

European officials have often pointed out that English spelling is unnecessarily difficult; for example: cough, plough, rough, through and thorough. What is needed is a phased programme of changes to iron out these anomalies. In the first year, for example, we would start using 's' instead of the soft 'c'. Certainly, sivil servants in all sities would resieve this news with joy. Then the hard 'c' could be replaced by 'k' sinse both letters are pronounsed alike. This would klear up konfusun for klerikal workers, and typewriters could be made with one less letter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expected to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments would enkourage the removal of double letters which have always been a deterrent to akurate speling.

Kontinuig zis proses yer after yer, ve vud eventuli hav a reli sensibl riten styl. After tventi yers zer vud be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vud fin it ezi tu understand ech ozer. Ze drems of the Guvermnt vud finali hav kum tru.

Taieri Bridge Club

By the time you read this our April Charity tournament will have taken place. This is the first of four tournaments held at the club this year. The last two of these are the A point pairs on 11 June, and the Graded Pairs on 14 August. However, before these events we have the B point pairs tournament on 7 May. Do give serious consideration to entering even if you haven't played in a tournament before; you'll find it very rewarding and you'll enjoy the day greatly. There will be a fair number of local pairs, a good representation from the Otago club, and a few pairs from further afield.

Would any club member like to contribute an occasional or regular article? Let me know! You can send me copy in any form (and, if you want to use email, my address is mike@cs.otago.ac.nz).

Heaters/Air Conditioning

Controls on the heat pumps have been changed. The convenor should activate the heat pumps by pushing the heater button on the switchboard. This will turn the heat pumps on. They have been set at 19 degrees, and will either heat the room or cool it down as required -- (or do nothing, if the temperature is satisfactory). To turn them off, just push the button again. If you forget, they will turn off automatically after 3 hours. If the heaters are not performing correctly, they can be turned off at the wall, but the thermostat at the front of the room will have no effect. If you don't like the draught, do not sit near the heaters. We recognise that we cannot satisfy everyone, but it is not very easy to have it hot at one end of the room, and cold at the other, as we were asked to do recently!!

Teams

The graded teams this year did not have enough entries and have been replaced by 3 three-night competitions on a Monday night. Members should think about what they want in the programme for next year. Don't leave it until after next year's programme has been printed to make your suggestions.

indicating diamonds.

2. Here again you should encourage by playing the ♥9. But things are a little different now since *dummy* can ruff the third heart after your partner has continued with the king and another. If *dummy* ruffs with the 9♠ you should overruff with the T♠. But, if *dummy* ruffs with the Q♠, you should discard J♣ (indicating a sequence headed by the J♣). You now have a very good chance to take two trump tricks should declarer misguess.

3. A different situation as *dummy* has a singleton heart. There is little point in your partner continuing hearts and she knows it. You can indicate that she should switch to a diamond by playing your highest heart on the opening lead.

4. And this is similar. Here your partner doesn't have the K♥ and there are some dangerous discards looming. You desperately want a club rather than a diamond so play your lowest heart on the opening lead.

In these examples there is a common theme that extends beyond what happens on the opening lead. If both partners know that the present suit should not be continued then third hand will give a suit preference signal (a low card to suggest the lower ranking suit, a high card to suggest the higher ranking suit).

Signals on the opening lead

When your partner has made the opening lead and *has won the trick* you have a useful opportunity to signal to her about what she should lead next. The most common scenario is that she has led an Ace. How do you tell her what to lead next? Here are some common situations; in each case the contract is 4♠ and your partner has led A♥.

