

A banner for the Hamilton Contract Bridge Club. It features a background image of a bridge club building with a green roof and a small cupola. To the left of the building is a graphic of a blue cone. The text is overlaid on the image. The top line is 'Hamilton Contract Bridge Club' in red with a black outline. The second line is '20 Richmond St, Hamilton' in yellow. The third line is 'phone: (07) 839-4547' in yellow. The fourth line is 'email: secretary@hamiltonbridgeclub.org.nz' in yellow. The fifth line is 'www.hamilton.bridge-club.org' in red with a black outline.

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

20 Richmond St, Hamilton

phone: (07) 839-4547

email: secretary@hamiltonbridgeclub.org.nz

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From the President

May 2017

WOW ! What a successful Restricted Tournament. We had over 70 club members playing with another 20 club members helping to make it a fantastic day. I think that level of co-operation captures the spirit of this club. So, a huge thank you!

Our next tournament is May 2nd: Ladies' Open, Intermediate, Junior and Novices. So, please support this event either by playing or assisting in the kitchen. This is a special call out to the men of the club to support the ladies' competition by assisting in the kitchen.

On the club scene, it is Teams' time. The Open Championship started on Wednesday 5th April and Intermediate and Juniors on Thursday April 27. I would like to encourage members to pick up a cup or two during weekly club nights, especially if you are dummy or phantom. There is no one member who has the responsibility to tidy the club rooms/ kitchen. So, if you could also tidy around your table at the end of the night that would be really appreciated.

Happy Bridging!

Nigel Gresson

Hamilton Bridge Club Bar – The Future (from Nigel)

For a great many years, the Club has operated a bar on days when we hold tournaments or a special event. These are run under the provisions of a Special Licence which limits us in the number of events (10) when we can use the licence.

As a condition of the licence, the Club is required to have a qualified bar manager on the premises at the time the licence is operating – for a great many years this requirement has been filled by Joan or Pam. At this time, I would like to acknowledge their significant contribution over many years.

These licences have or will shortly expire and, while the Club has one potential replacement, there is need to find a second Bar Manager for days when they are unavailable.

There are a number of options available:

- Find another Club member who has a current Bar Manager's Licence and who would be willing to help the Club on these Tournament and Special event days. ***If this is you, please let me know.***

- The Club pays for a member to attend a one day course and obtain a Manager's certificate / licence. The member would then need to be available at the Club on the days that the licence needs to be used – they will not necessarily need to run the bar, just be present. Would any Club member be interested in doing this? The Club will pay all costs, associated with the course etc. – ***if you are interested please approach me to discuss this further.***

- Hire a manager with a licence for days not covered – this does need investigation to see if it is possible and the costs etc., but other Clubs do this. This would be at a cost to the Club and would likely take the operation of the bar to a position where it would no longer contribute "cash wise" to the Club.

- Alternatively, we could cease running the bar – it is not a great income earner for the Club but it does cover its costs and help fund the Club's operations in a very modest way. It does however, also perform a "social service" which is conducive to the social fabric of the Club.

From the Club Captain

Hasn't the Club accomplished a lot since the end of last year...?

The improvements to the building cosmetically - exterior and interior, successful events TWITs and the Restricted, Bridge lessons, improvement lessons and Health & Safety obligations being formalised. We should all be very proud of the proactive start.

This newsletter will reveal some of the awesome things that your committee is undertaking to improve your Bridge experience, to add value to the Clubs systems and management and best of all to protect the Clubs assets and policies.

Rest assured the team is working hard to do things right by our members.

One little thing I will touch on is the replacing of the tablecloths - the colour has been discussed many times, the quality is top notch and I like how they enhance the colour in the rooms. I admit I enjoy seeing the odd member getting their hands slapped when tapping on the table with their pens contemplating their next bids, and the comments being made when observing one's habits of penmanship...

You are probably wondering what I am going on about... What I am alluding to is, this does highlight an opportunity to mention that we could be more alert during bidding and that leading doesn't need to be "Oh well, not too sure what to lead so this will do...". How many times have you heard that before!

