

NEW PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

August 2022



The Future – Allan Morris, Chairman NZ Bridge

There are two things I want to share. The first deals with an article written in May by Christopher Leach, President of the Victoria Bridge Association. The second deals with some of the challenges facing the game and what we are planning. In the article written by Christopher he questions why people leave bridge including not pursuing the game after a beginner's course. His summation which I think we all know is worth repeating if only to remind ourselves that our actions have consequences.

“While we all understand bridge is a tough game and inevitably there will be some new players who decide it is more complex and demanding than they bargained for, the surveys undertaken across the country are unequivocal with regards to the biggest reasons we can control. These are all connected to the club environment the new player finds themselves in. It is very simple. New players expect and deserve a welcoming, comfortable, and non-critical place to play bridge. They do not like to be the recipients of rude, boorish, and critical behaviour or to witness other pairs engaging in the same, including berating each other for mistakes. The biggest reason people leave bridge is because of bad behaviour and a non-welcoming environment. The biggest reason for the success of some clubs is precisely because they create a place to play bridge where such things don't occur or have been

eradicated under the influence of a warm, welcoming culture, completely averse to anti-social behaviours. In my long journey through the game, I am sad to say that I have observed that, although some top players can be aloof and unfriendly, the worst behaviours are often exhibited by intermediate pairs, lording it over beginners. This is a total turn-off! As a club proprietor, club committee member or Director, you need to be profoundly aware of the impact that various types of rude and unfriendly behaviours have on your cohort of new players.

Perpetrators need to be spoken to, monitored and, if necessary, sanctioned, because they are inordinately destructive to the growth of your club and indeed to the growth of the game everywhere. And beyond ensuring that good behaviour prevails, you should implement a cultural overhaul that ensures friendliness, player comfort and a safe and welcoming environment.



Learners Classes Graduates 2022

The graduates from the 2022 class were welcomed into the Wednesday playing night on 20 July playing in the Learners Welcome Pairs. We wish them a long and happy association with our club and many years of bridge enjoyment.

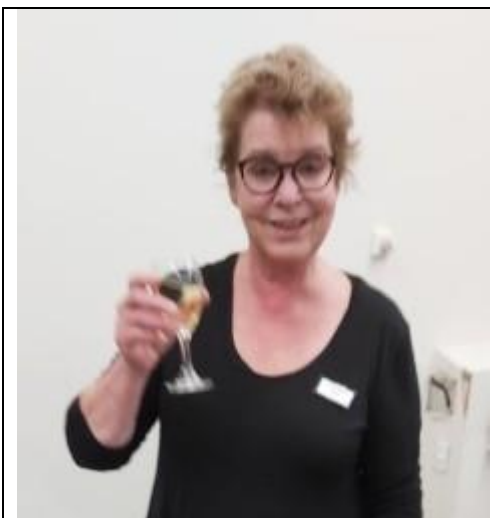


Back Row: Justin Hyde, Sue Irving, Jane Waite, Clazina Hagerson, David Patten, Peter Garrett, Tracey Gilbert, Nic Fenner, Craig Barrett
Front Row: Pauline Cuickshank, Moira Swetnam, Peter Walsh, Helen Johnston, Julie Yardley

Absent: Martyn Bell, Sharon Harris, Fiona Smith, Janet Voss

HOW TO SUPPORT NEW PLAYERS (transitioning from lessons to the club is a crucial time)
Sunday afternoon 2-4pm for casual assisted play. Senior players can assist. Talk to Gabrielle Masters or Christine Burton
Partner a beginner at a Monday session.
Partner a beginner at a Wednesday night session.
If you see a new player smile and welcome them to our club.
Encourage them to stay and socialise after a session. Shout them a drink!
Be friendly.
If you are happy to play with a beginner let Christine know and a game can be arranged.

Farewell from Coby Slager



Eighteen years ago, Sven and I joined the New Plymouth Bridge Club, playing on a Wednesday evening.

The bell was ringing, “all move now”, how I hated the pressure of 1 board per table: no time to talk. What a difference from our club in Aberdeen where we played whilst enjoying a wine.

Suffice to say I did not last long.

Fast forward 13 years and Sven and I rejoined and have not looked back. Whilst playing on the Wednesday night (and later Thursday night) was enjoyable and pleasant, it wasn't till I joined daytime bridge that my relationship with the club really began. I am not exaggerating when I say that it has changed my life and I want to thank you all for being so accepting of this abrasive Dutch woman. I think the New Plymouth Bridge Club is an amazing community of diverse people, joined together by the love for the game.

