

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee would like to welcome Diane Barton as a new member to our club.

Eleven keen people have signed up to our bridge lessons which are now well underway. This year we used various forms of advertising to promote our lessons including community radio. Marie Kean was interviewed on the Otago Access Radio (OAR FM) station where she spoke about our club, learning bridge and the fun and friendship that can come from playing the game. Hopefully some listeners are now thinking about this for the future.

We had our second junior and intermediate championship pairs competition on Monday evening. The new format of having separate competitions for the two divisions worked well. The room is organised so that those who play in the intermediate division are seated on the Church Street side of the room and those in the junior on the tennis court side. In order to set up the play of the two divisions in a timely manner, we request that you are seated at your table no later than 6.45pm.

A gentle reminder from Alan and Jan who manage the table card money to please transfer the correct amount. On occasions the incorrect amount is transferred to the bridge club bank account which then requires some sorting out. Remember the amount for one set of table cards is \$60.

As you are aware we cancelled our 29 March Charity Tournament due to low entries. We think this may have been due to the close proximity of Anniversary Weekend and Easter meaning people were away or busy. We typically have two charity tournaments a year making a donation to the Otago Hospice (March) and the Mosgiel Foodbank (August). To ensure we can still provide a donation to the Hospice, the committee has decided to split proceeds of the August tournament between the two charities i.e. a financial donation to the Hospice and through your generosity we will provide the Foodbank with food/household items.

Over 40 members attended our Easter fun night. The room was warm and welcoming, food delicious and there was lots of chatter and laughter. Thank you to the catering team and other helpers for making this evening special. Following the meal partners were drawn and we played for the Wolken Cup.

RECENT RESULTS

Well done to our winners of competitions this month.

Monday Competition

No competitions completed during this period

Wednesday Competition

Friedel Watson Pairs

1st place—Bob Gillanders & Darry Haines

2nd place—John Wolken & Rona Chave

Easter Fun Night

Wolken Cup winners...



Virginia O'Neill & Peta Smith (absent)
winners of N/S competition.



Ruth Airey & Carol Adler-Morgan
winners of E/W competition.

THE SECRETS OF WINNING BRIDGE by Jeff Reubens

Bridge is unique among popular games in that it offers unlimited opportunity to improve through study and practice. No special talents are required to become a good, excellent or even champion player.

Success in bidding depends in part upon partnership rapport but you also must know how you value your hand. Hand evaluation is assessing the strengths and weaknesses of your hand regarding trick-taking capability. The tricks you are thinking about taking may be at a contract for your own side or as a defender. The factors to consider: the high cards you hold, your suit distribution and the bidding. Evaluation is easy when the hands are balanced but when the hands are unbalanced then you may need to adjust your evaluation. Things to consider: do you have 9's and 10's, how many control cards do you have, what sort of fit do you have with your partner, and how many unguarded honours do you have?

Honours are more valuable in your long suits than in your short suits. Two honours in the same suit are more valuable than isolated honours.

When there are competitive auctions, you must work out whether your hand is better for defending or playing. In principle the more cards you hold in your suits and the fewer cards you hold in their suits, the more offensive your hand; the fewer cards you hold in your suits and the more cards you hold in their suits, the more defensive your hand. In other words, the more cards you have in your own suit then you can bid on.

This next part can be most frustrating if you are on the end of it. It is knowing when opponents stop bidding at a very low level how to bid to drive them up one level. This is called balancing. You can presume that your partner has points even if they haven't bid. An example of this is when the bidding goes like 1H, pass, 2H. They have found a fit and have not looked for other contracts. They are most likely to have around 20 HCP between them. Of course, you need to consider if you are vulnerable or not as you can't afford to go 2 light at 200 points to the opponents.

So much to consider as usual!!!

CALLING THE DIRECTOR

The Director must be called if there is any irregularity at the table. Do not make your own rulings at the table. If anyone accidentally makes a wrong bid or plays a wrong card, they need to call the Director. If you make your own rulings, you may be denying the opposition, or even yourselves, rights which they (or you) are entitled to.

It's a good way to learn the rules (laws) so don't consider it telling tales or bad sportsmanship. It is part of the game and you are actually breaking the rules if you don't.

The Director's ruling is final.

WHO CALLS THE DIRECTOR?

As a matter of etiquette, it is the person who committed the infraction who calls the Director (never Dummy). If they don't, politely suggest that they need to do so, and if they still don't, politely call the Director yourself.

For prompt attention, make sure you call loudly, "Director, please", and keep your hand up until you catch the Director's eye.

Play stops immediately the Director is called.

Sort out relevant info while the Director is making his/her way over – it saves time.

Just one person, usually the perpetrator, explains the situation. This allows the Director to make a decision quickly and easily.

Dates to remember:

21 April—1.30-3.30pm Review of Monday hands

5 May—1.30-3.30pm Review of Monday hands

8 May—Dinner after Saturday bridge (contact Heather Urquhart).

I ONLY PLAY BRIDGE



ON DAYS THAT END IN "Y"

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