

TABLE TALK

Otago Bridge Club: February 2007

President's Message

Welcome back to a new year of bridge. It was good to see so many taking advantage of Holiday Bridge, especially on the Monday and Wednesday nights. Saturdays are still attracting fewer people than in the past, and I hope we can solve this problem. The results of the Moise trophies for Holiday Bridge have also been held up, but we hope to announce the winners and present these trophies soon.

Many of you have commented on the lack of results on the web-site. This is out of our control due to a set of unfortunate circumstances. We hope to have all back to normal and both the lap-tops operating soon. We are also looking at upgrading the website and offering more information, hand records, tournament information etc. If you have ideas of what you would like to see on the website, please let Sharon Mosley, Murat Genc or Anne Dougherty know.

All the best for and enjoyable and successful 2007.

Lindsay Lawrence

Top Ten

The NZCBA is listing the 'top ten' in each Masterpoint division, and (crossing my fingers that I have not left anyone out) I see that: Arleen Schwartz in the top women Gold Grand Master (and one of only 2!), while Graeme Stout is in the top ten male Gold Grand Masters. Chris Ackerley makes the top 10 male Silver Grand Masters. Paul Freeland and Dean Eidler are in the top ten Life Masters, Donna Ruwhiu and Ann Woodhead are in the women and Jeremy Kennard in the male top ten Masters. In the Provincial Masters, Patricia Haden in the top ten women and James Coutts and John Mosley the men.

Congratulations! Everyone else will just have to play in more tournaments and to reach these heights!

Education

We are starting our next set of lessons on 20 February. There are posters and smaller handouts on the table in the entrance. Please take these and distribute to friends, neighbours and work-mates. Once again we played bridge in public to rouse interest. Thanks to Jet, James, Jeremy, Kristen, Gary, Irene, Daphne, Marion, Alastair, Marjo and Norton who gave up time (some several hours) to play at the Library, the Hospital and the Golden Centre. I hope I have left no-one out! Some of you took a hand when passing and let us have a brief welcome break.

This year the 12 lessons will be interspersed by the 10 practice nights, which we think will help learners fix the lessons in their minds before moving on to the next new idea. This was one of the suggestions which came from a teaching weekend held in Christchurch, to which we sent four of those taking classes or lectures.

The 2007 lecture series also starts on 20 February, with monthly lectures. And while this will be of particular interest to Intermediate players who have been limited in what they may play in the Junior division, it will be a welcome brush-up for those in other divisions as well.

The ALP sessions will also be starting soon.

Interclub Teams

Would you like to go to national Congress and get some help with your airfare? The NZCBA has introduced a new competition which will be played on the Friday and Saturday of Congress. This is for teams of twelve - 4 players ranked Junior (you will know that this does not mean those in the Junior Division but those with fewer than 21 rating points), 4 players ranked Intermediate and 4 players ranked Open. This will make up one team, but Juniors will play only against Juniors, Intermediate against Intermediate and Open against Open. There will be only one team of twelve from each Centre. The Centre is holding a tournament on 10

March for the teams that each club in the Centre enters. It will cost you each \$15, but the winning team of twelve will get to play at Congress and will get a travel subsidy. So far we have several bites from Intermediate players, but only two Juniors, and no-one at all graded Open. If we get no-one we cannot enter a team at all.

Here is a chance for those that are unlikely — or unwilling — to play in the Inter-Provincials to get a subsidy for Congress, and it is hoped more of you will enter. Mind you, it will not be fun choosing the teams if we have lots of expressions of interest (although we hope we do) and someone might be disappointed, but there is always another year...

Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge

On 12 February, eight New Zealand youth players (including four Otago club members – Nick Bailey, Cameron Benson, Jared Fudge and Annabelle Molloy) left for Canberra to play in the 39th Australian Youth Championships and the South-West Pacific Teams, accompanied by our non-playing captain — Jane Skipper of Christchurch. The first events were the Australian youth week, held at Fenner Hall, a residential hall affiliated to ANU, which is where we stayed during our time in Canberra. This hand came up during the first qualifying session of the Pairs event:

Dlr: East Vul: NS	♠ A Q T 7 4 2	
	♥ 7 6	
	♦ 5	
	♣ A K 4 2	
♠ K J 5		♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ K 5 3		♥ A J 8
♦ K T 7 4 2		♦ A Q J 8 6
♣ J 7		♣ Q
	♠	
	♥ Q T 9 4 2	
	♦ 9 3	
	♣ T 9 8 6 5 3	

West	North	East	South
Fudge		Bailey	
2♦ ²	2♠	1♦ ¹	pass
3NT	all pass	3♦	pass

1. Precision 11-15 HCP 1+ ♦ or 13-16 balanced
2. 10+ HCP 5+ ♦ forcing for one round

I received the seven of spades lead, fourth best from longest and strongest, and Nick puts down a dummy of what I was expecting. On this layout, there are only eight top tricks – five diamonds, two hearts and a spade. Either I need a successful heart hook for a ninth, or a more cunning line of play to work. So after playing low from dummy, South pitched a low club and I won with the jack. I can see now that if I just take my diamonds then take the (losing) heart finesse, I am still one down. So, I played two rounds of diamonds ending up in hand with the king, north pitching a low spade on the second round.

Time now for a small diversion – I banged down the seven of clubs on the deck! Up goes the king from north, queen from dummy and south contributes the five. At this point north has had the safe diamond exit eliminated, and now must choose between either cashing the ace of spades and exiting a low one, exiting a heart into my king-ten or ‘establish’ my jack-third of clubs in the closed hand by cashing the ace. As you can see, a club continuation is fatal and I don’t actually hold jack-third of clubs! So after cashing the ace of spades (establishing my second stopper and my ninth trick), north exits a low spade and I promptly claimed nine tricks for a top board. According to Deep Finesse, the maximum amount of tricks East-West can take is nine tricks in diamonds when played by East.

