



Table Talk August 2022

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club.

Marc's Missive

We had a long discussion at this month's committee meeting about the drop in table money this year, and what we could do about it. Clearly there are still quite a few members not coming to the Club because of Covid, and we will have to be patient on that score. On the other hand, it has proved difficult to attract last year's large novice group to play regular bridge at the Club and we would like to improve matters if possible.

The idea of combining Monday and Wednesday play into one night was floated last year and was seen to be promising for a number of reasons. One consequence that wasn't considered was that it would free up Wednesdays for a bridge session that was a little less competitive and more relaxed. At present the only such sessions that the Club provides are during the day on Tuesdays and Fridays, and many of the newer members are not able to play at these times.

Any change of this sort would need be ratified at the AGM. In the meantime we would welcome your thoughts.

New sessions need volunteers to run them, and while the existing directors and computer operators are very generous with their time, we do need reinforcements. We have had no response to previously advertised requests, so some of you will be receiving the dreaded tap on the shoulder.

Match Programme: Aug-Sep 2022

Mon 8th, 15th, 22nd August: Glendhu Pairs, silver partnerships only;
 Mon 29th August: Silver Champs Round 9;

Mon 5th, 12th, 19th July: Aspiring Stakes, silver/bronze pairs allowed.

Tuesday bridge: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th August, 6th, 13th, 20th September;

Wed 10th, 17th, 24th August: Hunter Pairs, bronze partnerships only;

Wed 31st Aug: Bronze Champs Round 9;
 Wed 7th, 14th, 21st July: Cloudy Peak Pairs, silver/bronze pairs allowed;

Fri 12th, 19th, 26st August, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd Sept: Afternoon social bridge, starts 1:00 p.m. No partnership restrictions but silver/bronze partnerships are encouraged to play on the last Friday of each month, All results are handicapped.

News From the Committee

Improvers Lessons

Just a reminder that lessons are held the 3rd Saturday of each month. Our next lesson is on Sat 20th August from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and will look at competitive auctions.

Beginners' Lessons Thursday night

There were only 2 tables last week consisting of 5 people in all but of those, 2 were new participants. Lessons run from 6-8 pm. More players are very welcome so that we can have full tables.

New Bridge tablets

New tablets have been bought we are unable to reprogramme them so they can be used for regular play until Mark Harry returns from Australia. In the meantime we ask everyone to ensure your pad is shut down properly and plugged into a working recharging port before you leave.

New computer / laptop progress

It was decided that we need a new computer right away. Marc will purchase

this immediately and it will be in action asap.

Directors' training / refresher course

There is a desperate need for more directors. Heather is willing to run a training course and Marc will be approaching people who could become directors. We are hoping for a positive response for this request.

Mitre 10 building update

There has been no progress on this matter apart from a letter from QLDC saying it is all under active consideration and they will be talking to us over the next few weeks.

Feedback on the NZB online Strategy submission

Marc has responded to a request from NZ Bridge for feedback on their survey on club's position regarding online bridge, to the effect that withing the Wanaka club there is a general preference for face-to-face bridge.

Suggestions book

Just a reminder that there is a suggestion book in the office and any suggestions will be gratefully received.

Scoring Errors

We remind all players that in the event of a scoring error being recorded on your bridge pad and propagating through to the results, club policy is that the players concerned have 24 hours to bring this to the attention of the director so it can be resolved.

Dealing Machine

Some dealers have been experiencing difficulties with the machine when dealing. It has been cleaned recently but perhaps an internal clean is necessary. Heather is going to attend to this matter.

Friday pairings

A member raised the issue of pairings on Friday playing sessions. It was emphasised that the suggestions from the committee

about silver players pairing up with bronze was only a suggestion only, and was not intended to be compulsory.

Howell Movements on Wednesday nights

A member raised the issue of the use of Howell movements during these sessions. Following a discussion, the committee emphasised that Howell movements were best for the small numbers of players attending these sessions lately. The problem with the alternative, the Mitchell movement is that, due to the small numbers of players, 'phantom' hand players would have to sit out for a very long time, up to 5 boards at a time. In order to address anybody missing out playing with senior players in the Howell movement, it was decided that during the last 2 rounds of Bronze Championship Pairs, the top seeds will play in the same direction so they have the same cards.

National Ranking Report

Novice section - Marg Caldwell is one of the top performers in the country in this category. We are all very impressed and congratulations to Marg for this wonderful outcome for all her efforts.

