

TABLE TALK

APRIL 2025

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

Happy Birthday APRIL



Muriel Banks
Noelene Buchanan
Nick Comber
Gillian Corbett
Leanne Curry
Louise Fletcher
Kerri Friar
Stacey Hilton
Marion Kelly

Teri Logie
Pam Miles
Keryn O'Brien
Judy Pawson
Melanie Rex
Dot Skousgaard
Tim Torr

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)

- **Beginners Lessons** Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Recap prior. All welcome.
- **NO PLAY** Thursday 17th April prior to Good Friday nor Easter Monday 21st April
- Play both Good Friday & ANZAC Day see over
- **Friday Drinks** after play Friday 25th April. The Bar will be open (alcoholic + non-alcoholic beverages). Please bring a small plate to share.
- **Etiquette Board** is updated every month. Please make time to check it out
- **Matamata Junior Pairs** 10th May
- **Improver Lesson** Tuesday 13th May 7pm... Topic to be advised
- **Katikati Intermediate Pairs** 18th May

OUR MARCH WINNERS

MON	Champagne Stakes <i>Craigs Investment Partners</i>	Judy McLeod & Tony Hacking Handicap: Simon Eminson & Sally Shaw
	1 + 3 Swiss Teams #1 <i>Mount Matua-Maker</i>	Simon Eminson, Mark Wardill, Alan Lawton, Olive Boyd
TUE	Althorp Village Pairs	Pam Bell & Dot Skousgaard
WED	Junior Championship Teams <i>George Asquith Memorial Cup</i>	Janice Watson, Sally Shaw, Andrea Cawley, Kevin Dawson
THUR	Swiss Pairs #1 <i>Metlifecare Greenwood Park</i>	Hugh McAlister & Diana McAlister
	Breaking Glass Open Teams #1 <i>Window & Door Repairs</i>	Kate Terry, Judy Pawson & Sam Simpson, Jo Simpson
FRI	Pewter Handicap Pairs <i>Ngatai Ltd</i>	Margaret Wakelin & Pat Webb
	Put Your Bidding Shoes On H'cap Prs <i>Cherrywood Shoes</i>	Maria Arhanic & Mike Bailie



This month I'd like to chat about the Regional Championships, a timely topic since the trials for these are just weeks away.

Many of you may not have heard of the Regional Championships but you may recognise them by their former name: the Interprovincials or IPs for short.

The Regional Championship is a weekend long teams event where each of the seven regions sends a team to represent them in four separate competitions: Open, Women's, Senior and Intermediate. There are separate trophies for each competition but the main goal is for our region to take home the Dougal McLean trophy for the best combined result by all four of their teams.

I've only played in the event once and it was online so my experience is very different but given our club is very well represented across the board each year there are many others who are able to speak of their experiences. The one thing that always comes up is the sense of camaraderie that comes from being part of a wider team, since all four teams typically stay together and regroup between matches for moral support.

This year NZBridge have made the decision to move the Regional Championships back to being just prior to the National Congress, as it used to be many years ago. An adjusted format means it will be played over two days instead of the usual three. So the event will be held on Thursday the 6th and Friday the 7th of November.

Regions are given free reign to form their teams however they choose. Waikato-Bays are this year opting for pairs trials with the top pairs forming the teams to compete in November. The trials are to be held at our club on the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of May and absolutely anybody is eligible to play in the trials. Let me repeat: ANYBODY is eligible to trial. It has become clear to us that many people think you can't trail unless you're invited to do so, that it's only for an elite few. This is not true, if you're keen and able to play both the trials and the event itself in November then we encourage you to sign up.

Last year the regional committee implemented a policy of only holding a trial if at least 10 pairs registered in the event. This is because very small fields often do not produce results that accurately reflect the skill of the pair entered. If less than 10 pairs enter then that team will be selected by a selection panel. However, in the event there is no trial only pairs that had registered for the trial will be eligible for selection.

So if you're keen for a shot at representing your region get your entry in now for the trials early May!

Mike

A wee reminder that all the behind-the-scenes tasks at the club are performed by volunteers hence we would greatly appreciate if you . . .

Returned your used glasses or cups to the kitchen and deal with appropriately i.e. sink if the sterilizer has been emptied & the dishwasher is in use, OR please pop in the dishwasher (Monday & Thursday evening players please don't just drop in the sink)



AFTERNOON TEA ROSTER The new roster has been up for several weeks. If you are able, please volunteer for at least one session.

RESERVED CAR PARKS These car parks are reserved for Tuesday & Friday Afternoon sessions ONLY. Our Mobility parks at the front of the building are used regularly so we created 'extras' for those of you with impaired mobility or health issues.

ETIQUETTE/PLAY REMINDERS

- When you are on lead, place your card face down on the table initially. If you have played out of turn, you are easily able to pick the card up (no call for the Director necessary). Once on the table, the card is considered 'played' so you cannot suddenly change your mind & pick it up to change it.
- When your partner doesn't follow suit, often helpful if you quietly ask 'Having none partner?' The person playing that card MUST NOT state 'Having none'
- It's polite to offer advice if asked. Please don't make statements like 'the jack of clubs was good'. Seriously, who does that help? How does it make declarer feel? If they realised it was good, don't you think they would have played it?
- Please keep talk at the table to a minimum - be respectful of others still playing. Post-mortems are for after play not during... Talking about what coulda, woulda, shoulda only slows play down.



