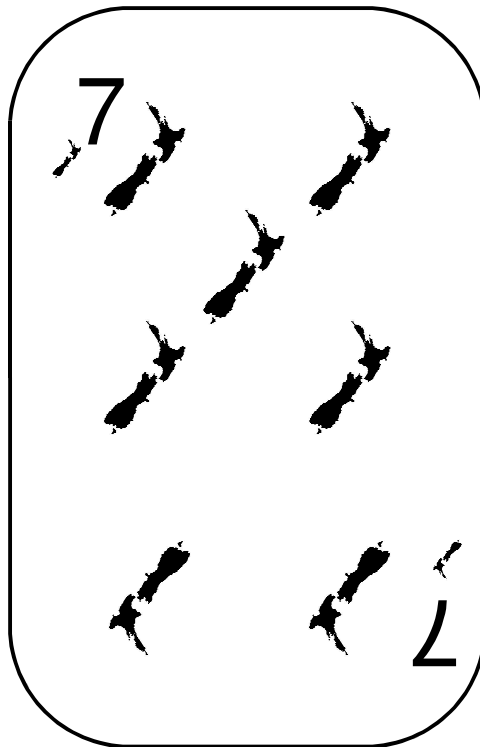


New Zealand National Bridge Congress

Kingsgate Hotel, Hamilton

July 1st to 8th 2006

Daily Bulletin



Friday July 7th



Congress Noticeboard - Friday

Session Times for Friday

Session 1 : 10 am

Session 2 : 2 .15 pm

Session 3 : 8 pm

Dine & Dance Reservations

can be made at the desk - no cost to fully registered players, \$30 for partially registered and \$50 for non-registered. There is a maximum number which can be catered for, so please don't leave your reservation till the last minute. If you reserve and then realise that you can't in fact attend, please cancel at the desk in case there are others on the waiting list

Prizewinners

NZ Intermediate Pairs - places 2 to 8

Multiple Teams - Places 2 to 5

Please call at the desk to sort out your prizes

Swiss Pairs

Players knocked out of the Teams quarters and who want to enter the Swiss must register at the desk by 9.15 am. To qualify, you must enter with someone who was knocked out at the same stage

Entry Slips

When you enter an event, you will be given an entry slip which contains all necessary details. Please keep this and refer to it when you arrive at the playing room. It's a bit tough on Nola and Gwyn if they are inundated with players who haven't bothered to check their slips.

Mixed Pairs & Same Sex Pairs

entries close at 7.15 pm. Please do not cause embarrassment and possibly miss out on playing by not having your entry slip. Players who don't enter but just go to a table are liable to be asked to leave. In cases where there is a half table, local players are asked to come in. It is totally unfair if someone bounces them off a table merely because they couldn't be bothered entering properly

Psyches - The Story Continues

Firstly, regular visitor, Martin Löfgren.

It was with surprise, bordering on shock, that I read the article in Wednesday's Bulletin and, although being a foreigner and perhaps not entitled to enter the debate, I find myself at 7 o'clock in the morning unable to sleep. Awake through jetlag, I made the mistake of picking up the Bulletin (delivered to my door, nice service), reading and getting more irritated than I have been for a long time.

Some years ago, I played in a friendly tournament against one Christian Mari from France. Being French, he played basic methods by default but this didn't prevent him from psyching and, of course, he got me. I must say that, despite not appreciating a bad result, I bowed my head to someone who took a risk and was duly rewarded. But maybe French players have no judgement and Mari won the Olympiad and some other stuff by fluke only.

Three or four years ago, Sue Weal psyched a 3C opener on Q x x. I went for 1100. Of course I was livid at myself for falling for it, but wasn't it a beaut? For some time, Sue greeted me with the words "3♣". Afterwards, I thought this was great fun.

Friends ask me why I go halfway round the world to play "some game" for a week or so. I always have a good answer : "Because bridge is fascinating. Because New Zealand and New Zealanders are great. Because the Congress is well organised. Because the atmosphere is positive, humourous and tolerant."

