



Taieri Bridge Club: October 2015

Issue no. 195

1 From the Championship Pairs

The October Wednesday Championship Pairs featured an exercise in hand evaluation:

Board 1	♠ KJ8	
North dealer	♥ KJ8	
None vul	♦ 9762	
	♣ AT6	
♠ Q6		♠ T932
♥ Q9752		♥ A4
♦ J85		♦ KQT3
♣ Q95		♣ 873
	♠ A754	
	♥ T63	
	♦ A4	
	♣ KJ42	

The contract was 2NT at 6 tables and 3NT at 3 tables. I would expect an auction

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North had to decide whether to accept the invitation. It is a very close decision. On the one hand she only has 12 HCP. On the other hand there are some good spot cards and with the major suit ten aces there might be a free trick in the lead. To be honest, even though 3NT is makable, I could not fault a North

who declined the invitation.

It turns out that the top scores were by the 3NT contracts that made. But 2NT making 3 was the next top score so a conservative bidder but a good card player would still do well in the part-score.

Looking at the East hand what would you lead? Your best suit is diamonds and, as it happens, either ♦3 or ♦K will be successful. I would lead ♦3 knowing that this will work fine if partner has either ♦J or ♦A. Some players have a lead convention – leading the Queen (even holding the King) asks for an attitude signal – worth thinking about?

Another interesting hand was Board 14

Board 14	♠ 65	
East dealer	♥ 6	
None vul	♦ AK4	
	♣ AKQ9873	
♠ AKQ94		♠ 832
♥ A42		♥ KQT973
♦ T3		♦ 982
♣ 654		♣ 2
	♠ JT7	
	♥ J85	
	♦ QJ765	
	♣ JT	

Let's assume that East began with a weak 2♥ opening. Most likely West will raise to 4♥ but North will bid 5♣ and play there.

Put yourself in West's shoes as partner leads ♡K. You desperately want her to switch to spades because you can count and see that you have no more heart tricks coming to you. How can you guarantee a spade switch? The answer is very simple: overtake partner's King with your ♡A! Easy to see after the event but easy to have a blind spot on the night. Notice that this play is essential because otherwise declarer has 12 tricks rather than 10.

To return to the bidding. Do you and your partner have an agreement about what West's response of 2♠ would mean? Obviously it would show spades but is it forcing? I think "simple is best" works here: responder's change of suit is always forcing even if the opener has pre-empted. Having said that, there is absolutely no need for West to bid 2♠! She knows she can support hearts and should do so immediately.

Finally, congratulations to Claire Rombouts and Michael Rombouts who topped the ladder at the conclusion of the Monday Championship Pairs. It was a close contest with Baukje Blok and Alec Ansett in second place.

2 Club news and comments

Countdown news Recourse Consent has been granted to Countdown and they have promised to pay for the sign to go in our Church Street Carpark.

Forthcoming Tournaments • Maniototo Bridge Club

Tournament on 7th November, entries close 30th October.

- Timaru Bridge Club Anniverary Pairs Tournament on 31st October, entries close 26th October.
- Otago Southland Provincial Pairs and Teams Tournament on 24th, 25th and 25th October, entries close 19th October.

AGM Keep 1 o'clock on Sunday 1st November free to attend our AGM. This will be followed by a few hands of bridge and afternoon tea. It's always great to have a good turnout.

Return of trophies If you have been lucky enough to get a trophy last year now is the time to polish them and return them back to the Club rooms.

Christmas party The Christmas party will soon be here so if you have any ideas for a theme please pass them on to a committee member.

Newsletter We are looking for someone to take over as the Newsletter Editor - don't be shy!! The Club needs you. The editor has a lot of autonomy. He or she can write about whatever they like - serious bridge or bridge humour, local news as reported by the Club committee - and they can adopt whatever format they like.

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