

A Director writes....

We will all have heard a player say things like "Well, I have got the rest", and we have also heard the opponents say things like "I want you to play them out". Both of these comments require further comment.

It is quite in order for either side to make a claim and this is often done to speed up play. However, the player who makes the claim should also indicate his line of play. If there are trumps still out and they have not been mentioned, then the opponent can claim a trick if it could have been made by **any** line of play, even an inferior one.

Further, playing out the hand after a claim is made is **not** an option. The laws require that after any claim, all play ceases. In the case of a contested claim, all remaining cards are placed face up on the table. Any doubtful points are resolved against the claimer.

I am not saying "don't claim", but I am saying "do it right!"

Jane Archer

There are a lot of members who work very hard for the Club. One of those is Jane Archer who goes to great lengths to ensure there is a maximum number of tables on a Saturday. Her extra efforts are greatly appreciated, and in recognition of this the committee has decided that table fees will be waived for Jane on Saturday afternoons.

Taieri Bridge Club

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Tournament News

Our A point tournament was held on 3 June and attracted a field of 17 tables. The club made a profit of \$400. The winners were Margaret Perley and Paul Freeland from the Otago Club.

Contributed humour

An elderly couple were on a cruise. While they were standing on deck watching a storm a wave came up and washed the old woman overboard. They searched for days and couldn't find her, so the captain sent the old man back to shore with the promise that he would notify him when they found something. After three weeks the old man got a fax from the boat. It read: "Sir, sorry to inform you, we found your wife dead at the bottom of the ocean. We hauled her up to the deck and attached to her butt was an oyster; in it was a pearl worth \$50,000 please advise."

The old man faxed back: "Send me the pearl and re-bait the trap."

Count, count, count (3)

In this month's article we shall look at how counting can aid the defence. Suppose the bidding has been

1NT - 3NT

and you (West) are on lead holding

♠ K Q 2; ♥ K J 2; ♦ 5 4 3 2; ♣ 8 7 6

You lead 2♠ lead and see this

♠ 8 7 6

♥ T 9

♦ A J 6

♣ K Q J 5 2

♠ K Q 2

♥ K J 2

♦ 5 4 3 2

♣ 8 7 6

Partner follows with J♠ and this holds the trick.

Partner leads a low spade which declarer wins with the Ace. Next declarer leads a 8♦ to the Jack and this loses to partner Q♦. Partner now plays a spade to your remaining spade honour. What now? Count!

Declarer has shown up with A♠ for sure. Why has he not attacked clubs? It must be because he has the A♣ and the clubs are ready to run. But why has he played diamonds at all; this would be very dangerous unless he holds the King. So you can infer declarer also holds the K♦. That is 11 HCP;

South may win the first club and, if he returns a heart, you are at the mercy of the heart finesse." You are then asked "How can you arrange for North to win the first heart?".

On the final screen the answer is given. "Cross to dummy with A♠ and lead ♣C, pretending to finesse; South will very likely duck with just one of the high club honours. Then you can concede the next club to either opponent and rise with the A♥ if a heart is led. Finally, the 9♣ disposes of your heart loser".

The site is beautifully designed but does not archive the hands (unless you pay a small subscription). So, in order not to miss a hand, you should check it every day for its new problem. Finally, a question from me! What danger do you need to watch for in the recommended line of play?

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and the answer: since you will need to draw trumps before playing the third club make sure you don't "waste" your 5♠ and 2♠ on the A♠ and K♠. Otherwise you cannot enter dummy after a possible necessary third round of trumps.

Bridge Clues web site

A few months ago I mentioned the bridge web site

<http://www.baronbarclay.com/sheinwold/SHEINWOL.html>

which features a daily bridge problem (usually a play problem) with an enlightening discussion by Frank Stewart.

This month I'd like to publicise another site

<http://www.bridgeclues.com/>

which also has a daily bidding problem and a daily play problem (composed by another notable bridge writer, Mike Lawrence). The play section of this site is ideal for any player below the level of expert because it takes you step by step through the thinking process that leads to the best strategy. Here's an example. West is playing 4♠ on the Q♦ lead:

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

You are first asked: "what dangers exist?" On the next screen the answer is given ("You have a diamond loser, and two club losers, and a possible heart loser"). Then it says "Dummy has ♣ T 9 3. You can lead your Q♣, J♣ and set up the T♣ for a heart discard. Do you see any problems with that? How can you improve your chances?"

On the next screen you are told: "If you lead clubs

follows that he cannot hold the A♥ (but must have the Q♥). So play a 2♥ to partner's Ace and let your partner return a heart through declarer's Q♥. Down one! If you fail to lead 2♥ declarer scampers home with an overtrick: 2 spades, 3 diamonds, and 5 clubs as he held

♠ A T 5 4; ♥ Q 4 3; ♦ K T 9 8; ♣ A 3

From the Archives

The first tournaments run by the new bridge club were held in 1974, an Intermediate on 20th April and a Junior on 21st September. For the Intermediate tournament the St. Mary's Hall was booked at a charge of \$25 and the Taieri Plunket Mothers undertook the catering at \$1.50 per head for a 2-course meal. All members participated in running the inaugural tournament. Chairs were borrowed from the Darts Hall, Mr & Mrs Asher, Marion Dowden. Beryl Bishop and Alan Dickson arranged the draw, members provided sandwiches, cakes, buttered scones and pikelets for the afternoon tea and supper and Mrs Prue Wilson arranged the flowers in St Mary's Hall. The Director of the Tournament was Mrs Pat Alldred. Prize money was \$8 for 1st, \$6 for 2nd, \$4 for 3rd and \$2 for 4th. Profit from the Intermediate tournament was \$240.

The unpleasant American

Frieda and Gordon's honeymoon was being spent on a bridge cruise. The weather was perfect and the ship's food delicious. The only fly in an otherwise perfect ointment was the presence of an American couple. They were Bush supporters who, on learning that Gordon's sister was a notable reporter in Baghdad and very critical of the US occupation, had made it their business to be as unpleasant as possible to the honeymoon couple. On the whole Gordon and Frieda managed to retain their cool in the face of a barrage of insults which irritated Mr Delano Sr III, and his wife all the more. Halfway through the cruise they met over the bridge table with Gordon, South, declarer in 4♠.

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

Mr Delano Sr III had preempted 4♣ and his wife had managed to convey by a series of sighs that he was definitely not to sacrifice in 5♣ since she was void. Gordon was looking forward to making an apparently easy contract when the Q♣ was led. He covered with the K♣ and Mrs Delano ruffed muttering something about pinko Commie liberals. There now appeared to be 4 inevitable losers and, even worse, the consequent Delano bragging. Gordon saw one chance. He followed to the first trick with the A♣! This elicited a scornful rejoinder from Mr Delano about Gordon's inattention.

But the last laugh was Gordon's. He won the trump return, drew trumps, and played his two top hearts and the A♦. Then he threw the odious Delano in with a club.

With only clubs left, Mr Delano had to play one proclaiming arrogantly that the "ruff-sluff won't help that *****". Gordon however *discarded a heart from dummy and a diamond from his own hand*.

Then, when Mr Delano led another club, he was able to ruff in dummy and discard his last diamond so winning the remainder of the tricks and making his contract.

The entire ship's company let out a loud cheer and, with a snarl, Mr and Mrs Delano departed mouthing threats of revenge.