

NEW PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

August 2023



World Bridge Championships in Marrakech – Pam Livingston

After 32 hours travelling we finally arrived in Casablanca – a most romantic sounding place. However for convenience we stayed by the train station for our journey the next day and it was clearly a poorer part of the city. Very dusty very dirty and not quite what I was expecting. A quick meal at a nearby café where the waiter was both friendly and toothless. An excellent feed for about \$NZ4 and an early night. The priority for the team is to adjust to the time change and I was very pleased to have a solid sleep but not everyone was that fortunate.

Onto the train for a 2.5 hr journey to Marrakech. Stretch after stretch of barren looking land with seven of the group in one compartment and one local who no doubt regretted his choice of seat. A fun time recounting different experiences of previous international events.

We arrived at our apartment and look out to see the venue across the road announcing the World Bridge Championships. After a quick trip to the supermarket in 45C temperatures, a rest before a quiet dinner at a nearby restaurant. The priority is still acclimatising to the time change.

Early to bed and early to rise to go on a 5 hour guided tour of some of the highlights of Marrakech. This city had more of the romance that I had been expecting and it was very fascinating. A visit to a palace, a small talk (and sales pitch) about rugs, a lesson (and sales pitch) on herbs and spices and a visit to the markets. A busy interesting place but I tried not to look at the horses and donkeys who were working very hard in the terrible heat and too many of which seemed to be lame.

The opening ceremony was short and sweet with everyone attending in their team uniforms. Half an hour of speeches and a roll call followed by a loud and busy buffet dinner. Me? I just wanted to go back to the apartment and get a good night's sleep.

First day of play and it was great to be playing at that level again. It was disappointing to encounter rudeness and impatience by my screen mate in the first match. It was a bit wasted on me – I didn't have the heart to tell her I was wearing ear plugs! Two sixteen boards matches does not sound a lot per day but I found it very, very tiring.

The playing conditions are superb. Well-spaced tables. Playing behind screens. Every table has a video camera for surveillance in case of a dispute of the facts and, heaven forbid, cheating.

Started to feel a bit better and sleeping normally. Now this article was not supposed to be about bridge hands but I am including because I'm sure you think (like I do) that at a world champs it's all amazing perfection hand after hand. Well here's what happened on this hand:

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 5 4 2
♥ 5
♦ 8 6 4
♣ J 10 7 6 4

♠ Q 10
♥ A Q J 9 6 3
♦ K 10 9 7 5
♣ —

N			
W		E	
	S		

♠ A K J 8 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ 3 2
♣ K 9 3

♠ 9 6
♥ K 10 8
♦ A Q J
♣ A Q 8 5 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Pam Livingston</i>		<i>Jan Alabaster</i>	
	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♥	4 ♣	4 ♥	Dbl
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All pass			

Does anything strike you as odd on this bidding? Are you thinking why did you bid 6H when 4H was doubled? The truth is I didn't see the double! After a bit of good luck and good management, 6Hx rolled home for a score of 1210.

It might surprise you to know, I have hardly seen any of the members of the other teams. A quick nod of hello and we go about our business. It's all about creating the best conditions to ensure you rock up to the table ready for action. So the daily routine is:

- Good breakfast of porridge, yoghurt and coffee followed by some fruit
- Do a sudoku to get the brain working
- Doing the dishes and maybe a bit of life's admin
- Match at 10
- One hour for lunch – sandwich or similar and fruit
- Match at 1.15
- Snacks are grapes, nuts, snickers and plenty of water. Maybe a Berocca
- Home (our accommodation is across the road from the venue) then a walk of some kind.
- Swim
- Score up final match with teammates
- Dinner at local café
- Bed by 9 with maybe a watch of something on Netflix

And 8 days of bridge later ...

Disappointing result for our team finishing 17/22. But what a fantastic experience.

