



1 Championship pairs hands

The 2013 Championship Pairs competition was won convincingly by John Sheehy and Robert Cowan. Congratulations to them both. There were a number of interesting hands on the final night of the competition. One of them was

Board 13
North dealer
Both vul

♠ QJ63		♠ 4
♥ J3		♥ A865
♦ QJ542		♦ A
♣ 52		♣ KQJT764

♠ AK85

♥ Q72

♦ K7

♣ A983

♠ T972		
♥ KT94		
♦ T9863		
♣ -		

The North hand – only 14HCP – is very powerful. Acol players will begin

1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass

and then the North hand is worth a reverse bid of $2\heartsuit$. This confirms that the opening bid was a genuine suit and now South can drive to the slam in clubs. Precision players have a harder task because their auctions will begin

2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥

(where 2♣ shows 11–15 HCP and clubs, and the 2♦ response asks for a 4 card major). Now South is in a quandary as she doesn't know how good North's hand is. At teams scoring she may well explore a club slam but the danger at match-point pairs is that 5♣ is an inferior contract to 3NT. If, pragmatically, she simply bids 3NT should North persist with 4♣ or even 6♣? I was North and cravenly passed. Twelve tricks are routine and, if North plays the hand on a heart lead, she will take all the tricks if she guesses to play the ♥Q.

This hand is one where a natural system like Acol is superior to Precision. If you are used to Acol and occasionally feel intimidated by opponents playing a more artificial system you should take heart. My uninformed opinion is that Acol is a great system for beginning players, Precision is good for when you think your bidding needs a bit more discipline, and Acol is again superior when you have become an expert bidder.

2 Club news and comments

AGM The AGM was duly held on Sunday 10th November with 23 members attending. The main item to note is that the fees are increasing to cover the increase of levies set at national levy. New levies will be \$65.00 which includes \$23.00 national levies. For a full copy of the minutes look on our

website under November minutes.

2014 Committee Election of officers: President: Val Wilson, Vice President (filling in) Judy Robertson, Secretary Barbara Wilkes, Treasurer Barbara Wilkes. Committee members: Jenny Magee, Christine Samson, Pam Wood, Colleen Fletcher, Bob Gillanders. Welcome to new committee members Bob Gillanders and Colleen Fletcher . The new committee will be looking to recruit new members and encourage old members to return to active players. Look out for the new flyers that you may be able to help with distributing while out and about.

Christmas Party The Xmas party night will be held on Wednesday 18th December with a theme of Sparkles Unlimited. A BBQ will be organised starting from 6 pm. Listen out for more details closer to be night. Numbers will need to be confirmed by 11th December. Look out for a list on the notice board to add your name if you are attending.

2014 subscription The subscription for next year has been increased to \$65. The reason for this has been a large increase in the NZBridge levy which we have had to pass on. There will also be no prompt payment discount any more.

New Zealand Bridge web site New Zealand Bridge are asking for members to joint their website to get updates. By

joining the mailing list you will directly assist upcoming endeavours to recruit and retain members; and other important strategies. For example, it will be possible to build communications with beginners, indeed all sections of affiliated members. As soon as you can please join the mailing list by opening their web page on www.nzbridge.co.nz in the Enewsletter section.

Working Bee A working bee was held on the 2nd November. The garden was given a healthy tidy up and the windows received a similar treatment. Many thanks to those that attended, the workers and of course the ladies who provided a welcome yummy tea break. I am sure we all agree the clubroom and grounds look much better for the attention.

Prizes / Cups and Trophies It's that time of the year again when you need to return the Cups and Trophies to the club for the engraving for this year's prizes. Please check your mantles and cupboards and return these items as soon as possible.

Phone numbers If you change your phone numbers, please let Barbara Wilkes, or another committee member know asap; we would like to ensure that the phone numbers in the new programmes are as up to date as possible.

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