

Play problem answer (from page 3)

You have 8 top tricks and the aim is to establish a 9th trick. Surprisingly there is only one correct answer. For every other possibility there is a lie of the cards that defeats that possibility. The correct answer is to play A♣ at trick and then play up to the J♣. Against all 3-2 club divisions you have time to establish a club winner by length. If South began with 4 clubs you will make your jack (seeing North show out). If North has 4 clubs you will see South show out and then you can lead up to the 10♣.

Humour

A man spoke frantically into the phone: "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" the emergency operator asked. "No, you idiot!" the man shouted. "This is her husband!"



Two car garage

News Letter
2007

Taieri Bridge Club

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Club News

1. Congratulations to Tamsin Meaney who, playing with Kristen Collins, won the Otago Southland provincial pairs tournament in May.
2. The beginner's lessons have now concluded. Expect to see some new faces, especially on Monday nights. Do you remember how nervous you were at that stage in your bridge careers? So be tolerant and courteous; our new players need encouragement as they learn the various practices of a club bridge game.
3. Our A point tournament takes place on 16 June. If you would like an opportunity to play, in a relaxing environment, against some of the better players in the locality you cannot do better than start here.

Letter to the Editor

THANK YOU!!

I would like to thank each and every member of the Taieri Bridge Club for their kindness, concern and assistance during my recent stay in hospital and afterwards. Romke and I were overwhelmed by the cards, flowers, jars of soup, muffins etc. that kept coming even after I came home. We are so grateful to all of you,

I always knew I belonged to a caring club, but this was more than expected.

I hope it never happens to any of you, but if it does, I will be there with "soup and muffins"!

Thank you again,

Baukje.

Play problem

Contract 3NT by West; lead 2H

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

How can you guarantee making the contract?

Answer on page 8.

another small club. When West's K popped up I won and played a third club won by East. This was the position:

♠ void		
♥ void		
♦ A 4 3		
♣ 7 2		
♠ x		♠ J T
♥ x		♥ T x
♦ A T 9		♦ void
♣ void		♣ 6
	♠ Q x	
	♥ Q	
	♦ J x	
	♣ void	

I had already won 5 tricks. At this point I hoped for a major suit return from East. That would give me the rest of the tricks. However, East was a wily bird and played 6♣. Do you see the danger? If I were to win, I would be stuck in dummy; and after cashing the last club I would have to play away from the diamonds and lose two tricks. Luckily I had been counting and so I under-played the 2♣ on East's 6♣. He now had to lead a major suit giving me access to my hand. So I took the last 4 tricks just making the contract. The last laugh was had by the opponents however - they won the 12-board match handsomely.

A remarkable end position

I recently played a hand that resulted in an end position I had not seen before. The cards were something like this

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

I was South. The contract was 3NT and I received a small diamond lead. Of course I did not know about the bad diamond division just then but it seemed wise to play low in dummy because I would obviously profit from a diamond continuation. However, when East showed out, West knew not to continue diamonds and switched to a spade. I took this in dummy and played J♥ which East won; then East continued hearts which put me back in my hand. I played a small club to the ten which won, returned to my hand with a spade and played

Clerihews

I have long loved the limerick rhyming form. Recently, my mother-in-law introduced me to another comic rhyming form - the clerihew - that has also become a great favourite. Clerihews were invented by Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1956) when he was a schoolboy. They are 4 lines long with rhyming pattern AABB and are usually about a person whose name comprises the first line. They are humorous and the scansion is generally very imperfect.

Examples:

The enemy of Harry Potter
Was a scheming plotter.
I can't tell you what he's called; I'd be ashamed
To name "he who must not be named."

Peter Chin
Is Mayor of Dunedin
We all hates
To pay him our rates

I invite clerihew submissions about club members for publication in this newsletter. But, be careful, if what you write is cheeky do check with your victim before submitting it.

Ace asking, minor keycard, and you

"Uncle Gordon?" asked Voluptua "may I ask you about ace asking?". "Hem, hem, dear girl, as one of Mosgiel's leading players, you can do no better than petition me, an acknowledged expert". Gordon was joking, of course; he was a humble man, and felt that his bridge reputation was over-valued. When this opinion on Gordon's humility was put to the Weasel the retort had been acerbic "He has much to be humble about".

But, indeed, Gordon was knowledgeable and wise although certain new-fangled conventions were anathema to him. Voluptua plunged right in, like a low-cut neck-line.

"I've spent ages trying to understand Blackwood, Roman keycard Blackwood, Gerber (with or without Roman responses) and now Randy wants me to play something he calls minor keycard". Voluptua was an intelligent young woman despite looking like a Playboy centrefold, but she was not averse to using her charms to ease her passage through life - and now she turned her innocent wide-eyes on Gordon. Gordon was very fond of his niece by marriage, and knew her well enough to know that she meant no harm. Didactically, he cleared his throat and began an explanation.

"Minor keycard is useful in auctions where you are exploring for slam in a minor suit. In principle,

bids 4♣ and 4♦ are inquiries about your partner's holding in the 5 "aces" associated with that suit (the four aces and the king of the suit). The responses are step responses like the responses to Roman keycard Blackwood. In other words after 4♣ then 4♦ shows 0 or 3 keycards, 4♥ shows 1 or 4, 4♠ shows two without the queen, and 4NT shows 2 with the queen; while after 4♦ then 4♥ shows 0 or 3 keycards, 4♠ shows 1 or 4, 4NT shows two without the queen, and 5♣ shows 2 with the queen". "But I don't understand, Uncle Gordon" protested Voluptua "how do you know when 4♣ or 4♦ are ace-asking or when they are more like invitational or competitive bids?"

"Ah yes; a knotty question indeed" answered Gordon "the answer is quite simple; the bids are ace-asking except when they are obviously not". Seeing Voluptua's puzzled face he hastened on. "There will be some competitive auctions where you could not be asking for aces because both your hands have been limited in some way (for example, you pass as dealer and your partner bids 3♦; then 4♦ by you is just raising the pre-empt)."

"Oh, I just can't see it" pouted Voluptua. "Shall we ask that nice newsletter editor to explain it properly?". Gordon nodded in resignation. *(Ed: Never one to refuse a lady I shall write further on this next month).*