

New Post

Table Talk - Feb 2025

From the President

Welcome to Autumn 

It's great to see so many people at the bridge table over the last month. The committee are implementing a few changes to make the sessions run more smoothly and to finish in a timely manner. See details later in the newsletter. This will happen over the next month and if anyone has any suggestions or concerns please contact me.

Teams are under way and it is great that we have 10 Teams playing for what will now be known as the President's Shield .

From what I have heard, everyone is really enjoying this form of bridge. Good luck to you all.

I have been trying to source a shield and the ones available are pretty yuck. Are there any wood workers in the club who could fashion us something wonderful? All cost of materials and labour will be covered. Please contact me if you can help

Happy bridging and hope to see you across the table soon

Cheers

Heather

PS entries are now open for our April tournament

Programme Jan 2025 - Feb 2025

Monday:

Silver Championship Pairs Mar 3

Cardrona Stakes (Silver Only) from Mar 10

Tuesday:

From Mar 4

Wednesday:

Bronze Championship Pairs Mar 5

Matukituki Pairs (Bronze Only) from Feb 12

Friday:

From Mar 7

Tournaments

Also coming up:

Taieri Open Pairs 8B Mar 2

Oamaru Open Pairs Pairs 5A Mar 9

Invercargill Open Pairs 8B Mar 15

Queenstown Open Pairs 5A Mar 22

Recent Results

An impressive number of Wanaka members supported this year's Cromwell Intermediate and Junior tournaments. In the Intermediate tournament, Ena Leckie and Andrew Shaw finished 4th out of 39 pairs, while Jenny Pryde and Marion Furneaux were in 8th place. Meanwhile, Lyn Hill and Janet Young finished 1st out of 11 pairs in the Junior tournament, having scored 73% in the morning session, and here they are receiving their prizes!:



Timely Completion of Playing Sessions

This starts with the ability of a Director to begin play at the appointed hour. You will notice that our website says, in relation to Monday nights for instance, “7pm start. Please be seated by 6.50pm.” At present, there are quite a few people who arrive later than this. This delays the start time, as the Director needs to know how many tables are filled before play can start. If you don't arrive by 6,50, you are at risk of being turned away.

During play, the Director will allow about 20 minutes to play three boards, for instance, this period being dependent upon how many boards need to be played during the session. If there have not been any interruptions like the Director being called, this should be enough time to complete three boards. The Director will normally let players know that, when there are about 5 minutes of the 20 left, that they “should be on their last board”. This should not be difficult to keep up with.

We have decided that, if the third board is not started by the time that there are two minutes of the 20 left, then it will be cancelled, and an artificial score awarded. If a pair has more than one board cancelled for this reason, they will run the risk of being penalised. It is not fair on the Director that they be asked to remain for longer than is necessary at the end of an evening.

Some hands are more difficult to bid than others. while some require a bit more thought in the play. If there are a lot of bids in an auction, this can also delay proceedings. However, this should not make a difference of five minutes to the completion of a board. Do not spend more than say, 20 seconds thinking about a bid or playing a card. You will in any case be giving unauthorised information to your partner, which can be penalised. Try to anticipate your next move before it is your turn.

Teams

The Round the Houses Teams competition has now started, and everyone seems to be enjoying the matches. website. Thanks to Neil Marshall for organising. Results are being uploaded to the Club’s website on the completion of each month’s matches.

Heather has kindly offered to donate a shield to be awarded to each year’s winners.

Name Badges

We have a lot of new players and visitors playing at the Club. It would be helpful if members wore their name badges to playing sessions to aid with introductions.

Parking

Could those of you who park on the Hall's curved driveway please keep their cars off the grass? Thank you.

Membership Update

New Members: Elizabeth Irvine 027 3514451 Barbara Galland 021 2468700 Jill Bagley 027 2222725

Resignations: Bob Menlove, Andrew McLennan, Frances Copeland, Helen Henshall. Natalie Martinovich, Pam Mayo, Jennifer Sinkinson, Harold Walker, Hannah Walker, Kim Tilly, Harry Dillon.

The Art of the Squeeze

Making a slam by pulling off a successful squeeze is often seen as the hallmark of an expert player. This hand from a recent Wanaka session provides an excellent example. It's easy to see how EW can make 12 tricks in diamonds or a major but how can they make 6NT when North has such a strong club holding and a sure entry in diamonds?

♠ Q2

♥ 94

♦ KJ8

♣ KQJ963

Dlr: E

Vul: N-S

♠ J864

♥ KT6

♦ AT6543

♣

♠ AK9

♥ AQ853

♦ Q9

♣ AT5

12

8 19

1

Par: -990

♠ T753

♥ J72

♦ 72

♣ 8742

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	1	6	6	6	6
W	1	6	6	6	6

Bd 18, 25 February

Imagine that East becomes declarer in 6NT after North has made a lead-directing overcall in clubs. On seeing dummy declarer sees that the slam can be made only if the spade queen is with North and drops in two rounds, but even if this works she can count four tricks in spades, five in hearts, and one each in diamonds and clubs. So where can her 12th trick come from?

North clearly has a string of clubs as well as most of the outstanding 12 HCP so declarer should hope to squeeze North if she also holds the diamond king. The crucial play occurs at Trick 1: when South dutifully leads a club and North plays the jack, **declarer must refuse to win the trick**. This is known as “rectifying the count”: since declarer must lose at least one trick, doing so early has the potential to squeeze North as she runs out of discards.

North continues with the club king, won by declarer. She cashes the spade AK, heaving a sigh of relief when the queen drops on the second round, and follows with the spade 9 to trap South’s 10. She crosses to dummy’s heart ace, cashes the spade jack, and returns to hand to run her hearts.

When declarer plays her last heart North is helpless. The 3-card ending is as follows, excluding the South hand which has become irrelevant:

S –

H –

D KJ

C Q

S – S –

H – H 3

D AT6 D Q

C – C T

The play of the heart 3 at trick 11 simply presents North with a choice of how she wants to lose. If she throws a diamond, declarer crosses to dummy to make the diamond ace and ten. If she throws a club, declarer cashes the club ten and wins her 12th trick with the diamond ace.

If this looks like hocus-pocus, I suggest you play through the hand twice, once as described above and once where declarer makes the mistake of winning the opening lead. Doing so means declarer still has a trick to lose, and the squeeze will no longer work.

This month's results.

For the Christmas Pairs, congratulations to:

1st Lynne Fegan and Grace Saunders*

2nd Sherril Harries and Ken Saxby

For the Wilkin Pairs, congratulations to:

1st Emma Allwood and Natalie Keenan**

2nd Sherril Harries and Vicki Menzies

* average of over 60%

** winners by more than 4%

Yes, I know it's already March and this is the February Newsletter, but it was a short month, the committee meeting was late in the month and the dog ate my homework.

Marc

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[Our Website](#)