



## News and Views

As many of you will know by now we are going to need another SGM to resolve the fence issue. At the last meeting, you may recall that it was proposed that we go ahead with the Red Stag fencing option. However, since then, further information has come to light which indicates that this option is not suited to our needs. It would be irresponsible of us to ignore the new findings, particularly with the substantial amount of money involved, so it was agreed at this month's committee meeting that we had no alternative but to go back to the club to seek a new mandate.

We have looked at various alternative solutions, with Andrew Brodie, in particular, putting in a lot of time and effort. We now have a new proposal which still takes into account the concerns and opinions voiced at the last SGM. A meeting will be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December to consider the issues. More information about alternatives will be posted on the notice board, prior to the meeting. I urge you to come along to this meeting, if possible, to try to resolve this problem once and for all.

Many jobs are carried out behind the scenes by members to keep things running smoothly. One of the vital but unseen tasks is that of feeding the cards into the dealing machine. There has apparently been some concern about whether the card dealers get to see the hands that they might later play. In fact, no one is allowed to deal the cards for the sessions they are likely to play. Also, dealers normally only examine one of the deals (normally hand 30 which rarely gets played) to ensure the hands are correct.

Prize giving has been organized for Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December (the same evening as the SGM.) See the notice board for further details. If you have any trophies, please ensure they are returned as soon as possible so we can get the new winners' names engraved on them prior to the presentation.

Summer bridge starts on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December continuing through every Tuesday until 26<sup>th</sup> January. There is often a wide mix of abilities from Juniors to Open players and the bridge is played in a good spirit. Each week is independent so you could play with a different partner each time. Why

not ask someone who you have never partnered before to play for one week? It could be the start of a beautiful friendship.

Ray Kemp

## Point of View

I attended a course on writing movie scripts last year, and although there haven't been any offers from Hollywood as yet, it was interesting to see how various effects are achieved. For example, if Terry is talking to Julie and the director wants us to identify with Julie, then the camera shot might show Terry talking to the camera. When Julie is speaking we might see her over Terry's shoulder. The technical term for this is "point of view" (POV). It is a useful concept in bridge when playing a contract. Should you look at the deal from declarer's POV (ie your hand) or from dummy's?

If you are declarer then it is usually best to count losers in your hand if you have the longer trump suit. If, however, dummy has more trumps then it might be preferable to look at the losers from dummy's point of view. If the two hands have the same number of trumps then you have a choice. Usually, one hand is more convenient to focus on than the other. Very occasionally, when one hand has more trumps than the other it is more convenient to work from the hand with the *short* trumps. Such a deal occurred during one Tuesday evening in the Championship Pairs.

Sitting East, with North the dealer and NS vulnerable I picked up the following hand:

♠ Q7  
♥ AKQ74  
♦ 9  
♣ Q7542

A hand of some promise, but look at those streaky clubs. Some texts suggest adding points to the initial hand value if there is a suit with five or more cards. This is sound advice for a good suit, but a poor long suit can sometimes be a liability rather than an asset. Still, I had an obvious one heart opener, particularly when playing five card majors. Unfortunately, North got in before me. Here is the bidding:

West	North	East	South
	2S	3H	Pass
4H	All Pass		

North's hand showed a weak two suiter, 6-10 points and at least five-four in spades and another suit. At favourable vulnerability I wasn't going to be deterred by this, and neither was my partner. When dummy went down it was clear four hearts was the right spot:

♠ AT965	♠ Q7
♥ 8632	♥ AKQ74
♦ A6	♦ 9
♣ A6	♣ Q7542

However, looking at my hand (on the right), I could count five losers including four of those pesky clubs. The bidding suggested the suits were going to break badly so I couldn't guarantee to either set up, ruff or get away the clubs on spades. To add to my concerns, South led the four of spades; from the bidding, an obvious singleton.

Probably from reading too many bridge books, I decided upon a devious plan. Instead of winning the ace of spades, I played low, allowing North to win with the king. The expected spade return was ruffed by South but this now meant that, when I got in, I could take a ruffing finesse in spades to catch the jack and throw away losing clubs on the long spades. As long as South had started with two or more hearts, I could then lose a club and ruff the remaining one. This was a complicated plan, but it worked to perfection. I just lost three tricks: the king of spades, a spade ruff and a club.

Later, I realized there was a much simpler way to play the contract which would guarantee eleven tricks. If I had pretended to play the hand from the other side of the table then (barring a 4-0 trump split) I would be able to count on just two losers in dummy: one club and one spade.

I should have played the ace of spades straight away, taken out trumps, lost a spade and eventually set up spades and conceded just one club trick.

So remember, if you have a tricky hand to play, consider positioning the camera over the other side of the table rather than over your own shoulder. That way, you might get a happy ending, just like in the movies.

Ray Kemp

## Postscript – Don't Jump!

Earlier this month, I was subbing in the Tuesday Championship pairs, playing with an unfamiliar partner. We managed to sort out a basic system in the five minutes before play started but still had some unresolved issues. Consequently, we got into bidding trouble on a couple of hands. In one deal we had a major misunderstanding (pun intended.) My partner opened an Acol one club and the next hand passed. I had a very strong hand so made a jump response of two spades as a game force. Imagine my dismay when my partner passed this. Later she explained that many partnerships now play this jump response as weak.

This reminded me of a hand I read about on the web where even two top players got their wires crossed. Eddie Kantar and Mike Lawrence were both, at one time or another, part of the World Championship winning Dallas Aces team. Here is Kantar's description of a hand they (mis)bid.

I am playing with Mike Lawrence in the Men's Pairs in Houston and we have many kibitzers. He has talked me into playing that a jump shift from 1S to 3H shows spade support with an unknown singleton; ditto for 1H-3S. Partner can then ask for your singleton by bidding the next step up. Fine. But it has never come up and then this hand happens:

Mike has: S AKQxx H 9xx D xxx C QJ  
I have: S. - H. AKQ10xxx D. AKxx C. xx

Mike opens 1S and I forget our agreement and jump to 3H. Mike alerts and announces that I have spade support with an unknown singleton. He then bids 4S having no interest in what my singleton is. I bid 5H. He alerts and says that I have spade support with a heart void! He then bids 6S. I bid 7H. He alerts and says that they should cancel all previous alerts. They lead a diamond and I make 7H. We did not have one kibitzer left after that hand.

Ray Kemp