



# Table Talk

A newsletter from the  
Taupo Contract Bridge Club  
–May 2015

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We are well and truly into play now and have two of our tournaments for the year behind us with our next major event the **United Travel Mid-Winter Dinner on the 28<sup>th</sup> June** – we hope there will be a great turn out of members for this social event – yes, we play an afternoon's bridge but the accent is totally on partying so get it into your diary **now!** It has been great to see members turning up for Tuesday afternoon bridge – recently we had 13 tables and this last Tuesday we had 11 tables – great to see the rooms in use.

There are still a few members who have not paid their annual subscription – if this has slipped your memory please attend to it immediately as we have to pay an NZCBA levy on your membership even if we have not received your sub.

## Our Tournaments:

We have been disappointed with the numbers attending our tournaments so far this year – only 10½ for the Bayley's Intermediate (the half was an error in recording entries – my fault) and 11 for the Pak'nSave Open tournament. We are told that lower attendance is common to many clubs partly because of the larger congress-type events being held around the North Island in which large quantities of **A masterpoints** are on offer: such events often occupy a long weekend which increases the costs for participants so leaving less disposable cash and time for lesser events like ours. Our relative isolation in Taupo means that players will probably have to have accommodation here even for a one day event as we lack plenty of nearby local clubs to provide a day trip for contestants. Regardless of that we will continue to act as tournament hosts to give local members the opportunity to experience tournament play – let's hope our welcoming hospitality will continue to attract some outside visitors to join with us.

**Bayley's Intermediate Tournament:** This was held on the 28 February with 21 pairs – due to a late withdrawal our reserve pair was utilized and then on the day itself a visitor pair whose entry had been mis-laid arrived just as we were about to start and we were not able to find another local pair to fill in at the very last moment. It was decided to continue with the half table which in hindsight was generally not well received. Otherwise the event went very well – we had excellent food thanks to the generosity of members, the cards were interesting and **Rona Driscoll** directed smoothly with no major hiccups. The hospitality team under **Rosemary Ritchie** did us proud – our thanks to her and her willing assistants **Peggy Nisbet** and **Joan Berg**, plus all those who provided a welcome morning tea of muffins and scones at the start of play, a sausage, caramelized onions, buttered bread, sauces, slices, and fruit lunch plate and then delicious finger food at the end of the day, not forgetting the service of barmen **John Driscoll** and **Frank Weeks**: a great effort by a wide team of those who give a lot to extend the reputation of the club for warm welcomes and great hospitality. It was a pleasure to have Yvonne Westerman from our

generous sponsors Bayleys Real Estate with us to present the prizes which included the top pair from our own club.



#### Winners

1<sup>st</sup>: **Chris Jones & Christina Gillett** (see photo)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Rosalind Phillips & **Garth Robinson**

Top junior pair: **Sheila Taylor & Linda Wylie**

Session prizes: **Warwick & Patricia Tyler**,  
Theresa & Brian Needham, Pat Herring & Paul  
Rogers, **Ann Eastwood & Barbara Horner**

*Congratulations to local members on their  
success...*

#### **Pak'nSave Open Tournament:**

Held over two days (3 sessions) on 2/3 May, this event attracted 19 outside entries joining with just 3 pairs from our own club. We had Whanganui director Martin Oyston in charge and **Stuart McKinlay** filled the role of both Tournament Secretary and Director's 'gofer' – you did a tremendous job Stuart and a well-deserved letter of thanks has come from Martin in appreciation of your sterling contribution. Less evident during the sessions but equally demanding was the hospitality team led by **Christina Gillett** overseeing a great team of volunteer assistants – **Gretchen Thompson, Audrey Swann, Ann Hennebry, Dinah Welsh, Sheila Taylor, Mary Grant and Pip Hull**. This group of willing workers assembled an excellent between-session snack on Saturday and a full two course meal on Sunday at the end of play – a large hot ham, potatoes, peas and a plethora of salads followed by apple shortcake and cream - and of course coped with the washing-up and kitchen clean afterwards. Mention must be made of **Barry Fitzgerald** who organized the bar for the needed refreshment of players at the interval and at the end of tournament luncheon. What willing workers we have in our club – a big THANK YOU to you all, both for your working time and for the generous gifts of salads and other refreshments. *Even if a pair has not won a prize when they go away well fed and watered it leaves a pleasant memory of the Taupo Bridge Club.*



