

# TABLE TALK

## DECEMBER 2024

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



Happy Birthday  
DECEMBER

Diane Blumsom	Bernie Robinson
Malcolm Christie	Michele Rogers
Ben de Kleijnen	Jan Russell
Monica Goulden	Sam Simpson
Bruce Inglis	Robyne Smit
Delwyn Jenkins	Thea Straub
Joan Lloyd	Sarah Thodey
Chris Malcolm	Chris Tustain
Pat Page	Megan Wackrow
Catherine Pattison	Derek Webb
Rosalind Phillips	Jo Wenham
	Bruce Woolley

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)

- **Subscriptions** are due for 2025. You can pay via Hello Club. The 2025 Program Books are here - collect yours when your sub is paid.
- **Holiday Bridge January** Monday night, Tuesday daytime & Friday daytime **NO PARTNER REQUIRED.**
- **Tauranga Mini Congress** Anniversary Weekend Saturday 25th, Sunday 26th & Monday 27th January. We would appreciate contributions for morning tea please. ***Please make a note in your diary or on your calendar.***
- **2025 Bridge Programme** begins Tuesday 28th January (after mini Congress). **NO Club play Monday 27th January!**



## OUR NOVEMBER WINNERS



M:	Althorp Village Intermediate Championship Teams	<b>Mike McKeown, Bruce Gibson, Stacey Hilton &amp; Joy Bates</b>
	Melbourne Cup <i>Omanu Orcas</i>	<b>Hugh &amp; Diana McAlister</b>
T:	Tribute Handicap Pairs <i>Jones &amp; Co</i>	<b>Andrew Sutherland &amp; Delwyn Jenkins</b>
W:	Double Dose Pairs <i>Jones &amp; Co</i>	<b>Verity Latimer &amp; David Fornusek</b>
Th:	Championship Teams <i>Craigs Investment Partners</i>	<b>Jo &amp; Sam Simpson, Diana &amp; Hugh McAlister</b>
F:	Daytime Championship Pairs <i>Beach Road Hair</i>	<b>Judy McLeod &amp; Judy Pawson</b>

## PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS...

As we enter the holiday period, what better time to talk about Holiday Bridge. Now that the Christmas Party is behind us there is no more club bridge in December and I trust you all will have an enjoyable break with family and friends with much food, drink and hopefully sunshine!

Holiday Bridge will kick off again in January with sessions on Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon and Friday afternoon. Holiday Bridge is a great time for players of all levels to "keep their eye in," to borrow a sporting term, over the summer break.

In particular I would encourage the Wednesday night crowd to get along and play some holiday bridge so that when February rolls around you won't have forgotten what to do! On that note it was fantastic to see some of our new novices playing the final Friday Holiday Bridge of the year.

Remember too that partners aren't required for Holiday Bridge. Of course you are welcome to arrange a partner as usual, but if you haven't or if your partner falls asleep at the beach and comes down with sunstroke then just show up and there will be somebody to partner you!

On that note we have a roster in place for January so **if you are available to help us out and be the standby player for one of the sessions then please put your name up.** All it means is that you'll need to show up for that session and you may not get a game if there is an even number of players, in which case you head home. There are 9 Holiday Bridge sessions throughout January and so far, the only spot that has been taken is Tuesday the 7th.

Holiday Bridge kicks off again in the New Year with a Monday evening session on the 6th of January, I look forward to seeing you all there!

Mike.



### BOUQUETS

A huge shout-out to **Pam Bell, Alan Lawton & Kate Terry** for donating AND cooking chickens for our Christmas Party.

Thank you to those who contributed so generously to our Christmas Raffle and spot prizes.

Thank you to our Committee for their outstanding decorations and performances at the party. You've got to admit... the dinghy was a doozie!

**Muriel Banks** you are a legend! Thank you for your 'hard' work in the kitchen, ensuring that everything ran smoothly.

Thanks to all the afternoon tea volunteers. Your participation is much appreciated



### WEBSITE – WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB:

The 2025 Club Programme has been added into the website calendars.

Keep an eye of the Home Page to find out what's happening at the club.

Or look under the Club Events menu to find more club events.

Any website queries, talk with Deidre or Mike.

Thank you **Deidre** for the marvelous job you're doing on our web page. I encourage you all to take time to check out what's there... so much information





# WE NEED YOU!



You'll have read our President's Ponderings... Holiday Bridge needs your participation









And of course there is another list...  
AFTERNOON TEA!!



