

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER



NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- ⇒ A very successful Charity Event was held last weekend with 21.5 tables attending and a grand total of \$1,145.00 being raised for Hospice. Thanks to all those that contributed to making this such a success.
- ⇒ Bob Gillanders has resigned from the Committee. We would like to thank him for his valuable contribution to our committee meetings. Thanks Bob!!



- ⇒ The new footpath in Church Street has been completed.
- ⇒ Welcome back to Karen Logan who is here for a while this year. She may be looking for people to play with on Mondays and Wednesdays.

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP:

- 12/13 May—Otago Southland Inter-Provincial Trials.
- 20th May—Te Anau Open Pairs
- 21st May—Otago Save the Children Charity Pairs
- 27th May—Gore Intermediate Pairs and Gore Junior Pairs.
- 3rd June—Otago Southland Provincial Teams.
- 4th June—Otago Southland Provincial Pairs.
- 10th June—Taieri 5A Tournament
- 17th June—Otago Bridge club will be holding a fundraising tournament to celebrate the purchase of the Otago Bridge Club site.



Opening Leads for Acol Players by Mike Lawrence and Ron Klinger

Again I've been reading up on opening leads as to my way of thinking an opening lead can make or break a whole contract.

LEADING FROM 3, 4 OR 5 CARDS

You have decided to lead from 7-5-3. Which card should you lead? You could lead the 5 and then the 7 so your partner knows you don't have a doubleton and so will not try to give you a ruff, which might happen if you led the five followed with the seven then the three ('Middle - Up - Down known as MUD). Finally, you can lead the three from the 7-5-3. When partner can tell this is your lowest card, he will know that you do not have a doubleton, but he will not know if the suit contains an honour.

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Versus a Suit Contract

- If your partner bid the suit and you raised it, lead the top card.
- If your partner bid the suit and you did not raise, lead the lowest card.
- If it is an unbid suit, lead the lowest cards.
- If it is a suit bid by the opponents, lead something else (unless all else appears worse).



Versus No-Trumps

- If your partner bid the suit and you did not raise it, lead the lowest card.
- If your partner bid the suit and you did raise, lead the top card.
- If it is an unbid suit, lead the top card.
- If it is a suit bid by the opponents, lead something else (unless all else appears worse).

A simpler guide: *Versus a suit* – Lead lowest in all cases except when partner bid the suit and you raised. Remember that a raise by you is not the same thing as a preference by you. *Versus No-Trump* – Lead top in all cases except when partner bid the suit and you did not raise.

LEADING UNSUPPORTED TENS AND NINES

Leading top from 9-x-x or 10-x-x is a good way to lose the setting trick

Here is how expensive leading top from 10-x-x can be:

Declarer played in 3NTa. In response to a lead directing double by East, West led the 10. East took the first 2 clubs and continued the suit.

When South won with the 9, East was sad, but that was nothing to how East felt when West followed suit to the trick.

LEADING DOUBLETONS

Against a suit contract – in order to be effective you have to find partner with a strong holding or with the Ace. If he has the ace, he has to decide whether to take it at trick one or wait for the second round of the suit. Doubleton leads are not as attractive as singletons but they do have the merit in not destroying a trick in some other suit. If a ruff comes out of it, it is a bonus.

Against a no-trumps contract – If your partner has bid the suit, go for it. If your partner has lead a lead-directing double during or at the end of the auction, get it out there. Otherwise a doubleton is lead at no-trumps only as a last resort, perhaps if it is an unbid suit.

ACE LEAD IN NO TRUMPS

Use the Ace lead in no-trumps from A-K-Q-10-x or A-K-K-10-x. The Ace lead is also all right from A-Q-J-10-6 provided you have a sure entry in another suit, otherwise lead the Q.

If leading your top card from a sequence and are allowed to lead the trick, you should continue with the lowest card in your sequence.

K-Q-J-7 Lead the king and if it wins, continue with the jack
 Q-J-10-5 Lead the queen and if it wins, continue with the ten.
 K-Q-4 Lead the king and if it wins and if you choose to continue the suit, lead the queen
 J-10-9-4 Lead the jack, and continue with the nine

If you use this rule then often defence will take 2 tricks which is better than one trick. If you were on lead and lead the Q which held and then the 10, and if your partner has K-x this will tell partner to unblock the suit.

Leading singletons in No-trumps

Never lead a singleton against no-trumps unless partner has bid the suit or doubled for the lead. If you do it can often give away a free finesse when your partner is forced to play a high card, which sets up a suit for declarer. Also leading a singleton in a suit bid by your right hand opponent is bad as this too may set up a suit for declarer.

To Lead a trump or not to Lead a Trump.

Only lead a trump when dummy has ruffing values – e.g. declarer has shown 2 suits and you expect dummy to provide some ruffs.

When declarer has bid two suits and dummy gives preference to the second suit, a trump lead should always be considered – especially if you are strong in declarer's first suit.