To all my past partners, a huge thank you for playing with me, you have taught me so much. To put up with me and not give up, even though once again I passed a

game forcing bid! I won't bore you with a long list, but must highlight the following 3 people:

Dell Blair and Eleanor Garvie, my very first bridge partners (until then I had only ever played with Sven). You were so welcoming and accommodating and made the intro into this scary new world a lot easier.

Catherine Mann, the first senior player to ask me to play with her. I have learned such a lot from you playing-wise, but also about bridge etiquette, thank you.

To my drinking buddies, I loved our Monday and Friday drinks after play and I will miss your company so much, hopefully we can do it again in a few years.

Final thanks are for the awesome committee that I have been blessed to be a part of. I have loved working with you all and working for the club.

I will miss you all greatly and please, if you are ever in The Netherlands, we have a spare bedroom.

P.S. Sven says thanks too.

Annual Rosebowl Tournament – New Plymouth vs Hawera

This year it was our club hosting this event. We had a great turnout of members from New Plymouth (27 pairs) and Hawera (15 pairs). The New Plymouth Club was successful in retaining the Rosebowl – by a narrow margin. Congratulations to all our members who took part.

Sarah Green and Neil Murdoch (NP) were the top pair on raw scores, and Sandie Pryor & Margie Jones (Hawera) the top pair on handicap scores.



New Plymouth retains the Rosebowl!!

70 Percent Club

Date	Pair	Score
07 Mar 2022	Christine Burton & Annette Weaver	70.57
21 Mar 2022	Pamela Jensen & John Warner	70.77
02 May 2022	Lynette O'Shaughnessy & David O'Shaughnessy	73.26
24 May 2022	Ken Crawford & Reeve Pring	71.58
18 July 2022	Jim Sutherland & Barry Marsh	72.12
19 July 2022	Gillian Gonthier & David David O'Shaughnessy	72.66
3 Aug 2022	Lynette O'Shaughnessy & David O'Shaughnessy	78.87

Playing the Game – Alerting

The article on alerting in the previous edition of the Newsletter discussed the rationale for alerting and provided some detail on the process around alerting. Remember, bridge is not a game of secret messages, and during the bidding players have an obligation to alert their opponents when their partner's bid is conventional (i.e. a non-natural bid with a special meaning).

This article covers definitions of “conventional calls”, “natural calls” and “artificial calls” and provides more detail of which bids should and should not be alerted.

Convention: An agreement between partners on an artificial meaning of a bid or sequence of bids, which is not necessarily related to the length and strength of bid suits. An example is the Stayman 2C over partner's 1NT, or 4C asking for aces

Natural: The bid means what it says. The bid indicates either: (1) a willingness to play the contract named, (2) a suit bid suggesting length or strength in that suit, (3) a notrump bid that suggests a balanced hand, (4) a double that suggests the ability to defeat the opponent's contract, or (5) a pass that suggests weakness, satisfaction with the last bid made or no desire to make a further call.

Artificial: A bid that is not natural, which by agreement has a coded meaning not necessarily related to the bid's denomination. Examples include 2C opening for strong hands and forcing, or 4C/4D opening used to signify a good hand with 7+ card length in Hearts or Spades, respectively.

What bids are not alertable?

- All doubles and redoubles
- cue bids (bid of a suit shown by an opponent or of the denomination bid by an opponent)
- Bids at the 4-level or higher, except conventional/artificial opening bids

These are all self-alerting. Do not alert these calls as they are deemed to have alerted themselves.

Delayed alerts: A delayed alert is one that is not made during the auction but after the auction is completed and before the opening lead. An example of a bid which requires a delayed alert is a bid which is natural but by partnership agreement has additional information that the Defenders should be aware of. For example, some partnerships agree that sequences such as 1H – 1S – 2H promise at least 6 hearts whereas for most partnerships it could be done on a 5 card heart suit. If that is your agreement the declaring side should let the defenders know before the opening lead. This applies generally to bids which are not alerted during the auction but which have a special partnership meaning which the defenders should know about.

Defenders are not required to make delayed alerts. There is too much risk of conveying unauthorised information to partner!

Bridge Truths

- Some people are so busy learning the various conventions and gadgets of the game that they never fully enjoy the game.
- If you are always making your contract, you are not bidding high enough.
- If you really want to get better at Bridge, go back and take it up at a much earlier age.

