

### Hamilton correction

Last month I reported on the Hamilton congress and forgot to list Kaye anad Wyn as part of the Taieri representation. Many apologies.



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## Taieri Bridge Club

Issue Number 131 November 2007



### Tournament roundup

The 4th South Island Congress took place over the Labour Day holiday weekend in October in Queenstown. Kaye Wilson, Wyn Jones and Mike Atkinson represented Taieri. The three of them did quite well in the Plate section of the teams event and very much enjoyed the wild hands of the final match which they played against each other. We were lucky to have beautifully sunny weather. Attendance was a little down, especially compared to the first year of the event; possibly this was because it occurred only 4 weeks after the National Congress in Hamilton.

### Bridge Base On-line

Donna Ruwhiu has kindly arranged to give a demonstration of the excellent BBO bridge-playing site. This will take place at the club at 7.15pm on 20 November. Donna will show you what facilities are offered and how they can be obtained (free!). Bridge Base Online is a marvellous resource so do come along and see how to use it.

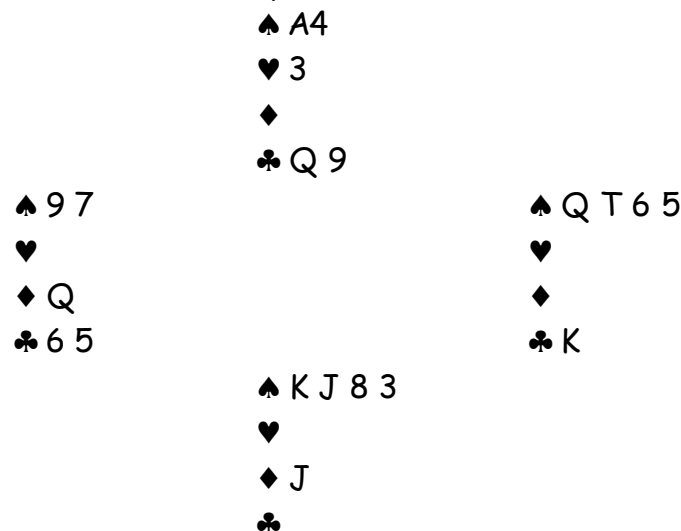
### A new 2♦ convention

Over the years an opening bid of 2♦ has changed its meaning many times. Nowadays it is hardly ever a strong hand with diamonds; indeed it is quite rare for it show diamonds at all. Some treatments for an opening 2♦ that are played locally include

1. Weak hand with a five card major and 4 card minor, or a strong balanced hand
2. A weak hand with a 6 card major or various strong hands
3. Flannery: 11-15 HCP, 5 hearts and 4 spades. A new treatment has been finding favour locally over the last two years. Here 2♦ shows a weak hand (6-10 HCP) with both majors, but no specific lengths other than at least four cards in each. The normal response is to simply bid one's best major at the two level, and this is non-forcing. However if responder has an invitational or better hand then she can bid 2NT which asks opener for clarification. Opener's rebids are then
  1. 3♣: 6-8 HCP, 4-4 in majors
  2. 3♦: 6-8 HCP, at least 5-5 in majors
  3. 3♥: At least 5 hearts and exactly 4 spades
  4. 3♠: At least 5 spades and exactly 4 hearts
  5. 3NT: 8-10 HCP, 4-4 in majors
  6. 4♣ or 4♦ showing at most one card in the bid suit, 8-10 HCP and at least 5-5 in majors

that included the queen.

When the finesse succeeded, Chris drew the remaining trump, played the top diamond honours and another trump. This left



Chris read the end position perfectly and played for the diagrammed layout. When he played the last trump East was finished. The choice was between playing K♣ establishing declarer's club winners or playing a spade. She chose the latter course and Chris threw the J♦ from dummy. Then he played Ace and another spade to the Jack to pick up the spade suit.

This was a truly impressive piece of declarer play. Note that there is a similar squeeze if East holds Q♦ rather than K♣.

