



Palmerston North Bridge Club Newsletter

April 2021

President's Welcome

I am writing following our first Committee meeting after our AGM - it was great to welcome new Committee members, Jenny Kelland and Zheng Zhang. Jenny even baked some afternoon tea for us. As usual we had a very full agenda, so the sustenance provided was extremely welcome.

At the top of our agenda was our 75th Birthday Party. We confirmed the date - Sunday 30th May - so please keep that date free in your diary. We are proposing that the Committee provides a celebratory lunch to which all members - past and present - are invited and also representatives from our neighbouring Clubs (Hokowhitu, Feilding, Levin, Wanganui and Marton). The lunch will be followed by a bridge session, followed by a pot luck supper, followed by a social bridge session. More details will follow in a few weeks - it would be really great to see as many of you as possible at that event.

It may be my rose-tinted glasses but I think that our Club has made a significant contribution to the development of our sport in Aotearoa so there is a lot to celebrate! Mark the date: Sunday 30th May.

In other news, we congratulated our Fundraiser, Maxine Keay, on her success with three funding applications: a new cordless vacuum cleaner thanks to Pub Charity, enough playing supplies for several years thanks to The Lion Foundation and a contribution of \$5,000 towards our operating expenses from Eastern and Central Community Trust. The Committee also approved some minor expenditure to replace the flushing mechanism in the men's urinal (which currently flushes every 10 minutes, 24/7 AND we are on metered water!) and to support the software installation when we replace our computer hardware (which is imminent but more of that in the next newsletter). Nonetheless, we remain determined to achieve a financial break-even this year!

The Club began its regular evening beginners' classes in mid March. The Committee was delighted to hear that their number is into double digits. Many thanks to Jack James and Maxine Keay for their efforts to recruit this group and we will look forward to welcoming them to our regular playing sessions as soon as possible.

In news from New Zealand Bridge, the Committee noted that there are Directing Courses and Exams in May. Directing our sessions is an invaluable way to "give back" to the Club and we are reliant upon a small but dedicated team of Directors who support Lorraine to provide this service. If you think you would like to undertake the training to become a Director, then please let Lorraine know and she will be able to provide you with information about the process and support you through it.

Looking ahead to the agenda items for our next couple of Committee meetings, the next big event for us will be hosting the North Island Pairs on 31 July and 1 August. This is a big event - normally attracting 25 or so tables - and it will be the third such event in almost as many years that we have hosted.

We will also see if Wanganui and Hawera are up for the annual Interclub event. It is a friendly competitive match that is always good fun. Last year, it was deferred and then cancelled because of COVID so it will be great if we are able to participate in this event again this year. If so, we need two teams at each grade (i.e. 4 pairs at each of Junior, Intermediate and Open) and we select our teams on a mixture of willingness to be available and current partnership strength...no pressure!

Denise Servante
President

Club and Tournaments Results

Congratulations to all Club members below who have achieved success in recent tournaments.

Pat Oyston Martin Oyston	1 st	Levin Multigrade
Julie Bunnell Michael Hardman	2 nd	
Jan Whyte Alister Stuck	4 th	
Jack James George Masters	3 rd	Masterton Open
Prue Drake Jason Cliff	1 st	PN Junior Tournament
John Redmayne Craig Killington	2 nd	
Laura Griffin Tony Clear	1 st	PN Intermediate Tournament
Debbie Marcroft Garry Hodge	2 nd	
Alan Doddridge Alister Stuck	1 st	Marton Open Pairs
Anne Gordon Lorraine Stachurski	2 nd	
Wayne Burrows Clair Miao Gary Chen John Wang	2 nd	Auckland Easter Teams
Jack James Mairi Bristow Mathew Bristow Blair Fisher	1 st	Hastings Open Teams
Evelyn Hurley Bob Hurley George Masters Wayne Burrows	2 nd	
Debbie Marcroft Laura Griffin Tony Clear Garry Hodge	2 nd	Rita Angus Int Teams
Jack James Jeremy Fraser- Hoskin	1 st	SC Congress Open Pairs

