

NEWSLETTER

2nd October 2023



EVENTS AT OTAGO:

MONDAY 2nd October	Teams 7.10pm
TUESDAY 3rd October	Informal Practice – 1.30pm – All Welcome
WEDNESDAY 4th October	All Comers – 1.00pm - All welcome
WEDNESDAY 4th October	Junior – Spring Pairs 1 - 7.00pm Intermediate – Congress Pairs 1 - 7.00pm
THURSDAY 5th October	Open/ Senior – Congress Pairs 3 - 7.10pm
FRIDAY 6th October	Friday Bridge – 10.30am
SATURDAY 7th October	Saturday night bridge 7.00pm Dinner 6.00pm – Pasta, and Dessert Please put names up on noticeboard

Please note all players should be seated 10 minutes before starting time

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

All tournaments can be entered on NZ Bridge Tournament page

October 7th	Gore 8B Open Pairs, \$30, 10am start, closes 3/10
October 14th	Balclutha 8B Open Pairs, \$30, 10am start, closes 11/10
October 15th	West Otago (Tapanui) Annual Social Tournament 1pm start. \$30 – includes evening meal. Closes 8/10
October 29th	Cat Rescue Dunedin Fundraiser, 1.30pm, \$10 Fancy dress (with prizes) & afternoon tea

OTAGO/SOTHLAND CONGRESS - OTAGO

October 21st	Intermediate 5B Pairs , \$30, 10am start, closes 17/10 Open 10A Pairs , \$40, 10am start, closes 17/10
October 22nd	Intermediate 5B Teams , \$30, 9.30am start, closes 17/10 Open 10A Teams , \$40, 9.30am start, closes 17/10

LABOUR WEEKEND CONGRESS 21st / 22nd Oct– Helpers needed please

Otago is again hosting the two day Otago Southland Congress, with Pairs on Saturday and Teams on Sunday.

We are looking for helpers to assist in the kitchen providing nibbles over the two days.

If you can help for a half day please contact Lindsay or Phil Noye.

CONGRATULATIONS:

JUNIOR: ALMA DELAHUNTY PAIRS:

- 1st** Brian Donnelly and Cheryl Tapp
- 2nd** Lynda Williams and Judith Mann
- 3rd** Peter McIver and Bruce Dowland

Alma Delahunty Trophy (awarded to the highest score across all Divisions) - **Matt Blakeley and Sam Coutts**

INTERMEDIATE: SPRING PAIRS

- 1st** Maureen O'Dea and Rochelle Palmay
- 2nd** Sally Stewart and Graham Wallis
- 3rd** Hilary Bisset and Eunan Cleary

SEPTEMBER FRIDAY BRIDGE:

- 1st** Gillian Alexander
- 2nd** Ruth Airey
- 3rd** Dai Redshaw

NATIONAL CONGRESS:



NZ Restricted Open Pairs – Plate:
5th Victor Weedn and Phil Merchant

Congress MP Swiss Pairs: 5th
Murat Genc and Anne Sommerville

NZ Junior Teams: 1st Mark Wilson, Tash Lundin, Chris Wood, Karen Wood

Walk in Pairs: 3rd N/S Ramon Quennell and Jet Quennell
1st E/W Phil Merchant and Mike Newton

NZ Junior Pairs: 2nd Mark Wilson and Tash Lundin

Congress Junior Pairs: 1st Mark Wilson and Tash Lundin

Jan Cormack Cup

Awarded to the highest placed Women's only team, in the NZ Teams competition.

Winners – an all Otago/Southland team with Maria Godfrey and her team mates Frances Sheehy, Marilyn Jackson and Ann McGregor.





SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK WILSON

**Winner of Congress Junior Pairs
Winner of NZ Junior Team
2nd in NZ Junior Pairs**

A fantastic 1st Congress, Mark

CONGRESS RUBBER BRIDGE REPORT (Brad Johnston)

Brad and Sam Coutts represented Otago/Southland at this year's Rubber Bridge Competition.

