

OTAGO BRIDGE CLUB

BRIDGE WEEKLY – 3 OCTOBER



TOURNAMENTS

OCTOBER

9 Gore open 8B Pairs. Starts 10.00 am
Morning tea from 9:30 am. Take your
own lunch. \$25. Enter online at
www.nzbridge.co.nz/events by 6 October.
This will go ahead only if we are at Level
1 by then.

17 West Otago Social Charity

23-25 Labour Weekend at Otago BC

Otago/Southland Bridge Congress

Saturday – Open 10A and Intermediate 5B Pairs.

Open \$40, Intermediate \$30.

Sunday/Monday – Open 10A Teams \$55

Sunday – Intermediate 5B Teams \$35

Start time each day is 10.00 am.

BYO Lunch each day

Nibbles supplied before and after play

Enter by 23 October at NZB website.

TEAMS

Will not commence until we are at Level 1.

WEDNESDAY ALLCOMERS BRIDGE

This Wednesday. Start time 1.00 pm. All
welcome.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the rescheduled
AGM will be held on

Monday 18 October

at 6.30 pm

in the Otago Bridge Clubrooms

2022 PROGRAMME BOOK

DIVISION LISTS: There are membership
lists in each of the Playing Rooms. Please
check that your name is there, is correct and
that the first telephone number listed is
correct and is the one you want in the
Programme Book. If you make changes you
need to just change one of the lists. If you
know of anyone who wants to join or re-join
our Club, list their name or let us know and
we can get in touch with them.

PROMOTIONS

Winners of the Individual Ladder competitions
and Championship Pairs are automatically entitled
to progress to the higher division, but if you don't
wish to do that please let the Club know. If you
consider your results warrant, or for other reasons,
you may apply to the Playing Committee giving
your justification for promotion.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

Margaret Harraway has held this office for some time
and now wishes to take a break from these duties. If
you are interested in this position, do talk to Margaret
and she will fill you in on what is required.

MEMBERSHIP

Philippa Edwards has resigned from our Club as she is
returning to Tauranga for work commitments and has
been transferred to the Mt Maunganui Bridge Club.
We wish her well and thank her for being part of our
Club for the past two years.

Covid Level 2 Guidelines for Bridge

We have had several queries about mask wearing and
vaccinations in order to play bridge. Some members
have made it clear that they don't want to play if
people are not wearing masks, or may be
unvaccinated.

The key to the rules on compulsory mask wearing
seems to be whether the space is public, or open to the
public, in an unrestricted way. Since the Bridge Club
is private, and open to members and guests only, mask
wearing is only advised for personal safety of the
wearer but it is not mandated (see NZ Bridge Advisory
No 16 below). Presumably the logic behind this is
that an outbreak is less likely, and if one occurred, it
would be much easier to contain since all the contacts
are known immediately.

Regarding vaccinations, personal knowledge suggests
the vaccination rates amongst our members is very
high but 'vaccination passports' do not exist (as yet
anyway) and we cannot enforce a vaccination
requirement on people before they can play bridge.
On a personal level I would encourage any
unvaccinated member to remedy this if they are able.
My daughter-in-law in Germany has suffered two
Covid infections, she was very poorly with the first,
but with vaccination survived the second more like a

minor cold. High vaccination rates may not stamp out Covid but they will help us keep a working health system.

Rob Lawson, President, OBC

Covid 19- Advisory No 18 from the Chair of NZ Bridge

Throughout, the welfare of players is our primary concern. We have recommended a cautious approach, noting much of our demographic is in the higher risk category. Whether by good management or by good fortune we have been lucky. We concur with the Government's goal of having >90% of people double jabbed. As a health management tool this makes a great deal of sense, mitigating the risk to the health system. Of course, being vaccinated does not prevent one from contracting the virus or being a carrier/asymptomatic.

We are now hearing increasing noise about requiring evidence that, in our case, players are fully vaccinated. We have players suggesting all players should be vaccinated otherwise they would not be eligible to play. We know some clubs have already taken the step requiring players are vaccinated.

As mentioned earlier whilst vaccinations will reduce the risk it does not offer a silver bullet. Our approach to date has been to follow Government policy and guidelines. The Government has shared they are looking at requirements around the border, which is logical. Imposing evidence of vaccination in other settings is a management challenge without an electronic solution. Think of the fun and games about going to an event or even the supermarket without some form of electronic proof.