I have played in practically all parts of the world but maintain that this Congress is the nicest of them all (Sorry Aussies, I've heard a lot about your tournaments too, but just haven't got round to playing there yet.) After a few Nationals in the US, I don't stand in line to get back there. Expensive, anonymous tournaments with mostly friendly people but with enough unpleasant persons to ruin the experience. My impression is that, as soon as one's result is in danger, one resorts to legalities and protest more or less as a matter of course.

It is true that NZ hasn't won a Bermuda Bowl yet. May I venture the view that a geographically isolated nation of 4 million people has not been able to compete on equal terms with a 200+ million nation where bridge has very strong roots, nor with Europe where several hundred million people live a car's journey away from each other and can get, and exert, influence upon each other.

The internet and eased international travel is changing this. As a foreigner I can tell you that NZ (and Australian) players enjoy a high reputation internationally and I think it is only a matter of time before the big results come.

Bridge today has a problem with recruiting new players, not least young ones. I think everyone agrees that there are two problems : attracting people to come to clubs and courses and next, getting them to stay. Some people think that strange systems and (I violate my keyboard by using the dreaded word) psyching discourage beginners. I don't. Although far from an expert, I have held a few courses and worked in clubs on recruitment. Beginners may not understand psyches but they do

understand tolerance and humour. It is good to see so many young players here in Hamilton. I think there are more of them here than I saw in a full 10 000 player National in the US. Well done.

Talking about young people, they like to experiment (with a lot of things). Bridge is one of those things. Although today, I play boring standard methods, in the 70's I spent endless nights coming up with one ridiculous idea after the other. Not knowing any better, I psyched board after board. Better players humourously shook their heads and accepted their tops, but their friendly attitude made me feel good. I think I learnt a lot from the experiments. If you look at one of the world's top pairs, Norwegians Helgemo-Helness, you will not see a lot of conventions but I can assure you that that wasn't always the case.

So today, I get my occasional psyche zeros (and distinctly less tops) from younger players and stars like Tom Jacob. I still enjoy playing against them because they contribute to a positive atmosphere at the table. The other night I had the privilege of dining together with Tom who had no problem whatsoever with discussing deals with an overseas visitor and who also listened to what I had to say. Thinking back on it, I would say that that is another reflection on how players become good and great : humility. Though I would be the last person to give lessons may I suggest that this is one characteristic missing from the letter in yesterday's Bulletin.

Finally, a word on the Bulletin's "jocular manner". Friends in Germany are following Congress over the net and have commented on the way in which the Bulletin makes analysis, so easily made boring, outright fun.

Judgement is a wonderful thing and I'm greatly envious of those who have it at the table. Tom's psyche was a masterpiece in my view and the way it was described gave me some fun moments. I totally disagree with the writer of yesterday's letter and dislike the condemnatory and aggressive tone in which it was written. It is uncharacteristic of the friendly New Zealanders whom I've had the privilege of meeting here.

If you disagree and think that I'm way out of line, I don't apologise. However, I beg of you not to contact the immigration authorities because I would really like to come back

And Warren Luey comes next.

Case A

West holds ♠ 10 8 7 4 3 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ 10 5 and opens 1S

Is this a psyche? According to a poll of directors, this is borderline and does not warrant being registered.

I do not agree but am comfortable that expert opinion prevails. I do question whether the bid is protected by the statement in Bulletin 1 "To shade an opening bid by a couple of points is not a psyche - it is not gross."

Case B

Playing against two young ladies (Auckland/Australia)

	♠ 4	
	♥ 10 9 7 2	
	♦ 10 9 6 3	
	♣ A Q 9 4	
♠ J 10 9 2		♠ A K 8
♥ 8 5		♥ A K Q
♦ A Q J 8		♦ K 4 2
♣ 10 5 3		♣ K J 7 6
	♠ Q 7 6 5 3	
	♥ J 6 4 3	
	♦ 7 5	
	♣ 8 2	

North opened 1C, alerted (5 card majors, clubs can be as short as 2), double by me, 1D alerted, 1NT rebid from North, passed out and naturally defeated.

