



New Post

Table Talk - Jun 2025

From the President

Brrrr 🥶🥶🥶

By golly it's cold out there. We do play bridge indoors but as we aren't very physical when we play, please layer up to come along to bridge (you can always take a layer off if you get too hot). It is a large room and they are not the easiest to heat. We do have some blankets in a container in the office if needed.

I have just had a thoroughly enjoyable time playing in the Rippon Rosebowl. It's great to see so many silver players taking the opportunity to play and meet with our Bronze players.

I'm away to Perth to see my newest Grandchild from July 2nd to 27th. Jane Hamilton will be the main contact point while I am away. Jane is also in charge of Tuesday bridge over this time so if you need a partner please contact her.

Happy bridging, see you in a month

Cheers

Heather 😊

Programme May 2025 - Jun

Silver Championship Pairs Jun 30

Pembroke Pairs from Jul 7

Tuesday:

From Jul 1

Wednesday:

Bronze Championship Pairs Jul 2

Luggate Stakes from Jun 9

Bronze Championship Pairs Jul 30

Friday:

From Jun 27

Tournaments

Also coming up:

Oamaru All Grades 8B Jun 29

Mid South Island Interclub Teams (Oamaru) Jul 6:

Open 3A; Intermediate 5B; Junior 3B

Otago Swiss Pairs (Otago BC) 5A Jul 12

Winton Open Pairs 5A Jul 19

Taieri Graded Pairs Open 8B Jul 27

Recent Results

Several Wanaka members ventured over to Queenstown for the Otago/Southland regional competition. In the Intermediate Pairs, Neil Marshall and myself finished second overall by a hair's breadth. In the Open teams, Andrew Shaw, Neil, Paul Cushnie and myself faced nine more than capable teams, of whom a few were very capable indeed. We agreed that we would be happy winning two of our nine matches. In the event, we won no fewer than seven, including a crushing victory over Queenstown in our last one to ensure that we finished third overall.

Championship Pairs

The Committee received a letter concerning the Championship Pairs format. It pointed out that the concentration of Championship Pairs nights in the middle of the year was making it difficult for many pairs to complete their eight sessions in order to qualify for the competition. This has become more of an issue as members have resumed overseas travel during the New Zealand winter.

We discussed many possible solutions, including rearranging the programme and restricting the number of nights over which it is played. Any suggestions would be welcome.

Policies and Procedures

The Committee has prepared and ratified several policy and procedure documents. You will be able to read these on the noticeboard at the Club.

Clare Scurr has agreed to be our Recorder. Please read the noticeboard for a summary of Clare's responsibilities.

Health and Safety

Remember that the second of First Aid courses is at the Fire Station at 7pm tonight

Membership

New members:

Belinda (Bim) Innes; Tony Horder

We are now back up to 195 members!

Director's Corner

This month the details of Law 16 B., which relates to unauthorised information.

Extraneous Information from Partner

1. Any extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorized. This includes remarks, questions, replies to questions, unexpected alerts or failures to alert, **unmistakable hesitation**, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism.

(a) A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if the other call or play is a logical alternative.

(b) A logical alternative is an action that a significant proportion of the class of players in question, using the methods of the partnership, would seriously consider, and some might select.

2. When a player considers that an opponent has made such information available and that damage could well result he may announce, unless prohibited by the Regulating Authority (which may require that the Director be called), that he reserves the right to summon the Director later (the opponents should summon the Director immediately if they dispute the fact that unauthorized information might have been conveyed).

3. When a player has substantial reason to believe that an opponent who had a logical alternative has chosen an action suggested by such information, he should summon the Director when play ends^[1].

In what feels like a war of attrition, I have managed to stop the vast majority of our members from, for instance , folding their cards before the auction has finished. The reason that one item is in in bold lettering above is that some players are still taking far too long over the occasional bid. You should be thinking about your next bid as soon as partner has bid. If there is an intervening bid, especially a pre-emptive one, you are allowed some extra time to consider your reaction to it. In an uninterrupted auction, aim for a maximum of 10 seconds, an auction interrupted by a regular competitive bid 15 seconds and interruption by a pre-emptive bid 20 seconds.

