

TABLE TALK

July 2026



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Bain
Jane Church
Sheryl Crawford
Tony Fraser
Jenna Gibbons
Bruce Gibson
Kath Harvey
Margaret Jones

Lorraine Leathem
Sheryl Lowther
Tracey Mancer
Athol Ryan
Sue Scoggins
Beryl Smith
Veronica Stevens
Rose van der Velden

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)

- **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.
- Sunday Bridge... 12.45pm for a 1pm start. No partner required. Next session **2nd August**. Currently weekly until 16th August.
- **PLEASE NOTE...** the kitchen linoleum will be replaced Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th August. The kitchen will be **CLOSED** completely during this time. Water ONLY. Please bring your drink bottles or receptacles to assist us. No hot drinks available – bring a thermos if you want a hot beverage.
- Next **Friday drinks...** 21st August after play. Please bring a plate to share.
- **Tauranga** Novice / Junior / Intermediate Pairs Saturday 29th August. Register NZ Bridge or ask David, our Administrator for assistance.
- Morning tea contributions & kitchen assistance will be gratefully accepted... Sign up sheets will go up later in August.

OUR JUNE WINNERS



MON	Monday Debut Swiss Pairs <i>Mount Matua-Maker</i>	Judy Pawson & Judy McLeod
TUES	All Floored Handicap Pairs – Boulton Flooring It Takes A Village H'cap Pairs <i>Metlifecare – Greenwood Park</i>	Stacey Hilton & Rosemary Wilkie Debbie McBride & Yvonne White
WED	Laughing Gas Handicap Pairs – Gaspy	Irene Edgar & Sandie Jordan
THURS	Tauranga Sixes <i>Pacific Toyota</i>	Rebecca Osborne & Gillian Corbett Lyn Bailie & Kay Wright (Top Intermediate) Maria Arhanic & Jayne King (Top Junior) Jackie Blue & Simon Eminson (Top Open)
FRI	Te Puna Comes To Town	Hugh McAlister & Norm Silcock Harmen Grouwstra & Richard Comyn (Top Te Puna)



As promised in an earlier newsletter I will this month be going into further detail around the changes to the Club Captain's role that were approved at our July committee meeting.

First I must start by thanking Rebecca Osborne for her time as Club Captain. When we first convinced her to take on the role there was some reluctance from her because she couldn't play daytime bridge. We made it work by making sure I was playing Friday afternoons and Karyl, Rebecca and myself would have weekly catch-ups to keep Rebecca in the loop about the happenings during our daytime sessions.

Rebecca has never been keen on playing Monday nights due to having a late night at the start of the working week and with the demise of Thursday nights this year it has meant Rebecca was rarely playing at the club. Understandably she felt she could no longer do the Club Captain role justice and so offered her resignation.

Rebecca did a fantastic job with this demanding role despite a busy work life. She has put her organisational skills to excellent use and leaves us with great tools around sponsorship and our calendar of events that will continue to improve the running of the club for years to come. After an excellent 4th place at the recent Matamata Swiss Pairs tournament she is now less than 9 masterpoints from Grand Master so you can be sure we'll be talking about her very soon!

With Rebecca stepping out of the role we started to brainstorm possible replacements while at the same time exploring more significant changes to the role. One question was whether we really needed a Club Captain but the feeling was that without one many of their tasks would naturally fall to the President and overburden them. Then the suggestion was made as to whether the role could be split to make it more palatable to those who we would be shoulder tapping. This certainly seemed an idea worth exploring and so we created a new "Technical Manager" role and set about seeing what responsibilities could be shifted from the Club Captain to this new role.

What we landed on was the Technical Manager overseeing all those aspects of the club that happen behind the scenes to actually facilitate the playing of the game of Bridge. This includes dealing, directing, scoring, event calendar, handicapping and ensuring workable numbers and format for Swiss Pairs and teams events. Some of those aspects relate not just to club play but also tournament play including events like Fun over the Bridge.

Fortunately for us we already have an expert in all of these aspects in Norm Silcock and when we approached him he was thrilled to accept the role! Of course he has plenty of support in all aspects of his role and it is important to the club that we continue to train and upskill others to also become proficient in those areas that Norm has such foundational knowledge.

