



Table Talk Oct 2023

News from the Wanaka Bridge Club

Marc's Missive

You will notice that the call for Committee members has been repeated this month. In my limited experience, it is not easy to find volunteers to serve on the Committee. In fact, by the time the AGM comes around, "volunteers" is a questionable description! Nevertheless, I would encourage you to come forward before you are asked. What better way is there to have your say in the future of the Club?

Programme: Sep - Oct 2023

Monday:

Makarora Pairs (Silver Only): Oct 23

Silver Championship Pairs: Oct 30

Minaret Pairs: Nov 6, 13, 20

Tuesday:

Oct 24, 31, Nov 7, 14, 21

Wednesday:

Tarras Stakes (Bronze Only): Oct 25

Bronze Championship Pairs: Nov 1

Pisa Pairs: Nov 8, 15, 22

Friday:

Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17, 24

Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs: Nov 10

Hamilton Plate

Teams from Wanaka, Queenstown, Cromwell and Alexandra enjoyed a friendly if hard-fought day's bridge in pursuit of the Hamilton Plate. On this occasion congratulations are due to Queenstown, who beat Wanaka into second place. Special mention for the Wanaka intermediate team of John Schwarz, Trish Morris, Jenny Pryde and

Marion Furneaux who had the highest team score. Thank you to Lynne Fegan, who has administered the competition for over a decade and is now handing over to Queenstown. Also to Jane Hamilton, Sally Jackways, Mark Harry, Peter Hart and Jenny Dickie for their invaluable assistance.

Congress

The Club was represented by just one pair this year, and how well they did! Bridget McCaughan and Sonya Adams finished 4th out of 64 pairs in the NZ Intermediate Pairs, including a win in the afternoon session; while in the NZ Intermediate Teams, playing with a couple from Auckland they finished 2nd out of 30 teams. In six days they played over 300 boards and also had a fairly full schedule away from the bridge table. I would encourage others to make the trip up north next year.

In other news, Kate Hall was the 16th placed Novice in New Zealand in the latest NZBridge rank reports, so congratulations to you, Kate!

Other Tournaments

Also coming up:

Oct 21-22 Otago/Southland Congress (Otago BC)

Nov 11 R Jackson Swiss Pairs (Invercargill)

2024 Committee

It's that time of year again, the AGM is on the 30th November and we need a few bodies to fill vacancies on the committee.

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.

Silverware

Speaking of the AGM, could all who have a trophy in their possession please return it (preferably looking shiny) so that it can be engraved if necessary? Many thanks.

Loveblock Pairs

A reminder that this year's New Zealand Wide Loveblock Pairs takes place on the evening of Friday, November 10. For those of you unfamiliar with the format, all of the Wanaka NS and EW pairs play against their normal opponents but are also judged against players from all over the country playing the same hands. Entry is \$10 and you get a booklet explaining the play of all of the hands. All grades are welcome, no doubt we will be making use of the Partner Finder.

Championship Pairs 2024

At our recent committee meeting the idea of reducing Championship Pairs from 12 to 9, with 7 to qualify was raised. We considered this because attendance has dropped as usual as we approach the end of the year. It is difficult to maintain interest in a 12 night series when a lot of members cannot find the time to complete the 8 night qualification.

Reducing the series to 9 nights would give us the opportunity to play another three night series.

We will bring this to the AGM to vote on but wanted to give you prior notice.

Director's Corner

We have all had someone try to pull the wool over our eyes with a premature claim that turns out to be incorrect. So what is the proper procedure?

If you object to a claim, first talk it through with your partner and opponents. If you cannot agree, then call the Director. Do not pick the cards up and "play it out", as the claimer and your partner will by then have had a good look at your cards. Let

the Director decide if a reasonable alternative line of play would produce a better result for you.

If, as sometimes happens declarer has made a claim before drawing all of the outstanding trumps and appears to have forgotten that one of the defenders still has one, then they will normally be awarded a trick (unless declarer only has better trumps left in one hand).

A concession can also be made by a defender to which his partner immediately objects. In this case, again try to agree amongst yourselves, but the Director will if called take account of the information given to the defender by his partner's objection. The defender should be very sure of his ground as the Director can again decide if an alternative normal line of play would produce a worse result.

Unheard Melody

This deal from the first round of the Makarora Pairs is a striking example of a laydown grand slam which could, and probably should, have been bid at most if not all tables. Alas, only one of nine pairs who picked up these cards managed to bid and make 13 tricks:

<p>♠ J84 ♥ QJ654 ♦ KJ98 ♣ 7</p>		<p>Dir: W Vul: E-W</p>	
<p>♠ KT96 ♥ KT8 ♦ AQT3 ♣ 84</p>		<p>♠ A3 ♥ A ♦ 64 ♣ AKQJT653</p>	
<p>8 12 18 2</p>	<p>♠ Q752 ♥ 9732 ♦ 752 ♣ 92</p>	<p>♠ --- ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ ---</p>	<p>N --- S --- E 73127 W 73137</p>
<p>Par: -2220</p>			

On picking up a hand with a rock-solid 8-card club suit and two outside aces East players may have been pondering how best to bid it. Many would have anticipated opening with a game-forcing 2C, and – with ten top tricks – angling for a slam if West showed signs of life.

They were no doubt surprised and delighted when West stole their thunder

by opening the bidding, making slam a virtual certainty and greatly simplifying the subsequent auction. If West opens a weak 1NT East has an automatic Gerber 4♣ response, secure in the knowledge that even if West has two losing diamonds 5♣ will be a lay-down. When West responds showing one ace East follows up by asking for kings, and on learning that partner has two can bid 7NT with absolute confidence.

If E/W are playing a strong 1NT West will open 1♦, letting East immediately go ace-asking using Gerber or Blackwood according to partnership style. West is extremely unlikely to hold neither the diamond ace nor king, so 6C or 6NT remains available as a bailout option. Once again, on learning that West has an ace and two kings East has only to add these three winners to his ten and bid 7NT direct.

Our E/W pair were playing a strong NT, but when East responded 3♣ to West's opening 1♦ they became disoriented in the 4♣ jungle and ended up bailing out in 4NT. Other pairs played in 6♣, scoring well below average despite making their contract with ease.

East has little to gain by showing his club suit. With such a powerful hand he can choose to play in 6♣ or 7♣ even opposite a void, so is far more interested in hearing about partner's aces and kings than how many clubs he has.

One day a hand will be dealt where the path to 7NT is so clear and so easy to bid that the score sheet will show every pair singing in unison as they cash 13 tricks. Until then, it will remain an unheard melody.