

WARM UP HAND

North deals, nil vulnerable

♠ A 9 3

♥ K J 3

♦ 9 7 5 3

♣ K 10 4

♠ K 8 7 5

♥ 7 4

♦ A K Q J 10 4

♣ 9

♠ 10 6

♥ Q

♦ 8 6 2

♣ J 8 7 6 5 3 2

♠ Q J 4 2

♥ A 10 9 8 6 5 2

♦ ---

♣ A Q

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Tishler</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Sarten</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²
2♦	Dbl ³	Pass	4♦ ⁴
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣ ⁵
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

1. 11-14 balanced or a club suit
2. Shows hearts
3. Heart support
4. Splinter
5. Cuebid, first or second-round control, denies first or second-round spade control

Bridge players talk blithely about a '30-point deck', but it is an entirely different matter to recognize one when it comes along. On the very first deal of the Open and Women's Butler, Stage I, maybe it was too early in the piece for NS pairs to come out firing. The datum in the Women's was +500, while in the Open, it was +540.

What went wrong for the majority?

Firstly, North is just short of a weak notrump opening, (*Ed: not everybody would agree with that assessment*) and when South's opening bid of 1♥ is overcalled by some number of diamonds, or a double (!), North can hardly be sure that 4♥ is going to be laydown.

Five-card majorities should, however, fare well if West bids only 2♦ over South's 1♥. North can now bid 3♦, a high-card limit raise. South may well get the gist of the '30-point' gag.

The auction given in the diagram above was one of the few successful ones.

TODAY'S TIMETABLE

Championship Event:

Open & Women's Butler Stage I

10am, 2.30pm

Open & Women's Butler Stage II

8pm

Congress Event:

Bridge in the City

Eclectic Pairs 3 & 4 of 4

10am, 2.30pm

One session Walk-In Pairs

7.30pm

Please note that the Seniors Stage A starts at 10am on Monday 24 July, not at 8pm Sunday as advertised on the Stage I booklets



David Wiltshire and Keiran Dyke

Precision pairs would routinely open the North hand, but the systemic opening bid is 1♦ - not exactly a turn-on for South. Precisely because of the '30-point deck' being revealed, Keiran Dyke and David Wiltshire were able to bid effectively to slam. Well done.

BRIDGING THE GENERATION GAP

In Round Two of the Open Butler, Nathan Howard, playing with Betty Mill, faced Michael Prescott – John Hughes.

Betty is Andrew Mill's mother, while Nathan's mother is Cathy Mill (getting confused now, are we?) Nathan and Betty managed a 17-13 win over Prescott – Hughes, in part due to the following deal:

Board 18, East deals, NS vulnerable

♠ 8 7 5 4
♥ 8 4
♦ A 4 3
♣ K 8 6 2

♠ K J 9 3
♥ A K Q 9
♦ 5 2
♣ 9 5 4

♠ Q 6 2
♥ J 7 5 2
♦ Q J 8 6
♣ Q J

♠ A 10
♥ 10 6 3
♦ K 10 9 7
♣ A 10 7 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Hughes</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Prescott</i>	<i>Mill</i>
		Pass	1NT
Dbl	Pass ¹	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♣ ²	Dbl	All Pass

1. Forces a redouble
2. Shows clubs and a higher suit

Yes, the South hand is definitely a weak notrump, with all those tens, Betty.

Mike Prescott led ♣Q, which Nathan won in hand with ♣K. It was then a routine matter to draw trumps and play on diamonds, losing one spade, two hearts, and a diamond to notch up +380. Note that this is despite the fact that EW have the balance of the HCP.

In my role of bridge journalist, I started asked the normal questions of Betty:

"Do you mind me asking how old you are, Betty?"
 "Not at all, I'm 75".
 "Where are you living now?"
 "In Palmerston."

Now to a New Zealander, that means either Palmerston North (in the North Island of New Zealand, and with the reputation of being a rather boring town) or Palmerston in the South Island (warning: never call it Palmerston South). However, I know Betty has lived for a number of years in the Top End with her late husband Les, so Palmerston had to be somewhere up there.



Betty and Nathan

"How far from Darwin is Palmerston?"

"About 20 kilometres".

"In which direction?"

To which Betty breaks into laughter: "There can only be one direction from Darwin – south".

Betty is the driving force behind the Palmerston Bridge Club. Their weekly evening game is well-patronised by players from Darwin.

As Nathan, 18, was not around for the last part of my interview I asked Betty what Nathan was doing at the moment. She replied that he was starting to renovate the family home in Alphington. Andrew Mill turned up at that point to add that the house was starting to fall down while waiting for the renovations to commence.

Ah well, Nathan, enjoy your bridge, the house can wait!

SHUFFLING OFF

It has occurred to me recently that I have come to that time of life (no, frustratingly I am still not a Senior, having been born in 1951 not 1950) when some of my peers are starting to 'shuffle off', to coin a well-worn bridge phrase.

