



# Table Talk

A newsletter from the  
Taupo Contract Bridge Club  
—October 2015

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We have just held a very well attended and enjoyable Summerset Open 8B Tournament (ie it can be entered by any registered player at any level [open] and the awards are 8B points for the winner coming down to 1 B point down the scale). We are very grateful to our local retirement village for their continued support for this event, as we are to the other sponsors who through the year help us afford to run attractive tournaments and club functions. Being so far from other bridge clubs means we rely on a lot of goodwill from visitors who make the long car trip to join us and ensure the quality of the field, making the event much more of a challenge than one of our local weekly bridge sessions. Thanks to all our out-of-town visitors.

## MAJOR EVENTS COMING UP – PLEASE SUPPORT THEM

### 1 The Annual General Meeting \_ Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> October 5-30pm

We still need some committee volunteers so think that through please.

*The AGM is after Tuesday afternoon bridge with the bar open and nibbles provided from 5pm.*

### 2 Melbourne Cup high-jinks - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Join the fun during the afternoon bridge session, dressing up a little! or just arrive in time for the big race. No doubt there will be a few sweepstakes to have a flutter on.

### 3 Babich NZ – Wide Pairs

This is always a very interesting and enjoyable evening's bridge where we can pit our skills against all the other clubs in NZ, all playing a set of hands for which we are given a booklet analyzing the bidding and the play at the end of the evening. \$10 entry.

POTLUCK MEAL – 6PM (cash bar will be open) – *PLEASE BRING A PLATE*



*Bridge session will start at 7pm*

## Summerset Open 8B Tournament:

After lamenting the small fields for earlier tournaments it was a delight to have 20 tables in action for this event on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Under Rona's capable direction the tournament went very smoothly, with two sections (13 table Mitchell and 7 table Howell) for each playing session of 26 boards, the results being scored across all 40 pairs to produce very satisfactory successes for local pairs, even if the first placing (as expected) went to top NZ players Blair and Elizabeth Fisher from Hamilton. This couple regularly attend our tournaments and we appreciate their loyalty to our club events. TCBC offered quality hospitality to our guests thanks to the generosity of members who provided excellent fare for morning tea and prepared many varieties of soup for lunch, all overseen and expedited under the cheerful direction of Glenis McCarty who had gathered around her a willing and able band of helpers in the kitchen; and our thanks for the 'behind the scenes' help of John Driscoll and Barry Fitzgerald in setting up the room and manning the bar. President Patricia Tyler welcomed the guests and presided over the prizegiving, while Secretary Stuart McKinley (our liason with the sponsors) spoke on behalf of the Summerset management who were unable to be present. We should not forget to mention Rona again because in her role as treasurer she had to prepare the 26 prize envelopes which meant that about one third of the players went home rewarded as well as fed, watered and provided with a good day at the bridge table.

The full results are on our website (*under results - 'all sessions and ladders'*) but for the record: Over-all winners: **Blair and Elizabeth Fisher**, with local players **Garth Robinson and David Hamilton** taking a very meritorious 2<sup>nd</sup> placing. The best Junior Pair was **Bernie McLean and Barry Fitzgerald**, while fill-in pair **Lou Polon with Ralph Robertshawe** took the best non-open pairing (though Garth and David would have won that if they had not claimed a major prize). Club members **Hazel Milliken with Ev Gardiner** and **Christina Gillet with Chris Jones** claimed session prizes so TCBC was well represented in the placings....

*And as an aside I must mention a junior pair new to tournament play who had the joy of getting the champions one down in a No Trump contract! They were still feeling great about it days later!*

And while mentioning tournament results Garth Robinson (playing with Rosalind Phillips from Tauranga) recently won the Matamta Intermediate tournament – well done Garth. Now he is partnering me in the Wednesday Championship Pairs over the next 6 weeks *but can I match the quality of his recent partnerships???? (ed). Time will tell...*

**And talking of time** we can comment on the use of the **TIME CLOCK** during bridge sessions. With our technology we are now able to show the time clock at both ends of the room. At the beginning of a session it is set to allow about 7 minutes for each hand with a break between sets to allow for the changeover to the next table. During the last minute of playing time the clock warns players not to start on a *new* board – they must of course finish the play of their current hand and record it before moving on, but hopefully they will be able to start the next set of boards on time. The clock is **not** used to **penalize** players but to keep the room moving *to the benefit of all players*.



For example if we were playing 12 tables with two boards per table, we would have 14 minutes to play the two boards and then say 2 minutes to complete the move – total session time comes to (12x14 plus 11x2 ) 190 minutes – ie 3 hours 10 minutes. This is actually *quite slow* – even if we started an evening session promptly on time at 7-30 then we will not finish play till 10-40pm and then we still have to tidy up and get to our cars to drive home - some might consider this rather late. Imagine how late it could get with say 26

or 27 boards! If we cut the gap back to **1** minute between sets then we should finish at 10-30pm which is probably about right. When more boards are played at each table we should be able to play them *slightly* quicker than 7 minutes per board as we can make up time 'lost' on a more demanding hand which takes a little longer with another playing more easily and of course we have less movement gaps.

*Sometimes of course the hands play so easily that we have completed the set with minutes to spare – when this is true for everyone the clock can be moved on relatively easily so that everyone is not kept sitting still waiting for the next move.*

At sessions which have a tea break then the total session time will extend by the time allowed for our cup of tea as we catch up with friends – by an acceptable time. even later and this may cause safe arrival. If it is getting too late the Director may have to cancel the last set of boards which is a pity.



which sometimes it can stretch to 15 minutes leading to difficulty in completing 24 boards Evening sessions can carry on till 10-45pm or anxiety for anyone waiting at home for our

So let's look on the clock as an aid to our enjoyment of our play rather than as an enemy and use it to keep our minds on the job in hand thus making everyone's bridge session a pleasure rather than at times a fretful anxiety.

**To finish, a hand from the tournament:**  
**This is from the afternoon session.**

**Board:** 1      ♠KT6  
**Dealer:** N      ♥7432  
**Vul:** Nil      ♦J  
                 ♣T8643

♠A832	♠J75
♥AK96	♥QJ85
♦AKQ4	♦T6
♣7	♣AKQ5

                 ♠Q94  
                 ♥T  
                 ♦987532  
                 ♣J92

I have chosen this hand for three reasons:

- 1 How should West respond if East opens 1 club
- 2 How should West respond if East opens 1NT
- 3 The outcomes.....

*These are some possible thoughts to the above*

1. Between us we must have at least 32 points but is partner's Club suit real or just denying 5 spades? Slam is almost certain. I wonder if there is a major fit? A call of 1 D (YES!) will show if E has a 4 card major or lots of clubs or diamonds. When E calls hearts and shows an Ace and a King in Ace asking slam in Hearts in on.
2. After 1NT W may well go Ace asking immediately and end up in NT slam when Ace C is discovered.
3. Only 10 of the 20 E/W pairs ended up in slam. Both Hearts and NT make 6 from either side but in Duplicate NT is the best choice. Did the other 10 pairs not add points together to make a slam call?  
5 pairs managed to make all 13 tricks, 4 in NT and one in Hearts should only make 6 with good defence.