



# Table Talk *A newsletter from* *Taupe Contract Bridge Club –November 2011*

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Editor : Ralph Robertshawe.

## **GET YOUR DAIRY UP TO DATE!**

- **PRIZEGIVING NIGHT – MONDAY DEC.12th-** 5-30pm for 6PM
- **MONDAY NIGHT SESSIONS:** last session Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December
- **TUESDAY SESSIONS:** already finished
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:** last night Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December
- **FRIDAY BRIDGE:** Christmas Final on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### **2012 Bridge startups:**

**Wednesday 11 January; Friday 13 January; Monday 16 January.**

**Tuesday afternoon bridge resumes on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Prizegiving format.**

In the past our prizegiving has been held at our AGM. This is no longer appropriate with the recent changes to the constitution which places our AGM around the end of October. This year we are going to gather on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 5-30 for wine and nibbles with the prizegiving starting at 6-00pm. When that is concluded we will join in a potluck **finger food** meal before taking part in a 'Goulash Night' (starting about 7-15pm) – fun hands collected from the Hamilton Congress which will give us all some fascinating bidding with hilarious plays and outcomes! Simple prizes will be awarded unexpectedly and even the humblest player can end up on top! *President Rosemary urges every member of the club to come along to congratulate this year's prize winners and have a great social occasion followed by a fun evening of bridge.*

***Please bring a contribution to the Potluck Meal.***

### **2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING report.**

**President Rosemary** presided at a meeting attended by about 40 members. Rosemary presented the Committee Report which highlighted highlights for the year:

- Changes to the Constitution for more orderly end of financial year reporting
- The installation of Security cameras in the carpark
- Purchase of new water cooler and office photocopier

Thanks were expressed to all who have served the Club during the year with especial mention of retiring members of the Committee – Yvonne Pitcher, Leslie Cotterill, Philip Martin and secretary Stuart McKinlay.

The Financial Report showed that in spite of the large fixed asset expenditure during the year the Club is still very well placed with over \$34,000 in cash reserves.

The item raising most interest was the committee recommendation to adopt Electronic Scoring for use at Club sessions. So far we have only had this at our Open Tournament using the outside Director's equipment. A sub-committee of Rona Driscoll and Stuart McKinlay had prepared an evaluation of systems readily available and in use in NZ Bridge Clubs. The two contenders are Bridgemate II employing Compass scoring (the system we currently use) and Bridgepad which uses Scorer 11. Without binding the committee to which system to adopt the AGM passed by a very large majority to proceed to procure electronic scoring for use in the club.

The committee elected for the coming year were:

President: Rosemary Ritchie. Vice-President: Ralph Robertshawe.

Secretary: Joan Berg. Treasurer: Rona Driscoll

Members: Don Boulton, Ann Hennebry, Colin Light, Peggy Nisbet, Derek Rankin, Helen Spencer.

The immediate Past-President Nigel Langdon is ex officio a full member of the committee (a matter clarified by a small constitutional change along with a definition of 'Notices to members' passed at the AGM).

We wish the new committee every success as they manage the affairs of the Club during the coming year especially in introducing electronic scoring, a project to be managed by Derek Rankin. Their next meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**Representing the Taupo Bridge Club:** In our last Newsletter we wrote about attending outside tournaments – *unless we go to others, others won't come to us!* It is great to find out that 6 members attended Congress in Hamilton and among successes David Taylor and his partner won the Congress Pairs, Rosemary Ritchie and Joan Berg were in the semifinals of the NZ Pairs and Rona and John Driscoll were part of a team that made the Plate Final of the NZ Teams. Jocelyn and Nigel Langdon have done well at Te Puke And then recently Rosemary and Pam Bury persuaded 6 others to accompany them to the Open 8B at Te Awamutu, Rosemary and Pam coming 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 36 pairs and bringing home half a ham each! The Langdons got session prize there and Peggy Nisbet and Joan had a 66% session at Te Puke. Congrats to all.....

Local club session winners? *Come to the Prizegiving and find out!*

**New Member:** Mike McCourt (a medium term visitor to Taupo)

*We respectfully ask that all members welcome our new members and where possible arrange a game with them.*

KNOW THE RULE: **Giving unauthorised information to your partner**

Peggy Nisbet puts it this way...

***Hesitations, Hic-cups, Grunts, Groans and long deep meaningful sighs***, are all illegal ways of telling your partner about what is in your hand both during the bidding process and during play. (And putting on a ***pained expression*** can be added to that list! – ed.)

The **play-acting parts** have to be eliminated from our game if we are to be fair to opponents and ethical in our approach to the bridge table. A bland expression must hide our inner reaction to the most unwelcome bids and plays from our partner (in spite of inwardly screaming *why didn't you return my singleton lead!* )

A **Hesitation** however is another matter. Sometimes we are faced with a very difficult choice in response to partner's or an opponent's bid and we need time to think. However any long thought *followed by PASS* puts our partner in an awkward situation. Partner becomes aware that we have points and/or shape on which we could make a bid but haven't quite the courage to squeeze one out onto the bidding sheet.

Opponents rightly will look with suspicion on any bid your partner now makes.

**What can we do if partner has hesitated then passed?**

The hesitation has given us unauthorized information. Unless we can make a bid that is from our hand alone we **must pass** - otherwise the opposition can call the director who will rule against us and award a good score to the opponents, cancelling the great score we have just achieved. As an example: after partner's hesitation followed by a pass we call a new four card suit at say the three level, partner puts us into game and we find partner with 5 small cards in that suit and a void in our original suit. Would we have risked the new suit without the hesitation? If the director is called the usual method of assessment is "Would at least one third of the players of equal standing in the room have made this bid without a hesitation from partner?" If the answer is "yes" then all is well, but if "no" then expect a score adjustment. (I have even had a top director say to me – 'that is the exact bid I would have made with those cards but very few others here would have done so without the hesitation' and still penalized me! –ed.) Hesitations through the auction and play constitute unauthorized information. If you feel that the opponents have hesitated say to them on the spot "hesitation noted." By doing so you reserve the right at the end of the hand to call the director if you feel that opponents have achieved a score unfairly through the hesitation of one of the partners.

**We wish all members a blessed and merry Christmas and all the best at the Bridge Table and elsewhere through 2012**

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As you plan your bridge calendar for next year you might enjoy this poem supplied from overseas by Peggy Nisbet.

### **Father William plays bridge**

(acknowledgements to Dr Bob Doy, Exmouth Bridge Club)

You are old Father William, the young man said  
And your bridge is long past its best,  
Your endplays and squeezes are things of the past,  
Pray why don't you give it a rest?

You're presumptuous, young man, the old 'un replied,  
And the facts are not as you state,  
I'm still learning the coups that you mention, and more,  
For I took up the game rather late.

You are old, Father William, the young man returned,  
And your memory has gone down the drain,  
Why not be content with what you have learned  
Than submit your grey calls to such strain?

You are wrong, foolish youth, the greybeard then said,  
In your fears for the state of my brain;  
Now let me get on with the play of this hand  
And hear no such nonsense again.

You are old Father William, persisted the youth,  
And you say that your brain is like suet,  
But your place on the ladder remains rather high,  
Please, I beg you, how do you do it?

A good question, my son, he said with a wink,  
For I can't put it down to my flair;  
The answer is easier than you may think,  
Just choose your partners with care!