



**Palmerston North
Bridge Club
April 2011**

Editorial

Welcome again. Easter approaches fast, providing the opportunity every bridge player craves – which is, of course, to meet up with their very own Easter Bunny!

Thanks again to Ray Kemp for another article.

Ross Quayle

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Club Results for March

Congratulations to all our winners.

Monday:	Bob Lawrence/ Susan Parker	58.23%
Junior:	Colleen Fraser/ Peter Horgan	54.93%
Snr/Snr Res:	Ken Bateman/ Janice Coleman	55.95%
Intermediate:	Dianne Hunter/ Ernest Sands	60.11%
Friday:	Bev Colville/ Janice Willoughby	57.21%

Directors Examinations

New Zealand Bridge will conduct Club Directors Examinations over the weekend of May 28th & 29th.

Nominations close with the National Secretary at 5pm Friday May 20th. See the noticeboard for details.

Centre Island Pairs

Our club hosts the Centre Island Pairs on April 30/May 1st. We need entries and helpers, please put your hand up.

Fundraiser Event For Christchurch Earthquake Appeal – Sunday 8th May.

NZ Bridge and the New Zealand Bridge Foundation are organizing a 5A point simultaneous nation-wide pairs event to raise funds for both Christchurch and the Christchurch

Bridge Community, and we have decided to support this good cause.

Our event will be from 1.00 pm with start of play at 1.15. There will be an afternoon tea break after 12 boards, and the bar will open at end of play. Players from other local clubs are invited to join us, so please spread the word.

The local winners will get 1 A point and 5 more will be allocated across the regional winners.

On the same general subject, we received a nice letter from John Skipper, President of Christchurch Bridge Club, offering thanks in response to a letter of support from Evelyn Hurley our president. They lost one member who worked in the CTV building, their clubrooms will eventually need to be replaced and they are operating from temporary premises.

Junior Tournaments – Change of Dates

Note: Hawera Junior now 21st May; and Hastings Junior now 14th May.

Fundraising for Wayne

Wayne Burrows has again been selected to represent New Zealand, this time in the APBF championships in Kuala Lumpur. We have decided to support Wayne with some fundraising. One will be a Grand Hamper Raffle, donations for this are required urgently as we wish to sell tickets at the Centre Island Pairs. Two is a Gold Grandmaster Raffle. Wayne and Bob Hurley, our other GG, have both agreed to be the prizes, as partners in a 5A point tournament to be chosen as convenient. Tickets are \$5. The winner will select their preferred GG, second place gets the other.

Three is a Trivia evening on Friday 13 May with quizmaster Tony Clear. Bar open at 5.00pm, bring your takeaways. Quiz starts at 6.00 and aims to finish by 8.30.

Please support all of these, and maybe win yourself a grandmaster.

Bridge Club Library

We have overdue books! Please return all overdue library books to the Bridge Club Library before Easter. Books can be taken out for one

month but if you wish to renew a book please let Andrew Brodie know.

Some books are VERY overdue and you may be charged for them if they don't turn up. Also others may want to read them, especially the House of Cards series.

Thanks in anticipation.

Garden Roster

Earlier this year we had some great working bees to prepare and replant the bridge club gardens. They are looking great as the plants are establishing well. The club is now asking you to help to keep our grounds looking good. A roster has been pinned up on the notice board (next to the tea towel roster) waiting for your names. The duties are simple tidying and weeding.

Recorder for Central Districts.

You may recall we explored the possibility of a recorder for our club, but no demand was expressed. Congratulations to Alan Doddridge who has been appointed as the Recorder for the Central Districts Region. This is an indication of the high regard in which Alan is held is and great for our club too.

Share transport

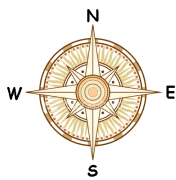
We had an enquiry from a member about car pooling to tournaments. This seems a very good idea, both economically and socially, but you will need to organise it yourselves. Ask around about who else is going to your tournament ...

