



Table Talk

A newsletter from the
Taupo Contract Bridge Club
–February 2015

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Finally all sessions are underway for our playing year with the first Tuesday afternoon session held last week to complete the resumption of our club days in 2015 and while with hot summer days attendances have not been quite as high as we would like, it is great to see familiar friendly faces across the tables, and anticipation for further games ahead as we book partners for coming events. Our first major event is the **Bayleys Intermediate Tournament on Saturday the 28th February** and it is our hope that many of our members will take the opportunity to compete in what has been a most enjoyable occasion to launch our tournament year. There is a list in the clubrooms to put your entries up, or else e-mail the club- taupobridge@xtra.co.nz
More info later in this newsletter.

Closedown of the 2014 year occurred with very happy meal and prize giving night in December with a reasonable turnout of members from all playing sessions. Winners of the key events and awards were:

Wednesday Championship – John and Rona Driscoll

Monday Championship – EvGrdiner and Sheils Taylor

Friday events: Rangatira Trophy – Cath Adams

Elizabeth Gray Trophy – Hazel Milliken

Jocelyn Langdon Trophy – Hazel Milliken

Rosebowl – Rosemary Ritchie

Wednesday Singles Ladder – Garth Robinson

Van der Laden Trophy (winning with the greatest number of partners) – R. Ritchie and J Langdon (equal)

Most Improved Player – Kim Chung

Congratulations to all these who have achieved distinction during the year.



*President Patricia and Rosemary Ritchie
with some of the new stools.*

Over the summer break some maintenance activities have been attended to with some patching of the sealing in the car park and carpet cleaning and spring-cleaning inside, while plans are underway to re-mark the parking spaces, repaint the low fence along our boundary with the Golf Club and if possible enhance the egress onto Tauhara Road, either by widening the exit or altering the slope of the driveway. This latter may prove to be too expensive for the club when quotes come in but if possible an attempt will be made to improve matters for members. Players over the summer will have noticed the small stool-tables which now add a touch of colour to the bridge room – they allow for the other boards of the set to be more easily put aside and for cups of tea or water glasses to be off the table during play. Being small and stackable they will soon be welcome as an adjunct to improve playing conditions. A good proof of their usefulness will come during the Bayleys Tournament at the end of this month.

Membership: *It is with much sorrow that we record the death of quality player June Herd in December 2014. She was an astute player whose assessment of the game was spot on and her calm deliberate play a real challenge to the opposition. It was encouraging to see President Patricia Tyler along with other members of the Club at her funeral, and Hazel Milliken (who frequent partnered June) spoke on our behalf during the tribute time of June's contribution to play at the Taupo Contract Bridge Club. Our sympathy goes to her husband David who has accompanied her to social events at the Club.*

As is usual there have been some changes in membership over the Christmas break, notable among them the resignation of Alison Jackson who in her letter to committee and members wrote *Dear Everyone.... I seem to be spending most of my time in Auckland these days and very reluctantly feel I must send my resignation from the Bridge Club. I do wish the club every success in the future. Colin and I were so lucky to have over 40 years of fun and friendship with you all. Very best wishes ... Alison Jackson.*

Alison along with her late husband Colin were integral members of the club from its inception and fulfilled many roles. We miss them both sorely and wish Alison every solace and happiness nearer family in Auckland.

Other resignations have been received from Pat Lawry and more recent members Imm and William Irvine who wish the Club well, while we are very pleased to welcome into membership from last year **Dianne Hughes, Sue Giller and Karen Jacobs**, from this month **Elle Heappey and Joanna Brockway**, and also welcoming back former **members Diana Robertshawe and Mike Corkin**. We hope all will enjoy membership of the club and that we will see them frequently at the playing table.

The Friday Survey: Our thanks to the 57 members who replied to the survey – 35 from players who regard themselves as members of the Friday session and 22 from other members. You will remember that at the AGM a question was asked about finding a time for play on Fridays suitable to a greater number of players as table numbers for this session had been falling off. It was suggested that a morning or afternoon session could attract greater numbers than the present over-lunch timing. Information from the replies given were:

- Of the Friday players who replied virtually all but 6 chose to retain the current session time.
- Of those not currently playing on Friday only 3 would commit to regular a.m. play and 3 to p.m., with a further 6 and 11 respectively saying they would play occasionally.

The conclusion is that there will be a **best attendance** if we remain at the **present timing** so that there will be **no change** in the Friday session time for this year.



Cath Adams winner of last year's Friday Session Rangatira Trophy with regular summer visitor from the UK, the irrepressible John Branfield.

