

TABLE TALK

AUGUST 2024

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



Happy Birthday
AUGUST

Kathy Abel
Mike Bailie
Jocelyn Blake
Jocelyn Buchanan
Fay Campbell
Andrea Cawley
Stephen Francks
Jenny Glubb
Sue Greig
June Hagan
Fay Irwin
Hugh McAlister

Sean Neatherway
Margaret Oakly
Shona Pengelly
Robyn Phillips
Beverly Reid
Diane Rodger
Jean Sears
Norm Silcock
Lynne Smyth
Jill Stewart
Andrew Sutherland
Peter Trass

Please make sure that your birth month is entered into Hello Club – no need to put the year



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

Sunday Bridge 12.45pm now back to 3rd Sunday of the month - next Sun 15 Sept. A relaxed session where you can ask for assistance

August Etiquette check our *Etiquette* section on the noticeboard - our topics collectively this month: Behaviour at the Bridge Table

Tauranga Novice, Junior & Intermediate Pairs Saturday 31st August. Please enter on the NZ Bridge website. Novices play afternoon only \$10 - \$25 for the others. Please bring your lunch. Morning tea provided 9.30am

Morning tea contributions are required please. Feel free to drop off any baking on Friday 30th

Kitchen assistance also required please.



BOUQUETS

Raewyn De Cleene you are so appreciated for dealing with our Rubbish & Recycle bins each week. Thank you!

Diana Foster thank you for your work in the Ladies bathroom



OUR JULY WINNERS

M: Evening Championship Pairs *Jones & Company*

Tauranga Bridge Club Tray: Jo & Sam Simpson

Bob Gradon Trophy: Bill Pook & Mike Bailie

T: Mount Mantua – Maker Pairs

Ross Petersen & Frances Ball

T: No more Bad Hair Days H'cap Prs *Beach Rd Hair*

Thea Straub & Jocelyn Blake

W: Good Health Handicap Pairs *Bureta Walking Group*

Fiona Wilcox & Alistair Collie

W: Happy Buyer Restricted Pairs *Andrea Cawley @ Eves*

Astrid Martin & Colin Roberts

Th: Althorp Restricted Rotational Teams #2 *Althorp Village*

Colin Roberts, Graham Young & Shirley Bain, Jackie Blue

F: Daytime Championship Singles *Farmers Autovillage*

Derek Webb



Last month I spoke about the amazing experience of the Gold Coast Congress, I hope I have spurred you into action and you now have your accommodation booked ready for a week on the Gold Coast! This week I'm going to put on my NZBridge hat and talk to you about another Congress that is a little, in fact a lot, closer to home. Our very own National Bridge Congress to be held at BayPark once again for the final time before moving to Palmerston North next year.

My role in the organisation of this event is two-fold and entirely separate to anything involving the club. On the one hand I am the IT "guru" charged with setting up all the networking and computers, despite this not being my day-to-day area of expertise! The other part of my role is organising the standby players and that is where I need your help!

Standby players are required in the event of illness or where we end up with an odd number of players in a draw. Sometimes people also enter without partners or team-mates and so we draw on our pool of standby players to partner them up. Because there are so many events across all grades, we need a lot of people on standby all the way from Junior up to Open. In the past I have asked standby players to come to the venue just in case but I'm finding that to be unnecessary as we usually have ample time for players to get to the venue once called up. So, this year all I require is that you keep your day free if you're rostered on.

Congress starts on Saturday the 28th of September and runs through to the following Saturday the 5th of October. As I said, I need players of all grades and as many as possible. This job has in the past been rather stressful and so you can help alleviate some of that stress by signing up! If you do end up playing you get to play for free so that's a bonus! Play starts at 10am each day and is usually finished by 5:30pm although there may be one or two days that run a little later.

If you think you can help out, please email me on newton.mike@gmail.com and let me know a contact phone number for you and which/how many days you are available across the week.



We are also looking for caddies for the event if you or someone you know might be interested. This job requires no bridge knowledge but does involve a lot of time on your feet ferrying boards from place to place etc. Because of this, plus the fact that caddies receive a small payment, and the fact it is school holidays, it is quite well suited to teens looking for a bit of pocket money. If you know somebody that might be interested then also let me know.

Also, if anybody has an empty bedroom or a sleepout and would be willing to billet a player for part or all of the week please let me know, we get the odd request for accommodation from folks from out of town.

Finally, and most importantly if you're interested in playing Congress you should just get in and enter! As I said above there are events for players of all grades including Novice and Restricted Open aside from the usual Junior, Intermediate and Open. There's Pairs events, Teams events and Swiss Pairs events. You can play just a day or two or all eight, there's options for everybody! With Congress next year moving to Palmerston North make the most of it before it leaves our shores. - **Mike**

AFTERNOON TEA ROSTER

Tuesday & Friday

We need your assistance please. If everyone popped their name down for one session each roster we'd be pretty much covered. You need to arrive at approx. 12.30 to set up & the instruction sheet is very clear. **WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION please**



IMPORTANT DATA CHANGE & PLAY ALERTS



CHRISTMAS PARTY will now be held at Tauranga Bridge Club on **Saturday December 14th**. Please change the date in your Bridge programme book & in your diary/ calendar/phone

