



Table Talk August 2023

What's coming up

August competitions

- Monday 7, 21, 28 Aug – Spring Pairs
- Tuesday 8, 15, 22, 29 Aug – Patron's Pairs
- Wednesday 11, 18, 25 Aug – Grenada Pairs
- Thursday 10, 17, 24, 31 Aug – Teams of 4

Club Play

Keen to play, but don't have a partner? – phone:

Lyn Mansfield (234-1636) for a Monday partner,

Leigh & Alan Savage (232-9926 or 021 112 5136) for a Tuesday partner,

Dianne Grain (0274 449 641) for a Wednesday partner, and

Dianne Lester (021-0850-0810) for a Thursday partner.

Tournaments in August and September

Hutt Intermediate Pairs – 6 Aug

Upper Hutt Multigrade Pairs – 13 Aug

Karori Open Pairs – 20 Aug

Otaki Intermediate/Junior Pairs – 20 Aug

Poppy Roberts 5A Pairs (Prelim 6) – 30 August

Wellington Sixes 3A/5B/3B – 3 September

Victoria Intermediate Pairs 10 September

Victoria Junior Pairs – 10 September

South Wairarapa Multigrade Pairs (F2F or Online tbc) – 17 September

Kapiti Horowhenua Area Pairs (4) – 21 Sept

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Flyers for all tournaments are up on the noticeboard at the Club. You can enter online or write your name on the poster.

To make an on-line entry go to <https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/home>

We are all invited to a wedding!!!

Julie Wray and Michael Steele are getting married at the Kapi Mana Bridge Club at 3.00 pm on Saturday 2 September 2023. They wish to extend an invitation to members who would like to attend the wedding. After the ceremony there will be a light afternoon tea finishing around 4.30 pm. They are having a private reception with family and friends later that evening.

We wish Julie and Michael all the very best and are thrilled they are getting married in the place they first met.



Getting to know Rohitha and Lori Fernando

Here's a couple of bios on our new president, Ro, and a new Committee member Lori.

Rohitha Fernando: I come from a background of having played Euchre, 500, Cribbage and other card games as well as many board games. My wife Lori, once she settled down in New Zealand, was keen to play Bridge. She had learnt to play Bridge from her Father. We had a long standing family friend Dr Henry Perera who played at The Kapi Mana Bridge Club so we decided to learn to play Bridge there and then join The Kapi Mana Bridge Club. We were made to feel welcome. Margaret taught us and made the game less daunting than it initially seemed to me.

Lori Fernando here - I grew up in Western Michigan and lived in various places in USA before coming to NZ over 17 years ago. My dad was instrumental in

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teaching his girls how to play games, including many card games, starting with "go fish" probably, or "old maid", eventually progressing to trying to teach us Bridge. My younger sister wasn't very keen, but I found it interesting. I didn't really get a chance to play, though, until helping my dad with my step-mum who had dementia. Dad taught senior citizens beginning bridge classes at the senior centre in Auburn California. So it was there I learnt and played standard American, taught by my dad. After being here for some years, I wanted to introduce Ro to playing bridge, so we got into the lessons at Kapi Mana Bridge club, and the rest is history.

Last improver lessons

Margaret is running improver lessons which have been well attended. The last one is 14 August – Cue bids.

Lyn Underhill

We are sad to tell you about the recent passing of Lyn Underhill on 23 July after a short illness. Lyn played bridge at our club for many years starting around 2008.

Fun bridge session Tuesday 29 August

We are having a director's choice fun bridge session on Tuesday 29 August. All are welcome and there will be drinks, nibbles (and prizes I believe). You don't need a partner, just come along and enjoy a social evening.

To finish on an informative note

Some of you will be familiar with Bridge Base Online (BBO). You can download the app and there are many free to play options on it. Lori has provided these hints:

There is an option to play hands that have been bid, with the goal of improving your playing of the hands. It starts at a basic level and goes up from there. Some of the hands are very instructive.

Here's some instructions on how to do this:

- After logging in, select *Practice* under Play or Watch Bridge.
- On the next screen select Bridge Master. You can then choose a level of play to practice. Less experienced players may want to start at the beginner level and work their way up.
- You get to see the bidding which resulted in the contract you're to play. Then you play the hand. If you don't succeed, you may play the hand over again - select from the blue triple dash (hamburger) icon upper left.

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- You can always select "Show Solution" from the menu on the left edge of the screen and you'll be taken step by step through planning and making the contract, which is very instructive.
- If you choose *Competitive* (instead of Practice) and then select *Free Tournaments*, you can play in a daily eight hand ACOL game with robots, where you'll be ranked against all others who play the hands. Note: the robots don't always bid exactly as expected - hovering over their bids will tell you what they think they meant - this is a newer section on the site. They have been working on the robots to play ACOL better, and they have improved quite a bit. 😊 Otherwise the rest of the site will be playing Standard American.

The screenshot shows the Bridge Base Online Home interface. At the top, it says "Bridge Base Online Home" with navigation buttons for "Back" and "Home". On the right, there are buttons for "Log off" and "Help", and a shopping cart icon with "LoriCatFer 2". Below the navigation, it shows "13157 Players online" and "3886 Live tables".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Play or Watch Bridge:** Includes buttons for "Solitaire", "Competitive", "BBO Prime", "Casual", and "Practice".
- Featured Areas:** Includes "ACBL World", "Robot World", "Virtual Clubs", "Challenges", "Instant Tournaments", "Vugraph (live broadcasts)", and "Masterpoints and Races".
- History:** A table showing recent hands and tournaments. The table has columns for "Board", "Result", "We", "They", "We", and "They".

The History table data is as follows:

Board	Result	We	They	We	They
4	3♠W-1	100		96.3%	3.7%
5	4♠S-1		100	77.3%	22.7%
6	3♥S-1		50	44.5%	55.5%
7	3♦S+1	130		49.7%	50.3%
8	4♠Wx-3	500		82%	18%

Below the history table, there is a "Refresh" button and two percentages: "59.9%" and "40.1%".

The main game display shows a hand with the following cards:

- N Robot:** ♠KJ2, ♥AQJ10732, ♦972, ♣4
- W Robot:** ♠KQJ84, ♥Q1076, ♦965, ♣4
- E Robot:** ♠107652, ♥93, ♦K4, ♣KQ108
- S LoriCatFer 2:** ♠A93, ♥A854, ♦8, ♣AJ653

The hand display also shows the bidding sequence: "Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥ 1♠ 2♦ 4♠ Dbl PassPassPass".

Lori said there are also occasional free tournaments hosted by Auckland Bridge Club that will have you in some stiff competition if you like. During our first Covid lockdown, there were many free tournaments being hosted by the Auckland group, and as new players, we regularly came in last or near to last, but we kept coming back - learning as we went.

Please remember to send your favourite Bridge tips or jokes for the next newsletter to Pam (email pmclean868@gmail.com).

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