

OTAGO BRIDGE CLUB

BRIDGE WEEKLY – 5 SEPTEMBER



TOURNAMENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Wanaka Int. 5B Pairs – **cancelled**
- 12 Balclutha Open 8B Pairs Morning tea: 9.30 am. Starts 10.00 am. Bring your own lunch. Refreshments provided at the end of play. \$25. Entries close 7 Sep.
- 18 Winton Open 8B Pairs \$35. Entries close 15 September

- 26 Taieri Junior 3B Pairs. Enter online.

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. Payment in advance to GCBC 03-1355-0552204-00 (State NZB Member No. in reference field). Prize money will be paid by Direct Credit

POSTPONEMENT – NATIONAL CONGRESS 2021

(see the NZ Bridge website for full details)

Deja vu. Covid-19 once again is going to disrupt Congress. The likelihood of New Zealand being at Level 1 for the last week of September is beyond remote. So, what does this mean? Regrettably no Congress at the end of September. Rather than forego the event for another year we have explored alternative dates whereby we might be able to still proceed with Congress 2021. The 2022 Congress will continue with its usual slot. Having explored a range of options that least disrupt the calendar we have found a window in February 2022. Like the Olympics we propose this year's (2021) Congress will now take place from **Thursday 10th February 2022 to Thursday 17th February 2022**. A little different in that the event will run mid-week to mid-week. It also means we have had to shuffle the timetable. The New Zealand Teams will now be played first. The weekend (12th-14th) of the event provides an exciting opportunity for Novice, Juniors and Intermediates to participate. We are hopeful a large number will

play. After all, these players are the future of the game. We know the prospect of a week's bridge maybe daunting for some, hence the decision to have Novice, Junior and Intermediate events over the weekend. We encourage everyone, irrespective of your grade to give it a go. It is a lot of fun and you will make lifelong friends. Moving to mid-February means we are outside the school holiday period which hopefully means accommodation is more readily available and will be a bit cheaper. Stay well, stay Safe *Cheers Allan*

All entries will be accepted based on players' 2021 Tournament Grades, irrespective of when you lodge your online entry. This concession is a one off and made to enable existing partnerships & teams to participate in what is a 2021 event.

BEREAVEMENT

The death of Alex Robinson, aged 100 years, appeared in the ODT on Saturday. Alex was a long-time member of the Otago Bridge Club until 2014. He was an Honorary member and worked tirelessly as our Bar Manager, in the days when the Bar provided a large part of the income. His wife Phil ran Friday Bridge for many years and Alex would bring Phil to Bridge on a Friday and work the morning in the bar, replenishing supplies, reconciling the takings, etc. If necessary he would fill-in at the Bridge if someone was running late or had to get away early. A thoroughly obliging member and friend to many. Our sympathies to the family.

12 SEPTEMBER

TOURNAMENTS

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FROM THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

1. Reopening the Club.

We are aware that some smaller bridge clubs have reopened under level 2 as it is now configured, but with the 50 limit for indoor gatherings it is impossible for our Club to reopen and resume our normal programme.

There still seems some uncertainty on mask wearing and distancing but it might be possible for us to open the Club for 'casual' bridge and we will consider that possibility over the next week or so. It would be helpful to know how many people would be interested in this so if you would like us to proceed down this line please drop a quick one line email to the Club (office@otagobridgeclub.org.nz) We will advise members by email and on the website as soon as any decision is reached.

2. AGM

This is currently scheduled for Monday 20th. We do not anticipate being fully open by then.

Consequently we are postponing the AGM, which will now take place as quickly as practicably possible after reopening. This will probably take the date beyond the 30th September as required by the Club constitution, but advice from the Companies Office is simply to do our best and not to be concerned about meeting timeframes and late reporting. They are offering a two month automatic extension for filing accounts. Committee reports are currently being assembled and will be posted on the website in the next few days.

3. Resource Consent

The Club has now received resource consent from the DCC to use part of our building for a commercial activity. We are now proceeding with our solicitor to draw up a Licence to Occupy for Workplace First Aid who want to take occupancy on November 1.

Thanks for making this happen are especially due to Neil Johnstone, Paul Freeland, Paul Spain and Grant Walker who have done a mountain of work on this.

I also want to thank all club members for supporting this initiative. It will be a major

change for the Club not to be the sole occupant of our premises, but we recognise the building was planned for a membership over twice the current size and, if we are to maintain the facilities adequately, we need an extra stream of income for the future.

