

# TABLE TALK

APRIL 2026



TAURANGA BRIDGE CLUB | 252 Ngatai Road, Otumoetai 3110 | 07 576-5022 | [www.taurangabridge.co.nz](http://www.taurangabridge.co.nz)



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Muriel Banks  
Noelene Buchanan  
Nick Comber  
Gillian Corbett  
Louise Fletcher  
Kerri Friar

Stacey Hilton  
Teri Logie  
Keryn O'Brien  
Judy Pawson  
Dot Skousgaard  
Tim Torr  
Graham Wallis

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



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

- Our 2026 **Bridge Lessons** are Wednesdays 11am & 7pm. The schedule is up on the noticeboard. You are welcome to attend any session. There is a recap prior to each lesson.
- **PLEASE NOTE... NO** Bridge Monday 27th April!! ANZAC Day observed.
- **Tuesday Drinks** after play 28th April... A trial given we now have our Bar License.
- **Junior & Novice Pairs** Matamata Saturday 9th May.
- Sunday Bridge 3rd Sunday of the month. 12.45pm for a 1pm start. No partner required. Next session **17th May**.
- **Intermediate Pairs** Katikati Sunday 17th May.
- Next **Friday drinks** 22nd May... to avoid the eve of King's Birthday weekend.
- **Bay Pairs Tauranga** Sunday 24th May.

## OUR MARCH WINNERS

<b>MON</b>	<b>Champagne Stakes</b> <i>Craigs Investment Partners</i>	<b>Heather Melville &amp; Judy Pawson</b> <b>Shirley Bain &amp; Dot Skousgaard</b> Handicap
<b>TUES</b>	<b>Double Dose Singles</b> <i>Craigs Investment Partners</i>	<b>Stacey Hilton</b> <b>Jo Wenham</b> Handicap
<b>WED</b>	<b>Junior Championship Teams</b> <i>Ultimate Motor Group</i>	<b>Joan McNeill, Carol Goldsworthy,</b> <b>Andrea Cawley, Kevin Dawson</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>Put Your Bidding Shoes On</b> <i>Cherrywood Shoes</i>	<b>Robyn McLennan &amp; Suzanne Jansen</b>



*Congratulations!*



**We have a couple of big club events coming up that are a little different to our usual pairs events and so I wanted to take the opportunity to give them a plug and also explain why you should all be getting involved!**

The first is the **Boston Cup**, one of the most prestigious events in our club calendar. This is a Teams competition run on the four Mondays in May and it is a battle of the sexes so you'll need to get together a team of four men or four women and get your self registered.

Teams bridge is fantastic for a number of reasons. To begin with, after the first round (which is randomly drawn) your next opposition team is drawn based on the overall standings. So if you're not at the pointy end of the competition you can leave those teams that are to fight it out against each other while you compete against teams that are at a similar level to you.

Another plus is that the only results that matter are what you're doing at your table and what your team mates are doing at the other table, those are the only results that are compared at the end of the match. Because of this, our usual matchpoint scoring that we use for Pairs bridge is no longer meaningful and so, we use IMP scoring instead. Without boring you with the details the upshot is that IMP scoring is much more forgiving, it doesn't matter nearly as much if you don't make the overtrick that might have been there. It also doesn't matter so much that you made a minor game while some body else made 4NT.

But it gets better! On the final night of the Boston Cup teams dress up and the bar will be open, so give some thought to your team theme when you register since you might like your team name to reflect how you dress up on the final night. So get your teams together and registered before the Boston Cup kicks off on May 4th. In addition to the Boston Cup itself there is also a prize for the best performing team on handicap. I have trawled back through the years and the last time the Men triumphed was way back in 2017!

Following on from the Boston Cup and running on four Thursdays from June 11 to July 2 is the Tauranga Sixes. For this you will need to form a team of six made of a junior, an intermediate and an open pair. Each pair will be playing Swiss Pairs matches against the other pairs in their grade. So the Junior pairs only play other Junior pairs etc. Just like Teams Bridge you still play a match of 8 or 12 boards against one pair but the scoring system used is the same IMP scoring we use for Teams.

The teams result is determined by combining the results of the three pairs so although you're not directly working together like in Teams bridge each of the three pairs is still doing their part! There are great mentoring opportunities for the Junior and Intermediate pairs because they can return to their teams table at the end of each match and discuss the hands played with their Open teammates.

This is another event where it's crucial you register in advance and if you find yourself missing with a partial team just let us know and we can assist in rustling up some more pairs for you. - **Mike**

Upcoming lessons on card play techniques for newer players.

You can choose to attend Sunday or Tuesday or BOTH for just \$8

- **Declarer Play in No Trump**  
Sunday 10 May 4pm - 6pm & Tuesday 12 May 7pm - 9pm
- **Declarer Play in a Suit Contract** Sunday 24 May 4pm - 6pm & Tuesday 26 May 7pm - 9pm

Registering is easy.

- Go to [nzbridge.helloclub.com](http://nzbridge.helloclub.com)
- Put money in your account
- In Calendar, click on the lesson/s you want to attend

Participants receive a link to RealBridge prior to each lesson, followed by an email after the lesson with the learning material.

