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New Post

Table Talk - Mar 2025

From the President

Well the mornings are colder and the days are shorter and it's great to see so many of you coming along to play bridge.

This month I would like to acknowledge the unsung members of our club:

The kitchen supply purchaser and those who set up and tidy up the kitchen.

The people who collect the table money and bank the money.

The Directors and computer operators.

The card dealers.

The ones who get to bridge early and set up the room and those who stay behind and tidy up.

And those who help out with all the little tasks around the clubrooms.

Thank you so much, your support and help is very much appreciated.

Happy bridging and hope to see you across the table soon

Cheers

Heather

Programme Mar 2025 - Apr 2025

Monday:

Silver Championship Pairs Mar 31

Mt Iron Stakes from Apr 7

Silver Championship Pairs Apr 28

Tuesday:

From Apr 1

Wednesday:

Bronze Championship Pairs Apr 2

Matukituki Pairs from Feb 12

Bronze Championship Pairs Apr 30

Friday:

From Mar 28

No bridge on Apr 18 or Apr 25 (holidays)

Tournaments

Also coming up:

Winton Open Swiss Pairs 5A Apr 5

NZBridge Intermediate/Junior Pairs 5B Online Apr 11

Otago Autumn Teams 5A Otago BC Apr 12

Otago Autumn Intermediate Pairs 5B Otago BC Apr 13

NZBridge Intermediate/Junior Swiss Pairs 5B Online Apr 18

Wanaka Open Pairs 5A Apr 26

Recent Results

Five Wanaka pairs attended this year's Queenstown Open tournament. In the afternoon session, Paul Cushnie and myself finished 2nd EW, but Marion Furneaux and Jenny Pryde were the stars of the show from a Wanaka

perspective. They played well both morning and afternoon, finishing 6th overall as the top Intermediate Pair.

Wanaka April Tournament

The NZBridge website is once more open for business. The old website, that is. You can now enter our tournament if you haven't already. And can I remind you that "Open" means open to all grades, and that there will be prizes for Open, Intermediate and Junior sections?

Once again, we ask that Wanaka members who are playing bring a plate with them for the breakfast buffet, and that all members consider contributing to the raffle prizes. We will be following the format that was so well-received at our last tournament, presenting four or five hampers.

Speaking of NZBridge, they have a vacancy on their main board which is being advertised at clubs across the country.

Bridge Sessions

After last month's appeal, members are in general turning up for sessions a little earlier, although there are still a few laggards. There is also evidence that play has speeded up somewhat, so thank you. We are still wanting in table manners, though, as not enough respect is being shown to both opposition and partners. And please follow the Director's decision at the table. You can appeal to the Club after the session if you think that you have a valid grievance.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not allowed at the bridge table. If you have to bring one into the hall with you, please ensure that it is switched off, in flight mode or "vibrate" if absolutely necessary.

Name Badges

Please get into the habit of bringing your name badge to bridge sessions.

Psych Bids

Psych Bids are those that are designed to confuse opponents, usually by making a bid with a weaker holding than is described in a partnership system.

Law 73 has this to say:

A player may appropriately attempt to deceive an opponent through a call or play (so long as the deception is not emphasized by unwonted haste or hesitancy, nor protected by concealed partnership understanding or experience).

If a partnership has not disclosed a tendency toward psych bids, the Director can award an adjusted score. Martin Unwin keeps a record of such bids, so please report them .

Noticeboard

Now that we have the noticeboard back in the office, we will be putting it next to the disc container so that you can have a good look at it as you enter the hall.

Rubber Bridge

The annual NZ-wide Rubber Bridge competition starts soon. This is a knock-out competition which starts between Wanaka teams and progresses to matches against other local clubs. Find a partner and let Tracey Gieck know of your interest.

Membership

New member: Jill Bagley 027 2222725

Phone number for Robin Lamont: 0211 044378

Slam Bidding 201: Roman Keycard Blackwood, Control-Showing Bids, Splinters

Motivation

The Wanaka Bridge Club has a poor record when it comes to slam bidding. In the Silver Division, 15% of slams that can and should be bid are played at the slam level, dropping to 4% in Bronze Division.

The discrepancies become even more apparent when compared across NT and suit contracts. In Silver Division 22% of NT slams are bid, compared to only 6% of major suit contracts and 2% of minor suit contracts. The equivalent figures for Bronze Division are 7% for NT, 2% for majors and 0% for minors.

The main reason for this poor record is the almost universal use of Gerber 4C as the sole ace-asking device. Gerber is the ideal tool for bidding NT, but is not designed and should not be used for bidding trump slams. In many suit slams, one or both hands will singletons or voids, both of which Gerber does not take any account of. In addition, the trump king and queen are such important cards in suit contracts that it is highly advantageous to include them in your ace-asking strategy.

