

TABLE TALK

MAY 2025

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



Happy
Birthday
MAY

Pam Bell
Chris Buckley
Kevin Dawson
Simon Eminson
Marina Hicks
Suzanne Jansen
Jan Johnstone
Julie Lankshear
Astrid Martin
Megan Nelis

Mike Newton
Carolyn Parker
Cathy Parker
Judith Regnaud
Pat Rutherford
Barbara Steele
Liz Swanston
Margaret von Biel
Mark Wardill
Irene Williams

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)

- **Beginners Lessons** Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Recap prior. All welcome.
- **Friday Drinks** after play Friday 23rd May... A week early due to King's Birthday Weekend at the end of the month. The Bar will be open (alcoholic + non-alcoholic beverages). Please bring a small plate to share.
- **Etiquette Board** is updated every month. Please make time to check it out
- **Bay Pairs Tauranga** Sunday 25th May. **We would appreciate morning tea contributions please.** These may be dropped off on the Friday or on the day anytime from 8.30am. Cheers!
- **NO BRIDGE** Monday evening 2nd June – King's Birthday.
- **Bay Pairs Mt Manganui** Sunday 8th June

OUR APRIL WINNERS

MON Evening Championship Singles
MetlifeCare – Greenwood Park

Pot-Luck Partners

Simon Eminson
Jackie Blue – Intermediate

Rebecca Osborne & Olive Boyd

TUE Double Dose Singles
Craigs Investment Partners

Autovillage Handicap Pairs
Farmer Autovillage

Judy Pawson
Jill Ussher – Handicap

Pam Batten & Jocelyn Blake

WED Lifestyle Block Pairs

The Road Trip Pairs
Ultimate Motor Group

Desrai Karl & Mark Newman

Maria Arhanic & Nikki Baguley

THUR Handicap Teams
Thursday Teams Trust

Jo Simpson, Sam Simpson, Cathy Parker & Keryn O'Brien

FRI Remembrance Handicap Pairs
Jones & Company

Norm Silcock & Dot Skousgaard



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS...

This month I'd like to bring you all up to speed with what the committee has been working on since the AGM in November last year, aside from the day-to-day running of the club that you are all familiar with.

One of the key projects in recent years has been to sort out the review of our financial accounts so that we can once again make grant applications. With the new reviewer now in place they successfully completed their first review of the 2024 accounts at the beginning of the year. One of the remits to the AGM was to set the end of financial year date one month earlier, so hopefully when presenting the end of year accounts to the AGM this year, and in future years, they will already have passed review.

Now that the accounts are all ship shape we have started to apply for grants to cover some of the other projects that have been queueing up. The most pressing of these is the resealing of the entire car park and driveway around the back of the building, including reinstating all markings and wheel stops.

There is also a need to repaint the long external wall of the clubrooms facing the carpark to avoid issues with weathertightness. Because of the specific type of cladding material a tailored approach is needed that should ensure the job doesn't need repeating for some time. Although the rest of the building will probably also need repainting in the not too distant future, it is only this wall that needs more urgent attention.

We are also looking to replace our aging 'fleet' of Bridgemates. The next iteration of Bridgemates will be available in the next few months after being on the horizon for several years now. Our current Bridgemates suffer from connectivity issues and artifacts on the screens so it is time to retire or re-home them. We did investigate changing to tablets but were put off by the hassle and potential fire risk of having to charge so many devices. Hugh and Di had a play with them at the Gold Coast Congress and found them to be very user friendly.

As part of Rebecca's appointment as Club Captain at the last AGM we promised to put measures in place to ensure she was kept in the loop about our daytime sessions which are our biggest sessions. Rebecca, Karyl and myself are meeting weekly prior to the Friday afternoon session just to chat about what's been going on during the week and we have found this is working very well. I am also attending Friday bridge on a routine basis, although some weeks I am busy taking the beginners group out the back.

As you're probably aware we are also having a post-play social session on the last Friday of each month where members are encouraged to bring snacks to share and the bar is open for those who wish to partake. This has proved very popular and it's great to see people having a drink and a laugh at the club. To support this we needed to extend our bar license. Initially we were going to apply for a full bar license but it quickly became clear this would be an expensive and onerous process with no guarantee we would get the numbers to make it worthwhile. We then discovered through further investigation that it was possible to apply for a second special license for up to 12 additional dates which we have done and so legally we're all squared away.

I hope you enjoyed this look behind the scenes of what we've been up to and some of the exciting things on the horizon! **Mike.**

A REQUEST FROM OUR WEBSITE MANAGER

I would like to add recommendations, from our club members, for bridge books into the "lessons – home practice area" on the website, with the vision that this could help and encourage members to read up on subjects that interest them.

Have you read a good bridge book lately? We would like your recommendations for bridge books you have found helpful. Please let us know the book title, author, and how you found it helpful. Please email your book recommendations to deidrelgunn@gmail.com.

Deidre.



BAY PAIRS TAURANGA SUNDAY 25TH MAY



We would very much appreciate contributions to Morning Tea for attendees please.

A list is up on the noticeboard. Happy to receive your 'plate' on Friday 23rd or on Sunday 25th anytime from 8.30am. Morning tea is available from 9.30am.

Are you playing? Great opportunity!! As you know, I earned my first A point at Bay Pairs Whakatane!! Give it a go!!

