



# Table Talk

February 2022

## News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

### Marc's Missive

As most of you know, the Club has been living beyond its means for the past few years, the main problem being the rent and other costs associated with our current premises. The landlord has given notice of a substantial increase for the next three years, making a move to alternative premises an even more pressing issue than it already was.

Negotiations with the QLDC regarding a potential move to the old Mitre 10 building have been progressing well recently, and we have been given the prospect of a move in the near future. We are sceptical of a quick resolution to this as the building will first need a substantial refit, and in any case the decision-makers at the Council are not due to meet until Mar 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the viability of the project. Nevertheless, we have the potential for a space designed to our requirements with a considerably lower rental than we pay presently.

In the meantime, we have identified the Presbyterian Hall as an interim venue. The rental cost would be a little over half our current annual payment. We need to finalise a few issues such as availability, but the indications are good. The main downside is that we would have to set up and then store tables and chairs at every session.

To progress our move to new premises the Committee has unanimously voted in favour of presenting the following motion to the WBC membership at a Special General Meeting to be held at the WBC rooms at 7:00 p.m. on 24 February 2022:

- The Wanaka Bridge Club will vacate our current premises on 31 March and use the Presbyterian Hall until the Mitre 10 building is completed, or WBC finds other suitable premises.

We need to hold this meeting as soon as possible to give our landlord as much notice as possible before the end of our lease on Mar 31. I welcome your participation and encourage as many members as possible to attend this meeting at 7:00 p.m. on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Marc Simmonds (President, WBC)

### Match Programme: Feb-Mar 2022

Mon 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb: Mt Barker Pairs, silver/bronze pairs allowed;

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Feb: Silver Champ Pairs 2;

Mon 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> March: Cardrona Stakes (Silver pairs only).

Tuesday bridge: 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb; 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Wed 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb: Wilkin Pairs, bronze/silver pairs allowed;

2<sup>nd</sup> March: Bronze Champ Pairs 2;

9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> March: Matukituki Pairs (Bronze pairs only).

Fri 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> Feb; 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> March:

Afternoon social bridge, starts 1:00 p.m.

No partnership restrictions, all results handicapped.

### Covid-19 Red Traffic Light Playing Conditions

Following the latest advice from NZ Bridge the Wanaka Bridge Club is running bridge sessions subject to the following conditions:

- Bridge Club members and visitors must provide evidence of double vaccination with Vaccine Pass before entry to the club.
- Masks must be worn for all sessions. If you feel uncomfortable consider using your time as dummy to walk outside with the mask off for a while. But please keep the mask on at the table, and cover both your mouth and nose.
- Use the hand sanitiser provided before play.
- Drinks and snacks may not be consumed at the bridge table. If you require a drink or snack during a playing session please ensure you are at least 2 m from others. This applies to all sessions, including Tuesday lunchtimes. Friday afternoon tea breaks are on hold until further notice.
- Anybody feeling unwell should stay at home or go home if they are already at the club.

If these conditions prove insufficient we will start using the RealBridge platform for play from home. We will give further instruction as necessary but in the meantime please familiarise yourselves with the [RealBridge](#) web site.

## News From the Committee

### Table Fees: New Billing System

WBC Treasurer John Hogg reports:

- All members should have received a statement of your session activity for January. If you have yet to receive yours, please check your spam folder. If you still can't find it please email me on [johnhoggnz@gmail.com](mailto:johnhoggnz@gmail.com).
- A few members have queried their statement when it showed an amount in brackets. In accounting-speak an amount in brackets means you are in credit, so there is nothing to pay.
- The new system is designed to encourage members to keep their

account in credit. Therefore, feel free to pay in advance an estimate of your sessions (e.g., put \$60 on your account). To the 22 members who have kept their account in credit: thanks. To those who are not yet in credit, including 25 members who have still to pay for their January sessions, then please pay them (preferably with an advance on February's sessions) as soon as possible. Provided your name and bridge number are on the payment then it will be credited to your account. Each month you will get a statement of the number of sessions you have played each month offset against that credit.

