

TABLE TALK

DECEMBER 2023

TAURANGA BRIDGE CLUB | 252 Ngatai Road, Otumoetai 3110 | 07 576-5022



WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

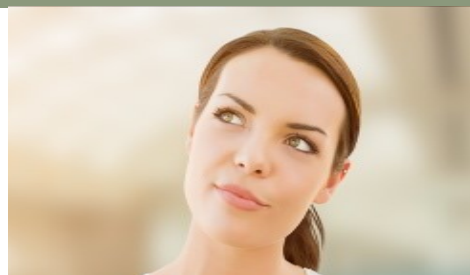
(Make a note in your diary)

Wednesday, 10th, 17th & 24th
Back to Bridge Seminars. 7pm.
More details to follow through
Hello Club. Save the dates!



HOLIDAY BRIDGE

Friday, 5th Jan at 1pm
Monday, 8th Jan at 7pm
Tuesday, 9th Jan at 1pm
Friday, 12th Jan at 1pm



DID YOU KNOW...

A playing 'rule'...
Once you have turned your played
card face down, you may NOT ask
to see the other players' cards
again.

A WORD (OR TWO) FROM OUR PRESIDENT...



I grew up in Hastings which is where I first discovered Bridge. A school friend of mine must have had his arm twisted by his Grandmother to enrol in the lessons at the Hastings Bridge Club and he wanted company. So he sought out the most bookish of his friends and that is how my addiction began! That was about 1999.

I played a few years at the Hastings club before heading off to Massey University Palmerston North in 2002. Studies (computer programming), various other sporting endeavours and meeting new people (including my wife Angela) pushed Bridge into the background but I knew I would return to it one day.

Angela and I moved in together, travelled, and married in 2012 while she was elbows deep in her PhD thesis, after which she got a job at Ballance which brought us to Tauranga in 2014. I dragged her along to Bridge lessons in 2016 and we played successfully for a few years before she decided she wanted to focus on multisport, in particular aiming to do Coast to Coast in a few months time.

2016 was also the year we welcomed our son Liam to our family precisely one week before Christmas. And two years later in January 2019 Abigail came along and completed our family. Liam has a love of learning, enjoys swimming and has also started learning Bridge! Abigail is our wee dancer and just performed in four shows at Baycourt over the weekend. She starts school in the new year and will hopefully love it as much as her big brother!

At the start of this year I got my 50 A's and became an Open player, though I have been playing Open tournaments for some time. I also played internationally for the first time at the Gold Coast Congress with our departing President Kate. I have now done three years of teaching the beginners lessons at the club, something that I very much enjoy.

[Continued overleaf]

What a privilege to be a part of this brand new club newsletter put together by Karyl Anderson! Fitting in a way, having only just been elected President at the AGM a few short weeks ago, both the newsletter and I are "fresh off the press." I suspect there are still many of you that don't know too much about me, particularly daytime players that I don't get the pleasure of mingling with very often. So, since Karyl set no topic for my rantings, I shall take this opportunity to tell you a bit more about myself.

A WORD (OR TWO) FROM OUR PRESIDENT (continued)...

My goals for my term as President are to continue the work that Kate began in regrowing our membership and participation post Covid, part of which will involve being more flexible to cater for players that are not enamoured with the traditional formats that we have offered. I intend to lead from the front in promoting the club as a fun place to play, we're all a little bit competitive but that doesn't mean we can't enjoy ourselves at the same time!

Hopefully that has given you a bit more insight as to what makes your new President tick! Regretfully, since our busiest sessions are our afternoon sessions, I won't get to play with most of you that often because I'm busy picking kids up from school and ferrying them to dance lessons etc! But I look forward to seeing you at Holiday Bridge. If you want a quiet, social game with friends, do consider coming along to the lunch time sessions that I run that are moving from Wednesday to Monday next year.

Many thanks, Mike Newton—President

Happy Birthday

DECEMBER

Best wishes for the year ahead!



Diane Blumson
Malcolm Christie
Carol Duncan
Monica Goulden
Bruce Inglis
Delwyn Jenkins
Ben de Kleijnen
Joan Lloyd
Chris Malcolm
Helen Moffatt
Sonia Norman
Pat Page
Catherine Pattison

Rosalind Phillips
Bernie Robinson
Michelle Rogers
Jan Russell
Sam Simpson
Robyne Smit
Thea Straub
Sarah Thodey
Chris Tustain
Megan Wackrow
Derek Webb
Jo Wenham
Bruce Woolley

P.S. Please check that you've entered your birth day and month in Hello Club

FROM THE ARCHIVES



In 1983, Finesse entered the controversy on smoking during playing sessions by suggesting the members refrain from smoking until after 9pm. Also running throughout the back issues were the many and loud cries against slow play! Space was also given to lessons on how to matchpoint on the score sheet. Oh, happy the advent of computers!

Some amusing snippets reported in Finesse over the years:

- A member stuck in the ladies toilet for some time, because the door handles were removed in preparation for painting the doors.
- A member who thought his car was stolen in town and reported it to the police, only to "discover" it a few days later, still parked in town and covered in parking tickets!
- A pair who could not find a slam, holding 37 points between them.

