

Paraparaumu Bridge Newsletter June 2017

Ed: Keith Lees

From the President: Get to know your fellow club members

Robyn Michelson, our new “Recorder”, first learned bridge at the Hutt Bridge Club. However, she is a long standing club member of Paraparaumu having joined when we moved into the new building in 1997. She served as Secretary here for four years and President for two.

A Lower Hutt girl, Robyn attended Chilton St James and Hutt Valley High schools before moving on to Victoria University where she completed a science degree. After graduation she taught science initially at Palmerston North Girls High. Then, after living in the U.S.A. for three years Robyn returned to the Wellington region in 1968 and joined the staff of Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt. She has since taught at several colleges in the Wellington region as well as the Correspondence School. Robyn and her husband Ross have four daughters. Two live in Hawkes Bay, one in Whanganui and one in Wellington.

Robyn’s latest role now is as our Club Recorder. So, don’t forget, if you feel you have become the victim of inappropriate behaviour or breaches of etiquette at the club and you feel sufficiently concerned about it that you would like to discuss the matter confidentially with someone, please talk to Robyn.

We have many interesting people in our Club and, from time to time, we will take the opportunity to tell you about some of them. It may be your turn next!
(Brian Pender, President)

Pianola

After an extensive testing period and after considerable feedback from members, the committee decided at its last meeting to purchase both Pianola and Pianola Plus – for a full one year trial.

Basic Pianola (cost = about \$750 per year) offers the Club considerable advantages in producing accurate results very quickly and in storing and accessing members' data, including results of the various competitions. Pianola Plus (cost = about \$1750 per year) offers individual members various ways to think about their bidding accuracy and their play of the cards and how to improve ie through replaying the hands etc.

In making their decision the committee were mindful that there are many members who may/will not wish to utilise the benefits of Pianola Plus. However, strong consideration was given to the need to offer a tried resource to those who wish to improve their game. We are of course a bridge club with a strong social aspect but we also need to think about those players who will strive to be more competitive and who may wish to become more senior players, even to "Open" standard.

The Committee wish to stress that for this one year trial at least, the costs will be borne by existing club funds ie subscriptions will not be raised to pay for our subscription to this trial period.

(Editor: I know the Pianola graphs and charts and data can be confusing at first. But it is instructive and constructive to examine just a few boards after each session. A plaintive note . . . apparently my bridge percentages are impressive only when I am dummy (. . . those of you who know my meagre playing skills will not be at all surprised). But it seems that that the answer to improving our results is quite simple – I need to stop bidding other suits and just let her play more hands!!

Upcoming Tournaments

Above all, please try to support our own! One of the popular "In-house" tournaments takes place very soon, on Sunday July 2. This is a half-day event. Please be seated and ready for play by 12.45

Note: this tournament is sponsored by The Law Connection, a local law firm which also offers free legal consultations for wills/trusts/powers of attorney/retirement issues (up to max of 30 minutes) for club members.

And then on Sunday, July 23 there will be the Kapiti Coast Funeral Home Junior Pairs. Again it would be great to see a strong "home team" contingent contesting that event.

Other upcoming regional events include The Karori Intermediate Pairs and the Levin Open Pairs (both July 23), the Wellington Open Pairs (July 30) and the Waikanae Multigrade Pairs (August 6).

Dale's Tips (Constructive and thoughtful advice helpfully offered by one of the Club's more experienced players, Dale Wills)

To draw trumps, or not? That is the question.

We have all probably heard the story of the person roaming the streets, or trudging up and down the London Embankment, destitute, because of their failure to draw trumps! However there are occasions where to immediately draw trumps is **not** the winning line of play. Some examples:

- **Drop a loser** The following is a simple example but going by results was missed by a number of declarers

S	KQ10876	J543
H	Q2	AK5
D	54	A67
C	AK8	Q63

Declarer is in 6 spades with KD lead. Clearly if you lead trumps on the second trick the A is going to win and the QD will take the next trick for one down. So you first need to get rid of the diamond loser by playing three rounds of hearts.

- **Using small trumps to trump losers.** This is a situation commonly missed.

S	K85	AJ953
H	AQ1086	542
D	A852	-
C	K	AJ963

The contract is 4H and going by point count and losing trick count should easily make. However declarer went down 2 tricks by not using dummy's

trumps to take care of diamond losers and trying to immediately draw trumps. Declarer was undone by 4-1 breaks in both hearts and spades with the missing KH and QS side. But 4H will make if three diamond losers are trumped in dummy, with a spade loser being dropped on the ace clubs. Admittedly this is a difficult one as the diamond losers can be discarded on the ace clubs and spade suit if the spade finesse works. Nevertheless a powerful feature of the dummy was wasted and this is all too common.

An outstanding trump is high.

In this case you may try and get the defenders to use their high trump to ruff one of your off suit winners. This is particularly useful where there is at least one trump in each of dummy and declarer's hands, and then it may be possible to get two tricks with a later cross ruff. The corollary of this is that defenders should try and resist trumping in with a top trump and look to get the lead to take out two of declarer's trumps with their high trump.

Exception. Where the defenders hold winners in a side suit then they should trump in as early as possible to cash those winners before declarer drops them on their long off suit.

Declarer's exception. If there is a long suit to run and there is no other entry to that suit then, if you are able to maintain trump control, lead trumps so that you can later run the suit without interruption.

- **Outstanding trump(s) is/are not high.**

Situations often arise where declarer has a 4/4 trump suit fit and the outstanding trumps are 4/1. Even if you are able to take out all the trumps without loss it may be tactically better to let the defenders trump with one of their trumps in order to maintain trump control or provide an entry to a long suit. I call this 2 for 1 where I can make my two trumps separately by giving one away.

Trump Promotion

Consider the defenders' holding in the trump suit of:

Q10

J3

Looks like declarer hasn't any trump losers, but occasionally a situation arises where what is called a trump promotion can be engineered. Partner leads AK of a side suit where you have a doubleton and leads a third one. Partner is aware that both you and declarer are out of that suit, but hopes that you have the J of trumps in order to force a high trump from declarer. You of course need to play the J and not the three!

This should be routine as there is nothing to lose by playing the J. Even if declarer has a third card of the suit led, the J hasn't been wasted as it will fall anyway when trumps are played. Your play of the J is rewarded when the K overtrumps, the Ace is played and partner then holds the winning Q.

It may not be necessary to have an honour to engineer a trump promotion. At a recent session my partner held K103 and I held 9,2 of the trump suit. Partner led a suit that ultimately both I and declarer can trump and my 9 forced the J, thus promoting partner's 10 as she held K103 over declarer's AQxx. I had nothing to lose playing the 9 as it will fall, as would partner's 10, when declarer plays trumps from the top.

It can be difficult at times to ascertain whether partner is looking for a trump promotion. **So just in case when trumping, trump with the highest card you can afford!**

