

Bulletin 3

Editor: David Gold david@bridge4money.com

News

The competition has finished and 159 players were eligible . In the final hours the top places were changing literally every few minutes.

An amazing **21,196** boards were played!

The final scores calculated at midnight on January the 31st were:

1 st	875.11	Prize: \$250
2 nd	872.14	Prize: \$120
3 rd	872.08	Prize: \$70
4 th	858.94	Prize: \$40
5 th	844.28	Prize: \$20
6 th	828.37	Prize: \$10
7 th	818.33	Prize: \$10
8 th	722.74	Prize: \$10
9 th	721.97	Prize: \$10
10 th	716.75	Prize: \$10

A further 30 players won a prize of \$10 leaving a total prize fund of \$850.

Real Money

The 'real money' rooms opened on February 1st and we now have 3 rooms open. A \$1 room, a 25c room and a 'practice room'. There is additionally a \$5 room which is not open yet. At the moment the best time to get a game is between about 12pm and 12am GMT.

Tips

- 1).Don't get put off when you are holding poor cards-luck evens out!
- 2).Learn the responses to Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB).
- 3).Don't overcall at the 2-level on rubbish, especially vulnerable!

'Frivolity'

We keep track of regular crashers or people who are playing in a manner which may be deemed to be frivolous. We have already permanently banned one such player.

Hands From bridge4money.com

We are always looking for hands for our bulletins. If you have a hand that you would like to be written up, with or without your name mentioned please email it, possibly with some explanation to david@bridge4money.com

'Never Give Up'

The following hand features brave bidding and excellent declarer play by one of our competition high finishers-Andy Fenn.

Dealer West: Vul NS

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 diamond	pass	1 notrump	4 spades
double	pass	pass	pass

Andy picked up the south hand and saw the bidding start 1♦ on his left, pass from partner, 1nt on his right. Reasoning (and hoping!) that his partner would have some values, Andy tried a very aggressive 4♣. When west doubled he began to regret his decision. However, when west led the King of clubs his partner produced an excellent dummy, giving him hope. West continued with the

Ace of clubs followed by the Ten which Andy ruffed. Searching for tricks he ran the Jack of diamonds which held.

Now courtesy of the spade finesse the contract can be made. The problem is that after west's double Andy did not believe the spade King would be onside. He tried the 3 of spades from hand, hoping to sneak past west's presumed King. When west followed with the 6 of spades it looked as though he might have succeeded but it was infact east who won the trick with the King! At this point east exited with the 4 of spades, a mistake and Andy was quick to demonstrate why.

He ran off his trumps to reach this position:

	NORTH	
	♠-	
	♥A J	
	♦A Q	
	♣-	
WEST		EAST
♠-		♠-
♥K Q		♥9 6 2
♦K 9		♦T
♣-		♣-
	SOUTH	
	♠5	
	♥T 5 4	
	♦-	
	♣-	

When Andy played the 5 of spades west had to throw in the towel.

Result: NS+620

Going back to when east won the King of spades, he should have played back a heart which would have broken up the squeeze.

What I most like about this hand was that declarer was prepared to back his judgement and although he was wrong, he never gave up and found a solution.

'Teach Partner (and the opponents) A Lesson'

The following article is written by one of our 'Kiwi Connections'.

Dealer North: Vul NS

	NORTH	
	♠K 8 6	
	♥A 10	
	♦A 8 6 3	
	♣A J 9 8	
WEST		EAST
♠10 7 5 4		♠A Q 3 2
♥J 7		♥8 5
♦J 10 2		♦Q 9 7
♣7 5 3 2		♣K 10 6 4
	SOUTH	
	♠J 9	
	♥K Q 9 6 4 3 2	
	♦K 7 4	
	♣Q	

W	N	E	S
	1NT	PASS	4H
PASS	4S!	PASS	4NT
PASS	5C!	DBL!!	6H
PASS	PASS	DBL!!	REDBL
PASS	PASS	PASS	

North, my partner, for some reason either thought my 4 heart bid was a transfer, or liked his hand and wanted to cue bid his second round spade control. I didn't have any idea, so bid 4 notrump. I didn't really care what he did next. He bid 5 clubs and East doubled. Figuring that partner's 5 club showed three key cards (*we play RKCB 1430 so partner's response should show 4 key cards. Perhaps he was responding to key card in spades-ed*), and figuring that surely partner's SEVENTEEN points (in order to make a slam try) were something like ♠AKx ♥Axx ♦AQxx ♣xxx with NO wasted values in clubs, thanks to East's double of 5 clubs, I

