



Table Talk

Newsletter of the Wanaka Bridge Club Inc.
June 2014

Special day for a special member

Club members pulled out all the stops to acknowledge and celebrate Greta Bussell's 96th birthday recently. She arrived at the club in style chauffeured by Alan Chisholm in his 1929 Ford Model A Roadster and was feted with no fewer than 3 birthday cakes!



Greta enjoys a slice of birthday cake at an afternoon tea in her honour.

Feedback please

Very soon it will be time to set the programme for 2015 and put any changes in place for the new club year. It would help us to know your views on some of the challenges and opportunities facing the club.

Feel free to comment on any aspect of the club but here are some things to get you thinking:

- Silver is the largest division by far with a broad range of levels of experience. Some changes are going to have to be made for 2015 so how can we make the divisions more even and competitive? Are you happy playing in the division you're in? Should Silver/Bronze partnerships be allowed on Championship Pairs nights? Or should we just allow Silver/Silver and Bronze/Bronze partnerships?
- Championship Pairs nights can see the room bursting at the seams. Is it time for Bronze and Silver to play on different nights? Or is the club still too small? Please give your division when commenting on this.
- This year, we've trialled awarding Masterpoints on handicap on Fridays in recognition of the social nature of these sessions. Do you feel that has been successful? Or should we go back to 'off the stick'?
- How well is our Wednesday 'development' night working? Are there any changes we should make to the Wednesday night programme?

Email your thoughts and ideas to Michael Metzger. Or use the suggestion box which will be set out at the club over the next few weeks. You don't need to include your name if you don't want to but please do let us know whether you're a Bronze or a Silver player. It would be great to have your feedback by Friday 4 July so we can circulate it ahead of the next committee meeting.

Latest results

Dave Brewer, Michael Chapman-Smith, and Jan and John Lyness were the winning combination in this year's Mixed Teams. Thanks to John Lyness for organising this event.

Mary Gibson Collings and Sherril Harries recorded the night's top score at the Queen's Birthday Open with an impressive 67.46%

More congratulations

Well done to David Brewer, Suzanne Ewing, Joan Moon, Ross Moon and Jan Wynn-Williams who have passed the magic mark of 5 'B' points and been awarded Certificates of Proficiency.

New members

Welcome to our new members. Jack Foreman (brother of George) is visiting from Tasmania for a couple of months. Claire Williams and Hans Limacher played at the club earlier this year as visitors from Christchurch and have now joined. Welcome too to Carolyn Grey, who was formerly with the Hokitika club, and Martin Unwin.

New teaching on twos

Nothing stays the same and the teaching of Acol is no different. A couple of changes may have easily escaped more experienced players.

New players are taught 'weak twos' with 2D, 2H and 2S all acceptable opening bids. Like 'strong twos', these are natural bids and don't require alerting.

The 2C game force opening bid and the associated 2D negative response are in such common use that they are deemed to be self-alerting. However, 2C is now taught as 23+HCP balanced or 20+HCP unbalanced. This bid does have to be alerted. As does any other special understanding regarding the 2C game force bid. Examples include:

- Game force and at least 18HCP
- Game force, three losers or fewer (with no restriction on HCP)
- 8 playing tricks any suit.

See next item for more information on announcing and alerting bids.

Things you should know

Alerting

Any conventional bid, must be alerted.

All opening bids and overcalls that show two or more suits, even if one is specified, is conventional.

Natural bids do not have to be alerted.

A bid is natural if it meets the following criteria:

- Conveys a willingness to play in the denomination named, but does not come under the definition of a conventional call, eg 2S, 2H, 2D
- Shows high-card strength or length (3+ cards) in the suit named, excluding 1C

Some common examples are:

- weak 2S, 2H or 2D **does not** have to be alerted
- 2C game forcing bid **does not** have to be alerted, this is in such common use that it is deemed to be self-alerting. However a 2C opener showing 18 or 19+ points **does** have to be alerted.
- Transfers **do** have to be alerted

When asked the meaning of an alerted bid, full disclosure is the rule; give length and strength.

Full details of the NZ Bridge Alerting Policy are available from its website (in the Manual section D9-D13) www.nzcba.co.nz. There is a copy of this on the noticeboard next to the office.

Announcing 1NT and 1C

As soon as your partner bids either 1C or 1NT you must announce (not circle) your agreement regarding these bids. The purpose of this is to stop any information being passed by the opposition when they enquire about the length of the clubs, or strength of the 1NT.

A note about bridge pads

If you're sitting east, please don't select a security code between 90 and 99 – these are numbers the computer operator uses to reset the pads etc. Using them as a security code confuses the system.

Housekeeping

Bowling club members often park behind the club, especially on Monday nights so please don't block the drive way at the east end of the building. Another note, please beware of chairs marking the walls – pull them forward if you're too close.

Upcoming tournaments

Talk to Georgie Roberts (443 6789) if you want to register for these upcoming open tournaments:

Oamaru All Grades – June 29

Gore Pairs – July 12

Winton Pairs – July 19

Taieri Graded Pairs – July 26

Phew! That's it for a bumper issue.

Happy bridging!

Cheers

Your committee

Changes/additions for your bridge book

Jack Foreman 443 4083

Maureen Hawke 443 7091

Carolyn Grey 443 1240

Charles Kiewiet 265 3111

Hans Limacher 443 1775

Nicola McGregor 443 2780

Gabby Marshall 021 08535306

Jenny and Ken Muir 027 201 5461

Martin Unwin 443 2475

David and Kate Walton 443 8402

Sheila White 265 3006

Claire Williams 443 1775