At the Summer Festival in January, I was shocked to hear that my friend Claire Lester had been diagnosed with lung cancer. Ivy Dahler saw my distress, and comforted me, saying that she would contact Claire, as they had both been on the same international women's team in 1972. Now both Ivy and Claire are gone.

I will be including a very personal obituary for Claire in a forthcoming bulletin. Obituaries for Ivy and Roger Penny, who died in January after a long illness, can be found on the ABF website, abf.com.au

OZZIES AT THE KIWI NATIONALS

There was a large contingent of Australian players at the NZ National Congress in Hamilton, New Zealand from July 1 to 8. Many Australians regularly make the trip to Hamilton as a part of their bridge itinerary, as it is always fun and friendly.

This year, four members of the Australian Youth Team which is about to compete in the World Youth Championships in Bangkok, Thailand traveled to New Zealand for a Youth Challenge and to play in the New Zealand Congress. Gabby Feiler, Justin Williams, Nye Griffiths and Mike Doecke made it all the way to the final of the New Zealand Teams, where they were defeated by a strong foursome of New Zealand international representative players.

David Beauchamp returned from Hamilton with a number of NZ Daily Bulletins, which focus on deals featuring both brilliance and folly:

THE END OF THE RAINBOW

Australian expert Ted Chadwick was certain he was in Fairyland when 2005 NZ Pairs champions Jeff Miller and Graeme Stout gave him the pot of gold on this deal:

NZ Teams: South deals, EW vulnerable

♠ Q 5 4 3
♥ J 8 7 6
♦ J 4 2
♣ 10 8

♠ 9
♥ Q 10 4
♦ K 5
♣ AK Q 5 4 3 2

♠ K J 10 7 6
♥ A K 3 2
♦ Q
♣ J 7 6

♠ A 8 2
♥ 9 5
♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 3
♣ 9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Chadwick	Stout	Bloom	Miller
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Ted thought 3NT would be the go if Martin Bloom, East, could provide a spade stopper. Partnership understanding, however, was at its usual level, and Martin bid 4♦.

Ted now thought he might describe one feature of his hand with 5♣. Martin tried 5♥. I can't comment on this as I don't have the slightest idea what it is. (*Ed: Martin obviously thought the 3♠ bid was Super-Michaels, thus the heart preference!*) Ted repeated his clubs again, and 6♣ became the final contract.



Ted Chadwick

Graeme led a spade, and Ted won dummy's ace and drew trumps. ♦K came next, dropping Jeff's ♦Q, and Ted got to test the *Theory of Restricted Choice*, and found the pot of gold.

(Jeff asked me specifically not to mention that he had doubled Martin's 5♥ bid for the lead. If you scan the bidding above you'll see that I never mentioned this nor Graeme's decision to disregard the assistance given).

Reproduced from the NZ Daily Bulletin, Wednesday July 5, 2006

KNOW YOUR SAFETY PLAYS

Ron Klinger came to me with this hand, which is interesting from two points of view

East deals, all vulnerable

♠ J 10 9
♥ A 6
♦ A K J 8 6 5 3
♣ Q

♠ K Q 5
♥ 3 2
♣ 9 4
♣ A J 10 9 8 3

♠ A 8 7 6 4 3 2
♥ J 8 4
♦ 10
♣ K 7

♠ —
♥ K Q 10 9 7 5
♦ Q 7 2
♣ 6 5 4 3

Kieran Dyke was in 4♥ on the lead of ♠K. The perfect safety play, which gives up a trick on the actual lie of the cards, is to ruff, then run ♥10 or ♥9, guarding against one opponent holding ♥Jxxx.

From a defensive point of view, note that if NS defend a spade contract by East, ♥K should be overtaken with the ace and a heart returned, setting up a trump promotion for North's ♠J109

