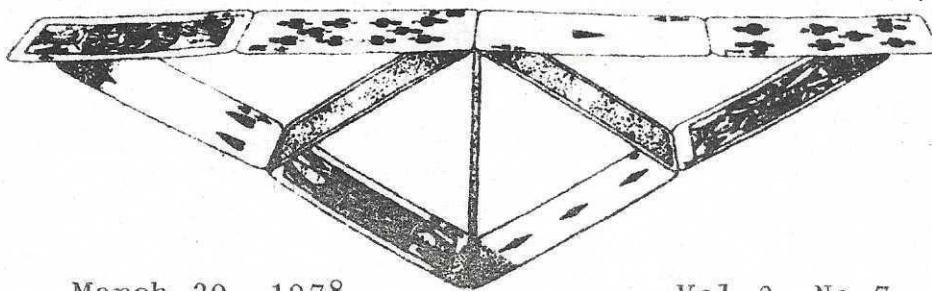


Bridging the gap



March 29, 1978

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KALAMUNDA DISTRICTS BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

EDITORIAL

To the committee:- May I have my 60c table money back please? Where were the coffee & biscuits last week? I'm told that there is no official "kitchen committee" but really, shouldn't something fairly failsafe be thought up so that we don't end up having more of these dry evenings?

Thanks to Dick Hardman for making a metal box for our 2nd set of boards. He has over the years also voluntarily mended several of the tables from time to time. It's a pity more people don't take an interest in the little things which help make the club run more effectively. For instance, members tend to arrive late hoping that all the nasty chores (setting up of tables, etc.) have been completed, & then complain about lack of ashtrays. If members would arrive a little early we wouldn't have such monumental confusion the likes of which took place in B Div. last week (see "The Director Versus John Renton"). It would also be a welcome change to see offers of help extended to our 2 TDs occasionally instead of hearing constant complaints.

I had planned to end my editorials on a light note, but apparently someone complained that my last joke came out of the ark, so I shall refrain from continuing to try & raise a smile.

SHE

Club Results - March 15, 1978 (11 Tables)

B Div (4 tables) - Graham/Hart 65.7%; Renton/Renton 55.6%
Valentine/Ward 50.9%.

A Div (7 tables) - Price/Prince 62.9%; Prince E/Shieff 61.4%;
de Blank/Loveland 56.4%; Hubbard/Pratt 56.1%;
Hopper/Martin 54.9%.

Dear She,

Our Peppery Peter appears to be more polemic than usual in his latest perorations. It is surely time to provide Peter with a prophylactic potion to placate his pernicious pedantics and to provide a panacea to present more propitious paraphrases.

PHLEGMATIC

ROVING AROUND

In the toughest State competition of the year, 4 of our members managed to survive to the final stages of the Team Selection tourneys. A Clark/J Goddard were our sole representatives in the ladies field & made the finals for the 3rd successive year. In the Open field, our club had the largest contingent but only W. D'Rozario (playing with S Szabo) & AN Other (playing with Jack Lever) made the cut-off. The unsuccessful members were Price/Prince (7th), R Goddard/M Turley (9th), Eldred/Shieff (12th) on the N/S section & Helliwell/Martin (6th), C & D Charters (8th) & D Clark/Kirby (12th) on the E/W side. By pitting themselves against such a field, all gained experience which will stand them in great stead in future years and, I predict, several of them will make the grade in time. The Melville Congress was held recently with one of the largest turnouts ever for a Congress - 31 tables - & the Kalamunda contingent was relatively small. Our best placed competitors were C & D Charters who made the final & finished 7th out of 62 prs. no mean feat. Coupled with their performance in the team selection event, it has been a very satisfactory return to active play for them.

AN OTHER

Club Results - March 22, 1978 (11 Tables)

B Div (4 tables) - Graham/Valentine 62.0%; Hart/Webster 62.0%;
Doepel/Doepel 58.3%.

