

MOOS NOOS



MINI MOOS TOURNAMENT HOSTED AT HAMILTON

Five tables of beginners from lessons this year took part in the third Mini Moos afternoon hosted by Hamilton Bridge Club on Sunday 15 September. Flying the flag for their home club were Jol and Cath Glyde, unstoppable on 134 IMPS. Runners up were Denise and Charlie Boreham from Morrinsville. Third were Alison Cradock and Shirley Townsend from Te Aroha.



Results from Hamilton Mini Moos 3 below:

Place	Pair	Club	IMPS
1.	Cath and Jol	Hamilton	134
2.	Denise and Charlie	Morrinsville	104
3.	Alison and Shirley	Te Aroha	101
4.	Fred and Clare	Hamilton	95
5.	Sue and Sub	Te Aroha	93
6.	Mary and Kasthuri	Hamilton	84
6.	Brenda and Glenys	Hamilton	82
8.	Robert and Sue	Hamilton	76
9.	Moshe and Marcienne	Te Awamutu	73
10.	Mary and Gerry	Morrinsville	72

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Special points of interest:

- *Noos from Moos Tournament*
- *The Cardturner by Louis Sachar*
- *Moos Corner*

Inside this issue:

Book Review 2

Feature Story 3

Upcoming Tournaments 4



BOOK REVIEW:

The Cardturner by Louis Sachar

A surprise to find Louis Sachar, excellent children writer, producing a teenage book based on bridge. A surprise to his publishers as well it would seem, and his editor, and his wife, who all urged against the idea. Clearly this author simply loves the game. The Cardturner is unlikely to sweep past his bestseller *Holes* that has sold over 8 million copies, and won him prestigious prizes, but it will undoubtedly introduce some teenagers to bridge.

Our hero in *The Cardturner* is Alton, who is coerced by his inheritance seeking mother, into going along to bridge sessions with his rich uncle. His uncle has lost his sight, and so he needs a “cardturner” to help at each session. A story unfolds of political intrigue in the past affecting the uncle’s bridge career, and of his efforts to reach the Nationals with the help of Alton. Looking at the world of bridge through the eyes of a teenager with, initially, no knowledge of the game, nor any desire to be involved, is comedic. For example, his observation on the age of the players at his uncle’s club, “You know what? I’m not going to describe anybody else as *elderly*. Let’s just say that if you take my age and double it, I would still have been the youngest person in the room, *by a lot*.” The author gives the reader a convenient out from the bridge jargon if they wish, starting these sections with a pictured blue whale, and ending them with a boxed couple of sentences that summarise the detail if this by-pass has been selected. Mixed in with the angst of a teenager and skeletons falling out of the family closet is the pure fascination of the game of bridge and how it can captivate all ages, if they would but give it a try. The ending does not sit well with a bridge player, but will probably sit well enough with a non-bridge playing teenager with an imagination.

If you have neglected in your duty to promote bridge by teaching your own offspring and grandchildren, you can make some small amends by gifting this at birthdays and as a Christmas stocking filler. It is an entertaining read for a teenager, and may just give them an insight into why you choose to spend your time at the bridge table.

It is also available to borrow from the Cambridge Bridge Club library to their members.

MOOS CORNER — with Jane Stearns

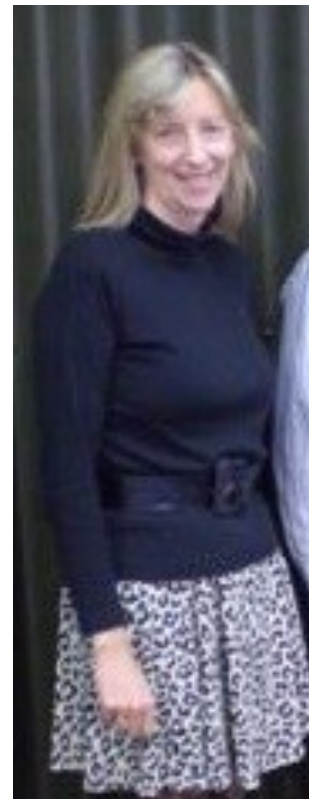
PART 3—A GAME OF TWO HALVES

If you are anything like me, when you recently undertook lessons to learn this fascinating and frustrating game, you then emerged from each one slightly less confused than before you began. If you are lucky, you will have had teachers with an infectious enthusiasm for the game, as I did, that had me coming back each week despite the blur in my head from the previous weeks' lessons. I came back in the hope that it "would all become clear". The fog may clear, but I still spend much time in deep mist.