Doing what comes naturally

Some of the more mature readers may remember the excruciating song "Doing what comes naturally" from the musical "Annie Get Your Gun." It wasn't originally applied to the game of bridge but could act as a good guide for intermediate players of the game. Once you have got over the novice's habit of cashing aces at the first opportunity as a defender, and automatically taking out all the trumps as a declarer, your level of sophistication increases and you start to experiment with more devious ploys. At least, that's what happened to me. I started reading books on advanced declarer play and great coups from bridge magazines. Inevitably, they made the headlines because the declarer or defender did something that looked stupid but was the only way to succeed. You know the kind of thing: a

defender underleads an ace against a suit slam, or, declarer plays on their shortest suit in no trumps. After a while I realized that this kind of play, certainly in pairs, more often leads to disaster rather than success, so I reverted to 'doing what comes naturally'.

However, it does occasionally pay to do something unexpected. Here is a hand from a Tuesday evening pairs where both declarer and defence had a chance to reap the rewards of an unusual line of play.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ J75 ♥ J ♦ KQ9653 ♣ AK2 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ AT62 ♥ AQ8543 ♦ J7 ♣ 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ KQ83 ♥ 9762 ♦ A82 ♣ 73 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ 94 ♥ KT ♦ T4 ♣ QJT9864 	

At nil vulnerability and dealer East, the bidding is spirited:

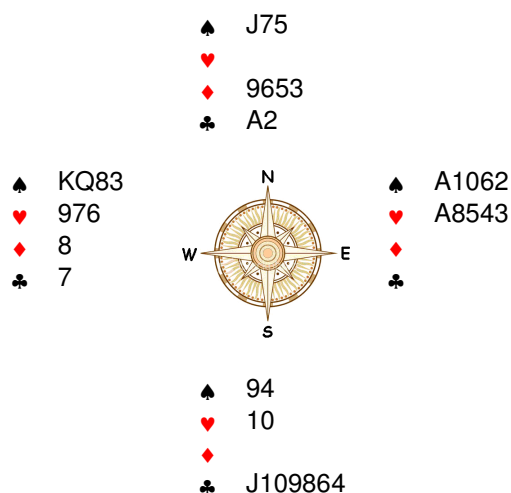
South	West	North	East
			1H
3C	3H	4C	4H
All Pass			

I am sitting North and partner leads the queen of clubs. As you can see, that is a safe lead which gives the defence the first trick. The natural thing for me to do is to play my two. However, in this case, how will the play pan out? Partner is likely to continue the suit and, it is quite possible, in view of the bidding declarer will ruff. Whilst it may not be disastrous to allow partner to continue clubs, I think we stand more chance of grabbing tricks in diamonds. I can hope that partner switches to the suit but cannot guarantee it, so I do the unnatural thing and overtake the queen of clubs with the king in order to make the switch myself.

I now lead the king of diamonds. Looking at the hand from declarer's point of view, the natural

approach would appear to be to take this trick and this is what declarer does. But, unless I have a seven card suit, it is safer to duck the first round to cut communications between defenders.

Again, declarer makes the obvious play of taking the heart finesse. This fails and South zips back a diamond to my queen. We now have three tricks and the position is shown below.



I now lead the nine of diamonds and East is caught in an 'uppercut' – south's ten of trumps is promoted to a winner whatever declarer plays. Again, East could have avoided this situation by the unnatural step of playing off the ace of trumps rather than taking the finesse.

So now you have three unnatural plays: overtaking partner's winner, ducking a round when you have the ace in the suit, and eschewing a trump finesse. Any of these ploys could win you tricks and the admiration of the other players. But if they go wrong and partner asks you why you did such a stupid thing then don't blame me.

