



Table Talk Jan 2024

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

Marc's Missive (reprise)

While Heather is taking a break, I'll update you with a few snippets from our latest Committee meeting.

Lynne Fegan presented a summary of the Teaching Conference in Christchurch. This was an intensive weekend where all aspects of beginner teaching were discussed. We now have a better idea of how to conduct our own classes.

Murray Pryde contacted the Church to enquire about Friday afternoon beverages. As a result, we have been allowed to serve one drink to each member that wants one, as long as we are out of the Hall by 5pm. Andrew Shaw is going to co-ordinate this on a trial basis for the next six weeks.

We agreed upon a motion that Wednesday night bridge should finish by 10pm. It will be up to the Director to ensure that the appropriate number of boards are played and that play is not too slow to achieve this.

Programme: Feb 2024

Monday:
Silver Championship Pairs Feb 5
Mt Barker Pairs from Feb 12

Tuesday:

Restarts on Feb 13

Wednesday:

NB No bridge on 31 Jan, this Wednesday

Clutha Pairs Feb 7

Bronze Championship Pairs Feb 14

Wilkin Pairs from Feb 21

Friday:

Restarts on Feb 2

Other Tournaments

Also coming up:

Jan 28: Otago Festival Pairs (Otago BC)

Feb 10: South Island Teams (Online – Christchurch BC)

Feb 24: Cromwell Intermediate Pairs

Beginners' Lessons

This year's lessons start on Feb 14, and will run for ten weeks. We still have a few spaces, so encourage your friends who might be interested in learning our game. The cost is \$75, which includes membership for the rest of the year. Contacts are Heather Wellman and Jane Hamilton.

Get Ready for Rippon

The Rippon Rosebowl isn't until June, but there's no reason that silver/bronze partnerships shouldn't get a bit of practice in beforehand. For those of you who don't know, the Rippon series is designed for bronze and silver players to partner up and was a hugely successful series with

about 15 tables last year. It would be great to see even more this year. As well as a little knowledge sharing, this event really helps our club members get to know those who they may not usually see much.

If you don't have a partner, we will definitely be helping to match players up a little closer to the event, but in the meantime, don't be afraid to ask someone from another grade to play a session with you – most bridge players love any chance to play bridge!

Tuesday or Friday play is always a good option for practice, but don't forget that bronze players can invite silvers to play on Wednesdays (except those series where that's specifically not allowed, as outlined in your bridge book) and silver players can also invite bronze players to Mondays (again, except those series where that's specifically excluded).

From the Library

- You can go on to the website and checkout all of our **RESOURCES** for a list of the library books available. Some of these **Library books will be available at the "Bridge room" at the Church.** These books will be on the other servery, where the tea/coffee facilities are. Please write the book title, your name and the date borrowed in the folder.
- Contact Lyn Hill : 0274502587 for any enquiries.
- **THIS MONTH'S BOOK...** This book is available on the Bridgenz.co.nz website for \$32.00. We have 1 copy in our library.



The Principles of Card Play by Paul Marston

So far you may have concentrated on your bidding but now you would like to play the cards well, both as declarer and defender. What a good position to be in! For a reasonable amount of effort you can directly improve your results.

While each hand may occur as infrequently as Halley's Comet, most hands can be categorized and you will see the same old problems time after time. This means that you can be a successful card player without having a computer brain; you do not have to memorize endless figures. Just learn how to use a short list of principles and you will be well on the way.

Five percent of the hands may be complex but the rest are not. This book shows you how to play well on the straightforward ninety-five percent of the hands. It reveals the principles that constantly recur, then it demonstrates by example how you can take advantage of them.

SOME ONLINE RESOURCES (to name a few):

- YouTube
- NZ Bridge – Beginners Lessons
- NZ Bridge – Improvers lessons
- NZ Bridge – Rona Driscoll (online Improvers Series by Zoom)

- NZ Bridge – Real Bridge (get a partner and start a game)

APPS

- Skybridge
- Funbridge
- Bridge Bear
- Cue Bid
- Learn Bridge Online (LBO)
- Bridgebase Online (BBO)
- No Fear Bridge



Membership

New Members:

Paul Stephens

Ros Stephens

Alysson Cross

Janet Anderson's number is listed incorrectly in the book. It should be

0272 316075

Supplies

If you need a replacement badge, the cost is \$15. Scoring pads are also available at \$2.50 each.

Bid Boldly, Play Safe

This hand from the second round of the Kingsway Stakes gave N/S a chance to show off their bidding and card-play skills

in the face of a pre-emptive opening by their opponents:

♠ 3		Dir: E	
♥ A765		Vul: N-S	
♦ AKJ973			
♣ AJ			
♠ Q84	♠ K762		
♥ J	♥ 98432		
♦ QT86542	♦ Q962		
♣ K4	♣ T8753		
♠ AJT95			
♥ KQT			
17	10		
8	5		
Par: 630			
		♠♥♦♣N	
		N 33334	
		S 33334	
		E - - - - -	
		W - - - - -	

The auction at our table was:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	3♦	X
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT

West's 3♦ couldn't be much weaker but at favourable vulnerability it forces North – who has a powerful 17-point hand – to decide how best to compete. A double is by far the best option: a pass is insipid, 3♥ is out of the question on such a weak suit, and 3NT is risky with only a singleton spade. If South responds 3♥ North will happily raise to game, and a 3♠ response allows North to convert to 3NT with reasonable confidence that South will have a spade stop. South thought for a while before passing, trusting her partner to know what she was doing.

Declarer won the heart lead in dummy, followed by a small club at Trick 2 to the 4, jack, and queen. East exited with another heart, also won in dummy, with West discarding a diamond. A small club from dummy at Trick 4 felled West's king, giving declarer a complete count of the hand with West now known to have started with one heart, two clubs, seven diamonds and hence exactly three spades.

The stage was now set to start endplaying the defence. At trick five declarer led her singleton spade, followed by the two, nine, and queen, and leaving West stuck for a safe exit card. A spade exposes

declarer's singleton but guarantees three spade winners in dummy, and if West exits a diamond declarer need only cover to win the trick and return a small diamond to put West back on lead. Either way, declarer makes nine tricks in comfort.

Four other N/S pairs played in NT but none managed to make their contract, going as many as five light in 6NT. Two NS pairs went one light in 4♠ after South unwisely pulled North's 3NT. The only other positive N/S scores were for three E/W pairs left to struggle in 3♦, which correct defence holds to four tricks.