



## Hutt Bridge Club Newsletter June 2020

### President's Column:

#### Greetings

Well here we are eagerly awaiting the government to confirm a date when COVID-19 Alert Level 1 comes into effect, and we can start playing bridge again at the club and finally get the bridge lessons underway! While it will be great to get back to some sort of "normality" there will be some key things we need to put in place once we resume play at the club to ensure we all keep safe. A number of these were outlined in the Advisory No. 6 newsletter from NZ Bridge which was emailed to you recently.

While the NZ Bridge guidelines have come about as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, they contain some good basic hygiene rules to minimise the risk of transfer of infection and should be adhered to by all members all year round. These include:

1. **DO NOT** come to bridge if you are unwell – you may be asked to leave.  
(We know players will be concerned that they are letting their partner down if they don't attend. However, it is much more important to keep everyone safe and that you stay away until you have recovered. This applies to all sessions including team and Swiss pair events).
2. Keep your hands clean by washing them with hot soapy water for 20 seconds and drying them thoroughly with paper towels.
3. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue if you cough or sneeze. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
4. If you use a tissue, dispose of it immediately and wash hands as per step 2.
5. Use hand sanitizer.

Additional hygiene measures required under Alert Level 1 will be communicated to you when the date for reopening of the club is confirmed.

As you are aware, the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) had to be adjourned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, now the government has confirmed that the size of gatherings can be increased to 100 people with effect from Friday 29 May, the meeting can now take place. At our Committee meeting last Monday evening it

was agreed that the AGM will be held on **Sunday 21 June 2020 at 4pm**. You will be sent an updated notice of meeting and agenda shortly. Please note there will be no bridge played prior to the AGM nor food and drinks following.

It has been interesting to note that payment by cash has not been permitted by many businesses during COVID-19. Therefore this is probably a good time to remind members that the club promotes payment of table money by direct debit (DD) where ever possible. Megan has provided more information later in this edition of Finesse about how the DD system works and is happy to answer any queries you may have.

Last weekend we had the misfortune to have the fence between the club and King Kiwi “fall down”! Unfortunately there is no CCTV footage available to see exactly what happened. The Police have been notified and an insurance claim has been lodged.

The closure of the club has provided an opportunity for the cleaners to do additional cleaning, as well as review cleaning schedules and procedures. It has also provided us with time to sort and reorganise cupboards as well as have essential equipment serviced such as the dealing machine. We are now ready for business when the all clear comes and look forward to seeing you back at the bridge table!

Keep safe.

Raewyn

### **Paying Table Money by Direct Debit:**

Paying table money by direct debit is very simple. Once set up you have no worries about finding the correct cash and you only pay once per month and then only for the sessions you have attended. This is the process:

1. Take a direct debit form from the table in the foyer, complete, sign and hand in to the office.
2. At the beginning of each session thereafter simply mark DD as your method of payment and sign alongside your name on the session sheet for your table.
3. At the beginning of each month you will be emailed with an account of the sessions that you played in the previous month and the total amount that will be debited from your account. You will then have eight working days to check this and get back to the office with any discrepancies. Following eight working days your account will be debited with your total table money for the month prior.

If you have any queries regarding the direct debit system do not hesitate to contact Megan or one of the committee members.

## Monthly Member Profile: Larissa Sedouch



My journey to the bridge card game started one summer afternoon in 2017 when I went to pick up my mail from the letterbox and found the flyer from the Hutt Bridge Club advertising bridge lessons for three months. I knew my neighbour was a member of the club for a long time so I decided to talk to her to get more information about the club and about the game. I had never played bridge but I decided to give it a go.

The lessons were taught in a very professional way with plenty of exercises, written and video materials, and with plenty of jokes and fun at the same time. AJ who teaches the lessons is a good presenter and communicator with a great sense of humour. I had fun over these three months and learned a lot too. There was so much to remember! When the lessons finished, and the bridge games started I had a lot of information in my head: all the rules, the bidding systems and the bidding theory.

AJ gave me the basics – enough knowledge to get started. I realised as a beginner I could pick up the basics quickly, but there is a lot to remember and I needed to practise before fully enjoying the game. The only way to remember the rules is to play bridge. I felt very nervous for the first few weeks and I was frustrated with myself when I would make a mistake at the bridge table.

Twice I wanted to give up but I enjoyed bridge and the atmosphere in the club. Everyone was very patient with me. I am so grateful for that. I slowly began to understand how to value a hand and feel for how the cards should be played. I spoke to my neighbour again and she said in bridge you never stop learning. Each hand is unique and there are so many variations. I realise this is very true as even in my third year since joining the Hutt Bridge Club I am still learning. In the future I would like to play bridge more often when I can find some more time.

I want to tell you a little bit about myself and my family. In 1996, my husband and I with our daughter (she was 11 years old at the time) moved from Russia to New Zealand. We decided to immigrate as it was a very unsettling time in Russia with rapid political and economic changes. I worked for Fishery Research Institute, and

my husband worked for Hydrochemistry Institute. There were so many people who lost their jobs during that time or their salary was cut to a bare minimum or delayed for several months. The question we asked ourselves was how will we pay the bills and feed our family. It was a hard time and this was the reason why we decided to move to NZ.