When not to lead a trump:

- Do not lead a singleton trump as it often ruins your partner's holding.
- Do not lead a trump when you have four of them – as you have a good defensive holding. You should aim to develop your high card tricks.
- Do not lead a trump it endangers a potential trump trick.
- Do not lead a trump if their bidding suggests strength and tricks



LEADING ACES AND UNDERLEADING ACES AGAINST SUIT CONTRACTS

The author says that when he is on lead against a suit contract, the first thing he does is eliminate any suit headed by the Ace and look elsewhere for a better lead.

Some of the reasons why not to underlead an Ace include:

- An opponent may have a singleton King.
- You may give declarer a trick with his king that he could not otherwise make.
- Even if your partner has the King, underleading your Ace may not gain a trick.
- Your partner may have the King but not know to play it.
- Even when you get lucky and find dummy with the King and your partner with the Queen your lead may not gain a trick.
- You may have a better lead.
- When you lead away from the Ace and it costs your side a trick, it is often your partner who looks silly. This is a bad way to treat your partner.

Welcome to 'what I teach and why Pt.5' by Kristen Collins.

Suit overcalls and takeout doubles: a disciplined approach

My criteria for a suit overcall:

8-15 HCP (10-15 at the 2 level) and a 5+ card suit

2 of the top 3, or 3 of the top 5, honours – a GOOD suit

The longer and stronger the suit, the fewer points you need to make an overcall.

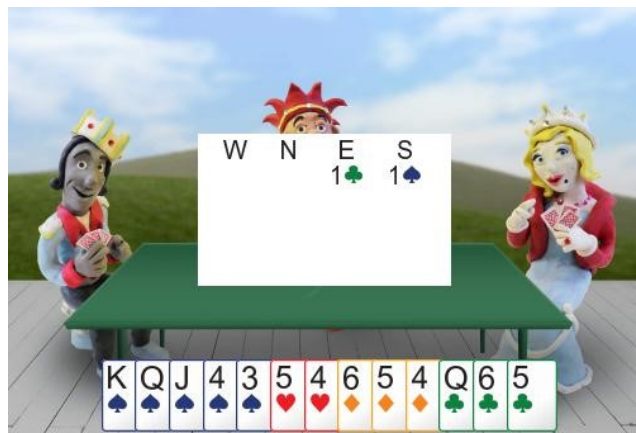
A suit overcall tells your partner that THIS is the one quality thing about your hand. If your partnership ends up on defense, after dummy goes down, you partner should be able to picture the placement of the entire suit.

Hands suitable to overcall:

♠ AQJxx	♥ xx	♦ KQx	♣ xxx
♠ xx	♥ AKxxx	♦ xx	♣ Kxx

Hands not suitable to overcall:

♠ Jxxxx	♥ Jx	♦ AKx	♣ Kxx
♠ Qxxxx	♥ KJx	♦ Qx	♣ Axx



My criteria for a takeout double:

Either: the correct shape and 12+ HCP

A takeout double of a Major opening promises 4 cards in the other Major

A takeout double of a minor opening promises at least 4/3 in the Majors

It also promises at least 3 card support for any other unbid suit.

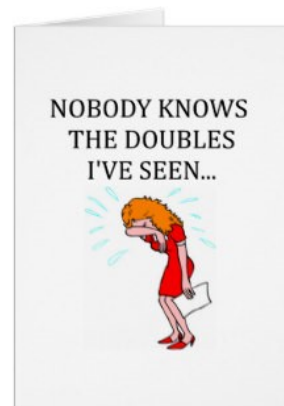
It should have a shortage in the Opener's suit, therefore you must be able to tolerate any bid partner makes.

A takeout double is a bid that tells your partner that you have your own Opening hand and also the ability to play in any other suit except the one the Opener bid. It says to partner "bid anything because I like everything else except the Opening suit".

Hands suitable for a takeout double:

After a 1D opening: ♠ KQJx ♥ QJx ♦ xx ♣ AQxx

After a 1H opening: ♠ AKxx ♥ xx ♦ KQxx ♣ QJx



Unless you have the correct shape for a takeout double your partner has no clear idea where the auction is going, they cannot guarantee a fit so are unable to value their hand properly and cannot place the contract.

After you have bid a simple takeout double with the correct shape and 12+ HCP your partner should now be in control of the auction for your partnership, you have shown your hand and should only bid again if you have some undisclosed extra strength.

So a takeout double requires the right shape and 12+ HCP:

OR: 16+ HCP and your own suit to rebid.

A hand such as this:

♠ Ax ♥ AKxxx ♦ Kx ♣ Kxx

is too strong for a simple overcall, it does not require very much from partner to be able to make game. To show the difference between the hand above and a simple overcall, double first and then bid your own suit at the next available level.

Conclusion:

A bidding sequence such as this:

1S - 2H (overcall): promises 10-15 HCP and a quality suit

A bidding sequence such as this:

1S - X (takeout double): promises 4H, 3+C, 3+D and 12+ HCP

A bidding sequence such as this:

1H (your partner) - X (takeout double) - Pass - 1S

Pass - 2D: promises 16+ HCP and 5+ suit



Therefore: when you overcall a suit or do a takeout double your partner is in no confusion about your hand.

A straight overcall is a quality suit with a maximum of 15 HCP.

A takeout double promises the ability to play in any other suit except the opening one and 12+ HCP

Happy reading

Barbara Wilkes

Editor

