

BRIDGE IN THE CITY NEWSLETTER July 2024

www.bridgeinthecity.net.au

Hand of the Month

Board one, Monday afternoon.

Board : 1	S♠ 3	Dir: N	Makeable Contracts					
	H♥ 92	Vul: None		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	D♦ AQ942		N	7	7	-	1	1
	C♣ AKQJ7		S	7	7	-	1	1
S♠ 72		S♠ KQJ86	E	-	-	3	-	-
H♥ KJT63		H♥ AQ8754	W	-	-	3	-	-
D♦ KJ7		D♦ 3						
C♣ T42		C♣ 3						
	S♠ AT954							
16	H♥							
8 12	D♦ T865							
4	C♣ 9865							

Not a hand for the faint hearted. The auction could well go:

N	E	S	W
1♦	2♦*	P or X	4♥
5♣	5♥	6♦	P
P	6♥	X	

* Michaels, promising 5-5 at least in the majors

South's lack of high card points shouldn't be a hindrance to the 6♦ call while East, having at most one defensive trick, should take the sacrifice, probably going just two down.

**BRIDGE IN THE CITY GNOT QUALIFYING
TEAMS EVENT, 4 MATCHES EACH OF SEVEN BOARDS
YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET GOLD MASTERPOINTS.
SUNDAY AFTERNOON 12:30 AUGUST 4TH.
TABLE FEE \$10 PER HEAD
ENTRIES VIA NOTICEBOARD OR WEBSITE.**

Alerting Regulations

The Australian Alerts scheme was a mess. Far too many calls were being alerted, on occasion to the advantage of the partner, rather than the opponents, and something had to be done about it. Further, the Regulations in overseas were little better.

With this in mind the ABF came up with its own scheme, using the concept of self alerting, i.e. these bids are always artificial, so no alert is necessary. These include all

- doubles
- redoubles
- bids of the opponent's known suit
- a 2♣ response to a 1NT opening.

Further, calls beyond 3NT should only be alerted in the rare circumstance of a Texas transfer. Otherwise, partner has to guess whether your 4♣ call was natural, or an Ace ask.

What Should Be Alerted?

Bearing in mind the exclusions above, you should alert partner's call if it satisfies one or more of the following conditions

- The call is unnatural, e.g. a Jacoby transfer to a 1NT opening
- The call promises length in a suit beside the one shown, e.g. a 2 heart
- opening showing a weak hand with five + cards in hearts and another suit.
- The call is non-forcing, when the opponents would expect otherwise
- The call has an unexpected meaning, e.g. a forcing pass when partner's
- 1NT opening has been doubled.
- A preemptive raise of partner's opening, e.g. 1♥ – 3♥ showing support and less than 7 hcp.
- A four level opening that shows a holding in a suit other than the one called

NOTE – the call may be weak, strong, or indifferent – if it only shows the bid suit then it shouldn't be alerted! So, if your 2 level opening is weak or strong you don't have to alert it, however you should do so if it promises a side suit.

QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY EVENING JULY 6TH

A JOINT BRIDGE IN THE CITY AND CLARENCE GARDENS

BOWLING CLUB EVENT.

ENTRY FEE \$10 PER HEAD,

NOMINATIONS TO STUART TUCK OR NOLA STONE

Do You Need a Partner?

If so, you should contact the Director, preferably at least 15 minutes beforehand. Bob's phone number is 0409 892 371, David's 0403 27 8 754, or you can leave a message via the Partner Wanted page on the web site.

Single players will almost always get a game on Mondays, since the director will play if necessary. Unfortunately, due to the recent increase in attendances, the director can't usually play on Fridays.

Trump Management, & Mismanagement

It is surprising how often people mishandle their trump holdings - I would like to have 10 cents for every time I have seen declarer take an unnecessary ruff in hand!

First, you should remember why you and your partner have agreed to play the contract in a trump suit, instead of no trumps. The first advantage is that you now have stoppers, in the form of trumps, for the unguarded suits. Secondly, you can get extra tricks by taking ruffs in one hand or, in the case of a full cross-ruff, in both hands.

As you can see, taking a ruff in the long trump hand is not usually an extra trick - instead, it is taking a trick that you were going to win anyhow.

