

### Another tournament hand

This hand was very difficult to bid for East-West since South usually opened 1NT:

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

Many Wests would simply double and then North-South would find their rescue in 2♥. This should be doubled and then who knows how the defence might go.

But, at one table, West decided to overcall 2NT (showing a shapely minor-suit-oriented hand). North now competed to 3♥. Feeling that his hand was stronger than advertised so far, West persisted with 4♦. Now East realised the potential of her hand and bid 5♦.

This made with ease as the club finesse was right. In fact, double-dummy East can actually take 12 tricks!

## Taieri Bridge Club

Issue Number 117 September 2006



### The Taieri Graded Tournament

Our graded Tournament on 19 August was a great success with 19 tables. The food was superb as usual causing the bridge to grind to a halt whenever a new plate of goodies appeared from the kitchen. The club is very lucky to have such a faithful membership, so thank you to everyone who contributed to the smooth running of proceedings.

The overall winners were Tamsin Meaney and Frank Gradon; second were Peter Hall and Marilyn Noyes, and third were Kristen Collins and Donna Ruwhiu. In the Silver category, Nancy Hawker and Peggy Morton were top, with Peg Chisholm and Alison Kerr second. In the Bronze category, Mr S and Mrs H Rinaldi were first.

Special thank are due to Doreen Carter and Jos Smeele who filled in at the last moment when another pair had to withdraw. It is always worrying for the organisers trying to get an even number of pairs; that is why we need to know in advance who will be playing. Some of the more interesting hands are reported in this Newsletter.

### Hands from the graded tournament

There were lots of different contracts on this hand:

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

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

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

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

East-West can make 5♦ with a little care. Say the defence cashes two top spades and switches to a heart. The trap is to not draw three rounds of trumps otherwise there are insufficient entries to set up the long clubs. Instead, declarer must unblock the A♣, play a diamond to the Ace, ruff a club, play a diamond to the Queen, and ruff a third club. Now draw the last trump with K♦, ruff a heart and West's hand is high. If North-South play in 4♠ it is very difficult for East-West to find the best defence, especially if they have both bid diamonds.

### From our Foreign Correspondent

There is little news on the bridge front. The UK's very hot summer is coming to a close as temperatures return to normal. The big news of the month has been the thwarting of an apparent plot to blow up British planes, the delaying of many flights, and the imposition of tough restrictions on hand luggage and other things that one can take on board an aircraft - but the picture below is a joke!

### SEVERE CARRY-ON RESTRICTIONS



### Visit of Richard Solomon

Richard Solomon, the Bridge Development Officer of the NZCBA, visited our club in August. Kathleen Hurr and Frank Gradon gave him a conducted tour of our premises and he was evidently very impressed. One of the things that Richard suggested was that we might participate in the New Zealand Wide pairs that takes place on Friday 22 September. For \$5 you get bridge plus a booklet with commentary on each hand. Whether our club joins this event depends on how much interest there is; if you think we should join in, let a committee member know.

### Norena Howes

Our club benefits immensely from the support given by its members. An extraordinary example of this is the job done by Norena Howes who, for twenty years (!), has been our C-points secretary. Her duties have included sending off C-points to Wellington and distributing C-point certificates to our members, keeping our membership status up to date, i.e. notifying the NZCBA of new members, resignations, and notifying changes in status - home club or secondary club.

Norena is now relinquishing this position because of her recent ill-health. We are tremendously in her debt and send her our warmest wishes for a speedy recovery.

East-West had the majority of high cards on this hand:

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

East-West can make 7♠ (be careful to play A♠ first to guard against 4-0 breaks). What do you think might have happened to those ambitious pairs in 7NT? This appears to have no chance because West cannot ruff hearts in a no-trump contract. But, in practice, the defence has to retain enough clubs when declarer cashes her top cards or East's clubs will run; since both defenders may wish to guard their heart honours a defensive slip is easy to make. One possible solution for the defence is South to discard T♥ on her first discard; this could allow North to recognise that her job is to guard clubs not hearts.

### Minnie's first tournament

Having played for several weeks in the club Minnie van Driver was beginning to feel a little more comfortable at the table. True, she still needed recourse to her smelling salts when the bidding became too high but her card play was improving by the day. Indeed it had been over a week since she had last revoked and she was now perfectly capable of counting trumps to within a card or two. So when Sinclair Whitlands asked whether she would play a tournament at the Otago club she accepted with just the briefest of heart palpitations. Their first hand was played against Mr and Mrs Batarde, visitors from Louisiana whose name was a corruption of an epithet that many thought they deserved.

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

Minnie who was South found herself as declarer in the exalted contract of 7♥ and received a small spade lead. Still shaking from the auction she overcame her near swoon and studied the dummy intently. Everything looked good so long as hearts divided 3-2. She was unaware of the dreadful break in diamonds and counted 2 spades, 5 hearts, 5 diamonds, and a club.

Winning the spade lead in dummy she drew two rounds of trumps to which both opponents followed suit. Overcome by relief she claimed 13 tricks. But Mr Bastarde, East, in a silky unpleasant voice, revealed that he still had a trump outstanding. Minnie was mortified. She even knew of the outstanding trump *but had neglected to specify her line of play* and so the director was called.

The director, who was somewhat inexperienced and intimidated by the Bastards, ruled that Minnie had to play out the hand without drawing the outstanding trump.

So Minnie played 5 rounds of diamonds ruffing the fifth in dummy. Then she played A♣, and returned to her hand with K♠. Holding only trumps now she was allowed to play them from the top and made her contract.

Sinclair noted with great satisfaction that, had Minnie been allowed to draw trumps immediately, she would have gone down because of the 5-0 break in diamonds