A tip here could be that we need to be reading our hands upon the first count - if you have 6+ points then you better come up with a response bid pretty sharply if partner opens. Too many times we feel a slump "Blast, I can't open so I will just sit back and watch, it must be the opponents' hand" and then partner does the unthinkable and opens. Remember, bidding and playing with the same tempo or momentum, and bidding without hesitation, are all very important **rules** in our game

So let's forget the tap, tap, tap marking the cloths and avoid getting the slap or the evil eye, put our thinking caps on and bid promptly, showing we have our partner's back and are glad that we can continue the line of communication.

Here we go with this quarter's pearl of wisdom:

Life is too short to be making bad leads...

Need some help to find that good lead? Use R - E - A - L

- Review the bidding
- Examine your cards
- Analyse the situation
- Lead after considering all of the above

The is essentially about logic and your approach before considering what card to pluck from your hand.

Review

If the opponents are bidding - a thought could be "if they were my partner what are they telling me - how many points are they saying and how many cards are they holding minimum?"

Their partner's response - again how many points and what shape?

After these bids, the final contract and who will be declarer should be unveiling and your thoughts going towards what you are planning to do before the final sign off.

If you are not on lead, thinking about what card to play to signal to your partner to show where your strengths lie, if you can win the lead and when you can't.

Examine

Do you hold an attractive lead? Top honour of a sequence is mostly a given.

Against No Trumps:

- . Avoid leading suits bid by opponents
- . Lead a suit bid by partner
- . Lead an unbid suit
- . Prefer a major to a minor

Against Suit Contracts:

- . Avoid any non trump suit bid by opponents (interesting thought)
- . Choosing an unbid suit - These are a bit trickier, so I have photocopied the suggestions and pinned them up on the noticeboard for anyone to have a read and digest.

Analyse

Compare the bids to your hand and your partner's bidding - this will give you a picture of what the final contract may look like along with the hands. And what the opponents shape may be like.

Now **LEAD** after considering all these factors.

Wow! - doesn't that sound easy?

The above comes from a book "Improve Your Opening Leads" by Ron Klinger that I have started to read.

It doesn't promise finding that killer lead every time, it simply gives you the process to think and get the best start.

That's enough from me.

If you are keen to have a read of the book, let me know and I can pass it on.

Happy bridging everyone.

Mereana Cullen

Club Captain

Email Addresses Needed!

Did you know you can get this newsletter by email (and in full colour!)?

Also, the club is aiming to send out notification and reminders of activities and events coming up by email. If you wish to be added to the email list please send your email address to:

info@hamiltonbridge.co.nz

(or if you no longer want to receive emails from the club, ask to be removed from the email list).

Members' News

Phone number changes / additions

Raewyn Duffy	027 5478 570
Nan Johnston	850 8135
Richard Small	853 4864
Zheng Zhang	021 0820 6293

Monday Night Change of Start Time

If you haven't been along to bridge on a Monday night recently, don't forget that the start time has changed during the non-daylight saving weeks (your editor got caught out recently!). Bridge on Monday night now starts at 7pm, meaning an earlier 10pm finish time as well.

JP Available



Club member Lucie Armstrong is a Justice of the Peace. She can be available to help with witnessing signatures, certifying documents, administering affidavits or statutory declarations following bridge on Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday evening and Friday mornings. Make sure you contact Lucie (854 9339) beforehand, so she knows to bring her equipment. There is no charge for this service.

Beginners Lessons

The lessons classes on Tuesday evenings and Friday mornings are progressing well. After some real concerns with player numbers leading up to the start date, we now have about 6-7 tables playing on a Tuesday and about 5-6 on a Friday.

It is hoped that at the conclusion of the classes we will be able to encourage many of the learners to join the Club

New Constitution

The committee has recommended that the Club update its Constitution which is now considered well out of date. A redraft has been done and will shortly be made available to club members to review and comment on.

The proposed new constitution follows a template recommended by NZ Bridge and has been used by other clubs.

A summary of the proposed changes will also be provided so that members can easily follow the changes.

The Committee will look to hold a Special General Meeting (for which advance notice will be given). This is likely to be on the soup and bun day in June where there will be sufficient members present to enable a vote to be taken.

