



Table Talk April 2023

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

Marc's Missive

Your ever-industrious Committee has met twice since the last Newsletter.

We discussed this year's lesson schedule. Lynne Fegan has offered to run this year's beginner lessons on Wednesday nights in the upstairs room at the Hall. We are conscious of the potential demand for lessons at all levels of the Club and would encourage everyone to keep learning, but we have an issue with resources at present. Some of our members have been teaching groups privately, and their students appear to have improved their bridge considerably. Please give us some feedback on this subject.

The survey regarding the start time for "winter" bridge returned an overwhelming vote in favour of an earlier start time for the evening sessions. Play will start at 6.30pm on May 1st. This will be the start time until at least the end of August, by which time the Committee will have reviewed the appropriate end date for the earlier start (NB: we cannot access the Hall until 6.20 on May 17, so there may be a mad rush to get started on the night).

The Committee has been making a concerted effort to get more members attending on Wednesday nights. There are now many more members signed up to the WhatsApp partner finder, and we have welcomed some of last year's novices for the first time. We aim to ensure that the recent increase in player numbers is sustained.

We are sending \$800 to the NZ Bridge Foundation Cyclone Recovery Fund after our Charity Nights and a topup from the Club. This will help to support directly

clubs and their members who have suffered loss and disruption as a result of the cyclone.

Programme: Apr-May 2023

Monday:

Mt Iron Stakes: Apr 24

Silver Championship Pairs: May 1, 29

Roy Stakes (Silver Only): May 8, 15, 22

Tuesday: (no bridge on Apr 25, ANZAC day)

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Wednesday:

Hawea Pairs: Apr 19, 26

Bronze Championship Pairs: May 3, 31

Lindis Pairs (Bronze Only): May 10, 17, 24

Friday: Apr 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26

Wanaka Open Tournament

Entries are now closed as we have eighteen tables. We will be setting up at 7.30pm on Friday night and would welcome volunteers to help. We are still in need of raffle prizes, and a reminder to those members who are playing to bring a plate for morning tea. Thank you and good luck to all who are playing on Saturday.

Other Tournaments

Also coming up:

Apr 29 Muruhiku Open Teams, Invercargill

Apr 30 Muruhiku Open Pairs, Invercargill

May 6 Otago/Southland Inter-Provincial Trials

May 13 Open Pairs, Te Anau
 May 14 Otago Junior Pairs, Otago
 May 28 Taieri Open Pairs, Taieri

On the subject of tournaments, congratulations are due to Sherrill Harries and her partner, Maggie Stratford. In the recent Swiss Pairs tournament in Invercargill, they placed third out of twenty-two pairs in what was a very strong field.

Congratulations also to Lynne Fegan and Grace Saunders for their appearance in the NZ Bridge national rankings by grade.

Rippon Rosebowl

We have stopped publishing handicap results on a Friday because the Scorer programme has been producing some inaccurate handicaps. Nevertheless, the upcoming Rippon Rosebowl is a handicap competition, and we will ensure that we have some more accurate numbers to work with. We would encourage Bronze players to contact Bridget McCaughan if they would like a Silver partner for this series (and she will find you one if you aren't already paired up).

Membership Information

Returning Member:

Sally Goodall 0212 603233

New Member:

Glenda Webb 0219 75414

Otago/Southland Rubber Bridge Competition

Lynne Fegan, John Hogg, Andrew Shaw and myself will be doing battle on the 22nd April for the right to represent Wanaka in the next round of this competition. Wish us luck.

Name Badges

Since the last newsletter, there has been a trickle of applicants for new or replacement badges. We will leave a clipboard on the trolley at the Hall for anyone still needing a new badge. Otherwise, please let us know at wanakabridgeclub@fastmail.com. For the remainder of the month replacement badges will be free of charge, subsequently \$13 each.

Kitchen

Could I ask all members who use the cutlery/crockery in the kitchen to ensure that it is washed and dried afterwards?

From the Director's Corner

Occasionally, perhaps unwisely, you have to let partner play a hand. As you watch from your position as dummy, you may experience a degree of apprehension. In this article, I would like to describe what the laws say you can and cannot do while you are dummy.

After the opening lead is faced, dummy places his cards face up on the table, sorted into suits with the lowest cards closest to declarer, and with trumps, if any, on dummy's right.

Apart from this, there are no other requirements in the laws as to the arrangement of the suits.

