

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



FINAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARIE KEAN

I have now completed my two year term as the President of the Taieri Bridge Club. Over this time the Club has run smoothly, we have many keen new members and we have a friendly and welcoming Club. Our Club works well because of our volunteers who work behind the scenes and make sure that we have everything necessary to enjoy our bridge. There are too many people to mention here but thank you so much to everyone in the Club who so willingly help out and make a difference. I have enjoyed my time as President and look forward to working with Jen Macartney and her team next year. We have our AGM next Monday and I look forward to seeing you there.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Our AGM is next Monday 20 October at 6pm. Please note the door will be closed at 6pm and will be re-opened when the meeting is completed. If you arrive for the bridge session but the meeting is still in progress you will need to wait outside until it is finished.

Thank you to the majority of members who completed our recent online survey. We have sent out a summary of the results to you. Thank you for the constructive and thoughtful feedback. We will discuss the research findings with the new committee and share with you some initiatives in the new year.

Our old notice boards have been recovered and tidied up. Thank you to Allan Dyer, Brian Ellis and David Mackle for doing this for us.

The Labour weekend fun night is coming up on Monday 27 October. The cost for a meal and bridge is \$20. If you are just coming for the bridge then the usual table card money will be required. You do not need a partner. We will arrange that for you and we will mix up juniors with more experienced players. On our fun nights we play for the Wolken Cups and these are presented to the winners at the end of the night. There is a list on the noticeboard so put your name down and come and join us for a lovely meal and then a game of social bridge.

We have noticed that relatively few people seem to be using our cloakrooms. If you do have a coat could you please hang this in the cloakroom rather than bringing it into the clubroom. When bridge starts our door alarm is put on so no-one can enter the premises without the director being aware so our

coats and jackets are safe and secure. We have no problems with you bringing your handbag into the bridge room.

Our recent Taieri junior/intermediate pairs tournament held on 5 October was a success with competitors from around the district as well as a good contingent from Taieri and the Otago Club. Congratulations to Christine Samson and Lyn Clark for winning the competition.

Congratulations to our junior players Judy Gorman and Catherine Smith for their great score (62.28%) on the first round of the recent Balclutha Open Pairs tournament.

RECENT RESULTS

Well done to our winners of competitions this month.

Monday Competition

Mabel Porteous Trophy (Played over 5 nights with a different partner each time. Only those in the junior grade eligible)

- ◆ 1st place—Jill Reid
- ◆ 2nd place – Terry Evans

Mabel Porteous was one of the Club's early members joining in the mid 1970's. She was a newcomer to bridge at the time and had lessons at the Taieri High School. She was known for her quick wit and sense of humour that lightened the mood on occasions. She, like other early stalwarts, worked hard to establish the Club. She was a competitive junior player and she wanted to donate a trophy just for the junior grade.

Wednesday Competition

Noel Kerr Memorial (an individual competition played over 5 nights)

- ◆ 1st place—John Wolken
- ◆ 2nd place—Jude Smeijers

Noel Kerr was a great supporter of the Club in the 1970's, long before our current clubrooms were built. When the Club was starting bridge was played in various locations including people's homes, the Palisander Lounge (the Mitre 10 building today), the Taieri Bowling Club and for a small group above Noel Kerr's pharmacy (organised by Alison, Noel's wife). Noel was a very skilled bridge player who readily shared his knowledge with others. He took lessons and provided guidance to players before bridge on a Wednesday.

SOME REMINDERS ABOUT ALERTING...

This is where a player circles his partner's bid as soon as partner has written it to let the opposition know that the bid has a meaning different from that which they might expect.

- Any bid that means something other than what it says has to be alerted. (An exception to this is 2C, showing clubs, in response to a 1NT opening bid. This is because 2C is more commonly used as an artificial bid or convention to show a major.)
- There are some common bids that do not require alerts because they are so well-known. E.g. opening a strong 2C, or a bid of 2C over partner's 1NT which is stayman.
- If in doubt, alert.
- If a bid is alerted, it pays to ask the partner of the player who made the bid what it means, when it's your turn to bid.
- The appropriate question to ask is "What is your agreement (about the meaning of that bid)?" not "What do you take that as?" If you have no agreement, say "Undiscussed". Do not provide a guess about what you think your partner means.
- When asked the meaning of the alerted bid, full disclosure is the rule (length and strength). Players are entitled to know the exact meaning of the opposition's bid in order for them to bid accurately themselves.
- You are not allowed to volunteer an explanation of your alert. It could be construed as giving info to your partner. If the opposition wants to know, they must ask.

FROM THE ARCHIVES 40 YEARS AGO...

The Taieri Bridge Club held a Special Meeting on 20 November 1985, a motion was put to the Club that members refrain from smoking cigarettes, pipes and cigars in the Bridge Room before supper on Club nights, before afternoon tea when play is in the afternoon, and before lunch when play commences at 10.30am. The motion was carried 64 being in favour and 27 against!

TIPS FOR WHEN TO FINESSE:

- * "Eight ever, nine never" ..
- * This means if you have an 8 card suit between you and dummy then odds are it is better to finesse, whereas with 9 cards it is generally best to hope for the drop..

