

The Declarer

- nor shall my sword sleep in my hand



Welcome to the second edition of the Declarer. How quickly things change. Just when we thought we had got on top of Delta, along comes Omicron and sends us in another direction. Thank goodness for the on-line options. Real Bridge and Bridge Base Online are just 2 of the on-line sites where you can get your bridge fix, have you tried it yet? Real Bridge has the advantage of seeing and talking to each other, it is very easy to use, and in the absence of real bridge, Real Bridge is the best alternative. Have a go! If you need help there is lots of information on the Hastings Bridge Club website or ring Trish Murphy who will put you in touch with someone to get started.

You can:

- play in tournaments on-line, no travel costs;
- play any day of the week at other clubs, note, they do not award C points in club sessions;
- no revokes, no leads out of turn, no insufficient bids
- at least feel like you are in touch with your friends;
- mute your partner if they get abusive!

Now that we can play real bridge again, the Real Bridge options for the Hastings Bridge Club Mon, Wed and Fri sessions are no longer available but there are still some tournaments on-line and Auckland Bridge Club offer daily sessions.

The Hastings Bridge Club Sunday evening sessions at 7.00pm will continue on Real Bridge, this is a very pleasant session to play. These sessions are accessed through the Hasting Bridge Club website by following the Sunday evening link. Give it a go as there is nothing on the tele and you can drink your cocoa at home; you don't have to go out and brave the cold.

You can also play in the Hastings Real Bridge Lounge with three of your friends. The lounge can be accessed through our website and must be booked at least a day ahead and will cost \$15.

There are no letters to the Editor this time, I can't believe that no-one has any bidding or play questions or any comments to make. If you have any queries about bidding, play, bridge rules or suggestions for the committee, anything at all, NB negative comments regarding individuals will not be printed (not that anyone in our club would do that).

Please put pen to paper or fingers to keyboards and let me know. sue.kay@xtra.co.nz or hastingsbridgeclub@xtra.co.nz

Once again, a very big thank you to all our contributors, whether tongue-in-cheek or informative, they are all entertaining. We are fortunate to have a number of Grand Masters in the club and I am tapping them on the shoulder for contributions. All are more than willing to share their knowledge and take the time to write some interesting articles.

Happy Bridging Sue

From The Committee

The committee has been exploring ways of regulating the temperature in our building. As you can appreciate, this is not an easy task with the high roof line in our John Scott designed clubrooms. We have had 'experts' advising us on the best things to do to keep it cool in the summer and warm in the winter as our current air-conditioning does not seem to do the job effectively. We have decided to replace the old heat pump in the small playing room and have gained quotes from Coldrite, HB Refrigeration and Daikon.

We have decided to go with the HB Refrigeration quote and have applied for funding from First Light to cover the cost. Hopefully this will be granted and we will be replacing it very soon.

We are also trialling a halogen instant heater in the large playing room to see how it performs. If it meets our requirements, we will purchase another three which will be installed in the Centre of the room. This means that we can keep the windows open to give good air circulation without being too cold while playing. Turei Haronga has kindly offered to install them.

It has been a challenging time for all of us over the past few months but I feel we have weathered the storm well and have come to a place that we can't please all members when deciding what the best thing to do during a pandemic. We feel we have acted in the best interest of our Club members and are happy with the way our club members have supported us.

Overheard at the Bridge Table -

"Sorry partner, I had to bid 5H, I didn't have a lead against 4S"

The Directors Cut by Greg Whitten

The Revoke Rule

Generally, our game is governed by a set of rules that seek to restore equity to the non-offending side after an infraction has occurred, rather than seek to penalise the offender. Most of the rulings a director makes will follow this principle. However, players can often look confused when a ruling has been made following a revoke especially when tricks are transferred from one side to the other. So, let's try and understand what is happening here.

The revoke rules fall into two categories;

Firstly, a card played in error must be replaced by a correct card if the offender becomes aware of the error prior to the offending side playing to the next trick. The card played in error simply becomes a penalty card.

