



# Otago Bridge Club

Inc  
Established 1936



## HAPPY BRIDGE FOR 2014

### TOURNAMENT NEWS & RESULTS:

2014 Tournaments are listed in the Programme Book. Details will be posted on the noticeboard with closing dates for entry specified.

### MASTERS GAMES:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Alistair Gunn & Mignon Pickwell 57%
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Art Vernon & John Revie 56%
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Judy Robertson & Kaye Wilson 49%

### O/S SWISS PAIRS:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Stout/Miller
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Moore/Schwartz
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sheehy/Godfrey

### HOLIDAY BRIDGE:

Handicap Ladder (best of five)

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Michael Atkinson 58.57
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Joc Parkes 58.05
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Gary Belworthy 57.11
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Elaine McDonald 55.05

Off the Stick

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Michael Atkinson 62.84
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Gary Belworthy 58.08
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Elaine McDonald 53.74
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Joc Parkes 43.33

### FESTIVAL PAIRS:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Sam Bailey & Samuel Coutts 59.34
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Michael Johnstone & Paul Gregory 59.21
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: James Coutts & Moss Wylie 58.46
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Chris Ackerley & Michael Albert 57.59

### SATURDAY BRIDGE:

Open to all grades and to visitors.

Dates: 1 Feb, 8 Mar, 5 April, 3 May, 6 Sept, 4 Oct, 8 Nov.

Time: 7.00 pm. Please be seated by 6.55 pm.

### MEMBERSHIP:

**New members:** Ruth Matthews, Phil Radford and Helena Sims are rejoining the club.

**Deaths:** Tony Munden and Lorna Wright. Our sympathy goes out to the families and friends of Tony and Lorna.

**2014 LEARNERS CLASSES**  
Night time classes will commence 2 April  
7-9pm.

Daytime classes will commence 4 April  
10-12 noon.

Please encourage your friends (Gift Vouchers available). Also if you know of members who seldom play encourage them to return on a regular basis.

### Upgrade of Clubrooms

The Clubrooms are now nearly 40 years old and starting to look tatty around the edges. As part of long term planning for the Clubrooms the Finance Committee is preparing proposals for initially upgrading the foyer and toilets, then later on the main rooms.

The proposal for the foyer will include new paint, floor coverings and replacing the two existing sets of double doors with one single glass door. A new door, similar to the picture below, will make entry and exit much easier, particularly for people with limited mobility, while opening up the foyer and making it much brighter and lighter.



The proposal for the toilets will include new paint, floor coverings, vanities and sinks with single lever taps, and upgrades to the toilets themselves.

Any suggestions and comments on these proposals are welcome. Please email me at [mike.hickling@thinkdelta.co.nz](mailto:mike.hickling@thinkdelta.co.nz), drop a note in the letterbox in the committee room door or I'm normally at teams.

Mike Hickling.

### BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

It is always nice to sit down at a bridge table and play with friendly people.

Perhaps the most important skill you can cultivate is that of being a good partner - you will be in demand at the bridge table, even if you never become an expert.

#### **Each player at a table has a responsibility:**

**North:** Board facing correct way and in middle of table with bidding pad beside it. Ensure each player has a pencil and there are Stop cards at opposite corners. Take the bidding sheet from the pad as soon as each player has played to the **first** trick.

**South:** Enter the contract, lead and result into the BridgePad.

**East:** Carefully check the result is entered correctly into the BridgePad, press Next and hand back to South.

**West:** Ensure cards are placed back into correct pockets in board and pass back to next table.

Say hello to your opponents when coming or going to the table - apologise if you are late

Count your cards before looking at them to ensure you have exactly 13

Safest to firstly sort your cards black, red, black, red and secondly in order

Bid according to the rules and don't indicate any approval or disapproval of a call, bid or play

The board **must** remain on the table facing the correct direction; the bidding pad **must** be turned over after the first round and not referred to again during play.

Don't prolong play unnecessarily. Bid and play at an even tempo – hesitation may be penalised

If you are on lead place your card face down on table and wait until partner says *thank you partner* – this may prevent an opening lead out of turn

If dummy lay your cards down as soon as the opening lead has been faced - trump suit on declarers left. Declarer should say *thank you partner* with no inflection in the voice.

Wait until partner asks you to play a particular card – never assume which card he will take – touch the cards only when partner asks . Once touched the card must be played.

If partner asks, you may tell him in which hand he took the last trick and if he puts his card the wrong way at the completion of the round you may say *That's your trick partner (or not)*.

Conceal your cards from the sight of other players and **do not** remove a card from your hand before it is your turn

When play is completed, count tricks carefully and confirm the result with the other three at

the table

When hand is over refrain from criticizing partner for some wrong action he took. *Well done* or *bad luck* are the best comments to make

If in doubt about a call, bid or play – CALL : "DIRECTOR PLEASE" and put up your hand to indicate where you are sitting.



