

September 2021 Newsletter

Hi there everyone

Strange and somewhat challenging times we live in, but at least many of us have been able to get our daily bridge fix through a number of tournaments hosted on the Bridge Base Online website. And this includes some of our own, ably hosted by Nebojsa (Nesa) Djorovic. Thanks Nesa, the mahi you have put in to get these up and running has been very much appreciated!

You should by now have received advice from Bridget about our reopening protocols. Here they are again:

- Pre-registrations are necessary as we are limited to 12 tables. wellingtonbridge@gmail.com
- Mask wearing is mandatory
- Stay at home if you are sick
- Players if they have COVID-19 symptoms must not enter the clubrooms
- QR scanning is compulsory (or sign in if you do not have a smartphone)
- Maintain high hygiene standards (wash hands, use hand sanitizer, sneeze, or cough into elbow) - actually don't cough or sneeze here - STAY AT HOME
- Tea/Coffee will be self help (please take your dishes at the end of play to the kitchen)
- Tidy your tables at the end of the evening.
- All sessions will be in play- please register for Wednesday, Thursday & Friday this week and Tuesday next week.
- Hopefully we will move to level1 by then.

President's Message

Kia Ora:

It's tricky times again for the club and our members. Fingers crossed our reopening, whilst only in a very small way as yet, goes ASAP.

We have decided to open under Level 2 as some other clubs have, but it will be on quite a restricted basis. The committee, which has met often under lockdown (for which I thank members for their time), has had involved discussions on mask wearing, with a range of views expressed. We have decided to make mask wearing compulsory under Level 2, with numbers restricted to 50. The feeling is that the club needs to give members live bridge if it possibly can. Those who are wary can still access our BBO sessions on the net. You must register and the one-off competitions will be on a first-come-first-served basis. We will have to rejig the programme and, as communicated earlier, we will give priority to the premier events when we go back to Level 1, hopefully next week.

Much of the committee's focus remains of the upcoming Special Meeting to consider proposed changes of rules on the committee size and the subsequent annual meeting. Covid has, of course, made things more complex. Although there is nothing in the rules precluding meeting for the SGM by Zoom, we have had feedback about this and decided against doing so. This doesn't mean we can't do this in future. In the past, even by including the AGM in conjunction with NZ Wide Pairs, we have struggled to get 50 members attending but if we remain at Alert level 2 we will need to make provision to be able to adhere

to the restrictions and we will be in touch with you all nearer to the time. We have also had feedback asking whether people would be able to vote by proxy, something that is not spelt out in the rules. We again had a mix of views on the committee but in the end a good majority was in favour of allowing proxies. Because proxy voting is not in the rules, we used Rule 44, which allows the committee to make a rule by resolution, if something is not provided for in club rules.

The committee has put much thought into its proposed change to a smaller group, focussed on strategy and planning, rather than day-to-day operations which will be delegated to a set of sub-committees. This is not change for the sake of it. We have an ageing and declining membership and finances under pressure, so we need to proactively change before we have it forced on us. The committee readily came to agreement on this and we hope you will get behind us on this.

The burning issue of smoking in the club was raised at Thursday's meeting and the committee has a strong preference that the club be smoke-free. There is no question that the majority of members find smoke obnoxious. We have had designated smoke areas but they have not been adhered to. However, although the committee could make a decision on this matter, it is recognised that the question of smoking is something affecting you all and as such should be decided by you all. This topic will therefore be on the agenda at our AGM.

Lastly, thanks to Nebojsa Djorovic for organisation the club matches on BBO. It takes a lot of time and mahi to set up and organise such things. We all miss playing live bridge but what Nebojsa has organised has allowed us to still play and enjoy bridge and keep in touch with members.

Kia Kaha

Simon Louisson (President)

NZ Congress 2021

Once again Covid has played its part in thwarting NZ Bridge's best attempts to run Congress 2021, after managing to do the same thing last year. This time round, however, a decision has been made by NZ Bridge to postpone Congress until February 2022. We can only hope that by then the country will be settled and stable enough from a pandemic infection point of view to be able to hold this event which is so important in the bridge calendar. One small comfort is that if, at the end of this year you were to be regraded Open, you will still have the right to play as an Intermediate in the tournaments at Congress.

Playing Bridge Around the Region

As mentioned above, some other clubs around the region have reopened. These include (but are not limited to) Victoria, Hutt, Levin and Otaki. Each club has its own specific protocols for reopening safely, but all are bound at present by the maximum number of 50 people playing at any time.

15A Wellington Regional Teams – 18th-19th December

Let's give this rescheduled tournament the best support we possibly can! Having been able to reschedule it from the original June date, it will be one of the rare teams events to take place this year, so make sure you get your teams together.

REPRINTED THANKS TO NZ BRIDGE

Beating the Gambler? for less experienced players and others.

Much of Bridge bidding is relatively scientific to reach the best possible spot for our side...and then there is the Gambling 3NT opener.

South Deals
Both Vul

♠	10 8 7 4 3			
♥	K 10 6 5 4			
♦	A 6			
♣	2			



West North East South

3 NT

All pass

South's opening bid shows a long solid minor suit. The hand will not hold an ace or a king in any other suit.

Obviously, from your holding in the minor suits, the suit is clubs...and it is your lead?