The set up for Barometer scoring – note our new ceiling screen *meanwhile in the kitchen, Christina and Dinah Welsh*

This was the first time I had experienced BAROMETER SCORING. The movement was similar to a Howell so that over the three sessions we played against every other pair for three boards each. By having duplicated boards we all played the same three boards at the same time – ie we all played boards 1,2,3 against the same opposition – and these were then scored and the results came up on the TV screen – we had an immediate score on those three boards and we could see where we slotted in overall. This was repeated for the next 6 sets of boards with us getting our new position after each 3 boards. We all enjoyed this – well the ones near the top did anyway! Garth and I were surprised to find ourselves in the top 30% (beginners' luck!) with 60% in the first session; we held our place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> session but with 52% and then saw our rapid descent to 13<sup>th</sup> overall in the final session but still averaged over 50%.



John Driscoll contemplates his hand



Joan and Rosemary in action



Betty Watts presenting Ralph and Garth

with the Trevor and Betty Watts Trophy for the top Taupo pair in the Open Tournament with President Patricia Tyler's blessing...

The winners were (NZ rep) Blair and Elizabeth Fisher of Hamilton from Rosie Don and Michael Courtney also of Hamilton, the winning pair coming through with an average of 60% over the three sessions. Garth Robinson and Ralph Robertshawe won a session prize and also the Trevor and Betty Watts Salver for the highest placed Taupo Club Pair with an average of 51%.

Treasurer Rona Driscoll is happy to report that both tournaments resulted in profit for the club, all down to the generous club food and work contributions and our kindly sponsors.

*Committee appointments:* It is with pleasure that the April committee meeting welcomed **Audrey Swann** as our new Vice-President and **Colin Light** as a committee member – thank you both for responding to the call for filling committee vacancies. Very sadly **Owen Nelson** has had to resign from the committee for health reasons – we trust his treatment will be effective and that he will be able to return to the playing ranks before too long. Consequently *we are still looking for one more committee volunteer.*

**Video projector and screen:** We are very lucky to have received a \$1700 grant from the *Lion Foundation* towards the cost of a ceiling mounted screen and video projector to assist with teaching bridge and other displays in the Club rooms. The screen is already mounted and we await the installation of the projector in the near future. These are situated at the Golf course end of the playing room and will prove very useful for Bridge Lessons and on many other occasions.

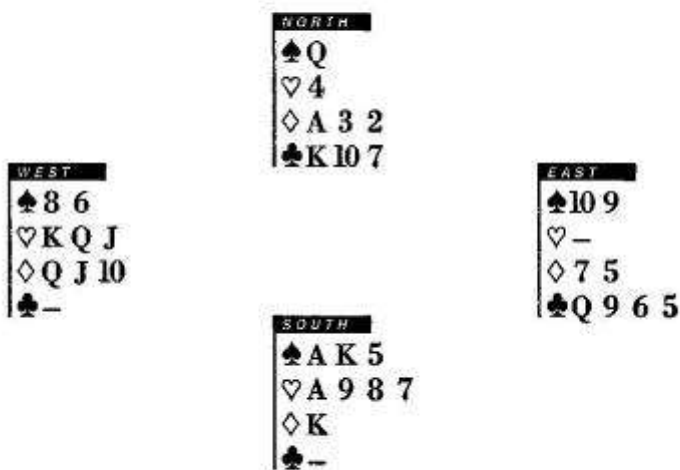
***Our thanks to the Lion Foundation for their welcome and generous grant.***

