

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE OTAGO BRIDGE CLUB WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY
29 AUGUST 2010 AT 1.30 PM IN THE CLUBROOMS**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting (these Minutes may be seen on the notice board or on the website)
4. Business Arising From The Minutes
5. Annual Reports
6. Annual Accounts
7. Annual Subscription

8. Election Of Officers

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Michael Albert	President	Dennis McCaughan	Pat Dickson
Nina Hewitt	Vice President	Elaine McDonald	Henriette Rawlings
Pat Dickson	Treasurer	Michael Albert	Elaine McDonald

9. Election Of Committee (4 Required)

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Bob Gillanders	Pat Dickson	Nina Hewitt
Mike Hickling	Murat Genç	Graeme Stout
Marjan Lousberg	Judith McKinlay	Elaine McDonald

10. Election Of Auditor

11. Notices of Motion

Rule Changes (The Club Rules may be seen on our website, or pick up a copy from the table inside the front door).

1. *Clause 13 a)*

That the words *September 30th* be substituted for *September 10th*.

Proposed Pat Dickson, seconded Murat Genç

Explanation: The financial year ends on 30th June. Accounts cannot be finalised for at least 4-6 weeks after this time, and then 2-3 weeks needs to be allowed for auditing. If the

date is taken to the middle of September there would be less pressure in preparing the Annual Reports and Accounts. Scheduled tournament dates also need to be avoided.

2. *Clause 13 d)*

That the words: *Those notices which have not been uplifted one week before the date of the pending general meeting shall be posted that day by ordinary post to the member at his or her last known address. The apparent uplifting of the notice by the member or the process of posting to the member shall be a full and sufficient notice to all members of such General Meeting.* be deleted and replaced by: *The advertising of the annual meeting in the Programme Book and the posting of the Notice Of Meeting and Agenda at the Clubrooms and on the website be full and sufficient notice to all members of such General meeting.*

Proposed by: Pat Dickson/Seconded Elaine McDonald

Explanation: The annual meeting date is advertised in the Programme Book in each Division Programme, notices are up in the club, divisions are notified for at least 3 weeks before the meeting, *Bridge Update* notifies the meeting date, the notice is on the website, people in touch by email are reminded of the meeting. Those who do not pick up notices are often not interested in annual meetings and posting these notices (100 last year) are an unnecessary expense. Postage will be 60c in 2011.

3. That at daytime mixed ability sessions at the Otago Bridge Club, where no C Points are given (at present) and results on handicap are as important as those off the stick, we allow members of the Dunedin Bridge Club the right to play on the payment of an annual administration fee as their names would have to be put on the computer and handicaps given.

Proposed by Lindsay Lawrence, seconded Joyce McClintock

Explanation: Our members pay a large subscription and I do not propose “open slather”. However some of our older members leave because they cannot see well enough to play at night. If these members join the Dunedin Bridge Club they are able to play daytime bridge and it could be to the advantage of both clubs to allow these non-affiliated members to play on Fridays and on Wednesday afternoons. Our playing numbers would keep up and the Dunedin Bridge Club may be kept viable for longer. Since they form part of our income this also helps us. It must be noted that players on Wednesday and Friday fund their own lunch and afternoon tea arrangements.

12. General Business

Elaine McDonald
Secretary

15 August 2010

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

It is my pleasure to present the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2010.

I am sorry to record the deaths of Eileen Bezett, Ian Brockie, Pat Houston, Marjorie Leishman, Stan Peacock, and Margaret Stevenson.

The conveners of the Finance, Playing, and Development sub-committees have individually presented their reports. I would like to thank the conveners of these sub-committees, Michael Albert (Finance), Nina Hewitt (Playing), Marjan Lousberg (Development), and the sub-committee members for their work. I congratulate all the sub-committees for their excellent performance. It is particularly pleasing to finish the year with no deficit after all the financial worries we had last year. This required some tough decisions such as not having supper break during play, a decision supported by the majority of the members. The play and discuss evenings introduced this year have been a great success. Lectures on a variety of topics have been well attended as well. The Development sub-committee's initiatives in these areas are much appreciated. Our website continues to improve with more features added, including a new on-line problems page and the ability to see all the results on every board played in a session. The forum introduced last year has been very successful. I congratulate the Development sub-committee and John Shanks for their excellent contributions to the website.

