



# "Trumping In"

## Waverley Bridge Club Newsletter



August 2011

ABN 86 643 699 219

### Treasurers Waffle August 2011

A conversation heard at a bridge table ran along the following lines:

Asked for an explanation of a vulnerable three club opening bid, the response was along the lines of "my partner has a rather vague concept of vulnerability. I'm not at all sure of the strength of the bid". The partnership survived the ensuing laughter.

If asked about the financial strength of the Club, I think I might have the same problem responding. We have just made an audited loss of about \$6,000 for the last financial year, which included paying about \$25,000 for a solar electricity system quite recently, but despite this we currently hold a net balance of about \$37,000 in our bank accounts. The answer is of course that we almost completed collecting subscriptions, and we have a substantial volume of un-presented vouchers, which represent a future liability for the Club.

Together with another Committee member, we are trying to refine a financial forecasting system for the next 12 months. The absolutely critical parameters for this are the level of membership and associated participation rate. If we can attract and hold an additional 100 members over the next 12 months, I think we would start to substantially rebuild our financial strength.

This gets back to a point which I have frequently harped on in the past, namely that it is really important for increasing membership that we do everything possible to make the Club a welcoming place for members and visitors alike. The WBC culture encourages friendliness and courtesy to all, particularly beginners and new members: they are our

future. (And remember to be kind to your partner who has just gone down in a stone cold slam contract!)

Apart from this, I am very much hoping that the next twelve months will entail a quiet consolidation period for the Club. Mercifully, our air-conditioning/heating system seems to be settling down, but it has yet to be tested on a hot summer day. Also, I think the period of major capital expenditure which we have undergone for the past two years has finished.

Doug Lavers, Treasurer

### \*\*\*\*\*FABULOUS FRIDAYS\*\*\*\*\*

#### The July winners of \$75 each are:

**Two top scorers:** Waldek Mroz and Jerzy Wierucki with 59.6 %

#### Two players scoring closest to 48.5%:

Ray Anderson and Nicole McManamny with 49.07%

Congratulations to all of you.

The August competition starts on Friday August 5th. Play three Fridays in August to qualify.

### ANC INTERSTATE TEAMS RESULTS

Open: 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria 196, 2<sup>nd</sup> ACT 89

Seniors: 1<sup>st</sup> S.A. 150, 2<sup>nd</sup> NSW 136

Womens: 1<sup>st</sup> NSW 186, 2<sup>nd</sup> WA 143

Youth: 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria 176, 2<sup>nd</sup> ACT 83

Congratulations to our Victorian Teams who performed so well. Special congratulations to one of our Youth players who starred in the Finals: Pete Hollands was a member of the winning Open Team and is the second youngest player ever to be on a winning Open Team.

## RANK PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following players who have recently achieved rank promotions:

Graduate Master	Susan Cook Beryl Hubschmann Silvana Layton Anne Ramsden Margaret Stebbing Robert Wilson
Club Master	Jill George Paul Higginbottom Bruce Kenneday Margaret McConvill Mary Stoney George Troynar Dan Warna
Local Master	Margaret Ryan Elizabeth Soek
*Local Master	Susan Harrison Maureen Rendall
**Local Master	Eileen Sloman Tom Spall Michael Westwood
Regional Master	Helen O'Brien Ray Pearson Zenon Zebrowski
*State Master	Inpa Inpanathan Jan Rothlisberger Ken Tenner
National Master	Jenifer Codognotto Anne Gooding Kevin Sertori
Bronze Life Master	Ruth Kingham
Silver Life Master	Andrzej Jez
Gold Grand Master	Charlie Schwabegger

Special congratulations to Charlie for his achievement in reaching 5000 MP, a very rare ranking!

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to our recently joined members:

Lou McKenna, Peter Wilson, Beryl Permewan, Marg Stocks, Sue Lindton, Kaye Leeton, Susan Dunstan, Jill Croom, Elizabeth Moffat, Annette Grauman, Patricia Goldman, Marcia Barmby, Irene Purcell, John Wells, Camille Butler, Doris Menashe, Pamela Hannell, Barbara Lonergan, Virginia Staggs, Ron Page and Marion Page.

