



## Palmerston North Bridge Club March 2011

### Editorial

This month we have the AGM. Do come.

Welcome to the bumper March edition. We have a message from our President, a book review from Carolyn Brodie and another article from the busy Ray Kemp.

Ross Quayle

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### Club Results for February

Congratulations to all our winners.

Monday:	Ray Kemp/ Kay Townsley	62.62%
Junior:	Sherlie Gaynor/ Margaret Metcalfe	55.54%
Snr/Snr Res:	John Hogan/ Sean Lynch	57.66%
Intermediate:	Christine Compton/ Amy Thomson	59.88%
Friday:	Dorothy Hodges/ Val Pain	54.90%

### Annual General Meeting

All members note that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the clubrooms on Friday 25th March 2011 at 5.30pm – the bar will be open at 5.00pm.

Please also consider standing for the committee to help run this club of ours.

### A message to all club members

During the summer break we have had to deal with a complaint from a visitor about a remark by an opponent that he found offensive. As well our visitor said that, having discussed the occurrence with “a lot of people” he found that our club “was renowned for having a few arrogant or ignorant (or both) people who seem to delight in making visitors feel less than adequate”. The specific matter has been dealt with as best I can.

However there are two more general matters that need to be addressed. The first issue that has surfaced is that it seems there is some substance to the assertion about our club being “unfriendly” (and not only to visitors). The second matter is that it seems that we have a reputation for “unfriendliness” amongst other clubs whether or not that is true. The upshot is that whether or not our reputation is deserved, we must attempt to repair the damage done. And we can best fix the second matter by fixing the first.

Part of my response to the letter was to draw attention to a prominent entry in our programme booklet:

“Conduct and Etiquette” – an extract from The Laws of Contract Bridge 2007.

#### Law 74

##### *Proper Attitude*

*A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.*

*A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.*

And further:

*I will therefore be recommending to the committee that we strongly promote an attitude of courtesy within the club – not only to comply with the letter of the law but also with a view to improving the wider perceptions of how the club manages the playing of Bridge. I would like to see these matters become the responsibility of all players at the table so that if anyone (partners or opponents) hears something that might violate the Laws they draw attention to it at the time. If the matter is a minor one it can be rectified immediately, but for major issues the director needs to be called upon at the time.*

Players need to give particular recognition to the wording of Law 74 A 2, noting that it says “might cause annoyance or embarrassment”. I believe that we can change the culture of our club to one where players at all levels encourage and are courteous to others, especially visitors and our less experienced players and can be done without being patronising.

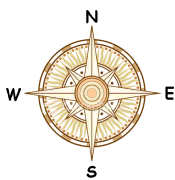
I very sincerely wish you all a happy and successful 2011 – especially in this game we all love to play.

Evelyn Hurley

## That Slammy Thing

Summer bridge. Don't you just love it? Novices all the way up to Grand Masters. It makes an interesting mix, even if it is a bit like playing soccer on the beach – football but not as we know it.

What can be gratifying is encountering novices who think that everyone they come up against who has been playing for more than a couple of years must be an expert. But sometimes pride comes before a fall. Here is the hand that did it for us.

<p>♠ KT8732 ♥ 85 ♦ A76 ♣ AK</p>		<p>♠ 65 ♥ Q62 ♦ Q9843 ♣ QJ6</p>	<p>♠ Q9 ♥ KJT74 ♦ JT2 ♣ 954</p>
<p>♠ AJ4 ♥ A93 ♦ K5 ♣ T8732</p>			

The bidding was pretty straightforward by NS: 1S-3S-4S. Each has a little to spare but I think even Ross would struggle to bid any higher on these hands ;-)

East was a new player, but eager to learn. She wanted to know what all the bids meant: the fact that I had 11-15 points and at least five spades, that my partner had about 11 or 12 points and at least three spades. She seemed very impressed by this level of sophistication in the bidding.

