

# NEW PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

April 2022



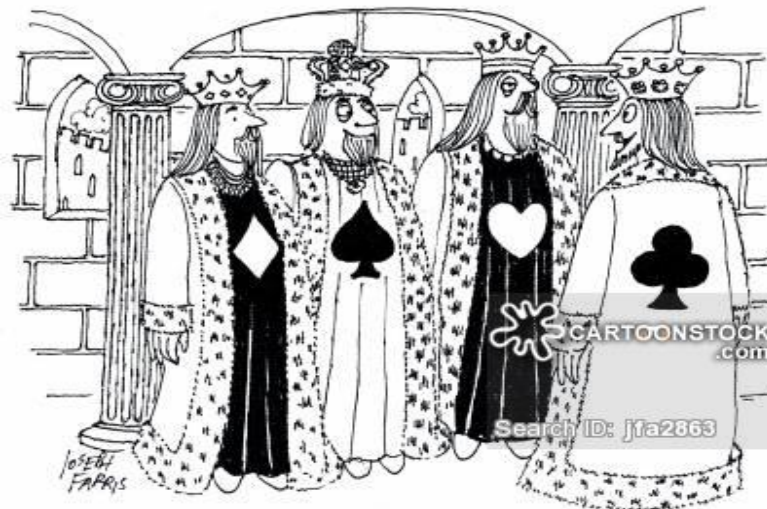
## From the President Dean Skelton - Volunteers

Like any social or recreation club a lot of work is performed by volunteers. Much of this work isn't seen by the majority of the members but it enables the club to continue to function in an orderly fashion. These following areas are where volunteers provide assistance.

- ❖ Maintaining the gardens
- ❖ Mowing of our lawns and upkeep of the building
- ❖ Dealing cards to play
- ❖ Washing the playing tablecloths
- ❖ Convening sessions
- ❖ Preparing the room for each playing session
- ❖ Contributing and preparing the newsletter
- ❖ Organising the library
- ❖ Providing food and helping in the kitchen during tournaments
- ❖ Running the bar
- ❖ Providing assistance to the learners

Then there are the people who go beyond their assigned duties and provide extra time to assist the club, such as the IT people, in particular Kevin Turner who has contributed hugely over the years in many areas. Also Faye and Anthony Murcott who have put in hours of work into upgrading the men's and women's toilets.

All these people contribute their time to assist the club and it is greatly appreciated. As always, the club is looking out for others who are interested in contributing some of their time to the club. A big thank you goes out to all the present volunteers and those in the past that have made our club such a success.



"How about a game of cards?"

## Our newest Grand Master – David O’Shaughnessy



### David pictured with our President Dean Skelton

Congratulations to David on becoming the 10<sup>th</sup> member of our club to attain Grand Master status. Tournament cancellations because of Covid restrictions and limited on-line opportunities proved a challenge to gain A points. However, playing in the recent South Canterbury Congress on-line Swiss Pairs saw David reach the A point requirement.

David commenced his bridge playing career at the club in 1992. His mother Jennifer was a member of the club and sparked David’s interest in the game. His late father Peter also subsequently joined the club. Initially bridge was more of a recreational interest, and it was not until David moved to Auckland in the late 1990s that it became a more serious interest. Playing consistently with good players in Auckland improved his bridge.

David’s advice for new players is try and avoid over bidding. New players naturally tend to be risk takers when bidding. If you can constrain yourself your bridge will improve. Minus 1100 or minus 1400 doesn’t boost your bridge!

### Heard at the Bridge table

- I never drink alcohol while playing bridge. It interferes with my suffering
- I know no one whom I would rather see in charge of the dummy.
- I am such a fine player, no one can deny my right to be rude.
- If you play bridge without ever having to explain your decision or make an apology, then you obviously don’t exist.
- Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do

## Congress 2022 Report – Colin Carryer

The 12<sup>th</sup> Taranaki Bridge Congress was run over anniversary weekend. I can still remember all those years ago when Russell Wilson and I were driving back from a bridge competition and I said to him - all other centres are running a mini Congress Russell. We need to get one up and running in Taranaki so we don't fall off the Bridge map. And that was the start of the planning and here we are still going strong with a great following.

