

TABLE TALK

AUGUST 2025

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

AUGUST Happy Birthday



Kathy Abel
Mike Bailie
Rebecca Bartlett
Jocelyn Blake
Jocelyn Buchanan
Andrea Cawley
Anna-Marie Crott
Stephen Francks
Jenny Glubb
Sue Greig
June Hagan

Megan Jolly
Hugh McAlister
Margaret Oakley
Robyn Phillips
Beverly Reid
Diane Rodger
Jean Sears
Norm Silcock
Jill Stewart
Andrew Sutherland
Peter Trass

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)

- **Sunday Bridge** now the 3rd Sunday of the month. Next session 21st September
- **Tuesday tutorials continue...** 12.30pm for 15 minutes. Reserve your playing seat first please.
- **Etiquette Board** is updated every month. Please make time to check it out
- **Friday Drinks** after play **Friday 29th August**. The Bar will be open (alcoholic + non-alcoholic beverages). Please bring a small plate to share.
- **Tauranga Novice, Junior & Intermediate Pairs** Saturday 30th August. Please enter on NZBridge website. The bar will be open at the end of play.
- **Heads up...** September Friday drinks will be the 3rd Friday... 19th Sept... to enable members to attend who have other commitments on the last Friday of the month

OUR JULY WINNERS

MON	Jones & Co. Evening Championship Pairs <i>Jones & Company</i>	Kate Terry & Judy Pawson
TUE	Mount Mantua-Maker Handicap Pairs <i>Mount Mantua-Maker</i>	Peter Hagan & Kathy Abel
	No More Bad Hair Days Handicap Pairs <i>Beach Road Hair</i>	Heather Melville & Judy McLeod
WED	Good Health Handicap Pairs <i>Martelletti Consulting</i>	Kerri Friar & Rebecca Taylor
THUR	Swiss Pairs #3 <i>Althorp Village</i>	Judy McLeod & Judith Malcolm
	Hair Raising Open Teams #3 <i>Beach Road Hair</i>	Shirley Bain, Norm Silcock, Kay Wright & Derek Webb
FRI	Legal Pairs <i>Toner Law</i>	Stacey Hilton & Graham Young
	Daytime Championship Singles <i>Farmer Autovillage</i>	Graham Young



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS...

This month our newest players are emerging from their protective cocoons and starting to play proper club bridge and tournaments as well with our Nov ice / Junior / Intermediate tournament at the end of the month.

As I move around the room on a Monday or Friday I get a lot of questions about how the lessons have gone this year and it's clear that you all understand how important the lessons are for the growth of the club. So I thought this month I would give you an update on how the lesson programme has gone and the plans for 2026.

This year we reintroduced daytime lessons in addition to evening lessons. Initially it looked like we would have about 12 on Friday afternoon and 16 on Wednesday afternoon but by the time we got to the start of the lesson programme in early March this had whittled down to 8 and 12 respectively. As we progress through the three months of lessons we inevitably lose some along the way and so we finished up with 16 graduating in June but we gained a couple right at the end who were happy to catch up through self-teaching and a little bit of guidance from me, a most impressive effort!

While 18 new players doesn't sound too bad there is still room for improvement given that we can cater for 48 across the lesson timeslots. A lot of this comes down to our marketing drive at the start of the year, what works one year doesn't work the next and so it is hard to pinpoint what the winning formula is. We have been very fortunate to secure a spot at the Bay Home Show in early October where we hope to emulate the success a similar event had over 10 years ago where they had 120 people through the lessons.

I believe another issue is the length of the lesson programme and this presents us with two problems. Firstly, some people sign up but then realise they're going to be on a cruise or something for a month in the middle and so (quite rightly) decide it doesn't make sense to start something they aren't going to be able to finish. Secondly, after five years now of taking the beginners lessons it has become clear to me that at least 80% of the beginners struggle with the amount of material they are required to remember. No one lesson is particularly difficult but with one thing being piled on another it is just too much for most people.

And so I am investigating running a cutdown lesson programme for next year which potentially allows us to run multiple, shorter sets of lessons each year to help with the busy lives problem while also reducing the mental load. This coincides with NZBridge doing a complete overhaul of the lesson material. Although we are yet to see the final product of this overhaul it is supposedly going to be a lot more modular to allow teachers to pick and choose what they adopt and what they leave out.

This may mean that our beginners initially emerge from the lessons without some of the knowledge we would usually expect of our novices. Maybe they don't know about pre-empt bids, takeout doubles or ace asking. These are the sorts of conventions that they don't need to get out and play some cards and just put the basics they do know into practice. It just means we need to add more structure so that when they are ready we can add in all those extra bits.

So, there are definitely some challenges ahead but I am feeling positive that with these changes we can improve our retention of new players which helps us to grow the club in the longer term.

REMINDERS

- Please make sure you **check in** with your partner prior to the playing day. We've had a couple of whoopsies lately with double bookings which has resulted in someone going home.
- Please, please, please make sure you **wash your hands** when you go to the bathroom. General hygiene however if you saw the dirt & grime that we clean off the dealing machine each week you'd probably wash your hands more often.
- Your **Committee** meets on the third Tuesday of the month... The Suggestion Box is on the front desk & is checked every meeting.
- The orange cones are placed in the car park to reserve the spot for members with particular needs... we appreciate you not using those parks.



