



Table Talk Jun 2023

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

Marc's Missive

Ken Saxby and myself met with Council representatives this month to discuss progress regarding the Mitre 10 building. We were presented with a completed plan of the inside and invited for a site visit in the near future. Once we have seen the building we will let you know our thoughts as to the advantages of moving relative to staying at the Church.

The Rippon Rosebowl was a huge but qualified success this year. It was amazing that we ended up with 14 ½ tables on the final night and everyone did well to keep moving around the room without any hands being misplaced. The qualification is that we will be preparing the handicaps next year a few weeks before the event starts so that people know where they stand. We (Martin Unwin) went to great lengths to ensure that the handicaps were fair, and while there is always room for disagreement the vast majority were reasonable.

Programme: Jun-Jul 2023

Monday:

Silver Championship Pairs: June 26, July 24, 31

Pembroke Pairs: July 3, 10, 17

Tuesday:

June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25

Wednesday:

Bronze Championship Pairs: June 28, July 26

Luggate Stakes: Jul 5, 12, 19

Friday: June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28

Rippon Rosebowl Results

The results are now finalised. A few extra adjustments had to be made for this year's new players and those who have played very few times this year. We don't have a way of updating the information on the website yet, hence the amended results are published below:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Jenny Turnbull/Noeline Raffills | 56.55 |
| 2. Peter Hart/John Milburn | 55.97 |
| 3. Trish Morris/Emma Allwood | 53.73 |

Congratulations to these pairs for overcoming a large field of players. I've attached the full results separately.

Otago/Southland Provincial Teams and Pairs

Seven of us travelled to Queenstown for the above on King's Birthday weekend, where Maggie Stratford joined us. Given that most of O/S's best and brightest were in attendance, the "Fegan" and "Cushnie" teams did pretty well to finish 9th and 10th respectively out of 12 teams. The Fegan team in particular had to play a succession of teams filled with Grand Masters.

In the pairs competition, Maggie and Sherril Harries finished 8th out of 25 pairs and Paul Cushnie and Marc Simmonds 9th. A highlight was Paul and Marc recording 64% to win their section in the morning.

Other Tournaments

Also coming up:

- Jun 25 Oamaru All Grades
- Jul 15 Winton Open Pairs
- Jul 22 Taieri Graded Pairs
- Jul 30 Otago Swiss Pairs

Teams

There will be a Teams competition! As long as enough people enter! It will be run for three weeks on Thursday, July 6, 20 and 27 starting at 6.30.

Each team will consist of two Silver and two Bronze players. These pairs will play against similarly ranked players in all of the other teams over the three weeks.

Enter as a team or a pair by emailing bridgetmccaughan@me.com. Use the Partner Finder as normal if necessary.

Teams needs a different mindset from the Pairs that we normally play. Performance in this competition will be used to help determine our pairings for the upcoming Hamilton Plate, the Teams competition against the other local clubs.

Lessons

Martin Unwin has kindly agreed to give a series of six "improvers" lessons. These will be aimed at those of you who have started playing in the last few years, but anyone is welcome. The lessons will run for six straight weeks from Tuesday, July 18 to August 22 beginning at 7.30 for two hours.

Beginners' lessons are continuing on a Wednesday night. Lynne Fegan has been teaching 16 fresh-faced novices for the past couple of months, and Heather Wellman and Jane Hamilton will be taking over when Lynne goes on her holidays. Thanks to all concerned,

Membership Information

New Members:

Vicky Menzies 0274 359556

Pamela Cullen 0212 350814

National Rubber Bridge Competition

In the latest instalment of Christians v Lions, John Hogg and myself were devoured by some very hungry although quite affable lions from Invercargill. A

combination of the cards and their better play did for us, although a highlight was 6NT on the first board of the afternoon.

21 Questions

New or unfamiliar partnerships are a common feature of many WBC sessions. Even if you have agreed not to play advanced conventions such as a multi-2D opening or a Roman Key Card Blackwood ace-ask, there are many auctions where partnerships can come to grief if both players are not on the same wavelength. How many of the following everyday bidding sequences have you discussed with your partner?

