

From the Bridge

Hello All,

Another year under the belt huh? Aspirations met? Well bridge has that funny way of levelling our expectations (but never our hopes?). Some notably smooth days and otherswe would prefer to forget. That is, of course, if results are all that matter! I have played more bridge this year and been involved with more of you in different ways and it is heartening to register the enthusiasm and sense of fun so many of you exhibit. Congratulations to those who have won trophies. We are coming for you next year.

Our most recent Christmas Cheer tournament has been a wonderful showcase for all that is good about the game. How great to see the rooms full for a day of competition and cheer.

The number of bridge players in Palmerston North is not growing however. We do enjoy one of the more comfortable and appropriate buildings for the purpose, you could say too costly for the purpose of weekday bridge. I encourage every one of you to help maintain our game by spreading the word. Bring a friend; challenge a workmate, play cards with the family.

Further to our building and its comfort: the performance of the air-conditioning unit is a frustration to some of you. The facts are: it takes time to warm up the room in winter but reaches a temperature that is too warm for some and too cold for others. So be it.

In warmer months it can be overly cool as it brings the temperature down-especially under the duct outlets, but reaches the desired temperature in time. I ask you to bear with this. Come prepared for these temperature variations. Lorraine has battled with it for some years and knows it well. See her if you are sure she has slipped up. It does not help to mess with the settings yourself.

Further it has to be rejoiced that Lorraine is not part of the building but a real live person whose wisdom and unflagging attention to all matters is always worth respect.

The year could not have passed without noticing the considerable team and volunteers who make the club tick. It is with awe I watch our programme unfold as you assist the generally smooth running machine.

Sadly we say goodbye to Grant Elliot whose efforts as treasurer have been immaculate and his advice in legalities tremendous. His tennis playing career is the winner I believe.

We look forward to working alongside Judith Macmillan. Thank-you, Jude.

Our summer programme continues with two sessions a week. No doubt most of us will suffer some sort of break from the game. Enjoy where-ever and whatever.

With joy

Martin Carryer (President) www.MartinCarryer.com

Club and Tournaments Results

Here are the results of tournaments and new entries to the 70% club since the last newsletter . Congratulations to all.

NZ Congress Restricted Open Teams

Annette Scanlan, Marilyn Miller,
Morgan Booker, Gayle Leader - 2nd

Laura Griffin, Tony Clear,
Debbie Marcroft, Garry Hodge - 4th

NZ Congress Restricted Swiss Pairs

Laura Griffin, Tony Clear - 8th

Waikato Bays Consolation Swiss Pairs

Wayne Burrows, Clair Miao - 2nd

Anne Gordon, Bob Hurley - 4th

CD Zelda Morris Pairs

Jack James, George Masters - 2nd

Wayne Burrows, Andrei Sharko - 5th

National Swiss Pairs

Jack James, Blair Fisher - 4th

Hastings Intermediate

Garry Hodge, Grant Elliott - 3rd

Kate Cliff, Tony Fayerman - 8th

Kapi Mana Intermediate

Garry Hodge, Grant Elliott - 3rd

Paraparaumu Multigrade

Marilyn Miller, Garry Hodge - 3rd

Paraparaumu Junior

Maree Roberts, Kevin Conley - 3rd

Waikanae Intermediate

Angela Harper, Paul Harper - 6th

PN Open Swiss Pairs

Jack James, Wayne Burrows - 2nd

Jan Whyte, Ken Bateman - 5th

PN Christmas Cheer

Martin Carryer, Colin Carryer - 1st

Julian Kissock, Jack James - 3rd

Anne Gordon, Bob Hurley - 4th

Liz Burrows, Sandra Coleman - 5th

Hawkes Bay Xmas Cheer

Morgan Booker, Ken Bateman - 2nd

70% Club

Zheng Zhang, Peter Wiles - 74.70

Jono Naylor, John Redmayne - 76.25

Bev Colville, Susan Parker - 71.23

Gayle Leader

Bits and Pieces

Fees and charges for 2024

Subscription rates for 2024 (same as 2022 and 2023)

Ordinary Home: \$120

Ordinary Second: \$97

Country Home: \$88

Country Second: \$65

Youth: \$66

New table money rates will apply from 1st February

\$7.00 cash

\$32.5 for a 5 x table card

\$65 for a 10 x table card

\$130 for a 20 x table card

Online payment is always preferred,

please, to: 02 0727 0231184 00

Summer bridge

Is on Mondays from 1.15 and Thursdays from 7.15. If you are happy to be a "spare" then please let Lorraine know.

