

TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE:

- If you are looking for a partner to play with on a Wednesday night then please contact Merv as Christine is away for the next 3 weeks.
- With the changes to Covid from today it is no longer a prerequisite for all members to be vaccinated. Masks are still optional.
- There's a lot going on in the club rooms over the next wee while. Painting has already started and from I saw tonight it certainly looks fab. Kitchen vinyl is going in next week. Blinds should be installed at the start of October. The finished result should be great.
- Our recent Charity raised \$690.00. These funds were donated to St John's, Mosgiel Branch. Thanks for you help if you donated raffle prizes or just turned up on the day!!
- Start time: It has always been mentioned that you should turn up at least 10 minutes before start of play. We are now amending this to 15 minutes. This will help smooth out the start set up for the session.
- If you are a learner then you are still welcome to turn up without a partner on a Monday night up until mid October. After that time you should have a partner organised—Dale our partnership officer, can help if need help finding a partner.
- Do you have any old photos or information that could be helpful for our 50th Anniversary celebrations next year? If so please let one of the committee know.
- Don't forget the AGM is coming up—17th October—start time 6.30 pm.



THE SECRETS OF WINNING BRIDGE by Jeff Reubens

Bridge is unique among popular games in that it offers unlimited opportunity to improve through study and practice. No special talents are required to become a good, excellent or even champion player.

Success in bidding depends in part upon partnership rapport but you also have to know how you value your hand. Hand valuation is assessing the strengths and weaknesses of your hand in regard to trick-taking capability. The tricks you are thinking about taking may be at a contract for your own side or as a defender. There are two factors to consider: the high cards you hold, your suit distribution and the bidding. Valuation is easy when the hands are balanced but when the hands are unbalanced then you may need to adjust your valuation. Things to consider: do you have 9's and 10's, how many control cards do you have, what sort of fit do you have with your partner, and how many unguarded honours do you have?

Honours are more valuable in your long suits than in your short suits. Two honours in the same suit are more valuable than isolated honours.

When there are competitive auctions you have to work out whether your hand is better for defending or offending. In principle the more cards you hold in your suits and the fewer cards you hold in their suits, the more offensive your hand; the fewer cards you hold in your suits and the more cards you hold in their suits, the more defensive your hand. In other words the more cards you have in your own suit then you can bid on.

This next part can be most frustrating if you are on the end of it. It is knowing when opponents stop bidding at a very low level how to bid to drive them up one level. This is called balancing. You can presume that your partner has points even if they haven't bid. An example of this is when the bidding goes like 1H, pass 2H. They have found a fit and not looked for other contracts. They are most likely to have around 20 HCP between them. Of course you need to consider if you are vulnerable or not as you can't afford to go 2 light at 200 points to opponents.

So much to consider as usual!!!

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP:

- 17 Sept—Winton Graded Pairs, \$25.00. Entries close 14/09.
- 24 Sept—Gore—Open 8B Pairs, \$25.00. Entries close 21/09.
- 2nd Oct—Taieri Junior Tournament. More details to follow.



HINTS FOR IMPROVING PLAYERS

Good players count all the time. They count the tricks they need, the cards played in every suit, and the HCP shown by each player. To begin with that is a lot of work and new players might despair that they will ever improve. However, like many things, the ability to count can be learnt provided you are willing to put some work into it and take it one step at a time.

Perhaps the first place to start is the trump suit. As declarer, one of the things you often begin by doing is to draw trumps; count them until they are all accounted for. A very common situation is that your side has 8 trumps in the combined hands. Therefore there are 5 trumps outstanding and if one defender has two then the other has three - so you will need to play three rounds if you wish to draw all their trumps. So watch carefully as you play the second round to check that both defenders follow suit!

If your side has 9 trumps in total then you may only need to play two rounds of trumps (if the defenders' trumps are divided equally between their two hands).

You will find that you have many opportunities to practice this aspect of the game. Keep at it until it becomes automatic. Then you can go on to counting other suits and counting HCPs.

To Double or Not on a Monday Night!!

Doubling has always been a part of bridge and to eliminate it changes part of the integrity of the game.

There has always been mention of not doubling members straight out of lessons. This is a wish than a directive. Really we want you to be considerate to our new members and not scare them off.

Just remember that if you double someone it is either a top or bottom board. Top if you take them light but bottom if they make it.

Barbara Wilkes

NEWSLETTER EDITOR



**If you are
15 minutes early,
You are on time**
**If you are on time,
You are Late**
**&
If you are Late
You didn't want to be there**

- Anonymous