

New Zealand National Bridge Congress

Kingsgate Hotel, Hamilton

July 1st to 8th 2006

Daily Bulletin



Friday June 30th



Welcome

A very warm welcome to all who will play in and those who will assist in organizing the 2006 National Bridge Congress. After a spell of somewhat cold weather around New Zealand, we are sure that the atmosphere around the Kingsgate Hotel will be very warm throughout the period of competition. What better place can there be, whatever the weather than at The National Congress?

“Why back to July?” some of you may ask, after last year’s Congress was at the end of September. The answer is in the area of advance planning. Last year, we conducted a survey to see whether players preferred to have The Congress in July or in late September. The results indicated that a majority, albeit a small one, favoured late September, nearer a climax to, rather than in the middle of the bridge calendar and at a time when we are less likely to pass around germs to fellow bridge players.

Thus, we have fixed on a late September date for the immediate future though a booking for 2006 had to be made before the results of the 2005 survey would be known. The Organising Committee opted for the July date this year but next year the National Congress will revert to September. Make the most of this year’s Congress as you will have a 15 month wait until the next one.

We hope that, after this year, there will now be a period of stability for the timing of this event. Certainly, those who plan other tournaments around the dates of the National Congress will appreciate that. We realize that the September date will not suit all: not even “the wisdom of Solomon” can achieve that!

Enough, though, of the future. Let us concentrate on 2006. We welcome you all but especially those who have traveled from overseas. There are about 50 of you this year, mainly from Australia, some regulars and some new faces. Our Australian visitors will be very happy to see that our alert regulations have moved very close now to those used across The Tasman.

We are delighted to see that the number of Intermediate and Junior players participating is growing. Over 30 players will join us next Thursday for Intermediate/Junior events, that is in addition to those Intermediates and Juniors who will play the full congress. We keep emphasizing that this Congress is not just for Open players. The introduction, next year, of a club tournament which climaxes on the last two days of The National Congress, should help even more to increase the representation of Junior and Intermediate players.

The formula which has worked very well in past Congresses will be used again...ie not too much will be different though watch out for some changes in the later stages of The New Zealand Teams, mainly involving the length of the matches.

I would also like to thank those individuals and organizations who have provided sponsorship for this congress. They are listed on the back of the score-booklet which you should all have obtained when you registered. We value their input immensely.

Please see me, any of my fellow organizers, or any staff member if we can help with any problems you may have. May you all enjoy the week, meet bridge friends old and new and find stories and happy experiences to take away with you. That is more important than success though whether your success is in winning a major event, scoring 50% in a session or just doing better than in previous years, may you find that too.

Richard Solomon

Congress Noticeboard Friday

Session Times For Saturday

Session 1 : 2 p.m.

Session 2 : 8 p.m.

Punctuality

Players are asked to be seated for the START of sessions. It is not the directors' role to invite players to come in from the corridors

Cellphones

Please ensure that all phones are switched off in the playing rooms. Non-discretionary penalties will be applied in the case of cellphones ringing - 1.5 VP's in teams matches or 25% of a top in pairs events.

System Cards

As all Congress Events are A pointed, the carrying of system cards is mandatory

Vu-Graph Match

Tonight at 8 p.m. This will be followed by the InterProvincial Prizegiving in the bar.

Litter

Alongside each table is a plastic box. At the conclusion of play, players are asked to put bidding slips and other debris in these boxes and to place the boxes on the table

Rubber Bridge Quarters - 9.45 am Saturday

NZCBA AGM

will be held in Conference Room 4 at 9.45 a.m. on Saturday

Minibus Shuttle

will again operate between the hotel and the motels on Ulster Street for those who do not have their own transport. Enquire at the Congress desk if you wish to avail yourself of this service. The last run will be no later than 12.30 a.m.

Hand records

At the end of each session these will be placed in special racks outside the playing rooms. Morning sessions will be pink paper, afternoon on blue and evening sessions on white.