Taking all those technical responsibilities out of the Club Captain's role leaves them to focus on the members, in particular ensuring that everyone who wants to play is able to and that everyone is enjoying their bridge. Naturally we needed somebody who had great rapport with players of all levels and was present at club sessions as much as possible. Who better to approach than Shirley Bain, who regularly plays three days a week and would play four if she could! We are thrilled that Shirley has agreed to step into this new member-focused Club Captain position and she has already hit the ground running in the past couple of weeks. Shirley has great support from club members both on and off committee, in particular Hugh McAlister who was himself Club Captain not too long ago.

You won't see Norm at the club for a few weeks while he's touring the top of the world but please do congratulate and thank Norm and Shirley next time you see them for their service to our wonderful club.

Mike

HOUSEKEEPING

- We ask you to place your blue stools to the side of the room after Tuesday & Friday afternoon play to make it easier (& quicker) for the Cleaner to vacuum on Wednesday & Monday mornings. We appreciate you doing it without having to be asked EVERY time.
- At the end of play PLEASE return your Bridge mate to the front of the room, switched OFF & place in the tray with the charging plate down. These are expensive items and we need to take care.
- As always, please ensure your chairs are pushed into the table and do take a moment to shake your tablecloth. Amazing what a difference it makes.
- Many of us enjoy wearing fragrance / cologne. Please be mindful when coming to Bridge as some of our members have major sensitivities.

TIP OF THE MONTH #32

Advanced Defence – “read the tea leaves”



♠ 942 ♥ K ♦ AQJ108 ♣ QJ72			
♦ 6 ♠ 3 ♥ QJ10843 ♦ 9532 ♣ A5			
Dealer E, nil vul. Contract 5S by N Lead 6D			
West	North	East	South
		2H	4S
5H	5S	All pass	

What do you make of the lead of 6D?

East should be thinking this is a singleton. Partner would not prefer a doubleton, or small from Kxx, when he can lead partner's suit, especially at the 5 level. (S)he also suggests a distributional hand for the 5H bid.

What should East play at trick one?

East should realise that as soon as West gets in (s)he will want to know what suit to lead to get you (East) on lead for a diamond ruff. So...when dummy plays the 8D, play the...2D. You (think you) know Declarer has K74 of diamonds, so playing the 9D achieves nothing. 2D is a suit preference (for the AC).

Here is the layout:

♠ 942 ♥ K ♦ AQJ108 ♣ QJ72			
♠ A6 ♥ 97652 ♦ 6 ♣ 98643			
♠ 3 ♥ QJ10843 ♦ 9532 ♣ A5			
♠ KQJ10875 ♥ A ♦ K74 ♣ K10			

Tip of the Month (cont'd)

Lessons:

1. When the opening lead is an obvious singleton, third hand should try to tell partner where his/her entry is. It won't always be possible. Some times (s)he has to play a high card in order to stop declarer winning a cheap trick. Sometimes, as here, a clear suit preference signal shows the only way to take this good contract light. (Playing the 9D would indicate a heart lead, which here would lead to declarer making the contract).
2. Note the bidding...(i) 4S by South is a strong bid, “don't pre-empt a pre-empt”; (ii) 5H by West is an excellent bid, with 5 hearts and a singleton (the contract goes only one light, and the bid follows the “Law of Total Tricks”... “it is usually correct to bid to the level of your trump fit in a contested auction...”); and (iii) 5S by North is also a good bid, with values, and 3 spades, opposite a strong hand.

Hugh McAlister

BOUQUETS

- **Sue Greig** head of our intrepid Dealing Team... **Congratulations to you and your team** on superb dealing for the NZ Pairs... over 900 boards dealt in a 4 hour marathon. EVERY board checked so absolutely no chance of a whoopsie during the tournament.
- Thanks to **Sue Sherwood** our Kitchen Queen for all your hard work during the NZ Pairs weekend.
- **Muriel Banks** you're an angel... only playing once a week yet every Friday you check the blue buckets to ensure correct number of pens and sufficient Bidding pads. Thank you!!
- **HUGE Thank you** to everyone who took blue tablecloths home to wash. We all appreciate you!
- **THANK YOU** to **Deidre Gunn** for all her amazing work on our website and the 'rolling' screen in the main room. She spends a substantial amount of time each Monday bringing all the information up to date.

