



Table Talk

May 2022

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

Marc's Missive

A relatively quiet month for once. John Hogg was able to report to the Committee that the Club's financial position is now back to where it was pre-Covid. We are also start to see the effects of lower outgoings, although we have agreed to replace the scoring tablets – they barely made it through the April tournament and are becoming unreliable even for regular sessions.

Harking back to last month's Open Tournament, congratulations to the Wanaka prize-winners and also to the organising committee. After overcoming a series of obstacles Lynne, Jan and Nicole ran the tournament at a small profit, ably assisted by a small army of helpers and the generosity of Club members.

The Council appears to be staggering towards a decision relating to the old Mitre 10 site. Although the Club was not explicitly mentioned in the recent QLDC press release Ken has been reassured that there will be a space for us.

On the [Auckland Bridge Club website](#) you will see a [weekly series of RealBridge sessions](#). Sonya has volunteered to organise a regular Sunday afternoon session for Wanaka, with the ability to play "pop-up" sessions at any time). Please email sonyawanaka@gmail.com or phone her at 021-970-292. It is important that we give the membership as many playing opportunities as possible while the current difficulties persist, both for enjoyment and improvement. See **Online Bridge** on the following page for further details.

Marc Simmonds (President, WBC)

Match Programme: May-June 2022

Mon 9th, 16th, 23rd May: Roy Stakes, silver/silver pairs only;

Mon 30th May: Silver Champs Round 5;

Mon 6th, 13th, 20th June: A J McKenzie Pairs (silver/bronze pairs allowed).

Tuesday bridge: 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st May, 7th, 14th, 21st June;

Wed 11th, 18th, 25th May: Lindis Pairs (Bronze pairs only);

Wed 1st June: Bronze Champs Round 5;

Wed 8th, 15th, 22nd June: Pisa Pairs;

Fri 13th, 20th, 27th May, 3rd, 10th, 17th June: Afternoon social bridge, starts 1:00 p.m.

No partnership restrictions, all results handicapped.

Queen's Birthday Weekend, Otago Bridge Club, Dunedin

Sat 4th June: Otago/Southland Provincial Teams;

Sun 5th June: Otago/Southland Provincial Pairs;

News From the Committee

Updated Covid-19 Policy

The latest advisory from NZ Bridge, dated 29 April 2022, "strongly recommends" the continued use of masks for all playing sessions but gives clubs the option of setting specific requirements according to their circumstances.

In keeping with these guidelines the committee has decided that, given our membership demographic and the persistence of community transmission throughout the Southern Region, mask usage will remain mandatory for all club playing sessions until further notice. Also:

- The director has the right to preclude entry if they consider the player is a risk to others;
- The player will have no right to contest the decision of the director;
- If a player has contracted covid and remains symptomatic, or is a close (i.e., household) contact of a known positive covid case, they should not enter the club;
- If a player has a cold, flu, or is otherwise unwell, they should not enter the club;

Drinks and snacks may not be consumed at the bridge table. If you require a drink or snack during a playing session please ensure you are at a safe distance (at least 2 m) from others. This applies to all sessions, including Tuesday lunchtimes. Friday afternoon tea breaks are on hold until further notice.

WBC Page on QLDC Website

The Wanaka Bridge Club page on the QLDC Community Connect website has been updated to reflect the move to the Presbyterian Community Centre.

Merging Monday and Wednesday Nights

A suggestion from the floor at the 2021 AGM was for the bronze and silver divisions to play in parallel sessions on the same night. Given that both groups currently have quite strong attendance the decision was made to keep the groups separate, particularly while covid is in the community. As the club's social aspect is curtailed due to mask wearing, Friday afternoon players may want to consider going to a bar after play finishes.

Membership Update

Our current membership is 179, with 165 full members and 14 country members.

Treasurer's Update

John Hogg reports that the club is now in a better financial position than we were 3-

4 years ago, and this should continue to improve as the year goes on thanks to the move to our new location.

The new online system for paying table fees continues to work well. Note that it is easiest for John if members simply pay their bills monthly rather than build up a credit.

Online Bridge from 28th May

Weekly online bridge sessions will begin on Sunday 28th May, running from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. These replace the organised "pub bridge" sessions which have been discontinued.

These will be social sessions, with no director and no C-points awarded. A senior player will be on hand to advise if anything unusual arises. A link to each session be posted on the WBC website.

You must arrange your own partner and will be required to pay \$2 for each session, to be debited from your online account. "Pop-up" sessions in RealBridge's Lounge will also be available, so if you wish to take part in one of these arrange a table of four and contact Sonya.

Committee Understudies Required

John Hogg advises that in due course he will step down as treasurer so is keen to have an understudy to ensure this transition goes as smoothly as possible. We also need an understudy willing to pick up some of Lynne Fegan's duties, particularly becoming familiar with and then managing a substantial archive of WBC files on her home PC.

