

OTAGO BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

5th June 2023

CONGRATULATIONS:

AUTUMN PAIRS:

JUNIOR:

- 1st Jamie Smith/Peggy Tompkins
2nd Bruce Dowland/Michael Cooper
3rd Peter McIver/Kathryn Nevell

INTERMEDIATE:

- Judy Bevin/Neil Stevenson
Hilary Bisset/Barbara Galland
Greg Sligo/Rodger Paul

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND PROVINCIAL TEAMS:

- 1st Murat Genc, Anne Sommerville, Paula Gregory, Michael Johnstone
2nd Margaret Perley, Paul Freeland, Arleen Schwartz, Chris Ackerley

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND PROVINCIAL PAIRS:

- 1st Graeme Stout and Peter McCaskill
2nd Murat Genc and Anne Somerville (Invercargill)

CONGRATULATIONS: A belated very Happy Birthday to John Wolken, who turned 97 a few weeks back. John is still playing regularly, and directs Women's Pairs every fortnight. A great achievement John, and we hope you celebrated well.

BEREAVEMENT: The Club acknowledges the death of a past member **Carol McDougall**. Carol played from 1994 and resigned when she moved to Christchurch in 2020 while playing in the Senior Division. Our thoughts are with her family, and her bridge friends from our club.

YOUTH BRIDGE WEEKEND: Christchurch 1st-3rd September.

Starts 7pm Friday and finishes Sunday 3pm.

Course is suitable for all players with at least the basics of playing bridge, and are under 25 as at 1 Jan 2023.

Cost \$120 – this includes cost of travel to and from ChCh, airport transfers, lunches and all course material. Billets are provided for out-of-town players.

Registrations to Paul Coleman youth@nzbridge.co.nz before 30th June

OTAGO BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

12th June 2023

CONGRATULATIONS:

SATURDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

	Off-the-Stick	Handicap
1 st	Murray Barron/David Larsen	Allan Dyer/Jann Dyer
2 nd	Allan Dyer/Jann Dyer	Helen Jappy/Judith Hansen
3 rd	Barbara Cowie/Ann Taylor	Barbara Cowie/Ann Taylor

UPPER HUTT OPEN PAIRS (ONLINE) (59 pairs entered)

2 nd	Jeff Miller and Graeme Stout
8 th	Arleen Schwartz and Murat Genc

RESIGNATION: Vi Wilkinson (Senior): *“My mother, a member, persuaded me to join the Club years ago. Due to family commitments I was unable to play for several long gaps, but in recent years I have enjoyed very happy times at the Club.*

I wish to thank all the Office Bearers of the Committee and Directors for all their willing work. To all the members who partnered me at the wonderful game of Contract bridge – Thank you, and best wishes for the future.”

Thank you Vi for your membership since 1975, and support of the Club over many years. We wish you well.

OUR THANKS TO BEV ROSS:



The Committee recently received a resignation from Bev Ross, from her role as volunteer Club Gardener.

She has performed this job for 14 years, and we are very grateful to her for making our premises always looking well tended to, and bright and colourful.

The Management Committee recognised Bev's much valued contribution to the Club with a presentation of flowers at Friday bridge.

Our weekly newsletter provides an opportunity to acknowledge your efforts Bev to all our members, and again on behalf of everyone, "A Big Thank You".

LIBRARY NEWS (Dorothy Butterfield):

NEW BOOKS: Three new books have been added to our collection. These books are written in the "Over - the - Shoulder" style of bridge writing.

You are at World Championships elbows from the moment they pick up their cards. You share their thoughts in the bidding and play. You perceive how the experts work out the opposing hands and become aware of inferences.

Look for these books in the New section of the Library.

"Let's Play Some Bridge" by Frank Stewart

"Play These Hands With Me" by Terence Reese

"My Favorite 52" by Larry Cohen.

