

Transfer Quiz - Answers.

1. Don't be a wimp. Bid 4♠. It doesn't matter what your partner has in spades.
2. Bid 2NT and leave this decision to partner. With a minimum opener and 2 spades he will pass; with a minimum and 3 spades he will bid 3♠; with a maximum and 2 spades he will bid 3NT; and with a maximum and 3 spades he will bid 4♠.
3. Easy one. Pass and let your partner play comfortably in your part score.
4. You know you have combined values sufficient for game so bid 3NT. Partner will bid 4♠ holding 3 spades.

Trump Fit solution

If you are in 7♣ you should draw trumps in three rounds. You have 5 spade tricks, 1 heart trick, 2 diamond tricks and 4 club tricks. However, when you play out your 5 spades you can discard a heart from the East hand; and that allows you to make a 13th trick by ruffing a heart.

But if the trump suit was spades you have an inescapable heart loser since you have no way of discarding the 8 of hearts from the East hand.

Items for the Newsletter

I'd like some gossip from the club's early years,
please. Send them to mike@cs.otago.ac.nz

News Letter 2003

Taieri Bridge Club

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Is Bridge in Good Health?

It's an odd question. On the one hand there are very large numbers of people *playing* the game. The NZ Contract Bridge Association claims 17,878 members. Most of these would actually play bridge, giving New Zealand bridge a high per capita participation rate compared to most games. The pattern in other countries is similar. The World Bridge Federation used the high participation rate to get bridge recognised as part of the Olympic movement in 1995. Bridge is still not an Olympic *sport* but it has the same Olympic status as golf.

On the other hand, bridge is not a spectator sport so, compared to rugby, we get little publicity. Youngsters do not pick it up at school, or even hear much about it.

Taieri players know that you can play bridge at any age (unlike Rugby!). Do your bit to keep bridge alive. Introduce a friend to the game. They'll be welcome at Taieri.

Play problem

Frieda Mayer, just back from Sydney, was looking forward to seeing her partner Gordon Rhode again. She wanted to boast of her play on this hand. She was West, in 4 hearts, and got the ♠Q lead.

♠ K 9 6
♥ Q J 5 2
♦ 5 2
♣ K Q T 5

♠ A T 3
♥ A K T 9
♦ Q J 7 6 4
♣ 9

"What would you have done, Gordon?" she said breathlessly. Gordon waved an imperious hand. "I suppose you let the lead run round to your King and then finessed North for the Jack of Spades" he answered. Crestfallen, Frieda nodded. "A far better line is to take the lead in dummy and play a club" continued Gordon. "Then you can discard your spade loser on a high club before they can knock out your other spade honour - you never know the lead could have been from Queen doubleton". Gordon continued with the same lack of tact. "By retaining the King of Spades in your hand you have another entry into your hand in order to lead towards the diamond honours". What do you think of Gordon's analysis? And should Frieda cancel her dinner date with him?

Humour

Members of the Taierei club have not been slow to send me many humorous items. Judging from the content the club's membership is interested in sex even more than bridge. Here are some of the cleaner one-liners.

The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve several times to hit him.

The pedestrian had no idea which way to run so I ran him over.

Chaos, panic and disorder - my work here is done. If you want to complain about the paperwork, put it in writing.

Suburbia: Where they tear out the trees and name the streets after them.

Every two minutes a woman somewhere gives birth - we must find that woman and stop her.

I felt so good this morning I rang in sick.

Club Puzzles

Who at our club is

1. "Grand of Rank"?
2. "Cents ran away"
3. "Hobby lisper"
4. "Noisy Walk"

Stop cards

Do you ever wonder what the point of the stop card is? I must confess that it was quite some time before I knew. It's not to make your partner wake up to the fact that you are doing something unusual!

As we all know, the only legal way to communicate information to our partner is via bidding. That's one of the reasons why we don't speak our bids at Taieri - just in case our tone of voice gave away unauthorised information. But unauthorised information can be given by silence too - in those cases where we have to think for a while before bidding. If you pause unduly and then pass your partner knows you had something to think about; that can lead to ethical problems. Here's where the stop card comes in.

When your right-hand opponent makes a jump bid he knows that you may need more time to consider your own bid. So he uses the stop card to make you pause no matter what you may have to think about. Then no information is revealed.

Do you see an important consequence? Do your thinking while the stop card is showing! Because, if you further pause then pass, you are in the same sort of trouble. And if you are making the stop bid give your left hand opponent plenty of time for their thinking before you remove the stop card.

Trump Fits

Sometimes our bidding is able to uncover a choice of trump fits. For example, if you play 4 card majors, and the bidding goes (opposition silent)

1♠ - 1NT

3♥ - ??

Then, as responder, you know that your partner is insisting on game and holds at least 5 spades and 4 hearts. If you have 3 spades and 4 hearts your choice is between game in your 5-3 spade fit or your 4-4 heart fit.

In most cases the 4-4 fit is better because your partner's long side suit will enable him to make discards from your hand as he runs it. Confused? Look at this hand, sent to me by Bert Oskam, that appeared at Taieri last month.

♠ K J 9 7 4

♥ T 9 7

♦ 4

♣ A Q 8 3

♠ A 8 6 2

♥ A 8

♦ A K 5

♣ K J 6 5

You may be surprised to find that the optimal contract is 7♣. Yes - it depends on a 3-2 break in clubs and on finding the queen of spades. But, given that, do you see why 7♣ is makeable but 7♠ isn't? See page 8.

Conventions: Transfers when partner bids 1NT

Our partners always hold better cards than us and we often have to decide what to respond when they open 1NT. With a weak balanced hand we pass of course; and there a variety of hands when we might use a Stayman 2♣ inquiry. However, there are several hand types when we hold a 5 card major suit where transfer bids are helpful. The basic idea is that, if we, as responder, hold 5 hearts or 5 spades we bid 2♦ or 2♥ (respectively) and the opener *completes the transfer* by bidding 2♥ or 2♠ respectively.

When do we do this, and what's the point? The first point is that you, as responder, can initiate a transfer holding a weak hand (7 HCP and a 5 card heart suit, say - bid 2♦ and pass partner's response of 2♥ - then the strong hand is concealed). But there are a number of other situations where transfers smooth your way. Suppose you, as responder, have a game-going hand with 5 spades but are unsure whether 3NT or 4♠ is the better contract. Easy - just bid 2♥ and, after opener obediently bids 2♠, bid 3NT; opener can bid 4♠ holding at least 3 spades.

What if you, as responder, are blessed only with an

invitational hand (11 or 12 HCP) and 5 spades ?

Also easy - bid 2♥ and then 2NT; opener can bid game, pass, or bid a non-forcing 3♠ depending on their spade holding and strength).

Examples The bidding goes (with opposition silent)

1NT - 2♥ - 2♠

What should you, as the responder, do next holding

1. ♠ A K Q J T 9
♥ 9 8
♦ 9 2
♣ A T 2

2. ♠ A J 9 8 2
♥ K J T
♦ Q T 3
♣ 7 6

3. ♠ K Q 8 6 4
♥ 9 8
♦ 9 2
♣ A T 2

4. ♠ K Q 8 6 4
♥ J T 9
♦ A 8
♣ K Q 9

See page 8 for answers.