Uncontested auctions

1. Partner responds 2H to your 1S opening. What does this show?
2. Partner responds 1NT to your 1C opening. What does this show?
3. Partner responds 2C to your 1C opening. What does this show?
4. Partner responds 2NT to your 1C opening. What does this show and when should you respond this way?
5. Partner skips a level in response to your 1-level opening (e.g., 1D – 2H, 1H – 3C). What does this show, and when should you respond this way?
6. Under what circumstances do we open 1NT?
7. How do we play our 2C opening? Is it game forcing?
8. Are we playing transfers over a 1NT opening?
9. What does a 3C response mean after a strong 2NT opening?
10. Are we playing transfers after a 2NT opening?
11. What is our opening bid on hands with 12-19 points and three 4-card suits?
12. After an opening one-level suit bid, can a 1NT response include a singleton or void in opener's suit?

Contested auctions

13. What are our requirements for making a takeout double of their opening bid?
14. How do we play non-jump overcalls at the one level? At the two level?
15. Do we ever overcall on a four-card suit?
16. How do we play jump overcalls (e.g., they open 1D, we overcall 2H)?
17. Partner has overcalled their one-level opening, the next hand has passed, and we bid a new suit (e.g., 1S – 2C – P – 2H). What does this mean? Is it forcing?
18. What does a 1NT overcall mean in 2nd position? In 4th position?
19. What is our defence to their 1NT opening?
20. What do we do if our 1NT opening is doubled?
21. Are we playing negative doubles? If so, to what level?

Many of these questions do not have specific right/wrong answers, as you will often be able to choose between several alternatives according to taste and partnership style. The important thing is simply to discuss them before they crop up at the table.

A good way for you and partner to get in some bidding practice if you don't have another pair to play with is to remove the 2, 3, 4, and 5 spot cards from a pack of cards and deal yourselves two hands from the 36 cards that remain. With the low spot cards missing at least one hand will usually have enough points to open the bidding, so you can quickly practice as many uncontested auctions as you like.

An Over-Aggressive Double?

A piece of bridge advice from many years ago was "If all your penalty doubles work, you're not doubling enough". This may sound counter-intuitive, but – like all bridge aphorisms – has more than a grain of truth. If you double only when you are guaranteed to defeat the contract you will

miss out on the many cases when you are very likely to defeat the contract but fail to do so. The reasoning is sound: if 10% of your missed doubles fail, your rewards on the 90% which succeed will more than offset your losses.

This deal from a recent Friday afternoon session is a good example of a hand where an aggressive double failed only because the opponents missed the correct but very unlikely-looking defence:

♠ A92		Dir: N	
♥ 65		Vul: N-S	
♦ AK			
♣ J87432			
♠ Q865	♠ 7	♠ QJ982	
♥ AT74	♥ 863	♥ 863	
♦ QT542	♦ AKQ5	♦ AKQ5	
♣	♣ KJT43	♣	
12	♥ K3	♠	♠
8 12	♦ J97	♠	N 1 - - 1 -
8	♣ T96	♠	S 1 - - 1 -
		♠	E - 13 - -
		♠	W - 13 - -
			Par: -140

The auction at our table was:

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
X	All pass		

West's 2♣ response to East's 1♥ is an *Unassuming Cue Bid* (UCB), using a bid of opener's suit to show a constructive raise in hearts. With 4-card support, a club void, and length in spades, West knows they may well have game on if East is more than minimum. The UCB lets you differentiate between purely obstructive raises (i.e., 2♥ or 3♥) and raises with a genuine interest in game, and is a useful addition to your bidding arsenal.

Against 4♥X South made the natural lead of a small spade, won by North's ace, but that was the end of the defence. North returned a spade hoping for a second trick in the suit, but declarer ruffed, led the heart queen, and continued with the jack to trap South's king. She returned to hand with a spade ruff and pitched three of dummy's losing diamonds on her club suit

to make 10 tricks, keeping her losers to the spade ace and two diamonds.

The winning defence is for South to shun the black suits in favour of a small diamond lead. North wins with the king followed by the ace, and then has to be brave enough to underlead the spade ace by putting South in with the spade king. South then returns a third round of diamonds which North ruffs, holding declarer to nine tricks.

An aggressive double? Perhaps, but if the diamonds split 3-2 between N/S the correct defence is much easier to find.



JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE EVENT DAYS

Novice: Sat 23rd (afternoon)

Junior/Int congress pairs: Sun 24th

Junior/Int NZ Teams: Tues 26th /Wed 27th

Junior/Int NZ Pairs: Thurs 28th/Friday 29th

Junior/Int Swiss Pairs: Friday 29th pm/Sat



*10% off Early bird registration ends 31 August and TAKE
first time to Congress and you play two or more Junior

to register for the discount email Bridget@nzbridge.co.nz or www.nzbridge.co.nz