



New Post

Table Talk - Sep 2025

From the President

Hello to you all,

The inclement spring weather has arrived, but I am enjoying the days being longer. Don't forget to move your clocks forward for daylight saving next Sunday.

Congratulations to all who competed in the September tournament. Once again it was a great success. A huge thank you to the tournament committee and all the helpers on the day. The raffle hampers were amazing, thank you to all members who donated a prize. We couldn't run such a successful tournament without you all.

The Loveblock pairs are coming up on October 17th. This is a nationwide competition fundraising for the bridge foundation. Books are available afterwards that tell you how you should have played the hands. We had 10 tables last year and everyone had a great time. The entry form is on the noticeboard.

Unfortunately Jane Hamilton and myself are unable to be there as we are heading to Wellington for the Bridge teachers conference- watch out next years learners.

Happy Bridging

Heather

Programme Sep-Oct 2025

Terry Wilson Pairs (Silver Only) from Sep 29

Silver Championship Pairs Oct 20

Tuesday:

From Sep 23

Wednesday:

Tarras Stakes (Bronze Only) from Oct 1

Bronze Championship Pairs Oct 22

Friday:

From Sep 26 (apart from Oct 17)

Tournaments

Also coming up:

Gore Open Pairs 5A Oct 4

Taieri Intermediate/Junior Pairs 5B Oct 5

Balcutha Open Pairs 8B Oct 11

Loveblock New Zealand Wide Pairs 3A Oct 17

Otago/Southland Congress Intermediate Pairs Otago BC 5B Oct 25

Otago/Southland Congress Open Pairs Otago BC 10A Oct 25

Otago/Southland Congress Intermediate Teams Otago BC 5B Oct 26

Otago/Southland Congress Open Teams Otago BC 10A Oct 26

Wanaka Intermediate Tournament

Judging by the feedback that we have received, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their day at the tournament. Thanks to all that helped to make the day go so smoothly. Jane Hamilton mentioned nearly everyone, but I would also like to give a shout out to Ken Saxby for dealing the cards and Jenny Turnbull, Janey Kuzma and John Milburn for being available at such short notice. The downside of keeping everyone with sniffles away from the Hall was that we had to make a lot of last minute substitutions.

As for the results, Wanaka had a very good day (and our sponsor Mark Harry had to do a lot of smiling):

Junior: 1st Alistair and Fiona Marris (5th overall)

2nd Emma Allwood and Natalie Keenan (8th overall)

Intermediate: 1st Tracey Gieck and Andrew Shaw

2nd John Schwarz and Brian Vass

3rd Di Gorman and Marie Robson (East Otago)







Schedule

Next year, Championship Pairs will be in two week blocks throughout the year, avoiding the months of June and July when more members are away. Qualification will remain at least eight sessions out of the available twelve.

Loveblock Pairs

Virtually all of the information about this event in the last newsletter was wrong! It is still on October 17th, but will be starting at 6pm (as a result there will be no Friday Bridge that day). Cost is \$20 cash. Look out for the entry form on the noticeboard. We can accommodate up to 20 tables.

Teams

Neil Marshall attended our last committee meeting to discuss the future of the Teams format which has been so successful this year. The following was decided:

Next year each team will consist of three Silver and three Bronze players. If necessary, substitutes will be drawn from a pool of available members. This year's top two teams will have to include at least one new Silver player out of the three.

Some members did not organise a team in time for this year's competition. There will be no limit on the number of teams next year. It is possible that there will be two sections, each of, say seven teams, with play-offs at the end of the year.

There will continue to be no C points awarded. We are keeping it as a fun competition with a trophy to be awarded at prizegiving.

Book

This year's Bridge Book will revert to a smaller format. It will be available for pick up at the usual time, after the AGM. We are inviting anyone who has an interest in a business to have a business card-sized advert in the book at a cost of \$50 + gst.

Parking

When parking could you ensure that you do not block either of the two entrances to the Hall? These are needed in case of an emergency. And could you avoid using the space immediately outside the Hall if you are physically fit? Some of our members need to have a short walk in.

Health and Safety Incident Booklet

In the event of any health and safety incidents, a booklet will be available in the office to record them.

Director's Corner

A reminder of the right way to claim. If you think that you are bound to win a certain number of the remaining tricks in a hand, you are allowed to claim. When you do, you must give an explanation of why that number of tricks is inevitable. The opponents are allowed to dispute your claim, so you should be certain of your reasoning. All of the cards will be laid out, and a detailed analysis will be made. If you have forgotten, for instance that a trump is still out, then a potential play where that trump makes a trick may be available. In this case, the Director will award that trick to the opposition. The phrase “reasonable line of play” is used. If, however for instance you have A, K and J of trumps as your last three cards and the Q is still out, then the Director will assume that you will cover the Q with the K or ruff high and then draw the Q. In this case, your claim stands.

To Double or not to Double?

This hand from a recent Friday afternoon session featured a spectacular deal with a freakish distribution:

<p>♠ T7543 ♥ K86 ♦ J92 ♣ 84</p>		<p>Dir: E Vul: Both</p>																															
<p>♠ Q986 ♥ J9753 ♦ 6 ♣ QT3</p>		<p>♠ AK2 ♥ AKQT8743 ♦ 75 ♣ 75</p>																															
<p>4 5 16 15</p>	<p>♠ J ♥ AQT42 ♦ 5 ♣ AKJ962</p>	<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr></table>			♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	2	-	3	-	-	S	2	-	3	-	-	E	-	5	-	2	2	W	-	5	-	2	2
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<p>Par: -500</p>																																	

I didn't play in the session so am not party to the various auctions which occurred but it's hard to criticise an immediate opening bid of 5D by East. Opening 4D doesn't do the hand justice and leaves room for an enterprising

South to intervene with 4NT, a super-charged version of an Unusual 2NT overcall showing at least 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits.

As it is, 5D gives South plenty to think about. To double or not to double? At six of the nine tables South passed, no doubt swayed by the prospect that East was likely to have voids or singletons with no guarantee that she would be able to cash two winners let alone three. At the other three tables South doubled for penalties. Unfortunately for NS, the contract is bullet proof. With declarer's heart void and West's spade queen the defense can make only two club tricks before declarer wins any continuation, draws trumps, and claims 11 tricks.

Glendhu Pairs

1st Andrew Shaw and Marc Simmonds*

2nd Judy Briggs and Jude Gunn

Cloudy Peak Pairs**

1st Viv Grant and Andrew Shaw

2nd Sally Goodall and Martin Unwin

*over 60% average

**So many Silvers played in this series that the prize winners are not mentioned above. They are Susannah Pinckney and Kay Ross; and Natalie Keenan and Sue Orbell.

Thanks for reading

Marc


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