



From the Bridge

Hi all. I must take this opportunity to talk of trends in the wider bridge community and what we might consider:

- The game does not attract the number of younger players who look at bridge as a competitive pastime/sport that it has in the past and more are playing daytime sessions.
- Online options are giving members the opportunity for bridge outside the club.

In this light I think we might consider our responsibility to keep the spirit alive and look to foster and encourage incoming player members. Within the club our Monday evening session is flourishing, and thank-you to certain senior members who keep it a mixed and vital night. I would like to think there are learner/ bronze players keen to play a second night of the week in a stiffer environment and meeting a wider social group. Personally I am continuing to play on Thursday evenings and have really enjoyed the company of some new folk who have taken that step. Come on guys!! It would be great to see you here!!

Perhaps handicapping has not been a good tool to encourage. I would love to see this night becoming a social event the way our daytime sessions have. Come along!!

You will have noticed the fuller carpark. Yes, we are renting space there too! Only for 6 months but quite a nice extra. Another tenant is the Electoral Commission who need a polling booth open for two weeks prior to the election. Daytime bridge sessions will be held in our smaller room with access through the smoking room, from the 2nd to the 14th of October. We are in negotiations with Hokowhitu Bridge Club regarding their future use of the club rooms. The arrangement has worked well so far this year for all concerned and there is a lot of goodwill to keep the arrangement going.

Upcoming tournaments which involve us are:

The Julia Wallace Village Swiss pairs 5A on Saturday 7th October (the rooms will be vacated by the polling booth) - a great event last year.

A social bridge event for Melbourne Cup on Tuesday 7th November – great fun!

The LoveBlock NZ-wide pairs on Friday 10th November, hosted at the Fielding Bridge Club rooms this year.

The Mitre 10 Mega Xmas Cheer – compulsory - 3A for the taking - on the 2nd December.

Our Treasurer, Grant is threatening us with a budget for next year. Like everywhere, costs will rise dramatically this coming year. Some grand revenue raising efforts are helping. Thank you, Gayle, Maxine, Annette and others. Bingo. Housie can attract quite a following and our team are hoping for bigger things. Come along and also, promote bridge.

Yes and Grant has announced his resignation - something about tennis. Grant is the treasurer of the treasuring elite. We thank him from every pore. A masterful hand in an incomprehensible jungle. Give him a hug on next passing please!

That of course leads me to ask the big question. Is there someone out there who might be willing to fit the bill? Please prod your conscience or that of someone with lucre know-how to give us a call. Grant is most keen to give anyone a hand to get up and running.

But it's not all doom and gloom with our financial situation. We landed a huge bonus with an application to Eastern and Central Community Trust which will make a significant contribution to our insurance and power bills this year, as well as funding the paint to complete the repairs to the Club Rooms. We will be having a working bee around the middle of November to finish this work. We'll be looking for a party – watch this space.

With love and understanding, especially for those moments when bridge humbles one.

Martin Carryer (President) www.MartinCarryer.com

Club and Tournaments Results

Here are the tournament results for July to start of September. Congratulations to all.

Wanganui Open	Jan Whyte Ken Bateman	3 rd
Levin Open	Jack James Anne-Marie Russell	1 st
Waipawa Swiss Pairs	Jack James Morgan Booker	1 st
South Wairarapa Multigrade	Morgan Booker Colin Haywood	1 st
Levin Swiss Pairs	Steve Baron Anita Thirtle	3 rd
Hawera Open	Morgan Booker Zheng Zhang	3 rd
Hastings Open	Bob Hurley Anne Gordon	1 st
Hokowhitu Daffodil Day Charity	Alister Stuck Alan Doddridge	2 nd
	George MacLachlan Anita Thirtle	3 rd
Havelock North Intermediate	Paul Orsborn Garry Hodge	1 st
Otaki Intermediate	Michael Hardman Hans van Bunnik	3 rd
Feilding Charity	Jan Whyte Ken Bateman	1 st
	Allan Mudford Rohan Wewala	3 rd
North Island Teams	Jack James Bob Hurley George Masters Russell Wilson	2 nd