If enhancing your slam-bidding appeals to you and you regular partner(s), this course is for you. Bronze and Silver players are equally welcome, the sole requirement being nothing more than a willingness to reserve Gerber for NT slams, learn Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKB) and put all those currently unused 4-level bids to better use.

Course Overview

The course will run from 10:00 am to 12:15 am, and from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The morning session will be devoted to RKB: the recommended responses, how to ask for the trump queen, and how to ask for kings. The morning practice deals will emphasise bidding rather than card play but will allow time for bid & play deals depending on our rate of progress.

The afternoon session will look at alternative uses for 4-level bids, focussing on control-showing bids and splinters. This will be followed by a set of practice hands using both the above techniques in combination with RKB.

Director's Corner

My left hand opponent (LHO) opens 1H, and my partner bids 2H. When asked by my right hand opponent (RHO) the meaning of the bid, I say that it signifies spades and a minor. I notice a slightly sheepish look on my partner's face while I

am explaining. RHO then bids 3C. I have 5 spades and 5 diamonds. I bid 4S, aware that it could be a disaster if partner has not bid correctly. We are doubled and go 4 down (yes, this is a true story..)

There are a few lessons to be learned from this. I am not supposed to look at any of the other three players unless talking about the meaning of partner's bid with one of the opponents. This is sometimes difficult. Even though I had a heart void and partner's bid would have placed LHO with at least 8 hearts (no support from RHO), I cannot pass when it is my turn to bid. I have to take partner's bid at face value. Any other bid would be acting on unauthorised information from partner, and the Director should be called.

It may seem that with all of the restrictions on what you are allowed to do at the table that you are playing in a straitjacket. However, the point is to stop you from giving either intentional or unintentional information to your partner. I still saw a few dummies putting their hands on the table without being asked by declarer at the Queenstown Open tournament. This can be seen as indicating which suit declarer should play next. Also, do not fold your hand or put your pencil down until the bidding has finished. You could be telling partner that you have no interest in bidding again.

One thing that I know you won't do is to say "I think I'll leave it there" before passing partner's response. That may or may not have happened last Saturday!

Unheard Melodies

This deal from Round 3 of the Monday evening Cardrona Stakes was notable for several features when played at our table: a powerful North hand, some dubious bidding by both sides, and an outrageous distribution of the spade suit. It's notable not so much as for what happened but what didn't happen: a melody that could and probably should have been played at most tables but remained unheard.

		♠ A ♥ K98 ♦ AKQJ6 ♣ A432		Dir: N Vul:																									
♠ K97642 ♥ A T ♦ T972 ♣ 5			♠ Q ♥ QJ432 ♦ 43 ♣ KQJ98																										
21 7 11 1		♠ JT853 ♥ 765 ♦ 85 ♣ T76																											
Par: 140				<table> <tr> <td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>22</td><td>-</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>22</td><td>-</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	22	-	31		S	22	-	31		E	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	
♠	♦	♥	♣	N																									
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With 21 HCP North was clearly worth a strong 2-level opening and opted for 2NT, hoping that partner would be able to cover the spade shortage. Partner could, and bid 3H as a transfer to spades intending to pass opener's forced 3S response. That should have ended the auction but East ventured to the 4-level to end up in the unfortunate contract of 4C X. Had East passed West would have surely licked his lips at the prospect of defending 3S and quietly passed, anticipating a decent penalty.

		S	-
		H	K 9 8
		D	-
		C	4 3 2
S	K 9 7 4	S	-
H	A T	H	Q J 4 3
D	-	D	-
C	-	C	Q J
		S	J T 8 5

H 7 6

D –

C –

The unheard melody is that, as the cards lie, N/S can make 3S. On the lead of the club king declarer wins with the ace and has nothing to lose by immediately cashing the spade ace. When the spade queen falls, showing that East started with either the bare queen or the KQ doubleton, declarer starts running the diamonds. When East shows out on the third round and declines to ruff declarer continues with the diamonds, discarding two clubs and pitching a losing heart – a classic loser-on-loser play – on the fifth diamond, forcing West to shorten his trumps by ruffing and leaving him in the unenviable position of being endplayed either in spades or hearts.

Regardless of which suit he tackles West cannot stop declarer making 3 of the last 6 tricks. The heart 10 lets declarer make the heart king, which he surely has for his 2NT opening bid, and the heart ace fares no better. And a spade lead ensures that declarer will take two tricks in dummy and can lead a small a small heart to hand to make the heart king. Either way, declarer makes 3 tricks in spades, one heart, 4 diamonds and one club to scramble 9 tricks.

This month's results:

For the Cardrona Stakes, congratulations to:

1st Neil Marshall and Andrew Shaw

2nd Lesley Davies and Andrew McLennan

For the Matukuituki Pairs, congratulations to:

1st Emma Allwood and Jo Harry

2nd Maureen Hawke and Sue Orbell

With reference to the points about table etiquette, quite a few people have said to me "but I've always done that". Well now you know!

Marc

Contact Us

Our Website