



# Table Talk June 2022

## News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

### Marc's Missive

As you will have read last month, the Club's finances are now on a sound footing. The nagging exception to this is that table money is down, but for good reason. In light of this we are trying to do everything we can to encourage members back to the Club. Where this overrides existing protocols, like no silver-silver on a Tuesday, members will have to defer to the judgement of the Director.

We are hoping that provision of a Thursday night session for beginners to both play and learn will satisfy the needs of both this year's novices and some of last year's. We recognise that not all of those who joined last year are keen to play competitive bridge, and that even some of those who are do not feel sufficiently confident to take that next step. These will be relaxed evenings where a number of boards will be played while the nuts and bolts of competitive play will be taught. In addition, newer members will be able to catch up with teaching sessions they have missed.

Marc Simmonds (President, WBC)

### Match Programme: June-July 2022

Mon 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> June: AJ McKenzie Pairs, silver/bronze pairs allowed;

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> June: Silver Champs Round 6;

Mon 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> July: Pembroke Pairs, silver/bronze pairs allowed.

Tuesday bridge: 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> July;

Wed 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Pisa Pairs, silver/bronze pairs allowed;

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> June: Bronze Champs Round 5;

Wed 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> July: Luggate Stakes silver/bronze pairs allowed;

Fri 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> July: Afternoon social bridge, starts 1:00 p.m. No partnership restrictions, all results handicapped.

### News From the Committee

The Website is needing some amendments to be completed, including the mobile and QLDC contacts. The QLDC has been contacted but no headway has been made as yet. Martin will go to the QLDC website and complete a RFS (Request For Service)

### Improvers Lessons

The next lesson in this series is Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, 2 to 4 pm at the Presbyterian Community Centre. Martin will write a reminder email about this which Marc to send it out to all members. The subject of this week's lesson is negative doubles, a very useful skill introduced in ways not commonly played by club members so this lesson could well be useful to current, experienced members as well as novices.

### Beginners Lessons

Sonya reported that this year's beginners lessons had gone well, however, due to the demands of her position with NZB, she is not able to run the follow-up sessions. It was decided that as follow-up lessons had proven to be so valuable to last year's novice group, they would arranged again this year. These sessions will start in July, and will be run by experienced club members on a rostered basis. REQUEST. We need experienced club members both to run and assist with these two-hour

Thursday sessions.

### **Tablets Purchased**

New tablets have been purchased and are now with Mark Harry and Martin Oyston from Bridge NZ for programming. The new tablets will be fed into the system as the old ones pass onto the great technological dump in the sky.

### **Friday Bridge Sessions**

A number of concerns have been voiced about the Friday bridge sessions not being social enough. Two ideas about improving Friday sessions have been tabled and the committee would appreciate hearing from club members about these two topics. Please respond to the club email address with your ideas.

Many people have commented on the lack of social interaction at Friday sessions due to covid-related restrictions and the mandated mask-wearing. The first suggestion is that having a break for afternoon tea should be returned to the Friday sessions. It could either be at a break in the session, or it could be after the session, so that anyone who was not comfortable removing their mask could leave at that time and skip the refreshments.

The second idea concerned the limited number of bronze members attending the Friday sessions. At present it is mostly silver players who take part. One suggestion is that silver players could ask a bronze player to partner with them for a session, in this way supporting them to take part on Fridays. Of course, there may well be other suggestions and the committee are keen to hear them. Please let the committee members know your ideas about how we might improve the Friday sessions.

### **First Aid Kit**

It is important that everyone knows that the club First Aid kit is stored in what we

use as the office. It is kept under the computer table.

### **Table Movements**

The Howell table movement is being used on Tuesdays and we would like to encourage its use for any session where there are a limited number of tables. It may be that a refresher / training course is needed for current directors and we are investigating this.

### **Secretary for Records/Digital Records – urgently required**

A volunteer is required to work on the club's records on the club computer at the Presbyterian Community Centre. This task takes up barely an hour a month. Please let Marc know if you could help out.

### **Liquor Licence Update**

Ken has sent a letter to the QLDC confirming we are no longer at Cliff Wilson Drive and that we are now surrendering our liquor licence.

### **Club Rooms Progress**

We continue to pursue our idea of moving to the refurbished 'old Mitre 10' building. Expressions of interest regarding the building had to be in by 12 June to the QLDC. We achieved this and now awaiting a response. Please don't hold your breath.

### **Time-Keeping**

Without the aid of a time-keeping device the director's job is that much harder. We will try to set one up on one of the TV's at the hall.

### **Online Improvers Lessons**

These are being offered by NZB and also by Andrew Robson in conjunction with Real Bridge. Members are encouraged to take up these valuable offers.