The Playing sub-committee has also taken some initiatives to introduce important changes. The Reserve and Intermediate divisions were combined. It has also been decided that members can play up at any time they wish. This should not be seen as abolishing divisions and promotions. Playing down is still not permitted.

A major purchase was BridgePads. A considerable amount of money was spent to buy 60 of these electronic scoring devices. It is simply amazing that our members contributed so much when we asked for donations. Together with the grants we received from various organizations, we did not need to dip into the club's savings in order to purchase them. Thank you all so much for your generosity.

A major concern for the last few years has been the decline in membership as I highlighted in my report last year, and this decline has continued, although to a much lesser extent. Our financial situation looks better this year, but this is mainly due to cutting costs. We cannot keep cutting costs. We do need to make a real effort to increase our membership numbers.

I had reported last year that a Strategic Planning Committee was formed to look into the financial issues and to develop a strategic plan for the Club. Unfortunately, the Management Committee have not received a report from them yet. I am sure the in-coming Committee will receive this report sometime soon.

Several of our members were very successful in the nationals in Hamilton. The Open Interprovincial Team representing Otago/Southland, Nick Bailey, Cameron Benson, James Coutts, Paul Freeland, Murat Genç, and Martijn Prent, won the competition. This was only the second time Otago/Southland won the open category in the last 36 years. It was announced at the prize giving that this was the youngest team ever to win the open. Congratulations to the players. James Coutts and Nick Bailey won the Swiss Pairs. Kay Wilson, Donna Ruwhiu, Janette Quennell, and Kristen Collins won the Multiple Teams in Hamilton. Donna Ruwhiu and Kristen Collins also won the Congress Pairs. Sam Bailey and

Alysha Bloxham were part of the New Zealand team who won the Youth Test against Australia. Congratulations to all for these excellent results.

Chris Ackerley, Jeff Miller, Graeme Stout, and Arleen Schwartz were part of the New Zealand national teams at the Bermuda Bowl in Brazil. Jeff, Graeme, and Chris also represented New Zealand at PABF championships in Hamilton this year. Cameron Benson and James Coutts were in the New Zealand Under 26 Youth team at PABF, and Sam Bailey, Glenn and Sam Coutts were in the Under 21 Youth team. Representing New Zealand is a great achievement. All these members of our club make us proud.

It was our turn this year to host the Oyster Plate and Paua Trophy matches against Invercargill. It was the 50th anniversary of the Oyster Plate and 25th anniversary of the Paua Trophy. We organised a party to celebrate these anniversaries. All members of the club were invited. It was a most successful day altogether. I would like to express my thanks to Lindsay Lawrence for putting on a great party.

This marks the end of my term as the President of the Club. It has been a pleasure to work with all the members of the Management Committee. Everyone on the Management Committee and on the other sub-committees have done so much.. Thank you all for all your time and work. It is, of course, not just these committee members that keep the Club going. There are so many members who voluntarily do so much for the Club. Thank you all.

Murat Genç
President

Development Committee 2009-2010

Membership: Marjan Lousberg, *Chair*; Kristen Collins, *Coordinator of Educational Programmes*; Judith Smeijers, *Librarian*; Jackie White, *Marketing Adviser*; James Coutts, *Coordinator of Advanced Lecture Programmes*; Doreen Whiston, *Convenor Junior Division*. It took some months to get the full complement of committee members, but we now have a very productive team.

Activities during the 2009-2010 year:

Marketing and promotions

- We continued our advertising in the Star/Weekender, ODT Active Times and university newsletter to attract new members to lessons.
- D-Scene published a brief article as part of their 'Join our Club' series.
- Flyers were placed in public spaces and handed out to club members for distribution.

Lessons

- Ten people from the first set of lessons merged with the juniors in July.
- About eight people are in the current lesson group.
- The committee has decided that in 2011 we will only have one set of lessons, starting a little later in the year, once the students have returned, in the hope that we can attract the student community to lessons.

Lecture Program

- In the last few months of 2009 we gave lectures on hand evaluation, reverses and jump shift bids and transfers. All were well attended and appreciated.
- The play and discuss evenings, both for junior/intermediate and for senior/open players held in 2010 so far have been a great success and well attended. We hope to continue these next year.

Library

- There are still a considerable number of books missing. Please search your bookshelves for mislaid books from our library.
- Having said that, we do want to encourage club members to borrow our books. We have an excellent variety of useful books for all levels of players. But please remember to fill in the card at the back of the book and put it in the container provided.

