

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Our twelve week learner's course is now completed. We are very pleased to welcome to our Club the following new members—Bruce Wood, Virginia O'Neill, Peter O'Neill, Shirley Henderson Bolt, Janet Ashcroft, Veronica Casey, Merv Chave, Tina Deans, Chris Donald, Sandra Lawn, Andrea McFarlane, Dianne Lowry, Noreen McGrath, Ro Roney, Lynn Sapsford and Jane Stark. For the next five Tuesdays (starting 17 June to 15 July) we will be running informal Bridge sessions for the new players to practice with support. For these sessions each new player will have their own partner (already organised by Deirdre Bruce) but we need many more club members to come along and join in. The idea is to try and replicate as much as possible a usual competition night. If you are free on a Tuesday night it would be great if you could come along. The sessions start at 7pm, you do not need to pay table money, you do not need a partner and it will finish earlier than a usual competition night.

Deirdre Bruce was delighted to receive a great response to her request for a buddy for each of the new players. Thank you to all who responded. Thank you also to tutor Robert Cowan for your time and expertise in introducing and encouraging a new group of people to the game of Bridge.

The committee has decided that the cost for fun nights (meal and Bridge) will in the future be \$20. If members wish to just play Bridge and not have the meal then they will use their table cards as usual.

Just a friendly reminder that if you pay cash for a Bridge game please bring the correct amount (\$6) because we do not have change. Also when purchasing your table cards online please remember the amount is \$60.

We have our second Charity tournament coming up in August. For the past few years money from this tournament has been donated to the Mosgiel Foodbank. While the Foodbank is a very worthy charity we are interested to know if you have other ideas of established groups or initiatives in Mosgiel that could be a worthy beneficiary of this tournament. Could you let Marie or Jen know if you have any thoughts.

The Club successfully hosted the Taieri Pairs Open 5A tournament on Sunday 8 June. There were 12 tables and the tournament attracted players from across the region.

RECENT RESULTS

Well done to our winners of competitions this month.

Monday Competition

No completed competitions in this month.

Wednesday Competition

Mosgiel Woollen Plate (played over 4 nights with a different partner each night)

- ◆ 1st place— Deirdre Bruce
- ◆ 2nd place— Dale Cameron

The Mosgiel Woollen Plate has been played for since 1974. The trophy was presented to the Club shortly after the Club opened in 1973 by the Mosgiel Woollen Mills who were a significant business in the town at the time.

Kings' Birthday Fun Night—Wolken Cup—2 June

- ◆ 1st place—John Wolken & Judy Gorman
- ◆ 2nd place—Vyv Hodgkin & Bob Gillanders

Well done to all the winners and interesting that John Wolken was a winner of his own cup!

TEA PERSON VACANCY

Unfortunately Gaynor is unable to continue with the tea person's role. She has been most unwell and is in hospital. Marie Kean has visited Gaynor and passed on our best wishes. We have been lucky to have Evelyn and her mother help us out while Gaynor has been away. However, they cannot continue longer term. So do you know of anyone who might like this role? If you need any more information about what's involved then have a chat to Marie.

IMPROVER LESSONS

Our improver lessons continue to be well supported. The next lessons are:

6 July—Stayman, Transfers

3 Aug—Play in no trump, play in a suit

7 Sep—Double and more doubles, 2nd & 3rd hand defensive play.

The lessons are 10am to 12 midday.

PROPOSED CATERING CHANGES

We have been reviewing how we will cater for fun nights and tournaments in the future. Marie Kean has been instrumental in the planning, food preparation and room presentation of these events for some time and the outcome has always been superb. We have a number of people interested in helping out now and this provides us with the opportunity of doing things slightly differently. We are proposing we have three catering teams of 4 people in each. Each team will cater one fun night and one tournament a year. Marie will be available to provide guidance and support for each team as required. We feel this approach will share the load. It is also fun and rewarding to work with others and contribute to the Club. If you are interested in being part of the catering group please talk to Marie.

Our best wishes and thoughts go to Derek Tingle and Dale Cameron who are in hospital.

Passive Defense vs Active Defense

There are two basic forms of defense; passive and active. In passive defense the prime object of the defenders is to play safe. They concentrate on giving nothing away by their leads and they sit back to wait for those tricks which are rightfully theirs. When a hand calls for active defense the opening leader is willing to make an aggressive and relatively dangerous lead. He often gives away a trick in order to develop two or more tricks which might not otherwise get.



Hands which you expect to set generally call for passive defense:

South	West	North	East
1♠	pass	2♠	pass
3♠	pass	4♠	pass pass pass



As West you hold: ♠Q J 9 5 ♥K 4 3 ♦10 9 8 4 3 ♣8 What do you lead: Answer: ♦10. You should expect to take this contract light. From the bidding it is clear that North-South have no extra strength in reserve. They have reached a borderline game which they might make if everything went well for them. You know, however, that declarer is in for a nasty shock in the trump suit. The bad trump break will surely spell defeat for this close contract and you should not take any unnecessary risks in leading. A heart lead might jeopardize your ♥K while a ♣ lead might sacrifice one of partner's tricks. Besides, there is no point in leading a singleton when you have natural trump tricks. The best lead here is the passive ♦10.