

# TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



## NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee has completed an updated Health & Safety Policy and this will be put on the noticeboard for you to read. As part of this process we will distribute a list shortly and request that each of you provide us with a phone number of someone we can call in the case of an emergency or if you need assistance.

On Sunday 29 March we have our Charity Tournament. We are donating the proceeds from the tournament to the Otago Community Hospice. For those who have not previously played in this tournament it is in the afternoon and similar to a normal bridge session. You do need a partner. To enter please put your names on the list on the noticeboard. The cost is \$20 and this includes \$5 for raffles. Additional raffle tickets maybe purchased for \$5. This year we would like you to bring a small plate for afternoon tea. Please put your name on the list to play and help us make a worthwhile donation to the Hospice.

Thank you to all who have helped to distribute 'lesson' leaflets over the past few weeks. Almost all have been distributed now. Our lessons start on Tuesday March 24 and our tutor will be Robert Cowan. The lessons are also available to anyone in the club who would like to go through them again.

We had our first review of some Monday hands on Tuesday 3 March. Peta Smith selected five interesting/challenging hands from the previous Monday and we bid, played and discussed these with some of our experienced players. Thank you so much to Laurie, Christine, Peta and Marie who provided their insights and knowledge. The feedback from those who attended was very positive. Our next session is Tuesday 17 March at 1.30pm. We will send out a reminder on WhatsApp on Monday.

We have our Easter Monday fun night coming up Monday 6 April. We will have a get together, meal and then bridge. You do not need a partner so just come along. The cost for the evening is \$20 and this covers the meal and the bridge. If you are coming just for the bridge then you will pay with your table card. We will mix things up so a junior is partnered with a more experienced player and remember we will be playing for the very prestigious Wolken Cup!

Our Taieri Open 8B Pairs tournament was well supported with 14 tables competing. Feedback from those who played was very positive commenting it was a well run and friendly event. Thank you to all the helpers who ensured the day was a success.

We had our first junior and intermediate championship pairs competition on Monday evening. The new format of having separate competitions for the two divisions worked well.

## RECENT RESULTS

Well done to our winners of competitions this month.

### Monday Competition

#### *Autumn Pairs*

1st place-Jan Methers & Peta Smith  
2nd place-Jann Dyer & Jen Macartney

### Wednesday Competition

#### *Ray Howes Memorial*

1st place—Jude Smeijers  
2nd place-Robert Cowan

### Taieri Open 8B Pairs (Sunday 1 March)

Well done Lyn McLaren and Deirdre Bruce who won the intermediate division.

### Oamaru Open Pairs (Sunday 8 March)

Robert Cowan and Gillian Alexander competed in this tournament and were the overall winners. Congratulations on a wonderful achievement.

## Dates to remember:

**17 March**—1.30-3.30pm informal learning session going over a selection of Monday hands

**24 March**—7pm Learner lessons begin

**29 March**—Taieri Charity Pairs Tournament, remember to bring a plate

**31 March**—1.30-3.30pm informal learning session

**6 April**—Easter Monday fun night

**11 April**—Dinner after Saturday bridge

**14 April**—1.30-3.30pm informal learning session

## Some helpful tips on leads...

- Always make the opening lead face down – in case you have made a mistake and it's not your turn to lead. It also gives your partner an opportunity to ask about the bidding if they need to. (Any question(s) at the end of bidding must be made after the opening lead so that it doesn't influence partner's choice of lead (unauthorised info). Similarly, opening lead must be face down so that questioner isn't influenced by seeing the lead.
- A card on the table is considered 'tabled'. Once a card has been placed on the table, even if it has been led out of turn, it cannot be picked up again unless the Director says so.
- Return your partner's opening lead – unless you have a good reason not to!
- Rule of thumb – if you are unsure what to lead, lead through Dummy's strength and into Declarer's weakness. This means if Dummy is next to play, lead a suit in which Dummy has honours, but some are missing. Your partner might have them. If Dummy is last to play, lead a suit in which Dummy has only minor (small) cards on the table. This way, your partner knows what to beat when it is his/her turn to play.

## Opening leads against no trumps...

- Lead low from your longest suit UNLESS the opponent has bid it, then lead low from your longest unbid suit.
- Lead partner's suit (most players prefer that you lead the highest card of your partner's bid suit).
- With 2 suits of equal length, lead the strongest, i.e. the one with the most honours.
- Lead top of a sequence, e.g. Q from QJ10 or QJ9.

## Opening leads against suit contracts...

- Lead A from AK.
- Lead a singleton.
- Lead your partner's suit (highest card of that suit).
- Lead top of a sequence – e.g. Q J 10 lead the Q.
- Do not lead unsupported aces (i.e. do not lead the ace if you haven't got the king) and do not lead away from aces (i.e. if you have an ace without the king, don't lead that suit at all).
- Do not lead from split honours (e.g. KJxx, AQxx, where the honour sequence is split)
- It is not a good idea to lead trumps.

Source: Taieri Bridge Club Bridge Protocol booklet

## From our archives...

It was recorded in the minutes (1973) that one of the important decisions to be made by the club was how much to charge for drinks to be sold at the end of play. After much deliberation it was decided that a nip of whisky would be 20c, gin 15c and sherry 10c and the prices would include lemonade if wanted. After these prices had been in operation for a few weeks it was decided not enough profit was being made on the sherry and a decision was made to cut down the amount of sherry served to 2 nips for 10c. It appeared that a full glass of sherry was being given for 10c!



" Our bridge teacher says you're to make the opening lead face down! "