SOUP and BUN SOCIAL - SUNDAY 18 JUNE

Winter is on its way bringing long, cold, dark evenings. What better way to warm up than with an afternoon of bridge, followed by a warming mug of soup with your friends?

Sunday 18 June is the day to enjoy this social event.

Before the bridge session starts, there will be a short Special General Meeting to approve the new Constitution for the Club.

Watch for notices at the Club or check the website for more details on this event!



Recent events at our club

Hamilton Restricted Pairs - Sunday 2 April

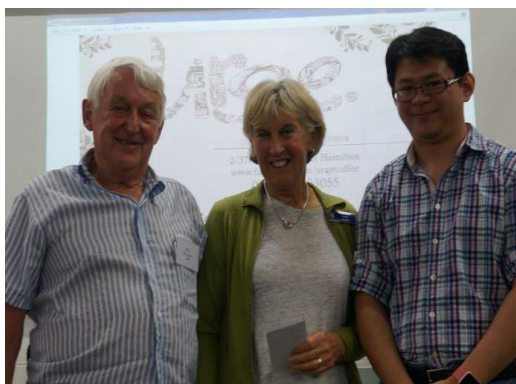
The end of daylight saving meant the 118 players who turned up to our first tournament of the year were well-refreshed. Ella Gray was overall manager and scorer, Cherie Barton directed, and Jane Sandelin ran the kitchen, all contributing to what was a very smooth operation, resulting in a very successful and enjoyable tournament.

Generous sponsorship from **Urge**, Jeffrey Chang's Coffee and Tea Boutique, meant prizes were awarded to 18 pairs on the day with a very creditable 11 Hamilton pairs among the prize-winners. Hamilton success included 1st and 2nd overall on the day (both by Open/Intermediate combinations), 2nd in Intermediate/Intermediate, 1st and 2nd in Intermediate/Junior and 2nd in Junior/Junior. Well done!

Once again, many thanks to all those who helped in any way on the day. See the list of upcoming tournaments elsewhere in this newsletter and set aside the date now for those you wish to enter!



Above Left: Sam Armstrong and Tim Healy - 1st Open / Intermediate and 1st Overall



Above Right: Phil Thompson and Lois Jones - 1st Intermediate / Junior

Upcoming Events

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Ladies Intermediate Pairs	Tuesday 2 May
Hamilton Ladies Open Pairs	Tuesday 2 May
Waikato/Bays Waikato Interclub Teams	Sunday 25 June
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs	Saturday 15 July
Hamilton Open Teams	Saturday 15 July

Tournament Help required



OTHER EVENTS IN OUR REGION

Junior/Novice Tournaments:

Matamata Junior Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 6 May
Tauranga Junior Pairs	Tauranga	Saturday 17 June
Mount Maunganui Junior Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 22 July
Morrinsville Junior Teams	Morrinsville	Sunday 6 August

Intermediate Tournaments:

Katikati Intermediate Pairs	Katikati	Sunday 21 May
Te Puke Intermediate Pairs	Te Puke	Saturday 27 May
Tauranga Intermediate Pairs	Tauranga	Saturday 17 June
Mt Maunganui Intermediate Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 22 July

Restricted Tournaments: (Only one Open grade player in a pair)

Te Awamutu Restricted Pairs	Te Awamutu	Saturday 20 May
Rotorua Restricted Pairs	Rotorua	Sunday 2 July

Open and All Grades Tournaments:

Taupo Open 5A Pairs	Taupo	Sat/Sun 6-7 May
Putaruru All Grades Pairs	Putaruru	Thursday 18 May
Waikato Area Pairs 4	Matamata	Sunday 28 May
Morrinsville All Grades Pairs	Morrinsville	Saturday 10 June
Spa Town Multigrade Teams	Te Aroha	Saturday 1 July
Spa Town Open Teams	Te Aroha	Saturday 1 July
Tauranga Charity Pairs	Tauranga	Wednesday 19 July
Matamata All Grades Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 29 July
Waikato Area Pairs 5	Tokoroa	Sunday 30 July

Cambridge Sixes Coming Soon!

