



Table Talk

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

December 2017

Hi everyone and welcome to our bumper final newsletter for 2017. The printing press takes a break and returns in January.

What an amazing year it has been at the club. There is too much to report with our successful tournaments, community involvement and successful series held throughout the year. We thank you for your support, participation and involvement. Our club continues to grow and has a vibrant and fun filled atmosphere. We thank all the members who have assisted behind the scenes to make this year a success. You know who you are.

Our AGM was well attended and we welcome the new committee for 2018. Congratulations to all our overall and series winners listed in this edition. Our first night of Christmas pairs last night had 18 tables!!!!

Next year's bridge books will be out mid-December so make sure you get in quick and fill in those series to avoid missing out playing with your partners. We encourage you to play with a range of players new and old to broaden your horizons.

Have a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you all at the club soon.

Finally, a Christmas joke (the only one I know): what do angry mice send each other at Christmas?..... "cross-mouse" cards. Yes, hilarious I know.

Clare's message

Short and sweet from me this month. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all from me. I look forward to seeing you at the bridge table in January.

Success at Queenstown congress

Our players made a big splash at the recent Queenstown Congress. Well done.

Intermediate

Marion Furneaux/Jenny Pryde 1st
Nan Ottrey/Dorothy McDonald 4th

Open

Maggie Stratford/Sherril Harries 9th

Club a Melbourne Cup winner

Ena's Famous Melbourne Cub Bridge extravaganza raised \$550. The money will go towards buying a defibrillator for the club.

Update your contact details

Please let us know if you've moved house or changed your phone number or email. Contact Jason as soon as possible as the 2018 book will be finalised very soon for distribution in mid-December. Email jason@metzger.co.nz or phone/text 027 443 7893.

2018 programme

Our programme is structured to provide a mix of competitive bridge at grade level and opportunities to learn and socialise.

MONDAY NIGHT - 7.00pm start

Competitive bridge.

Championship pairs - Silver only

Silver/Silver but a bronze player can play if invited by a Silver player. Apart from Cardrona Stakes, & Glendhu Pairs where it must be silver/silver.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 7.00pm start

Competitive bridge.

Championship pairs - Bronze only

Bronze/bronze but a silver player can play if invited by a bronze player. Apart from Matukituki Pairs & Hunter Pairs where it must be bronze/bronze.

The Rippon Rosebowl is a handicap event and can be any partnership (B/B, S/S, S/B)

FRIDAY AFTERNOON - 1.00pm start

Competitive bridge

Open - anyone can play with whomever they like.

TUESDAY - 11.00am start

Suitable for everyone but especially for learners wanting some table experience or those who just want some gentle and fun bridge. Good for learners or those wanting to get back into it after a break. Bring your lunch!

New members

A warm welcome to our new members, **Jill Paxman** and **Paul Cushnie** and to returning member, **Nicola Brown**, formerly McGregor.

Upcoming tournaments

- Dec 10 Otago Christmas Pairs Open 3A

For tournament details, check out the noticeboard or contact Maggie on 027 333 6681.

The Unusual No-Trump

By Martin Unwin

The Unusual No-Trump, in its most common form, is an immediate overcall of 2NT after the opponents open with a one-level suit bid. It is artificial, showing at least 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits: both minors over 1H or 1S, or hearts and the other minor over 1C or 1D. There is no minimum point count, although obvious factors like voids and vulnerability should be considered. Its main purpose is to disrupt the opponent's auction by using up bidding space, on the assumption that – if as partner has tolerance for one of your suits – your side is safe to compete to the three-level and may even have a profitable sacrifice if the opponents bid on to game.

Why "unusual"? Well, it's pretty hard to construct a hand where you would want to use 2NT as a natural overcall. If you held 20+ points with a good stop in the enemy suit your first move would surely be to double. So if 2NT has no value in a natural sense, you are free to harness it for something more unusual.

By the same logic, an immediate 4NT if the opponents bid pre-emptively to four of a major can only be unusual. After 1S – 4S, 3S – 4S, or an immediate 3H/3S or 4H/4S opening, for example, you would automatically double if you held a stop in their suit and enough points to make 10 tricks in NT.

