

# Newsletter No 2 April 2017

## President's Report

### Courtesy towards new members

On 3 April Jane Bradbury and her team will commence the Club's annual beginner and refresher lessons. Over the coming months graduates from the lessons will be starting to play in the Club's regular sessions and it will be very important for us to provide a welcoming and friendly environment for them.

For new players the game of bridge can be very intimidating. While many card games can be learned in a few minutes, bridge is not like that. It is complex. For most of us this is what we like about the game. We like the fact that we are still learning after many years playing.

But new players find that they are not picking the game up as quickly as they expected and, when they make a "mistake", they worry that people will think they are stupid. We all need to be very sensitive to this. We need to give praise as often as we can; not criticise (especially in the hearing of others), and give advice only when we are sure the advice will be welcome. We need to avoid what New Zealand Bridge calls the "Hush and Rush" mentality.

I know that many of us make a real effort to ensure that we do not upset new members coming into the Club but we need to do much more than this. We need to go out of our way to be friendly to them and offer our support.

As I was writing this report I heard of a promising learner who went to lessons, joined the club, but is now unlikely to come back because of thoughtless comments made by a more experienced player. Now we have probably lost this member and all the hard work done by a lot of people has been wasted. Unfortunately this situation arises all too often.

Please let us all be respectful to other players and be particularly sensitive when we are playing with new members. Let's make our comments positive and encouraging.

## **Committee Name Tags**

You may notice over the next few days that members of the Committee are sporting new yellow name tags instead of white ones. This is just to make it a little easier for you to recognise who Committee Members are in case there is an issue you want to raise. One of the key roles of committee members is to listen to members' concerns so please don't hesitate to talk to them about any issue that concerns you. We need your feedback and ideas.

## **What sort of Club do you want?**

What do you think are the main things that the Club should be doing or not doing? What do you think the Club is doing well and what are we doing less well? Why do we come each week to the Club and what would we need to do to encourage people who currently prefer to stay home and watch television to come out on a cold winter's night to play bridge?

This is your club and I want to get a clear idea of what you expect from it. I hope to be able to summarise your ideas into a few simple statements that the Committee can use to guide it in its future decision making.

You can let us know your thoughts either by emailing the club; emailing me at [penders@clear.net.nz](mailto:penders@clear.net.nz) or writing a note in the suggestions book which is hanging on the wall by the office.

## **My wish**

I was cleaning up the attic the other day and I came across an old lamp. I started polishing it and out popped this genie.

"I will grant you one wish," said the genie. So I found a map of the world and gave it to the genie and said, "Do you see all these countries? Well, I wish you could make them all live in peace and harmony."

"Are you kidding?" said the genie. "I can't do all that. I am only a genie."

"OK." I said. "Well, then I wish you could make me a really good bridge player."

"Hmmm," the genie replied. "Ah . . . Brian, let's see that map again . . ."

Brian Pender (President)

## **Upcoming tournaments**

First, the Wellington Regional “Congress” is being held over four days from April 22 to 25. Open players have a variety of events (Pairs, Swiss Pairs and Teams) over the 4 days.

Saturday (22) is a Pairs event for Novice, Junior and Intermediate players.

Sunday (23) is for Teams (of 4 players) for Novice, Junior and Intermediate.

Please note that the Club will subsidise **Team** entries for this event (half the required fee for one team per grade). See the entry forms on the noticeboard in the Clubrooms.

Second, a range of local and regional events.

Victoria (ie in Wellington) Multigrade Pairs (9 April)/ Levin Multigrade Pairs (15 April)/Upper Hutt Open and Junior Pairs (April 30)/Kapi Mana Multigrade (7 May)/ Hutt Open and Junior Pairs (21 May)/ Otaki Multigrade Pairs (28 May).

You can always check the NZ Bridge website (and/or the Club Noticeboard) for more information about these and other NZ tournaments. At the **BACK** of your programme books the 2017 schedule for events around the Kapiti–Wellington–Wairarapa region is listed, but **NOT** our Paraparaumu In–House tournaments. The dates for these can be found in the **FRONT** of your programme books.