Website

- We have created a new section: **bridge problems**, accessible from the front page. Small prizes awarded for highest scores and best answers at the end of the year. Do participate.
- Another new option on our website is the possibility to view individual data for each play session. This section, accessible from the results pages, allows you to compare how other pairs bid and played each hand and what the lead card was. A lot can be learned from studying this information.

Marjan Lousberg
Development Committee

Playing Committee 2010

Committee Members

Robert Blok, Graham Donaldson, Grant Dowland, Dennis McCaughan, Katie Young, Nina Hewitt.

The Playing Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month and its members are the Convenors of each division (except Junior) plus Katie Young (Director of Tournaments), Dennis McCaughan (Senior Director) and Nina Hewitt (Club Captain). At present there is no convenor for the Open division (A volunteer for this post has been asked for). The job has been shared - Jared Fudge has been reading the notices and Nina Hewitt and Dennis McCaughan have been publicising events and generally helping.

The following issues are among those discussed by the Playing Committee:-

1) Changes to the bridge programme

- The Reserve and Intermediate Divisions were made into one division called the Intermediate Division .
- The Championship League moved from alternate Monday nights to Thursday nights.
- On the alternate Monday nights to teams two 5A tournaments were held over 3 nights and three sets of Play and Discuss nights were held (two sets for Junior/Intermediate/Senior and one set for Senior/Open). These events proved popular, were very well organized and highly successful.
- The Senior Division Calendar now runs parallel to the Open Division.

2) Length of the Bridge Evening

The Bridge Pads arrived and supper is now on a help yourself basis. The teething problems of the bridge pads are now largely resolved and the resourceful directors can now organize it so we can play two boards per table. All this has helped to reduce the length of the evening for those wishing to get home earlier. Each division has the flexibility to play more or less boards and to adjust the length of the supper break.

3) Bits and Pieces

- Pairs Championship - the top 26 pairs will qualify automatically. The remaining pairs to qualify will be selected from those unable to play all 4 qualifying nights and the next highest qualifiers.
- Events are being publicised on the web site, by the convenors, the whiteboard at the club and sometimes by e mail.
- Psyches. The player who psychs should report it to the Recorder. It was strongly suggested that the person who is psyched against also report it to the Recorder so that the psyche can be followed up.

4) Future probable Changes to the Structure of the Club.

- On alternate Monday nights a 5B tournament will be added and one of the Play and Discuss nights for Junior/Intermediate/Senior will be removed.

- Swiss Pairs will not be on ordinary club nights unless specifically asked for by that division.
- Juniors and Intermediates will play on the same night.
- The Championship League will be disbanded.
- There are plans to allow more freedom for players to play up when they wish.

I would like to thank all the Committee for their hard work and co-operation. Special thanks to Katie Young who is retiring from the committee for writing the minutes, helping with the Programme book and most of all for being the Tournament Director - you will be missed. Also to Nick Bailey who was the Open Convenor until December 2009.

There are many other volunteers at the Club and I would like to thank all the Directors for their patience and helpfulness at the table, the Card Dealers for always having boards available for us and all other volunteers too many to mention. Without you the club would not run.

*Nina Hewitt
Club Captain*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The end of the 2010 financial year finds the club much more stable financially than it was in 2009. Savings have been achieved by changes approved by the committee. The net total of these changes is that the club basically ran on a break-even basis for the past financial year. The surplus reflected in the accounts is an artifact of accounting procedures -- our major purchase of the BridgePad units being a Capital item, naturally is not an expense, and is therefore listed as Fixed Assets under Printers and Computers Note 4 to the Accounts. Depreciation was deducted for ten months of the year, while the generous donations of many club members and a number of charitable trusts towards their purchase do appear as income.

One of the major financial outlays for the club is the ground rent of \$24,000 per annum that we pay for the site. This has been fixed for the next six years, but the time may come when the club finds it necessary to reconsider our physical arrangement given the ongoing costs of maintaining a building in this position. The uptick in levies and subscriptions is encouraging, though largely due to some concerted effort on the part of committee members and conveners to remind members of the importance of paying their accounts! Unfortunately, the recent decline in table fees has continued. Though small on a year to year basis, in the long term this represents a very worrying and financially dangerous trend.