So, should bridge clubs and NZB introduce a requirement for players to provide evidence that they are vaccinated? We follow and adhere to Government policy and guidelines. Further there are privacy and Bill of Rights issues that require consideration. We suggest imposing an obligation on clubs to validate vaccination is a tall order. For example, who would be responsible within the club for vetting players and approving those who may be exempt or who have forgotten to bring evidence. I suggest clubs may have to ask their membership if they could

introduce a mandatory requirement as this would be a change in membership. Until the Government provides an electronic tool, and we have clarity around legal issues we advocate no change to the status quo. Players can participate provided clubs adhere to health management obligations and adhere to the rules laid down under each Alert Level.

However, we advocate that everyone if they are not already vaccinated take steps to be vaccinated. Being vaccinated is a positive community action, will help the health system and will provide comfort for those around you. I am aware some clubs have been very proactive in this space. They are encouraging and supporting their members to be vaccinated. To the point they are offering, if required, to take members to their GP, or pharmacy, or vaccination clinic. The sooner people are vaccinated the sooner our lives will return to a greater deal of normality, and we can get on playing bridge with limited impositions. Based on what we know, players have been very responsible so more of the same is recommended.

We recommend

1. Players are vaccinated.
2. Helping members to be vaccinated.
3. If a player is unwell or has been contact with Covid or has been at a place of interest, then they stay at home and seek medical assistance.
4. Use of face masks (highly encouraged) .
5. Scanning in.

Should Government policy change then we will review our recommendation. In the meantime, continue to take a responsible approach and follow Government policy and guidelines. Further advisories will be issued following on-going announcements from Government.

Stay well, stay safe, and care for family friends and your fellow bridge player.

Cheers Allan

10 OCTOBER TOURNAMENTS OCTOBER

17 West Otago Social Charity ????

LABOUR WEEKEND O/S CONGRESS IS
CANCELLED

WEDNESDAY ALLCOMERS BRIDGE

This Wednesday. Start time 1.00 pm. All welcome. Sign in, wear a mask if you want to, but do come

along.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 18 October
at 6.30 pm
in the Otago Bridge Clubrooms

CARGILL ROOM

Rob Lawson and Paul Spain send a huge thank you to all the people who turned up to help move furniture on Saturday - a great turnout and really made light work of it all.

2022 PROGRAMME BOOK PROMOTIONS

If you want promotion to a higher division, please provide the following details by email to office@otago.bridgeclub.org.nz by

Tuesday 19th October.

Name

Current division

Division you want to be promoted to

Approximate overall average percentage

Any other reasons why you want to move division

Please note that the winners of the championship pairs and individual ladders will automatically be considered for promotion. The Playing Committee will meet before the end of October to consider requests and will advise all Club members of the outcome of the promotions process.

DIVISION LISTS: Please check that your name is there, is correct and that the first telephone number listed is correct and is the one you want in the Programme Book. This is the time to change your landline number to your mobile if that is your preference for receiving calls about Bridge.

MEMBERSHIP

A big thank you to Pam Hodgkinson who has agreed to take over the role of Membership

17 OCTOBER

TOURNAMENTS

OCTOBER – Labour weekend

Hamilton Congress. See flyer sent last week. In a report from the Chair of NZ Bridge ...

“The Board decided and resolved to run a trial, subject to a set of supplementary regulations which will shortly be posted. The regulation of most significance is the event will be played on Realbridge. To participate you must have video and audio, no exceptions. Video and audio permits transparency. Above all, the success of this event is dependent on players personal integrity. We are hopeful that the findings will allow us to move forward quickly and have in place a new set of online regulations. For those who may think Hamilton is getting special treatment, which is not the case, it is only a one-off trial. Without Realbridge the event would not be proceeding. We will not be sanctioning any further online events with masterpoints until we evaluate the trial and have promulgated regulations.”

WEDNESDAY ALLCOMERS BRIDGE

This Wednesday. Start time 1.00 pm. All welcome.

