



## New Post

### Table Talk - May 2025

#### From the President

Well what a busy time we have had since my last report

I have just spent an enjoyable afternoon playing teams. It is a great form of bridge, we had to rope a newer bronze player into our team and she thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. Many thanks to Neil for organizing this competition.

I also attended Martin's class on slam bidding, what an eye opener that was. The class was very well attended and we all came away with lots of new ideas and thoughts about bidding slam. Thank you to Martin for all his hard work to make the day possible

Congratulations to all who played in our April tournament, it was a fun day and very successful for some Wanaka pairs. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle and to our Tournament committee for organizing the day. As always, we got a lot of positive comments from the visiting players.

Coming up is the Rippon Rosebowl, I would encourage the Silver players to find a Bronze partner and come along to this series.

To those heading away to warmer climates enjoy your winter and we look forward to welcoming you back in the spring

See you all at the bridge table

Cheers

Heather

### **Programme May 2025 - Jun**

AJ McKenzie from Jun 2

Silver Championship Pairs Jun 23, 30

#### **Tuesday:**

From Jun 3

#### **Wednesday:**

Bronze Championship Pairs May 28

Rippon Rosebowl (Handicap) from Jun 4

Bronze Championship Pairs Jun 25

#### **Friday:**

From May 30

There will be bridge on Jun 20, Matariki

## **Tournaments**

Also coming up:

Otago/Southland Provincial Teams (Queenstown BC) 10A May 31

Otago/Southland Intermediate Pairs (Q'town) 5B Jun 1

Otago/Southland Provincial Pairs (Q'town) 10A Jun 1

Taieri Pairs 5A Jun 8

NZB Matariki Fundraising Intermediate/Junior Swiss Pairs Online 5B Jun 20

NZB Open Swiss Pairs Online 5A Jun 20

Winton Intermediate Pairs 5B Jun 21

Winton Junior Pairs 3B Jun 21

Oamaru All Grades 8B Jun 29

## **Tuesday Bridge**

It would be appreciated if members could refrain from setting up the room until the Mainly Music group has vacated it. Thank you.

## **Wednesday Bridge**

With the Rippon Rosebowl fast approaching, it seems a good time to remind members that Silver players are allowed to play on Wednesday nights, provided that they are invited by a Bronze and that the relevant series is open to all.

For the Rippon Rosebowl itself, we encourage Silver and Bronze to play together (either can invite the other). Bronze/Bronze partnerships are, however, allowed. This is our own only handicapped series.

### **Assisted Play**

The NZ Bridge supported online play sessions, which proved so popular and effective last year, are starting on June 8. Details below:



## THESE SUPPORTED ONLINE PRACTICE GAMES ARE MADE FOR YOU!

Supported online play is like having a friend at the table, offering support whenever you need it. Imagine it's like using Zoom; you can see and talk to each other while playing cards, and with an experienced player available to offer advice or answer questions.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- The first session on 8<sup>th</sup> June is a FREE taster session.
- Sign up to Hello Club, upload funds then select these sessions.
- Each week you will be sent an email with a link to a RealBridge game.
- Log in by 3.45pm on Sundays. Games start at 4pm.
- We recommend that you play on a computer/laptop.
- If you have a Club Number, use this as your ID. If you don't have a number, use your Club Name.
- This is a great opportunity for players in their first and second year.
- Each session will be 120 minutes.

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#### **WHEN**

Sunday 8 June until 14 September from 4pm to 6pm

#### **WHERE**

Online at <https://nzbridge.helloclub.com>

#### **COST**

\$5 per casual session (except 8<sup>th</sup> June which is FREE) or you can buy a 'Winter Pass' of \$25 for all 15 sessions

#### **CONTACT**

For more details, email Mike Dunn at [bridgeteacher365@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeteacher365@gmail.com)

Visit <https://nzbridge.helloclub.com> to sign up!

ARE YOU A NEW  
BRIDGE PLAYER  
LOOKING TO  
PRACTICE AND  
IMPROVE  
YOUR BRIDGE  
GAME?

If you put your name forward for this, please let the Club know at [wanakabridgeclub@fastmail.com](mailto:wanakabridgeclub@fastmail.com). If you already have a regular partner, try to get them involved, too. Ideally, organise a four between yourselves.

Given that the sessions go on for over three months this year, I cannot guarantee my availability every week . If anyone else can help, even for a few sessions, let me know.

### **Slam Bidding Clinic**

This month, 38 members of the club joined Martin Unwin for a day's lesson on Slam Bidding. Martin presented a well researched and interactive lesson on Roman Key Card Blackwood, Splinter bidding and Cue bids.

It is clear from data that Martin has collected that members are missing out on even the clearest of slams, safe in the knowledge that hardly anyone else is bidding them either. With the expertise imparted and confidence instilled by the lesson, we should see more slams being bid (and made) in the future.

Once again, thank you Martin for delivering such a great session.