Ron Klinger

Champion Bridge Player
Author
Teacher
Commentator

ronklingerbridge.com

December 7th 2025

**2 workshops
Morning & afternoon
\$30 per session**

Maximum of 120 people per session We will, of course, be opening the workshops up to everyone in the region

RON KLINGER WORKSHOPS

Early notice so you can save the date!!

Ron Klinger is an Australian contract bridge player, a leading English language bridge writer, the author of more than 70 books on the game. He is an Australian Grand Master and a World Bridge Federation International Master.



“The Challenge of the Yarborough”

Hugh McAlister

♠ 72	♠ AKQJ9	♠ 86543
♥ 52	♥ AKQJ	♥ 76
♦ AKJ1083	♦ Q5	♦ 2
♣ AQ8	♣ J10	♣ 97642
nil vul, dealer W contract 4H by S Lead AD		
	♠ 10	
	♥ 109843	
	♦ 9764	
	♣ K53	

Bidding: West opens 1D, North has a powerful hand and doubles. East passes and South bids 1H. West rebids 2D (a good bid with 6 diamonds and extra values), and North bids 4H.

Lead: West leads AD, then follows that with the KD.

Play: On the second trick what does East discard?

Lessons:

1. With such a poor hand it is easy to “lose concentration...” one senses that one’s input into this hand will not be great! **Nothing could be further from the truth.** The answer to the question above (a trick question, so as not to give the game away)...isa trump!
2. East must see the powerful hand in dummy, remember that partner bid twice, and at least consider the possibility that partner has AQ of clubs. If partner has them, and you do not lead through declarer now, declarer will be able to discard her/his Clubs on dummy’s spades. The only opportunity to do this is NOW, and you must trump partner’s trick to get the lead.

This month a Scrabble group rented our rooms Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th July, just in case you were wondering about all the cars!!

The Church group who use our rooms on Sunday morning, set up Saturday late afternoon / early evening so don’t be surprised when you see a number of cars in the car park (like I was returning from the Whakatane tournament 2nd August... what a hoot!)



BOUQUETS

The club is extremely grateful to **Sue Sherwood, David Fornusek, Muriel Banks & Karyl Anderson** for the sterling job they did giving our clubroom kitchen a deep clean.

Many thanks to the many **Biscuit Fairies** who responded to our request in last month’s Table Talk... Your generosity is noted & appreciated!

A round of applause to our Dealing Team **Jenny Lynam, Sue Handley, Karyl Anderson, Chris Andrews, Jill Ussher, Diana Foster & their leader Sue Greig**, two of whom spend approximately 3 hours each Monday morning dealing all the cards you play each week plus deal & check all the cards for our Tournaments. Thank you!

A compliment to the Club gardeners **Diana Foster & Raewyn De Cleene** thank you!

Thank you to all our afternoon tea volunteers!! A special thanks to **Beryl Smith** who comes in especially to ‘do’ afternoon tea when she’s not playing.





Interclub Teams

Congratulations to all who played in the Bay of Plenty Interclub! There was a nearly full room at Rotorua with Taupo, Rotorua, Te Puke, Whakatane, Mount Maunganui and Tauranga clubs participating.

Our Teams were:

Open – Diana McAlister, Hugh McAlister, Rebecca Osborne, Kate Terry

Intermediate – Diane Rodger, Deidre Gunn, Jackie Blue, Kay Wright

Junior – Kerri Friar, Rebecca Taylor, Kerrie Little, Astrid Martin

To qualify for the Finals this weekend you needed to come 1st or 2nd in your grade. The Open Team finished 1st and are off to the finals this Sunday, we all wish them the best of luck.

Support the Club

WE NEED YOU!



Any successful club requires a combination of the hard work of many volunteers. Currently we need to train members for two roles, that of Club Session Director and Scorer. We need to train at least two people for each of these roles. The old adage... Many hands make light work.

Club Session Directors

If you are interested in learning more about directing to help our with our Director roster in 2026 please contact Rebecca 021 800-691 or Mike 021 118-1294.

Club Session Scorers

We have some good notes on the process and would buddy you up with existing scorers in your preferred session. If interested in learning how to do the scoring please contact Rebecca or Mike.

The World Champs are currently on in Herning, Denmark and New Zealand has teams in the

Open

Mixed

Womens &

Seniors competitions

including our very own **Jenna and Christine Gibbons** in the Womens team playing for the Venice Cup.

If you're keen to watch the best bridge in the world you can tune in at 8pm each evening for free.

Some matches are being broadcast on BBO, just head to the vugraph section. Others are being broadcast on a platform called LoveBridge, head to vugraph.lovebridge.com.

From August 28th the semifinals and final will be broadcast on Twitch, head to twitch.tv/WBF_Official

Mike



Our Mixed Team in Denmark

FACEBOOK

You can also catch up on a summary of events on Facebook... **New Zealand Bridge & NZ Bridge Community Page.**