

# Table Talk

Newsletter of the Wanaka Bridge Club  
June 2017

Hi everyone

Welcome to the June newsletter! You will see some new content including a feedback commentary from **Martin Unwin** on a recently played hand at the club. This will be a regular feature in our newsletter. Thank you, Martin for your time and input.

We've also been out and about promoting the club. We had our own stand at the recent Radio Wanaka Home and Lifestyle Show. We had some great feedback and interest. A great opportunity to give the club some exposure. A special thank you to Active Furnishers for making this possible. Also to **Ruth Coghill** who staffed the stall solo for quite some hours!

## Clare's Message

If you were at the Home Show during the Queen's birthday weekend you will have seen the Wanaka Bridge Club featured! Thank you to Active Furnishers for the offer of the space and to Ruth, Blair, Jason and Michael. This was a wonderful opportunity to promote our club.

Some members of the committee have put together the skeletons of a strategic plan. The objective of the SP is to ensure the club always has a goal to work towards and to take the club forward. We want to set up a group of members who have an interest in this area to work as a team to develop a working document. If you think this is an area in which you would like to contribute, please contact me on [clare.scurr@icloud.com](mailto:clare.scurr@icloud.com) before July 15th.

I understand Friday bridge is becoming more popular and more competitive – this is great to hear. It offers club members a second opportunity to play

with people from their own grade.

However, it does take the more casual feel away from the afternoon of bridge. If you are looking for a more relaxed style of bridge then we encourage you to attend Tuesday bridge, where play starts at 11.00am.



## Changes to the Bridge Laws

Some new rulings come into effect on 1 August 2017. Murray Wiggins from NZ Bridge is holding a seminar in Dunedin on July 8th at 7pm. Anyone who wishes to attend please contact Heather.

The committee have also organised for Lindsay Gunn to come to Wanaka to run two sessions on the changes. This will be Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July after bridge for members and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 9.30am for directors. We encourage you to attend these sessions.

### New members

We welcome **Belinda Blaxland** and **Robyn Gilchrist** to the club. Great to have you with us.

### Distracted by diamonds

Highly distributional hands can lead the auction into uncharted waters. Even well-tuned partnerships can find it difficult to choose the bid that best describes their hand, and less familiar pairs may just have to improvise.

West had such a problem on the following deal from a recent Friday afternoon session. With only E/W vulnerable East as dealer opened 1S, South passed, and West paused for a few moments:

♠ 8652		Dir: E
♥ 5		Vul: E-W
♦ K7		
♣ KQJ965		
♠ 3	♠ AKT97	
♥ J72	♥ AKQ64	
♦ AJ985432	♦ Q	
♣ T	♣ 82	
♠ QJ4		
9	♥ T983	
6 18	♦ T6	
7	♣ A743	
Par: -650		
		♠♥♦♣N
		N 1 - - - -
		S 1 - - - -
		E - 5531
		W - 5531

A 1NT response (showing 6-9 points) followed by a jump in diamonds on the next round would describe the hand well, but only if E/W understand that 1NT in such auctions can be any shape. It is non-forcing, so may strand West in a ludicrous contract in the unlikely event that East passes. Others would opt to bid some number of diamonds, but just how many is unclear: 2D would suggest 10+ points, a jump shift to 3D is usually played as game-forcing, and 5D may be a bridge too far.

At our table West chose 4D, which East correctly interpreted as weak with a long suit. East came back with 4H, showing at least 5-4 in the majors, and West passed. Even if East has only four hearts J72 is excellent support, with dummy well-placed to ruff a couple of black suit losers. Making 4H after the defence cashes the club ace and continues with a second club takes a little care. There are several ways to make the contract, but also several

ways to go wrong, with five of the nine declarers who played in hearts failing to make ten tricks. Potentially losing options include drawing trumps too early, taking the diamond finesse, attempting to run the diamonds and losing a trick when an opponent ruffs, and mishandling the 4-1 trump break.

The safest line is to ignore the diamonds and use dummy's trumps to establish the spade suit. After ruffing the club continuation in dummy at trick two, return to the spade ace and ruff a small spade in dummy. Cash the diamond ace, and ruff a small diamond in hand. Cash the spade king. When the queen falls, cash the ace, king, and queen of hearts, leaving one trump outstanding, and play the spade ten. West can ruff, but the rest of the tricks are yours.

This line of play works as long as the hearts break no worse than 4-1, and the diamonds break no worse than 3-1. As the cards lie it delivers an overtrick thanks to the fall of South's spade honours, but will make four regardless of who holds the missing honours as long as the spades break 4-3. Our East-West opponents took a slightly different line, but still made ten tricks for a well-earned 75%.

### Calling the Director (from Clare)

If there is a problem at your table, it is imperative that a table call the director as early as possible. If you are unsure whether you SHOULD call the director - call them - that is what they are there for. If someone at your table uses calling the director as a threat - call the director yourself! Calling the director is not a negative, it is a way of ensuring that play is fair and equitable. All of us make mistakes. The other point regarding director calls is to call them as early as possible! Often, the solution that SHOULD have been offered cannot be, as the director was called too late.

## Hesitation

There are clear rules around hesitating and if you feel that there has been a hesitation at your table, which has given information, please do not threaten the opponents or comment yourself, just call the director - they will make a decision when all the facts are stated. There is no law in bridge which prevents partner from bidding once a hesitation has occurred. It may well be this bid will subsequently be ruled to have made use of unauthorised information, and that the opponents duly receive an adjusted score, but the bid can still be made. In a nutshell, to bid after a hesitation may sometimes be unwise, but it is never prohibited.

## Finally

Partnership bridge: Is that an oxymoron or an ox and a moron?

Happy bridging everyone.

Jason Benton

On behalf of the committee

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## Upcoming tournaments

24 June	Winton Jnr/Int Pairs	3B/5B
2 July	Oamaru	Open 8B
15 July	Gore Pairs	Open 8B
22 July	Winton Pairs	Open 5A
23 July	Otago Jnr Pairs	Jnr 3B
29 July	Taieri Graded Pairs	Open 8B

For tournament details, check out the club noticeboard or contact Maggie 027 333 6681.

## New/changes to phone numbers

Sue Blake	027 443 3495
Belinda Blaxland	027 948 9934
Robin Bruce-Smith	443 3198
Kate Gibbons	04 567 6859
Robyn Gilchrist	027 447 5254
Sue & Ian Halsted	265 3049
Jane Hamilton	443 9022
Sherill Harries	443 8846
Helen Henshall	027 201 3805
Mary Maclean	021 621 461
Bridget Rennie	443 4986