Recent Club Results

Monday

Nae Nae Pairs

1st Annette Weaver & Annie Frame

2nd Judi Roberts & June Metcalfe

Vivian Pharmacy Pairs

1st Audrey McKay & Sarah Green

2nd Jill Johnson & John Warner

Tuesday

Tuesday Teams

1st Pam Livingston, Russell Wilson, Lyn

Muller, Sarah Green

2nd Lyn O'Shaughnessy, Gillian Gonthier,
David O'Shaughnessy, Gabrielle Masters

Liquorland Courtenay Pairs

1st Gillian Gonthier & David O'Shaughnessy

2nd Bev Bromfield & Murray Carter

Wednesday Evening

Chris Kenning Harcourts Pairs No 2

1st Moya Lewis & Michael Muller

2nd Daphne Williams & John Warner

Wednesday Afternoon

Winter Pairs (2)

1st Barry Marsh & Jim Sutherland

2nd Coby Slager & Betty Smith

Winter Pairs (3)

1st June Grant & John Warner

2nd Sue Dalzell & Catherine Gabites

Winter Pairs (4)

1st Barry Marsh & John Warner

Thursday

John de Bueger Olive Oil Pairs

1st Pamela Jensen & Annette Weaver

2nd Robyn Herbert & Michael Muller

Thursday Swiss Pairs

1st Debra Burton & Andrew Freyne

2nd Daphne Paynter & Judy Minchinton

Friday

Young Family Pairs

1st Fay & Anthony Murcott

2nd Bev Bromfield & Sharon Wray

Revital Growwell Pairs

1st Joan Smith & Kevin Turner

2nd Karen Carter & John Warner

Yvonne Scott Pairs

1st Murray Carter & Richard Wood

2nd Karin Champion & John Warner

Please join us. We aim to promote a fun event for our newer players.

3 + 1 TEAMS



Wednesday 31 August

7.00pm

New Plymouth Bridge Club

Three junior players plus a "seasoned" player comprise the team.

Each member of the team plays six boards with each other.

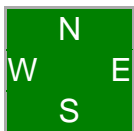
3 sets x 6 boards.

Bar open at 6.30pm, tea, coffee available.

Please register your team by 26 August with Christine Burton (027 460 3370) or newplymouthbridgeclub@gmail.com

Bridge hand: A Lesson In Hand Evaluation (John Kelly – Brisbane Bridge Centre)

East Deals	♠ K10654		
N/S Vul	♥ 98		
	♦ 92		
	♣ KQJ7		
♠ Q9		♠ 32	
♥ 105		♥ KJ642	
♦ J1063		♦ AQ875	
♣ A10863		♣ 9	
	♠ AJ87		
	♥ AQ73		
	♦ K4		
	♣ 542		



Dealer East opened the bidding with 1♥. Two questions for you to ponder before you read further: 1. Would you have opened the East hand or would you have passed since it “only has 10 hcp”? 2. What would you bid with South’s hand after the 1♥ opening by East?

Most experienced players using **the Rule of 20** would have no problems opening this East hand. The Rule of 20 says add your hcp to the length of your two longest suits and if the answer is 20 or more, open. Here you have 10hcp plus two 5-card suits, thus $10 + 10 = 20$. The other good feature about this East hand is that all the hcp are in the two long suits, which improves the quality of the hand markedly. Plus, it has a good rebid available.

Now we get to question 2) from above. What do you do as South if RHO opens 1♥ on your right? If you said double just because you have an opening strength hand, go to the bottom of the class! You should just pass smoothly and wait to see what happens with further bidding. To make a takeout double you need support for all the unbid suits (either 4 cards, or at least 3). Here you would be embarrassed if you doubled and partner then bid diamonds and had to play in a 4-2 fit.

After 1♥ - Pass, West bids 1NT (showing 6-9p, denying 3-card ♥ support and less than 4 ♠s. Now, my partner, a naturally aggressive bidder, bid 2♣. Ostensibly this shows 10+ points, but given that his 9hcp are all clustered in his two

longest suits, that the opponents are likely short in ♠s, implying I have some support in that suit. At matchpoints, especially vulnerable, this would be considered a bit of a dangerous bid, but at IMP scoring, partner knew the opponents would be extremely reluctant to risk doubling us into game. Now RHO bids 3♦, her second suit. It was then back to me. In the space of one round of bidding my hand had improved dramatically! My ♠ holding was magic, as was my ♥ holding sitting over RHO’s 1♥ opening, and now even my K♦ looks to be having full value as the A♦ is likely with East. Given that we were vulnerable at IMP scoring, with the hand that I had at first passed when everybody else was bidding, I then jumped straight to 4♠, which partner made easily.

This deal is illustrative of hand evaluation on multiple levels – how points placed in long suits improve a hand, and how the value of a hand is not fixed at the time you pick it up and first evaluate it, but instead it is quite dynamic changing depending on partner’s bids and the opponents’ bids.



