



# MOOS NOOS 2



June 30 2019

## Mini Moos 2019 No 2 at Te Aroha

A small but cheerful group of 6 pairs took part in the Mini Moos held in Te Aroha on Sunday afternoon June 30.

Best score was Wendy from Te Aroha playing with Tim, (who is not strictly eligible but he did make Wendy play as declarer not dummy whenever their side had the contract).



Wendy – 1st



Liz and Val – 2nd



Jude and Sid – 3rd

## Full Results

1	Wendy Franklin-Hill Tim Rigter	Te Ar	119
2	Val Ferguson Liz Gates	Morr	97
3	Sid Naera Jude Turner	Morr	92
4	Christine de Vries Jude Lipanovich	Roto	90
5	Mikayla Lewis Matt Vink	Camb	70
6	Bryce Howard Colin Lequesne	Mata	62



# MOOS NOOS



## Morton's Fork

The resourcefulness of Cardinal John Morton has earned him a permanent place in the English language.

As Lord Chancellor under King Henry VII his task was to collect taxes for the royal coffers. Although he had a free hand as to what tax rate to charge he was no doubt aware any perceived deficiencies could result in him losing his job (or his head).

His approach was if the household had a Rolls-Royce in the garage (or its 15<sup>th</sup> century equivalent) he would say *"you clearly have money to throw around; you will be taxed at the high rate"*.

And if they obviously lived frugally he would say *"you are clearly stashing lots of money away; you will be taxed at the high rate"*.

Since then the term "Morton's Fork" describes a situation where one appears to have a choice, but in reality either option has the same unsatisfactory outcome.

I'm not sure if "fork" refers to a branch in the road leading either to a rock or a hard place, or an implement someone can get impaled on.

It can apply to any activity, including bridge.

Here is an example from one of the hands from Mini Moos at Te Aroha.

<b>11</b>		♠ QJ64	Dir: S																															
		♥ KQ2	Vul: None																															
		♦ KQJ																																
		♣ K76																																
♠ A8			♠ 10975																															
♥ A10987			♥ J64																															
♦ A2			♦ 10986																															
♣ 10953			♣ 82																															
	17	♠ K32	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	1	3	3	S	3	3	1	3	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦			♥	♠	NT																											
N	3	3			1	3	3																											
S	3	3			1	3	3																											
E	-	-	-	-	-																													
W	-	-	-	-	-																													
	12	♥ 53																																
		♦ 7543																																
	10	♣ AQJ4																																

North is declarer in 3NT after West had opened 1♥.

East leads a heart and declarer appears to be in trouble.

He can set up two more tricks by giving up the lead to one of West's aces. But not the three he needs unless the suit he chooses is divided evenly, 3-3. As can be seen neither suit does break 3-3.

And if he loses the lead twice he will go down because West's long hearts will be set up.

Happily for declarer he can prevail by crossing to dummy with a club and leading a small spade.

West is caught in Morton's Fork.

If West plays his ♠A on a small spade North will have three tricks with his ♠KQJ and not need any diamond tricks to make his contract.

And if West plays low on a small led from dummy spade declarer makes one spade trick *without having lost the lead*.

He can now abandon spades and set up two diamond tricks, and his contract, by giving up a trick to West's ♦A.



# MOOS NOOS



## Some Tips

### When your opponent opens 1NT

#### [a] If your hand is unbalanced:

With about 10 to 15 points you BID a good 5-card or longer suit if you have one, otherwise pass.

With 16 or more you DOUBLE  
(more on the double shortly)

#### [b] If your hand is balanced:

With anything up to 15 points you PASS

With 16 or more you DOUBLE

Unlike a double of a 1 of a suit opening, where declarer has the safety of a trump suit, this is **not** a takeout double. It shows the values which would normally expect to defeat their 1NT.

**Never** bid 2NT over an opponents 1NT *no matter how strong* you are.

There are more points for the same number of tricks if you double.

[If you bid 2NT and make 8 tricks you get 120

If you double 1NT and make 8 tricks you get 300 (or 500 if they are vulnerable)]

The double of a 1NT opening starts off a high-stakes battle.

The winner of that battle will be the stronger of the other two hands (which won't have more than 12 points between them).

This was illustrated on Board 10 at Te Aroha Mini Moos:

<b>10</b>	♠ QJ106	<i>Dir: E</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>																								
	♥ 843																									
	♦ 96																									
	♣ K1054																									
♠ 9432	♠ A85																									
♥ 975	♥ A62																									
♦ J103	♦ KQ84																									
♣ A62	♣ 973																									
6	♠ K7																									
5 13	♥ KQJ10																									
16	♦ A752																									
	♣ QJ8																									
	<table><tr><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	3	1	3	2	S	3	1	3	2	E	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-
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N	3	1	3	2																						
S	3	1	3	2																						
E	-	-	-	-																						
W	-	-	-	-																						

East opens 1NT and South doubles and all pass.

