

Hello Everyone

It is really pleasing to see so many of us back playing bridge as the winter approaches. Our membership is in a very healthy state – both physically and numerically- and long may it continue!

A full newsletter this month, with quite a lot of information.

This is Orewa Bridge Club's 40th anniversary year and we are planning a celebration early evening dinner on Sunday 20 June. More information will come later, but please keep this date in mind for your social calendar!

A couple of things for members to consider:

1. A suggestion by a group of members to look at whether session times can be adjusted has been brought to the committee. So, please consider your view on whether:

- 1 the status quo should remain,
- 2 there could be an earlier session 11- 12:30, then lunch break, then resuming 12:30 – 3:00, on either Monday or Wednesday
- 3 any other suggestion

2. From time to time different members have suggested some sessions might be split into two sections for play – a more 'junior' section and a more 'senior' section perhaps (age doesn't come into it!)

There are a number of ways a split can be achieved, which we would look at if the idea proves popular.

To start with, would you prefer if:

1 At least one of the daytime sessions was divided into an A and B section. You may assume that the directing in the A grade would be stricter than in the B.

Also, if this was implemented and you could choose your grade, would you prefer A or B grade.

The committee thinks these are issues to be put to the membership and Ron has produced sheets - which will be placed on the centre table at the club- for people to record their views.

Following a query that came up during a recent session, Alison was appealed to to clarify the NZB ruling with regard to the alerting, or non alerting, of the strong 2club bid. Alison has researched for the definitive answer.... And the rule is printed below, so can we be a little more exact in our alerting this bid if it doesn't fall into the guidelines.

Game force bid of two clubs – when it should and when it shouldn't be alerted

A game force 2C hand is defined by NZ Bridge as a hand containing

- 23+ hcp if balanced or semi-balanced **or**

- 20+ points if unbalanced, allowing, in the points assessment, one extra point to be added for every card after the ninth in your two longest suits.

[Thus, with say, a 6-5-1-1 distribution you may have only 3 losers but it doesn't qualify for 2C unless it has 18+ hcp].

If your hand qualifies according to two rules, your 2C opening bid should not be alerted. If it does not, then you must alert it.

Readers should also note that

- a 2D response to 2C **should not** be alerted when it means less than 7 or 8 high card points, but should be if it means anything else.
- a 2NT response to 2C **should** always be alerted and, if asked, we say exactly what our agreement is, eg, "8 plus hcp but no 5 card suit", or "8 plus hcp but no 4+ card suit headed by an A or a K".

Finally, just to remind you that we hold our Sunday afternoon one session tournament on the last Sunday in the month, the next one being May 30th. The tournament is \$5 to play, walk in and followed by wine and savoury afternoon tea organised by Eileen and Judy Tremain. We have excellent sponsors for prizes- Forrest Funeral services provide the wine or chocolate prizes, and they have now been joined by Coffee Club Sponsorship who are donating a free all day breakfast voucher. For those who don't usually play a tournament try this one, as it isn't too serious, and is a very pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Judith Hollyer