



Table Talk September 2012

from the Taupo Contract Bridge Club

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Spring is here even if the recent Antarctic burst was an unwelcome reminder that winter is not far behind us! Committee hopes that evening table numbers will start to increase with daylight saving fast approaching.

coming up...

Summerset 8B tournament October 13th : this is open to all club members and visitors from other clubs – we would love to see a full room, and rumour has it that our latest junior members intend to compete! If they are willing to face the music the rest of us should give it our earnest consideration. It is two sessions, starting at 10am and finishing about 5pm. Bring your own lunch. Our kitchen team will be looking for some help in the simple food line – a welcoming morning tea and nibbles at the end of the afternoon play. Can you help? Even better, can you and your favourite partner join the fray? There are prizes for top intermediate and top junior pairs and session prizes as well as for *podium finish* winners.

NZ – WIDE Pairs Friday 2nd November: This is a set of hands, played that evening all around NZ clubs, with proceeds going to the NZ Bridge magazine. The hands are interesting, we are given a booklet at the end of play suggesting the best bidding and play to reach top contracts and there are club prizes as well as regional and national awards with masterpoints to be won. I have played in this in the past and it can be a lot of fun as well as the chance to learn from one of the masters of the game. *Mark your diary, find a partner and come along.* Any enquiries to Rona Driscoll who has agreed to organize the night.

Melbourne Cup flutter! Tuesday November the 5th. 4-30pm. We plan to stay on after Tuesday afternoon bridge for a drink and nibbles to enjoy watching the race on our new large TV screen. We will run a sweepstake as usual and you can share the event even if you are not taking part in the bridge session. Should be fun!

Taumarunui Inter-Club Challenge. We are playing for the Challenge Cup (which we currently hold) on Sunday November 11. We take a team of 12 so if you are interested let Jocelyn Langdon know. I understand there is great hospitality and the level of play is not too threatening!

As you can see plenty to enjoy as well as our usual playing sessions – make the most of your membership by joining in some or all of these events.

Committee concerns: at our October meeting we discussed issues concerning the clubhouse. As you are aware we have spent widely (and wisely) on technical matters (security cameras, dealing machine, table electronic scorers, TV screen) and have had all our chairs re-upholstered over the last couple of years. There may be other concerns – e.g. kitchen, restrooms etc – that you would like to see improved. If so mention them to any committee member or even bring up a remit for our AGM at the end of October. Which is a timely reminder to all members that the **Annual General Meeting** of the Taupo Contract Bridge Club will be held on Tuesday 30th October. Please regard this as a preliminary member notification. A matter for your serious consideration is the election of officers: at present only our Treasurer Rona Driscoll has indicated that she is willing to carry on in her important task. We need a *new President*, a *Vice-President* and a *Secretary*, rather a huge re-direction at the top of the Club you will agree. Who can you nominate? Can you offer yourself? The Club has been well served in the past by very willing volunteers: it is time for a new brigade to emerge!

Remember...

The club cannot function without good leadership at the top.

Results and player recognition. The NZCBA has recently introduced a new proficiency level to encourage newer players by recognizing their growing competence. For the majority of us who are not regular tournament players achieving status as a player through the master points system is very slow and yet we feel we have arrived at a reasonable understanding of basic bridge. To acknowledge this group and give them recognition NZCBA has established **The Certificate of Proficiency** which is awarded when a player has earned 5 B points (500 ordinary club night masterpoints). It was good to see Linda Wylie being presented with hers recently, the first such award in the club.

Recent successes outside the club have included: The Club Intermediate Team (Peggy, Pam, Garth and Philip) won their grade at the recent Bay Pairs; Rona and John Driscoll were 5th at the Hamilton Open; Joan Berg and Rosemary Ritchie were top in a session at Rotorua; David Taylor and Bart van Hulst came 2nd in the Omokoroa 8B tournament. Well done to these and any others whom I have not heard about. As usual I remind you that our own club night results are on our website, with the 'Ladders' section giving the overall competition result.

One peek is worth two finesses! I was reminded recently of this old adage from my childhood family bridge table where it was not unknown for one of my sisters to hold her cards in such a position that I could snatch a peek, saving me the need to finesse. A club member the other night complained to me that West in the table ahead (which was at 45 degrees) so held her cards that my informant, if she had wished, could have gained great information to assist her play in the next set of boards. Out of respect to all the room **please chest your cards at all times.**

[The *finesse* is a standard play, but without extra information it has only a 50% chance of success, and as many of us know you can get it wrong twice or more during the course of one hand, let alone a night's play. I noticed a situation recently where a finesse was possible: in dummy (N) was **A Q x** and in declarer's hand (S) **J x x**. South, planning a finesse, led the **J** from hand, intending to let it run if it was not covered. This approach guarantees 2 tricks, but can lead to 3 tricks if the K is under the A Q and West doesn't put up the King – but a wise player in W will cover the J (*crown an honour with an honour*) and restrict declarer to only 2 tricks. If however South leads a small card towards the A Q, declarer will still win 2 tricks even if the K is off side with E' but can make a 3rd trick when the Q wins the finesse. If it is possible to put W in hand later with another suit and W is then forced to lead from the under the king you can now let it run round to your Jack and get the A as well. However give declarer J 10 x then the lead of the J is fine, and of course if Dummy has A Q 10 and you have J x (x) then the J **is** the correct lead.]

Lessons: David Taylors Beginners' Class continues on its journey of discovery on Thursday evenings. He has had up to 26 coming, though as ever some have not attended every session. *Rona Driscoll's Monthly Tuesday Improvers Class* has only small numbers, but those who come gain greatly. There is **no class in October** but the final sessions for the year on No Trump call and play will be on November 6 at 7pm.

New Members: Welcome to new members - Home Club: Leone Graves, Joanna McNeile, Gillian Sellar, Judith Davis and Christina Gillett; 2nd Club: Debbie McIntosh, Gillian and Dermot Murphy.

The electronic Scorer Pads. It is important that the cycle of the scoring programme is completed at the end of the session before the red pad is put away in the storage box. Keep pressing until the screen shows 'START' before the lid is closed. If you are not sure leave the pad open on your table at the end of the night so that the director can check that all is as it should be before storing.

Bridge online: I recently felt the need for some 'free time' bridge and was introduced to the Bridge Base site for playing bridge online. Basically it is free to join and one can watch Bridge Masters at play as well as join others from around the world at a table for as few or as many hands as you would like to stay for. I have found myself playing with an 82 year old Life Master from Canada, novices from China, experts from USA, and intermediates from Europe and Asia. Checking the systems they use is sometimes a little haphazard but I have enjoyed several hours and incidentally learnt a little more about the odd psychology the is the *genus* 'Bridge Player'. You can join in tournaments and pay small fees for lessons etc so I can recommend this excellent site for players who do not get to the physical table as often as they would like. I understand many of the top NZ players use the site for practice.

The internet address is : www.bridgebase.com - could be well worth a visit.