

**“TRUMPING IN”
WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2009**

The AGM will be held on Monday October 26. Papers for the meeting will be ready for collection during the week starting on Monday September 21. Please pick up yours from the Clubrooms – this will help with postage.

A nomination form will be posted on the notice board from this time also. Please consider whether you would like to serve the Club by nominating for a Committee position for 2010.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome as new members:

Michael Pogson, Helen Gregson, Sumiko Kawabe, Rob Solomon, Frank Carew, Deidre Finemore, John Finemore, Sora Wulfsohn, Michael Bird, Nat Prokhovnik, Linda Hall, Bruce Greenland, Bob Player, Arthur Perera, Melva Gale, Kaye Jukes, David Hollands, Elizabeth Brynes, Frances Forgan, Donna Dai, Stephen George and Peter Wilson. We hope you enjoy many years as WBC members and players

You will be pleased to hear that following the annual cancellations, our membership currently stands at 712, the highest ever.

We look forward to moving to our new clubrooms and being able to welcome more new members.

We realize that over the years, as the Club has grown larger, some of the original cosy atmosphere and close familiarity between members has been lost. But we also know that, with the good-will of all members, we can continue to have a happy, friendly and welcoming Club, able to offer all the facilities that only a large, successful Club can provide.

RECENT RESULTS

Congratulations to placegetters in the following events.

PRESIDENTS PAIRS, May 5, 12, 19 and 26

1. K. Chan, B. Kingham
2. A. Meydan, G. Lovrecz
3. J. Kent, K. Yang

SWISS PAIRS (Daytime) June 15, 22 and 29

1. L. Hickman, J. Millar
2. A. Laughlin, I. Inpanathan
3. P. Baker, B. Lovell

DENIS JAY TEAMS Final June 30

1. Livingston: R. Livingston, R. Anderson, R. Stewart, A. Krolikowski
2. Petrie: M. Petrie, B. Ulyatt, A. Jex, G. Dally

♥AK9
♦AQ104
♣AJ

revisiting

Finesse, finesse, finesse.....

Unfortunately, this article came out skewed in the last newsletter, so here is the corrected version.

North

♠K
♥653
♦J92
♣876432

South

♠A843
♥AK9
♦AQ104
♣AJ

Contract: 3NT by South
Opening lead: Spade Queen

West leads the Queen of Spades, and the King wins the first trick.

Which card should you play from dummy at trick two, and why?

You have 6 quick tricks – 2 Spades, 2 Hearts, 1 Diamond and 1 Club.

However, you need nine tricks to make your contract. Trying to establish the club suit is a lost cause, particularly as you have no entry to dummy; so the extra 3 tricks must come from the Diamond suit. You will make nine tricks provided the King of Diamonds is on side.

Since Dummy has no more entries, the time to Finesse is **NOW**, and the right card to lead is the nine of Diamonds. This allows you to stay in dummy for two subsequent finesse should they prove necessary. Suppose the complete hand is this:

Dummy

♠K
♥653
♦J92
♣876432

West

♠QJ1095
♥874
♦53
♣Q109

East

♠762
♥QJ102
♦K876
♣K5

South

♠A843

Notice that it would be a mistake to start with the Diamond Jack. This would hold the trick, and you'd next lead a Diamond to the ten, which would also win. But now there would be no way to get back to Dummy for a third finesse, and the contract would be one down. It would do you no good to drop the ten under the Jack on the first round. In this case, when you continue with the nine, East will cover with the King, promoting his eight.

Look how easy life is if you start with the nine. This wins, and you continue with the Jack. When East plays small, you can get under the Jack with your ten, leaving yourself in dummy for the vital third finesse.

Paula Schroor

STANDBY PAIRS

You have probably noticed how busy all the morning sessions are becoming. It is almost impossible for the Director to play with a person who comes alone as well as to answer calls and do the necessary computer work.

It has been decided to use a system of standbys for the Tuesday and Friday morning sessions. There will be a sheet on the notice board where you can write your name if you are willing to act as the standby for any particular session. We have several standbys for Tuesdays, but more would be welcome, and we need more for Friday mornings – Joyce does a wonderful job when she can, but it is in order for the system to work smoothly, more are necessary.

As well as having the session you attend for free, all standbys will be issued with another voucher for a free game to use at any time. You can put your name down for multiple sessions of course.

It will be necessary for you to live reasonably close to the Club, so that you can arrive within 15 to 20 minutes of being asked to come in.

We would very much appreciate your help with this.

PARKING

I know I sound like a broken record, but complaints are being received from residents of Heather Avenue who seem to object if we park in Heather Avenue at all.

