



APRIL 2012 BRIDGE UPDATE

Important dates: All Bridge Competitions are posted on the Noticeboard just inside and to the right of the main entrance.

All Tournament dates for 2012 are listed in your Programme of Events.

Express Bridge – Monday 2nd April 7.10 to 9.30pm: Watch our President Michael Albert play Bridge against a robot on the big screen! An excellent way to improve your Bridge.

Easter: No Easter programme.

Friday Bridge continues – be seated by 10.25am. Bring Lunch. Visitors welcome.

Saturday Bridge: Open to all grades and to visitors

Dates: 14 Apr, 5 May, 9 Jun, 7 Jul, 4 Aug, 1 Sep, 6 Oct, 10 Nov.

Results:

These are posted on Divisional Noticeboards in the Larnach Room and Cargill Room and on the website www.otagobridgeclub.org.nz

Volunteers

Thank You to all those volunteering for supper duty.

Rubbish:

Is there a member out there willing to volunteer their car and trailer to take rubbish to the tip? Please contact Susan Johnstone 4761360 if you are able to help.

Etiquette - Seating

Before start of play ALL tables must toss for North/South seating (unless someone has seating rights).

Learners Classes

We have four tables of enthusiastic learners. Refresher lessons are also being held in the Hudson Room on Wednesday evening. If you find you don't have a partner on any night you are welcome to join this group.

Psyche Bidding

What is a psychic bid or psyche? It is an intentional and major distortion of your bidding system. According to the English Bridge Union, it is a *deliberate and gross mis-statement of honour strength and/or suit length*. For example, you might (a) open 1NT with 3 points. Or you might (b) overcall an opposing opening bid of 1 Heart with 1NT having nothing but 7 clubs to the KQ. Notice the word "deliberate" in the EBU definition: if you make one of these bids inadvertently that is not good, but it is a misbid rather than a psyche. A deliberate but *minor* mis-statement of honour strength and/or suit length is not a psyche but a deviation: for example you might open a 10-point hand, or you might be stuck for a rebid and bid a 4-card suit twice, promising 5 cards.

Why on earth would you want to make a completely inaccurate bid like the three examples above? Take example (a). Suppose you are 3rd in hand non-vulnerable against vulnerable, there have been two passes, and you are the proud possessor of a balanced hand with 3 points. You know partner has fewer than 12 points so the opponents have a likely game, and 4th hand is marked with lots of points. You may decide to take a risk and open 1NT, hoping to scramble out for a 500 penalty at the 2 level. Now this is a severe risk as you may go for a much bigger penalty, and your partner and team mates will not be pleased, but you may, once in three times perhaps, get away with it. If you need a good board it may be worth the risk.

Take example (b): when you are doubled, and perhaps partner redoubles showing a good hand, you run out to 2 Clubs. This used to be called the "comic" 1 NT. If partner doubles the opponents, you just have to keep running out to clubs! Then your psyche is "exposed", but you may have muddied the waters enough to confuse everyone else.

Notice the operative "everyone else": you may confuse the opponents but you will also confuse partner! But a psychic bid is a legitimate tactic as long as it contains the same element of surprise for the psycher's partner as it does for the opponents.

This type of bid is not cheating, and is allowed for in the Rules, provided that such a call is not based on a partnership understanding. You are not allowed to have systemic psyches or an understanding, not disclosed to the opponents, that psyches are likely.

The psycher's partner is expected to bid according to system until the psyche is obvious to all. If you feel a psyche has been unfair you may ask the Director to make a ruling. This is especially the case if the psycher's partner appears to have "fielded the psyche" by not making a clear-cut bid according to system. A standard example is: pass pass 1 Spade 1NT. Here the dealer, having passed with a flat 11 point hand, must double for penalties even if they feel that the 1 Spade opener is a psyche, in other words they must bid as if the opener is genuine (i.e. keep on playing bridge) until the bidding ends or the psyche becomes clear. If the partner does this then the Director will normally take no action to penalise the psyche.

Here are some relevant extracts from the NZBridge Manual. "You may depart from agreed partnership methods in an attempt to deceive the opponents as long as partner is unaware of the violation. The opponents have no recourse if they are misled or damaged by the psychic bid unless they can establish that they were given an incomplete or erroneous explanation of your methods." **HOWEVER**, if your bidding or play is inconsistent with your explanation of partner's bidding, you lay yourself open to an accusation of improper conduct and if challenged, you must establish that your subsequent actions were based on your opponents' bidding or play or from your own cards and **NOT** from a concealed partnership agreement.

Persistent psyching is not permitted (more than two deliberate gross mis-descriptions per session). You are not permitted to psyche a Multi 2 Club or Multi 2 Diamond bid, or a strong artificial bid such as an

Acol 2 Club, Benjamin 2 Diamond or Precision 1 Club opener.

So much for the NZBridge position. In our Club, we have a system of recording psyches. The perpetrator is required to fill in a psyche form, with details, and the Director is to ensure that this is done. Failure to submit a psyche form will be penalised. A list of recorded psyches in the last couple of years will be posted on the Club notice board.

We hope that psyches will occur only between comparable opponents. At the moment most psyches happen in the Open Division, and we would hope that these players would use discretion against weaker opposition. Psyches are forbidden at Holiday Bridge. But remember that these bids are a legitimate part of the game and can lead to exciting if unorthodox bridge.

*Dennis McCaughan and Jared Fudge,
Chief Directors panel*

Monthly Bridge Update

If you have any news items that might interest bridge club members please forward to otagobridgeclub@gmail.com

Use of Club Rooms

When our Club is not being used for playing bridge, it is available for other uses Meeting, workshops, social events. Contact Susan Johnstone, Secretary for terms and conditions of use.