- If you still have unused session cards from 2021 you can either use them to buy a standard \$7 drink from the bar (a saving of \$1) or you can return them to the director so the treasurer can credit your account for any unused sessions. Please ensure your name is easily readable, and – even better – record your bridge number on the back of the card.
- From my point of view the new system of billing sessions directly from our Scorer programme has greatly reduced the amount of time counting and banking cash. However, if you have any feedback on how to improve the system I would appreciate your suggestions.

### 2021 Novices Survey

At the end of 2021 the WBC committee was keen to have some indications of the intentions of the 2021 novice group as to their ongoing participation in the club. To this end two committee members ran a survey of the novices, including those remaining from the 2020 group, to learn more about their intentions, aspirations and issues affecting their participation. This generated an 87% response rate (33

of the 38 people surveyed), giving us high confidence in the results. Key findings are:

- Strong support for the status quo, with 70% of the respondents intending to continue playing on Wednesday night;
- Strong (25 responses; 76%) support for the Trout Bar Pub Bridge sessions, with moderate support (13 responses; 42%) for social Tuesdays and Fridays;
- Very strong support (28 responses; 85%) for further lessons;
- Relatively few concerns about issues and/or problems about participating in regular playing sessions, with seven respondents specifically stating that they were very happy with the playing environment and/or had no issues. Six players commented about being nervous going into Wednesday sessions, three noted “timing for those working during the day” as an issue, one noted difficulties arranging a partner, and one said they would prefer being a social player.

#### **WhatsApp Update**

- As agreed at the AGM we are now ready to manage the Partner Finder lists on WhatsApp by weekday, so that you will receive a notification only for the playing days you specify.
- For example, if you are a Bronze player wishing to play on Wednesday nights then you need specify only that you wish to join the Wednesday Partner Finder group. However, if you anticipate playing on Tuesdays and Fridays as well you would also join the Tuesday and Friday groups. To find a partner for any of your nominated playing days simply send your request to the corresponding WhatsApp group so that the only people who see your request are in the correct group.
- Should you wish to be included in any of these groups, please TXT Lynne Fegan on 0274-732-249 giving:

- 1) which day(s) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday) you wish to be included in a Partner Finder group;
- 2) your name.

- Don't worry about your cell-phone number as we can pick that up from your text.
- When should you do this? Right now would be great!

#### **Membership Update**

- We say farewell to departing players Shannon Phillimore, Tom Ulenberg, Mary McLean, Annabel Elworthy, and Janine Venz, and welcome three new country members: Mary McSherry (Timaru), Louise Kane (Auckland), and Jane Humphries (Kairangi, Wellington). Our current membership is 187.

#### **WBC Website**

- The WBC website has been updated to reflect our current Covid-19 policy, along with several other items which were out of date. These include a link to the 2022 Match Programme, and links to this and subsequent newsletters from the start of 2022.

#### **Handicap Adjustments**

With handicaps now in effect for all 2022 Friday afternoon playing sessions we are keeping a close watch on how well the newly updated handicaps work when used in a real-life session. With only four handicapped sessions played to date it's still too early to tell, but by the end of March we will have completed ten Friday sessions which will give us sufficient new results to recalculate the handicaps and make any necessary adjustments. We will continue to revise the handicaps every three months, using the latest data.

If you feel your current handicap does not accurately reflect your playing strength you may seek a review by emailing [wanakabridgeclub@fastmail.com](mailto:wanakabridgeclub@fastmail.com), with

“Handicap review” in the subject line, giving a brief explanation of why you believe your posted handicap is incorrect. We will review the session scores on which your handicap is based, confirm how your handicap has been calculated, and let you know if a revision is possible.

## **2022 Lessons and 2021 Follow-Up**

This year’s beginner lessons will start on Thursday 17 March, the week after the A&P Show. Lessons will continue for 12 weeks with a break on 14<sup>th</sup> April (the day before Good Friday). Lesson dates are therefore 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> March; 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> April; 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> May; and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> July. Lessons will run from 5:45 – 7:45 p.m. and will be based on the standard material developed by NZ Bridge. If you know any aspiring bridge players please refer them to Sonya Adams ([sonyawanaka@gmail.com](mailto:sonyawanaka@gmail.com)) so she can add them to her contact list.

Our first improver lesson for 2022 is on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. These lessons are primarily aimed at the 2021 novices to support their ongoing development, but later lessons will also cover more advanced topics likely to be of interest to players of all levels. This month’s lesson looks at the Stayman convention after a 1NT opening.