Hugh McAlister



♠ A5
♥ AKQ
♦ K8765
♣ K76

♠ 10982
♥ 986
♦ QJ10
♣ J52

**nil vul, dealer N
contract 4H by S
Lead 10s**

♠ J
♥ J75432
♦ A92
♣ 983

♠ KQ7643
♥ 10
♦ 43
♣ AQ104

Bidding: North opens 1D, East overcalls 1S. What does South bid? (S)he has 6 pts, but cannot bid 1NT without a spade stopper, nor 2H with only 6 pts. A "Negative Double" here promises at least 4 hearts and at least 6 pts...although unusual with a 6 card suit, Double is correct. With 19 pts, North rebids 2NT. South can now bid 3H, knowing partner will expect less than 10pts and 6 hearts, and partner raises to 4H.

Lead: West has a choice of two good sequence leads, and chooses 10S, partner's bid suit (in truth, the only better lead is JC, which is most unlikely).

Play: Plan your play...clues...has the lead helped you? Think before you play...you have four potential losers... 3 clubs and a diamond.

- With the Clubs the way they are, you really don't want West on lead. Fortunately (s)he led a spade (a diamond or heart lead wouldn't change the play materially).
- You have a diamond loser, and may lose it to west (the danger hand)...how can you avoid that?

Duck the opening lead... East takes KS and plays 3S back (asking for a Club...no better defence).

On this second trick you throw a diamond loser from hand. Now play 2 rounds of trumps.

Then play AD, KD and ruff a diamond, if necessary with JH, making your diamonds good.

Now back to QH, taking out the last trump, and you have 2 good diamonds on which to throw you're your 3 losing clubs. An overtrick!

TIP OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Lessons:

1. The first lesson is the use of the negative double to show 4 hearts. Later (re)bidding hearts, a **"Responder's Double and Speak"** shows extra length and a weakish hand. With an excellent hand North bids to 4H.
2. Yet again, we see the critical importance of **thinking first**, before playing to the first trick. Many would unthinkingly play the AS, and later inevitably lose a diamond trick and then 3 club tricks, going down 1.
3. This hand shows very well the importance of **avoiding the "danger hand"** getting the lead, in this hand West. If East has the AC, and 3-5 of them, as is the case here, you cannot avoid losing 3 club tricks.
4. **"Loser-on-loser"** technique has many applications... in this hand we solve the problem of taking the risk West might win the third diamond trick and then lead clubs. This happens quite often, especially when you have 8 cards in a side suit, 5 in one hand and 3 in the other, and the A and K. Throwing the third card in the short hand on a loser in the other creates short age which can be trumped, setting up the rest of the suit. In this hand you always had a losing diamond... you just swapped it for a losing spade to East, who could not damage you with a club lead.

BOUQUETS



Friday drinks attendees you excelled with your SMALL plates to share. We're all very grateful... Thank you!

Tim Torr thank you for the delicious afternoon tea you provided.

Raewyn DeCleene you're a legend. **EVERY** Thursday you take out the rubbish & recycling bins for which we are most grateful and then... you bring them in again on Friday. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Dale Allen our wonderful Wednesday night Junior convenor you are an angel! Despite several health challenges you still soldier on working to make Wednesday night Bridge enjoyable for all who participate. We appreciate everything you do. Thank you!

To all our **Biscuit 'Fairies'** thank you! You just have to watch the biscuits disappear at after noon tea time to see how much you're appreciated. The Club also contribute of course but your 'gifts' are very welcome.

This year the club trialed playing bridge on Easter Friday and ANZAC. This was well supported by a range of club members, 25 pairs on Easter Friday and 35 on ANZAC day. Running sessions on a public holiday provided opportunity to play bridge for people (like myself) who normally have other commitments (sadly have not won Lotto so still working to earn my keep).

In the holiday spirit

- You were welcome to arrive as an individual and would be paired up prior to play. Had 17 people take use of this system
- Play was friendly
- ANZAC was the last Friday of the month so also held our 3rd Friday drinks session which, again, had over 25 people attend
- Judy Pawson provided a mini lesson prior to the start of play. This was so successful that Judy has continued her mini lessons prior to the start of play on Tuesdays at 12.30 for 15 minutes.

After such a successful trial you can look forward to seeing more Friday Holiday Bridge in the 2026 calendar!

In your 2025 calendar there is Ultimate Motor Group Matariki Pairs on Friday June 20th. Bring a plate for afternoon tea.

BRIDGE MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES

The 2025 programme has a number of opportunities to play with a mentor or at a slower place. Coming up over the next month there is:

- Play with a Mentor Restricted Pairs on Monday evening 6.45pm 9, 16 and 23 June.
- Happy Feet Restricted Rotational Teams on Thursday evenings 6.45pm 5, 12 and 19 June.
- Sign up sheets will be up on the boards shortly and please contact your convenor or myself if you have questions about these sessions.
- Sunday Afternoon Bridge 15th June then weekly until August.

THE KAREN MARTELLETTI BOSTON CUP TEAMS

Remember the final Monday 26th May is Dress Up night at 6.30pm

Please bring a small plate to share.
The bar will be open.



Our Beginners Lessons are progressing well... It will be some time before they join play on Wednesday evening however I believe it's always a great time to remind us of aspects of general play so we set a great example.

These are **regulations from the NZ Bridge Manual** regarding written bidding...

27.6 All calls must be made in neat, legible, hand writing. Where there is any doubt about what is written, players should seek verbal clarification.

27.7 The bidding sheet should be turned over after the opening leader's partner has played to the first trick. Law 20 gives him/her the right to demand a review of the bidding up to that point. *The duty of turning over the bidding sheet is that of dummy but, if he/she omits to do so, all Players have the right to rectify his/her omission.*

27.8 The laws as to inflections, changes of call and so on apply mutatis mutandis to written bidding.

27.9 Players are required to use the same designations each time they call and not to vary the way in which they make their bids. Full stops should not be used as a matter of practice.

