



MAY 2012 BRIDGE UPDATE

President's position

Michael Albert our current President is shortly leaving for an overseas sabbatical and has given his apologies for the Management Committee meetings up until the AGM. Nina Hewitt (currently Vice-President) will be the Acting President until the AGM.

Michael Albert took over as President in August 2010 and the Club has forged ahead under his leadership, despite his University commitments.

He was responsible for the tough decisions that mean the Club is now in better financial health. He was heavily involved in planning the Club's 75th Anniversary celebrations in mid-2011, and also in improving the Club's infrastructure: dealing machine, photocopier, new computers, disabled facilities, and improvements to the grounds. Michael also promoted new initiatives such as play and discuss nights, use of Bridgebase, enhancement of the website and the review of the teams format. He strongly supported efforts by the development committee to promote the lessons and attract new members, and put a lot of work into directing and scoring, for example the recent IP trials datum calculations.

We will miss his talent and commitment, and thank him for his efforts in the last two years.

Friday Bridge continues – be seated by 10.25am. Bring Lunch. Visitors welcome.

Saturday Bridge: Open to all grades and to visitors

Dates: 9 Jun, 7 Jul, 4 Aug, 1 Sep, 6 Oct, 10 Nov.

Etiquette - Seating

Before start of play ALL tables must toss for North/South seating (unless someone has seating rights).

Membership:

Bereavement: Our thoughts go out to Alec Robinson and family on the recent death of Phil Robinson. Over many years Phil gave of her time to the Bridge Club as Social Convenor including organising catering for many tournaments. She will be fondly remembered by many as 'Mrs Friday Bridge'.

NEW WINTER EVENTS

Wednesday Bridge for Men – Come and play alongside the women for the winter months. Starting Wednesday 13 June at 12.55pm. Please come and show your support.

Social Bridge on Sunday Afternoons for the winter months. Starting Sunday 17 June at 1.30pm and every fortnight.

Bring yourselves and non-member bridge playing friends for an afternoon's bridge. Cost \$5. Please come and support this new venture.

TOURNAMENT NEWS / March/April 2012

TAIERI OPEN B PAIRS. Congratulations to James and Glenn Coutts who were the overall winners with a grand score of 66.3%. Second place getters were Ann Woodhead and Bob Lawrence with 60.67%

SOUTH CANTERBURY CONGRESS in Timaru also had many Otago players competing. Congratulations to Murat Genc and Arleen Schwartz who came second and to Sam Coutts and Glenn Coutts for gaining third place. Paul Freeland and Margaret Perley were fourth.

WINTON JUNIOR PAIRS were well supported by Otago. A group of Junior players experienced their first ever Tournament. After 60 boards they were still able to smile and say how much they enjoyed themselves.

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND INTERPROVINCIAL TRIALS. Congratulations to Graeme Stout and Jeff Miller, the overall winners. Second were Chris Ackerley and Arleen Schwartz with Kristen Collins and Donna Ruwhiu third.

MURIHIKU TEAMS AND PAIRS. The Coutts Team was 4th with the Schwartz Team 5th. In the Pairs event Murat Genc and Dean Eidler were 2nd with 58.81%, Glenn Coutts and Sam Coutts were 4th with 57.98% then Arleen Schwartz and Paul Freeland were 5th with 56.60%. Congratulations to you all.

CENTRE ISLAND TEAMS. Congratulations Chris Ackerley, a member of Team Robb, which came 2nd. The Coutts team, including James, was 1st in the Plate section.

Junior's Trip to Winton

It was a relatively early start for us. All the ladies – Corinda, Alice, Dorothy, Anne Marie and Julie - were early to the Otaki St cul-de-sac outside the Bridge Club rooms, so we were on the road before 7am. I was the driver and owner of the van, and Corinda used to live in Southland and knew the Winton area, so she was promptly commandeered to sit in the front as navigator.

A text book trip down. Ann Marie had brought her family tree and we were instructed to look out for Devreux Rd, which we found just out of Winton. We arrived on time at the Winton Bridge Hall.

We had been told these Southland players were all learners as well. Imagine our worry when we found out some had been learners for 30 plus years. Oh well – all good experience.

To start with we had a great smoko put on by the locals and then we got into it. There were about 62 players and the same number of boards. I would say that we all had blunders to fall prey to and also, we probably got a few good plays in as well.

The lunch was chicken and silverside with veges and salads, and a pud to follow. A top feed.

The afternoon was much like the morning and I did notice a few things. The old salts expected us to know all the scores off by heart. The director was constantly being called, so we were all kept on our toes. Time was of the essence and adhered to.

The players were from all over – including Wanaka, Te Anau, Gore, Invercargill. This was a sought after meeting of bridge players that has been going on for generations.

The evening meal set us right for home and we all piled into the van again with our heads spinning. More so I, as I'd scored a large box of Roses chocolates.

As a group we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and have been talking of maybe another already. It was great food, a different but good venue, and a needed learning experience.

Ross Sanson.