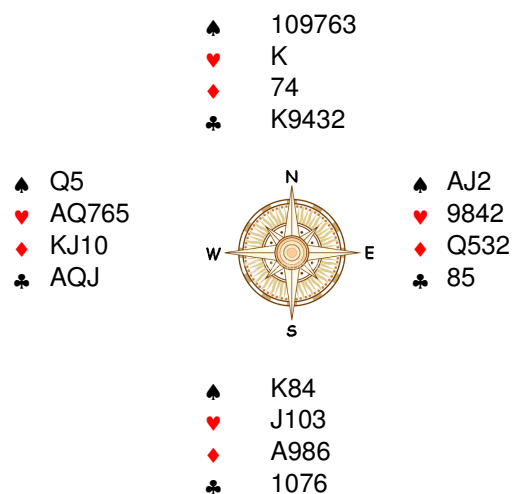
Ray Kemp

We are here to make decisions...

This title is one of my favourite truisms. And prophetically, I did indeed have some decisions to make on this recent hand from a Tuesday night.

I was in the usual contract, 4H by West. The event was the Swiss Pairs, so the contract matters and overtricks don't matter so much. If you look up the printout you will be informed that West can make only three hearts, i.e. against best defence. I am ashamed to say that I did not get

"best" defence, in that they left me dangling - and then as I subsequently went down two, who is to say it wasn't "best" defence?? However I was not alone in my misfortune. See how you get on.



First of all let's establish what the best defence is. This is for North to lead spades, setting up South's King for one trick. Declarer has no good reason to play the Ace, so South is in and returns the favour by leading a club – again declarer has no reason to go up – and now the Ace of diamonds and at least one trump trick means this contract is doomed.

If you get that defence, well tough luck. Try it on a spade and a spade return, (which is what I got).

The individual suits are quite easy to analyse. There is only one result possible in diamonds. The black suits are both 3-2 fits to the AQJ, so there are two tricks, a possible loser and also a possible discard in each suit. The trumps are a pretty standard combination for experienced players, but the number of losers varies widely with the break and the location of the honours. The no-loser combination is doubleton king onside; three or four offside mean up to three losers are possible. If you can afford one loser but not two, then playing the Ace first, before leading up to the Queen is a safety play against the singleton King offside... obviously this play could pay dividends on this hand! Note this play costs nothing whenever there is any 3-1 break, on- or off-side.

The hand as a whole is a lot harder to analyse. The Ace of diamonds is a certain loser, but the black suits depend on finesses; and when first

playing trumps one does not know how many losers one can afford. Entries to dummy are also a problem. There may be trump entries, eventually, but the spade return has used up the only easy entry. Potential winners are four black tricks, three diamonds and five trumps – total twelve, so there is plenty of *potential*....

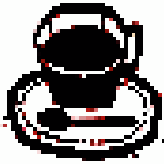

Given enough time, you could throw a spade on a winning diamond, saving the need for that finesse and eliminating one of the possible losers. The spade lead and return has ruled that out, but opens up a new possibility – throwing two clubs from your hand, one on a diamond and one on a spade, and thus avoiding a different (possible) loser. But how to play the trumps? You cannot get a diamond discard until the fourth round....

At the table, I found it irresistible to take the spade return in dummy and finesse the heart straight away – after all, if this works and trumps break then I am going to make five, without needing the club finesse. It didn't work, of course. North then has to lead, and a spade is best. I threw a club honour, and lead the Ace of hearts to discover the further bad news there. Now I knock out the Ace of diamonds, but I cannot get to dummy in time to throw the second club, which results in down two.

The way to make the contract is a variant of the safety play mentioned above. This is to play a small trump at trick three – as long as North takes the trick (N cannot hurt you with a club lead) then you are in good shape. You have two high trumps to draw South's remaining trumps, and a trump entry to the last high diamond. It works with singleton King, or doubleton KJ, or if South is asleep and does not overtake the ten. However it loses if South has the King (remember in that case I was going to make five?) or otherwise gets on lead (unless the reason for the original spade return was that South holds the King of clubs!). By now your head may be hurting as much as mine, and since I still cannot see through the cards despite many years of practice, I think it is a pretty hard line to find at the table. Liz Burrows found a very similar line. Her south switched to a trump at trick two; Liz ducked this and then made four, so hats off to her.

The moral is that we are here to make decisions. Trying to get those decisions right through such a maze of options, ifs, buts and maybes, is why I love this game.

Ross Quayle

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