

TABLE TALK

JULY 2024

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



Happy
Birthday
JULY

Rita Allum
Robyn Ashton
Shirley Bain
Graeme Boyd
Frankie Christie
Jane Church
Jenna Gibbons
Bruce Gibson
Janet Hargreaves
Toni Izzard

Margaret Jones
Sheryl Lowther
John MacCormick
Tracey Mancer
Jenny Myhill
Athol Ryan
Beryl Smith
Veronica Stevens
Sadie Vernall

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



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

Sunday Bridge 12.45pm weekly now until 18th August. *A relaxed session where you can ask for assistance*

Tauranga Ladies All-Grade Pairs 3A tournament Wednesday 31st July \$25

July Etiquette check our *Etiquette* section on the noticeboard - our topics this month are: **Courtesy & Kindness** and an 'old' favourite... **Name Badges**. If you would like to order a new badge please see David.

Tauranga 6's fast approaching... Thursday 1st - 22nd August. Get your Team organized!!

The Margaret Torr Memorial Tuesday Championship Singles begins August 6th. To be eligible you can only play with someone your grade or below

OUR JUNE WINNERS



M: Play with a Mentor Restricted Pairs *Bureta Walking Group*

Chris Buckley & Norm Silcock

T: Petrol Pump Blues Handicap Pairs *Gaspy*

Jan Johnstone & Kay Beadle

Jones & Company Handicap Pairs *Jones & Company*

Frances Ball & Joy Bates

W: Ngatai Handicap Pairs

Alan Lawton & Carol Goldsworthy

Th: 1+3 Teams #2 *Phil Mangos – Bayley's Lifestyle Real Estate*

Graham Team: Graham Young, Sarah Graham, Clare Trass & Deidre Gunn

Swiss Pairs #1 *Craigs Investment Partners*

Hugh & Di McAlister

Legal Pairs *Michael Toner*

Graham Young & Shirley Bain

Fr: Matariki *Ultimate Motor Group*

**Malcolm Christie & Colin Roberts (N/S)
Shirley Bain & Graham Young (E/W)**



This month I'd like to speak to you about an event that players of all abilities should consider heading along to, that is the Gold Coast Congress or GCC. I myself am only a recent convert to this wonderful event having first played in 2023 at the invite of my presidential predecessor Kate Terry.

There are multiple reasons why I think this is a great event. The first is that there are multiple events for all levels of player. There's about six different player grades that are catered for from Open, where there are many Australian and New Zealand representative players and the occasional international from further afield, right down to Rookie which seems to be the equivalent of our Novice. The only downside is that it can be challenging to figure out which grade you fit into and the designations are very different to New Zealand. So, make sure to thoroughly check the grades and if unsure touch base with the organisers.

The next is the location. The playing venue is the massive Gold Coast Convention Centre in the suburb of Broadbeach. It is the next suburb south of Surfers Paradise and has the same beautiful golden beaches. In fact the venue is only 500m back from the beach and in between is apartment buildings to stay in, restaurants of all types to dine at and even a shopping centre where our Club Captain Hugh has sourced more than a few of his infamous dress shirts! Check out the view from our apartment this year just a short walk from the venue.

Another great aspect of the event is the social atmosphere. Despite being a massive event with 2,500 players entered everyone is very friendly and you will find managing the social calendar to be trickier than managing the playing schedule! Play always finishes around 5pm and so it's not unusual to head straight to a restaurant just a short walk away with a group of fellow bridge players at the end of play. The week is capped off with a dinner/ dance which is a great opportunity for everyone to let their hair down at the end of the week before heading back home.

So hopefully I have convinced you to get together with some friends and start organising accommodation and flights to the Gold Coast for the start of February next year. There's already a group of club members heading over and we'd love for you to join us!

Mike



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2025

A HUGE 'thank you' to those who responded to our call / offer in May to become one of our sponsors and to those who suggested businesses that may be interested.

The Club is still looking for further sponsors. Do you know anyone? Perhaps you're interested? (This may be done anonymously)

The sponsorship team is seeking contributions of \$100 - \$150 - \$200 + GST.

