



Table Talk Jul 2023

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

Marc's Missive

It was heartening to see so many of you at the Improvers' lessons. It is obvious that they are satisfying a wish from our newer members to keep developing their bridge skills, and we will be trying to extend this to all levels at the Club.

The Club lost one of its most colourful and well-loved members this month. Ruth Coghill played bridge into her nineties, and retained the ability to light up a room. She will be sorely missed.

Programme: Jun-Jul 2023

Monday:

Silver Championship Pairs: Jul 31, Aug 28
Glendhu Pairs (Silver only): Aug 7, 14, 21

Tuesday:

Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Wednesday:

Bronze Championship Pairs: Aug 2, 30
Hunter Pairs: (Bronze only); Aug 9, 16, 23

Friday: July 28, Aug 4, 11, 18, 25

Wanaka Intermediate Tournament

September 9th is approaching fast and planning for the tournament is underway. We have had already received 17 entries out of a potential 36 (18 tables).

You can enter by going to:

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/events.html>

and scrolling down to find the Wanaka tournament.

Otago/Southland Provincial Teams and Pairs

We were asked by Otago/Southland Bridge if we could host this tournament next year on the King's Birthday weekend. It appears that it is finally our turn. The logistics of running this are quite complicated as we can't access the Hall on a Sunday. Bridget McCaughan looked into the financial implications of this and the Committee agreed that we would host the tournament. We will as usual need a lot of help from members.

Other Tournaments

Also coming up:

Jul 30 Otago Swiss Pairs
Aug 13 Oamaru Intermediate and Junior Pairs
Aug 19 Invercargill Intermediate and Junior Pairs
Aug 26 South Island Pairs (online)

Lessons

The first "improvers" lesson took place last Tuesday evening. We waited with trepidation to see how many brave souls would walk up the stairs, but shouldn't have worried as nineteen turned up. The lessons were due to run for until August 22, but Martin has kindly added an extra lesson on September 5.

Beginners' lessons are continuing on a Wednesday night and will finish in a

couple of weeks' time. Another transition period of Bronze Reserve will follow.

Additional learning resources for more advanced players are available on the NZBridge website. There are "Intermediate" Improvers' Lessons at: <https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/intermediate-less-lessons.html>. We will try to add some lessons for more advanced players at a later date.

Membership Information

Nothing to report this month, but a reminder of all of the corrected phone numbers from the book:

Janet Anderson 0272 5316075
 Jan Anderson 0226 947256
 Cathy Andrews 0274 431942
 Joy Baxter 0211 769862
 Rosemary Boswell 0273 436911
 Judy Briggs 0217 08421
 Bruce Cathie 0212 143120
 Kate Coe 0274439125
 Frances Copland 0272 208267
 Helen Cornwell 0211 787573
 Suzanne Ewing 0274 518581
 Marion Furneaux 0212 380672
 Jeanette Gillies 0274 994768
 Carolyn Grey 0211 154399
 Noeline Harridge 0272 828957
 Mark Harry 0216 44084
 Maureen Hawke 0273 903356
 John Hogg 0274 707710
 Jane Humphries 0277 473777
 Jacinta Hyslop 0277 728396
 Lorraine Irvine 0212 361514
 Robert Kaplan 0224 974763
 Ena Leckie 0212 619510
 Jan Lyness 0210 2306736
 John Lyness 0212 600491
 Bob Menlove 0213 44016
 Judy Muir 0212 147772
 Marion Murphy 0218 33031
 Carol Orbell 0279 262723
 Sue Orbell 0274 434469
 Boyd & Nan Ottrey 0214 62654
 Noelene Raffills 0272 651779
 Madeleine Revely 0274 436044

Neil Robinson 0273 135085
 Kay Ross 0272 273338
 Daphne Stewart 0272 483747
 Ann-Louise Stokes 0214 43611
 Kate Summers 0272 281982
 Jenny Turnbull 0273 249234

Director's Corner

This month the tricky subject of the revoke. A revoke is best described as a failure to follow suit when you are able to. Sometimes this is clear to everyone at the table, and sometimes to no-one! In order for a revoke to become "established", the offender or their partner must have played a card to the following trick.

If the revoke is discovered before the next card is played as above, there is no penalty and the card incorrectly played stays on the table as a major penalty card (maybe we'll discuss penalty cards next month).

If the revoke is established, then penalties in the form of tricks can be applied. If the offender who revoked did not win a trick with the revoke card and the offenders did not win any subsequent tricks, there is no penalty.

If the offender did not win a trick with the revoke card, but the offenders won any subsequent tricks, then there is a one trick adjustment. This also applies if the revoke card won a trick but the offenders did not win any subsequent tricks.

If the revoke card won a trick and the offenders won any subsequent tricks, then a two trick penalty is applied.

It does not end there. If the Director decides that the revoke has altered the result of the hand, he/she may apply an additional penalty. This is normally done

with reference to hands that were played in the same contract.

Of course there has to be an exception to all of this! If the revoke occurs on the 12th trick, the cards played to the last two tricks are corrected and there is no penalty.

This is summarised pictorially at:
<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/user/inline/4238/Revoke.pdf>

Bashing Slam

In Paul Marston's excellent *The Language of Bidding* his chapter on slam bidding concludes with a brief section on "Bashing Slam". In it he says "You cannot always tell if partner has the right cards when your hand is highly distributional. If your gut feeling is that slam will make, be prepared to have a fling".

This deal from the final round of the Pembroke Pairs is a good example of a hand where West chose to have a fling despite a disappointing response to an ace-ask:

♠ T842		Dir: N	
♥ 83		Vul: Both	
♦ 75			
♣ QJT63			
♠ AQJ7	♠ K5		
♥ A5	♥ KQJT976		
♦ AJ8	♦ QT96		
♣ K542	♣		
♠ 963			
♥ 42			
♦ K432			
♣ A987			
3		♠♦♥♣N	
19 11		N - - - -	
7		S - - - -	
		E 26776	
		W 26776	
Par: -2000-			

The auction at our table was:

North	East	South	West
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥
All pass			

East's 5♣ response to West's 4NT Blackwood was disappointing, but with 19 HCP and three aces opposite an opening hand West took heart from Marston's

advice, closed his eyes, and bid the heart slam. Even with a bare minimum East is unlikely to hold the heart king and neither the club ace nor the club queen, and if the missing club ace is with South – a 50:50 chance – the slam must be an odds-on bet.

In the event the slam was a laydown. South led the club ace and when East ruffed it was all over. East ruffed the opening lead in hand, drew trumps in two rounds ending in hand, and cashed four rounds of spades starting with the king, pitching two diamond losers from her hand. The established club king provided a parking spot for a third diamond loser and 13 tricks rolled in with no need to risk the diamond finesse.

Marston's slam chapter also includes a section on Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKB), a better ace-asking convention than Gerber for exploring suit slams. RKB asks about 5 control cards: the four aces, and the all-important king of trumps. Partner responds 5♣ to show 0 or 3 key cards; 5♦ to show 1 or 4 key cards; 5♥ to show two key cards without the trump queen; and 5♠ to show two key cards and the trump queen. Had E/W been playing RKB East would have responded 5♦ to show 1 key card, and West would have been much more confident about bidding the slam.

Marston's chapter concludes "This agricultural approach may offend the purist but it can be highly effective". Bidding the grand slam takes a little more technique!