

# A NEW BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Letter From Norway  
The Auction Room  
Deals That Caught My Eye

EDITION 9  
September 2018



# A NEW BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Editor:

**Mark Horton**

Advertising:

**Mark Horton**

Photographers:

**Ron Tacchi**

**Francesca Canali**

Proofreaders:

**Danny Roth**

**Monika Kummel**

**Herman De Wael**

Typesetter:

**Ron Tacchi**

*A NEW BRIDGE Magazine* is published monthly.

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor. Editorial contributions will be published at the Editor's discretion and may be shortened if space is limited.

No parts of this publication may be reproduced without the prior express permission of the publishers. All rights reserved. ©2018

Advertisements: Although staff of A New Bridge Magazine take all reasonable precautions to protect the interests of readers by ensuring as far as practicable that advertisements in the pages of A New Bridge Magazine are bona fide, the magazine cannot accept any undertaking in respect of claims made against advertisers. Legal remedies are available if redress is sought, and readers who have complaints should address them to the advertiser. Readers should note that prices advertised may not be accurate due to currency exchange rate fluctuations or tax changes

## The Honours Board

In recent weeks people associated with *A New Bridge Magazine* have been celebrating numerous successes.

Larry Cohen's *Larry Cohen Teaches Bridge, the Video Series*, was awarded the Technology of the Year award by the American Bridge Teachers Association.

The ABTA Newcomer Book of the Year award has gone to Jeff Bayone for his amazing work, *A Taste of Bridge*.

Barbara Seagram and David Bird took the ABTA Shirley Silverman Book of the Year Award for *Planning the Play: The Next Level*.

Bidding Battle panellist Mike Lawrence received the ABTA intermediate/advanced category award for his book *Judgment at Bridge 2*, published by Baron Barclay.

Our tireless Layout Editor, Ron Tacchi, has been nominated in two categories for IBPA awards.

## Swedish Record Breaking

The annual bridge festival in Örebro in Sweden is extremely popular. This year they set a new record with 486 pairs playing at the same time –and that was in a side game!

An invitation will be sent out in the beginning of November 2018 to NBOs all over the World and the quickest ones to reply will be offered a really good deal to come to Sweden and participate in the Chairman's Cup 2019 and attend the 25th Swedish Bridge Festival. Junior teams will receive free accommodation and a free entry. It will be played as usual in Örebro and the dates are July 26th to August 4th 2019. Competitors will have the chance to be part of an attempt to break this year's record for a single session side event over 24 boards!



## The Scandinavian Connection

We are delighted to announce that one of the world's leading journalists, the President Emeritus of the IBPA, Tommy Sandsmark, will be sending us contributions from time to time in a *Letter from Norway*.

## Enterprising Tales

Marc Smith has written more than thirty books, including the all-time best seller, the award winning 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know with Barbara Seagram. His first ever book, *Enterprising Bridge Tales* has been updated (should that be digitally re-mastered?) and republished by Master Point Press under the title *Enterprising Bridge Tales - The Original Stories*. They will soon be publishing a sequel, *Enterprising Bridge Tales: The Next Generation* and over the next few months Marc will be contributing stories from aboard the starship custom-written exclusively for ANBM.

## Abbot Hugo I Presume?

David Bird and Barbara Seagram have been writing award winning books for more than 20 years. Remarkably they had never met, but in July Barbara was on a cruise ship that docked in Southampton and they finally got together.



## Out but not Down

Although England's teams did not qualify for the knockout stages of the World Youth Team Championships in Wujiang, China, all the players will have gained invaluable experience. Most of them will be eligible to compete in 2020, so they will be hoping to do well in the next set of qualifying contests.

