



MOOS NOOS 4



August 11 2019

Mini Moos Round 4 at Matamata

8 pairs took part in the Mini Moos held in Matamata on Sunday afternoon August 11. The Morrinsville pairing of Sid and Val had the best score although that was matched by another who had a non-novice partner. That partner had him playing every hand where their side was declarer so as to off-set any advantage.

Results

1	Val Ferguson Sid Naera	Morr	99
1	Anthony Arnet sub	Morr Mata	99
3	Colin Le Quesne Joy Williams	Mata	88
4	Julie Morgan Hughes Saskia van Waaijenburg	Mata	78
5	Alan Grant Bryan Shepherd	Morr Mata	76
6	Malcolm Mackenzie Alison Mackenzie	Wait	73
7	Nick Saunders Jennifer McCormack	Te Aw Mata	65
7	Jude Turner Wendy Franklin-Hill	Morr Te Ar	65



Anthony, with Val and Sid (all Morrinsville)
first equal



Colin and Joy
Third



MOOS NOOS



SOME TIPS

“On Making America Great Again”

When playing a suit contract declarer’s first act should generally be “*get the trumps out*”

To do this properly you need to count them.

Count them the easy way! That is:

[a] *When you first see the dummy* count up all the trumps in your two hands.

[b] Subtract that number from 13.

[c] The answer is how many trumps the opponents have.

[d] Unless there is something wrong with your bidding, this should be a small number say 4 or 5.

[e] Just count those ones when they appear.

It is easier to count to 5 than to 13!

Leave an opponents single high trump at large:

Generally, if the opponents have one trump left and it is higher than any of yours, leave it at large.

So if you have a trump suit like this:

♠ A K 9 6 5 ♠ 7 3 2

Just lead the ♠AK and forget about the ♠Q.

It will always be a trick for the opponents so you don’t need to give them the lead to get it out.

This was crucial on Board 9 at Matamata Moos: (rotated; “West” here was originally North)

West	East
♠ A K 9 6 5	♠ J 7 3 2
♥ A 6 4	♥ K 5 3
♦ J 6 2	♦ 9 7 5
♣ K 5	♣ Q J 3

You (West) play in 2♠ and the opponents cash three diamonds then lead a heart. You win and lead ♠AK but the ♠Q is still out. *Time to stop leading spades!*

If you continue spades the opponents will win and lead another heart. You will now lose a heart trick as well and go down.

Instead lead ♣K to force out opponents ♣A and set up the ♣QJ on which you can discard your losing heart. The opponents can win their ♠Q any time they like but they won’t get a heart trick

Sometimes you need to postpone leading trumps:

You might have an urgent need to discard a loser. For example you bid 6♠ with these hands and ♦K was led:

West	East
♠ K Q 9 6 5	♠ J 10 7 3 2
♥ 4	♥ A K 5
♦ J 6	♦ A 7 5
♣ A K Q 7 5	♣ J 3

If you lead trumps the opponents will win and cash their diamond trick. So don’t do that! Lead ♥AK first and discard the ♦J. **Then** lead trumps.

There is a more subtle need for a discard with a hand slightly changed from the original Board 9:

West	East
♠ K Q 9 6 5	♠ J 7 3 2
♥ A 6 4	♥ K 5 3
♦ J 6 2	♦ 9 7 5
♣ K 5	♣ Q J 3

Again you play in 2♠ and the opponents cash three diamonds then lead a heart.

This time it is important not to touch the trumps (yet). The **first** thing you must do is lead ♣K.

The opponents will win and lead another heart but you then win the ♣QJ and discard your heart loser. *Only then* is it time to lead trumps.



MOOS NOOS



A Card-Play Problem:

You are West in a contract of 7NT

The lead is the ♠Q

How do you play the hand?

