

TABLE TALK

JULY 2025

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



JULY

Happy Birthday

Robyn Ashton
Shirley Bain
Graeme Boyd
Frankie Christie
Jane Church
Tony Fraser
Jenna Gibbons
Bruce Gibson
Toni Izzard

Margaret Jones
Sheryl Lowther
Tracey Mancer
Athol Ryan
Sue Scoggins
Beryl Smith
Veronica Stevens
Sadie Vernall

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 weekly until August 17th.
- **Friday Drinks** after play **THIS Friday 27th July** The Bar will be open (alcoholic + non alcoholic beverages). Please bring a small plate to share.
- **Judy Pawson** is giving 15 minute tutorials prior to Tuesday afternoon Bridge ... 12.30pm in the backroom. Please reserve your seat in the main room prior to assist the Director.
- **Etiquette Board** is updated every month. Please make time to check it out
- **Tauranga Sixes** begin Thursday 31st July for 4 weeks. Each team needs a Junior, an Intermediate and an Open Pair. The entry sheet is on the Thursday noticeboard. If you're unsure of your grade, check it out on NZBridge Master points. Please express your interest if you're looking for team-mates.
- **Tauranga Novice, Junior & Intermediate Pairs** Saturday 30th August. Please enter on NZBridge website.

OUR JUNE WINNERS

MON	Play With a Mentor <i>Bureta Walking Group</i>	Graham Young & Clare Trass
TUE	Petrol Pump Blues Handicap Pairs <i>Gaspy</i>	Dot Skousgaard & Gilda Rowland
	Jones & Co. Handicap Pairs <i>Jones & Company</i>	Frances Ball & Carolyn Parker
WED	Ngatai Handicap Pairs <i>Ngatai Ltd</i>	Heath Smart & Jayne King
THUR	Happy Feet Restricted Rotational Teams <i>Cherrywood Shoes</i>	Jackie Blue, Rebecca Osborne, Deidre Gunn & Gillian Corbett
FRI	Te Puna Comes to Town	Ron Scott & Tony Hacking (Tauranga) Howard Zingel & Phillipa Peerles –Zingel (Te Puna)
	Matariki <i>Ultimate Motor Group</i>	Belinda Ford & Robyn Brand N/S Stacey Hilton & Graham Young E/W



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS...

This month I'd like to go into some more detail on "X-Clubs."

I briefly touched on this back in February when I talked about how the hands we play are generated in one place and distributed to all the participating clubs. But there's much more to it than that!

The basic purpose of X-Clubs is to score across as large and varied a field as possible in order to give players a more accurate picture of how they have performed in a session. It does this by combining all the results from all of the participating clubs and then rescoring each board across this much larger field. So instead of just comparing your score on board 7 to the dozen other NS pairs playing at the club you will now have your score compared with a couple of hundred scores from around the country. All of this is possible because all participating clubs play the same hands at the same time every day of the week.

To find the X-Clubs results head to the club website and you'll find a link in the Results menu at the top of the home page. You'll be linked through to a page with a calendar view of the current week that shows all the club sessions played by participating clubs each day. If you're looking for an older session then just use the "Week before" link above the calendar to go back in time. The full X-Clubs results for the session can be viewed by clicking the "Ladder" or "overall" links. If you drill down deep enough, you'll be able to see the results for each board which include the hundreds of different contracts and results played around the country!

But wait, there's more! At the top of the X-Clubs homepage you'll see a little message about a site called Pianola. Pianola takes all of the X-Clubs results and performs a bunch of analysis on them so it can give you deeper insights into your performance, particularly if you create an account (for free) and link your results to it. It will then break down your percentages into how well you did when you were declarer, defender or lead, defender not on lead or even dummy!

The great thing about all this is that we really don't have to do anything to make it happen. When we score our results at the end of a session the results are automatically forwarded on to X-Clubs. Note that only results for pairs sessions are sent through to X-Clubs so if you played in a Teams or Swiss Pairs session you won't be able to find it on X Clubs.