Hand record archives : in addition, full records for the week will accumulate in a large rack by the desk. These will be maintained throughout the week so that players who want a particular set from several days ago will be able to collect one. PLEASE NOTE : these are archival and players are asked to use the other racks at the end of each session

Players Meeting Hotel Requirements

The hotel has to meet its Health and Safety obligations. As guests of the hotel, we are expected to accept the hotel regulations. Over the past several years, despite being asked to accept these, some players have chosen to disregard the regulations. In particular, some players will insist on taking short cuts through the staff only areas and others insist on using the fire doors for a smoke, even blocking these open. As asking has proved ineffective, the Organising Committee has decided that non-discretionary penalties will apply if players cannot follow the requirements - 1.5 VPs in a Team's match, 25% of a top in Pairs. Please do NOT use the staff only areas. Please ensure that the fire doors are left closed at all times.

Scores : there are noticeboards for the scores in each section. Personal score printouts will be on tables to the side of each noticeboard.

Paperwork : The archive hand record rack will also contain Psyche Forms. **NOTE : after completing these DO NOT return them to the rack. They MUST be given to a director.**

New Zealand Bridge Magazine - subscribers will be able to collect their copies from the bookshop as from Saturday

Alerting Seminar - to demystify the new regulations, Julie Atkinson and Matthew McManus will be holding a seminar on these regulations in the playing rooms at 11 am on Sunday. All directors, players and administrators are invited to attend

Appeals

Directors have been instructed to make what they believe to be the correct ruling at the table, consulting other directors or non-involved players if they deem that desirable. If you are unhappy with a ruling then you may ask for a review by the Chief Director. He will be available in seminar room 3 at the end of each session. If you are still unhappy then you may have your day in court.

You will need to complete an Appeals Form - available from a director. You are STRONGLY advised to consult one of the Appeals Advisors listed in your programme. Please do not consult potential committee members who are listed below. The advisor can advise you if your appeal has merit. If you have not consulted an advisor and your appeal is subsequently found to be without merit then you will normally be fined 25% of the matchpoints at pairs or 5imps or 1 VP at Teams.

Appeals are usually heard in seminar room 3 at 11.30 pm. It is the responsibility of the players involved to ensure that they know the time and place of any appeal in which they are involved. It is not the committee's nor the staff's job to chase players to attend.

Members of Appeals Committees will be drawn from Julie Atkinson, Andy Braithwaite, Patrick Carter, Alan Grant, Scott Smith (chair), Martin Löfgren, Alan Turner (chair), Michael Ware, John Evitt, Chris Ackerley, Tony Thomson, Lorraine Stachurski, Arleen Schwartz, and Jenny Wilkinson

The time limit for lodging an appeal is within 30 minutes of the end of the session (or in the case of a teams event, the match) in which the incident causing the appeal occurred. Completed appeal forms must be given to a director

The Recorder

Occasionally, things happen at the table about which we are uncomfortable. But which we don't feel call for a director's intervention. If this happens to you, then the person to speak to is the recorder. The recorder keeps a record of such incidents and can become aware that a player or players are consistently causing problems. The recorder for this Congress is Johnnie Lenart.

Psyches

A psyche is a deliberate and gross misrepresentation of either your high card strength or the length of one of your suits. Note that the key words are "deliberate" and "gross". To make a wrong bid accidentally is not a psyche - it is not deliberate. To shade an opening bid by a couple of points is not a psyche - it is not gross.

Psyches are an integral part of the game. As long as you do not psyche persistently, you are allowed to psyche. In New Zealand, to psyche more than twice in a session is defined as psyching persistently. To guard against this, a psyche register is in use at Congress.


If you psyche then you should collect a psyche form from the hand records rack by Congress desk. You complete the form and hand it to a director within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the session in which you psyched. If you are unsure as to whether your bid was a psyche then seek a director's ruling as the penalties for failing to report a psyche are severe. On the first occasion of failure to report, you can be fined upto 5% or 15 imps. If the offence is repeated then you may well be asked to leave Congress.