Here is a list of pairs who achieved a score of 70% or better since the last newsletter:

Morgan Booker & Zheng Zhang	75.16%
Malcolm Loudon & Tony Fayerman	74.07%
Susan Parker & Bryan Northcott	72.22%
Terry Young & Grant Elliott	71.71%

Gayle Leader

Junior/Intermediate Tournament

It was 9.30 on a sunny Sunday morning, 27th March, when players began arriving at the Club for our annual Junior/Intermediate tournament. It was a relief to hold the event this year after having to cancel last year's due to the COVID lockdown.

The room was set up with 10 tables for the Intermediates and 7 for Juniors. People had travelled from as far away as Masterton, Hastings and the Kapiti Coast as well as our neighbouring clubs. A great turnout. Raffle prizes beautifully wrapped and the registration table manned by Laura and Gayle.

Morning tea, provided by our members was delicious: scones, savouries, cakes, all the usual treats designed to settle the stomachs and the nerves.

Denise was ready to make her welcome speech and Lorraine all set up with the boards and movements, but then ... oops! How did that happen?

There's a half table on the Intermediate section!

A desperate but fruitless attempt to fill it, saw Lorraine swing into fixit mode with her usual capability, and before too long we were underway, sadly with a phantom table.

The play was steady, hands somewhat challenging at times. At the break we were provided with a beautifully presented lunch by our master-caterer Robyn and her team, then a little time to mull over and rue our mistakes before settling down again for Session 2.

From a Junior perspective it was good to see so many players taking part in their first tournament.

Winners of the Junior section were Prue Drake and Jason Cliff, with runners-up John Redmayne and Craig Killington.

There was a strong field in the Intermediate section, the grade newly invigorated following the welcome reclassification of several former Open players. Tony Clear and Laura Griffin were the winners with a comfortable margin over Garry Hodge and Debbie Marcroft, runners up at the top of a tight bunch. The hands were interesting, none more so than Board 13 in the morning session. This was mostly played in 5 Diamonds by NS, following a 2 Club opening by North. However two enterprising EW pairs managed to claim the contract in Spades - one making 4SX Vulnerable, the other 3SX+1, much to their enjoyment!

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all the participants.

A huge thank you to the Organising Committee, Robyn and helpers, members who donated prizes for the raffle, the cleaner-uppers at the end, and to everyone else who helped make the day so successful and enjoyable.

Maxine Keay and Tony Fayerman

On Entering my first bridge tournament

" Admitting errors clears the score and proves you wiser than before."

Arthur Guiterman (1871 - 1943)

I have been learning Bridge for 18 months. I was encouraged and cajoled into entering my first tournament on 25th March 2021. I asked a fellow classmate if she would partner with me. We entered online, paid and then the doubts set in.

All week I revised and talked over the scoring and responding and overcalling rules in my head. Any spare minutes I practised against the robots on my phone. Such dedication must surely be rewarded.

Saturday was a sunny day, we entered the hall at 9.15am; exited about 4.30pm. Everyone was friendly and there were heaps of others spending their sunny Saturday inside playing bridge. I was not a loner; I was in esteemed company. LOL

The first game was a nervous play and a relief it was over. Concentration at a peek. We talked a little with others at the table if we finished early and conversations began. Remembering play was OK and we survived the morning.

At lunch we met more people and I started to feel a bit tired. My concentration began to waver. I looked at my hand, and supposedly wrote 2S for a 5 card major opening with 12 points. Oops, I looked at the pad when my partner was responding.....I had written 2C...double whoops, she now believed I had a great hand.....too late to call the Director. Suck it up cupcake. Carry on, all the way DOWN!

Several other rookie mistakes followed, missing a transfer response to my 1NT and choosing the literal suit....whoops. Then we won a couple of games, whoopee, highs of defending and taking them down or making our contract.....then the lows as we became greedy in our bids and went down. Concentrating for that length of time was a test I did not pass fully this time, definitely room for improvement.