National Teams	Jack James Michael Ware Matthew McManus John Davidson	2 nd
	Bob Hurley Russell Wilson Wayne Burrows Clair Miao	3 rd
Franklin Regional Teams	Wayne Burrows Clair Miao John Wang Gary Chen	1 st

The 70% club:

Julie Palenski/John Redmayne - 72.22
Jan Whyte/Anita Thirtle - 71.97
Glynis Penhale/Morgan Booker - 71.76
Christine Compton/Graeme Thomson - 71.76
Alistair James/Garry Hodge - 71.50

Gayle Leader

Bits and Pieces

Raffle prizes for upcoming events:

There will be a box in the Club Rooms for donations to raffles for our end of year events; the Julia Wallace Village Swiss Pairs and the Mitre 10 Mega Christmas Cheer. All donations are very gratefully received!

Housie

Housie will take place regularly on the 3rd Saturday of each month – next game will take place on 21st October. Please come along and support the Club in this fundraising effort. See Gayle or Maxine for more details.

Spreading the wor(l)d of bridge

Suzanne Carpenter is starting a learn-to-play bridge initiative with Manawatu Prison, giving inmates an opportunity to take up a new hobby upon their release. Are there any willing volunteers out there who would join Suzanne in some practice sessions at the prison once she has completed the lessons? Please contact her on 021 636 525.

Denise Servante and Maxine Keay

Double or Quit?

What is your view on doubling slams for penalties? One of the first bridge books I ever read ("Why you lose at bridge" by S J Simon) recommended against it. The view of Simon was that if your opponents are incompetent enough to get to a poor slam then you should just leave them to it – you'll probably win the match anyway. However, he does recommend doubling to indicate to your partner that you would like an unusual lead to the contract, often indicating that you have a void and can trump partner's lead. This is called a Lightner Double and is still a popular convention nearly a hundred years after its invention.

It is mainly used for small slams and definitely only when partner is on lead. As Eddie Kantar once noted, if you are on lead you should only make lead-directing doubles if you have a bad memory. I do remember someone noting that an ingenious variant of this technique can be used for grand slams. The idea is that if the opponents get to a grand slam they are probably going to get a good board if it makes and a bad board if it doesn't. Consequently, always double the grand slam *unless* you want a special lead. I guess this could be called a Lightner pass.

A reason for not doubling a suit slam is that this might indicate to declarer a successful way to play an otherwise unmakeable contract. This is a fine judgement, of course, since in match point pairs even an extra fifty for one-away doubled might give you a top board.

So that is the background, and during a Monday afternoon session sitting North you pick up the following hand:

♠ 10 9 6
♥ A 10 9 5 3
♦ J 4
♣ 6 3 2

The opponents confidently bid up to a six heart contract and, after two passes, the bidding comes around to you. Do you punish declarer by doubling or leave the opponents to find out the bad news when it is too late to do anything about it?

It is difficult to see how the defence can avoid taking at least two heart tricks whatever the distribution and so it would turn out. The best that declarer could do is make eleven tricks with hearts as trumps. That is what North decided at our table and he ventured a double. Unfortunately, the incompetent East (me) who had bid this poor contract was alerted to how the cards were probably lying and changed the contract to six no trumps.

Some Norths would take umbrage and double this contract as well but our wise opponent decided to take his punishment and passed. A good job, since six no trumps is solid. The hands are shown below:

Board 20
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10 9 6
♥ A 10 9 5 3
♦ J 4
♣ 6 3 2

♠ K J 8
♥ Q 8
♦ A 9 8 7 6
♣ K Q 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 5
♥ K J 7 4 2
♦ K Q 10
♣ A 9

♠ 7 4 3 2
♥ 6
♦ 5 3 2
♣ J 10 8 7 5

There was an interesting hand in the recent Bermuda Bowl World Team Championships where a slam double might have been crucial to the result. It occurred during the semi-final between a US team and Switzerland. In one room, with both sides vulnerable, the bidding started as follows:

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	3 ♦
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♠	?