NS have more points (22 against 18) but East can limit his loss to down 1 if he sets up his diamonds immediately.

But that is 200, a better score than NS can achieve bidding their own cards.

But if West was very weak (take away his ♣A for example) the result would be -500 or worse but *there is nothing he can do about it*.

To attempt to find a suit fit is more likely to make it even worse still.

BUT if East was very weak AND had a long suit – then it is safer to bid the suit.

That is because he now KNOWS his side has a fit. 2 of a suit will still probably go down but not as badly as 1NT would.

Now look at North (whose partner doubled the opponents 1NT).

If North was very weak and balanced he will fear 1NT<sup>x</sup> will be made but again *there is nothing he can do about it*.

But if North was weak AND had a long suit: again it would be safer for him to bid the long suit.



# MOOS NOOS



## Some well-known Bridge players



**[1] Winston Churchill**

In his younger days Winston Churchill was an enthusiastic, if not very disciplined, bridge player

On one memorable occasion at Admiralty House, with his private secretary and other colleagues, he had just started to play a 5♦ contract when the news came in that Germany had declared war on Russia.

He immediately went off to mobilize the fleet and Max Aitken (later Lord Beaverbrook, who was sitting out at the time) took over playing his hand. He went three down, proclaiming "It was an awful contract".

That was evidently typical of Churchill who was described as "one who bid, doubled and redoubled with wild recklessness"



**[2] Iain Macleod**

In his youth Iain Macleod spent more time playing bridge at Cambridge University than studying. And earning a healthy income in the process.

He was one of the founders of the Acol system in 1934 and three years later won the prestigious Gold Cup with three others of the original "Acolites".

After the war he would devote less time to bridge and more to politics and entered parliament in 1950.

He was soon promoted to Cabinet being Minister of Health and later Minister of Labour.

When in opposition from 1964 he had many memorable verbal battles with Prime Minister Harold Wilson. He coined the term "Nanny State" in describing the Government's policies.

When the Conservatives gained power in 1970 he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer but died suddenly a few weeks later.



# MOOS NOOS



**[3] Ian Clarke**

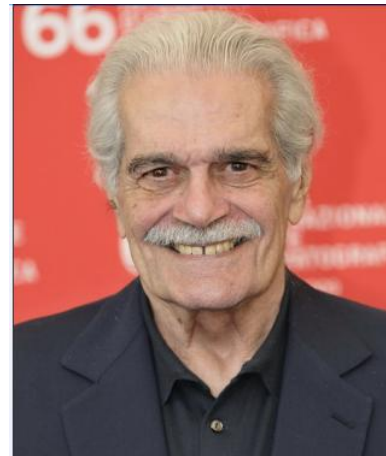
One of the foundation members of the Morrinsville Bridge Club from 1976 was All Black great Ian Clarke.

He played bridge regularly at the Morrinsville club with a skill level one would not normally associate with a prop forward.

His rugby career was at a time when All Black tours were much longer and less frequent than they are now. He had the rare distinction of touring Britain twice, in 1953-54 and again in 1963-64.

To honour that achievement he was invited to play for the Barbarians *against* the All Blacks in the 1963-64 tour finale.

Early in that game he collected an uncharacteristically poorly directed clearing kick from his brother Don ("the Boot") and slotted a field goal. (The All Blacks still won the game, 36-3)



**[4] Omar Sharif**

The best bridge player of those famous-for-other-than-bridge was surely Omar Sharif.

The actor starred in many films the best known being "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Doctor Zhivago" in the 1960s.

But at the same time he was playing bridge at the highest level. In 1964 he represented his native Egypt in the World Bridge Olympiad. And four years later he was playing captain (most captains in internationals are "non-playing") of his team.

He was also one of the most active promoters of bridge. In 1967 he founded the "Sharif Bridge Circus" a group of top players which would play a series of exhibition matches against the top European and North American teams.

These would use a "big screen" (new technology at the time) for spectators to have a good view of what is going on at the table.





# MOOS NOOS



Some scenes from Te Aroha



## MORE MOOS

The next Mini Moos is at Te Awamutu on Sunday July 21.

The format is the same as at Te Aroha today.

That will be followed by one (possibly two) more and then the year's finale, a Garden Party in November or early December.

In all except the Garden Party you will play as pairs.

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.*