

MOOS NOOS

MINI MOOS TOURNAMENT HOSTED AT HAMILTON

Five and a half tables of beginners from lessons this year took part in the third Mini Moos afternoon hosted by Hamilton Bridge Club on Sunday 16 October. Emerging victorious were by some margin were Hamilton's Jane Divett And Rita Davies. Runners up were Leanne Curry and Trish Kingston (also Hamilton) while a tie for third was between Mary and Norm Thomson and Mary Waldron(Hamilton) and Kim Graham and Bruce McCutchen (Huntly)



Results from Mini Moos 3 below:

Place	Pair	Club	IMPS
1.	Jane Divett and Rita Davies	Hamilton	105
-	Richard Myers and Jane Stearns	Cambridge	87
2.	Leanne Curry and Trish Kingston	Hamilton	83
3.	Kim Graham and Bruce McCutchen	Huntly	82
3.	Mary Waldron and Norm Thomson	Hamilton	82
5.	Hilary Wilson-Smith Lesley Roberts	Cambridge	78
5.	Lynne Boyack and Ros Broome	Huntly	78
7.	Donna Prentice and Jill Waugh	Hamilton	77
8.	Janne Fraser and Anita Lafferty	Cambridge	72
9.	Hanna Frischknecht Margrit Fullemann	Te Aroha	70
10.	Elaine Wills Mary Mackwell	Hamilton	64



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MOOS SCORING—NICK'S LOWDOWN

The “Stumpy” Hand

“Bid notrumps if your hand is balanced, otherwise bid a 5-card (or longer) suit”

That is the prescribed action in a number of cases, for example responding to partner's 2♠ opening with 8 or more points.

The problem is that doesn't cover *every* possibility.

What if you hold this? ^a A 8 6 2
 ♥ 3
 ♦ J 9 7 5
 § K 6 5 2

The hand is not balanced but there is no 5-card suit (the dreaded “stumpy” hand)

(Someone once suggested the game should be played with 14 cards not 13 (adding an eleven-spot) so every hand with a singleton **must** also have a 5-card suit. Nobody ever took that suggestion seriously.)

Back to the problem: the answer is... well **there is no answer!** All you can do with that hand is try 2^a or 2NT and hope the weather stays fine.

And if partner is the sort to get vituperative if the weather doesn't stay fine then (if you chose to bid 2^a) put the §5 in with your spades. If you get found out, blame the bad lighting or your new multi-focals. Although a better long-term solution in that case would be to find another partner.

Opening the bidding with three 4-card suits:

Which suit should you start with?

The priority should be to *maximise the chance of finding a fit* without getting too high in the bidding.

It is great if partner responds by bidding one of the suits you have 4 cards in; you have found a fit. If that happens you no longer have a problem.

But you need to aim at being best prepared if your partner bids your short suit.

That means your opening bid should be **the suit next in rank below your singleton**. If partner bids your singleton you have the maximum space to bid your other suit (s) in order to find a fit.

Resist the temptation to bid notrumps on the second round if partner bids your singleton. Although that might occasionally get you a good result it is **giving misleading information to your partner**.

Partnership trust is too valuable to be squandered seeking a good result on **one** hand.

Some examples:

You are dealer. What is your opening bid?

^a 3 ♥ A 8 6 2 ♣ K J 7 5 § A 6 5 2

Bid 1♥ (*the suit next in rank below the singleton.*)

If you had opened 1♣ and partner had 5 spades and 4 hearts, but only enough points for one bid, you would miss your fit in hearts.

And to open 1§ is even worse. There is no sensible rebid available over 1^a by partner. (To bid 2 of a red suit would show 16+ points as it is above the 2§ “barrier”.)

^a A 8 6 2 ♥ 3 ♣ K J 7 5 § A 6 5 2

Bid 1♣. If partner bids 1♥ you rebid 1^a and the bidding is still nice and low. If partner bids a black suit you can happily raise that suit.

^a A 8 6 2 ♥ A 6 5 2 ♣ K J 7 5 § 3

There is no “suit next in rank below the singleton” Here you should bid 1♥ to make sure you don’t miss a fit in a *major* suit.

Partner won’t bid 2§ with four spades in his hand unless he is strong enough to bid the spades later.

To Summarise:

Opening the bidding with three 4-card suits:

If the singleton is spades: Open 1♥

If the singleton is hearts: Open 1♣

If the singleton is diamonds: Open 1§

If the singleton is clubs: Open 1♥

MOOS CORNER — with Jane Stearns

PART 2—FIRST STEPS

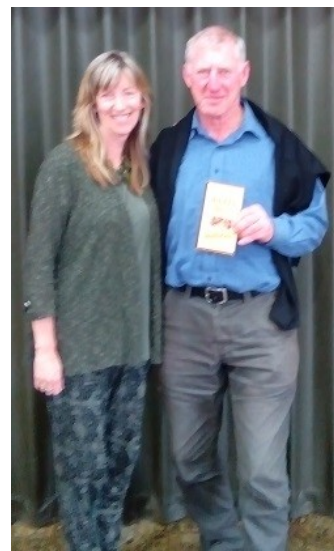
I was assigned a “buddy” to look after me for my first bridge sessions at the Cambridge club. My good friend Clare Coles, who had urged me to come to lessons, stepped forward bravely. A true test of our friendship then followed, as I routinely bid incorrectly, played the wrong cards, dumped her in impossible contracts to try and make the best of, and made the same mistake at least six times before it sunk in what I was doing wrong. But my “buddy” and the majority of members were very kind, understanding and encouraging. Enough so that I would keep going back, and try again. To my delight, at the end of the Bridge year, my efforts were rewarded when I won, jointly with one of my classmates at lessons, the Best New Player of the Year award. A small trophy of which I was immensely proud stood on my dresser.



MOOS CORNER contd

Truth be told, my classmate and now friend, Malcolm Hill, was much better than me, but I am guessing the committee must also award points for the “attempting to triumph through adversity when so obviously handicapped” category, as well as skill, and it is so nice to be recognised for “trying”. Malcolm and I decided to brave it into the serious league of Monday night bridge for a three week session to play with the “big guns”. Needless to say, we sank without trace on our first week, finishing bottom, and then some. A whole new game emerged, and frankly we would have had more luck trying to bid for the clock on the wall of the club rooms than our failed attempts to bid for a contract that night with cards. Everyone appeared to know who held which cards, except for me. When my partner nipped to the loo, he was not the only one to be relieved ... it was the only time all night that I was confident of what was in his hand.

So if you have recently emerged from lessons and are finding your brain frazzled, the thought that you are never going to learn the bidding crossing your mind regularly, well, yes, that is how it is at the start. So you are perfectly normal, and probably a good bridge player in the making. Yes, your ego does have to withstand being pummelled to a pulp by octogenarians, but you will find they are also mainly encouraging, friendly, and willing to help you learn. Stick at it, and the level of your game will improve.



COMING UP NEXT—MINI MOOS 4—HUNTLY

Huntly is a small bridge club located on the Huntly Domain.

Please support them as they host a round of the Mini Moos.

Join us for more fun on Sunday 13 November

Register with Jane by Friday 11 November.

Email janelawrence50@hotmail.com