When you are declarer in a trump contract your objective, unless you are playing a cross-ruff, is to establish either your hand or dummy. Having decided which hand to set up, your plan of play should incorporate using the trumps in the other hand to help you to achieve this.

♠ AQJ10965	♠ K43
♥ K98	♥ 65
♦ 6	♦ J8653
♦ KQ9	♣ A52

As an obvious example, if you are playing the above hand in 4♠, then your proper line of play, (on an opening diamond lead and continuation) is to attack the heart suit so that you can get a heart ruff in the hand with the short trump hand. It is plainly wrong to immediately clear trumps, whilst it would be futile to use dummy's entries to ruff diamonds.

A further useful tip is to try to think how your partner would play the hand. I am not implying that your partner is a better player than you are - instead I am referring to the fact that declarers have a remarkable tendency to try to establish their own hands, using dummy to support this action, when they should frequently be using their own cards to help establish dummy.

Finally, I would like to leave you with the following hand, which is an elegant example of a dummy reversal. The contract is 4♥, with an opening trump lead, and I want you to play this hand in two different ways. First of all, I want you to try to make the contract by establishing the East hand, i.e. play the hand as if East was the declarer. Then I would like you to adopt a line of play that will establish the West hand. Please give this exercise a try - the result may surprise you.

♠K43	♠A75
♥KJ9	♥AQ1084
♦865	♦A742
♣A432	♣6

Two-Way Stayman - The Hog's Version by Victor Mollo

"Partnership understanding - what does it mean?" asked the Hog rhetorically, putting down my glass and picking up Oscar's.

"The usual idea is that each player, in turn, knows what his partner means, draws inferences and plays accordingly. That works well enough when Benito Garozzo faces Giorgio Belladonna, but what happens when one's sitting opposite the Rueful Rabbit or Walter the Walrus or Timothy the Toucan?"

"They wouldn't know what you meant anyway," continued the Hog, "and couldn't draw the right inferences if they did. So why tell them anything?"

"When I speak of partnership understanding, I mean something very different. Now take the Rabbit. He tells me what he has and I tell him what to do with it. Once I've got the message across, we've achieved perfect understanding."

We had been discussing two-way Stayman, an adaption of the original convention devised by the H.H. for use with his less gifted partners. This is how it works.

When the Hog opens 1NT and partner bids 2♣, a rebid in the major is two-way. The Hog either has it or he hasn't. Partner can raise the bid to the three level but no higher and he must pass the Hog's next bid.

The advantages of the method are considerable. If the 2♣ bidder has the major shown by H.H., the suit will have stoppers for notrump. If he hasn't the opponents won't know whether to lead it or not. After all, H.H. isn't barred from having a suit just because he has bid it. They must guess.

"I can see one snag," objected Oscar the Owl, our senior kibitzer. "Suppose you open 1NT and bid 2♠ in response to the Rabbit's 2♣ bid. Now though he may be worth 4♠ he can only bid 3♠."

"And how is R.R. to know whether he is worth 3♠ or 4♠?" countered the Hog.

"No, two-way Stayman is foolproof, almost Rabbit-proof".

This was the deal that gave rise to our discussion:

	R.R.			
Dealer South			♠A8	
Nil Vulnerable			♥Q1082	
			♦AK4	
			♣AQ102	
Papa				Karapet
♠K1074				♠J9652
♥K4				♥J976
♦8765				♦32
♣874				♣96
	H.H.			
			♠Q3	
			♥A53	
			♦QJ109	
			♣KJ53	
West	North	East		South
				1NT(1)
pass	2♣	pass		2♠
pass	4NT	pass		6NT
all pass				

(1) Weak notrump opening.

Of course, with the 4-4 fit, 6♣ would have been a better contract. The Hog liked to get notrumps in first, however - to prevent an accident.

Suspicious of the 2♠ bid, Papa the Greek nearly led a spade. He thought better of it, however, and picked the 8♦, which gave nothing away, leaving H.H. with 10 top tricks.

The Hog began by cashing three diamonds and three clubs, but nothing interesting happened and the decisive moment could be postponed no longer. So, leaving two winners uncashed and with the communications still open, H.H. laid down the A♥.

The danger signal flashed through Papa's mind. He could see just what would happen. The Hog would take his fourth diamond and the K♣ and now, with spades only in his hand, Papa would be thrown in with the K♥.

