

Newsletter June 2023



Junior and Intermediate Tournament

Our Club is hosting a Junior and Intermediate tournament on **Sunday 18 June** (details below). Tournaments are always a fun day out, a chance to pit your skills against others from outside our Club and share in a social get together at the end of play. We are hoping this Tournament will be well supported by our members. Please sign up on the board or enter online.

3B Junior/5B Intermediate Pairs Tournament

Where: Masterton Bridge Club

112 Villa St, Masterton

When: Sunday 18 June 2023

Time: 9.30 am morning tea; 10.00am play starts

Cost: \$30 per player. Pay by cash or online to
Masterton Bridge Club 06-0689-0972-685-00

Catering: Ploughman's lunch and snacks after play provided.

Entries: Enter on www.nzbridge.co.nz or email
mastertonbridgeclub@xtra.co.nz by
Wednesday 14 June 2023

Trevor Gane
Tournament Secretary
021 252 0327

Note: It is hoped that we can run both a Junior and Intermediate Tournament concurrently. However, if there are not sufficient numbers of Juniors they will be combined with the Intermediate Tournament.



Please support our Club by entering.

Refresher Lessons

The second Refresher lesson held on Easter Monday was well supported and enjoyed by all those who attended. Thank you to Sandy Dravitski who once again shared her expertise.

The next refresher lesson will be: **Monday 23 October.**

Improver Lessons

Sandy Dravitski is running a series of Improver Lessons.

1. Playing No Trumps: **Thursday 15 June**
2. Playing Suit Contracts **Thursday 20 July**
3. Bidding Slams **Thursday 17 August**

Time: 6pm

Please sign up on the noticeboard. We need a minimum of 12 to run these sessions

Learn to Play Bridge

These lessons are progressing very well, ably taught by Clare Crossling. We look forward to welcoming the learners into Monday nights play on completion. Please encourage new players as the Club relies on continually increasing membership.

Thank you to NZ Bridge who provided us with a set of learner bridge notes to assist with lessons, along with plenty of homework tasks for our new students to practise with!



Monday morning Bridge

A great way to fill in a winter Monday morning. These sessions run on the first Monday of each month. Come along and play Bridge – all welcome. No need to organise a partner.

Dates: **Monday 5 June** King's Birthday
Monday 3 July
Monday 7 August
Monday 4 September



Time: **10am**

The McKeown Trophy

Congratulations to our first recipient of the McKeown Trophy for the 'Most Improved Junior Player', Mary O'Connor. Sincere thanks to the McKeown family for presenting this cup to the Club. It will be awarded annually to recognise the success of Junior Players.



Interclub Results

Congratulations to our Interclub team who are currently holding 5th place.

South Wairarapa Club visit

Thank you for hosting us so warmly on Thursday 1 June. A great evening, congratulations to winners Paddy Ward, Neil Catherall, Jill Lockett and Paul Baines. We look forward to welcoming the South Wairarapa Club on a reciprocal visit to us, Tuesday 26 September.



Minors only if we must.



We learn early in our bridge careers that it can be easier to make 9 tricks in 3NT than 11 tricks with a minor suit as trumps. When we can establish we do not have a hold in a suit, often the suit bid by the opponents, we may decide to play in 5 of a minor. However, when we do have a hold and when we can make the player in our partnership with that hold the declarer, then we are often best to play in 3NT. Let's take a look:

♠ J
♥ K 9
♦ A 7 6
♣ A K Q J 9 8 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	?		

Only East-West are vulnerable. What would your next bid be as North after your opening 1♣ bid?

It would seem many chose to bid 3♣ which is where they played because the South hand was not very strong. Others maybe chose to try 5♣ and hope they could make 11 tricks. The latter were mainly to be disappointed. At least, those in 3♣ got a plus score because 11 tricks with clubs as trumps was not really possible.

It was, though, a time for a "what if". "What if" our partner had a hold in spades? If that was the position (and remember they do have at least 6 hcp for their 1♦ response), then they could win the lead, assuming West led their own suit, and surely could make 7 club tricks and the ♦A as well. That amounts to a minimum 9 tricks. If there was one or two overtricks, then, playing Pairs, we could even outscore those in 5♣...460 say as opposed to only 400 for making 5♣. (*Today, we see that 3NT will be the only making game.*)

So, we need to ask our partner if they have a hold in spades. The way we do that is to bid the opposition suit, 2♠. (It would be extremely rare for our side to want to play in a suit in which the opposition have overcalled.) If they have a hold, they should bid 2NT, maybe even 3NT. If they do not, we could have a shot at 5♣ but let's ask the question first.

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ J
♥ K 9
♦ A 7 6
♣ A K Q J 9 8 4

♠ A K 10 8 5 3
♥ A
♦ K J
♣ 10 7 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 6 2
♥ J 10 6 5 3 2
♦ 10 8
♣ 5 2

♠ Q 7 4
♥ Q 8 7 4
♦ Q 9 5 4 3 2
♣ —

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

Some days ♠Q74 may not be a hold (say East held one of the top spades) but West is much more likely to have both of them and then South will be safe, indeed safe on any lead from West. Even if West led a club, South could play a heart to establish their 9th trick.

Of course, West had quite a strong hand themselves and might chance bidding 3♠ over the 2NT response. North should trust their partner's 2NT and still bid 3NT.



= not the trump suit today.

Only 6 out of 103 pairs bid to 3NT and therefore got a very good score for making at least 9 tricks. Those playing in clubs would or should lose ♠A, ♥A and a diamond.

Although they should always beat 5♣, West needs to be a little careful. After East leads a spade, seeing North's ♠J appear, they should play ♥A and then exit a trump. They should not touch their diamond suit. The diamond trick will come.

So, where 3NT is a possible game, look for that before you head off to the 5 level. You may live a little dangerously but quite often you will be well rewarded.

Richard Solomon

A reminder to all players

Please remember to remain quiet in the Bridge room when play is continuing.

You may have finished but others may not have. They will appreciate your courtesy. Thank you.



Table Vouchers

Purchase table vouchers in multiples of 10 for \$50 paid into the Masterton Bridge Club ANZ account: 06-0689-0972685-000

(Please put your **NAME** in Particulars and **VOUCHERS** in the reference.)



Results

For all your results log in to your Pianola account. Happy autumn Bridge!



A BAD DAY
★ **AT THE** ★
BRIDGE TABLE
♥ ♣ ♦ ♠
IS STILL
BETTER THAN
CLEANING THE HOUSE
★★★