TABLE TALK

October 2026



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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Kay Beadle
Maggie Grigsby
Deidre Gunn
Tony Hacking
Neil Hobson
Sandie Jordan
Desrai Karl
Sue Martin
Debbie McBride
Lorraine Murrie
Angela Newton
Lisza O'Dwyer
Rebecca Osborne
Steve Porter
Sally Shaw
Sue Sherwood
Janice Simpson
Cynthia Smith
Lloyd Stone
Ruth Sweatman

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.
- **Declarer Play Techniques (3)** 7pm Thursday 27th October. Please register beforehand.
- **Melbourne Cup** Tuesday 3rd November. Put your glad rags on & join us for a fun day concluding with the race on our big screen - prize for best hat & best dressed man. A 'plate' for afternoon tea/after play nibbles please. **Play starts at 1.30pm!!** Please be seated by 1.15pm. Remember we have sweepstakes so be early to get involved. ***Bar will be open after play.***
- Sunday Bridge . . .12.45pm for a 1pm start. No partner required. Next session (and final for 2026) 16th November
- Next **Friday drinks . . . 20th November** after play. Please bring a plate to share.

OUR SEPTEMBER WINNERS



MON	**Two Trophy Singles** *Craigs Investment Partners*	***Bruce Inglis*** The Tallis Tray ***Peter Malcolm*** The Don Gordon Trophy
	Floored Handicap Pairs *Boult Flooring*	***Nikki Baguley & Judith Somerville***
TUES	**Lets Go Driving Handicap Pairs** *Pacific Toyota*	***Kathy Abel & Deidre Gunn***
WED	**Graduation Handicap Pairs** *Arizto Real Estate*	***Astrid Martin & Kerrie Little***
FRI	**Alan Turner Memorial Teams**	***Joy Bates, Frances Ball, Simon Eminson, Stacey Hilton, Beryl Smith***
	Handicap	***David Fornusek, Janet Coleman, Isaac Wong, Julie Frewin, Bruce Glover, Liz Kendall***
	Property Pairs *Andrea Cawley at Eves*	***Pat Ware & Derek Webb***

Editor: Karyl Anderson 027 4344-566

Design: FLOURISH by Donna Wellington

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS...

This month I wanted to don my teaching hat as the end of the year approaches and we look back on the lesson delivery for the year. In particular I wanted to talk about the "next level" of lessons that we offer at the club, the topics that players start to delve into once they're comfortable with the basic bidding that is taught during the beginners lesson pro gramme.

The first set of these are called Improvers Lessons in the official NZBridge syllabus and has a heavy focus on card play with three declarer play lessons and three defence lessons alongside three bidding lessons. Given the beginners lessons heavy emphasis on bidding (it is no use playing the cards well if you can't find the right contract!) it absolutely makes sense that the next phase in a player's education would focus on card play. These lessons are very popular with our junior players, including those that have just completed the beginners lessons.

The next set are called Intermediate Lessons and focus exclusively on extending the bidding systems of players that feel like they have now mastered the teachings from the beginners lessons. Some of the lessons cover specific conventions such as the Multi-2D, Lebensohl or Roman Keycard Blackwood while others cover more generic topics such as competitive bidding or sacrificing.

These Intermediate Lessons are much less popular and I believe this is chiefly because a lot of these more advanced bidding conventions are being passed on from player to player within the club, either because one partner knows them and is teaching their partner or because some of our more experienced players are introducing them to small groups. While it is fantastic that this knowledge is being shared around it means that as a club we tend to focus on delivering the Improvers lessons that we know will be popular versus the Intermediate lessons where we may struggle to even get a full table.

Now that you have a bit of a rundown on how the lessons are structured I wanted to put the ball back into your court. If there is something specific you would like to see delivered as part of the monthly Improvers/Intermediate lessons then let me know! We're not following any sort of rigid schedule and so all suggestions are most welcome. And if it's something that you feel is lacking in your game you can bet that a bunch of others have that same gap.

Mike.



TAURANGA BRIDGE CLUB

2027 PROGRAMME

Norm is working very diligently to get the programme prepared to go to print toward the end of November.

We ask that you PLEASE check your contact details in the book / Hello Club and let Norm know if there are amendments to be made.

ETIQUETTE

Please be very mindful when you apply fragrance or cologne prior to Bridge. We have a number of members who are highly sensitised to fragrance and their bodies react substantially, making for an extremely uncomfortable session.

A reminder to PLEASE check with your partner prior to play that s/he is 'good to go' for your pre-arranged session.

CLAIMING

A few whoopsies lately so to clarify . . .

When Declarer claims s/he must state the proposed line of play. Explain clearly. ALL players must agree. You can ask for the hand to be played out (however please don't waste time if the explanation is clear and accurate).

If Declarer claims . . . states s/he has the rest and you have a trump remaining, raise your hand and call for the Director. Do NOT try to sort it our yourselves.

AFTERNOON TEA

Thank you to everyone who has assisted with afternoon tea. Your willingness to participate is appreciated by everyone.

Moving forward (due to a lack of volunteers) it has been decided that if no names are on the volunteer sheet on the day . . . there will be NO afternoon tea. No last minute rescues because it still places a load on others to prepare / set up.

We appreciate your understanding and support.



TIP OF THE MONTH #35



Every hand has something to think about...