A Div (7 tables) - Addison/Wilson 59.0%; Godden/Helliwell 54.9%
Price/Prince 54.9%; Charters/Charters 54.5%;
Hopper/Martin 54.5% - how flat can it get?

PS. Welcome back, Charters! Aside: they have been Rosendorffe

THE DIRECTOR VERSUS JOHN RENTON

John Renton is a newcomer to the club & he may be a tyro at bridge, but he is no mug. However, he had a few moments of doubt last week - about his eyesight, his mental state, & the whole bridge thing. Put yourself in John's seat & share the experience of a lifetime.

2nd board, 2nd round (Bd 5) John picked up: S-KQJ87; H-63; D-AT987; C-K. He and his wife, Anna, bid to 3NT and went quietly 2 off.

3rd board, 3rd round (Bd 9) John picked up: S-KQJ87; H-63; D-AT987; C-K. "Seems familiar, wait, heck it's identical. Director!"

TD, who happened to be playing in the same section, re-checked board movements which it so happens, prophylactically, he had been handling himself in order to prevent what now appeared to have happened anyway. No apparent errors.

"Are you sure, John?"

John was resolutely sure, recalled partner's hand exactly. TD was, frankly, sceptical but considered board may have entered movement undealt since previous week when identical movement had been played and John R was enacting some kind of freak delayed recall from then. However, you don't call anyone a liar to his face, so TD directed a redeal and retreated, dubious. If one board had not been redealt, why not all three? One of life's little unsolved mysteries; HO HUM, back to long-suffering partner and frustrated opponents. But at the end of the round he moved the boards very, very carefully.

Back to John Renton.

1st board, 5th round (Bd 13), he sorted his hand: S-KQJ..8..7; H-6...3; I don't believe it - D-A etc. and C-singleton bloody King!

It was about now that John began to have doubt. He took a long breath in order to call the TD when he remembered, to his unutterable relief, that the TD was sitting at the table this round. TD could no longer be sceptical because he was looking at a hand he had played two rounds previously too; SOMETHING was wrong. Frantically calm re-check on board movements, nothing amiss. He shuddered; here he was, a BAWA director and a board was being played twice, no 3 times by the same pair. He wanted to cry. John was apologetic and sympathetic but, at the same time, justifiably unburdened of his doubts; it was not his mind cracking after all.

TD racked his brain for an explanation. The odds against ever having two identical hands in a lifetime were steep. Twice in one session, the odds were phenomenal; three times in one session - his brain boggled. The only other possibility was duplication of boards. He inquired of the other players, as

politely as he could; no, nobody had duplicated any boards. They looked at each other after he had left their table - what does he mean??!

TD returned to table. He let the hand be played while he pondered a solution. I started by saying John was no mug; this time, on the identical hands they had bid to 3NT off 2 on board 5, they stopped, in 3D contract on board 13; see what I mean? TD made mental note to average score and they moved on to next board. Again identical!!! Further duplication. And now, only now, did the TD perceive a glimmer of hope. He sought out Roy Goddard, playing in the A section.

"Roy, did you use any club boards at your lessons last night?"

"Yes."

"Did you prepare any boards?"

"Yes, I duplicated 4 sets of 4 boards, repeating hands every fourth deal."

EUREKA!!

So boards 1, 5, 9, and 13 were identical. Bd 1, John had redealt as a matter of course, it was their first round. Bd 5, they did not redeal, an oversight. Bd 9 again undealt through oversight, was identical. It was redealt as directed. And then arrived Bd 13, and the TD. Somehow, the board had not been redealt at another table. So the mystery was solved: TD recovered faith in himself and in John, while John discovered at first hand that a TD's lot is not a simple one.

The moral of the story is: Unless told otherwise by the TD, deal the boards. If in doubt, call the TD: You may be saving him from insanity.

Footnote: Yes, other pairs in the movement played the same hands twice without noticing but John and Anna were the only fixed pair, the others played North/South once and then East/West the second time or vice versa.

THE TD

PS,

Dick Hardman suggests that both movements play the same set of boards. Suggestion well noted.

ED
