

TABLE TALK

August 2026



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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Abel	Teri Logie
Mike Bailie	Hugh McAlister
Rebecca Bartlett	Margaret Oakly
Jocelyn Blake	Beverly Reid
Jocelyn Buchanan	Diane Rodger
Andrea Cawley	Jean Sears
Julie Frewin	Norm Silcock
Jenny Glubb	Jill Stewart
Sue Greig	Andrew Sutherland
June Hagan	

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)

- We are currently running a raffle in conjunction with our upcoming tournament
- Tauranga Novice, Junior & Intermediate Pairs Saturday 29th Aug. We would appreciate contributions to morning tea please and we also require assistance in the kitchen at various times during the day. Sign up sheet on notice board.
- **Chit Chat** 4pm Tuesday after play for informal discussion of day's play. Bar will be open for alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages. Approx 30 minutes.
- Our learners integrate with the Juniors on Wednesday 9th September.
- Sunday Bridge ... 12.45pm for a 1pm start. No partner required. Next session 20th September
- Next **Friday drinks** ... 25th September after play. Please bring a plate to share.



OUR JUNE WINNERS

MON	Evening Championship Pairs <i>Craig Investment Partners</i>	Hugh & Diana McAlister Liz Swanston & Cathy Parker (Top Intermediate)
TUES	Mount Matua-Maker Pairs <i>Mount Matua-Maker</i>	Hugh & Diana McAlister
	No More Bad Hair Days H'cap Pairs <i>Beach Road Hair</i>	Desrai Karl & Mark Newman
WED	Restricted Charity Pairs	Andrew Reynolds & Mark Lynch
	Happy Buyer Restricted Pairs <i>Andrea Cawley at Eves</i>	Mel Grigsby & Alan Lawton
FRI	Legal Pairs <i>Toner Law</i>	Nick Comber & Judy Pawson
	Matariki Pairs <i>Ultimate Motor Group</i>	Chris Tustain & Nick Comber N/S Jennie Ross & June Barclay E/W

Work is underway now on preparing next year's programme booklet and part of that work is assigning sponsors to the various club events held throughout the year. As always sponsors come and go over the years but it's been a while since a concerted effort was made to bring new ones onboard and we now find ourselves with a few gaps that it would be great to see filled.

The bulk of our sponsors come through club members that have a personal relationship with the business owner. The business is then more than happy to contribute as they know they're supporting a club that their friend or loved one gains enjoyment from. And so we're asking you all to think whether you know someone who runs a business, small or large, that might be willing to come onboard as a sponsor.

The most common level of sponsorship is naming rights to a club event. This gets the sponsors name in the programme booklet, their logo up on the TV screen for all sessions during the week in which their event is running, their business cards on display by the front entrance, and they are most welcome to come along for the start of one of the sessions to speak directly to the club. The cost for this is \$50 per session, so the minimum spend is \$150 for a typical three week event.

Advertising space is also available on the inside covers of the programme booklet for an additional cost depending on the size. Tournament naming rights are also available as a further option. We have in the past also had sponsors supply afternoon tea or spot prizes during their events as something a little extra to further enamour themselves to the members! We are also happy to discuss options around advertising special offers or events to our members also.

We also have a number of club members who sponsor events personally and of course we continue to gratefully accept sponsorship from anyone who wants to take this option. It is up to you whether you wish your name to be used or if you wish to remain anonymous and come up with a catchy pseudonym!

So please give some thought as to whether there is anybody in your life who has a business that would like to come onboard as a sponsor. Have a chat with them and if they're keen let us know!