If someone psyches against you, then you may check on its being reported by asking a director to check for you.

Alerts

New Zealand alert regulations have changed since the last Congress. Pre-alerts and self-alerting bids have been introduced. The following table attempts to summarise the requirements.

All doubles and cue bids are self-alerting - it is expected that the opposition will ask about them.

Action	Pre -alert	Don't alert	Alert	Announce after auction (see note below)
Opening bid of 1	Complex, non-standard systems. A system card is NOT a pre- alert	3+ minor or 4+ major unless  Any natural 1NT bid	contains additional information eg canape	
Bidding after 1NT		Simple Stayman and its responses	Relay Stayman, Stayman type bids which do not GUARANTEE a 4 card major Transfers Rangefinder	
Opening bid of 2 of a suit		Acol type 2C and 2D negative response Natural single suiters - whether weak or strong	Multi bids Tartans Bids which guarantee a second suit (specified or not)	
Higher level openings	High level opening with unusual meanings eg transfer pre-empt	Any other		
Competitive bidding	Any of the non-alerts for which you have an unexpected meaning	Any double or redouble Cue bids Any bid above the 3 level	Unusual interpretations - eg non-forcing responses to overcalls Minisplinters at the 2 or 3 level Stayman or transfers after a 1NT overcall	Self alerting doubles or cue bids with unusual meanings

Announcing after the auction :

1) Your side declares : inform the defence before the opening lead that a special treatment applies to a self-alerting bid. If asked, explain the treatment FULLY including positive and negative inferences which developed during the auction

2) Your side defends : do nothing unless asked by declarer when you explain FULLY

The Bulletin

I'm back at the same old stand for an twelfth year and once again I'll be trying to do the same thing and, no doubt, once again failing. What I try to do each year is to provide interesting material about the bridge played this week and to involve as many players as possible. I always hope that the Bulletin will NOT be a record of the exploits of only the experts and that it will report interesting and / or amusing hands from the "ordinary" player.

Sadly, I am not optimistic. My experience is that it is very difficult to get stories from the non-expert. The experts are (generally) very willing to admit to their occasional lunacies and (astonishingly enough) even more willing to admit to their brilliancies. The non-expert seems to be less forthcoming about both of the "two imposters" - triumph and disaster. If you have a success, please tell me. If the wheels fall off in a spectacular fashion, please share it with everyone.

As usual there are a number of Bulletin prizes for which you can aim. For the writers amongst you, there are two prizes for the best articles. Write your offering and put it in the Bulletin box on the Congress desk. There is no need to laboriously transcribe the full hand - simply make a reference (eg NZ Pairs, qualifying, session2, hand 21).



Once again, we are fortunate enough to have obtained sponsorship from **BABICH WINES** for the Play of the Day Award and ultimately the Play of the Week Award. Babich is a top quality Henderson vintner whose winery is well worth a visit when you're in West Auckland. The company has been on board for several years and has generously agreed to sponsor the awards again this year. Each day, a hand of particular interest will lead to one player being responsible for the Play of the Day and that player will score a bottle of our sponsor's exceptional product. At the end of the week, one play will be selected as Play of the Week and the key performer will collect 4 bonus bottles. In previous years, the Play of the Day winners have been a happy mixture of nationally ranked players and others without a national profile.

Although some expert performances have been at the highest technical level, this is not a prerequisite for a **BABICH** award. What matters is that the hand should be intrinsically interesting. If you come across one of these - either as exponent or as victim PLEASE tell me.

Finally, of course, there is the "Even Homer Nods Award" - this goes annually to the expert who manages to make the biggest prat of him or herself - in a bridge sense of course

A Man of Elastic Resolve?

Auckland international Pat Carter showed a certain elasticity of purpose in this one from round 3 of the Interprovincials.