President Rob

AN INVITATION

Otago players who are missing their bridge are very welcome to go out to Taieri on a WEDNESDAY night. There is a limit of 12 tables so it will be a first come first serve basis. Best to book in: Phone Jen Macartney 027 892 5258. Play starts at 7.15 pm.

19 SEPTEMBER

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From West Otago Bridge Club

Just advising you that West Otago Bridge Club are intending to hold our afternoon Social Tournament this year on **Sunday the 17th October**, but because of the uncertainty of Covid -19 restrictions we will not be registering the Tournament on the Web site until the beginning of October, when hopefully we will be comfortably on Level 1. Having missed last year, we look forward to seeing you this year. Will let you know when it's on the website.

UPDATE ON OPENING from PRESIDENT ROB

In the last week we have reviewed the advice from NZBridge and the Ministry of Health and considered different options for reopening the Club. As a result we are pleased to say that we will reopen for bridge on Wednesday 22nd. For the moment we are planning to offer interdivisional sessions on Wednesday evening, Thursday evening and Friday daytime. As the 50 person rule currently applies any sessions will be limited to 12 tables and we will use an online prebooking system to manage numbers. If the number for groups is amended to 100 we should

be able to dispense with prebooking. We will keep you advised on the website as to what is required.

Thanks for your patience. These decisions are not easy and it takes time to work through and get clarification on what sometimes seems like conflicting advice. This is understandable - Covid is changing all the time and New Zealand has been very aggressive in trying to manage it, so there is bound to be some uncertainty about how things work best. Keep safe!

MEMBERSHIP

Bereavements

Members are sad to read of the death of **Carmen Hickling**. Carmen was a long-time member of our Club who loved her Bridge and will be sadly missed. She was a very competitive, fair player and those who played as her partner felt honoured to be paired with her. She played her last game with us in February of 2020.

It is noted also that **Judy Patton** died recently in Auckland where she moved to after leaving the Otago Club around 2004.

Resignation

It is with regret that we accept the resignation of Betty Larkins who has been a member for a over 40 years. We thank Betty for her support over these years and wish her all the best.

26 OCTOBER

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- 17 West Otago Social Charity

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

After a number of requests we are offering bridge on Wednesday afternoon beginning this week. Since we can't resume normal Women's

Pairs yet, it will be 'Allcomers'. All welcome.

SATURDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

This Saturday night – 2 October – is a meal of chicken, chips and salad. Register for the meal at the Club or phone Murray on 467 9081. Meal at 6.00 pm (\$8). Bridge at 7.00 pm (\$7).

DOUBLE DUMMY

David Green tells us that this is a film made to demonstrate the growth of Youth Bridge throughout the world and particularly in the USA where the film has become a catalyst for other young people to take up bridge. The makers of the film have upgraded it to include more bridge hands and animated sequences. They write: "*Double Dummy* will be available for free to all ACBL members and their friends for 48 hours from September 29th 8am - Oct 1st 8am EDT" and if you miss the dates 30 Sept to Oct 1 they write: "You may still watch the film at (<https://watch.showandtell.film/watch/acblef>) through our ticketed fundraiser with the ACBL Education Foundation through October 10th." So it is just a matter for those OBC members on the Internet (they count as friends of an ACBL member) of going to the website <https://watch.showandtell.film/watch/acbl-free>, and pressing the 'Join Us' button which will provide them with a 'free ticket' link to the streaming of the film. This film will be of interest to anyone who is interested in the future of bridge, and particularly to those teaching bridge or involved in introducing young people to bridge, which should be all of us.

LIBRARY NEWS

Now many of us are back at the Bridge Club, it could be a good time to browse our great library for something to assist your bidding, your play or your defence. New books have been added recently with the purchase of the last books in the series – **Cardplay: An Easy Guide by David Bird and Marc Smith.**

The latest titles, which you will find in the Beginners Section of the library, are;

Book 7 – No Trump Contracts

Book 8 – Suit Contracts

Book 9 – Entries

Book 10 – Playing Safely

Also purchased recently is a new book by **Barbara Seagram 'Barbara's Bridge Tips'**. Barbara Seagram travels the world teaching bridge. The tips cover all aspects of bridge - bidding, play and defence. Advice and examples are drawn from

material Barbara has developed for her students over the last twenty years. This book is suitable for Newcomers and Intermediate players and is in the New Books section.

A Unique Cohen-Bergen Bidding System

Attached to this email also is information about a Webinar entitled as above which has been sent to us via Dorothy, our Librarian, from Marty Bergen.