1. Dummy: ♠ A Q T 2; ♥ 8 7 6; ♦ K 5 3 2; ♣ 6 4
You: ♠ J 9; ♥ 9 2; ♦ 8 7 6 4; ♣ J T 9 8 7
2. Dummy: ♠ A Q 9 2; ♥ 8 6; ♦ K 5 3 2; ♣ 6 5 4
You: ♠ K T 3; ♥ 9 2; ♦ 7 6 4; ♣ J T 9 8 7
3. Dummy: ♠ A Q T 2; ♥ 8; ♦ K 8 5; ♣ Q 8 4 3 2
You: ♠ K 9; ♥ T 9 2; ♦ A Q 6 4; ♣ J T 9 7
4. Dummy: ♠ A Q T 2; ♥ K Q J 2; ♦ K 5; ♣ 7 6 4
You: ♠ J 9; ♥ 9 8 7 2; ♦ 8 7 6 4; ♣ A K Q

Before reading on you might like to think what card you should play to the first trick, and how the defence might continue.

Here are the answers.

1. Assuming you are playing standard signals, your correct card here is ♥ 9 to encourage a heart continuation. If your partner holds ♥ K she will play it and you will get a third round ruff. Watch very carefully when your partner plays the third heart! She will try to let you know what suit to return (a low heart indicating clubs, a high heart

A wild hand

At the club pairs game on 23 March the following hand was held by North:

♠ void; ♥ A K J x x x; ♦ K Q x x x x; ♣ x

Things got even more interesting when South opened proceedings with 1♣ and, after a 1♥ response, rebid 1NT.

Put yourself in North's shoes. How do you plan the auction?

One thing you must not do is robotically count points (with your partner's 16HCP maximum you have a mere 28HCP). Your hand has huge playing strength and you should expect to make 12 or 13 tricks in either hearts or diamonds.

You might start by 4♣, asking for aces. If so, you find your partner has two. Unless you are a *very* experienced partnership you should now settle for a small slam only. Yes, your partner's missing two aces could be the A♦ and A♣ (rather than A♠ and A♦ or A♠ and A♣) but that is a one in three chance.

So, you give up on the grand. What do you bid?

The problem with a direct 6♥ is that you may find your partner with a small doubleton and lose a trump trick as well as the A♦ or A♣.

There is much to be said for a direct 6♦, giving your partner a preference at the six level.

Wink, wink, nudge, nudge

Voluptua had had a succession of good results against the dastardly Weasel and Ferret who were determined to get their revenge. When they met next in the weekly duplicate the Weasel (South) was in 3NT, had won 7 tricks, and needed the last two to make his contract. This was the situation:

♥ A Q	
♥ T 9	♥ K J
♥ 3 2	

Desperate measures were called for, especially as he had already peeped at Voluptua's hand (East) and seen that the K♥ was off-side. With a shrug he played the 3♥ saying "I'd better take the heart finesse". On hearing this Voluptua prepared to capture the Q♥ with the K♥, and therefore played the K♥. Only then, to her dismay, did she see that the Weasel had played the A♥ from dummy! The Weasel rubbed salt into her wound by an obvious and very lewd wink in her direction.

On the second board of the set the Weasel arrived in 4♠ and Randy began the defence by winning the first two tricks with the Ace and King of hearts. "That's a good start" thought Voluptua, and when Randy played a third heart she prepared to overruff dummy who had played the Q♠.

Just at that point the Ferret (dummy), who had left the table, returned. He saw that there was an

♠ 8 3 ♥ A K T 9 4 3 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ 6 3	♠ K Q T ♥ 6 5 ♦ K 9 8 7 6 ♣ A 5 4	♠ A J ♥ 7 2 ♦ J T 3 ♣ Q J T 9 8 7
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♠ 9 7 6 5 4 3 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ A 2 ♣ K 2
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impending ruff and 'accidentally on purpose' gave Voluptua a hard nudge as he passed. So startled was she that she dropped the 7♣ on the table. The Weasel, gentlemanly as ever, insisted that she played it.

However, it was now inevitable that Voluptua came to two trump tricks (whereas, had she overruffed the third heart with the A♠ she would only have scored one). The Ferret's nudge had been costly. Randy, realising what had happened and spotting a good opportunity, congratulated Voluptua on not overruffing. "That was a very good performance, Voluptua" he remarked "I think you are in good form for the rest of the evening". Nudge, nudge, wink, wink.