

# TABLE TALK

FEBRUARY 2024

TAURANGA BRIDGE CLUB | 252 Ngatai Road, Otumoetai 3110 | 07 576-5022 | [www.taurangabridge.co.nz](http://www.taurangabridge.co.nz)

HAPPY  
Valentine's  
Day



WHAT'S ON IN  
FEBRUARY  
(Make a note in your diary)

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.** Althorp Village are providing afternoon tea.  
Love to see you

**Disposable paper cups** have been discontinued to save the Club \$800 per year. Please use your own water bottle or a glass situated above the water cooler (returning to the kitchen when finished with). *Thank you!*

**Monday** lunchtime Bridge sessions delayed until March 4<sup>th</sup>

**Social Bridge** begins March Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 12.45 for 1pm start  
(monthly until June 16<sup>th</sup> then weekly)

**Gold Coast Congress** currently in progress with Di & Hugh McAlister, Kate Terry and our President Mike Newton participating

**Suggestion Box.** A reminder that this sits on the Director's desk and is cleared at every committee meeting.

**Club Website.** PLEASE check it out! A huge round of applause to **Deidre Gunn** who has refreshed and re-energised the site.



Happy  
Birthday  
FEBRUARY

Bev Boyd  
Helen Bryant  
Muriel Gartland  
Barbara Kelly  
Helen Malcolm  
Yvonne McRae

Tom Nelis  
Fieke Noteboom  
Margaret Wakelin  
Gay Walker  
Jill Warwick  
Graham Young

Please make sure that your birth month is entered into Hello Club – no need to put the year

## 2024 BRIDGE LESSONS

Tutor: Mike Newton & 'associates'

- Lesson 1 Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm
- The lessons will run for 15 weeks, finishing Wed 12<sup>th</sup> June
- Please keep in mind so you can spread the word... encourage family & friends to attend
- Any club member may attend the lessons – no charge. *Please let admin know*
- Flyers will soon be available for you to pass to friends and family

"The key to success is playing the hand you were dealt like it was the hand you wanted."

KAITLYN WALSH

The club's survey last year identified a number of you who would be happy to volunteer for our Afternoon Tea Roster. **What's involved?**



There is a comprehensive description on the noticeboard and in the kitchen.

You will need to arrive at approx. 12.30pm to set up, serve afternoon tea at approx. 2.30pm (Director will let you know) and tidy up afterwards.

We would appreciate your assistance even one time.

## ON TUESDAY OR FRIDAY?

Please use the Partnership Stewards in the event of a cancellation by your scheduled partner however, if you're looking to fill gaps in your Bridge Program, try popping your name down on one of the two sheets on the noticeboard.



## PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS...



This month, I'd like to focus on a couple of things, one for the competitive players and the other for our as yet undiscovered players!

Over the anniversary weekend at the end of January, we held our annual Mini Congress, easily the biggest tournament on our calendar. With a new administrator, a new tournament officer and a new caterer for the event there were a lot of firsts! Thankfully we had the vast experience of Kate on the tournament committee to provide guidance and of course Norm was only too happy to help whenever we had questions.

We were very pleased with entries after the smaller face-to-face fields experienced around the country over the past few years. In the signature Teams event we had 30 teams, up from 22 in 2023, and it was wonderful to see the clubrooms at capacity once again! All in attendance were enjoying themselves and it was a great atmosphere all weekend.

In terms of notable results from our club members we had the following:

**Jo & Sam Simpson** were 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Waikato-Bays Provincial Pairs

**Helene Paterson & Michele Larnder** (Mt Maunganui) were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Restricted Open Pairs

**Lyn Baillie & Diane Rodger** were 5<sup>th</sup> in the Restricted Open Pairs

**Jenna & Christine Gibbons** and their team-mates were 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Teams

**Jo & Sam Simpson** and their team-mates were 6<sup>th</sup> in the Teams

**Judy McLeod, Judy Pawson, Hugh & Di McAlister** were 7<sup>th</sup> in the Teams

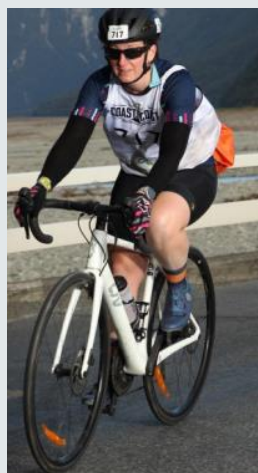
**Kate Terry & Mindy Wu** (Wellington) and their team-mates were 8<sup>th</sup> in the Teams