♠ AKQJ9
♥ AKQJ
♦ Q5
♣ J10

Dealer W, nil vul
Contract 4H by S
Lead AD

♠ 86543
♥ 76
♦ 2
♣ 97642

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
1D	Dbl	Pass	1H
2D	4H	All Pass	

A bridge hand with nothing higher than a 9 is referred to as **yarborough**. Lord Yarborough would wager 1,000 pounds to one against the chance of being dealt such a hand (later, Mathematicians calculated the actual odds as 1:1,827!!).

Bidding:
West opens 1D, North with a very strong hand doubles, and South bids 1H. West rebids 2D and North sets the contract with 4H.

Lead:
West leads AD, which wins. (S)he then plays KD. *What should East (with the yarborough) throw?*

Chip Martel, many-time World Champion, once quipped *"The ultimate in bridge is learning to play with poor hands."* Let us look at all 4 hands....

♠ AKQJ9
♥ AKQJ
♦ Q5
♣ J10

♠ 72
♥ 52
♦ AKJ1083
♣ AQ8

♠ 86543
♥ 76
♦ 2
♣ 97642

♠ 10
♥ 109843
♦ 9764
♣ K53

East's moment of glory comes when (s)he trumps the KD on trick 2, and leads....the 2C (the only defence that takes the contract light).

The lesson....stay awake with weak hands...

Hugh McAlister

BOUQUETS



Hugh McAlister you are a superstar! EVERY month you provide wonderful learning with a very carefully thought out and clearly presented challenging hand. We appreciate your teaching... THANK YOU!

Thank you to the **Biscuit Fairies!!** Your biscuit &/ or financial contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to those who take time to help stack stools at the end of play of Tuesday & Friday. It makes a HUGE difference for our cleaner Adrienne.

Diana Foster & Raewyn DeCleene thank you for all the work you do in the garden and around our grounds to keep everything looking so lovely. We appreciate you!

Raewyn DeCleene thank you also for popping out our recycling & rubbish bins EVERY week. You're an angel.

THE CLUB NEEDS YOU!!

POSITIONS VACANT

KITCHEN 'MANAGER' and TOURNAMENT OFFICER

Neither of these positions require you to be a Committee member. Sue Sherwood & Jackie Blue have interaction with the Committee and very occasionally may attend a meeting because of an upcoming event but that is seldom.

Please feel free to talk to Sue or Jackie for further information (refer to previous Table Talks for more information).



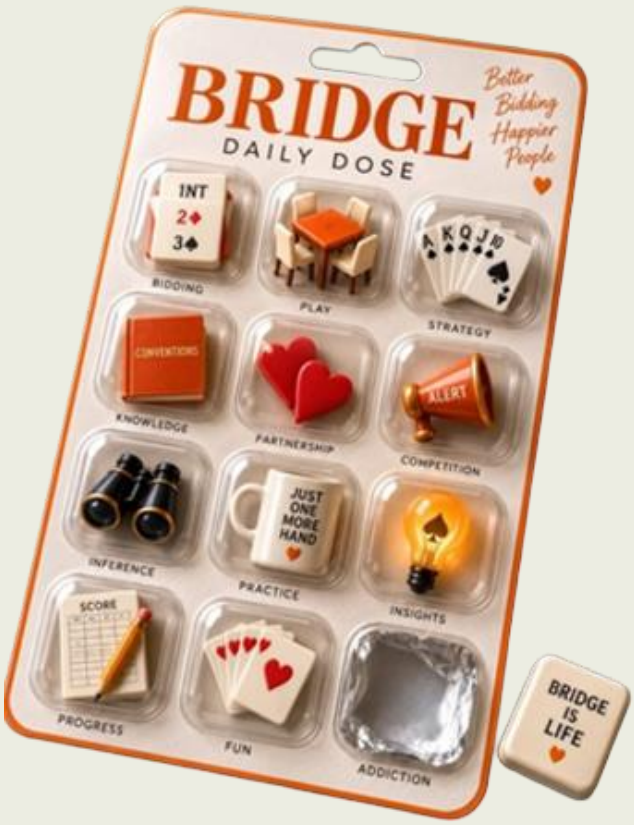
CLUB CAPTAIN'S COLUMN

Hi all

Just a quick word from me as there is not much to report since last time. I do want to thank you all for the Christmas suggestions you have been giving me (both through the suggestion box and at the bridge table). I will note these all down and present them to the committee for decisions. As always there are a couple of different requests around the same thing, but I know that everyone is really looking forward to it and that the smaller details will not stop everyone coming and having a good time. Don't forget to mark the date - December 12 on your calendar.

Good luck to all those going to Congress! I will look forward to sharing your results throughout the week.

Shirley.



NZ BRIDGE CONGRESS

Palmerston North

Day 1: Saturday 7th November

Welcome address at **9.45am**
Play will commence at 10.00am.
All other day's play will commence at 9.30am.

Which venue will you be playing at?

Day 1 to 5:	Open Teams will be at the Distinction Hotel - includes Seniors events.
Day 1 to 5:	Restricted Grade – Upstairs at the Palmy Conference & Function Centre.
Day 1 to 5:	Intermediate and Junior Grade – Downstairs at the Palmy Conference Centre.

Further details will be in the Programme Book.

Parking

Thanks to the Palmerston North City Council (PNCC), we will have parking coupons (available from Congress reception desk) for parking in and around the city at no cost.

Please be aware that there are some restricted areas, so if you fail to park in the designated places you will be ticketed.

Alternatively, there will be a free carpark at Walder grave Street, this is approx. 400 metres from the Distinction Hotel, a 5-minute walk.

Celebrity Speakers . . .

We are fortunate to have 5 celebrity guest speakers; these seminars will be:

8.30am Monday to Friday upstairs at the Conference and Function Centre.