**BARON**  
BARCLAY  
BRIDGE SUPPLY



## In This Issue

- 4 **FUNBRIDGE** — Test Your Technique
- 5 **Down To The Wire** — The Editor reports on the ACBL Nationals in Atlanta
- 20 **FUNBRIDGE** — Misplay These Hands With Me
- 22 **Deals That Caught My Eye** — David Bird looks at England v Norway European Championship match
- 29 **Defend With Julian Pottage**
- 30 **Book Review** — Martin Cantor
- 31 **FUNBRIDGE** — Test Your Technique solution
- 32 **Yesterday** — Alex Adamson & Harry Smith with another tale from the Over The Rainbow Bridge Club
- 38 **Letter From Norway** — Tommy Sandsmark
- 40 **Defend With Julian Pottage** — The Answers
- 41 **Bridge With Larry Cohen**
- 43 **From The Archives** — Brian Senior
- 47 **Kit's Corner** — Kit Woolsey
- 50 **The Abbot Plays The Odds** — David Bird
- 54 **The Auction Room** — Mark Horton
- 60 **Master Point Press Bidding Battle** — Moderated by Brian Senior
- 74 **Master Point Press Bidding Battle Competition** — Set 9
- 77 **Hands for This Month's Auction Room**
- 81 **Book Reviews** — Martin Cantor



## Test Your Technique

with Christophe Grosset

see Page 31

Matchpoints. E/W Vul.

♠ 10986

♥ 9

♦ Q764

♣ K743

♠ K753

♥ AQ

♦ A10

♣ AQJ82

South plays 4♠ after the following bidding:

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

What's your plan on the ♣9 lead ?


# Down To The Wire

The Editor takes a look at a thrilling match from the ACBL Nationals in Atlanta.

All bridge matches are exciting, but some are more exciting than others. The Spingold semi-final between Rosenthal (Andrew Rosenthal, Aaron Silverstein, David Berkowitz, Migry Zur Campanile, Eldad Ginossar and Chris Willenken) and Gupta (Vinita Gupta, Billy Miller, Zia Mahmood, Jan Jansma, Fredrik Nystrom and Johan Upmark) might be judged to fall into the latter category.

## Set 1

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J42 ♥ 103 ♦ Q1083 ♣ KJ109		♠ 108 ♥ Q964 ♦ 9742 ♣ A43	♠ A65 ♥ AJ82 ♦ AKJ6 ♣ 65
		♠ KQ973 ♥ K75 ♦ 5 ♣ Q872	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
–	Pass	1NT	All Pass

South led the ♠Q and declarer won at once and played a club to the nine. When it held he came to hand with the king of diamonds and played a club to the ten. When that also held he tried the ♣K and North won and returned a spade, declarer claiming nine tricks a few moments later, +150.


### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
–	1♣	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

That is the auction as given on BBO - well, obviously it didn't go like that. East will have opened 1♣, either natural or balanced, 11-14/17-19. Over 1♣, 1♠ shows a balanced hand with no major or 5♦, perhaps with a four-card major if game forcing.

Here South may well have overcalled 1♠. What happened then is anyone's guess, but North led the ♠10 against 3NT and South won with the queen and switched to the ♣2. Declarer put in dummy's jack and North won with the ace and played his remaining spade but declarer could win and get to nine tricks via the club finesse followed by four rounds of diamonds ending in dummy, which squeezed South, +400 and 6 IMPs for Rosenthal.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ Q ♥ Q10732 ♦ 8765 ♣ AJ2		♠ KJ7432 ♥ 9654 ♦ A ♣ 97	♠ A86 ♥ J ♦ K432 ♣ KQ1043
		♠ 1095 ♥ AK8 ♦ QJ109 ♣ 865	

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
-	-	1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♣	2♥
3♣	3♠	All Pass	

East led the ♥J and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♠10 covered in turn by the queen, king and ace and East switched to the ♣Q, West winning and returning the ♥10 (I would have expected the ♥2, clearly indicating possession of the ♣J). East ruffed and cashed the ♣K, the last trick for the defence, +140.

♠ KJ7432		♠ A86
♥ 9654		♥ J
♦ A		♦ K432
♣ 97		♣ KQ1043
♠ Q		
♥ Q10732	W N E	
♦ 8765	W S E	
♣ AJ2		
♠ 1095		
♥ AK8		
♦ QJ109		
♣ 865		

## Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ KJ109		♠ A852
♥ 7		♥ J4
♦ AQ76		♦ K532
♣ AK84		♣ 752
♠ 3		
♥ A109653	W N E	
♦ J9	W S E	
♣ Q1093		
♠ Q764		
♥ KQ82		
♦ 1084		
♣ J6		

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
-	-	-	Pass
2♥	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West led the ♣10 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♠K, continuing with the ♠9 when it held. East ducked for a second time and declarer played a heart for the jack, king and ace. West switched to the ♦J and that was covered by the queen and king, declarer contributing the eight. East played the ♠A and a spade which left declarer a trick short.