Secondly where a revoke is not found (established) until further tricks have been played. This is rather more complicated to deal with. It is simply not possible to rewind the play back to when the infraction happened. The main reason for this is that the cards subsequently played might not be the same had the revoke not occurred. There is also the issue of avoiding holding up the entire room while the director attempts to rectify the situation. Consequently, the rule has been devised that enables play to move on. One trick is transferred from the offender to the non-offender, if the offender won the trick on which the revoke occurred. A further trick is transferred if the offending side won at least one subsequent trick. This rule can be harsh and certainly there are times when the only conclusion that can be drawn is that the offender has been significantly penalised. What is certain is that the rule strongly protects the non-offenders and importantly recognises that the absolute requirement in our game is that players must follow suit.

And that was how the argument began... by Gerry Palmer

Kensington Palace late 2019.

'Wills Darling do you think they will be playing that awful Standard American tonight?'

'No! Surely not! Do they not realise we are in Great-great-great-great Granny's old rooms, she would not be amused? Also, it is well known that Granny has banned Standard American at Buck House'. Catherine smiled 'I know but she has such an influence over H and I overheard her talking to him about the value of a strong NT'.

'She wouldn't dare! She knows all the rules of being a member of the Firm; and playing Acol is one of them. No bright nail polish, no short skirts and no Standard American in the palace. Look what happened to the last divorced American who played Standard American in these rooms. It's unthinkable!'

A footman appeared at the door.

'The Duke and Duchess of Sussex.'

After ordering the staff to start a second table so they could compare results they got down to business. Almost immediately Catherine (W) had to decide her opening bid...

Dealer: West Vul: East-West	J92 K65 K96 K972	
K84 AJ974 AJ8 84		AT5 QT83 QT75 J6
	Q763 2 432 AQT53	

Catherine was well aware that opening weak notrump vulnerable was a scary proposition, and she had five reasonable hearts. However, she reasoned that "If I bid 1H and Wills bids 1S I won't know whether to raise him, and if he bids 2C I will have to rebid a five-card suit which is never good especially with such a balanced hand, and anyway 1NT might well be the best contract. Also if I open 1NT and Wills has five spades he will transfer and we will be in a good spot" ...

She decides, "One Notrump".

No one else has anything to say so 1NT becomes the final contract.

Megan led the 2 of clubs and dummy went down...

"Oh blast", thinks Catherine. "Missed a nine-card heart fit, still Granny Majesty always says to open 1NT whenever you can so I will have her support if this goes wrong".

The play goes quickly, the Sussexs take five clubs and the two red kings for one off. They are slightly smug...

"Great system this Acol", scoffs Harry. "One off in 1NT with a five-four heart fit".

When they check the result at the other table, they find that it is a flat board. Three hearts one off. The other West went over to the Ace of spades to take a trump finesse and ended up losing two clubs, both red kings and a spade.

Her Majesty, just popping in for a look, summed it up well...

“The weak no-trump is known to miss some major fits in part-score hands, but being able to stop quickly in one no-trump is often more than adequate compensation”.

Later that night Megan (N) picks up a strong hand...

Dealer: West Vul: East-West	AQT65 A65 AKQ KJ	
K93 KQ94 T6 A865		J842 JT32 9 9742
	7 87 J875432 QT3	

Catherine, West opens the obvious 1NT.

Megan is more than happy, “They are Vulnerable and I have a 23 count. This will finally teach them that the strong no-trump as played in the home of the free is far superior”.

“Double”, she said with a smile.

William, with a two count does not panic. “Pass is best here, I don’t have a suit, little brother (South) may have a problem and pass puts on the most pressure”.

Sure enough, Harry with only three points and a seven-card suit has no interest in passing. “Blast, they could easily be making this, I’ll have to bid diamonds and Megan will know I have a weak hand and a long suit”.

“Two diamonds”

Catherine and William have a simultaneous thought, “Whew!”.

Megan, who a moment ago was feeling happy with the world, now realises that she has a problem.

