



# Table Talk

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

January 2018

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Hi everyone and happy New Year to all.

Welcome to our first 2018 edition. I hope your Christmas and New Year was celebrated in style. With the festivities behind us, we get ready for another year of bridge. By now you will have received your books and will be busy finding partners. Please take advantage of all the series dates, tournaments and lessons on offer and have a wonderful year of bridge.

### Clare's message

What a wonderful summer we are all enjoying. At the first night of bridge for 2018 there were a lot of 'it's too hot to play bridge,' mumblings! Thanks to Heather who turned the air conditioners on earlier in the day so we were kept cool, calm and collected!

The end of 2017 bought the loss of two dear members of our club. We fondly remember and pay our respects to **Betty Swift** and life time member, **Jean Stokes**. They will be truly missed at the table.

All the best for an enjoyable year of bridge and good luck to you all!

### Christmas Pairs

Christmas Pairs was huge with around 16 tables. Congratulations to **Robyn Gilchrist** and **Jan Lyness** who won the series with an average of 59.03%. Second place went to **Josey McKenzie** and **Sue Thomson**. Thank you to **Mary Gibson-Collings** who very generously donated fabulous hampers for the winners.



### Beginners' lessons

Beginners' lessons start Tuesday 13 February, 7-9pm for 3 months. \$50 per person. If you know someone you think would enjoy the game, suggest they contact Deirdre Lynch 443 7877.

### Improvers' lessons

You will notice in your bridge books we have some lessons lined up on a Sunday starting 4 March. These are pitched at our intermediate/senior players. Everyone is welcome but please be mindful of the level these lessons are intended for. The schedule is included at the end of this newsletter (headed 'Nesting Pairs'). Please come along.

### New members

We're pleased to welcome **Jo Harry** back to the club. Great to have you with us!

### Watch this space

We're excited to announce that we will be introducing a 'ten trip' concession card for table money very shortly. No need to remember the \$5 each time. More details to follow.

### New library books

We have added another 31 books to our bridge library this year. We encourage everyone to use this valuable resource to help improve their bridge. There are books for all levels on general subjects, defence, bidding and play. The topics, level and a brief description of each book are available under the Resources tab on our website. Please check this out as it will make your selections a lot easier. When taking out a book please fill in the appropriate card with your name and date, books are listed under author's surname. On return any comments would be appreciated. Books may be taken out for one month only. Enjoy!

### Library books gone walkabout

Unfortunately, we are missing a few of our books: *Defensive Signalling at Bridge* by David Bird, *Introduction to Bridge* by Paul Marston and *Bid Better, Play Better* by Dorothy Truscott. If you have any of these books and didn't realise you had to sign them out, could you please return as soon as possible, so we can mark them off.

### Bridge boards gone walkabout

**Judy Briggs** has misplaced a bag of about 10 cream-coloured bridge boards left at the club late last year. The cards have sentimental value. Please contact Judy if you've seen them.

### Tuesday bridge for silver/silver

Tuesday bridge gets underway on 13 February at 11:00am. See '2018 programme' below for details. A second set of boards will be dealt for silver/silver social play (no C points). Players are expected to find their own partners and make up a table.

## Friday bridge

This year there will be a short half-hour lesson before bridge every Friday starting 19 January. The lesson will start promptly at 12:15 and finish at 12:45. Please let us know if there is any topic you would like covered. The first lesson will be a review of Stayman. Learn how Stayman works, when you should use it, and how to follow up with invitational and game-going hands. Then we will discuss Jacoby Transfers. Learn what Jacoby Transfers are, when to use them and what to do in competitive auctions.

## Teams

Teams is on again so get yours together. Teams will be played in Silver and Bronze Divisions on the first Thursday of each month beginning 1 March. This year the number of teams will decide the number of months played in order for every team to play every other team. Please put your team names up on the board before 15 February or if you would like to play please let Sherril know on 021 130 9465 and she will match you with a team.

## Upcoming tournaments

- Jan 20 Otago/Southland Swiss Pairs Open 10A
- Feb 4 Otago Festival Pairs Open 5A

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

## Count your losers!

By Martin Unwin

Every bridge book worth its salt begins the section on how to play a trump contract with the same advice: as soon as the opening lead is faced and dummy is tabled, count your losers. If your contract is threatened, look for a plan to get rid of those you can't afford. Simple though it is, this well-worn maxim is all too easy to forget in the heat of battle.

The following deal from the last night of the 2017 Makarora Pairs is an excellent example of the importance of counting losers. Ten of the 13 pairs on the night opted to play in their heart fit, with eight bidding on to game and the other two stopping in 2H and 3H:

	♠ Q654	Dir: E
	♥ A986	Vul: N-S
	♦ AJ9	
	♣ KQ	
♠ 982		♠ AK73
♥ 42		♥ T73
♦ 7642		♦ K53
♣ A762		♣ 943
	♠ JT	
16	♥ KQJ5	
4 10	♦ QT8	
10	♣ JT85	
Par: 620		
		♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
		N 22413
		S 22313
		E - - - -
		W - - - -

Four hearts by North is an excellent contract, and – with careful play – is unbeatable as the card lie. When dummy is tabled declarer can count three

certain losers, two spades and a club, so the key to making ten tricks is to avoid losing a diamond. Seeing that taking the diamond finesse will cost a trick if the king is offside, declarer should plan to knock out the club ace and discard two losing diamonds from hand on dummy's established jack and ten.

It doesn't actually matter what East leads, but most defenders will begin by cashing the spade ace and king, and then switch to a club, won by West's ace. Fortunately, provided the trumps break 3-2, declarer is now in control. West does best to exit with a diamond, won by declarer's ace. Declarer draws two rounds of trumps, cashes the club king, and then draws a third round of trumps ending in dummy. Cash the club jack and ten, discarding the two losing diamonds from hand, and the winning spade queen and a cross ruff bring home the last three tricks.

If the hand is played by South declarer can be held to nine tricks on a diamond lead, which guarantees an additional defensive trick by setting up East's diamond king. On the night three Wests managed to find this killing lead, for a well-earned +100 on the score sheet. But any other lead lets declarer knock out the club ace while retaining control of the diamond suit, leading to the same continuation as when the hand is played by north. Counting losers at trick one, and realising that the diamond finesse risked losing one trick too many, would have helped those declarers who did not receive a diamond lead but were still held to nine tricks.

## 2018 programme

A reminder about the structure of our programme:

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.

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. No Silver/silver partnerships although a separate set of cards will be dealt for silver/silver players wanting some extra play. See separate item. Bring your lunch!

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)

THURSDAY NIGHT - 7.00pm start  
First Thursday of the month starting 1 March.  
Competitive bridge.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON - 1.00pm start  
Competitive bridge  
Open - anyone can play with whomever they like.  
All results are handicapped. A lesson will be provided beforehand.

### And to finish...

A little bridge wisdom from Ron Klinger:  
*Dummy apologises to partner for taking the bidding too high: 'I had hoped you had a second suit.'*  
*Reply from declarer: 'I didn't even have a first suit.'*

Happy bridging  
Jason Benton  
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 2 25 March**

Transfers  
Puppet Stayman  
Super Accepts

**Seminar 3 22 April**

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

**Seminar 4 (Optional) 20 May**

Multi 2D 3 way  
Muiderberg 2s

**Seminar 5 17 June**

BOSTON  
Count  
Attitude  
Suit preference

**Seminar 6 15 July**

Support Cues  
4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing  
RKCB

**Seminar 7 5 August**

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