

**JULIA WALLACE RETIREMENT VILLAGE**

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**Palmerston North Bridge Club Newsletter**

**May 2023**

**LJ Hooker**

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### Vice-President's Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter following our Annual General Meeting at the end of March. You will all be aware by now that there were no nominations received at that time for President and vice-President. You will also all now know that, following the Special General Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May, these positions have now been filled. Personally, I am delighted that Martin Carryer has stepped up to take on the President's role and I am happy to support him as vice-President. Martin will be well known to you, not only as one of our regular Gold players, but also as the master craftsman who has made our beautiful wooden cabinetry in the Club Rooms and the benches in the Jubilee Courtyard. Anyway, I know he will do a fantastic job and easing him in gently to his new responsibilities, I have undertaken to write the Welcome for our Autumn newsletter.

We have held our first meeting of the new committee. High on our agenda, of course, was the vacancies at the apex of the organisation and once we had resolved that issue, we were able to focus on updates from our various projects/events. We were really pleased to see a great quarterly result regarding income from our venue hire business with forward bookings also looking very promising. Thanks as always to Maxine Keay for pushing our venue hire business so well. The lessons have attracted a keen dozen learners (thanks to Anne Gordon, Maxine Keay and Bob Hurley for taking on that responsibility) and our improvers master class with Bob Hurley also attracted 14 participants. (I could not go, but Bob kindly passed on his notes for the class which I have read assiduously.) The next session is targeting early improvers with "Transfers" – thanks to Julie Bunnell for taking this session on 12<sup>th</sup> May from 7.00 – 9.00 pm. A sign-up sheet is on the noticeboard in the Club Rooms or contact Julie directly.

We have a few quiet months in terms of Club events – our next tournament is the 8b Restricted Pairs event on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> June. However, we were delighted that Hokowhitu Bridge Club held their Intermediate and Junior tournaments at the Club Rooms on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April and also pleased to see so many of our Intermediate and Junior members playing. Congratulations to all those who took part and of course, especially to the winners.

It is also timely to provide a brief review of our two events in March: The Peter Colville Junior and Intermediate Tournaments on 25<sup>th</sup> March and our Quiz Night which followed the AGM on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The tournaments attracted 26 pairs and the event was in one room over two sessions. My thanks to Grant Elliott for undertaking the presidential duties and to Gayle Leader and her team for the catering. It was especially pleasing to see several of our newest players taking up the tournament challenge and doing very well!

The Quiz Night attracted eight teams: the plastic trophy was hotly contested and congratulations on their victory go to "The Wombles" – a team comprising members Liz Burrows, Julie Bunnell, Anne Gordon, Michael Hardman and Jan Whyte (and plus 1). Many thanks also to Tony Fayerman for his questions – an eclectic mix that had something for everyone. Tony is keen to continue in this role for at least another year so we can look forward to another great quizzing evening. Thanks to everyone – family and friends included – who took part.

Finally, I know many of you will want to join me in passing on our sincere thanks and best wishes to Martin, as he takes up the baton as President. I know he will find that same warmth and support within our membership that I benefitted from.

**Denise Servante**  
Vice-President

## Club and Tournaments Results

Here are the tournament results upto 15<sup>th</sup> April. Later results will be published in the next newsletter. Congratulations to all.