Sign in, wear a mask if you want to, but do come along. (But don't come if you are unwell)

Wednesday night social

Thursday night social

Friday Bridge as usual

Saturday night bridge

The final Saturday night bridge will be held on November 6 at 6.00 pm. It will be a celebration Christmas meal. Please note that the Bridge will begin at 7.15 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 18 October

at 6.30 pm

in the Otago Bridge Clubrooms

The Annual Report and Financial accounts are on the website under Resources – 2021. Note that the Agenda for the meeting is under the heading 2021 Minutes. Remember to bring your cans to support the Fire Service's can collection.

PROMOTIONS

... to be in by Tuesday 19 October.

DIVISION LISTS: If you have been unable to check the lists and you would like your phone number changed, please email the office.

LIBRARY NEWS

Thanks to a team of willing helpers, our Library has been successfully moved, and is now in its new location in the Larnach Room.

The Library has a collection of The New Zealand Bridge Magazine, which is no longer published. We

have bound volumes of these (many of which were donated to the club by Paul Hudson), in a smaller book shelf beside the Library. Spare copies have been put in the foyer, and are free for you to take.

MEMBERSHIP

Edie Tingle is no longer able to play Bridge and, sadly, wishes to resign. Edie was a long-time member of the Club winning along the way the Sid Robb Cup for best Intermediate Pair in 2003, the Joy Jones Trophy for Women's Pairs in 2008 and the JB Security Plate as part of the winning team in the Plate section - also in 2008. We send our very best wishes to Edie and thank her for her huge support to the Club over the years.

24 OCTOBER

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday afternoon Practice Sessions

These will start again on Tuesday 2 November for those people who enjoy a time to play bridge including discussion of hands, bidding and play. Start time 1.30 pm.

Wednesday All-Comers – 1.00 pm – ...

and will continue for the next few weeks but there will be the scheduled Christmas Lunch for Women's Pairs on 24 November.

Wednesday & Thursday night social Friday Bridge as usual

NEXT WEEK:

Now that it is clear Covid restrictions of some sort are here to stay the Committee have decided that we will try to resurrect the remains of the 2021 programme for November and December.

Junior and Intermediate Divisions will not play the Teams night scheduled for the 17th November but instead play the President's pairs on the 3, 10 and 17 November followed by the Christmas pairs as in the original schedule.

Senior and Open Divisions will play both three night matches as originally scheduled.

Teams: We would also like to play one last round of teams in order to complete a full round

robin. We are very conscious that resuming an existing competition may put pressure on some people to play who would rather not do so. To try to alleviate this a little, we have decided that the different sections will play on different nights in order to avoid any crowding at the Club. Also we should be more flexible about Teams using substitutes if they are needed. No member should feel obliged to play against their will.

Championship section	Nov 1
Gold section	Nov 15
Silver Section	Nov 29

Saturday night bridge 6 November

OUR COMMITTEE FOR 2021/22

<i>President:</i>	Rob Lawson
<i>Vice President:</i>	Neil Johnstone
<i>Secretary:</i>	Judy Russell
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Matthew Baird
<i>Committee</i>	Amanda Inwood, Phil Noye, Paul Spain, Grant Walker

Phil Noye is taking over the role of Club Captain and chairman of the Playing Committee, replacing Paul Freeland who has held that position since 2018. Many thanks to Paul for his services to the Club in this way – and so many other ways.

Summary of Bridge Club Covid survey

A big thank you to the two thirds of members who completed the survey. This is an excellent response rate to a survey like this and gives us some good guidance. Just over half respondents have played bridge at the Club since the resumption after lockdown. The majority of those choosing not to play were concerned about health and safety, although a similar number gave other reasons, especially the unwillingness of their partners to play. Please remember that we do have contact numbers to help you arrange new partners and you can also use the website to find partners.

By far the most significant factor (89%) reassuring people about safety would be all players being fully vaccinated, and 85% believe vaccination should be required before people are allowed to play. Compulsory mask wearing is more controversial – 37% of people support it, but 34% would choose not to play bridge at all if mask wearing was compulsory. Regarding the vaccination status of members it is pleasing to report that the overwhelmingly majority (95%) are fully vaccinated and a further 3% have received a first dose and are awaiting their second. This means that the Club is well placed if vaccination does become compulsory and, as the

Government clarifies the law, this must be a distinct possibility.

54 Teams entered the Hamilton Online Congress. After 4 rounds the Genc Team are 20th and the Johnston team are 23rd. Concludes Monday.