Bridge is, as you will have found out by now, "a game of two halves". The first half being the auction with the "silent written bidding"; the second half is playing the cards. So really what this means is that you have to learn a foreign language to communicate with your partner, and then apply what you have communicated to playing the cards. The trouble with foreign languages is that they are jolly tricky to learn with lots of variations, so that it is difficult to become proficient. When you start playing after completion of the lessons, you find you are speaking French and your partner is speaking Russian, and you fumble about desperately, staring at your bidding sheet, trying to work out what on earth your partner is trying to tell you. As you improve, you may find you are both speaking Italian, but are from different regions, and anyway one of you lives on the border and keeps lapsing into German ... Meanwhile, your opponents have hatched a plan in fluent Mandarin and your promising little contract has just evaporated.

You need a certain amount of resilience to get through those first months at your club. You are going to have to cope with hearing some comments about your play, whether it be your ability, your speed, or your etiquette, that you shouldn't have to hear. Not every member of a bridge club was born with people skills. Not every member not born with them has learned them. You need to have some strong shoulders and a firm resolve as you start out. Remember, if you are playing at your club's junior night, you have every right to be there. As long as you are being polite yourself, and doing your best, you cannot be in the wrong. Always hold onto that.

Almost inevitably one of the things you do have to do when you start out is sacrifice the correct bid or play of the cards, in favour of speed. Playing a board in 7 minutes seems impossible. You agonise over what bid to make, agonise over your partner's response, desperately flip at your crib sheet to try and find what on earth your rebid is supposed to be, and then to top it off, find out you are declarer, and you haven't the first idea on how to make the tricks required, and the 1 minute bell has just gone ... Sound familiar? If only you had more time ... but you don't. The fact is, if you had 15 minutes, you could probably work it out. But you don't, and you have to keep to a decent time. So instead, you have to bid something, even when you are pretty sure it's not the right thing, and you have to play a card, even though you are pretty sure it's the wrong one. Just do your best. As the bidding becomes more familiar, so the seven minutes will lengthen. A great



Mini Moos

idea is getting together in a group of four from your lessons, where you can spend as long as you like together, pouring over the bidding and cards, working out what you should be doing.

So why did I and why will you put yourselves through this and continue to go to your Bridge Club? Well, quite simply, the game is intriguing. I've never been much of a one for cards, and have always been hopeless at arithmetic. I may never be good at bridge, but I can appreciate the cleverness of it. I hope it is going to stave off early loss of my marbles by keeping my brain active, and it provides a social network and some good friends, especially on a Wednesday night in Cambridge, when we get to stop half-way for a reviving cup of tea and a biscuit which, if it's a chocolate one, is often a highlight if things have not gone well with the cards.

If you have invested 10 weeks of your time to learn the game, make sure you nurture that investment at your club for at least 10 weeks more. You will find a small nest egg at the end which will include a hobby for life.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER—WAIKATO BAYS NOVICE TOURNAMENT

Held at the Matamata Bridge Club. 9.30 for 10am start to play. BYO lunch. You can register online at www.wbbc.co.nz There is only ONE novice tournament in this region all year, this is it, GIVE IT A GO!!! All beginners from lessons this year are eligible.

SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER—MINI MOOS 4 AT TE AWAMUTU BRIDGE CLUB

Jane will be on holiday right up to that weekend so you need to register for the event with NICK. His email is morrbridge@xtra.co.nz \$5 entry fee.

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER—MINI MOOS 5 (FINALE) AT TE AROHA

Join us for the final Mini Moos for 2013. We plan to hold the Bridge in the Garden and serve Pimms and Lemonade as well as Strawberries and Cream. \$10 entry fee. Come and enjoy brunch in advance at the lovely Ironique Café and Bistro in Te Aroha. To those of you who might like to make a weekend of it and enjoy the spa we recommend Te Aroha Landings <http://talanding.co.nz/> run by Jillian O'Neill one of our Te Aroha Moos. Mention the Bridge Club when you book and a donation is made to the Te Aroha Bridge Club.

HAPPY BRIDGING EVERYONE!