“What can I do now?”, she wonders. “They haven’t bid a suit so I can’t cue bid to show a monster. If I bid 2S partner is bound to pass, perhaps I should just try 3NT, but what if I can’t get to Harry’s hand to run the diamonds?”.

In the end Megan makes the practical choice of 5D.

Catherine leads the king of Hearts. Harry plays it well, ruffing two spades (and using trumps for entries) to set up the queen for a heart pitch and thus wrapping up 12 tricks.

It was William’s turn to be smug; “People say that the weak no-trump is dangerous because one can get doubled and go down hundreds. Funny how it never seems to happen”.

Megan scowled, “If we had been playing this in the home of the brave, we would have found at least the game contract, this country and its ridiculous rules and regulations! Harry, we have to do something about this!”

Book Review by Mairi Fitzsimmons

Winning Notrump Leads by David Bird and Taf Anthias - Published by Master Point Press

Perhaps like me you have a large collection of bridge books on your book shelves. Perhaps also like me you enthusiastically buy bridge books, read them and then promptly forget the often-valuable knowledge they provide. I have 60 plus Bridge books on my shelves. Sadly, they do not seem to have made a great deal of difference to my Bridge playing capabilities. I only wish I could have absorbed all the wonderful advice in Watson's *Play of the Hand* or Victor Mollo and Nico Gardener's *Card Play Technique*. I have read those books and I suppose absorbed some information but often the theory was just too complicated for me to translate into the bridge file in my brain.

Not so with the book I am recommending you read. It changed the way I thought about my opening leads. The book was recommended to me by Mairi and Matthew Bristow

about 5 years ago when we were chatting in the kitchen as we prepared food for a tournament. They were so enthusiastic about the book that I went home and ordered it from Amazon.

The authors, David Bird and Taf Anthias are both highly successful British bridge players and have spent their working lives researching and developing computer software.

The book looks at various opening lead situations against contracts in notrumps to discover which opening lead is best for a given West hand. The authors use computer software to create 5000 deals that match the given north-south bidding. The west hand remains the same and the other three hands are chosen randomly. The software then plays the deals automatically seeing which of the 13 possible opening leads work out best. By analysing the results, the authors draw some conclusions as to which types of leads are the most successful. A list of some of the chapter headings will describe the flavour of this book.

Chapter 1 Should I lead a major or a minor?

Chapter 2 Should I lead from my longest suit?

Chapter 4 Leading from a weak hand.

Chapter 5 Leading after a Stayman sequence.

Chapter 8 Leading against one no trump.

Chapter 13 Leading against 6NT.

In each chapter hands are analysed; quizzes are provided and at the end of each chapter there is a very handy quick reference summary of the computer findings.

Some of the findings in the chapter conclusions quite surprised me. For example, in Chapter 1 conclusions reached about whether to lead a major or a minor included: -

On average after an auction of 1NT-3NT, the defenders hold 7.2 cards between them in each major suit. Declarer and the dummy hold only 5.8. This creates a significant bias towards major suit opening leads.

A passive lead from a short major suit is better than leading from 4 cards to an honour in a minor suit.

Reading this book and doing the quizzes really made me think about what to lead against a no-trump contract. In fact I would go as far as to say this book positively helped me to make decisions about what to lead against no trump's. I am happy to lend the book to anyone interested in borrowing it.

The authors have also written an equally stimulating book on winning suit contract leads which follows a similar format to *Winning Notrump Leads*.

Definitions

The 12yr old son of a keen bridge player was asked by his aunt if he could play bridge yet. 'No' he replied, 'but I can speak it'. Indeed, us bridge players have a language all of our own, which raises a few eyebrows when we start to talk about a strip and throw-in, squeezes, weak twos or a stiff King. So, to help with these bridge-isms here are some definitions which will clarify obscure terms.

Doubleton — 2000 kg

Dummy — (see below)

Partner — (see above)

Free Bid — all of them, once you pay your table money

Gerber Convention — a meeting of baby-food manufacturers

Key-Card Blackwood — an ingenious convention that allows you to get to a grand slam missing the ace of trumps

Law of Total Tricks — recent legislation to reduce prostitution

Quick Tricks — frantic scurry by hookers to beat the new legislation

Loser Trick Count — hookers who fail to meet their quota

.....to be continued

Meet the Committee- John Bullôt

John is a recent migrant to Hawkes Bay having moved from Mairangi Bay, Auckland in August 2020 and began playing bridge at Hastings club later that year.