We had a great event planned in 2021 to be run at the Plymouth Hotel but sadly Covid destroyed that plan. We were due to be at the Bridge Club this year until Covid forced us to run the event online which overall was a great experience. Some players don't seem to enjoy it but under current guidelines this is what we have to do - hopefully 2023 we will be back face to face in the New Plymouth Bridge Club. One positive for online Bridge is numbers can be unlimited and also players can join in from near and far - we had several Australian visitors which was great. Another positive of online Bridge if it is set up properly is viewers can kibbitz which is awesome to be able to watch top players strut their stuff. We can all learn from doing this.

So to the event..... We had Open and Junior/Intermediate teams played on the Saturday with 2 x 12 board matches morning and afternoon. The Open section carried on with their event on the Sunday while the Junior/Intermediate section had the day off and then Monday was the Swiss pairs which was open to everyone.

New Plymouth place getters....

Intermediate/Junior teams - 10 teams

3<sup>rd</sup> Liz and Walt Crawshaw, Paula Martin, Frances Rankin

Open Teams - 42 teams

5<sup>th</sup> Pam Livingston and team members

Swiss Pairs - 84 pairs

1st - Pam Livingston and Graeme Tuffnell

In summary we had very good numbers for the Open teams and the Swiss but very disappointing numbers for the Intermediate/Junior teams. This event was well sponsored too with the winners getting free entry to our National Congress later on this year. The same sponsorship will happen again for this event in 2023 so hopefully more players will come along. Did we have enough dedicated events for the Intermediate/Junior section?

The organisers would be very keen to hear any feedback as to why and what we could do better - constructive criticism is always good.



## Directors Corner – Reeve Pring

### When Should I Correct an Error in Explanation of a Bid?

- If I notice my own error, I immediately call the Director.
- If, in my opinion, my partner gives a mistaken explanation, I must not indicate in any manner during the auction that a mistake has been made.
- Only if I am **declarer** or **dummy**, I call the Director after the final pass. i.e. before the opening lead.
- But if I am a **defender**, I must not do anything until after play ends – then I call the Director.

### Stop Cards

Stop Cards are used during an auction as a skip bid warning.

It is New Plymouth Club policy that they are used on all nights of bridge. The use of Stop Cards is mandatory in all A Point tournaments and is recommended for use in all other tournaments, hence our club's policy. The use of Stop cards on club nights prepares players for their use in tournaments.

Before a player makes a bid that skips one or more levels, a Stop Card should be placed face up on the table in front of your left-hand opponent. After an appropriate wait (approximately 10 seconds after your bid but less at one's discretion) the person who made the skip bid picks up the Stop Card, and only then the left hand opponent may bid.

If the left hand opponent requires an explanation of the bidding, he should ask immediately and not wait for the card to be withdrawn.

When a player omits to use a Stop Card before making a Skip Bid, failure to do so may be taken into account by the Director, and subsequently the Appeals Committee, when assessing what action to take under Law 16 (extraneous information). In addition frequent omissions may attract a procedural penalty.

For example: you make a skip bid without using a Stop Card, your left hand opponent (A) hesitates and then passes. His partner (B) finds a bid. You suspect that A's hesitation, suggesting points but no clear bid, has encouraged B to bid. You call Director, who establishes that there was hesitation, and asks to be called back at the end of the hand if you feel damaged.

If the Director is called back he will rule as follows:

- If B clearly had no right to bid, the director will award you an adjusted score (whether you used a Stop Card or not)
- If it is not clear whether B had a bid, the Director will usually rule in non-offending pairs favour, and award you an adjusted score. But because you didn't use the Stop Card, the Director is less likely to rule in your favour. If the opponents A&B go to appeal, the Appeals Committee is less likely to find in your favour because you didn't use the Stop Card.
- If B had an obvious bid, the Director will allow the score to stand, regardless of the hesitation.

