal your cards, but you must not conceal your agreements.

Best Practices

Discuss alterable agreements with your partner before play.

- Use a written convention card.
- When in doubt, alert.
- Explain clearly, briefly, and neutrally.
- Call the director immediately if misinformation may have affected the auction or play.

Conclusion

Alerting and explaining bids are not bureaucratic formalities – they are the foundation of fair competition in bridge by ensuring that both sides understand the meaning of every call. In bridge, partnership agreements are private – but their meanings are public.

Dr. Rebecca Taylor