John is married to Hilary; they have a son in Auckland and a married daughter and grandchildren in Hastings. They visited the family in Hawkes Bay regularly and decided they liked the area and therefore relocated here.

John retired in 2015 and took bridge lessons at the East Coast Bays club in 2018 and joined Hastings club ranked as a novice, he remains classified as a junior player, with a certificate of proficiency, with NZ Bridge.

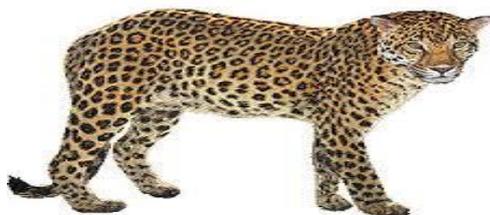
An accountant by training, he spent his entire career in the corporate environment which included being the Financial Controller of Bluebird Foods and for his last ten years a Finance Manager for Planning and Funding with the Auckland District Health Board.

His primary sporting interest is sailing. He sailed mostly keelboats and the 1970s represented New Zealand several times at overseas regattas, mostly in the role as navigator. His involvement in the sport changed in 1990 when his son, Michael, became very competitive and successful. John became more involved in club administration and being a race official. He was appointed a National Sailing Judge in 1996 and for the last 20 years has been appointed by the world body as an International Judge. John has been a judge at many World Championships in New Zealand and overseas and has been chairman of the jury at a number of them. His next big regatta is chairman of the Protest Committee at the Optimist and Starling National Championships that will be sailed at Napier Sailing Club this Easter.

John joined the committee this year when asked by Trish to stand at the election. He is enjoying the Hawkes Bay environment and meeting the members of the Hastings club.

John can be contacted at 027 444 9093 or by email at John@Bulldot.org

The Leopard Can't Change Its Spots Double by Arthur Bennet



Never heard of it? Shame! Its potential to be used is very common, but it is often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood by partner.

Essentially, it works as follows;

- You have opened or overcalled with a pre-empt. They bid over you and you subsequently double. Your hand is still the same pre-emptive hand. A Leopard Can't Change Its Spots!
- You have opened a major or made a suit overcall of their opening bid. Undeterred the opposition bid and now you double. Your hand hasn't changed. You still have five cards in your suit. A Leopard Can't Change Its Spots!
- They open a suit, and you make a take-out double, but they bid again, and your partner is silent. You double again. Your hand hasn't changed. You still have take-out double shape. A Leopard Can't Change Its Spots!

In none of these cases has your hand miraculously changed its shape to become a penalty double shape that is long and strong in their suit nor does your double suggest that your partner should pass for penalty; however weak your partner is, however poor fit he has for your hand, he cannot say, "Well partner has doubled. I can't help him, but on his own head be it." He can pass and convert your double to penalty **only** if he is both long and strong in their suit.

When you pre-empt and then double, you are saying, "Partner, I really would like to bid one more level of my pre-empt suit, but I am leaving the decision to you, in case you have good defensive strength in the other suits. If you don't, however weak you are, please raise my suit."

When you open or overcall and subsequently double, you are saying, "Partner, I am a strong hand, with usually no more than 5 cards in my bid suit, short in their suit, and with at least 3 cards hopefully to an honour in the other two suits. However weak you are, please raise my suit with a 3-card fit, or bid a 5-card suit of your own. You can pass only if you are long and strong in their suit."

When you have made a takeout double and subsequently double again, you are saying, "Partner, you know my shape and now you know that I am a strong hand. However weak you are, please choose a suit. You must not pass unless you are both long and strong in their suit."