Denise Servante

Palmerston North Christmas Cheer 2023



Palmerston North Bridge Club Prize Winners for 2023

Championships

Bronze: Bryan Northcott Cup

First- Jono Naylor & John Redmayne

Runners up- Lila Bosman & Andrew Herbert

Silver: Rod Doherty Tray

First- Angela Harper & Paul Harper

Runners up- Maxine Keay & Malcolm Loudon

Gold: Culpan Tray

First- Anne Gordon & Hans van Bunnik

Runners up- Denise Servante & Martin Carryer

Platinum: Doreen Millar Rosebowl

First- Alister Stuck & Bob Hurley

Runners up- Liz Burrows & Carolyn Brodie

Memorial Trophies

Bronze: Keith Rowland Cup

Kevin Conley & Sonia Smith

Silver: John Whibley Memorial Cup

Suzanne Carpenter & John Redmayne

Gold: Maude Nash Tray

Michael Hardman & Marilyn Miller

Platinum: Jack Cliff Memorial Cup

Ken Bateman & Jan Whyte

Handicap Events

Teams: Stubbs Jewellers' Cup

Terry Young, Lila Bosman,

Sonia Smith & Gayle Leader

Pairs: Whitehead Trophy

Kevin Conley & Claire James

Silver Butler Tray: Grant Elliott & Elwi Beshlawi

Myra Stubbs Teams: Bob Hurley, Heather Simpson,

Liz Burrows & Anne Gordon

Rotational Teams: Bob Hurley, Jan Whyte,

Morgan Booker & Carolyn Brodie

Points Cups

Bronze: Chaunia Milne Tray

First- Maree Roberts

Runner up- John Redmayne

Silver: Jack Cliff Memorial Cup

First- Grant Elliott

Runner up- Malcolm Loudon

Gold: Joan Palmer Cup

First- Carolyn Brodie

Runner up- Anne Gordon

Platinum: Whitehead Cup

First - Bob Hurley

Runner up- Morgan Booker

Monday: Vera Rees Tray

First- Jan Whyte

Runner up- Ken Bateman

Your Lead, Partner!

The opponents are in a game contract and your partner reminds you that it is your turn to select the killer card from your hand that is going to take it down. What is your reaction? Excitement? Dread? Quiet confidence? If you are like most of us, your attitude will depend upon your hand. If you have been gifted with AKQx or KQJx in an unbid suit then you are probably batting on a good wicket. Singletons are also popular leads although they don't work out as often as you might think. Let's have a look at a hand from our Christmas Cheer Tournament where you are in pole position for the opponents' four spade contract.

♠ J
♥ K J 8 6
♦ K 8 3
♣ K 7 6 5 3

This is not the sort of hand most folks would like to lead from against a game contract. On such occasions, it is sometimes useful to skim through common bridge lead mantras. "Avoid leading away from a king at match point pairs". "Avoid leading a singleton in the trump suit". "Avoid leading a singleton honour". Unfortunately, none of these suggestions help at all. Maybe if you hesitate long enough your partner will lead out of turn and save you the embarrassment. But no such luck, you just have to make a blind choice.

But it is not quite blind. A more useful piece of advice is that if you are leading blind then you must be deaf. In other words, listen to the bidding and it may help you to choose a decent lead. So, let's look at the bidding.

West	North	East	South
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

You are sitting South. East's one club hand just shows sixteen points or more. West's response shows 0-7 points and East's rebid shows a very strong hand with a solid spade suit. West likes this and immediately bids game. So, does that help?

The confident bidding by East suggests that a passive lead is in order. Leading away from any of your kings may be fatal. Trumps are not usually a good lead, particularly singletons which can embarrass a partner who has a good holding in the suit. On this bidding partner's trump suit is likely to be poor or non-existent. So, the least dangerous lead is ♠J.

