



**Palmerston North
Bridge Club
August 2011**

Editorial

Here we are again, already!

Thanks to Ken Bateman for his article on discards; and to Ray Kemp for his on a rubber bridge hand. I have played only a little rubber bridge, but I like the instant feedback it provides. If you are defending, then it is as simple as: beat the contract = good, let it make = bad. At the end of a match, the bidding becomes highly tactical (and exciting) if the score is close. Of course rubber is not so much fun if you just have a run of rotten cards....

Ross Quayle

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Club Results for July

Congratulations to all our winners.

Monday:	Barbara Eglinton/ Jo Haddon	56.27%
Junior:	Liz Goodman/ Vivienne Morrison	51.24%
Senior:	Sue Lynch (Individual ladder)	63.71%
Senior Reserve:	Martin Carryer (Individual ladder)	61.97%
Intermediate:	Robyn Anderson/ Don MacDonald	58.78%
Friday:	Bryan Northcott/ Mary Scott	56.19%

Interclub

On Sunday 7th Aug we hosted Wanganui Club for our annual fixture and we retained the silverware. The club is on a roll!

Beginners Lessons

Congratulations to our recent graduates who are now playing on Monday nights – it is great to see you amongst us and I wish you all the best for your bridge careers.

Another set of beginners' lessons is successfully underway as from Monday 8 August. Helpers are not essential but if anyone is available to be on call, to cover one-off absences, I would be grateful to know about you.

Ross Quayle

Discarding

On every hand you play as a defender you are going to have to make some discards. There are various methods available for discarding.

The simplest method is to throw what you don't want. The advantage of this method is that it doesn't give too much away to the declarer. The corollary is that it doesn't tell your partner what you do like. And it's best not to keep your partners in the dark for too long.

If you want to establish a better partnership understanding there are a few methods of discarding. Generally speaking small cards refers to 2's, 3's, 4's and 5's, high cards to 8's 9's & 10's and middling cards 6's, 7's & 8's

Natural attitude discards

Basically, a small card says you don't like this suit, (as in throwing what you don't want). A high card says I do like this suit and that should help partner. The drawback to this method is that you are signalling encouragement with a potentially useful high card. To overcome this problem we can play reverse attitude discards.

Reverse attitude discards

To save those potentially useful high cards we reverse the meaning of the discards. Therefore a low card says "I like this suit" and a high card says "not interested in this suit". Make sure you tell you partner what you are doing!

Lavinthal (also known as **McKenny**) discards

This method doesn't just tell partner about the suit you are discarding with but also indicates what suit you are interested in. If you discard a small card in a suit, you are telling your partner that (1) you don't like this suit but (2) you do you like the lower of the other two suits. Equally, an unusually high card tells your partner that (1) you don't like this suit but (2) you do you like the higher of the other two suits. A lot of players use this method.

Revolving discards

This is where we look at the suits in their rank/rotation, C D H S. If you discard a low heart when spades are led, you again tell partner you do not have much interest in hearts but you like the lower in the rotation of suits, i.e. diamonds. Equally if you discard a high heart, (on a spade lead) you are interested in clubs. This requires too much brain power for me.

Odds & Evens

Here we combine Lavinthal discards with a simple twist. Any odd card says "I like this suit partner". A small, middling or high odd card all say the same, "I like this suit". An even cards says "not this suit partner" but it could be a Lavinthal signal. An unusually low even card will say "not this suit partner but the lower of the other two suits". An unusually high even card will say "not this suit partner but the higher of the other two suits".

Ken Bateman

Last Chance Saloon

You are playing in the fourth round of the Dan Gifford rubber bridge competition. If you win this match and the next one then you will get a free trip to the Hamilton Congress with the possibility of emulating the feat of Jan Whyte and Ken Bateman by winning the national final.

However, things aren't going too well. You have been picking up tram tickets all evening and have slowly but surely been losing ground. Only some clever defence by your partner and some conservative bidding by the opponents who have failed to bid two good slams have kept you in touch. Still, you are 800 points behind and time is running out. Having lost the first two rubbers you are at game all in the third. If you don't win this one, it could be good night nurse.

You say a short prayer before picking up hand number twenty-three of the thirty you have to play.

