



Table Talk

January 2022

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

Marc's Missive

Welcome everyone to 2022. I thought that I was doing the right thing having an operation to rearrange my septum (so that you can hear me at the AGM!) but an infection set me back and meant that I wasn't able to give bridge my full attention. So apologies if everything wasn't quite ready to start the year.

Luckily we have several members who have prepared us in my absence. So thanks among others to Sherril for preparing both "the book" and the calendar for the app; to Carol and Jacquie who took card dealing into their own hands; and to Clare for somehow organising a Director for every session this year.

On the property front we have received as expected a demand for a sizeable rent increase from the landlord. Meanwhile the Council has rejected any idea that we could occupy the Warren Street property, but finally shown signs of movement regarding the old Mitre Ten building. So watch this space.

On visiting the Club on Monday I was met by my first Room Supervisor (well done to Carol and Jan for arranging that). On Wednesday we had no less than ten of last year's novices in attendance. I believe that they slotted in seamlessly and this meant that for the first time in a while there were more tables on a Wednesday than Monday night!

Here's hoping that this year is less interesting than last.

Marc Simmonds (President, WBC)

Match Programme: Jan-Feb 2022

Mon 10th, 17th, 24th: Kingsway Stakes; Drawn pairs, no bronze/bronze pairs, silver/bronze pairs allowed;

Mon 31st: Silver Champ Pairs 1;

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

Mon 28th Feb: Silver Champ Pairs 2;

Tuesday bridge: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd Feb;

Wed 12th, 19th, 26th Jan: Clutha Pairs; Drawn pairs, no silver/silver pairs, bronze/silver pairs allowed;

Wed 2nd Feb: Bronze Champ Pairs 1;

Wed 9th, 16th, 23rd Feb: Wilkin Pairs, bronze/silver pairs allowed;

Fri 14th, 21st, 28th Jan; 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th Feb: Afternoon social bridge, starts 1:00 p.m. No partnership restrictions, all results handicapped;

News From the Committee

Room Supervisor Tasks

- This is an essential role at club meetings given the extra demands placed upon officials by (e.g.) the need to check Vaccine Passports. The role is essentially to cover all those activities that the director for the evening does not have time for. We will be updating the website to detail the tasks expected of the supervisor, and Jan Baird and Carol Orbell will remind those who are going to be supervisors of their upcoming dates and duties.
- Sandy Bryan has agreed to organise kitchen and cleaning / toilet supplies. She has also volunteered to look after bar supplies and bar food and would

be happy to receive suggestions from club members about these items.

Financial Report

- The January financial report was discussed and agreed to. With the introduction of the new electronic payment of table fees old session cards can be used for drinks until they are used up, or returned to the Treasurer to receive a credit for any unused sessions.
- With our 2022 membership fee now \$125, country members will pay half of this amount, i.e., \$62.50.
- Our room rental is currently under review and an independent appraisal has been completed for the landlord. This has recommended a considerable rent increase to which WBC needs to respond. This is a matter of great importance to the club because several other decisions about costs and funding are pending. Our response will include getting our own rent review and holding follow-up talks with the landlord.

WhatsApp Update

- WhatsApp is proving to be very useful for putting members in touch with each other and we encourage as many of you as possible to use this app to seek out partners or circulate other requests about upcoming events or matters relevant to your grade.

Wanaka Messenger Community Diary

- In the absence of a permanent WBC phone number our weekly entry in the Community Diary will now include our email address (wanakabridgeclub@fastmail.com) along with details of each upcoming series so visitors to Wanaka know what is coming up and have a means of making contact.

Cups Engraving

- The engraving of cups awarded at last year's AGM has been completed so they are now available for pickup by the winners.

Room Usage Calendar

- Details of other groups/events using our clubrooms (e.g., Aspiring Quilters, Wanaka-based Tournaments) are now recorded on a calendar which will be displayed on the wall at the front of the room.

Library Books

- Renting library books has proven to be a small but useful source of funds for the club, generating \$72 in 2021. The committee would like to encourage members to support the club by donating and/or borrowing more books to the collection in the shelves on the south wall of the playing room. Remember to support the club by paying \$2 for each book you borrow.

WBC Website

- Thanks to several members who have reminded us that aspects of the club website are out of date. These include our covid-19 guidelines, the 2022 programme, contact info, the director and room supervisor rosters, and archived copies of newsletters.
- We hope to implement these updates soon, possibly adding new pages to accommodate items which are not well-displayed on the current web site. We would welcome member input as to new items, preferably in a format which can be slotted into the web site with a minimum of rewriting.

Handicaps

At the December 2021 committee meeting it was decided to reintroduce

handicaps for all 2022 Friday afternoon playing sessions, restoring a club tradition which has lain dormant for several years. This has prompted some changes to yield handicaps better suited to the specific needs of the Friday competition than the default ones generated by Scorer.

