

### Till the Fat Lady sings – Part 3

*Barnet Shenkin's team had now reduced the deficit from 51imps with 8 boards to play to 30imps after only 3 boards. The "Mad Doc" had made a major contribution. The interesting thing about this team was that virtually all started playing bridge when one of the members. George Cuthbertson, formed Glasgow University Bridge Club.*

#### **The fourth board in the stanza**

The bidding in Shenkin and Coyle's table on this hand, shown below, was

West	North	East	South
<i>Shenkin</i>		<i>Coyle</i>	
p	1NT	2♣*	x
xx**	p	2♦***	3NT
p	p	p	p
* Hearts & another		** 5 clubs	***Diamonds

Willie Coyle's intervention meant it was extremely difficult to get into a slam. Because of the 5-0 club break 6 clubs is not on and while 6NT can make with two finesses finding it was a different matter. How was the doc going to handle this?

	N		
	♠ 97		
	♥ A84		
	♦ A1086		
	♣ A742		
W		E	
♠ J8632		♠ 105	
♥ 32		♥ Q975	
♦ 8		♦ KQJ7543	
♣ K8653		♣ -----	
	S		
	♠ AKQ4		
	♥ KJ106		
	♦ 2		
	♣ QJ109		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	<i>Haase</i>		<i>Cuthbertson</i>
p	1♦	p	1♥
p	2♥	p	6♥
p	p	x	p
p	p		

6♥X was not a success. East meant it as a Lightner double. He hoped his partner had long clubs, and would guess to give him a ruff. In fact, no lead or

defence would defeat 6♥X. In fact W led a ♦, now all declarer had to do was to draw trumps by leading low to ♥J and take ♥A and lead ♥10 through East and then take the ♣ finesse.

This gave Haase and Cuthbertson +1210 and for the team less the game bid in the other room, provided a gain of 12 imps. Now they trailed by 18 imps with four boards to play.

The next board was flat and the sixth board resulted in a further gain of 3 imps, when Shenkin doubled a game that was bid in both rooms, and went down one. Only two boards to play, and now the Scots team was down by 15 imps.

*Gerald Haase unfortunately passed away in January this year. He was a distinguished haematologist. His style of bridge caused him to be referred to as the "Mad Doc" but was an excellent bridge player as well as a popular man. He first played in the Camrose for Scotland when he was 23 with Michael Rosenberg who was then only 19 years old. He played in 13 Camrose matches, mainly with George Cuthbertson, being in the winning team every time.*