

# TABLE TALK

JUNE 2024

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

Happy  
Birthday

JUNE

Chris Andrews	Diana McAlister
Jackie Blue	Ross Petersen
Bob Calcutt	Mary Toner
Ranald Ducat	Clare Trass
Dorothy Forbes	Caren van der Meys
Margaret Howcroft	Kate Wade
John Laugesen	Yvonne White
Les Lilly	Monique Wilson
Amanda Matthews	

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



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

**Monday** lunchtime Bridge sessions 10.45am

**Sunday** Bridge 12.45pm weekly now until 18th August. A relaxed session where you can ask for assistance . . . Perfect for our new graduates! N.B. NO Sunday Bridge 30th June (see below)

**Lessons for Beginners** are completed. We celebrated Graduation Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

**June Etiquette** check our *Etiquette* section on the noticeboard - our topics this month is: 'Be a Smart Dummy'

**Fun Over The Bridge** Sunday 30th June 12.45pm... a Teams event with our sister Club Mt Manganui.

OUR MAY WINNERS



M: Evening Championship Singles – *Metlife Care – Greenwood Park*

Stacey Hilton

The Karen Martelletti 52<sup>nd</sup> Boston Cup

Judith Malcolm, Lyn Bailie, Gillian Corbett, Rebecca Osborne, Sue Greig & Pat Ware

T: The Glazed Look Pairs – *Window & Door Repairs*

Judy McLeod & Hugh McAlister

W: C. A. Nunn Junior Championship Singles

Rebecca Taylor

Th: Breaking Glass Open Teams #1

Hugh McAlister, Di McAlister, Heather Melville & Judy McLeod

Restricted Non-Rotational Teams #2

Joy Bates, Shirley Bain, Graham Young & Jackie Blue

Fr: Remembrance Handicap Pairs – *Jones & Company*

Sheryl Lowther & Tracey Mancer

Te Puna Comes to Town

Ron Scott & Judith Malcolm  
Sheryl Lowther & Tracey Mancer



A HUGE thank you to **Diana Foster** who has completely replanted the Club's flower garden, removed runaway ground cover at the front of the building to make it safer for our members who park there and cleared a huge pile of autumn leaves. We appreciate you Diana!

Another HUGE thank you to **Beryl Smith** who volunteered to be our Tuesday Afternoon Tea helper (for 2 weeks) even though she was not playing Bridge those days. You're a star Beryl!

## PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS...



Our 'babies' have officially left the nest! The Beginner's Class of 2024 have completed their 15-week lesson programme and have been released into the wild. We ended up with 28 graduating which is very pleasing. Since this is the very first Table Talk they'll be receiving it's the perfect time to talk about them I figure!

Of course, we always lose a few along the way but the greatest number of tables we had on any given night during the lessons was 8 so we're pleased to have seen the bulk of them through to graduation.

Some of you may be curious what bidding system we're even teaching these days. NZBridge has a syllabus with lesson material that we follow fairly closely and is available to all from the NZBridge website. It is all Acol based so 4-card majors and weak NT. We don't teach Stayman or Transfers but do teach pre-emptive openings and 4NT Black wood for ace asking.

The focus is definitely towards the bidding with minimal focus on play. There simply isn't enough time to fully cover both and since getting into a good contract is the first hurdle in any bridge hand it makes sense to concentrate on the bidding first and foremost.

Now that we have this large group of keen and enthusiastic new players our efforts now turn to retaining them! We have ramped up our Sunday supervised play sessions so that they will run every week for the next couple of months, plus the Monday lunchtime session is available for those new players who prefer to play during the day.

One of the big issues we've observed in past years is that we lose some players that are still working and don't want to be out till 10pm on a Wednesday night. To this end we have introduced a separate section on a Wednesday night where the new players can play at their own pace separately from the main Wednesday night group and finish around 9pm. The challenge as always comes with the extra bodies required to run these groups week in and week out but that is a hurdle we're determined to overcome.

So please do come along to some of the supervised sessions that we're running and make the new players feel welcome. You can recognise them by their "Class of '24" nametags and their wide-eyed looks of terror!

## MID-YEAR TRIAL

Come join us on Tuesdays 12.45pm (or earlier)... We're trialing 'Come without a partner'.

Our first session was last week and what a success! Someone didn't turn up, someone thought they'd arranged play with a partner (who wasn't aware), another had a partner unable to play due to illness and two players arrived without partners. Every one played!!

Our trial will continue until Tuesday 30th July - that will be your final opportunity to avail yourself of this fabulous trial. We'll then evaluate the results and if deemed successful we'll endeavour to offer partnerless days next year (for which we'll need enthusiastic volunteers!!)





TIP OF THE MONTH #7 - The Importance of Entries to Dummy

♠ K63

♥ 73

♦ QJ10963

♣ 105

**Bidding:** South deals and opens 1C. North responds 1D, South rebids 2NT (18-19pts), and North bids 3NT...no opposition bidding.