The rubber bridge competition is one where you must play 30 boards (hand dealt) against your opponents with all players limited to a Junior limited system card and scores accumulated throughout the match in a series of rubbers (a rubber being equivalent to a two game match).

In the first match we played against Pam Whitehead and Stewart Grant (Top of the South), and they set the tone on board one when the auction went:

P	P	1S	(x)
2S	P	P	(5D);
X	P	P	P

This went down 3 and we collected +500 when declarer didn't really have anything resembling a 5D bid.

We were able to control the pace of the match and gradually extended our lead over each of the rubbers to end up winning by about 2000 points.

In our second match we played against Wellington's Brian Cleaver and David May, and they got off to a sterling start by winning the first 3 rubbers (all of which were thankfully contested).

Rubber bridge is very much about "having the cards" and David had commented that he'd never held more opening hands in his life. We had a small rally around the middle of the match but never got within 1000 points of them.

With 3 boards to go we were behind enough that to have a chance we needed to bid and make something like two games and a slam in those three hands.

Things did not look promising when I picked up my hand and saw the inspiring collection of:

X
XXX
JTxx
Q98xx

But to allay my concerns, Sam opened the auction with a strong 2C bid, rebidding 2NT to show 22-23 balanced.

Did we still have a chance?

I had to decide if this was just a game hand (and raise to 3NT), or if this was the slam hand and look for a minor suit fit.

At the table I chose to just bid 3NT; which this time proved to be the sub optimal choice....if I had bid 3S (minor suit Stayman), Sam's reply would have been 4D and 6D did not present too many challenges.

Sam got the play problem right in 3NT, and as luck would have it the final two boards both produced games for us, but with the slam missed so was our last opportunity.

David and Brian carried on to win the finals of the rubber, playing against Top of the South's second qualifier Jim Jessup and Morris Carter (who'd qualified for the finals by a mere 40 points over Auckland/Northland's Kinga Hajmasi and Andrew Michl).

Even though it was a bit disappointing to not do any better, it was still a very entertaining event to play in - the scoring format is just different enough from standard duplicate bridge that there are lots of interesting or novel positions.

Here's hoping we do better next year though!

PARTNERS WANTED: Cornel and Derick Van Basten, from Oamaru, are looking for teammates to play with them in the Intermediate Teams, in the Labour Weekend Congress at Otago. Please contact Cornel on 0226313708.

VISITOR TO DUNEDIN: Alastair Pain from Otaki is visiting Dunedin from the 2nd until the 6th of October. He would like to play on Friday or Thursday (Senior Division) while in town. Please contact him on 0211322741 if you can help.

LIBRARY NEWS (Dorothy Butterfield):

There are 3 new recently purchased books in the Library.

These are from the English Bridge Education and Development.

Titles are:

Beginning Bridge Book 1

Beginning Bridge Book 2

Fast Track Bridge.

These excellent books will be of particular interest to our newer players.

Our collection also includes another new book:

**“I Fought the Law of Total Tricks”
by Anders Wirgren and Mike Lawrence.**

Are you tired of using the Law of Total tricks, and wondering why there are often one or two more or less than predicted???

This book shows why this is so!

These books can be found on either the Beginner's section, or the New Books shelf, along with a number of books donated by Dai Redshaw, which have now been processed.

NB: A reminder to those of you with **long overdue** library books! The return of these would be very much appreciated!!

9th October 2023

EVENTS AT OTAGO:

TUESDAY 10th October Informal Practice – **1.30pm** – All Welcome

WEDNESDAY 11th October Women's Pairs – **1.00pm**

WEDNESDAY 11th October Junior – Spring Pairs 2 - **7.00pm**
Intermediate – Congress Pairs 2 - **7.00pm**

THURSDAY 12th October Open/ Senior – Spring Pairs 1 - **7.10pm**

FRIDAY 13th October Friday Bridge – **10.30am**

Please note all players should be seated 10 minutes before starting time

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

All tournaments can be entered on NZ Bridge Tournament page

October 14th **Balclutha 8B Open Pairs**, \$30, 10am start, closes 11/10

October 15th **West Otago (Tapanui) Annual Social Tournament**
1pm start. \$30 – includes evening meal. Closes 8/10