Consider this hand: ♠AQJ73 ♥3 ♦A976 ♣KQ7. They opened 1H, you overcalled 1S, they bid 2H, your partner passed, and the bidding came round to you again. Partner has heard your bid. With 3-card support he would have raised you if he could. The spades could therefore break badly for you. As you have a singleton heart, you know the hearts are breaking badly for them. However weak he is, your partner could easily have 5 clubs or 5 diamonds. If you rebid your spades, you are saying you have 6 of them, which isn't true. Your partner could even be long and strong in hearts. The Leopard Can't Change Its Spots Double by you is the standout action.

What Happened at your table? by Gerry Palmer

The weak no-trump: Triumphs and tragedies.

You are playing Acol.

Partner is the dealer and no-one is vulnerable.

You pick up...

54

K53

T97532

93

Partner opens 1NT. They double. What should you do? Are you sure that you and all your different partners have a clear understanding here? Well.....

If you are playing a weak notrump one of the first things you should discuss is what to do when they double. I have (I hope) a clear agreement with all my partners that bids are natural and to play. It is vital to have a way to get to 2D as quickly as possible.

When you sit down with a new partner the system discussion should go something like...

“Acol”

“Sure”

“Stayman and transfers?”

“Yep, and range finder”

“OK. Fourth highest leads and reverse signals”

“If you insist”

“If they come in over our 1NT systems are **OFF**, doubles are for takeout and two level bids are natural and not forcing”

“Of course,”

And so on.

When you play a weak no-trump, it comes up a lot, and you need to be on the same page. Get that sorted before anything else. DO NOT let partner talk you in to playing Stayman or transfers when they interfere, unless of course you like bad boards.

Anyway, back to our hand. The south players held this on a recent Monday and the result was different at every single table. The bidding started the same every time, 1NT-double, but from here things diverged. At no table did south bid 2D, the only correct action, in my view, in any sensible method. So what did happen?

Here is the whole hand...

Board 17 Dealer North Vul: Nil	Q872 QJT AKJ J74	
J93 9874 8 KQ862		AKT6 A62 Q64 AT5
	54 K53 T97532 93	

Now East-West can make 3NT, but it's a bit lucky, after all if South had the King of diamonds rather than the King of hearts, they could take the first six diamond tricks!

Here are all the results, from best for East-West to worst.

1NT X (N)	4 off	800
2NT (E)	made 4	180
2S (S)	3 off	150
3C (W)	made 3	110
2D (S)	one off	50

Two things are immediately clear. Playing in 1NT doubled did not work out well and secondly that the pair who played in 2D had far and away the best result. Even if they get doubled it is still a top board. Staying at the two level makes all the difference. If you have to go up to the three level to get out of 1NT doubled the opponents can double you and collect 300 for nearly a bottom.

Also noteworthy is that most of the East West pairs failed, for various reasons, to extract full value on the board. So, let's look at the board from the point of view of East-West.

You are East, you hold...

AKT6

A62

Q64

AT5

They open 1NT. You have a balanced hand and 17 points. Double is 100%. "But we play DONT" you cry. Well stop. Right now. All methods over the opponent's 1NT that do not include a penalty double were designed to disrupt a strong notrump, when the opponents likely have the balance of power and you are most unlikely to have a game. Over a weak no-trump it is vital to have some way of showing a strong hand. Trust me, I have played all these other methods and they all fall down via this lack. So again, stop.

You are West, you hold...

J93

9874

8

KQ862

They have opened 1NT on your left and partner has doubled. Now if South passes there is nothing to think about, you just pass. You may have a problem later, but not yet.

Suppose South bids 2D (as they should).

What do you do now? It's now or never, because if you pass it might well get passed out because partner will have no idea that you don't have flat nothing. If double is penalties, you have no decent call. 3C might get you to a making 3NT but equally partner might have no club fit and you can't make game, and they might have good diamonds, on a really good day they can have five of them.

No, the answer is that double here is for takeout. West has to be able to double to say "I have a few points and I am happy for you to bid something or alternately pass if you have good diamonds".

Finally...

You are East (again!), the bidding has gone...

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1NT	double	2D	double
pass	???		

