

TABLE TALK

September 2026



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Linda Aldridge
Dale Allen
Jan Anderson
Karyl Anderson
Joy Bates
Cathy Brown
Ross Brown
Belinda Ford
Judith George
Bruce Glover

Peter Hagan
Jayne King
Heather Melville
Ruth Pepper
Ronnie Ryan
Denis Smith
Kate Terry
Hilary Warren
June Watson

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.
- **Committee meeting** Tuesday 13th October. Our Suggestion Box is on the front desk if there's anything you'd like to suggest.
- Sunday Bridge ... 12.45pm for a 1pm start. No partner required. Next session 18th October
- Next **Friday drinks ... 16th October** after play. Please bring a plate to share. (date change because of Melbourne Cup 4 days after 30th)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Championship Teams begin Thursday 1st October. Please think about joining us. You need 4 players ... a mix of grades perfectly acceptable. 4 - 5 weeks depending on numbers.
- 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 please.

OUR AUGUST WINNERS



MON	In a Jam Handicap Pairs <i>Window & Door Repairs</i>	Rose van der Velden & Mike Newton
TUES	The Margaret Torr Memorial Championship Singles	Derek Webb Open Chris Andrews Intermediate Jane Church Junior
WED	Junior Championship Pairs <i>Farmer Autovillage</i> Good Health Handicap Pairs <i>Martelletti Consulting</i>	Joan McNeill & Maria Arhanic Bruce Glover & Alastair Pratt
FRI	Daytime Championship Singles <i>Farmer Autovillage</i>	Tony Hacking

Congress! A whole week of nothing but bridge with great folk from all over the country. But the NZBridge National Congress isn't just for the top players, there's plenty for everyone and anyone dabbling in tournament bridge should consider heading down for some or all of Congress.

First the important details. Congress runs from November the 7th to November the 14th but you certainly don't need to play all eight days! This year will be its second year being held in Palmerston North across two venues right in the heart of the city, the Convention Centre and the Distinction Hotel.

The new venue is proving very popular with players due to its proximity to accommodation and eateries, for most people it makes it unnecessary to have a vehicle if you choose to fly down. The two venues are less than 5 minutes walk apart and there are a slew of restaurants and cafes in between. If you do choose to drive down the city council very generously provides parking permits to all players for the whole week.

As for the bridge, there are events for everybody, including Novice players! There is a Novice Pairs event on Saturday the 14th. There are Teams, Pairs and Swiss Pairs for Junior, Intermediate, Restricted Open and Open grades and there are a couple of events just for Senior players (turning 65 sometime this year, or older). Find the full schedule and register for events at nzbridge.co.nz under the Congress tab at the top of the page.

The main thing to remember is that you don't need to play all eight days, maybe you just want to play the teams on the first weekend or the Swiss Pairs on the Monday/Tuesday and the Congress teams on the Wednesday. Maybe you want to play the Swiss Pairs and then the Pairs at the end of the week but want the Wednesday off to explore Palmy! It's entirely up to you.

The other thing, and this applies to all tournaments, is that you can always play in a higher grade than what you are. So if you are a novice player but don't want to make the trek down to only play the Novice Pairs on the final Saturday, you can absolutely play in the Junior Pairs on the Thursday and Friday beforehand.

It's a wonderful week mingling with hundreds of players from all over the country, and a few from other parts of the world, and there are plenty of opportunities for us to socialise as a club dining out or putting quiz teams together. So if you're interested, convince your partner and get your entry in!

Mike



Finding how to pay my Congress entry fees had me stumped until I spoke with Mike.

Go to NZBridge Menu - **Congress**

Scroll down to **Summary of Events & Timetable**
Once in, scroll down past the table and you'll see the details under **Payment System**

Pay by September 30th & go in the draw to win your entry fee back 4 chances!!



ETIQUETTE

A few 'wee' reminders this month ...

- Please ensure your phone is either switched off or muted during play.
- Appreciate the stationary phantom moving a table away on Tuesday 22nd ... made for a more comfortable afternoon for the two tables either side.
- A number of comments about loudish conversations regarding hands just played ... you're giving valuable information to the table next door. Please speak very quietly when talking specifics.
- PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE check in with your partner the day/evening before you're scheduled to play to ensure your partner is coming. Makes it extremely challenging for the Director when s/he is determining the day's play & has to wait to see whether an individual is actually coming.

A BRIDGE HAND



NEVER GOES TO WASTE

© WORDS & UNWORDS



A Tale of Two Defences

♠ 954	♠ KJ10	♠ 8732
♥ 6542	♥ Q1098	♥ AKJ
♦ 8	♦ KJ64	♦ 732
♣ A7643	♣ QJ	♣ K98
Dealer S, nil vul. Contract 3NT by S Lead 4C		
	♠ AQ6	
	♥ 73	
	♦ AQ1095	
	♣ 1052	

South	West	North	East
1NT*	P	2C	P
2D	P	3NT	All pass

Bidding: South opens a weak 1NT (balanced, 12 14). North, with 4 hearts bids 2C, Simple Stayman, South denies a 4-card major, and North signs off in 3NT.