October 29th **Cat Rescue Dunedin Fundraiser, 1.30pm, \$10**
Fancy dress (with prizes) & afternoon tea

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND CONGRESS - OTAGO

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October 22nd **Intermediate 5B Teams**, \$30, 9.30am start, closes 17/10
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More entries urgently wanted for all grades

LABOUR WEEKEND CONGRESS 21st / 22nd Oct– Helpers needed please

Otago is again hosting the two day Otago Southland Congress, with Pairs on Saturday and Teams on Sunday.

We are looking for helpers to assist in the kitchen providing nibbles over the two days.

If you can help for a half day please contact Lindsay Gunn or Phil Noye.

CONGRATULATIONS:

CONGRESS PAIRS:

SENIOR:

OPEN:

1 st	Ann Hamilton/Jan Flood	Matt Blakeley/Christine Kerr
2 nd	Paul Spain/Bronwyn Powell	Barbara Wilkes/Alan Lewthwaite
3 rd	Terry Ebeling/Kate Aisi	Andrew Reynolds/Lydia Turley

SATURDAY NIGHT:

	Handicap	Off-The-Stick
1 st	Alison Paterson/Margaret Borland	Lindsay Gunn/Derek Tingle
2 nd	Lindsay Gunn/Derek Tingle	Robyn Hawkesby/Elaine McDonald
3 rd	Robyn Hawkesby/Elaine McDonald	Joy Ward/Jen Macartney

GORE OPEN PAIRS:

2 nd	Pip Weber and Gillian Alexander
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Great result ladies

PARTNERS WANTED: Cornel and Derick Van Basten, from Oamaru, are looking for teammates to play with them in the Intermediate Teams, in the Labour Weekend Congress at Otago. Please contact Cornel on 0226313708.

HIDDEN TALENT!!! It has come to my attention that one of our members has launched into a flourishing music career. Gary Belworthy and his band **Beaumont Beat** have just released a beautiful ballad called “**This is my Home**”. Gary wrote the song, and plays the organ. It is a song reminiscing his childhood growing up in Blueskin Bay. You can listen to it on Spotify or YouTube. If you watch the YouTube clip, there are some gorgeous photos of the area. Well done Gary.

TEACHING COMMENT:

This week we thank Dean Eidler for his contribution on “Ruff ‘n’ Sluff” as a card play technique available to declarer.

A “**Ruff ‘n’ Sluff**” occurs when declarer can put one of the defenders on lead who has no choice but to then lead a suit that both declarer and dummy are void in. This allows declarer to “**ruff**” in one hand and “**sluff**” (ie discard a loser) in the other.

Here is a contrived example, with spades as trumps, and declarer South on lead:

S A	S –	S -
H 3	H –	H A
D 3	D AK7	D 5
C –	C -	C A

S K
 H 2
 D 2
 C –

If Declarer plays the last trump,
 there are two losers;

If Declarer plays a heart, good
 defence will win AH & AD; but

The key plays by declarer are to eliminate the side suits and then “throw an opponent in”.

Dean has highlighted this play technique as it was critical in two contracts in last Monday’s teams competition.

17	♠T76543	Dlr: N
	♥9	Vul:
	♦974	
	♣A43	
♠82		♠QJ
♥QJ6		♥KT8753
♦JT82		♦653
♣QT85		♣K6
	♠AK9	
4	♥A42	
6 9	♦AKQ	
21	♣J972	
Par: 460		

Against 4♠ by North, East led the 7H.

Declarer won this with this Ace,
 ruffed a heart, played a trump to
 dummy and ruffed another heart.

Declarer then played a second trump
 and 3 rounds of diamonds, leaving
 both Declarer and Dummy now both
 void in the red suit

Next Declarer played AC and another club won by East with KC.
 East is now on lead in this position

S T7
 H -
 D -
 C 3
 S -
 H -
 D J
 C QT
 S 9
 H -
 D -

C J9

East had to lead a heart and Declarer
 ruffed in the South hand while
 pitching their losing club in North's
 hand. **Magic!**

The defense could have done better.
 How?