### Hand from Queenstown

The Queenstown bridge congress is a muddled blur in my mind as I didn't save any hand records. But one hand was very memorable because my partner Chris Ackerley bid and made a grand slam in hearts on the following hand as North.

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

We were in this hair-raising contract only because yours truly had misdescribed his hand. It has no chance on a spade or diamond lead. However East, mindful of finding a safe lead and not realising that South had bid like an idiot, led a trump. Chris captured West's jack with the king, played the A♣ and ruffed a club. Now he led dummy's final trump and finessed his T♥ sensibly taking the view that East would not have led a trump from a holding

One of the reasons that I prefer this meaning of the 2♦ bid to the fairly common "Tartan" style which shows a major suit and a minor suit is that it offers the responder two options to play at the two level. Furthermore, because the suit lengths can be any 4-carders or longer, the bid has quite a high frequency. Why not give it a try?

### Contributed humour

A woman asks her husband if he'd like some breakfast. "Would you like bacon and eggs, perhaps? A slice of toast? Grapefruit and coffee to follow?" she asks. He declines. "It's this Viagra," he says, "It's really taken the edge off my appetite."

At lunchtime, she asks if he would like something. "A bowl of home-made soup, home-made muffins or a cheese sandwich?" she inquires. He declines. "It's this Viagra," he says, "It's really taken the edge off my appetite."

Come dinnertime, she asks if he wants anything to eat. She'll go to the store and buy him some food. "Would you like maybe a steak and apple pie? Maybe you'd like a pizza micro waved or a tasty stir-fry? That would only take a couple of minutes." He declines. "It's this Viagra," he says, "It's really taken the edge off my appetite."

"Well," she says, "would you mind letting me up, then? I'm starving!"

### Sinclair and Minnie at Queenstown

Following on from their enjoyable expedition to Hamilton, Mr Sinclair Whitlands and Miss Minnie van Driver had decided to attend the Queenstown congress. Blushingly modest as ever Minnie had arranged for them to have separate rooms at their hotel but a mix-up by the hotel resulted in their actually sharing not only a bedroom but also a large bed. They arrived too late on Friday evening to sort out this disaster. Minnie's over-riding concern was not to be seen by Sinclair in her nightwear as the single anomaly in her otherwise unblemished record of maidenly honour was a liking for sheer silk nighties.

With the impeccable manners of years of good breeding Sinclair agreed to their disrobing in the dark and they settled down to sleep lying as far apart from each other as possible.

By a chain of events that is both too far-fetched and unsuitably indecorous to repeat, the morning found them lying in each other's arms with beatific smiles on their faces. For once bridge was not on their minds - and that perhaps explains the strange and uncharacteristic aberration suffered by Sinclair on the following deal later that day.

Sinclair was North, and the dealer, East, opened a somewhat conservative 1♥. Minnie, with her strong hand and a good spade suit made the obvious double,

West passed and Sinclair bid 1♠. You would think perhaps that Sinclair had rather unbid; surely 4♠ is even possible with his good 5 card suit and singleton diamond. In any event it was now impossible for Minnie to drive much further and, eventually East-West played in 5♦ making - a huge score for them when Minnie and Sinclair could make 6♠.

The explanation? Sinclair had not seen Minnie's take-out double and, in his eyes, 1♠ was a light balancing bid!

	♠ A J 5 4 2	
	♥ 4 3 2	
	♦ J	
	♣ Q T 8 6	
♠ T 8 7 6		♠ void
♥ 9 8		♥ K Q J T 7 6 5
♦ 9 8 6 5 3		♦ A K Q 4 2
♣ 5 2		♣ 7
	♠ K Q 9 3	
	♥ A	
	♦ T 7	
	♣ A K J 9 4 3	

(Editor's note. This article is loosely based on what actually happened at my table in Queenstown but, of course, the events leading up to the bridge content are another matter.)