Mike

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



A Church group is renting our rooms on Sunday morning while their usual premises are undergoing renovations. Their 'gear' is tucked away behind the screens in the back room... *just in case you're wondering!!*

They set up on Saturday afternoon and vacate in time for Sunday Bridge.

AFTERNOON TEA

& HOUSEKEEPING

The new afternoon tea roster is on the board ... please make time to pop your name up once or twice (if you're physically able).

PLEASE NOTE the biscuits in the kitchen cupboard are not there for general 'help yourself' consumption.

The Biscuit Fairy welcomes your 'gift' of biscuits and/or money to keep the supply going. ***Thank you to those who make regular contributions!!***

Wednesday night Juniors... Dale provides your biscuits with the assistance of financial contributions from players .. Please pass your money directly to Dale or bring biscuits to add to her 'stash'. Remember that you have 'supper' on the final evening of a series. Please do not help yourself to biscuits on a non-supper night.

We appreciate that many of you cannot finish your hot drink in the time allocated for a break, please make the time to return your cup to the kitchen when you finish in between change of partners. It's just not fair on the kitchen duty players to be left with a huge clean up at the end of play.

At the end of play please shake your tablecloth (if necessary), push your chairs in, return your boards, Bridgmate, table number (if not already collected) to the front of the room, used glasses to the kitchen (sterilizer if in use otherwise dishwasher under the island) and used bidding sheets to the appropriate receptacle. Please dispose of any rubbish.

Remember our club runs on volunteers.... If you don't do these things someone else has to!!

BOUQUETS

A huge thank you to our administrator **David Fornusek** who works above & beyond his terms of employment.

We appreciate everything you do David...

Thank you!



Defence Signals

Hugh McAlister

♠ J74	♠ 653	
♥ J105	♥ Q4	
♦ Q62	♦ A1054	
♣ J1098	♣ KQ32	
nil vul, dealer S contract 3NT by S Lead JC		
	♠ KQ2	♠ A1098
	♥ A63	♥ K9872
	♦ KJ987	♦ 3
	♣ A4	♣ 765

Bidding: South opens 1D, North raises to 3D (10 12pts, diamond support, no 4 card major), and South converts to 3NT.

Lead: with few clues, the top-of-the-sequence JC lead would be standard.

Play: Plan the play...you have 6 quick tricks, more to develop in diamonds and spades....what can go wrong? You invoke the mantra "eight ever, nine never," play A and K of diamonds, then suddenly West gets in with the QD, leads JH through dummy's QH, and you are two down!!

Lessons:

1. The most useful "rule" is that "all rules are made to be broken." There are many exceptions to this "8 ever, 9 never" rule, and today we see an important one... when losing to the Queen gives the danger hand the lead. We can handle losing a trick to QD in East's hand....so....play AC, then KD and run the 9D. As it happens, your finesse wins. It is easy now to set up a spade trick and make an overtrick. It is important to play a particular suit in the way that suits the hand best (safest).
2. Crucial to the decision-making here is the realisation that West is the "danger" hand ...so deliberately finesse into the East hand, even if you have nine cards and may not need to.
3. Notice that some Wests may have been lucky enough to lead JH...in this case, South holds up twice and can still make their contract by finding the QD.
4. Some Norths might respond 2NT instead of 3D... showing a balanced 10-12 pts and denying a 4-card major. Again, South would bid on to 3NT with a balanced hand and extra values...but now North would be declarer, and the initial lead may be a heart, gifting N/S another trick. 3D is probably the better bid from North...South, with extra points and covers in all suits, then needs to convert to 3NT, as this is usually much easier to make than 5 of a minor.

MINI BRIDGE

I hadn't ever played Mini Bridge until I assisted Mike with the lessons this year. For those of you who haven't, it's a lot of fun and a marvellous way to introduce children and other family members to Bridge.

