

### Battle of the sexes

A husband is playing with his wife and he picks up a hand with a zillion spades. However his wife has a zillion and one hearts. The battle begins. Higher and higher they go, finally, in spite of the looks he has been getting, he bids 6♠ over her 6♥ bid which buys the contract. The lead is made and when the dummy goes down, he sees he can't make 6♠, but 6♥ is cold. He knows he is in big trouble. He starts to apologise before playing to trick one by saying, "Sorry dear, I should have withdrawn. " She says, "You should have withdrawn? Your father should have withdrawn!"

### Too much of a good thing

Two men play bridge all afternoon at the club and adjourn for dinner. They go over every hand dutifully writing on every napkin not to mention their tablecloth. They go back, play another session, and adjourn to the same restaurant for a late snack. Again they start to go over the hands. Finally, one says: "Bill, I can't take it any more, can't we talk about something else, anything else like politics, the movies, sports, sex? Bill says, "Sex? " I had sex diamonds to the king queen....."

### Who's to blame

Two bridge players, have had a terrible game together and each is blaming the other. Finally Anne hands Beth a tiny piece of blank paper and says: "Here Beth, write down everything you know about bridge." Beth replies: "Well, it's a bigger piece of paper than I would have given you."

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## Taieri Bridge Club

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### Beginner's Classes

This year we have another new crop of learners with many coming back from last year for a refresher. It will be a few weeks before they come out into the club but feel free to come along on Tuesday night to meet them and lend a hand.

### Handicaps

Monday nights have always had some sessions which have been based on handicaps. Many new players find it disheartening to keep ending up at the bottom of the results. Handicaps allow them to see where they might get to after a bit more time at the game. After some discussion at the AGM last year, handicaps have been introduced on a Saturday afternoon. Many players won't be interested in how they went on the handicaps but the 'off-the-stick' results are still available. The handicap results are just there for those players who want to see how they would do if everyone's years of experience were equalised.

### Defence problem

In this article I shall look at a defensive problem that would be quite hard to solve at the table. However, there are some interesting points in it that show the type of thinking needed by a defender. Imagine that you are East and have listened to this auction:

South	North
1♠	2♦
2♥	4♠

You are expecting partner to lead a trump (generally a good idea when dummy has shown preference; in this case dummy is expected to be short in hearts and the defence should try to cut down ruffs in dummy). However, partner fails to oblige and you really can't be too displeased at her choice which is the Q♣. You contemplate dummy and your own hand.

♠ 9 7 4  
♥ 4  
♦ A K Q 4 2  
♣ K 8 7 4

Partner

♠ 3  
♥ A T 8 3 2  
♦ 9 8 6  
♣ A 9 3 2

Declarer  
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those present today, have her to thank for their introduction to the game, to her tutoring and to the continuing interest she showed in their progress. She continued as tutor and mentor in the Monday night Graded Division which was a great success over the first few years of the Club. Here she provided invaluable assistance in running the evenings and ensuring that the beginners from the learners' class were made to feel at home. To further encourage members to get involved in Teams play, Beryl donated 8 silver cups to be played for at both Junior and Open level. For her services rendered to the Club since its inception, Beryl Bishop was given Honorary Life Membership at the 1980 AGM. Her interest and support never flagged. Our records show more letters from Beryl on matters relating to the Club than from any other member. Many would not know that in later years Beryl would come to the Committee and ask what they needed and what she could donate - every year. In the last week of her life, Alec and Frank visited her to deal with a matter upper-most in her mind. She told them how proud she was of the Club, and how she wanted to get things sorted out while she was still alive. She knew her time was near. The Club is all the poorer for her passing, and we have lost a very dear friend and mentor.