Declarer could have done better or been more deceitful.

How?

Against 3♠ by North, East led AC, KC, KD. Declarer won AD and played trumps.

allowing declarer to rid themselves of a heart loser.

East won the first one, cashed QD and continued a diamond.

Declarer won the Jack, pulled the last trump and played Ace and another heart. Poor East!

With only clubs left they were forced to give a Ruff 'n' Sluff

19		♠KT972	Dlr: S
		♥J42	Vul: E-W
		♦AJ4	
		♣T5	
♠J8		♠A5	
♥QT73		♥K5	
♦9752		♦KQ8	
♣Q73		♣AK8642	
		♠Q643	
9		♥A986	
5	19	♦T63	
7		♣J9	
Par: -130			
			♣♦♥♠NT
		N	- - - 1 -
		S	- - - 1 -
		E	4 3 1 - 1
		W	4 3 1 - 1

Again, *the defense could have done better.* How?

Suppose East had KQ of hearts. Would there be any defense then?

Answers next week.

16th October 2023

EVENTS AT OTAGO:

MONDAY 16th October Teams – 7.10pm

TUESDAY 17th October Informal Practice –1.30pm – All Welcome

WEDNESDAY 18th October All Comers – 1.00pm - All Welcome

WEDNESDAY 18th October Junior – Spring Pairs 3 - 7.00pm
Intermediate – Congress Pairs 3 - 7.00pm

THURSDAY 19th October Open/ Senior – Spring Pairs 2 - 7.10pm

FRIDAY 20th October Friday Bridge – 10.30am

Please note all players should be seated 10 minutes before starting time

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

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OTAGO/SOUTHLAND CONGRESS - OTAGO

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
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More entries urgently wanted for all grades

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| October 29th | Cat Rescue Dunedin Fundraiser, 1.30pm, \$10
Fancy dress (with prizes) & afternoon tea |
| November 4th | Timaru 5A Open Pairs , \$35, 9.30am start, closes 30/11 |
| November 10th | Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs – Taieri Club, 7.10 |
| November 11th | Invercargill 5A Open Pairs , \$30, 10am start, closes 8/11
NB: Incorrect date in our program book |

LABOUR WEEKEND CONGRESS 21st / 22nd Oct

Helpers urgently needed please

Otago is again hosting the two day Otago Southland Congress, with Pairs on Saturday and Teams on Sunday.

We are looking for helpers to assist in the kitchen providing nibbles over the two days. If you can help for a half day please contact Lindsay Gunn 4877884, or Phil Noye 021424676.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Balclutha Open Pairs:

- 1st Maria Godfrey and John Sheehy
2nd David Larsen and Murray Barron

Wes Dodd Pairs (Auckland – online):

- 4th Graeme Stout and Jeff Miller

West Otago (Tapanui) Social Tournament

- 1st Open Murray Barron and Alec Weavers

- 1st Intermediate Christine Samson and Derek Tingle

PARTNER WANTED: Max Robb from Christchurch is looking for a partner to play in the Open Pairs at the Otago Congress.
If you are available please contact him on 0221889846.

The President & Management Committee
of the Otago Bridge Club
invite **ALL** of the Club's willing
volunteers to the
Volunteers Christmas Party
Friday, 1 December 2023
from 5.30 -7.30 p.m.

The Club would not be able to function without such willing help.
If you have helped in **ANY WAY** we would like to acknowledge your contribution by
inviting you and a partner to attend.

This Party is a great way for us to say Thank You.

This invitation is also for past long term helpers and previous office bearers.

