

Table Talk

Otago Bridge Club: August 2008

President's Message

As this is my last message as President, I'd like to take the chance to thank all the supportive people in the bridge Club who have helped me, and also thank on your behalf all the volunteers who are essential to the running of the club. There are 1000 little tasks that need to be done, and anyone who has had occasion to call in at the club at any time will know that there is always someone there, doing something! Martijn has helped take some of the burden, and thanks to him, but we cannot do without those who give up their time to perform those tasks.

AGMs are not always seen as the most exciting ways of using one's time, but this is your club and I hope that you will attend if possible: Sunday 24 August at 1.30pm.

Best of wishes and good bridging to all.

Lindsay

Survey – and what we shall do

Thank you to all those who filled in the survey and especially to those who wrote constructive comments.

In spite of the changes made this year being in response to the focus groups held by a committee set up to examine what was wanted by members and try to implement their wishes, it is apparent that a majority of you wish to retain divisions, and many of you prefer to have a promotion system (thought no-one advocates a relegation system running alongside this!).

The Playing Committee looked at the results of the survey along with the Management Committee, and you can be reassured that next year

1. Open and Senior Divisions will be retained, and there will be a separate Senior

Pairs Championship. However *anyone* may choose to play to qualify for the Club Pairs Championship or the Trophy just as in 2007.

2. Intermediate and Reserve will continue to play together with handicaps in the Reserved Division. We hope that we will be able to encourage All Comers to come along as well as a separate section.
3. We shall run the proposed handicap system alongside, so that you can see how it will work.
4. As promotions were not advertised this year, we shall not have a formal promotion process, but members who feel that they should go up a division may notify the Playing Committee of this wish, and the Playing Committee may also suggest that players such as the winners of Pairs Championships and players who are consistently outscoring others be promoted. The handicap system may be a help to players and the committee when considering options.
5. It is possible that the non-teams Monday nights become an elite group for players above a certain handicap only.

Lindsay

Oyster Plate & Paua Trophy

These trophies are played for in a friendly match between the Otago and Invercargill Bridge Clubs. Traditionally the teams are chosen from among those who do volunteer work around the club. The tournament was held at Otago this year and although everyone had a good time I am sorry to say that we lost both trophies to Invercargill. We were not helped by some of our top players who contribute to the club being away playing in Wellington, thus weakening our field – but allowing many newer players to take part which was a good thing.

AGM

Please try to attend the club's AGM: Sunday 24 August at 1.30pm. The following members are standing for the committee (which has to steer the club through a critical year):

Nina Hewitt

Bridge is my passion. I have enjoyed the game and been an enthusiastic member of the Otago Bridge Club for thirty years, during which time I've become a Grandmaster (and grandmother) and represented Otago in the winning Interprovincial Womens Team on several occasions. Monday and Thursday evenings are my nights at the club and I also play frequently in Tournaments.

As a retired high school science teacher I still enjoy teaching and am keen to help improve the standard of play in the club at all levels. In the past I have been involved in several Bridge tuition courses and shortly will be doing another on the Precision System.

If elected to the committee I would like to be involved in the Playing sub-committee and work on strategies to improve the standard of play and enjoyment of the game. My long term goal is to promote Otago Bridge Club and its membership and aim for even more success in its results.

Marjan Lousberg

After an enjoyable career in computing and multimedia at the University, I switched subjects and about four years ago took early retirement to complete a PhD in New Zealand History. I now have a little more time on my hands and would like to devote some of it to the bridge club. Like many Dutch people, I grew up in a family of bridge players. I found this so daunting that it deterred me from becoming a player myself. About nine or ten years ago, however, I decided to enrol for the excellent lessons at the Otago Bridge Club and I have never looked back. One of my motivations was to meet new interesting people and the club has certainly more than met my expecta-

tions. In my journey through the divisions I have made many new friends and wherever I go in town I come across the friendly face of a fellow player. It would be a pleasure for me to be able to give something back to the club that has given me a great deal of enjoyment.

Katie Young

I've been a member of the bridge club for nearly five years and have been the director of tournaments for two years. I enjoy supporting the club in this role and, thanks to some great help from committee members, I believe I'm getting better at organising the tournaments for the club! Being the director of tournaments I am on both the playing and management committees for the club. I have brought forward concerns and ideas from members of the club to the committees for discussion and consideration, and I am happy to be a participant in the general running of this club.

Bob Gillanders

Bob is the fifth member who is standing for the committee of management. Bob is in the Open Division but will be known to others as he is that cheerful chap who often plays Saturday bridge. He has a no-nonsense attitude and would be an asset to any committee.

The proposed new stadium

Bob Gillanders tells me that if the new stadium goes ahead the club might expect an increase in its annual rates of around \$1000. Apparently this figure can be confirmed by consulting the Dunedin City Council but I have not checked this.

Help!

We welcome your input for *Table Talk*. Please send submissions to Mike Atkinson (profmda@gmail.com).