This year's Cambridge Sixes is on 12 August.

What is the Cambridge Sixes?

The Cambridge Sixes is a fantastic concept aimed at getting more players from each grade taking part in tournaments. In effect, three tournaments take place simultaneously, a 3A for the Open players, a 5B for the Intermediates and a 3B for the Juniors. It is the only Swiss Pairs event specifically for Intermediates or Juniors. The first event was held in 2013 and since then it has become more popular each year. In 2016 it was held at the new Don Rowlands Centre at Lake Karapiro for the first time. This is a wonderful venue with all mod cons along with great views out over the lake.

The really different thing about the Cambridge Sixes is that entries have to comprise one pair from each grade. Open players who wish to have a crack at getting three A points must find an Intermediate pair and a Junior pair to come along with them. While there is prize money in each grade, most of the \$2000+ in prizes goes to the best performed Teams of Six when the scores get added across the grades. In 2016, a Hamilton team won the overall prize.

The day provides not only serious bridge but also a bit of fun between rounds with Trivia quizzes and prizes for the Teams judged to be wearing the most "distinctive uniform". All this for just \$36 a head.

What is Swiss pairs?

Swiss pairs has a scoring format which resembles teams scoring. In Swiss pairs it is the actual size of the difference in score that counts. Bidding to game is important, especially when vulnerable. But going down in a game contract is very expensive with this scoring, while making an over-trick gains very little. As declarer, it is most important to make your contract so don't take a finesse for an extra trick if there is a risk of going down. As defender, always look for a play that allows the contract to be beaten and take your chance.

Directors' Corner

A plea to all members:

In order to finish within 3 hours of our start time we need to be able to decide what movement we will play before the starting time. Please, everyone, make sure you are seated at the tables at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start time to enable us to count the number of tables, work out if there is to be a phantom pair and so to start promptly (and get home earlier !!)

Before you start playing:

All players are required to toss for seating position before starting play. A player from one partnership should toss a coin and a player from the other partnership chooses heads or tails. (If the call is correct, that partnership plays North-South; if the call is incorrect they play East-West).

Players who are not able to move easily can request seating rights in advance (or moving rights for those who need to move). To do this, talk to Dallas Dagg or the director on the night you normally play and a record will be made in the directors' book.



Keeping Time:

The club has a new computer timer that sounds shortly before the end of a round, then again at the end. This helps to make sure that we finish the session within 3 hours. Although some hands can be difficult to bid or play, please try and keep within the round time set by the director.

Alerting (by Barry Jones)

Last time I introduced why we alert and when we need to alert, defined cue bids and self-alerting calls and discussed how to explain your alerted bids. Here is the final part of my article:

Alerts during the Auction

Announcing of 1C and Natural 1NT opening bids

The partner of a Player who makes a 1C or Natural 1NT opening bid, shall promptly alert the opponents by announcing their system agreement using the following descriptions:

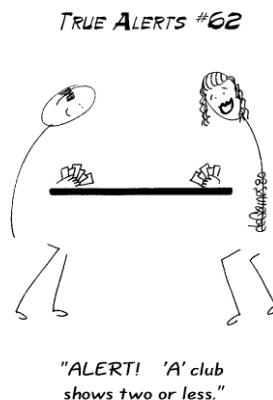
For 1C opening bids in:

- Natural systems: The appropriate length of the club should be announced i.e. ("2 plus", "3 plus", "4 plus", etc.)
- For Strong Club: The word "Strong" together with the minimum HCP holding (e.g. 16+) should be announced

For a Natural 1NT opening bid:

- "12 to 14"
- "15 to 17"

(or the appropriate range)



Delayed Alerts

At the end of the auction, before the initial lead, the declaring (playing) side should draw attention to any unusual features, particularly any unusual non-alerted calls. The reason for this is to make sure your opponents understand any special agreements you and your partner have.

