

TABLE TALK

APRIL 2024

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

Happy Birthday APRIL



WHAT'S ON IN APRIL
(Make a note in your diary)

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 16th April

Monday lunchtime Bridge sessions 10.45am

Cambridge Junior Pairs Saturday 20th. *I encourage all the Juniors to seriously consider entering. Such a lot of fun and great learning.*

Social Bridge Sunday April 21st 12.45 for 1pm start

Lessons for Beginners are held

Wednesday evenings 7pm (6.15pm Mike does a recap of the previous week).

Remember you may attend any sessions (free of charge)

ANZAC Day Thursday 25th *No play*

Muriel Banks
Noelene Buchanan
Nick Comber
Gillian Corbett
Louise Fletcher
Kerri Friar
Stacey Hilton
Marion Kelly
Teri Logie

Pam Miles
Keryn O'Brien
Judy Pawson
Jude Prattley
Melanie Rex
Richard Roberts
Dot Skousgaard
Patty Spencer
Tim Torr

IF BRIDGE IS JUST A GAME



THEN THE GRAND CANYON
IS JUST A HOLE IN ARIZONA

OUR FEBRUARY WINNERS

Mon: 1 + 3 Swiss Teams # 1: *Mount Drainage*

Trass Team: Clare Trass, Graham Young, Frankie Christie & Sally Shaw

Tues: Double Dose Singles: *Craig's Investment Partners*

June Hagan

Wed: Junior Championship Teams: *Mount Drainage*

Bridge Too Far: Janice Watson, Sally Shaw, Andrea Cawley & Kevin Dawson

Thurs: Pot Luck Partners

Mike Newton & Karyl Anderson

Happy Feet Restricted Rotational Team # 1:
Cherrywood Shoes

Christine Gibbons, Judy McLeod, Joy Bates & Malcolm Christie

Fri: Pewter Handicap Pairs: *Unichem Brookfield Pharmacy*

Chris Tustain & Bruce Gibson

Put Your Bidding Shoes On H'cap Prs: *Cherrywood Shoes*

Olga Borrell & Muriel Banks



Today I thought I would bring you all up to date with the club's beginner lesson programme for 2024. These lessons are vitally important to the club as they are how we introduce new people to this game we love and ensure we maintain steady membership numbers.

Last year we moved the lessons from a Tuesday night back to a Wednesday night alongside the Junior club. The thinking being that they should start on the night that they would naturally continue playing on. The Junior Club plays their session in the main room and the lessons are run in the back room using a TV gifted to us by NZ Bridge for the lesson presentation. This worked well last year when we had an unfortunately small number, just 14, register for the lessons despite a similar marketing effort to previous years. In response to last year we significantly stepped up the marketing for the lessons this year and have found ourselves with rather too many people for the space available to us. A good problem to have!

We are now 6 weeks into the 15 week programme and have settled down to 33 regular attendees so we usually now find ourselves with 7 or 8 tables each week. We can only really fit 6 tables out the back, especially with a helper perched at every table, so we cram everyone in for the lesson portion and then have a table or two of overflow into the main room. The group are generally quite a jovial bunch so hopefully we're not proving too distracting to the players in the main room!

The other thing that we're doing unintentionally different this year is a syllabus change.

- Traditionally the club has for some time started by teaching 1-level suit openers and the various associated responses and rebids and then taught balanced hands and 1NT openers.
- This year for the first time we ordered our lesson material from NZ Bridge as professional looking bound manuals to give out to the students. Unfortunately they sent us the wrong booklets with the ordering reversed! I have wondered for a while about the merits of teaching balanced hands first since one of the common things new players forget to do when they first pick up their hand is check if they are balanced. So I decided to just stick with the material provided and experiment with the alternate syllabus. So far, so good I think!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my army of helpers who assist the players when it comes to playing the hands in the second half of the night. I wanted to make sure that those volunteering their time didn't have to commit every Wednesday night for 15 weeks and so I needed to tap a few extra shoulders this year to ensure a helper per table and set up a roster for the duration of the lessons. So thank you to all those who have come onboard! I'll be sure to update you again around graduation time. - **Mike Newton**

AFTERNOON TEA ROSTER



Thanks to those who have volunteered. David has put the new roster for APRIL/ MAY/JUNE on the board. We would appreciate your participation

Biscuit Fairy...

We know how much many of you love a biscuit (or two) with your afternoon cuppa. Donations of money or biscuits are greatly appreciated. The Biscuit Fairy Tin is at the front of the room



DID YOU KNOW...

South is in charge of the Bridgemate.

East will be handed the device to 'ACCEPT', **making sure that the entered information is CORRECT** & then passes it back to South who shares the results with the table.

Obviously this must be done quietly in order not to give information to the nearby tables





TIP OF THE MONTH #5

“The Power of Shape” OR “The Law of Total Tricks”

♠ A10752	♠ K6	♠ Q9843
♥ Q9	♥ 10842	♥ AJ53
♦ K6	♦ 873	♦ 10952
♣ 10932	♣ A875	♣ -
Dealer East		
E-W Vul		
	♠ J	
	♥ K76	
	♦ AQJ4	
	♣ KQJ64	

Bidding:

East passes, South opens 1C, West over calls 1S, and North doubles to show 4 hearts and 6+ points

What should East now bid?

