



CROMWELL BRIDGE CLUB BULLETIN - FEBRUARY 2026

From the PRESIDENT'S TABLE

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make our annual Junior and Intermediate Tournament such a great day last weekend. From set up to clean up it all went smoothly and everyone had a tremendous day. Thank you to all those that baked, carted gear & furniture, made cuppas, dealt, organised and donated. A special thank you to Doug McTavish for help with the heavy lifting and transferring all the furniture to the bowling club and back again. More on the results later but well done to all the prize winners and to all the players for their enthusiasm and great spirit on the day. It all adds up to SUCCESS!

The 50th celebrations are coming up too on 10 April. You will receive your invitation soon. Please spread the word and get your RSVP in as soon as possible. Please note that if there is sufficient interest we will have a social BYO bridge session at 7pm so indicate your interest on your RSVP please.

Coming up we have lessons starting again this year hopefully. The first night is March 18th. If you know of anyone keen to learn please direct them to me.

We also have a number of new bridge players appearing at the club that Jackie Hamilton has been teaching. Please be kind and patient at the table and remember that if they clearly get into the wrong contract you are going to get a good board so doubling them is unnecessary. We ask no penalty doubles of contracts over 2S as these are generally not for takeout. The exception would be if it is for takeout and partner can justifiably convert it to penalty, eg if opposition open 1NT and your system says you should X with 16+ HCP, or if opposition have opened a weak 2 or 3 level contract and at your first chance to bid you double for takeout, partner may choose to convert to penalties with strength also.

As ever, happy bridging, and looking forward to seeing you all around the bridge table soon.

Carole

March Programme

Championship Pairs March 5th
Nevis Pairs March 12th, 19th, 26th

Monday Bridge 1.00pm start

Need a Partner? Try the **Whats App** Group Chat or ring Carole or Jill.

We are using this App in the club quite successfully to arrange partnerships and communicate any changes in arrangements. Let Carole know if you want to join this Group Chat. All you need is the Whats App loaded onto your phone.

Upcoming Tournaments in March

1st	Taieri Open Pairs
8th	Oamaru Open Pairs
14th	Ashburton Anniversary Pairs
28th	Queenstown Pairs
29th	South Canterbury Congress Jnr Pairs
29th	South Canterbury Congress Int Pairs
29th	South Canterbury Congress Open Pairs

Cromwell Tournament

Congratulations Club, another successful tournament, with great feedback. This from Ross Longney...

"Morning

On yesterday's BZR I gave the Cromwell BC a big shoutout for a big tournament. Please urge your members to listen in. Wherever they get their podcasts or through NZB.

Great effort by you all.

Rgds

Ross Longney

"The JIN Man" 9:05 AM"

Congratulations to our Tournament winners - great results for Cromwell

Junior Pairs

1st Michelle O'Connell and Sharon MacTavish

2nd Nicole Meldrum and Sally Goodall

Intermediate Pairs

1st Elspeth Welsh and John Bates

2nd Brian McCandless and Neil Marshall

3rd Lynne Ellis and Bridget McCaughan



What is Happening in Otago Southland Region?

- The **Otago Southland Regional Conference** will be held in Cromwell at our club on **22 March at 10.30**. If you are keen to attend please let me know as our club needs representation and it does not need to be a Committee member. There will be NZBridge Board members in attendance and one of the topics will be the newly formed Fair Play Committee. Also, our regional tournament schedule (is it meeting our region's needs)?

Do take advantage of this local conference and come along and meet our regional committee and Bridge NZ representatives. The speakers will appraise us of the challenges and initiatives for 2026 and beyond.

- Intermediate team trials will be happening to select a team to represent our region in the Regional Championship. Our Open, Women's and Senior teams having already been selected. They are:

Open: Bradley Johnstone, Samuel Coutts, Glen Coutts and Graeme Stoutt

Senior: Anne Somerville, Murat Genc, Moss Wylie, Pamela Nisbet

Women: Kristen Collins, Donna Ruwhiu, Lydia Turley, Barbara Hutton

What is Happening Nationally?

- A new board was elected at the end of 2025 and the new chairperson is Peter Newell, of the Wellington Club. There was a recent get together of board members and regional representatives in Wellington at which the direction of NZ Bridge was expanded on by board members, and planning for 2026 and beyond for regions carried out.
- The 40th NZ Bridge National Congress will be held in Palmerston North from 7 to 14 November 2026, returning as the premier event on the New Zealand bridge calendar, beginning with the NZ Teams events on Saturday 7th November, and includes a mix of national competitions and social fixtures. Entries are now open and you can register online at www.nzbridge.co.nz to secure your registration.

Tips for good bridge...

Unauthorised Information (UI) explained

If you have UI from partner, you **must not choose** a call or play that is **demonstrably suggested** by that UI over another **logical alternative** (ie, a call/play that a significant proportion of your peers would consider). In other words, completely disregard the information you gained from partner and play your hand normally.

Typical Situations

- **Break in tempo, then action:** Partner takes a long pause over an opponent's bid, then passes ... the slow pass suggests values. A fast Pass may suggest weakness.
- **Table talk / explanations:** partner's phrasing, uncertainty, or over-confidence.
- **Mis-explanation recognised:** partner explains a call differently from your understanding. That **creates potential UI for you that partner may have mis-bid.**
- **Withdrawn actions:** insufficient bids, calls out of rotation, or comparable-call situations can generate UI.
- **Accidental card sighting:** glimpses of partner's cards during sorting or play.

Good Bridging Everyone