### **Health and Safety**

Nancy Latham is our Health and Safety Officer. We will shortly have an updated list of procedures, the most important being what to do in an emergency. St John's have offered to present on the subject to Club members. If you are interested in learning, contact Nancy on 027 3341092.

### **Membership**

New members:

Bill Brownlee; Henrietta Brownlee; Nicola Carey; Carol Carter; Roger Carter; Nikki Cotter; Viv Grant; Jane Hawkey; Susan Moore; Bronwen Peacock; Sue Sewell; Jean Sullivan

A warm welcome to the class of '25!

Awards:

Local Master: George Foreman

Club Master: Janet Young; Lyn Hill; Heather Olsen; Carol Brewer.

Certificate of Proficiency: Pauline Thomson; Natalie Keenan; Jenny Dickie.

### **Director's Corner**

We have a reminder about bridge etiquette on the table number cards. As there have been a few, shall we say, differences of opinion on the subject recently, it is time to talk instead about procedure. Each of the players at the table has individual responsibilities to keep the game moving and accurately recorded.

Start by tossing a coin to see who sits where. South operates the tablet which records the scores and the players' identities. Once South has entered the score for a hand, the tablet is presented to East for verification. As long as everyone is in agreement, East taps the screen and returns it to South.

West is responsible for moving the boards just played to the table that they are destined for according to the movement being used. These are normally placed on the side table next to North, who puts the first hand to be played on the table, ensuring the the board is correctly oriented. After the board has been played, it is up to each player to put all of their cards back in the appropriate sleeve.

This does not sound particularly onerous, but there is much to think about during a bridge session and mistakes are made. The directors and computer operators would be very grateful if you could follow these procedures a little more carefully.

### **Two Clubs Or Not 2 Clubs?**

Most Wanaka players use an opening 2C bid to show a strong hand but the subsequent bidding is often confused. The requirements for a 2C opening are well described in *Lesson 10, the last of New Zealand Bridge's beginner lessons*<sup>\*\*</sup>. The relevant definitions are that opener shows either (1) 20+ HCP in a distributional hand; or (2) 23+ HCP in a balanced hand. A more recent refinement, introduced by NZBridge in 2024, is based on the "Rule of 28": a 2C opening on a hand where the total HCP and the number of cards in the two longest suits equals or exceeds 28 conforms to this definition and is not alertable.

The other defining characteristic of a 2C opening is that it is **game-forcing**. Responder must bid even with no points at all, and – with one exception – ***both partners must continue bidding until game is reached***. The sole exception is when opener rebids 2NT, showing a balanced hand with 23-24 HCP, allowing responder to pass with 0-1 HCP. Any other rebid by opener – 2H, 2S, 3C, 3D – is forcing to game.

The second round of the Monday evening Roy Stakes on 12<sup>th</sup> May was notable for this deal highlighting the wide variation in how the 2C opening is played.



		♠ T982	Dir: S			
		♥ KQJT9	Vul: E-W			
		♦ 96				
		♣ K3				
♠ A	♠ J763					
♥ A	♥ 65432					
♦ AQJ8732	♦ 4					
♣ AQJ8	♣ T76					
		♠ KQ54				
		♥ 87				
		♦ KT5				
		♣ 9542				
9	1					
22	8					
Par: -600						
		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N				
		N	-	-	-	-
		S	-	-	1	-
		E	3	5	-	2
		W	3	5	-	2

Con	Dc	Res	Score
6 NT	W	-4	400
3 NT	W	-3	300
3 NT	W	-1	100
2 ♥	N	-2	-100
3 ♦	E	+1	-130
3 ♦	W	+2	-150
3 ♦	W	+2	-150
3 ♦	W	+2	-150
5 ♦	W	=	-600
5 ♦	E	=	-600
5 ♦	W	=	-600

The auction at our table was:

**South West North East**

Pass 2C 2H Pass

Pass 3D Pass 3S

## Pass 5D All Pass

Yet the results for this deal show that only six of the eleven EW pairs bid to game. It's hard to imagine West opening anything other than 2C with a "Rule of 28" count of 33 or rebidding anything other than 3D on the second round. Pairs who opted for NT may have been guilty of bad judgement, lured by the extra points for a NT contract, but at least they were in game. It's much harder to justify East's decision to pass 3D given that it's 100% game-forcing, and even harder to understand why one West player was sufficiently intimidated by North's 2H overcall that they did not bid again.

It appears that 5 of 11 – almost half – of the EW pairs who encountered this deal do not play a 2C opening on an unbalanced hand as game forcing. This is five too many. Opening 2C is specifically designed to allow opener to game-force regardless of partner's strength, and should be an essential part of your bidding toolkit.

\*\* <https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/user/inline/4208/NZB%20Beginner%2010%20-%20Student%20Notes.pdf>

Roy Stakes

1st Ken Saxby and Martin Unwin

2nd Dorothy McDonald and Marion Furneaux

Hawea Pairs

1st Natalie Keenan and Julia Petrie

2nd Joan Moon and Kay Ross

Marc

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