Damn, I was not up to the mark to extract the full penalty with another double. Ah well, it was a double positive for the team with 6NT being defeated at the other table.

At least if nothing else, this debate has raised public consciousness. A player (who should, perhaps, remain nameless) burst exultantly into the bar this afternoon and announced that he had just filled in his very first psyche form....for his three hundredth psyche.

One Gem In The Desert

The tenth round of the Teams was a long march across an IMP-less Sahara for Grant Jarvis and Ken Yule though they did stumble on one gem.

Teams Q 10/18	♠ K 9 7 3 2	
Dealer : E	♥ J 8 5	
	♦ J 9 8 5	
	♣ J	
Vul : NS		
♠ 5		♠ J 10 6
♥ K 9 2		♥ A 7 6 4
♦ K 7		♦ 10 6 3 2
♣ A K 10 9 6 4 2		♣ 7 3
	♠ A Q 8 4	
	♥ Q 10 3	
	♦ A Q 4	
	♣ Q 8 5	

South opened 1H which systemically showed 13+ and at least 2 clubs. Grant overcalled 2C, believing it to be natural. North doubled and Ken leapt to 3H, believing Grant's call to be Michaels. East passed and Grant tried 4C. North was back again doubling and Ken bid 4H. Giving up, Grant passed but North was still there with the red card. Grant decided that this wasn't looking good and pulled to 5C, inevitably doubled by North.

The first glister in the sand came when North led a diamond to South's Ace. A second diamond was taken in the closed hand. Grant laid down the Ace of trumps and noted North's Jack with interest...and South had at least 2 clubs. Over to the Ace of hearts for a successful trump finesse. 10 tricks now but nowhere to go for the eleventh. Time for a Cleaver Coup. Grant played his trumps one by one. North-South now had a problem. South had shown 2 or more clubs, now proven to be 3. North had done nothing but double. What were the hand shapes? No-one had a clue. As Grant peddled clubs NS discarded until, finally, they had both bared their heart honours and the 9 of hearts became the game going trick.

The Cleaver Coup Revisited

A couple of days ago, I recounted the story of how Brian Cleaver had claimed on one hand and so compressed 9 tricks into 7 and had then played the next at funereal pace to take his 8 indisputable tricks so as not to repeat. Wednesday evening saw another Cleaver claim.

Teams Q9/3

Dealer : S

Vul : EW

♠ Q 10 2
♥ K 10 8 7 5 2
♦ 6
♣ Q 6 3

♠ K 9
♥ A 9 8
♦ 10 9 7 5
♣ A J 8 7



♠ A J 6 4 3
♥
♦ K Q J 3 2
♣ 10 4 2

♠ 8 7 5
♥ Q J 6 4 3
♦ A 4
♣ K 9 5

Pete Benham had opened to show a weak 2 but Brian had grasped the reins in spades. Four or five tricks were played and then Brian claimed, making 2. Opponents, Brett Glass and Peter McCaskill assessed the hands and agreed.

Nothing remarkable there? Indeed not. However, a couple of hours later Pete was idly glancing at the hand records when he was struck by a curious feature of his own hand - it actually had 5 hearts and 2 diamonds! Yes, the Rueful Benham had seconded a diamond to his hearts and exposed his hand on the table. Nobody had noticed and the hand had been played out to everyone's satisfaction.

After the original article, Brian threatened to sue for libel. After today, he'll have his lawyer on speed-dial.

Choice Of Poison

Auckland's Nong Li enjoyed this one from the Teams qualifiers. A doubled contract came home when the defence could choose which way to concede defeat.