We hope that you will enjoy and long and happy relationship with WBC, and we look forward to seeing you often.

## RECENT RESULTS

### John Witt Pairs:

1. K. Sertori, C. Chakravorty
2. M. Woods, S. Collins
3. C. Hagan, L. Szabo

### Olive Shrimpton Swiss Pairs

1. S. Read, M. Hickey
2. M. Elson, L. Szabo
3. A. Rose, R. Kingham

Congratulations to all players.

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

A meeting will be held on Tuesday August 23 at 1.30 pm to which all interested members are invited to discuss the proposed changes to the WBC Constitution.

If you have not already read the notes on the proposed changes, there is a copy on the notice board in Room 2, and also on the Committee page of the website –

[www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au](http://www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au)

We expect that the meeting will take approximately an hour, and hope that many members will be interested to attend.

## CROFT TEAMS

The Croft Teams was run on Saturday July 16. WBC representatives were:

1. Jill Pike, Trish Henderson, Kevin Sertori, Chadradeep Chakravorty
2. Mike Walden, Sue Brink, Margaret O'Bryan and

Jocelyn Russell

3. Leone Szabo, Diane Hagan, Mary Stoney and Paul Higginbottom

4. Ruth Kingham, Annette Rose, Mary Adams and Pamela Richardson.

Congratulations to all WBC Teams who had a great day, just pipped at the post by Moonee Valley.

Congratulations also to the best individual team which went to the Pike team taking out the Nick Beaumont Memorial Shield.

A most successful day was held with a total of 27 teams attending. We look forward to going just one better next year.

### A HAND STRAIGHT FROM THE DEVIL!

♠A105	
♥85	
♦AKQ6	
♣AK74	
♠J6	♠Q87
♥J94	♥Q1076
♦9875	♦J104
♣QJ106	♣985
♠K9432	
♥AK32	
♦32	
♣32	

Let's not talk about the bidding, but the end result is a contract of 7♠. How do you fancy your chances? There is a certain trump loser, is there not? The lead is, of course, the ♣Q.

Work this one out, then look on Page 7 for this hand, and another example of the Devil's Coup.

### STUFF EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW

If you are right handed, you will tend to chew your food on the right side of your mouth.

If you are left handed, you will tend to chew your food on the left side of your mouth.

To make half a kilo of honey, bees must collect nectar from over 2 million individual flowers.

Tourists visiting Iceland should know that tipping in a restaurant is considered an insult!

Albert Einstein was offered the presidency of Israel in 1952, but he declined.

The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. In the Renaissance era, it was fashion to shave them off.

Because of the speed at which Earth moves around the Sun, it is impossible for a solar eclipse to last more than 7 minutes and 58 seconds.

Google is actually the common name for a number with a million zeros.

Astronauts can't belch. There is no gravity to separate liquid from gas in their stomachs.

### ELECTRICITY PURCHASING

We all know that power bills are going to rise dramatically in the coming months and years.

There has been some publicity recently about group purchasing schemes and WBC thinks that this is worth looking into.

If a large number of homes join up via a purchasing scheme agent, that agent can negotiate very good discounts. There is no need to live in any particular area, it is just the total number of users that counts.

If you would possibly be interested in joining such a scheme and would like to read the information, speak to Mary. You can look up the website at [www.powergrouppurchasing.com](http://www.powergrouppurchasing.com), or ask Mary for a copy of the information.

There would be no cost to us.

### MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION SUNDAY

Thanks to all the generous members who donated, bought a raffle ticket, or attended our Fundraising day on July 17.

It was a great day, with 56 players making sure it was a good session. The Make A Wish representatives put on a very superior sausage sizzle (almost as good as when we do the cooking). There was a short talk by one of the representatives at lunch time, when he told us some brief stories about children who had benefited from the Foundation.

Thanks to Martin and WBC staff who volunteered their time.

We are pleased to say that a total of \$1862 was raised to benefit the Make A Wish Foundation.

Athelstan Camberwell (luxury retirement units) donated our first prize for the raffle. Thanks Athelstan.