Deal a pack of cards to the 4 players. Use a bidding pad. You take turns dealing (obviously) and the dealer first, writes their total point count down in the first square. Usual A = 4, K = 3, Q = 2, J = 1.

The person with the highest points is nominated Declarer. The opposition to the left of Declarer plays a card (leads), Dummy's hand goes down and Declarer works out what the Contract will be.

A total of 25 = game in NT or a major
28 = game in a minor
33 = Slam

Otherwise a part score is established.

ROOM ETIQUETTE REMINDER

Play at the Club on Tuesday was incredibly noisy! PLEASE think of others who are still playing when you've completed your Boards quicker than most. There were some challenging hands, requiring considerable thought and concentration.

PLEASE do NOT discuss the hand you've just played in detail. We overheard in almost card by card detail about a board, just fortunate that we were playing with a feed-in pile which meant we had no idea what board was being played.



Hello all...

LOOKING FOR 2026 CLUB DIRECTORS

Are you interested in supporting the successful running of our club sessions? In 2026 we are looking to add some new faces to the Directors team, could this be an area that you support the club?

We would provide training before rostering you, and also ongoing support. Even when you are the rostered director you will normally find others from the team in the room who will support you. For all the main directing decisions NZBridge have produced a set of flow charts so we mere mortals don't have to struggle through the law book to come to a decision.

What do you need to be a club director?

- A bit of situational awareness when you are playing to hear "Director Please" from another table
- Ability to "read" what has happened at the table, as most explanations given only tell half the story
- Courage to give it a go.

If you are interested, please talk to Rebecca Osborne or Mike Newton

CLUB TROPHIES

The committee has reviewed the Tauranga club trophies and awards because over the years we have accumulated quite a number. **Thank you to Hugh McAlister**, supported by **Norm Silcock**, for pulling all their history together.

A few conclusions have been reached

- We play club bridge to keep our minds sharp, to win prizes, and most importantly to socialise. With so many trophies to award at the Christmas party they have become something of a distraction to our socialising. Going forward events that are finalised during the year will be awarded at the next playing session or on the final night for Teams
- Some trophies have well known history and relevance, others not so much. So, we will publish a history of our trophies and awards and present as an infographic on the club wall, as well as the website
- Going forward any new trophies/awards will go through the committee for approval. The committee will sometimes choose to stop an existing trophy/award which has lost its relevance to the current membership and replace with the new application to keep the numbers manageable.

Rebecca

DOUBLES Part 12 | Penalty Doubles

A double is for penalties if:

- It is a double of a INT contract
- It is a high-level contract
- There is only one unbid suit
- It is a double of an artificial bid.

This double can be made by either player in the partnership.

Use it when:

- The opponents open 1NT - you should have 16+ HCP. With less, you should overcall a good 5+ suit or pass with a minimum opening hand
- The opponents have bid a suit to the 4 or 5-level and you have 4+ good trumps and outside quick tricks
- The opponents have stopped at the 3-level and you have 5+ trumps and outside quick tricks
- The opponents are obviously in a misfit
- You have a good suit in an artificial bid made by the opponent

Examples:

1	W	N	E	S
	1NT	X	All pass	





1NT X All pass West opens 1NT (12-14 HCP). North's double shows 16+ HCP. East has nowhere to go and South with 6+ HCP also passes. The NS pair have 21+ HCP against the opponents' 19 HCP at best.

2	W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2C	X
	2H	3C	All pass	

(Stayman), South doubles 2C to show they have a good club suit. West bids 2H (shows a 4-card heart suit). North supports partner with 3C to win the contract

32	W	N	E	S
	1H	P	2H	P
	3H	P	4H	P
	P	X	All pass	

North's double shows they have good trumps and outside quick tricks. Their hand could be something like this:

 98
 QJ109
 A94
 A1032