Things I have learned:

1. I am a better declarer player than I thought.
2. Our bidding agreements need work
3. I am a worse defender than I thought

Playing at the world championship and playing 8 days in a row was gruelling. Imagine the best player you know and playing board after board against them and 3 of their peers. Then times that by ten. Every board counted, every card counted. There were several unforced errors by our partnership in the first few days that I would put down to jet lag and change of time zone. If I am ever lucky enough to play an event on this side of the world again, I will be arriving at least one week before to acclimatise.

This may sound obvious but it's also something that is not widely acknowledged in the bridge community – bridge is a sport. And sport takes practise, commitment and analysis of where improvements can be made. You can't just rock up to a world champs and play some cards – well I can't anyway 😊. This applies to all levels of the game – unless you choose to be a social player (and there is nothing wrong with that, after all it is fun and social) - then you must make some kind of plan to improve. If not, you will play hand after hand making the same mistakes you have always made and getting the same results.

So back I go to the drawing board. I will be working on my defence. We will be improving our understanding and agreements. Working on the perpetually problem of how to stay focused on every hand. And hoping I get more opportunities like this.

How lucky was I to be there! Well, the games have finished for me and we are off sightseeing in the beautiful city of Marrakech. Some of the team are leaving so a final dinner at the most wonderful restaurant I have ever been too. The food! The ambience!



Club Secretary Position

Our current Secretary, Cecelia Stringer, is standing down from this role.

Is there a member who would be willing to take on this position? Please advise Deane Skelton of your interest. Either Deane or Cecelia can provide further details of the role requirements

Weekend of Bridge 2022

This event was held over 19/20 August. There were very good entries for the Intermediate/Junior Pairs (15 Tables) and Swiss Pairs (20 tables). However, the numbers of entries for the Open Pairs were down on previous years.

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

Open Pairs:

2nd Wayne Beasley/David O'Shaughnessy

3rd Colin Carryer/Sandra Calvert

Intermediate Pairs:

1st Catherine Gabites/Campbell Priest

4th Annette Weaver/Audrey Young

Junior Pairs:

2nd Kristen Holm/Jill Dunlop

Swiss Pairs:

1st Jude Hansen/Neil Murdoch

3rd Wayne Beasley/David O'Shaughnessy



Neil Murdoch & Jude Hansen – 1st Swiss Pairs



**Catherine Gabites & Campbell Priest
1st Intermediate Pairs**



Jill Dunlop & Kristen Holm – 2nd Junior Pairs

Bridge Truths

Bridge and potato chips are alike. You can never have enough of either.

It takes a good bridge player to readily admit when he is wrong and even a better player to keep his mouth shut when he is right.

A Bridge Expert is a person who can tell you more about the game than you really care to know.

What's the Most Common Error Made by Declarer?

You may be surprised to learn that it is when declarer leads from the wrong hand. In any playing session at your table, the opposition declarer, or you as declarer are likely to make this error 2 or 3 times!

It is not a matter of declarer saying "oops" and then leading from the correct hand. A lot of defenders don't realise that they have rights when declarer leads from the wrong hand. The defenders can in fact accept the lead from the wrong hand (Law 55A), and should do so if it is to their advantage. The defenders cannot discuss between themselves what's best to do in the situation, but if there is a dispute between them as to whether to accept or reject the lead, the opinion of the defender who is next to play prevails. If you wish to accept a lead from the wrong hand, if you are next to play, you can simply play a card. Or you can announce out loud, "accept the lead" from either side of the table. If the defenders reject the lead, declarer replaces the card and must lead from the correct hand. Declarer is not obliged to lead the suit of the card wrongly led nor to play that card when the trick comes around to the other hand.

If declarer leads from the wrong hand and you wish to consider your options as a defender always call the director. Directors can advise you on what the law is and what your options are, but they cannot tell you what is best to do in bridge terms – you have to work that one out!

