

# MOOS NOOS



## MINI MOOS TOURNAMENT HOSTED AT MORRINSVILLE

Seven tables of beginners from lessons this year took part in the second Mini Moos afternoon hosted by Morrinsville Bridge Club on Sunday 31 August. It was a clean sweep for Hamilton with Sue and Eileen not only winning the event but also the only pair to call and make the slam that was on offer. Chocolates were awarded to Connor and Paul and Sherie and Maeleen for being brave enough to call the slam but just finishing shy of the result.



Results from Mini Moos 2 below:

Place	Pair	Club	IMPS
1.	Sue and Eileen	Hamilton	96
2.	Jane and Liz	Hamilton	95
3.	Alastair and Judy	Hamilton	89
4.	Connor and Paul	Hamilton	88
5.	Jacquie and Jo	Te Aroha/Morrinsville	88
6.	Rachel and Stewart	Hamilton	83
6.	Sherie and Maeleen	Matamata	79
8.	Trini and Marian	Hamilton	77
9.	Michele and Austin	Matamata	69
10.	Mike and Sandra	Matamata	67
11.	4 other pairs who had a	Nice afternoon	<67

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### Special points of interest:

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# MOOS SCORING—NICK’S LOWDOWN

## Bridge scoring: IMPs? MPs? What do they mean?

New players soon learn (with the help of a scorecard for reference) that if, for example, they bid 2NT and make 9 tricks, they score 150 points. It is easy to visualise collecting \$150 off your opponents (or 1.5 peanuts or whatever, depending on what stakes you play for.) And if you bid game (3NT) you collect much more thanks to the “Game Bonus”.

But in Club Bridge (which is what is called “Duplicate Bridge”) your “true” opponents are not the pair sitting at the same table, but pair(s) at other table(s) who *hold the same cards as you do*.

There are two basic forms of scoring Duplicate Bridge:

### 1 “Pairs”

You play as one pair against all the other pairs in the competition. This is the most common form as played at clubs.

Your objective on each deal is to outscore as many of the other pairs who hold the same cards as you can. What counts is **how many** other pairs you beat. How much you beat them by is immaterial.

The scoring units are called “Match Points” often abbreviated to “MPs”

You get 2 MPs for every other pair you beat and 1 MP for every pair you tie with. Your final tally is expressed as a percentage of the maximum possible. Obviously 50% is average, 60% is very good and 70% is exceptional.

### 2 “Teams”

You have a team of two pairs who play NS at one table and EW at another against the two pairs of the opposing team.

Your objective on each deal is to get a better score than the opposition pair who holds the same cards.

What counts is **how much** you beat the other pair’s score by.

The scoring units are called “International Match Points” abbreviated to “IMPs”

You get 1 IMP for score difference of 20 to 40 points (a difference of 10 points doesn’t count) and up a scale all the way up to a maximum of 24 IMPs for a difference of 4000 or more. Your final tally is expressed as net IMPs gained or lost. Obviously zero is average and a net gain of 2 IMPs per board played is very good, roughly on a par with 60% at pairs.

So how does the scoring type affect your strategy?

Basically in **Pairs** *be bold and try to get the maximum tricks*.

In **Teams** *make your contract and don’t take unnecessary risks*.

To illustrate, imagine you are declarer West in 3NT with these hands:

S A K x x x	S x
♥ A K x	♥ x x
D Q J 10	D x x x x
C x x	C A K Q x x x

A heart is led and you can see 10 tricks “off the top” provided the club suit is divided 3-2.

But if one opponent has four clubs (which will happen about one occasion in four) you only get 7 tricks, as you won’t have access to any of the small clubs.

However, by letting the opponents win the *first* round of clubs, you can make sure of 9 tricks, even if one opponent has four of them. However, this means you miss out on the extra trick.

This is an example of a “safety play” where you forfeit an extra trick to make sure of your contract. Whether it is good strategy to make such a safety play depends on the type of scoring.

Imagine this hand replicates itself four times with the clubs divided 4-1 on one of those occasions. On each occasion you make the safety play and your opponents do not.

