

TABLE TALK

DECEMBER 2025

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



Happy
Birthday
DECEMBER

Michele Rogers
Jan Russell
Bruce Inglis
Delwyn Jenkins
Joan Lloyd
Olive Boyd
Helen Moffatt
Megan Wackrow
Jo Wenham
Rosalind Phillips

Sarah Thodey
Chris Tustain
Isaac Wong
Catherine Pattison
Derek Webb
Sam Simpson
Thea Straub
Diane Blumson
Malcolm Christie

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)

- **Holiday Bridge** January Holiday Bridge resumes Monday 5th. No partner required.
- **Tauranga Mini Congress** Anniversary Weekend Saturday 24th Jan – Monday 26th Jan. We would appreciate contributions for morning tea and Sue Sherwood will require assistance in the kitchen all three days. Sign up sheets will go up on the board in January.
- The **Bridge program** begins Tuesday 27th January. You will be informed when the booklets are available. NO Club play Monday 26th Jan (mini Congress).
- **Mini Bridge** will be held again in February to encourage/attract people for our 2026 lessons which will begin in March. Please let friends & family know

OUR NOVEMBER WINNERS

MON **Judgement Day Pairs**
Jackson Reeves Lawyers

Shirley Bain & Judy McLeod

TUE **Melbourne Cup**
Toyota

Margaret Oakley & Raewyn De Cleene N/S
Hugh & Diana McAlister E/W
H'cap Margaret Oakley & Raewyn De Cleene N/S
David Fornusek & Robyn McLennan E/W

Tribute Handicap Pairs
Jones & Company

Joan Lloyd & Jill Ussher

WED **Double Dose Pairs**
Jones & Company

Maria Arhanic & Jayne King
H'cap Wendy Park & Anne Peacocke

THURS **Open Championship Teams**
Craigs Investment Partners

Heather Melville, Norm Simcock,
Derek Webb & Shirley Bain

FRI **Sinking Feeling Handicap Pairs**
Jackson Reeves Lawyers

Kathy Abel & Sue Greig





Tis the season for... Holiday Bridge! Since the regular club calendar is drawing to a close for the year I wanted to take the time to remind everyone about Holiday Bridge and how it runs a little differently to our normal sessions throughout the year.

The first and most important thing about Holiday Bridge is that it is very low key. We often get visitors from out of town here on a summer holiday that come along, our Wednesday Junior night also doesn't run during this period so our novice players join in the fun. So to keep things relaxed and casual there are no multi-week events and therefore no prizes.

The other thing that is very popular is that you don't need a partner for Holiday Bridge. We have a rostered on standby player who will jump in if we end up with an odd number of players. So if you find yourself at a loose end on a Monday night you can just come along without a partner and be guaranteed a game. If you're also happy to put your name down as the standby player for a session that would also be much appreciated, the roster sheet is on the noticeboard at the club.

So when is Holiday Bridge running? Monday nights from 6:45pm, Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 12:45pm. Please ensure you arrive on time so we can work out how many we have with out partners and get everyone squared away promptly. We have one week of Holiday Bridge in December straight after the Christmas Party and then we resume on the 5th of January all the way through to Auckland Anniversary weekend. The normal club calendar resumes on Tuesday the 27th of January.

Holiday Bridge is particularly important for our newer players because two months completely away from the bridge table is enough to make you forget some things! As such, during January, we are going to run a few sessions aimed at those who have learned in the past couple of years just to re cap the bidding basics and have you ready to hit the ground running again in February. These will run alongside the bootcamp sessions we usually run for more experienced players.

So I would encourage all of you to come along and keep your hand in over the Summer period, escape the heat and come have a play with the new BridgeMates!

Mike.



ALERTING STAYMAN

There have been a couple of times throughout the year where questions have arisen around when you have to alert Stayman and when you don't.

To preface this discussion we should first look at the relevant regulations. NZBridge actually has its own rule around this and so it will be different in other countries. In the NZBridge Manual it states "...the following bids are in such common use that they are deemed to be self-alerting: simple Stayman 2♣ responses to 1NT opening bids and the 2♦ response denying a 4-card major".

And so we have the reason why we don't alert Stay man. You will note though that the regulation quoted is quite specific that it only applies to Stayman in response to a 1NT **opening bid**. This means that if you play simple Stayman in response to a 1NT overcall or a 2NT opening bid, or anywhere else, it should be alerted.

The regulation also goes on to say "Stayman after an opponent's double should be alerted". So if you open 1NT, the opponent immediately following you doubles, your partner bids 2♣ and your partnership agreement says that is still simple Stayman, then you must alert it.

Finally, 2♣ over a 1NT opening bid must always be alerted if it's not natural (doesn't promise clubs) and not simple Stayman, i.e. a 5-card major ask or Puppet Stayman or some other elaborate convention you found on the dark web!

HOLIDAY BRIDGE

We have 9 scheduled Holiday Bridge sessions in January. Monday evening, Tuesday & Friday afternoons.

A wonderful opportunity for you to **turn up without a partner** (of course you can play with your arranged partner/s).

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO BE THE 'EXTRA' FOR HOLIDAY BRIDGE.

The volunteer may find that s/he is not required due to an even number of players turning up without partners... in which case the volunteer now has their afternoon free.

Please fill in the sheet on the noticeboard.





