

BRIDGE IN THE CITY INCORPORATED NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2024

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2024 SubScriptionS are now due.

\$30 for home club members, \$10 for associates.

Payments can be made to the duty director or, preferably, to the club's bank account BSB 805-050, account number 102-790-715, indicating the purpose of the payment.

HOTEL DEMOLISHED AT NORTH POLE TOURNEY - by Richard Pavlicek

Dealer West ♠ AQ32

Both Vul. ♥ 543

♦ AQ3

♣ AJ9

♠ KJ6

♥ 987

♦ KJ6

♣ Q1087

♠ 754

♥ KJ6

♦ 754

♣ 6543

♠ 1098

♥ AQ102

♦ 10982

♣ K2

W N E S

1NT P 7♣!

All Pass

I just got back from the North Pole Regional, which ended early this year when a reindeer stampede demolished the host hotel. It all happened as a result of today's deal.

The top Eskimo pair, Mush and Slush, were playing against a weak reindeer pair, Ralph and Ronald. Mush, North, opened one notrump and Slush, South, responded two clubs Stayman . . . or so he thought.

The language barrier has always been a problem at this tournament, and the rules committee decreed that all bids must be made in the language of one's opponents. Unfortunately, Slush did not speak fluent reindeer and his bid was misinterpreted.

When Mush passed the "Stayman bid," Slush knew something was awry and asked for a review of the bidding. Ralph cheerfully stated that it went, "One notrump, pass, **seven** clubs, all pass."

"Director!" shouted Slush. Moments later the tournament director arrived and Slush explained the problem. The director thumbed through his rulebook as Slush annoyingly persisted, "I want a ruling!"

"The bid stands!" announced the director. "Play it!" (A later examination of the rulebook showed no such rule, but director Rudolph Blitzen said his decision was impartial and unprejudiced.)

Ralph led the heart nine, and Slush reluctantly agreed to play out the hand. He won the heart 10 as East played low, and led the diamond 10; jack, queen. A heart was led to the queen, then came the spade 10; jack, queen. Another heart to the ace was followed by the diamond nine and spade nine, both of which won.

Slushed with success, South led the club deuce to dummy's nine. It won! He cashed the diamond ace, spade ace, and then ruffed dummy's last spade with his club king as each reindeer helplessly ruffed low. Dummy won the last two tricks with the ace-jack of clubs over West's queen. Seven clubs, bid and made! On a three-two trump fit!

Word spread quickly. The floor trembled, then splintered, as the hoofed creatures began to run amok. The hotel was trampled to rubble. Luckily, I escaped with only a few bruises from hoofprints.

A special thanks to Richard Pavlicek for this article, taken, with his permission from his Internet homepage.

2024 Annual General Meeting

Our first Annual General Meeting will be held at 11:00 am on Sunday February 25th at the Clarence Park Bowls club.

Lunch from Subway will be served, with a free pairs game to follow.

MAJOR SUIT RAISES

Having opened one of a major, and received support, opener's assessment of the combined potential of the two hands will be much improved if they know whether partner has three or four trumps. With this in mind I recommend the following set of responses:

- Two of opener's major. Three card support, 6 to 10 high card points (hcp)
- 2NT Four card support, 15+ hcp
- 3 6-8 hcp, four+ cards support, not 4-3-3-3
- 3♦ 9-11 hcp, four+ cards support
- 3 of partner's major 3-6 hcp, at least four trumps, and a shortage
- 3 of the other major. Game values, four card support, shortage in the bid suit.
- 3NT Balanced game raise, no shortage, four cards support
- 4 of either minor. Game values, four card support, shortage in the bid suit.
- 4 of opener's major. Four+ cards support, singleton or void in an outside suit, at most 10 hcp.

With three card support and game values responder should temporise, e.g. bid 2♣, then bid game, promising this form of hand.