This is trickier, if you pass you will get 100, if you bid 2NT partner will bid three and (today anyway) you will make it and if you bid 2S partner will raise and you will make 4S, also for a good score.

Let me leave you with these things:

- 1) Over a weak no-trump you should play double is strong (say 16+)
- 2) A second double (by either of you) is for takeout
- 3) A third (or 4th) double by either of you is for penalties
- 4) If they double your NT do NOT play your normal system. It is **vital** that you can bid 2C or 2D to play.

Leads Against Trump Contracts by Arthur Bennett

What you lead against their suit contract has very little to do with what you hold in your hand and everything to do with their bidding.

You are leading to disrupt Declarer's plans. Your lead should be designed to counter Declarer's strategy, but how do you know what Declarer's strategy is going to be? You listen very carefully to their bidding.

Situation 1: They have each bid a suit in which their partner seems to have no interest, but then they have found a third suit which they seem to mutually agree on as trumps. Declarer intends to cash a couple of top winners in the fourth unmentioned suit and then he will cross ruff the two no-fit suits in order to make as many as possible of his trumps separately. So you put a spanner in his works by leading trumps.

Situation 2: They have decided to play in a certain suit as trumps, but during the course of the bidding, one of them has revealed that he has a long dangerous side-suit. Declarer intends to draw trumps as quickly as possible and then throw his losers on the long side suit. This situation screams for an aggressive lead in one of the other two suits. An Ace-King combination or even a King-Queen combination is great, but the gods of bridge are rarely that kind. You might have to lead small from an unsupported King or Queen, or break your rule about not leading an unsupported Ace.

Situation 3: They have found a mutually satisfactory trump suit and one of them has mentioned a 5-card side suit, but you are not particularly worried by that because you also have 5 cards in that side suit. You know that either Declarer or your partner must be short. You hope it is your partner. You lead the side suit in the hope of giving your partner either an immediate or a delayed ruff.

Situation 4: They have bid tentatively to game and shown no particular distribution. They hope to get lucky, that all suits including trumps break well for them, and that all their finesses come off. This is not the time to give them a gift. Make Declarer work for his contract. Play as passively as possible. Do not lead an unsupported Ace or King and do not lead away from an Ace or King. Do not lead trumps because you might help Declarer place the Queen in your partner's hand. Maybe a safe honour, lead from a sequence, or, if all else fails, a top of nothing, look elsewhere lead.

Situation 5: You have listened to the bidding, and you know that your defensive position is hopeless. Dummy's suit is over your King. Left to his own devices, Declarer will draw trumps and successfully finesse you for that King. Your only hope is to put up a smokescreen. This is the occasion for a deceptive lead. Let us say that you hold KT764 in diamonds. Try leading the Ten of diamonds.

Situation 6: They are in a trump contract, and you notice that you hold four of their trump suit, albeit small ones. You also have a singleton and a long suit of your own. Do NOT lead that singleton. Lead your long suit. What you hope will happen is that Declarer will have to ruff your suit. Now, if he started with 5 trumps, he is down to 4, the same as you. If he now uses all his 4 trumps to draw all of yours, he will be in trouble if you get in again. Alternately he could draw only 3 of your trumps, leaving you one outstanding, but now you could ruff his side suit and once again force him to ruff. This is called a forcing defence and sometimes it can be devastatingly effective. Declarer can lose control completely.

Situation 7: You have a singleton in a side suit but no more than 3 trumps. Most people in the room will lead that singleton. You will regret it if you don't share their success, but you will have lots of company if you share their failure. An additional consideration is that, if you don't lead your singleton, your partner will not read you as having one later in the auction.

A Hand to Remember....

A Tale of Two Slams by John Pitts

Two hands played 50 years apart help to illustrate the saying 'better to be born lucky than good! 'Both spectacular burglaries were in teams matches where the imps scoring method can decide matches on single hands unlike match pointed pairs where a bottom or a top is usually not decisive.

