

More Hotel signs

HONG KONG TAILOR SHOP: Ladies may have a fit upstairs.

PARIS DRESS SHOP: Dresses for street walking.

RHODES (GREECE) TAILOR SHOP: Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.

SOVIET NEWSPAPER: There will be a Moscow exhibition of Arts by 15,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years.

GERMAN CAMPING SITE: It is strictly forbidden on our Black Forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose.

HONG KONG AD: Teeth extracted by the latest methodists.

ROME LAUNDRY: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

CZECH TOURIST AGENCY: Take one of our horse-driven city tours. We guarantee no miscarriages.

SWISS MOUNTAIN INN: Special today - no ice cream.

COPENHAGEN (DENMARK) AIRLINE: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

News Letter 2007

Taieri Bridge Club

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♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠

Tournament roundup

Our graded tournament on 4 August had a field of 20 tables. The winners could hardly have been more popular: our own Baujke Blok and Bert Matthews, both of them life members of the club. The club raised \$400.

August saw a second tournament - the charity tournament on 18 August in aid of the Cancer Society Volunteers and for this we had 22 tables. It was won by Nick Bailey/James Coutts and Louise van der Lugt/Alan Gear with runners-up Elaine McDonald/Marion Russell and Eleanor Blackburn/Dale Cameron. We raised \$900.

Both tournaments were run very successfully and smoothly. As ever this was due, in large part, to the great level of support by club members in all respects. Many thanks to all concerned.

Our tournaments are now well known as highlights of the local bridge scene and we can all be justly proud.

Double swings

Early in our bridge education we are taught that 25-26 HCP in the combined hands is generally enough for game. That is true for no trump hands only - games in a suit contract can often be made on much less because of distributional oddities which allow trumps to be scored separately. Nevertheless it is not very common to have a deal where both sides can make game; and it is even rarer to have one where both sides can make a slam. Such a deal occurred in the recent charity tournament.

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

Here both East and West can make 6♠. In practice they may well be able to make 6♦ too unless the defence find their spade ruff. That brings out an interesting point about signalling.

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

requires some good partnership agreements. In practice, most pairs did not bid higher than 6♦ but Kaye Wilson and Judy Robertson bid the higher scoring 6♠. Here's a possible Acol sequence to 7♦.

| South | North |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 2♠ | 2NT ¹ |
| 3♦ ² | 4NT ³ |
| 5♣ ⁴ | 7♦ ⁵ |

1. A "gadget": what type spade raise do you have?
2. 3 spades only but 6 diamonds, less than 16 HCP
3. Roman key card in spades
4. 0 or 3 key cards
5. Surely not 0 as the spade raise would be silly.

Two slams in a row

The graded tournament produced an exciting pair of successive hands for North-South - boards 25 and 26 had slams on each. Board 25 was very distributional:

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

I can imagine that many Norths may have thought their hand powerful enough to open 2♣. If so, picture South's excitement with that 9 nine card spade suit. And sympathise with North's agony if South drives to 6♠! In practice very few pairs would bid the making slam in spades. But the very next hand produced cards where a slam was easier to bid. Here North-South can make both 6♠ and 7♦. How should they arrive at their grand slam without taking a shot in the dark? I think it

Suppose West declares 6♦ and North leads a top club. South should play J♣. This is not encouragement in clubs since dummy would ruff a club continuation: it is a request that North leads the higher ranking of the two non-trump suits (i.e. spades).

For the slams available to North-South the situation is more complex. South can make 6♣ though it does depend on some hair-raising finesses in both clubs and hearts. If you were West defending against 6♣ by South and declarer led J♣ would you cover? I think your best chance is to play low but you must not hesitate or you will give the game away! This is the sort of play that could be debated for hours but, whatever you think the right action is, you have to be ready for it. It would appear that South can make 6♥ by way of the same finesses but that is not so. The defence could begin by leading two top diamonds and South must ruff. After drawing the outstanding trumps South will be left with one trump only. South cannot now establish the clubs. Suppose South plays J♣; West will cover; now South has to expend her final trump in returning to hand to finesse once more in clubs; this time West does not cover and South is locked in dummy. Do you see how significant West's 5♣ is? Enough to beat dummy's 5♣!

Coming into his own

Randy Hardwick was beginning to earn quite a reputation as a strong declarer. No-one, not even his girlfriend Voluptua, was more pleased about this than Gordon Rhode. Gordon had spent a lot of time coaching Randy and the young man had responded admirably. Initially his motivation was to win the love and affection of Voluptua but, now that was established, he was really enjoying the challenge of dummy play.

Gordon was watching from the sidelines as Randy declared 7NT as West:

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

The lead was a neutral 2♦. Randy counted 10 top tricks (one spade, three hearts, five diamonds, and one club). If the heart suit could be brought in that would be two extra tricks. A thirteenth trick could come from a successful finesse in one of the black suits.

Randy began by playing five rounds of diamonds - both opponents followed three times and each discarded a small club and a small spade. Then he turned attention to the hearts. Realising that he needed either a 3-2 break or South to have four hearts to the Jack he played K♥ and then a small

heart to the Ace. North discarded a small spade and so Randy was now able to take the marked finesse and win five heart tricks. These cards remained in his hand and dummy

| | |
|-------|-------|
| ♠ 2 | ♠ A Q |
| ♥ | ♥ |
| ♦ | ♦ |
| ♣ A Q | ♣ 7 |

Two lines of play were now possible: either to take a spade finesse, or to play a spade to the Ace and then take the club finesse. To most declarers this would be a complete guess but Randy considered things more deeply to see if one line had more chance than other.

The most telling thing was that South had begun with exactly six black cards while North had begun with nine black cards. *Therefore it was more likely that North was dealt ♠K (and more likely to hold ♣K).* That indicated that the spade finesse was a better chance. But, before taking it, Randy cashed ♣A as there was a small chance that South had had to come down to ♠K x and ♣K. No ♣K appeared so the spade finesse was then taken. It won and the contract was made.

Afterwards Gordon remarked to Frieda: "that young fellow is really coming into his own". And later that night, in the arms of his beloved, Randy did just that.