The revised system calculates the handicap for each player by adding two components. One component is based solely on their grade night scores and reflects their playing strength relative to other players in the same grade. For example, a player averaging 45% receives a +5% handicap, and a player averaging 55% receives a -5% handicap.

The other component represents the average difference between bronze and silver scores when players of both grades play in the same session. For last year's Friday afternoon scores this difference was 6.76%. To keep the mean score as close to 50% as possible this difference is split evenly across the two divisions, so that handicaps for bronze division players are increased by 3.38% and those for silver players are decreased by 3.38%.

Using this approach most players receive Friday afternoon handicaps ranging from -10% (strong silver players) to +10% (weak bronze players). We will revise these handicaps at approximately 3-month intervals as more scores for 2022 become available and post updates on the noticeboard so that all players know where they stand. The handicap for any given pair is the average of the handicaps for each partner, so that a bronze/silver pair with handicaps of (e.g.) +8% and -4%, respectively, would have a combined handicap of 2%.

Alexandra Pairs Tournament

The Alexandra Holiday Pairs (Open 5A) is held on a Friday & Saturday night during

the first two weeks of every year. Many of the participants are still in holiday mode so it is a very relaxed tournament.

Nine Wanaka members participated this year, including country member Andrew McLennan from Cromwell who partnered an Alexandra player. The event was just as much about meeting old friends from other Bridge Clubs as it was about the enjoyment of playing. We enjoyed catching up with former WBC members Shona Watt and Morag Chisholm, now with the Alexandra Club.



Team Wanaka in Alexandra. Left to right: Lynne Fegan, Sonya Adams, Sheryl Strudwick, Dorothy McDonald, Nan Ottrey, Bridget McCaughan, Sherril Harries, Maggie Stratford, and Andrew McLennan.

Congratulations to Nan Ottrey & Sheryl Strudwick who were the top Intermediate Pair with a ranking of 15/44. Maggie Stratford and Lynne Fegan had a great first session coming top N/S on Friday but dropped to sixth after a poor start on Saturday.

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 10 weeks with a break on 14th April (the day before Good Friday and the start of Warbirds). Lesson dates are therefore 17th, 24th, 31st March; 7th, 21st, 28th April;

and 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th May. Lessons will run from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and will be based on the standard material developed by NZ Bridge.

We will also run a series of improver lessons from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month, starting on 20th February. These will be primarily aimed at the 2021 novices to support their ongoing development but will also cover more advanced topics likely to be of interest to players of all levels. Please email any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered to wanakabridgeclub@fastmail.com.

Our experience with the 2021 novice group strongly reinforces the bridge maxim that running lessons is only a small part of what it takes to attract and retain new members. One of the most striking things to emerge from last year's Thursday evening post-lesson social bridge sessions was the extent to which the group was able to learn from each other, often spending 5-10 minutes after playing each hand in an animated four-way discussion – with little or no intervention from the teacher(s) – reviewing what had happened and what could have been done differently. These sessions remain very popular and are surely one of the reasons why the group has remained so cohesive.

To inform a decision about how to build on this momentum while ensuring that new players continue their natural progression to bronze and silver the group has launched a survey to gauge within-group support for regular WBC activities such as Tuesday and Friday bridge, regular bronze playing sessions, social bridge, and improver's lessons. The committee would be happy to allow the group to use WBC rooms to generate table money and bar money, and is also keen to integrate the

class of '22 into organised social bridge sessions as soon as possible after lessons finish.

New Zealand Bridge News

For the first time ever in the Club's history, one of our players has made NZ Bridge's Top 20 list!

On 1 January each year NZ Bridge reviews every member's collective scoring for the previous year and calculates their new grading for the coming year. This is then ranked for the whole of New Zealand, with the top 20 players in each grade being published for posterity.

For 2021 Jacinta Hyslop was ranked 18th in the new Novice Grade, a well-deserved result worth our accolades. Let's see if we can follow this up with more Top 20 finishers in 2022. No pressure!



Jacinta Hyslop: Wanaka's first Top 20 player!

Sonya Adams has been taking mini-bridge on behalf of NZBridge at the Glendhu Bay campground. Sonya reported that she has mainly had children involved and has been able to have the participants playing mini

bridge in 30 minutes. You can hear a National Radio interview with Sonya [podcast on replay radio](#).

Otago/Southland Bridge News

In response to a request from the Otago/Southland Regional Bridge Committee we have agreed to host a 10 A point tournament over Queens Birthday Weekend, with Provincial Teams on Saturday and Provincial Pairs on Sunday. The club's role will be limited to providing the venue, basic housekeeping, and dealing. The Tournament sub-committee will handle all the organisation required.