Ten reasons why you should play bridge

1. It exercises your grey cells, keeping them sharp for years to come
2. It widens your social circle - in almost every town you can spend a few hours each day with like-minded people.
3. It's a game for any age - all generations, from 6 to 106, can play together
4. You form new partnerships - many great friendships start at the bridge table
5. It improves your skills of logic, deduction and lateral thinking
6. You join an international community - whether at your local club, or at the other side of the world, you will always be welcome at the bridge table
7. You can play at your level - if you want to play socially, be more competitive, or try to be the best in the world, there is a bridge game which fits your goals
8. It's cheap and easy to play - all you need is a pack of cards and three other willing players
9. There's always a new challenge - with 53 octillion possible combinations of cards, and thousands of different opponents, you'll never tire of what the game can throw at you
10. It has enthralled some of the greatest minds in history - Bill Gates, Mahatma Gandhi even Snoopy, are fans of bridge.

"Bridge is the most entertaining and intelligent card game the wit of man has so far devised" W. Somerset Maugham

Humour

- When dummy hit the table declarer asked "where is the hand you had during the bidding?"
- A bridge player who never led away from a king, died. He finds himself in a bridge game. He is on lead holding: Kx, Kxx, Kxxx, Kxxx. Right then and there he knew where he was.
- The tutor is called over to a table in a beginner's class and one of the beginners tells her that he has opened 1H. There have been three passes back to him so he bid 2H. There were three more passes back to him, and he wants to know if the hand is now worth bidding 3H.

Recent Club Club Results

Monday

June & Donald Grant Individual

- 1st Pamela Jensen
- 2nd Annette Weaver

Tokaora Pairs

- 1st Linda Foley & Margot Bourke
- 2nd Kumar Gunatunga & Inara Kjestrup

Hastings Pairs

- 1st Dawn & Russ Wharfe
- 2nd June Metcalfe & Kristen Holm

Nicholsons Pairs

- 1st Karin Lilley & Lynne Norgate
- 2nd Sheree Robbertsen & David O'Shaughnessy

June & Donald Grant Pairs

- 1st Marie Gilliland & Barbara Hunt
- 2nd Andrew Freyne & Karin Champion

Tuesday

Liquorland Courtenay Pairs

- 1st Gillian Gonthier & Russell Wilson
- 2nd Murray Carter & Raewyn McLean

Grayling Plate

- 1st Matthew Schumacher & Sandra Calvert
- 2nd Neil Murdoch & Sarah Green

Vivian Pharmacy Pairs

- 1st Pam Livingston & Matthew Schumacher
- 2nd Murray Carter & David O'Shaughnessy

Tuesday Swiss Pairs

- 1st Wayne Beasley & David O'Shaughnessy
- 2nd Sarah Green & Maggie Garnham

Wednesday Evening

Vivian Pharmacy Pairs

- 1st Inara Kjestrup & Nic Fenner
- 2nd Clazina Hagenson & Pauline Cruickshank

Kaitake Plate

- 1st Lise Milne & Peter Blackbourn
- 2nd Lisa Miller & Rick Derham

Potluck Welcome Pairs

- 1st Daphne Williams & Michael Muller
- 2nd Rob de Bique & Jeff Clement

Chris Kenning Harcourt Pairs

- 1st Christine Murphy & Tony Wey
- 2nd Lisa Miller & Rick Derham

Wednesday Afternoon

John Holdom No1 Pairs

- 1st Barry Marsh & Barbara Hunt
- 2nd Roy Weaver & Annie Frame

Thursday

Swiss Pairs

- 1st Karin Champion & Sheree Robbertsen
- 2nd Brian Raisin & Patricia Chivers

Hel Rimu Intermediate Plate

- 1st Sheree Robbertsen & Jane Shaw
- 2nd Diane O'Donnell & Sharon Bent

Cave Plant Nursery Pairs

- 1st John Rutten & Andy Campbell
- 2nd Catherine Mann & Brian Rowland

Thursday Teams

- 1st Sheree Robbertsen, Stephanie Larmer, Jane Shaw and Kay Wyatt
- 2nd Marian Biggs, Eileen Gundeson, Robyn Rhodes, Lois Page & Fiona Smith.

