

Table Talk

Otago Bridge Club: July 2008

From the Club president

1. Coffee machine USE IT OR LOSE IT

We are losing too much money from the coffee machine and may have to remove it if usage does not go up (remember we have to cover the cost of rental for December and January when playing nights are down).

2. If there is a * by your name on the results table it is because you have not paid your sub, and you have to be removed from the computer as otherwise we need to pay your levy. If you think you have in fact paid, especially by internet banking, please see or ring Pat Dickson ASAP.

3. Apologies for the wasted teams night on Monday 23 June. The final round of the Swiss will now be held on Monday 7 July and there will be no table money charged.

Lindsay Lawrence

News of a former member

Pamela Nisbet playing with Karen Cumpstone, also of New Zealand were members of a 6-person team that won the Canadian Women's Teams Championships. For Pamela, a member of the Otago Bridge Club from 1978-1996, this was her third win in a row and each with a different partner. This qualifies Pamela for a third consecutive year of Canadian Women's representation, this year in the Mind Sport Olympiad in Beijing, China.

Pamela lives near Toronto in a small town called Cobourg. Her daughter, Alexandra, 18, has been with her since she arrived in Canada 7.5 years ago. They both become Canadian citizens at the

end of April this year and now have dual citizenship. Evelyn, 19, Pamela's older daughter went to live with her mother and sister a few years ago and the three of them live together. Pamela works as a Director of Nursing for a large nursing home in Toronto and commutes daily from Cobourg.

Wednesday all-comers

We encourage all players to come along on Wednesday nights. Each night is a stand-alone match (a change from what is in your book).

While the Wednesday Reserved Division is not open to players from Senior and open Divisions, anyone may play on a Wednesday. We play either at the back of the Larnach Room if numbers are small, or in the Hudson Room.

Since there are no Pairs Champs being played (except in Junior) in July, take the chance to mix and match on Wednesday night and be fresh for your busy Fridays!

Our readers write

Dear Suspicious in the Cargill Room,

I assume from your letter in May's issue of Table Talk that you are not au fait with the intricacies of the card-dealing machine. May I politely suggest that you offer your services, even if for only once a week for a minimum of six months, to assist with this, and hence see how the cards are dealt. Card-dealing is one of the behind-the-scenes jobs done by volunteers which is not only taken for granted but also necessary for the rest of us to enjoy our bridge.

I'm sure the card-dealers would love an extra person to share their load.

An ex card-dealer.

A psychedelic trip to the Taieri

On Saturday 14th June, Taieri Bridge Club held its annual 5A pairs tournament. Fourteen tables were in play for the day, attracting a mixed field.

Only one appeal was made, and for once, it wasn't even instigated by a youth player!

A couple of hands reported here produced outstanding opportunities, for those who do so occasionally, to roll out a wee psyche bid! Board 32 in the first session produced the following:

Dealer: W	♠ AKJT9	Vul: E-W
	♥ KJ5	
	♦ J8	
	♣ AQ5	
♠ void		♠ 642
♥ T9		♥ 8432
♦ AKQT432		♦ 765
♣ T873		♣ 964
	♠ Q8753	
	♥ AQ76	
	♦ 9	
	♣ KJ2	

West	North	East	South
S. Bailey		Fudge	
3♦ ¹	Dbl	3NT ²	4♠
End			

¹ A dazzling pre-empt by anyone's standards; ² Mandatory 3NT - psychedelic?

My partner Sam Bailey usually makes quite sound pre-empts, thus I was delighted in some ways to hold the cards I did as East. Over North's Double, a cheeky wee 3NT bid - "transfer to 4♦ if I get Doubled in 3NT" was rolled out. The fact that East/West were actually Vulnerable made it just that wee bit more believable, despite East having a 4333 ("topper") Yarborough! A claim for 12 tricks at trick one ensued after the natural ♦A lead, upon which the psyche was indeed revealed when the rock-crushing dummy hit. Just 16 match points out of a possible 25 were earned for my troubles, as few North/South pairs were bidding up their cards.

A psyche bid in the second session by Nick Bailey

(Sam's older brother), with partner James Coutts yielded the desired effect. Though this time he pretended he held length in a spade suit when he in fact didn't. For fear of creating my own Who-ever Is Offended club, the deal in question is not written up. The mandatory filing of the appropriate paper work (the psyche bid form) by both psychers meant that was the end of it for this tournament for deliberate ones at least!

The final hand (Board 1) while on the theme of psyches occurred this time against Nick and James in session two, where an opponent may as well have psyched - by slow-playing a monster hand, causing Nick to be 'fished up' by our South on this hand:

Dealer: N	♠ J9762	Vul: None
	♥ A74	
	♦ 54	
	♣ AK6	
♠ KQ		♠ A3
♥ 6		♥ QJT83
♦ QJ932		♦ T6
♣ QJ872		♣ T943
	♠ T854	
	♥ KJ52	
	♦ AK87	
	♣ 5	

West	North	East	South
	1♠ ¹	Pass	2♠ ¹
2NT ²	Pass	3♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♣ ³	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl ⁴	End

¹ Usually shows 6-9 HCP; ³ Unusual 2NT; ³ Transfer to 4♠; ⁴ Speculative - "This can hardly make 10 tricks on this auction"

In a competitive auction, South initially gave a single raise to her partner's 1♠ opening, while actually holding a limit raise (invitational hand) with an 11 count and a singleton. South eventually raised herself to game after some prodding

by East, which should have been her first bid. This was not surprisingly Doubled by Nick on the basis that this auction does not exist. He also held some useful cards and his partner had already made a bid. 4♠ doubled making 10 tricks was the result.

