



# Table Talk

September 2022

## News from the Wanaka Bridge Club.

### Marc's Missive

We can all breathe an uninterrupted sigh of relief. Masks are now optional, and bridge is returning to some kind of normality. Although the change of advice did not happen officially until this past Monday night, we conducted our Intermediate and Junior tournament under the new conditions, and everyone appeared to have a great day. Thanks again to Lynne and Jan for their tireless endeavours, to all of the volunteer helpers, and to Sandy for her perfectly judged food.

We had a visit from two QLDC staff to Friday Bridge a couple of weeks ago. They now have a better appreciation of our needs and sounded positive about our inclusion in their plans. Naturally we haven't heard a word since, but we are a little more optimistic about our potential Mitre 10 future as a result.

Before the AGM we will be circulating a proposal for the reorganisation of Monday and Wednesday bridge. In the meantime, we would welcome the opinions of the membership.

### Match Programme: Sep-Oct 2022

Mon 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> September: Aspiring Stakes, silver/bronze pairs allowed.

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Silver Champs Rounds 10, 11.

Mon 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> October: Makarora Pairs (silver partnerships only).

Tuesday bridge: 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> October.

Wed 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> September: Cloudy Peak Pairs, silver/bronze pairs allowed;

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> October, Bronze Champs Rounds 10, 11.

Wed 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> October: Rippon Rosebowl (silver/bronze partnerships handicapped pairs).

Fri 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> October: Afternoon social bridge, starts 1:00 p.m. No partnership restrictions but silver/bronze partnerships are encouraged to play on the last Friday of each month. All results are handicapped.

### Hamilton Plate Success

Congratulations to the Wanaka team who successfully defended the Hamilton Plate match, held at the Cromwell Bridge Club on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Final results (to the nearest Victory Point (VP)) were Wanaka: 118; Queenstown: 109; Cromwell: 104; Alexandra: 30.



*The successful Wanaka team at Cromwell.  
From left: Sally Jackways, Maggie Stratford, Lynne Fegan, Marion Furneaux, John Milburn, Liz Hawker, Jane Medway, Georgie Roberts, Tommie Munns, Sonya Adams, Bridget McCaughan, Sherril Harries.*

The junior team (Tommie Munns/John Milburn and Sally Jackways/Jane Medway) played extremely well, winning all three of their matches in solid style with scores exceeding 15 VPs. The intermediate team notched up two wins, including one with the maximum possible score of 20 VPs. The open team also had one excellent score of 19 VPs but had tougher matches

against Queenstown and Cromwell to finish with one win and two losses.

### **Wanaka 5B Tournament**

*On behalf of the tournament organising committee, here is Jan Baird's overview of the very successful 10<sup>th</sup> September tournament:*

There was an excellent response both from outside clubs and members of the Wanaka club. Numbers were 27 from Wanaka and 53 visitors, for a total of 80 players and 20 tables. The room coped with this number and two raffle tables as well.

Director Ross Sherwood arrived early from Queenstown and all agreed he did an excellent job. He very generously donated his director's fee to the club and did not require accommodation, so our club benefited hugely.



*Sponsor Mark Harry with the tournament winners Jan Ireland (L) and Elspeth Welsh (R).*

Congratulations to the winners, Elspeth Welsh and Jan Ireland from Alexandra, and to three Wanaka pairs who took the



*Runners-up Jenny Pryde and Marion Furneaux with Mark Harry.*

next three places: Marion Furneaux and Jenny Pryde (2<sup>nd</sup>); Sherril Harries and Georgie Roberts (3<sup>rd</sup>); and Marc Simmonds and Mark Harry (4<sup>th</sup>). Other notable mentions go to Sheryl Strudwick and Nan Ottrey who topped the afternoon session with 66.6% – the best score of the day – and Barbara Galland and Mary McQueen from the Otago Club who won the junior section.



*Third place winners Sherril Harries and Georgie Roberts.*

We thank Mark Harry of Stonewood for sponsoring the tournament to the tune of \$400, and for putting in a huge effort to

get the new tablets working. Thanks also to Greg Hunt at Gibbston Valley Wines for donating a case of wine (valued at \$500) for which we are hugely grateful.

Sandy Bryan's food was delicious and perfect for the occasion, backed up by prompt delivery and perfect clean-up. Special mentions also to Peter Hart and Jenny Dickie for keeping the bar under control, Kate Coe for the flowers, and to Annie Hudson, Sue Blake, Sally Jackways, Jane Medway, John Milburn, Jules Hunt and her daughter Emily, Tommie Munns, Jo Wallis, Kay Ross, Dorothy McDonald, Andrew Shaw, and Sonya Adams.



*Junior Section winners Mary McQueen and Barbara Galland.*

A huge thanks to the Committee members and others who helped set up after Friday bridge. This early set up was a real bonus as for the April tournament we couldn't set up until Saturday morning. And an even bigger thanks to those who stayed after play on Saturday – a church member commented to Lynne on Sunday morning

that we get top marks for leaving the facility so clean – especially the kitchen.

Members were very generous with raffle prizes, resulting in \$695 income from ticket sales. John Milburn called the numbers – double digits – until all prizes were gone: a very efficient system suggested by the director. Coupled with the strong attendance this saw the club make a \$1,180 profit on the event.

The organising committee felt it was a very successful day, with players getting great value for their money thanks to the contributions – either monetary or voluntary – from many of our members. The only aspect we are keen to improve on next year is a higher entry rate from our Wanaka juniors, and we strongly encourage those of you who chose not to enter this year to consider doing so next year – it's a fun day, and well within the ability of all members.

