



New Post

Table Talk - Aug 2025

From the President

Hello to you all,

Spring is almost here, the days are getting longer, we are seeing some sunshine and the bulbs are starting to flower, BUT the winter chills and ills are still about. I was talking to my daughter in Ranfurly and they have influenza A doing the rounds there and several adults and children have been helicoptered to Dunedin. So, if you are ill or think you are getting ill, as much as we love to see you, please please do not come to bridge.

On a brighter note, the September tournament is full. Everyone was very keen this year and got their entries in early. Thank you to the tournament committee for the wonderful work they do in organizing this event. Good luck to all entrants on the day.

If you missed out on the September tournament, we will be running the Loveblock Pairs on October 17th. The entry form will be on the noticeboard in the next few weeks.

Happy bridging

Cheers

Heather

Programme Aug-Sep 2025

Silver Championship Pairs Aug 25

Aspiring Stakes from Sep 1 (**nb 7pm start**)

Silver Championship Pairs Sep 22

Tuesday:

From Aug 26

Wednesday:

Bronze Championship Pairs Aug 27

Cloudy Peak Pairs from Sep 3

Bronze Championship Pairs Sep 24

Friday:

From Aug 29

Tournaments

Also coming up:

South Island Teams 20A Otago BC Aug 30

Central Otago Teams 5A Alexandra BC Sep 6

Central Otago Pairs 5A Alexandra BC Sep 7

Wanaka Intermediate Pairs 5B Sep 13

Winton Open Pairs 8B Sep 20

Wanaka Intermediate Tournament

September 20th is fast approaching and by the time this gets to you entries will no doubt have reached their 20 table limit. We will as usual be looking for a few members to be available on standby. And for contributions for the raffle. And for those members who are playing to bring a plate of something in the morning. Thank you.

Hamilton Plate

We enjoyed a pleasant afternoon at Alexandra Bridge Club, seeing a host of familiar faces. Unfortunately the result was the same as last year. with Queenstown beating Wanaka, Cromwell and Alexandra in that order. The Intermediate and Junior Wanaka teams both won their sections, while the Open team (ahem) didn't. Thanks to Tracey Gieck for organising our team and to all that took part.

Session Start Time

We will be reverting to a 7pm start time on Monday and Wednesday evenings from Sep 1st.

Loveblock Pairs

This year's Loveblock New Zealand Wide Pairs will take place on Friday, October 17th at 7pm. Find yourself a partner and let us know if you're playing via the entry form on the noticeboard. Cost is \$20 cash (to go towards Youth Bridge in New Zealand and the hire of the Hub). There will be a drink and nibbles afterwards.

Cards

As you may have noticed, some of the card sets are deteriorating to the point that cards keep falling out. We are putting these sets into a separate marked container, to be used for the round the houses teams competition.

Fair Play

NZ Bridge have changed their committee structure in an effort to keep ahead of developments in the game. A new committee is entitled Fair Play (Conduct and Integrity). We have had a few issues of our own in this area, but nothing compared to what we have heard from some other clubs. Any serious problems that we cannot resolve inhouse will be forwarded to NZ Bridge.

Time Clock

We have a clock on the laptop which was used during our recent tournament. It is difficult to set up using the Church's convoluted IT system and is therefore not in use for our regular sessions. We have received a request to acquire a standalone clock and have decided to purchase one. It will sit at the South end of the room, as North is responsible for timekeeping.

Health





























Please do not turn up to a bridge session with any kind of infective illness. I spent last Monday night following another East around the room who was constantly sniffing and coughing (you know who you are). This is not fair to anyone who attends, never mind our older and more vulnerable members. If you do come to bridge in this state, you should expect to be sent home.

Director's Corner

This month a reminder regarding Law 31. the Bid out of Rotation, since it is occurring at almost session. If, say before East bids, South bids 1H, do not cross out the 1H bid and carry on regardless. Whatever East bids, South then has to make a "comparable" call, ie one that has a similar meaning to their original call. If, for instance East were to bid 1S, then South would have to bid 2H. If South bids anything else, then North has to pass when it is their turn to bid. In any case, as soon as the bid out of turn is made, call the Director.

Don't Need the Answer? Don't Ask the Question.

In this hand from a recent Friday afternoon session my partner and I were seated NS and quickly landed in 6NT, one of four pairs to bid the lay-down slam:

		 KQ8  K6  QJ86  AQ75	Dir: E Vul: N-S																															
 J32  852  T3  JT632		 T975  JT973  74  K9																																
17 2 4 17 Par: 1440	 A64  AQ4  AK952  84	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>								N	N	5	6	4	5	6	S	5	6	4	5	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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Bd 2, 22 August																																		

Our auction was short and direct:

East South West North

Pass 1D Pass 2C

Pass 2NT Pass 6NT

All Pass

South's 2NT rebid shows a balanced 15-17 HCP so with 17 HCP North has no good reason to bid anything other than 6NT. On a bad day the 6-8 points held by EW will include two aces but this is possible only if South has exactly 15 HCP, and the 8 points in the EW hands do not include a king, queen, or jack. As the cards lie the slam is a lay-down: West leads a small club, finessed by declarer in the hope that West has under-led the king, and when East's king wins can immediately claim 12 tricks: the club ace, five tricks in diamonds and three in each of the majors.

Why not cover all possible bases and check for the remote possibility that NS are missing two aces? After South's 2NT an immediate 4C by North would be Gerber, with South responding 4NT to show three. North could continue with 5C to ask for kings but there is little point in doing so: with at most 34 HCP even if the partnership holds all the aces and kings there will surely be a hole in the bucket somewhere and 6NT is likely to be the limit.

But the counter-argument is that any ace-ask, regardless of whether you use Gerber, Blackwood, or RKB, gives the opponents the opportunity to make a *lead-directing double*. The response to any ace-ask is always conventional and says nothing about responder's holding in the bid suit. If the bidding side is heading for NT a double of an ace-ask response shows a promising holding in that suit (such as KQJ) and asks partner to lead the suit at the first opportunity. And if the bidding side is heading for a trump contract a double by the player not on lead shows a void, asking partner to lead that suit so they can collect a first-round ruff. Such doubles are rare but can be deadly when they occur, and are well worth adding to your bidding arsenal.

Glendhu Pairs

1st Tracey Gieck and Brian McCandless

2nd Jude Gunn and Andrew McLennan

Hunter Pairs

1st Fiona Marris and Judy Muir*

2nd Robyn Gilchrist and Sally Jackways

*over 60% average

Thanks for reading

Marc

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you are a club Member**

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