Of course you have to find a place to leave your car, and if Heather Ave is the only available place left, you are quite within your rights to park there. However, we would be very grateful if you would make every effort to use the lane-way at the bottom of the carpark if there are no spaces left in the formal carpark. This is a problem which in the course of time will solve itself, but at the moment we are anxious to continue to have good relations with our neighbours. Thank you all.

MARY'S MINESTRONE

I have received multiple requests for the Minestrone soup that I made for our wonderful Mid-Winter celebration. I'm not much of a cook, and even less of a recipe-writer, but, here goes.

1 smoked ham hock, cooked in plenty of water till it's really done. Remove hock, cool liquid and take off fat, reserve liquid. Remove all meat from hock and discard fat (a yucky job). Chop meat into bite sized bits and put aside.

350 gms soup mix and assorted interesting varieties of dried beans. Soak in several changes of water overnight. Cook gently in plenty of water for 40 minutes. Put aside.

Sauté: large onion chopped
2 large carrots cut as desired
At least 2 sticks of celery similarly cut
- till no longer raw.

Add: good teaspoon chopped garlic, cook a bit longer – I find that if I put the garlic in first with the onion, it tends to burn.

Add: large handful chopped parsley. Cook it all a little bit longer.

Combine ham hock liquid, bean mixture with liquid and all veggies.

Add : 200 gms tomato paste,
Good 2 tblsp worstershire sauce, -
Pepper to taste. Cook for a bit.

Add: 1 – 2 cups finely sliced cabbage,
1 cup dry noodles – it said 'shell' but whatever you've got , I find that spiral noodles don't go so floppy.
2+ tblsp rice.

Cook fairly gently, stirring occasionally, for about 20 minutes. Mine tends to stick a bit if I don't stir it.

Add the ham hock meat at the end – it was already cooked.

After all this, it is anybody's guess how much liquid you will have. I do know that as it cools the pasta and rice swell and use up lots of liquid. Be prepared to add extra stock at any stage.

All quantities awfully approximate. I do know that 1 hock will be enough for larger quantities of everything.

I've read recipes that use potato and/or parsnip. I don't, but there is no reason why you shouldn't.

INFORMATION FROM A HUMBLE WEAK TWO

In the Weekend Australian, May 2-3 2009, Paul Marston quotes a deal from 1960 in which North opened 2D. South jumped immediately to 6NT, holding

♠ A Q J ♥ A K Q J ♦ J 8 2 ♣ A Q 4

I am trying to imagine what went through South's mind.

When first seeing his hand : "Wow! What a hand!! Must find out where partner's length lies. No-trump could be risky unless partner has a stopper in diamonds or at least four small ones. It's not my turn yet, let's see if partner or the opposition have something to say."

After seeing his partner's bid of 2D : "This is splendid news. 3NT will be a cinch. But wait a minute, I must not waste such a hand on just 3NT! Could there be slam? Partner has at least 6 diamonds including two honours. Add my diamond holding and the opposition is left with no more than four with a single honour in the suit. I am happy to let them have one diamond trick, as long as dummy can give me the other five. That requires entries to dummy. Since I can lead diamonds from my hand three times I don't see that that will be much of a problem. Can they stop me? Yes. If one of the opposition holds all four missing diamonds (10% likelihood) or if one has the Ace and two small ones. But hold on! If the ace is with the opposition, then my partner would have only 5 HCP in diamonds and would not have opened without an honour in another suit. I might be unlucky to find it to be the jack, but it would more likely be the king of one of the black suits. That would be ideal, a certain entry as well as two more certain tricks.

So there is a very good chance of five tricks from dear old partner. Now, I have six certain high tricks and I can try one of the finesses for the

twelfth. Perhaps I don't have to rely on a finesse. West must lead initially and there is a good chance he will lead S or C into my tenace. If he does not oblige, I can eliminate hearts before tackling the diamonds and if West then is the one to win their diamond trick he will be in a dilemma. Should I ask partner if he has the Ace? What's the point? I have as good, if not better, a chance when he does not have it. Why am I hesitating? Six no Trumps!"

It is all so obvious. Except - would I be able to think through all this argument before the opposition at the table become impatient and want me to make bid?

Let's see what North held:

♠ 8 6 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A K 9 7 6 4 ♣ 10 7 6.

The lead was the three of spades. Both opposition players followed on the first diamond lead. Therefore the contract was guaranteed. Declarer, alas, managed to go down! How did he do it? **Paul Grossman**

Ed. note. Recent group discussions on the requirements for a weak two opening become very relevant reading this. You wouldn't want to find partner with ♠Kxx ♥xx ♥Q10xxxx ♣Kx

LIBRARY

If you haven't had a look at the Library catalogue recently, we have some good news for you.