### **Beryl Bishop 1918-2006**

The Taieri Bridge Club was formed and groomed by Beryl Bishop. On May 2nd 1973 a meeting of between 50 and 60 people was held at the Mosgiel Plunket Rooms and unanimously decided that the Taieri Bridge Club be formed. A working committee of 8 members was elected. Its Convenor was Beryl Bishop. The Inaugural General Meeting of the Club was held on 12th September 1973 and Beryl was elected as President. She worked tirelessly to get the Club off the ground and donated the President's Trophy to be played for in Club competition. At the first Annual General Meeting of the Club on 13th November 1974 Beryl was re-elected as president. The rules of the Club do not allow anyone to be President for more than two years in succession, so at the next Annual General Meeting Beryl was elected as the Tournament Director. Raffles and fund raising continued as a major activity in the period from 1976 to 1986 with many members of the Club donating raffles and their time. Among those of course, was Beryl Bishop. To retain an influx of new members it is imperative to operate a beginners' class and this has been done throughout the life of the Club with varying degrees of success. Beryl has been a major figure in teaching beginners and many of

You cover the K♣ with your A♣. Now what? Well, it seems that your partner has J♣ so, fearing that declarer will discard a club on the top diamonds you return a club at trick two. Alas, declarer ruffs. Then he enters dummy with a diamond and leads the singleton heart from dummy. What do you do?

99% of players would rise with A♥ fearing they may "lose their Ace". But this is wrong-thinking. You should be ready for this and duck smoothly. It's perfectly safe. You have too many hearts for your Ace to be ruffed out. Suppose declarer has K Q J 9 in hearts; then he can only score two tricks in the suit, whereas by playing your Ace early he scores three tricks. Furthermore, even if declarer wins this trick with K♥, draws trumps and runs 5 diamond winners it is extremely unlikely he can discard all his hearts (the only case would be when he has 6 spades, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 club). And the benefit of ducking may even be greater. It could be that declarer has K J x x in hearts; do you think he will guess to put up the King if you duck? Hardly likely; and he is in real trouble if your partner's Q♥ tops the J♥. Finally, if declarer wins this trick look for the heart spot your partner discards; she should give count, and then you will know declarer's exact shape.

### Up the garden path

Frieda Mayer brushed her teeth, climbed into bed and picked up her book on the gardens of Sussex and Kent. After a few minutes she set it aside and lay musing on the beauty of an English garden. Just then a weary looking Gordon joined her and asked what she was thinking about. Frieda decided that she would have to dissemble; to answer that she had been lying back thinking of England might suggest ideas to Gordon that he seemed too tired to discharge tonight. Quickly she recalled a hand that she and Gordon had played together. The bidding had been as follows with North the dealer.

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠

All pass

Frieda had been West and had alerted Gordon's 2♥ bid as showing a good passed hand with spade support. Since she was minimal she had made her weakest rebid of 2♠ and this was the lowly contract she played in. North, thinking no doubt to cut down ruffs in dummy, led A♠ and continued with another spade to which South followed. Contemplating her hand along with dummy, Frieda could only see 7 tricks at first. She had 4 trump tricks, two aces, and could establish a diamond; but that was not enough. What could she do?

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

♠ J 5 4  
♥ A 8 6 2  
♦ Q 4 2  
♣ A 7 4

One possibility was to hope that clubs were 3-3; then her fourth club would be a winner. Another was to play towards the Q♦ (North surely had the Ace) and then duck the next diamond hoping that North held two diamonds only.

But then she spotted an almost certain line: a dummy reversal. So she took the second trick in her own hand, played a heart to the Ace and ruffed a heart. Then she played a diamond towards the Queen (North dare not take the Ace for that would concede two diamond tricks). Having won with the Q♦ she ruffed another heart. Next came a club to the Ace and she ruffed the last of dummy's hearts with her last trump. That made 7 tricks and she still had the J♠ in dummy for her eighth trick.

Dummy reversals are not all that common and they are usually hard to spot so Frieda had done very well.

"You were very clever, my dear" praised Gordon. Indeed, reliving the memory had quite refreshed him and Frieda was looking radiant. "Now" he said, glancing at her book on gardens, "I see you've been thinking of England",