



MOOS NOOS 1



June 9 2019

First Mini Moos for 2019

17 players from the Waikato region took part in the first Mini Moos for 2019 held in Morrinsville on Sunday afternoon June 9.

They were required to move to a different place in a seemingly haphazard way after playing each hand. But that meant they had 10 different partners and at the end of the session they all had played all 10 of the hands in circulation.



Bryan Frost of Morrinsville (1st)

Results from Morrinsville Mini Moos

1	Bryan Frost	Morr	95
2	Tammy Chan	Ham	92
3	Alison Mackenzie	Wait	87
3	Trish Neal	Wait	87
5	Katrina Sweetman	Te Ar	86
6	Anthony Arnet	Morr	83
7	Liz Gates	Morr	81
7	Judy Frost	Morr	81
9	Richard Syme	Te Ar	79
10	Sid Naera	Morr	75
11	Murray Neal	Wait	74
12	Val Ferguson	Morr	70
12	Wendy Franklin-Hill	Te Ar	70
14	Kevin Barnes	Waik	68
15	Malcolm Mackenzie	Wait	66
16	Davina Syme	Te Ar	56
17	Jude Turner	Morr	53



Tammy Chan of Hamilton (2nd)



Alison and Trish (both Waitomo) 3rd equal



MOOS NOOS



Where have all the casual bridge players gone?

Contract Bridge in its current form came into existence in 1925 (although there were various forms of Bridge dating back much before then).

In the generation after 1925 Bridge was very popular and **everybody** knew how to play it.

1931

Scott Russell, a first-year student at Otago University, was on a climbing trip with two companions in the Mt Aspiring area. He would later to become a noted botanist and mountaineer

They were invited to stay overnight at the homestead where they played bridge until well after midnight with the manager's wife. *"She enjoyed a game immensely and it would have been a callous and foolish traveller who would not modify his plans to spend a night at Aspiring Station"*

1943

Italian prisoners at a British POW camp at Nanyuki, Kenya played bridge all the time as anti-boredom therapy. Three of them thought that wasn't enough so they escaped to put an Italian flag on top of the mountain which overlooked the camp.

That wasn't as simple as it might sound; it was an 18-day epic described in "No Picnic on Mount Kenya" by Felice Benuzzi.

1936

In a severe storm the Inter-Island ferry *Rangatira* hit the rocks at Barrett's Reef at the entrance to Wellington Harbour. The final outcome was happier than what happened to her sister-ship in similar circumstances 32 years later.

While waiting for whatever would happen to happen many of the passengers played Bridge. Very bold bidding was the order of the day ("It doesn't matter if we go down; we have our lifejackets on")

1956

Missing a game of Bridge had tragic consequences for Swedish seaman Alf Johansson of the Swedish-American liner *Stockholm*. He regularly played bridge until after midnight every night with either fellow crew members or passengers.

But when his regular partner was on leave he retired early for once to his cabin in the ship's bow. At 11pm his ship collided with the Italian liner Andrea Doria. Johansson was one of the 50 people who died in the disaster.



The *Stockholm* limping back to New York after her collision.



MOOS NOOS



The game all these people all played was "Rubber Bridge", the traditional form of the game. Duplicate Bridge as played in clubs didn't become commonplace until the 1960s

RUBBER BRIDGE procedures and rules are identical to duplicate bridge as played at clubs; only the scoring is different.

The chief difference from duplicate bridge is

a pair can make a "Game" by accumulating part-scores over two or more hands until their total reaches the 100 required for "Game"

There is no **immediate** bonus for making a "game" but when a pair has won **two** games they have made a **rubber** for which there is a substantial "rubber bonus".

Rubber bridge is a great game and it is a pity so few play it today.

There is a file on the website "All About Rubber Bridge"

Go to www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org Then click on Morrinsville on the list of clubs, and then on Tuition on the tabs at the top.

Anyone who knows the playing procedure can play Rubber Bridge (and any bad players win if they get good enough cards!)

WHY YOU LOSE AT BRIDGE

Seca Jascha Skidelsky (1904-1948) was born in Manchuria to Russian-Jewish parents.

He lived most of his life in England where he was known as "Skid" or S.J. Simon.

Although he died at 44 it was said the way he disregarded all principles of health and safety he did well to live that long.

He was, along with Jack Marx (1907-1996) the main theorist behind the development of the Acol system in 1934.

He is best remembered for his classic book "Why You Lose at Bridge".

The book is NOT about improving the readers skill but how to win more (or lose less) with one's current skill level.

In it he introduces the immortal characters Mrs Guggenheim, the Unlucky Expert, Futile Willie and Mr Smug.

He doesn't claim to have invented them but merely to characterise them. They are everywhere.