TOURNAMENT OFFICER

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Jackie Blue will continue as our Tournament Officer for one more year. **Thank you Jackie!!**

This gives Jackie's successor time to apprentice themselves to Jackie to learn the ropes.

With our Novice, Junior & Intermediate tournaments coming up... an ideal time to get started. Please approach Mike, Karyl or Jackie asap.

ROOM HIRE

Have you noticed the sign in the Clubhouse window advertising our rooms for hire? Very generously donated by Lyn & Mike Bailie. It is a way for the Club to raise money for our expenses. Please keep us in mind if you hear anyone talking about trying to find premises for hire. Our Administrator, David Fornusek, has the room rates if you're interested.

Firstly, a big thank you to Rebecca Osbourne for all the hard work she did as Club Captain. I hear on the grapevine that Rebecca is only a few A points away from being a Grand Master and I will look forward to being able to share that fabulous news. We are so lucky in our club to have a number of Grand and Silver Grand Masters. Even more lucky that they are all so willing to help those of us yet to reach those lofty heights.

A brief introduction for those who don't know me. I am married to Robert and have two daughters and two grandsons with a third grandchild about three weeks away. I work two and a half days a week for NZQA as a National Assessment Advisor in Languages (in the past I was a French teacher). My passion is of course, after family, playing bridge!

I am sharing the club captain role with Norm who will look after the technical aspects. My role is to be there for members.

Please feel free at any time to come up and have a chat, or contact me – my number is in the book. I'd love to hear thoughts on anything you think the club could be doing for its members and please let me know if there is anything you would like me to take to the committee. I'd also love to share member's news.

I'd just like to finish by congratulating those that are mentioned in the weekends successes and to wish those playing next weekend their own success.

Shirley Bain

ETIQUETTE

Each Bridge session we have a Director, often at our Club a 'playing' Director.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE mind your P's & Q's when requesting a Director come to your table for a ruling or elaboration.

- 'Director **PLEASE**'
- Mindful of your tone
- Speak quietly when the Director arrives
- Be patient!... the Director may be in the middle of playing a crucial, complex hand.

On behalf of our members a HUGE **THANK YOU** to all our wonderful Directors! We appreciate you.

Please refer to February's Table Talk for a more in depth article.

When a Bridge Club hosts a tournament, there are fees to be paid.

- The Director
- The Scorer
- Prize Money
- Masterpoints (NZ Bridge)

Hopefully there will be money for the host club to cover expenses e.g. electricity, incidentals such as loo paper, paper towels, serviettes etc. and a little left over.

One of the important aspects of a tournament is that there is not a phantom so in most cases the hosting club will arrange a house pair to prevent such an occurrence.

When registrants do not cancel their entry and do not turn up it creates a nightmare for the organisers. This happened recently at the Mount Bridge Club with their Junior & Intermediate Tournament... 3 pairs did not show up. The stress caused is unacceptable. The Tournament start was delayed by approximately half-an-hour resulting in a later finish which is tough on those with a long drive home.

Another aspect to consider is that there were people keen to play however registrations had closed because the tournament was full. Too late 15 minutes before the tournament start, to contact people.

STAYING ON TRACK

- When you register for a tournament on NZ Bridge, you receive an email confirming your entry. This email has a link for you to amend your entry. Easy peasy!!
- Or alternatively, go to NZBridge, MYNZB and you'll find a list of the tournaments you're currently registered for... you can amend your entry there.
- When you register for a tournament please put it in your diary immediately.
- Check in with your partner at the beginning of that week to ensure they're all good to go.
- Amend your entry as quickly as possible to enable the host club to replace you.

PARTNERSHIP STEWARDS

Our partnership stewards do a great job enabling members to find a partner for a particular session. The Tuesday & Friday stewards will, upon request, add you to their email list so when someone is on the 'hunt', you'll receive their request.

Tuesday:	Mary Toner	021 544 945
Friday:	Hillary McKenna	021 0290 3960