



## New Post

### Table Talk - Jul 2025

#### From the President

Hello from Perth.

I definitely chose the right month to be overseas. I hope you are all keeping warm.

I was very saddened last week to hear of the passing of our friend and life member Ena Leckie. Ena was a real character both at the bridge table and socially. She had a real talent for and love of bridge. I was sure she could see through the cards but Ena was also a gambler and liked to take risks. She also thoroughly enjoyed the social side of bridge and was always keen for a chat and a glass of wine. I will never forget that laugh or the cheeky smile. RIP Ena we will miss you. 🥺

Cheers

Heather



*Ena in full flow at the Ohau bridge Weekend in 2007*

## **Programme Jul-Aug 2025**

Silver Championship Pairs Jul 28

Glendhu Pairs (Silver Only) from Aug 4

Silver Championship Pairs Aug 25

### **Tuesday:**

From Jul 29

### **Wednesday:**

Bronze Championship Pairs Jul 30

Hunter Pairs (Bronze Only) from Aug 6

Bronze Championship Pairs Aug 27

### **Friday:**

From Jul 25

## **Tournaments**

### **Also coming up:**

Taieri Graded Pairs 8B Jul 27

Oamaru Intermediate Pairs 5B Aug 17

Oamaru Junior Pairs 3B Aug 17

Invercargill Southland Real Estate Intermediate Pairs 5B Aug 23

## **Recent Results**

Not much to report on the tournament front this month, but I neglected to mention the regional Rubber Bridge competition last month. Having defeated Queenstown by several thousand points, Tracey Gieck and Andrew Shaw ventured south this month to take on a highly rated Otago Pair. When I say highly rated, bear in mind that Wanaka and Otago share a rating system, and the highest Wanaka rating (Sherrill Harries - 633) would be 53rd on the Otago list. And these two are 1st and 4th in the Otago rankings.

Anything, however, can happen in Rubber Bridge, and on this occasion it did! Our intrepid Wanaka pair were over 1000 points behind with three hands to play. They made a game on the next hand to win a rubber so were only then 200 points behind. On the subsequent hand, the opposition opened a strong no trump, and it looked like it might be all over...until Andrew stepped in and, holding nine clubs and 15 points, bid 5C. At that stage, you might as well! Tracey obliged with a few useful cards, and they made 12 tricks. The last hand was an easy 4S, and their shell-shocked opponents were left speechless.

On to Congress, where Tracey and Andrew will play next a quarter-final against one of the other regional winning pairs. We wish them luck.

## **Hamilton Plate**

We are still looking for a few more players for the Hamilton Plate on Aug 10 at Alexandra. Please contact Tracey Gieck (021 942042) if you are available.

## **More on Psych Bids**

Since the piece on psych bids a few months ago, more than one person has asked what they can do if an opponent bids with a less than suitable hand. The short answer is nothing, but the longer one involves reporting the "offender" to

the Director. The bid is then recorded in the Psych Book. If the offender uses this tactic on another occasion with the same partner, then they will be penalised unless their partner has made it clear that they are prone to such bids before play starts against each set of opponents. This is usually enough to discourage the practice!

## **Time Clock**

We have a clock on the laptop which was used during our recent tournament. It is difficult to set up using the Church's convoluted IT system and is therefore not in use for our regular sessions. We have received a request to acquire a standalone clock and have decided to purchase one. It will sit at the South end of the room, as North is responsible for timekeeping.

## **Timekeeping**

We warned members recently that if they haven't started a hand two minutes before the time limit, they will have to accept that they cannot play the hand. Given that we don't as yet have a clock, Directors have been reasonably lenient so far, but will not be once the clock arrives. Even so, some tables that have fallen way behind have ignored the Director's instructions and played the hand. If this happens again, both pairs will be penalised.

## **Membership**

New members:

Elizabeth Hansen; Gary Hansen; Ray Newell

Returning member:

Georgie Roberts

## **A Poisoned Chalice**



In this hand from the second round of the Pembroke Pairs my partner and I held the NS cards and quickly landed in 4H after North opened a pre-emptive 3H and South raised to game - one of seven NS pairs to do so:

		<div>♠ Q92</div> <div>♥ A986543</div> <div>♦ JT7</div> <div>♣</div>	Dir: N	
			Vul: E-W	
<div>♠ JT6</div> <div>♥ Q7</div> <div>♦ K9652</div> <div>♣ 732</div>		<div>♠ K85</div> <div>♥ K</div> <div>♦ A8</div> <div>♣ KJT8654</div>		
		<div>♠ A743</div> <div>♥ JT2</div> <div>♦ Q43</div> <div>♣ AQ9</div>		
7			<div>♣♦♥♠N</div>	
6	14		N - - 3 1 3	
13			S - - 3 1 3	
Par: 200			E 3 - - -	
			W 3 1 - -	
Bd 9, 14 July				

As the cards lie 4H is doomed to fail but it takes super-accurate defence and a double-dummy view of all four hands to hold declarer to nine tricks. With unattractive holdings in the black suits most Easts led the diamond ace, hoping to find West with the king and perhaps contemplating a third-round ruff. However, while this seems like an attractive way to win a trick with the singleton heart king before it is felled under the ace a little thought is required.

If West returns a diamond and East ruffs, East is thoroughly end-played. With dummy's AQ9 of clubs sitting over East's KJ10 exiting with a club is out of the question, and a spade return concedes a trick to declarer's queen. A canny East

will realise the poisoned chalice which awaits her if she ruffs and let declarer win the trick with dummy's queen.

Now declarer must be careful to avoid being end-played. Missing the heart king and queen she must lose one heart trick, and the time to do so is now. Lead the heart jack from dummy and play low unless West is foolish enough to cover with the queen. East wins with the king to find herself in the same position she would have been had she ruffed the third round of diamonds. A club lead lets declarer win with the queen followed by the ace while pitching two spade losers from hand, draw the last trump, return to dummy's spade ace and claim the balance. A spade lead lets declarer win with the queen, draw the last trump, cash dummy's ace, and pitch her last spade loser on the club ace.

But the simplest – albeit least obvious – way to defeat the contract is to lead the diamond ace followed immediately by the heart king. If declarer lets the king hold the trick East simply exits with the diamond 8 and is in no danger of regaining the lead. When West continues with the spade jack declarer cannot avoid a spade loser and the contract goes one light.

Pembroke Pairs:

1st John Schwarz and Brian Vass

2nd Andrew Shaw and Martin Unwin

Luggate Stakes

1st Emma Allwood and Liz Doubtfire

2nd Tracey Gieck and Gina Treadwell

Thanks for reading

Marc


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