

## Laws in the state of Texas (True!)

1. It is illegal to take more than three sips of beer at a time while standing.
2. A recently passed anticrime law requires criminals to give their victims 24 hours notice, either orally or in writing, and to explain the nature of the crime to be committed.
3. It is unlawful for a person to consume an alcoholic beverage while operating a motor vehicle upon a public roadway, *if the person is observed doing so by a peace officer.*
4. The entire Encyclopedia Britannica is banned in Texas because it contains a formula for making beer at home.
5. When two trains meet each other at a railroad crossing, each shall come to a full stop, and neither shall proceed until the other has gone.
6. You can be legally married by publically introducing a person as your husband or wife 3 times.
7. A city ordinance states that a person cannot go barefoot without first obtaining a special five-dollar permit.
8. It is illegal for one to shoot a buffalo from the second story of a hotel.
9. It is illegal to milk another person's cow.

## News Letter 2004

# Taieri Bridge Club

Issue Number 94 October 2004



## Tournament news

Taieri players had successes in the following recent tournaments:

Alexandra A point teams:

1st Mike Atkinson, Tamsin Meaney

## Alexandra A point pairs

2nd Mike Atkinson, Tamsin Meaney

## Otago Congress A point teams

2nd Frank Gradon, Judy Robertson

## Otago Congress A point pairs

2nd John and Sharon Mosley

## The Newsletter

The club Newsletter is now on the internet.

You can find it from the club's home page

([taieribridge.tripod.com](http://taieribridge.tripod.com)) by following the

News link. All the issues from January

2003 are now downloadable in pdf format

(that means you require Adobe Acrobat

Reader - which is free - see instructions on the Newsletter web pages).

### Cue bidding to slam

Gerber (4♣) and Blackwood (4NT) are our blunt instruments for checking on aces (and kings) when exploring a slam contract. But sometimes we are interested in *which* aces and kings partner holds rather than how many. If we had a void in hearts, for example, partner's A♥ may not be very useful. Suppose you hold

♠ A K J 8 7 4; ♥ K 8 7; ♦ A K 2; ♣ 4

You open 1♠ and hear 3♠ from your partner. You will be interested in whether 6♠ is a viable contract and your best bid is 4♦. This says "I have first round control in diamonds (ace or void) but not in clubs, and I'm interested in slam". Suppose your partner now bids 4♥. You can now bid 6♠ with great confidence. Even with as little as

♠ Q 6 5 3; ♥ A 3 2; ♦ Q J; ♣ J T 3 2

the contract is practically lay down.

Contrast this with the situation where your partner bids 5♣ (rather than 5♥) thereby showing the A♣. This would be much more problematic for you since he has denied the A♥. Nevertheless it would be worth your bidding 5♦ to show second round control (maybe your partner will bid 5♥ which would be a second round control - a singleton in this case).

If you would like to know more read "Cue bidding to slams" by Ron Klinger.

### 5 card (Puppet) Stayman

When we show a strong hand with a sequence such as 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT, or just 2NT, it is useful not to be quite so strict about our shape as we would be with a 1NT opener. We may very well have a 5 card major suit. Partner has the problem of figuring out whether to play in no trumps or in a major suit and would like to know about any 5 card major suit we hold as well as any 4 card major. Puppet Stayman is designed for this and it begins with the responder bidding 3♣ as though for normal Stayman.

Opener then replies as follows:

3♦: I have a 4 card major

3♥: I have 5 hearts

3♠: I have 5 spades

3NT: No 4 or 5 card major

Responder can then place the contract except in the case that opener has given a 3D response (which does not say which 4 card major is held). If responder has a 4 card major of his own he can still hope to play in a 4-4 fit but, oddly, the procedure is now for him to bid a major suit *he doesn't have*. That is, bidding 3♥ says "I have spades" and bidding 3♠ says "I have hearts". The point is that opener can now bid the major suit game if they have a 4-4 fit *and the strong hand will be concealed*.

### Play problems: solutions

1. You will need the K♥ to be favourably placed. Ruff the opening lead *with a high honour*. This is necessary so that you can enter dummy with the 9♠ and take the heart finesse. Assuming it wins, enter dummy with the A♦ and finesse in hearts again. Then play A♥, discarding a diamond from dummy; ruff a heart, come back to your hand with a club ruff and ruff your last diamond.

2. *Don't finesse the Q♥!* This contract is rock solid. Just win the A♥, draw trumps, play three rounds of clubs, and exit with a heart. Whoever wins will have to give you a ruff and discard or open up diamonds for you. If you take the heart finesse on the opening lead and it loses you will have to guess diamonds yourself.

3. You have 8 top tricks. The ninth must come from spades. On the bidding South is likely to have both K♠ and J♠. Win the third heart (not because you place South with several hearts but because you'd like his hand to be squeezed a little). Play your 6 diamond winners and then a low spade towards dummy covering North's card. With any luck South will win, be unable to cash two minor suit winners, and have to lead a spade round to your Q♠.

### Play problems

What is the best line for West to make their contract in these hands?

1. Contract 7♠; lead A♣.

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

2. Contract 6♠; lead ♥2.

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

3. Contract 3NT; lead ♥K (after North has opened a weak 2♥ bid)

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

### Voluptua enjoys a squeeze

Randy and Voluptua were staying in a Timaru motel where they were staying overnight before playing in the Timaru intermediate. Randy's mind was not on the forthcoming bridge at all but was dwelling salaciously on the prospect of a couple of nights away with Voluptua. Interpreting one of her winning smiles as an invitation to game he tried to finesse her honour. But it turned out that Voluptua was playing reverse attitude signals and a rebuffed Randy spent the night on the couch. Despite this inauspicious start to the adventure the tournament went very well. On the last board Voluptua, South, found herself in 6NT on these hands

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

West, who led his fourth best spade, was a cocky young man who repeatedly called Voluptua "Darling". Both she and Randy had taken a hearty dislike to him and Voluptua was hoping for a good result on this hand.

She won the Q♠ spade lead in dummy and immediately played a club to the Jack; it lost, disappointingly, to West's queen who continued with J♠.

Things looked hopeless with 11 top tricks only. But Voluptua thought she had better take what winners she could so winning the K♠ she played two top hearts then 5 rounds of clubs (discarding 3 hearts and a diamond from dummy). On the last club West had to choose between throwing his winning T♠ or unguarding diamonds. Retaining his diamond guard he discarded T♠ and so Voluptua's 9♠ became a winner. Amazingly she had made her contract, the slimey West was vanquished and, narrowly, they had won the tournament.

After celebratory drinks they headed back to the motel. As they entered the room Randy complimented Voluptua once more on her magnificent play on the last board. Voluptua was dimly aware of what had happened. "That was a squeeze, Randy" she announced. "I'm just getting the hang of them, and if you play your cards right tonight I'll show you what I mean".