

NEW PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

October 2022



Future Proofing Our Club

Over the past ten plus years most sports and social clubs in New Zealand have experienced significant losses of members. This phenomenon has been accelerated by the current Covid pandemic. Consequently, a number of sports and social clubs have closed down, amalgamated with other clubs or struggled on with a much reduced membership.

Although prior to Covid we were slowly increasing our membership, once the impact of the pandemic hit, playing numbers have fallen significantly. For example, Thursday nights have gone from 18-20 tables to around 10 tables. A variety of factors are at play: For a number of members avoiding potential exposure to the virus has been important; post lock-downs some will have got out of the habit of coming to bridge or lost interest; for others advancing age, illness, or other demands on their time will have influenced their decision not to continue to play.

In order to ensure our club grows and thrives we have to retain our current membership and attract new members. The majority of our new members come through our lessons programme, and as such they become a “special value” group. We are dependent on them to maintain the long term health of our club. Your committee recognises the importance of attracting and supporting learners and is committed to enhancing the bridge experience of this group through extending a supportive welcoming environment to them

However, we also keep in mind our current members as well. We want them to stay members and enjoy many years of playing bridge. All of us have an important role in this process. We all need to enjoy the company as well as the game by taking the necessary steps to make the club experience enjoyable for ourselves, our partner and our opponents. Simple things such as being a good “host” or “guest” at the table, and avoiding doing things that might annoy or upset others.

As a club we can't just stand back and watch passively as our membership declines and the viability of the club becomes at-risk. Let's all help to ensure that future does not happen.

Murray Carter

Anne Wilson Weekend of Bridge

This event was held over 20/21 August. The impact of Covid was evident with few entries from outside the Taranaki region. However, excellent support from New Plymouth and Hawera club members ensured good entries in all events, in particular the Intermediate/Junior Pairs which saw 22 pairs entered.

The club would like to thank Anne Wilson for her sponsorship of this event.

New Plymouth club members took out a number of top placings:



Colin Carryer and Sandra Calvert
2nd Open Pairs & 2nd Swiss Pairs



(Jack James Palm Nth) and Pam Livingston
1st Open Pairs & 3rd Swiss Pairs



Kay Wyatt and Jane Shaw
1st equal Intermediate/Junior Pairs



Dell Blair and Linda Foley (with Deane Skelton)
Junior/Junior winners

Recent Club Results

Monday

Vospers Pairs

- 1st Barbara Hunt & Lise Milne
- 2nd Jan Hawkins & June Metcalfe

McKay Pairs

- 1st Andrew Freyne & Sue Geraghty
- 2nd Marilyn Hill & Graham Hill

Protrax Earthworks Pairs

- 1st Jan Hawkins & John Warner
- 2nd Barry Marsh & Deane Skelton

Tuesday

Tuesday 6 Pairs

- 1st Russell Wilson & David
O'Shaughnessy
- 2nd Colin Carryer & Murray Carter

D & D Allen Pairs

- 1st Reeve Pring & Campbell Priest
- 2nd Gillian Gonthier & Lyn Muller

Wednesday Evening

TSB Pairs

- 1st Moya Lewis & Michael Muller
- 2nd Barbara Hunt & Inara Kjestrup

Vivian Pharmacy Pairs

- 1st Moya Lewis & Michael Muller
- 2nd George Hill & John Warner

Wednesday Afternoon

Winter Pairs (5)

- 1st Judi Roberts & June Metcalfe

Winter Pairs (7)

- 1st Pamela Jensen & Catherine Gabites

Winter Pairs (8)

- 1st Barry Marsh & June Metcalfe

Thursday

Helen Laing Pairs

- 1st Stephanie Larmer & Cecelia Stringer
- 2nd Sharon Wray & Pat Cantrell-Pary

Dunlop Insurances Pairs

- 1st Graham Mora & June Metcalfe
- 2nd Sheree Robbertsen & Daphne Paynter

The Accounting Room Pairs

- 1st Colin Lees & Graham Mora
- 2nd Galia Theron & Robyn Rhodes

Friday

Joan Gaines Pairs

- 1st Maggie Garnham & Sarah Green
- 2nd Fay Murcott & Anthony Murcott

Strength & Balance Made Easy Pairs

- 1st Karin Champion & Andrew Freyne
- 2nd Murray Austin & Dave Robinson



I HATE Computer dealt hands!!

Ode to the Bridge Buddies

Well taught by Walt and Christine
The new members will arrive
Shaking in their boots
Our job to make them thrive

We want them to return
Those first weeks are key
Patience, warmth, and smiles
Are the only way you see

They'll put you in no-trumps
Without a stopper in their sight
As East nails 9 spade tricks
Do keep the mood light!

You'll find yourself at the 1 level
With slam points when dummy goes down
Or at game in your 4 card suit
A void from them – but do not frown

They won't have learned Stayman
You will be in clubs for sure
And if you dare ace ask
Those clubs will haunt you more

But it's you who's got it wrong
If you've said, "You should have done"
"It can work better if" is upbeat
And ensures they still have fun

If you show any frustration
It will drive them far away
Remember it is the carrot not the stick
That will make them want to stay

Speak only of what went right
And never criticise
Only if they ask
Take it upon yourself to advise

They have too much on their minds
To remember all our names
So for the first few weeks
Introduce everyone again.

The bidding may take long
It may seem obvious what to do
Just remember ... once upon a time
That person opposite was **you**.

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 O'Shaughnessy	72.66
3 Aug 2022	Lynette O'Shaughnessy & David O'Shaughnessy	78.87
16 Aug 2022	Colin Carryer and Murray Carter	70.57
21 Aug 2022	Barry Marsh & Gabrielle Masters	72.92
2 Sept 2022	Gabrielle Masters and Jude Hansen	70.64
6 Sept 2022	Pamela Livingston & Russell Wilson	74.43
10 Oct 2022	Raewyn McLean & Bev Bromfield	72.22

A testing hand:

South Deals ♠ J864
 ♥ 852
 ♦ K4
 ♣ AQ65



♠ KQT952
♥ AK
♦ J753
♣ K

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1 ♠	3 ♥	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

West leads the Queen of Hearts – plan the play.

Solutions to Colin Carryer: colincarryer@gmail.com

Heard at the Bridge Table

- My finesses lose, I can't remember the cards, my bidding is terrible and no one wants to partner me anymore. Other than that, bridge is great.
- Takeout Double "the one that your partner passes".
- Asked why he does not play bridge with his wife anymore, the husband replied "I refuse to play in any game that requires earmuffs and shin guards."
- How is it possible that a person will play flawlessly when he is the opposition and senselessly when he is your partner?

Bridge Truths

- Bridge is 90% mental and 50% luck.
- A Bridge match is a test of your skill against your opponents' luck.
- If there is more than one way to play the hand, you will always choose the way that brings you down
- Unlike most sports, you only need 15cm of space to play bridge -- the distance between your ears.
- The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but how to escape once in it.