thought I may as well bid slam. At least that would, I hoped, confirm that I wanted to play in hearts! When East doubled, I of course redoubled. When West led the club seven I must admit I got something of a shock, but what the heck, at least it will teach partner a lesson for not reading the system. Being pretty sure that East must have the club king I won the ace and shot back the eight of clubs, hoping to discard on it. East was wide awake and covered, so I ruffed. Trying to teach partner a lesson, I decided to go down as quickly as possible so I led a trump and inserted the ten. Bad luck! It held. Next I followed with the nine of clubs, East covering yet again. I ruffed and things looked pretty bleak but what choice did I have? I cashed my king of diamonds and led a diamond to the ace, followed by dummy's good club jack. Quite expecting West to ruff this, I pitched a diamond, but West, amazingly, followed! A diamond ruff was followed by a trump to the ace and the good diamond allowed me to dispose of one of my spades. Not quite the lesson that I was hoping to teach Partner!

Result: NS+2070

'Trust Your Partner'

I have included this deal because it features a lower rated player using the rating system to their advantage.

Dealer West: Vul All

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

West dealt and passed and NS bid uncontested thereafter:

NORTH	SOUTH
1 heart (a).	3 spades (b).
4 diamonds (c).	5 clubs (d).
6 hearts (e).	all pass

- a). Not strong enough for 2♣.
- b). Defined in the system as a 'splinter'- see 'splinters' on the system file.
- c). A 'cue-bid' showing first or second round control in diamonds.
- d). A 'cue-bid' showing first or second round control in clubs.
- e). Correctly judging that NS have the values for slam.

When North opened 1♥ south could have responded with a simple 2♣. However, this south reasoned that their 3 star partner would work out that a 3♠ response must show some heart support and a spade control. (1♥-3♠ is actually defined as a 'splinter' but A7 is not far off!). Over 3♠ north cooperated by cue-bidding 4♦ and south in turn cue-bid 5♣. North now had sufficient information to bid the excellent slam. RESULT NS 6H= +1430.

The bidding sequence is not perfect but it does illustrate the value of the 'rating system'. A lower rated player was able to bid in a way that they expected their 3 star partner to understand.

'Crocodile Beers'

Tim West-meads showed me this super sharp defense that he found playing in the competition in the small hours of the morning.

Dealer East: Vul None

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

East	West
1 diamond	1 heart
1 notrump (a).	
a). 12-14 points	

Tim sat south and found himself on lead to 1nt. After some thought he found the good lead of the Ten of hearts which was covered by the Jack and won by his partner's Queen. North switched to the Ten of clubs which declarer ran to Tim's King. Tim continued with the 7 of hearts and declarer correctly inserted the 8 of hearts which north won with the Ace to switch back to clubs, declarer winning the Queen. Looking to setup some tricks, declarer laid down the King of spades and ran the 8 of spades which north won deceptively with the Queen. North continued with clubs, declarer winning the Ace. Declarer now played the 5 of spades from hand and taking the Queen of spades as a true card, finessed the Ten, losing to north's Jack. North cashed the hard earned 13th club declarer and dummy pitching diamonds and Tim pitching the useless 9 of hearts. Now north exited with the King of diamonds declarer winning with the Ace to leave this 3-card end position:

	NORTH	
	♠-	
	♥6 4	
	♦T	
	♣-	
WEST		EAST
♠A		♠-
♥K 2		♥-
♦-		♦J 5 4
♣-		♣-
	SOUTH	
	♠-	
	♥-	
	♦Q 9 7	
	♣-	

Declarer played the 4 of diamonds from hand and the moment of truth had arrived. If Tim had lazily played the 7 or the 9 of diamonds his partner would be forced to overtake with the Ten of diamonds and give dummy the remainder. However, Tim was wide awake and played the QUEEN of diamonds! Now when his partner followed with the Ten he was able to exit with the 9 of diamonds, leaving declarer in hand with a losing diamond. Result 1NT EW-2: NS+100.

This play is called the 'Crocodile Coup' so named because you rise with a surprisingly high card in order to 'swallow' your partner's smaller card. (Why 'Crocodile beers'? - because Tim won the last trick with the 7 of diamonds - the so called 'beer card').

Big Scores

We have had some big scores reported. The biggest doubled penalty was 3,200. However there was a redoubled penalty of 5,200 which will be hard to beat. I am not writing up these hands as I do not wish to promote that type of bridge.

For news on the development of the site see our next 'News Letter'.

Good luck and play well!