**Lead:** West leads 7S (fourth highest from Q10872).

**Play:** How do you, as South, plan the play? All too often, Souths welcome an extra trick from allowing the play to come round to AJ of spades....if you do that, and play JS, you will go light (East will hold up his AD 'til the third round, and you won't be able to access dummy's lovely diamonds). Declarer must resist the offer a free trick, (s)he must see the importance of dummy's diamonds, and ensure free access to dummy's KS once the AD has been driven out. 9 tricks are on offer (2 spades, 5 diamonds and 2 clubs)...don't be tempted...

7S lead

♠ AJ

♥ KJ4

♦ K74

♣ AK764

Lessons:

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>1. "Beware the cheap trick" ... the JS is your only access to dummy once AD is driven out (if a defendant can hold up twice).</p> | <p>2. Many contracts succeed or fail depending on one's play to the first trick.</p> | <p>3. Think how defendants can make life difficult, and plan your play accordingly (good defendants, if they have 3 diamonds to the Ace, will see the threat of dummy's diamonds, and hold up for sure).</p> | <p>4. Most of all, recognise the strength of dummy's diamond holding, and the critical importance of dummy's entry (KS).</p> |
|--|--|--|--|



STAYMAN / TRANSFER (Notes from Karen Martelletti)

Three gadgets you could add to your Stayman and Transfer repertoire:

1. Weak Stayman for both majors
2. Rangefinder or transfer to a minor
3. A bid to show both minors

**Garbage Stayman:** When Responder is weak & has both majors, go via Stayman. If Opener responds with 2D denying a 4 card major, then bid 2H. This shows at least 4-4 in both majors & weak, asking partner to choose their best one. If Opener has 3-3 in the majors, they should always bid 2H. *Some prefer to have 5-4 for this bid, but it usually ok with 4-4*

**2S = Rangefinder or transfer to a minor:** This is to show any one of the following: a) 11-12 and interested in game b) A weak 6 card minor c) 18+ and interested in slam

To start with, Opener must treat this bid as a rangefinder & answers accordingly:

- 2NT = minimum Opener – 12 (13)
- 3C = maximum Opener – (13) 14

If Responder passes or bids 3D, Opener must pass, as their partner is now showing a weak 6 card suit in that suit.

**2NT = Both minors (weak)**

Opener bids their best minor  
Responder passes.

Some also use this bid to show a hand good enough for game & with both minors. If you want to try this, then a bid of a major after partners, shows their preference is showing shortage in that major & Opener then makes the choice which game to be in: 3NT or 5 of their preferred minor. Try this option only after you have mastered the basic 2NT bid and the Rangefinder options

## HESITATION

One of the most challenging calls for Directors, especially at Tournaments, is the perception of hesitation. The issue is a source of confusion for many Club players.

Law 73D1 states “It is desirable, though not always required, for players to maintain steady tempo and unvarying manner....players should be particularly careful when variations may work to the benefit of their side. Unintentionally to vary the tempo or manner in which a call or play is made is not an infraction. Inferences from such variations are authorized only to the opponents....”

Law 73D2 says “A player may not attempt to mislead an opponent by means of a question, remark or gesture; by the haste or hesitancy of a call or play; etc...”

What does this all mean for us in Club bridge?

1. Occasionally we have a difficult decision...to hesitate is legal. **What is illegal is for partner to take from this hesitation any inference which may encourage a certain bid or play.** For example, if one overcalls, and later partner hesitates before supporting your bid, you will naturally assume partner had a choice of bids, and maybe be tempted to bid up to a makeable game (which you would not have bid had your partner bid or passed in tempo). The test is whether you had the hand to credibly bid up (if partner had passed - and Director may obtain other opinions to inform her/his decision). If partner hesitates, and then passes, or even doubles, in a contested auction, be careful to completely dismiss the pause, and bid as you would have without the pause. Saying “I acknowledge the pause” can be helpful. In a nutshell, hesitation puts pressure on partner, but is not, in itself, an infraction.
2. It is NOT ethical (or clever) to deliberately hesitate before playing a singleton, to try to give declarer false information. Nor is it clever to do the same when you think declarer is planning a finesse, but you don't have the honour.
3. In fact, these examples of deliberate misleading behaviour are considered illegal, and can attract a penalty or adjusted score.

Hugh McAlister



### *A Winter Solstice Blessing*

*May you find peace in the  
promise of the solstice night,  
That each day forward is  
blessed with more light.  
That the cycle of nature,  
unbroken and true,  
Brings faith to your soul  
and well-being to you.  
Rejoice in the darkness,  
in the silence find rest,  
And may the days that follow  
be abundantly blessed.*

WELCOME CLASS OF 24

No matter where I go, I always make  
friends at the bridge table

— *Martina Navratilova* —