## **Otago/Southland Bridge News**

### **Rubber Bridge**

Otago/Southland Regional Bridge have asked us for the names of Wanaka players who wish to enter the NZ Rubber Bridge competition this year. The Wanaka entrants will play against each other first, after which the winners will be entered into the draw against the Queenstown Club and will continue to advance through the draw until they are beaten.

Wanaka has reached the Otago / Southland finals Otago/Southland before, when Maggie Stratford and Lynne Fegan were soundly beaten by an Invercargill pair while playing at the Kingston Café Bar – with drinks in hand! Maybe the drinks were the problem ...

### **Rubber Bridge**

- is a single table game
- only 2 pairs play at a time
- only basic bidding systems are allowed
- every player in our club is eligible
- it has a different scoring method and requires different tactics.

If you wish to enter please contact Lynne Fegan (027-473-2249) today.

## **Otago Festival Pairs: Junior Pairs Champions**

It was so exciting that a Wanaka Club pair took out the Junior Championship Cup for the Otago Festival Pairs played in Dunedin at the Otago Club recently.

Huge congratulations to Maureen Hawke and Sue Orbell who were awarded a massive trophy and envelopes (with \$ included) for being the highest scoring Junior Pair. The irony was that Maureen bemoaned their play after the morning session but they exceeded expectations with a superb result in the afternoon.

Maureen and Sue had gone to Dunedin with Jane Hamilton and Jeanette Gillies, staying with Jeanette’s bridge playing sister. Shona Watt (ex Wanaka Club but now living in Alexandra) joined them for their girl’s weekend. By their own admission, the priorities of the visit were social bridge playing, assisting the viticultural economy and the very occasional walk on the beach.

President Phil mentioned in his welcome that it was a lovely surprise to have six players attending from Wanaka.



*Sue Orbell and Maureen Hawke, Junior Pairs Champions*



*Jane Hamilton, Lynne Fegan, Maureen Hawke, Jeanette Gillies, Shona Watt, Sue Orbell, Georgie Roberts*

## **Director's Corner**

### **Opening lead out of turn**

If an opponent mistakenly faces an opening lead out of turn Law 54 gives declarer what can seem like a bewildering range of options. As always, the intent of this Law is to rectify rather than punish, so that the non-offending side is fairly compensated for any damage (such as unauthorised information about the

offender's hand) which their partner may be able to infer from the card led in error.

The first two options allow declarer to accept the opening lead as tabled. Declarer can immediately spread her hand so that she becomes dummy or remain as declarer by playing the second card to the trick with dummy spread as normal.

If declarer does not accept the lead the tabled card becomes a major penalty card and Law 50D (Disposition of penalty card) comes into effect. Such a penalty card must be played at the first legal opportunity, but while it remains on the table and the non-offending partner is on lead declarer can either require or prohibit the lead of the suit of the penalty card. If declarer exercises either of these options the card is no longer a penalty card and may be picked up.

Declarer's final option, after not accepting the opening lead, is to ask for the opening lead to come from the correct hand but impose no further restriction. In this case the incorrect lead remains a major penalty card and Law 50D applies whenever the offender's partner is on lead.

If a lead out of turn occurs at your table call the Director immediately. They will explain all the options available, including any lead restrictions, so that declarer can choose the most appropriate course of action for the hand in question.

### **The Vagaries of Duplicate**

One of the quirks of duplicate bridge is that the N/S and E/W scores on any one deal depend not only on what happened at their table, but also on what happened at all the other tables where the same deal was played. This hand from the first night of the Mt Barker Pairs is a case in point:

♠ Q ♥ KQJT97 ♦ T985 ♣ J2		Dir: S Vul: Both
♠ T983 ♥ A53 ♦ 7 ♣ KQ753	♠ AK52 ♥ 6 ♦ KQJ32 ♣ T86	
♠ J764 ♥ 842 ♦ A64 ♣ A94	♠ N ♥ - 2 - - ♦ S - - 2 - - ♣ E 42 - 42 ♠ W 42 - 42	
9 9 13 9		Par: -620

At our table, and no doubt many others, North opened with a textbook weak 2H followed by an equally automatic takeout double from East. The auction continued:

South	West	North	East
		2♥	X
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

4♠ makes in comfort, declarer losing only a spade, a diamond, and a club, so +620 to E/W looks like a par score. Yet only three E/W pairs bid the game, earning themselves an 89%

score and leaving N/S feeling justifiably aggrieved. Looking at the results for all ten tables it turns out that four N/S pairs were left to play in 2♥ or 3♥, one E/W bid to 3♠ but not 4♠, and two E/W pairs played in 3♦ (going two light) or 4♣ (for +130).

