

### From the Bridge

I am writing this from my Covid cot. I am feeling very isolated, haven't been to a club session for a month- and there is one in progress right now- and am missing the cut and thrust of bridge like never before. You lucky b....s. That is to those not suffering likewise,

May I continue to marvel how our good ship/cruise liner is ploughing along. My gratitude goes out to all who help make it happen. In particular may I mention our room hosts who are fulfilling a wonderful role of encouraging players and keeping players informed, partnered and at ease. Thanks to Andrea, Angela, Morgan, Maxine and Jenny.

We have a group of incredibly enthusiastic players from last year's lessons. Welcome to a full year for you guys. Thanks to Anne for putting them on the road. Alistair James has stepped up this year to do the coaching and lessons will start on the 11th March. It is not too late to corral another few for those. Also a belated welcome to Tony O and Arthur B who have joined us along the way and who are adding considerable strength to Tuesday nights .

So, another year of fun huh? Keep it clean! Be kind! (Jeez, that has sunk without trace) Looking forward. Great expectations

**Martin Carryer**  
**President**

### From the Committee

A busy few months in Committee. Here is a summary of discussions and decisions...

#### Finances

The Committee said "goodbye" to outgoing Treasurer, Grant Elliott, and welcomed incoming treasurer, Jude MacMillan. Grant continued to support Jude into the role, including preparing the 2023 draft accounts for our reviewer, Alan Martin. In preparing the budget for 2024, the Committee has retained the same subscription rates for all categories but reluctantly

agreed to increase table money to \$6.50 per session on a card, keeping \$7.00 per session for cash.

The Committee approved the 2023 draft accounts for release for review.

#### Building sub-committee

Several working bees have taken place with the outcome that the building has now been made watertight to the level required by the Comprehensive Building Report commissioned last year. Many thanks to all members who took part in making this happen. Materials for this work was funded by Eastern and Central Community trust and through the generosity of members, family and friends.

Funding was applied for and approved from Pub Charity to re-mark the car parking lines, and this work should happen shortly.

#### Lessons 2024

The Committee was delighted that Alistair James agreed to take lessons this year. It also took a punt on offering lessons for free to encourage more people to "give it a go". Subscriptions become payable once the learners start to play in the regular playing sessions. Lessons start on 11 March.

#### Tournaments

The Committee was grateful to Glynis Penhale for offering to act as Tournament Secretary for our Intermediate and Junior tournament on 13 April. A handover has taken place.

#### Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on 23 March with a quiz night to follow. The Committee is proposing a change to our rules. In effect this reverses a previous change which limits the length of time the Secretary, Treasurer, Room Reps and ordinary Committee members can serve. This remit will be put to the AGM in March.

**Denise Servante**  
**Vice-President**

## Upcoming Events and Reminders

### PNBC HOUSIE

Saturday 16 March, 1.00 pm

Light lunch available to precede this fun event/fundraiser.

### NOTICE OF PALMERSTON NORTH BRIDGE CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 23 March, 7.00 pm

Club Rooms, corner Cook and Cuba Streets.

Please RSVP to [admin@pnbridge.nz](mailto:admin@pnbridge.nz)

### QUIZ NIGHT TO FOLLOW THE AGM

Saturday 23 March, 7.30 pm

Teams of (about) 6, \$5 per person to play, bring snacks for your table and cash bar available. All welcome!! A great evening for quizzing family and friends.

### PALMERSTON NORTH JUNIOR (3B) AND INTERMEDIATE (5B) TOURNAMENTS

Saturday 12 April, morning tea from 9.30 am, play commences 10.00 am.

Online Entry: via [www.nzbridge.co.nz](http://www.nzbridge.co.nz) or email [admin@pnbridge.nz](mailto:admin@pnbridge.nz)

Entry fee: \$35.00 (includes morning tea and after play nibbles – please BYO lunch)

Prepay please to 02 0727 0231184 00 quoting "Tournie" and your Computer No(s).

New table rates of \$6.50 per session on a card took effect from 1 February 2024. The new rates for cards are:

\$32.50 for a 5-session card

\$65 for a 10-session card

\$130 for a 20-session card

**Denise Servante**

## Tournament Results and 70% Club

### Wgtn Christmas Cheer

Liz Burrows/Sandra Coleman -- 4<sup>th</sup>

### Taupo Triton Xmas

Jack James/Jeremy Fraser--Hoskins -- 3<sup>rd</sup>

Glynis Penhale/Liz Wilcox -- 5<sup>th</sup>

### Suzanne Duncan Memorial

Jack James/Nigel Kearney -- 1<sup>st</sup>

Morgan Booker/Colin Haywood -- 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Waikato Bays Provincial Pairs

