



# TableTalk July 2018



## Bridge Graduates 2018

Congratulations to David Morel and Margaret Robertson, our training team, for their skill, time and effort for once again teaching a group of locals the basics on a lifelong learning curve, commonly known as *the game of bridge*.

**Left to right back row:** Nigel Horne (President), Alan Thompson, Peter Hill, Graeme La Cock, Kate Lang, Warren Hughes, Richie Rama, Nadun Kithulagoda, Margaret Robertson (Club Director).

**Front row:** Xan Humphries, Joanne Thompson, Vickie-Lee McCoy, Pushpa Rama & Fiona Kirkwood.

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# TableTalk Editor interviews

## Katherine Gough, RBM

**ED:** So, Katherine, congratulations on your appointment as a Regional Bridge Mate (RBM) what's the role all about?

**RBM:** Well NZ Bridge have appointed one Regional Bridge Mate in each of their seven regions to help to grow Bridge in NZ and stop the downward spiral in bridge club numbers. We are targeting two areas:

- Beginners - attracting them to lessons and keeping them at the clubs when the lessons have finished

- Tournaments - encouraging people to play in them

Traditionally the Open Tournaments are well attended so we are targeting the Intermediates and Juniors.

**ED:** That's brilliant, we've had some of our Novices enter tournaments this year and play in the Interclub competition. The sooner you have a go, I reckon, the sooner you discover they aren't so scary and everyone's in the same boat as you.

**RBM:** Yes, we have had some successes in the Wellington Junior Tournaments, getting the numbers well and truly up. At the Hutt Club the entry fee was subsidised so it only cost \$10 and Karori offered a \$10 one session play competition, so effectively half a day – a wee competition taster if you like.

**ED:** Excellent, so what do you think we can do as a club to help grow our membership?

**RBM:** Well you have highlighted this is one of the areas your club wants to improve on, but it sounds as though your club is offering a great environment for your beginners, with your teaching programme, a small graduation ceremony, learners playing with each other for a while, getting assistance and then playing with experienced club members. It is what we did in our club last year too, it certainly keeps the beginners at the club, but it also need the commitment of the existing club members so good on everyone for helping things along.

**ED:** So which club are you from?

**RBM:** I'm in Greytown at the South Wairarapa Bridge Club- I learnt to play In Masterton in 1990 and was very lucky to join a little group of four (who also attended the lessons) and we met each week to play and talk about what we had learned - no such thing as bridge buddies then! We were ahead of our time, as we were our own Bridge Buddies! My husband had a job that meant he moved around a lot, so I played In Te Puke and Tauranga Clubs for 4 years, and then Palmerston North and Wanganui Club for 4 years. In all the clubs I played in I was lucky enough to meet great partners and I played in a lot of tournaments. In 1998, I started my own business and I didn't play bridge until 2016 when I moved to Greytown.

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**ED:** Oh, that's interesting, so you really have seen what a lot of clubs are doing all over NZ. I also travel around NZ for work and pleasure and even before I had completed the lessons had played in Nelson, Westport and Pukekohe. It was fun and a nice way to meet welcoming people, I barely knew how to count my cards, but people were so nice and friendly.



**RBM:** Yes, it can be quite daunting going into a new club, but over the years I have gathered some good friends through bridge. Last year I joined the Committee in Greytown and my job was a little like yours as a communication person. It's an important role in the club I think - to keep your club happy, communication is vital. We didn't have a newsletter; our website was functional, and we didn't have a Facebook page - we have all of those now - thanks to some wonderful committed clever club members - and I think the newsletter is one of the things I am most proud of - everyone in the club receives it by email once a month and we also put it on the website so it always accessible. It certainly keeps everyone updated to what is going on, and the committee is committed to keeping everything that goes on in the club open and accountable. There is not a lot of interest in the Facebook Page at this stage, but I feel inspired after seeing your ideas. The club is happy, because they feel they know what is happening and because we are happy we are open to new ideas and initiatives. a bit of a long-winded way to say communication is key!

**ED:** I have been lucky enough to inherit a solid communication platform with a newsletter, website and Facebook page already up and running. I would really appreciate any ideas/guidance for improvements though. I understand as well as helping clubs you have some tasks of your own to undertake?

**RBM:** Yes, as part of my role I am organising a Regional Initiative. I would like one that involves the current learners to encourage them to play in tournaments. So, I am going to run a programme called Super Sundays - I will be getting in touch with all clubs in the Wellington Region to ask them to invite all their learners to play together once a month.

**ED:** That sounds like a great idea Katherine – count us in! Thank you so much for you time and support and really looking forward to working with you this year. If we want to contact you how do we do that?

**RBM:** I can be reached on 027 2433495 or [katherine.gough@nzbridge.co.nz](mailto:katherine.gough@nzbridge.co.nz). Thanks Suzanne and Kapi Mana – I appreciate your support so much.

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**Big Thanks** to **Sue Fish** for taking the time to buy all our lovely biscuits for our session tea breaks.

If you can think of a Kapi Mana Bridge Club **Unsung Hero** than contact ED in the club rooms, on 021 793233 (text best), [suzannekeppel@mail.com](mailto:suzannekeppel@mail.com) or pop a note in the clubroom suggestion box.

### Partnership Stewards

Keen to play and looking for a partner? Contact the partnership stewards for each session:

#### **Monday**

Gaye McGill – 238 9904

#### **Tuesday**

Leigh/Alan Savage – 232 9926

#### **Wednesday**

John Avery – 233 6122

#### **Thursday**

Annette Austing – 234 8916

### Our Local Business Supporters

Thank you for your generosity - we are very grateful, and you have our support.

**The Borough** in Tawa donated a \$50 meal voucher for Raffles.

A great local venue open morning, noon and night and they also have a popular social club. Phone 2327308 for restaurant reservations.

**Salon Savoy** in Tawa regularly donates hair and beauty products for our raffles. They have a great online enquiry and booking system on their website [www.salonsavoy.co.nz](http://www.salonsavoy.co.nz) or ring 232 5602.

### July Club Competitions

**Monday:** Titahi Pairs

**Tuesday:** Mixed Pairs

**Wednesday:** Whitby Pairs

**Thursday:** Onepoto Pairs

**Interclub:** Friday July 27th

**Kapi Mana Hosting this month**

### July Tournaments

Subject to change, check out Clubroom noticeboard, NZ Bridge website and Club websites for up to date info re the current tournaments.

July 8 – Multigrade Teams - Kairangi

July 22 – Junior Pairs - Paraparaumu

July 22 - Open Pairs – Levin

July 22 – Intermediate Pairs – Karori

July 29 – Open Pairs - Wellington

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## Hat and Bingo Party - Directors Choice

Tues 31<sup>st</sup> July – Everyone Welcome – 7pm for 7.30pm start

Come with a Partner or Get Partnered on the Night

Special Supper and a new range of beverages

Normal Table money applies and the infamous Kapi Mana Raffles

- 3 Nights Luxury Beachfront Accommodation Wild South Island West Coast
- \$100 Resene Paint Voucher - \$100 Trade Me "qwerkythings" Voucher

Donations accepted. Prize for best hatted pair, prize for best individual hat. Spot prizes and Bingo line and card prizes. Contact Club Director Margaret Robertson if can offer support on the night.

**Be there or stay at home without a hat on your head 😊**

Subs Due 😊

Please pay the DIRECTOR at any session OR direct credit into the club's bank account:

BNZ 02-0552-0031286-00

Include your name in the "Particulars" or "Reference" fields if paying via Internet banking

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