Restricted Open tournaments (8B) for clubs

There a new category we can enter into. However, following a discussion, it was decided to maintain the status quo at this stage.

OSRC

Their online strategy questionnaire has been responded to in considerable detail re O/S usage and affect on clubs. There is to be a meeting soon with NZB about the function of Regional Committees and interaction with their Regional Bridge Support Person.

Bronze ladder results

Thanks to Annie Hudson for drawing our attention to an anomaly in the Bronze Championship results as originally posted on the website. This has now been rectified.

Membership

Current membership is 204 (including 15 Country members). New members will be entering from this year's novice group. There have been no resignations.

Financials

Table money is still down on previous years due to the ongoing presence of the Covid pandemic. However, due to lower costs and \$10,000 grant received for Covid losses, we are in good financial position.

Wanaka 5B Tournament 10th Sept



The Wanaka 5B tournament will be held on 10th September and is open to all Intermediate and Junior players. Planning for the day is well under way. The entry fee has been reduced from \$30 to \$25. Club members are encouraged to participate in what looks to be an enjoyable event.

Raffle

A raffle will be held at the tournament. Tickets to be sold by Annie Hudson in the morning. We would appreciate a volunteer to sell raffle tickets at lunchtime. We would also appreciate

donations of prizes for the raffle. These can be left in 'our office' in the church community hall. In order to be responsive to the church community, would you please ensure that any prizes containing alcohol are wrapped or handed directly to Carol Orbell.

Setting up for the tournament

A number of committee members have volunteered to help set up the hall at the start of the tournament at 8.45 am. Anyone else who is able to assist with this task will be welcomed. We also need volunteers to assist with taking down the tables and generally clearing away at the end of the day. Please help if you can.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Hamilton Plate Organisation

Wanaka is once again entering a team in this competition. Members for the three teams – junior, intermediate, and open – will be announced shortly.

Mask wearing Monthly Review

It was agreed that there is no need to change away from the mandatory wearing of masks at all playing sessions.

Defensive Unblocking 101

This deal from the first round of the Glendhu Pairs gave South players a chance to hone their defensive technique:

♠ K974	Dir: S
♥ AJ982	Vul: E-W
♦ 8	
♣ T43	
♠ AT6	♠ Q52
♥ 6	♥ KT7
♦ T932	♦ AQJ74
♣ AJ965	♣ Q7
♠ J83	
♥ Q543	
♦ K65	
♣ K82	
8	
9 14	
9	
Par: -600	
	♠♥♦♣N
	N ---0-
	S ---0-
	E 34112
	W 45112

The auction at our table was:

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

E/W were playing a strong 1NT opening so East's 2NT rebid showed 12-14 HCP.

West's raise to 3NT was optimistic given that the partnership has at most 23 points, but it takes careful defence to hold declarer to eight tricks.

When South made her natural lead of the heart three North won with the ace and immediately returned the jack. Declarer held up by playing the ten, but when South played low was forced to win the third round of hearts with the king.

On seeing declarer's king South thought for a few seconds and then played her queen. This play comes hard to a beginner but has nothing to lose and everything to

gain. Having seen declarer play the seven, ten, and king South knows that North started with AJ982, and can therefore take the last two heart tricks provided the suit is not blocked. North's only possible entry card is the spade king, so by ditching the heart queen South ensures that North can retain the lead once they get in.

Contrast this with what happens if South holds on to the heart queen. When North is in with the spade king South has no choice but to win the heart continuation, after which there is no way back to North's hand to cash the last heart and set the contract.

The One Minute Bridge Player

Sitting West with neither side vulnerable you hold

♠ 2
♥ A 3
♦ J 9 7 6 4 3
♣ K 10 8 6

East opens 3♣ and South passes. What do you bid?

With such an excellent trump fit you should immediately bid 5♣ even if opener has pushed the boat out by opening at the 3-level on a 6-card suit. You do not expect to make the contract, but the opponents can almost certainly make game in spades or hearts. Taking away two rounds of bidding space makes it very difficult for North to decide whether to bid, double for penalties, or pass. And if North bids 5H or 5S it may be equally tricky for South to judge whether to bid the slam.

Assuming N/S can make game in spades or hearts E/W need make only 9 tricks in 5C to show a profit even if they are doubled. Going two light concedes -300 vs. -420 if neither side is vulnerable, and -500 vs. -620 if both sides are vulnerable. N/S may well push on to 5H or 5S but at least you have made them guess, and sometimes they will guess wrong.