Wellington Intermediate Pairs	Garry Hodge Paul Orsborn	1 <sup>st</sup>
Hutt Multigrade	Steve Baron Marian Loader	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Debbie Marcroft Garry Hodge	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Morgan Booker Marilyn Miller	6 <sup>th</sup>
Hastings Open Teams	Anne Gordon Carolyn Yeomans Jan Whyte Liz Burrows	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Zheng Zhang Morgan Booker Elizabeth Kemp Ray Kemp	4 <sup>th</sup>
Levin Easter 8B	Michael Hardman Julie Bunnell	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Laura Griffin Jan Whyte	4 <sup>th</sup>
Paraparaumu Open	Gayle Leader Morgan Booker	4 <sup>th</sup>
	Jan Whyte Ken Bateman	5 <sup>th</sup>
CD Charity Cyclone Recovery – Online	Jack James Ann-Marie Russell	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Anita Thirtle Val Gardiner	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Steve Baron Debbie Marcroft	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Wanganui Intermediate	Michael Hardman Hans van Bunnik	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Marton Open Pairs	Lorraine Stachurski Sarah Green	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Morgan Booker Jan Whyte	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Bob Hurley Zheng Zhang	4 <sup>th</sup>
	Grant Elliot Terry Young	5 <sup>th</sup>

Auckland Easter Teams	Wayne Burrows Claire Miao Jan Cormack Vivien Cornell	5 <sup>th</sup>
Wellington Region Mixed Pairs	Bob Hurley Anne Gordon	4 <sup>th</sup>
Waipukurau Bruns Pairs	Anne Gordon Hans van Bunnik	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Taranaki Congress Intermediate Teams	Julie Bunnell Janine Fenelon Carol Dickson Barbara Robinson	5 <sup>th</sup>
Taranaki Congress Swiss Pairs	Wayne Burrows Claire Miao	3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Bob Hurley Steve Boughey	6 <sup>th</sup>
	Morgan Booker Reeve Print	7 <sup>th</sup>
Taranaki Congress Main Centre Pairs	Wayne Burrows Claire Miao	6 <sup>th</sup>
Taranaki Congress Open Teams	Jan Whyte Carolyn Yeomans Robyn Nightingale Don Nightingale	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Steve Baron Debbie Marcroft Anita Thirtle George Maclauchlan	6 <sup>th</sup>
Palmerston North Junior/Intermediate Tournament	Betty McLaughlin Dianne Hunter	1 <sup>st</sup> (Int)
	Susan Parker Bev Colville	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Int)
	Tony Fayerman Garry Hodge	5 <sup>th</sup> (Int)
	Jono Naylor Kevin Conley	1 <sup>st</sup> (Junior)
Dannevirke Open	Jan Whyte Ken Bateman	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Bob Hurley Anne Gordon	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Zheng Zhang Morgan Booker	4 <sup>th</sup>

The 70% club:

Debbie Marcroft / Garry Hodge – 75.4%

Debbie Marcroft / Garry Hodge – 70.83%

**Gayle Leader**

## Swings and Roundabouts

When you first started playing bridge (if you can recall that far back) the bidding guidelines may have seemed straightforward. Granted you may not have been able to easily remember the basic numbers but at least they seemed to make sense. For instance, there are forty points in the pack so if you have slightly better than average (11 or 12 points) then you can open at the one level. If you have a poor hand but a six card suit then you may pre-empt at the two level. If you have a poor hand with seven cards then maybe pre-empt at the three level. With eight cards in a major suit but not much else then maybe pre-empt with a four hearts or four spades bid.

So far so logical but what about if you have a nine card suit? Well, we don't bother teaching about that because in theory such a hand only occurs once in a blue moon. In fact, the likelihood that you will pick up a hand with a nine card suit is roughly one in ten thousand. That is the theory. Well, spare the blushes of whoever designed the random number system that generates the cards at our club. During one Monday afternoon session there were TWO hands in different deals that had a NINE card suit. The probability of this occurring should be about one in ten billion, so we might assume that the random deal designer should get back to the drawing board.

Be that as it may the North-South pairs on that day had to find suitable bids. Here is the first of the two hands. You are in the South seat; East has already passed and neither side is vulnerable. What is your suggestion for openers?

