



# Table Talk

A newsletter from  
Taupo Contract Bridge Club  
– December 2012

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## AGM elects a new committee:

The AGM was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October with about 40 members present to elect a committee for the coming year, approve the accounts, comment on the past year and make suggestions for the year ahead. With most senior officers not standing again this year it was clear that the Club would be under new management for 2013. Rosemary Ritchie ex officio remains as Immediate Past President and Ralph Robertshawe agreed to stay on the committee as an ordinary member. As Rona Driscoll has agreed to continue her good work as treasurer not all the expertise of the previous committee is lost to the new Officers: David Taylor takes over as President with Colin Light as his Vice-President.



**2013 Officers of TBC.**  
President David Taylor  
with new Secretary  
Jan Cook  
and returning Treasurer  
Rona Driscoll.  
*Absent:* V-P Colin Light

The new Secretary is Jan Cook with new members Frank Weeks and Patricia Tyler joining returning committee members Don Boulton, Ann Hennebry, and Helen Spencer. We wish them an harmonious and successful year in charge of the progress and future of the Club.

**Valete:** It is with sorrow that we farewell members from the old team. Proper recognition of their service will no doubt be made at the Prize Giving night on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December but for those who for some **absolutely pressing** reason cannot make that occasion (see below) we appreciate the work of:

*Joan Berg* came back on to the committee to hold the fort as secretary ( a position she had held in an earlier committee) last year. She had already served the Club as President and committee member so we shall all miss her efficient service and vast knowledge of past action within the club.

*Peggy Nisbet* has brought to the committee experience in overseas clubs so was able to inform the committee on alternative ways of handling issues and widening the programme. She was noted for her contribution to the match committee and function hospitality and was an inveterate promoter of the raffles held in conjunction with tournaments. Even out of office she ensured that we had nibbles to go with our drinks during the recent Melbourne Cup socializing.

*Derek Rankin* came on to the committee last year with the specific task of introducing electronic scoring. With this project accomplished he feels his particular skills are no longer required but committee will miss his gentle but sound judgement. The task was far bigger than he at first imagined as with our final choice of Scorer (the system with the now familiar red scoring pads) our club has become the guinea pig for introducing this excellent system into NZ. It is impossible to fully recognise the debt we owe Derek in this progressive move by the Club. Fortunately he remains an active player and is available to help the struggling directors as they establish some competence in this technical field. (Thankfully President David is equally *au fait* with the technology but the Club needs to train confident users of the system.) Under Derek's guidance the Club has purchased a laptop computer and large screen TV with Derek doing the installation work – no minor task you can be assured. He will be sorely missed.

*TWO REAL STALWARTS* of the Club are retiring from duties, each after some twenty years of Service :

**Margaret Barry** has been a partner convenor for Friday bridge for as long as anyone can remember and her efforts to accommodate members has been a real bonus for Friday players.

**Molly Green** has organised Monday night play, encouraging newcomers, helping to tutor beginners and directing play on Monday as well as at other sessions.

Both have given of their time and energies without question and we want to express to them our thanks for such outstanding service and hope we will continue to see them at the playing table for many years to come.

#### **Recent Events:**

Since the last Newsletter we have hosted the **Summerset 8B tournament** – it went extremely well under Jocelyn Langdon's direction (Rona was not well so Jocelyn stepped in at the last moment, giving up her own chance to play – thanks for this unselfish action Jocelyn). The 16 tables were divided into two sections of 8, playing the same cards of course but scoring across the whole room. The winners were the accomplished pair Elizabeth and Blair Fisher from Hamilton who had also won our Open 5A tournament in May. Top Taupo pairs included Rosemary Ritchie and David Taylor (8<sup>th</sup>, topping their afternoon section) and Garth Robinson and Ralph Robertshawe (9<sup>th</sup>). We had 14 local pairs in the event and it was good to see Yvonne Pitcher over from Hawkes Bay to join up with Pam Burry. As ever the event was supported strongly by our hospitality team of Helen Spencer and Ann Hennebry assisted by other members along with much delicious donated food for morning tea and the end of play refreshment. Thanks to all those who contributed to such a successful event, not forgetting our generous sponsors, Summerset Retirement Village.

After many years as a non-hosting Club (leaving the few interested local members to drive to Rotorua to participate) TBC decided to hold a local section of **the NZ Wide Pairs**, joining hundreds of other players around the country on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. It is a one session event with 24 hands prepared especially for the night – entry money supports the NZ Bridge magazine and each participant is given a booklet at the end of the evening with the hands and a commentary on both the bidding and play to achieve the best result. We had 8 tables and it was great to see some of our newer players risking playing in such an event. Our two Youth Members Ben Simmons and Jack Clunie braved the occasion and though their result was not great they had a good night of it and will be better for the experience. David Taylor and Ulrich Biesenbach won the local session and their results scored against the other Bay of Plenty Clubs placed them 5<sup>th</sup> in the District. Our thanks to Molly Green for direction and to have with a drink as we pondered over the hands at the end of play. Thanks are due to Rona Driscoll for promoting the event which was enjoyed by all and it will be back on the programme for next year.

Some of us were able to gather for a **Melbourne Cup experience** on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Those who were able to played in the Tuesday afternoon bridge session and then stayed on to watch the race on the Club TV via *Freeview* A few others joined us for the watching and all appreciated the nibbles provided by Peggy Nisbet to go with a glass of wine to liven the occasion. As usual Wene McMillin organized a sweepstake on the outcome and we offered those who had missed the chance to invest in the official sweepstake another prize draw to give them an added stake in the race. A few satisfied punters left the

room slightly richer while others enjoyed Jan Lindeman's winnings which he kindly left on the bar – a much appreciated gesture Jan!



A suitably dressed player/punter at the Melbourne Cup occasion. Member Sue Swanney added to the glamour of the event.

By the way – **Tuesday Bridge** will have its final session on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December – an additional session.

**Bridge Lessons:** After Jocelyn's lessons earlier in the year David Taylor took a second group of learners for a successful course in the latter half of the year and it is good to see a few new faces appearing at our club sessions. Thanks David for the many hours spent encouraging these new players.

New members approved at our last committee meeting were John MacLeod and Tony and Margaret Seavill. As ever, we present members must make the effort to make new members feel at home in our Club:

*maximize the welcome, minimize the putdowns!*

Next Year's Programme will be available at the prizegiving night but you can mark your calendar now (it will also be available on the club website – [www.contractbridge.net/taupo](http://www.contractbridge.net/taupo)):

**Wednesday Night** – Starts Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Friday daytime** - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January

**Monday Night** – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January

**Tuesday Afternoon** – 5<sup>th</sup> February

The Club Prizegiving Night is on **Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> December** starting at 6pm.

The Programme is : 6pm Prizegiving

6-45 Pot Luck Meal (please bring a finger food contribution)

7-15 An individual Night of about 15 hands in which you have a new partner for each deal. Should be a lot of fun and of course you do not need to arrange a partner for the event.

**See you there.....**

*The President and Committee wish all members a memorable Christmas Celebration and good bridging for the coming year.*