TECHNOLOGY: As ever we depend on Derek Rankin for the excellent work he continues to do on maintaining the red scorers and software for the computer. From time to time system appears to be on the blink but in most cases it is 'human error' following an effort to correct something we have entered wrongly. *For example when I was directing the other evening, in the preparation for the play for the evening I thought that the movement info had not been registered in the*

computer so I entered it again. Result was that we were running two sessions at the same time so no wonder that we could not get comparative scores during the play. All the results were safely stored in the little red machines but they didn't send them on to the computer which was faced with a choice dilemma as to which competition to enter them in! Fortunately Derek was there and before the end of play all was back to rights, the results were correct and by the next morning everything was plain sailing again. Moral, don't blame the computer programme, blame the operator! Ralph! (I have to put my hand up in this instance anyway.)

Derek has cleaned and tested all the red scorers in preparation for the upcoming Bayleys Tournament and reports that in most cases if the machine is not working the batteries are flat. This is often because at the end of play players at the table are not completing the session's use by making sure that the screen has returned to the START page (by pressing the screen arrow until you are through all the results for the night) before returning it to the director's table. In the start state the machine will turn itself off until the next session, but if it is not on the start page it stays on and the batteries loose power too soon. Directors please note that when replacing batteries you must replace all *three* batteries, making sure that each is of the same type/make of battery, otherwise the batteries produce at the voltage level of poorest of the set and so perform below par.

LESSONS: Let your friends know that Learners lessons will start in mid-March. There are **green info sheets** at the club for you to take away to pass on to friends or have put up in places you frequent. Any queries to Rona Driscoll our tutor for the year who will be using the NZ Bridge syllabus of 10 lessons. The sessions will be on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm, commencing on the 18th of March. The course will last for 15 weeks, basically two lessons then a revision/practice in the third week then repeating the pattern until all 10 lessons have been presented. The cost is \$60 which for 15 sessions is very good value from a fine and patient tutor. *Pass this info on*

The Bayleys Intermediate Tournament is on Saturday the 28th February. The only players in the Club who are not eligible is the relatively few with an Open ranking and there will be a separate prize for the best performing Junior pair so do enter and join in the fun. A welcoming morning tea is provided, plus lunch, plus end of day nibbles before the final results are announced and the chance of a session prize of even a podium placing all for only \$20! Great value. We are very grateful to our loyal sponsor Bayleys for their financial assistance to make this event a success and hope to see our old friend Yvonne Westerman with us to present the prizes. Entries close on the 26th so hurry along – put up your pairing on the list in the Club rooms or email the club. As ever we **do** need assistance in hospitality. Open players Rosemary Ritchie, Joan Berg and Peggy Nisbet have kindly agreed to run the kitchen and organize the lunch but invite donations of scone/muffins for the start of the day and finger food contributions for late afternoon end of play – lists are in the club rooms. Anyone available to give some time during morning tea spot (9-30 to 10-30am) or the end of day spot (4-30 – 5-3pm) to assist them during these time should ring Rosemary – she will be delighted to hear from you.

SITUATIONS VACANT:

We remind all members that we still have no offer to fill the vacant position of **Vice-President** of the club. This person is expected to move on to President in **2017** and in the meantime is contributing to committee planning and learning the ropes for taking on the front-person role for us all. Please consider seriously offering yourself for this necessary position. Be assured you will be backed by an efficient team and that there are virtually no requirements for activity outside of our committee meetings and chairing/leading our formal occasions.

And we are still hoping that one of our members is interested in the new position of **publicity officer** who will use simple writing skills to bring us more effectively in front of the local

district by contributing information to the local papers. Local reporter and member Dee Wilson has indicated that she can help advise such a person on how to be effective.

And a small bridge puzzle to finish this off so that I can put this newsletter online:

HAPPY ENDING II Spades are trump and South leads. How can he make seven tricks?

	NORTH	
	♠ Q	
	♥ 4	
	♦ A 3 2	
	♣ K 10 7	
WEST		EAST
♠ 8 6		♠ 10 9
♥ K Q J		♥ —
♦ Q J 10		♦ 7 5
♣ —		♣ Q 9 6 5
	SOUTH	
	♠ A K 5	
	♥ A 9 8 7	
	♦ K	
	♣ —	

South is declarer in 4 Spades and having won three of the first five tricks finds himself in hand and needs to make seven of the last 8 tricks to succeed in his contract.

He considers taking out trumps?

or K Diamonds then cross to Q Spades and take the A of Diamonds?
or Ace of Hearts then ruffing a heart???

Can you show South the way to success?

Answer will be posted on the website in a couple of weeks