West	East
♠ A K	♠ 7
♥ K Q J 10	♥ A
♦ 10 9 8 6 4 2	♦ A K Q J
♣ 9	♣ A J 8 7 5 4 3

That spade lead is a nuisance. You are in danger of being stuck in the East hand where there are (at least) two club losers. (see below for answer)



How Good do Bridge Experts Think they are?

[1] This really happened....

One regular bridge player (probably blonde) was waxing philosophic about bridge players in general.

She proclaimed:

"After years of observation and reflection, I have come to the conclusion all bridge players think themselves better than they actually are".

"Except me" she added "I know I am better than I think I am."

[2] One bridge reporter had the practise of interviewing major tournament winners separately, away from their partners.

One question he would always ask:

What is your partner's greatest strength?

The typical answer would be:

"He is absolutely reliable; he always plays strictly by the rules and that enables me to use my flair and imagination to the best advantage."

That is what makes a great partnership."

When he asks the partner the same

question the typical answer would then be:

"He is absolutely reliable; he always plays strictly by the rules and that enables me to use my flair and imagination to the best advantage."

That is what makes a great partnership."

[3] **John Crawford** (1915-1976), one of the greatest players of his day, was once asked how he would bid a particular hand.

"Who is my partner?" he asked.

"Does that really matter?"

"Of course it matters. Bridge is a partnership game, you know."

"Ok, say it was you or your twin brother"

Crawford then asked "And who are the opponents?"

"Well, if you must know, say it is two more Johnny Crawfords"

"I'm sorry" said Crawford "I wouldn't play in that game. It would be too tough"



MOOS NOOS



NATIONAL CONGRESS

The Premier Bridge event for the year is the National Congress held at the Distinction Hotel Te Rapa from Sep 28 to Oct 5 2019.

Top players from all over New Zealand (and beyond) come to play in this event. But it is not only for top players. There are events for various levels of real people including a....

NOVICE TOURNAMENT

This is on the second day of the Congress:

Sunday September 29 2019

This is strongly recommended

It will be like playing in a curtain raiser to a test Match at Eden Park!

There is one "normal length" session (that is about 22 boards) starting at 2pm.

You will need to register in advance with your partner.

Sorry but you won't be able to use your "cheat sheets" or "phone a friend"

You will still have a lot of fun though.



Cambridge Sixes Aug 10 2019

63 tables in play "the biggest one-day tournament in New Zealand"

National Congress is **MUCH** bigger

Matamata was the last of the regular Mini Moos sessions for 2019. Except for the....

MINI MOOS GARDEN PARTY

This will be on Sunday November 3 at Torcroft Grange ("Bridge-it" Jane Stearns' residence) near Cambridge.

More details, including how to get there, will be provided later.

You will be playing outside (weather permitting).

You will need to bring sun protection and *there will be a prize for the best hat!*

Pimms and lemonade will be served and strawberries and cream at the mid-way tea break.

Enter as individuals; you will have a different partner every move.

Prior registration is preferred (so we know how much Pimms and strawberries to provide) but anyone who just turns up on the day will be accepted.



Enjoying (or sheltering from) the sunshine at an earlier Mini Moos Garden Party



MOOS NOOS



Scenes from Matamata



All very serious



Perhaps not so serious



Super-sub Judith (centre) pictured the previous day with her team of "Punks" at the Cambridge Sixes

Answer to Card-Play Problem:

On any lead but a spade there would be no problem but the spade lead knocks out the only entry to the West hand before the red suits can be unblocked.

West	East
♠ A K	♠ 7
♥ K Q J 10	♥ A
♦ 10 9 8 6 4 2	♦ A K Q J
♣ 9	♣ A J 8 7 5 4 3

The answer is lead the other top spade and discard ♥ A!

That frees you up to run the ♥ K Q J 10
What do you discard on those?

Why – the diamonds of course!

That allows you to run the ♦ 10 9 8 6 4 2

Finally you lead a club to the ♣ A.

That is the only trick you win in the East hand!