Teams Q10/16

Dealer : W

Vul : EW

♠ Q 10
♥ A J 7 4
♦ Q J 8 7 5
♣ A 10

♠ A J 9 7 6

♥ K Q 9 3

♦ 3 2

♣ K 7



♠ K 8 5 3 2

♥ 10 8 5

♦ A 4

♣ Q 6 3

♠ 4

♥ 6 2

♦ K 10 9 6

♣ J 9 8 5 4 2

West had opened 1NT and, after competition from partner Jeder Liu, Nong reached 3C doubled by East.

The Queen of diamonds was led to the Ace and a club returned to that Ace. A second round of trumps saw Nong on table. He cashed the Ace of spades and ruffed a spade. He led the King of hearts which West ducked. Now came the Jack of spades, taken by the King and dropping West's Queen. A heart was played to West's Ace and West continued a diamond to Nong's 10 to bring about

♠
♥ J 7
♦ J 8
♣

♠ 9 7

♥ Q 9

♦

♣



♠ 8 5

♥ 10 8

♦

♣

♠

♥

♦ K 9

♣ J 9

And Nong didn't much care what happened next. West would have been endplayed in diamonds or would have had to give Nong access to dummy's major winners while East only had the choice of in which major he would give access.

A Greek Gift

Vergil warns us about the perils of accepting Greek gifts. South had no choice but to accept a lead but the gift was, indeed, Grecian.

Teams Q 10/20

Dealer : W

Vul : All

♠ Q
♥ A K 10 7 3
♦ Q 9 5 3
♣ 9 8 6

♠ A J 4 3
♥ J 5
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ 10 7 5



♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ 8 4
♦ A J 7
♣ A Q 3 2

♠ K 10 7 5
♥ Q 9 6 2
♦ K 10
♣ K J 4

David Beauchamp was playing 1NT from West and North led a small diamond, ducked in dummy, and taken by South's King. Four rounds of spades followed, after which North played another diamond taken by dummy's Ace and the Jack was overtaken by the Queen in the closed hand. David cashed the boss diamond and two top hearts and led the 10 of hearts in this position

	♠	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣ 10 7 5	
♠		♠
♥ 10 7		♥
♦		♦
♣ 9		♣ A Q 3
	♠	
	♥ Q	
	♦	
	♣ K J	

David, himself, gave me the next hand which his partner had played in the final of the Pairs. Some may wonder why it took four days to materialise but you know what the media is like. The moment someone steps into the spotlight, the press goes into a feeding frenzy. Yes.....it's the Jennifer Aniston of New Zealand bridge - Tom Jacob

A Word From The Winners

Dennis Humphries has been at the forefront of NZ bridge for over 20 years. Yesterday, daughter Susan extended the family record by following dad into the national championship archives by winning the New Zealand Intermediate Pairs. 19 year old Susan and equal age partner, Andy Hung from Melbourne were convincing winners with two 63+ sets.

When asked for hands they gave me these from the second set :

NZI 2/16
Dealer : W

Vul : EW

♠ A 8 6 5 4
♥ Q 3
♦ A K 10 7 4 3
♣

♠ K Q
♥ K 10 5 4
♦ J
♣ J 10 9 7 6 5



♠ 9 2
♥ J 9 6 2
♦ Q 5
♣ A Q 8 4 3

♠ J 10 7 3
♥ A 8 7
♦ 9 8 6 2
♣ K 2

Andy opened 1D as West and North doubled. Susan bid 1S and South 2C. Andy splintered with 4C but North pushed with 5. 5S from Susan saw Andy shoot the slam and with no heart lead, there was no problem.

As one of life's great result merchants, Dennis would approve.

NZI 2/7
Dealer :

Vul : All

♠ 5 2
♥ 10 9 8
♦ 8 6 3
♣ A K 9 8 3

♠ 8 3
♥ Q 6 4
♦ A 7 5
♣ Q 10 7 5 4



♠ J 4
♥ K 7 3 2
♦ Q J 10 9 4
♣ J 2

♠ A K Q 10 9 7 6
♥ A J 6
♦ K 2
♣ 6

Somehow, Susan and Andy had managed to switch seats, so Andy was now East. Two passes saw North open 1C and Andy doubled. South bid 1H and that was passed back to Andy who found 3NT! There were an awful lot of tricks available but I suspect that even Dennis will win a bit when he reads this auction.

