

TABLE TALK

JANUARY 2025

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

Happy Birthday JANUARY



Robyn Brand
Alastair Collie
Sue Collin
Nola Darvill
Cec Gardiner
Carol Goldsworthy
Reba Hunt
Graeme Ingham
Liz Kendall

Lynette Lauder
Kerrie Little
Jean Morris
Mark Newman
Anne Peacocke
Rebecca Taylor
Jill Ussher
Kay Wright

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** last session this 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.**
- **2025 Bridge Programme** begins next Tuesday 28th January (after mini Congress). NO Club play Monday 27th January! Partners now required... contact Partnership Stewards if necessary.
- **Delwyn Jenkins** has offered to be the co-ordinator for car-pooling from Pyes Pa Tuesdays & Fridays. Please contact her 021 2630-373 or jdelwyn@gmail.com

OUR DECEMBER WINNERS



M:	Christmas Cheer Pairs	Graham Young & Mike Newton
T:	Christmas Handicap Pairs	Norm Silcock & Judy McLeod
W:	Festive Handicap Pairs	Maria Arhanic & Jayne King
F:	Christmas Pairs	Jennie Ross & June Barclay



Happy New Year! This month I'd like to take the opportunity to provide some tips for making the most out of the club website. Throughout this pondering I will talk of "clicking" on things as though you are using a mouse on a computer, this is synonymous with "tapping" if you are on a phone, tablet (iPad) or computer with a touch screen.

Part of the challenge of running a website is catering for the disparate user groups that are accessing the site for different purposes. In our case we have existing members, potential new members, committee members, members of other clubs looking for tournament info and results to name a few. The upshot of this is we can't meet the immediate demands of every user on the homepage and some content must be given a home elsewhere on the website.

There are a couple of external websites that I'm sure many members use: **Hello Club** and **NZBridge**. Hello Club can be easily found in the blue menu bar at the top of the home page. Click on 'Members' which will open the menu and you will find 'Hello Club' there. In the same 'Members' menu you can find a link to NZBridge by clicking 'Links' and then clicking the NZBridge logo at the top of the page that will open.

Also, did you know that you can also **bookmark** any webpages that you want in your web browser (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Safari etc.)? That way, rather than having to go through the club website whenever you want to access other websites you can use your bookmarks to go there instantly.

Knowing what events are coming up is always useful and we have a couple of **calendars** for just that purpose! To find events specific to our club click 'Club Events' on the blue menu bar and then 'Club Calendar'. This shows a calendar view of all the upcoming club sessions, lessons and tournaments being run at the club. The current month is displayed at the top of the calendar, use the left/right arrow buttons to scroll through the months or jump to a specific month with the down arrow button. If you want to import the calendar into your personal Google calendar there are detailed instructions provided on this page.

Alternatively, club events can also be viewed in a list format by instead clicking 'Upcoming Club Events' from the same 'Club Events' menu. And the immediate upcoming events in this list are also shown on the home page!

The other calendar we have is for all the tournaments going on around the country. You can find this by clicking 'Tournaments' on the blue menu bar and then clicking 'Tournament Calendar'. You can then click directly on a tournament to see more details including a link to the page for that tournament on the NZBridge site, from there you can view the poster for the tournament or enter.

Of course, you can view all these tournaments on the NZBridge website too but they only have a list view and it is much easier to organise your schedule from a calendar view!

I think most of you that use the website are aware of how to find club results, but are you aware of the analysis tool in the results? When looking at the detailed results for a specific board you will see a 'Replay and analyze' link below the hand diagram. Click on that link and a new page will open up with the hand in question ready for you to perform analysis. This is useful when you can't figure out how to make or break a contract when the makeables say you should be able to.

To use this tool first click on the contract in the makeables grid in the bottom right, so if North was playing in 4S click on the box that lines up with N and the spade symbol. It doesn't matter that the number in the box doesn't match the contract, in the example above if 4S can be taken 1 light then the number in the box will be 3 because that is all that is makeable by optimal play in a spade contract. Next you click a card to play it for every hand for every trick. Along the way the cards will change colour to show the optimal line of play from the perspective of the player whose turn it is to play. The number of tricks that side could take is also shown next to every playable card. In this way you can step through card by card and figure out that elusive optimal line of play.

Hopefully these few tips have helped you to discover some parts of the website you didn't know were there. Feel free to explore to your hearts content, the great thing is you can't do anything wrong as nothing can be 'broken'. If ever you find yourself lost deep in the historical archives of the club you can always just click 'Home' on the blue menu bar to get back to safety!

Mike





Hugh McAlister

Bidding: West deals, passes and so do North and East. South opens 1S, North raises to 2S, and everyone passes.

Lead: West leads KC and continues with a club to East's Ace and a third club, ruffed high by South (because he can afford it).

♠ KJ76

♥ K95

♦ J97

♣ 874

♠ AQ1042

♥ A74

♦ Q62

♣ J5

Play: *How do you proceed?*

You draw trumps (they break 2-2), and survey... you have lost 2 tricks, and have a heart and at least 2 diamond losers... you could lead towards 9D, finessing the 10... a 50% play.... can you do better?

This hand lends itself to an endplay (making the opponents lead to you, thus reducing your losers). You have trumps left in both hands, the clubs are gone and you can "strip" the hearts, losing the lead at the right time.

Lead out A and K of hearts, then another heart. Whichever opponent wins must either lead diamonds (guaranteeing you a trick), or lead another suit (giving you a "ruff and sluff"). Contract made.