I was North, and after the lead of the queen of clubs I quickly mopped up all the tricks, by taking out trumps and setting up clubs. As you can see,

all the suits behaved themselves so there were about fifteen tricks there altogether.

I played the hand out just to impress the opponents. When I had finished, East looked at the contract and at the thirteen tricks spread out in front of me. She thought for a while and then said “You made all the tricks. Shouldn't you have been doing that slammy thing?”

Ray Kemp

## Book Review: Kantar on Defence

Ron Klinger brought this book to my attention at a workshop a couple of years ago. He highly recommended Eddie Kantar for books on defence. I looked for Kantar books in the Bridge club library, and....success! There are four there, three of them on defence.

The format is the same for all of them: a problem is set on one page; then you turn the page for the solution (and the next problem). For example:

### (1) THREE ACES East-West vulnerable Dealer South

<p>North</p> <p>♠ 76 ♥ K5 ♦ KQJ94 ♣ AQ632</p>	<p>West (you)</p> <p>♠ A8 ♥ AJ ♦ A87643 ♣ 1098</p>
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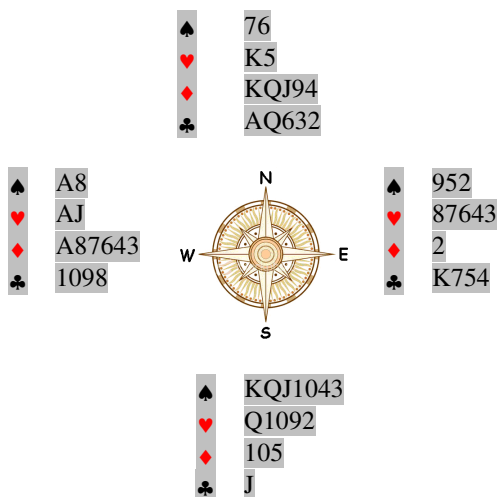
South	West	North	East
Pass	1D	Pass	Pass
1S	Pass	2NT	Pass
3S	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Ace of diamonds.

1. Partner plays the two, declarer the five. Who has the missing diamond?

2. What do you play at trick two, and why?

## THREE ACES (Solution)



1. Declarer. With 10-2 doubleton partner would have started an echo.

2. The Ace of hearts, to be followed by the Jack. Upon winning the Ace of trumps you will give partner a diamond ruff and then ruff a heart return with your lovely eight of spades which will beat dummy's seven. Why am I so good to you?

### Key lesson pointers:

1. When partner leads an Ace and dummy comes down loaded in the suit, third hand gives count if he has not supported the suit, suit preference if he has.

2. When holding the trump ace you enjoy the luxury of not rushing to give partner an immediate ruff. Sometimes it is better to void yourself first – then when you give partner a ruff, he can return the favour.

Many themes recur: setting up your own ruff before giving partner his ruff, killing dummy's long suit, when to play the Ace of trumps.

In Eddie Kantar's words "the idea of the book is to teach you to 'think defense' while somehow still having fun."

I have had this book out for far longer than I should and have enjoyed working through the 100 problems more than once. The solutions are easy to find; the print is clear; book not too big. Best of all, every so often, I manage a really good

defence with my partner. As a side benefit I have got a better understanding of declarer play too.

Carolyn Brodie

## How complicated is a simple overcall?

Usually at this stage I provide a hand with a few tricky options for declarer. This time, test your wits on a simple first round bidding situation from a recent Tuesday night. I was West, playing with Jan Whyte. North-South were the redoubtable Alistair Stuck and Alan Doddridge.

The dealer is North, nil vulnerable. Alistair opened one club and the other two both passed. I held a solid nine points:

♠ 65  
♥ 72  
♦ AKQ972  
♣ 1082

What would you do?

There are obviously some inferences available about where the points are distributed. Alistair presumably has the strongest hand, Alan the weakest. Partner has something but not enough to overcall. The balance of power is probably with north-south, but not for certain - it is always possible that partner has say five clubs and an opening hand, and no obvious bid.