Drinks and nibbles provided. RSVP with the number attending to Dawn

Cope: dawncope@hotmail.com or phone 027 275-5981 by 21 November 2023

23th October 2023

EVENTS AT OTAGO:

TUESDAY 24th October Informal Practice –**1.30pm** – All Welcome

WEDNESDAY 25th October Women's Pairs – **1.00pm**

WEDNESDAY 25th October Junior/Intermediate– President's Pairs 1
7.00pm

THURSDAY 26th October Open/ Senior – Spring Pairs 3 - **7.10pm**

FRIDAY 27th October Friday Bridge – **10.30am**

Please note all players should be seated 10 minutes before starting time

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

All tournaments can be entered on NZ Bridge Tournament page

October 29th **Cat Rescue Dunedin Fundraiser, 1.30pm, \$10**
Fancy dress (with prizes) & afternoon tea

November 4th **Timaru 5A Open Pairs, \$35, 9.30am start, closes 30/11**

November 10th **Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs – Taieri Club, 7.10**

November 11th **Invercargill 5A Open Pairs, \$30, 10am start, closes 8/11**
NB: Incorrect date in our program book

CONGRATULATIONS:

JUNIOR: Spring Pairs

1st Bruce Dowland/Brian Donnelly
2nd Doug Atrill/Charlotte Harris
3rd Hannah West/Cheryl Tapp

INTERMEDIATE: Congress Pairs

Andrew Nicholson/Frances Witchall
Rodger Paul/Ron McMurran
Hilary Bisset/Eunan Cleary

OTAGO SOUTHLAND CONGRESS:

The Otago Club completed a very successful tournament this weekend, thanks to a lot of very hard work by our Club Captain Phil Noye and our Director Lindsay Gunn. It was very pleasing to see so many out of town entries, especially from Canterbury in Open and Oamaru in Intermediate.

It was a difficult week, with a number of players withdrawing due to illness, and Phil did a great job filling these vacancies, and also making sure there were sufficient entries for a good Intermediate teams competition, with a little bit of arm twisting!!! Many thanks to those players that stepped forward to ensure we were able to hold an Intermediate Teams competition on Sunday.

Lindsay worked tirelessly all weekend as sole Director, and her efforts are hugely appreciated, as always.

Catering was organised by Phil and Marilyn Noye. We were very grateful for the wonderful kitchen helpers we had, which allowed us to play in the tournament. Special thanks to Dorothy Butterfield, Graeme Stout, Rona Chave, Jan Munden, Rudi Prent, Erin Flannery, and Pam Bardsley.

A big thankyou also to Matt Blakeley for running the bar at the end of play.

OPEN PAIRS:



- 1st** Sam Coutts
Matt Blakeley
- 2nd** Marilyn Jackson (Ingill)
Frances Sheehy (Oamaru)
- 3rd** Liz Fitzgerald (Chch)
John Kruiniger (Chch)

INTERMEDIATE PAIRS:

- 1st** Blair Corlet and Kerry Kelly (Oamaru)
- 2nd** Graham Dale and Vivienne Clifford-Marsh (Balclutha)
- 3rd** Mark Wilson and Georgie Roberts

OPEN TEAMS:

- 1st** Peter Hall, Peter McCaskill, Glenn Coutts, Graeme Stout
- 2nd** Michael Johnstone, Paula Gregory, Greg Buzzard, Moss Wylie
- 3rd** Jane Lennon, Max Morrison, David Taylor, Timothy Schumacher

INTERMEDIATE TEAMS:

- 1st Judith Lawton, Lynn Darnill, Margaret Wheeler, Georgie Roberts
 2nd Jenny Rowley, Marjo Prent, Judith Smeijers, Laurie Smeijers
 3rd David Larsen, Kay Dickson, Cornel Van Basten, Derick Van Basten

A FEW INTERESTING HANDS FROM THE WEEKEND:

OPEN PAIRS – points don't always mean you can make game!!

