

Slam Hand 3 from the charity tournament

♠ J T 9 7 2

♥ A

♦ A J 9

♣ A J 7 2

♠ A 8 6 5

♥ Q J 7 2

♦ Q 8 2

♣ 6 5

♠ Q

♥ 8 6 4 3

◆ KT754

♣ T 9 3

♠ K 4 3

♥KT95

◆ 63

♣ K Q 8 4

A few brave North-South pairs reached 6♣ on a combined HCP total of 26. Of course an initial spade lead and spade continuation (ruffed) defeats this contract immediately. However what if you get some other lead, say a small heart?

On the face of things declarer might seem to be able to succeed. As the spades lie you have 4 spade tricks, 2 heart tricks, 1 diamond trick, 3 top clubs and a club ruff. In practice however you wouldn't be able to manage your entries properly. The play would go: win A♥, draw three rounds of trumps ending in the North hand, then J♠ covered by Q♠, K♠, A♠; and now a diamond return locks you in dummy, forced to lose a second spade.

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News Letter

# Taieri Bridge Club

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♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠

## Cancer Society Charity Tournament

Our Tournament for the Cancer Society on 9 September had 24 full tables and was ably directed by Frank Gradon. The North-South winners were Alistair Gunn and Lindsay Lawrence. Top of the field East-West were our own Nancy Hawker and Peggy Morton. There was an interesting comparison between the pairs who came 3rd and 5th North-South: Nick Bailey and James Coutts, and Stan Ascher and Agnes Mowatt. It would be guesswork to speculate on the sum of Nick and James' ages, and dangerous guesswork to do the same for the sum of Stan and Agnes' ages. But a more striking demonstration of the appeal of bridge to all ages could hardly be found.

Once again thanks are due to the many volunteer helpers who made the tournament such a success.

There were some interesting slam hands and some of them are discussed in this newsletter.

### Slam Hand 1 from the charity tournament

Kevin Farnden and Kaye Wilson conducted an optimistic auction to reach 6♥ on this hand

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

Kevin (North) began with 1♠ to which Kaye answered a temporising 2♦. When Kevin rebid 2♥, Kaye used Roman key card Blackwood and bid to 6♥. I cannot tell you what the lead was but, if it was a club, the contract would have been hair-raising indeed. Kevin played A♥ at trick 2 and was gratified to see Q♥ fall. After that everything depended on the spade finesse which thankfully won. Kevin had no doubt intended to play the two top trumps and then, if the queen had not fallen, take the spade finesse, thereafter discarding a club on a long spade.

### From our Foreign Correspondent

As I write this the summer season of bridge at the Ladies Club in St Andrews has finished and the St Andrews Bridge Club season has begun. The club meets in a large pleasant room at the New Golf Club. It does have a bar (hooray!) but when I played here several years ago Ladies were not allowed to buy drinks - I shall be interested to see whether it has become more progressive.

On non-bridge matters....When I moved into my office at the university two months ago I noticed a printed label attached to the telephone. At the time I merely smiled, thinking that it was a student joke. But I have now learnt that is quite genuine. Here is what it says:

TELEPHONE BOMB THREATS: ASK THESE QUESTIONS

Where is the bomb right now?

When is it going to explode?

What kind of bomb is it?

What will cause it to explode?

Did you place the bomb?

Why?

What is your name?

What is your address?

What is your telephone number?

(Switch on tape recorder, if connected)

### Humour

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen.

"Careful," he said, "CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my GOD! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW! We need more butter. Oh my GOD! WHERE are we going to get MORE BUTTER? They're going to STICK!

Careful...CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY? Have you LOST your mind?

Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!!! THE SALT!!!!"

The wife stared at him. "What in the world is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?"

The husband calmly replied, "I wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving."

(The editor apologises to all ladies for this disgraceful sexist and scurrilous tale. He can't think what got into him - and if Tamsin had censored the newsletter it would never have survived. He undertakes to print retaliatory jokes that poke fun at men.)

### Slam Hand 2 from the charity tournament

♠ 4

♥ A Q T 8 4 3 2

♦ J 2

♣ Q T 2

♠ K T 8 7 5

♥ J 6

♦ Q 7 4

♣ A J 5

♠ A J

♥ K 7

♦ A K T 9 8 6 5 3

♣ K

♠ Q 9 3 2

♥ 9 5

♦ void

♣ 9 8 7 6 4 3

Tamsin Meaney and Judy Robertson were one of the only pairs to reach the cold 6♦. Not difficult to bid you might have thought but Judy (East) had to cope with a pre-emptive opening bid of 3♥ by North. Her solution was the practical bid of 5♦ (wilder spirits might have bid 3NT). When this came round to Tamsin she raised to 6♦ reasoning that her hand was considerably better than it might have been. Although I haven't seen the other scores I would have thought that a more conservative pass from Tamsin would have resulted in rather a poor score, losing out to all the pairs who played in 3NT.

### Basingstoke

In Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta "Ruddigore" there are two married characters Sir Despard and Mad Margaret. When Margaret gets dangerously excited her husband utters the poignant word "Basingstoke"; this sinister name teems with dark meaning to her and calms her down.

Voluptua's partners were despairingly thinking that "Basingstoke" should be used to curb her own flights of fancy. The problem is that sometimes her wild experiments came off and these successes were what she remembered. Recently, playing as West with Gordon (East), who was a wooden paragon of good sense, the bidding was (EW vulnerable):

N	E	S	W
1♣	P	1♥	4♠
Dbl	P	P	P

Voluptua's 4♠ was an outrageous pre-emptive bid but did the job of keeping her opponents out of the cold 6♦. Since 6♦ would score 920 the defence had to take the sacrifice 4 off to score a compensating 1100. Best defence could have achieved this: small club to South's King, diamond to the Ace, A♣ cashed, club ruff, heart to the King, and another club ruff, and then the A♠. But serene in her confidence, Voluptua did not expect such a sharp defence.

♠ A 5 2  
♥ K 6  
♦ A K 5 3  
♣ A 9 7 6

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

♠ 6 4 3  
♥ T 7 5 4  
♦ J 8 7  
♣ T 8 4

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

Indeed, the bridge gods smiled on her even as Gordon was imploringly muttering "Basingstoke" under his breath. The actual defence left much to be desired. North led K♥, which South overtook with the Ace. South then led a low heart back (suit preference for a club return) expecting North to ruff it. However, Voluptua discarded her lone diamond and dummy's T♥ won! She now played a trump that North won with the Ace. At this point North panicked and led A♣, dropping her partner's singleton K♣. So Voluptua made her contract as her hand was now high. "You see, Gordon" she laughed afterwards, "you really are far too pessimistic. Enjoy life and have a little fun. It's not hard, really".