



Table Talk

A newsletter from
Taupo Contract Bridge Club – March
2012

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2012 away to a great start!!!

Well here we are with 2012 well underway along with plenty of action at the Club. The year started as usual with a committee working bee to spring clean the Clubrooms and tidy up the grounds. It is amazing to see the great set of kitchen equipment that has been built up over the years but someone noted that we could do with some mugs for coffee to complement the cups and saucers. No sooner said than done with the gift of 20 mugs each from Patricia Tyler and Rosemary Ritchie. I can see them in use for winter soups as well. A welcome addition to our stock, thanks. The committee meeting on 14th February was dominated by the report from Derek Rankin on his investigation of electronic scoring pads for our Club. He had examined the two local scoring **systems**, Scorer 12 and Compass (which we have been using for several years) and come to the conclusion that Scorer 12 had better potential for development and back-up than Compass. He attended sessions on the use of the electronic table pads currently available in NZ and then researched overseas to see what alternatives were available. He was attracted to **Bridge Scorer** designed in Sweden by a firm called Jannersten. Their pads are used extensively in Europe and by some clubs in Australia. Further investigation led to BridgeNZ contacting the supplier and became the NZ Distributor so the pads became available in NZ. Our club was offered the first quote for purchase and as it was within the limits of our funding grant (organized last year by Philip Martin and approved at last year's AGM) the committee accepted the quote that night and sent off the required deposit. We were flabbergasted when the equipment arrived the following Saturday with Martyn Oyston of BridgeNZ on hand to install it, followed by a training for club directors on the Sunday! How is that for service! Until proper cabling was installed we needed to have our computer and printer in the playing room but that is no longer necessary – now we just have a laptop in the room with wireless connection to control the system which lives in the office. Couldn't be simpler! I feel sure that members who have already had the chance to experience the pads have found them surprisingly easy to use and without a doubt the quickness of the results at the end of play (inside five minutes) is a delight. PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A *TOUCH SCREEN* DEVICE – DON'T *PRESS* THE SCREEN. The new technology's first real test was at our Intermediate Tournament on 10th March – David Taylor along with Joan Berg agreed to do the technical stuff which allowed Derek to play in the event and Director Jocelyn Langdon to concentrate on her directing. Went like clockwork with only a very few user errors, all of which were quickly rectified by the technical team. The system will enable us all to enjoy our play of the great game better. *Are there any drawbacks?* To be honest a couple – we still need to consult the board travel sheet if we want to look back at the hand and see what we could/should have done – this may be overcome sometime in the future; and secondly the pad has to be passed around the table on a club night if all four players want to have a look at the scores so far achieved on the board: this is slower than examining a travel sheet. [Tournament players are no longer allowed to see that section of the system so that they do not alter their play (rash v conservative) as they see how they or particular rivals are progressing – actually a good rule as it makes them treat each hand on its own merits.] *How reliable is the system?* Well, we have been given a **6 month right of return** with full refund of our costs. We are on to a winner, and judging by visitor comments at the Bayley's Intermediate Tournament those familiar with similar systems were ultra impressed by our system. *Congratulations to Derek for all his research, time and effort to bring this enterprise to such a successful conclusion.*

Before leaving this topic it is right to express the Club's indebtedness, first to the numberless scorers who have given time and energy (and frequently great frustration) to hand score our session plays over the years – they have been the unsung heroes of the club, always out of sight yet copping the blame if there is a foul up! To each and every one of them our grateful thanks as technical progress relieves us all of this chore. (What on earth will Jocelyn do on a Thursday morning from now on???) Secondly we need to express our thanks to Bob Fearn, the inventor of the Compass scoring system which we have used with little breakdown for so many years. It was a relief for all clubs when computer scoring became available. Although Bob has been living in America for several years now, he has remained available to sort out any problems with Compass and the club has benefitted from his support and the assistance of Neil Dravitzki from Rotorua who has acted as his local representative. Although we no longer use Compass we will retain it on our computer and continue to appreciate Bob's help to our Club and contribution to the game in NZ.

Membership: Full Member: Janet Bishop (UK), and 2nd Club Members: Julie and Ian Lankshear of Christchurch. With regret we have accepted resignations from Alison Skelly, Ros Cameron, John Chrystall and Diana Hansard. The Bockers are opting out of play this year as they will be out of the country much of the time.

KNOW THE RULE: **Etiquette.**

People play Bridge for a variety of reasons, the most common of which is enjoyment. That enjoyment comes from the game itself with its many challenges, a competitive streak within the player, the quiet concentration of the battle itself, a gamble on the side and very importantly pleasant company. Playing at a Bridge Club includes most of the above (we do not have a rubber bridge 'money session' - some clubs do have a regular room for this) but the chief difference is that we do not choose our company, unlike social bridge at home. We end up playing with (or against) a variety of people with whom we may otherwise have little or no social contact. It is a meeting place where we have to take the rough with the smooth. We may not necessarily like each other but we engage in a common passion for bridge with our fellow members. It is therefore all the more important that we observe an etiquette at the Club which will enable the real business of our time together – good bridge and an enjoyable night out – to be achieved. To this end we have a page on Etiquette in our Club Programme which we can all find on page 24. I would like to comment on the term '*a courteous attitude*'. It has been said that good manners are the lubricant of civilized society – and good manners implies respect for the company we are in and the situation we find ourselves part of. This means among many options: **suitable dress** – we are not at the beach or roaming in our garden (nor are we at church!); **pleasant greetings** - acknowledging our playing companions; **good temper** – the table is not the place to castigate or belittle our partner or opponent: simple respect towards others which will make our club sessions enjoyable for those whose company we have joined.