Jack James/Wayne Burrows -- 6<sup>th</sup>

### Wanganui Picnic

Morgan Booker/Zheng Zhang -- 1<sup>st</sup>

Julie Bunnell/Tony Clear -- 3<sup>rd</sup>

Jan Whyte/Ken Bateman -- 4<sup>th</sup>

### Tauranga Congress Teams

Jack James/Wayne Burrows

Russell Wilson/Gary Chen -- 1<sup>st</sup>

### Wgtn Beehive Swiss

Debbie Marcroft/Steve Baron -- 5<sup>th</sup>

### South Island Teams

Jack James/Jeremy Fraser

Hoskins/Annette Henry/Stephen Henry -- 4<sup>th</sup>

### Masterton Open

Anne Gordon/Bob Hurley -- 4<sup>th</sup>

### Feilding Open

Jan Whyte/Ken Bateman -- 1<sup>st</sup>

Morgan Booker/Zheng Zhang -- 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Hutt Multigrade

Morgan Booker/Zheng Zhang -- 5<sup>th</sup>

Kevin Conley/Theo Pippos -- top Junior pair

### 70% Club

Anita Thirtle/Zheng Zhang -- 74.15

Kevin Conley/Theo Pippos -- 73.75

Julie Bunnell/Hans van Bunnik -- 72.17

Zindh Waleed/Jack James -- 71.43

Heather Simpson/Maureen Watts -- 70.24

### Gayle Leader

## Tips and Conventions

Support doubles should be added to your list of bridge conventions. They help you get to the correct contract. Here's how they work.

You open 1C, 1D or 1H and your partner responds 1M. Your opponent overcalls 2 of a suit. Double by you shows 3 card support for partner. If instead opponent doubles then redouble by you shows 3 card support.

Consider this hand:

Qxx  
AKxxx  
Xx  
AQx

You open 1H, partner bids 1S and opponent overcall 2D. Double from you shows 3 spades. There is now ample room for your partner to bid 2H with 3 hearts or 2S with 5 spades. You can now invite game. A support double can occur at the 1 level:

1D, (Pass), 1H, (1S)  
or  
1D, (Pass), 1H, (X)

In the first sequence a double would show 3 hearts. In the second example, redouble would show 3 hearts.

A favourite saying of mine is that Qx is always a stopper. Your left hand opponent bids a suit and you have Qx. If you are considering a No Trump contract just bid it. Your partner may have a stopper Axx or Kxx. You have now right sided the contract and will make two tricks in this suit if it is led. Partner may have Jxx, you now have a certain stopper. The opponent may have AKxxx where leading low is usually correct (your Q wins). Partner holding 10xx will provide a stopper if the opponents have AKxxx opposite Jxx, the suit is blocked. And holding AKJxx your opponent may lead another suit hoping to get partner in.

**Bob Hurley**


## Assumptions

What is your response when someone says "when you 'assume' you make an ass out of you and me"? Maybe you nod vigorously in agreement or maybe like me you inwardly groan. The reason I groan is that we all make assumptions all the time. In fact, you cannot live a normal life without doing so. Think about it. If you only make decisions based on certainties then you are going to be left doing nothing. We all assume the sun is going to rise tomorrow and that when our car speeds around a bend we are not going to meet another car on our side of the road. Of course, there are things we can be less certain about, but then we may proceed cautiously and still make provisional assumptions.

The same is true in bridge. We assume our partner and opponents are bidding according to agreed systems; when we are declarer we may assume trumps are going to split 3-2 or that a finesse is going to work. These suppositions may not turn out to be correct, but they are reasonable ones to make to aim for a satisfactory outcome.

That said, I have to admit that during one Monday afternoon session I made what appeared to be a reasonable assumption that led me to a poor result.

♠ Q 10 8 5 4		♠ A K 2
♥ A 9 5		♥ K 10 8 3
♦ 10 3 2		♦ A 8 7 6
♣ K 10		♣ 9 6



As East, I open 1NT and partner transfers me to two spades. When South leads ♥Q the two spade contract looks to be pretty secure. However, playing matchpoint pairs the aim isn't just to make the contract but to take as many tricks as possible. Playing carefully, it looks as if I can make ten or eleven tricks: five spades, four hearts, a diamond and possibly a club if the ace of that suit happens to be with South.

I take the trick in hand with ♥K and need to think for a while. A problem is the lack of entries to hand. If I take out trumps in the normal fashion then, assuming a 3-2 split I would end up in dummy and would need to use ♦A to get back to hand to take the marked heart finesse. However, that could leave me with a winning heart in hand but no way to get to it. Also, it would mean forsaking the club finesse. I could play hearts straight away but North might ruff in.