We came under a Point System that included several criteria – age, education, work experience etc. In 1997 I got a job at Unilever NZ Ltd Quality Assurance Laboratory and I worked there for over 15 remarkable years. I will never forget my time with Unilever. I had a supportive team and was very close with my colleagues. In 2012 the factory started winding down and I was made redundant.

The timing was good for me. I decided to stay home and look after my grandson. Then another grandson was born so I looked after him as well. They are now 5 and 8 years old. My husband and I love spending time with them. They enjoy going to Avalon Park playground and riding the cycling track, feeding ducks in Waiwhetu stream, and cycling to the lighthouse in Eastbourne. Their favourite board game is snakes and ladders. Everyone who has grandchildren knows that it is hard work but very rewarding!

During the week I work at Bob Scott Retirement Village in Petone looking after elderly people which I enjoy doing.

My husband and I like tramping in the South and North Island. We have done most of the NZ Great Walks. My favourite one is the Heaphy Track with its diverse scenery from native rainforest to mountain tussock and rugged coastal bush. It is one of the most beautiful places in NZ.

Unfortunately, Covid19 changed everything. We stayed home for a whole month in our bubble under level 4. Level 3 lasted for 2 weeks with fewer restrictions. I've been practising bridge online using Just Play Bridge and Bridge Doctor but it is not the same as club games. With the move to Level 2, more public places are open and hopefully our club will re-open soon also so we can play bridge again.

Hope to see you all at the bridge table soon.

### **Vil's Corner:**

Last month's opening lead poser came from a booklet that was a work in progress at the time, and now available from me, A.J. or Megan in the office, for \$10. Here is a reproduction of the article as it appears in the booklet. If you find this article helpful, you should read "Twos and No Trumps" in its entirety.

Here is the "Epilogue" from the booklet.

## Epilogue: Cover Hand

Dealer South All Vul

	♠ K76	
	♥ AJ8	
	♦ J9	
	♣ KQ1087	
♠ 1098		♠ Q542
♥ 109		♥ 76543
♦ AQ10862		♦ 3
♣ A2		♣ 963
	♠ AJ3	
	♥ KQ2	
	♦ K754	
	♣ J54	

West is on lead against 3NT. The bidding has been illuminating, despite the fact that it has been simply 1NT-3NT. West cannot expect much from partner and therefore should, as is usually recommended, open the defence with a lead from their own longest and strongest suit. The normal advice is to lead a low card in order to set up the suit for later. Fourth highest is the usually recommended lead from length. But with a holding like West has, fourth highest is likely to result in declarer or dummy winning a cheap trick with the nine. East is also unlikely to have more than one diamond, and with such a hand as West's the recommended lead is one of the lower honour cards from what is virtually an interior sequence. The ten or queen will remove one high honour from declarer or dummy and then West might hope to be able to run the rest of the suit. But, WHICH honour card to lead? If West knows Murphy's Law as it applies to such leads, West will have a solution. West knows that if he leads the queen, dummy will come down with Jxx and declarer have Kx, or dummy will deck with Kx and declarer have Jxx. Or, if West leads the TEN, dummy will have Jx and declarer Kxx, or dummy will have Kxx and declarer Jx. It seems total guesswork, but because West has a certain ENTRY in the ace of clubs, there is no guesswork at all and West solves the problem by leading the ACE of diamonds. West will then know which card to continue with!

Dealer S All Vul

	♠ 94	
	♥ 97652	
	♦ 8732	
	♣ 94	
♠ Q8		♠ J53
♥ KQ97		♥ J103
♦ 965		♦ QJ104
♣ QJ87		♣ 653
	♠ AK10976	
	♥ A	
	♦ AK	
	♣ AK109	

This was a very uncharacteristic hand for me, sitting South. The North hand would have been much more typical of the type and quality of the hands I am usually dealt. So it was hardly surprising that I took a very optimistic view. I opened 2C, 2D from North. 2S from me, 2NT from North. This I understood to be a second negative. 3S from me, half expecting North to pass but North was experienced enough to know we were in a game forcing situation. North raised to 4S. I could hardly resist bidding six, knowing full well that I had pushed North's button all the way. Surely partner could have SOMETHING of some value?

West was a formidable fellow by some alias like "Magnifico" (I have forgottem his exact username) and his profile said "World Class." He led the king of hearts. I made short work of the play. Ace of hearts, ace king of clubs and a club ruff. Back with a diamond and another club ruff, which was over ruffed by East. A hopeful heart from East was ruffed and I then drew trumps and claimed. Maybe I shouldn't have been so annoyed by West's egomania but I could not help but make the comment: "If you are world class how come you could not find the lead to beat the slam?" His reply was terse and to the point: "impossible, idiot!" and he then disappeared from the screen.

Here is another lead problem, one that will be featured in a series I am working on during the lockdown:

The bidding has been 1NT on your right, pass from you, 3NT on your left. What do you lead holding:

♠ 1098 ♥109 ♦ AQ10862 ♣ A2

The best answer will, as usual, win a session ticket for when club play resumes. Stay home and stay safe in the meantime.

***Hutt Bridge Club is proudly sponsored by:***



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Finesse is a newsletter of the  
Hutt Bridge Club

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Happy Bridging!