

TABLE TALK

June 2026



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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Chris Andrews
Jackie Blue
Ranald Ducat
Philippa Edwards
Dorothy Forbes
Les Lilly
Amanda Matthews
Diana McAlister
Ross Petersen
Mary Toner
Clare Trass
Caren van der Meys
Kate Wade
Yvonne White

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)

- Our 2026 **Bridge Lessons** are now complete. Learners are playing Wednesday evenings at the back of the main room.
- Sunday Bridge . . .12.45pm for a 1pm start. No partner required. Next session **28th June**. WEEKLY from Sunday 12th July until mid August.
- Morning tea contributions are required for the NZ Pairs Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th July. Forms on the noticeboard. Please put your name down if contributing so we don't over cater.
- **PLEASE NOTE** there is **NO Sunday play** 5th July as we are holding a National tournament.
- **Charity Pairs** Wednesday 8th July – St. John Ambulance is our chosen Charity this year. Please register on NZ Bridge or with David.
- **Matariki** public holiday Friday 10th July – afternoon Bridge.
- **Mt Manganui** Novice / Junior / Intermediate Pairs Saturday 18th July. Register NZ Bridge.
- Next **Friday drinks** . . . 24th July after play.

FYI The Church have now returned to their regular premises . . . You'll notice their 'gear' has been removed from the back room. There is now no need to collect the blue 'buckets' at the end of Friday play.

OUR MAY WINNERS



MON **Karen Martelletti 54th Boston Cup**
Martelletti Consulting
Handicap

Pink Panthers Tony Hacking,
Norm Silcock, Hugh McAlister
& Mike Newton
Spectators Sue Handley, Maria Arhanic, Rose
van der Velden & Jocelyn Buchanan

TUES **Glazed Look Pairs**
Window & Door Repairs

Pam Bell & Judy Pawson


WED **Roger Hoskins Jnr Championship Singles**
Rebecca Taylor

Maria Arhanic

FRI **Charge the Battery Handicap Singles**

Mike Newton





This month our beginners emerged from their lessons after three months of hard work grappling with the basics of Acol bidding. They will have a couple of months of playing amongst themselves to get them up to speed and so that they get a really good opportunity to put into practice all they've learned.

As you have probably already heard, the Sunday supervised play sessions will also be running weekly from late June through to mid August so that our novices have even more opportunity for practice.

We finished up with 17 graduates from about 30 that started out, fairly typical drop-off once people realise it's not the game for them or life gets in the way and they can't give the time commitment necessary. So we're quite happy with that number, of course we'd love to have more and we can cater for more but at least we saw an increase on last year so we must be doing something right with our marketing efforts!

This year's bunch are also a very enthusiastic group, they have enjoyed the lessons and there's been a lot of banter and laughter throughout. That is such an important part of the process, why would anybody bother to learn something so challenging if it wasn't enjoyable? For this reason I am optimistic that the next phase will go well, which is retaining them and moulding them into bridge addicts! Although some of them already are!


The lesson syllabus was changed up a bit this year. The NZBridge Teaching & Learning Committee chaired by our very own Kate Terry had been working on a massive overhaul of the structure of the lessons and the material given and presented to the learners. Where previously the programme was delivered as ten lessons it is now twelve with some of the bigger and more challenging topics being broken up, an excellent change.

We also elected to take a three week break in the middle of the lesson programme so that the learners could just catch their breath and put the basic suit and NT bidding into practice before continuing with the extraneous topics of takeout doubles, preemptive bidding, big hand bidding and ace asking. This proved very popular with the learners and something we will certainly look to continue with in future years.

Finally, a big thank you to my team of helpers who were rostered on throughout the 14 week programme. Each week they come along and patiently assist the learners with their bidding and play while also building enthusiasm due to their own passion for the game. Every year the learners comment on how great it is to have an expert at the table with them that they can ask questions of and bounce their ideas off. So thank you and expect an other tap on the shoulder in February next year! **Mike**

TUESDAY CHIT CHAT

POST PLAY



A number of Tuesday players get together post play at Fika. We are going to 'trial' getting together at the Club for an informal gathering to discuss one or two of the hands that session. The bar will be open for non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverages plus as always tea & coffee will be available.

We would love to have you join us for half-an-hour or so

HOUSEKEEPING

- **Please** assist our afternoon tea / supper volunteers by returning your used cups and glasses to the kitchen ... Teamwork makes the dream work!
- If you spill your hot drink on a tablecloth, please remove the cloth (take it home to wash) & replace with a clean cloth from the cupboard to the left of the Trophy cabinet.
- **Please** use the vacuum cleaner by the kitchen back door if you create a 'mess' at afternoon tea / supper time.

DEALING We have a dynamic team of nine dealers who work in pairs Monday mornings to ensure you have the 'right' cards to play with for your upcoming session/s. All the previous weeks' cards need to be unpacked in order to be fed into the dealing machine.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE Shuffle your cards carefully ensuring none are flipped over.

The machine cannot now 'read' that card so the deal is incorrect and that board must be unpacked again and the cards re-dealt once the dealer has identified the upside down card.



Active or Passive Defence?

♠ 85	♠ 42	♠ 103
♥ J83	♥ 9762	♥ Q1054
♦ QJ104	♦ 8652	♦ A973
♣ 10842	♣ 973	♣ AK5

Dealer S, nil vul
Contract 4S by S
Lead QD

♠ AKQJ976
♥ AK
♦ K
♣ QJ6

South	West	North	East
2C	P	2D	P
2S	P	3C*	P
4S	All P		

Bidding: South opens a textbook 2C (game-force, 3 losers). North responds 2D (weak or “waiting”). South bids 2S, and North advances 3C* (“second negative”). South still confidently bids 4S.