The winners of the raffle were:

1. \$200 Westfield shopping voucher – Iris Carling
2. Sheet of play vouchers – John Kent
3. Entertainment Book – Harry Brown
4. Bottle of Baileys – Lorna Mason

## PROBLEMS AT THE BRIDGE CLUB

Please take very good care of your money! Recently a large amount of money went missing in very puzzling circumstances. Keep your bag with you *at all times!!* The Bridge club insurance does not cover money lost by members.

Also recently a member's car was badly damaged in the car park. There was no note left after the incident, and though we cannot be sure that it was a WBC member who inflicted the damage, it was on a Monday morning when, by and large, we are the only people here.

If the driver would like to speak to me and give me his/her insurance details, I shall pass them on to the owner of the car, and there will be no more spoken about it. We like to think that our members would always behave honourably in this situation.

## NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

August Boehm: Matchpoints versus IMPS

Matchpoint and IMP events are based on very different scoring systems. Matchpoint scoring rewards the frequency of gain; how often do you find the winning action? IMP scoring rewards the amount of gain, the same basis for rubber bridge. Each form of competition is distinctive, and a successful, well-rounded player must master a broad range of strategies. This book looks at the tantalizing question of which form of scoring is the more skilful, examines the role of luck, and shows how to pick a personal style.

This book is intended for the intermediate and advanced intermediate club and tournament player.

Paul Holtham: Bridge Mix: Chocolate-covered contracts and plenty of nuts

Think Douglas Adams with a dash of Victor Mollo, and get ready for a wild ride! Whether you look at this as a novel, or as a linked series of short stories, it represents the arrival of a brilliantly imaginative new writer of bridge fiction. Fast-paced, crazy, funny, full of great bridge deals in settings that vary from a major

bridge tournament through ancient Egypt to outer space, this book takes the reader on a breakneck journey that will not soon be forgotten.

Dufresne & Ellingsen: Bridge with Bells and Whistles

There are plenty of bridge books for serious players, and also a number of books for raw beginners. However, very little has been published for the player who has completed the Basic course and is now ready to add a few 'bells and whistles' to his or her game. This book conducts a thorough review of all the bidding ideas and concepts encountered in a Beginner course on bridge, and takes the reader beyond them, gently but firmly. The reader's ideas on bidding will be refined, and a number of useful conventions suitable for this level of player are described and recommended. The material is written by two very experienced teachers, and includes features such as end-of-chapter reviews and quizzes to help reinforce the concepts.

Martens: Owl, Fox and Spider

How to develop expert deceptive capabilities.

**BORROWERS PLEASE NOTE:** When you return your books put them in the RETURNS slot, *not* back on the shelf. Thanks.

## A LITTLE BIT OF BLUFF IN DEFENCE

The contract is 4♥ by South. Lead: ♦Q

♠1086  
♥Q10642  
♦743  
♣AQ

♠AQ4	♠532
♥97	♥J
♦QJ108	♦K962
♣K972	♣J10654
♠KJ97	
♥AK853	
♦A5	
♣83	

Declarer takes the ♦A, takes the Ace and Queen of trumps, then runs the ♠8.

If West wins with the Queen, declarer will certainly take the winning Club finesse. If, however, West takes the spade with the Ace, and plays back a Club (not the ♣2). Declarer will rise with the Ace and take the 'proven' Spade finesse.

Down he goes!

## WONDERFUL ENGLISH FROM AROUND THE WORLD

In a Bangkok temple:  
IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN, EVEN A FOREIGNER, IF DRESSED AS A MAN.

Cocktail lounge, Norway:  
LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

Doctors office, Rome:  
SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.

In a Nairobi restaurant:  
CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER.

On the main road to Mombassa, leaving Nairobi:  
TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE.

In a City restaurant:  
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS.

In a cemetery:  
PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES.

Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations:  
GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE OR DO OTHER DISGUSTING BEHAVIOURS IN BED.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:  
OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR.

In a Tokyo bar:  
SPECIAL COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES WITH NUTS.

Hotel, Yugoslavia:  
THE FLATTENING OF UNDERWEAR WITH PLEASURE IS THE JOB OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

Hotel, Japan:  
YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest:  
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 THIS PURPOSE.

