

REMINDER : OUR “RECORDER”



Robyn Michelson is our club’s “Recorder”. (NZ Bridge has encouraged all clubs affiliated with the national body to appoint a club member to this role.)

In summary, **a bridge recorder is an experienced player who is available for informal advice:** this could be about an issue of play, bidding or general etiquette. Any member may contact the recorder to help them decide whether to take a concern to formal appeal or just to report a concern about another member’s behavior (at or away from the table). Communications with a recorder should remain confidential to that person alone.

Further explanation by NZ Bridge includes that the recorder could become involved over issues/incidents/concerns that

Do not meet expected standards of conduct, proprieties, or etiquette but are not enough to require a ruling by the Director called to a table, or are, indeed, outside the responsibility or purview of the Director.

Are potentially serious, but there is only an implication of wrongdoing without substantial evidence to make a formal complaint.

Should be addressed by counselling or education or most simply, by a quiet, tactful word in the offender’s ear.

A recorder has no disciplinary authority and must not give any indication to the contrary.

However, the recorder may file a complaint with the club's committee/disciplinary body as a means to resolve the issue and the recorder may choose to inform a subject that a complaint may be filed in future should the undesirable behaviour persist.

It is important that members know they can go to Robyn for advice about alleged bad behavior. **A quiet word may be all that is required to prevent further incidents and make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all our members.**

We are very fortunate to have Robyn Michelson as our club's Recorder. She has been a member of the club for twenty years. She has served several years on the committee, including two years as President. And, she is obviously a very experienced and capable player.

But more importantly, Robyn is tactful and discreet, as well as being both calm and pleasant.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

There are plenty of opportunities to win points (and prizes?) at various regional tournaments in the next weeks. You can play in the Hutt Open and Junior Pairs (19 May), the Otaki Multigrade Pairs (26 May), the Karori Junior Pairs (9 June), the Levin Junior and Intermediate Pairs (16 June), the Kapi Mana Open Pairs (23 June) and the Masterton Intermediate and Junior Pairs (23 June). See your programme book for further opportunities in the wider region.

But your priority must be our own Paraparaumu Intermediate Pairs (sponsored by the Hearing Company) on Sunday 19 May.

Then you might like to **lock in the end of June for our popular In-House Competition, the Law Connection Sponsored Pairs on Sunday 30 June. And have junior players already confirmed the date of Sunday July 21 with their partner ? Yes, the Paraparaumu Junior Pairs.**

BILL SEWELL

Members were saddened by the passing of Bill Sewell last month. Bill really loved his bridge. He certainly enjoyed the challenge of the game and he absolutely relished the company and friendship at the Paraparaumu Bridge Club.

Bill was on the committee for several years and carried out the task of Tournament Manager/Convener efficiently, and above all, cheerfully. Bill had a great and ready grin and this was particularly evident when it came to the giving out of prizes at a tournament's conclusion.

Not many might know but Bill completed the lengthy series of lessons and then the examination, late in 2018, to become a qualified Club Director – a role he was looking forward to this year. Sadly, that was not to be.

President Tony Davies passed the club's sympathy and condolences to Bill's wife, Margaret, and to Bill's family, and Trevor Smith, Bill's cousin, spoke at the funeral, and noted his positive and enthusiastic involvement in the Paraparaumu Bridge Club.

This photograph below was Bill's finale as Tournament Manager. The Christmas Pairs 2018. Bill is right in his element here, big smile and surrounded by friends and prizewinners – that's how many of us will remember him.



IMPROVERS' WORKSHOP

A “Bridge Workshop” will be held on either the 16th or 23rd June (Sundays) at the clubrooms. More details will be given later, but it is important to note that this will be a **one day programme**, starting perhaps around 9.30, with a break for lunch, then going through to about 4.00pm. **The teacher will be Suzanne Duncan, a noted Director and player from the Wellington Club** (recently Suzanne and her partners won the Wellington Congress Swiss Pairs 3A Event). Further information will be given later, once the committee has finalized the details, but an outline of the topics is listed below.

The Club strongly recommends this workshop/programme to ALL Junior and recently promoted Intermediate players.

1. Opening leads

2. Improve your Bidding

- How to bid a hand with 4441 shape
- Showing strength with Rebids
 - Reverse bidding
 - NT rebids – Check back Stayman
- Opponents X your 1NT – how to cope
- Opponents overcall your 1NT - Lebensohl
- Various types of take-out doubles
- 4 card majors v 5 card majors

3. Defensive bidding

- How to defend against the Multi 2D
- Various defences against opponent's 1NT opening
- Bidding over weak opening(pre- empt) bids

4. Defensive play

- Think of partners hand (not only your own hand)
- Cover an honour with an honour?
- Hold-ups and Timing – Don't cash your ace too soon, but cash it before you lose it!
- Count signals

5. Declarer play- with selected hands

- Know your contract - plan your hand – trump management
- Safety play -establishing a long suit
- Guide to finessing

6. The new 2017 laws and what players should know

- Role of the Director/scoring/placement of the board/
unintended calls/ “playing it out” after claiming

M and M BUTCHERS SPONSORSHIP

We have a great sponsorship deal with this company, M and M Butchers on Kapiti Road. It is successful (worth several hundred dollars over the last year) but it could be much more successful. This is where all members can help and help to keep our (your) subscriptions and table money as low as possible. It's straightforward and simple!!!