So, in the end, a year of mixed messages. The club has adopted measures that leave us in a stable position for the next few years. But, there are some worrying long term issues that will need to be addressed -- in particular we must find ways to generate more income from table fees, either by attracting new members, or providing more attractive events to our current members.

*Michael Albert
Finance Committee*

MEMBERSHIP

Membership as at 1 July 2009		459
PLUS New members		
Open	7	
Senior	<u>6</u>	13
From two classes - 2009	22	<u>35</u>
		494
LESS Resignations received		
Moved from Dunedin	7	
Failing health	3	
Other	<u>9</u>	
	19	
Bereavements	5	<u>24</u>
		470
Non-payment of Subscriptions		
Open	2	
Senior	2	
Intermediate	4	
Junior	15	<u>23</u>
Membership as at 30 June 2010		447

BAR ACCOUNTS 2009-2010

	<i>2010</i>	<i>2009</i>
Sales	\$18,501	\$18,336
Cost of Goods Sold	\$10,845	\$11,328
Gross Surplus as a % of sales	41%	38%
Expenses associated with the bar	\$5,400	\$5,400
SURPLUS	\$2,256	\$1,608

NOTE: The above accounts differ from the Bar surplus reported in the Annual Accounts because the figures above are an average estimate of the expenses associated with the bar, eg bar licence, repairs to equipment, etc.

John Gilmour

BridgePad

Since acquiring 60 BridgePads late 2009 and introduction during Holiday Bridge, players and directors alike have come a long way. Firstly, OBC did not pay a cent for BridgePad – all funding was obtained through the generosity of Bendigo Valley Sports & Charity Foundation, Southern Victorian Charitable Trust Inc, St Kilda Community Sports Society, Pub Charity, Otago Community Trust, Cutlers Ltd, Joy Jones Estate and donations from members. We remain thankful for everyone's generosity.

The initial problems were with the computer platforms we were running at the time. Little to our knowledge, at the time of purchase these machines were not powerful enough to stably run BridgePad. We have since received funding from The Lion Foundation for four new desktop computers with sufficient power.

The IT Committee recently undertook what turned into a vast and ongoing task of installing, networking and fine-tuning these new machines, beginning late July. A range of unforeseen challenges arose during this time. A new version of Scorer was installed, BridgePad software and XP Pro operating system were installed. Networking the printers was an ongoing problem. Paper sizes were defaulting to “US Letter” rather than the correct A4 size for some time, being a nuisance for printing hand records and personal score sheets.

The new network is now wired, however we still have a wireless network to run laptops on. This is important to be able to utilise the data projector, especially for Swiss Pairs or lessons.

Aerials have been installed on a permanent basis. All playing rooms are now equipped. In addition, training has been offered to up-skill members to use BridgePad with confidence. Co-operation and patience from players was crucial. Many mistakes were made, yet given it is a complex system, these things were not unexpected. It remains to be seen how stable the system is, especially during catastrophes like power cuts or shut downs.

The dedicated and hard-working directors have also quickly learned and adapted to using this technology, to pioneer BridgePad at Otago Bridge Club. Ultimately, it ensures the directors' job is less stressful and accurate results are out in a speedy fashion at the end of the night. In addition, full results and comparisons on each board are now available on the website, thanks to work by our web master, John Shanks (Spacific Design).

Otago is one of the first South Island clubs to use electronic scoring. Thus, I am proud to be part of a club that is leading the way with technological innovations and knowledgeable personnel.

Jared Fudge

RECORDER

The AGM seems a fitting time to remind members of the job of the club recorder. One of the main purposes of this position is to be available to all players for informal advice regarding issues of play, bidding, or etiquette; needless to say all information passed on to the recorder is confidential. The recorder maintains a record of psychic bids and should be the first port of call if a player is uncertain of whether or not a particular bid falls into this category.

Michael Albert recently wrote a very informative article for Bridge Update describing the definition of a psyche, and he made the very important point that a bid is no longer a psyche if you become aware that partner will do certain things in certain situations.

Another thing we all need to be careful of, is using the words “undiscussed” in response to a question – pairings who have played together more than once or twice should know, for example, what defence they play to 1NT. These are the types of situation that need to be reported to the recorder, or director, so the situation can be monitored.

Generally speaking, it has been a very quiet year for psychic bidding at the club level; although I have heard echoes of discontent that suggest not all have been reported. If you believe an opponent has digressed from the letter of the law feel free to enquire if the issue was reported. The term ‘gross misrepresentation’ can mean different things to different people, but the main issue is how often is it happening. This can only be judged if the recorder is informed.