Mike



- An overcall (opposition bidding after the opener) is made with a 'good' **FIVE** card suit.
- When you are on lead, please place the card **FACE DOWN** on the table and don't turn it over until given the ok. If you have lead out of turn, you can easily pick that card up and play continues.
- When the first board is completed, please do NOT discuss the finer points of bidding or play, move to the next board. Discussion waits until all boards have been played at that table, preferably until end of day's play. It is very easy for voice volume to rise and you're unwittingly passing information to the next table who are about to play that board. We're given approx. 7 minutes to play one board and for everyone's sake it's important to stick to the time.
- At the end of play PLEASE return your boards to the front of the room as soon as possible - people are waiting on you to place the boards back in the container, in sequence, to make life 'easier' for the dealers AND so they can leave!!
- PLEASE turn your Bridgемate OFF at the end of play. Press the button on the right-hand side firmly until the red button appears on the screen, tap it and follow instructions. They will not charge correctly unless this is done.
- When placing the Bridgемate in the holder at the front of the room, please ensure that the charging 'bracket' is facing downwards, matching the gap in the bottom, to enable charging.
- A reminder that these devices are EXPENSIVE (over \$400 each) and we would appreciate them being used/treated with care.

HOUSEKEEPING

- Please stack the blue stools to the side of the room after play Tuesday & Friday to facilitate vacuuming Wednesday & Monday mornings.
- Please return used cups & glasses promptly to the kitchen on Tuesday & Friday... A reminder the set-up AND clean-up is done by volunteers
- A new afternoon tea roster is on the notice board. Please pop your name in a slot if you're fit and able.
- A reminder that the tablecloths need a shake every so often.
- Please remember to push your chairs in at the end of play... We have members with mobility issues. This is a SAFETY concern!!

A common defence strategy against 3NT



	♠ KQ1073	
	♥ A73	
♦ A	♦ 86	♠ 8642
	♣ AJ9	♥ Q106
		♦ Q2
		♣ 10873

Dealer S, both vul.
Contract 3NT by S
– Lead AD

South	West	North	East
1NT*	P	2H^	P
2S	P	3NT	All pass

*12-14 ^ transfer to S

West leads AD... what should East play and why?

East should play QD, **an unblocking play**. Here is the layout...

	♠ KQ1073	
	♥ A73	
♠ J5	♦ 86	♠ 8642
♥ 954	♣ AJ9	♥ Q106
♦ AKJ105		♦ Q2
♣ 542	♠ A9	♣ 10873
	♥ KJ82	
	♦ 9743	
	♣ KQ6	

Lessons:

1. If West has AKxxx(x) of diamonds, (s)he would lead 4th highest, or maybe the KD. **The lead of the Ace, against a NT contract, is special...** it asks partner to play an honour (usually Q or J) if (s)he has one, and if not "give count"...a high-low shows an even number in the suit, low-high an odd number ("**natural count**"), or low-high to show an even number, and high low to show an odd number ("**reverse count**"). By giving count, (make sure you play the same system!), you help partner to know whether or not to continue the suit. In this setting, East's cards have nothing to do with suit preference... The corollary of this is that if you have AK of a suit, and **don't want your partner to unblock an honour...lead the K**.
2. Note that with the above layout, not playing the QD **blocks** the suit, and 3NT makes easily with an overtrick or two.
3. N.B. This is a common strategy, but is not used by everyone... make sure you and your regular partner(s) are on the same page!

Hugh McAlister

- A HUGE round of applause and thank you to our President **Mike Newton** for his commitment to teaching our learners. Mike has taught since early March on Wednesday lunchtime and evening... September 9th the group integrates with Wednesday evening Juniors & some to Social Bridge on Thursday afternoon. A superb teacher who we all appreciate greatly. Thank you! Outstanding commitment.
- Thank you to everyone who assisted Mike with the lessons. The learners were hugely appreciative.
- Keep applauding for our wonderful **Sue Greig!** Head of our dealing team, looks after our library, helps in the Bar and this past weekend 'saved' the Scrabble tournament whose fob didn't work. Sue let them in both days and locked up at night. A real intrusion into your weekend Sue! You're an angel!! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
- **Raewyn De Cleene** you're like Pollyanna! Thank you for the gorgeous freesias you've been sharing. Absolutely beautiful & much appreciated.



