

TABLE TALK

Otago Bridge Club: July 2007

Editorial

The July issue has been somewhat a long time coming, or perhaps shall I say the June issue? It has been a busy time of year for myself of late, what with University exams and all.

This edition of *Table Talk* is slightly larger than usual. It includes a review by James Coutts of the PABF Championships in Indonesia during June, in which six of our club members represented New Zealand. Our Chief Director, Dennis McCaughan presents some interesting and apparently little-known points, in an article "Being there as Dummy". This is in response to numerous questions lately on dummy's rights and limitations. A questionnaire is attached about the recent focus groups, in an attempt to gather more information. Please do take the 10 minutes to read through and complete it – all the information gained is crucial for the way forward for the club.

I will congratulate Graeme and Jeff here on placing fourth with the Open team at the PABF and subsequently being selected for the team to travel to Shanghai in September for the Bermuda Bowl – the most prestigious prize in international bridge. A fundraising evening will be held on Friday 24 August.

Jared Fudge

President's Message

Many of you watched the progress of our International representatives on the web, or at least kept an eye on the results. It's great what we can do nowadays, isn't it? Well, the Youth reps did not win, but bridge is a learning experience as I am sure they gained lots from the trip. Graeme and Jeff (and the other players on the team) really did very well, and now Graeme and Jeff will be off to Shanghai later in the year, playing in the Bermuda Bowl.

While not in such strained circumstances of

youth players, Graeme and Jeff are now faced with another call on their resources and I'm sure you will support their fund-raising evening at

the end of August. This will be a quiz night, and we all enjoyed the last one, which leads me to thank Martijn, Alysha and Sharon for their work for the last quiz night. 22 teams was great considering the weather, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We expect to have even more next time!

Swinging back to fund raising again, not for International teams this time, but for the members of our club who are in the Otago/Southland Youth team for the Inter Provincials in Hamilton in September. Jared and Annabelle, Cameron and Nick, and Sam Bailey (Nick's young brother) and Laila West will be the team. Sam and Laila are in the Junior division but have started playing in some tournaments for extra practice. They plan a Saturday Charity night to help toward their accommodation costs, and this will be a good night to support.

Nominations are now being called for the posts of President, Vice President and Treasurer and four members of the committee. Under our new rules, the committee members may stay on the committee for two years if they wish, although they may then stand again, but in this first year three members had to stand down. In fact, two committee members had to resign (for good reasons, not because they did not like being on the committee) and two others have chosen to stand down. This means that we are looking for candidates for four vacant positions. Anyone from any division will be a welcome addition to the committee. Please all think of who you would like to see representing you and encourage them to stand!

Lindsay Lawrence

Club Captain's Corner

A group comprising convenors and representatives from each division has been looking at the Club's playing structure and options. Currently some 60% of our members are in the Senior and Open grades playing on Thursday night which is creating pressures in many areas. And we have declining playing numbers on Wednesday nights. So is there a better way to organise the Club spreading the load, providing more choice for nights of play, and fostering our learners and Juniors. The group thinks there may be, so talk to your convenor if you want to know more.

Don Hill

Tournament Results

Taieri Open Pairs 5A – 16 June (26):

1st: Arleen Schwartz and Frances Sheehy

2nd: Chris Ackerley and Donna Ruwhiu

4th: Nina Hewitt and Jo Simpson

Otago Winter Teams 5A – 30 June (14):

1st: James Coutts – Dean Eidler,

Chris Ackerley – Jeremy Kennard

2nd: Peter McCaskill – Jeff Thompson, Jo Simpson – Sam Simpson – Sandra Russell

Otago Winter Pairs 5A – 1 July (28):

1st: Nina Hewitt and Dennis McCaughan

2nd: Bob Lawrence and Ann Woodhead

Ina Anderson Pairs – 15 July (9):

1st: Rosalie Douglas and Alison Martin

2nd: David Bunn and Heather Bunn

Pauline Lowe and Ruckstuhl – 1st Intermediate

Lindsay West and Laila West – 1st Junior

Upcoming Tournaments

Taieri Graded Pairs 8B – 4 August

Otago Swiss Pairs 5A – 12 August

Oamaru Intermediate/Junior Pairs – 26 August

From Kathleen...

