



## Message from the President

As your new president, I have been familiarizing myself with the way the bridge club operates. Like most members, at one stage all I wanted to do was to turn up to the appropriate session and play some cards. But so much goes on behind the scenes to make this all possible, and we have a network of helpers who keep things running smoothly. Only now am I beginning to realize the large number of largely unpaid hours that a relatively small group of people put into the club. I know we are all busier than in the past, often having demanding jobs, but I think everyone can have some input however small: tasks like helping out with morning teas at tournaments, coming in for a working bee, or giving assistance in the novice lessons. Give some thought to how you might make a contribution to the club. After all, the club is us.

On the last page of this newsletter, there is a list of principal tasks and members involved this year. If you have any queries or ideas then get in touch with the appropriate person. But be warned – if you have a good idea then you may be asked to be involved in implementing it!

Various initiatives are being explored by your new committee. As you know, we badly need to fence the property to improve security and minimise the risk of damage to members' vehicles and the building itself. Martin Carryer is currently getting quotes for railings, and once we have three estimates we can investigate ways of raising the cash.

We have been trying to encourage members to wear their name tags by having a 'name day' in each grade. Once a month there is a draw and the winner gets a free session of bridge. We'll keep this up for a while to see how it goes. Gayle Leader is currently preparing new improved labels including a little picture of the club on them, which will make them more of a fashion accessory.

I suspect there are a number of people like me who have trouble remembering people's names, and, from the feedback so far, others have found nametags helpful to find out who everyone is. It is a good way of engendering a friendly atmosphere. As a further step, try to get into the habit, after a move, of taking a few seconds to say hello to your new opponents by name rather than just talking across them to your partner about the previous deal and automatically drawing out the cards for the next hand.

Most people nowadays have internet access, so we intend to use emails in future to give up-to-date news to members about what is happening at the club. Goff Ashwell has agreed to collect together email addresses. So if you wish to receive regular announcements about club competitions or other information of a timely nature then please send him an email ([g.a.ashwell@inspire.net.nz](mailto:g.a.ashwell@inspire.net.nz)) with the subject line: "Bridge Club".

Lastly, we are still able to take more novices in the introductory Monday classes so if you have any friends who might be interested, ask them to get in touch with Bev Colville ([bcolv@inspire.net.nz](mailto:bcolv@inspire.net.nz)). Bev has already done a great job on publicity and arranged for a good-sized article to appear in the local Tribune newspaper. The classes start on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Ray Kemp

## Don't Panic!

You may recall that in the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* one of the catch phrases when things went wrong was 'Don't Panic.' Sometimes, that is good advice when playing a bridge hand. If dummy isn't quite as good as expected, or when you get an adverse distribution during play maybe you should try to stay calm and see if there is any way of achieving the seemingly impossible. I played a couple of hands recently that illustrate this point.

In the last week of Summer Bridge, sitting East-West, my partner and I got to an optimistic seven no trumps contract. The four hands are shown overleaf.

S T93  
H T97  
D 9765  
C 952

S AK4  
H 82  
D AKJ843  
C AK

S J765  
H AK4  
D QT  
C J876

S Q82  
H QJ653  
D 2  
C QT43

S A82  
H A83  
D KQ2  
C AT96

S KJ963  
H KQ5  
D 875  
C K4

After South led the unhelpful two of diamonds, I kept looking at dummy, counting and recounting, but the number of tricks still only added up to twelve. The best chance of generating a thirteenth seemed to be in the black suits. Dropping either queen in two rounds would do it. In addition, if either player held four to the queen in spades and also four to the queen in clubs then they would eventually be forced to expose one of them when I played off my other winners. But, as you can see, things weren't going to be that easy.

So there is no certain way to make the contract – but don't panic! I led out the diamonds, carefully watching what the defenders played. South was in a particularly awkward position, having to find five discards with three queens to protect. Try covering up the North and East hands, and deciding what you would throw.

Since they couldn't see my hand it was very difficult for the defenders. Seemingly, it doesn't matter what North throws but, double-dummy, his best chance is to keep his three hearts, allowing South to discard all of hers. Even if North does the right thing, South is really under pressure. In practice, she let go of a couple of clubs which enabled me to play off the ace-king of the suit, return to hand and to win the third club with the jack. A lucky board.

The second hand occurred in the first week of the February Tuesday night pairs competition. Sitting South, I was in another shakey slam – six spades this time. West led a low club, and when dummy went down prospects didn't seem too bad. Here are the North-South hands:

It looked as if my best chance of scoring twelve tricks was to find the ace of diamonds with West and the queen of spades with East. So, without further ado, I took the club in hand and led a low spade from hand up towards the ace. West casually threw a diamond. A five-nil trump split!

The good news is that, at least the queen is the right side. The bad news is that it is impossible to catch by just playing trumps. As long as East holds on to her queen when I play three rounds of spades, I will have no trumps left in dummy and she will have Qx left against my Kx in hand. Surely, I can't capture her queen.

But – don't panic! Maybe I can perform a *trump coup*. A trump coup enables declarer to take a finesse in a suit even when he is void in one of the hands. It sounds like magic but it is a bit like a squeeze. Declarer strips the hands until the defender has no option but to let go of a key card.