TOURNAMENT OFFICER

Tauranga Bridge Club needs a Tournament.

Officer. We have published an overview of what this position entails in June & July's Table Talk.

Jackie Blue has done a superb job over many years and is stepping down, thankfully though she has agreed to stay on for another year so she can work with the new officer.

Please feel free to contact Jackie if you'd like more information or have any questions you'd like to ask.

If you're not interested ... Any suggestions?

Jackie has a lot of the systems sorted. Our main Tournament is Mini Congress late January.



A reminder that the Club has a Facebook page *Thank you Cathy Parker*

Another way you can keep up with what's happening. CHECK US OUT ...

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

This month I would like to talk about tournaments as there are so many coming up.

Firstly of course I must acknowledge the great recent effort by our Intermediate team. Winners at their level in the Waikato/Bays, they never looked like they would get beaten. Such a fabulous effort and how great to have our club a winner at this level. On the clubs behalf, thanks **Lyn, Diane, Rosemary and Stacey** for being such awesome representatives. We are so proud of you.

You will also see in the results about **Mike and Rose** who had several placings in New Plymouth over the weekend. What an awesome effort from them both, but special mention to Rose, a junior player who is playing at Open level! She now has enough A points to be Intermediate at the beginning of 2027. I'm sure it won't be long before I am writing about her becoming Open. Well done Rose.

I could not see final results from the Te Puke Daffodil day but from what I could see **Heather Melville and Judy McLeod** were in the lead with **John Laugesen** and his partner in third. Our club is doing so well.

There are several tournaments coming up, not the least of which is our own Novice, Junior and Intermediate tournament. For those who have never entered a tournament this would be a perfect place to start – on your home turf. Tournaments are both lots of fun and good for your bridge, so don't hesitate to have a go. Enter at the club or online. Having a tournament is a lot of work and we need many helpers. We have the regulars, who we could not do without, but please think about if you might be able to come along and give an hour or more of your time to help out. Every little bit counts and many hands make light work. Please let one of us know if you think you could help. Special thanks to those who are always so willing to do this work. We are still looking for a junior pair who could be fill ins if someone pulls out at the last minute. Please think about this – remember it is free if you do get to play. Please see me or Jackie Blue if you are able to do this for us.

Unfortunately, I will be away the weekend of our tournament so I won't be able to come and wish you well at the beginning of the day. In advance, I wish you all the best of luck and look forward to hearing the stories and seeing the results.

Please remember to chat with me if you would like to talk about anything. I'd love to hear from you. Lastly – welcome back to Norm who returns this week.

Happy bridge everyone
Shirley

We have become aware of a few misconceptions that some members have about club play.

- When there is a multi-week event on, and in order to qualify you need to play with a different partner each week... YOU can choose to play with the same person each week. You just won't qualify for the prize/trophy.
- When there is a multi-week event, we would love to have you play even if you're going to be absent for one or more sessions. You do not have to play them all in order to participate.
- When there is an event for a specific level e.g. Junior, Intermediate etc. you may play with a partner from a 'lower' grade and still be eligible to qualify for a prize. However you cannot play with a partner of a 'higher' grade and still be eligible.
- Absolutely acceptable to have substitutes for any event. Check your Bridge book for specific requirements for various sessions.



ETIQUETTE

PASSING BOARDS DURING A BRIDGE SESSION

North/South are 'in charge' of boards at the table. Please be mindful that the orientation of the board MUST remain N/S during the entire play of the hand. We have had instances recently where cards have been returned to the incorrect slots because the board was rotated resulting in a fouled board for the next players. This is particularly important if you have a look at Boards at a Phantom table.

When East/West move to a new table it is imperative that they do not move to the higher numbered table to retrieve the board/s that they are about to play while play is still in session. Be patient! Having said that, North/South should have a stool positioned so that the board/s can be retrieved easily. Information can be absorbed about who's playing the hand which is not fair play.

