



## Taieri Bridge Club: March 2014

Issue no. 177

### 1 From the Championship Pairs

The 2014 Wednesday Championship Pairs started with some very interesting hands. One of the most unusual was Board 19:

Board 19	♠ J2	
South dealer	♥ 87	
EW vul	♦ KT9764	
	♣ 985	
♠ A976		♠ Q84
♥ K4		♥ AQJT632
♦ AQ85		♦ -
♣ KT3		♣ QJ6
	♠ KT53	
	♥ 95	
	♦ J32	
	♣ A742	

At my table I was West and opened 1NT (15–17). My partner Donna Ruwhiu trotted out a gadget I had just learned from her: she bid 2♠ which was either an inquiry as to how good my 1NT was or a slam-going hand with a long suit. I bid 3♦ to show the upper end of my range with better diamonds than clubs and she then blasted 6♥.

It was a not unreasonable auction but the contract was a poor one with, seemingly, a spade and a club to lose. However, Donna is not one to lose heart (after all, she had 7 of them!!). The easiest chance is that one opponent has three diamonds headed by

the King in which case the ♦K can be ruffed out. That was the hope that Donna seized on. After the ♣A lead she drew trumps and led a small diamond from dummy. North flew with the ♦K and it was all over. Agreed: North was faced with a difficult decision but should have worked out why declarer was playing diamonds this way (holding just one diamond she would surely not lose an unnecessary trick in diamonds, and holding two or more diamonds she would try the diamond finesse).

Of course, as the ♦K does not fall in 3 rounds this line should not have succeeded. There is another, more remote, possibility: if South holds both K♦ and K♠ a squeeze is possible (so long as declarer can read the situation accurately). Declarer can play for this 4 card ending:

	♠?	
	♥?	
	♦?	
	♣?	
♠ A9		♠ Q84
♥ -		♥ 2
♦ AQ		♦ -
♣ -		♣ -
	♠ Kx	
	♥ -	
	♦ Kx	
	♣ -	

Now when the last heart is played South must unguarded one

their Kings.

Another cracking hand was Board 20:

Board 20	♠AQ5	
West dealer	♥ AKT84	
Both vul	♦ AQ2	
	♣ QJ	
♠KT64		♠9732
♥ J		♥ 73
♦ K9		♦ 8653
♣ K97642		♣ T83
	♠J8	
	♥ Q9652	
	♦ JT74	
	♣ A5	

No pair was in the attractive 6♥ contract. How good is that contract? You seem to have a possible loser in each of the non-trump suits so, superficially, you require two out of three finesses to succeed. But that is misleading. After (say) a trump lead you should finish drawing trumps and start by taking the diamond finesse. If it succeeds you may be home already if diamonds behave well. If it loses you can still use your fourth diamond to discard a club and then rely on the spade finesse.

## 2 Club news and comments

**NZBridge System Card** From 28 February it becomes compulsory for ALL tournament players to carry the new NZB

System Card - the club is sourcing some of these cards so keep a look out. There is also an editable e-version of the card (complete with a comprehensive help file) on the NZBridge website which players can use.

**NZBridge Mailing List** New Zealand Bridge is still wanting to encourage more members to join the NZ Bridge Mailing list. The link is also available at [www.nzbridge.co.nz](http://www.nzbridge.co.nz).

**New members** We welcome our new members Wayne & Joan Petch, and Jan Palmer.

**Taieri Open B Tournament** Don't forget our Taieri Open B Pairs Tournament on 22nd March. We are looking for those that wish to enter to get in prior to 20th March - all welcome. We are also looking for members to help with baking and helping on the day. Don't forget your grocery item for the raffle.

**Easter weekend fun night** A suggestion that we will try out is that on the next fun night at Easter weekend (Monday night) we will have partners drawn out - a great way to meet and play with different partners.

**Membership drive** Please encourage members that you may not have seen for a while to come back to bridge. Members are the club's lifeline and it certainly is more fun with a few extra people to mingle and compete with.

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