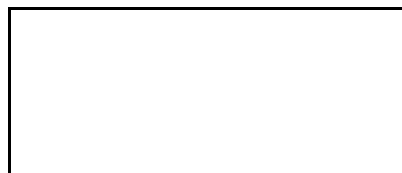
Interprovincials 3/12

Dealer : W

Vul : NS

♠ 6 3
♥ 10 5
♦ J 10 9 4
♣ Q J 10 8 2

♠ A Q 9
♥ Q J 9
♦ A K 8 6
♣ A K 7



♠ K 8 7 2
♥ A 8 7 2
♦ 7
♣ 9 6 4 3

♠ J 10 5 4
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ Q 5 3 2
♣ 5

After Julie Atkinson had passed as dealer, North opened proceedings with a Precision club and Patrick had a *good idea!* He overcalled 1♦ which asked Julie to nominate her better major - Patrick was already thinking ahead to the defence. Julie's preference would enable him to select this suit as his lead against a no trump contract. Why guess when you can enlist partner's assistance?

South doubled showing a semi-positive and Julie decided (after some careful arithmetic) that 15 was better than 9 and therefore offered 1♥. This ran round to South who doubled to show hearts and this put the ball firmly back in Patrick's lap. The opponents seemed happy with his majors so Patrick bid his splendid club suit. South passed and Julie raised the ante with a 3♣ bid. North doubled again but South offered 3♠ and 3NT from North ended a somewhat convoluted auction.

Having decided to enlist Julie's help in selecting his major lead against 3NT, when the time came, Patrick immediately chose a club and the sun set on +200. What's that about changing mounts in midstream?

Mind you, not all of Patrick's adventures were as successful. In the next round came this one:

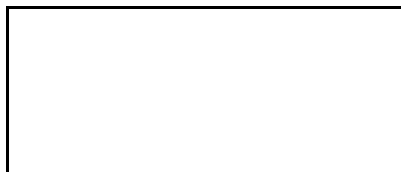
Interprovincials 4/22

Dealer : E

Vul : EW

♠ J 7 6
♥ A J 8 4
♦ 8 4
♣ 9 8 7 3

♠ Q 5
♥ 7
♦ A J 10 3
♣ A K Q J 4 2



♠ A K 10 8
♥ K Q 10 8
♦ Q 9 5 2
♣ 6

♠ 9 4 3 2
♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ K 7 6
♣ 10 5

Patrick opened a 14+ 1♣ and Julie replied 1♥ to show a maximum of 6. North shot the 9 trick game.

Patrick led the King of hearts and Julie encouraged so, of course, Patrick switched to the Ace of spades. The King of spades scored the third defensive trick and now Patrick played a heart to Julie's Ace and declarer's ruff. A club was played to dummy's 10 and another spade ruff followed. Two top trumps saw North on lead in this position

Interprovincials 4/22

Dealer : E

Vul : EW

♠
♥ J 8
♦ 8 4
♣ 9

♠
♥
♦ A J 10 3
♣ Q



♠ 10
♥
♦ Q 9 5 2
♣

♠ 9
♥ 6
♦ K 7 6
♣

Declarer knew that Patrick almost certainly had the Queen of diamonds (because of Julie's 6 point maximum) and so the finesse was marked. The last trump was, indeed, the last trump for Patrick's defensive prospects as he was squeezed in the pointed suits.

Board 2

Round 3 of the InterPs saw this little number hit the table. The possibilities seem endless.