Sue Battley, the Librarian, has put in a lot of work creating a subject catalogue to complement the author catalogue. You can look this up to access books on declarer play, conventions, defence etc.

Check the website - you can choose books to reserve on any topic that interests you by emailing secretary@waverleybridgeclub.com.au

CARD PLAY

How will you go about making this contract? Declarer played in 4♥ and went 1 down.

♠AKQJ
♥9752
♦J74
♣92

♠10753
♥AKQJ
♦Q32
♣AQ

After a spade lead, declarer drew trumps, led a spade to the King and took the Club finesse, which failed. A Club was returned to the Ace, and now declarer had to play the Diamonds himself, losing all three tricks. Could he have done better?

Take a good look at the Diamond suit : Jxx opposite Qxx – this is a perfect example of a suit that you desperately need *not* to have to broach yourself. The way to make this contract *all the time* is to make your opponents lead Diamonds first! So how do you do that?

You succeed by removing all of the defenders choices of lead *except* those which will assist you.

So – take the first trick, draw trumps, cash the rest of your Spade winners, play a Club to the Ace, then lead the Queen. You will, of course, lose this trick. But then, what are your opponents to do? They have no Trumps or Spades left, so they have a choice of returning another Club, which will give you a ruff and discard (you would ruff in one hand and pitch one of your clubs from the other hand) or they can return a Diamond, thereby guaranteeing you a Diamond trick.

	♠AKQJ	
	♥9752	
	♦J74	
♠8	♠92	♠9642
♥1043		♥86
♦A1095		♦K83
♣KJ865	♠10753	♣10732
	♥AKQJ	
	♦Q62	
	♣AQ	

You spend much of your early bridge playing time learning how to finesse.

After a bit of experience however, you start to wonder how you can *avoid* finessing, which is, after all, normally only a 50% chance.

For the technically minded, this is called 'strip and throw-in' play.

CALLING THE DIRECTOR

It is the complete right, indeed the duty, of players to call the director when a possible infraction of the laws comes to light. Disputes must not be settled at the table between players who could by their decisions disadvantage other players – letting an opponent 'get away with' something which might have given him an extra trick, or might have deprived him of a trick, will influence the scores of everyone else in the section. And

of course arguments at the table can be the cause of bad blood between members. Such a big club as ours relies on the complete fairness which we hope applies to *all* players.

There are two main kinds of director calls. Firstly, the housekeeping variety – lead out of turn, insufficient bid, revoke, exposed card, incorrect explanation of an alerted call, lack of an alert etc. etc., the kind of error that can easily occur when a player has misread a bid, is not concentrating or may not have learned his system thoroughly. The director is called and is usually easily able to rule in a way that completely solves the problem, taking into account any damage that might have been caused. Largely there will be a fairly simple remedy for a simple problem.

The other kind of call is not quite so straightforward. This is when a player suspects that his opponents may have exchanged unauthorised information. This can be a hesitation (which can be any change in the normal tempo of the auction or play), body language, asking of pointed questions, calculated use of an insufficient or inadvertent bid etc. etc, right up to using illegal hand signals or any other of the many sophisticated methods of passing unauthorised information that exist in the Bridge world. It is usual after, for example, a hesitation, for the opponents to 'reserve their right' to call the director at the end of the hand if it proves that damage has occurred – in other words, mention the fact that the hesitation has occurred, ask for the agreement of the opposing side, then carry on with the auction. Of course, if the opponents do not agree that there was a hesitation, then the director should be called immediately.

Following a hesitation would not be the only time when players might 'reserve their rights.' If, say, a player who had been sitting quietly for 2 boards looked closely at his third hand, sat up straight in his seat, closed and reopened his cards, peered at them and could obviously barely control his excitement. His opponents might be nervous about this behaviour, and could reserve their rights at that point. At the end of the hand, if the complainants thought that damage had occurred, the Director would be called and it would be his responsibility to assess whether passing of unauthorised information had occurred and what penalty should apply.

Condoning of passage of unauthorised information will never improve the game and experienced players will not take you out the back at the end of play and shoot you if you suggested that this may have occurred. We all understand that it is in the best interests of the game to follow

the laws closely. Most players after one or two director calls will realize that there is no future in unethical practices and will tidy up their play.

It goes without saying that it would be unethical to call the director as a provocative act. These calls, however rare (fortunately) they are in our Club, will be dealt with by the director.