My plan to reduce risks is to play only two rounds of trumps (low to the queen and then low to the ace). I then aim to continue by taking the marked finesse against South's ♥J and get back to hand with ♠K. This would allow me to safely cash the last heart and then take the club finesse. So, I start to put my plan into practice.

After playing the second round of spades, I am disconcerted to find that South has four trumps but that is OK since I don't expect North to get on lead to give their partner a ruff. How wrong I am! Playing a low heart to the nine, North turns up with ♥J! North now dutifully leads a third heart which South ruffs and my plan is in tatters. Here are the four hands:

West Deals N-S Vul	♠ 7 ♥ J 6 4 2 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ Q J 8 7 4							
♠ Q 10 8 5 4 ♥ A 9 5 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ K 10	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> </table>		N		W	S	E	♠ A K 2 ♥ K 10 8 3 ♦ A 8 7 6 ♣ 9 6
	N							
W	S	E						
	♠ J 9 6 3 ♥ Q 7 ♦ K 9 4 ♣ A 5 3 2							

If I had taken the alternative route of first extracting all the trumps starting with the ace and king I would find the bad split on the second round and sweep up all the trumps. Since diamonds split 3-3 and ♣A is on side I can make a solid ten or eleven tricks rather than the sorry nine that I secured.

So, hands up by me, I fell for the ruse. I was expecting South to have something like ♥QJx(x). But, before you decide to add Qx to your armory of killer leads, let me try to dissuade you. It worked because of a particular combination of opposition cards and because I made an incorrect inference. If I had had ♥J in either hand or dummy I would have worked out the situation and would have been able to win all the tricks in the suit. Since you are leading into two enemy hands and one friendly one the odds are two to one against your partner having the jack. Try setting up some sample hands where your partner doesn't have ♥J and you will soon find that most of them will lose you tricks if you lead from Qx. Don't just take my word for it. At the top of the next column are three examples from the bible on the subject: "Opening Leads" by Mike Lawrence. West is on lead.

	K973
Q5	AT82
	J64
	A87
Q5	KT64
	J932
	T82
Q5	A943
	KJ76

Notice that in each case if West leads the queen they have found partner's suit but made it easy for South to pick up more tricks than they deserve. Even if you find partner with the jack it won't necessarily help your cause. So, in summary, leading from the combination Qx gives you a two to one chance of getting a bad result, as opposed to an average one.

As a last comment, let's not be too hard on our South. At four of the six tables where East played in a two spade contract there was a heart lead. I wonder how many of those other Souths made the same assumption as me about the lead.

### Ray Kemp

#### It ain't what you do

Forgive the poor grammar in the title but that is just the name of the song. Old-timers may remember Ella Fitzgerald's version where she follows up with "it's the way that you do it." Their children or grandchildren might remember the updated reggae style version by Fun Boy Three and Bananarama. Don't worry, I'm not turning the newsletter into a pop music magazine. It's just that the same principle described in the song applies in bridge. You have a problem when playing a contract and you may see a way of solving that problem but you still have to carefully follow the right sequence of steps to succeed.

I've mentioned Gavin Wolpert before in these articles. He is a top Canadian bridge player who moved to the States and has played for them in international tournaments such as the Bermuda Bowl. He also spends a lot of time online, playing contracts and helping observers understand the principles of good bridge.

Wolpert doesn't tend to try to impress (or depress) readers with criss-cross squeezes and elaborate throw-ins. Instead, most of the time his approach is pretty

straight forward. Often it's a matter of generating winners by fairly simple logic but being careful about the order in which tricks are taken. Recently, he has set up an online (free!) scheme where you can play a contract on his bridge site and then watch a video where he talks about the hand as he shows the best way of playing it. Here is a link to the first of his problems: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQb1KVgEEIs&t=32s>

This method of playing a contract and then being able to immediately see how an expert would approach the same problem provides instant feedback. If you are keen you may have read books or seen magazine articles where you are set problems but unless you painstakingly put each hand onto a computer and play it out trick by trick, you are not really simulating how hand playing occurs in practice at the club or in a tournament. It is one thing to understand the idea of what has to be done and quite another to perform the precise sequence of actions to bring home the bacon, particularly when you may need to change plan mid-stream.

Here is the first problem from the Wolpert bridge site.

South Deals ♠ 9 8 6 5  
 None Vul ♥ 6 3  
 ♦ J 7 6 4  
 ♣ K 9 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K Q 10 3  
 ♥ K 9 5  
 ♦ A 9 3  
 ♣ Q 8

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♠	All Pass	

You are declarer as South and the lead is ♣J. You have to make nine tricks.

I'm not going to tell you his solution but suggest you plan out your play and try it out on the Wolpert bridge site. Your first step should be to count how many losers you have in your hand. Next, devise a plan for reducing this number to four. That's what you aim to do, but the key issue is the way that you do it – that's what gets results.