Irrespective of whether South raises to 3♥ or 4♥ after East's double, West – with 4-card spade support, seven losers, and the golden heart ace – should have no qualms about going straight to 4♠. And if North opens with a multi-2D E/W should have no trouble finding their spade fit even if East passes on the first round. South will respond with a non-forcing 2♥, showing no interest in game and asking North to pass if her suit is hearts or convert to 2♠ if her suit is spades. When North passes East will reopen with a double and the auction continues as if North had opened 2♥.

### The One Minute Bridge Player

If the opponents open the bidding but bail out at a low level, and you are in the final pass-out seat, it will almost always pay your side to compete to the 3-level on very minimum values. This is particularly so when they have a suit fit but stop at the 2-level:

West	North	East	South	North's hand
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	♠ Q 7 6 3
Pass	?			♥ K 6
				♦ A 8 7 2
				♣ 9 8 2

North was correct to pass on the first round but to pass on the second round misses the bus. East is limited to 6-9 HCP, and West has shown no ambition to proceed beyond the 2-level even with a known 8-card heart fit. N/S must therefore hold close to half the points with least 21 cards in the three unbid suits, so are highly likely to have an undisclosed 8-card fit.

A double by North in this position is for takeout and is known as a *balancing double*. It does not show any special strength and is simply a statement of the partnership's combined assets. North is telling South *we must have nearly half the points in the pack and I can support any of the other three suits, so I'm not prepared to sell out in 2♥. Please bid something.*

N/S doesn't have much defence against 2♥ so it may well make, giving E/W +110. You will almost always do better playing in your own contract. Making 2♠/3♣/3♦ will give N/S +110, and even if you go one light E/W will score only +50 or +100 depending on vulnerability. And if E/W push on to 3♥ let them play there, where you now have a better chance of defeating them.

Paul Marston, *The Language of Bidding*

# PUB BRIDGE SOCIAL BRIDGE



## WHAT'S PUB BRIDGE/ SOCIAL BRIDGE ?

- It's a place for us to play Bridge while having a drink and food.
- A place to practice with our partner.
- It's a place for those that haven't played in a while to reunite with the cards.
- A place to play Mini Bridge

## WANAKA BRIDGE CLUB

For more info on the playing times at Wanaka Bridge Club. contact [wanakabridgeclub@fastmail.com](mailto:wanakabridgeclub@fastmail.com)

MONDAYS	7 pm
TUESDAYS	11 am
WEDNESDAY	7 pm
FRIDAY	1 pm

## PUB BRIDGE WORKS LIKE THIS

- Organise four friends to play Bridge
- Book your table at the Trout Bar 034432600
- On arrival ask the bar staff for the Bridge Basket
- In the Basket are 12 pre dealt boards with hand records
- Put the tablecloth on first.
- Order your drinks

Welcome to the Trout Bar

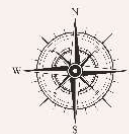
We don't charge to play Bridge as we know you are spending money over the bar.

Bar specials are in the basket.

Enjoy your time and thank you for supporting the Trout Bar



## NORTH FACES THE LAKE



CONTACT :  
Sonya Adams  
021970292  
[sonya.adams@nzbridge.co.nz](mailto:sonya.adams@nzbridge.co.nz)

Pub Bridge is a new initiative by NZ Bridge to grow its national player base by providing a more relaxed social environment for past and current players than the more competitive club environment. Participating pubs will receive a set of 12 weekly boards, with hand records, to be played at each table. Similar initiatives in Cromwell and other Otago centres will be followed up in all New Zealand regions, with the expectation that these players will provide a new pool from which clubs can tap into to build their membership.