Nonetheless, heartiest congratulations to Susan and Andy who are our latest national champions.

Psyches - The Story Continues

Well, it doesn't actually though Mike Ware thought it did.

Michael held a 4 - 4 - 3 - 2 12 count and saw his rho open 1C. He doubled and lho bid 1H. Partner, a passed hand, bid 2H - obviously exposing the psyche.

Obviously

Teams R16 3/12

Dealer : W

Vul : NS

♠ 9 6 4 3
♥ A 10 5 3
♦ Q 4 3
♣ 4 2

♠ A J 5 2
♥ Q
♦ A J 2
♣ J 9 8 6 5



♠ Q 10 8 7
♥ 9 8 7 6
♦ K 8 7
♣ A Q

♠ K
♥ K J 4 2
♦ 10 9 6 5
♣ K 10 7 3

2H did not play particularly well and 4 down was the result of this particular instance of (over)exposure.

This Could Be Expensive!

Peter Newell watched with interest as partner, Martin Reid, faced a potentially expensive choice in the eighth round of Teams qualifying

Teams Q8/28

Dealer : W

Vul : NS

♠ A Q 8
♥ K 9
♦ K 10 6 5 3
♣ 7 5 3

♠ J 9 7 6 5 4 2
♥ 8
♦ A J 9
♣ Q 8



♠ 3
♥ 4 3
♦ 8 4 2
♣ A K J 10 6 4 2

♠ K 10
♥ A Q J 10 7 6 5 2
♦ Q 7
♣ 9

Martin opened 1NT and Ishmael Delmonte bid 2H to show a single suited major hand. Peter shot 3NT on the strength of his major stops and Ashley Bach doubled, offering Ish the choice to pass or bid his major.

3NTx became the final contract. A spade was led to the King and Ace and Martin

was put to the question.

Cash the Queen of spades and hope for 7 club tricks, hoping that South does not have 3 clubs to the Queen, in which case the outcome will be brief and bloody. Alternatively, hold the spade protection and go for the clubs in the hope that the ♠Q, ♥K or ♦K will yield the ninth trick.

Martin cashed the Queen and lived happily ever after.

The Hard Way

Australia's Gabby Feiler gave me this one in which he and his partner went the long way round to beat the contract.

Teams R16 3 / 1

Dealer : N

Vul : All

♠ Q
♥ 7 2
♦ A Q 10 9 3
♣ K Q 10 9 3

♠ A K 8 5 3

♥ Q 6 4

♦ 8 7 5

♣ J 5



♠ 9 6 4 2
♥ K J 10 5 3
♦ J 4
♣ A 2

♠ J 10 7

♥ A 9 8

♦ K 6 2

♣ 8 7 6 4

North and South competed valiantly in spades but East won in 4H. The Jack of spades was led to the Queen and King. North switched to a trump which drew East's 10 for Gabby to duck. Declarer cashed the Ace of clubs and ruffed a spade on table. The King of clubs came next, followed by the Queen which North ruffed with the Queen, forcing an over-ruff by declarer's King.

This left Gabby with A 9 of trumps sitting over declarer's Jack. There was still a spade to lose for one off.

Gabby pointed out, somewhat ruefully, that a trump lead would have led to the same effect somewhat more quickly.

Active Ethics

Normally, in active ethics stories one leaves players anonymous so as not to embarrass the guilty. Not this time when there are pressing reasons why I can't name names. You hold a flat 14 count and rho opens 1NT. You pass and lho bids 2D (transfer). Partner passes and opener bids 2H. You pass as does the next hand. Partner bids 2S. Your hand contains 4 spades so of course you bid game.

Except you don't. Partner is a deliberate player and his 2S bid has come at the speed of light. His tempo has told you that this is not a marginal decision. So you bite the bullet and pass. That's active ethics. But I wish I could name names.