Board 7

<p>3 ♥K42 ♦QJ8654 ♣Q64</p>		Dir: S Vul: Both
<p>♠AQ974 ♥A7 ♦KJ9873 ♣KJ5</p>	<p>♠T862 ♥J9653 ♦T32 ♣2</p>	
<p>8 14 1 17</p>	<p>♥QT8 ♦AK97 ♣AT5</p>	<p>♠♥♦♣NT N - 4 - - 3 S 1 4 1 - 4 E - - - 5 - W - - - 5 -</p>
Par: -200		
Bd 7 of Tournt, 21 Oct 23 (A)		

Board 8

<p>7 ♥AQ2 ♦98752 ♣J654</p>		Dir: W Vul:
<p>♠JT8 ♥T86 ♦KJ64 ♣K92</p>	<p>♠Q962 ♥K9543 ♦T ♣873</p>	
<p>7 8 5 20</p>	<p>♠AK543 ♥J7 ♦AQ3 ♣AQT</p>	<p>♠♥♦♣NT N 3 3 1 2 2 S 4 3 1 2 2 E - - - - W - - - -</p>
Par: 130		
Bd 8 of Tournt, 21 Oct 23 (A)		

OPEN TEAMS – wild bidding ensured!

<p>4 ♥65 ♦AQJ98542 ♣J64</p>		Dir: W Vul: Both
<p>♠T3 ♥T4 ♦73 ♣AT97532</p>	<p>♠KQ854 ♥AJ9873 ♦K ♣8</p>	
<p>8 4 13 15</p>	<p>♠AJ9762 ♥KQ2 ♦T6 ♣KQ</p>	<p>♠♥♦♣NT N - 4 - 1 4 S - 4 - 1 4 E 1 - 1 - - W 1 - 1 - -</p>
Par: 630		

<p>17 ♠KT98764 ♥K8 ♦4 ♣862</p>		Dir: N Vul:
<p>♠Q52 ♥QJT976 ♦KT65 ♣</p>	<p>♠AJ3 ♥A5432 ♦873 ♣A4</p>	
<p>6 8 13 13</p>	<p>♠ ♥ ♦AQJ92 ♣KQJT9753</p>	<p>♠♥♦♣NT N 5 - - - - S 6 - - - - E - 2 4 1 - W - 2 4 1 -</p>
Par: 300		

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT - Murray Barron:

Each month it is my aim to immediately provide feedback to you as members on any key issues that arise from our monthly Management Committee meeting. We usually meet towards the end of each month.

This month we identified that to successfully run the club we need wider assistance from our members rather than have some of the committee members

working 25 hours a day. They will only make mistakes, not get everything done and/or become disillusioned and quit, which is the last thing we want.

Most tasks do not require a lot of time, can be done whenever it suits, and are often shared by small groups. An excellent example are our wonderful card dealers who work in the background to ensure your boards are dealt and ready each week. And there are others of you who we know already help us in many ways.

So if you have a talent or skill in any one or these areas and would like to help the committee and the club please contact myself or anyone of our committee members.

- Grant Applications
- Sponsorship and sponsor liaison
- Tournament administration
- Club promotion
- Social activities for the Club

Your committee will also shortly begin work on a 5 to 10 year plan and as this plan develops will be seeking wider member input to formulate directions and priorities.

As a relatively new committee we first want to hold preliminary discussions amongst ourselves so that as a group we have some understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead of us and can develop supporting information where needed. But please rest assured we also always welcome input from members that is intended to make our club a better place for all.

On another note please remember that your individual actions should not distract from the other players enjoyment of the game and discourages them from continuing to play.

I was remiss in my last comments in not recording Janice Munden as a member of the Development Committee.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Volunteers Christmas party or prize giving

Enjoy your bridge
Murray Barron – President



SATURDAY NIGHT CHRISTMAS MEAL AND BRIDGE
4th November

Meal \$8, Bridge \$7. Bar Open at 5.30pm, Meal at 6.00pm.

Please put your name on the Noticeboard if you are coming for the meal.
To cancel or add your name, please phone Murray Barron on 0211863461 by noon on Saturday.
Be seated for bridge at 7.10pm.

**The President & Management Committee
of the Otago Bridge Club
invite **ALL** of the Club's willing
volunteers to the
Volunteers Christmas Party
Friday, 1 December 2023
from 5.30 -7.30 p.m.**

The Club would not be able to function without such willing help.
If you have helped in **ANY WAY** we would like to acknowledge your contribution by
inviting you and a partner to attend.