I had to try to engineer a situation where there were just two cards left in dummy and playing one of them would force East to play one of her trumps in front of me. However, it would only work under certain conditions. What I needed was for East to have to follow on every card I played in the outside suits, so she couldn't ruff prematurely. This meant she had to have exactly the same distribution as me: 5-3-3-2. It was a long shot but seemed my only chance.

After taking out three rounds of trumps, I lost the diamond ace to West and won the return. Thankfully, East followed to all the rest of the outside tricks and I ended up in dummy with the following position:

S -  
H -  
D -  
C 96

S -  
H -  
D -  
C Q7

S Q4  
H -  
D -  
C -

S KJ  
H -  
D -  
C -

When I played a club from dummy, East didn't really want to trump it but had no choice, so I ended up getting a free finesse. Here are the four hands:

S A82  
H A83  
D KQ2  
C AT96

S -  
H T942  
D AT64  
C Q7532

S QT754  
H J76  
D J93  
C J8

S KJ963  
H KQ5  
D 875  
C K4

Ray Kemp

## Leading to a Suit Slam

The deal below occurred at the bridge club the other night and it shows the dangers of leading an unsupported ace (ie you have the ace but not the king).

S Q87  
H -  
D AKQT7  
C A8653

S J9  
H AJ986  
D J954  
C K2

S T63  
H T432  
D 62  
C QJ74

S AK542  
H KQ75  
D 83  
C T9

On all hands South was the declarer in a spade contract with West on lead. The hand was played at 12 tables and the results were:-

<u>Contract</u>	<u>made</u>	<u>lead</u>
6S	7	Ace of hearts
6S	7	Ace of hearts
6S	7	Ace of hearts
5S	7	Ace of hearts
6S	6	Ace of hearts
4S	6	Ace of hearts
4S	6	not recorded
4S	5	xD
4S	4	Jack of spades
4S	5	Jack of spades
4S	5	xD
5S	5	Jack of spades

Can you see the effect of leading the unsupported Ace of Hearts? Declarer will ruff on table and immediately have two discards available on the King & Queen of hearts. Sometimes we lead an Ace so "we can just have a look at dummy." The above is a good example of why leading the ace without the king behind it is not a good idea. And yes, it happened on the Senior night.

Ken Bateman

## Postscript

Husband playing with wife picks up a handful of spades facing his wife who has an even bigger handful of hearts. The battle begins. Higher and higher they go, finally, in spite of the looks he has been getting, he bids 6S over her 6H bid which buys the contract. The lead is made and when the dummy hits, he sees he can't make 6S, but 6H is cold. He knows he is in big trouble. He starts out before playing to trick one by saying, "Sorry dear, I should have withdrawn." She says, "You should have withdrawn? Your father should have withdrawn!"

## **Responsibilities - Palmerston North Bridge Club 2008**

<b>Archives/History</b>	Lorraine Stachurski, Teresa Thorn, Bryan Northcott, Graham Hubbard
<b>Bar</b>	Gayle Leader
<b>Card Dealing</b>	Lorraine Stachurski, Kay Townsley, Don and Noeline Kenning
<b>Club Emails</b>	Ray Kemp, Goff Ashwell
<b>Computers/Website</b>	Ray Kemp, Lorraine Stachurski
<b>Constitution</b>	Graham Hubbard, John Lenart, Lorraine Stachurski, Jim Esson, Ray Kemp
<b>Directors</b>	Kay Townsley
<b>Electrical Maintenance</b>	Don MacDonald
<b>Finance</b>	Bryan Northcott, Teresa Thorn
<b>Grading</b>	Bryan Northcott, Lorraine Stachurski
<b>Grant Applications</b>	Bryan Northcott, Lorraine Stachurski, Teresa Thorn
<b>Host Persons</b>	Thelma Pilcher (Monday) Lyn Wilson (Junior) Tom and Margaret Price (Intermediate) Martin Carryer (Senior/Senior Reserve) Barbara Eglinton (Friday)
<b>Household Equipment (kitchen/toilet supplies)</b>	Mary Scott
<b>Interclub Tournaments</b>	Martin Carryer
<b>Lessons</b>	Wayne Burrows, Volunteers
<b>Library</b>	Joan MacIntosh, Val Gatenby
<b>Maintenance</b>	Don Kenning, Bev Colville, Lyndsey Chadwick
<b>Membership</b>	Lorraine Stachurski
<b>Name Tags</b>	Gayle Leader
<b>Newsletter</b>	Ray Kemp
<b>Outside Tournaments (notices and entries)</b>	Pam Mason, Val Pain
<b>PNBC Tournaments</b>	Lorraine Stachurski, Ray Kemp, Jim Esson (Organizing Committee) Ray Kemp, Jim Esson (MC Duties) Gayle Leader (Catering) Elsie Beale (Sponsors/raffles/decorations) Martin Carryer (Helpers/morning teas)
<b>Programme</b>	Lorraine Stachurski
<b>Publicity</b>	Bev Colville
<b>Room Hire</b>	Bryan Northcott
<b>Room Reps</b>	Andrew Brodie (Junior) Goff Ashwell (Intermediate) Pam Mason (Senior/Senior Reserve) Don Kenning (Daytime)
<b>Scoring / Master Points</b>	Lorraine Stachurski
<b>Security</b>	Martin Carryer, Jim Esson, Ray Kemp, Bryan Northcott
<b>Stationery</b>	Bryan Northcott, Lorraine Stachurski
<b>Trophies</b>	Jim Esson