Please contact Keryn O'Brien or Sue Handley

TAURANGA 6'S

The Club held this tournament for the first-time last year... A great success. 2024's is fast approaching August 1st - 22nd. For a Team you are required to have:

- 2 Open Players
- 2 Intermediate Players
- 2 Junior Players

For me the best part is that you only play opponents the same grade as you!! I urge you to get yourself on a Team . . . If you don't like driving at night, talk to one of your Team-mates about being picked up. Find a way . . . Make a way!!

We play Team play which means it's all about making your contract . . . making that extra trick will not give you a better score. You play 12 boards against the same opponents. Love, love, love it!



TIP OF THE MONTH #8 – Managing your entries

	♠ K962	
	♥ 107	
	♦ K642	
	♣ AK8	
♠ A1054		♠ J8
♥ 42	S deals, nil vul	♥ A853
♦ Q983	S declares 3NT –	♦ J75
♣ J54	lead 3d	♣ Q976
	♠ Q73	
	♥ KQJ96	
	♦ A10	
	♣ 1032	

Bidding: South deals and opens 1H (playing 5-card majors, strong NT). North responds 1S. South rebids 1NT (12-14), and North raises to 3NT

Lead: West leads 3D (4th highest), preferring diamonds to spades given North’s bid.

Play: *How do you, as South, plan the play?* All too often we “play low, partner” before really thinking about the hand – maybe the lead comes from a suit headed by the QJ?? If you do that, and East has an honour, as here, you will go down.

First, BEFORE PLAYING DUMMY’S CARD, count your tricks...one spade, 4 hearts, and 2 in each minor...BUT ONLY IF YOU CAN GET BACK TO HAND! **Your only guaranteed entry to hand is the AD.** Once you see that, and play KD first, you are home free. Just play 10 and another heart, and later set up a spade trick.

Lessons:

1. As we have seen before, planning before playing to the first trick is essential, and a really good discipline on all hands.
2. We have seen some hands with entry problems to dummy, but entry to hand is just as important, as here...plan ahead.
3. The 3D lead suggests 4th highest, so losing 2 diamonds, AH and AS, allows you to make your contract comfortably....as long as you manage your entries.

Comment: As an aside, if you were playing Acol, South would open 1H, North bids 1S, South rebids 2H (with a good suit), and North would then bid 3NT. East would lead 6C, and the play would be easier, because declarer (now North) has an easy entry to dummy in the AD. North would also make 3NT, losing 2 clubs and 2 major aces.

Hugh McAlister

PASS



FREQUENTLY THE MOST DIFFICULT BID

© WORDS & UNWORDS

ON THE HUNT

The two chairs in the office are well past their use-by-date and we need to replace them. Thought it was worth asking if anyone has an office chair in good condition they would like to donate to the club please?

Also... would love some hobby glasses please (just in case people forget their specs)



SMARTER DEFENCE

Not an exact science! Don't get too fancy . . there are many lead options. Think carefully, listen to the bidding, then make your selection. **A different lead strategy is required depending on whether you're defending a suit contract or No Trumps.**

SUIT CONTRACT

1. A singleton (hoping partner can lead the suit back for you to trump) BUT BEWARE this is best done if partner has bid the suit you have a singleton in OR it's an unbid suit. Otherwise you could be finessing partner & potentially setting up this suit for declarer.
2. A suit partner has bid. Lead low from 3 or more with honour, top of doubleton.
3. A suit that offers a good attacking combination e.g. leading the top of 2 or more touching honours (AKxx, KQ10x, QJ10, J109)
4. Your longest suit. Lead low (4th) if you don't have touching honours.
5. A suit the opponents haven't bid.
6. If there are no unbid suits, a suit dummy has bid (leading through strength)
7. Often lead trumps if declarer has a two-suited hand, attempting to prevent declarer trumping the 2nd suit in dummy

WHEN LEADING TO A SUIT CONTRACT, AVOID:

1. Leading an unsupported A if you have any other safe lead.
2. Underleading an unsupported A
3. Underleading broken honour combinations (KJxx, Q10x) unless it's your partner's suit
4. Leading a suit declarer has bid, unless you are leading trumps

NO TRUMP CONTRACTS: You usually want to make an attacking opening lead to set up tricks in your long suit. Lead 4th best from your longest & strongest suit or top of sequence unless:

1. Partner has bid a suit. You should usually lead their suit, especially if you have 3 or more card in it - if you do it's likely to be the longest & strongest suit your partnership has.
2. Your long suit hasn't been supported by your partner, is one the opponents have bid & your holding isn't particularly strong or you've broken honours (e.g. KJxxx); then lead your longest unbid suit or a suit dummy has bid.
3. You have no points & will never establish your suit, consider leading the top of partner's possible suit.

WHEN LEADING TO A NT CONTRACT, AVOID:

1. Leading a short suit, unless it's your partner's
2. Leading aces or 'unprotected' high cards, especially in a short suit
3. Leading a suit declarer has bit.

MUSINGS AT THE TABLE #8

Another shout out to some quiet achievers

In this column, in May, I talked about the important role of our Directors. This month I would like to highlight the work of several other groups of people whose work is often unseen, but critical to the functioning of a modern bridge club.

SCORERS assist the Director in the initial set-up of the session's movement, then programme the computer and activate the Bridgemates, a wonderful piece of equipment we now totally take for granted. At the end of the session, the Scorer assesses and checks the final results produced by the computer, prints and displays them, including on the website. Nine times out of ten, this process goes reasonably smoothly, but just occasionally, as with all computer technologies, "hiccups" occur, and a lot more time and expertise is expended in producing the final scores. Norm Silcock and Mike Newton are our senior scorers, but we have a large group of scorers who work in teams:

Mondays: Mike Newton, Stacey Hilton, Simon Eminson and Cathy Parker

Tuesdays: Di McAlister, Derek Webb, Jackie Blue, Chris Buckley

Wednesdays: Carol Goldsworthy, Rebecca Taylor, learner Karyl Anderson (and thanks also to Louise Fletcher who has recently retired from this role)

Thursdays: Norm Silcock, Rebecca Osborne, Kate Terry, Deidre Gunn

Fridays: Peter Hagan, Judy McLeod, Jocelyn Buchanan, Hugh McAlister

DEALERS make a huge contribution to modern bridge. Every card we see is carefully dealt by a dealing machine which is programmed by the computer to produce random deals. The Dealers deal about 12 - 14 boxes of between 28 and 30 boards each and every week, sometimes more...and then there are tournaments which require a lot more. Hand records are carefully collated.

We have 4 Dealing teams of 2:

Dianne Menzies and Jean Morris | Ruth Sweatman and Ruth Pepper | Sue Greig and Jenny Lynam | Sue Handley and Karyl Anderson.

Caren van der Meys and Di McAlister act as reserves, and Norm Silcock and Mike Newton act as "the brains trust" and back-up emergency dealers also

CONVENORS calmly make your weekly session announcements, with humour and gravitas depending on what is required:

Stacey Hilton (M)
Derek Webb (Tu)
Dale Allen (W)
Kate Terry (Th)
Heather Melville (F)

They do a fantastic job, and allow the Director and Scorer to concentrate on setting up the bridge.

PARTNERSHIP STEWARDS spend a lot of time on the phone, or email, cajoling and organising to try and ensure everyone who needs a partner for the day (or night) has one. For some sessions this amounts to expanding the number of players to ensure a quality experience for all.

Kay Wright (M)
Mary Toner (Tu)
Dale Allen (W)
Derek Webb (Th)
Heather Melville (F)

The Stewards also work behind the scenes to make our Club as friendly and cohesive as possible.

There are many other volunteers who also, in their own quiet way, make our Club more efficient and attractive for members...we shall celebrate them in due course. But for now, spare a thought for all the quiet achievers who make our Club what it is today. THANK YOU....

Hugh McAlister