This Party is a great way for us to say Thank You.

This invitation is also for past long term helpers and previous office bearers.

Drinks and nibbles provided. RSVP with the number attending to Dawn
Cope: dawncope@hotmail.com or phone 027 275-5981 by 21 November 2023

30th October 2023

EVENTS AT OTAGO:

MONDAY 30th October

TEAMS – 7.10pm

TUESDAY 31st October

Informal Practice –1.30pm – All Welcome

WEDNESDAY 1st November Junior/Intermediate– President's Pairs 2
7.00pm

THURSDAY 2nd November Open/ Senior – President's Pairs 1 - **7.10pm**

FRIDAY 3rd November Friday Bridge – **10.30am**

Please note all players should be seated 10 minutes before starting time



SATURDAY NIGHT CHRISTMAS MEAL AND BRIDGE
4th November

Meal \$8, Bridge \$7. Bar Open at 5.30pm, Meal at 6.00pm.

Names for the meal to be on Noticeboard by Monday 30th October
To cancel or add your name, please phone Murray Barron on 0211863461 by noon on Saturday.

Be seated for bridge at 7.10pm.

ALL COMERS BRIDGE: Please note this has finished for the year. A big thank you must go to Di Daly, who has organised this all year.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

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November 10th **Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs – Taieri Club, 7.10**

November 11th **Invercargill 5A Open Pairs, \$30, 10am start, closes 8/11**

NB: Incorrect date in our program book

CONGRATULATIONS:

SPRING PAIRS:

OPEN:

1st Graeme Stout/Ramon Quennell
2nd Matt Blakeley/John Sheehy
3rd Murat Genc/Dean Eidler

SENIOR RESERVE:

Mark Wilson/Jenny Fieldwick
Mary O'Neill/John Curran
Terry Ebeling/Helen Haig

FRIDAY HANDICAP LADDER: OCTOBER MATCH

1st Jenny Rowley
2nd Denise Carter
3rd Brian Donnelly

CHARITY TOURNAMENT FOR CAT RESCUE:

Off-the-Stick:

1st Graeme Stout/Brad Johnston
2nd Pam Hodgkinson/Judy Russell
3rd Ann Wood/Gillian Alexander

Handicap:

Pam Hodgkinson/Judy Russell
Janice Munden/Cushla Colquhoun
Ann Wood Gillian Alexander

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CAN'T SEE THE MENACE FOR THE SQUEEZE! – Brad Johnston

The following board amused me when I played it during the O/S Congress Pairs last weekend. Sitting East, I helped perpetrate the following auction:

Dir: E Vul: Both	
♠ 52 ♥ 8763 ♦ 97652 ♣ T5	
♠ AT73 ♥ K4 ♦ AJ ♣ 98762	♠ K6 ♥ AQJT952 ♦ T4 ♣ AQ
0 12 16 12	♠ QJ984 ♥ KQ83 ♣ KJ43
Par: -2220	♣♦♥♠N N - 1 - - - S - 1 - - - E 3 - 7 1 7 W 3 - 7 1 7
Bd 10 of Tournt, 21 Oct 23 (B)	

East	South	West	North
Brad	Chris	Lydia	Arleen
1H	1S	2C*	P
3H	P	3S*	P
3N	P	4D*	P
4N	P	5D*	P
5S*	P	6H*	All Pass
2C*	10+ pts, 5+ clubs		
3S*	Generic Force		
4D*	Heart raise with the D A or K		
5D*	3 keycards for Hearts		
5S*	Kings?	6H*	No more

Opposite the KC I was all set to bid 7NT (it was matchpoints, after all), but now it looked like I had a potential club loser and a potential diamond loser on the deal, so trying for all the tricks seemed a bit optimistic.

Chris lead the KD pretty speedily and I had to plan how to play the deal. [It's a matter of good technique to count your winners and losers when you first see dummy: This'll let you know how much work you have "left to go" in the hand.](#) Here you have 2 spade tricks, 7 heart tricks, 1 diamond trick and 1 club trick. That adds up to 11 tricks, so you must find a way to make (at least) one more trick in order to succeed in your contract.

