

# Table Talk

Otago Bridge Club: February 2009

## Editor's Message

I'm very pleased to be back in the land of the long white cloud (complete now with brand new Kiwi passport, which is a good thing as my Canadian one is absolutely full with all the stamps I picked up last year.) I'd like to thank Mike Atkinson for ably taking over the editorship of this fine publication in my absence. Returning to the summer sunshine was brilliant of course, returning to summer school lecturing slightly less so. I'd hoped to have this edition of *Table Talk* out a bit sooner, but, better late than never as declarer said, drawing the last trump at trick 13. We have quite a number of announcements this time, along with some of our regular features. As always, we're delighted to receive any contributions from you – they can be left in the bulletin editor's pigeon hole in the committee room, or (better!) sent to me by email (malbert@cs.otago.ac.nz).

*Michael Albert*

## Trophies

Could the winners of trophies please return them to the office as soon as possible for engraving? We get a discount for bulk engraving and then you will get them back (with your name on!) Thanks

## Phone changes

For partners for Senior please ring Val Wilson 4891249

For Senior Reserve please ring Jenny Guthrie 4542499

These names and numbers replace those on the front page of the bridge book.

## Bar matters

Recently money has been missing from the till in the bar and we would like everyone in the club to be vigilant to prevent this happening again. Therefore, we are urging convenors in each division to leave the bar locked until the rostered bar staff are ready to serve drinks. Please do not serve yourself, but be patient and wait until the bar staff are there. If you are rostered on to help in the bar, please do not leave the bar unattended. Thank you for your help in this matter.

## From the Playing Committee

At a recent meeting of the playing committee, a number of matters were addressed and the following decisions were reached:

- Any player who has refused promotion twice will not be eligible to win any events in that division.
- During a three night match (where one substitute is allowed) when one of each pair cannot play and the other two play together this just counts as a substitute and is allowable.
- After play bidding pads, pencils and Stop cards be left neatly on the tables. This will save having to put them out at the beginning of play. Table numbers should be collected up.

## New tricks with a few drinks

This series of events begins on February 21. This is intended largely for players up to the senior reserve to help improve their games, but is open to all players. Ten to twelve hands will be played with a discussion to follow. The bar will be open throughout the evening, but no C points will be awarded. Come along, learn a bit, relax, and have fun!

## A note of appreciation

On Saturday February 7, Elaine McDonald organized a sit down meal at the Otago Bridge Club, prior to the monthly session of Saturday bridge. Elaine is to be wholeheartedly commended for the effort she put in to make this a most enjoyable evening. The dining tables were covered with lace table cloths and rose centerpieces, and suitable music was played. Bridge tables were set up at the far end of the room. For \$6.00 we enjoyed three Chinese dishes from the Asian, complemented with rice from Elaine's kitchen. This was followed by tea or coffee, and Elaine's fudge cake and ginger crunch. The bar was open prior to dinner. Thanks also to Murray Robertson for directing. Seven tables played 28 boards of bridge, with all the divisions being represented. At Saturday bridge Juniors are allowed their cribsheets and the atmosphere is extremely friendly. We welcomed a French couple to the game who returned our hospitality by winning! Thanks also to Joy Turvey for ringing around prior to Saturday. This was an entertaining evening and hopefully we will have many more with input from other club members. Here's to a united bridge club!

Barbara Cowie

## What's on the web

The club's website is going from strength to strength. The latest innovation is going to be the introduction of a Forum for the discussion of bridge related matters (bidding, play, whatever!) James Coutts is going to be the administrator of the Forum, and can answer any questions you might have about it. The URL for the Forum is [otagobridgeclub.org.nz/forum](http://otagobridgeclub.org.nz/forum). We hope to have a "Best of the Forum" feature in future editions of Table Talk – so get in there and make some good posts!

## Random quotations reinterpreted

### Original:

*The mystery of life isn't a problem to solve, but a reality to experience. (Frank Herbert, Dune)*

### Translation:

All your thought at trick one about how to play the hand, means nothing in the face of the 6-0 trump split.

### Original:

*The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men  
Gang aft agley,  
An'lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,  
For promis'd joy!*

### Translation:

Leading a singleton is easy, partner returning the suit, not so much.

## Junior bridge hand

To get the new year off to a flying start the Junior Division night of 13 January featured this deal:

Dealer: W	♠ KT8652	Vul: Both
	♥ A	
	♦ 87	
	♣ J863	
♠ J9		♠ 7
♥ QT42		♥ KJ763
♦ T42		♦ AJ9653
♣ T754		♣ 2
		♠ AQ43
		♥ 985
		♦ KQ
		♣ AKQ9

What do you think should happen if East-West do not enter the auction and North opens a weak 2♠? Surely a red-blooded South is going to think in terms of a slam in spades. One way for South to proceed is to begin with a forcing 2NT bid asking for North to show a feature (an Ace or King of a side suit) if his opening is relatively robust. In that case North will answer 3♥ and it is entirely

possible that South will steer the contract into 6♠. He could ask for aces and find his partner with one, presumably the A♥ (so much more valuable than the A♦!). The contract is an easy make of course.