To the first hand, where as a young player I found myself debuting in the NZ Teams competition and facing the then NZ captain Bruce Bell. The 1st hand of the morning and Vulnerable against Non-Vulnerable I picked up this monster; ♠ AKXXX ♥ AKQJ10987 ♦ x ♣ -, to add to the drama an announcement was made that there would be a 10 min delay, so time to sweat and consider likely scenarios! Partner and I were in the process of learning Precision Club so I eventually opened 1♣ (forcing showing 16+ hcps), 10 min later Bruce Bell overcalled 2♦ and to my astonishment partner bid 2♠! (5 +spades and 8 +points) next bid on my right was 5♦, no room for finesse so I bid 6♠, not surprisingly Bruce bid 7♦; passed round to me. Better to make a quick decision than the textbook double (netting probably a not vul penalty of only about 300) I bid a confident 7♠. Passed round to my right-hand opponent who gleefully doubled and led the A♣! I'm ashamed to report that I apologised to partner before revealing my devastating collection. A score of + 2470 to add to our partners +50 at the other table (a similar spiralling auction resulted in a contract of 7♥, 1 down with the A♦ lead, spades were never bid)!

Fast forward 50 years to HB Congress last year. Partner vul opened 1♦ meaning a distributional hand with no 5-card major. I hold ♠- ♥AQJ1098 ♦x ♣AQxxxx, so a quiet 1♥ from me elicits 3♥ from partner, a couple of quick bids reveal that partner holds 2 aces and 2 kings. A confident 7♥ is bid and easily made, though against our strong opponents we are not anticipating a different result. George, our partner at the other table, at the score up casually asks if we bid the grand slam, of course we reply. But lady luck lurks After the same opening 1♦ George's partner bids 2♦, when asked George correctly replies that the bid showed an opening hand at least 5/5 in the majors, as you can imagine my hand is a little stuck so starts with a double, George with very little and believing his partner, bids a non-vulnerable 4♠, a confident double from opener is reluctantly passed out by South. The score of 2 down (300) is scant compensation for our +2300! By the way 2♦ was intended to show a ♦ suit, but he also had 4♠. George bid on the understanding that partner was 5/5 in the majors so no possible penalty.

Hand 1 NS VUL dealer S (early 70's)

	S QJ1098	
	H xxx	
	D Q	
	C Kxxx	
S x		S xx
H xx		H x
D AKxxxx		D Jxxxx
C J1098		C AQxxxx
	S AKxxx	
	H AKQJ1098	
	D x	
	C -	

Hand 2 NS VUL dealer N (2021)

	S AJxx	
	H Kxxx	
	D Axxx	
	C K	
S Q109 xx		S K8xx
H xx		H x
D xxx		D KQJ10x
C Jxx		C xxx
	S -	
	H AQJ1098	
	D X	
	C AQxxxx	

Obituary - Bruce Williams

Sadly, Bruce Williams passed away on Tuesday 22nd March at Cranford Hospice. Bruce was a relatively new-comer to Bridge but played often with his wife Inga at the Hastings Club.

Bruce was well known in Hastings as a consultant structural engineer and judging by the postings on the website a much respected and knowledgeable colleague and friend. His company was responsible for completing compliance structural checks on the new stand at McClean Park. His commitment knew no bounds when he had to be hoisted up in a bucket on the crane to check the construction work. He was still working until recently.

Bruce's wife Inga is a keen player who wishes to continue to play at the club.

The Hastings Bridge Club sends its sincere condolences to Inga and her family.

Save the date...

- **Hastings Charity Tournament scheduled for 25th April-postponed**
- **30 April: Hastings Junior Pairs**
- **14 May: Taradale Tierney Teams**
- **21 May: Waipukurau Int and Junior Pairs**
- **21 May: Gisborne Open Pairs**
- **22 May: Havelock North Members Only**
- **4 -6 June: Hawkes Bay Congress**
- **18 June: Hastings Int Teams**
- **25 June: Gisborne Multigrade Pairs**
- **25 June: Dannevirke Int and Junior Pairs**
- **2 July: Taradale Junior Pairs**
- **16 July: Napier Open Pairs**
- **23 July: Havelock North Open Swiss Pairs**

