

Hi everyone

If, like me, you are sometimes clouded with doubt as to the correct bid, contract, pass or lead to pursue then you are not alone.

Many of my hapless partners can confirm my confusion, inability and often just lack of confidence as to the best path to pursue when it comes to bridge play. To that end I have asked one of our club's more accomplished players to add some insight. Check out the end of this newsletter for handy advice to store away in the already overcrowded grey matter!

At the end of July we hosted the Matamata Swiss Open Pairs generously sponsored by J Swap Contractors Ltd. The event proved popular and attracted a full house from across the region and beyond. Congratulations to victors Ken Yule & Michael Curry. Thanks to all club members who helped in some way to making this a successful day. Following are photos of some of the place getters.

Click on link below to Scene and scroll to page 17 for tournament report.

<https://sceneonline.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/PDF-Complete.pdf>





Upcoming...

Waikato/Bays Interclub Teams Finals on Sunday 24th August at Matamata club rooms. Two clubs from both provinces have qualified to make up the four teams competing from each of the Junior, Intermediate and Open grades. They will be vying for silverware to determine the 2025 champion clubs in each grade across the Waikato/Bays region. Good luck to our team of Sonia, Judith, Lynette & Ian representing Matamata in the Open grade.

Waikato Area Pairs the following Sunday 31st August in Hamilton. This is the fifth leg of the WAPs series that a number of Matamata players have been taking part in. Entries across all grades are still available to anyone interested in a Sunday of Waikato bridge.

Matamata Intermediate 5B Pairs on Sunday 14th September sponsored by Broadway Motel. With twelve tables already booked there is still time for our Junior and Intermediate members to enter and take part in a local tournament. Prizes for best Junior pair. Full details in attached flyer.

Intermediate lessons online are now being run by NZ Bridge. These have started but not too late to join if interested. See attached flyer for details.

Junior & Novice lessons supplementary to Alan's tuition. Continuing the PIPS (Card Play & Practice Sessions) series run by Nick Whitten and this time held in Cambridge Sunday 21st September at 1pm. Full details in attached flyer.

Benefit Night on Thursday evening 4th September 7pm

Project Play – Matamata Domain Playground Upgrade will be the beneficiary of this year's Benefit Night.

This is a great local cause that will help nurture the whole community with a new top class facility. Chances are you have children or grandkids of your own or you will know people and/or have visitors who will get a lot of long term fun, recreation and growing from a revamped playground in Matamata. Who doesn't have fond

memories of playground adventure or, like me, still have a hankering to have a go on an epic swing or slide?

And, although they don't know it yet, some future bridge players will be subconsciously accumulating new analogies to the actions of the seesaw ride!

Please if you can help in some way by buying raffle tickets or donating raffle prizes or cash or even something suitable to auction. All money raised will go towards the new playground.

So come along on the night for some fun bridge.

The club's benefit night is not so much about bridge but how you and your club can contribute to being part of the Matamata community.

Please let Patricia James or myself know how you can help in any way.

Attached are flyers with info for the fundraiser and an overview of the playground project.

Along with that are other attachments for your attention please,

Otherwise that's all from me for now. Keep reading for some bridge tips from Kathy Yule.

Cheers

Colin

Introducing **Kathy's corner**...tips and advice from an experienced player.

This hand was played at the club recently

NS Pair	EW pair	NS	EW	NS MP	EW MP	Contr	By	Made	Lead
12	8	500	10.0	0.0	2♠	X	E	6	♥ A
7	5	300	7.0	3.0	3♠		E	6	♥ A
11	1	300	7.0	3.0	3♠		E	6	♥ A
3	9	200	3.0	7.0	2♠		E	6	♥ A
6	2	200	3.0	7.0	3♠		E	7	♣ 5
10	4	100	0.0	10.0	3♠		E	8	♥ A

Hand record

Board 22
Dir: E
Vul: E-W

♠ Q9763
♥ T652
♦ A876
♣ A876

Result stats

<p>♠ T</p> <p>♥ KT965</p> <p>♦ 843</p> <p>♣ Q932</p>		<p>♠ AKJ842</p> <p>♥ Q8</p> <p>♦ KQ9</p> <p>♣ J4</p>
6		
5	16	
13		
	<p>♠ 5</p> <p>♥ AJ7432</p> <p>♦ AJ7</p> <p>♣ KT5</p>	<p>N: 2♣ 1♦ 1♠ 1NT</p> <p>S: 2♣ 1♦ 1♠ 1NT</p> <p>E: 1♥</p> <p>W:</p>

Getting to the right contract

On the above hand East opened 1S, I bid 2H, West and North passed and East bid 2S. I said X which was for take out and my partner (Sonia) converted it to penalties.

East, who was a beginner asked me what they should have done. They felt they needed to tell their partner that they had 5+ spades and a good hand.

This is a mistake that people make. They feel that because in Acol they can open 1S with only 4 spades, they need to bid them again to tell their partner that they have 5+. This is not really correct. The only time you have four spades when you open the bidding is when you have a distribution of exactly 4333 and 15+ points. 4333 hand shapes occur about 10.5% of the time and 4333 with exactly 4 spades occurs roughly 2.7% of the time. So whilst you and your partner don't play 5 card majors, you should assume they have 5.

Therefore, with a good hand like East had above, X is a far better bid. Look what then happens! I will pass and West will pass also, leaving Sonia with a problem. If she leaves it in, the result will be dreadful for us, the best action she can take is to either bid 2NT or 3C which will both go down. East West will get a top board, no matter what.

Try it next time.