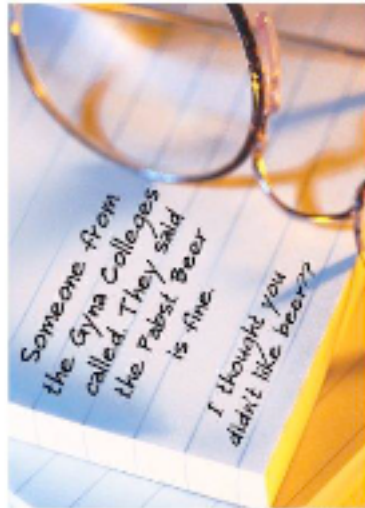


## BEFORE 6 BEERS



## AFTER 6 BEERS



Why men shouldn't take messages

# N e w s l e t t e r

## Taieri Bridge Club

Issue Number 96 December 2004



### The Christmas season

This is the time of year when everyone takes a rest. For serious bridge players that means that the competitions of the year are over and there are no more tournaments until the New Year. For a bridge newsletter editor it also means that there is virtually no news! So I wish you all a happy and restful holiday season and apologise that this issue is full only of frivolity.



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4

### The Revenge of the Weasel and Ferret

The Weasel and Ferret were playing their old enemies Frieda and Gordon on the last two boards of the evening. On the first, the Ferret, sitting South, opened 1♠ and the Weasel, holding

♠: Q T 8 6; ♥: A Q; ♦: 4; ♣: 8 7 6 5 4 3

had to decide between giving a simple raise or an invitational double raise. Wanting to get across that his hand was worth a bid of about two and a half spades the Weasel found a neat solution: he bid 2♠ but accompanied the bid with a display of the stop card. The Ferret understood completely and jumped to game on otherwise slender values.

The contract was unbeatable, no other pair had bid it, and Frieda and Gordon earned a cold bottom.

On the second board things didn't look very bright either for our heroes since Frieda, West, bid to 6♣ and the Weasel, peeking at Frieda's hand and holding ♣ K Q 9 behind Frieda's A♣, doubled sneeringly.

Seeing dummy after the 7♠ lead, Frieda felt they were heading for another bottom. She thought "This seems to be a reasonable contract; I need only one of the missing club honours to be on my right; but that poisonous Weasel seems to have both of them. How did he know that they were so well-placed? Still I may be able to manage something if the other suits break reasonably".

### How to call the Police

George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window.

George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things. He phoned the police who asked, "Is someone in your house?" and he said "No."

Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available.

George said, "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed. Well you don't have to worry about them now, 'cause I've just shot them all."

Then he hung up.

Within five minutes three police cars, an armed response unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence. Of course, the police caught the burglars red-handed. One of the policemen said to George: "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"



♠ 7 6 3  
♥ 9 7 3 2  
♦ A 3 2  
♣ K Q 9

♠ 9 8 5  
♥ A K Q J  
♦ void  
♣ A J 6 5 3 2

♠ A K Q 4 2  
♥ void  
♦ K Q J T  
♣ T 8 7 4

♠ J T  
♥ T 8 6 5 4  
♦ 9 8 7 6 5 4  
♣ void

Frieda won the A♠, and played the K♦. The Ferret went into a huddle, sighing, and looking skywards, giving the impression of holding the A♦; finally he played the 9♦. This theatrical display left Frieda unmoved. She had always intended to ruff and did so with the 2♣.

Then she played a spade to the King and ruffed another diamond. Next came a spade to the Queen and a third diamond ruffed. Now four rounds of hearts the last of which Frieda ruffed in dummy. This was the situation when Frieda played the 7♣ from dummy on which she played J♣:

♣ K Q 9

♣ A J 6

♣ T 8 7

♥ T  
♦ 9 8 3

The Weasel's goose was cooked. He won with Q♣ and desperately played his 9♣ but dummy's 10♣ won and Frieda's A♣ took the last trick.

After the game Frieda, Gordon, Voluptua, and Randy were discussing the evening's bridge. Frieda was jubilant at making 6♣, Gordon gave a scholarly disquisition on trump end-plays and the necessity for trump reduction, Voluptua tried to follow as best she could, and Randy was left to a lustful reverie. He was shaken from his dreams by Voluptua grasping his knee; but his short-lived hopes were dashed on realising that Voluptua simply wanted him to recount her own triumph against the Weasel and Ferret.

Voluptua, West was declarer in 3NT with the Weasel leading the 2♠

♠ K T 9 2	
♥ K 3 2	
♦ 9 7 6	
♣ K 8 7	
♠ A Q 6	♠ 8 7
♥ 5 4	♥ 8 6
♦ 4 3 2	♦ A K Q J T
♣ A Q 6 5 4	♣ J T 3 2
♠ J 5 4 3	
♥ A Q J T 9 7	
♦ 8 5	
♣ 9	4

Prospects did not appear very bright with the heart suit wide open. The Ferret, South, sensed Voluptua's unease and, in a blatant attempt to put her off, unkindly remarked to Randy "Your girlfriend may be good-looking but she's just a dumb blonde".

This ploy seemed destined to succeed because Voluptua was indeed so flustered that rather than winning the trick with the Q♠ she inadvertently played the A♠. She then went to dummy with a diamond and ran the J♣ which was won by the Weasel.

At this point the defence could have taken the next seven tricks which, together with the trick they had just taken would have put the contract four down. But Voluptua's accidental play of A♠ made the Weasel believe that the Ferret held the Q♠. The dastardly Weasel therefore played 10♠ and, in a blatant display of the sharp practice for which his name had been won, remarked as though to the room at large "Always return your partner's lead" thereby informing his partner that he held K♠. His surprise and fury when Voluptua won this with the Q♠ and then ran off 4 more diamond tricks and 3 club tricks (giving her two overtricks) knew no bounds.

Virtue, as usual, had triumphed once again. Randy, however, had other ideas....