**OPEN BUTLER STAGE I
AFTER 6 ROUNDS**

**WOMENS BUTLER STAGE I
AFTER 6 ROUNDS**

CATEGORY A

	Total	Total VPs	Wins IMPs	Last VPs	Last IMPs
1 Lange & Hocking	115	76	5.0	25.0	30
2 Wiltshire & Dyke	114	79	5.5	16.0	5
3 Reynolds & Appleton	106	51	4.0	24.0	29
4 Moren & Francis	105	53	5.5	18.0	11
5 Ewart & Howe	105	49	4.0	17.0	8
6 Dawson & Demuy	103	47	4.0	20.0	16
7 Snashall & Dixon	103	42	4.0	14.0	5-
8 Smith & Pringle	100	28	4.0	25.0	31
9 Zollo & Eddie	98	24	3.0	25.0	31
10 Chadwick & Lowry	94	25	3.0	8.0	23-
11 Geddes & Jenner-O'Shea	93	9	3.0	14.0	5-
12 Case & Ashton	89	1-	3.0	19	13
13 Mill & Howard	89	3-	3.0	13.0	8-
14 Livingston & Hill	87	14-	3.0	13.0	7-
15 Samuel & Samuel	84	16-	3.0	10.0	15-
16 Lilley & Klinger	83	19-	2.5	10.0	15-
17 McLeish & McLeish	80	29-	3.0	12.0	15-
18 Scerri & Scerri	76	49-	0.5	13.0	6-
19 Bennett & Bennett	67	49-	0.5	13.0	6-
20 Dib & Mickevics	63	89-	0.5	9.0	19-
21 Couzner & Staiff	60	91-	0.5	8.0	21-
22 Kemp & Kemp	60	97-	1.0	9.0	2

CATEGORY A

	Total	Total VPs	Wins IMPs	Last VPs	Last IMPs
1 Schroor & Kaplan	118	90	5.5	19.0	12
2 Alexander & Marler	109	57	4.5	10.0	17-
3 Driscoll & Greenfeld	104	50	3.5	25.0	36
4 Wilson & Wilson	101	41	3.5	25.0	36
5 Anderson & Stacey	97	31	4.0	25.0	35
6 Kahler & Hopwood	95	14	3.0	14.0	5-
7 Jagelman & Frazier	92	5	2.0	14.0	5-
8 Evans & Herden	92	3	2.5	13.0	7-
9 Emerson & Harris	91	4	3.5	21.0	20
10 Obenchain & Talbot	88	4-	3.0	15.0	1
11 Weal & Yule	85	17-	2.0	14.0	4-
12 Rasmussen & Daws	84	17-	2.5	11.0	14-
13 Warthold & Herring	83	22-	3.5	4.0	36-
14 Yuill & Lund	80	17-	2.0	25.0	43
15 Renton & Watts	79	38-	3.0	2.0	45-
16 Motteram & Wagner	72	52-	2.0	10.0	15-
17 Boxall & Plush	58	106-	1.5	2.0	43-

CATEGORY B

	Total	Total VPs	Wins IMPs	Last VPs	Last IMPs
1 Markey & Mill	112	77	5.0	16.0	5
2 Neill & Peake	106	51	4.0	22.0	23
3 Gold & Stark	104	62	4.0	12.0	11-
4 Cherry & Horowitz	102	35	3.5	14.0	5-
5 Middleton & Smolanko	98	39	4.0	17.0	8
6 Gill & Gosney	98	30	2.5	13.0	8-
7 Noble & Bilski	98	23	4.0	5.0	30-
8 Schwabegger & Klofa	92	5	3.0	10.0	16-
9 Robb & Thenuwara	91	6	3.0	20.0	15
10 Kahler & Davis	90	1-	3.0	20.0	15
11 Prescott & Hughes	89	1-	3.5	16.0	5
12 Adams & Beauchamp	88	9-	2.5	17.0	7
13 Rhodes & Rhodes	87	12-	3.5	23.0	25
14 Rosendorff & Zeller	85	20-	2.0	6.0	29-
15 Tishler & Sarten	84	19-	2.5	18.0	10
16 Morcombe & Gue	84	22-	1.5	21.0	20
17 Zurawel & Coffey	81	30-	2.0	21.0	19
18 Morgan-King & Thompson	80	32-	2.5	17.0	6
19 Fischer & Bookallil	77	41-	2.5	22.0	21
20 Thompson & Thompson	77	42-	2.0	5.0	31-
21 Finikiotis & Chadwick	73	54-	2.0	5.0	31-

CATEGORY B

	Total	Total VPs	Wins IMPs	Last VPs	Last IMPs
1 Lusk & Tully	115	86	4.5	25.0	36
2 Roberts & Buttrose	108	56	5.0	20.0	17
3 Glanger & Scudder	107	67	4.5	25.0	45
4 Ingham & Folkard	105	47	4.5	17.0	7
5 Fallon & Marrett	99	29	4.0	11.0	12-
6 Bashar & Moses	99	27	4.0	16.0	5
7 Bird & Creet	93	20	3.0	25.0	43
8 Stewart & Hill	91	1	2.0	19.0	14
9 Stephens & Pettigrew	87	11-	3.5	4.0	37-
10 Kelly & Narita	85	17-	2.5	15.0	1-
11 Sharp & Chadwick	84	18-	3.0	20.0	15
12 Eddie & McMahon	78	39-	2.0	16.0	4
13 Mellings & Spurrier	78	43-	2.0	4.0	36-
14 Walters & Hampton	75	47-	1.5	7.0	24-
15 Broad & Martin	74	54-	2.0	4.0	35-
16 Clyne & Collins	71	60-	1.0	9.0	20-
17 Norman & Dennis	70	66-	1.5	2.0	43-