



# Table Talk

April 2022

## News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

### Marc's Missive

Now that we are now getting settled into our new home, a big shoutout to everyone who helped with the move. It was incredible how quickly everything was moved out, although a few items inevitably went missing. Ken Roberts' barn swallowed up everything that we could throw at it without any problems.

We have had relatively few issues with the new venue. One is heating, which I will be discussing with Bruno shortly. Another is our new collapsible tables. They need careful handling if they are to last so please be careful especially when putting them away.

At present the computer is hidden away in one of the main office spaces, but we will be moving it and the other peripherals to the room next to the kitchen.

Good luck to all members who are playing in the Open tournament on Saturday. This has been especially difficult to organise this year and thanks are due to Lynne, Jan Baird and Nicole Meldrum.

Lastly a big thanks to Allan Kelly, who applied to the Lottery Otago Southland Community Committee on our behalf to make up the funds that the Club lost due to the lockdowns. We have received a grant of \$10,000, which has gone straight into our previously depleted reserves.

Marc Simmonds (President, WBC)

### Match Programme: Apr-May 2022

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> April: Wanaka Open Pairs Tournament (5A points).

26<sup>th</sup> April: Mt Iron Stakes Round 3, bronze/silver pairs allowed;

2<sup>nd</sup> May: Silver Champs Round 4;  
9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Roy Stakes (Silver pairs only).

Tuesday bridge: 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> May;

20<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Handicap Pairs; Open play;

27<sup>th</sup> April: Hawea Pairs Round 3, bronze/silver pairs allowed;

4<sup>th</sup> May: Bronze Champs Round 4;

11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> May: Lindis Pairs (Bronze pairs only);

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> May: Afternoon social bridge, starts 1:00 p.m. No partnership restrictions, all results handicapped.

### News From the Committee

#### The Big Move

- The move from our previous clubrooms has gone very well. Many thanks to all those who assisted with the shift two weekends ago: your support was much appreciated. There are a few things to sort out following the move, such as the need for some more tables and the sale of some chattels still ongoing. Apart from those minor matters the shift went well, and our programme is off again.

#### Wanaka Open Pairs 23<sup>rd</sup> April

- The 5A Wanaka Open Pairs takes place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at the Presbyterian Community Centre in Tenby Street. Thanks to those Wanaka players who responded to Lynne Fegan's recent call for more local support we now have 15 Wanaka-based pairs in a total field of 12 tables, still well short of last year's 18 tables

but enough to ensure the event will break even financially. We appreciate that many Wanaka players will have their own reasons for declining to enter but given that this is one of the main events on our annual bridge calendar we would strongly encourage you to consider taking part in 2023.

- Kristin Collins will direct with Lindsay Gunn available on the phone. Peter Hart will oversee the bar, with wines provided by Black Peak. Soft drinks and low-calorie options will also be available, there will be plenty of raffles to give everybody a chance of winning something even if your bridge lets you down on the day. Lastly we thank Active Furnishings for their generous sponsorship despite being unable to include a product display due to Covid restrictions.

#### **Membership Update**

- Our current membership is 183, including 169 full members and 14 country members. We welcome new members Tracey Gieck, who has recently moved to Wanaka, and Joanna Willis from the Orewa Club in Auckland who joins as a country member.
- If you have yet to pay your 2022 subs please bear in mind that the club pays a masterpoint fee to New Zealand Bridge for all members. Please pay your sub asap or your membership will cease forthwith.

#### **Directors Examinations**

- Despite zero uptake of the latest round of director's examinations we continue to encourage interested players to consider this option, both to support the club's regular sessions and to enhance their own play. Much of the current directing load falls on a small number of shoulders, and larger

pool of directors would be very welcome.

#### **Bridge Pads**

- Several members have raised concerns about the tablets not charging properly. We have side-lined two which appear to have failed but the main problem seems to be that they have been incorrectly plugged in to the charging station after each playing sessions. Please make sure that they are correctly plugged in when you leave them next time.

#### **2022 Lessons and 2021 Follow-Up**

- The beginner's lessons for 2022 have started well. It appears that beginning with mini bridge has been a great way to induct learners into the game. 28 people have paid their fees for the lessons and last week there were 7 tables playing. Sonya and Claire are running the lessons. Due our location at the church a recent session had to be on-line, and this may be an ongoing issue when our activities clash with the operation of the church at special times like Easter. However, this is a small price to pay for what has so far been a popular move, with many positive comments from members grateful for the space, airiness, and general ambience of the Presbyterian Community Centre.
- With the move to the Community Centre we will need to reschedule at least some of this year's improver's lessons, which up to now have taken place on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We have contacted all potential attendees to gauge their preference for the various alternatives and will let you know the new dates/times as soon as these have been confirmed.
- As was mooted in the recent survey of last year's novice group there is room

for ongoing short (15-20 minute) improver's lessons on Thursday evenings, like those we used to run on Friday afternoons. These will cover basic topics we haven't necessarily covered in previous lessons but which should be part of your bidding and playing arsenal. We will confirm a starting date shortly so please watch this space for news.

