



Table Talk Taupo Bridge Club – *Monthly update* March 2016 Editor : Ralph Robertshawe.

Welcome to the *monthly* newsletter which the committee have suggested be put on the webpage at the beginning of each month – it will be more topical, briefer and hopefully will keep the necessary info regularly in front of members. Lacking any other willing soul I am taking this on for a start but will welcome a replacement! We will include a comment on committee information which merits general interest, coming events, membership changes, major results from the previous month and some playing posers. Hopefully it will be available on the first day of the month and we will no longer need e-mail reminders – just open Latest Newsletter in the Documents section on our website Taupo Bridge Club. Interestingly I note that it is 4 years to the month since *Derek Rankin* introduced us to the red 'Scorers' and what a boon they have been. Of course we still experience the odd hiccup but to be honest almost without exception they have come from input errors and not the system, and the hours of backroom work eliminated for members (perhaps not for that wonderful servant of the Club Derek!) are immeasurable! Thanks Derek.

Recent Committee concerns:

Concerns over the summer have been the quality of the water in our *Cooler* and the club's *airconditioning* unit. The former has been taken back to the supplier and fully cleaned and reconditioned along with the installation of a new type of filter. I have to report that the water through my home filter has not been so good in spite of a recent new filter and I am wondering whether this year's very hot summer (or the new Taupo water treatment station!) has had something to do with the water's 'taste'. Those who have played at the club will know that we had a fire in the control panel of the unit in January and we have had to rely on fans and windows to cool the rooms. Members will be pleased to know that our insurers have agreed to assist with the replacement of the unit which hopefully will have more power and a better fresh air filter included. Indicators are that we are unlikely to have the restored unit in full use before the end of April.

Coming Events:

Our first Tournament of the year is on *Saturday 12th March*, the **Bayleys Intermediate** 2-session event. Please get your entry in as soon as possible - rated Open Players are not eligible so quite a few of our top players can't be included but the rest of us are - so come and enjoy the fun. You can enter online via www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org/entries. A poster is available on our own website.

Rosemary is organizing the hospitality – welcome morning tea, lunch and after-play snacks - and *will need help* – food and particularly kitchen assistance. If you are not playing please ring Rosemary and offer your time – tournaments like this are both a fund-raiser and advertise our great game, so your support as player or in kitchen assistance will be much appreciated by the Club (and especially Rosemary!).

Bridge Lessons are starting this month. Let any friends interested know and get them touch with Rona Driscoll 377 8808

Membership Changes:

We welcome to the Club : Allen Cant, Pamela Frank, Barbara Grainger, Lea Henderson, Susan Hine, Barbara Lindsay, Pamela James, Yeu Watson, Chris Younger, Helen Younger.

We regretfully accept the resignations of : Bette Bretherton, Noel Cochrane, Diane Hughes, Colin Light, Alison Richardson, Neil and Tricia Sanders, Jenifer Tolhurst.

Last Month's Results :

Numbers for evening sessions are usually down in February but the first competitions for the year have been completed.

The Wednesday January Ladder: *Rosemary Ritchie*

The Monday February Pairs : *Patricia and Warwick Tyler*

The Monday Summer Pairs : *Michael Fisher and Warwick Tyler*

The Wednesday Hatepe Pairs : *Rosemary Ritchie and Ralph Robertshawe*

The highest score in *any* session went to Rosemary and Ralph with 70.37% on Feb 17th.

Great to note that several club members played in a Teams Tournament in Rotorua during the month with results in the middle of a strong field. Patricia Tyler won her first A Point there (partial A points are awarded for each match win during the tournament) – congratulations President!

A hand of interest from this past month: This hand turned up on a Wednesday night session and is notable for the choice of contract. South (bidding the Benjamin strong opener 2 D which is forcing to game) opened 2 Diamonds, to which North replied with the mandatory 2 Hearts relay (ie keeping the bidding open so that partner can show his real bid).

Board: 15 ♠AJ652
Dealer: S ♥J
Vul: NS ♦T5
 ♣QT863

♠7	♠KQ94
♥QT8765	♥942
♦J874	♦932
♣72	♣J95

 ♠T83
 ♥AK3
 ♦AKQ6
 ♣AK4

South then showed a balanced hand with 2NT. North now bid 3 Spades to show the 5 card major suit.

South (in hope) asked for Aces with 4 Clubs and got the 4 Heart response showing 1 Ace which of course has to be the A Spades. Hoping for the

King of spades as well South bid 5 Clubs to look for the missing king but got a disappointing 5 D (= no kings) response so pulled out in 5 NT.

However North was made of sterner stuff! - because of the strange distribution N showed the 5 card club suit by calling 6 Clubs to which South called 6 NT to be rewarded with a top board when West led a small heart. Perhaps 6 Clubs looks safer but at the Club 6NT gives the top *duplicate* board.

West chose to lead 8 Hearts (any heart except the Q guarantees the contract) which is won by dummy's Jack, and so Declarer takes 5 Clubs, 3 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and A spades: 6 NT safely made.

A low Diamond lead would have been equally sad for defenders as dummy's 10 D can win the first trick. However if the Q H, 7 S or a club is led it is likely that only 11 tricks can be made. On the night the opening lead was always a low heart from West, all pairs ending up in a No Trump contract from South. Ideally North needs to play the hand in either 6 Clubs or the better scoring 6 NT, but this is very hard to achieve from any normal bidding sequence.

Strangely enough *6D is the safest contract* from either North or South - with careful play the only trick won by E/W is the JD:

Whatever is led come to South's hand (if necessary) via the Ace of clubs, play King of hearts, trump the 3H in North. Now play 4 rounds of trumps, losing the 4th round to West's Jack. West is now powerless because whatever is now led is won in hand (or dummy) and 5 club tricks, 3 Diamonds, A K hearts and a heart ruff (in dummy) plus the A spades gives you 12 tricks. You may think the lead of the singleton spade will break the contract, but if that happens when West wins the JD there is no spade left to lead to partner's winning spades so the same 12 tricks are won.

But is anyone likely to want to play in 6 Diamonds?

Happy Bridging....