(This was an actual hand, played Monday night March 25th, in the 3rd round of the Club Championship Singles event – my partner confidently bid 4S, despite the adverse vulnerability, an excellent bid. The opposition North bid 5C, and my partner raised to 5S – we were the only ones to bid above 3S, although two other N/S pairs bought the contract in 5C).

Lead:

Not easy...anything risks finessing partner or oneself. AC is unattractive, even though partner bid clubs, as declarer may have the K. Partner did not support hearts, so probably the best lead is a passive, discouraging 8D (those playing MUD might lead 7D)

Play:

The plan is to cross-ruff. It is important to first take any winning tricks, so these cannot later be ruffed, and in this case they may be needed for entries. So...lose to the AD...South does best to lead JS, taken by the AS). Now ruff a club, back to KD, ruff another club, and ruff a diamond in hand. Now lead QH, losing to South's KH, who can do no better than lead another D. This is ruffed, and over -ruffed, and 2 heart tricks and a further club ruff take care of the rest. 4S cannot be beaten.

Lessons:

E/W make 4S with just 16 high card points....why? Because of the “power of shape”. West’s 1S overcall is a very average bid (only 9hcp, and an “average” suit), but East, with 5 spades, a void and an ace should get excited...even when vulnerable. The “Law of Total Tricks” says that a partnership will infrequently go wrong if they bid to the “level of their trump fit” (the overcall guarantees 5, so 5+5=10, a bid at the 4-level).

This is by no means certain, however...compare the East hand above with, say, Q9843, A85, 1092, 86...with this I would expect my partner to bid 2, or maybe 3S, then stop. A singleton is usual to maximise one’s chances, and bidding vul vs nonvul needs extra caution. Bidding 5S on this hand would be a mistake...as it happens, N/S can only make 3C!! As a general rule, when you pre-empt, do it once....or “bid up, then shut up”.

Hugh McAlister

At our age, BRIDGE is the only way we'll get to 4 clubs in one night.



Please check our Etiquette section on the noticeboard – the topics are changed every month

Conversations At The Table aka Table Talk

Oh how we LOVE to talk!! However there are several ‘things’ we do need to remember

- On arrival at the next table we greet one another & ALL conversation of the previous hands ceases (both pairs).
- Any talk about the hand in play needs to be done quietly . . . we do not want to pass on information to the next table
- You may ask about the opposition’s bidding (during bidding) if you’re contemplating making a bid, otherwise wait until the bidding is finished, then ask before the lead is made.
- The clarification must be asked of the bidder’s partner, NOT the person making the bid.
- When the hands are played (and we’re waiting to move) be mindful that your conversation doesn’t interfere with the people still engaged in play
- If a hiccup occurs call the Director immediately, do not attempt to sort it out yourselves

Hesitations

One of the biggest challenges for Junior players

- A ‘normal’ hesitation while you think about what’s been bid and what you might bid, is perfectly acceptable.
- A long hesitation followed by a ‘pass’ is however unacceptable because you’re giving your partner information. The Director may be called.
- Only use the STOP card when you are certain you’re going to use it. It’s unacceptable to put it in front of your left hand opponent, pause, withdraw the card and either pass or make a usual bid



“Timeliness is a virtue”

One of the things that distinguishes bridge at the Club, either at a Club event or a tournament, is the requirement to **keep to time**. This sometimes unpopular theme raises issues of practicality and etiquette – practicality, because consistently slow play delays the completion of the event for all (we cannot complete 24 boards in an afternoon session, and have afternoon tea, and finish by 4p.m., unless players keep to time); and etiquette, because slow play by one pair may unfairly impact on the time available for the other pair to play their game, not only on that round, but on the following round.

Almost all sessions are timed – we have a clock, visible to most (we are looking at ways to upgrade that). It is commonly set at 7 minutes for 1-board rounds, 13.5 minutes for 2-board rounds, and 20 minutes for 3-board rounds. It might be slightly longer for Junior fields.

It is important to note this time includes movement between tables and pleasant introductory greetings.

It is important that at least one person at each table monitors the time...if the time left when you start your second (or third) board is less than 5 minutes, you are behind and **need to speed up**.

Some boards are challenging and may require more thought...that is acknowledged...however, the vast majority of players complete the boards the vast majority of the time within the time allocated – **please try and be one of those players.**

The following are some tricks which can help:

1. Keep your initial greetings brief – a longer (quiet) chat may be possible later if you finish early.
2. Choose and make your lead, and place dummy down, BEFORE entering details in the Bridgmate or on your travelling scorecard.
3. If the situation is clear, a claim can save time (remember to state your line of play).
4. Looking at other people’s scores on the Bridgmate is a luxury for those who keep to time (too often we see pairs who are already late stopping to look at the Bridgmate scores, thereby prolonging the time delay for the next table).
5. Please keep a regular eye on the clock.

Hugh McAlister

Round: 1

20:00