♠ A 2  
♥ J  
♦ 6  
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

No guidelines to be had from beginners' bridge classes or even from improvers. You are on your own. It seemed worthless to add up the points in the hand (5, of course) and make a bid based on that (to pass, of course). What one really needs to do is count how many tricks we can make with clubs as trumps. So, what is missing? Four club honours for a start. Giving partner one of these, as a conservative estimate we are likely to make seven or eight trump tricks. Again, with three aces missing, let's assume partner has one. Together with my ace that gives us two extra tricks and a total of nine or ten. There are thirty five points out so let's allocate nine to RHO who has already passed and thirteen to each of the other players. Thus the opponents could easily have more than half the points and a good fit in hearts or spades, or even both.

So, maybe we are making a contract of three or four clubs and the opponents might make game in hearts or spades.

You have already taken about a minute to work all this out, and the opponents are starting to shuffle their bottoms on their seats and look around the room so do something quick. What I did was bid five clubs. You may think this is a crazy call but the opponents cannot see my cards and if LHO has a decent hand they will have to guess the best action. Maybe other players would open four clubs, but this makes it easy for the opponents to find a major suit game fit. Also, if partner has a good hand I don't want to have pre-empted us out of a game score.

In fact, everyone else passed which was a little anticlimactic but here are the four hands.

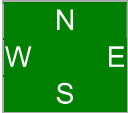
East Deals  
None Vul

♠ K J 10 5  
♥ Q 8 5 2  
♦ A 8 3 2  
♣ A

♠ 8 4 3  
♥ A K 9 3  
♦ Q 10 9 5  
♣ K Q

♠ A 2  
♥ J  
♦ 6  
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ Q 9 7 6  
♥ 10 7 6 4  
♦ K J 7 4  
♣ J



West predictably led a heart honour and I was able to claim eleven tricks which turned out to be the par score. Was I fortunate? Certainly, the opponents thought so and were even commenting on my "gambler's luck" as they left the table.

The double dummy analyser at the table says the best contract is five clubs with the cards laid out as they are, but that is only true for someone who can see all four hands. How else might one assess what the 'right' bid is other than the ad hoc method I used at the table? One way is to see what other experienced players decided to do. There were two grand masters sitting South in this session. One of them passed initially, and the other opened five clubs as I had done, so not much information to be gleaned from that.

My second thoughts were to use my Pam Dealer app to generate some random deals given South's hand and with East initially passing. Then I plugged the deals into BridgeComposer which can work out the double dummy results for me. Here are the first ten results generated:

Hand No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Best NS	6C	3C	6NT	3C	5C	6C	5C	3C	7C	4C
Best EW	4H	2H	2H	1S	2S	1S	3H	4D	3H	2H

Obviously, we have to make assumptions about what the partner and opponents do after a five club opener. So, let's assume opponents double a non-making club game and partner raises me with a decent hand to a slam. With these assumptions an opening bid of five clubs by South would make a profit on seven of the ten hands. I would be happy with a 70% score on any deal. Wouldn't you?

Assuming you are not exhausted or boggle-eyed here is the second hand containing a nine-card suit. This time it is North to open. Any guesses what to do after three passes to you?

East Deals ♠ Q  
♥ A K Q 9 7 6 5 3 2  
N-S Vul ♦ A 3  
♣ 2

This is even trickier than the previous hand since a small slam looks likely if partner has one ace, and a grand slam if they have two. Again, a point count of 15 on the hand is pretty irrelevant for working out how many tricks you can make. My partner opened with 4NT. This is not Blackwood as you might think but another useful bid that asks partner not just if they have an ace, but *which* ace. With no aces, the response is 5C, with the ace of spades then 5 spades and with the ace of clubs the response would be 6C. With two aces the response would be 5NT. Nice bid but my response of five clubs left North with no alternative but to close with a bid of five hearts. Unfortunately, despite all of North's riches this does not make. Here are all four hands.