♠ AJT543
♥ K4
♦ 742
♣ J3

Hmmm. Not brilliant but one of your better collections on the night. All you need now is for

your partner to open one no trump and you could be in business. Your spirits slump as your left hand opponent, who can't seem to stop bidding, starts the ball rolling with one no trump instead (12-15 points.) Your partner is thinking hard and she eventually writes down '3C'. A quick pass by your right hand opponent and it is over to you. In desperation you bid three spades, which partner, after some thought, raises to four. West leads the eight of diamonds and dummy goes down.

♠ 987
♥ 52
♦ AKJ
♣ AKT94

♠ AJT543
♥ K4
♦ 742
♣ J3

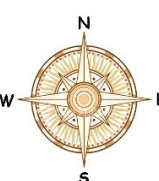
Your spirits rise. There are definite chances here. What is your plan?

West has obviously got most of the outstanding points for her one no trump opener so it is tempting to try the jack of diamonds. If you do this then go to the bottom of the class. East will win with the queen and make the obvious switch to a heart.

Alternatively, you might think of taking the finesse twice in spades but that is unlikely to work in view of the bidding. Not being sure how things will pan out, you play for time by playing the ace of diamonds and then a spade from dummy over to the ace, both opponents following with low trumps. The next card you play is the crucial one. It is make or break time.

In the actual match I decided to lead another trump, playing for a 2-2 split and hoping to run the clubs. Bad news, East showed out, and West, winning with the queen, led another diamond. My only recourse now was to take it in dummy and play the clubs from the top hoping West had a doubleton queen. This did not eventuate so I ended up having to ruff a third club, then throwing West in with a third trump, hoping she had run out of diamonds. Sadly, she hadn't, so a diamond across to partner and a heart through my king left me two down.

Only later, did I realize how dumb I had been. If I assumed that East had the queen of diamonds then West is marked with virtually all the rest of the points. After both opponents had played low on the first round of trumps it was highly likely that West had KQ left. All I then had to do was to forget about trumps and start playing the clubs, taking the marked finesse, and throwing away a diamond from hand on the third one. West could take her two trumps and her ace of hearts any time she liked but those were the only three tricks the defence were going to make. Here is the full deal.

<p>♠ 987 ♥ 52 ♦ AKJ ♣ AKT94</p>		<p>♠ 6 ♥ JT763 ♦ QT65 ♣ 875</p>	<p>♠ AJT543 ♥ K4 ♦ 742 ♣ J3</p>
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Subsequently, the gods punished us for my misdemeanour and we lost the rubber and, eventually, the match. Still, I hope I learned my lessons:

If you make an assumption, in this case that the queen of diamonds is offside, then make sure the rest of your assumptions fit in with this.

Count the opposition's points carefully.

Keep the danger hand off lead (in this case East). Just because you have a long suit to run don't necessarily be too eager to take out all the opponents' trumps.

Ray Kemp

A hand from the Interclub match

On Sunday 7th we defeated Wanganui in the annual interclub fixture. Here is the hand that I enjoyed the most.

Defensive signalling is a valuable weapon in the armoury – see Ken's article above. I believe in

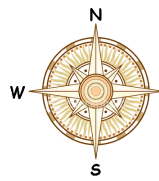
keeping it simple, so that one has mental energy left to think about the hand as a whole. Sometimes it is not possible to tell partner what to do via a signal; they have to work it out for themselves. Here is a good example of that.

I sat North and Wayne Burrows was South, against a Wanganui pair. West dealer, both vulnerable.

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3D	Pass	3H	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

The full hands were:

<p>♠ K109 ♥ Q10972 ♦ 8 ♣ Q943</p>		<p>♠ AQ3 ♥ A85 ♦ KJ732 ♣ AK</p>	<p>♠ 874 ♥ KJ64 ♦ Q4 ♣ 10652</p>
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Now a quick look at this contract reveals it is pretty solid. Declarer has AKQ of each black suit; a strong heart suit capable of providing three tricks at worst; and the diamonds are well stopped and are difficult for the defence to attack on the opening lead. The only possible pitfall is the single entry to dummy outside of hearts.

It declarer had played this hand well, he would have made five and there would be no story. However, if every declarer one came up against never made a mistake then the game would be even more challenging than it is!

Wayne lead the two of clubs and dummy played the three. My first small decision was to go high or low? Clubs doesn't look very promising on this lead, and I couldn't see the Jack being right unless partner had both Ace and King. On the