### Friday Afternoon Handicaps

- An analysis of raw scores versus handicapped scores for this year's Friday afternoon play confirms that the handicaps we have used to date, derived from results for 2021, do not adequately reflect the difference in playing strength between bronze and silver players. We have therefore recalculated the handicaps using results for the six months from October 2021 to March 2022, which more accurately reflect the playing ability of the 2021 intake of new players. The revised handicaps range from -13.0 for the strongest silver players to +13.2 for the weakest bronze players. The next update will occur on 1 July, by which time six months (23 playing sessions) worth of 2022 data will be at hand. Bridge handicaps remain an inexact science, and we will continue to adjust them as necessary to achieve as even a result as possible.

### Director's Corner

#### Inadmissible Bids

Most regular players will be familiar with *insufficient bids*, such as an overcall of 1C after an opening 1H, but bids deemed to be *inadmissible* are much less common. The only such bid you are ever likely to encounter is an inadmissible double or redouble, such as a double of partner's bid or a redouble of partner's double.

A recent example from the club was an auction which began:

East	South	West	North
1♣	2♦	Pass	X

North's double of his partner's overcall is clearly inadmissible. The Law in such cases depends on whether the non-offending side calls attention to the irregularity before it has been rectified. If so, Law 36B is quite specific: the inadmissible bid (and any subsequent calls) are cancelled, the offender must substitute a legal call, and offender's partner must pass at his or her next turn to call.

In the event, East – perhaps disoriented by the double – bid 1NT, at which point the director was called. Law 36A covers this situation and is worth quoting in full: “If offender's left-hand opponent calls before rectification of an inadmissible double or redouble *the inadmissible call and all subsequent calls are cancelled*. The auction reverts to the player whose turn it was to call and proceeds as though there had been no irregularity.”

The difference between Law 36 and Law 27, which deals with insufficient bids, is important. Under Law 27 if the non-offending side bids after the opponents have made an insufficient bid, the bid is deemed to have been accepted and the auction continues. This option is not available under Law 36: even if the opponents bid on, an inadmissible bid can never be allowed to stand.

On the deal in question East's lapse in not drawing attention to North's inadmissible double immediately let N/S off the hook, in that E/W lost the opportunity to gain an advantage by forcing South to pass at her next bid. The moral is simple: after an inadmissible bid, as with any other bidding irregularity, call the director immediately.

## Once in a Lifetime?

Strongly single-suited hands – those with a 9-card or longer suit – are rare. The odds are roughly 1:2,700 for a 9 card suit, and 1:60,000 for a 10-card suit. If you play a 25-board session twice a week you can expect to hold a 9-card suit once a year, and a 10-card suit once every 25 years.

In the presence of such a freakish distribution all bets are off, as is shown by this deal from the first night of the Cardrona Stakes:

		♠ QT652	Dir: S
		♥ T7432	Vul: Both
		♣ T64	
♠ AQT9876532	♠ K4		
♥ K97	♥ A84		
♦	♦ J96		
♣	♣ Q9732		
		♠ J	
2	♥ J3	♠ N	♠ N
9 10	♦ AKQ85	S 453--	♠ N
19	♣ AKJ85	S 453--	♠ N
Par: -500		E ---6-	♠ N
		W ---6-	♠ N

With two powerful 5-card minors South could well have opened 2C but chose 1D on the basis that – with 23 major suit cards outstanding – he would get another

bid even if it forced to the 4- or 5-level. The auction quickly went stratospheric:

South	West	North	East
1♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	5♠	6♦	6♠
X	All pass		

By the time the auction got to the 6-level neither side knew who is sacrificing against who. With at least a 10-card diamond fit and a spade void North was happy to bid 6♦, but with the king of her partner's suit and the heart ace East was equally right to bid 6♠. And with two side suits headed by AK South was equally happy to double.

There was no defence to 6♠, with declarer having only a heart to lose. The par score for N/S is to push on to 7♦, which – assuming E/W doubles – goes just two light for -500 and a near top board.

N/S were particularly unlucky to find West with a 10-3-0-0 shape, which occurs less than once in 650,000 deals. Playing twice a week you can expect to encounter such a hand less than once every 250 years – truly a once in a lifetime experience!

## The One Minute Bridge Player

Holding the West hand below you open 1C, to which your partner responds 1S. What do you rebid?

West  
 ♠ K J 2  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ A 8 6 5  
 ♣ A 10 9 7 5

You are nowhere near strong enough for a reverse bid of 2♦, which would promise at least 16 HCP. Some players would rebid 2♣ to show 5+ clubs, but it is much better to raise partner's spades despite holding only 3-card support. If partner passes 2♠ will play admirably well even on a 4-3 fit, and if partner is strong enough to bid on they can easily check how many spades you hold. For example, responder could use the sequence 1♣ – 1♠ – 2♠ – 2NT to show a balanced 10-12 HCP with exactly four spades, whereas 1♣ – 1♠ – 2♠ – 3♥ would show game-going values and 5-4 in the majors.

*New Zealand Listener. 19/03/2022*