We could do with more bread and butter plates, and suspect that some of you may have odd plates at home which you do not need. If so, we should be grateful if you could drop them off in the kitchen.

Ethics

Two or three points we should like to raise:

- ◆ If you are held up and will be late arriving at bridge do take a little more time to let the club know, so that the room can be set up and provision made. It doesn't matter if the call makes you later still, it will save us all time in the long run
- ◆ On lateness again - if you are behind time on a hand, do not fill in your personal score card, but move briskly on to the next table, study your cards and make your bid. You will probably be able to put in your result at some stage during the hand - if not you can always look up the sheet after play.
- ◆ Don't forget to toss a coin for position at the table, unless one of you has seating rights. If you do, make this clear when someone else comes to the table, so that they know that there will not be a toss. The list of those with seating rights is on each notice board.

ALP

Due to insufficient interest, the future of the Accelerated Learning Programme is in jeopardy. ALP is aimed at Wednesday and Thursday night players who wish to learn more advanced card play techniques and conventions. I'm happy to organise a lecture on almost any subject, and lectures are given by top Open division players who are willing to donate their time and energy to help people improve their bridge. I feel it is unfair to ask people to prepare a lecture if the audience is going to be less than about 10, so if interest doesn't pick up there is a risk of there being no ALP sessions in the immediate future.

I've put up a form on the Northern notice board in the foyer for anyone interested to write down their contact details, and also to ask for suggestions on relevant topics for ALP sessions.

James Coutts - ALP Coordinator

Bridge in Bandung

The Adventures of the NZ Youth Team at the PABF
James Coutts

Nick and I departed a cold and wet Dunedin on the 1st of June both anxious and excited about our first venture into international bridge. Although expecting a somewhat different climate, I was nonetheless surprised it was 28°C when we landed in Singapore airport. “Where’s the surprise?” you say...well it was 6:30am and still dark. Upon arrival in Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta and being greeted with a 2 metre by 1 metre sign that read “Death Penalty for Drug Traffickers”, we nervously approached customs, having to declare that we were both over the allowable alcohol limit (oops). The surprises continued when Indonesian customs were a breeze and we were allowed through with all of our liquor and without even being subjected to a bag search! Don’t tell Schapelle.

By this stage I was parched, so I wandered over to the refreshment store and found out a can of Coke was going to cost me 8,500 Indonesian Rupiah. Not having any idea how much this equated to but not really caring, I accepted a cash advance from Womens Team NPC Steph Jacob and was relieved to find out later that Rp.8,500 was the equivalent of about NZ\$1.20.

After a 2½ hour bus trip through stunning tropical mountainous scenery we arrived at the Horison Hotel in Bandung, a city of around 3 million people and what seemed like at least as many motorcycles. About half of the touring party had arrived 36 hours earlier and were away playing in a warm up tournament so we had the remainder of the day to do some exploring. And by exploring I mean acquainting ourselves with the hotel bar. After getting a couple of days worth of exploring in that afternoon, I was ready to concentrate on the first session of bridge, which started at the extremely respectable time of 2:00pm the next day.

The previous day’s preparation had obviously paid off, as we won our first match 20-10 over eventual runners-up China Hong Kong. However, after this great start to the tournament we were quickly brought back down to earth, losing 8 of our next 9 matches. The only saving grace was a very narrow 14-16 loss to arch-rivals, competition favourites and eventual winners Australia. The result could have easily been 16-14 the other way, but for a 14 imp swing on this crucial board:

♠ AJT875
♥ A5
♦ QJ2
♣ 96

♠ 62
♥ 64
♦ T854
♣ K8542

♠ 943
♥ 932
♦ AK96
♣ T73

♠ KQ
♥ KQJT87
♦ 73
♣ AQJ

N	E (Nick)	S	W (me)
1S	pass	2H ¹	pass
2S	pass	3H	pass
4H	pass	4NT ²	pass
5H ³	pass	6H	all pass

¹: 5+♥, Game Forcing

²: RKCB in ♥

³: 2 Key Cards without the Q♥

Where I couldn’t find the ♦ lead from West. I’m not really sure why Griff Ware as South went looking for a slam in ♥ rather than ♠, but this time it proved to be a good decision when at the other table Fraser Rew and John Whyte were in 6S, played from North, so East was on lead and the contract was quickly down one.