Now my first instinct is always to call if can, and I obviously have the values to do so here. I have six likely tricks in diamonds, and the points that partner holds will be sitting over the stronger opponent's hand and will surely be worth a couple of tricks. And I want a diamond lead if Alistair is declarer. However, if I choose to bid, what is likely to be the final contract? Someone has the major suits, and it is not me. In fact my defence to either major is underwhelming. I think the opposition have the balance of power, and if they have a major fit then the only way I can stop them finding it is to pass. I cannot see us outbidding them. (As an aside, at teams I think this hand is very easy and I would pass. However, when playing pairs, passing seems to be giving away a very cheap plus score).

I gave this decision a lot of thought at the table – probably the longest I have thought about any bid all year. Useless thoughts passed through my head, such as, if I bid then at least they won't bid no trumps! (If I pass, of course, then they won't bid no trumps either). There is a reasonable chance that partner is 4-4 or better in the majors – given that Alistair has long clubs and I have long diamonds.

In the end I followed the pairs rule of doing what most other people would do, and bid one diamond. (The point of this rule is that it keeps you alive to get some matchpoints; and maybe in the play you can get a trick more than other people. Whereas, if you are in an unusual contract, your fate might be sealed no matter how well you play or defend the hand).

If you play weak jump overcalls you could bid two diamonds. We were playing intermediate jumps, so this would have been a gross overbid for me. However, I don't think two diamonds would make much difference – it would not intimidate many people and certainly not Alistair and Alan.

Subsequent developments fulfilled all my worst fears. Alistair doubled, which showed extra strength and encouraged his partner to bid a major. Jan raised to two diamonds, which normally would be welcome but here was not – my suit doesn't need much help, and I want partner to have the majors! Alan bid two spades. I, of course, bid three diamonds, on one hand worried lest it be doubled and on the other lacking much confidence that it would buy the contract. Alistair passed – hooray! I thought – partner passed but Alan, the passed hand, surprised us all with a second bid of three hearts! Thus he showed he had spades, and hearts, and tolerance for clubs; and incidentally confirmed all my worst fears that I should have passed. Alistair converted to three spades and that was the final bid.

Alan observed "At least we are not doubled, partner." I was not going to say so, but I was glad it was not me who was doubled!

I led the Ace of diamonds and course Alan ruffed.

All right, now you are declarer and what are you going to do?

	♠ K107	
	♥ KJ8	
	♦ J106	
	♣ AKQ6	
♠ 65		♠ QJ8
♥ 72		♥ AQ6
♦ AKQ972		♦ 8543
♣ 1082		♣ J95

	♠ A9432	
	♥ 109543	
	♦	
	♣ 743	

The key is to recognise this hand is suitable for a dummy reversal – you are going to ruff diamonds three times in hand, so your trumps in hand are going to end up shorter than the opponents. You need your three trumps in dummy to maintain trump control. You are happy to give up one trump trick, but you cannot afford to give away a tempo as well or you can run out of trumps. It is trump control, not the number of heart losers, that is critical.

It is a tricky contract. If you play AK of trumps before leading a heart, the defence can cash the Queen of trumps then lead a diamond – this will take out your last trump and the Ace of hearts is still with the defenders.

Alan ducked a trump trick early and ended up one light when Jan continued diamonds. The right line is not that easy to see – it is to leave trumps alone and play hearts first, attacking Jan's two stoppers. Note that even if the defence take queen and ace and ruff a heart that is still only four losing tricks – (two hearts, a ruff and queen of trumps), as clubs are 3-3.

The final result? Our very hard fought score of +50 was a middle score on the board. Had I passed one club, that could easily have made two or three for -90 or -110. But then 3H or 3S could have made for -140 as well.

The moral is that Bridge is a game of percentages – and I still really don't know whether 1D or pass was the better choice.

Ross Quayle



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