Directors Examinations

We continue to encourage interested players to consider taking the club director's exam, both to support the club's regular sessions and to enhance their own play. Much of the current directing load falls on a small number of

shoulders, and a larger pool of directors would be very welcome.

The NZBridge website contains several links which will help give you a feel for what is involved in becoming a club level director. These include an [overview of the director's exam](#), and a [summary of the most common rulings](#) you are likely to encounter in routine club play. For any current directors interested in mastering the skills necessary to become a tournament level director, [an overview of the relevant exam can be found here](#).

Bridge Tablets

The bridge tablets are an essential tool for the club but have exceeded their life expectancy and are becoming increasingly unreliable. We propose to replace all 20 of them to ensure we have enough for our September tournament.

Playing Movements: Howell vs. Mitchell

With table numbers still highly variable from week to week we are keen to encourage more use of Howell movements whenever table numbers are small. It is financially preferable to use a Howell rather than a Mitchell wherever possible. NZBridge charges the club for each set of C-points awarded, so with two sets of C-points per session a Mitchell movement costs twice as much as a Howell. Other advantages of a Howell are that each pair plays against all other pairs rather than just half the field, and that rounds when one pair plays a phantom tend to involve fewer boards.

Howell movements are routinely used on Tuesdays and are our preferred option for sessions with fewer than seven tables. We encourage directors to become more familiar with the mechanics of running a Howell and to gain confidence in their use so that you can set one up whenever low table numbers call for it.

2022 Lessons and 2021 Follow-Up

The beginner's lessons for 2022 continue to be well patronised with 6-7 tables for most sessions. The change in lesson venue following our move from Cliff Wilson Street has been mildly disruptive but – when room availability has been an issue – our online sessions have gone well. Some of last years' novices have also expressed an interest in resuming Thursday evening playing sessions, and we hope to progress this further by starting supervised 2-hour sessions once the current beginner's lessons have finished.

The 2022 series of Improver's Lessons have been rescheduled for 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the 3rd Saturday of each month. We accept that these dates will not suit everybody and apologise to those of you who will have other commitments on those days, but with only a limited number of viable time slots available this is the best compromise we can make. The next lesson, on Saturday 21st May, will cover the Losing Trick Count or LTC. This is not a bidding system but rather a method of hand evaluation once you and your partner have identified a suit fit. It is usually a much better guide as to how high you should bid than simply relying on your HCP.

Wanaka Open Pairs 23rd April

A huge thanks from the Tournament Committee to all club members who supported our 5A Tournament on 23 April. With 26 pairs from 8 Otago/Southland clubs Wanaka members made up well over half of the players (29 of 52), the highest percentage of local players we have ever had. A strong local presence was also apparent in the prize list, with several Wanaka players scoring well ahead of more highly ranked Open players. Notable results were:

3rd Overall: Ken Saxby / Paul Cushnie;



1st Intermediate:
George Foreman / John Schwarz;



1st Junior:
Carol Orbell / Rosemary Boswell;



1st E/W, afternoon session:
Liz Hawker / Martin Unwin;

Condolences to Ken & Paul, who omitted to check their personal score sheets at the end of play only to discover next morning

that one of their scores was attributed to the opposition. Had it been corrected they would have moved up to 2nd place, earning extra kudos, more A-points, and of course extra prize money.

That said, there is a learning experience for all of us here. As a club we don't print out personal score sheets, although if you subsequently discover an error you have 24 hours to advise us of any changes required. Tournament rules are stricter, with players having just 30 minutes from the time the Director distributes the score sheets – generally within 5 minutes of the end of a session – to check the computer results against your own records and advise the Director of any corrections.

Thanks to all members who donated quality raffle prizes – 68 in total. The prize table looked incredible and almost everybody came away a winner, with very few attendees who didn't win at least one prize. Your donations helped the club make a \$658 profit, a big contribution to the success of the event. Special thanks go to Carol Orbell for her enthusiasm in selling tickets.

Committee member Sandy Bryan was our contracted food provider, offering us a beautiful array of sandwiches and loaves for morning tea and a fabulous selection of apres play nibbles. Sandy's food presentation tops any other tournament by far, and we owe her a vote of thanks for donating her time and providing this service at cost price.

Ruth Coghill represented our major sponsor, Active Furnishers of Wanaka & Dunedin, who contribute prizes to the value of \$500. Active Furnishers have sponsored our annual 5A tournament for many years now, and we really appreciate their generosity. Ruth graciously shook most winners' hands and congratulated them but was the recipient of a far more effusive appreciation from George & John,

who kissed & hugged her, with George showing particular vigour!

Our secondary sponsor, James McElrea (Class of 2021) of Black Peak Wines, provided a mixed carton of beautiful Black Peak Pinot Noir & Riesling. The Church Elders had given us permission to gift wine at the end of play, which along with non-alcoholic drink, was unexpected by the players. James had escaped to Northland so was unable to represent his product but his generosity is greatly appreciated.

Our new venue served us well, as did the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes: Annie Hudson, Jules Hunt and her two daughters, Peter Hart, and Jenny Dickie. Thanks to all of you – your efforts ensured that everything ran very smoothly.