It is fun to make up slight variations on actual hands and I shall now do great violence to this one. Let's throw truth, sanity and righteousness out of the window and suppose the deal had been

Dealer: W	♠ KT8652	Vul: Both									
	♥ A98										
	♦ void										
	♣ J863										
♠ ?		♠ ?									
♥ ?		♥ ?									
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Let's also fantasise that West opened a preemptive 4♥ and that North-South, still in holiday mood, landed in 7♠! At first sight the heart position does not look good for North-South:- one of North's heart losers can be thrown on A♦ but there still seems to be a heart loser. A stay of execution occurs when East leads a small trump (presumably he is void in hearts). Amazingly, the grand slam has an excellent chance of making. Spend a minute or two and see if you can figure out why.

Declarer should make the master play of winning the opening lead and then drawing trumps. Indeed, looking assiduously for lurkers he should draw 6 rounds of trumps discarding two hearts from the South hand. Now play J♣ and go over to the South hand to play the A♦ and the remaining clubs. Since West made a four-level vulnerable pre-empt it is odds on that he has K♦. When the last club is played West has to discard from three cards. If he keeps the K♦ then he cannot guard

the hearts.

An interesting aspect of this little tale is that declarer is almost forced to play this way even if he has no knowledge of squeezes whatsoever. If, instead, the lead had been a diamond then an alternative option would have been available: the diamond finesse. But you might well reject that on the basis that West would be unlikely to open 4♥ holding only a 7 card suit without K♦. If West has fooled you by a very bold pre-empt then you suffer the indignity of going down by spurning the palooker finesse play.

Mike Atkinson

## In memoriam

As most members of the club will be aware, Joy Jones recently passed away. Below, we present an abridged version of David Green's obituary for Joy.

Joy joined the Otago Bridge Club in 1941, only 5 years after its foundation. She had recently returned from six years in the Nevis valley. At that time the club was made up of a number of young academics, professionals and businessmen, near-contemporaries of Joy's caught up in the 1930's Culbertson driven craze of contract bridge, together with a group of older 'society women' who had formed the nucleus of auction bridge in Dunedin since the early 1920's.

Joy first came to notice as a player in 1948. At the time she had a double-digit handicap of 16.5. One evening in May that year she showed that she was a much undervalued asset by scoring 72% *off the stick* for a handicap score of 88.6%! As her skills and savvy grew through the 1960's, she attracted better partners and won her first major title, the Club's annual teams event in 1962. She went on to win 12 other major Club titles and 7 Women's Pairs. When tournament bridge came into its own in the late 1960's she was frequently to be found at, or near, the top of the leaderboard, winning the South Island Pairs in 1972.

Joy will not only be remembered as a great player, but also for her style and charm. Always elegantly dressed in beautifully colour coordinated ensembles, which a particular liking for red, she also had a penchant for the unusual – including a red plastic wrist bracelet that opened up as a mini clock radio.

Joy was a very independent person. I remember returning from a bridge tournament in Christchurch and stopping at a pie cart in Timaru. There was quite a queue. Joy, a little disdainful of queues and keen to get some personal service walked up and knocked on the side door. Such was the aura of this distinguished looking bejewelled lady that she was allowed in, given a chair, and appeared five minutes latter carrying a neatly wrapped parcel with two large coloured serviettes in one hand and swinging a plastic cup of white wine in the other.

Although many of today's members will scarcely remember Joy, those who have been members from 1963 to the late 1980's when Joy was in full swing will remember a fine player and a lady with a delightful personality. Joy had a long long life and lived it to the full. She knew life's hardships and joys. It is no accident that Stephen Burgess, one of the Club's youthful protégés of the 1970's, called her 'Joyful'. We grieve for her loss.

## Festival Pairs

On Valentine's Day, the club hosted the annual 5A point Festival Pairs tournament. Perhaps surprisingly given the date, many players' partners (of one sort) let them out to play with their partners (of the other sort). Or something like that. Regardless, there were 20 tables in play, in a field consisting of open, intermediate, and junior players. Two 30 board sessions led to the following winners:

**Open:** Jeff Miller and Graeme Stout

**Intermediate:** Ruth Airey and Carmen Hickling

**Junior:** Alex Weavers and Glenn Blanchette

Thanks to everyone who came along to support the tournament, and of course also to Lindsay Lawrence who directed, and to all the helpers who provided the usual delicious nibbles throughout!