However, we all have to remember when we are competing against newer players that they do not have a good grasp of the laws and are largely unaware of 'unauthorised information.' Most new players hesitate because they just don't know what to do next. They don't know that if the opening bid in front of them is 1♣, and they are sitting there with 6 clubs, that they are not supposed to do a double take then ask what the meaning of the 1♣ opening bid is. It takes a while for them to realise that they aren't supposed to sigh, wriggle and mutter 'oh help!' They can't remember how strong a jump raise is, and agonise over whether or not to bid their 'poor' 4-card Spade suit, or just to ignore it and respond 1NT. I am continually telling the supervised players not to put 'full stops' after their bids. And we should also realize that their partners, being just as inexperienced, don't know what's going on and couldn't make use of unauthorised information if they did! Try not to be too officious with your calls.

A personal story. I was playing in Canberra years ago, against an elderly woman player who looked as if she had been born holding cards. We bid and played a number of hands and I realised that she was a tetchy, confident player who had a goodly amount of self esteem. She was also having a few 'problems' with her partner. On one particular hand they were arguing about the contract – partner seemed to want to play in a minor suit, she wanted No Trumps. After 3 bids and a little body language, the woman left the rest of the top row of the bidding slip empty and firmly wrote 4NT on the bottom row. Her partner passed, and I called the Director. The Director agreed that there seemed to be a problem and awarded us an adjusted score! *Mary Elson*

NEW CLUBROOMS

Work is progressing well as we can all see, and construction of the car park has begun. On Friday September 4 Iris Carling, Doug Lavers and Ray Anderson made a tour of the building site, along with representatives of the Calisthenics Club. They were all impressed by the size and appearance of the interior of the building, and, notwithstanding the hanging wires, incomplete

plastering and piles of building 'stuff' all over the place, are quite sure that we will be very happy with our new home.

At the moment, plans are to have an official opening ceremony with the current Mayor of Monash Council on November 30. We suspect that we will not be able to take residence at that time, but when work has progressed a little further we will get more information.

Plans are being tentatively laid to hold a Congress on December 12 and 13, contingent, of course, on our being able to take possession early enough. More information will be forthcoming. Whenever we move in, you can be sure that we will be holding numerous events to celebrate the occasion.

WORKSHOPS

The series of Workshops currently being run will continue until the end of October.

Remaining workshops will be held on Saturday mornings from 9.30 till 12.15. There is no need to book, just come along and feel free to bring a non-member friend. Costs are \$12 for members and \$14 for non-members. Each workshop contains copious notes, quizzes, bidding practice and hands to play.

September 19	Reverses
September 26	Competitive bidding
October 10	Communicating with partner
October 24	Multi Twos Part 1
October 31	Multi Twos Part 2

(Note from the person running the workshops: I believe that one of the best ways a player who wants to grow in the game can improve the accuracy of their bidding and thusly the quality of their scores is by a sound understanding of 'reverses'. Bidding too high, or not high enough, will always be a problem for a partnership who do not have firm agreements about forcing bids.)

NOW HERE'S A THOUGHT

What do you do when you are 4th in hand holding:

♠KQJ9
♥6
♦AQ986
♣854

And the auction has proceeded:

(1NT) : Pass : (2♦) (transfer) : ??

Various scenarios are possible. Let's discard 'Pass' quickly. You are too likely to miss a part-score.

Bids of 2♠, 3♦, and Double are possible, all of which could well be wrong. (Double is often played to show a long holding in the bid suit, not as Takeout).

So, what's left? A bid of 2♥ - the suit promised by responder.

This could be used as a Michaels, to show 5 Spades and 5 of a Minor. However, because a 4/5 shape is going to occur more often, it might be well worth while to consider a meaning first promoted by George Jesner a few years ago – that is to show 4 in the other Major and 5+ in a minor suit.

If the transfer bid was 2♥, a bid by 4th hand of 2♠ would have the same meaning as above, 4 Hearts and 5+ of a Minor.

So, what can opener do if this occurs? It might be easy to get too high now, or miss the part-score because it is no longer possible to simply accept the transfer. Some of the accuracy of the opponent's auction has been lost. And that always has to be a good thing!

WHITTLESEA BRIDGE CLUB

Recently a new club joined the ranks of affiliated Victorian Bridge.

From a small start in Kinglake in 2007, Waverley Bridge Club members Peter and Lyndall Shaw have opened Club rooms at the Whittlesea Bowls Club, 101 Church Street Whittlesea and meet for a duplicate session every Monday from 1.00 p.m. till about 4.30.

The dreadful bushfires badly affected all members of the new club (two members lost their houses) but they found meeting with friends who had been through the same thing was a great support.

Let's support them too. Any time you are in the area why don't you drop in and have a game. Peter and Lyndall will love to see you.

Ring Lyndall or Peter on 5786 1839 or email at peter.shaw@bigpond.com