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OTAGO BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

19th June 2023

ANOTHER CLUB THANK YOU

This time to Margaret Middlemiss who made three new cushions from throwaway pink curtains and donated them to the club.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Friday Gustavson Medallions: Handicap Ladder

- 1st Mavis Hastie
- 2nd Michael Cooper
- 3rd Marie Keen

Winton Junior Pairs – 2nd Mark Wilson and Tash Lundin (Invercargill)

South Island Teams (Online)



2nd Brad Johnston & Sam Coutts,
James Coutts (Au), Matt McManus
(ChCh)

Fantastic result guys

CONGRATULATIONS:

We are very proud to announce that two of our youth players **Ramon Quennell** and **Bronwyn Bouton** have been selected to represent NZ at the 18th World

Youth Bridge Team Championships (under 21), in Veldhoven, Netherlands from July 30-August 7th. **Sam Coutts** will travel as non-playing Captain.



Bronwyn



Ramon and Sam

We also note that **Pamela Nisbet** continues her international bridge career.

Pamela will again be a member of the Canadian Womens team heading to World Bridge championships to be held in Marrakech, Morocco August 22th – September 2nd.



MESSAGE FROM OUR CLUB CHIEF DIRECTOR (Lindsay Gunn)

This is the first in a series of topics that Lindsay has provided to remind all players of their obligations at the bridge table.

Announcements

It is an essential principal of bridge that you must not have undisclosed agreements with partner – **your agreements must be fully available and fully disclosed to your opponents.**

The regulating authority in every country decides how these agreements should be shown. NZ Bridge very sensibly rules that the agreement on two opening bids must be **announced** by partner as they cover such a range. These bids are

- The **opening 1Club** and
- The **opening 1NT**

1 Club

When your partner opens 1C you should announce the minimum length of the

club suit and the expected point-count range.

- If you are playing 5-card Majors and are playing ‘better minors’ you will be able to say ‘at least three clubs’
- If you are playing 5-card Majors and a 4-card diamond suit you will say ‘could be as short as two’
- If your 1C merely shows points value you will announce the point range and ‘could be no clubs’.

1NT

Here you are required to give the expected [point-count range](#) (eg 12 -14; 13- 15; 15- 17) **AND** also announce whether the bid could contain a five-card major, a singleton or any other unusual agreement you may have.

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OTAGO BRIDGE CLUB

26th JUNE 2023

NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS:

Oamaru All Grades Pairs

1st Brad Johnston and Lydia Turley – **well done**

5th Bob Gillanders and Dianne Carruthers

RESIGNATION – Kathy Peace (Intermediate) “Thank you to all of those involved in running the club, as I enjoyed several years of playing”

Thankyou Kathy for your membership, and we wish you well.

NZ BRIDGE CONGRESS 23-30th September – Mount Maunganui

Details can be found on the NZCBZ Tournament page. There are many Grades available, with both Pairs and Teams competitions. There is an early bird registration fee ending on August 31st, and also an added 10% off for 1st time attendees entering Junior and Intermediate competitions.

Is a great week of bridge, so all give it some serious thoughts.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CLUB CHIEF DIRECTOR (Lindsay Gunn)

Last week we began this series from Lindsay with a reminder of players responsibilities in **Announcing 1Club and 1NT openings**.

This week's topic: **Common bids that should not be Alerted**

In general, our game's policy is one of open information to all players and no secret agreements between partners.

In next week's newsletter the topic will be Bids to be Aleted, but today we begin with the **three bids** which do not mean what they say but which are **so common** that they should **not be alerted**:

1. 2C Stayman reply to an Opening 1NT.

The **standard response** to partner's 1NT opening which asks for a **4 card major** does not need to be alerted.

- **However**, if **RHO doubles** partner's 1NT, ie 1NT – X, the rules change.
- Now **you must alert the 2C** bid even if it is still a simple Stayman response.
- So, **1NT X 2C ALERT**

The reason for the rule change, is that playing 2C as Stayman after a double is no longer a common or standard response.

- Some players may play 2C here as natural whilst for others it can be a systematic response with a variety of meaning.