Sharon Mosley
Recorder

MAJOR TROPHY WINNERS 1 JULY 2009-30 JUNE 2010

TEAMS

Norman Allan Trophy for Swiss Teams:	J Thompson, P McCaskill, J Miller, G Stout
Invicta Cup for Combined Teams:	G Coutts, S Coutts, H Logan, R Evans
Booths Gin Trophy - Championship Section:	J Thompson, P McCaskill, J Miller, G Stout
Otago Club Cup - Gold Section	Dennis McCaughan, Nina Hewitt, Dai Redshaw, Donna Ruwhiu
John Swann Cup – Silver Section	H van Zoelen, M Ferrari, J Wolken, M Hickling
Bob Hudson Plate – Bronze Section	Martijn Prent, Cameron Benson, Alysha Bloxham, Sam Bailey
J B Security Plate – Plate Section	Len Andersen, Moira Andersen, Judith Medlicott, Anne-Maree Fox

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS

The President's Cup	Club	Nick Bailey and James Coutts
Baden Wilson Memorial Plate Senior		Kathleen Hurr and Coral Paris
Otago Bridge Club Cup	Senior Reserve	Sam Coutts and Glenn Coutts
Ellis Challenge Cup	Intermediate	Jenny Guthrie and Lynda Rendall
Dr C R Johnstone Trophy	Junior	Helen Diack and Alan Diack
Joy Jones Trophy	Women's Scratch:	Frances Best and Joan Somerville
Carol Whitney Plate	Women's Handicap	Jocelyn Kilcullen and Pat Dickson

INDIVIDUAL LADDERS

Jack Finigan Cup	Open	Alison Giller
J S Asher Plate	Senior	Amanda Inwood
John Lawson Plate	Reserve	Julia McNaughton
Trix Robertson Plate	Intermediate	Diana Carne

C POINTS TROPHIES

The Rose Bowl	Open	Graeme Stout
Nancy Gilkison Memorial Trophy	Reverse Open	Arleen Schwartz
Dulcie Duckworth Rose Bowl	Senior	Amanda Inwood
Grants Scotch Whiskey	Reserve	Pam Hodgkinson
Halliday Cup	Intermediate	Sam Coutts
Edna McDonald Plate	Junior	Phyll Esplin
Edna McDonald Cup	Reverse Junior	James McKeowen

A POINT TROPHY FOR YOUTH PLAYERS

Mangaratiba Cup	Cameron Benson
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HIGHEST SCORES

Shirley Ford Trophy	Overall	Sam Coutts and Glenn Coutts
Alma Delahunty Cup	Overall	Heather Bunn and Alison Martin
Fred Peter's Memorial Cup	Reserve	Alice Booth and Maureen Kensington
Biro Bic Trophy	Junior	Helen Diack and Alan Diack
Moise Holiday Cup	Open	James Coutts
Moise Holiday Cup	Handicap	Andrea McCone
Gustavson Madallions	Friday Handicap	1 st Joc Parkes 2 nd Trish Purdon

TOURNAMENT TROPHIES

Alfred Dunhill Trophy	Swiss Pairs	James Coutts and Nick Bailey
Otago Festival Pairs Trophy	Open	David Green and Philip Gillen
Otago Festival Pairs Trophy	Intermediate	Maria Godfrey and John Sheehy
Ina Anderson Cup	Festival Junior Pair	Robert Blok and Maria Caspers
Sid Robb Trophy	Otago Winter Pairs	Jeff Miller and Graeme Stout
Bob Hudson Plate	Otago Winter Teams	Donna Ruwhiu, Kristen Collins, Lorraine Peacock and Ron Meng.
O/S Provincial Pairs	Graeme Stout and Jeff Miller	
O/S Provincial Teams	Martijn Prent, Cameron Benson, Annabelle Molloy, Pieter Vanderpoel (Chch), and Rudi Prent.	
Monday Swiss Pairs	James Coutts, Cameron Benson	

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES - 2010

Jeff Miller, Graeme Stout	Open	PABF, Hamilton, NZ
Chris Ackerley	Senior	PABF, Hamilton, NZ
Cameron Benson, James Coutts	Youth	PABF, Hamilton, NZ
Sam Coutts, Glenn Coutts, Sam Bailey	Under 21	PABF, Hamilton, NZ