## TIP OF THE MONTH #13 | BAD LUCK OR BAD MANAGEMENT?



Hugh  
McAlister

	762
	73
	AK92
	7652
	AKQ
	A9
	Q7543
	A84

**Bidding:** South opens 1D, North responds 2D, and South bids 3NT.

**Lead:** West leads QH.

**Play:** *How would you plan the play?*

The defenders' hands are not there to help you (!). There is only one way to play this hand correctly. This is not a difficult hand as long as you spend a little time thinking and planning. The lead puts you under pressure straight away...as soon as you lose the lead, you will likely lose another 4 heart tricks and go light. You have 8 top tricks, and diamonds are the obvious source of more. With 9 diamonds the odds must be in your favour.

### What can go wrong?

A 4:0 diamond break is what. But think one step further....if the J1086 of diamonds are on your right, there is nothing you can do about it...you will go down. BUT, if the diamonds are all on your left, you can still make it....play the QD first....if both defenders follow, you will make 10 tricks... easy. But if East shows out, you lead small to the AK9 (twice), and you catch all the diamonds....contract made, with an overtrick.

### Lessons

1. A 4:0 split does not occur often, but neither is it rare...it will happen about 1 time in 10.
2. When a contract seems "easy," have a discipline of checking to see "what could go wrong," and playing accordingly.
3. With 2 honours in one hand and one in the other, we are taught to play first from the hand with 2 honours. This is the exception (4:0, where the 4 has the J10)...only one hand can finesse both J and 10. If the missing cards are Jxxx, then play the first honour from the hand with 2, as you can the still often finesse either way.

## 2024 TAURANGA BRIDGE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year the theme was the letter 'D.' The committee were Deckhands and the room centerpiece was our President's 'dinghy.' Love our two Dorothys!



We had a wonderful day, missed those who weren't there, hope you'll join us next year.

## CARPOOLING PYES PA

**Delwyn Jenkins** has very kindly offered to be the coordinator for car pooling from Pyes Pa on Tuesdays and Fridays. She lives in the St Thomas Estate.

If you're interested, or want further information please contact:

**Delwyn 021 2630-373**

**Or [jdelwyn@gmail.com](mailto:jdelwyn@gmail.com)**

## MUSTINGS AT THE TABLE #12

### Our Air-conditioning System... in practice

It is a big challenge for any air-conditioning/heating system to provide perfectly balanced temperatures over time, especially in a large space. This fact, combined with the undeniable large range in people's "temperature sensitivities" makes for a recurring challenge (not unique to Tauranga Bridge Club).

In general, our air-conditioning system works well. However, there is no doubt that at times certain parts of the room have their own "micro-climates." This is, in part, due to the location of fans in the ceiling space, directed in varying directions through ceiling vents. No "perfect settings" can please everyone.

It would be appreciated if:

- Those who periodically "feel the cold" could consider bringing "an extra layer"... just in case;
- Those who are relatively intolerant of warmer temperatures could consider wearing lighter clothing (with or without an extra layer which can be easily removed); and...
- Access to the temperature control settings could be restricted to select Committee members and session Directors only...lots of different people "playing with" the settings adds a certain further challenge!

Hugh McAlister





Bridge is all about partnership understanding both in bidding & defending. Given you are likely to be defending twice as often as you are Declarer or Dummy, this is where the game can be won or lost!

### DISCARDS

There are quite a number of fancy & useful discard systems around. Don't get into them until you have mastered a simple discard system. It is preferable you discard what you don't want & hang onto the suit you do want, so you eventually win some tricks.

I suggest you start with either Attitude or Reverse Attitude

**Attitude** = high card you like the suit you are discarding, low card you don't. This is the most basic system & maybe what you were taught.

**Reverse Attitude** is the opposite. High card you DON'T like the suit you are discarding, low card you do. In order to remember, many say to themselves "Low I like." Personally I prefer this option, as you are not wasting a high card to encourage your partner. That high card may come in useful later on.

**PLEASE NOTE:** in using Reverse Attitude, you play low if you have a doubleton if you want to encourage your partner. Playing high-low is discouraging! This may feel a bit odd to start with, but you will get the hang of it.

### SIGNALS

What are these? This is another word for encouraging or discouraging your partner on their lead. For example, your partner leads an Ace of hearts and you have the King of hearts and want the suit continued. The basic way people play this, is as per the discards above - Attitude or Reverse Attitude. For this example (playing Reverse Attitude), you play the lowest heart you have to say "Partner, I like your lead!"

**Whatever you do, before you start playing a session, agree with your partner what your signals & discards are and stick to it.**

**Tip:** When there is a singleton in Dummy of the suit you lead, partner can signal what suit to switch to. A high card means the highest of the other 2 suits (other than trumps) and a low means the lowest of the other 2 suits.