Friday

McKay Pairs

- 1st Daphne Williams & Karin Champion
- 2nd Jackie Burton & Sue Dalzell

Vivian Pharmacy Pairs

- 1st Karin Champion & Jill Johnson
- 2nd Sue Geraghty & Andrew Freyne

Coby & Sven Slager Pairs

- 1st Pam Newson & John de Bueger
- 2nd Lise Milne & Bernie Sullivan

3 Happy Hours Pairs

- 1st Jill Johnson & Karin Champion
- 2nd Inara Kjestrup & Jennifer Lawn

70 Percent Club

Date	Pair	Score
27 Jan 2023	Catherine Gabites & Campbell Priest	73.88
13 Feb 2023	Pamela Jensen & Sarah Green	70.64
31 Jan 2023	David O'Shaughnessy & Sarah Green	72.53
05 Feb 2023	Lyn Muller & Maggie Garnham	71.05
06 April 2023	Gallia Therin & Gaylene Phillips	70.83
28 April 2023	Neil Murdoch & Gillian Gonthier	70.19
12 May 2023	Karen Carter & Lyn O'Shaughnessy	70.33
22 May 2023	Jennifer O'Shaughnessy & David O'Shaughnessy	74.53
29 May 2023	Lyn & David O'Shaughnessy	70.36
6 July 2023	Jane Shaw & Kay Wyatt	70.54
19 July 2023	Inara Kjestrup & Nic Fenner	74.38
2 Aug 2023	Tony Wey & Christine Murphy	71.69



* No, Mrs. Finster, when you're counting your losers,
you do NOT include your partner ! *

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ALTHOUGH ADEPT AT A GREAT MANY
OTHER GAMES, MURIEL NEVER QUITE
GOT THE HANG OF PLAYING 'NORTH'
WHEN INVITED OVER FOR BRIDGE.

Graham Harper

What do you do with a hand like this?

Murray Carter

Board 11 Friday 28 July: You are East and pick up the following hand:

♠ AK2
♥ A86542
♦ -
♣ AKQ9

With 20 points and only 3 losers I'm considering opening 2C. (Opening 1H risks missing out on game)

South is dealer and opens 1H....!! Pass, pass, around to me.

What to do???

After taking about 30 minutes (slight exaggeration) to consider my options, I passed.

My thoughts: I would love to double for penalties, but know my partner will bid diamonds. Do I then bid NTs when they may have few points, or points only in diamonds with no or minimum entries to their hand? Do I bid 2C with a 4 card suit? If I am declarer I am going to have to consistently lead from my hand, and my heart suit may only give me 1-2 tricks, plus South with most of the opposition points is sitting over me.

Outcome: South in 1H made 2 tricks to go 5 light in 1H. A 54% result for us.

I asked **Colin Carryer** to comment on the bidding and on my logic for passing. His reply is as follows:

A fascinating hand of which there are probably many answers. You have summarised very well and came to the same conclusion that I would for all the reasons that you stated.

I am not a great result merchant in that the result on one board doesn't change my overall philosophies on the game which really is based on percentages and odds. Sometimes I do take liberties but it's best to play the long game which wins in the long run.

All I can add to your summary is going positive in pairs is always a good thing - I would have expected a 54% score to be at the absolute bottom for passing the 1H. Your hand is totally set up to be destructive so defend and be a pain. Working on these percentages again if one splits the available points between the 2 other hands your partner is reckoned to hold 4'ish of which most will probably be in diamonds where they will be hopeless to you as Declarer - better again for the defence. Unbelievably partner had all the missing points - totally against this law of averages which I keep on about. The East hand holders will justify their bidding by making their contract but the next 10 times or more they will end up in a mess and you can sit back and say "told you so"!! Check on the law of averages you can say and they may look at you weirdly.

Hope this helps flesh out your answer but once again it demonstrates the beauty of the game and there are no absolute wrongs and rights to do on a lot boards as we know.

Colin