

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

- ◆ Notes from AGM: 28 people attended the AGM. We wish to thank Dale Cameron who has been on the committee for a couple of years. Dale has been very busy buying all the kitchen items and bar supplies as well as running the bar. Great effort thanks Dale—much appreciated. Although Jenny Magee is still on the committee as Past President she has stepped down from active duties. Thanks too Jenny for your contribution to the club which has also been greatly appreciated. The club has made a small loss which is pretty amazing considering the impact of COVID. We would like to welcome Christine Samson back on to the committee. It was agreed, as a trial, to start Monday night sessions at 7 o'clock, having a rolling supper, and try to finish by 10 o'clock. Honorary Life Memberships have been awarded to Christine Samson and Barbara Wilkes in recognition of the contributions they have both made to the club over the last number of years. Well done!
- ◆ Thanks to Jen, Barbara, Patsy, Dawn and Judy Hinton for turning up to the spring clean. It would have been better having more members help but what was achieved was a help!!.
- ◆ Please welcome Chris Wither from the learners class.
- ◆ Improvers lessons by Kristen Collins to occur on Sunday 29th November and Sunday 6th December. Start time is 1.30 pm. Cost of each lesson is \$10.00 per person per session. Topics most likely to be covered: transfers, takeout double and defence to 1NT (but this may change). Open to all members of our club.
- ◆ As per the AGM we are trialling the 7 o'clock start with no stopping time for supper. What are your thoughts on this? If you have something to say please email the club or approach one of the committee members.
- ◆ Wednesday 9th December has no event planned on that night. It is proposed that we have an open club night for all members to mix together and play bridge. (Wednesday night players won't bite you know). Please bring a plate.
- ◆ We have been having a tidy up of old packs of cards. There is a box of complete packs that are free to our members to take.
- ◆ Christmas party will be held on Monday 14th December. Once again we will be having a sit down meal followed by the prize giving. Cost of the meal will be \$20.00 per head with part of the cost to be subsidised by the club. It will be the same meal options as last year. Names will need to be confirmed by 9th December. Payment expected on the night.

COLLINS BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS –

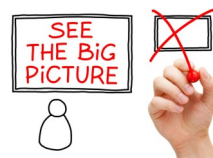
DEFENCE – by Zia Mahmood

This book is in our own library and I thought that with learners just coming through it was timely to have a refresh on some of the basics.

Defence has been labelled the most difficult part of the game of bridge. This is certainly true, but it is as intriguing and exciting as it is difficult. You defend contracts twice as often as you end up being declarer since, when your side is playing the contract, you are dummy half the time, whereas a defender is involved in every hand and has to be constantly alert.

Becoming a good defender, therefore, can double your effectiveness at the bridge table. As you are interested in preventing the declarer from making his contract but you don't have the benefit of seeing your partner's hand.

First of all you have to look at the big picture before you are able to select the opening lead. If opponents are in no trumps, are they in a part score or game as it makes a difference in how many tricks you have to win. The letters S T O P can be used to help you remember the steps to go through in defence as in declarer play. STOP stands for:



S Stop to consider your goal – how many tricks do you need to defeat the contract

T Tally your winners – see how close you are to the goal – a winner is a sure trick

O Organise your plan – look at your options to reach your objective

P Put your plan into operation. You may have to reconsider the plan each hand played

Sometimes you have to use STOP twice, firstly before you make your opening lead and then again once dummy goes down and you have more information.

Sure Tricks: As defenders you want to take your sure tricks but the problem is you don't know what your partner's hand holds. You may get additional information from the bidding but you still have to use your imagination when thinking about your partner's hand.



If your partner has over called then that is a good place to start. A good guideline is to lead your partner's suit unless you clearly have a better alternative. Care must be taken though if your partner had over called they will be showing 5 card suit (the long suit) and if you have 2 or 3 (the short hand) of the same suit then you must lead the highest card you have to make advantage of the length in your partner's suit

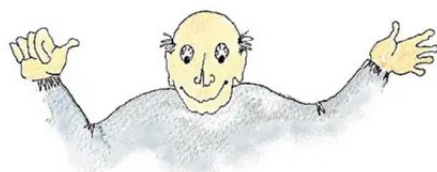
Promoting high cards: More often defenders will need to develop some winners in order to defeat the contract. When you have a sequence of touching high cards you lead the top card to promote the cards underneath, but importantly it also tells you partner what you have. You may have to give up the lead to declarer a couple of times but it is worth it especially if you are defending against 3NT and you have outside entries to get back to your suit. You will need to preserve entries into your hand otherwise you won't be able to regain the lead. If you have 3 sole Aces and you take them first you are only promoting declarer's hands not your own.

For example if you had ♠ Q J 10 9 6, ♥ K 7 2, ♦ 8 4, ♣ A 9 5, you should lead the Q♠, which is the top of touching cards. Eventually you should be able to promote some winners in your suit. If you lead the 6♠, you could end up losing to the 8♠.

If your hand was this: ♠ Q 10 8 6 3, ♥ K 7 2, ♦ 8 4, ♣ A 9 5, you do not have a strong enough sequence and so you need help from your partner. You would need to lead low to your partner and hope your partner has 1 of the 3 honours in Spades.

An important guide is to lead back your partner's suit lead, as you both need to co-operate with each other. Sometimes your partner may only have one outside honour in another suit and so needs to establish their own suit as soon as possible.

Here is just a summary of what is in this book. Worth a read for people at all levels.



"I favour light opening bids.
When you're my age, you can never be sure that the bidding
will get back around to you again."

Oswald Jacoby at 77

DUPLICATE BRIDGE



TAKES A LIFETIME TO MASTER

© WORDS & UNWORDS



Andrew G.

'Don't get too fancy,
just try to bid your longest suit...'

Robert S Todd

Barbara Wilkes

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