Some examples, where partner has opened 1S

♠98632 bid 4S

♥5

♦A8765

♣J9

♠ AQ32 bid 3NT, partner to correct

♥543

♦A63

♣QJ9

♠AQ32 bid 4C

♥Q543

♦AJ53

♣9

Who Needs Points, by Darrell Mitton

What is the *fewest* number of HCP a partnership may hold and be able to make:

1. A grand slam,
2. A small slam,
3. 11 tricks?

Grand Slam - Five

| | |
|----------|--------|
| ♠AJ10987 | ♠65432 |
| ♥8765432 | ♥void |
| ♦Void | ♦65432 |
| ♣Void | ♣5432 |

Spades divide 1-1

Small Slam – Three

| | |
|----------|--------|
| ♠QJ10987 | ♠65432 |
| ♥8765432 | ♥void |
| ♦Void | ♦65432 |
| ♣Void | ♣5432 |

Spades divide 1-1

Eleven Tricks – One

| | |
|----------|--------|
| ♠J109876 | ♠5432 |
| ♥8765432 | ♥void |
| ♦Void | ♦65432 |
| ♣Void | ♣5432 |

Spades divide 2-1 hearts divide 3-3, singleton ♠A on lead.

Monthly Winners

MONDAY DECEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Janet Faber & Dennis Reynolds
- 2 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 3 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough

FRIDAY DECEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough
- 2 Genevieve Donnelly & June Kleeman
- 3 Moira Smith & Graham Stucley

FRIDAY B GRADE DECEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Paul Feeney & George Wilby
- 2 Pam Bowman & Lois Glanfield
- 3 Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed

Adam Meredith

Adam (Plum) Meredith was an eccentric English player who was in his time regarded as the best card player in the world in the 1960's

His bidding was unusual, particularly for those times. He would pre-empt on five card suits, and frequently overcalled one spade on a three card suit – all this in the days when doubles of pre-empts and overcalls were for penalty. Mollo in fact wrote "*No man, no three men, for that matter, have bid spades so often or so devotedly as Plum*" It was his innovative card play that drew the admiration of his peers. In his book *The Bridge Immortals* Victor Mollo writes of Meredith making a 3NT contract by three times leading the diamond suit of Jxx opposite xxx. By forcing the opponents to take their four tricks he was able to establish a squeeze for his contract.

At the time of his death Alan Truscott described the following hand from an international event where Meredith was in 3NT, making, while his opponent at the other table went down in 1NT.

| | | |
|--------|---------|--------|
| ♠ A86 | | |
| ♥ AKJ3 | | |
| ♦ AJ84 | | |
| ♣ J6 | | |
| ♠ K742 | | ♠ 754 |
| ♥ Q109 | | ♥ 854 |
| ♦ 752 | | ♦ KQ10 |
| ♣ A84 | | ♣ 1053 |
| | ♠ J5 | |
| | ♥ 762 | |
| | ♦ 963 | |
| | ♣ KQ972 | |

With South declarer in 3NT the defence led spades, declarer winning dummy's Ace on the third round. After some thought (Meredith was a very slow player) declarer called for the club Jack from dummy, low from East, and King from his hand.

Thinking that declarer was trying to get to hand to take the heart finesse West played his Ace, led another spade, East then returned a high diamond.

Meredith won this in dummy, club from dummy, finessing East's 10, took his four club tricks, followed by the heart finesse, contract!

Meredith suffered from diabetes and asthma all his life so life wasn't easy for him. However, at the 1955 World Championships in New York, an elderly lady was so taken by his play that she eventually approached him and said "Mr Meredith, I am a wealthy woman and don't have long to live. If you come and play with me in New York I will leave you my fortune when I die".

His reply? "Hello partner."

2023 MONDAY AFTERNOON PLACEGETTERS

JANUARY PAIRS

- 1st Thompson C & N
- 2nd Marshall G & J
- 3rd Eitzen G & S

FEBRUARY PAIRS

- 1st Barnwell C/Kingsborough S
- 2nd Thompson C & N
- 3rd McLean G/Miles D

MARCH PAIRS

- 1st Hayles A/Healey T
- 2nd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S
- 3rd Thompson C & N

APRIL PAIRS

- 1st Marshall G & J
- 2nd Hayles A/Healey T
- 3rd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S

MAY PAIRS

- 1st Barnwell C/Kingsborough S
- 2nd Donnelly G/Stucley G
- 3rd Thompson C & N

JUNE PAIRS

- 1st Thompson C & N
- 2nd Donnelly G/Stucley G
- 3rd McLean G/Miles D

JULY PAIRS

- 1st Donnelly G/Stucley G
- 2nd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S
- 3rd Bowman P/Mitton D