**Frances Ball & Bev Henton** (Franklin) were 7<sup>th</sup> in the Consolation Pairs

**Graham Young & John Laugeson** were 8<sup>th</sup> in the Consolation Pairs

Thanks to all those members who provided a bed to players from out of town with accommodation at a premium due to multiple large events now running at the same time. Also thanks to everyone who provided morning tea and a very special thanks to the kitchen team of Muriel, Karyl, Jill and Keryn who worked tirelessly all weekend with the assistance of Sue and Jenny!

**Now our attention turns to attracting new players!** Our beginners' lessons, outlined on page 1 kicks off Wednesday March 6. Cost is \$75 which covers all course material and club membership for 2024. The lesson intake is our primary means of growing our membership, which is more important than ever since Covid. So please, if you know of friends or family that you think would really enjoy learning Bridge, get them to sign up and come along! – **President Mike**



## OUR PRESIDENTS' FIRST LADY'S ADVENTURES DOWN SOUTH

Our Website 'Mistress' Deidre Gunn has created a blog and our first publication is written by our President about his and Ange's adventure on the recent Coast-to-Coast. Please click on the following link:

<https://www.taurangabridge.co.nz/blog/987299>

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW CLUB ADMINISTRATOR – DAVID FORNUSEK



David was born in Kent, England. His father was a Czechoslovakian Spitfire Pilot who fought for the RAF and his mother an Englishwoman in the RAF. At the end of WWII the family were unable to return to his Father's home country due to the Communist Government threatening prison or death for those who flew for the Allies. Having lost everything, his parents stayed in England until the 1960s when they emigrated to New Zealand to set up the Marley Factory in Manurewa. David was educated in Papakura, Auckland & then Otago University.

On graduation as a Dentist, and recently married to Gaile, they moved to Thames and eventually David set up his own practice. He sold the business in 2021 and moved to Tauranga. David has continued to assist at two local practices on a part-time basis.

Outside of work he has been involved in Football (Soccer) as player, Coach and Administrator also involved in Harness Racing as an Administrator and owner and was the Secretary of the Thames Club and Thames Whitehouse Trust.

His three adult children live in Tauranga, Warkworth and Sydney.

David played a lot of '500' in his University Days however Bridge didn't interest him until taking lessons in Thames just prior to COVID. Lockdown meant the lessons sadly weren't utilised or built on, so David attended lessons at Tauranga Bridge Club in 2023 with Mike Newton, our 'new' President as Tutor. Currently attending Junior night on Wednesdays, David is determined to play more once he gets on top of his new position. David will be in attendance at the Club on Tuesdays & Fridays 10am - 2pm

## AN INTERESTING HAND (CLUB CAPTAIN) HUGH McALISTER

### TIP OF THE MONTH #3 – Focus on defence – basic “attitude” signals

♠ 75	♠ A4	♠ 962
♥ KQJ72	♥ 853	♥ A1094
♦ A8	♦ KQJ106	♦ D532
♣ Q842	♣ AJ7	♣ K105
	♠ KQJ1083	
	♥ 3	
	♦ 974	
	♣ 963	

**Dealer South**  
**Nil Vul**

**Bidding:** South has a textbook weak 2 and opens 2S. West might consider a 3H overcall, but is probably too weak (1 more heart and 1 less spade and 3H would be good). Either way, North has a good hand, a “fit” in spades, and bids 4S.

**Lead:** A textbook “top of a sequence” lead of KH. What would you do as East?

**Play:** East sees North's strong diamonds, and can predict that if partner doesn't switch to Clubs declarer will throw his club losers on dummy's diamonds – (s)he **discourages** hearts with a **high** card, the 10, expecting partner to switch to a Club). West gets the message (a diamond switch makes no sense) and leads the 2C (**low encourage**). Declarer plays the 7C, and East confidently wins with the 10C (East knows that West showed an honour with the **low** 2C lead). East now leads the KC, knocking out dummy's AC, and when West gets in with AD (s)he also cashes the QC for 1 down.