## **News From the Committee**

### **Improvers Lessons**

Our 2022 improver's lessons are held from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, with the next one scheduled for this weekend. This month's lesson This lesson is a follow-up from our March lesson on transfer responses to a 1NT opening, introducing several new topics which we did not cover. These include transfer responses to a strong 2NT opening; minor suit transfers; handling interference by the opponents; when not to transfer; and opener's options if they hold four of the transfer suit. The lesson will consist of a brief (15-20 minute) presentation followed by play hands.

### **Beginners' Lessons Thursday night**

These sessions have continued and will continue until the end of October. About 20 people have attended at least one lessons, and after falling as low as one table we are now up to three tables. Each lesson starts with a brief presentation with an example play hand displayed on



the big screen, but the main emphasis is on bidding and playing with plenty of help available. Thanks to the many bronze and silver volunteers who have helped with these lessons, and we will be in touch shortly to request further support for October.

### **New Bridge tablets**

The new tablets are now up and running and were used for last weekend's tournament. They are currently not configured to show the hands and makeable contracts but we are working on this and hope to have them fully operational for club play in the near future.

### **New computer / laptop progress**

Thanks once again to Mark Harry's generosity he has donated a 3 year old laptop from his business. Once we have installed the necessary software, including the Scorer programme used to record all club sessions, this will be a very welcome replacement.

### **Directors' training / refresher course**

There is still a desperate need for more directors, with the current directing load falling heavily on a small number of shoulders. Marc is planning to shoulder tap some club members to encourage them to "volunteer" for this role. Please consider helping out as this role is vital for ongoing club activities.

### **Mask Requirements**

Further to Marc's remarks earlier in this newsletter an additional consequence of making mask requirement optional is that Friday bridge players can now resume afternoon tea breaks, and Tuesday bridge seating for lunch can revert to "normal".

### **Numbers for Bronze Championships**

The committee considered a suggestion from a bronze player that due to covid-related absences the number of playing sessions required to qualify for the Bronze Championships should be reduced from the current 8 out of 12 sessions. On

review it was decided to retain the status quo as, with three sessions still to play, reducing the total required to 7 would add at most three pairs to the current total of 11 potential qualifiers.

### **WBC/Auckland Online Tournament**

This team tournament was played in August using Real Bridge. WBC players made up one 8-player team and everyone enjoyed it once players got the hang of it. This was a very positive activity for our club profile.

### **Sydney Studio Offer**

Heather Olsen has written to us offering her Bali-themed studio in Sydney as a prize. This is a wonderful offer and we need to consider how we can best utilise this very kind offer.

## **General Business**

### **Online Lessons**

NZB are planning another set of online bridge lessons from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, starting on 28<sup>th</sup> September and running weekly until the end of the year.

The full set of lessons is \$80, with the first introductory lesson free to give you a taster of online learning. You can [register for the first lesson here](#).

Each lesson is a mix of theory and practice where you use the online RealBridge platform to play with live people and helpers at each table. It is a bit like a zoom call where you can chat and talk to others at the table while playing your virtual cards. NZB suggests that if a club sends anyone to lessons they also provide an assistant, so as to form a personal relationship with the learner and allow a welcoming transition from online to face to face bridge.

Once you have registered you will receive emails with more information closer to the date (a link to access the lessons and teaching resources).

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Anna Kalma (email: [Anna.Kalma@nzbridge.co.nz](mailto:Anna.Kalma@nzbridge.co.nz); M: 0275-183-133).

### New Zealand-Wide Pairs 11th November

The NZ Wide Pairs (formerly the Babich Pairs) will be held on the evening of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. We require an estimate of approximate table numbers by 29 October so please email Sonya Adams ([wanakabridgetutor@gmail.com](mailto:wanakabridgetutor@gmail.com)) if you intend participating.

### When Not to Transfer

Transfer responses to an opening 1NT or 2NT are such a useful device that many players, once they are comfortable with their use, routinely use them whenever the opportunity arises. While this is sound practice 95% of the time, there is the occasional hand on which responder should think a little before automatically going into transfer mode. Here's a recent example from Round 2 of the Aspiring Stakes:

♠ 6 ♥ AQ9753 ♦ J8653 ♣ 9		Dir: S Vul: E-W																									
♠ T732 ♥ T8 ♦ AQ97 ♣ AQJ	♠ QJ95 ♥ J6 ♦ 42 ♣ KT732																										
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In response to South's opening 1NT North was never going to let the auction stop short of 4H, the only question being whether to bid game direct or to proceed via a transfer. At our table North chose not to transfer on the grounds that, as declarer, her two singletons would remain a closely guarded secret and make it that much harder for the defence.

At two of four tables where North became declarer in 4H East made the natural lead of the spade queen only to see dummy win with the ace, discard a losing club on

the spade king, and – after losing two diamonds – ruff out West's last two diamonds to make her contract with an overtrick. Not so at our table: East, her suspicions aroused by North's failure to transfer, found the excellent lead of a small diamond allowing the defence to cash two diamonds and the club ace to hold declarer to her contract.

Playing double dummy careful defence holds N/S to 10 tricks regardless of who is declarer, so a more conventional transfer auction would not necessarily cost N/S. But the correct defence is not easy to find, and – as two other Easts found to their cost – it is all too easy to concede a trick. So for our table we can say well bid by North, but equally well defended by East. The result, thanks to good bridge on both sides, was a near-average score for each pair.