There is nothing which **demand**s that the suits must be placed black/red/black/red or spades/hearts/diamonds/clubs, as some players seem to believe.

One thing that dummy should ensure is that all 13 cards are visible. If the defenders mis-defend because one of dummy's cards is

hidden, then the director is likely to rule in their favour.

During the play, dummy is significantly limited in what he is able to do.

One right that dummy does have is to attempt to prevent an irregularity from occurring. So, if you see partner about to play a card from his own hand when the lead is in dummy, or if he is about to call for a card from dummy when the lead is in his own hand, you can pipe up and try to stop him. However, once the irregularity has occurred, you can no longer say anything - it is up to the defenders to point out the infraction. So if declarer calls for the "ace of spades", you don't say, "You're in hand". You should just play the AS and let the other players say something if they notice.

Secondly, as dummy, you may check that partner hasn't revoked when he fails to follow suit. This is usually accomplished by dummy saying something like, "No clubs, partner?" and declarer confirming that he hasn't revoked by replying, "Having none." (Note that this right to check is lost if dummy has done something foolish like looking at declarer's or a defender's hand).

Otherwise, dummy is just there to play the cards on Declarer's instruction.

Dummy may perhaps ask declarer to repeat the card he called for if he (honestly) didn't hear. Apart from that, dummy is seriously restricted in what he can say or do during the hand.

Some of the things that you might want to do, but **CANNOT include:**

- **Tell partner he has a trick pointed the wrong way after a lead has been made to the next trick**
- **Play a card before it is called for by declarer (even if it is a singleton)**
- **Express surprise at partner's choice of card from dummy**
- **Encourage partner to play dummy's little card which you know is good, but he doesn't seem to**
- **Call the director before anyone else has drawn attention to an infraction**
- **Ask a defender if he has revoked**
- **Ask partner if they have seen (and taken note of) the oppositions cards.**

At the end of the hand, dummy now has the right to point out any infractions that he noticed during play. For example, this is the time when you can point out that revoke you saw that no one else did. But don't do it beforehand as you may jeopardise your right to redress from the director.

Silence is Golden

This hand from the first round of the Mt Iron Stakes provides an excellent example of a deal where, after an opening bid on your right, passing with a good opening hand is the winning action:

<p>♠ J63 ♥ JT73 ♦ KJT85 ♣ T</p>	<p>♠ QT985 ♥ KQ9 ♦ Q7 ♣ QJ2</p>	<p>Dir: W Vul: Both</p>
<p>♠ 7 ♥ 8642 ♦ 632 ♣ AK983</p>	<p>♠ AK42 ♥ A5 ♦ A94 ♣ 7654</p>	<p>♠ ♣ ♥ ♦ ♠ N N - 4 - 12 S - 4 - 12 E 1 - - - - W 1 - - - -</p>
<p>6 7 12 15 Par: 130</p>		

When East opens 1♠ many South players would feel compelled to intervene, even though neither of the obvious bids – a takeout double or 1NT – is quite right. A double is unsound with just two hearts, and 1NT – even if South upgrades the point count to 16 – is unattractive given the miserable spot cards. At our table South passed, reasoning that the hand was better suited to defence than attack, and that if West responded and the auction threatened to die out at a low level a reopening double would still allow N/S to compete.

In the event West passed, perhaps unwisely given her strong club suit, being reluctant to bid 1NT with a singleton in opener's suit. North had no reason to bid, leaving a bemused East as declarer in 1♠.

Correct defence holds declarer to just five tricks. South leads the heart ace and follows with the five, hoping to score a third-round ruff when partner gets in. Declarer wins but cannot avoid losing two diamonds, three spades, a heart ruff by South and a club ruff by North to go two down. 1NT by West is no better: on a diamond lead N/S take five diamond tricks, two spades and the heart ace to also put the contract two light.

N/S can make part scores in NT and diamonds, but -200 for taking E/W two light vulnerable outscore anything they can make their way. In the actual session this hand was played at 10 tables, with six N/S pairs defending for scores of 67% - 100%, and four N/S pairs playing in diamonds or NT for scores of 11% - 33%.

Is there anything E/W could have done to avoid a poor score by being stranded in an unmakeable contract? The only way they can do so is for East to pass rather than open the bidding, an option which is not as outlandish as it may sound. US expert Charles Goren recommends deducting a point for a hand lacking any aces, and with 9 of its 12 HCP in queens and jacks East's hand certainly fits the bill. Add this to the

list of bidding topics to discuss with your partner!