The following deal, from the Labour Day pairs, is a perfect example of a hand where an Unusual 4NT overcall solves an otherwise tricky bidding problem:

♠ A652	Dir: E
♥ KJ6	Vul: E-W
♦ Q743	
♣ Q8	
♠ K73	♠ QJ8
♥ AKJT8	♥ T75
♦ AK643	♦ 95
	♣ JT752
♠ T94	
♥ AQ98432	
♦ 62	
♣ 9	
12	
18 4	
6	
Par: -800	

Six clubs is virtually a lay-down on the E-W cards, but how do you find the club fit after an initial pass by East and a pre-emptive 3H by South? An immediate take-out double by West has the drawback that – if North raises to 4H – East can hardly be blamed for passing on a motley four points and ten losers. A much better option for West is an immediate overcall of 4NT, showing at least 5-5 in the minors and the values to compete at the five level. This is 100% forcing, so if North passes East should have no qualms about bidding 5C on a known 5-5 fit.

On the night only three of the eight E-W pairs made it to 5C. One pair settled in 4C, three left N-S to play in 3H, and one pair suffered the indignity of going four down in 5D. While it would take a bit of imagination to bid the slam, E-W pairs with the Unusual 4NT in their armoury should bid 5C with ease.

2017 prize list

Silver Championship Pairs

1. Sherril Harries & Maggie Stratford
2. Ken Saxby & Martin Unwin
3. Jenny Pryde & Marion Furneaux

Bronze Championship Pairs

1. Dennis Pezaro & John Hogg
2. Carolyn Field & Jen Milburn
3. Maureen Hawke & Jeanette Gillies

Silver Individual

1. Maggie Stratford (60.27%)
2. Terry Wilson (59.20%)

Bronze Individual

1. Betty Swift (55.26%)
2. Shona Watt (54.30%)

Most Improved Player

Blair Coghill

Highest % on Monday

Georgie Roberts & Lynne Fegan 71.43% (A J McKenzie Pairs 17/7)

Highest % on Wednesday

Robin Bruce-Smith & Betty Swift 69.68% (Hunter Pairs 2/8/17)

Monday

Kingsway

1. Michael Chapman-Smith & David Brewer
2. Sherril Harries & Maggie Stratford

Mt Barker

1. Terry Wilson & Laraine Shepherd
2. Clare Scurr & Allan Kelly

Cardrona

1. Nan Ottrey & Maggie Stratford
2. Josey McKenzie & Jenny Muir

Mt Iron

1. Deirdre Lynch & Maggie Stratford
2. Terry Wilson & Clare Scurr

Roy Stakes

1. Georgie Roberts & Maggie Stratford
2. Michael Metzger & Clare Scurr

AJ McKenzie

1. Ken Saxby & Maggie Stratford
2. Georgie Roberts & Lynne Fegan

Pembroke

1. Terry Wilson & Gerarda Herlihy
2. Ken Saxby & Liz Hawker

Glendhu

1. Jenny Pryde & Maggie Stratford
2. Murray Pryde & Ken Roberts

Aspiring

1. Liz Hawker & Ann-Louise Stokes
2. Dorothy McDonald & Gerarda Herlihy

Makarora Pairs

1. Sherril Harries & Lynne Fegan
2. Maggie Stratford & Judy Briggs

Wednesday

Clutha Pairs

1. Bruce Cathie & Kate Summers
2. Alwyne Haworth & Betty Swift

Wilkin Pairs

1. Jason Benton & Sharon Wilson
2. Jane Hamilton & Noelene Raffills

Matukituki Pairs

1. Pam Miller & Sheila White
2. Miranda O'Leary & Betty Swift

Hawea Pairs

1. Alwyne Haworth & Dennis Pezaro
2. Pam Miller & Ruth Coghill

Lindis Pairs

1. Alan & Denise Bunn
2. Judy Muir & Shona Watt

Pisa Pairs

1. Maureen Hawke & Noelene Raffills
2. Judy Muir & Suzanne Ewing

Luggate Stakes

1. Jeanette Gillies & Jane Hamilton
2. Shona Watt & Kay Ross

Hunter Pairs

1. Robin Bruce-Smith & Betty Swift
2. Peter Hart & Ruth Coghill

Cloudy Peak Pairs

1. Bruce Cathie & Neil Robinson
2. Carol Orbell & Betty Swift

Tarras Stakes

1. Jan Wynne-Williams & Robin Bruce-Smith
2. Tommie Munns & Kate Summers

Rippon Rosebowl

1. Angela Heising & Michael Chapman-Smith
2. Dennis Pezaro & John Milburn

Teams

First series

Silver: Jenny Pryde, Marion Furneaux, John & Jan Lyness

Bronze: Jeanette Gillies, Maureen Hawke, Shona Watt, Noeline Raffills

Second series

Silver: Sherril Harries, Mark Harry, Maggie Stratford, Mary Gibson-Collings

Bronze: Dennis Pezaro, Alan & Denise Bunn, Alwyne Haworth

Happy Christmas everyone.

Jason Benton

On behalf of the committee