Dummy comes down and you see

♠ 9 8 7 6 5 4
♥ 5 4 2
♦ 7 6 4
♣ 8

So, it looks like you've made a safe lead. But there is still work to be done. Declarer wins the trick in hand with ♠A and immediately plays a club which is won by North's ten. North plays ♦J to declarer's queen and your king. What now? You are back on lead again!

You are still not keen on leading away from ♥K and a club lead may give East a ruff and discard. The only sensible return appears to be a diamond so you play ♦8. Unfortunately, that crunches partner's ten. Declarer now cashes the ace and nine of diamonds, whoops! Declarer ruffs a club in dummy and leads ♥2. North follows with ♥3, declarer plays ♥7 and you have a cheap trick, winning with ♥8.

That's the good news but the bad news is that you are on lead for a third time and are running out of options. We are up to trick eight and this is the position for you and dummy:

♠ 9 8 7 6	
♥ 5 4	
♦	
♣	
♠	
♥ K J 6	
♦	
♣ K 7 6	

Now, you really are scuppered. You either have to give declarer a probable ruff and discard in clubs or lead those pesky hearts. You lead a heart on the off-chance partner has an honour in the suit but no luck. Here is the complete deal:

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 2
♥ 10 9 3
♦ J 10 5 2
♣ A Q J 10 4

♠ 9 8 7 6 5 4
♥ 5 4 2
♦ 7 6 4
♣ 8

	N
	W
	S
	E

♠ A K Q 10 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ A Q 9
♣ 9 2

♠ J
♥ K J 8 6
♦ K 8 3
♣ K 7 6 5 3

Your heart lead hands declarer the contract, but a club would have had the same effect.

So, is this what happened at our table? Well, not quite. I was East and all of the play was as above until the crucial eighth trick. When I led a low heart from dummy, the alert North put in ♥9 and I could no longer endplay South. I took the heart finesse that failed and South now had a safe heart return. Two hearts, a diamond and a club loser left us one down. Smart defence by NS!

Ray Kemp

Multi Mayhem

The player on your right is dealer and writes down '2D' on the bidding pan. You politely ask LHO what they understand by their partner's bid. Maybe they will look mystified and say they don't know but hopefully they will give one of the following answers:

- Weak with a six card diamond suit
- Strong with 19-21 hcps
- Very strong with 22+ points
- 11-15 hcps, 4-4 in the majors and short diamonds

Goodness, so many different interpretations of the same call! No wonder, unfamiliar partnerships may not have decided upon an agreement for this bid.

As if things weren't bad enough, some guy with a twisted mind decided it would be fun to use an opening two diamond bid to show none of the above but a weak hand with six cards in an unspecified major suit. This may confuse your partner, who may have no idea which major suit this is, but more importantly, may discombobulate your opponents who may have decent cards but don't know what is going on, or how to defend against such an opener. To make matters worse, the 'multi' as it is known may alternatively indicate a very strong hand so opponents have to be wary about trying to get into the auction too early. If you are not sure how to defend against the multi, look at Bob Hurley's article on this topic in the September newsletter.

The inventor of this bid was a famous English bridge player called Terence Reese. He obviously enjoyed devising schemes for stumping opponents. Another of his inventions was a sophisticated system called 'The Little Major'. The Little Major was complicated and arcane, often confusing partners as well as opponents, and it soon became obsolete. Not so, the multi-two diamond which he devised about 1970. This bid caught on, particularly in the UK and Commonwealth, and is still commonly used today.

I tried to convince partners in the 1990s to play the multi with me, with limited success, so I gave up on the bid. Also, you need to be sure your partner understands all the ramifications of different competitive auctions. More recently, I have come back to it since it frees up major suit openers at the two level for other purposes. If nothing else it can produce some exciting bidding sequences. Here is a hand from a Monday afternoon session in November.

