

## TAIERI BRIDGE CLUB SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



### NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee wishes to gratefully acknowledge a very generous financial donation to the club. This anonymous donation was made to cover the costs of 18 new tablets. Thanks to this generosity we now have 24 new tablets which is wonderful for the club.

A reminder the date for the AGM has been changed and is now a week later. The AGM is now on Monday 20 October at 6pm. If you have items to be considered for inclusion in the AGM agenda these will need to be emailed to the club by 29 September. We have received the required nominations for the committee but more can be received. The closing date for nominations is 29 September.

We have been reviewing aspects of health and safety around the club. We are interested to know how many of our club members have an up to date first aid certificate. If you do could you let Marie, Barbara or Jen know.

You will have received our online survey. Thank you to those who have already completed the questionnaire. If you have not yet done so the closing date to complete the questionnaire is Wednesday 17 September. Thank you in advance for your feedback and ideas. The link to the survey is—<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DFRBN3R>

The Charity Tournament on 24 August was a great success. As a result of the tournament the club donated \$1,000 to the Mosgiel Food Bank along with an extensive array of food and household items. Thank you to everyone who participated. We would also like to thank the Johnstons One Agency for their generosity in donating four beautiful gift boxes as raffle prizes.

Our Taieri Junior/Intermediate Pairs tournament is coming up on Sunday 5 October. The committee would like to encourage as many of our junior and intermediate players as possible to take part. If you have not played in a tournament before this is your chance to try something new in familiar surroundings. The format is similar to our usual bridge sessions except that you play in the morning and afternoon. Morning tea and a light snack at the end of play are provided. You bring your own lunch. There will be players from other clubs as well as many familiar faces. You will be competing against people in your own grade and so there are separate prizes for juniors and intermediates. It is a good chance to gain more experience and develop your bridge game. It would be wonderful if we could

have plenty of support from our members for this tournament. Fun fact: 90% of our members are junior/intermediate grade.

### RECENT RESULTS

Well done to our winners of competitions this month.

#### Monday Competition

*Brooklands Village Pairs (Handicap event played over 4 nights)*

- ♦ 1st place—Angela Wilson & Janet Gafford
- ♦ 2nd place – Kitty Caldwell & Karl Power

#### Wednesday Competition

*No completed competitions*

### TIPS AND QUIPS CONTRACT BRIDGE by Vil Gravis

**How should 4441 hands be bid?** Most people absolutely hate 4441 hands because they so often come to grief in bidding them. Whatever way they bid them, it seems their partner misinterprets their distribution or strength, or both. But 4441 hands need not lead to disasters. Rather, they can be very good to play when the 4-4 fit can be found. But how to bid them? Some say that you open the suit below the singleton, or the middle one or even the highest one.

A rule which is quite simple is NEVER open a MAJOR if you have a 4441 hand. That leaves the 1C or 1D. If you have one of them, you open it. If you have both four card minor suits, decide which lie will be the least damaging. If you open 1D and rebid 2D partner will think you have five or more. If you open 1C and rebid 2C partner will think you have five or more. If you open 1C then rebid 2D that is a reverse showing a stronger (17+ HCP) hand so are you good enough to do that? If you open 1C or 1D and rebid 1NT you are showing 15-16 HCP, but if you have close to that it is better to rebid 1NT with 14 or a good 13 points rather than make a rebid that will lie about your shape. Just a bit of thinking about your rebid IF partner responds in your singleton will give the answer. At least if you open 1C or 1D you will tell less of a lie with your rebid.

You will often find that many 4441 hands are good to play if you have a fit in one of your suits and can embark on a cross ruff.

## TIPS TO WIN BRIDGE from the New Zealand Bridge Website

The most important skill any bridge player can possess is to be a good partner. Bring out the best in your partner by respect and understanding.

Show no emotion when dummy appears, as opponents will draw inferences from your expressions.

Don't dwell on previous hands.

Think and plan at trick one. Any plan is better than no plan!

Bid and play in an even tempo. You should pause briefly before any bid or play, especially against good opponents.

Concentrate properly. Switch off when you're dummy, and between sessions.

Don't show opponents your cards. Hold them well back and put honours and singletons near the centre.

Don't be intimidated. Show poise, and keep your wits about you

Be a tough competitor. Don't become inattentive and careless after a bad session.

Act decisively. Gain a reputation and be alert during the auction.

The most experienced partner should adapt. Play a basic system and avoid obscure bids.

Adhere to your system. Develop partnership trust.

Don't try for unusual "brilliant" plays! Be creative but don't go to extremes.

Don't lose interest when holding terrible hands, especially v. astute declarers!

No teaching during the session! Discuss and analyse after the game.

Develop a positive mental attitude. Show optimism and confidence.

Strive to improve. Ask better players; read; compete against good opponents.

Analyse objectively.

Develop a Bridge sense of humour. Accept injustices, and partners fallacies!

Be a practical player. Aim for the best result possible rather than the best possible result. e.g. defeat the contract; bid what you can make.

Improve your Bridge etiquette. Be courteous; be a good sport; Avoid gloating, griping, or talking during a hand.



**The Improver Lessons are now completed for this year. The Sunday morning sessions have been well attended and very helpful. Thank you to Robert Cowan, Jen Macartney and Judy Gorman for organising and running these sessions for us.**

