

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Currently the results function on the tablets has been turned off. We are aware the ability to quickly review the results after the hand has been completed is valued by members. However, there have been ongoing issues with the tablets when the results function is 'on' and this disrupts and slows the play of the room. After extensive investigations a software compatibility issue has been identified as the likely cause of the problem. A software update will occur shortly and it is felt this will address the problem. After this software update the results function will be turned back on at the discretion of the Director.

We have had another round of our new junior and intermediate championship pairs competition albeit with smaller numbers this time. For our newer players, the championship competition provides a great opportunity to develop a partnership with another player. Potentially you can play up to 8 rounds with the same person (6 rounds are required to be eligible for the competition). A consistent partnership allows you to build a mutual understanding of your bidding and defensive play that will lead to better decision-making over time.

Our fortnightly review sessions of Monday's hands are well attended and very worthwhile. One of our participants last time bought a selection of bidding slips along to discuss. This was a great idea and so we suggest if you have any challenging bids keep the slip and let's discuss them together. Our next session is Tuesday 26 May.

Our King's birthday fun night is coming up Monday 1 June at 5.30pm. For this fun night we are having an Indian meal from Black Pepper (restaurant/takeaway in Mosgiel). This cost for the evening is \$30—this includes our Indian meal, a dessert and an evening of bridge. If you come only for the bridge then you pay as usual using a table card. You do not need a partner, we will arrange this for you. The winners on the night will be presented with the Wolken Cup.

As a courtesy to players with allergies and scent sensitivities, we kindly ask everyone to avoid wearing perfumes, colognes, and heavily scented body products during bridge sessions. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our games healthy and enjoyable for everyone.

On Sunday 7 June at 10am the Taieri Bridge Club will host the Open Pairs 5A tournament.

Jen Macartney is away on an extended break to the UK from 1 June and returning 10 August. We wish her safe travels, however we have a feeling she will be checking out our results and answering emails. In her absence Lyn McLaren will be Acting President as well as the Tournament Director.

RECENT RESULTS

Well done to our winners of competitions this month.

Monday Competition

Chatsford Pairs

1st place-Dominick Geoffery & Angela Wilson

2nd place-Gabe Campbell & Jenni Wright

Wednesday Competition

Autumn Pairs

1st place—Ruth Airey & Janet Gafford

2nd place-Alan Nicholls & Cheryl Tapp

A RARE AND VERY SPECIAL OCCASION



Happy birthday John Wolken from all your friends at the Taieri Bridge Club. Wishing you good health, great hands and a wonderful day on Monday 18 May.

Online lessons for newer players

NZ Bridge are running online supported play for new players to the game (1-2 years) to practice their skills in a relaxed environment with support from experienced teachers and players. These lessons are designed for those who:

- Have just finished lessons
- Have a year or two experience
- Are forming new partnerships
- Want to practice bidding, playing and defending the hand.

You play in Real Bridge, you need a computer with a working camera and microphone. A tablet may be okay but a smart phone doesn't have a big enough screen to see the whole game.

These lessons are from 4-6pm every Sunday in June, July and August. There is a cost of \$5 per lesson or \$25 for the season and play as often as you like.

For more information go to nzbridge.helloclub.com.

Reminder:

Don't forget to shuffle the cards if the hand has been passed in as not doing so alerts/gives information to the next table that plays it.



Barbara's Bridge Tips by Barbara Seagram

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 they 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 bid 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 you really need more than 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.

Looking for winter drivers



There may be some of our members who would rather not drive during winter but are too shy to ask for rides. Can you help out by offering to pick up and drop off? Please let one of the committee know if you can help out.

**A DAY WITHOUT
BRIDGE
WOULDN'T KILL ME
BUT WHY TAKE
THE CHANCE?**



Dates to remember:

26 May-1.30-3.30pm Review of Monday hands

1 June-5.30pm King's Birthday fun night

7 June-10am Taieri Open Pairs 5A Tournament

7 June-4-6pm NZ Bridge Online lessons begin

9 June—1.30-3.30pm Review of Monday hands

13 June—5.45pm Dinner after Saturday bridge (contact Heather Urquhart).