



Table Talk

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

February 2018

Hi everyone

What a nice time of the year, the temperature has cooled down, the town is a little quieter and we have lessons galore in March, so no excuses, come along and take this time to improve your bridge!

Clare's message

So much in the newsletter this month - it's great to see so much going on and many new initiatives at the Wanaka Bridge Club.

With this in mind, I would like to thank our hard-working committee for all that they do. There are so many jobs to ensure the smooth running of our club, as well as many members to keep happy. While we don't always manage to keep you all happy all of the time, I want to assure you that our intention is to always to do our best for all club members. The committee appreciates feedback; positive is great but constructive criticism is also welcome.

So to Ken, Heather, Allan, Sherril, Jane, Jason, Peter, Georgie and Maggie, thank you for your hard work and support.

Happy bridging everyone!

Clare

Fund Raiser

A huge thank you to Boyd Ottrey for organising a fund raiser for the bridge club. Heaps of members assisted with the transfer of horse floats from Makarora to Wanaka. Again a big thanks to all that



gave up their time to help. An amazing \$1000 was raised and will be put towards purchasing our defibrillator.

Leaving Town

Sadly we have some of our very valued members leaving us for new pastures. Our life members Des and Elle Johnston are moving to Christchurch and Julie Mulholland to Cromwell. We would like to invite everyone for drinks and nibbles on Friday 03 March at 4:30pm to wish Julie well on her new ventures. We hope Des and Elle can join us as well. So mark it on your calendar now. It is with real regret we have to say farewell but do hope they will come back and visit us occasionally.

New members

A very special welcome to new and returning members: Sandy Smith; Frances Copland; Eleanor Jessep and Alan and Iris Cushnie from Cromwell who have joined us as country members. Great to have you with us!

10 Session Cards

Yay you no longer have to rob the piggy bank or coffee money tin to find \$5 on the night.

Our 10 session cards are now available and will be in operation from the 1st of March. Payments can be made directly into the bridge club bank account or at the bridge club. The cost is \$50 of course!

Buddy System

An important role of our club is to assist and support our learners as they progress from the relative comfort of the beginners' class to the much more daunting world of club bridge sessions and eventually tournament play. To this end we need a group of willing and able volunteers to take on the role of mentor. These players would be readily and reliably available to a small group of learners, and would provide advice on bidding/play issues, chaperon individuals into club or other sessions and play with individuals in sessions as they see appropriate. Empathy with learning players is far more important here than high level expertise. So if you able to help with this role or you are a beginner or improving player and would like a silver player to give you or you and your partner some guidance and help with your bridge please email the bridge club wanakabridge@fastmail.com to have your names added to the list.

Lessons Lessons and More Lessons

Beginners' lessons

Beginners' lessons started on Tuesday 13 February and to date we have 23 people starting lessons. A tremendous result, no doubt helped by the fun adverts on Coast Radio. Well done NZ Bridge!

Friday Lessons

Friday lessons are proving very popular and we encourage you to come along. Lessons start at 12:15 and finish at 12:45, perfect to fit into your lunch hour. So come along and make 2018 the year you improve your bridge. Only half an hour a week is all it takes to become a better player. Our No Trump Series continues:

Upcoming Topics:

Competing over openers 1NT -Landy and Cappelletti,
Checkback Stayman,
Combating Interference over 1NT
How to play 3NT

Nesting Pairs Series

This is a great resource for our small club and is strongly recommended for all our intermediate and open players and is aimed at anyone keen to expand their bidding opportunities. Some players are choosing to attend just part of the course as they are concerned it may be too advanced, this is fine, just make a start and see how you go. Please note the seminar content has been slightly altered and the amended poster is on the noticeboard and attached below. First night is Sunday March 04
Anyone interested in making this a \$5 Dominos pizza night??

Matt is Back

Matt Mullamphy is bringing another Australian group of Bridge Players to Queenstown next month and would like to continue our tradition of hosting his players for a day, in return for his giving our club members a lesson. Matt gives a 1.5/2 hour lesson (10.30 - 12.00 approx) and he usually does something generic which suits all levels of play.

The date is **Wednesday, 14 March.**

The bridge club will provide morning tea on arrival but ask that all attendees provide a plate of finger food for lunch. Bridge will start after lunch. Matt's group are having a free evening that night, so they are likely to stay for drinks this year - lots of moans from his players last year, when they had to leave at 4pm!

Masterpoint Achievements

Annual Rating points came out on 1st January
Congratulations to Jan Anderson and Judy Briggs who have both earned 50B points and have moved from the junior to intermediate division. Well done!

Teams

Make sure you have your team together for the start on Thursday March 01. Teams is true bridge and a lot of fun. No sacrifices here!! Sherril has expressions of interest from players wanting to join a team so if you are struggling to get a team together please let her know as she may have some suitable players. 021 1309465

Tuesday bridge

Tuesday bridge is now underway again and we encourage everyone to come along and enjoy friendly fun bridge. Don't forget to bring your lunch. Play starts at 11am

Upcoming tournaments

- Mar 10 Invercargill Pairs Open 8B
- Mar 24 Queenstown Pairs Open 8B
- Apr 07 Cromwell Pairs Open 8B
- Apr 08 Cromwell Teams Open 8B

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

Subscription Reminder

Don't forget subs are due by 01 March to avoid that \$10 late payment fee. Full membership \$75 Country membership \$50. Payments can be made to our bank account **03 1739 0007694-00** or left at club

Top Tip

About Alerts

At duplicate bridge your opponents are required to alert specialised bids such as Landy or Cappelletti, after which you may ask for an explanation. However, if you intend to pass regardless, wait until the auction is over to ask for a description of all alerted bids. If you ask during the auction it may help the opponents clear up a misunderstanding.

