



BRIDGE UPDATE

July 2010

CONGRATULATIONS TO Jared Fudge and Sam Bailey who won the Oamaru All Grades Tournament on 4 July and to Margaret Auty and Judy Russell who were the best Junior Pair.

The first part of the Teams competition has now concluded. The Swiss was won by the Thompson Team – Jeff Miller, Graeme Stout, Jeff Thompson and Peter McCaskill. The Combined Teams was won by the Martin-Frew team – Joy Martin-Frew, Joan Mawson, Judy Russell and Margaret Auty. Congratulations to all.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Sunday 29 August at 1.30 pm, nominations are now being called for President, Vice-President, Treasurer and four committee members. Nomination forms are on the notice board in the foyer. Nominations and Notices of Motion need to be in the hands of the Secretary by 8 August.

Your Notice of Meeting (which will include the annual reports and accounts) will be available at the club by 15 August. Please ensure that you collect it or ask someone else to collect it for you if you are unable to pick it up personally.

To encourage social contact between division members, afternoon tea will be served after the meeting, the bar will be open and a short bridge session will be played with a drawn partner.

A warm WELCOME to Susan Butler, Jean Connor, Nader Hanna, Robyn Herd, Ross McClintock, Philippa Main, Ken Nicholls, Megan Odgers, Kay Ross, Margaret Tagg who have recently joined from the classes.

YOUTH QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 20 AUGUST

A further fund-raising event is being held for our Youth Players, this time for those representing the Otago/Southland region in the Inter-Provincial teams at Congress in Hamilton 23-24 September. Enter a team of 4-6 players and come along for a fun night. The Grocery Hamper raffle will be drawn this night, so you still have time to contribute to that. Thanks to all those who already have, or have contributed other raffles. The painting by Jocelyn Kilcullen will be awarded to the highest bidder that night also. Your support is appreciated.

SATURDAY BRIDGE

Saturday, 7 August

Meal at 6.30 pm. Bridge at 7.30 pm

AUGUST TOURNAMENTS

2, 16, 30	Otago Open 5A Pairs
8	Otago 5A Open – Swiss Pairs
22	Oamaru Jun 3B/Int 5B Pairs
28	Invercargill Jun 3B/Int 5B Pairs

PSYCHE BIDS

A psyche, or psychic bid is defined as "A deliberate and gross misstatement of honour strength and/or of suit length." There are two important parts of this definition to remember: "deliberate" – a mistake is not a psyche; "gross" -- a small variation (e.g. Opening 1NT with an 11 count, or a weak 2 bid on a five card suit) is not a psyche. Psyches are legal so long as they do not become part of your partnership's understandings. For instance, if you observe that your partner will never pass in third seat non-vulnerable after two passes, then you are in a better position to deal with his psychic openings there -- so they are not psyches at all, and must be disclosed as part of your "system" to the opponents (e.g. by alerting all of partner's opening bids in this position.) Similarly, if your partner always opens balanced 11 counts with 1NT, then you are playing an 11-14 NT range and not a 12-14 range, and must note this on your convention card.

Since the early days of contract bridge players have debated the ethics and effectiveness of psychic bidding. No consensus has ever been, or is ever likely to be reached. It's relatively widely considered to be impolite to psyche against opponents who (in your opinion) are much weaker than you. Frequent psyching (more than once per session) is so likely to create partnership understandings that it is very strongly discouraged. In part to monitor this, psychic bids are supposed to be recorded and registered with the director during, or immediately after, the session in which they are made (forms to do this are available in both the Cargill and Larnach rooms). The responsibility for recording a psyche rests with the player who made it, though in order to ensure compliance it's not inappropriate for the other partnership to mention to the director that a psyche occurred and who made it. The director can then follow up if no report is received.

Dealing with psyches is difficult. It's natural to feel somehow swindled when a psyche succeeds. Under those circumstances, it's important to remember that generally nothing illegal or unethical has occurred (unless you are concerned that the psycher's partner has "fielded" the psyche, e.g. by failing to raise partner's opening bid when holding significant support). If you do wonder if there is an issue of legality, then, as always, the correct approach is to politely call the director, calmly explain your concerns, allow the opponents to state their position, and listen to the director's decision.