RECENT RESULTS

MONDAY

Martelletti Intermediate Championship Teams:
Stacey Hilton, Simon Emerson, Bruce Gibson, Mike McKeown

TUESDAY

Omanu Orcas Melbourne Cup: Kate Terry & Christine Gibbons
Jones & Co Tribute Handicap Pairs: Margaret Howcroft & Hilary McKenna

WEDNESDAY

Jones & Co Double Dose Pairs: Sharon Long & Nikki Baguley

THURSDAY

Craigs Championship Teams: Jo & Sam Simpson
Diana & Hugh McAlister

FRIDAY

Martelletti Daytime Championship Pairs: Diana & Hugh McAlister



TIP OF THE MONTH

Hugh McAlister: *Club Captain*

	♠ Q104	
	♥ J62	
	♦ 873	
♠ J9832	♣ 9762	♠ A7
♥ Q75		♥ K984
♦ J94		♦ Q1062
♣ 103		♣ K84
	♠ K65	
	♥ A103	
	♦ AK5	
	♣ AQJ5	

You reach a "thin" 3NT, after N raises 2NT hopefully to 3NT. W leads the 3S...plan the play (*decide what you'd do before reading on*).

In a NT contract, one should first count one's tricks – a measly 4 certain tricks with the lead contributing one or 2 more, and at least 1 more Club trick. If the KC is with East, you might score 4 tricks in clubs, **as long as you have at least 2 entries to dummy** (in case they have Kxx)...is that possible?

The 3S lead is almost certainly 4th highest from an honour. On dummy's 4S, East plays AS and returns 7S. Now you have chances...but only if you **play the KS on the first trick, "unblocking"**, and giving you 2 likely entries to dummy (finessing West's likely JS). Now you can take 2 finesses in clubs and make your contract (2 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 4 club tricks).

This hand nicely exemplifies **3 truisms of good declarer play**:

1. **Think before playing to the first trick...**if you did not unblock KS on trick 1, you could not make this contract.
2. **Learn to read opponents' cards from their play...**the 3S lead tells you a lot.

[TIP OF THE MONTH CONTINUED]

Another technique is to win the first lead with a *higher card than is necessary*.

	QJ4	
K9853		72
	A106	

The 5 is led by W...dummy plays low, E plays the 7 (their highest). **Play the Ace...**you must always lose to the K, but this way you **guarantee an entry** to dummy.

	Q42	
AJ963		85
	K107	

Again, the 6 is led, round to the... **play the K, and create an entry**

'ROGUES' GALLERY

Christmas party, Saturday, 9th December

The clubrooms were transformed into the Tauranga Garden Club! Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch, songs, laughter, time with friends and of course, some Bridge.

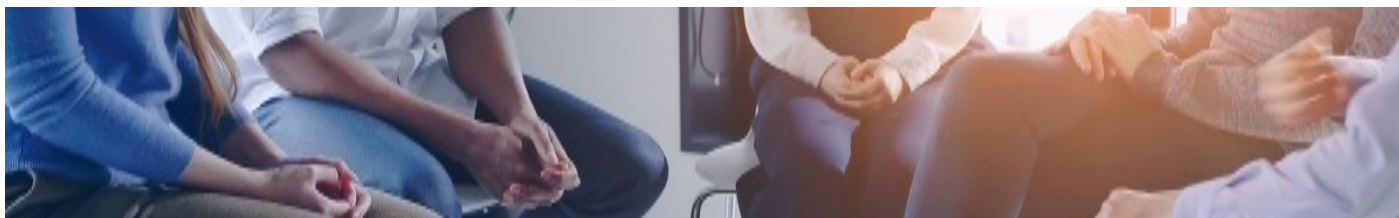
Can't wait for next year!



 Merry Christmas!

Best wishes for the holiday season—
see you at a Bridge Table in 2024





YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2024

PRESIDENT	Mike Newton
VICE PRESIDENT	Karyl Anderson
CLUB CAPTAIN	Hugh McAlister
TREASURER	Kelly Greer
COMMITTEE	Muriel Banks; Jackie Blue; Deidre Gunn; Rebecca Osborne; Keryn O'Brien; Pat Ware;
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Kate Terry
ALMONER	Nelma Kibblewhite (576-9335)



Malcolm Forbes, a former US presidential candidate and owner of the highly respected Forbes Magazine said...

“Playing Bridge reflects intelligence. It’s one of the really great pleasures of life. I think anybody who’s missing Bridge is missing so much in life. Don’t make the mistake of missing out on the fun of Bridge.”

Quite an endorsement for a super-busy multi-millionaire who sat on the board of so many companies as well as the Bridge table.

ETIQUETTE AT THE TABLE

It is perhaps prescient that our Newsletter is named “TABLE TALK.” In coming months I plan to use this column to highlight an etiquette issue I see repeatedly at the table.

It is good to welcome new opponents to the table, and to enquire **briefly** after their health and travels. Once bidding and play have begun, any utterances other than strictly bridge-related are called “table talk,” and are inappropriate, even unlawful (see Laws 73 & 74). Statements such as “hmmmm,” “interesting,” or “I see” are unnecessary and may be conceived as alerting partner to something. Further incoherent mumblings can be distracting to the opposition.

Please take care to **avoid table talk** during the bidding and play of the hand.

Hugh McAlister



Tauranga Bridge Club

Thanks

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