You are sitting South with the following hand:

♠ 10 6
♥ 10 9 8 6
♦ Q 10 9 8 7 3 2
♣ —

You are probably now regretting your frisky three diamonds bid. It didn't stop the opponents in their tracks and is probably not a suit that you wish your partner to lead to the slam. Still, there could be a way of steering partner towards a better choice. Is it worth making a double at this stage?

Before you decide, let's put the hand in context. You are playing for Switzerland, who are favourites to win but in the other room, in the corresponding NS seats for the US, are two legends of the game: Jeff Meckstroth and Zia Mahmood. If you are more familiar with football then think Messi and Ronaldo, if tennis is your sport then Nadal and Federer.

Obviously, if you doubled, it would be of the Lightner variety rather than for penalties. You really would like a club lead. Against this, just getting a ruff at trick one may not be enough to take down the contract. Make a choice.

Maybe out of caution, the Swiss South didn't double. But look what might have happened if he had:

West Deals	♠ 9 8 5		
E-W Vul	♥ 5 3 2		
	♦ A J		
	♣ K 9 5 3 2		
♠ K Q J 7 4	♠ A 3 2		
♥ K J 7	♥ A Q 4		
♦ K 6	♦ 5 4		
♣ Q 10 4	♣ A J 8 7 6		
	♠ 10 6		
	♥ 10 9 8 6		
	♦ Q 10 9 8 7 3 2		
	♣ —		

An alert US West may have decided to pull back the contract to six no trumps, which, since the club finesse works, would always make. South might have hoped that North could find the club lead anyway to the spade slam. In fact, he didn't, leading a trump instead, allowing the US to make the contract with an overtrick.

At the other table the bidding was rather different:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	3 ♦
Dbl	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

Incredibly, the longer bidding sequence led to a more modest destination. The Swiss pair in the other room who had already finished the set must have been disappointed to see this rather cautious contract by their team-mates. But, at least, there was no risk of a Lightner double, which normally is only relevant at the slam level.

However, things were just about to get worse for Switzerland. Jeff Meckstroth, sitting North, led ♣2! This was just what the doctor ordered. South ruffed, and noting the suit preference signal by North, led back a diamond. NS took the first five tricks so the spade game went two down vulnerable. The gain for the US team was 17 imps, a huge swing.

Unfortunately for US, this was one of their few highlights. Switzerland pounded them down and won the match comfortably, eventually taking the overall title when they beat Norway in the final.

Ray Kemp

Tips and Conventions

You should have a defence to Multi 2 Level Openings. The usual one being a Multi 2 Diamond.

The recommended defence is immediate bids over the multi 2D show 15+ HCP the exception being a bid of 2S shows 6 card suit 12+ HCP. 2NT = 15-18 balanced, and all 3 of a suit bids = 15+ six card suit.

That leaves Double as 15+ take out of spades and 2H as 15+ take out of hearts. The Double can also be used for very strong hands.

It is not logical to double with 1444 shape and also to double with 4144 shape. So if you have a spade shortage Double, and if you have a heart shortage bid 2H.

With 12-14HCP you Pass and if the bidding comes back to you at 2H or 2S you now make a normal bid. That will include 2NT natural. You may still have game, partner may have the same HCP as you do.

For those of you who play 2H and 2S openings that show 5 card major, 4+ minor. The recommended rebids when partner with a good hand bids 2NT are: 3C min with clubs, 3D min with diamonds, 3H max with clubs, 3S max with diamonds. These are easy to remember.

Bidding a major to show a minor and vice versa are called tiered bids. Here is another example. If the opponents open 2NT (both minors) you can bid 3C as both majors but better hearts and 3D as both majors but better spades.

Bob Hurley

You must be joking

So you are playing with a new partner whose bidding and playing aren't quite up to your usual standards. You don't wish to discourage them too much but if they ask you how they are doing you don't want to be deceitful either. Here are a couple of tips from the web:

Partner: Is four hearts a good contract?

You: Yes, it is a good contract, but not on this hand.

Partner: Did I play that contract OK?

You: Yes. If I were you I would have played it in exactly the same way.

Ray Kemp