AUGUST PAIRS

- 1st Bowman P/Mitton D
- 2nd Neuling J/Parr T
- 3rd Connelly A/Dawson M

SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1st Donnelly G/Healey T
- 2nd Connelly A/Dawson M
- 3rd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S

OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1st Barnwell C/Kingsborough S
- 2nd Junner S/Niemann C
- 3rd Marshall G & J

NOVEMBER PAIRS

- 1st Donnelly G/Healey T
- 2nd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S
- 3rd Acfield P/Stucley G

DECEMBER PAIRS

- 1st Faber J/Reynolds D
- 2nd Donnelly G/Healey T
- 3rd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S

2023 FRIDAY A GRADE PLACEGETTERS

JANUARY PAIRS

- 1st Donnelly G/Hayles A
- 2nd Esvelt M/Miles D
- 3rd Fuss J/Ward J

FEBRUARY PAIRS

- 1st Kingsborough S/Ward J
- 2nd Healey T/Wilson M
- 3rd Lever C/Payne I

MARCH PAIRS

- 1st Donnelly G/Hayles A
- 2nd Thompson C & N
- 3rd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S

APRIL PAIRS

- 1st Thompson C & N
- 2nd Fuss J/Ward J
- 3rd Donnelly G/Hayles A

MAY PAIRS

- 1st Linde J & W
- 2nd Fuss J/Ward J
- 3rd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S

JUNE PAIRS

- 1st Phillips S/Stucley G
- 2nd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S
- 3rd Healey T/Wilson M

JULY PAIRS

- 1st Smith M/Stucley G
- 2nd Phillips S/Reynolds D
- 3rd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S

AUGUST PAIRS

- 1st Dawson M/Watkins J
- 2nd Smith M/Stucley G
- 3rd Fuss J/Ward J

SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1st Fuss J/Ward J
- 2nd Barnwell C/Kingsborough S
- 3rd Anderson S/Truskewycz E

OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1st Anderson S/Truskewycz E
- 2nd Fuss J/Ward J
- 3rd Hogan E/Shearing L

NOVEMBER PAIRS

- 1st Anderson S/Truskewycz E
- 2nd Fuss J/Ward J
- 3rd Barnwell C/Thiele B

DECEMBER PAIRS

- 1st Barnwell C/Kingsborough S
- 2nd Donnelly G/Kleeman J
- 3rd Smith M/Stucley G

2023 FRIDAY B GRADE PLACEGETTERS

JANUARY PAIRS

- 1st Bowman P/Glanfield L
- 2nd McCaffrey V/Reed M
- 3rd Friling B/Knauerhase V

FEBRUARY PAIRS

- 1st Stone K/Tuck P
- 2nd Larsen J/McCarthy B
- 3rd Harris J/Johnson M

MARCH PAIRS

- 1st Stone J/Wilksch S
- 2nd Riddle S/Stone N
- 3rd Bowman P/Glanfield L

APRIL PAIRS

- 1st McCaffrey V/Reed M
- 2nd Stone K/Tuck P
- 3rd Bowman P/Glanfield L

MAY PAIRS

- 1st Stone N/Thiele B
- 2nd McCaffrey V/Reed M
- 3rd Larsen J/McCarthy B

JUNE PAIRS

- 1st McCaffrey V/Reed M
- 2nd Bowman P/Glanfield L
- 3rd Stone K/Tuck P

JULY PAIRS

- 1st Stone K/Tuck P
- 2nd Kernbach J/Riddle S
- 3rd Cotton L/Hickey C

AUGUST PAIRS

- 1st Stone K/Tuck P
- 2nd Larsen J/McCarthy B
- 3rd Harris J/Johnson M

SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1st Bowman P/Glanfield L
- 2nd Adlington M/Blundell J
- 3rd Stone J/Wilksch S

OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1st Stone K/Tuck P
- 2nd Hickey J/Trenwith G
- 3rd Ryan M/Wood P

NOVEMBER PAIRS

- 1st Stone K/Tuck P
- 2nd Feeney P/Wilby G
- 3rd Larsen J/McCarthy B

DECEMBER PAIRS

- 1st Feeney P/Wilby G
- 2nd Bowman P/Glanfield L
- 3rd McCaffrey V/Reed M