

TABLE TALK

MARCH 2025

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



Happy Birthday MARCH

Julie Eagle
David Fornusek
Gill Friis
Sarah Graham
Sandy Hastings
Bev Knight
Alan Lawton
Isobel McIntyre

Hilary McKenna
Robyn McLennan
Judy McLeod
Steve O'Brien
Helene Paterson
Pat Verran
Janice Watson

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)

- **Beginners Lessons** are underway Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Recap prior.
- **Friday Drinks** after play Friday 28th March. The Bar will be open. Please bring a small plate to share. We had 28 attendees for our inaugural event... Look forward to seeing you. You're very welcome to stay for a tea or coffee.
- **Cambridge Jnr Pairs** Saturday 29th March
- **Fun Over The Bridge** hosted by us on **Sunday 30th March**. Our teams are required to be the same number as the Mount and for that reason our teams are now closed. Participants please be seated by 12.45pm for play at 1pm. The bar will be open at end of play
- **Mt Manganui Multigrade Pairs** Saturday 5th April
- **Sunday Bridge April 13th** Please note this is a week early due to Easter!!
- **Whakatane Bay Pairs** Sunday 13th April
- **NO PLAY** Thursday 17th April prior to Good Friday nor Easter Monday 21st April
- Play both Good Friday & ANZAC Day

OUR FEBRUARY WINNERS

MONDAY

Dust Off The Cobweb Pairs
Cherrywood Shoes

Shirley Bain & Judy Pawson

TUESDAY

Welcome Back Handicap Pairs
Te Puna Comes To Town

Joan Lloyd & Chris Buckley

WEDNESDAY

Welcome Back Pairs
Baybat Batteries NZ Ltd

Kerrie Little & Nikki Baguley

I Spy Pairs
Gasp

Verity Latimer & Joan McNeill

THURSDAY

Restricted Non-Rotational Teams #1
Ultimate Motor Group

**Keryn O'Brien, Diana McAlister,
Cathy Parker & Hugh McAlister**

FRIDAY

The Renovation Pairs
Cooper Young Construction

Ron Scott & Judy McLeod

Although the vast majority of us will only play our bridge at the club there is a reasonable number who enjoy the challenge of tournament play and racking up Master Points. The greatest achievement for that competitive group of bridge players is being selected to play for New Zealand at an international event. There are four teams (Open, Women, Mixed and Senior) that one can aspire to earning a spot in and each team consists of three pairs. So all up there are only 24 spots available to the 14,000+ bridge players in New Zealand!

This year there are two international events on the calendar and New Zealand is sending the full contingent of four teams to both: the first in May in Hefei, China and the second in August in Herning, Denmark. Trials and selections have recently been completed for the last of the teams and once again we have not one, not two but three of our members earning well deserved spots in these teams.

I would like to extend a massive congratulations to **Kate Terry, Christine Gibbons** and **Jenna Gibbons** on their selection, they were so good that they didn't even need to trial! Kate and her Wellington based partner Mindy Wu have been selected for the Women's team heading to China in May while Christine and Jenna have been selected for the Women's team heading to Denmark in August.

Their selection for these events is testament to their great result in Buenos Aires last year where they were teammates. We will all be following with great interest as they embark on their respective international tours and chase even loftier goals!

Mike



CLUB CAPTAIN'S COLUMN

Do you know your rights?

Tuesday 25 March 7pm come along to a session on some common rulings Directors make in the auction and how you can take best advantage of them

- When you should or shouldn't accept an insufficient bid
- Can you change your bid with no penalty?
- What happens when someone makes a Call Out of Rotation
- What is a comparable bid?

Norm and Rebecca looking forward to sharing some of our directing knowledge with you

Cont'd...

By popular vote we have a new event in April – **Friday Holiday Pairs.**

These will be guaranteed partner events which means you are welcome to arrive as an individual and you will be paired up.

So please add to your program an extra session or two of Friday Afternoon Bridge on...

- April 18 – Easter Friday
- April 25 – ANZAC Friday

FYI – the Club Captain is looking for partners for these events since they are not work days.

Waikato Bays Leagues

The Junior and Intermediate leagues have started for 2025 and there was a great turnout for the latest round in Hamilton.

If you are eligible, I highly recommend that you play in one or more of these events as it is great to meet others who are in same grade. For the events further afield there is usually another pair you can team up with to share the drive.

Junior

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| • Cambridge | March 29th |
| • Matamata | May 10th |
| • Mount Maunganui | July 19th |
| • Tauranga | August 30th |
| • Te Awamutu | October 13th |

Intermediate

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| • Katikati | May 18th |
| • Mount Maunganui | July 19th |
| • Te Awamutu | August 16th |
| • Tauranga | August 30th |
| • Matamata | September 14th |
| • Cambridge | October 19th |

2025 National Congress

This is NZ's largest bridge event each year. Sadly, it is no longer being hosted in Tauranga and has moved to Palmerston North who have a wonderful events venue located right in the center of town.

Do you know that you can get subsidised travel and entry into congress by being a member of the Waikato Bays Regional championships team?

How do you get to be in the Waikato team? Step 1 sign up for the trials in May, there are 4 separate sections, Intermediate, Women's, Seniors and Open.

