



Taieri Bridge Club: February 2014

Issue no. 176

1 Recent hands

We are well into the 2014 bridge season. The New Year Pairs was won by Donna Ruwhiu and Kristen Collins. On the last night this hand came up.

Board 24	♠ AT53										
West dealer	♥ KQJ63										
None vul	♦ K3										
	♣ A4										
♠ —	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ —
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ —		♥ —									
♦ —		♦ —									
♣ —		♣ —									
	♠ K8										
	♥ A8										
	♦ AQT85										
	♣ QT92										

I'll give you the East-West hands below but what do you think the common contract was? Not surprisingly, given that no suit resulted in an 8 card fit, most pairs played in no-trumps. Interestingly, the best contract is 6♥ since an extra trick is easily obtained by ruffing a spade with ♥8. How South should play the contract of 6NT on a heart lead (the only lead that gives nothing away). Assuming that hearts are good for 5 tricks how should declare approach the hand? First count your tricks: 2 spades, 5 hearts, 3 diamonds and 1 club makes 11 tricks. Where

is a 12th trick going to come from? Obviously the best chance is diamonds:- all you need is a 4-2 break and you can establish your 5th diamond. So play ♦K and a diamond to your Ace. Disappointingly East shows out. What now?

Your easiest chance is to play towards the ♣Q hoping that the ♣K is on your right. Here a bit of psychology could help. When you play ♣4 from dummy you might notice a hesitation from East. This could mean that East has ♣K and is uncertain about whether to play it (it could also mean that East is an unethical player but let's not go there). But let's imagine that East plays low without a flicker. So you play ♣T and are disappointed to see it lose to the ♣J. Later on in the play you find that East does have ♣K and your contract fails. Be sure to congratulate East for giving you a losing guess.

But let's rewind: can you do better? In fact what you should do before making the club play is to play 5 rounds of hearts - throwing one spade, 1 diamond and one club from your hand. You will see West follow twice in hearts and then discard one diamond, ♣6 and ♣8. Doesn't West look like a player guarding spades and diamonds? Now it is more likely that you will make the correct guess in clubs. Here is the full hand:

Board 24
 West dealer
 None vul

♠ Q94	♠ AT53	♠ J762
♥ T9	♥ KQJ63	♥ 7542
♦ J9762	♦ K3	♦ 4
♣ J86	♣ A4	♣ K753

♠ K8		
♥ A8		
♦ AQT85		
♣ QT92		



West was in a bind. If she had discarded spades instead of clubs you would have been none the wiser. But, be honest, wouldn't you have discarded clubs too? It might be essential to keep your spade guard.

2 Club news and comments

Two items from the tail-end of 2013. First, the Xmas BBQ - was very successful. Thanks to all attended it. Great to have something different. The second is that there are two trophies missing from Monday night sessions; one was from a three night match and the other was from the Christmas Pairs. Could all

members please recheck at home to see if they have something they should have returned?

The Club is actively trying to recruit new members as these are the lifeblood for the future. We have produced a new brochure and it would be really appreciated if you know of noticeboards where they could be placed; it would be great if you could do your bit to help.

The Club has received an anonymous donation from a generous supporter. We are going to use the donation to buy a new computer.

We are selling bottled glasses of Savignon Blanc at the end of the evening games; this is a trial to see how members like this.

Lessons are going to start on Tuesday 11th March, 7.30 pm at Club rooms. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to contact Val Wilson if interested in attending the lessons. The cost is \$20.00

The Club has been sent a very useful 18 page booklet from the Christchurch Bridge Club. It is about "protocols" and covers lots of topics that, ideally, everyone should know but, in practice, we hardly ever do! If you would like to see the booklet please ask Barbara Wilkes.

Finally, members are reminded that subs are now due. Thanks!

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