



Table Talk Nov 2023

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

Marc's Missive

The AGM is fast approaching. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. For those of you who haven't been before, it is an opportunity to hear firsthand a summary of where the Club is at, and also one of the precious few social opportunities that we have at present. After the more formal business is dealt with, there will be prizegiving followed by drinks and nibbles.

It is often said that bridge is good for the mind. The Club appears to have a lot of senior members who are successful at staying young, none more so than Janet Anderson, who has just celebrated her 90th birthday. Happy birthday, Janet, we look forward to seeing you for many years to come.

Programme: Oct - Nov 2023

Monday:

Xmas Pairs: Nov 27, Dec 4, 11

Tuesday:

Nov 28

Wednesday:

Holiday Pairs: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13

Friday:

Nov 24, 31, Dec 1, 8, 15

AGM: Nov 30 7pm

Other Tournaments

Also coming up:

Dec 3: Nina Hewitt Christmas Pairs (Otago)

2024 Committee

It's that time of year again, the AGM is next week and we need a few more bodies to fill vacancies on the committee. All of the nominations are finalised but there are still three positions vacant. These can be filled on the night of the AGM or subsequently.

If you have a few hours to spare a month and would like to be part of the team, give Heather a call on 0274437347. She will give you a rundown of what is expected of a committee member and answer any questions you may have.

Kitchen

This needs to be put in capital letters, but I will refrain. Can members please wash their cups and cutlery and put them away before they leave? Do not put them in the steriliser as another group will then be obliged to empty it.

Loveblock Pairs

Thanks to Martin Unwin and Mark Harry, we appear to have gotten the scoring right for the first time in a long time. As for the results, Dorothy McDonald and Andrew Shaw were the standout performers on the night, coming 58th out of 846 pairs nationally and 14th in the mixed grades ladder.

Congratulations also to Janey Kuzma and Nicola Brown, who were 18th in the Junior section and Virginia Wells and Pauline Harvey, who were 15th in the Novice section. A word also for Wanaka member Brian McCandless, who with his his Te Anau partner finished 3rd in the Intermediate ladder and 17th overall.

Championship Pairs 2024

The motion to reduce the number of Championship Pairs nights to nine, with a minimum of seven nights played will be debated at the AGM.

Meanwhile, congratulations to our 2023 champions, John Schwarz & George Foreman (Silver) and Sally Jackways & Gerarda Herlihy (Bronze),

Director's Corner

Earlier this year I copied and pasted a summary of dummy's responsibilities. A little clarification is necessary.

Dummy is meant to convey no information to declarer. The only exception to this is when dummy can see that declarer is about to play from the wrong hand, in which case he/she can warn declarer not to. However, once declarer has mistakenly played a card, dummy must be quiet.

I have seen many instances of declarer apologising and then replacing the incorrectly played card before playing from the correct hand. This is not the correct procedure. If the opposition notice that there has been an error they can accept the lead from the incorrect hand if they wish i.e declarer should not replace the incorrect card until told to do so by the defenders.

Back to dummy. There is nothing in the laws that says that dummy should keep his/her hands off the table, but it is

prudent to do so. Any touching of the table can be seen by the defenders as a hint to declarer to play cards from a suit in that vicinity. They are entitled to complain to the Director if they wish.

If dummy has noticed anything else untoward during the play he/she has to wait until the hand is over before bringing the issue up. Equally if dummy notices that declarer has aligned one of the played cards incorrectly he/she must wait until the hand is over before pointing this out.

In summary, say little and keep your hands to yourself!

Close But No Cigar

John Schwarz and George Foreman deservedly won the 2023 Silver Championship pairs, beating the second-placed pair (Liz Hawker and myself, Martin Unwin) by an average of 0.7%. In the final round we needed to outscore them by 5%, by no means beyond our abilities given that they gave us a good chance by scoring just 51.6%, but we were unable to rise to the occasion and managed just 48.4%.

One of our better results occurred on Board 8:

♠ 98752	♠ AJT3	♠ Q4	Dir: W
♥ K753	♥ 862	♥ T4	Vut:
♦ 54	♦ T963	♦ AKQ72	
♣ 53	♣ T6	♣ KJ72	
15	♠ K6		
3 5	♥ AQJ9		
17	♦ J8		
	♣ AQ984		
Par: 990			
			♠ 66415
			♥ 66416
			♦ -----
			♣ -----

The auction at our table was:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣

Pass 3♣ Pass 4NT
Pass 5♥ Pass 6♣

South's immediate 4NT after North's 3♣ rebid was Roman Keycard Blackwood, and the 5♥ response showed two of five keycards but denied the trump queen. South could reasonably place North with the diamond ace so with two aces and the club queen bid the slam with confidence.

The slam makes on any lead, with the diamond jack ensuring five diamond tricks and allowing declarer to pitch three losers from dummy. On a spade lead East wins the first trick leaving declarer free to discard dummy's three heart losers and claim 12 tricks, while on any other lead declarer wins the first trick, draws trumps, pitches two spades from hand, and takes the losing heart finesse to again make 12 tricks.

We scored 88% on the board and hoped this would give us a substantial edge over our opponents but it wasn't to be. John and George didn't find the club slam but still scored 56% by making two overtricks in 4NT by North. A heart lead holds declarer to 11 tricks but their opponents lead a spade, allowing declarer to cash five diamonds, five clubs, the spade king and the heart ace.

John Schwarz and George Foreman now have the distinction of being the first Wanaka players to win both the Bronze Championships (George in 2014, John in 2019) and the Silver Championships (this year). It's a record which may well stand for some years.