At the rear of the clubroom there is a table with a supply of M and M Butchers cards. Take a card and keep it in your purse/wallet/car.

When you purchase at M and M, just show your card.

They will cheerfully stamp your receipt.

Keep the receipt, don't lose it but bring it to the box at the back of the clubroom.

We take all those receipts to the retail outlet and they give us 5% of the total.

Please support this scheme and support your club. It all helps. (Contact Ian Nicholls if you have any suggestions or questions.)

70 % CLUB

Not very many have achieved bragging rights to membership of this club in 2019. Results (to end of April) include some of the usual suspects, such as Doug Galyer and Michael Cunniffe and Stafford Marshall and Jane Bradbury but that's about as far as it goes. Alec Dowie with Gary Bly has been close, as has Kevin MacManus (twice) but close gets you no cigar.

A HAND FROM NZ BRIDGE

Some of you might have seen this recent hand on their website, but I can't resist showing it here.

(And, by the way, there are all sorts of helpful hands to bid or play or both on that site. It is a really good resource whether you are an advanced player or a relative beginner. Just go to NZ Bridge, then "Home", then "All News", then scroll down to an option that might suit you.)

This hand comes from the prestigious Auckland Easter Teams. All top players. There are 32 tables playing this board, vulnerable = none, and West is the dealer. The sequence is straightforward, one you've all seen plenty of times.

West	East
1 ♠	3 ♠ (10 + points and 4 card support)
4 ♠	

Or maybe the sequence was slightly longer . . . maybe 1 ♠ to 3 ♠, followed by 4 ♣ (Gerber = ace asking), to 4 ♦ (no aces), then signing off in 4 ♠. Rather boring ?

Not really so boring if you are North. Because here is your hand.

♠ AKQJ ♥ 105 ♦ 975 ♣ Q853

To repeat. **That is the North hand, not the West hand !** Yes, the opposition want to play in 4 ♠ !

Here are all four hands.

Board 24

West Deals	♠ A K Q J
None Vul	♥ 10 5
	♦ 9 7 5
	♣ Q 8 5 3

♠ 10 8 4 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 7 6 5
♥ A 7 3		♥ K Q 8 4
♦ A		♦ K Q J 10
♣ A K J 4		♣ 6

♠ —
♥ J 9 6 2
♦ 8 6 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 7 2

And there is just a faint chance you can beat that contract, isn't there?

At 5 tables, 4 ♠ was the contract, but there was no double, despite North's 4 top honours.

Maybe these 5 Norths were not quite so blind because an inspired East could take the contract out to 4NT and it can make. (That's as long as East is declarer. And not West. Even your Editor would not be challenged by the opening lead when North against 4 NT played by West.) Yes, East can make 4 NT, it's a little tricky, a throw-in play. Have a look. Can you see the approach? But not a single East ran to 4 NT, even when the game in spades was doubled.

At 13 tables, North doubled 4♠ and **two of them were deeply impressed and delighted when West redoubled!**

At 10 tables West-East investigated the possibility of slam and pushed on hopefully to 5♠ and perhaps 9 were given pause when North doubled 5♠. Two East-Wests retained a sense of ambition and redoubled 5♠!! **And one North inexplicably (was North waiting till they bid slam before doubling?) failed to double at that level!!**

That's 28 tables. Four left. Two East-Wests ploughed on and on regardless to 6♠ and no matter who had used Blackwood or Gerber, or not, there was simply no reprieve from the double. **At least, neither redoubled.**

Amidst all this carnage and mayhem, only two East-West pairs conjured positive scores. Somehow one single East-West pair considered 3NT was the place to be, and although North was on lead only 4 winners could be cashed before declarer took 9.

Lastly, the truly bizarre. Have you heard about lead-directing doubles? Well, at the lower levels you need to be sure, to be sure and North's double in this sequence was far from "sure".

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	x	xx	All Pass

You understand the sequence? I doubt it!

1♣ was a normal Precision Club with the 1♠ response showing 11-13 balanced or a club suit. Then the 2♣ asked East which they had, with 2♦ showing 11-13 balanced. (*4441 is treated as a balanced hand.*)

West then asked partner, “do you like spades?” But two players, not one, answered “yes”. The double and redouble ended any slam ambitions that East-West may have intended but it also ended the bidding. And the score for 2♠ x xx making one overtrick is, after all, a decent 840.

The point is **not** that a room full of Open grade and very experienced players bid badly until 30 out of 32 pairs found themselves with an unmakeable contract. Have another look at the hands.

As West, you have to open the bidding with 16 points . . . a pity there’s no honour, but the major suit does have 5 cards = 1 Spade. As East, you have a straightforward jump raise with your 11 points, 4 trumps in support, and a singleton to boot = 3 Spades.

Back to the opener, after East’s invitation, you don’t really have any option but to bid game, for your combined hands hold at least 26 points and 9 trumps.

Yes. Sometimes you do make all the “correct” bids and find yourself going light. But that’s surely part of the beauty of bridge. Don’t be too hard on yourself, or on your partner, because it does happen from time to time that your bidding is perfectly fine, but the contract just will not make.

FINAL COMMENT

This one provided by a declarer when a very disappointing dummy is placed on the table after the opening lead . . . “I’m confident that our opposition will join me in saying, ‘thank you, partner’.”

EDITOR : KEITH LEES