**Ray Kemp**

## Defence with Jack

Most results of bridge are gained on defence. Here is a hand from the Ivy Dahler Swiss Gold Coast, see if you can follow all the clues. You are sitting East and luckily (or unluckily) partnering Jack.

East: ♠ J872  
 ♥ AQ84  
 ♦ KJ62  
 ♣ 3

Auction:

North	East	South	West
-	-	1NT*	P
2C	P	2D	P
2NT	P	3NT	AP

\* 15-17

Your partner leads the 5 of spades and dummy tracks with:

**Board 3**  
 Dealer S  
 Vul E-W

♠ 5	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q963 ♥ J2 ♦ Q3 ♣ KT654	♠ J872 ♥ AQ84 ♦ KJ62 ♣ 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Now is the time to collect all the known information. Declarer has 15-17 and accepted an invite so it is probably 16 or 17 hcp, adding on the 8 hcp in dummy and our 11 hcp takes this total to 35 or 36 hcp; partner must have 4 or 5 hcp. Declarer has no 4 card major, i.e. at most 3H and at most 3S, so partner has at least 4H and at least 2 spades. By agreement we lead 4<sup>th</sup> from length, this allows us to use the rule of 11 (take the value of the card from 11 to get the number of cards higher in the other three hands) to get 6 cards higher than the 5 in dummy, declarer's hand, and our hand. Some counting tells us that partner has not led a 4<sup>th</sup>, but rather a short suit. Partner would probably not lead the 5 from any short holding with an honour. Now the first important deduction, why has partner squandered the lead of a 4 card major in favour of a short spade (hopefully not for a ruff). He is probably looking at a dubious holding in hearts to lead to a strong NT, this is a strong indicator that he holds the K of hearts.



Having processed this, you still need to play to trick 1. Declarer putting in the 6, you the 7 (there is an argument for false carding here with the 8, not to deceive declarer, but rather to stop partner continuing the suit), and finally declarer wins with the 10 of spades. This tells us about two more cards in declarer's hand, the AK of spades. Declarer plays the club 7 to the K with partnering in the 2 and you the 3. Then follows the 4 of clubs to declarer's ace, with you pitching a low encouraging heart and finally the J of clubs to partner's Q. We arrive at the next position with you to discard.

**Board 3**  
Dealer S  
Vul E-W

<p>♠54 ♥???? ♦???? ♣Q92</p>	<p>♠Q963 ♥J2 ♦Q3 ♣KT654</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>♠AKT ♥??? ♦???? ♣AJ8</p>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠J872 ♥AQ84 ♦KJ62 ♣3</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

Now it is time to go back into the think tank. Partner is known to have 4 or 5 hcp, what options are there to make up these numbers, QC and another queen for 4, QC and two side jacks for 4, QC and a side king for 5, QC and 3 side jacks for 5 and finally QC, a side queen and a side jack. A quick look at our hand and dummy will tell us that any side queen or side jack is impossible. Hence, partner must have a side king (either KS or KH). Partner having the KS and leading a 3 or 2 card spades suit in favour of a 4+ card heart suit is incredibly unlikely, so partner must have the heart king. We must be favourites to beat this contract.

Not so fast. You must find a discard first. The 8 of hearts will be fatal for the defence, partner will lead a heart to you, and (as is true on the layout) if declarer has Txx in hearts partner will not be able to overtake your Q and our side will only be able to take two heart tricks. There is one thing you can do to make life easy for partner, dump the jack of spades, this will say "partner I'm abandoning all spade tricks, and I like hearts (from the earlier signal)". On this discard there is no way partner can go wrong. On the actual hand East

erred by discarding the heart and blocking the suit, just proving that even grandmasters still make mistakes.

I've written this hand up, because at trick 4, East can deduce the following information about the hand:

**Board 3**  
Dealer S  
Vul E-W

<p>♠54 ♥Kxxx ♦xxxx ♣Q92</p>	<p>♠Q963 ♥J2 ♦Q3 ♣KT654</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>♠AKT ♥xxx ♦Axx ♣AJ87</p>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠J872 ♥AQ84 ♦KJ62 ♣3</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

Full Deal:

**Board 3**  
Dealer S  
Vul E-W

<p>♠54 ♥K965 ♦T975 ♣Q92</p>	<p>♠Q963 ♥J2 ♦Q3 ♣KT654</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>♠AKT ♥T73 ♦A84 ♣AJ87</p>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠J872 ♥AQ84 ♦KJ62 ♣3</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

### Jack James

#### You must be joking

Another pair of ticklers from the web:

The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until dummy goes down on your first bridge hand of the day.

Motto on a t-shirt at bridge tournament:

I ♦ transfers

### Ray Kemp