Club Series Results

Congratulations to our first series winners of the year

Kingsway Stakes - Monday Night

- 1 Georgie Roberts Allan Kelly
- 2 Sherril Harries Maggie Stratford

Clutha Pairs - Wednesday Night

- 1 Bruce Cathie Kate Summers
- 2 Alan Bunn Denise Bunn

Charity Night

Another big thank you to everyone who made donations to the club during our charity week. Donations can still be made into the box found on the table below the notice board. It will remain there until the end of the month. This year the money will be going towards the purchase of a defibrillator for the club.

Transfers 201: Part 1

By *Martin Unwin*

Jacoby Transfers – or more commonly just transfers – are a convention used by responder to show a five-card major suit after partner has opened a natural 1NT. The basic idea is that responder shows his major by bidding the suit immediately below: thus 2D shows 5+ hearts, and 2H shows 5+ spades. This is forcing for one-round, asking opener to respond by bidding the suit implicitly shown by the transfer: 2H in response to 2D, and 2S in response to 2H.

Many club partnerships play transfers, but limit their use to just one situation: when responder is weak and wishes to sign off at the two level. In such cases transfers have the virtue that opener becomes declarer, so that the stronger hand remains hidden.

But transfers can do more than that: much more. If transfers are part of your system but you use them only as a weak takeout, you are like someone who sits down to a seven course meal and leaves after the appetiser. In this series of articles, we'll look at some of the later courses on the transfer menu.

(1) Invitational raises

A fairly common hand type is where responder has invitational values (e.g., 11-12 points opposite a 12-14 1NT opening) and a 5-card major. For example:

♠ Jx
 ♥ AQxxx
 ♦ xx
 ♣ KJxx

Game is likely to be on if partner is maximum, but the optimum contract is unclear. 3NT will be best if opener has only two hearts, but if opener has three (or more) hearts 4H is likely to be safer. So how does the partnership explore these options?

Many responders resort to the familiar Stayman on such hands, but this is the wrong tool for the job. With eight hearts distributed among the remaining three hands opener will hold three of them 31% of the time, but will have four just 17% of the time. Using Stayman merely forces opener to respond 2D 83% of the time, squandering a round of bidding without leaving the partnership any closer to locating a much more likely 5-3 fit. Stayman fails because it asks rather than tells: instead of **asking** opener for a 4-card major, responder needs to **tell** opener that he has a 5-card major.

On the hand above responder begins by bidding 2D (which must be alerted), promising 5+ hearts and asking opener to bid 2H in response. The transfer says nothing about responder's point count, so that opener does not yet know partner's strength. However – thanks to the switch of tempo created by the transfer – responder now has the opportunity to clarify his hand by making another bid. A second bid of 2NT describes responder's hand with pinpoint accuracy: an invitational raise to 2NT with a 5-card heart suit. Opener can then set the final contract with complete confidence:

- he or she passes with a doubleton heart and a minimum;
- bids 3H (to play) with three hearts and a minimum;
- bids 3NT with a doubleton heart and a maximum;
- or 4H with three hearts and a maximum.

So that takes care of the soup. Next month we'll move on to the entree, and consider game-going raises.



- ♠ Mar 01 Thu Teams 7pm
- ♥ Mar 02 Fri Farewell 4:30pm
- ♣ Mar 04 Sun Nesting Pairs 7pm
- ♦ Mar 14 Wed Matt M 10:30am
- ♠ Mar 24 Sat Queenstown Tourn
- ♥ Mar 25 Sun Nesting Pairs 7pm

And to finish...

Did you Know?

43.6% of all slam contracts fail

62.7% of all bridge players are female

97.8% of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up

Happy bridging

On behalf of the committee

NESTING PAIRS PROGRAMME CONTENT



FROM 4 MARCH 2018 to 15 JULY 2018 – SUNDAYS - 7pm to 9pm NZT

**YOU TUBE SEMINAR then 1 hour practice
SKYPE IN WITH BRIDGE-IT JANE!**

Seminar 1 4 March

Diaries – work out when playing together.
Find tournaments to enter.
InterProvincial dates for Region
Basic Standard American
Law of Total Tricks

Seminar 3 22 April

Semi-preempts
Bergen raises
Strong Multi 2D 2 way
Weak 2s and OGUST

Seminar 5 17 June

Support Cues
4th suit forcing
RKCB

Seminar 7 5 August

Bergen raises revisited
Splinter on the way to game
Slams on a shoestring

Seminar 2 25 March

Transfers
Puppet Stayman
Super Accepts

Seminar 4 20 May

Leads
Signals
Attitude
Count

Seminar 6 15 July

Multi 2D 3 way
Muiderberg 2s