Holiday Bridge begins Monday 9th December

CONGRESS WEEK Saturday 28th Sept - 4th Oct No play Thursday evening 3rd October. There will be play Friday 4th October... Just not the Alan Turner Memorial Teams (taking a break for Congress)



TIP OF THE MONTH #9 – A 25-point slam

♠ Q8		♠ KJ10643
♥ J1074		♥ Q3
♦ 84		♦ 1092
♣ K8742		♣ QJ

S deals, nil vul
S declares 6D
– lead QS

♠ A975	
♥ A865	
♦ QJ63	
♣ 3	

Bidding: South opens 1D, North’s 3S is a splinter bid (a bid which agrees diamonds, denies a 4-card major, shows a singleton spade and values for at least game). East doubles 3S, South redoubles (showing the AS). 4C by North and 4H by South are cue bids showing AC and AH respectively. North now employs Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKCB) 4NT, and South answers 5S, showing 2 key cards (aces and K of trumps) and Q of trumps. North bids an ambitious 6D

Lead: West dutifully leads QS (partner doubled S).

Play: *How do you plan the play as South?* Looking at the 2 hands, you have 2 singletons, lots of aces and good trump honours. On a cross-trump, you might make all 8 diamond tricks and 4 side-suit winners. You must first win the AK of hearts (see below). A simple cross-ruff follows, over-trumping East if (s)he ruffs a club. Because you have the top 4 trumps, evenly balanced, you can claim 8 trump tricks.

Lessons:

1.

The first rule of cross-ruffs is to take your side-suit winners first... if you don't, East can discard a heart on the 3rd round of clubs, and later trump your heart trick.

2.

The second rule is to ruff low at first, overruffing with an honour if necessary. This is a “classical cross-ruff” hand. Even if you wouldn't have bid slam, you should make it!

3.

The bidding is advanced, but not that complex. In order to reach 25-point slams, you need some “tricks” splinter bids say a lot in one bid, and also express interest in possible slam. Cue bids show vital controls (including the redouble showing AS). RKCB is superior to Blackwood and Gerber, in that it gives information on K and Q of trumps, obviously vital cards.

4.

How could the defence defeat this contract? A trump lead would take out 2 of Declarer's trumps in one trick, thus depriving her/him of the chance to make 8 diamond tricks. This, and the bad club and heart breaks, make the contract impossible. An alert West might think of a trump lead, given the information from the bidding that North has a singleton spade, and East has some spade values

ERRATUM

In the last Table Talk, in the section “Musings at the Table” #7, I mistakenly put in the wrong name. I put in Heather Melville as both Convenor and Partnership Steward on a Friday. As everyone knows, from the Programme, the Friday Partnership Steward (and an excellent one she is too) is Hilary McKenna. My apologies for this, and especially to Hilary.

Hugh McAlister



CLAIMS AND CONCESSIONS

According to the Laws (Law 68), any statement by declarer or a defender to the effect that a side will win a specific number of tricks constitutes a “claim.” Equally, a declarer or a defender may “concede” a specific number of tricks. If there is general agreement, the claim or concession is accepted.

The **advantages** of this are two-fold:

- (1) it speeds up play, and more time can then be spent on the next board; and
- (2) it avoids the boring and unnecessary play of cards which are known to be winners (or losers).

Claiming is to be encouraged.

The **disadvantage** of this approach (and many of us have experienced this) is that a miscalculation can lead to embarrassment and a bad result. The commonest error is when we miscount trumps and claim, only to find a defender still has a trump and can totally upset the apple-cart! All I can say is that a bad experience should NOT put us off claiming, but it should encourage us to accurately count trumps!

Some important hints:

1. When you claim, state clearly your line of play – e.g. (a) “all the trumps are out and I have the last 5 tricks”; (b) “taking out trumps first”; (c) “I know there’s a small trump out, I’ll get the lead, take it out, and the rest are winners”; or (d) “I’ll take 5 tricks and give you a spade at the end.”
2. If partner concedes the rest of the tricks, and you disagree (or even think you disagree), you can immediately object (before people put their hands down) and play continues. Any card exposed by a defender in this instance is not a penalty card,...but *might* be judged “unauthorised information”, and in this instance the Director should be called.
3. You cannot concede a trick you could not lose... even by mistake!

Happy claiming....

Hugh McAlister



HOUSE OF CARDS – THE BRIDGE BOOK

If the opponents have opened the bidding, it does not necessarily preclude you or your partner from being declarer. However, because the opponents have announced some strength, it is dangerous to bid with poor suits. Moreover, your goals have changed. You are no longer necessarily expecting to reach game.

Your objectives are threefold:

1. Obstruct your opponents
2. Steal the contract if possible
3. Suggest a lead to partner

There are several ways to enter the auction . . .

SIMPLE OVERCALL 5+ card suit 2 honours in the suit

An overcall should show a good 5-card suit or longer & promises no more than 15+ HCP. Suit quality is more important than points. A useful guide is to have 2 of the top 4 honours in the suit.

Your right hand opponent opens 1D. What do you do?

♠ AQ1062 Bid 1S
 ♥ H52
 ♦ A65
 ♣ 642

♠ J9542 Pass. Your spade suit isn't good enough
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A652
 ♣ AQ2

To be continued...



Still just a game of cards

Sky Bridge Club