If admitting my errors makes me wise; I am wiser than I was. Overall I enjoyed the tournament, the people and will definitely enter next time and encourage other newbies to do so too.

Thanks to the organisers and workers in the background that made the day go so smoothly.

Suzanne Carpenter

Improvers Corner

Looking at Suzanne's account of her experience in our Junior/Intermediate Tournament brought back memories for me as it must have done for others of our first dip into the deep waters of tournament style bridge.

The hands in the March event were particularly challenging and were not for the faint-hearted. Cautious players would have lost out badly since being positive about the hands was usually the way to go. Take board two, for example, from the afternoon session.

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ —
♥ K 10 9 8 7 2
♦ 5 3
♣ K Q 8 7 6

♠ K Q 8 5 4 3

♥ 4

♦ 10 7

♣ 10 9 5 2



♠ A
♥ Q J 6 3
♦ A Q J 9 4
♣ A J 3

♠ J 10 9 7 6 2

♥ A 5

♦ K 8 6 2

♣ 4

NS are vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents and this situation is usually a case for keeping a low profile. But not, as it turns out, on this occasion.

If EW get into the excellent contract of six hearts then NS could venture a six spade bid to minimize the damage. Six spades goes down two doubled for a negative score of 500 which is still a lot better than the heart slam which scores 980.

At one table a fortunate NS were doubled in four spades which makes comfortably. One can imagine a sorrowful East saying "Well, partner, with my 19 points I *had* to double."

So what might any newbie players have learned from this tournament? Maybe that a good suit fit is often more useful than a high number of scattered points.

Ray Kemp

Guide us Heavenly Partner

In a previous issue I mentioned a high level competition where the play of one card meant the difference between a pair coming in the prizes or down the track. That highlighted a case of finding the right lead to a contract. If the defence can get off to a good start then that is half the battle. This month we will look at a couple of hands where the lead is crucial and you have to decide whether to believe your partner or not.

The first hand is from Monday afternoon bridge in February. The bidding is aggressive and the final contract is a slam, so the stakes are high. Playing West, both vulnerable, here is your hand:

♠ 4
♥ J 10 9 5 3 2
♦ 8 2
♣ K Q 9 3

And here is the bidding:

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	2 ♦	5 ♠
Pass	6 ♠	All Pass	

North's 1NT is 12-15 and the two diamonds overcall is natural.

You have a number of headaches here. Firstly, you are playing with an unfamiliar partner. Secondly, the bidding is full-on and thirdly you have two apparent choices: lead partner's suit or start with the king of clubs. Before reading on, choose a card, any card.

One could spend several minutes running through all the scenarios. First, just how good is East's overcall? Your side is vulnerable so one would expect at least two of the top three honours from partner. North has the one no trump hand so surely their diamond suit is going to be open to attack. But North confidently bid six spades so either has diamonds covered or hopes that South has a singleton or void. Since West has only two diamonds that leaves a lot of diamonds to be distributed between North and East. South, too, has swatted away the diamond overcall but is she relying on North's hand to give her cover?

So what about a club lead? If South has a long spade suit then it would appear to be more likely she has a shortage in this suit than in diamonds which could be disastrous for EW. For his no trump bid, North could easily have the ace and jack of the suit which may give away a possible vital trick.

Analysis paralysis could easily set in, and West takes a lot of time to decide what to do. In the end he leads partner's diamond suit since he can then blame East if it goes wrong. Whoops! Here is the full deal:

Board 26

North Deals
Both Vul

♠ 6 5 2
♥ A K 7 6
♦ A K 9 4
♣ J 7

♠ 4
♥ J 10 9 5 3 2
♦ 8 2
♣ K Q 9 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9
♥ Q 8 4
♦ Q J 10 7 6 5
♣ A 10 6

♠ A K Q J 10 8 7 3
♥ —
♦ 3
♣ 8 5 4 2

I hope you led the king of clubs, thus taking the first two tricks and achieving a joint top board. A diamond lead would leave you with zero match points as three losing clubs disappear as if by magic on North's red ace-kings.