Hotel, Zurich:

BECAUSE OF THE IMPROPRIETY OF ENTERTAINING GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN THE BEDROOM, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LOBBY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen:  
WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

A laundry in Rome:  
LADIES, LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES HERE AND SPEND THE AFTERNOON HAVING A GOOD TIME.

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you paid your subscription? It was due on July 1, and very shortly the office will be sending out reminder letters.

Please make sure you pay as soon as possible.

### PLAN THE PLAY

1. The contract is 3NT, West leads the Spade 10, promising either 2 higher honours (not in sequence), or none.

♠K5  
♥A109  
♦K103  
♣108643

♠QJ3  
♥64  
♦AQJ7  
♣KQJ2

Plan the play.

2. West opened 3♠, and you end up playing in 4♥. The lead was the Spade King, followed by a trump.

♠732  
♥AKQ  
♦A87642  
♣A

♠Q  
♥J109876  
♦953  
♣Q97

Play the play. Solutions are on Page 7

## CONSTRUCTIVE BIDDING – Hand Evaluation at work

(1) The auction has been:

2NT : 3♥ (transfer)  
 3♠ : 3NT  
 ??

What will your next bid be with the following hands?

- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. ♠976 | 2. ♠976 | 3. ♠KJ9 |
| ♥AQJ5   | ♥A5     | ♥A7     |
| ♦KQ10   | ♦AKQJ   | ♦AJ98   |
| ♣AKJ5   | ♣KQJ5   | ♣AKQ5   |

1. Pass. Although you have an 8-card Spade fit, your Spades are so weak and your other suits are so strong, that this is probably the best spot.
2. 4♠. Though your support is the same, you now have a distinct weakness in Hearts and could come in for multiple losers on a Heart lead.
3. Now we're cooking! What a great hand. Three great trumps, a ruffing value and a maximum hand. Don't just bid 4♠ with this hand – try a 4♣ cue bid, just in case.

(2) Read the following auction then pick a bid for responder with the following hands.

Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
2♠	2NT
3♥	4♠
5♣	?

2♦ is a negative, with 2NT a second negative, suggesting 0 - 4 HCP. Which of these hands would be justified in co-operating with opener's slam try?

- |         |          |         |
|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. ♠J65 | 2. ♠1053 | 3. ♠J52 |
| ♥984    | ♥76      | ♥Q8     |
| ♦J92    | ♦K85     | ♦976    |
| ♣Q875   | ♣98764   | ♣107642 |

You have already told partner twice that you are weak, and he has still got the goods to make a 5♣ slam try. Have a third look at your hand.

**Hand 1** is nothing to write home about. No Ace or King, no ruffing value and, apart from the ♠J, no help in either of partner's suits. You are maximum, but still should sign off in 5♠.

**Hand 2** is much better, with a King, and a potential ruffing value. Bid 5♦ (cue) – partner will not expect you to have more than you've got.

**Hand 3**, on the face of it, ain't all that great. But, look again. You have the ♠J and ♥Q – both 'working' in partner's long suits. And once again, have a potential ruffing value.

It might seem a bit extreme, but a 'cue' of 5♥ is probably now in order. As well as being enthusiastic about your ♥Q, you have also told partner that you have no Diamond control.

3. Partner opens 3♠, non-vulnerable. What do you think of the following hands, and what will you do by way of a response?

- |         |        |        |         |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. ♠942 | 2. ♠Q5 | 3. ♠9  | 4. ♠AJ5 |
| ♥KQJ    | ♥A1062 | ♥A1064 | ♥A875   |
| ♦KJ10   | ♦A98   | ♦AQ75  | ♦QJ93   |
| ♣QJ43   | ♣A875  | ♣AK87  | ♣AQ     |

**Hand 1.** 13 HCP, but still, not good enough to bid 4♠. Normally Queens and Jacks do precious little to help declarer win tricks opposite a pre-empt. A good pass, and with a little luck, declarer will make his contract.

**Hand 2.** The non-vulnerable opening promises 6 tricks. This would be a clear raise to 4♠ opposite a vulnerable opening, when opener *should* have 7 tricks. Now, with a bare minimum opening, partner may not make 4, but still, probably worth the risk. Don't consider 3NT. Partner may have no side entries and you may not be able to reach his hand.

