

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

- ⇒ COVID update—as Taieri Bridge Club is affiliated to the national Bridge body then the Club will take the direction of whether to open or not from them. Remember that there may be different scenarios to consider each time and so we will do our best to email out information in a timely way.
- ⇒ If you haven't heard from us via email then bridge is still on. Last year we resumed bridge at level 1 but this year as our club is unlikely to have 100 members the approach is different.
- ⇒ Our current tea girl, Shiann, has found a job elsewhere and is looking at moving on. Do you know of any 15 plus person, most probably living in reasonably close proximity to the club rooms that might like to earn some extra money? Please email the club or pass on the name to one of the committee.
- ⇒ **Urgently requiring entries** for our 8B tournament on this Saturday. Enter online Wednesday to avoid missing out. It would be great to see more support from our own members for this event.
- ⇒ Great shout-out to those that volunteered to distribute flyers for the lessons that started last week. Over 2000 flyers were delivered. Thanks Dawn for coordinating this.
- ⇒ If you know of any members you haven't seen for a while please reach out to them and invite them to play again. Sometimes it's just a habit not to play so we want to encourage the habit of playing bridge.
- ⇒ Welcome to new member Marie Kean.



TOURNAMENTS COMING UP

- 13 Mar—Taieri Bridge 8B Open Pairs—keep this day free to support our club. Please show your club support and enter on Wednesday. At time of print only 12 pairs have entered :-)
- 20 March—Queenstown Open 8B Tournament
- 27 March—Winton Intermediate 5B Teams

NOTES FROM KRISTEN COLLINS

I attended the refresher course last year and found it very interesting and so I thought I would post her note for everyone to read. They're not as good as listening to Kristen explain them herself but I think everyone can get something out of these.

The subject covered first was Takeout Doubles.

What is an Overcall?

- ◆ Overcall bids are far more specific than Opening bids, they tend to focus on one or two aspects of the Overcaller's hand – the shape, a single suit or a High Card Point count.
- ◆ Often the Overcall is used to disrupt the bidding sequence of the Opener and Responder by showing a single virtue of the Overcaller's hand (a single strong suit)
- ◆ This communicates to the partner of the Overcaller a plan for their defense if the Opener/Responder win the contract (tells the partner which suit to lead).
- ◆ But sometime the Overcaller might have a better hand (more HCP) than the Opener and they need to communicate that as quickly and clearly as possible to their partner.

To Overcall or Double?

1NT Overcall

So what does a player in the Overcaller's position do with this hand after a 1S Opening by the Opposition?

- ♠ AQJ ♠ KQx
- ♥ KJx ♥ Qx
- ♦ KQx ♦ AKxx
- ♣ Jxxx or this hand? ♣ KJxx

◆ The answer is to bid 1NT.

◆ 1NT in the Overcall position shows:

⇒ 15 – 18 HCP

⇒ a stopper/hold in the Openers suit

The 1NT Overcall should be of similar shape to a 1NT Opening: balanced with no long single suits or very short suits. It must also have some honour cards in the suit that the Opener has Opened. The hand shows the ability to stop the Opening suit from making many tricks for the Opposition.

Responding to a 1NT Overcall

If partner Overcalls 1NT then the responses are exactly the same as if your partner has Opened 1NT but with an adjustment in HCP.

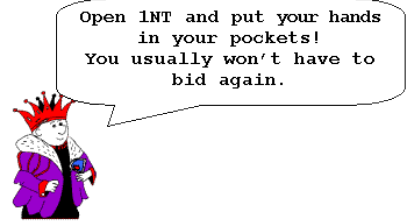
2C: Stayman, asking partner if they have a 4 card major, with 8+ HCP

2D / 2H / 2S: weak, with at least a 5 card suit and 0-8ish HCP

2NT: 8-9 HCP, invitational. Denies having a 4 card major.

3C / 3D / 3H / 3S: strong, with at least a 5 card suit and 9/10ish+ HCP. Forces partner to choose between game in your suit or 3NT.

The 1NT Overcaller then answers their partners questions, passes or places the contract in response to their partners bid in the same way they would have if they had Opened 1NT.



To Overcall a Single Suit:

You must have a **GOOD** 5+ card suit.

The suit should be at least 5 cards long and have 2-3 honours in the suit. The longer and stronger the suit, the fewer points you need to make an Overcall. The reason that you need fewer points to Overcall than to Open the bidding is because you are making up the shortage in points by the quality of the suit.

An Overcall at the 1 level promises: A good 5-card or longer suit; AND 8 – 15 High Card Points.

A non-jump Overcall at the 2 level promises: A good 5-card or longer suit; AND 10 – 15 High Card Points.



Responding to an Overcall with a fit

You only need 3 cards in the suit to support (because your partner is promising at least 5). Remember to add all distributional points to make up T.P.

6-10 T.P. Raise the suit just one level

11-14 T.P. Raise the suit two levels. i.e. jump a level in the bidding

15 T.P. bid game especially in a Major

You do not have to reply to an Overcall if you cannot support partner's suit, even if you have up to 11 H.C.P. With 12 or more HCP and no support you could bid a suit of your own or suggest NT. If your partner simply rebids their original suit it would probably be best to play there as they will be showing a weak hand with only a long suit.



Responding to an Overcall without a fit

Bid No Trump if you have NO FIT for partner's major, but good stoppers/holds in the opponent's suit:

1NT with 8-10 pts.

2NT with 11-13 pts.

3NT with 14+ pts.

Bid a new suit if you have no fit for partner's suit, 10+ pts. and a good 5-card suit of your own. **Pass** if you have none of the above.

PASS OR NOT TO PASS?



THAT IS THE QUESTION

Responding to Partner's Minor-Suit Overcall

If partner Overcalls clubs or diamonds, you can follow the same general rules as above. However, if you have good stoppers in the opponent's suit **and** invitational or better strength (11+ pts.), you should consider suggesting No Trump rather than raising partner's suit. No Trump will often be the easiest game to make, especially if you have at least a partial fit with partner's suit (a doubleton honour, for example).

There's a whole lot more to this subject than meets the eye but here's a start anyway. Thanks Kristen for sharing your notes.

Barbara Wilkes

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