A REQUEST FROM YOUR TOURNAMENT SECRETARY. Please provide **ALL** information requested when entering any Tournament.

Monthly Bridge Update

If you have any news items that might interest bridge club members please forward to otagobridgeclub@gmail.com

Use of Club Rooms

When our Club is not being used for playing bridge, it is available for other uses Meeting, workshops, social events.

Contact Susan Johnstone, Secretary for terms and conditions of use.



Pairs Movements by Jared Fudge

Pairs sessions at Otago Bridge Club are renowned for one-board-a-table Mitchell movements. In the 21st century, these are now considered obsolete and increasingly frustrating for both players and Directing staff. Why? Here are the most obvious reasons:

- There is frequently lots of noise at the end of every round.
- One-board-a-table is hideously slow. If there is a difficult contract to make or defend, or one pair is slow, extra time and care is often taken by one side. Playing two boards or more per round means any time taken for difficult boards can usually be easily made up on the other board(s).

There are usually more boards than the number of tables. This means some pairs will play each other more than once, depending on the number of feed-in boards and the timing of the switch. Clearly, playing a particular pair say three times and others just once is simply not equitable. It could mean you play three boards against the strongest or weakest pairs, while several others avoid this.

You might be aware there are indeed solutions to this, simply by playing two or more boards per round, thereby reducing the number of moves. I describe below two pairs movements which are relatively less well-known to Club players in the South Island, which can cater to any number of tables and boards and assist to mitigate the above niggles.

Enormous gains from two-boards-a-table

As alluded to earlier, the main advantage is reducing slowness during sessions. By halving the number of moves, there is reduced time wastage between tables. Consequently, there are lowered noise levels. Pairs will play one-another just once, rather than two or three times, thereby greatly improving equity.

Web Movements

This is very similar to the common Mitchell movement, with North-South pairs remaining stationary, while East-West pairs move around the room, up the table numbers.

In a Web, two identical sets of boards are in play, but in one section. Say there are 18 tables and 26 boards in play (13 rounds of two boards). One set is played in the usual ascending order by North-South for tables 1-9, with any feed-ins placed at the highest number table in that half, i.e. at table 9. Boards feed out at table 1, like a Mitchell.

Interestingly, the other set of boards is played in *descending* order by North-South at tables 10-18. During round 1, table 18 plays boards 1-2, table 17 plays boards 3-4 and table 10 plays 19-20. Boards feed out at table 10 and then back in again at table 18. East-West pairs move round the room, up the table numbers, as in a Mitchell. The sets of boards still get passed down the table numbers as usual for this half of the room.

Pair numbers are the table number one started at, like a Mitchell. Webs are compatible with wireless scoring systems such as BridgePad, meaning on the 'round screen', the units will tell you which boards are to be played against whom, as they always do. This is a very popular movement for Club sessions in the North Island and was played successfully at the Taieri Open B Pairs in March.

Coping with an odd number of tables and Phantoms in Webs

In some instances playing a Web, usually with an odd number of tables, there will be a 'rover' pair, who may be chosen at the discretion of the Director. The rover receives a guide card and may displace an East-West pair at certain times, playing boards available from feed-in stacks.

In the case of a Phantom, this is usually placed North-South at the highest table, in a Web. When a half table is present, just two-boards-a-table is preferable, with say 26 boards. With no Phantom, three-board-a-table movements with 27 boards (9 rounds of 3 boards) could instead be played, meaning a reduced length of time and two boards instead of three, that a pair has to sit out for, during a Phantom.

Howell Movements

These were invented in 1897 by Professor of Mathematics at MIT, Edwin C. Howell. Howells are frequently used with a small number of tables ($N = < 12$) with two-boards-a-table, or more. Depending on the number of rounds and pairs, everyone may play everyone only once, or more frequently, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the field. Some pairs are stationary North-South (important for those with seating rights) whilst the remainder moves around the room playing a different direction each round.

In contrast to a Mitchell or Web, the pair number is not the starting table number. 'Guide cards' reveal the pair numbers, assigned during round one, which are maintained for the session. The guide cards dictate the boards to be played against which opponents and where pairs move to for the following round. At the conclusion of the session, just one set of overall results is produced. It is common for Howells with different numbers of tables but the same number of boards to be played, with the results being scored across both sections, to produce both a sectional and an overall result. For example, a 17-table field might be split into a 9-table and 8-table Howell, both playing 22 boards over 11 rounds.

In Howells, there are three ways to check where you move to for the next round.

1. Checking the bottom of the guide card.
2. Checking the BridgePad.
3. Checking where the pair you're following has moved to (though the least reliable in case they go to the wrong table).

Feedback and questions are welcomed

Over the coming weeks, the Directors plan to trial Web movements in Intermediate and Open. As Webs are relatively new to Otago, we ask that patience is observed during the introduction to provide a fair trial. We've had BridgePad for over two years now, which everyone is used to. Playing in new movements is part of one's bridge education. Any questions or comments regarding these may be directed to Jared Fudge. Alternately, posting a thread on the website forum under the 'Rules and Ethics' section enables others to read about it. ♥