**PLEASE NOTE** the above mentioned Hello Club is NZ Bridge... NOT Tauranga.



## PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

### ON NGATAI ROAD (OUTSIDE THE CLUBROOMS)

Many of us have experienced near misses on the pedestrian crossing outside the clubrooms... This has been reported to the Tauranga City Council who will investigate our concerns.

PLEASE take special care when crossing. Do not step onto the crossing until the oncoming vehicle has stopped.





## ACES ARE MEANT TO CAPTURE AN HONOUR

Hugh McAlister

<p>♠ A9</p> <p>♥ A742</p> <p>♦ K1092</p> <p>♣ K106</p>	<p>♠ K6432</p> <p>♥ KQ103</p> <p>♦ 63</p> <p>♣ A2</p>	<p>♠ J108</p> <p>♥ 865</p> <p>♦ A854</p> <p>♣ QJ8</p>	<p>Dealer W, neither vul.</p> <p>Contract 2S by S</p> <p>Lead 10D</p>
	<p>♠ Q75</p> <p>♥ J9</p> <p>♦ QJ7</p> <p>♣ 97543</p>		

West	North	East	South
1NT	2C*	Pass	2S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

**Bidding:** West opens 1NT (12-14). North overcalls 2C, Landy\*, which denotes both majors, at least 5 4. South is weak, bids 2S, and the bidding ends there.

**Lead:** A difficult decision... West leads 10D, top of an internal sequence.

**Play:** East overtakes with AD, and returns QC, which looks like optimal defence. **Plan your declarer play.**

With this initial defence, you can see 4 losers outside trumps (1 heart, 2 diamonds and a club)... you can afford to lose only one trump... *how to play trumps?*

**Lesson:** "Aces are made to take other honours."

*How do you play the following combinations of cards to maximise your tricks?*

- (a) 432 facing KQJ5?  
 (b) Q32 facing KJ54?

In (a), you should try to lead 3x towards KQJ5... you will still make 3 tricks if the player on your left has A1098, and any time the suit splits 3-3.

### Lessons:

In (b), you should lead low 2x towards KJ54... you will make 3 tricks when the player on your left has Ax, and any time the suit splits 3-3.

In the problem above, you lead 5S from South towards dummy's K... West will likely duck (if (s)he plays AS, your troubles are over)... when the KS wins, it is likely West has the AS (on the bidding as well), so you duck the return spade and hope West started with Ax....success!!

In all these cases, you played to avoid your opponent's ace capturing one of your honours... well done...

## BOUQUETS

Thank you to all the 'mentors' who are playing with Novices/Juniors on upcoming Wednesday evenings. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to **Stacey Hilton** for bringing in her 'steam cleaner' so we can tidy up some of our chairs. The Club will invest in one if everything goes according to plan.

THANK YOU with bells and whistles to **Kate Terry & Donna Wellington** for the Design & 'publication' of Table Talk.

Thanks to **Mike Bailie** for installing our bicycle rack.

Thank you to all our afternoon tea volunteers! Working like a dream. And thanks to the Biscuit Fairies... Biscuits &/or money towards. Much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who helps stack stools on Tuesday and Friday after play. Makes the cleaner's job much easier... and saves the stools being placed on top of the tables!

# CONGRATULATIONS!!

Jenna Gibbons won the Open Teams event at the South African National Congress just recently.

Julian Foster was her partner and her team mates were Sophia Ashton and David Beauchamp.



Jenna is an associate member of our club as is her proud mother, Christine Gibbons.

## ETIQUETTE

- A reminder to **PLEASE wear your name badge**. We have had a number of visitors recently plus Juniors joining general sessions, who don't know who you are.
- It is vital for smooth play that the Director & Scorer know EXACTLY how many tables we have for the session. You are asked to be SEATED a quarter of an hour before play begins. A reminder to phone in if you're stuck in traffic - 07 576 5022 - please.
- **BE A TOSSER!!** Seating rights are approved by the Director. If no-one at the table has them, you **MUST** toss!! Whichever pair tosses, the other pair chooses 'odds' or 'evens'... If you win the toss you **MUST** sit North/South. Non negotiable.



## FACEBOOK

A reminder... Tauranga Bridge Club now has a Facebook page Join us to keep up to date about news, club events and the successes of members at tournaments! Follow us today at:

<https://www.facebook.com/TaurangaBridge/>

Or use the QR Code



## NEW BRIDGEMATES

Our President Mike Newton wrote a great column back in January on our new Bridgemates. Please check it out if you didn't read it and I would encourage you to re-read. They've been in use for over 3 months now, with a few technical upgrades, and a delight to use.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Someone gave my partner and I two wonderful Boards on Friday by using the Bridgemate incorrectly at the end of play. Our afternoon Bridge Session is usually set up for 26 Boards and many times we only manage to play 24. If you want to view your ranking you need to proceed to the next pair, tap on the Board number and tap on **NOT PLAYED!!** Do NOT press **PASS**. They are very different things.