Things started to pick up for us in the fifth match of the second round robin. We were due to play Japan, to whom we suffered our worst loss of the first round. Nick and I had sat out the previous match so we were raring to go. There were some unusual scores to come out of this round: 4S making 7 (+510); 1C making 1 (+70); and 1Sxx, 1 light (+200) to name a few. We had a nice auction to a 25-point diamond slam on the following hand:

N (Nick)	S (me)
♠ AKJ8	♠ T42
♥ A8742	♥ 9
♦ 73	♦ AQJ842
♣ AK	♣ 974

N (Nick)	E	S (me)	W
1C ¹	pass	1D ²	pass
1H ³	pass	2D ⁴	pass
2H ⁵	pass	3C ⁶	pass
3D ⁵	pass	3S ⁷	pass
4D ⁸	pass	5D	pass
6D	all pass	-	-

¹: 14+ HCP, any shape

²: 7-10 HCP, any shape

³: Any Game Force hand

⁴: 5+♦, no 4-card major

⁵: Shape-asking relays

⁶: ♥ shortage

⁷: 3163 shape

⁸: Asking for 1st-round control cue bids

At the other table, North was playing in 3NT on the lead of a small club. 3NT is a dangerous contract – if West holds 3♦s that include the King, they can duck the first round ♦ finesse to cut declarer off from the ♦ suit completely. 5D is an almost certainty, and 6D is about a 70% slam, requiring one of two finesses provided ♦s don't misbehave. With ♦s 3-2 and the K♦ on-side both 3NT and 6D were untouchable, for a gain of 12 imps. Both NZ pairs were positive on the datum by way of sensible part-score decisions, and along with a couple of game-swings this led to a convincing and most satisfying 24-6 win.

Our next match was against Thailand, and some wild cards helped in leading to there being only one flat board of the 20 in the set. 151 imps were traded (7.5 per board!) and we managed to come out on top with a 21-9 win.

♠ A96 ♥ T9 ♦ JT ♣ KT7543 ♠ T32 ♥ Q5 ♦ AK ♣ AQJ962 ♠ KQJ ♥ KJ7642 ♦ Q765 ♣ -	♠ 8754 ♥ A83 ♦ 98432 ♣ 8
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N (Nick)	E	S (me)	W
-	-	1H ¹	2C
pass	pass	X	XX
pass ²	pass	pass ³	

- ¹: 9-13 HCP, 5+♥
- ²: For blood
- ³: Somewhat nervously!

West bid what he thought was an extremely sound 2C overcall on this board, and decided to express this opinion to his partner by redoubling. This proved to be a very expensive decision when 2Cxx was 3 off and +1000 was recorded. Declarer should really never go more than 2 down, but the third undertrick only cost 3 imps when West made a takeout double over 1H at the other table and East ended up in an undoubled ♠ partial for -100.

In the penultimate round we played China Hong Kong, who were placed 2nd, but who we had beaten in our opening match. This was a much tighter match than the previous one against Thailand (although not without excitement such as 1NTxx, 1 light for +400). In the end we came out with an 18-12 win, and the team was feeling a whole lot better

about our Indonesian experience. We were on a high going into the final round robin match against the Philippines, and our run of good form continued. I am a strong advocate of not overcalling 2C on hands like this:

♠ Q7
 ♥ AK4
 ♦ Q65
 ♣ QJT63

which proved to be a winning strategy this time when the opponents had no information on how to play their 4S contract and went one off on a second-round club ruff after I led the Q♣ and got in with the Q♠. The 2C overcall at the other table was more than enough information for John, who safely negotiated the trump suit to bring in 10 tricks.

