



CROMWELL BRIDGE CLUB BULLETIN - SEPTEMBER 2025

From the PRESIDENT'S TABLE

Hello Everyone, Hello Spring, so nice to have longer days again. Don't forget to change your clocks to Daylight Savings Time this weekend.

The committee have had their first meeting since May and the newsletter will roll out again to keep you all up to date with what is happening in our Club.

We received the sad news last week that Iris Cushnie has passed. We will miss her at our club. You knew you were up against it at her table, she had the game under control. You were lucky to partner with her too. Iris, thank you for always being cheerful, enthusiastic and for your infectious bubbly personality. We know you enjoyed this great game and we enjoyed playing it with you.

Work has started on the 2026 Programme. Championship Pairs will be clustered to avoid the months of June and July when a lot of our members are away. Qualification will be at least 8 out of 12 sessions with the average of all scores counted.

Congratulations to our members who have enjoyed bridge success at various regional tournaments - apologies for not mentioning all the successes since May, but these are the most recent:

Wanaka Tournament: 1st Junior: Alistair and Fiona Marris (5th overall)

Central Otago Regional Open Pairs, Alexandra: 2nd Intermediate: Andrew McLennan & Lesley Davies

Happy Bridging
Michelle

October Programme

Bendigo Pairs H/Cap Comp

Thursday 2nd, 9th, 16th

Championship Pairs

Thursday October 23rd & 30th

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.

Tuesday Bridge

1.00pm. Play to finish by 4.00.

If anyone is looking for a game in a relaxed social environment this is for you. BYO partner and enjoy catching up over a cuppa.

We need 3 full tables for this session to go ahead. Great to see we had a good turnout last Tuesday and look forward to more of the same from now on.

Social Night October 30th

Halloween themed - dress/food

Bring a spooky plate of food to share and your favourite drink.
(More notices to follow).



AND DO SAVE THIS DATE.... 10 APRIL 2026

Did you know our Bridge Club turns **50** next year. To celebrate this momentous occasion Carrick is booked for a sit down lunch on **10 April 2026** and you are all invited. **Watch this space.**

FURTHER online INTERMEDIATE



lessons 2025

for intermediate and experienced players

Three different topics:

Lesson 1: Transfers Responses to 1NT

Sunday 28th September 4-6pm + Tuesday 30th 7-9pm

Lesson 2: Keycard Blackwood and Splinters

Sunday 5th October 4-6pm and Tuesday 7th 7-9pm

Lesson 3: Michaels Cue Bids, Unusual 2NT

Sunday 12th October 4-6pm and Tuesday 14th 7-9pm

Cost \$8 per lesson

Can attend Sunday, Tuesday or both

registration

<https://nzbridge.helloclub.com>

Register or login, then go to Calendar - sign up and pay for the lessons. Realbridge links will be sent prior to each session. Use your name and bridge number for Realbridge. If you don't receive the link the day before the lesson, check your spam or contact Nick at: saunders.downunder@xtra.co.nz

Ph: 027 2774 313



Upcoming Tournaments

4th October - Gore Open Pairs

4th October - Timaru Anniversary Pairs

5th October - Taieri Anniversary Intermediate/Junior Pairs

11th October - Balclutha Open Pairs

17th October - LOVEBLOCK NZ WIDE PAIRS - held at Wanaka, Alexandra, Queenstown Clubs

25th October - Otago Southland Congress Open Pairs

Enter via NZ Bridge Website

See Posters on our Notice Board for more details.

LESSONS from Kate Terry

Kate Terry, is a very experience player who has represented New Zealand on the world stage multiple times. She has a no fuss but 'compete where you can' approach to bridge. Here is her lesson on Competitive bidding.

Competitive bidding

Pairs will usually get a poor score if they fail to compete; or if they compete too much. Knowing exactly how hard to bid on every deal is an impossible task. Here are a few tips in these areas that may help improve your competitive bidding.

1. Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB)

When your partner makes an overcall, it can be anywhere from 7-9 (at the 1 level) to 14 points and you often cannot decide whether to invite to game or how far to bid to. The "Unassuming Cue Bid" allows you to ask your partner how good their overcall is.

To do this, you over call the opposition's suit. You should have 10+ points and three plus cards support of the partner's overcalled suit. If you do not have 3 cards support, but 10+ plus points and a cover in the opposition suit you can bid no trump, or your own long suit, or pass.

After the unassuming cue bid your partner can further describe the strength of their overcall. The good thing about this bid, is it allows you to stop at a low level if the over call was weak.

Example bidding and responses to the unassuming Cue bid:

Opener	Partner	Responder	Me	
1H	1S	Pass	2H*	*UCB I have 3+ spades and 10+ points
Pass	2S	7-10 points		
	3S	11-12 points (or bad 13)		
	4S	(13)14-15 points		You might look at vulnerability and point placement when considering your response to the cue bid.

NOTE: That if you support your partner's overcall directly then you are now showing **less than 10 points, immediate support is weaker. i.e 1S -2S is 3 card support and 6-9 points, 1S -3S is 4 card support and weak 1S -4S is 5 card support and still weak. Competing but keep an eye out for red!!!!**

2. Bidding over the Opponent's Pre-Emptive Openings

When in doubt guidelines for actions in the direct seat (i.e after your right hand opponent opens a weak two or three level bid):

- Overcall (rather than double) if you have 17 or fewer points and a decent 5 card suit.
- Use the "rule of seven" to decide if your overcall is "safe". Try to imagine an ordinary (not perfect) seven points in partner's hand. If you could make your bid opposite that hand, you should overcall.
- Double (instead of overcalling a minor) if you have 3 plus card support for any unbid major and 18+ points.
- Over the opponents opening 3 bid choose 3NT (instead of doubling or over calling a minor) if you have 15+ points and at least one stopper in the opponents suit.
- All no trump overcalls show no trump hands and promise at least one stopper.
- All jumps are strong. A jump over call forces to game and asks partner 4 a cue bid (eg showing an ace if they have one). Remember the rule: you can't pre-empt a pre-empt!

In the Balancing Seat:

- Stretch to compete if you're short in their suit.

- For doubles and overcalls, mentally add an ace to your hand, then choose the same bid you would make in the direct seat. This is because you are protecting your partners pass (eg they may have opening points but could not bid the first time around).
- Stretch a bit more to make a take out double if you are short in the opponents suit and the vulnerability is favourable (they're red and you're not). Partner may have lots of their trump suit and your double may be converted 2 penalties.

Good Bridging Everyone