Meet Mrs Guggenheim

"No one works harder at being good at Bridge. But she can neither bid nor play a hand. And she never will. She is Menace Number 1 at every Bridge Club"

The last bit I don't fully agree with.

In my view a bigger menace is her partner who can't or won't bring their game down to her level. She is expected to lift her game to their level and that, in Simon's words, "demoralises her to twittering dim-wittedness".

As a result she makes mistakes even more glaring and more frequent than she normally would.



MOOS NOOS



Meet The Unlucky Expert

He plays perfect Book Bridge but he never wins.

His partners always screw up.

Even those who are significantly better players than Mrs Guggenheim.

Simon says of the Unlucky Expert:

"Whenever I see him at the club I head straight for his table. If I draw him as partner we have an enormous advantage over the two palookas. And if I draw one of the palookas I don't have to wait long for the other palooka to let him down."

Meet Futile Willie

Theoretically skilled but the general futility in his tactics makes him a habitual loser.

Board 8 at the Morrinsville Mini Moos was taken from Simon's book.

It shows Futile Willie in action.

8		♠ 9875	Dir: W	
		♥ J86	Vul: None	
		♦ 973		
		♣ 432		
♠ 642		♠ QJ		
♥ Q3		♥ AK1042		
♦ KJ86		♦ AQ5		
♣ AJ107		♣ KQ5		
		♠ AK103		
		♥ 975		
		♦ 1042		
		♣ 986		
1				
11	21			
7				

Futile Willie was East and opened 1♥ after West and North passed.

His partner bid 2♦ and Willie wondered what to do next (wouldn't we all?)

The points are there for game but which game? 4♥ or 5♦ is taking a chance on the trump quality or 3NT is taking a chance with the possible weakness in spades.

Amongst experts who are familiar with this sort of dilemma a temporary bid of 3♣ could help getting to the best game, or a slam if there is one. But that is not recommended for casual partnerships.

Willie, however, decided it would be a clever move to bid 2♠!

By his methods a bid of a new suit "above the barrier" (that is above 2 of the first bid suit) was **forcing**.

(This is NOT recommended; for real people it is just a value bid which shows 16-17 points, and 5+ and 4+ cards in the bid suits)

West jumped to 3NT so Willie then got excited.

He bid 4NT ace asking and when partner showed one ace he realised he didn't know what suit he should be playing in!

He decided his partner shouldn't have bid notrumps without any cover in spades.

So he bid 6NT forgetting it was HE who bid spades so partner didn't need any cover in that suit to bid notrumps.

South promptly doubled.

(There is a popular convention where a double of a slam by the defender not on lead asks for an unusual lead (here it would mean "don't lead the unbid suit")).

West, who was Mr Smug – you will meet him shortly (although you would already have met him at your club) confidently redoubled. That was eminently correct on his hand and his partner's bidding.

North found the spade lead and North-South collected 1000 points.

The best North-South score on this deal at Morrinsville was -170!

And that only happened at one table; the other three North-South pairs all had game made against them and conceded over 400.



MOOS NOOS



Meet Mr Smug

He has a high opinion of his declarer skills. So high he doesn't like to be seen taking too long over the easy hands.

The trouble is sometimes he finds they aren't so easy after all.

I saw a Mr Smug in action a few years ago. He was West as declarer in 3NT

North

♠ 8
♥ K J 9 5 4 3
♦ Q 10 9
♣ J 8 5

West

♠ none
♥ 10 6 2
♦ K J 8 6 4 2
♣ A K Q 2

East

♠ A K Q J 10 4
♥ A
♦ 7 5 3
♣ 6 4 3

South

♠ 9 7 6 5 3 2
♥ Q 8 7
♦ A
♣ 10 9 7

A heart was led and he clearly has nine **certain** tricks, the heart, 5 spades and three clubs.

There was also a very good chance of another trick with the last spade, and a not-so-good chance of yet another trick with the last club.

He ran dummy's spades failing to notice North's play of a fairly high one (the 8) on the first round and discard on the second. South gave him a bit more rope by playing his spades in order 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9 saving his ♠5 until last.

After "cashing" his sixth spade Mr Smug called for a club only to have it pointed out it was not his lead. Oops.

The defenders took the rest of the tricks. Down 3.



Mini Moos at Morrinsville

MORE MOOS

Dates and venues are yet to be arranged but expect four or five more Sunday afternoons with the final one being a Garden Party in November or early December.

In all except the Garden Party you will play as pairs, not changing partners each move as at Morrinsville.

You may enter with or without a partner; those without will be paired up on the day.

MOOS MISSION: *To provide a relaxed supportive environment where beginners from lessons can play bridge with players of their own level.*