



Table Talk Aug 2023

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

Marc's Missive

We have been invited to look at the Mitre 10 building at the end of the month, although it will not be ready for full occupation for a while yet. We are also investigating a few other avenues and will let you know more when it becomes feasible.

Albeit with a few hiccups, an enjoyable Teams competition finished recently. Many thanks to Sherril Harries for running it, to Mark Harry for his work with our much-loved Scorer system and to Bridget McCaughan for drumming up eight teams. And of course to Team Harries for winning, followed by Team Unwin and Team Furneaux.

Programme: Aug- Sep 2023

Monday:

Silver Championship Pairs: Jul 31, Aug 28
 Glendhu Pairs (Silver only): Aug 14, 21
 Silver Championship Pairs: Aug 28, Sep 25
 Aspiring Stakes: Sep 4, 11, 18

Tuesday:

Aug 15, 22, 29, Sep 5, 12, 19, 26

Wednesday:

Hunter Pairs: (Bronze only); Aug 16, 23
 Bronze Championship Pairs: Aug 30, Sep 27
 Cloudy Peak Pairs: Sep 6, 13, 20

Friday: Aug 18, 25, Sep 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Wanaka Intermediate Tournament

We have received enough entries to fill our planned capacity, with more than a month to go. Of these there are only 28 from

Wanaka members. Given that there are a few of you who might yet be interested in entering the entry will be expanded to 20 tables at 5.30pm today.

You can enter by going to:

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/events.html>

and scrolling down to find the Wanaka tournament.

Hamilton Plate

This competition is also creeping up on us. We have booked the Hall for Saturday the 15th October, and are looking for interested members to play in the Open, Intermediate and Junior grades. It would be preferable if you have an established partner or at least one that you have played with more than once.

Other Tournaments

Also coming up:

Aug 19 Invercargill Intermediate and Junior Pairs
 Aug 26 South Island Pairs (online)
 Sep 2 Central Otago Teams (Alexandra)
 Sep 3 Central Otago Pairs (Alexandra)
 Sep 16 Winton Open Pairs
 Sep 23-29 National Congress (Mt Maunganui)
 Sep 24 Taieri Junior Pairs

These are also listed in more detail on our Facebook page, which can easily follow at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088810023586>

Kitchen

Can I remind those of you who like to have a hot drink on a Monday or Wednesday night that you are responsible for cleaning your cup? We cannot use the steriliser in the evenings and it's

unnecessary work at the end of a long evening,

Lessons

Improvers' lessons are continuing. So far the topics covered have been declare play in NT and suit contracts, negative doubles and transfers.

Beginners' lessons have now finished and the players have had their first experience of Bronze Reserve.

Additional learning resources for more advanced players are available on the NZBridge website. There are "Intermediate" Improvers' Lessons at: <https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/intermediate-less-lessons.html>. We will try to add some lessons for more advanced players at a later date.

Membership Information

Returning Member: Jo Harry 0274 082415

Can I remind any of you who are cancelling their land lines as their major form of communication to let the Club know? Thanks.

Director's Corner

As promised, a look at Penalty Cards this month.

A Penalty Card is a card that appears before it should do. This can be because it was dropped or led out of turn by the defenders (declarer or dummy merely put such cards back into his/her hand).

If the card was accidentally exposed, it becomes a Minor Penalty Card if it is not an honour (ie 9 and below). It stays face up on the table. The defender is under no obligation to play the card at the earliest opportunity and partner has no lead restrictions. The only restriction on the offender is that they cannot

lead another non-honour in the same suit as the Penalty Card.

If it happens that more than one card is exposed, then every card becomes a Major Penalty Card. And if the one exposed card is an honour then that too becomes a Major Penalty Card.

A Major Penalty Card must be played at the earliest opportunity (leading, following suit, discarding or trumping). If the offender's partner gets the lead, declarer can forbid the lead of any one penalty card suit. If this happens, all of the Penalty Cards are picked up.

When the Penalty Card arises because there is lead out of turn declarer has more options. These will be looked at next month.

Open with Care

This Friday afternoon hand provides an excellent example of the need to choose your opening bid with care:

Dir: W
Vul:

♠ 9532
♥ 95
♦ KJT53
♣ 82

♠ 4
♥ AQ87
♦ A762
♣ K953

♠ AKJ86
♥ KT43
♦ Q8
♣ Q4

♠ QT7
♥ J62
♦ 94
♣ AJT76

4 13 15 8
8

Par: -450

N S E W
- - - -
3 3 5 4 4
3 3 5 4 4

The auction at our table was:

North	East	South	West
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	6NT	All pass	

Hearing West's second round rebid of 2♦, a reverse promising 16+ HCP, East had every reason to go slamming and – on hearing that West held two aces and a

king – bid 6NT with confidence. But with only 13 HCP in dummy accurate defence holds declarer to 10 tricks.

West's opening 1♣ looks natural, showing her 4-card suits from the bottom up, but becomes a poisoned chalice if East responds 1♠. A 1NT rebid would show a balanced 15-17 HCP, 2♣ at least a 5-card suit, and – as East rightly assumed – 2♦ or 2♥ would show a much stronger hand. If EW are playing a strong (15-17 HCP) 1NT West can rebid 1NT to show 12-14 HCP balanced, but even this does not really describe her hand.

Weak opening 4441 hands require special care because they cannot be described in two bids. If partner responds in the suit where you hold a singleton opener has no honest rebid. With a spade singleton, as in this hand, or with a club singleton – if opener starts bidding up the line with 1♦ – a 2♣ response leaves her equally stuck for a rebid.

With no perfect solution available opener tells the smallest lie possible. One popular system, on grounds of economy and simplicity, is to open 1♥ with a black singleton and 1♣ with a red singleton. This is sometimes known as "TAPS": H and C, for your bathroom taps.

Playing TAPS, you should discuss with your partner which lie to tell if they respond in your singleton. With a bare 12 HCP one option is not to open at all – so you don't have to worry about your rebid. If partner opens you can always bid up on the second round, and if the opponents open you may be able to make a balancing double. With 13-14 HCP bid your cheapest 4-card suit: lying about the lack of a 5th card in your opening suit is the lesser evil. And with 15+ HCP just bid NT at the appropriate level: a slight distortion, but not usually a fatal one.