East Deals ♠ Q  
♥ A K Q 9 7 6 5 3 2  
N-S Vul ♦ A 3  
♣ 2

♠ A 10 8 7	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 9 4 3 2
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ J	♥ 10 8										
♦ 9 6 5	♦ K Q 10 8 2										
♣ J 10 9 8 5	♣ A										

♠ K 6 5  
♥ 4  
♦ J 7 4  
♣ K Q 7 6 4 3

With the obvious lead of ♦K by East the contract has no chance. North tried a shifty low club from the covered hand after taking out trumps but even if East had wanted to duck, they couldn't and unavoidably we lost a club, a diamond and a spade.

Using the same process as last time to see what might happen with different random deals, I obtained the following results:

Hand No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Best NS	6H	6H	5H	5NT	5H	6H	5H	6H	5H	6H
Best EW	1S	2D	-	3S	1S	1D	2S	4C	3S	1S

Incredibly, out of the ten deals I generated none made less than five hearts for NS. So, yes, maybe we were a little lucky on the first hand but extremely *unlucky* on the second one. Needless to say, our second opponents didn't commiserate with us on our misfortune.

## Ray Kemp

### Tips and Conventions

When your partner opens 1C or 1D natural or 3+ and your opponent overcalls 1NT (15-18) a bid of the other minor shows both majors. Precision players where 1D opening may be short just bid 2C. With a good hand you will double the 1NT for penalties but without that agreement holding QJxxx, QJxxx, xx, x you will just have to pass. I don't believe this convention/agreement has a name.

Many players elsewhere are playing a bidding system called Standard or 2 over 1. What I like about this system is that it is 5 card majors and 15-17 1NT which may contain a five card major. Over 1NT a bid of 3C is puppet Stayman. This bid finds out about 4 or 5 card majors and has the strong hand as declarer. Opponents are less likely to bid over a strong 1NT. Compare that with Precision where opponents like to bid freely over 1C often making reaching the best contract difficult. If playing 2 over 1 responding in a new suit at the two level is natural and game force while with standard it is natural but a one round force.

Here is a hand from a recent tournament. What do you bid with A, AQ2, QJ108752, K2 after

1. partner has opened 1D (3+)
2. Partner has opened 1NT (12-14).

For 1: bid keycard and then slam if partner shows 2 or 3. 6NT could be a better spot and you would like the lead coming up to your hand with the AQ of hearts and KC. If partner has shown all 3 and you can find out about KH you can now count 13 tricks.

For 2: bid 3D which shows 6+ diamonds, slam interest. Partner held K9, KJ64, K643, A75. Almost the best possible hand so partner will make sure you play 6D or 6NT. Just the AD to lose.

I play 1NT – 3 any suit with many partners as 6+ slam interest and can't think of a better use for those bids.

## Bob Hurley

## **You must be joking**

You may have seen the furore during the last week or two in the local and national newspapers about Massey students allegedly using a piece of software called ChatGPT to write their assignments for them. The software apparently uses AI techniques to scan the internet, sift through relevant material and produce coherent, composite articles on any subject given. I thought I would give this a go and so wrote down the following description of what I wanted:

“Describe squeezes in the game of bridge in two paragraphs”

This is what ChatGPT produced:

In the game of bridge, a "squeeze" is a technique used to force an opponent to discard a critical card. This can be accomplished by creating a situation in which an opponent has multiple cards that they wish to keep, but are forced to give up one of them due to the actions of the declarer or other players. Squeezes are

often used as a way to win a trick that would not otherwise be possible.

There are several different types of squeezes in bridge, including the "simple squeeze," "double squeeze," and "triple squeeze." Each type of squeeze involves different card combinations and strategies, but the basic idea is always the same: to create a situation in which the opponent is forced to give up a critical card, allowing the declarer to win the trick and potentially the game. Squeezes require careful planning and a good understanding of the cards in play, but they can be highly effective when executed correctly.

I don't know about you, but I was quite impressed with this succinct and accurate description of bridge squeezes. It has been suggested that the use of this and related software will lead to the demise of report writers. Maybe we will be able to manage without newsletter writers in the future, too.

**Ray Kemp**