



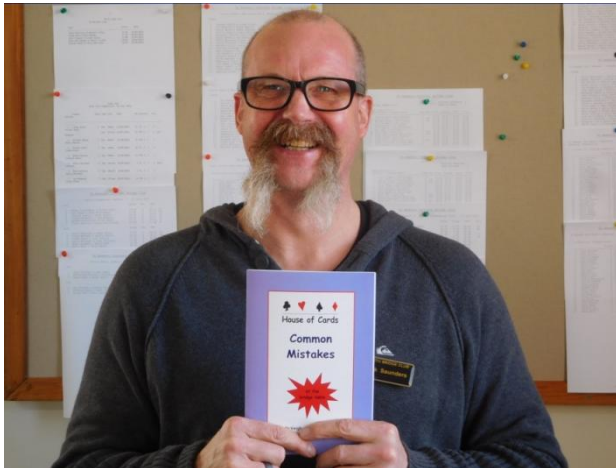
MOOS NOOS 3



July 21 2019

Mini Moos 2019/3 at Te Awamutu

A small but cheerful group took part in the Mini Moos held in Te Awamutu on Sunday. Best score by a considerable margin went to local player Nick who was required to play all the hands in which his side was declaring, his partner being a substitute.



Nick – 1st



Sid and Val 2nd=

Full Results

1	Nick Saunders Nick Cantlon	Te Aw	108
2	Christine Mills Anthea Mackintosh	Te Aw	84
2	Val Ferguson Sid Naera	Morr	84
4	Malcolm Mackenzie Alison Mackenzie	Wait	82
5	Kevin Barnes Trish Neal	Waik Wait	77
6	Alyson Mackey Hugh Barton	Ham	74



Anthea and Christine 2nd=



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A PUZZLE

"The Strange Behaviour of the Dog in the Night"



A well-known detective story (but not so well-known I can quote it accurately) goes something along these lines:

Lady Fortescue-Fortescue has had a large amount of jewellery go missing from her boudoir overnight. The window appears to have been jemmied open but that might have been just a diversionary stratagem by the thief.

Nobody heard anything although Lady Fortescue-Fortescue, her husband, the cook, the butler, the cleaner and the gardener were all in the house at the time.

"Anyone in the world could have been a suspect."

"Aha" said Sherlock (or was it Hercule?) "the number of suspects can be reduced to six on account of the strange behaviour of the dog in the night."

"But the dog did nothing in the night."

"Yes, that was the strange behaviour."

See if you can hear the dog not barking and make your contract with these hands:

Dealer: North; both sides vulnerable

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

As West you open 1NT after three passes (perhaps thinking it might be best to pass the hand in!)

Partner disobligingly raises to 2NT which you hastily pass.

With 7 tricks in top cards a finesse in one of the red suit is a 50-50 chance for the eighth.

North leads the ♠J, taken with the ♠Q by South, who then leads the ♠A and ♠K followed by a small spade won by North's ♠10.

North cashes his fifth spade and you are left with this:

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

You discard a small diamond from dummy but what do you discard from your hand? You must keep all the clubs and to discard either ♥Q or ♦J will prevent you finessing in that suit.

Is there any clue to which finesse is more likely to succeed? [see below for answer]



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Mini Moos at Te Awamutu

Most of the time that can be translated to "I wasn't paying attention and threw out a card I should have known I had to keep".

A true squeeze only occurs when a player can't avoid presenting declarer with a trick no matter what card he discards.

There are numerous variations of a squeeze play but here is a simple example:



The Boa Constrictor Play



"I wuz squeezed!!"

You often hear that from a defender when the declarer made a seemingly impossible contract by running off a long suit then winning the last trick with a small card nobody could follow suit to.

North (dummy)

♠
♥
♦ K 6 2

West

♠
♥
♦ J 10
♣ A

East

♠
♥
♦ 8
♣ Q 10

South (declarer)

♠ 10
♥
♦ 9
♣ K

Spades are trumps

South leads ♠10 and West is squeezed.

If he discards ♣A South's ♣K will win.

But if he discards a diamond then North's ♦K6 wins the last two tricks.

If East and West hands were exchanged East would have the same problem.



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A SQUEEZE PLAY TALE WITH A TWIST

This deal happened a long time ago in the European Championships.

East-West were a highly ranked English pair, North-South a promising but not-so-highly ranked Italian pair.

In those days the bidding was all spoken. And it all had to be spoken in English.

Any non English speaking players (and there were many) would have to learn, at the very least, the English numbers and names of the suits.

