

Local Jokes

Having arrived in the UK, I had a certain type of joke in mind.....

1. An Englishman, a Scotsman, and an Irishman walked into a pub together. They each bought a pint of Guinness. As they were about to enjoy their creamy beverage three flies landed in each of their pints, and got stuck in the thick head. The Englishman pushed his beer from him in disgust. The Scotsman scooped at his beer until he washed the fly out and then continued drinking. The Irishman carefully picked the fly out of his drink, then held it out over the beer and started yelling at it "SPIT IT OUT! SPIT IT OUT!!!!"

2. An Englishman, a Scotsman and an Irishman are driving through the desert when their car breaks down. So they have to get out.

The Englishman takes a bottle of wine with him,
the Scotsman takes an umbrella and the Irishman
takes a car door.

On the way they meet an old man. He says to the Englishman "I know why you've got the wine - you can have a drink when your thirsty", He says to the Scotsman "I know why you've got the umbrella - to keep the sun off you", "But" he says to the Irishman "Why have you got the car door?" and the Irishman replies "If I get hot I can wind the window down!"

News Letter 2006

Taieri Bridge Club

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A point tournament

Our A point tournament took place on 10 June and was a great success. Thank you to all the many helpers who gave so freely of their time. Clearly, a good time was had by all as we took \$125 over the bar!

The winners were Graeme Stout and Judith Laube of the Otago bridge club with 59.16%. Graeme played regularly at Taieri many years ago and his name appears several times on our early honour boards in partnership with Buntly Almond. Runners-up were Nina Hewitt and Anne-Marie Russell followed by Paul Freeland and Margaret Perley. We had 17 tables which was a splendid turnout.

Some bumper stickers

Circular Definition: see Definition, Circular.
Santa's elves are just a bunch of
subordinate Clauses.

Air Pollution is a mist-demeaner.

Editing is a rewording activity.

Make yourself at homeclean my kitchen

Too many freaks not enough circuses

From our foreign correspondent

Tamsin and I began our foreign travel bonanza by spending a week in Reykjavik. We were there almost at midsummer. Did you think that it would be warm then? Not unless you count temperatures of 7-12 C as being warm! Yes, summer in Iceland is like winter in Dunedin. However, despite the harsh climate, Iceland is stunningly beautiful. Old lava fields and old volcanoes set amongst glaciers, waterfalls, and hot springs make up a stark but compelling landscape. In some ways Iceland is like parts of New Zealand but smaller, less populous, and a bleaker landscape. But in one way it is very different - prices are sky-high. We had breakfast each day in a bakery where we enjoyed excellent coffee and a plain croissant: \$15! Our week passed quickly with no opportunity for bridge and we are now spending two weeks in Ottawa. Such a contrast! Hot sunny days and reasonable prices. Here we have managed to play bridge once. Bridge clubs in Canada usually do not have their own premises but, at least, the location where we played was on a long term lease to the club. We played in a 13 table afternoon game of relatively high standard. We were welcomed very warmly at each table and found all our opponents polite and friendly. Bidding boxes rather than bidding pads are the norm in Canada and usually the

Let them help you

This hand shows a common theme: if it is advantageous that the opponents lead a suit first let them do so!

♠ A K T 9 8
♥ J 7 6
♦ A J 8
♣ A 8

♠ Q J 3
♥ A T 3 2
♦ K 6 3 2
♣ J 7

West plays in 4♠ and North leads K♣. You have 9 top tricks (5 in spades, 1 in hearts, 2 in diamonds, 1 in clubs). If you play the side suits first you may lose 4 tricks. However, there is a way that might force the opponents to help you. Win the opening lead and draw two rounds of trumps. Then play J♣. North will win this trick and, if she has no trump, will have to play either 1) a club giving you a ruff in dummy, 2) a diamond, allowing you to make a third diamond trick, 3) a heart, allowing you to lose one heart trick only.

If North does hold the outstanding trump and plays it you still have some work to do, but you lost nothing by trying this "partial elimination" (except risking a very unlikely opposing ruff). Notice that drawing three rounds of trumps is not as good because then North can exit with a club having won her Q♣.

Duke of Cumberland hand

The Duke of Cumberland, who was the son of George III, is said to have lost £20,000 on this rigged hand. Ian Fleming subsequently used the hand in "Moonraker" where James Bond outwitted the dastardly villain Drax.

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

Bond (North) pretended to be drunk and opened 7♣.

Bond	Meyer	M.	Drax
North	East	South	West
7♣	Pass	Pass	Double

Redouble

By ruffing diamonds twice in dummy and finessing against Drax's club honours Bond took all 13 tricks which was a first step towards saving the world from tyranny.

hands are dealt by the players (so no hand records). The frequent hand-dealing made for rather sticky cards. We didn't stay for the score but we found our rather undistinguished result on the club's web-site the next day. None of the hands we played were particularly remarkable. Here is one that I played in 3NT as West:

♠ K Q x x	♠ A x
♥ A x	♥ K T x x x
♦ A K Q J x	♦ x x
♣ A x	♣ x x x x

There were no bad breaks and, legitimately, I should only have made my 10 top tricks plus a long diamond. However, North led the Q♥ and so I made an extra heart trick. Then, when I played out my diamonds, the opponents kindly discarded enough spades that I made an extra spade trick also. It's certainly hard for the defence to know whether to keep spades or clubs.

Other differences to a New Zealand club were: no clock to time the round (the director called for the move each time), and no tea break (instead, players could get refreshment at any time from the juice, tea, and cookie table). The table fee was high by Taieri standards (\$6 Can. which is about \$9 NZ).

We haven't time to manage another Canadian bridge game but we certainly enjoyed our single outing.

Minnie van Driver's charmed life

Minnie van Driver had been playing at Taieri for almost a month and was now reliably sorting her cards into suits, rarely revoking, and only bidding out of turn three or four times per session. Even with that improvement it was hard to explain why she was getting such good results. She seemed to lead a charmed life with all her errors leading to inadvertent brilliancies. A typical example was this hand she played in 5♦ as West.

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

North began proceedings by cashing the A♥ and K♥ and then played a third heart which Minnie had the sense to ruff in dummy. She then played the Ace and King of trumps and noticed that North discarded a small heart on the second trump. "Oh good" she thought, "I must have got all those nasty opponents' trumps by now". She had not noticed that South remained with J 8 in trumps (an apparently certain trick since dummy was out of trumps and she couldn't therefore finesse). So with the peaceful happiness of one overseen by a fairy godmother she began playing out her clubs.

After taking the K, Q, J of clubs she crossed to dummy with the A♠. These cards remained

♠ 4	♠ K J 3
♥ none	♥ none
♦ Q T 7	♦ none
♣ none	♣ A

She now played the A♣ and ruffed it by mistake. Very flustered to have "wasted a trump" she next played a spade to the King. Now the lead was in dummy and the cards were

♠ none	♠ J 3
♥ none	♥ none
♦ Q T	♦ none
♣ none	♣ none

with South retaining J 8. When she played a spade from dummy she was surprised to see South forced to ruff; but she merely over-ruffed and won both the last two tricks.

Observant readers will have seen that ruffing the A♣ was the only way to make the contract. This type of trump reduction (ruffing winners) to engineer a trump coup is called a "grand coup". But Minnie was blissfully unaware of this rare play and displayed only a becoming surprise at being the only declarer to succeed.