Interprovincials 3/2

Dealer : E

Vul NS

♠ A Q 10 8 7 3

♥ K 9 7 5 2

♦ Q 4

♣

♠ J 9 4

♥ 10 6

♦ K 7 6 5 3

♣ K 9 5



♠ 6

♥ A J

♦ A J 10

♣ A Q J 8 7 3 2

♠ K 5 2

♥ Q 8 4 3

♦ 9 8 2

♣ 10 6 4

Firstly, what contract do you want to play? Deepfinesse has 6S and 6NT making while 5H and 5C are the limits in those flavours. Somehow, no trumps on this screaming misfit feels wrong so let's say you aim for 6S. I asked six prominent players to bid these for me (with only one regular partnership). They bid as follows:

West	East
	1♣
1♠	2♦
2♥	3♣
3♥	3NT
4♠	

West	East
	1♣
1♠	3♣
3♥	3NT
4♥	

West	East
	1♣
1♠	2♦
2♠	3♣
3♦	5♣

Hmmm, interesting 3 different suits - no slam anywhere, disappointing from 3 open interprovincial players, 2 womens internationals and a senior international. .

Ah well. Can anyone reach 6♠? Yes they can - the 24 year partnership of Martin and Afra van der Velden - 24 years that is in *combined* age. Their auction - with Martin (11) sitting West and Afra (my mother would never forgive me if I revealed a lady's age, so you do the subtraction) East.

Martin	Afra
	1♣
1♠	3♣
3♠	4♣
4♥	5♣
5♥	5NT
6♠	

Not, perhaps a thing of great beauty but, at least it reaches a rewarding contract - provided you can make it, of course.

How to play it from amongst the multitude of alternatives?

Since declarer can play the trumps for one loser by finessing the Queen on the first

round, the issue is the red suit losers. The diamond finesse is a *sine qua non* - it MUST be right. So that's one heart pitch accounted for and the Ace of clubs gives a second. The third though is more problematic. Alan Turner and Tony Fitzgerald, who analysed the hand for me, both admit that they would have gone down - they would have taken a ruffing finesse in clubs in an attempt to dispose of the last heart loser - unlucky. The successful line is to play the Jack of hearts off table collecting the Queen and pinning North's 10. The 9 now ceases to be a loser.

Martin van der Velden received a trump lead and when North was in with the third trump a heart switch saw Martin score his slam.



PLAY OF THE DAY

Disappointingly, I don't feel that I have been given a hand of sufficient interest to merit a bottle of **BABICH's** superb wine, so I'll put today's bottle in the bank and look for a day on which there are two contenders.

Remember the Play of the Day doesn't have to go to an expert. If you come across a particularly interesting hand then please tell me about it and you could be a winner.



WINE OF THE DAY

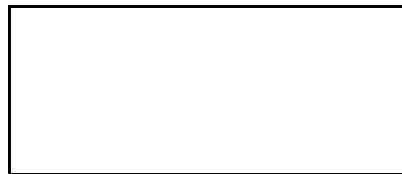
BABICH HAWKE'S BAY SAUVIGNON BLANC 2004

A rich, intensely flavoured, Sauvignon Blanc that proves a versatile partner for many dishes. A perfect match to any kind of seafood. Try it with oysters, grilled with slivers of prosciutto.

IP 9 / 7
Dealer : S
Vul: All

♠ Q 10 8 3
♥ J 4 2
♦ J 7 6
♣ 7 5 2

♠ J 7
♥ A K 10 9 5 3
♦ A 10 5
♣ 4 3



♠ K 9 5 4
♥ Q
♦ K 8 4 2
♣ K Q 8 6

♠ A 6 2
♥ 8 7 6
♦ Q 9 3
♣ A J 10 9

Bobby Richman was interested by this one. Grant Jarvis was playing 3NT from East and Margaret Perley led the 10 of clubs, showing 0 or 2 higher. This ran to Grant's King and he now had to decide how to play the hearts.

Bobby thinks that he, himself, might well have overtaken the Queen with the Ace, succeeding against a short Jack and not losing out to Jack fourth. He would then be able to clear the hearts while maintaining a diamond entry. North's Jack of hearts would enable Murat Genc to play a second club, but small from Grant would then see Margaret under pressure. Any black card would be fatal to the defence, as would the 3 of diamonds. Would Margaret have found the Queen or 9 of diamonds? We'll never know. Fortunately for his captain's peace of mind, Grant cashed the Queen of hearts and the 3 - 3 break ended the problem.