Promptly, the Greek jettisoned the K♥. It was safe enough, for Karapet was marked with the J♥. If the Hog had it, he would surely have taken the finesse. The Q♥ wouldn't give H.H. his 12th trick, and meanwhile the endplay had been averted.

There was a price to pay - the spectacular unblocking play gave away the position of the K♠. Without it, Papa would not have been in trouble.

Making the most of the information, the Hog cashed the K♣ and the Q♦, discarding dummy's 8♠. With four cards remaining, H.H. spread his hand.

♠ A
♥ Q108
♦ -
♣ -

Papa had to find a discard, leaving himself with either of the following:

♠ J9	♠ J
♥ J9	♥ J97
♦ -	♦ -
♣ -	♣ -

If Karapet retained two spades and two hearts, H.H. would simply concede a heart. If the Armenian kept one spade and three hearts, H.H. would cash A♠, and exit with the 8♥, endplaying Karapet in hearts.

"Could we have gotten there without two-way Stayman?" asked the Rueful Rabbit.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

WARRADALE HOTEL JULY 21ST

\$50 PER HEAD

BOOKINGS THROUGH STUART TUCK

Recent placegetters

MONDAY JUNE PAIRS

- 1 Glenda & John Marshall
- 2 Brenda & David Parker
- 3 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey

FRIDAY PURPLE JUNE PAIRS

- 1 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 2 Paul Acfield & Susan Phillips
- 3 Brian & Rosemary Moten

FRIDAY PINK JUNE PAIRS

- 1 Pam Bowman & Lois Glanfield
- 2 Marlene Ryan & Pam Wood
- 3 Ken Stone & Peter Tuck

Recent New Members

Anne Darwin, Sue Giles, Brenda and David Parker, and Helen Trengove have recently joined, please make them welcome.

Opening Leads

I know that I have said it before, but fourth best of longest and strongest isn't always the best option.

It's OK against lower level No Trump contracts, since you are hoping to develop defensive tricks in that suit, however it is a different story when leading against suit contracts, or higher level No Trumps.

You should never underlead an Ace against a suit contract. It may well give a trick away, and you are unlikely to get it back.

If partner has little in the way of values then an aggressive lead is much more likely to give a trick away than be successful.

So, what is a safe lead? Obviously leading from the top of a sequence such as QJ10x is great, however we aren't always so fortunate.

A trump lead, particularly with three or more is often a good way out, and may also help to reduce declarer's ruffs in dummy.

The lead of a long suit (5+cards) that hasn't been bid by the opponents rarely costs, and is often productive.

Recent Masterpoint Promotions

Peter Tuck	REGIONAL
Jenny Wishart	GRADUATE
Lyn Mitchell	GRADUATE
Cynthia Brinkman	NATIONAL
Lynne Cotton	REGIONAL

Another Friday Hand

Friday afternoon, last board, partner opens 1NT, showing 15-17, and it's your bid, holding ♠A5 ♥Q52 ♦AK732 ♣QJ2. What's your call?

You have 16 points and a good five card suit, so slam is definitely a possibility, how should you proceed?

I would bid 4NT, quantitative, asking partner to pass with a minimum with a minimum, or go forward with upper range values.

♠A5
♥Q52
♦AK732
♣QJ2

♠KQ2
♥A1098
♦85
♣AK93

Next problem, how to play 6NT on a spade lead. You have ten tricks on top, need two more.

Ducking a diamond, in the hope that the suit divides 3-3 is an option, however the odds are against it. Leading a heart towards dummy's Queen will get you one trick if the King is onside, the twelfth will still be a problem.

The best line: Cross to dummy, and play the Queen of hearts. Should East cover then you automatically have 12 tricks by conceding a heart trick to the Jack. If instead the heart Queen is taken by the King on your left, then go back to dummy, this time leading a heart to your ten, repeating the finesse if it is successful. This line of play has a 75% chance, only failing when the King and Jack of hearts are both on your left.

The full deal:

♠A5	
♥Q52	
♦AK732	
♣QJ2	
♠J10843	♠976
♥J43	♥K76
♦J9	♦Q1064
♣854	♣1076
♠KQ2	
♥A1098	
♦85	
♣AK93	