If you do not keep to this schedule, you run the risk of a rightly aggrieved opponent calling the Director after the auction closes. The bid by your partner subsequent to your hesitation will be scrutinised to see if they took advantage of your hesitation to modify their bid. This has happened at our table several times in tournaments. It may well happen more regularly at our normal Club sessions in future, so beware. Also be aware of the long list of potential infringements above.

^[1] It is not an infraction to call the Director earlier or later.

Two Grand Slams

Last month's all-day Slam Bidding lesson appears to have had an immediate effect. During the course lesson I encountered several tables where, when

asked why the pair with the big hands had stopped in a 6-level contract rather than exploring the prospects of a 7-level contract, the answer was invariably something like “I’ve never bid a grand slam!”. This huge deal from the final round of the Wednesday evening Rippon Rosebowl is a striking example, It is by no means the first time where one or two pairs have bid and made a grand slam, but it may well be the first time in WBC history that pairs who stopped at the 6-level scored a below average board.

Board 5

<p>Dir: N Vul: N-S</p>		<p>♠ 7 ♥ 8762 ♦ Q5432 ♣ 743</p>
<p>♠ T9432 ♥ KT3 ♦ K ♣ AQ92</p>	<p>♠ AKQJ65 ♥ AQJ ♦ A ♣ K65</p>	
<p>2 12 24 2</p>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ 954 ♦ JT9876 ♣ JT8</p>	<p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N S - - - - E 72477 W 72477</p>
Par: -1520		

Con	Dc	Res	Score
4 ♠	W	+3	-50
3 NT	E	+4	-50
6 ♠	W	+1	-100
6 ♠	W	+1	-100
6 ♠	W	+1	-100
6 ♠	W	+1	-100
6 ♠	W	+1	-100
7 ♠	W	=	-150
7 ♠	W	=	-150
7 ♠	W	=	-150
Datum:			-100

After a pass by North East will surely open 2C followed by a pass from South. Opinions differ as to how West should respond with 12 HCP and a 5-card spade suit, the two most common variants being that West should always respond 2D regardless of point count, and that with 8+ HCP West should either bid a 5-card suit or respond 2NT with a balanced hand. My current preference is for the latter, with the added requirement that a positive response *promises* an ace and a king.

Assuming West responds 2S, telling opener that EW have an 11-card spade fit, East has only one remaining question: are we playing in 6S or 7S? As it happens either a Gerber 4C or an RKB 4NT will give the answer, confirming that West has one ace and two kings, and East should have no qualms about

bidding to 7S. Making 7S was worth 89% on the board, whereas making 6S was worth only 44%.

Remarkably, Board 9 was almost a carbon copy of Board 5, with the points divided 25-12:

Board 9			
<div> <div> ♠ T876 ♥ T875 ♦ Q93 ♣ T6 </div> <div> ♠ KJ ♥ K962 ♦ 8752 ♣ AJ4 </div> <div> ♠ AQ3 ♥ AQJ3 ♦ AK ♣ KQ92 </div> </div> <div> Dir: N Vul: E-W </div> <div> ♠ 9542 ♥ 4 ♦ JT64 ♣ 8753 </div> <div> 2 12 25 1 </div> <div> ♠ N ♥ N ♦ N ♣ N </div> <div> N --- S --- E 75747 W 75747 </div> <div> Par: -2220 </div>			
Con	Dc	Res	Sco
4 NT	E	+3	-7
3 NT	E	+4	-7
6 NT	W	=	-14
6 ♥	W	+1	-14
6 ♥	W	+1	-14
6 NT	W	+1	-14
6 NT	E	+1	-14
6 NT	E	+1	-14
7 ♥	W	=	-22
7 ♥	W	=	-22
Datum:			-14

EW can make either 7H or 7NT with ease, although it is hardly surprising that the two pairs who bid to the 7-level opted to play in their 4-4 heart fit. Scores were 94%, 56%, and 39% for making 7H, 6NT, and 6H, respectively.

AJ Mckenzie Pairs
 1st Tracey Gieck and Sheryl Strudwick
 2nd Paul Cushnie and Dorothy McDonald
 Rippon Rosebowl
 1st Nicole Meldrum and John Schwarz
 2nd Jude Gunn and Joan Moon
 Marc

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