**Third, in the midst of all those May tournaments . . . we’d urge you to support our own Club by entering and competing in the Paraparaumu Intermediate Pairs – sponsored by The Hearing Company. Mark it in your busy bridge and social diary right now. Two sessions, Sunday May 21**

## **Recent Results**

The Paraparaumu Open Pairs (sponsored by the Kapiti Retirement Trust) was held on March 19 and attracted a field of 18 tables.

No outright winners for our members but Brian Edwards and Murray Phillips (9<sup>th</sup> overall) must have been satisfied with their form in the afternoon as they topped the second session. And Val Manley and Marion Sillick also surged from . . . somewhere below where they would have wished in session 1 . . . to second place in session 2. Thanks to Gillian Travers and Yvonne Rowe who filled in at late notice to avoid a “phantom” table and also performed very creditably.

## DALE'S TIPS

(Constructive and thoughtful advice helpfully supplied by one of our more experienced players – Dale Wills)

**Leading partner's suit after a 1 No Trump overcall.**

W	N	E	S
1D	1NT	P	P

What should East Lead?

This sometimes can be a vexed question. Sometimes the lead can be into declarer's strength (as can be expected) and hands them the contract, but on other occasions leading the suit is the only way to beat the contract. Some are adamant that opener's suit should always be led. Others are equally adamant that leading it is only helping declarer. In my opinion there is no right and wrong answer. A lot depends on the opening leader's hand.

Firstly, there is a case for not leading your partner's suit.

If you have a suit of your own, eg KQJ54 it is probably better to try and establish that, particularly if you have a possible outside entry. This applies even if you have a doubleton in partner's suit.

If you have a singleton of partner's suit it is probably best not to lead it as declarer is probably very strong in that suit. Let declarer do the work to get the tricks in the suit.

You should lead partner's suit where you do not have any other reasonable alternative, except possibly when you have a singleton.

Where you have a doubleton to an honour then the honour should be led.

Where you have three cards of the suit then nearly always the suit should be led.

## The meaning of 'redouble'

W	N	E	S
1C	x	xx	P
?			

After getting into a club non-making game West commented that they didn't know what the redouble meant, thinking it was strong club support. This is certainly not the case. Usually a redouble in this situation is saying, "Partner I have 10 or more points and we have the balance of power." Any further doubles by the side making the redouble bid are now for penalties. If you do happen to have strong support for the opener's suit then this can be bid at the 3 level. A 2 level bid is usually fairly weak, 4 to 8 points. This can be fairly effective if the opening suit is spades.

## Some Revision

I started Dale's Tips to try and provide advice on some common play errors. Unfortunately some of these errors continue to occur.

## Phantom finesses

One of the errors I am commonly seeing is where the A and Q of a suit are in different hands and the Q gets led towards the A when the J is not held. I observed this hand recently:

	North Q9743	
West K10		East J62
	South A85	

To make the contract South had to play this suit for only one loser. They led the Q from the North hand and let it run, resulting in the loss of two tricks and the makeable contract down the drain. I call it a phantom finesse as it can't win as both the J and the 10 are not held. The winning line is small to the A and

small back, and when the K appears the suit has been played for the loss of only one trick.

Another “phantom finesse” situation is where Declarer is trying to get a defender to cover so that they don’t have to guess where the missing honours are located. Take this spade trump suit layout.

**North J8632**

**East Q 9**

Declarer leads the J, East routinely covers with the Q, declarer plays the K and West the A. East has just butchered the possibility of getting two trump tricks.

If the J is not covered then declarer needs to guess whether to play the K from hand, and has a 50% chance of getting it wrong. So why should East know not to cover? The reason to cover is to promote a trick for yourself or possibly for partner. That is not likely to be the situation here. Partner has at the most 2 trumps, and very possibly only one. Partner is likely to hold either the A or the K, as surely if declarer held both they would lead one first to see if a singleton Q drops. The real danger is that partner holds the singleton K and if East covers with the Q, declarer’s Ace bags both the K and Q and therefore does not lose a trump trick.

East needs to work this out early, as soon as dummy goes down, so that if the J is played they can follow smoothly, without hesitation, so that no clues are provided to declarer to assist with their guess.

**Finally, new members**

A very warm welcome to two new members – Hugh and Ngaire McLaughlin

**Keith Lees (Editor)**