LESSONS:

1. Why take a finesse when you can make the opponents do it for you? The essence of an end play is that you give your opponent the lead when (s)he doesn't want it. This can be to make them finesse themselves or their partner, or, as in this case, make them lead the "difficult" suit (this is a classic situation, Qxx facing Jxx...if you have to play the suit yourself you almost always lose 3 tricks... if you force the opponents to play first you MUST get one trick.
2. This is an example of a "Strip and Endplay" technique...you take out trumps, leaving at least one trump in each hand (otherwise you can't get a "ruff and sluff"), clear 2 suits, leaving an opponent on lead....and their lead must help you.

3. Endplays are commoner in trump contracts (because you have the "ruff and sluff" option), but can still occur in NT contracts.

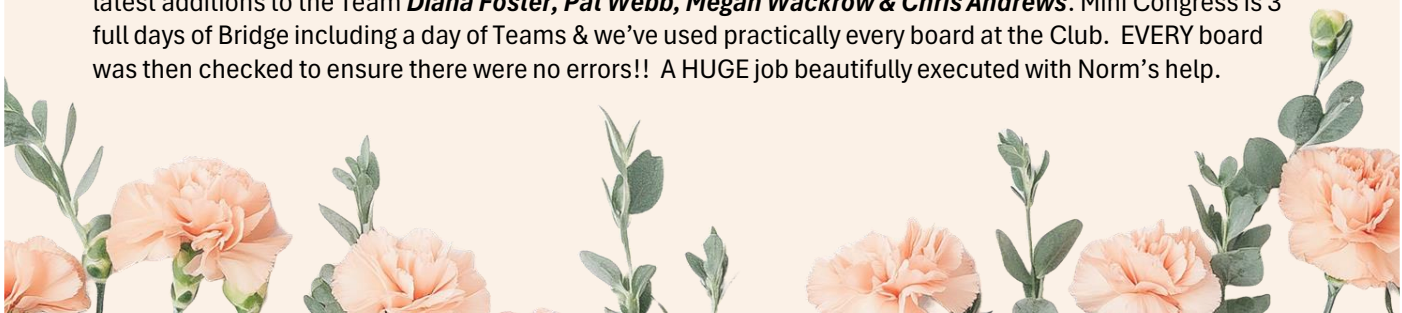
4. Notice the bidding...some Norths would bid 3S on that hand (especially if playing 5-card majors).... but the flat shape, and the absence of bidding by the opponents, suggests caution. In the event, only 2S can make, and then only with a careful endplay.

BOUQUETS

Thanks to those of you who volunteered to be an 'extra' for our successful Holiday Bridge program. Tuesday, we had 5 visitors... A couple from Auckland, a lady from the UK, a lady from Wellington & a returning player.

A huge thank you to **Norm Silcock** for his invaluable assistance with the Mini Congress Dealing, the Boot Camp dealing and everything else he does for the Club. You are very much appreciated Norm!!

Thank you to our wonderful team of Dealers... **Sue Greig, Jenny Lynam, Sue Handley & Karyl** assisted by the latest additions to the Team **Diana Foster, Pat Webb, Megan Wackrow & Chris Andrews**. Mini Congress is 3 full days of Bridge including a day of Teams & we've used practically every board at the Club. EVERY board was then checked to ensure there were no errors!! A HUGE job beautifully executed with Norm's help.





MUSINGS AT THE TABLE #13

Got plenty of names in your 2025 Bridge Programme? OPTIONS

- **ASK!** Please don't wait to be asked. Every member's name & contact details is in the back of the Programme so pick up the phone or approach them at the Club.
- **PARTNERSHIP STEWARDS** contact details are listed under the day of the week heading. Tuesday (Mary Toner) & Friday (Hilary McKenna) also have email lists - contact the stewards to be included.
- **WEDNESDAY** evening players... Dale will be away for a number of weeks early in the year so PLEASE use your Programme books to contact other players & arrange partnerships. Dale will be unavailable while on holiday.

If you're wanting to fill up spaces in your Programme Book, arrive early at a Bridge Session, grab your book & go asking.

BIDDING ETIQUETTE

During the bidding process if you have NO intention of bidding (it's obvious because of your point count or shape), please do NOT ask what an opponent's bid means while bidding is in progress.

Once the contract is decided and you're on lead, you may now ask for an explanation so you can make the best opening lead possible.

During the bidding process if you are contemplating bidding, you may ask the bidder's partner what their bid means when it is YOUR turn to bid.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR David Fornusek



1. If you are entering one of Tauranga Bridge Club's tournaments and paying by direct credit, PLEASE deposit into the **01** account, and NOT the Hello Club **00** account.
2. There is no separate login into the Club website – you have member access through Hello Club. On the website find MEMBERS, and scroll down to Hello Club. *Thank you.*

A BIG HAND

During play over the past year, I became aware that a number of our members are not completely au fait with the 'new' rule from NZBridge regarding a 2C opening bid.

When I attended Lessons in 2019 the rule was: a 2C opening bid meant you had 20+ HCP (high card points) unbalanced or 23+ balanced.

NZBridge have changed that. A 2C opening bid...

- 23+ HCP or
- 4 or less losers or
- Rule of 29... HCP + sum of your two longest suits.

When your partnership agreement is the above, the bid does not require to be alerted. However, should you and your partner want to play the 2C bid as 20+ HCP your bid MUST be alerted.

Please make sure that you clarify this bid with each of your Bridge partners. On Tuesday I was also reminded that many regard 2C as a 'game force' bid so again . . Clarify with your partner of the day.



BIDDING REMINDERS FOR JUNIORS



- Call your 5 or 6 card suit first
- Call the lowest of your 4 card suits first
- Call the top of your two 5 card suits first
- Overcalls promise a 'good' 5 card suit i.e. 2 honours