Tournament Success by our Club Members



Waikato-Bays Provincial Pairs	28 January	Tauranga
4 th Barry Jones & Jenny Millington		
Tauranga Congress Teams Plate	30 January	Tauranga
2 nd Barry Jones & Jenny Millington & team mates		
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	4 February	Rotorua
1 st Barry Jones & Jenny Millington & team mates		
4 th Jeffrey Chang & Malcolm Smith & team mates		
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 1	12 February	Hamilton
1 st Diane Emms & Jane Stearns		
2 nd Jenny Millington & Barry Jones		
Taupo Intermediate Pairs	11 March	Taupo
3 rd Jol & Catherine Glyde		
4 th Nigel Gresson & Tracey Hoff		
Waikato Bays Novice Pairs	12 March	Matamata
2 nd Barbara Andrews & Lynne Boyack		
4 th Karen Harper & Carissa Oliver		
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	18 March	Mt Maunganui
4 th Gary Foidl & Herman Yuan		
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 2	19 March	Te Awamutu
1 st Jenny Millington & Barry Jones		
2 nd Kevin Whyte & Clare Coles		
3 rd Diane Emms & Jane Stearns		

Waihi All Grades Pairs	25 March	Waihi
1 st	Rodney Harris & Lucie Armstrong	
3 rd	Jeffrey Chang & Yuzhong Chen	
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	2 April	Hamilton
1 st	Sam Armstrong & Tim Healy	
2 nd	Duncan White & Yuzhong Chen	
Tauranga All Grades 5A Pairs	8 April	Tauranga
2 nd	Liz & Blair Fisher	

2017/18 Entertainment Books For Sale

Judith Brooks is again selling Waikato / Bay of Plenty entertainment books as a fund raiser for our club. Please support the Club by buying a copy.

The books cost just \$65 and have discounts of up to 50% for many restaurants, cafes and attractions in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, all valid to use until 1 June 2018. This year's book includes even more and better offers than last year.

See the display in the clubrooms for more information, then phone Judith on 852 5644 to order your copy (or order online if you want the digital version).





Club Results

Monday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Pam Burns & Colleen De Luen
- 2 Richard Hooper & Yuzhong Chen

Handicap

- 1 Robert Rowe & Mary Fear
- 2 Michael Scott & Jan Hancox

Tuesday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Diane Emms & Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Sheila Smith & Judith Brooks
- 2 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith

Tuesday Evening Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Paul Stevens & Chris Jones
- 2 Leanne Curry & Trish Kingston

Handicap

- 1 Robert Patrick & Carrol Willoughby
- 2 Leanne Curry & Trish Kingston

Coralie O'Connor Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Barry Jones & Jenny Millington
- 2 Gary Foidl & Yuzhong Chen

Handicap

- 1 Nigel Gresson & Phil Thompson
- 2 Gary Foidl & Yuzhong Chen

Thursday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Ross & Phil Thompson
- 2 Cherie Barton & Mereana Cullen

Handicap

- 1 Cherie Barton & Mereana Cullen
- 2 Sam Armstrong & Mark Thomson

Friday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Val West & Joan Egger
- 2 Thelma Bird & Duncan White

Handicap

- 1 Nolene Vail & Bob Jones
- 2 Thelma Bird & Duncan White

Monday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Leanne Curry & Liz Fisher
- 2 Pam Burns & Adele Schofield

Tuesday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Shirley Fransham & Audrey Dickson

Tuesday Evening Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Graeme Hope & Geoff Walpole
- 2 Sue Primrose & Marian Kingham

Wednesday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Barry Jones & Michael Neels
- 2 Richard Hooper & Lindsay Reid

Thursday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Sam Armstrong & Bill West
- 2 Nolene Vail & Judith Brooks

Charles Holland-Goodwin

Scratch

- 1 Liz Fisher & Blair Fisher
- 2 Lindsay Reid & Ian Clayton

Monday Pairs A

Scratch

- 1 Melinda Wang & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Joan Egger & Pam Burns

