

TABLE TALK

Otago Bridge Club: March 2007

President's Message

We are glad to say that our computer problems all but solved, and you will know that the web-site is up and running again. We are planning improvements to our web-site. If you have anything you think should be going on to it, please tell Sharon Mosley or Anne Dougherty or Murat Genc. Once it is up and running, Martijn will still be the person to contact as the web-master. The Otago/Southland Centre also now has a web-site, currently looked after by Sharon.

Our numbers are still low for Saturday night Bridge. This may not be surprising with a number of tournaments being played in March but it is disappointing for players to go home when they are keen to play. 2 1/2 tables really leaves too long a bye! The keen Saturday players have decided that we need to go back to once a month, and hope that lots of people attend. To make it easier to remember, we shall have it on the last Saturday of the month. If there is a really I bad clash with tournaments we might change, but this will be well publicised. If you want to take the chance of using Saturday for fund-raising, please ring Joy Turvey. She can also be approached about partners. Wendy Fallon will be directing.

It is pleasing to see so many payers coming along each night. Remember that your convenor is on the playing committee, and if you want any matter brought up, tell him or her, and it will be discussed at that committee and if necessary brought to the main committee. The exception is the Junior convenor who is on the Promotion Committee. But most Junior players see plenty of me and can bring any matters to my attention.

Twelve person teams (four Junior, Intermediate and four Open players) from Invercargill, Oamaru, Otago and Winton contested to find a winner for the Interclub Teams to be played at Congress. Invercargill was the winner this year but our twelve players did their best and enjoyed the day's play.

All the best for good bridge in the coming weeks.

Lindsay Lawrence

Club Captain's Corner

We have entered into a new era this year and one of my tasks is to lead the Playing Committee. This comprises the divisional convenors, president and vice president and deals with all matters relating to play including the annual program and promotions. If you have any ideas about how the program should be structured or questions over play or the like, feel free to raise them with any member of the playing committee so we can discuss them and see what improvements could be made.

Recently the club has arranged for a coffee machine to be installed in the foyer to provide a choice for you all. Whether or not we retain it will depend entirely on how much use it gets. While the machine is supplied free on loan it does commit the club to a minimum monthly supply bill. The machine is an electronic espresso and actually grinds the coffee as required. It can make an amazing range of coffee varieties and a stunning hot chocolate. There is a dollar charge per drink. The machine can take any combination of coins but does not give change so if you put in two dollars you can have two drinks!

Don Hill

Do you have any spare bread and butter plates? If so, they would find a home in our kitchen as the club is running short.

Swings

Often you end a teams match saying “What a lot of big swings!” and other times you end up saying “Very flat hands, small swings.” Of course you are referring to the IMPs difference on each hand. What is a useful number to calculate that will express these impressions more precisely?

Mostly we tend to look just at IMPs, with the books saying that you should aim to keep the swings against you to fewer than 2 IMPs per board. In this traditional theory you expect a total swing of about 4 IMPs per board: 3 indicates a tight match or bland cards, 5 indicates a certain Kamikaze outlook. If you lose less than 2 IMPs per board on average you should win the match. But this may be a 20th century approach. In the last Table Talk, referring to the National Open Teams in Canberra, we find the sentence “A typical (20-board) match would result in over 100 IMPs thrown around.” To an old-timer this would indicate a certain panache in the bidding, but perhaps 5 IMPs per board may be typical nowadays with computer-generated hands.

John Manning, an English statistician, proposed about 10 years ago that we should use the squares of the IMP swings instead. What you do is look at each IMP swing, square it (multiply it by itself), and then total these. With tight high-quality matches you get a total of about 30 per board and internationals average 35 to 40. Club matches might average 40 to 50 or in an extreme case 60. The rationale behind the squaring is that it exaggerates a disaster like a 20-IMP swing, and plays down the small 1 and 2 IMP differences that really do not mean much. Manning would argue that 6 boards with swings of 2 IMPs on each represents a close set, but 5 boards with no swing and one board with a swing of 12 gives a different picture. Looking at IMPs total alone the two sets seem the same; on the squared total one set gives 24 and the other 144.