Lead: West's natural lead is 4C, 4th highest (from an honour, which East knows is the Ace). East plays KC and returns the 9C. West holds up, and dummy wins with the QC. Declarer now takes 8 tricks in spades and diamonds...contract made. Should West have held up their AC?

What does West know?..

- (S)he knows for sure that declarer has the 10C (East's correct play from K109 is to play the 10 – "play down with 2 cards left"), and hopefully East has K9x. By holding up, East can get in later and lead her/his third club and West makes 3 more tricks.
- West has no other entries, and so the above is the only hope...or so it seems. But Declarer wins the race to 9 tricks...could this have been avoided? If so, how??

What does East know?

- (S)he knows West has the AC, a sure entry.
- (S)he can see 3 certain heart tricks, if only (s)he can get West to lead hearts.

What should East play at trick 2?

...the KH! Then the 9C...West wins the Ace, knows East wants a heart back...and the contract is defeated.

Hugh McAlister



Sue Sherwood our sincere thanks and a huge round of applause for the wonderful work in the kitchen for our recent tournaments. Thanks also to everyone who contributed food or time to ensure the participants had a fabulous day.

Partnership Stewards... **Kay Wright, Mary Toner, Suzanne Jansen & Hilary McKenna** thank you for everything you do to enable our members to organize a partner for a Bridge session. We appreciate you!!

Mike Bailie thank you for all the work you do to keep our clubrooms working smoothly. We appreciate your expertise and attention to detail. Thank you from us all.



David Fornusek you are a miracle worker! You are our Administrator however you do so much more than that. Thank you for EVERYTHING you do (always with a smile) to keep the Club running smoothly.

THE CLUB NEEDS YOU!!

KITCHEN 'MANAGER'

Sadly Sue Sherwood has made the decision to step down from 'managing' the kitchen so we're looking for someone (or sometwo) to fill the position.

The role is predominantly to 'man' the kitchen during tournaments, organizing the morning tea and end-of-play food and generally keeping the tea & coffee ticking over all day. If you're interested/willing, please speak with Sue or Karyl.

TOURNAMENT OFFICER

Tauranga Bridge Club needs a Tournament Officer. (Check out June & July's Table Talk for details.)

Jackie Blue is stepping down but staying on until she can pass the baton to the new officer.

Please feel free to contact Jackie if you'd like more information or have any questions.

If you're not interested... Any suggestions?

Jackie has a lot of the systems sorted. Our main Tournament is Mini Congress late January.

It has been a pleasure to share lots of good news this last month. A lot of tournament success, a new Grandmaster in the club, **Rebecca Osborne** and a player that has already earnt enough points (some of them A points!!) to move from Junior to Intermediate **Rose van der Velden**.

Please keep letting me know about member's news as I know our club members enjoy being able to congratulate others.

The last Friday of the Alan Turner Memorial Teams was a great success with many players being able to stay behind to socialise and have a drink. It is lovely to be able to talk, not only about bridge, but what is happening in our lives – family, travel, work etc. It is so nice to have the time to get to know people we may not usually get to talk to. And of course, lovely to hear the laughter (not always about the bridge mishaps!). We were spoilt with so many contributions of food, both for afternoon tea and nibbles to have with drinks. Thank you to everyone.

There have been a few etiquette reminders lately. Please do not be offended by these as they are simply to ensure the best possible experience for everyone. We all slip up at times!

CLUB CAPTAIN (cont'd)

Norm has been working hard on the 2027 programme. The committee has tried hard to listen to suggestions. An example of this is the trialing of a Teams event on a Tuesday next year and this will be a restricted event as per member's request.

Please continue to come to me with news and queries or to voice a concern. We have a lovely club with great members so please let's address any needs and keep up the sharing of good things. Good luck to those playing in upcoming tournaments

Shirley



BISCUIT FAIRY

Our supplies are running very low! Enjoy a biscuit with your afternoon tea? Have you contributed either packet/s of biscuits or popped some cash in the Biscuit Fairy tin on the piano lately?

If your answer is 'no' then we would appreciate your donations of suitable biscuits or money to purchase some please.

I've mentioned in a previous Table Talk that afternoon tea biscuits cost approximately \$1000 per year!



WHY DO I PLAY GREAT BRIDGE EARLY... THEN FALL APART AT THE END?

MENTAL FATIGUE AFFECTS EVERY MIND SPORT—EVEN BRIDGE.



5 WAYS TO STAY SHARP IN THE LAST ROUND

1 RESET AFTER EVERY BOARD
Don't carry a bad result into the next hand.

2 HYDRATE EARLY
Even mild dehydration can reduce concentration and decision-making.

3 FUEL YOUR BRAIN
A banana, nuts, or protein snack beats a sugar crash.

4 TAKE A 30-SECOND VISUAL BREAK
Look away from the table. Let your mind reset.

5 SLOW DOWN ON THE LAST BOARDS
The biggest mistakes happen when tired players rush.

REMEMBER:
BRIDGE ISN'T WON ON BOARD 1.
IT'S WON ON BOARD 24 WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS EXHAUSTED.

BRIDGE UNLEASHED
— TRAIN YOUR BRAIN. IMPROVE YOUR GAME. —