



Palmerston North Bridge Club June 2011

Editorial

Welcome to winter and the June edition. The club has been a hive of activity lately. I trust you have enjoyed it and will continue to support all our activities.

Otherwise it is a light edition this month, providing no added strain for you.

Ross Quayle

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Club Results for May

Congratulations to all our winners.

Monday:	Bev Colville & Mary Hong	58.52%
Junior:	Clare Hadley & Margaret Metcalfe	53.73%
Senior:	Evelyn Hurley & Bob Hurley	58.47%
Senior Reserve:	Reuben Leberman & Benny Theng	51.80%
Intermediate:	Dorothy Hodges, Jillian Cole, Dan Lynch & Andrew Brodie	143 VPs
Friday:	Jo Haddon & Kay Townsley	60.76 %

Fundraising for Wayne

This went very well with a cheque for \$1850 being presented to Wayne on one Tuesday night session. Wayne gave handsome thanks to everyone involved.

The breakdown of money raised was:

Gold Grandmasters Raffle	\$340
Giant Hamper Raffle	\$590
Trivia Evening	\$220
Donations	<u>\$700</u>
Total	\$1850

Charity Tournament

This year the charity is Women's Refuge and the tournament is on June 25th. Come and play – offer to help – and support our sponsors.

Hesitation

I have been asked for an article on hesitation, so here is one. It comes with a disclaimer that I am not an expert on this and it can get a bit complex at times, so if this starts a discussion then all the better for that.

First of all, one should try always to play “in tempo”, which means taking about the same amount of time for all decisions. From observation, it should not be possible to tell that one has a very weak hand (because the player looks bored and passes more rapidly than usual), nor that one has a strong hand (because the player takes longer than usual, and/or leans forward with a steely glint in their eye).

Hesitation with the intent of deceiving the opposition is prohibited. The classic easy example is hesitation before playing a singleton, which might make an opponent, (usually declarer) misplay the suit.

Sometimes one is faced with a difficult decision that takes more than the normal amount of time. It is perfectly legal to hesitate in these circumstances; however it places an obligation upon one's partner to draw no inference from this pause. There is a general prohibition on benefiting from unauthorised information, and knowledge that your partner was slow to bid is unauthorised information. In general, it is less of a problem to pause before bidding, rather than before passing – as no-one can tell whether the option was passing, or some other bid, and so any inference to be drawn is less reliable.

A common situation is an auction where both sides have established a fit, and there is competition to win the final contract. If one player hesitates before passing, there is clearly an inference that they were thinking of doing something. Now if their partner wants to make another bid, they should be very careful that the bid is justified by the values they hold in their own hand, and that it is not being justified by the (unauthorised) information that their partner might hold a little bit extra. In these situations, I try to

think ahead. For example, if I am raising partner to the two level, I will decide at the same time whether I will or will not bid again at the three level if opponents push us there.

If one side feels damaged by a hesitation then they should call the director. The director needs to rule on two separate things: firstly, was there a hesitation or wasn't there; and secondly, if there was, then was the other side damaged by it. Often the fact of a hesitation will be agreed upon by all the players, who of course were all there at the time. Sometimes, however, it is disputed and that can make it difficult for the director to rule (but it is their job and they have to). If the director decides there was damage, they will generally award an adjusted score to the innocent party.

Note also the use of stop cards, mentioned previously, is club policy. Stop cards help to prevent some situations of hesitation from arising in the first place.

So the general advice is threefold:

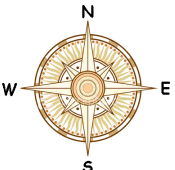
1. Try always to play in tempo.
2. If you need time, then take it. If asked, acknowledge that you have hesitated.
3. If your partner hesitates in the bidding, be very strict on yourself and do not choose that occasion to get a bit cheeky –you do not want to be accused of benefitting from the hesitation.

Ross Quayle

48th Asia - Pacific Championship

I see that New Zealand are currently 11th out of 13, at the end of the first round robin, so that is disappointing. Despite logging in several times I have not yet seen Wayne Burrows and partner in action. However, here is a hand that took my eye from the vu-graph match between Japan and Chinese Taipei.

At one table the contract was four hearts making four, and in the other room six hearts down one (bid by Chinese Taipei) both by South. The slam is not a hopeless contract but there is work to do. Both sides are vulnerable.

<p>♠ Q85 ♥ QJ82 ♦ AKQ106 ♣ K</p>		<p>♠ K762 ♥ 9643 ♦ J ♣ 10754</p>
<p>♠ J1094 ♥ 7 ♦ 953 ♣ AQJ83</p>		<p>♠ A3 ♥ AK105 ♦ 9742 ♣ 962</p>

At first glance I thought the Japanese West must have found the Jack of spades lead, which defeats the contract straight away by establishing a spade trick to go with the Ace of clubs. But no, the lead was the Ace of clubs and a spade continuation. This seems to mean twelve tricks are there, by ruffing two clubs, but declarer's problem is lack of entries. All his high diamonds are in dummy, so he has to overtake a high trump in order to get back to hand to draw trumps, and is then undone by the four-one break.

Leading against slams is seldom easy and often critical. I am sure West thought long and hard about whether to lead the Ace or not. In this case it was not fatal, but it easily could have been.

Was the slam worth bidding or not? That is quite a hard question to answer. One needs to include the possibilities of a spade lead; or the defence taking a ruff in diamonds, which is another way the contract could have been defeated on these cards; West having the King of spades, which makes the contract safe against a spade lead; and how trumps will behave. Most players will lead an ace if they have it – and that is the lead declarer wants this time. Contrariwise, if the hand on lead has no ace, some trumps and a singleton diamond, (i.e. the East hand) they may well lead the singleton and defeat the slam that way.

Note that six diamonds has no play at all despite the better trump suit. This is because the side suit, in this case hearts, does not provide the necessary discards. It is a good example of the power of the 4-4 fit, or perhaps in this case "potential power" is a better description.

The slam bidders might be tempted to say that in the end they were unlucky, because in this case the four-one trump break (five-nil would be worse) proved one hurdle too much; and that is about a two-thirds chance in their favour. However, I think all the other things that need to work mean it is a poor slam, probably 40% at best, and therefore justice was done.

Modern technology enabled me to see how the other teams did on the same hand. New Zealand team played against China Macau. There was no excitement, both sides playing in four hearts. One other team bid six hearts one light. The interesting results were two contracts by North of

3NT and 4NT respectively!! In each case there was a spade lead not a club, and they made their very lucky contract. The hard luck prize goes to the French Polynesia North-South, who bid the bold and imaginative sacrifice of 4 spades, were doubled and went down three for 800. It can be down two by dropping the King of clubs, but it could even make if the defence lead trumps to "reduce the cross-ruff". The defence have to be careful to get all their tricks against the threat that the club suit poses. They must ensure West has to trump hearts twice in order to force a trump trick of their own.

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