

# Table Talk

Newsletter of the Wanaka Bridge Club  
October 2017



## Clare's message

It's been a relatively quiet month but we have a number of events coming up in November. The Babich Pairs is on Friday 3 November and is open to all players. This is a national competition where each club which enters plays the same set of cards as everyone else in the country. After play, every entrant receives a book of notes telling you what the best contract is and how it should be played, so not only a fun evening but also an excellent learning tool. There is an entry form on the noticeboard and I encourage you all to give it a go!

If you wish to stand for our committee, November 14 is the last day for nominations and nomination forms are on the board also. Our AGM is on **Tuesday 28 November**. It would be good to see as many attend as possible.

Christmas Pairs is on a Wednesday night this year (as per the book) and we have decided to make it a Silver/Bronze series. If you are unsure how (or who) to approach to get a partner, please contact Jane Hamilton and she will pair you up.

Please keep suggestions coming in. This is your club!

Happy, stressless bridging everyone!

Clare

## Teams

We have had two rounds of teams in this series with the bronze section being very closely contested before the final two rounds. The four silver teams will have one more round before a playoff to decide the placings.

Going back to the old school format with pen and paper seems to have pleased everyone. We will continue with this same format for next year.

## Library books

There is huge support for our new library; so much so we seem to be a little short on books. I hope you are all learning new things and improving your bridge. Just a reminder, if you do have any books you have had out for a while, could you please return them and leave a comment on how helpful you found them for the next reader.

## Grading

Just a reminder, that if you would like to have your grading reviewed, please advise the committee in writing by the end of October.

## Tuesday bridge

We are excited to announce that Tuesday bridge is now a permanent fixture in our calendar (with the exception of December-January) Please come along. It is fun and social. It starts at 11am and finishes around 4pm. Bring your lunch and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere.

## Wanaka Bronze Tournament

Saturday 25 November  
9:15am for a 9:30 start

A chance for novice and junior players to experience tournament play in a relaxed environment. Bronze players only. No silver players – sorry.

- Morning and afternoon sessions (finishes around 5pm)
- Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Bar open at lunchtime and after play
- All players bring a plate for a shared lunch and a raffle prize
- \$10 table money

Entries close Tuesday 21 November (entry sheet on the noticeboard).

## Trophies

For all those players lucky enough to be sporting trophies on your mantles, it's time to return these to the club. Please give them a polish prior to returning.

## Christmas Pairs

As mentioned by Clare, our Christmas series starts on Wednesday 29 November. Partnerships need to be made up of a bronze and a silver player. No silver/silver or bronze/bronze pairs. It's a great opportunity to play with someone you haven't played with before. If you need help finding someone please contact Jane Hamilton on 443 7364.

## Silence is Golden

*By Martin Unwin*

One of the many virtues of opening 1NT whenever you hold a balanced 12-14 points is that it puts your partner in a dominant position. Knowing your shape and strength within narrow limits, partner can judge who the hand belongs to better than anyone else at the table. An opponent considering an immediate overcall of 1NT is therefore in a very exposed position, as his left-hand opponent will be well placed to assess the merits of a penalty double.

The following deal, from the third night of the Pembroke Pairs, illustrates the need to keep an overcall of 1NT well up to scratch:

		♠ 3	Dir: S	
		♥ AK65	Vul: E-W	
		♦ K763		
		♣ AJT6		
♠ AJ875			♠ T92	
♥ J97			♥ 842	
♦ Q4			♦ JT92	
♣ Q75			♣ 983	
	♠ KQ64			
15	♥ QT3			
10 1	♦ A85			
14	♣ K42			
Par: 460				
		♣ ♥ ♦ ♠ N		
		N 5 4 5 3 5		
		S 5 4 5 3 5		
		E - - - - -		
		W - - - - -		

Of the nine pairs who held the N-S cards, all but one ended up in 3NT by South, making anywhere from 9 to 11 tricks on the lead of a small spade. The exception was a table where West ventured an overcall of 2S, which North doubled. N-S did not have a clear agreement as to whether this was for take-out or penalty,

but from North's perspective it hardly mattered. If South bid a suit at the three level she would happily raise to game, and if South passed for penalties North could contribute plenty to the defence. East could do nothing but pass, South also passed, and 2S doubled became the final contract.

North cashed the heart Ace and King, followed by a small heart to South's Queen. South played the club King followed by a small club, trapping West's Queen and notching up three more tricks for the defence. By the time N-S had cashed the two top diamonds declarer had only spades left, and was forced to ruff a third round of diamonds in hand despite dummy's established Jack. After cashing the spade Ace declarer still had two spade tricks to lose, ultimately going five light for a 1400 penalty. Even going as little as two light would still have been a bad score, giving away 500 when the best N-S can do is 460.

West was unlucky to find the outstanding cards so heavily stacked against her, but even so her hand was well below par for a vulnerable overcall of 1NT. Not vulnerable, over an opening 1C or 1D, West's hand just about merits a 1S overcall. But over 1NT, even at favourable vulnerability, the hand has too many bad features to justify bidding: a threadbare trump suit, nine losers, no shortages, and soft values in the side suits. A pass was the prudent option.

## Upcoming tournaments

- Nov 3 Babich Pairs (Wanaka)
- Nov 4 Maniototo Pairs Int 5B
- Nov 11 Invercargill Swiss Pairs Open 5A
- Nov 25 Wanaka Bronze tournament
- Dec 10 Otago Christmas Pairs Open 3A

For tournament details, check out the noticeboard or contact Maggie on 027 333 6681.

Happy bridging everyone.

Jason Benton

On behalf of the committee

**New/changes to phone numbers**

Sue Blake	027 444 3495
Belinda Blaxland	027 948 9934
Robin Bruce-Smith	443 3198
Annabel Elworthy	027 490 6954
Carolyn Fairbairn	027 630 8042
Murray Fairbairn	027 630 8041
Kate Gibbons	04 567 6859
Robyn Gilchrist	027 447 5254
Sally Goodall	021 260 3233
Sue & Ian Halsted	265 3049
Jane Hamilton	443 9022
Sherill Harries	443 8846
Helen Henshall	027 201 3805
Devon Hotop	443 9704
Annie Hudson	021 294 0795
Eddie Lowe	022 035 973
Mary Maclean	021 621 461
Bridget Rennie	443 4986
Ava Sanders	021 258 9340
Ann Scandrett	443 8160
Dean Snelling	027 217 0553
Leigh Snelling	021 0821 5818
Val Young	443 7303