You might like to compute these figures for your next 24-board Club match. Manning

reckons your total IMP squared traded won't be much less than 1000, about 40 per board. Using IMPs without squaring the total should be about 100-120, roughly 4 to 5 IMPs per board. Your teams game will improve just by thinking about the swings you concede and why.

Dennis McCaughan

Tournament Results

South Canterbury Congress: 17-18 March

10A Teams:

1st: Murat Genc – Sam Simpson, Brian Usher – Tony Fitzgerald

2nd: Chris Ackerley – Arleen Schwartz, Paul Freeland – Margaret Perley

3rd: Cameron Benson – Annabelle Molly, John and Sharon Mosley

10A Pairs:

1st: Cameron Benson – Annabelle Molloy

2nd: Lorraine and Stan Peacock

3rd: Chris Ackerley – Arleen Schwartz

Congratulations to Cameron and Annabelle on winning the Pairs and placing second in the Teams. Along with Nick Bailey and James Coutts, they will be trialling for the NZ Youth Team in Auckland over Easter to go to Indonesia for the Youth PABF Championships in June. Graeme Stout – Jeff Miller and Chris Ackerley – Arleen Schwartz are also trialling for the NZ Open and Seniors team respectively to go to Shanghai in September. Ed.

Upcoming Tournaments

14-15 April: Otago/Southland Provincial Teams 10A

21 April: Taieri Pairs Open 8B

28 April: Winton Pairs Open 8B

5-6 May: Murihiku Teams and Pairs 5A

Otago/Southland Centre

A new website has been launched for the Centre. Information for Queenstown Congress and other centre business can be found at www.contractbridge.net/otagosouthland

New Bridge Books

While in Canberra for the Summer Festival of Bridge, a number of new books were purchased by Murat for the Club library. A list of them appears below.

Author	Title
Auken, Sabine	I Love This Game
Axelsen, B. & V. Dam	Matchpoint Tricks
Bird, D & T Bourke	Avoidance Play
Bird, D & T Bourke	Deceptive Play
Bird, D & T Bourke	Elimination Plays
Bird, D & T Bourke	Entry Management
Bird, D & T Bourke	Planning Notrump Contracts
Bird, D & T Bourke	Reading the Cards
Bird, D & T Bourke	Safety Plays
Bird, D & N Sarantakos	Bridge Hands to make you laugh...and cry
Bird, D & M Smith	Tricks with Trumps (BTS 2)
Bird, D & M Smith	Safety Plays (BTS 3)
Bird, D & M Smith	Eliminations and Throw-Ins (BTS 4)
Bird, D & M Smith	Deceptive Card Play (BTS 5)
Bird, D & M Smith	Planning the Play in Notrump (BTS 7)
Bird, D & M Smith	Squeezes Made Simple (BTS 9)
Bird, D & M Smith	Reading the Cards (BTS 10)
Bourke, Tim	Maastricht Challenge
Brecher, E. & D. Roth	Focus on Hocus-Pocus
Browne, D.	Improvers' Bridge
Hughes, Roy	Card by Card
Jayaram, R.	Moments of Truth at the Bridge Table
King, P & R	The New King's Tales
King, P & R	Play it Again, Slam
Kelsey, H.	Test Your Timing
Kelsey, H.	Test Your Card Play 6
Klinger, R.	Improve Your Bridge Memory
Klinger, R. & A. Kambites	How Good is Your Bridge Hand?
Magee, Bernard	Tips for Better Bridge
North, Freddie	Bridge: Defending Together
North, Freddie	Bridge: The Vital Principles
Pottage, Julian	Defend These Hands with Me
Pottage, Julian	Clues From the Bidding
Priebe, Jim	Matchpoint Defense
Rubens, Jeff	The Bridge World's Test Your Play
Stark, Andy	The Weak Notrump

BTS: Bridge Technique Series