



TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE:


- ◆ Please welcome Colin Pratt, Jean McAlevey and also to Kristen Collins who has rejoined. Please make these members welcome. 
- ◆ It is very exciting to see that we have 24 people attending the lessons. Thanks to all those that delivered flyers and used word of mouth to attract these people to our lessons.
- ◆ With the weather being so warm lately the committee is investigating filtered water and a different water cooler.
- ◆ Our Open Pairs Tournament held at the start of March had 15 tables. Thanks to all those that helped to organise this event. In future we will be looking to our members to help out with some of the tasks for the running of the event. If you are a regular tournament attender then we may call on you on the day to do a little bit and if you don't attend then we may need you over the lunch time to make tea and coffees etc. 
- ◆ Easter Fun Night is just around the corner. A flyer will be up soon to put your name on. No need to organise a partner—but do come to check out the new format for selecting partners.
- ◆ By the way if you know of any of members who have been in hospital, suffered a bereavement of a close family member then please email me (Barbara.wilkes@me.com) so that I can send out one of my hand made cards!!

Tournaments:


- Mar 18—Queenstown 5A Pairs, entries close 16/03.
- Mar 18—Central Districts 8B Swiss Pairs ONLINE—proceeds going to Cyclone Relief Fund.
- Mar 25—Otago Autumn 5A Teams, entries close 22/03
- Mar 26—Otago Autumn Intermediate 5B Pairs, entries close 22/03.
- Mar 26—Otago Autumn Open 5A Pairs, entries close 22/03
- Apr 1—Winton Open 5A Pairs
- Apr 2—Waimate All Grades 8B Pairs
- Apr 15—Timaru Congress 5B Intermediate and 10A open Teams
- Apr 16—Timaru Junior 3B, Intermediate 5B, Open 10A Pairs.

BARBARA'S BRIDGE TIPS by Barbara Seagram

Thought I would find some more tips from this great book.

PREEMPTS—how to upset your opponents. Preempts are opening bids at the 3-level or above, less than an opening hand but a long suit. These bids are designed to upset your opponents as the inhibit communication and make the opponents guess. Preempts are great when your opponents are vulnerable and making game (600+ points) and so even if you go 3 light it may be a great sacrifice. If you are non-vulnerable you can expect to go light by 3 but if you are vulnerable going light by 2 is the best. You can be friskier with your bid if you are in 3rd seat as your partner has already passed. 

WEAK TWO BIDS—these bids are similar to a preemptive 3 bids apart from the fact that you only have a 6 card suit with less than 10 HCP and promising at least 2 of the top 4 honours. You should never open a weak 2 if you have the other 4 card major (again unless you are the third bidder to open).

Again this bid is designed to make life difficult for opponents as they now have to open at a higher level. It is a very descriptive bid that tells partner immediately your point range, the approximate shape of your hand and the quality of your suit. 

As responder you will need at least an opening hand (although I often think you need more like 15 points to go to game). If you bid a different suit to your partner's weak hand then this shows an opening hand and you are expecting your partner to bid again (called a forcing bid). If you raise your partner to the 3-level this is not invitational to game but is designed to make it really tough for the left hand opponent to bid—if their partner has not shown an opening hand.

DEFENDING PLAY

When your partner puts her hand down what do you do? Of course you should thank your partner. You should also not let opponents know that dummy's hand is not what you expected. When the first opening lead is made you should carefully analyze the lead, count your losers (or winners in no -

trumps), develop a plan for disposing of those losers (or develop the tricks needed) and then call a card. I think it is especially important to take a little time to think about this as it is no point getting halfway through the hand and then trying to work out how to establish extra tricks. At the start of play is your time, as declarer, to map out your strategy and figure out what needs to be done and when. Far too many players have fallen into the lamentable habit of winning the first trick in haste and repenting at leisure.

When dummy's hand appears you should count the high card points held in your hand and dummy's. Subtract from 40 and you have the total high-card point for the opponents. Your next step is to figure out where the missing points are most likely to be and/or where you need them to be! Sometimes the only way a contract can be made is by making some assumptions and playing for them to be right. And don't forget to make a short analysis of the opening lead:

- ◇ What does it show? (The lead of a queen usually promises the jack, for example).
- ◇ What does it deny? (Similarly, leading the queen denies the King. Leading a low card usually denies having a strong sequence such as KQ or AK).
- ◇ Why did the opponent lead that suit? (If , for example, leader's partner has overcalled, and he fails to lead that suit, ask yourself why. If he lead a trump, what is he protecting).

In analyzing the hand, don't forget to include a review of the bidding—be alert for inferences like. 'Hmm, West passed East's opening bid but has lead and A♦ so now I can conclude that he can't have much more than a Jack. This will help you often place critical cards.



More to come next month.

Remember—doubling is allowed on Monday night's as all learners have been playing for a few months now and it is part of the game!!

There once was a player from Beirut
Who thought he would try to be cute.
He overcalled a spade
And died as he played.
The postmortem: a four-card suit.

There once was a lady named Bess,
Who found a new way to finesse.
She made up excuses
To lead up to deuces,
And loses without having to guess!



Perfume—please keep to a minimum as it can affect those with breathing issues!

Barbara Wilkes

NEWSLETTER EDITOR