#### LESSONS:

1. “Low encourage, high discourage” (also known as “reverse attitude”) is one of the commonest defensive signals. It applies to both the leader and his/her partner. Leading low suggests “like,” leading high denies strength. Partner indicates interest with a low card, and disinterest with a high card. Previous generations used the opposite (“natural attitude”), but reverse attitude has largely superseded that.
2. Both partners needed to **trust each other** to defeat this contract. West needs to get the message to switch to a Club and East needs to play 10C on the first round. If West continues with QH at trick 2 (as many would!), declarer makes an overtrick!!

#### P.S.

This is the third “Tip of the Month”... I would be grateful for feedback. Is this approximately the “right level”, too easy or too hard?

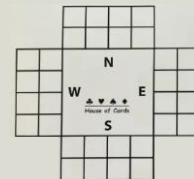


## AT MINI CONGRESS

We recently held our annual Mini Congress during Anniversary Weekend. Peter and June Hagan stepped in as substitutes for a pair who were delayed. Richard Solomon from NZ Bridge published the following article about their wonderful success on his blog and I recommend that you check it out!! Peter is a Life Member of Tauranga Bridge Club and a Past President.

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/blog/11448/Daily-Bridge-in-New-Zealand>

- When bidding commences and you pick up your pen, you are to keep your pen in hand until bidding is complete.
- When bidding is completed, the first round is played, then the bidding pad is to be turned over



## MUSINGS AT THE TABLE

Last month we introduced the topic of alerts, when to alert and when not to. Basically, with the exceptions we discussed, all bids which convey special meaning to partner must be alerted by the partner. This can be quite subtle...e.g. over a 1NT opener and transfer into a major, just bidding the major at the 2 level should be alerted by those who play “superaccepts” – 1NT – 2H\* – 2S\* (2H is alerted as a transfer to spades, and 2S is alerted to show opener denies 4 spades, for example).

Who can ask for an explanation about an alert? [always ask the bidder’s partner, not the bidder]

- Either defender, *but only at their turn to bid*
- Declarer can ask either opponent, at any time, what their partner’s bid or play might mean
- Dummy may NOT ask at any time

### BUT THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT NO-NOs:

1. Don’t ask for an explanation just because a bid has been alerted – if you want to learn about interesting bids, ask at the end of the hand, or later. You may have strength in the suit bid, and want to know, but it is usually best to wait.
2. Don’t ask for an explanation if you have no intention to bid...of course, if you need to confirm what is happening before you bid, go ahead.
3. It is often best, if you want to ask, to wait until the bidding is finished, and the person on lead asks for a “review of the bidding”... DO NOT point to a suit in dummy and say, e.g., “what did 3D mean?”
4. The partner of the opening leader MUST NOT ask...after all, they will see dummy before they need to decide what to play

**The reason for all these rules is to try and avoid the asker subconsciously suggesting a lead to partner... more on alerting next month (it’s a big topic)... AND REMEMBER: DON’T offer unsolicited advice regarding bidding or play...**

Hugh McAlister



**LOST!** A size 10 lined black cotton summer jacket (Max, I think) with short sleeves, lapels, a one button front fastener and a zip detail on the back.

Missing on January 17th from the Back to Bridge Improver Session at Tauranga Bridge Club. It has obviously been gathered up at the end of the evening with all the stuff we seem to amass and I’m sure whoever did so has not realised they have strange clothing in their midst.

If you attended the above session please check your wardrobe and if you do find it, please phone me on 021 446554 and I’ll collect it with much gratitude. **Desrai Karl**

## EVER HEARD

### A PLAYER SAY THINGS LIKE THESE?

#### Ten things a bridge player would never say...

1. This club (playing area) is always the right temperature - never too hot or too cold.
2. Free Coffee? No thanks.
3. Cool! A four board sitout!
4. No, I don’t think tournament fees are too high.
5. I can always count on my partner to remember every convention on our card.
6. No gossip, please. I’m not interested.
7. More new Alerts! More new Alerts!
8. One thing I can say about bridge players - they sure know how to dress.
9. No matter which direction we sit, the cards always go our way.
10. I don’t feel like bridge today, thanks. I’d rather jog and work out.

Marilyn White, Toronto