Hugh McAlister



♠ A
♥ 106
♦ A10763
♣ 2

♠ QJ1094
♥ K94
♦ Q5
♣ J84

**nil vul, dealer N;
contract 3NT by S;
lead QS**

♠ 752
♥ J753
♦ KJ9
♣ Q97

♠ K863
♥ AQ82
♦ 84
♣ K65

Bidding: North opens 1D, South responds 1H, and West overcalls 1S. North now rebids 2C, South bids 2NT and North raises to 3NT.

Lead: QS is the only lead!

Play: Dummy's AS takes the first trick...now, plan the play...

In 3NT, first count your tricks...you have 6 quick tricks, you might develop another in hearts or clubs, but really **you need to establish dummy's diamond suit**. This should work as diamonds will break 3-2 more than 2/3 of the time. The problem is entries...the lead has taken out one entry...your only other entry is AC.

The **answer**... duck a round of diamonds first. When you regain the lead, now lead to AD, and play a third round of diamonds clearing the suit. You still have AC as an entry, and score 4 diamond tricks, 2 spades, 1 heart and 2 clubs... contract made.

Lessons:

1.

Many a "skinny" 3NT contract has been made on the back of a long (often minor) suit. Those "length points" really count! The first lesson, as the heading implies, is "the importance of setting up your long suit" ...it could even be a 5-card suit.

2.

To set up a long suit, you need entries. It is quite common (when one hand has only 2 in the suit) to duck the first round, then use the A as an entry to play 2 more rounds.

3.

You also need to be careful... when East (or West) takes the first round of diamonds and plays a spade, you must duck the 2nd round of spades to break communications.

4.

It also helps to have a bit of luck...if West has both 5 spades and 3 diamonds, you cannot make this contract. You made it because East had the third diamond and, because of your caution, no more spades.

BOUQUETS

Mike & Lyn Bailie thank you for your thoughtfulness! Our new 'Room for Hire' sign looks really smart and easily read. We appreciate your generosity!

David Fornusek you are doing a sterling job of being our Administrator. Thank you for everything you do.

Hilary McKenna thank you for agreeing to join the Dealing Team! We're all looking forward to working with you.

Muriel Banks... 'Queen' of the kitchen! Thank you... Fun Over The Bridge was a great success & it was lovely to see how many people stayed on at the end. You have such a wonderful work ethic. You're a treasure!

We LOVE our afternoon teas especially when yummy treats appear! Thank you **Graham Young, Sue Sherwood & Joan Lloyd** for 'spoiling' us.



PUBLIC HOLIDAY BRIDGE IN APRIL

A show of hands at a recent Friday Bridge session has resulted in Holiday Bridge being played on:

Good Friday 18th April ANZAC Day 25th April

As our Club Captain Rebecca Osborne stated **no partner required.**

Judy Pawson has very kindly offered to run a 15 minute Tips & Hints session prior to each event. PLEASE be seated by 12.45pm



CLUB CAPTAIN'S COLUMN

THE KAREN MARTELLETTI 53RD

Fun Over the Bridge

In March Tauranga hosted the 3rd occurrence of this friendly Teams match between Tauranga and Mt Maunganui clubs. There was a great turnout with a total of 20 teams, that's 80 bridge players, coming together for a lovely Sunday afternoon. With the event actually being 3 events, Open, Intermediate and Junior, everyone gets to play at their own level but in a shared room with so you can socialise how a hand should have gone with a wide range of players.

The day was declared a tie with Tauranga winning the Open event, Mt Maunganui the Junior event and the Intermediates tied, and the Tauranga members outdid themselves with the fabulous selection of plates they'd bought for the shared afternoon tea.

Don't worry if you feel you have missed out, there are 2 further opportunities for you to enjoy these fun styles of teams. Later this year you can join the Tauranga Sixes on Thursday nights Jul 31-Aug 21 – start building your team now. Also, there is the return match of Fun over the Bridge, Nov 2, hosted by the Mt Maunganui club

BOSTON CUP TEAMS

Things you need to know . . .

- Scratch AND Handicap event so *don't be put off because you're a Junior*
- Your team must be comprised of all women or all men
- This is a four session event beginning Monday May 5th, and ending Monday 26th
- You name your team and final night is **DRESS UP** night *which you may want to consider when you name your team*
- It's a Team event *which I LOVE!* You sit and play a number of boards (usually 12 sometimes less) against the one pair while your team-mates play the other pair.
- The list is up on the Monday noticeboard... We'd love to have you join in and have a blast.

Mentoring and Learning Opportunities

The 2025 programme has a number of opportunities to play with a mentor or at a slower place. Coming up over the next month there is **Potluck partners on Mon 28 Apr and Sunday afternoon bridge 17 May.**



For those of us not too far out of novice lessons our terrific tutors run a recap of the previous weeks lesson at 6:15 pm Wed and 12:15pm Fri.

Arrive 15 minutes early to the **Easter Friday and ANZAC Day** Friday afternoon to hear from Judy Pawson a couple of important tips



CALENDAR GIRLS



THE LYCRA LADS

Check out more photos on our fabulous website **Members** tab on the horizontal menu Scroll down to **Gallery 2024 Boston Cup**