Only one of the New Zealand pairs in our contingent qualified for the final, Daniel and David Skipper of Christchurch. They wound up 6th, while Bailey–Fudge managed a close second and Cameron Benson-Blair Fisher (Hamilton) 7th in the A Consolation.

Monday night saw the start of the Australia Youth Teams, with neither New Zealand team doing particularly well in this event.

The Consolation Butler Pairs (for those not eligible to enter the Australian national youth team trials) began on Wednesday morning, which Nick and I won, by a combination of avoiding the three good pairs in the draw and a bit of good play.

This next deal came from the International Challenge at the conclusion of the youth week. In the final were New Zealand All Whites (Bailey-Fudge and Benson-Fisher) and Australian Veterans (a mixture of ex-Australian international youth reps and older youth players):

Dlr: S Vul: Both	♠ J 7 2 ♥ K Q J 7 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ 5 3 2	♠ K Q 9 8 4 ♥ 9 ♦ K 8 5 4 ♣ K Q T
♠ A 6 5 3 ♥ 4 ♦ T 9 ♣ A J 9 8 7 6	♠ T ♥ A T 8 6 5 3 2 ♦ J 6 3 2 ♣ 4	

Table 1 – Strangely conservative

South	West	North	East
Fudge	Aust.	Bailey	Aust.
pass ¹	pass	1♦ ²	1♠
pass	3♣	pass	3♠
all pass			

1. We usually prefer to pre-empt on better hands than this in 1st seat vulnerable.
2. Precision 11-15 HCP 1+ ♦ or 11-13 balanced. 1NT opening is 14-16 HCP in this seat.

After a club lead, declarer quickly wrapped up 12 tricks by drawing trumps and running the clubs, throwing a heart and two diamonds. A diamond towards the king was won by North;

the only trick for the defence. E/W scored 230 for 3♠ making 6.

Table 2 – more like Youth Bridge

South	West	North	East
Aust.	Fisher	Aust.	Benson
2♥	pass	4♥	4♠
pass	6♠	all pass	

South, not imagining a heart trick would stand up, led his singleton club, with the same effect as at the other table. 12 tricks..... and 1430 for the slam bid and made.

A rather unusual +1200 was gained on this board for 15 IMPs in the bag. The team went on to win 69 IMPs to 25 over the two 12 board sets. New Zealand has not won this event since 2002.

The New Zealand All Blacks, Daniel Skipper-David Skipper, Janis Franc-Annabelle Molloy (all from Christchurch except Annabelle) went on to beat Australia A 58 IMPs to 54 for third place.

Thanks to Jane Skipper for writing up this board.

After playing in the National Swiss Pairs on Sunday at the Rydges Hotel, we were again at the Rydges for the next five days in the South-West Pacific Teams, the qualifying event for the Round of 16 of the National Open Teams (NOT). The top eight teams from each of the two venues play in the Round of 16 of the NOT. This consisted of 14 20-board matches over five days. A typical match would result in over 100 IMPs thrown around. In this event Nick and I were playing with the Skippers.

Board 13 of session three was particularly lucky for us, playing against a married couple from Sydney:

Dlr: N
Vul: Both

♠ 9
♥ K 8 6 5 4
♦ J 2
♣ 8 7 5 3 2

♠ A 8 5 4
♥ T 7 2
♦ A 8 7
♣ Q T 9

♠ Q J 2
♥ A Q
♦ K Q 9 5 4
♣ A K 4

♠ K T 7 6 3
♥ J 9 3
♦ T 6 3
♣ J 6

West	North	East	South
?	Bailey	?	Fudge
	2♥ ¹	Dbl	pass
3♣ ²	pass	4NT ³	pass
5♥ ⁴	pass	6♣	pass
all pass			

1. 5♥ and 4+ of a minor, weak
2. 7+ HCP and any shape
3. Blackwood
4. Two Aces

East thought her partner's 3♣ bid was natural and showing values, asking to start showing controls. West (who had correctly bid according to their agreement) was showing 7+ HCP and any shape. After inquiring about how many Aces her partner held, East signed off in 6♣ — intending for one of the two major suit hooks to win to make the small slam. After the two of clubs lead — Nick's minor suit, the contract drifted three off, meanwhile they are cold for twelve tricks in their diamond fit simply by drawing trumps and conceding a spade trick when south covers the queen. The angry post-mortem that ensued had an air of blame focused on the wife. At the other table our team mates played in the diamond slam, for a pick up of 17 IMPs. This match we went on to win 18-12.

I must also mention that a team consisting of Murat Genc – Margaret Perley and Chris Ackerley – Wayne Burrows made it into the Round of 16 but were knocked out after losing a match against a team of professional players in stage two.

Jared Fudge

Friday Bridge

Special thanks from players of Friday Bridge who enjoyed a slice of Christmas cake baked by a player of the Open division.

Tournament Results

Alexandra Holiday Pairs – 5/6 January (48)

1st Nick Bailey – Jared Fudge

2nd Judith Medlicott – Graeme Stout

5th Murat Genc – Margaret Perley

Upcoming Tournaments

Queenstown Intermediate Pairs – 24 February

South Island Teams (Otago) – 3/4 March

Te Anau Pairs (8B) – 3 March

Dan Gifford Rubber Bridge begins 3 March

Centre Interclub Teams (Otago) – 10 March

Alexandra Graded Pairs (8B) – 17 March