

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

- ◆ The AGM was held on 18th October. There was 37 members in attendance which is the highest attendance since I've been secretary. The following new committee members were nominated and accepted: Marie Kean, Mavis Hastie, Jenni Wright, Bob Gillanders, Lynne Newell, Avril Power, Robert Cowan. Thanks to Marie who has agreed to be the Vice-President. We are still one committee member short so it would be helpful to have one more join the committee. There was no general business discussed and so the meeting was over in 21 minutes. A huge big thank you to our outgoing committee members for all the hard-work they have put in over their time on committee: Alan Lewthwaite, Dawn Brieseman, Patsy Williams, Joy Martin-Frew, John Aitcheson, and Christine Samson.
- ◆ Table cards have been very successful but we need to re-establish some rules. Just to explain that these were introduced to cut down on cash handling as going to the bank is not easy these days. As the majority of members use email and have online banking access we are asking that first you email the club requesting another set of cards. An invoice will be sent, to which you must pay before your cards can be collected the following week.
- ◆ In an attempt to get more people attending Wednesday nights please email the club your intention to continue playing next year. We would like a quick list of Wednesday night players so that it can help new players find people to play with.
- ◆ Christmas Prize giving party will be on Wednesday 15th December. We will again have the seated meal option which this year will cost \$25.00 per person. The club has agreed to subsidise a small portion of the meal cost. Robert has agreed to cater again and so judging from past years the food will be very delicious. Numbers to be confirmed by 8th December. Online payment also expected before 8th December.
- ◆ If you were the recipient of a trophy last year please bring them back (polished) to the club as soon as possible.
- ◆ Mosgiel Community Foodbank are looking for contributions. We thought we could help as a club so please bring some cans to the club in the next week.
- ◆ Friday night is the Babich NZ Wide Pairs. It's not too late to enter online. Wearing masks is optional. Your support would be appreciated.



HAND EVALUATION IN BRIDGE by Brian Senior

Which of these three hands would you most like to pick up as dealer?

(i)	♠ A86 ♥ K63 ♦ QJ84 ♣ K104	(ii)	♠ A86 ♥ K6 ♦ QJ84 ♣ K1043	(iii)	♠ A86 ♥ K6 ♦ QJ843 ♣ K104
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Even when intending to play in no trumps, long suits can be a plus feature. Hand 1 has the worst distribution you can pick up, as it only has one suit which might produce an extra length trick, while if you play in a suit contract there is only one suit for which you have four card support, even if you are lucky enough to find a fit, you have no ruffing values.

Hand 2 is a little better. Now you have two possible sources of a length trick, two suits for which you have four card support, and if one of those suits becomes trumps you also have a ruffing value.



Hand 3 is back to only having one possible source of length tricks, but this time you have a genuinely long suit which could produce two extra tricks. You may have only one suit of four cards or more but even if you eventually have to support one of the black suits with only three cards, you have a ruffing value as compensation.

Honour Combinations

It is better to have honour cards in combination, supporting each other, rather than isolated honour cards which are supported only by small cards. Imagine that you hold a king and a queen and partner has only small cards in the relevant suit, or suits

With combination a) you have a 50% chance of making a trick with the King spades plus a 25% chance of a trick in hearts. If North holds Ace spades you may make no trick at all.

50/50

Combination b guarantees you only one spade trick and, if South holds Ace spades, you should be able to make two tricks by leading towards the honours twice.

Intermediaries

Intermediary cards such as nines and tens can add significantly to the playing potential of a hand, particularly if they are backing up one or more higher honours.

To take one very obvious example, imagine that you want to establish tricks in a suit where you hold three low cards opposite A J 3 2, then imagine having A J 10 9 instead. Both holdings come in at 5HCP in the basic count but the latter one will provide three tricks 75% of the time while the former does not even offer a guarantee of 2 tricks.

Honours with Length

Honours in your long suits will tend to pull their weight better than honours in your short suits. This is because it will make it easier to establish extra length tricks if you have high cards in your long suits.



A second point to consider is that your long suit may become the eventual trump suit. If you are missing high cards in the trump suit there is absolutely nothing you can do to avoid losing those missing high cards. If you are missing high cards in any other suit, there is the possibility of either ruffing your losers in dummy or of discarding them on partner's winners in another suit.

Side Suit Shape

Even when holding one or more long suits, the side suits is also significant in judging the overall potential of the hand. How would you rank these three hands?

As the distribution becomes more unbalanced the playing potential increases. Hence iii) is better than (ii) which in turn is better than (i).

Holding hand (i), you have two possible trump suits and will only be prepared to play in either of your doubletons if partner bids the suit strongly. Holding hand (ii) you still have two suits of your own but have reasonable support for a third suit, diamonds, should partner bid it. Finally, hand (iii) contains three biddable suits, giving three chances of finding a fit with partner.

This book goes way further than this but I thought I would just give you a taste of what it includes.



Please be considerate in the following ways:

- ♦ Turn up at least 10 minutes before start of play so Monday night that is 6.50 pm and Wednesday night 7.05pm. This is really important to starting on-time.
- ♦ Please have your table cards ready on the table before start of play. Whoever collects these has only about 5 minutes to reconcile everything so this would be greatly appreciated.



LIGHT TRAVELS FASTER THAN SOUND



This is why some Bridge players appear bright until you hear them speak in the post-mortem!!

Don't be one of those people!!

Barbara Wilkes

NEWSLETTER EDITOR