**Hand 3.** Plenty of tricks in this hand to bid the game. And of course you will trust partner to have enough in his suit to make your singleton sufficient. Don't even give a passing thought to 3NT!! The singleton Spade is a clear warning here.

**Hand 4.** Enough winners for game, and 4♠ might be the right place, but a better response is probably 3NT. Your spades are good enough to hope that you can run 9 winners. The chance of making 4♠ - possibly getting a Club ruff – is not great enough to point clearly to a 4♠ response.

## A HAND STRAIGHT FROM THE DEVIL!

From page 3

Play ♠A,K and ruff a Club. Cash the ♦A, K, Q and then ruff another Club. Now play the ♥A, K and ruff a Heart. You have now reached this position.

♠A10	
♦6	
♠J6	♠Q87
♦9	♦ - -
♠K94	
♦ - - -	

You are in dummy and lead the Diamond, and East is helpless. If he ruffs low, declarer will overruff with the ♠9, while if he ruffs high, declarer will overruff then finesse West for the Jack. Goodbye certain trump trick. Never say die.

♠K73	
♥K4	
♦KJ42	
♠A765	
♠J65	♠Q2
♥AQ6	♥10852
♦Q75	♦A106
♠QJ82	♠10943
♠A10984	
♥J973	
♦983	
♠K	

The contract is 4♠ and the lead is the Club Ace. Plan the play.

Take the Club King, lead a Heart. West takes the Ace and leads another Club, declarer discarding a Diamond. Now, Heart King, and a Club ruff, then a Diamond to the Jack and Ace. East returns a club, ruffed, and a Heart is ruffed in Dummy. Finally, declarer cashes the Diamond King and ruffs a diamond. This is now the position:

♠K7	
♥ - -	
♦4	
♠J65	♠Q2
♥ - -	♥2
♦ - -	♦ - -
♠A10	
♥J	
♦ - -	

The ♥J is led. West is forced to ruff, over-ruffed by North. That is the end of the defence's trump trick.

## PLAN THE PLAY SOLUTIONS from Page 4

1.

♠K5	
♥A109	
♦K103	
♠108643	
♠10987	♠A642
♥J82	♥KQ753
♦9865	♦42
♠97	♠A5
♠QJ3	
♥64	
♦AQJ7	
♠KQJ2	

What is the danger here? Clearly, it is that East will switch to a Heart at trick 2. East knows that the lead is denying the Queen and Jack (think about it – he can see the Ace and King, and if West had the Queen and Jack for his higher honours, he would have led the Queen, not the ten. What can South do? His best, well, his only chance, is to try to make East believe that West has 5 Spades, and that it would pay him to clear out the suit. South should drop an honour from his hand, concealing the ♠3.

In fact, there is another chance, though not one that works here. If East switches to a Heart at trick 2, declarer should hold up the Ace and hope that the player with the Club Ace has only 3 Hearts.

2.

♠732	
♥AKQ	
♦A87642	
♠A	
♠AKJ10984	♠65
♥54	♥32
♦ - - -	♦KQJ10
♠6532	♠KJ1084
♠Q	
♥J109876	
♦953	
♠Q97	

The most obvious plan is to try for 6 Hearts, 2 Aces and 2 Club ruffs.

So, win the trump shift, unblock the ♠A, ruff a Spade, ruff a Club, ruff dummy's last spade, ruff the last Club, then – take care – lead a *low* Diamond from dummy, guarding against West's being void (he cannot have the Diamond King, having shown up with 8 HCP.)

If East returns a Diamond, West cannot profit from ruffing, as he is then nicely end-playing, having to return either a Spade or a Club. Either

way, declarer wins, takes out the last trump and can then still enjoy the Diamond Ace.

## COMING EVENTS

This year the **Mixed and Unmixed Pairs** will be run on Monday mornings *and* Tuesday evenings. You will be able to play in both events if you wish.

Line up your partner/s for  
Monday 10.00 am - August 8, 22 and 29; and,  
Tuesday 7.30 pm – August 9, 23 and 30

Entry fees will be \$30 for members and \$36 for non-members, payable at the first session. Entry fees have risen slightly and all extra monies collected will be returned as prizes.

Normal duplicate will also be played at the Monday sessions.

