

New Post

Heather Wellman
November 21, 2025



Hello to you all

As I sat here writing my last newsletter update for the year, I looked at the calendar and realised it's 5 weeks today until Christmas. The year has flown by and what a year we have had at the club. I encourage everyone to come along to our AGM and prize giving to share the members' and club's successes for 2025. We will be farewelling Jane Hamilton and Murray Pryde from the committee. Thank you both for all the support, time and effort you have given the club and myself. We will see you back at the bridge table next year.

I would also like to acknowledge the committee members who are standing for re-election: Cathy, Vicky, Lyn, Sally, Marc, Nancy and Tracey. Thank you so much for your dedication, hard work and support in making the club so successful.

Congratulations to our 9 club members who attended Congress. I watched the results with interest and have heard what a great event it was.

If I don't see you before, have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Regards

Heather

Programme Oct-Nov 2025

Xmas Pairs from Nov 24

Tuesday:

Closes on Oct 25

Wednesday:

Holiday Pairs from Nov 26

Friday:

From Nov 28

Tournaments

Also coming up:

Oamaru Novice Pairs 40C Nov 29

Nina Hewitt Christmas Pairs 3A Dec 7

AGM

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on Thursday evening. There will be food and one drink afterwards. For anyone who is particularly thirsty there will also be a cash bar.

Congress

Nine Wanaka members made the trip to Palmerston North for this year's Congress. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time there. The highlights in terms of results were the Intermediate Teams, where Andrew Shaw, Tracey Gieck, and Juniors Sally Goodall and Jane Medway finished 6th out of 40 pairs, and the Rubber Bridge, where Andrew Shaw and Tracey Gieck made it to the semi-finals before losing to a very experienced Wellington Pair.

Bridge Books

The new smaller format Bridge Books will be printed shortly. They will be available for collection soon, provided that you have paid next year's membership subscription.

Wednesday Start Time

We undertook a survey to see how much interest there was in changing the Wednesday evening start time to 6.30 all year round. 122 Bronze members were consulted, and 50 replied. The vote was evenly split, so we will stay with the current arrangement for now.

Lessons

Yup, more lessons. Following on from the success of the NZBridge winter online supported play, WBC will be offering online Intermediate lessons and supported play from March to October next year. These lessons have been prepared by NZBridge for all clubs, and will cost \$5 for the lesson for up to 20 supervised boards over about two hours.

Membership

New Members: Doug and Rachel Hall

Resignations: Carolyn Field, Michelle Van Hees,

Director's Corner

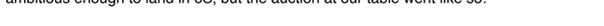
This month, a mistake that had us stumped for a while. Defender plays the first card to a trick, the 2 of Spades in this instance, and then promptly drops the Queen of Spades on the table before anyone else has played a card.

The 2 of Spades remains the card led to the trick, and the Queen becomes a Major Penalty Card. It must be played at the earliest opportunity, including ruffing and discarding. While the card is on the table, declarer can ask the other defender to lead, or not to lead Spades. If this happens, then the Queen is picked up and put back in the first defender's hand.

While all of this is going on, the second defender is supposed to ignore the card on the table when planning the rest of their defence, If the Director thinks that it has influenced their play, an adjusted score can be awarded.

Dark Magic

This deal comes from the Tuesday at Congress. Each grade plays the same set of boards, so you can compare your result with everyone who sat your way. Very few declarers were ambitious enough to land in 6S, but the auction at our table went like so:



```

Hand 17 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
=B.1-----

Board: B.1      Dealer: N      Vul: None
                S 8 7
                H K J 8 3
                D Q 7 4 2
                C T 6 4

S A Q 5 4 3 2      S J T 9
H 5                H A T 7 6
D A K 6            D J 9 3
C Q J 9            C A 7 5

                S K 6
                H Q 9 4 2
                D T 8 5
                C K 8 3 2
    
```

North East South West

Pass Pass Pass 1S

Pass 3S Pass 4D

Pass 4H Pass 6S

All pass

Once West hears the Spade raise, he cue bids his AD, and after hearing that partner has the AH, raises to 6S.

At first sight, it looks like there are losers in diamonds and clubs. At least North leads the 8S, so declarer receives the good news about the trump finesse immediately and draws trumps.

Declarer then leads the 9C, North covering with the 10 and dummy winning with the A. Declarer plays a low club from dummy, South taking the trick with his K. South leads a diamond, indicating that North has the Q, so declarer goes up with the A. At this point, it looks like there is still a diamond loser. However, there is an opportunity for declarer to confuse one of the defenders if they hold both the QD and the KH.

Declarer leads his singleton heart, winning in dummy with the A. He comes back to hand with a club, and plays his remaining spades. Before he plays the last one, the position is as follows:

```

Hand 17 ending - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
=B.1-----

Board: B.1      Dealer: N      Vul: None
                S -----
                H K
                D Q 7
                C -----

S 2                S -----
H -----          H T
D A 6              D J 9
C -----          C -----

                S -----
                H Q 9
                D T
                C -----
    
```

When declarer leads the 2S, North is left with the unenviable decision as to whether to throw a diamond or the KH. She throws a diamond, and declarer takes the last two tricks with KD and JD.

This commentary has been a little self-indulgent, as I've never engineered such a squeeze before. Only one other pair made 6S, and that was with the benefit of a friendly diamond lead.

Minaret Pairs
1st Allan Kelly and Brian McCandless*
2nd Tracy Gieck and Martin Unwin
Pisa Pairs
1st Jo Harry and Julia Petrie
2nd Natalie Keenan and Pauline Thomson

Thanks for reading

Marc