On the topic of 2C overcalls, here's one I will make:

♠ J5 ♥ 842 ♦ T6542 ♣ 872 ♠ AKT843 ♥ 3 ♦ K873 ♣ J6 ♠ Q72 ♥ QJ96 ♦ - ♣ AKQ954	♠ 96 ♥ AKT75 ♦ AQJ9 ♣ T3
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N (Nick)	E	S (me)	W
-	1H	2C	2S
pass	3D	pass	3S
pass	4S	all pass	-

The auction took a somewhat bizarre turn at the other table:

N	E (John)	S	W(Fraser)
-	1H	pass ¹	1S
pass	2D	4C ²	X
all pass	-	-	-

- ¹: The same person who overcalled the other 2C...
- ²: ...who now feels the urge to enter a live auction

We recorded 9 imps in when 4S made and 4Cx went 4 off at Nil Vulnerability, and a 19-11 win left us in 7th place out of 9 teams. Although this was overall a disappointing result, we were extremely happy with our results towards the end, with 4 wins in a row being a most satisfying ending to a tournament that had been an at times very tough learning experience. All in all, an amazing and experience was had by all. The trip proved particularly worthwhile to Jeff Miller and Graeme Stout, who as a result of a superb performance over a long tournament have been offered a place in the NZ Open Team for the Bermuda Bowl in September.

'Being there as Dummy'

There are some interesting points in the Laws (41, 42, 43, 45, 46) to do with the part that dummy plays in the game.

Once the auction is over, the contract is settled, and the opening lead is made correctly, the declarer's partner becomes dummy. He is now a second-class citizen during the play. For example dummy cannot ask for an explanation of a call in the auction, while the declarer can so ask, at his first turn to play, as can the defenders (Law 41B).

When the opening lead has been faced, dummy must spread his hand (Law 41D) "in front of him on the table, face up, sorted into suits, the cards in order of rank, in columns lengthwise towards declarer, with trumps to dummy's right". Notice the obsessive detail in this law, to prevent clowns putting the cards face down, or on the floor, or in rows instead of columns. Some people like to have the trumps on the other side: that is not allowed. Everyone at the table is supposed to ensure that this facing of dummy's hand is done properly, for example seeing that all 13 cards are visible. As a courtesy to the other players, dummy should have his hand sorted and face it speedily: taking half a minute to place their cards down one at a time, with heavy emphasis on honour cards and long suits, will adversely affect the play of the hand.

Law 42 covers dummy's rights. He can: give information, in the director's presence, as to fact or law; keep count of tricks won or lost; play dummy's cards as directed by declarer. These three rights he can never lose. He can also: ask declarer when he has failed to follow suit whether he has a card of the suit led; try to prevent an irregularity by declarer; draw attention to any irregularity, but only after play on the hand is concluded. (He can lose these three rights if he misbehaves, as in Law 43 below.) So dummy may warn declarer if he attempts to play from the wrong hand, but if dummy realises that declarer has already led from the wrong hand, he must say nothing. If he

sees, for example, that a revoke has occurred, he can only point this out at the end of the play.

Law 43 lists six things dummy may not do: call the director unless attention has been drawn to an irregularity by another player (so he can call the director but not initiate the discussion); draw attention to an irregularity during play; participate in or comment on the play (however tempted, he must not indicate a play or a card, or even where the lead is); exchange hands with declarer (I remember when this was not only legal but almost compulsory); leave his seat to watch declarer's play; look at a defender's hand. The first three misdemeanours carry a procedural penalty. The second three mean that dummy loses some of the rights listed in Law 42: he can no longer correct a revoke by declarer; if he warns declarer not to lead from the wrong hand, either defender may choose the hand from which declarer shall lead; and he cannot be the first to draw attention to a defender's irregularity.

What part can dummy take in the play? Only the passive role of playing cards as nominated by the declarer. Incidentally, notice that (Law 45B) declarer "plays a card from dummy by naming the card, after which dummy picks up the card and faces it on the table". This is the standard way to play the dummy. Law 45B also says "declarer may, if necessary, pick up the desired card himself" but here the words "if necessary" are now taken to mean "if dummy is absent from the table or otherwise unable to play the card". Routinely playing dummy's cards by picking them up used to be allowed but is now tolerated rather than accepted. Older players still tend to do this but it is technically questionable: what if declarer appears to pick up two cards or says "Ace of Spades" but picks up the Queen? There is another hangover from the old days in Law 45 C3: "a card in the dummy must be played if it has been deliberately touched by declarer except for the purpose of rearranging dummy's cards, or of reaching a card above or below the card or cards touched". Some players still touch the cards to play them, or worse,

point or wave. The Laws frown on such histrionics.