Seven or eight clubs headed by the AKQ and often by the jack as well. Perhaps the odd stray queen or jack in different suits though South is relying on their partner to gain the lead and then they will enjoy scoring lots of club tricks. So, by North's pass of 3NT, we know that North has at least one club (with a void, they would bid 4♣ or 5♣ to play depending how strong a hand they held) and some high cards with which they hope their partner can win the lead.

Leader Beware!

This is **not** a situation where you can lead a low card from a strong suit and hope to regain the lead to score more tricks. It may be trick 11 or 12 before your side regains the lead: too late!

Against such an opening bid, you must attack with a high honour, preferably an ace. Lead an ace even without holding the king, and if that lead looks unlikely to work, switch to another ace or if you do not have one, another suit where the dummy is fairly weak. You know South has no kings. If when you see dummy and your initial lead will not work because the king or maybe QJ are in dummy, switch to dummy's weak suit. Strike early or not at all.

If only our West had taken the above advice when they led to trick 1.

South Deals ♠ K 6 5
 Both Vul ♥ A 9 7
 ♦ J 5 4 3
 ♣ J 9 7

♠ 10 8 7 4 3 ♥ K 10 6 5 4 ♦ A 6 ♣ 2		♠ A J 9 ♥ Q J ♦ K Q 10 9 8 7 ♣ 6 4	♠ Q 2 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ 2 ♣ A K Q 10 8 5 3
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West North East South

3 NT

All pass

West chose to lead a small heart. South took the opening lead and pounded out 7 rounds of clubs. It still looked like the defence should prevail if West retained at least 3 hearts, ♦ A and another card while East can retain ♠ A, ♥ J and their top three diamonds. The defence should have taken the last 5 tricks but at trick 13, West had retained one too many spades with the trick being won by South's ♠ Q.

It is always easier to defend, especially to discard to a long suit when you can see all four hands. It would all have been a lot easier had West started off with the recommended ♦ A lead. West would be able to see all the small diamond cards and could recognize their partner's ♦ 7 (low encourage) or ♦ 10 (high encourage...make your signals to partner as clear as you can) as a clear "come on with another diamond". The defence would have then taken the first 7 tricks, down 3 without any awkward discarding involved.



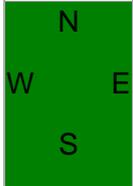
No slip up!

The Gambling 3NT is just that. North was ever hopeful in passing 3NT and got lucky when West forgot the guiding principles for leading to such a contract.

A Gamble or a Certainty?

South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q J 8 3
♥ 10 9
♦ K J 8 3 2
♣ A 3



West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
?			

So, are you with us? The opposition have been bidding a lot. Would you like to take out the red card?

Oh, I suppose you would like to know what it all means.

3 ♦ promised an undisclosed shortage (singleton or even shorter!) , 4 spades and 10+ hcp.

3 ♥ asked where the shortage was with 4 ♣ saying it was in diamonds.

4 ♥ was a cue (1st or 2nd round) and 5 ♥ showed 2 key-cards but no ♠Q.

It is still your bid?

That Damned Roof Leak!!!



We have mentioned this before and, as you have all seen, it has been a bit of a perennial problem in recent years.

But don't worry, dear readers, we have a knight in shining armour by the name of Simon Havill, who is going to save the day. (hallelujah!) The biggest problem is the fact that these recent storms have dumped such a torrential amount of water down that the existing spouting systems just cannot cope and water flows above their flashing level into the ceiling. Extra overflow systems are going to be added to the south eastern and western corners and hopefully this work will be completed shortly.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY Obviously these are all subject to lockdown levels

Wellington Region Tournaments

Paraparaumu Multigrade Pairs	8B	26th September <i>cancelled</i>
Kapi Mana Intermediate	5B	17 th October
Kairangi Open	5A	22-24 October
Wellington Region Teams.	15A	18-19 th December

Club Tournaments

It is not possible for me to give you the upcoming club tournaments at this time, however once we drop to level 1 we will re-issue the programme, in particular prioritising the missed sessions of the premier events for each grade.

Recent results from August 2021

Tournament results

Hutt Intermediate Pairs 8 August 2021

2nd Dougal Watson & David Don

3rd Susan Brown & Denise Barnett

Fullerton Teams 10A 14 august 2021

1st John Patterson, Kate Davies, John Luoni & John Davidson

2nd Anthony Ker, Alan Grant, Barry Jones & Jenny Millington

3rd Mindy Wu & Graham Cheater

Upper Hutt Multi-Grade 15 August 2021

1st Christine McKirdy & Sandy McKirdy

2nd Derek Snelling & Nebojsa Djorovic

3rd Peter Heazlewood & Jill McLean

Club results

Tuesday - Manoy Estate Teams

1st Gordon Streatfield, Annie Fleetwood, Rupert Rokeby-Johnston & Jane Lawless

2nd Rosalind Cervante, Wayne Cook, Andre Castaing & Anna Shires

Schneideman Salver Teams

1st Anthony Ker, Alan Grant, Kathy Ker & Murray McMillian

2nd Peter Delahunty, Lynda Rigler, Graeme Norman & Patrick D'Arcy

Thursday - John Fairbairn Cup Pairs

1st Ruth Brucker & Christine McKirdy

2nd Sally Broadhurst & Yiyang Wang

Friday – Tinakori Pairs

1st John Wilkinson & Charles Cahn

2nd Pat Knight & Mary Slowey

Okay, this newsletter is a little light, unsurprisingly, but hopefully NZ's approach is the right one for now and there might be more positive things to report ahead.

Nga mihi

Maureen Sheldon