Board 20	♠ 8 2	
West Deals	♥ 6 5	
Both Vul	♦ J 9 7 6	
	♣ 9 8 7 6 5	
♠ 9 6 3		♠ A K J 7 5
♥ A 10 9 8 7 2		♥ K J 4
♦ 8 5 2		♦ 3
♣ K		♣ A J 4 3
	♠ Q 10 4	
	♥ Q 3	
	♦ A K Q 10 4	
	♣ Q 10 2	



And here is the bidding

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
Pass	6 ♦	Dbl	All Pass

I am sitting East and after partner opens a multi I decide my best bet is to leap to four hearts. This may look like a rash bid since I cannot be sure which major my partner has. However, we have an understanding called 'pass or correct'. So, in the (unlikely) event that partner has six spades she should convert to four spades. I am pretty sure we are set for game in either major, and wish to discourage an intervention in diamonds by our opponents.

South is obviously aware of the ambiguity in the bidding up to this point. He will assume, quite rightly, that I don't know which major my partner has and so decides to confuse matters further by venturing a frisky five diamond bid. When the bidding gets back to me I decide to bid five hearts. Again, if partner does have spades then she can 'correct' if necessary. She passes, which confirms she has hearts. Suddenly, North comes to life. He takes his partner for a strong distributional hand with long diamonds and fancies his chances on this one. If nothing else, six diamonds may be a good sacrifice against our perceived game. As usual in this kind of auction, no one really knows what is going on but I decide enough is enough and double this contract based on my high card strength.

My partner smartly leads ♠3, inferring that I have both majors covered and worrying that one of the opponents may have a heart void. To cut a painful story short, we take the first six tricks, leaving declarer with a negative score of 1400. The good news from South's point of view is that we can possibly make a heart slam for a score of 1430, but as it turns out, no one gets to this admittedly adventurous destination. In fact, it can be a tricky contract, anyway which has to be played carefully if the opponents lead trumps.

If you are inspired by this article to try out the multi, be warned, things don't always turn out this well. If you are of a highly nervous disposition then you might be advised to stick to more straightforward bidding techniques. However, if you think bridge is too serious sometimes then the multi can be a way of injecting more excitement into the game.

Ray Kemp

Tips and Conventions

Here is a fun hand from the recent 10A pairs at Havelock North. I held:

♠ 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A Q 9 4
♦ J
♣ A 10 2

Some players passed this hand (probably the right bid) but I had favourable vulnerability and was playing against Jack, so I opened 1♠.


I immediately regretted that when Jack overcalled 3NT and it was passed back to me. Partner would lead a spade and a bottom board seemed likely. So I now bid 4♥ (who knows, I might get lucky). Jack passed and partner corrected to 4♠ but when that was passed back to Jack he now bid 4NT.

Partner decided that I should play at the five level and Jack's partner doubled 5♠. Jack had to guess the opening lead holding

♠ A 9
♥ 10 8 2
♦ A K Q 10 8 6 3
♣ 8

He chose the ♣8 and when I won the trick and led a spade he won the ace and underled the AKQ of diamonds. Luckily for me, I held the JD.

So I ended up making five spades doubled with an overtrick. The winning defence is not obvious, you must lead ♦A, continue with the ♦K, then win the ♠A and play the ♦Q for partner's ♠J to take the setting trick. The full hand:

♠ J 10 8 ♥ K 6 ♦ 5 4 ♣ K 9 7 5 4 3		♠ A 9 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ A K Q 10 8 6 3 ♣ 8	♠ K Q 7 ♥ J 7 5 3 ♦ 9 7 2 ♣ Q J 6
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I often make the point that when you have favourable vulnerability be adventurous. So make that your new year's resolution.

Bob Hurley

You must be joking

Another tall story from the web:

A man is stranded on a deserted island for 10 years. One day he notices a speck on the horizon, and he watches intently as it draws near. "It can't be a boat," he thinks. "It can't be a fish." Suddenly, a beautiful woman emerges from the sea wearing scuba gear and a wet suit.

"Hi there!" she says.

The man is amazed. "But... but... how did you get here?"

"Never mind," says the woman as she unzips the left pocket of her wet suit and hands the man a cigarette.

"Wow, this is terrific! I haven't had a smoke in 10 years!"

"Enjoy!" says the woman as she unzips the right pocket of her wet suit and gives the man a flask of whiskey.

"I can't believe it! This tastes so good!"

Next the woman starts to unzip the long zipper that runs down the front of her wet suit.

"Now I've got something you *really* want."

"What!" he says, "Don't tell me you've got a *deck of cards* in there too!"

Ray Kemp