Happy Bridging
Rebecca Osborne, Club Captain



Hugh McAlister

♠ A873

♥ 8

♦ A754

♣ A1084

♠ 102

♥ AQ10653

♦ 962

♣ K5

Dealer W
3NT by S, nil vul
Lead 6H

♠ QJ95

♥ J2

♦ QJ83

♣ 762

♠ K64

♥ K974

♦ K10

♣ QJ93

Bidding: West opens a standard "Weak 2", doubled by North, and South, with a balanced 12 points, bids 3NT.

Lead: standard "4th highest" 6H. Partner (and Declarer) expect West will have 6 hearts.

Play:

This is an excellent example of the importance of counting your tricks **first...** in a NT contract. You can count 5 top tricks, and 3 more if the club finesse makes. This means you only need one more... take the KH **NOW!** If you don't take the KH now, good defenders will stop you ever cashing it (a second heart is led through, your 9 is taken by the 10H, and an exit with any suit except hearts stops you getting your ninth trick).

Lessons:

1.

We are all very familiar with the policy of "holding up" on the first lead to cut communications between defenders...but there are exceptions...(a) when this is your critical trick and not playing it means losing it (as here); but also (b) when "ducking" allows defender to attack an even weaker suit; or (c) when you have 7 cards in the suit, it is often better not to hold up.

2.

The critical part of Declarer's initial assessment, before playing to trick 1, is to realise that with out the Club finesse making, the contract has no hope at all. Put another way, there is negligible chance of making more than 2 tricks in either spades or diamonds.

3.

Now, when "you count your tricks," you cross your fingers, count 4 club tricks, and you realise that the KH is your ninth trick, and you must take it now...

4.

An important "small point", for the defence, is that West should NOT be tempted to take AH at trick 3 (if South had inadviesly ducked)...that would give Declarer her/his 9th trick. (S)he knows partner only has 2 hearts...with 3 hearts, say J72, (s)he would return the 7H, not the 2H, and in this case Declarer surely would not have ducked!



CORRECTION Regarding the 'rules' around a 2C opening... My statement in an earlier Table Talk was incorrect! Can you believe that????

When your partnership agreement includes: 4 or less losers You MUST alert the bid. The bid does not need alerting if your agreement is 23+ HCP or rule of 29

BOUQUETS

Thank you to our new dealers... **Chris Andrews, Megan Wackrow, Diana Foster & Jill Ussher.** Great to have you on our Team.

Jackie Blue Tournament Officer you are a gem! Thank you for all the amazing work you're doing. So incredibly well organised and on top of everything. We appreciate you!



PUBLIC HOLIDAY BRIDGE IN APRIL



A show of hands at a recent Friday Bridge session has resulted in Holiday Bridge being played on

Good Friday 18th April
ANZAC Day 25th April

As our Club Captain Rebecca Osborne stated no partner required.

Judy Pawson has very kindly offered to run a 15-minute teaching session prior to each event. PLEASE be seated by 12.45pm

Once Dummy goes down, **count your losers** and **make a plan**. You may need to employ different techniques to make your contract.

Counting Losers

Check each suit for immediate winners in this example.

Contract: 4S | Lead: JD

	Declarer:	Dummy:	Winners:
♠	QJ542	AK63	0 loser
♥	54	A76	1 loser
♦	AK98	Q53	0 loser
♣	QJ	1095	2 losers

- In the above hand, with only three losers you can draw trumps immediately.
- If Diamonds don't break 3-3, you can ruff the 4th diamond with dummy's last trump.

Quick Discard(s) when it is dangerous to draw trumps first

Check each suit for immediate winners in this example

Contract: 4S | Lead: KC

	Declarer:	Dummy:	Winners:
♠	QJ542	K1063	1 loser
♥	K7	AQ5	0 loser
♦	KJ7	Q53	1 loser
♣	A32	1095	2 losers

- On the lead of the KC, declarer can see there are 4 losers.
- You must eliminate one of the losers in clubs by a quick discard before drawing trumps.
- Avoid blocking the heart suit by first playing the honour (KH) from the short hand.

Managing Trumps

1. Drawing Trumps In a suit contract it is usually correct to draw trumps first before you play anything else. Stop drawing trumps when your opponents have done left, but if the only trump remaining is the best one, don't continue the suit.
2. Ruffing in Dummy Declarer may be able to use the power of the trump suit to ruff losers in the dummy. If you need to ruff loser(s) in dummy, do so first before drawing trumps.
3. Do not ruff in the long hand (unless you are forced to do so). It is usually correct to look for ruffs in the dummy, rather than declarer's hand. Declarer's hand is sometimes called the 'long hand' because it generally has more trumps.

Continuation of Play after Drawing Trumps

Extra tricks can be developed by the following:

- Promoting honours
- Playing towards honours
- Finessing
- Developing a long side suit. This may be made easier by using your remaining trumps.

See Improvers Lesson 3 'Play Techniques'

Example: Trumping Losers in Dummy

Contract: 6S | Lead: QC

	Declarer:	Dummy:
♠	KQ1092	SJ643
♥	A32	5
♦	K42	AQ87
♣	A9	K432

You can count 3 losers (H3, H2 & SA). You must ruff the 2 small hearts before you draw trumps.

The play will progress:

- Win KC
- Play 5H to the Ace
- Ruff the 2H with a small trump in dummy ☑
- Back to hand with AC
- And ruff the 3H in dummy
- Now you can set about drawing the opponent's trumps

NB: this hand is a rare example of a slam making with less than 30 HCP!



So you're saying you're absolutely sure you can't play bridge with me tonight?