The only other time you must alert a 2C response to partner's 1NT opening is

if you were playing a natural system, without Stayman, and your 2C actually showed clubs!

NOTE: The non alert option is **not extended** to a strong 2NT opening

Even if your opening 2NT is a standard ACOL 20 – 22 NT and, you follow the same approach to a 1NT opening, except now with 3C as simple Stayman the non-alerting exemption no longer applies.

- **ALL 3C responses to a 2NT opening MUST be alerted and a full explanation provided to your opponents.**

2. 2C Game Force Opening

For many bidding partnerships a 2C opening is the strongest bid available and implies a game forcing auction should follow.

- When the 2C opening is NOT game forcing is should be alerted.

The question that often arises is “**What is game forcing?**”

The NZ Bridge manual defines Game Force as:

- a) 23+ HCP, if balanced or semi-balanced
- b) 20+ HCP, if unbalanced (allowing additional points for distribution)

As guidance, a “rule of 29” is often used to define the criteria needed for an unbalanced hand to be described as game forcing. This rule adds 1 additional point to the HCPs for every card held in the two longest suits after the 9th card.

Overall however, **the opener’s intent must be to continue to bid to game** despite partner’s response unless:

- the opposition compete and you elect to penalise their bid, or
- if partner’s response is very negative and you can stop in 2NT.

Lindsay’s Advice:

Our overall aim is to ensure full communication in our bidding so if you extend your 2C bid to include **very distributional hands with lower HCPs** please extend the courtesy to your opponents and **alert these openings**.

- More importantly follow through with your intentions and bid to game.

NOTE: If you are playing that your strongest bid is 2D, while 2C is something like 19 or 20 to 22, you need to alert both bids.

3. 2D Response to 2C Game Force Opening

- This should not be alerted if it is simply a negative bid (< 7 or 8 HCPs)
- **Must be alerted** if it is a relay or indeed if it shows a real diamond suit and positive points.

Women's Bridge Mid Winter Luncheon – a lovely time had by all.
Many thanks to Di Daly and all her helpers.

HAND FROM SOUTH ISLAND TEAMS

Brad Johnston

BOARD 5									
BD: 5		♠KJ75				Dir: N Vul: N-S			
		♥QT842							
		♦J							
		♣Q97							
♠A8						♠63			
♥K753						♥AJ9			
♦AT9874						♦K532			
♣T						♣K653			
		♠QT942							
		♥6							
		♦Q6							
		♣AJ842							

AWAY TABLE			
<i>Mariusz Tumilowicz</i>	<i>Sam Coutts</i>	<i>Mindy Wu</i>	<i>Brad Johnston</i>

P	1D	1S	2S
3S	P	P	X*
P	4D	P	5D
P	P	P	

2S Diamond Fit & Invite+
X* Takeout
4D Enough Brad!
5D No!, Sam

Sam's decision to open the bidding made it really easy to get to game on our cards.

I was maybe a little weird in my choice of committing to playing in Ds by bidding 2S immediately, instead of X'ing to look for a H fit.

I judged that with such long D support they might be able to score some cheap diamond ruffs if we played in Hearts.

RESULT: All-up, James' light opener in third seat and Sam's light opener in second seat netted our team 11 imps.

Brad's comment: I think the big take-away from this hand is that *opening the bidding (where possible) is a big winner*.

It makes it hard for the opponents to completely shut you out with pre-emptive bidding, and puts them on the back foot when it comes to competing.

Lots of pairs are relatively comfortable bidding in uncontested auctions, but as soon as someone overcalls they get quite flustered.

**DECLARER PLAY CAN BE MADE EASIER IF THE DEFENDERS
HELP OUT – Graeme Stout**

BOARD 47		
BD: 47	AJ7 KQJ53 Q972 7	Dlr: S Vul: N-S
T6 T62 J865 K982		KQ9854 8 43 JT63
	32 A974 AKT AQ54	

North gave East an opportunity to lend a hand when in six hearts on this deal from the South Island Teams.

East had overcalled one spade during the bidding and led the king against the slam.