Dealer West; East-West Vul

	North	
	♠ A J 9 5	
	♥ A K Q J 4	
	♦ K 6 2	
	♣ 5	
West		East
♠ 6		♠ 8 4 2
♥ 8 2		♥ 9 7 5 3
♦ Q J 10		♦ 8 3
♣ A J 9 7 6 5 4		♣ Q 10 3 2
	South	
	♠ K Q 10 7 3	
	♥ 10 6	
	♦ A 9 7 5 4	
	♣ K	

Bidding:	W	N	E	S
	3♣	X	4♣	4♠
	pass	5♣	pass	7♠
	all pass			

The first round of bidding was routine. Then North's 5♣ agrees spades and suggests slam.

The English West player paused to consider his opening lead.

He could have found out more detail about the opponents bidding, with the help of an interpreter if necessary, but he felt pretty sure he knew what was going on.

South must be void in clubs to leap to 7♠.

Also, significantly, East's pass over the 5♣ bid denied the ♣K. According to East-West's agreement a double of such a bid (of their own sides suit) shows the A or K of that suit.

So West could see if he led the ♣A it would be trumped in one hand and set up the ♣K in the other hand. That could allow a discard of an unavoidable red-suit loser.

So he led the ♦Q.

Declarer won with the ♦A, drew trumps, and then ran the hearts discarding three diamonds from the South hand.

He then led another trump, winning in the South hand to reach the situation in the diagram on the previous page.

South then led his ♠10 squeezing West and making his Grand slam!





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So what was the 7♠ bid all about? you might ask?

An outrageous bluff?

No!

The answer is South hadn't remembered the English numbers very well.

He thought he was bidding 6♠.

How Important is it to have a fancy bidding system?

The American Great Bob Hamman was once asked that question by a Bridge journalist.

His reply:

"It would make a difference on maybe 3 percent of the hands"

Many years later the same journalist reminded him of that and asked him if he still believed it now.

His reply

"Jeez, did I really say as much as 3 percent?"



Bob Hamman

Many years ago an old friend of mine (who is now a Grand Master but then a keen novice) was watching an open tournament.

He sat behind East who was dealer and opened 1♣ with a 21-point hand.

East-West then proceeded to make nine more bids each, every one of them alerted, before they finally bid 6NT.

North and South sat impassively and passed every turn.

At the end of the bidding South asked East:

"Would you please explain the bidding?"

East replied:

"My bids are all asking so there is nothing revealed about my hand except the 1♣ opener showed 16 or more points.

"His hand has three controls [a king is one control and an ace is two so this must be an ace and a king or three kings] and 3 spades, one heart, 4 diamonds and 5 clubs"

"The club suit is weak and the singleton heart is the ace or king".

"And there are also some extra values."

South led a heart won with the singleton honour in dummy.

Declarer had 12 top tricks with 2 or 3 options for an overtrick. He took a wrong option so "only" made 12 tricks.

My friend followed the board to the next table where East-West were a couple of little old ladies.

Their bidding went East: 2NT, West: 6NT. A different lead allowed them to make 13 tricks.



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Answer to "The Dog in the Night" Puzzle

South didn't open the bidding but you have found out he has ♠ AKQ.

If he had three more points he would have twelve and would have opened.

Therefore **North must have both red Kings.**

So it is the diamond finesse, not the heart, which must work.

So discard the ♥Q and plan to finesse the diamonds (run the ♦Q or, if North leads a diamond next, play low from dummy) to make your eighth trick.

MORE EVENTS for NOVICES

Sunday August 11.

Mini Moos round 4 at Matamata

Start at 1pm

Entry \$5

You will play as pairs with the same partner throughout.

However entries without a partner will be accepted and paired up on the day.

Register with your teacher or Nick Whitten at 07 889 7831 or nickwhitten@xtra.co.nz

Prior registration is not essential but an idea of how many are likely to come would be helpful.

Sunday September 29.

A 1-session competition for Novices only at the National Congress in Hamilton.

Start at 2pm

Entry \$10

Experience the atmosphere of the National Congress with none of the pressure (but no crib sheet or phone a friend allowed)

Sunday November 3.

Date provisional only

The final Mini Moos event for the year.

This is the Garden Party at Jane Stearns' residence near Cambridge.

Start at 1pm

Entry \$5

Pimms and lemonade will be served and strawberries and cream at the mid-way tea break.

You will be playing outside (weather permitting) so you will need to bring sun protection.

There will be a prize for the best hat!



Local club players Christine, Nick and Anthea battling it out at the Mini Moos at Te Awamutu

MOOS MISSION: *To provide a relaxed supportive environment where beginners from lessons can play bridge with players of their own level.*