

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2018

News from the Committee:

- Welcome back to all members for another exciting year.
- A new zip in the kitchen will be installed in the next couple of weeks.
- We have received resignations from Alec Weavers, Ruth McDiarmid and Shirley Sheldon. Good luck to these people for the future.
- In Autumn it is proposed to have a working bee to clean up around the outside of our clubrooms.
- Lessons will start for new members on 6th March. Don't forget to start chatting to friends, family and neighbours that you think may be interested in learning. Flyers will be available at the start of February for mail drops in your areas.
- A new system of handicapping has been started this year. It may take a while to smooth out so please be patient.
- Please be accommodating to our new members from last year as sometimes it can be a bit daunting returning to bridge after the holidays. The club has decided that new members may still refer to their bidding reference notes until 1st March.
- Work has been undertaken by a sub-committee to look at all our rules for consistency. Once it is all completed then there will be a Special Meeting (prior to play on a bridge night) to formalise this. More information will be available later on.

Welcome to "What I teach and why" by Kristen Collins

I have had a few enquiries into just what goes on in my bridge lessons and exactly what I do teach so I thought I would give a brief summary of the main points. I am always happy to answer questions so if I don't cover something please feel free to ask me or you can email me at kristencollins007@gmail.com.

I teach that to open 1NT you should not have a 5 card major but you can have a 5 card minor. You may also have 1 doubleton. You do not have to have honour cards in every suit. In a perfect world all 1NT openers would look like this: ♠ KT98 ♥ A63 ♦ AT9 ♣ K98

But then you would rarely get to open the extremely descriptive 1NT, so therefore these variations fall under the same opening: ♠ QT ♥ AK3 ♦ T96 ♣ K9876 Or ♠ KT98 ♥ 63 ♦ AT94 ♣ KQ9

The advice I give my learners before they opening the bidding is to think this to themselves: "what is my opening bid? what is my plan for my second bid?". If you can't think of your second bid or it seems to not describe your hand properly, your opening bid was probably wrong and you should most likely open 1NT.

4 card verse 5 card Majors The reason I teach 4 card Majors is:

1. I teach ACOL and ACOL is designed to be a 4 card Major system.
2. Learners have a hard time understanding artificial bids and don't understand that (if they were playing 5 card Majors, with a preferred minor) they would need to open 1C with the hand below: ♠ KQ98 ♥ AK94 ♦ A3 ♣ 987

If they were playing 5 card Majors and a natural 4 card diamond suit they would have to open the below 1C as well.
♠ KQ98 ♥ AK94 ♦ A93 ♣ 87

Neither of these systems is wrong or bad (I personally play a 5 card Major system with a natural diamond and a club as short as 2, note: I don't play ACOL) but I prefer for learners to learn to bid their actual suits and when they become more experienced and decide to change their system they will know why they are changing and the understand the full ramification of the changes.

Monday Rules

The Programme book asks that out of deference to Junior players, members only use basic bids. It goes further and rules that the only allowable bids are those approved by NZBridge for Junior Tournaments – refer to them up on the NZBridge web site under Resources. But to help you along some important bids are detailed below.

Allowed: any basic ACOL or Precisions Bids

Restrictions for opening bids

2♦	Means: Strong any distribution, forcing OR 6-cards, weak	NOT multi style, weak with 6-card major, with or w/o strong option
2♥, 2♠	Meaning: Weak minimum suit length 6 cards OR	
	Means: Strong, at least 4 cards	NOT weak with 5/4+ suit
2NT	Means: Balanced with at least 18 hcp	NOT weak in minors

Allowed

Any defence to opponents; opening 1NT
Any defence to opponents' artificial forced opening
Any meaning of double in any sequence
Any Ace asking bids and responses
Any treatment for a cue bid

NB The bids in **Red** are allowed in Intermediate Tournaments

How was 2017 Attendance?

Monday Average - 10 tables

Wednesday Average - 7.7 tables

Saturday Average - 7.6 Tables

Let's see if we can beat that this year.



Signals and Discards

Defensive Play is one of the most difficult aspects of Bridge for a partnership to grasp but worth putting some effort into.

1. Opening Leads and Leads during the Play

Lead an honour card e.g. K shows KQJx, KQ10x, KQxx

Small card e.g. the 2 or 3, etc shows a suit with an honour in this suit

Big card e.g. 9 or 8, etc shows a suit with no honour

For any Lead during the play of the hand **Do exactly the same as above**

If partner leads a suit showing an honour(s), return that suit.



2. Signals during the play of the hand

When a lead is made, it would be helpful if partner indicates in the suit lead whether they like the lead or not! Use the same concept as above...

Play a low card to show some help in that suit (ie. an honour)

Play a high card to show no help in that suit for partner

I remember it as "Low = like and High = hate"

3. Discards

The next question is how you show partner where you have an honour during the play. You will get an opportunity to do this when you discard - when you run out of cards in the suit declarer is playing. These cards are called **discards**.

If we are in that position, should we not discard a card to help partner? In these cases you can tell partner where you have an honour card or not.

Use the same rules above

If you discard a small card, 2,3 etc shows at least one honour in that suit

If you discard a big card 10,9 etc shows no honour in that suit

This came from the NZBridge site. Go to Lesson Resources and look for Teaching Material Improvers

One Wish

A bridge duffer was polishing a lamp and... poof! Out popped a genie who said, "I will grant you *one* wish."

The duffer unfolded a map of the world and said, "Let all of these countries live in peace and harmony."

"You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie."

The duffer thought for a while and then suggested, "OK, then make me a winning bridge player."

"Hmm..." the genie pondered. "Let me see that map again."

Table Manners

Playing bridge against Hannibal Lector

In horror I called the director

" My partners being ate;

off the bone, not the plate!"

But the laws of bridge couldn't protect her



Happy bridging -!!!!

Barbara Wilkes - Editor