



Taieri Bridge Club: June 2015

1 Recent Club Hands

The final round of the Mosgiel Woollen Plate featured a hand that was notable in that 5 out of the 7 pairs bid and made a small slam in no-trumps.

Board 19
South dealer
EW vul

♠ 2		♠ AT5									
♥ QJ97642		♥ AK8									
♦ Q53		♦ AKT2									
♣ T6		♣ Q85									
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	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♠ Q9873									
		♥ 5									
		♦ 964									
		♣ 9743									
		♠ KJ64									
		♥ T3									
		♦ J87									
		♣ AKJ2									

At most tables South would have opened 1NT and North will have raised immediately to 6NT. It is an interesting question whether West would have overcalled preemptively with 3♥ and I will return to this later. The play does not seem to offer any especially difficult problems. Declarer has 10 top tricks and needs two more; finesses are available in diamonds and spades. How should she go about it?

The main realization is that the diamond finesse can be taken only through West, while the spade finesse can be taken against

either opponent. That means that you should try the diamond finesse first because you might, by playing on diamonds and on the other suits, work out enough to tell which way to take the spade finesse.

So let's see what might happen. You get the ♡Q lead. You win it and play four rounds of clubs. This shows that West began with two clubs only. Now you advance the ♦J, West covers and you win. So far so good; your trick count is now up to 11. Better yet, when you play all the diamonds you find they break 3-3 so your 12th trick is now secure. So how do you go for your overtrick; i.e. how do you play the spades?

You should play your remaining heart winner first. You will see East show out! So now you know West began with 2 clubs, 3 diamonds, and 7 hearts; so West has only 1 spade. You therefore have a sure play. Play ♠A to collect West's solitary spade and play a spade to your ♠J.

Finally: should West overcall the initial 1NT bid? I am myself a fairly conservative bidder so, as the vulnerability is unfavorable, I would say No. But, if you do overcall, you should bid 3♥ rather than 2♥ as the latter ought to promise more values.

On the penultimate night of the same competition there was this hand

Board 19
South dealer
EW vul

♠ A964
♥ 853
♦ T95
♣ KT9

♠ KT3
♥ 72
♦ KQ42
♣ J875

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ QJ872
♥ T6
♦ AJ863
♣ A

♠ 5
♥ AKQJ94
♦ 7
♣ Q6432

According to Deep Finesse North-South can make game in spades and East-West can make game in hearts! North-South have an easy road to ten tricks. It looks as though East-West should make 11 tricks because, after drawing trumps, declarer (East) will play a club towards the King and South's singleton Ace will beat air; after that the clubs can be ruffed out. But there is a way to hold the East-West contract to ten tricks only. South, on lead, leads the ♣A and then underleads the ♦A to collect a club ruff. That's not going to be easy to find!

Our Charity Tournament for the Otago Hospice had a good turnout of 17 tables. Congratulations to the winners Derek and Edie Tingle.

2 Club news and comments

CountDown There was another resource consent hearing for the new proposed Countdown Supermarket. Eve spoke at this. We still need to wait for a decision from the DCC.

Lights If you are the last person leaving and locking up the bridge club - please remember to check that all lights are switched off.

New members We welcome 3 new members who have just completed the lessons: Jan Kelly, Annette Ellwood and Olga Corlett. Any members that would be happy to play with these learners on a Monday night should contact Christine Samson to arrange dates etc.

Committee discussion Discussion was held by the committee about the possibility of only having one night of playing but within that night having two divisions. If you have any comments to make about this please ensure you pass them on to a committee member. For this to go further it would need to be voted and passed at the next AGM in November this year.

Championship Pairs Last Wednesday's Championship pairs match has been cancelled. The qualifying rules will no longer stand. The new rule is that players now have to play eight nights and the pairs best six scores will count.

Mike Atkinson

profmda@gmail.com