### Bridge Truisms

- Put 4 bridge players on the table and you'll get 4 different opinions
- Partners are extremely important. Who else to blame when you lose?
- One good partner is better than ten average ones.
- Bridge is "just a game" unless of course when you win.

## Recent Club Results

### Monday

#### Anne Wilson Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Betty Smith and Coby Slager

2<sup>nd</sup> Inara Kjestrup and Lynne Norgate

#### Orange Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Lise Milne and Diane Clarke

2<sup>nd</sup> Pamela Jensen and John Warner

#### Monday #5 Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Sue Luoni and Audrey Young

2<sup>nd</sup> Claire O'Connell and Joan Gaines

### Tuesday

#### New Plymouth Vet Group Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Janine Fenelon and Cecelia Stringer

2<sup>nd</sup> Nalini Gopinathan and Ravi Modgill

#### Tuesday Swiss Pairs (1)

1<sup>st</sup> Colin Carryer and Russell Wilson

2<sup>nd</sup> Campbell Priest and Reeve Pring

### Wednesday Evening

#### Wednesday #4 pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Peter Blackbourn and Lise Milne

2<sup>nd</sup> Inara Kjestrup and Jim Sutherland

#### Taranaki Truck Dismantlers Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Diane Hill and Jill Johnson

2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny and Paul Lavoipierre

### Thursday

#### Vosper Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Gallia Therin and Betty Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> Lorraine Smith and Jim Sutherland

#### New Partnership Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Dell Blair and Frances Corcoran

2<sup>nd</sup> Pamela Jensen and Murray Carter

### Friday

#### Fully Framed Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Inara Kjestrup and Karin Lilley

2<sup>nd</sup> June Grant and Pamela Newsome

#### Protrax Earthworks Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Karin Lilley and Lynne Norgate

2<sup>nd</sup> Pamela Jensen and Sarah Green

## A testing hand:

South Deals	♠ 8 5 3		
N-S Vul	♥ 9 3		
	♦ K Q 7		
	♣ A 10 9 7 2		
♠ A K J 7 6	♠ Q 10 2		
♥ Q 8 5 4	♥ 7 2		
♦ 8 2	♦ 9 6 5 4		
♣ J 6	♣ Q 8 5 4		
	♠ 9 4		
	♥ A K J 10 6		
	♦ A J 10 3		
	♣ K 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

The problem: How does South make the contract after West leads 3 rounds of spades with South roughing the 3<sup>rd</sup> round?

Solutions to Colin Carryer: [colincarryer@gmail.com](mailto:colincarryer@gmail.com)

## **I'm Giving up Bridge**

I'm giving up Bridge I'm giving up bridge.  
Tonight's my last night.  
It's Amen to Staymen, I give up the fight

The insults and muddles are giving me troubles  
And I can't sleep at night thinking of doubles.  
My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten who's played,  
and what's trumps, and what's gone on my right

So for now it's all over and I'm off to the Blackwood  
I'm bidding goodbye to Gerber and CRO.  
I can't stand the hassle, and I can't stand the pain  
I'm getting those bad cards again and again  
I'm giving up bridge tonight

Declarer in hand and nothing's gone right.  
My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope  
And when she says double I know we're in trouble  
My points are not high and I'm wondering  
Why she kept on bidding right up to the sky.

We're in seven spades and all my hope fades  
When surprise, surprise, her bidding pays  
We're winning all tricks, the defenders feel sick  
And I have to admit my partner's a brick.

But I'm giving up bridge, tonight's my last night  
Farewell to conventions – I give up the fight  
So I leave you with a few words, but some that are true  
Bridge is a game, not for me but for you.

So be kind to your partner and don't mind their cheek  
For it's only a game.....oh! And see you next week