

Orewa Bridge Club Newsletter – August 2020

Well, here we are again, back in level 3 for, hopefully, a reasonably short time. Please keep safe and sound, keep in touch with your friends from the club and be assured the club will re- open when we return to level 1 conditions. To pass the time during our enforced home hours we can play bridge on the computer. Bridgebase Online allows you to play alone against the computer robots or remotely with friends. Sandra will be sending an email out to members with instructions on how to access for those who are new to this site. Also, please feel free to phone Jenny Robinson, Eileen Sanger, Sandra Cooper, Cherrie England, Val Dorling or Judith Hollyer. to talk you through it if you are unsure.

A G M November 2020

As much as anyone can plan any event this year and expect it to occur, the club's Annual General Meeting is on 13th November. Please give some thought to whether you would like to stand for election to the committee, or wish to nominate someone. Also, if you would like to propose a motion to be raised at the meeting the process for how and when to do so is displayed on the club notice board next to where the handicaps are listed. ... and yes, I know, we can't get to read them at the moment....! but hopefully we will be back soon.

A note from Alison Beer, in her role as Go-To Advisor on play matters:

Our Beginners have learned Acol with 4 card majors – Encourage them please. Do NOT ask them to play 5 card majors.

Do you remember how easy it was to get confused when you were a beginner? Well please help our beginners by playing the 4 card major Acol system with them if you agree to partner them. These are the new players that have just finished our 2020 lessons, taught by Jacque Biggs, or they may have finished her lessons in 2019 but only just joined the larger club.

If you can't help them by playing the system they have been taught then it is best not to ask them to play with you.

We would like to say to any beginners who are reading this: Stick to your guns. Tell any partner you have that you want to play the way you were taught. It will be better for your bridge development if you do this.

If you are one of the many in our club who play "Acol" with 5 card majors you might like to consider switching to 4 card majors even if you do not intend to play with a beginner. Let me tell you why :

The two most common systems played in New Zealand are

- Acol. 4 card majors and a weak 12-14 no trump
- Standard American. 5 card majors and a strong 15-17 no trump

Both are good systems. NZ Bridge teach the former to all beginners. There is a 10 Lesson set of notes on their website which is regularly updated, as are the Teachers' Materials. If you are playing 5 card majors with a weak no trump you will have noted that you frequently have a problem finding a good rebid. **This is because the two things should not be put together.** Opener's rebid is arguably the most important bid in the game of bridge. It enables responder to immediately assess whether or not the partnership has game prospects.

Example: You hold S QJ964, H A73, D K8, C K92. You open 1S.

Partner holds S 32, H K65, D AJT95, C Q83 and bids 2D

Playing Acol with 4 card majors, opener's rebid is 2S meaning 5 spades, no other biddable 4 card suit and 12 -14 hcp

Playing Standard American, opener's rebid is 1NT meaning exactly the same thing.

But playing 5 card majors with a weak NT you have no truthful rebid. A rebid of 2S shows 6 spades and a rebid of 1NT promises 15-16 hcp. Which lie will you choose?

Either one is likely to land you with a bad score. This will be 3NT going one light if you rebid 1NT with only 13 hcp, or a 2S contract which will score you 110 rather than the same 8 tricks for a score of 120 that you will probably make in the No Trump contract that either of the Proper Systems will land you.by way of

Standard American: 1S – 2D – 1NT – Pass

or Proper Acol: 1S – 2D – 2S – 2NT – Pass

There is another reason for showing your 4 card majors on the opening bid: A 4-4 major fit often earns your partnership more tricks than does a 5-3 fit. This is because you can choose to ruff in either of the two hands, or both. Playing 5 card majors makes it less likely for these 4-4 fits to be found. An example to illustrate this:

You hold S K873, H AQ72, D A8, C K94

Partner holds S AJ65, H K3, D QT63, C JT2

Proper Acol bidding: 1H – 1S – 3S – 4S

A likely 5 card major Acol sequence: 1C – 1D – 1NT – 3NT

Both contracts are likely to make but 4S will score 20 points more than 3NT.

However, if you decide to battle on with Improper Acol (!!) you must at least promise NOT to play it with our beginners who have learned Acol in the proper framework.

Thank-you ,

Alison

(please note: if you would like to change but have doubts or questions, I will be very happy to help you.)