



Table Talk

Newsletter of the Wanaka Bridge Club Inc.
March 2014

Silver threads amongst the bronze

We have two Silver/Bronze partnership series this year. The first, Mt Barker Pairs, was won by Deirdre Lynch and Heather Wellman with an average score of 58.43%. Claire Scurr and Denise Bruns came second. Well done. The next Silver/Bronze series, the A J McKenzie Pairs, is scheduled for June/July.

The feedback we get from 'Bronze' players is they really enjoy these opportunities to play with and learn from more senior players. We're also told many are reluctant to approach a Silver player to play; something senior players playing in Silver/Silver partnerships for these series might not be aware of.

If you're having trouble finding a partner for the A J McKenzie Pairs, please call Carolyn Field (443 2422) or Michael Metzger (443 7893) and we'll try to find you one.

Clutha Pairs

Wednesday night bridge is gaining popularity with an average of around 6 tables. It's a relaxed night focused on developing new players. Congratulations to our first series winners for the year. Debbie Brent and John Mercer took out the Clutha Pairs with 57.36%. Pauline Davidson and Peter Hart came second.

To circle or not to circle?

We get many questions about what should be alerted and what shouldn't. Generally, any conventional bid, must be alerted. A 'convention' is an artificial bid used to communicate between partners. Common examples are 'Blackwood' (4NT ace asking) and 'Gerber' (4C ace asking). These conventions are, in fact, so commonly understood they don't need to be alerted.

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

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, e.g. 2S, 2H, 2D
- Shows high-card strength or length (3+ cards) in the suit named.

So:

- An opening bid of 1C where partner could hold as few as 2 clubs must be alerted.
- A 2C Game Forcing bid does not have to be alerted, this is in such common use that it is deemed to be self-alerting.
- A 2C opener of anything less than game force, i.e. as few as 18 or 19 hcps, must be alerted.
- A weak 2S, 2H, 2D does not have to be alerted.

The principle of alerting is to disclose as much as you can, not as little, so a response of say 'Cappaletti' isn't sufficient. You need to say 9-14hcps, 6 card suit (or whatever the meaning of your particular response).

You can read more about alerting on pages 3 and 11 of the booklet *Bridge Protocol* we sent out a week or two ago. 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.

Demystifying Masterpoints

'C' points are part of a rating system called 'Masterpoints' used for ranking players for tournaments. As a NZ Bridge affiliated club, we must award Masterpoints for each session.

40 'C' points are awarded to the winners 'each way'. Points may also be awarded to place-getters – up to 6th depending on the number of tables. 100 'C' points make a 'B' point. Once you have amassed 5 'B' points, you are awarded your certificate of proficiency.

'B' points are also awarded to tournament winners. 'A' points, on the other hand, are only awarded at tournament level.

You can read more about Masterpoints on p12 of the *Bridge Protocol* booklet (or visit www.nzcba.co.nz).

Masterpoints can be awarded on 'off the stick' or handicap results. At the end of last year your committee decided to award Masterpoints on Friday and Wednesday off the handicap result for the 2014 year. The reasoning was that the emphasis for these sessions is of a social and learning nature. This will be reviewed at the end of this year.

Directors' exams

There are two chances this year to get your directors' badge:

- Series 1 – 28 & 29 June (Club and Tournament Directors exams)
- Series 2 – 1 & 2 November (Club Directors exams only)

If 'going back to school' seems a bit scary, these are open book exams and we have plenty of support material available to help you prepare.

Mt Iron Stakes

Just a reminder that this series starting March 31 will be played in two divisions. It would be good to have as many Bronze/Bronze partnerships as possible to boost numbers playing in that division. Call Noeline Goldsbrough (443 8864) if you need help finding a partner.

Friday bridge takes a break

There will be no Friday bridge on Good Friday (April 18) or Anzac Day. For a bridge fix over Easter, come along to the Easter Open on Monday 21 at 7:00pm.

Get your team together

Our Mixed Teams competition gets underway on Wednesday 9 April. Teams of four must include at least two Bronze players. Register your team with John Lyness (443 7500 or jlyness@xtra.co.nz).

Upcoming tournaments

Keen to venture further afield and test your skills against others in the region? Talk to Georgie Roberts (443 6789) if you want to register for these upcoming tournaments:

Queenstown Pairs (Open) March 29
Winton Pairs (Jnr/Int) April 5
Cromwell Pairs & Teams (Open) April 12/13

Happy bridging!

Cheers
Your committee

Changes/additions for your bridge book

Charles Kiewiet 265 3111
Nicola McGregor 443 2780
Jenny and Ken Muir 027 201 5461
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