In Pairs:

On three occasions you will score 400 when all the opponents score 430 (as this is a lower score than every opponent this will not earn you any MPs)

And on the fourth occasion you will score 400 when the opponents score -50 (which will earn you the maximum MPs)

Over all you get 25% of the available MPs, not a good result.

In Teams:

On three occasions you will score 400 when the opponents score 430 (a loss of 1 IMP on each occasion).

And on the fourth occasion you will score 400 when the opponents score -50 (450 difference is a gain of 10 IMPs).

Over all you gain 7 IMPs over the four boards, a good result.

## MOOS CORNER — with Jane Stearns

### PART 2—FIRST STEPS

I was assigned a “buddy” to look after me for my first bridge sessions at the Cambridge club. My good friend Clare Coles, who had urged me to come to lessons, stepped forward bravely. A true test of our friendship then followed, as I routinely bid incorrectly, played the wrong cards, dumped her in impossible contracts to try and make the best of, and made the same mistake at least six times before it sunk in what I was doing wrong. But my “buddy” and the majority of members were very kind, understanding and encouraging. Enough so that I would keep going back, and try again. To my delight, at the end of the Bridge year, my efforts were rewarded when I won, jointly with one of my classmates at lessons, the Best New



Player of the Year award. A small trophy of which I was immensely proud stood on my dresser. Truth be told, my classmate and now friend, Malcolm Hill, was much better than me, but I am guessing the committee must also award points for the “attempting to triumph through adversity when so obviously handicapped” category, as well as skill, and it is so nice to be recognised for “trying”. Malcolm and I decided to brave it into the serious league of Monday night bridge for a three week session to play with the “big guns”. Needless to say, we sank

without trace on our first week, finishing bottom, and then some. A whole new game emerged, and frankly we would have had more luck trying to bid for the clock on the wall of the club rooms than our failed attempts to bid for a contract that night with cards. Everyone appeared to know who held which cards, except for me. When my partner nipped to the loo, he was not the only one to be relieved ... it was the only time all night that I was confident of what was in his hand.

So if you have recently emerged from lessons and are finding your brain frazzled, the thought that you are never going to learn the bidding crossing your mind regularly, well, yes, that is how it is at the start. So you are perfectly normal, and probably a good bridge player in the making. Yes, your ego does have to withstand being pummelled to a pulp by octogenarians, but you will find they are also mainly encouraging, friendly, and willing to help you learn. Stick at it, and the level of your game will improve.

## MINI MOOS 2 IN PHOTOS



THANK YOU!!!

Big thank you to President Shirley Power for her baking for us at Moos 2 and helped the Moos along.

Big thank you to HAMILTON and CAMBRIDGE bridge clubs who have kindly donated towards the Mini Moos 3 Garden Party.

### UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

Novice tournament on **Sunday 21 September** at Matamata Bridge Club. Ask your tutor for details. To be a novice and eligible to enter this tournament you must have less than 5 A and B points combined. (The equivalent of a certificate of proficiency) OR those who attended lessons in 2011 or later regardless of A and B points held. All 2013 and 2014 Moos qualify for the event. Morning tea is at 9.30am, play starts at 10.00am. There are two sessions played, morning and afternoon and you BYO lunch. Register online for the event at [wbcc.co.nz](http://wbcc.co.nz) click on Enter a Tournament tab.

### NOVICES AT NATIONAL CONGRESS:

National Congress is the name for the biggest bridge competition New Zealand hosts in the year. We are fortunate in that Hamilton hosts this week long event at the Kingsgate Hotel. For the first time a Novice event is being held. One session on **Sunday 28 September**. The criteria for entry is the same as for the Matamata event above. Cost of entry \$10, but only \$5 if you entered the Matamata Novice event.

Come and experience National Congress ... play alongside 100s of others all sharing a passion for the game. Email Jane: [janelawrence50@hotmail.com](mailto:janelawrence50@hotmail.com) for details

### MINI MOOS 3—GARDEN PARTY

This year at the Torcroft Grange Bridge Club—aka Jane's home! Sunday 2 November. Pimms and Lemonade, Strawberries and Cream and of course, some relaxed social bridge to end our Mini Moos series for 2014.

Register with Jane by Friday 31 October.