Naming the card means (Law 46A) clearly designating the rank and suit of the card. If this is done dummy must face that exact card. He must not touch or indicate any other card (Law 45D and 45F), so he must be careful to hear declarer's call (Ace or Eight, King or Ten) correctly. The card called for is the played card if dummy gets it wrong. See Law 46B for less correct designations: these can lead to problems and are best avoided. If declarer says "high" or "top" or "big" that means the highest card, except when dummy is in fourth seat and will win the trick, when it means the lowest winning card of the suit indicated. This is to avoid embarrassments like being forced to play the Ace from Ace-Queen after 3 small cards are played. If declarer directs dummy, in fourth seat, to win the trick, that implies using the lowest winning card. If he wants to unblock he should be careful to name the card precisely. If he calls "low" or "small" that means the lowest card. Of course dummy must play the named card without indication of surprise or horror, no matter how appropriate. If declarer names a suit but no rank he is deemed to have called the lowest card of that suit. If he designates a rank but not a suit in leading from dummy then he is deemed to have continued the suit in which dummy won the previous trick, provided there is a card of that rank in the suit; otherwise declarer must play another card of that rank from dummy, and clarify which one he intends if there is more than one such. If declarer names a card not in dummy, the call is void. It is also a bit of a worry. If declarer says "play anything", either defender may designate the card to be played.

So as dummy you should not just "go to sleep", you still have things to think about. In particular, while you cannot comment on the play, you can place your tricks correctly to help declarer, and watch closely to prevent him playing from the wrong hand or pointing one of his tricks the wrong way.

Dennis McCaughan

Otago Bridge Club Member Survey

This questionnaire has been developed from information collected from the focus groups held at the bridge club one month ago. The main topics in this questionnaire are:

1. Involvement with the Otago Bridge Club
2. Focus group suggestions
3. Current services and facilities
4. Fee structure and alternatives
5. Demographic characteristics

Results of this questionnaire will enable M&S Marketing to understand issues of the Otago Bridge Club that can be improved to create a better environment for all patrons.

The information you supply will be kept confidential. Results will only be reported in an aggregate form (e.g. “35% of the sample said that they intended to participate in mixed bridge nights”) and will not be linked to any specific participant. At the end of the research all personal information will be destroyed immediately. Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary and anonymous.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this survey. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Section One: Involvement with the Otago Bridge Club

1. How did you find out about the bridge club?

Please tick (✓) beside the most appropriate answer/s:

Family	
Friends	
School	
Newspaper	
Demonstration at library, Golden Centre etc	
Website	
Other, please specify _____	

2. How long have you been a part of the Otago Bridge Club?

Please tick (✓) beside the most appropriate answer:

0-2 years	
3-5 years	
6-9 years	
10+ years	

3. What motivated you to start playing bridge?
Please tick (✓) beside the most appropriate answer/s:

Enjoy the challenge	
Meeting people, social aspect	
Card playing family	
Fun	
Other please specify _____	

4. How would you describe your level of competitiveness as a bridge player?
Please circle the point on the scale that fits your level of competitiveness.
- Very competitive Not at all competitive
- 1 2 3 4 5

5. Did you learn to play bridge at the Otago Bridge Club?
Please tick (✓) beside the most appropriate answer:

Yes	
No, if so please specify where: _____	

6. If you learnt to play bridge at the Otago bridge club, please circle the point on the scale below that indicates how happy you are/were with the learner lessons and support provided.
- Very unhappy Very happy
- 1 2 3 4 5

Section Two: Focus group suggestions

A mentor system was suggested, providing suitable support to learners. Such a system would involve mentors from different divisions of the bridge club supporting the new members and being there to help them understand not only the rules and practice of the game but also the traditional conduct and etiquette.