### **NZ Bridge Issues**

These include: contingency arrangements are being made regarding tournaments being changed from face to face to on-line; at the upcoming conference in

Wellington, board members and regional reps will be in attendance; concerns were raised about membership losses, and it will be discussed further at the conference; improvers' lessons will be offered by NZB throughout the year.

### OSRC issues

The provincial tournament on Queen's birthday weekend was moved to Dunedin after we found it very difficult to attract entrants to Wanaka. This would have led to a serious loss for the Club.

### Membership

Current membership is 182 (including 15 Country members); New members, Andrew Shaw; Resignation/s, Nil.

### Financials

Club financials are looking very positive due to the \$10 000 grant received. In addition, our payables are now seeing the benefit of the much lower outgoings on premises. However, table money is down this year (\$3000 down on last year and lowest year apart from the 2020 Covid lockdown year). Hence, we are doing all we can to encourage players back to the Club. Few appear to be using the Water Cooler – if this continues it will be returned as we are paying for it. Some members have not paid their table money this year and this is a friendly reminder to please keep up to date.

### Directors' Fees

Regarding Directors needing to pay table fees when they are directing and playing, the Committee decided to keep the current system of providing a table money credit to the Director.

### Handicaps

These have proved difficult to do fairly and objectively but Martin is reviewing them every 3 months and will work on this issue during the year.

### Playing Tables

A plea to all members to be very careful

when moving the tables. They are very fragile and we need to get as much use out of them as possible. When they are stored, it is best if they are stored carefully – legs against legs and table tops to table tops please.

### Membership Numbers

We are in the process of encouraging members to return to the Club. One way of facilitating this is to invite them to Tuesday sessions. Although silver / silver partnerships are not generally allowed on Tuesdays, it was agreed at the meeting that when people haven't been playing for some time and they return to play on a Tuesday, a silver-silver partnership could be allowed, but at the Director's discretion.

### Roman Key Card Blackwood

This hand from the final round of the Roy Stakes gave well-organised N/S pairs a perfect opportunity to bid a laydown slam:

♠ QJT6		Dir: E	
♥ AKJ73		Vul: N-S	
♦ KQ9			
♣ A			
♠ 754	♠ 3		
♥ T54	♥ 82		
♦ A8643	♦ JT52		
♣ T9	♣ K86432		
♠ AK982			
♥ Q96			
♦ 7			
♣ QJ75			
20			♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ N
4-4			S 21665
12			E -----
Par: 1400+			W -----

After partner open 1S North – with 20 HCP and excellent spade support – has only one question to be answered: are we playing in 6S or 7S? If South has only 12 HCP it is possible (albeit highly unlikely) that with just 32 HCP in total the partnership is missing two aces, but if South holds 13 HCP or better there is at most one ace missing and an immediate ace ask in response is perfectly sound.

Either a Gerber 4C or a Blackwood 4NT will tell North whether partner holds one or two aces, but a much better option is to use Roman Keycard Blackwood. RKB is recommended for suit slams because, in addition to the four aces, the responses include the trump king as a fifth key card. In the simplest version of RKB a response of 5C shows 0 or 3 key cards, and 5D shows 1 or 4 key cards. 5H shows 2 key cards but denies the trump queen, while 5S shows 2 key cards and the trump queen.

The virtue of RKB on this deal is that it covers the remote possibility that opener has neither of the top two spade honours. When South responds 5H North knows that the partnership is missing only one

key card and bids the slam with total confidence. On the night three pairs bid 6S with four baling out in 5S, presumably because South's response to a routine Gerber or Blackwood inquiry, showing just one ace, left North in doubt about the whereabouts of the spade king.

If you choose to adopt RKB into your system be aware that most experts use 5C to show 1 or 4 key cards and 5D to show 0 or 3. Clear this up with partner. The 4NT inquirer is less likely to invite slam if they hold zero key cards so inverting the responses tends to use up less bidding space.

### The One Minute Bridge Player

West	East
♠ A 8 4 3	♠ K
♥ A K 9	♥ 6 5 3
♦ A Q 10 4	♦ J 9 2
♣ A J	♣ 8 7 6 4 3 2

West opens 2NT, East raises to 3NT, and North leads the spade queen which you win with dummy's king. What card do you play from dummy at trick 2, and why?

If the diamond king is on side you have nine tricks, and with no more entries to dummy the time to take the finesse is now. The right card to lead is the diamond 9. If this holds you can remain in dummy for two more finesses, should they be necessary, which they will be if South holds Kxxx. If you start with the jack this will hold the trick but your 10 will win the second round leaving you with no back to dummy to take the finesse a third time.

*Dorothy Hayden Truscott, Winning Declarer Play*