Entry form is on the Events Board.

### Waverley Bridge Club Championship Pairs:

And just a little bit of forward notice for our Premier Pairs event, which will also now be run with Monday morning and Tuesday evening sessions. Get your best partner lined up for this one, being played from September 5 (Monday) and 6 (Tuesday). Keep an eye out for the Entry form.

## COMMUNICATING WITH PARTNER: Leads, Signals and Discards

This most useful Workshop is coming up in September – Saturday mornings the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

How do you fancy your defensive skills? Have a look at the hand below and see how you would go, in both the East and West seats.

I often hear defenders say – oh, we just play what we don't want, or, we don't play signals (which can be a very worrying statement when it comes from a pair who have played together for a long, long time.) These people do a pretty fair line in communicating with each other, but just aren't sharing it with opponents – fairly naughty actually. It is much more understandable in inexperienced players, or a new pair.

Have a go at planning the defence for this hand. The contract is 3♥ by South, and the opening lead is ♠A.

♠Q85  
♥987  
♦K10963  
♣K2

♠AK92      ♠73  
♥3            ♥J65  
♦A542      ♦J7  
♣J1053     ♣Q98764  
♠J1064  
♥AKQ1042  
♦Q8  
♣A

It would be fairly easy not to get the needed messages across here.

First, West needs to know whether he should keep on leading Spades. How many does partner have? How many does declarer have? If East has 4 spades and declarer has only 2, it will be a mistake to keep on with the King. West wants to know what East thinks of his lead, and the best, and simplest, way for East to tell partner that he only has 2 Spades and would like him to keep on leading them, is to give 'attitude'. I like 'reverse' attitude, but use natural if you prefer. Using reverse attitude, East's play of the ♠3 on the opening lead says – Yea, I like this, keep on leading them please. Had he played the ♠7, he'd be saying, yuck, can't help you with Spades, do you think you need to switch?

In this case, East plays the ♠3, then the ♠7 on the King. West *knows* that East will ruff the next Spade, so leads one for this purpose. And *which* Spade does he lead? It does matter. In this case, the lead of the ♠2 would ask East to return the lower suit – Clubs, and the lead of the ♠9 would ask him to return the higher suit – Diamonds. West duly leads the ♠9, which East ruffs, returns a Diamond which West takes with the Ace, returning his fourth Spade. East can over-ruff dummy, and the contract goes down. Had East returned a Club, or a trump – and why shouldn't he, in the absence of any help from his partner, declarer would have taken the trick and drawn trumps, making his contract.

This very simple example will, I hope, whet your appetite for more information. See you on September 10.

First of all, one for the newer players.

## THE BATH COUP

This is a hold up where a card led by the opponents is ducked in a position that prevents an immediate continuation of the suit. The play dates back to the days of whist and is probably

names for the British spa town of Bath where the game was a popular pastime.

♠immaterial  
 ♠KQ1098 ♠immaterial  
 ♠AJ2

The ♠K is led. Declarer must hold up on this trick. Now West must either try to find a winner in his partner's hand, so that *he* can continue the suit, or he must concede two tricks to declarer if he wants to set up the suit.

The urge to win tricks as fast as possible must often be resisted!

Using standard leads, the King lead promises the Queen, and declarer knows this. If he doesn't take the first trick with the Ace, now if West leads the Queen, declarer will win that with the Ace and the third trick with the Jack.

### THE MERRIMAC COUP

How to destroy the entry into the hand with the long suit?? This is a technique for defenders.

This coup is named after an American freighter that was sunk to blockade the entrance to Santiago harbour in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.

1. ♠53 **3NT South. Lead ♠A**  
 ♥43  
 ♦KQJ1052  
 ♣A54  
 ♠AKJ86 ♠42  
 ♥Q76 ♥10985  
 ♦A83 ♦9  
 ♣K97 ♣J10862  
 ♠Q1097  
 ♥AKJ2  
 ♦764  
 ♣Q3

West leads the Spade Ace, sees the long Diamond suit in dummy and realizes that he has to get rid of the entry – the Club Ace – before declarer has a chance to set up his Diamonds.

