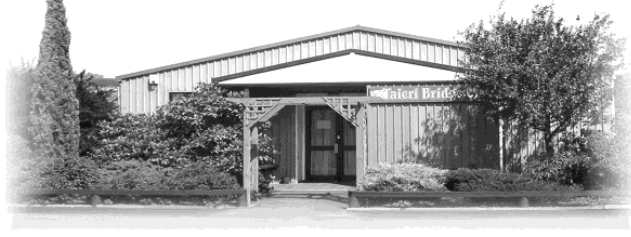


Taieri Bridge Club



Newsletter

June /July 2012

Issue no. 163

Farewell to Peg Chisholm

It is with great sadness that we say a final farewell to wee Peg who passed away on May 31st. She will be fondly remembered for not only her service to the club over many years, but also her chirpy nature, impish sense of humour and acute card sense. I'm sure she played with nearly every member of the club and was always a delight to play with and against.

From the committee

Bridge Workshops

The first workshop for 2012 was held on the first Wednesday in June, covering the unassuming cue bid and we had fifteen people attend. With such a good attendance we have decided to hold further workshops on the first Wednesday of the month at 6.45. July's workshop will look at 1NT, conventions for escaping after being doubled. If you have anything that you would like help with, please let Donna know.

Flag 500 Sunday July 15th 1.30pm

A notice is on the notice board. Contact Jean or Judy to register your team. The competition is open to all card lovers, so make up a team and come try out your luck. How it works is, you have four members to your team. Your team sits at a table and one person from your team at a time is directed during the competition to move to other tables. When your player (say North) moves to another table, a north from another table comes to you. When you get to the new table you shuffle and deal out four hands of ten cards and a kitty of three cards. A suit is drawn, and the whole room plays that suit as trumps. If you were the dealer you get the kitty (great for the kitty hungry) and you have to make up the best 10 card hand you can from the 13, for the suit drawn. Then you try to

make four tricks (one flag) or eight tricks (two flags). While you are trying to make your tricks at the away table, you hope your team mates are stopping the visiting person from making any tricks at your home table. The winning team is the one with the most flags. Even if you don't know how to play 500, bridge players would pick it up very quickly. There's a bit of skill and a lot of luck. It's great fun and if you love cards it's a fine way to spend a cold Sunday afternoon.

Lessons

Frank has finished the lessons for the 2012 year and has successfully introduced 9 new members to the club, a fantastic result. Thank you very much to all the helpers and a **BIG** well done to Frank. It is a large undertaking to do the lessons, requiring a lot of time and commitment and it is great to see the reward of such a good uptake in numbers. A couple of times these lessons were held on a committee meeting night and it was lovely to see the eager and happy faces concentrating on the tasks at hand.

July 28th Graded 8B Tournament

We are holding the above tournament. As always we are looking for helpers for the kitchen, people to provide food, dealers, general tidy up and bar. Please put your names on the appropriate lists if you are able to help out. As always it would be fantastic to have as many tables as possible, grab your partner and make sure you enter. Prizes for the raffle would also be much appreciated.

General Conduct

The piece about the lessons and the imminent introduction of new players to the club brings me round to making a few comments on some of the behaviour that I have been contacted

about over the past couple of months. One of the things I am most proud of regarding the Taieri Bridge Club, is the great club feel, relaxed atmosphere and general feeling of family that one has being a member. This 'feeling' is most often noted by visiting players and new members and is sadly lacking at quite a few of the other clubs. However lately it seems there has been a few harsh words spoken, unpleasant behaviour towards the directors and other players, which I am sure we all agree is unacceptable. Keeping new members and retaining our current membership is down to us all, this is our club and if you want it to be the positive club that represents you, then you have to help make it so. We all know what makes up good table etiquette, ensure you are courteous to both the opponents and partner at all times. Also our club couldn't survive without the volunteers that help run every aspect of the club. Unfortunately none appear in the firing line so much as our directors. Please remember these people are our friends, they are volunteering and they are doing their best. If you do have a genuine concern then you should contact the committee. In general I believe the club we belong to reflects us all well, please welcome the new player's, treat everyone with kindness and the payback will be the positive experience that is the Taieri Bridge Club.

A note from Frank about Beginners

A fresh lot of beginners have graduated from this year's class. This is our best source of new members and it follows that we should all do our bit to welcome and encourage them. This includes offering to play with them when the opportunity arises. Cast your mind back to when you first played in the Club. Terrified were you?

They will make mistakes (we all do). They will forget artificial bids like Stayman from time to time. Please try to be understanding and helpful.

System

Over the last two years NZBridge has had a group who have been working hard to provide advice on beginners' classes. The object has been to standardise the system throughout the

country and to provide a set of 10 lessons and resources based on this to help Bridge Teachers. This system is as follows:

- Four card majors – so all one level opening bids are natural and do not need alerting
- 2D, 2H, 2S are all weak pre-empts -- 6 cards and 6-10 hcp
- 2NT is strong 20-22 hcp flatish. Responder passes with 0-4 but makes a positive bid with 5+ hcp. With a 5 card minor suit the preference is for 3NT
- 2C is strong and covers 23+ flatish or suit with 20+ GAME FORCE Responder makes a negative bid of 2D with 0-7 and a positive response with 8+ hcp (slam interest)
- Any opening bid of suit at the 3 or 4 level is pre-emptive

Don't do them any favours by trying to change this at this stage. "Short Club", "Preferred minor", "Five card majors" are all a bit of a mystery. "Multi-2 Diamonds" and "Tartan 2s" are not permitted on Monday of course. We don't make penalty doubles but we do make takeout doubles. Keep smiling!!

Talking of smiling.....

Actual Notes From Doctors' Patient Charts

- On the 2nd day the knee was better and on the 3rd day it disappeared completely.
- The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
- Discharge status: Alive but without permission.
- Healthy appearing decrepit 69 year-old male. Mentally alert but forgetful.
- The patient refused an autopsy.
- The patient has no past history of suicides.
- Patient has left his white blood cells at another hospital.
- She is numb from her toes down.
- Patient was alert and unresponsive.
- The skin was moist and dry.
- Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.
- Rectal exam revealed a normal size thyroid.
- Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.
- Skin: Somewhat pale but present.

