

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE:

- It seems far away but the Annual General Meeting is only 2 months away—Monday 16th October. There will be vacancies for general committee members. This is one way that you can help support our club which is very important. Without members we wouldn't need a committee but without the committee the club can not run.
- It isn't too soon if you have a burning issue to be discussed at the AGM to start thinking about it. Any items to be discussed at the AGM will need to be emailed to the club for inclusion in the AGM Agenda which will be sent out on or before 2nd October.
- Thanks to Jude for her work on resolving the issues with the tablets—so far they seem to be working.
- The microphone has been checked over and with a couple of settings changed and a different port being used for the microphone it too seems to be working well.
- The committee has decided that the proceeds from the Charity Tournament on 27th August will go to Mosgiel Foodbank. As usual we will need quality raffle prizes donated and delivered to the club.
- Junior Tournament in our book is noted as Sunday 1st October but is in fact 27th September. Entries will be online via the NZ Bridge webpage.
- Did you know that Saturday Bridge is open to all level of players? If you have just joined Monday night sessions then this can be another day that you can join in and play a relaxed game of bridge. Preferably turn up with a partner or ring the partnership officer if you would like one.

Tournaments:

Aug 13—Oamaru Junior 3B and Intermediate 5B Pairs, 10 am start, \$25.00, entries close 09/08.

Aug 19—Invercargill Junior 3B and Intermediate 5B Pairs, 10 am start, \$25.00, entries close 18/08.

Aug 24—Taieri Charity Tournament towards Mosgiel Foodbank. \$15.00 (Cash) on the day. Put your name on the list at the club.

Aug 26/27—South Island 20A Pairs (online), 9.30 am start, \$45.00, must be paid before 24/08 to 02 0912 0192165 00. Please include your email in reference for prize distribution.

REVIEW AND EXPLANATIONS OF CALLS

You may ask the meaning of a call at your turn to speak, or when the auction has ended and the opening lead has been made but not turned over, or throughout the play when it is your turn to play. This is why the lead is made face down!

You may ask about a bid without making it difficult for the partner to lead that suit since the lead has already been made. Players should give a full explanation but if they do not seem to be doing so or use terms you do not understand call the director for help. If you are not intending to enter the auction you should not ask about the bidding during the auction. If your opponents are playing a very artificial system with lots of alerts it is often wise to wait until the end of the auction and then ask each in turn what his/her partner has shown.

WAIVING OF PENALTIES



Someone drops a couple of cards on the table when sorting their hand. We usually carefully refrain from looking and say 'pick it up', and I am happy with this although it is against the rules. But on the whole no one has the right to waive a penalty.

If someone drops the AKQ of a suit this obviously changes the situation at that table and the director must be called. Sometimes after, say, a revoke, a player will say 'never mind it won't make any difference to our score' – but that is the point. It will make a difference to everyone else's score and you have no right to do that.

Let us say a player hesitates – nothing wrong with that, you are not forbidden from thinking – and then passes. A partner who now bids may have been influenced by the hesitation and get into a contract that most players do not. Sometimes the partner's bid is clear cut but if there is any doubt the director must be called because you do not have the right to affect the scores of all the other players in the room by ignoring an infraction. Sometimes the problems of hesitation could have been avoided.



COMMON BIDS THAT SHOULD BE ALERTED—by Lindsay Gunn

In general, our game's policy is one of open information to all players and no secret agreements between partners. These three bids do not need to be alerted: 2C stayman, 2C Game force opening and 2D response to 2C Game Force opening. Of course there is more to this story.

1. **2C Stayman** reply to an opening 1NT. The standard response to partner's 1NT opening which asks for a 4 card major does not need to be alerted. • However, if RHO doubles partner's 1NT, ie 1NT – X, the rules change. • Now you must alert the 2C bid even if it is still a simple Stayman response. • So, 1NT X 2C ALERT . The reason for the rule change, is that playing 2C as Stayman after a double is no longer a common or standard response. • Some players may play 2C here as natural whilst for others it can be a systematic response with a variety of meaning. The only other time you must alert a 2C response to partner's 1NT opening is if you were playing a natural system, without Stayman, and your 2C actually showed clubs!

NOTE: The non alert option is not extended to a strong 2NT opening. Even if your opening 2NT is a standard ACOL 20 – 22 NT and, you follow the same approach to a 1NT opening, except now with 3C as simple Stayman the non-alerting exemption no longer applies. • ALL 3C responses to a 2NT opening MUST be alerted and a full explanation provided to your opponents.

2. **2C Game Force Opening** For many bidding partnerships a 2C opening is the strongest bid available and implies a game forcing auction should follow. • When the 2C opening is NOT game forcing it should be alerted. The question that often arises is "What is game forcing?" The NZ Bridge manual defines Game Force as: a) 23+ HCP, if balanced or semi-balanced b) 20+ HCP, if unbalanced (allowing additional points for distribution). As guidance, a "rule of 29" is often used to define the criteria needed for an unbalanced hand to be described as game forcing. This rule adds 1 additional point to the HCPs for every card held in the two longest suits after the 9th card. Overall however, the opener's intent must be to continue to bid to game despite partner's response unless: • the opposition compete and you elect to penalise their bid, or • if partner's response is very negative and you can stop in 2NT. Lindsay's Advice: Our overall aim is to ensure full communication in our bidding so if you extend your 2C bid to include very distributional hands with lower HCPs please extend the courtesy to your opponents and alert these openings. More importantly follow through with your intentions and bid to game. NOTE: If you are playing that your strongest bid is 2D, while 2C is something like 19 or 20 to 22, you need to alert both bids.



Please remember that it is preferable for you to use our pencils rather than an ink pen especially if you are in the habit of tapping the pen on the tablecloths. Pencils don't mark our tablecloths.

Phone correction: Mavis Grant's number is

021 477 804

Barbara Wilkes

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