#1

Hugh McAlister

♠ Q1042
♥ K5
♦ A73
♣ AKJ6

West	North	East	South	
	-	-	1S	♠ K3
2C	-	-	2S	♥ Q10643
6S	All pass			♦ 10952
				♣ 73

Lead KD

West leads KD against 6S. Declarer wins with AD and leads QS... **Do you cover or not? Choose now...**

Lessons:

- What does Declarer have?** Probably at least 6 spades, possibly 7. (s)he will almost certainly have AH, maybe QC (if not it is finessable), and very likely a diamond loser... in fact South has:
- East must not cover. If Declarer has 6 or 7 spades, covering cannot possibly promote anything. If East follows low, smoothly, South will likely rise with the AS.
- Declarer’s plan is to throw her/his losing diamond on dummy’s fourth club, but East will ruff the third round with KS and give partner their QD.... one down.
- This is an excellent example of **reading Declarer’s hand from the bidding.**

♠ AJ9875
♥ A7
♦ 64
♣ Q85

#2

♠ Q754
♥ A5
♦ 872
♣ AK42

West	North	East	South	
	1C	-	1S	♠ 8
2S	-	-	4NT	♥ Q10863
5S	-	-	7S	♦ Q105
				♣ QJ107

Lead 2S

Declarer wins and plays 4 more rounds of trumps, West following once more. **Which suit or suits can you (East) afford to discard? Choose now...**

Lessons:

- You need, initially, to find 4 discards... forget about telling partner what to lead... the contract is 7S! What can you afford to discard?
- 4NT is Roman Key Card Blackwood, and 5S shows 2 “keycards” (aces + K of trumps) and QS.
- From Declarer’s play you can deduce (s)he is not interested in hearts. If (s)he was, they would play A and K hearts and then trump 1 or 2 hearts. Throwing 4 hearts will likely not give anything away. Declarer may have AKJ of diamonds... throwing one might help her/him. The one thing you cannot do is throw clubs.... you must keep “parity” (same number of cards) with dummy.
- This is an excellent example of **reading Declarer’s hand from her/his play.** In fact South has:

♠ AKJ1063
♥ K7
♦ AK4
♣ 63

If you discard one club, declarer can play AK of clubs, ruff a club with the last trump and discard her/his losing diamond on the fourth club.



Fabulous workshops held earlier this month. What a lovely man.

- Bridge is a risk-taking game. Don't need safe! Need COURAGE.
- Overcalling with a decent suit is to give partner a lead nudge.
- Do not overcall a suit that doesn't have at least KQ – want to have a winner when partner leads it.
- Lead the top of a doubleton ALWAYS
- Lead the top of a sequence.
- 10 is an honour card
- 3 cards headed by an honour – lead the lowest promising an honour e.g. K73... lead the 3. 1074... lead the 4.
- If you have 4-5 losers in your hand DOUBLE!
- If you have 6 losers BID!
- If you play Mud i.e. middle, up, down you have NO doubleton nor an honour.

Thanks to everyone who donated goodies for the Christmas Raffles, Spot prizes and lunch for our Christmas party. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Pam Bell, Dale Allen, Raewyn De Cleene, Joan Lloyd, Sue Handley, Alan Lawton, Heather Melville & others.

- An enormous thank you to **Dale Allen**, who having achieved Intermediate status is now 'retiring' from Wednesday night stewardship.
- CONGRATULATIONS to **Desrai Karl, Sally Shaw & Rebecca Taylor** who have also achieved Intermediate status. And to **Jackie Blue** on achieving Open status. Happy Bridging in 2026!
- **Sue Sherwood** what a seamless transition into the role of taking over the 'kitchen'. Thank you for your hard work... Christmas lunch was great.
- A huge round of applause to **Muriel Banks** for her time on the Committee and looking after our kitchen. We appreciate everything you've done!!
- **Sue Greig, Jenny Lynam, Sue Handley & her partner, Jill Ussher, Diana Foster, Chris Andrews & Hilary McKenna** thank for your diligent, hard work dealing in 2025!! Thousands of boards dealt with very few hiccoughs. We appreciate you!

HOUSEKEEPING

Our air-conditioning is not perfect given the age of our clubrooms. PLEASE, if you feel the cold, bring layers. Those of us who run warm come with minimal clothing so we have nothing to remove!! Remember there are blankets & pashminas in the cupboards.

For your information: all three of our controls (2 inside the front door & 1 in the back room) MUST be on the same setting Cool or Warm. Dry must NEVER be used. Fan set on Auto

AFTERNOON TEA

Interesting to note the lack of names on the December/January Afternoon Tea roster.

- Should we run another poll to see who wants to remove the afternoon tea break?
- Should we assign names & it's then that person's responsibility to find a replacement if they're not playing?
- Should we not have afternoon tea on days when no-one's name is listed?

Members admonish me for being in the kitchen.

What's it to be?



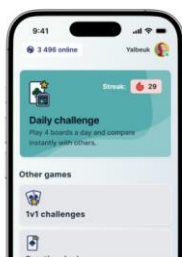
A brand-new mobile and tablet app coming soon to iOS and Android.

BBO Trainer is a new app by BBO, designed for players who want to **get better**.

It offers **free game modes** that let you practice at your own pace, in a simple, structured format with **an easy-to-use interface**.

You'll play with GIB, the same AI you already know from BBO, but in an environment fully focused on improvement.

No pressure. No waiting for a table. No obligation to pay.



Available Game Modes