Director's Corner

2C Game Force and the "Rule of 29"

Most Wanaka partnerships play an opening 2C bid as artificial and strong, but the precise meaning is more variable. When should your 2C opening be alerted? Some pairs play it as game-forcing (with the sole exception of a 2NT rebid after a 2D artificial negative response, which shows 23-24 HCP and may be passed), but others play it as 19+ HCP, 8 playing tricks, or something else.

An updated definition of Game Force bids published in the June 2020 [Nzb manual](#) has recently been clarified via the "Rule of 29". This defines the standard meaning of a 2C opening as a hand containing (a) 23+ HCP if balanced or semi-balanced, or (b) 20+ HCP if unbalanced *if the hand contains at least nine cards in the two longest suits*. Partnerships remain free to open 2C on any hand according to their agreement, the sole effect of the new definition simply being that any such bid which does not conform to the new definition should be alerted.

What does a 2C opening as defined in (b) above look like? Here are some examples:

♠	AK	19 HCP with 10
♥	A Q 9 7 4 3	cards in the two
♦	A 8 6 4	longest suits so add
♣	Q	one extra point. The
		rule of 29 applies so
		can be opened 2C.

♠	-	16 HCP with all 13
♥	-	cards in the two
♦	K Q J 9 8 6 5	longest suits so add
♣	A K Q J 7 3	four extra points.
		The rule of 29 is
		met so can open 2C.

Hence the Rule of 29: *If your HCP and the number of cards in your two longest suits equals or exceeds 29, your hand qualifies for a 2C game force opening bid.*

Roman Key-card Blackwood

This deal from the first night of the Clutha Pairs is an excellent demonstration of how, when investigating slam prospects in a suit contract, Roman Key-card Blackwood (RKB) is much more efficient than Gerber:

♠	AQ9643	Dir: E
♥	4	Vul: N-S
♦	9854	
♣	97	
♠	T2	♠8
♥	KQ86	♥AJT932
♦	AJ	♦KQ76
♣	JT832	♣AK
	♠KJ75	
6	♥75	
11 17	♦T32	
6	♣Q654	
Par: -980		

All E/W pairs found their heart fit, and all but one had no trouble making 12 tricks. The sole exception was a pair who had a misunderstanding over their ace-asking methods and ended up stranded in 4NT, which is of course to be expected in an event where pairs were drawn at random. Assuming both partners are on the same wavelength, how would a Gerber 4C inquiry work out on this deal?

If West responds 3H to East's opening 1H, a Gerber 4C inquiry by East will reveal one

ace. Regardless of which ace it is East is likely to have second thoughts about bidding the slam given that she holds neither the king nor queen of trumps and may well bale out in 4H.

RKB, by contrast, tells East everything she needs to know. RKB recognises five rather than four key-cards: the four aces, and the trump king. In its simplest form the responses to a 4NT inquiry, after either of the auctions 1H – 3H – 4NT or 1H – 4H – 4NT, tell the inquirer how many key-cards the responder holds, with 5C showing 0 or 3 and 5D showing 1 or 4. With exactly two key-cards responder bids 5H if she does not hold the trump queen, and 5S if she does.

On the deal shown West will respond 5S to show two key-cards and the trump queen. For East this is serendipity: she

now knows the partnership holds all but one of the five key cards and the trump queen. 6H bid and made!

Phone Number Updates

A few phone numbers were inadvertently omitted from the 2022 programme book. Please add the following to your own records:

Nan and Boyd Ottrey: 021 462 654

Jan Lyness: 021 0230 6736

John Lyness: 021 260 0491

Ann-Louise Stokes: 021 443 611

Farewells

We have recently received resignations from Charlotte Brebner, Frances Blyth and Tone Borren (who will be back), Allan Maclean, Miranda O’Leary, and Frances Copland.

The One Minute Bridge Player

Irrespective of whether you play 4- or 5-card majors a 1NT response to partner’s opening bid shows 6-9 HCP and denies a 4-card suit that can be bid at the one level. It will often be balanced but it doesn’t have to be:

West	East	East’s hand
1♥	?	♠ Q 10
		♥ 6
		♦ 9 7 5 4 3 2
		♣ A J 8 4

Bid 1NT. This keeps the bidding alive without overstating your strength. You will pass any minimum rebid by opener, including 2♥.

You might even have to respond 1NT on a hand containing a void:

West	East	East’s hand
1♠	?	♠ -
		♥ A J 4 2
		♦ 10 7 6 5 3
		♣ Q 9 8 4

Bid 1NT. What else? You are too weak to bid at the 2-level and a pass might work out best if opener is planning an acrobatic jump rebid in spades, but a 1NT response offers such a good chance of improving the final contract that it becomes a worthwhile gamble.

Paul Marston, *The Language of Bidding*
Eric Crowhurst, *Precision Bidding in Acol*

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

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

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.