## ALERTS

Alerting is a subject that is simple in theory but complicated in practice. The aim is to disclose your bidding agreements to your opponents. You are permitted to play conventions but your opponents must be informed. If your partner makes a conventional bid you should alert it promptly by circling it on the bidding pad.

Most players have a good understanding of which calls are conventional as opposed to natural. Opening bids in a minor suit that may contain only 3 cards are classed as natural. There are grey areas, for example an opening 1NT that denies a 4-card major. Generally speaking all conventional bids must be alerted.

Natural bids do not require an alert unless extra information is conveyed: for example if you overcall 1NT with 2H showing Hearts and Spades, that must be alerted even though Hearts is a genuine suit. The same applies if your 2H overcall specifically denies 4 Spades. On the other hand opening 2-bids in major, whether strong or weak, need no alert. Natural bids which are forcing or non-forcing in a non-standard way need alerting: for example 1H – 3H weak or 1D – 2D strong or 1D – 2H weak. Even a pass may be alertable e.g. if it shows 0-4 points in a competitive auction. Alert natural bids if they have implications that opponents may not expect.

Now things get a bit illogical, as there are conventional bids that do not need alerting. Opening 2C game force, and 2D negative response are not alertable: in fact a Precision opening 2C natural needs to be alerted. Stayman 2C over 1NT, and responses, are not alertable. Conventional bids at the 4-level or higher need not be alerted: this covers Blackwood and Gerber which are in common use.

These bids are described as “self-alerting”. Other self-alerting calls include doubles, redoubles and cue bids of an opposing suit. The principle here seems to be that such calls are conventional anyway and their meaning will be queried if necessary.

At present the alerting process occurs in stages.

Pre-alerting before the round starts: a short description of system e.g. Acol, 13-15 NT. This is a courtesy and can save some time. It is better to carry a card with pre-alerts in written form.

**Announcing:** NZBridge has asked for opening bids of 1C or 1NT to be announced verbally by the partner of the bidder. For a natural 1C you say “2 plus”, “3 plus” or “4 plus” to indicate the minimum length of the Club suit. For a strong artificial 1C bid you say “strong, 16 plus” giving the minimum point count. For other types of 1C (e.g. may be natural or strong artificial) you say “unusual”. For 1NT openers you state the point range and other agreements e.g. “15-17, may have a 5 card major”. At the moment the official line is that you must announce every time the bid is made, even in a teams match, but it would be a harsh director who would penalize you for announcing the first time and not after that.

Alerting during the auction: you circle the bid and respond if an opponent asks. Your response must of course be comprehensible to the opponents. The 1C and 1NT opening bids must not be alerted as they have been announced.

A further stage may take place at the end of the auction, when the declaring side draws attention to bids by their side that should have been alerted. These are “delayed alerts”. Delayed alerts are not made by the defending side as information would be given to partner.

**The relevant pages of the NZ Bridge Manual are posted in the foyer.**

## System Cards Policy

**Bulletin Released 19 February 2014 by NZ Bridge**

The requirement for players to fully disclose their partnership agreement to their opponents prior to the commencement of play is an important part of the way the game ought to be played (See Law 40A-1(b)).

**Players should disclose their partnership agreements by pre-alerting and alerting conventional calls, as described in the system regulations, as well as by carrying system cards.**

As you will be aware, from 28 February it comes compulsory for ALL tournament players to carry the new NZB System Card (see page D35 of the 2013 NZB Manual) with the outer two pages fully completed (for 10-25 A-point Events the inside pages must be fully completed as well).

Directors have a very important role to play in bedding this policy down. Therefore, I ask all Directors officiating at all tournaments to make sure that before the start of all tournament the players are aware of the new regulation and the requirement to comply with it.

There will be the usual resistance and derision of the policy but please persevere as we have to change the culture of ignoring the system card regulations.

NZ Bridge has sent an allocation of blank system cards to all clubs and more can be purchased from the Secretary. There is also an editable e-version of the card (complete with a comprehensive help file) on the NZB website which players can use.

It has also been suggested that for Junior Tournaments, clubs might like to fill in and make available a basic card with the system their tutor has taught them.

**Arie Geursen, Chief Director  
NZ Bridge Inc.**

## 2014 WINNERS

### Otago Festival Pairs Open:



Sam Coutts and Sam Bailey

### Otago Festival Pairs Junior



Bradley Johnstone & Matthew Baird

### Otago Festival Pairs Intermediate



Matt Blakely & Susie Lawless

**Otago Southland Swiss Pairs**



**Graeme Stout & Jeff Miller**