7. Would you support the idea of a mentor system?
Please tick (✓) the most appropriate answer below:

Yes	Unsure	No
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8. If a mentor system was set up would you be interested in being a volunteer mentor?
Please tick (✓) the most appropriate answer below:

Yes	Unsure	No
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It was suggested that a mixed ability night would be beneficial for beginners and could also be a way to decrease the separation of divisions. This night would have a more social and fun emphasis than competitive. It would also give the juniors and other lower division players a chance to learn from and experience playing higher level bridge players.

9. Would you take part in this type of bridge night?
Please tick (✓) the most appropriate answer below:

Yes	Unsure	No
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The implementation of interclub games would allow those who compete in tournaments and who want a challenge to get more practice at high level and elite competitors from other clubs and regions.

10. Do you believe that setting up interclub competitions is a good idea?

Please tick (✓) the most appropriate answer below:

Yes	Unsure	No
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11. Would you participate in interclub competition?

Please tick (✓) the most appropriate answer below:

Yes	Unsure	No
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Section Three: Current services and facilities

12. Please tick (✓) all services and facilities that you frequently use from the options below:

Bar	
Kitchen	
Website	
Newsletter	
Notice board	
Library	
Room hire	
Lessons	
Tournaments	

13. What changes would you make to the current services and facilities offered by the Otago Bridge Club to improve their usage e.g. developments and deletion and addition of services and facilities.

Section Four: Fee structure and alternatives

14. Are you happy with the current fee structure?

Please tick (✓) the most appropriate answer below:

Yes	Unsure	No
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15. If not what would you like changed? _____

16. Which aspect of the fees are you most happy with?

Please rank the following from 1 to 3, with 1 being the fee section you are most happy with and 3 being the least.

Standard annual fees of \$76	
Table fees of \$5	
School Students annual fees of \$38	

17. Charging different groups of members with different fees was a suggestion during the focus groups, how would you feel about a different fee in relation to the following different groups?

Please suggest an appropriate fee if you feel there should be a change.

Please tick (✓) all appropriate answer/s: Suggested Fee:

School students		
University students		
Retirees		
Unwaged individuals		

The concept of a concession card for frequent players was suggested in focus group; this would mean that those players who attended bridge club nights frequently could purchase a 10 session table card for a reduced table fee.

18. Would you be happy with a concession cards for frequent players?

Please tick (✓) the most appropriate answer below:

Yes	Unsure	No
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19. Would you purchase a concession card if it allowed cheaper table fees for increased frequency?

Please tick (✓) the most appropriate answer below:

Yes	Unsure	No
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Section Five: Demographic characteristics

20. Which one of these categories best describes your gender? Please circle the relevant answer:

Male

Female

21. Which age group are you in?

Please tick (✓) the appropriate answer:

5-18 years	
19-25 years	
26-35 years	
36-45 years	
46-55 years	
56-65 years	
66-75 years	
75+ years	

22. Which of these categories best describes your ethnicity?

Please tick (✓) the relevant boxes:

New Zealander (European descent)		European	
New Zealander (Maori descent)		Pacific Island	
Asian		Other Please specify in box	_____

23. Which one of these categories best describes your employment status?

Please tick (✓) the relevant answer below:

Employed Full-time		Student	
Employed Part-time		Not in the Paid Labour Force	
Unemployed		Other, please specify in box	

24. Which one of these categories best describes your total yearly household income before tax?

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:

Under \$5,000		\$35,000-\$50,000	
\$5,000-\$15,000		\$50,000-\$70,000	
\$15,000 -\$25,000		\$70,001 - \$100,000	
\$25,000-\$35,000		\$100,001 and over	

25. Which division do you compete in? _____

26. Additional suggestions and comments:

If you need any clarification regarding the questionnaire or the research, please do not hesitate to contact us; Sarah Carter or Michelle Brindle by email at carsa129@student.otago.ac.nz and brimi253@student.otago.ac.nz

Thank you very much for taking part in this research project.

Please submit your completed questionnaire into the marked box at the Otago Bridge Club entrance, by the 31st July 2007.