At trick 2, West switches to the Club King. Now declarer is helpless. If he plays low, West will continue with the ♣9, removing forever the ability of declarer to reach dummy after setting up the Diamonds. Now all West has to do is hold up the Diamond Ace till the third round, and dummy is dead.

2. ♠9 **6♥ SOUTH**  
 ♥AKJ9875  
 ♦AQ1086

♣ - - -  
 ♠Q102 ♠3  
 ♥2 ♥Q1064  
 ♦K754 ♦3  
 ♣A10632 ♣KQJ9874  
 ♠AKJ87654  
 ♥3  
 ♦J92  
 ♣5

West leads the Club Ace, ruffed by the ♠9 in dummy. Declarer leads the Heart Ace from dummy and follows with the ♥5, ruffed in his hand and over-ruffed by West.

Can you see what West should now play? The whole object will be to keep declarer out of his hand – where he desperately needs to be in order to draw trumps and then have fun with his Diamonds. Have a think about it, we'll talk about another hand, then I'll get back to this one.

3. ♠6 **4♠ SOUTH**  
 ♥8642  
 ♦KQJ942  
 ♣K6  
 ♠532 ♠108  
 ♥AK753 ♥QJ10  
 ♦653 ♦A87  
 ♣AQ ♣107432  
 ♠AKQJ974  
 ♥9  
 ♦10  
 ♣J985

West leads the ♥K. If he continues, declarer will ruff, draw trumps and set up Diamonds, easy to do if he retains the Club King as an entry. If West plays the Club Ace then Queen, dummy's ♠6 is still high enough to ruff the ♣5, declarer's last loser. What is the winning play?

Back to hand 2. The only play to defeat the contract is to lead the Diamond King at trick 3. Declarer is stuck in dummy with no safe exit card. The ♠Q will now be promoted to winning status. And to finish off hand 3.

You must retain control – keep your winning club in hand. The winning play is to lead the ♣Q, keeping the Ace to deal with declarer's attempt to reach dummy after he sets up the Diamonds.

### ROTARY RAFFLE

Our thanks to all members who participated in the recent Rotary Raffle.

Your generosity has resulted in a total of \$1185 being raised for WBC.

(Ed. Something, alas, went horribly wrong and I am thinking of requesting an enquiry - - - I did not win the car).



### DILBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

1. I can only please one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow is not looking good either.
2. I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.
3. Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.
4. Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days the statue.
5. Needing someone is like needing a parachute. If they aren't there the first time, chances are you won't be needing them again.
6. I don't have an attitude problem, you have perception problem.
7. Last night I lay in bed looking up at the stars in the sky, and I thought to myself, where the heck is the ceiling?
8. My reality check bounced.
9. On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.
10. I don't suffer from stress. I am a carrier.
11. You are slower than a herd of turtles stampeding through peanut butter.
12. Do not meddle in the affairs of dragons, because you are crunchy and taste good barbequed.
13. Everybody is somebody else's weirdo.
14. Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level, then beat you with experience.
15. A pat on the back is only a few centimeters from a kick in the rear.
16. After any salary raise, you will have less money at the end of the month than you did before.
17. The more junk you put up with, the more junk you are going to get..
18. You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.
19. Eat one live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.

20. People who go to conferences are the ones who shouldn't.
21. If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
22. When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.

### DUCKING FOR FUN AND PROFIT

♥A109  
♥Q84                      ♥immaterial  
♥J (led)

Most reasonably experienced Wests will know to duck when the Spade Jack is led in this situation. Newer players who have gotten over the "second hand plays low" rule, will now be anguished by the 'cover an honour with an honour" rule, and will possibly be in a frenzy of indecision.

This indecision is what gives the game away. A hesitation followed by a pass fairly shouts 'I have the Queen!!'

When there is no good reason to cover it is usually correct to duck. In this case, if East has the King, he will take it if West ducks. If South has the King, then West *must* duck. And he must duck *smoothly*.

Theoretically West should cover if there is a chance of building up a trick for his side, but : -

If the situation is not clear, ducking smoothly is usually the best play when the defender cannot be sure what to do.

1. Some of the time it will be the technically correct thing to do.
2. Some of the time it will be the winning move on the actual lie of the cards.
3. Some of the time declarer will be on a guess, and will rely on a hesitation to give a clue.