Handicap

- 1 Sheila Hollinger & Joan Murphy
- 2 Leanne Curry & Liz Fisher

Handicap

- 1 Ian Clayton & Malcolm Smith
- 2 Heather Crosbie & Nolene Vail

Handicap

- 1 Graeme Hope & Geoff Walpole
- 2 Sue Primrose & Marian Kingham

Handicap

- 1 Barry Jones & Michael Neels
- 2 Richard Hooper & Lindsay Reid

Handicap

- 1 Sam Armstrong & Bill West
- 2 Vaughan Samuelson & Angela Lovell

Memorial pairs

Handicap

- 1 Liz Kelly & Michael Kelly
- 2 Mary Fear & Melva Johnstone

Handicap

- 1 Glen Iversen & Melva Johnstone
- 2 Heidi Eschmann & Cath O'Connor

Monica Heard Handicap Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Audrey Dickson & Anna Farrell
- 2 Kay Dixon & Joyce Catchpole

Handicap

- 1 Kay Dixon & Joyce Catchpole
- 2 Audrey Dickson & Anna Farrell

Wednesday Restricted Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Graeme Hope & Gary Foidl
- 2 Mereana Cullen & Barry Jones

Handicap

- 1 Graeme Hope & Gary Foidl
- 2 Stewart Lawrence & Allison Smith

Lil Goodger Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Val West & Pam Burns
- 2 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde

Handicap

- 1 Angela Lovell & Vaughan Samuelson
- 2 Catherine Glyde & Jol Glyde

Anne Archbold Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Diane Emms & Linda Lin
- 2 Lindsay Reid & Blair Fisher

Handicap

- 1 Thelma Bird & George Sherrell
- 2 Diane Emms & Linda Lin

Ray White Real Estate Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Karen Harper & Carissa Oliver
- 2 Ann-Maree Byrne & Angus MacDonald

Handicap

- 1 Karen Harper & Carissa Oliver
- 2 Ann-Maree Byrne & Angus MacDonald

Tuesday Autumn Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Joan Egger & Lucie Armstrong
- 2 Cynthia Clayton & Ian Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Joan Egger & Lucie Armstrong
- 2 Sue Collinge & Stewart Lawrence

Thursday Autumn Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Richard Wagstaff & Ella Gray
- 2 Phil Thompson & Sam Armstrong


Handicap

- 1 Kevin McCarthy & Margaret Boyd
- 2 Richard Wagstaff & Ella Gray

From Lindsay's File

How can South make 7 Hearts with a Q diamonds lead from West?

A Triple Coup.

♠ K 10 5 2		♠ A Q 7 3
♥ 5		♥ 7
♦ Q J 10		♦ A K 7 6 5
♣ 8 7 6 5 3		♣ Q 4 2
		
		♠ J 6
		♥ J 9 8 2
		♦ 9 8 4 3 2
		♣ J 9
		♠ 9 8 4
		♥ A K Q 10 6 4 3
		♦ —
		♣ A K 10

When a bridge player sees what appears to be the required number of tricks before them, the really good bridge player invariably spares a moment to insure themselves if possible against an outrageous distribution. It was the second thought that was invaluable on this deal. Can you discover it - without finessing hearts on the first opportunity (since you don't know the break at that stage)?

Answer in next newsletter (August 2017) or, if you don't want to wait that long, it will be on the Results noticeboard at the bridge club soon!

Tip: For more playing puzzles have a look at the "[Hand of the Week](#)" on the Club website! (The bidding is Standard American)

ANSWER TO LAST NEWSLETTER'S POSER

How can South make 5 Diamonds with a K hearts lead from West?

The first tricks are won with Ace of hearts, Ace of clubs, King of clubs. A heart return is ruffed with diamond 9.

The club Queen and Jack are now played, throwing 4 and 10 of hearts from dummy.

There are two ways that play can proceed when Jack clubs is led:

[1] West ruffs and North over-ruffs. 3 rounds of trumps are now won by South, finessing diamond King on the first round. Spade Ace followed by spade 2 are now played and West is in with spade King. West must lead a heart and the remaining tricks are won by South.

or

[2] West refuses to ruff. North now gets rid of his last heart. The spade Ace followed by spade 2 are now played and West is in with spade King. If West returns a heart, North ruffs and South discards spade Queen. South now wins the remaining diamonds, finessing the King on the first round. If West returns a trump South wins the rest.



"Notice anything strange, Eunice?" "Yes, the 5-0 trump split."