It just goes to show that youth players who occasionally dish out some of the psyches are on the receiving end too! East/West indeed got a bad board, due to South lurking in the bushes with her hand which was understated twice during the auction, hence the application of a speculative penalty double due to the unusual auction.

A brave redouble by Sam on this deal meant all the match points were earned for floating in 2♥ redoubled on board 1 in the first session:

Dealer: N	♠ A62	Vul: None
	♥ JT8	
	♦ KQ74	
	♣ Q52	
♠ void		♠ QT8743
♥ A752		♥ Q964
♦ J8652		♦ A9
♣ KJ64		♣ 7
		♠ KJ95
		♥ K3
		♦ T3
		♣ AT983

West	North	East	South
S. Bailey		Fudge	
	1NT	2♣ ¹	Dbl
2♥ ²	Dbl	Pass	Pass
ReDbl ³	End		

¹ Long ♦ or both Majors; ² Pass or correct to 3♦; ³ Bring it on!

On the ♠A lead, eight tricks were wrapped up via three spade ruffs in hand, two red Aces, ♣K (small off table, rising Ace King now established), club ruff and eventually another heart becoming good on the table.

This next hand was unlucky for South who had made a good overcall only to find a nasty break when East was able to back in with a takeout double after West passed in tempo in this sequence:

West	North	East	South
S. Bailey		Fudge	
	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Dealer: N	♠ 3	Vul: N-S
	♥ KJ52	
	♦ T9853	
	♣ K85	
♠ KT8752		♠ 9
♥ 9876		♥ AQ4
♦ K		♦ A742
♣ 97		♣ AJ643
		♠ AKJ64
		♥ J3
		♦ QJ6
		♣ QT2

The ♣9 lead was ducked round to declarer's Queen. A diamond from hand produced the King from Sam, who then played his remaining club to my Ace. ♣6 return (suit preference for ♥s) produced a ruff from partner. Back floated the ♥8 through dummy's King before the ♠9 was returned. Eventually the ♦A scored, as well as ruffs for partner in the minors, leading to down two for +500.

Sam and I went on to win the tournament giving Sam his first tournament win. Second was Paul Freeland and Margaret Perley, while in third was Bob Lawrence and John Mosley. The usual extraordinary catering was maintained by Taieri at morning and afternoon tea, making it an enjoyable day out.

Jared Fudge

Unblock

This was a fascinating hand in the Monday Swiss Teams competition on 26 May.

Dealer: E	♠ 96	Vul: Both
	♥ KJT	
	♦ 9763	
	♣ AK75	
♠ Q87543		♠ JT2
♥ 7432	W N E	♥ AQ9865
♦ KJ	W S	♦ QT4
♣ 2		♣ 8
	♠ AK	
	♥ VOID	
	♦ A852	
	♣ QJT9643	

At my table East (Margaret Perley) opened 2♥ and I (South) overcalled a rather anaemic 3♣ (well, my partner Anne-Marie Russell does not usually provide me with AKxx of my suits – she has better things to do with her time than pandering to my grandiose visions). After West passed she made the practical call of 3NT which would have made comfortably. Paul Freeland, he who features in our National Anthem and not known for one who goes quietly, then valiantly supported his partner to 4♥. Anne-Marie doubled and the contract was defeated by two tricks. We had missed our vulnerable 5♣ game but I imagined that the result would have been a fairly normal one.

The next day Dennis McCaughan told me of the hand as it played out at his table. Dennis was South and his right-hand opponent also began with 2♥. But Dennis was made of sterner stuff than me and his first venture was a bold 5♣ (perhaps his partner Nina Hewitt is better at holding good cards than Anne-Marie is). Nina reckoned that her trump holding might, with luck, produce two tricks that Dennis had not reckoned on and so raised to 6♣.

Should the contract be made? Deep Finesse said no – but DF can see through the backs of the cards

and so his application to join the club would certainly be refused. West, naturally enough led their partner's suit. Dummy's J♥ was covered by Q♥ and Dennis ruffed. A club to the Ace drew all opposing trumps and another heart was led from dummy. This was covered and ruffed again so establishing a heart winner in dummy.

Dennis went to dummy with a trump and led the winning heart, discarding a diamond from his own hand. Next came A♦ and the two top spades. The key moment of the hand had just passed – did you notice it?

To defeat the contract at this stage West has to drop K♦ under the Ace! Their failure to do that enabled Dennis to play a second diamond that West had to win. West then had to lead a spade or a heart allowing a ruff in dummy and discard of final diamond from declarer's hand. Had West made the inspired play of dropping the K♦ then East could have won the second diamond and exited safely with another diamond.

Is it reasonable to find that sparkling defence? On the whole I think perhaps not. At the point that A♦ is played it is not clear what declarer's hand is. Maybe Dennis had Q♦ and T♦ rather than the top spade honours – in that case dropping K♦ is a blunder. But note how different the situation is if Dennis had played the two spade honours *before* playing A♦; now it is perfectly possible to find the correct defence since, from East's count signals, West can infer South's shape as 2-0-4-7 and now dropping K♦ praying for East's actual holding is the only chance to avoid the end-play.

Mike Atkinson

Help!

We welcome your input for *Table Talk*. While Michael Albert is away (his ~~holiday~~ sabbatical is until January 2009) send submissions to Mike Atkinson (profmda@gmail.com).