Lead: QD is the obvious lead, top of a sequence.

Play: East plays AD, declarer plays KD.

What should East play now?

Many in the east seat will happily play AC, “to see what partner does”...the contract will now make. East SHOULD see there are no entries to dummy, and that a “passive defence” (making Declarer repeatedly play from her/his hand) will likely reap dividends.

Play either another diamond (yes, Declarer will trump) or a trump, NOT a club, and NOT a heart (Declarer may have AKJ, and you have presented her/him with a finesse).

Lessons:

1. This is a classic example of a “Passive Defence”... make poor Declarer play to you. (S)he could lose 1 or more tricks from this...in this case Declarer must lead clubs...if the 6C, partner wins with the 10C, and the defence make 3 club tricks for 1 down. Alternatively, if Declarer plays QC, take it and lead another diamond...again, 3 club losers for 1 down.
2. Notice the importance of East taking partner’s QD with the AD...occasionally, as here, it catches Declarer’s singleton KD.

3. South’s 2C is standard...9 times out of 10, this hand would expect to make 4S without any help from partner.
4. North’s 3C is systemic, often known as the “second negative”...it says to partner “watch out...I have pretty much nothing (less than a king)...bid on at your own risk”. It allows South to “bail out” in 3S if they are not as strong as here, where 4S is still the correct bid.

Comment: Every time a player “opens up a new suit”, including the first lead, they risk giving up a trick. The message here is that “passive defence”, not risking opening up a new suit, can be the Defence’s best strategy. Too many players take their tricks (AC and KC, for example) “in case they lose the opportunity to do so”. Here that cannot happen (unless, of course Declarer has only a singleton club). Play the “cagey game” and make Declarer “open up the new suits”...(s)he will find it “uncomfortable”!

Hugh McAlister



BOUQUETS

- **Judy McLeod** absolutely inspired move to place our top players at Table 1 & 9 ensuring that they are spread for both N/S & E/W. We REALLY appreciate your thoughtfulness. Huge round of applause!
- Thank you to our **Directors** ... We appreciate your invaluable oversight to our play. Our calls often cut right across your personal play ... You are always courteous, tolerant and professional. We appreciate you!!
- A big thank you to everyone who helps stack stools to the side of the room on Tuesday & Friday **Much appreciated** helps the cleaner enormously. And thanks to those who collected the blue ‘buckets’ ... no longer required EVERY Friday as the Church is no longer using the rooms.
- **THANK YOU** to all our wonderful biscuit ‘fairies’



Clarification from the Last Column

Following on from last month's column, there are a few clarifications to be made on announcements and alerting bids.

1. Simple Stayman 1NT – 2C is not alertable, however, there are a number of variations, that should be alerted.
 - A) "Extended Stayman."
 - B) Where 2C asks for a 5-card major.
 - C) Where 2C does not guarantee a 4-card major.
 - D) Where the 1NT is an overcall, 2C as any form of Stayman should, be alerted.
 - E) Where there is an intervening double, 1NT- X -2C, this is generally played as natural and weak. If you play this as Stayman, it should be alerted.
2. Jacoby transfers are always alerted, e.g. 1NT – 2D a transfer to Hearts is alertable, as is a range finder 1NT- 2S.
3. Specific systems over a 1NT bid are alertable, such as a 2C Landy bid after an opening opponents 1NT.
4. Doubles, redoubles and cue bids by opponents' suit are considered self-alerting, they should not be alerted.
5. Alerting bids should only be used when they meet an agreed convention, or when there is a specific partnership agreement.
6. Alerting is not required for any bid over 3NT. Hope that clarifies any confusion!

Phones & Noise

At recent sessions play has been interrupted on several occasions by mobile phones going off. Please remember to put these on silent or turn them off during the session.

Finally, please remember that the clock is used so you can complete your hands in the required time to keep the game moving.

Once you finish your hands, please keep the noise to a minimum as people may still be playing and noise can be a distraction.



TOURNAMENT OFFICER?

Tournaments are the lifeblood of our club. They bring players together from across the region, show case our club to visitors, generate important revenue, and create some of the most enjoyable and memorable bridge experiences of the year.

To keep these events running smoothly, we are looking for a new Tournament Officer.

This is one of the club's key leadership roles and offers a wonderful opportunity to make a real contribution to the success and future of the club.

The Tournament Coordinator oversees the organisation of our seven annual club tournaments, as well as assisting with the administration of the national event that we help host each year. While the role sounds significant, much of the groundwork has already been done. Tournament checklists, flyer templates, email templates and previous event files are all available, providing a clear roadmap for each tournament.

The role involves coordinating entries, communicating with players, updating tournament flyers, and working with committee members to ensure every thing is in place before tournament day. You won't be doing everything yourself - catering, raffles, directing, scoring and other operational aspects are shared across the committee and wider volunteer team.

This position would suit someone who is organised, enjoys communicating with people, and is comfortable using email and basic spreadsheets. Good planning skills are more important than technical expertise, and support will be available during the handover period.

Serving as Tournament Officer is a rewarding way to become more involved in club life, meet players from around the region, and play an important part in maintaining Tauranga Bridge Club's reputation for hosting friendly, well-run events.

Many of our most successful tournaments are remembered long after the last board is played. The Tournament Coordinator helps make those experiences happen. It is a role that is both valued and appreciated, and one that makes a lasting contribution to our club. If you would like to learn more about the role, please speak to a committee member. We would love to hear from you.

