

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee would like to welcome new members: Darryl Haines, Ruth Airey, Gillian Alexander, Heather Casey and Greg Casey.

Sadly the following people have resigned: Raewyn Sullivan, Pip Weber, Colin Pratt, Rhonda Mitchell, Brenda Shine, Anna Campbell, Jane Stark, Shirley Henderson-Bolt, Anne Tamati and Fran Holmes. We wish them well.

This year we have new volunteers undertaking some of the key roles in the club—card dealing and bar management.

- The committee would like to acknowledge and thank Christine Samson for her significant contribution in co-ordinating and managing the card dealing process over many years. We would also like to thank the 'retiring' card dealers—Lyn Clark, Dawn Brieseman, Joan Robertson, Dale Cameron, Mavis Hastie, Val Wilson, and Phyllis Stewart for all their time and effort over the years. Our 'new' card dealers are supported by Judy Gorman and Jen Macartney.
- We would also like to thank Dale Cameron and Val Wilson who over many years, after Saturday bridge and tournaments, have provided a professional and friendly service behind the bar. The bar is now being managed by Jan Meethers who oversees a small 'bar' team.

The junior and intermediate championship pairs competition is coming up on 9 March. This year each grade has its own competition. To assist with setting up the competition for the year we need you to put your names on the relevant lists on the notice board. The idea is that people play with partners in their own grade. However, intermediate and junior players can play together but they would need to register for the intermediate championship competition. If you have any queries about this feel free to talk to Jen or Barbara.

Once a month, following Saturday bridge, we plan to go to a local restaurant for an early meal. The invitation is open to anyone even if you are not playing bridge on the day. Heather Urquhart and Marie Kean are co-ordinating so contact them if you want to join us. The next meal out will be March 14 (we are aiming for the second Saturday of every month).

After discussions with a range of club members it was decided by the committee not to proceed with 'c' points for the Saturday competition but to maintain the status quo.

Our annual lessons are scheduled to start on 24 March. We have posters going up in shops and other locations, advertising will start shortly in the ODT and The Star and Facebook plus leaflets to be distributed into letterboxes. We will begin distributing the leaflets with your help in early March. One of the best forms of recruiting learners is positive word of mouth so if you have friends or family who may be interested in bridge please encourage them to come along to the lessons.

The lessons are also available for any current members and may be of particular interest to newer players. Sometimes after playing for a while the lessons make more sense the second time around.

Our survey last year highlighted interest among many junior players, in having informal learning sessions. To meet this need we propose to have a session on a Tuesday afternoon (1.30-3.30pm) where we play some of the hands from the Monday night and discuss the bidding, play etc. We will enlist the help of one or two of our experienced players to provide us guidance and insights. These sessions will be informal, you don't need a partner, it is open to everyone, just turn up and there is no cost. We will have these every two weeks and will see how they go. We will start on Tuesday 3 March.

RECENT RESULTS

Well done to our winners of competitions this month.

Monday Competition

New Years Pairs

1st place-Kitty Caldwell & Sue Johnstone
2nd place- Judy Gorman & Janet Gafford

Three Night Individual

1st place—Elizabeth White
2nd place—Jill Reid

Wednesday Competition

New Year Pairs

1st place—Bob Gillanders & Diane Carruthers
2nd place-Barbara Wilkes & Jen Macartney

Taieri Open 8B Pairs Tournament

- When: Sunday 1 March
- Time: 9.30am morning tea, 10am start
- Where: Taieri Bridge Club
- Cost: \$30 per person

Prizes for Open, Intermediate and Junior (but will depend on the numbers in each division)

Light refreshments at the conclusion

Online registration and payment via our website

Entries close 7pm Wednesday 25 February.

This tournament is open to all members of our club with prizes for all divisions (as defined by NZ Bridge). Tournaments are a great way to earn some extra points that will help your NZ bridge ranking. It's also a great way to meet members from other clubs.

Contact Jen Macartney if you would like more info.

Please support our tournament.

Dates to remember in March:

- 1 March**—Taieri Open Pairs Tournament
- 3 March**—1.30-3.30pm informal learning session going over some Monday hands
- 14 March**—Early dinner after Saturday bridge
- 17 March**—1.30-3.30pm informal learning session
- 24 March**—Lessons start
- 29 March**—Taieri Charity Pairs (Sunday), more info in March newsletter

Famous Bridge Quotes

The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he/she is in.

When I take a 50-50 chance, I expect it to come off 8 or 9 times out of 10.

It's not the handling of the difficult hands that makes the winner player. There aren't enough of them! It is the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.

Some housekeeping issues...

It's the beginning of the year so it is timely to go over some things that help us all:

- You need to be seated for evening bridge at 6.45pm and Saturday 1.15pm. It takes time to set up the format for the game (i.e. the movement, boards per table, if there is a bye etc and then this has to be loaded into the computer) and this can only be done when everyone has arrived. So it is important to arrive on time because there is quite a bit of work to be done before the game can start.
- We know the unexpected can happen so if you are held up and going to be late can you send a message on WhatsApp and then we will know you are on your way.
- If you have a new partner please check with them before the bridge game to ensure they are okay to play.
- If you have a brief discussion after completing a board (and we all do) please speak quietly because with some movements the N/S players at the next table to you will be playing those hands. Also if you are at the bye table or your table finishes before others please keep as quiet as possible until others have completed their games.
- A reminder that some of our members are very sensitive to perfumes of any kind. Just be aware that deodorants and aftershave also have perfume and can trigger allergic reactions in some.
- Finally there are lots of little jobs that need doing on any given night—if you are early help set up the tables, sharpen some pencils if they are blunt, at the end of the evening empty your rubbish bin and other bins, clear your table, put the boards back into the bin in order if you can, close any windows.