The post-mortem is a little edgy. West observes that East should not overcall a suit that she didn't want led. East counters by saying that she always bids that way with her usual partner. West replies that she is not playing with her usual partner.

The second hand is taken from BBO. During lockdown, Auckland Bridge Club has online sessions for anyone in the country to join in.

Again, playing West, this time at nil vulnerability, you pick up this uninspiring collection:

♠ 9 7 3
♥ J 7 6 5
♦ J 9 5
♣ A 8 3

And here is the bidding:

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	1 ♦	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All Pass	

North-South are playing five card majors, so North's club could be short.

You have the same issue as before. Do you trust your partner? This time the diamond overcall is only at the one level and since EW are non-vulnerable it may be quite weak. NS don't appear worried about the diamond intervention so it seems tempting to try one of the unbid majors instead. Over to you.

Here is the full deal:

Board 1	♠ A K 5 2
North Deals	♥ Q 10 8 3
None Vul	♦ A 2
	♣ K Q 5
♠ 9 7 3	♠ 10 6 4
♥ J 7 6 5	♥ A 2
♦ J 9 5	♦ Q 10 7 4 3
♣ A 8 3	♣ 10 7 4
	♠ Q J 8
	♥ K 9 4
	♦ K 8 6
	♣ J 9 6 2

This time leading partner's suit gives you an excellent start and that what happened at the table. As you can see, NS are going to make their contract quite comfortably but it is the overtricks that are going to be crucial in a match point pairs competition. Only a diamond lead puts South under any pressure. A club or heart lead gifts NS eleven tricks on a plate. Even spades are no threat and give South a good chance of making two overtricks if he guesses right. However, the lead of a low diamond restricts him to ten tricks and a poor board.

But look at East's diamond bid! It appears ridiculous and could potentially be disastrous. At no other table was there a diamond overcall so EW got a very good board out of it. You may be thinking that this must be the luck of novices but it turns out that sitting East is Michael Cornell, a top international player.

Imagine our West from the previous deal playing with such an illustrious partner. Do you think he would have complained about the questionable quality of East's overcall on this hand?

Ray Kemp

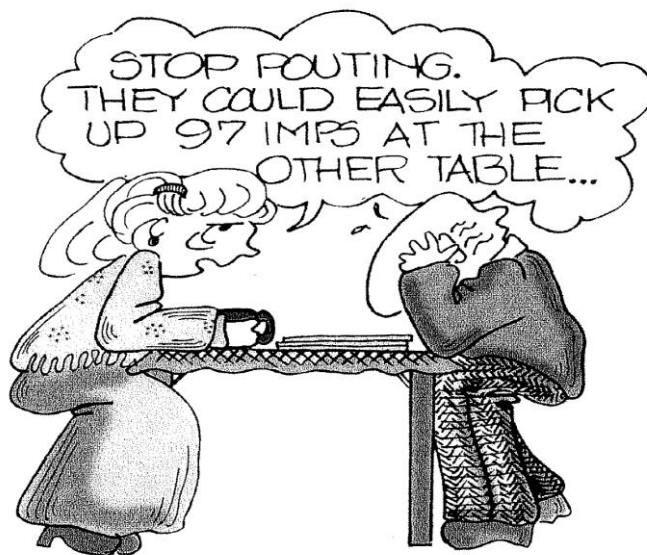
Lost & Found

The club has an assorted collection of clothing items (jackets, coats, jerseys) that have been left behind at sessions. Check the rack in the foyer next time you play bridge. You might find an old friend.

Julie Bunnell

You must be joking

Given that there have been several IMPs based competitions at the club in the last three months, Tony thought that the following cartoon would be appropriate but couldn't think of a suitable caption. I'm not sure it actually needs one but if you have a suggestion then email fayerman@xtra.co.nz. The prize for the winner - a mention in the next newsletter (maybe even a photo) and a chance to be admired throughout the club for your outstanding wit and imagination.



Tony Fayerman