Sometimes you will go wrong, but those cases will be in the minority.

The most important thing is – be prepared! You have been looking at – above: ♠A109 in the dummy for the whole hand. Plan ahead, take note of dummy's holding at the start of the hand and decide what you might do if any honour is led from the closed hand.

1.  
♥KJ8  
♥A1064                      ♥?  
♥5(led)

What do you do? Players who have a think then, reluctantly, play the ♠4 are *telling* Declarer that they have the Ace. There would be nothing to think about with the ♠Q. Play low smoothly and leave it up to declarer to decide.

2.           ♥Q1084  
           ♥K32           ♥J95  
                   ♥A74

Declarer leads low towards dummy. This is the time to duck!! Without a flicker. Declarer is likely to play the ♥10 if you play smoothly.

3.           ♥AQJ  
           ♥762           ♥K104  
                   ♥9853

Declarer leads low and plays the Queen. Now is the time for a smooth duck. Thinking hard, then playing low is no use. Declarer will almost always repeat the finesse and he may have to use a precious entry to his hand to do so.

4. This time it is a bit harder.  
           ♥AQJ  
           ♥10762           ♥K5  
                   ♥9843

A smooth duck from West will be rewarded by increased respect from opponents and partner when you can bring it off.

Sometimes, of course, these plays can backfire, but not often.

5.           ♥Q105  
           ♥AK2           ♥?  
                   ♥3 led

Now it is almost always right to duck. Declarer may well play the ♥10. It more likely to play you for ♥AJx or ♥KJx than ♥AKx. Just occasionally declarer will have the ♥J and you will 'go to bed' with your Ace/King, but that will happen very rarely.

6.           ♥KQ10  
           ♥A65           ♥?  
                   ♥7

This might take nerves of steel, but West should duck twice if declarer returns to hand and leads a second Heart. This is the only way that declarer can go wrong.

7.           ♥7  
           ♥?           ♥A1084  
                   ♥?

The contract is 4♥ and now the lead of the singleton ♥7 is made from dummy. Once again, the smooth duck is the percentage play.

Declarer may well have ♥KJ and be on a guess. He will have expected you to play the Ace if you had it, and is more likely to play the Jack. Of course, with ♥Kxx he will play the King, and this could cost a trick.

Ducking also works well when declarer has ♥QJx, playing the Ace would set up a ruffing finesse against West's King.

8.           ♥AKJ105  
           ♥87           ♥Q962  
                   ♥43

Declarer finesses the ♥J, and East, of course, plays the ♥2 smoothly. Declarer is highly likely to waste an entry to hand in order to repeat the finesse. Now your Queen takes the second trick, and declarer is out of Hearts.

All of this is all very well, very nice and elegant and legal. It would not be elegant, or legal, if – in this case:

                  ♥A109  
           ♥764           ♥Q86  
                   ♥J (led)

When declarer leads the ♥Jack, if West was to hesitate in order to suggest to declarer that he has the Queen and is not sure what to do, he could rightly be accused of cheating. Players may not, by the manner in which they play their cards, suggest a holding that they do not have.

And, all of the above leads us to the story of Sylvia. Sylvia was, according to many, the worst player they had ever seen.

                  ♠95  
                   ♥862  
                   ♦74  
                   ♣A98743  
           ♠QJ1083           ♠762  
           ♥J3           ♥Q10954  
           ♦K105           ♦Q862  
           ♣Q106           ♣5  
                   ♠AK4  
                   ♥AK7  
                   ♦AJ93  
                   ♣KJ2

Sylvia led the ♠Q against 3NT. Declarer took the Ace and led the ♠K, followed by the ♣J. Sylvia had heard that second hand plays low, possibly someone had told her that ducking was a good idea. Possibly she had read one too many newsletter articles. So, Sylvia played the ♣10 on declarer's Jack. Declarer had planned to play low had Sylvia played the Queen, or duck if Sylvia had shown out. Either way, his contract plus an overtrick is safe. When Sylvia followed with the ♣10 however, declarer could not conceive that

she would duck with the Queen, and went up with the Ace fully expecting the Queen to drop from the East hand. Oh cripes! The cold contract went 2 off.

