

these. The wining and dining was not very good for my bridge and I certainly cannot claim any great successes. However, I was pleased with this hand where I declared 3NT as West after North had pre-empted in hearts. *(I hope you're not going to brag - Ed.)*

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

Somewhat surprisingly North led ♠8 which surely indicated that he didn't have hearts headed by K,Q,J. To keep my entries flexible I played ♠Q from dummy and ♠A from my hand, and then played my lowest diamond. Good news - North played ♦K! Now I could be sure of 10 tricks *(Yes, yes, we all know how impressed with yourself you are - Ed.)*. After winning with ♦A, I played a club from dummy; South played ♣10 and I ducked. Back came ♥Q which I also ducked. Next South played a spade. I won in my hand with ♠J and cashed ♦A, ♣A (disappointingly the ♣K did not fall). Then I played my winning diamonds and North who held the ♣K and the missing heart honours was squeezed into releasing one of them (I still had the ♠K entry in dummy for the clubs if needed). That was an unexpected top. *(I told you not to brag - Ed.)*

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Taieri Bridge Club

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Bridge Teachers Weekend

During the week-end of the 14-15th October, more than 40 New Zealand bridge teachers (including Tamsin) met to discuss how bridge is currently taught in New Zealand. The meeting was held in Christchurch at the House of Cards. Country-wide there is a great variety of methods. Some teachers give as few as six lessons and do not even mention Stayman or strong hands. These are usually the large clubs who know that they can have a large number of improvers classes. Small clubs tend to give more lessons and cover more material. There was much sharing of ideas and the intention is to have a meeting each year.

AGM, new committee

Our AGM was held on 24 October. It was brief and to the point. After many years of serving as Secretary Frank Gradon is to become our new Tournament Secretary (Christine Samson being the new Secretary). Very many thanks to Frank for all he has done for us as Secretary.

Tartan Two bids

The Mouldy 2♦ opening bid which among other possibilities showed a weak hand with 5 cards in a major and at last 4 cards in a minor has been ruled inadmissible in pairs events in New Zealand. This convention used to be very popular around Otago but you will now meet it far less frequently than before although it is still permitted in teams competitions. Many partnerships who previously had this bid in their system have switched to a different system of opening two bids. These are as follows:

2♣ : game forcing (or 23-34 balanced)

2♦ : Multi (see the Taieri Bridge Newsletter for May 2003 which you can access via the club's web site)

2NT: showing 5-5 in the minors (many partnerships play this as being either 6-10 HCP or 16+ HCP).

2♥ and 2♠ are the so-called Tartan bids and it is these bids that describe the hands that the Mouldy 2♦ bid used to show.

Both show 6-10 HCP, exactly 5 cards in that major suit and at least 4 cards in some unspecified minor suit. The bids are mildly pre-emptive, describe hand types that occur fairly frequently, and provide a lot of information for your partner. However to use that information effectively you need a set of responses and continuations. One

From our Foreign Correspondent

I attended the Scottish Bridge Union's National Congress in Peebles last month. Peebles is a charming town close to the border with England (and so many English players came too). The River Tweed flows serenely through its centre and there are some lovely walks along its banks. However, on to the bridge.

Only 48 boards per day were played over the three days of the Congress: a balanced mixture of pairs and teams not unlike our own Queenstown Congress. One innovative feature that I hadn't previously met was the Bridgemate. This is an electronic gadget into which one enters the score after each hand; it transmits the score wirelessly to the computer and so the entire scores are available instantly the event is over.

The other feature that is different from our own congresses and tournaments is that most contestants stay at the hotel and eat and drink there is very lavish style (and at much greater expense than in New Zealand!). I was very fortunate to be playing in the same team as Beryl Campbell who is the current president of the Scottish Bridge Union. Beryl, as president of the SBU, had many parties to give using her entertainment allowance and she generously included her team-mates as invitees in many of

Quiz on Tartan two bids

Your partner has opened with a Tartan 2♠. How should you respond in each of the following cases (if the next player has passed)?

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

Now suppose *you* open a Tartan 2♠ and your partner bids 2NT. What do you bid next if your hand is

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

ANSWERS:

1. Pass - you cannot improve the contract.
2. 4♠ - you probably won't make it but your opponents almost certainly can make 4♥
3. 3♣ - pass or correct to diamonds, partner
4. 2NT - please describe your hand further as we might be able to make 4♠
5. 3♦ - I have a weak hand with diamonds
6. 3♥ - I have a good hand with clubs
7. Trick question - you shouldn't have begun with 2♠ as all your strength is outside your long suits!

that I quite like goes like this.

Your partner may raise your major suit - this is pre-emptive not invitational! She may bid 3♣.

This says "I'd prefer to play in your minor suit - if it's clubs, please pass, otherwise bid 3."

However, if your partner has a hand at least strong enough to invite game opposite your advertised weakness, she bids 2NT which asks you to describe your hand further. Your rebid is one of the following, describing your minor suit and how strong you are:

- 3♣ : I have clubs and a weak hand (6-8 HCP)
- 3♦ : I have diamonds and a weak hand (6-8 HCP)
- 3♥ : I have clubs and a good hand (9-10 HCP)
- 3♠ : I have diamonds and a good hand (9-10 HCP)

To take a concrete example, suppose you open 2♥ and your partner has

♠ A 8; ♥ A K 6 5; ♦ K Q 8 7; ♣ 6 4 3

she will be interested in game in hearts. If you have a 9-10 HCP maximum she will be very happy to put you in 4♥; even if you are weaker and your 4 card minor is diamonds there will be good play in 4♥. So she will respond with 2NT and unless you show a poor hand with clubs by bidding 3♣, she will then continue with 4♥ (otherwise she will sign off in 3♥).

There are some quizzes on page 6 which show some more examples.

Minnie needs glasses

Minnie van Driver was adamant. "My eyes are as good as the day I was born" she declared. Sinclair Whitlands tactfully replied "Yes, yes, revered lady; I only wanted to suggest the possibility of making them even more acute than on that blessed day". Sinclair always talked as though he was about to slay a dragon but his earnestness brought a flush to Minnie's cheeks. There seemed no way to persuade her otherwise so Sinclair tactfully changed the subject.

That evening they settled down to play an ordinary pairs event at Taieri. Their first opponents were the rascally Weasel and Ferret who skilfully bid the North-South hands below to 7♥.

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

Minnie, West, led A♠ and was sorry to see the

Ferret ruff it. However then she brightened considerably when she peered myopically at dummy as she could see that she had a sure trump trick. Unfortunately, her optimistic demeanour was noticed by the Ferret.

What the Ferret did next was not exactly unethical but you, reader, can be the judge. In rapid succession he led to next three tricks as follows: A♥, K♥, Q♦. Minnie followed twice in trumps but on the next trick she presumed that the Ferret was continuing to draw trumps and thought he had played Q♥ - so she "followed" with 9♥.

The director had to be called who ruled that the Minnie's 9♥ had to be replaced by a diamond, and that her 9♥ was a penalty card that had to be played at the earliest opportunity. So the Ferret played 10♥ next and Minnie had to play 9♥.

At the end of the evening, Minnie admitted sheepishly "Maybe you are right, Sinclair - I'll make an appointment for an eye test". Sinclair beamed. "Dear Lady - the bridge adventure will unfold for you with unerring accuracy once you are armed with an ocular weapon. Your foes will fear you, your prowess will be the talk of the realm, and I, your humble partner, will be the envy of bridge players the world over". After such a declaration, what could Minnie say?