



Taieri Bridge Club: June 2014

Issue no. 180

1 Taieri A point tournament

On 8 June the club ran its annual A point tournament. Frank Gradon directed proceedings with his usual competence, the food prepared by members and served during the day was extremely tasty, and a field of 11 tables had a very enjoyable day. Winners were Sam Coutts and Sam Bailey who had a storming second session of 68.33%.

Board 1 of the afternoon session saw a hand where only one pair bid to the good contract of 6♠.

Board 1	♠ QJ95	
North dealer	♥ 7	
None vul	♦ AT63	
	♣ AQ85	
♠ 843		♠ 62
♥ J943		♥ KQT2
♦ J87		♦ K52
♣ J76		♣ T942
	♠ AKT7	
	♥ A865	
	♦ Q94	
	♣ K3	

Let's consider the play first with South as declarer on, say, a trump lead. You might like to cover up the East-West hands and think what you should do.

Ready?

The key to the hand is North's singleton heart which will allow you to ruff hearts. You have 3 small hearts but you only need to ruff two of them since the third can be discarded on one of North's club honours. But you can't therefore afford to draw trumps immediately since two of North's trumps are needed for ruffing. Since you need to lose only trick you have to play diamonds for one loser only and I'll return to this once we get the heart ruffs sorted.

So, win the opening trump lead, play the A♥ and ruff a heart. Return to your hand with a trump and ruff another heart. If the opponents have followed to both rounds of trumps so far there will be just one outstanding trump and you can draw it now (if not, see below!).

Time to think about diamonds. You have Q94 opposite AT63 and want to get three tricks. The missing honors are the King and Jack and there are 4 ways these might lie. West might have both, East might have both, West might have the King and East the Jack, or West might have the Jack and East the King. You have two options each about as good as one another.

The first option is to lead the Queen from your hand, playing low in dummy. If East wins the King you subsequently lead low towards dummy again this time playing the ten. All will be well unless East has both the King and Jack – 25% of the time.

The second option is to first lead a low diamond from dummy; if East does not play the King then you play the Queen. If West wins the King then, when you regain the lead, lead a low dia-

mond towards the ten. This line fails only when West has King and East has the Jack – again 25% of the time.

You have to choose one or other of these options and stick to it. For example, if you have chosen option 1 and East has won the King, don't panic and try to drop the Jack – that's against the odds.

Returning to the trumps: what if trumps have divided badly and one opponent has shown out on the second round. It is possible to draw all the trumps but dangerous to do so because, as you play the diamonds, one opponent might win a diamond and cash a heart trick. So you must play one round of diamonds (in either option) before drawing the final trumps leaving a trump in dummy to take care of a heart lead.

Finally, what about the bidding? Since North is the dealer the auction will begin 1♣ - 1♥ - 1♠ and now South has a decision. If you are playing a basic system then really you can't do much other than bid 4♠ which will likely conclude the auction. If you are playing the fourth-suit-forcing convention you can bid 2♦ to create a game-forcing situation and subsequently support spades. In the end however it is quite hard for North to appreciate their singleton heart so reaching slam is difficult. Had South been the dealer things are much easier. Here North's singleton heart is easier to evaluate. For example:

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(In this auction I have assumed you are playing some Ace-

asking 4NT convention where 5♦ shows 0 or 3 key cards.

2 Club news and comments

New members We welcome our new members: Elisabeth Cunningham, Allan Lyall, Sue Adam and Donna Wakefield who all attended our lessons. Also a welcome to Sharon Van Turnout.

Tournaments The Hospice Tournament raised \$1204.70 for a great cause. The latest 5A Graded Pairs Tournament had about 11 tables competing and made approximately \$500. Our next Tournament is the Taieri Graded Pairs on 26th July and then the Cancer Society Charity Tournament is on 18th August.

Catering We are looking for someone or a group that may be interested in taking over organising the catering for the August Tournaments onwards. Please approach one of the committee if interested.

Toilets The Club is in the process of applying for funding to upgrade the Ladies Toilets.

Personal score cards Personal score slips will soon be printed at the end of play so best get into the practice of filling out a Personal score card to check results.

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