Bayleys Intermediate Tournament

It was great to have visitors from as far afield as Hamilton, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Hawkes Bay, Taumarunui, and Tauranga among the 32 pairs which contested this event on 10 March. (To qualify as an Intermediate a player may not have more than 99 rating points.) Players were greeted with a scrumptious morning tea before play began at 10am and also plied with delicious finger food at the end of the afternoon session as we awaited the prizegiving. Jocelyn Langdon directed play smoothly (as usual) and as said earlier the new Bridge Scorers were in use. We played 24 boards in each session at one board a table and in the afternoon session seating was ordered so that we played against as many other pairs as possible. Personally I did not find the hands easy to bid and made a couple of playing blues, misplaying a slam (had to guess the hearts!) and twice pulling the wrong card out of my hand to give opponents extra tricks – not smart! There are lots of thanks due – preparation and advertising in the hands of Rosemary and Rona; great kitchen team led by Helen Spencer and Ann Hennebry assisted by Jill Jones; the 'Bar' served by Don Boulton and Nigel Langdon; scoring supervised by David Taylor and Joan Berg; an excellent raffle table organized by Peggy Nisbet, with prizes donated by Audrey Swann, along with Rona Driscoll and Rosemary Ritchie; and our President as chief greeter, receptionist and gofer! However I suspect that most players went away remembering with delight the excellent home cooking which so many club members had provided to make our guests welcome. Our Club is well known for its hospitality and the Committee expresses its gratitude to those who on this occasion made sure that the tradition was maintained. Yvonne Westerman representing Bayleys (whose generous sponsorship of this tournament is most sincerely appreciated) kindly attended the 'aftermatch' function and presented the prizes to delighted recipients.

For the record the results were:

- 1st Yvonne Pitcher and Ralph Robertshawe (Taupo);
- 2nd Wendy Blackman & Elspeth Goodrick (Rotorua);

3rd Caroline Chapman & Murray Wiggins (Hastings);

4th Charles and Janette Nairn (Waipukurau).

Alison and Colin Jackson won an afternoon session prize. It is good to see a local pair win one of our main tournaments. Our next tournament is the Open sponsored by PAK'nSAVE on the 5th/6th May – start training NOW!

Recent Committee decisions:

The unexpectedly quick arrival of the Electronic Bridge Scorers has brought forward the need to update some of our other equipment. Although the automatic dealer is working well its software needs updating and we have decided at a cost of \$145 to implement this now – it will make the work of the dealing team much easier. We have been using Derek's laptop as the controller in the playing room to run the new scorer system which is on our existing Club computer. We could have purchased the cheapest small laptop on the market for this task but we have realized that we do not have a back-up for our main computer system so have decided to buy a suitable laptop which can cover any future electronic development as necessary. This is expected to cost \$1200, so all up we will have spent some \$8700 on the project for which we have received a grant of \$5000 – a wonderful addition to our Club's equipment, efficiency and enjoyment at well under \$4000. A jolly good investment by the look of it! And what is more, Derek has now purchased the computer (from local Noel Leeming) and the software (BridgeNZ) and already has it up and running.

TEACHING PROGRAMMES COMING UP:

Our '**Beginners lessons**' (\$60 for 10 sessions) tutored by Jocelyn Langdon are meeting on Thursdays from 5pm to 7pm starting after Easter. This group class is already FULL so the club is accepting names for a second set of classes later in the year (tba).

Rona Driscoll will run monthly **Improvers Lessons** for members on the *1st Tuesday of each month*, starting at 7-30pm on April 3rd These proved popular last year. The fee is \$4 per session – all Club Members are welcome as and when you can make it.

Finding our results online:

Some members have difficulty in getting into our results page. With the new Electronic Scorers it is much easier. Follow these steps and you should have no trouble:

1. On your internet browser type in contractbridge.net/taupo (this takes you to our website – **bookmark** this page for quicker reference in the future)
2. Click 'Results' (this shows a page called Results 2012)
3. Beside heading 'Bridge Electronic Scorer' click '[All Sessions](#)' for the list of session results
4. Click on the session you want to see. (Note: Friday sessions are currently labeled 'Evening')
5. Click on your name for personal scores, or Board number for the results for that board
6. If you want to find a *final* result click on '[click here for Ladders](#)' at the head of the Session results.

UPDATING OUR RECORDS:

We have found that with the use of the new scorers our records with NZ Bridge are not up to date. The committee has run off a copy of the list of members – when you are up at the clubrooms would you please check your entry to see that it is up to date. Thank you all.

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Thanks – Ralph Robertshawe (raldi.rob@xtra.co.nz)