



Otago Bridge Club

Inc
Established 1936



JUNE 2012 BRIDGE UPDATE

NEW WINTER EVENTS

Wednesday Bridge for Men – Come and play alongside the women for the winter months. Starting Wednesday 20 June at 12.55pm. Please come and show your support.

Social Bridge on Sunday Afternoons for the winter months. Starting Sunday 17 June at 1.30pm and every fortnight. Bring yourselves and non-member bridge playing friends for an afternoon's bridge. Cost \$5. Please come and support this new venture.

Friday Bridge continues – be seated by 10.25am. Bring Lunch. Visitors welcome.

Saturday Bridge: Open to all grades and to visitors

Dates: 9 Jun, 7 Jul, 4 Aug, 1 Sep, 6 Oct, 10 Nov.

Improve your Bridge Seminar with James Coutts – Monday 18 June 7.10-9.30.

Etiquette - Seating

Before start of play ALL tables must toss for North/South seating (unless someone has seating rights).

Thank you Ironic Café and Bar

On a recent Friday night, Liz Rowe and Marjan Lousberg redeemed their \$25 vouchers from Ironic Café and Bar (won as an OBC Easter Pairs spot prize) with a dinner. The food was delicious, the wine wonderful and the service and advice we received were excellent. Ironic serve breakfast, lunch, dinner and drinks. Highly recommended. 9 Anzac Avenue, opposite the Railway Station).

Membership:

Our thoughts go out to the family of Bill Brockie who died recently while on holiday in Spain. His pleasant manner and wit will be missed especially by those in the Intermediate Division.

Congratulations to Chris Ackerley who has been selected as a member of the NZ Seniors Bridge Team to compete in France.

Key Register to be established – if you are in possession of a key to the Bridge Club and no longer need it, please hand to your divisional convenor.

Maintenance Requests – a maintenance book is located in the Property Manager's box in main office. Please record any maintenance that requires attention.

TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Accurate rating points are necessary when entering a Tournament in case the organisers are looking to seed the field.

TAIERI OTAGO HOSPICE PAIRS Good support for a worthy cause. At least 46 pairs entered. Well done to Joan and Wayne Petch, the overall winners, Maria Godfrey and John Sheehy 3rd with Bob Gillanders and John Yates 4th.

NORTH OTAGO GRADED PAIRS at Oamaru. Several Otago players entered. Kristen Collins and Donna Ruwhiu were placed 3rd overall. Congratulations to you both.

OTAGO SWISS PAIRS (held over the last several weeks on a Monday evening.) Graeme Stout and Jeff Miller came first with a total of 129 VPs. Nina Hewitt and Dennis McCaughan were second with 118 VPs with Philip Noye and Saul Sheehy third gaining 108 VPs. First from the Club's Intermediate Division were Pat Hall and Lynne Clay. Thanks to all who supported this internal tournament.

Upcoming Tournaments:

See Noticeboard for Tournaments and closing dates for entries.

The importance of finesse: the Coutts brothers and bridge

Extracts from an interview with James (27), Sam (22) and Glenn (20) Coutts

We seem to have Cameron Benson to thank for the fact that three Coutts brothers, excellent young bridge players, are members of our club. Cameron learnt bridge at high school and got James into it when they used to drink lots of beer and play lots of cards during first year uni when they should have been studying. It was apparently a finesse at euchre that decided Cameron that James must have some sort of bridge talent. Sam and Glenn started coming along when James suggested they might enjoy it too. He proved to be right. The Coutts family always played lots of card and other games when they were young but have no family history of bridge addiction. (According to Glenn the main reason he plays bridge is that it attracts money, fame and women :-)

Apart from the usual club nights, the brothers play tournaments. According to them, Sam plays a lot of tournaments; Glenn plays even more than that; and James plays a ridiculous amount. They also play online bridge at BBO. The advantage of BBO is to be able to just organise a partner, pop online and play for an hour whenever you want. Playing lots of home bridge is also highly recommended. Having people round for cards and beers is always a good time.

According to James, the key for fast improvement of talented players is getting them to play 'up' as much as possible. That is in terms of both quality partners and quality opposition. Glenn suggests providing for young club members to play with and learn from good and experienced players rather than be left to figure it out for themselves, for example by having nights available to do this or having someone organise a field and partners for them, or by early promotion to Open. All three were promoted to the Open division within a couple of years after being in Junior. Progression was much easier after that, they said.

Finally, some advice from Glenn: Just bid as high and as much as you can; it makes you get good at playing cards. Bidding strategy can come later.

And from James: Two words: (1) instinct, and (2) confidence. Trust your instincts, and maintain your confidence even when things are going badly (bridge can be an unforgiving game). Oh, and hand evaluation -- don't get too wound up about HCP, they're only one part of whether a hand is good or not. Also, ask good players for a game. Most are more than willing. Watch how they play and try and take some of it on. This doesn't mean asking for advice on every hand, or afterwards; it's more about observing and learning for yourself.

The brothers appreciate the fact that the club and its members have been very generous in terms of sponsorship to attend youth weekends and in support for the fundraising efforts of youth teams to go to various parts of the world.

Monthly Bridge Update

If you have any news items that might interest bridge club members please forward to otagobridgeclub@gmail.com

Use of Club Rooms

When our Club is not being used for playing bridge, it is available for other uses Meeting, workshops, social events. Contact Susan Johnstone, Secretary for terms and conditions of use.