Thanks also to Kristen Collins for directing; WBC President Marc Simmonds for opening the event; and Mark Harry and Heather Wellman who ensured that all earned A Points and results were distributed.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next Wanaka Tournament – a 5B on Saturday, 10 September!

*Tournament Committee
Jan Baird, Nicole Meldrum, Lynne Fegan*

Director's Corner

Revokes

Failing to follow suit, or *revoking*, is one of the more common transgressions which occurs during regular club play, and merits nearly four pages in the 2017 Laws of Bridge. Many players will be familiar with these laws, but here is a brief refresher to remind you of a few details.

Law 61B: Inquiries concerning a revoke. Players may inquire about a possible revoke under the following circumstances. Declarer may ask a defender who as failed

to follow suit whether he has a card of the suit led; dummy may ask declarer (“having none, partner?”); and defenders may ask declarer and one another (but at the risk of creating unauthorised information).

Law 63A: Establishment of a revoke. A revoke becomes established when the offender or his partner leads or plays to the following trick. This includes naming the card to be played and making a claim.

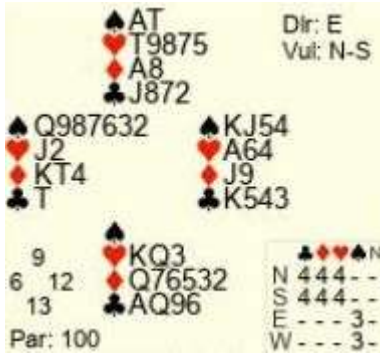
Law 62: Correction of a revoke. A revoke must be corrected if attention is drawn to it before it becomes established. To do so the offender withdraws the card played and substitutes a legal card, with the withdrawn card becoming a major penalty card if it was played from a defender’s unfaced hand. The sole exception (Law 62D) states that a revoke on the 12th trick must be corrected, even if established, if it is discovered before all four hands have been returned to the board.

Law 64A: Trick adjustment following a revoke. When a revoke is established and the trick on which the revoke occurred was won by the offender, at the end of play this trick is transferred to the non-offending side together with one of any subsequent tricks won by the offending side. Note that a trick won in dummy is not won by declarer for the purposes of this law. If the offending side did not win the revoke trick then after play ends one trick is transferred to the non-offenders.

If the non-offending side is insufficiently compensated by this adjustment Law 64C allows the Director to award an adjusted score.

Counting Declarer's Hand

This hand from April’s Wanaka Open Tournament well illustrates the value, to the defence, of counting declarer’s hand:



An even spread of points and West's 7-card spade suit ensured a competitive auction. At our table the bidding went:

East	South	West	North
1NT	2♦	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	All pass		

A club or a heart lead defeats the contract immediately but at most tables, including ours, North began with partner's suit, cashing the diamond ace followed by the eight and hoping for a third-round ruff. Even so, declarer's prospects remain poor: with two black aces and a heart to lose the contract is destined to go one light.

At trick three declarer led a small spade which North ducked, dummy winning with

the king. A second round of spades was won by North's ace, after which North exited with the club two. Declarer played low from dummy, hoping for a miracle, but when South's queen won the trick the contract still looked hopeless.

On lead at trick six South has an almost complete count of declarer's hand. He is marked with seven spades, three diamonds – with three diamonds to the ace North would have bid 3♦ rather than introduce a heart suit lacking the top three honours – and at least one club. So declarer's last two cards are either two hearts, two clubs, or one of each suit.

Exiting with the heart king guarantees a 4th defensive trick regardless of declarer's last two cards. If declarer started with two hearts South's queen becomes a winner, and if declarer started with two or three clubs the club ace is a guaranteed winner. When South cashed the club ace, perhaps concerned that the trick might disappear if it was not taken quickly, declarer ruffed in hand, crossed to dummy's heart ace, pitched his losing heart on the established club king, and claimed the balance.

The One Minute Bridge Player

You and your partner have bid to a somewhat ambitious spade slam and when dummy is tabled you discover that your trump suit is decidedly anaemic:

You	Q 8 7 4	Dummy	K 9 4 2
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The rest of your hand is solid with no losers outside the trump suit so you can afford one trump loser but not two. Is there any legitimate chance of making the slam? If so, what is it and how do you play the spades?

You need the trumps to break 3-2, with one opponent holding the doubleton ace. Suppose you judge, from the bidding or from the opening lead, that your LHO is more likely to hold the ace. Lead a small trump from hand and, if LHO plays low, insert dummy's king. If this holds you can now be confident that LHO does indeed hold the ace, as your RHO would surely have felled dummy's king with the ace if she had it.

On the second round of trumps play small from dummy and, regardless of what card RHO plays, play small from your hand. If, as you hope, LHO started with the doubleton ace she will be forced to play it "on air". Your queen is now high, so you can draw the defender's last remaining trump when you regain the lead and claim the slam.