

## Lawyer Joke

One day, a teacher, a garbage collector and a lawyer wound up together at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter informed them that in order to get into Heaven, they would each have to answer one question. St. Peter addressed the teacher and asked, "What was the name of the ship that crashed into an iceberg? There is a movie about it." The teacher answered "That would be the Titanic." and St. Peter let him in. St. Peter turned to the garbage man and asked "How many people died on the ship?" Fortunately, the trash man had seen the movie and answered, "About 1,500." "That's right! You may enter." St. Peter then turned to the lawyer. "Name them."

## Amazing anagrams

Three much longer anagrams this month. If this is not your cup of tea, next month I'll have some other verbal distractions.

William Shakespeare = I'll make a wise phrase  
"To be or not to be: that is the question, whether  
'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and  
arrows of outrageous fortune." = "In one of the  
Bard's best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent  
hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life  
turns rotten."

"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." = "A thin man ran; makes a large stride, left planet, pins flag on moon! On to Mars!"

# New Letter

# Taieri Bridge Club

Issue Number 123 March 2007



## Club News

Lessons for 2007 start on 6 March and have been advertised in the Taieri Herald. If you know of anyone who would like lessons please give their names to Tamsin or Frank. Our membership has risen over the last year in large part because of our excellent programme of lessons. However we must not be complacent!

Members who play on Monday night may like to know that Gwen Tippet has taken over from Mairia Walker as the partnership officer. Many thanks to Mairia for the work she has done.

Here's some advanced notice of the club's B point tournament on 23 April. This is especially recommended for players who love bridge but who have been a bit nervous about playing in a tournament. This one is an ideal introduction: friendly, well attended, and with superb refreshments.

### A simple defensive hand

My apologies to readers who may think this hand is too easy to discuss but it illustrates a point about defence that, in the heat of battle, anyone might get wrong.

Imagine you are East, the dealer, and the bidding is as follows:

East	South	West	North
1♦	1♠	2♥	4♠

All pass

Your hand and dummy are

Dummy

♠: A 5 4 2

♥: 4 3

♦: K 3

♣: K J T 8 7

You

♠: QJ

♥: A 7 6 2

♦: A Q 8 7 6

♣: 9 6

Your partner leads the 9♦. What are your chances of defeating the contract?

You appear to have 3 winners in the red suits in your own hand. Is there a chance of developing a fourth? Initially you might be pessimistic that your QJ in trumps will be of any use because they

high card according to whether you want the lower or higher ranking of these two suits. For example, against a spade contract your partner may have lead A♦. By following with a low card you indicate a preference for diamonds, whereas a high card indicates a preference for hearts.

The second situation is when you lead a card *knowing that your partner is going to ruff it*. You would like to tell your partner which of the two non-trump suits she should lead back (you might be able to win her return and give her another ruff say). The principle is the same as the one above. The spot card that you lead for your partner to ruff should be a low one if you want her to return the lower ranking suit, or a high one otherwise.

### Some bridge quotations

It is not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents (Alfred Sheinwold).

Since the average person's small supply of politeness must last him all his life, he can't afford to waste it on bridge partners (Alfred Sheinwold)

Bridge is a great comfort in old age. It also helps you get there faster (Victor Mollo).

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits (Victor Mollo).

### **Suit preference signals**

One of the first things an aspiring player learns is to "give attitude". This means to tell your partner, by the size of the spot card that you play, whether you like her suit or not. The commonest situation is when your partner leads an Ace or a King and you want to tell her whether you would like the suit to be continued. If you are using "standard attitude" you signal approval by playing an unnecessarily high card, and if you are using "reverse attitude" (slightly better in my opinion) you signal approval with your lowest card. However, sometimes the situation is not so clear cut and I want to write about two such occasions when you try to indicate more than just encouraging or discouraging your partner's lead. Both of them apply when you are defending a suit contract.

The first of these arises when your partner has lead an Ace and dummy has a singleton in that same suit. In that case it will be quite rare that your partner should continue the suit. You want to tell her which of the remaining suits to switch to. One of these suits will be the trump suit itself and you will have to leave it to the intelligence of your worthy partner as whether a trump lead is now best. Your duty is to advise her between the other two suits. You do this by following with a low or

will fall under the A K. But there is a bright ray of hope for it looks as though your partner's lead is the top of a doubleton diamond holding. Therefore your partner will be able to ruff the third round of diamonds. And here is the first point: provided that partner's trump holding contains a card higher than the 5♠ dummy will have to over-ruff with the A♠ and that will promote your QJ into another trick.

So you win the first two diamond tricks and .... *don't lead a diamond!* This is the second and trickier point. Before leading a diamond for your partner to ruff it is essential to cash the A♥. If you do not do this then declarer's heart losers may be discarded on dummy's clubs, assuming declarer holds the A Q of clubs (yes, it is possible that your partner has A♣ but why take chances?).

### **Perfect Golf Shot**

Bob stood over his tee shot for what seemed an eternity. He waggled, looked up, looked down, waggled again, but didn't start his backswing. Finally his exasperated partner asked, "why are you taking so long?" "My wife is up there watching me from the clubhouse," Bob explained. "I want to make a perfect shot." "Good lord!" his companion exclaimed. "You don't have a snowball's chance in hell of hitting her from here."

### Randy gets lucky

Voluptua's thoughts had been a bit distracted of late and this had shown itself in rather lack-lustre bidding. Randy had been quite severe with her at the tea break. "Really, Voluptua, your bidding has been so timid tonight". Voluptua was rather hurt by this remark and resolved to teach Randy a lesson. So, when her boyfriend (South) opened with a weak 2♠ and East doubled, Voluptua steeled herself. Surely the opponents could make a slam in either minor, possibly even a grand slam. What had Randy called her? Timid? She would show him and with a bold pencil wrote the bid 7♠ on her bidding pad. East doubled, almost breaking the pencil with some unethical pressure, and Randy had to play 7♠ doubled.

West had no trouble finding a lead and placed the A♥ on the table. Voluptua tabled her hand (see opposite for the full deal) and smiled sweetly and innocently at Randy: "Good luck, partner" she murmured. Randy's face paled as he realised that there were 35 HCP out against him. But squaring his shoulder, stiffening his upper lip (*Ed: we had to change the original*), and raising his noble brow (all of which sent frissons of excitement through Voluptua) he went to the task.

He ruffed the lead in his own hand and drew trumps in one round. Then, entering dummy with three

♠ J 9 6 5 2  
♥ T 9 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦ void  
♣ void

♠ Q  
♥ A K Q J  
♦ Q J T 7  
♣ J T 8 2

♠ K  
♥ 8  
♦ A K 3 2  
♣ A K Q 9 7 6 2

♠ A T 8 7 4 3  
♥ void  
♦ 9 8 6 5 4  
♣ 4 3

minor suit ruffs, he ruffed three further rounds of hearts. Dummy remained with 4 winning hearts and one trump and so could be entered by another minor suit ruff. To everyone's astonishment, his own included, he had made the contract. "That's going to be worth a bit tonight" he thought to himself as he folded his cards.

Editor's note: Randy had been lucky in that, if West leads any other suit, the contract will be two down as dummy would have not sufficient entries to establish the hearts. This deal actually happened in real life on OKBridge, although the true contract there was only 6♠.