What about losers? The KD lead will knock out your ace, and then the opponents will have the QD as a winner, but they have no other immediate tricks.

- Given the 1S overcall, it seemed pretty likely that Chris held both spade honours, but if I lead one towards the AT he could insert the Q or J and I wouldn't be able to finesse the 10S for a Diamond discard.
- If Arleen held the KC as North, I'd be able to succeed by playing a C towards the AQ in my hand – but if this failed the defence would be able to cash the QD for -1.
- Given the confidence with which the KD was led (and the 1S overcall), I judged that the KC rated to be offside and that the finesse was unlikely to work.
- I judged that neither finesse was going to bring me to 12 tricks, so I had to find another idea.

A common concept on hands like this is to play the hand on [a squeeze](#).

This is when you force the opponents to discard a lot of cards as you run your winners, and you hope that they run out of losers to throw and have to discard a winner too.

See the dilemma South faces if we get to the position shown below:



You can see that South has to keep all three spades to stop the AT7 being winners and they also have to keep both of their clubs to stop the AQ of clubs being winners.

The only issue with this is that on the lead of the 5H they need to discard a card in one of these suits – and whichever one they discard in will give me my 12th trick.

My long cards in each of these suits (the QC and the TS) are what we call **‘menaces’** in squeeze parlance.

An important concept in squeezes is called **‘rectifying the count’**.

Your goal is that when you play the squeeze card (here the 5H), that the opponent(s) you’re squeezing don’t have any losers they can safely throw away.

- If South still had a diamond available for this trick, they could safely discard their D and not have to compromise their holding in either black suit.

Typically, this means **that declarer should aim to lose all the tricks they can afford to early on in the play before attempting to carry out their squeeze line.**

As such, I ducked the KD at trick 1 and won the low diamond continuation. I was then able to peel off 7 rounds of trumps and watch Chris start to squirm over his discards.

At the table Chris discarded down to the singleton KC (which is good practice – if you think you’re getting squeezed, you should guard the suit that only you can guard – here South has the only Spade guard & he can hope Arleen can protect clubs).

After entering 6H= in the bridge pad, I was patting myself on the back and Chris offered a ‘well played’ for my line. It was only after the session when I was looking at the hand record that I saw that 7H (and indeed – 7NT) was cold on the layout. **What went wrong...?**

When South lead the KD at trick 1, I was focused on the location of the KC & the QJ of spades. I hadn’t stopped to consider the diamond position.

- The KD lead marks South with the QD, and I held the JD in dummy (and the TD in hand, to add insult to injury!)

As such, I could have actually won the KD with the Ace at trick 1 and then played 7 rounds of trumps to reach the position shown below.



On the last trump, South needs to find a discard from QJ9 of spades and the KJ of clubs (just like before) – except this time Chris also has the QD in his possession.

If the QD was a low D (if Arleen had the QD), then Chris could pitch his useless diamond and not be under any pressure – but because he held the sole threat in all three suits he would actually be squeezed in three suits on this trick (**a triple squeeze**).

I imagine that a lot of people imagine these squeeze plays as the mark of an expert bridge player, but remember that all I did on this deal was ‘win and run my winners’ – surely that’s not too hard of a task to accomplish?

Sadly, on the day, there was no justice for my poor line – no other pairs reached slam on the E/W cards. Even though two declarers managed to win all 13 tricks (so well done to Michael Johnstone [QS lead] and especially John Sheehy [KD lead]).

The reason that I was so amused by this board after the fact was that I had a blind spot in the diamond suit and was focusing on all the wrong things.

Bridge is a hard game, and people do make mistakes

- the important thing is being able to take them in stride and make the most of whatever situations you end up in because of them.

When you sit down to play bridge you’re not always going to be able to see the forest for the trees.

COMMENT FROM CHRIS

“ Nicely written Brad. An excellent hand, a useful commentary.

It will remind me not to overcall with decent values – next time Arleen will hold the Diamond and Club honours and you’ll get the zero match-point!!!”