**SWISS PAIRS:** Our next Wednesday night competition is Swiss pairs over three nights starting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May – it is fun to play in and is open to any pair in the club. In *this format of the game* a partnership plays a number of boards (up to 8 hands) against another pair and then a score is assessed for that set of boards. The same approach is repeated against other pairs in the competition with winners playing winners and losers against losers until we reach a final with the best surviving pair declared the overall winner. *We have to have an even number of pairs for this competition* so you **must pre-enter** - get your names down on list on the club *members*

*noticeboard* (left side of the rooms past the computer) as soon as possible – the more pairs the merrier! – so that organizer David Taylor can get the scoring system working and the draw for the first rounds established. If you cannot get into the club to enter your names ring Ralph on 3786526 (*answerphone is on*) to be in the competition. (NOTE: **unless you are an entered pair you won't be able to play at the club on these 3 evenings.** If for any reason a pair cannot be present for a subsequent night we will find some substitutes so that the competition can proceed.)

Apology : In the last Newsletter I included a small bridge puzzle with the intention of giving the answer on the website – I forgot to do the latter as I was over engrossed in certain birthday celebration in March. Diana joins me in thanking the committee for allowing us to hold a family dinner in the Clubrooms as part of my celebration. Here is the puzzle again if you want to have another go. *Solution at end of Newsletter*

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



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?

**New members:** A warm welcome from all at the TCBC to Estelle Davis, Jeannie Lilburn, Jane Redfern, Alison Richardson, Diana Sinclair and Jeni Tolhurst – we hope you will all enjoy your membership of the club. We have received resignations from Joan Buddle, Mary Cope, Margaret De Lautour and Jenny McLeod. Jenny has been looking after the club Data Base – we thank her for attending to this vital task.

**Around the Clubrooms:** Parking lines have been repainted, direction arrows added and the exit drive 'hump' has been smoothed. Playing equipment (bidding pad, pens, stop cards etc) is now housed in small plastic baskets left on each table instead of having to be set out for each session and then collected afterwards. Used bidding sheets can be placed in them during the session and then disposed of at the end of play. The coloured stools have been favourably received so we have ordered extras to complete the set.

**Congratulations** to Rona Driscoll who is now the Chairperson of the Waikato-Bays Regional Committee: is this the first time the club has had such an exalted personage in our midst?

### **Puzzle Solution:**

The answer is to throw in East once he has only clubs left so that he has to lead up to the K 10 of clubs in dummy (this is called a tenace = guaranteed to win both tricks). These club tricks force West (we call it a squeeze) to discard and so give the contract to South. To help you see the play here is how it will go:

Trick 1. South leads KD to the Ace D!	KD	10D	<b>AD!</b>	5D (Dummy wins)
Trick 2 Dummy leads small diamond for a ruff	2D	7D	<b>AS!</b>	JD (South wins)
Trick 3 South leads KS	<b>KS</b>	6S	QS	9S (South wins)
Trick 4 South leads 5 spades to throw in East	5S	8S	7C!	<b>10S</b> (East wins)

(Note – South uses a top spade to ruff a diamond so that he can throw East in: if he had ruffed with the 5S we would not be able to throw East in because E no longer has the best spade (the 10))

East has been **thrown in** with his 10S and now has to lead from his Q 9 6 and 5 of clubs up to the K 10C in dummy - whatever he leads dummy will win 2 club tricks, leaving it on lead with the apparently useless 3D and 4H. South now has 5 tricks but needs two more but with only one clear winner, the A hearts.....

South throws two hearts on these club tricks leaving him with AH and 9H

What will **West** do? His last four cards are the K,Q,J of Hearts and the QD, apparently 3 winners

On the 1<sup>st</sup> club he can throw JH, but on the 2<sup>nd</sup> club he has to throw one of his queens – which one?

– if he drops the QD then dummy's little 3D will win a trick (on which S will throw his 9H) followed by the 4H to South's AH for the 7<sup>th</sup> trick;

- on the other hand, if he drops the QH dummy will forget about the 2D and lead the 4H to South's AH felling West's now singleton KH so that South's final 9H will win a trick on which poor West has to throw his QD.

West is thoroughly **squeezed!**

Happy Bridging.....