Double-dummy North can make all of the tricks; do you see how?

However this was the real world so North chose to let the opening lead win.

- Yes, West could possibly ruff a spade continuation but the chance of this seemed remote given East had not pre-empted to show a seven card suit.
- North's ducking play is called *a Bath coup*; she was hoping East would continue the suit.
- However East knew his partner would overtake the king with the ace if he had it so wasn't about to fall for that ruse.

Even so, finding a safe switch wasn't straightforward; East could see how his choice could conceivably open up a suit for declarer.

When he was unlucky enough to plump for a diamond North let it run to her hand (picking up the jack), drew trumps, then ruffed her spade loser in dummy for the contract.

To make all thirteen tricks North had to:

- win the opening lead,
- draw just two rounds of trumps with the king and queen,
- cross to the ace of clubs for three rounds of diamonds (letting the ten run if necessary),

return to hand with a club ruff to cash the best diamond (pitching a spade) and ruff two spades in dummy..... Whew!

The power of the end-play – (advanced)

David Green, Dunedin

Victor Champion Cup , Melbourne, Australia - King's Birthday Weekend, 2023

As reported in last week's newsletter, former OBC member, James Coutts, was in a team which finished second in this year's South Island Teams. He followed this up with another runners-up position in this prestigious ABF event in Melbourne. Here is a hand played by James with partner Liam Milne in where James excelled in making 4♥ when the trump suit broke 5-0.

Dir E	♠97						
Vul:All	♥-						
	♦Q874						
	♣AKQT962						
♠ J8543		♠ AKQ					
♥ K942		♥ QT63					
♦ KJ2		♦ AT6					
♣ 5		♣ 874					
Liam Milne		James Coutts					
	♠ T62						
	♥ AJ875						
	♦ 952						
	♣ J3						

Bidding:			
E	S	W	N
1NT ¹⁵⁻¹⁷	P	2♣ ^{Stayman}	3♣
3♥	P	4♥	All pass

South led the ♣J to North's ♣Q. The A♣ was now tabled but ruffed by declarer in dummy, and a ♠ led to declarer's ♠Q. James now played a ♥ to dummy's ♥9 and got the news of the bad split. He cashed the ♠K & ♠A and led his third ♣. South, fearing an end-play in ♥s, ruffed with ♥7, declarer making the **key play** of discarding a ♠. South got off lead with a ♦ which picked up his partner's ♦Q. James continued with two more rounds of ♦s, finishing in dummy to lead the last ♠, ruffing it in hand with the ♥Q (**key play**). South now had no defence. If he won his ♥A he would have to lead away from his ♥J8, giving declarer the last two tricks and his contract; if he followed with a small ♥ (7), declarer could now lead towards his ♥K4 for the 10th trick.

What happens if South does not ruff the third round of ♣s but discards a ♦? Declarer will ruff small and play two rounds of ♦s, again picking up the ♦Q, before exiting with dummy's now bare ♥K. Again, South would be end-played: if he wins his ♥A, he would need to lead away from ♥J87 into declarer's ♥QT making only the last trick with his long ♥; if he plays his ♥7 on the ♥K, declarer can produce a similar end-play as before by leading his ♠J and ruffing with ♥Q.

This was worth 12 imps to the Milne team. It is interesting to note that 4♠ which looks much easier to make, is also unlikely to succeed, even if West is declarer, as any North with self-belief will underlead their ♣ honours at trick 1, playing the ♣9 asking for the higher of the two off suits (♥s). When South's ♣J wins, he will have no trouble in leading a small ♥ for a ruff. Although declarer can now avoid another heart loser other than the Ace, he will need to find the ♦Q to make his contract.

This hand is a lesson on not giving up when the trump suit breaks badly. James had 3 definite losers: a ♣, ♥A and South's long ♥, so the only way he could stop South making a third trick in the trump suit was to end-play him in ♥s. This involved watching the distribution of the other suits carefully, and at the right moment throwing South in so that he had to lead away from the ♥Jx, which James did.