When West switched to the ♦J declarer has a winning line; he rises with the ♦A, cashes the ♣K, ruffs a club and pitches a club on the ♥K. Then the ♦10 collects West's nine and there are ten tricks.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
-	-	-	Pass
2♥	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Given that South might have had a very poor hand for 3♠ it was surprising that he didn't advance to Go.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
-	-	1♣	Pass
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East's pass over 2♣ can be contrasted with the 2♣ rebid in the other room.

Here, too, East led his heart and declarer won, crossed to dummy with a diamond and played a heart. East ruffed and continued with the king of clubs followed by the queen. What happened after that is unclear - West almost certainly won and returned a heart for East to ruff, the contract going two down, -200 and another 8 IMPs for Rosenthal.

After an identical first trick, declarer played dummy's heart for the four, queen and ace and West switched to the three of spades. Declarer won with dummy's nine, cashed the ♣K, ruffed a club and pitched a diamond on the ♥K. A diamond to the ace was followed by another club ruff. The BBO operator says declarer claimed nine tricks at this point - well, I think he took ten by playing a second diamond, so +170 and 6 IMPs to Gupta.

### Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ Q6 ♥ Q86 ♦ KQ8732 ♣ Q6	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N W     E S                 </div>	♠ 10542 ♥ — ♦ AJ9 ♣ AJ9842	♠ KJ73 ♥ A932 ♦ 10654 ♣ 7
♠ A98 ♥ KJ10754 ♦ — ♣ K1053			

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

- 2♦ Game forcing
- 4♦ Cue-bid
- 5♦ Cue-bid

West led the ♦K and declarer won with dummy's ace, pitching a spade, drew trumps ending in hand, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond and ran the ♥K pitching a spade. East won and switched to spades, but declarer won with the ace and played the ♥J, claiming when the queen appeared, +920.

The slam can be defeated, but only by the unlikely lead of the ♠Q.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Declarer ruffed East's diamond lead and played a club to the ace followed by two rounds of spades. According to the record he finished with nine tricks, +140 and Rosenthal had 13 IMPs.

### Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ — ♥ A98432 ♦ 532 ♣ AJ82	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N W     E S                 </div>	♠ KQJ1064 ♥ 5 ♦ Q1094 ♣ 94	♠ A752 ♥ KQJ106 ♦ A ♣ K73
		♠ 983 ♥ 7 ♦ KJ876 ♣ Q1065	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♠*	4♦*
4♥	4♠	6♥	Pass
Pass	6♠	Double	All Pass

- 3♠ Heart support
- 4♦ Fit non-jump

Despite having three first round controls West was happy to start with a weak two. Of course it meant that his partner could not possibly envisage

that there might be a play for 7♥.

East led the ♣3 and West, obviously unsure of the position, won with the ace and returned the ♣2, East winning and playing the ♥K followed by the ♦A. This meant declarer escaped for four down, -1100.

If East had started with the ♦A, which looks safe enough, the defenders would have had a relatively easy route to six down and +1700.

♠ — ♥ A98432 ♦ 532 ♣ AJ82		♠ KQJ1064 ♥ 5 ♦ Q1094 ♣ 94 ♠ A752 ♥ KQJ106 ♦ A ♣ K73 ♠ 983 ♥ 7 ♦ KJ876 ♣ Q1065
------------------------------------	--	---

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led the ♦2 and South won with the ten, cashed the ♦A and exited with the ♥6. Declarer won with the ace and played a spade, North winning with the king and exiting with a heart. Declarer won, played a heart to the jack and ruffed a spade. He continued with a club to the ace and a club to the jack, but had to lose a club at the end, one down, -100.

Best not to dwell too long on declarer's line of play, the most obvious improvement being to cash the second top heart and then play a spade, which makes the defence much harder. Even if North does not play a club declarer can hope to find the lady.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North led the ♣8 and it did not take long for declarer to claim ten tricks and 12 IMPs.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♠*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♥	All Pass
4♠ Cue-bid			
4NT RKCB			
5NT 2 key cards and a void			

South led a spade and declarer quickly claimed all the tricks and 8 IMPs, Rosenthal ahead 35-5.

### Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 7 ♥ AK7543 ♦ 54 ♣ KJ32		♠ QJ963 ♥ J109 ♦ K8 ♣ A105
♠ AK42 ♥ 82 ♦ Q9632 ♣ 87		♠ 1085 ♥ Q6 ♦ AJ107 ♣ Q964



## Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 10652 ♥ 94 ♦ 1062 ♣ AJ96	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N W     E S                 </div>	♠ K87 ♥ A2 ♦ AQJ753 ♣ 42	♠ Q ♥ QJ85 ♦ 9 ♣ KQ108753
		♠ AJ943 ♥ K10763 ♦ K84 ♣ —	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
–	–	3♣	Double
5♣	6♦	All Pass	

East led the ♠Q and declarer claimed, +940.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠*
Pass	2♣*	4♣	4♥
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

1♠ 10-15  
2♣ Game forcing relay

East's delayed entry into the auction strongly suggested he had length in hearts. I wonder if South might have bid 5♦ rather than 5♥?

In any event, missing slam cost 10 IMPs and left Gupta trailing 7-68.

You can replay these deals [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7csz4u8) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7csz4u8>

## Set 2

### Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ K7532 ♥ A8 ♦ J8 ♣ 7632	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N W     E S                 </div>	♠ 109 ♥ KQ62 ♦ A654 ♣ 1094	♠ AJ64 ♥ — ♦ Q10732 ♣ AQJ8
		♠ Q8 ♥ J1097543 ♦ K9 ♣ K5	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
–	–	1♦	1♥
1♠	3♦*	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

3♦ Mixed raise

North led the ♥K and declarer ruffed in dummy, played two rounds of trumps ending in hand, pitched a club on the heart ace and played a diamond for the ten and king. South, endplayed, exited with a heart and declarer had eleven tricks, +450.

Next time North will take the ♦A and switch to a club to save the overtrick.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Gupta</i>
–	–	1♦	1♥
1♠	3♦*	4♠	5♥
Double	All Pass		

3♦ Mixed raise

Bidding 5♥ at these colours was, shall we say adventurous.

Declarer had to lose four tricks, -500 and a couple of IMPs for Rosenthal.

## Board 19. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ KJ85 ♥ A97 ♦ 7532 ♣ 95	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ 1062 ♥ KJ654 ♦ 64 ♣ K107	♠ A943 ♥ Q82 ♦ QJ108 ♣ 86
		♠ Q7 ♥ 103 ♦ AK9 ♣ AQJ432	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
All Pass			
2♦	Transfer		

West led the ♣5 and declarer won with the ace and played the ♥10, West going up with the ace and playing the ♣9. Declarer won with dummy's king, came to hand with a diamond and played a heart to the jack and queen. East switched to the ♠4, giving the defenders three tricks in the suit, but they must both have been hoping for one more via a club ruff that didn't exist, +110.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Gupta</i>
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Double	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♦7 for the ten and king and declarer played the ♥10. West went up with the ace, East following with the two. When West continued diamonds declarer could claim nine tricks, +400 and 7 IMPs for Gupta.

Is there a case for East to drop the queen of hearts under the ace?

## Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ Q974 ♥ 985 ♦ A3 ♣ A1098	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ KJ ♥ J10743 ♦ Q9 ♣ KQ73	♠ A86532 ♥ Q2 ♦ J864 ♣ 4
		♠ 10 ♥ AK6 ♦ K10752 ♣ J652	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	Double*
2NT*	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Double Heart support  
 2NT Spade support

Declarer could not avoid four losers, -200. I'll ask Jan why he bid 4♠ when I see him in Madeira in November.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Gupta</i>
-	-	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass		

That meant Rosenthal picked up 5 IMPs. Gupta was winning the session 14-7 but only 2 IMPs changed hands over the next six deals. They included Board 25, where both N/S pairs attempted 6♠ with ♠KQJ94 ♥J4 ♦1072 ♣A42 opposite ♠A8632 ♥1052 ♦AKJ94 ♣-. Migry led the ♥K from

her ♠75 ♥KQ976 ♦86 ♣10976, so the defenders took two hearts and a diamond. Jansma led the ♣10 (Zia had overcalled 3♣) so declarer must have been mildly peeved when the diamond finesse lost.

### Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ Q98732 ♦ A ♣ J9642	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #008000; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">S</span> </div> </div>	♠ A4 ♥ 54 ♦ 109862 ♣ A853	♠ 86532 ♥ AK ♦ KJ74 ♣ 107
♠ KQJ107 ♥ J106 ♦ Q53 ♣ KQ			

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♠*	3♥*	5♣*	Pass
Pass	5♠	Double	All Pass

- 2♠ Hearts and a minor
- 3♥ Spade support
- 5♣ Pass or correct

West led the ♦A and switched to the ♣9, East taking the ace and returning the ♦10, West's ruff ensuring two down, -500.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Gupta</i>
-	1♠	Pass	2NT*
3♥	4♠	All Pass	

2NT Spade support

East led the ♥4 and declarer won and played a spade, soon recording

+620 and a 15 IMP gain that saw Gupta take the set 31-8 and get back into the match, although still trailing 38-76.

You can replay these deals [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y82kzbsk>

### Set 3

### Board 35. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ Q87 ♥ A532 ♦ 8 ♣ K10754	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #008000; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">S</span> </div> </div>	♠ 109654 ♥ - ♦ A10632 ♣ A96	♠ AK ♥ KJ1098 ♦ KJ5 ♣ Q32
♠ J32 ♥ Q764 ♦ Q974 ♣ J8			

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
-	1♥	2♥*	3♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

2♥ Spades and a minor

East led the ♠10 and declarer won and played the ♥10, West ducking as East pitched the ♦2. Declarer played a club to the jack and king and West switched to the ♦8, East taking the ace and returning the three, West ruffing and exiting with a spade. Declarer was booked for three down, -800.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
-	1♣*	1♠	Pass*
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass
1♣	16+ unbalanced or 17+ balanced		
Pass	Less than a game force or a trap pass		
2NT	Spade support		

♠ AK			
♥ KJ1098			
♦ KJ5			
♣ Q32			
♠ Q87			♠ 109654
♥ A532			♥ —
♦ 8			♦ A10632
♣ K10754			♣ A96
♠ J32			
♥ Q764			
♦ Q974			
♣ J8			

South led the ♥6 and declarer won with dummy's ace pitching a club, played a diamond to the ace and took the next four tricks via a red suit cross-ruff before cashing the top clubs and ruffing a fourth heart. When declarer ruffed a diamond with the ♠Q North overruffed and played the ♣Q, the defenders taking the rest for one down, -50 and 13 IMPs to Gupta.

### Board 39. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

		♠ J1097	
		♥ 762	
		♦ 875	
		♣ KQ5	
♠ KQ54		♠ A863	
♥ K843		♥ AQ9	
♦ QJ92		♦ K	
♣ 2		♣ 109843	
		♠ 2	
		♥ J105	
		♦ A10643	
		♣ AJ76	

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
-	Pass	1♣	1♦
Double*	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♥J and declarer won with the queen and played two rounds of spades ending in dummy, South pitching the ♦3. A diamond to the king saw South win and exit with the ♦4. Declarer put in dummy's nine, drew a third round of trumps and then played red suit winners, +620.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
-	Pass	1♣*	1♦
Double	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

North led the ♦5 and declarer took eight tricks and lost 9 IMPs. I wonder why East didn't rebid 1♠ or bid 2♠ over 1NT. Gupta was edging ever closer at 66-82.

### Board 40. Dealer East. All Vul.

		♠ 9	
		♥ Q	
		♦ KJ985	
		♣ KQ9854	
♠ Q10853		♠ KJ72	
♥ AJ103		♥ 8642	
♦ AQ4		♦ 32	
♣ 10		♣ J72	
		♠ A64	
		♥ K975	
		♦ 1076	
		♣ A63	

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♠	2NT*	3♠	5♣
All Pass			
2NT	Minors		

With the  $\heartsuit Q$  inside this should have been an easy hand to play.

West led the  $\heartsuit A$  and switched to the  $\spadesuit 3$ , declarer taking East's king with the ace. Hoping for a 2-2 break he played a club to the king and a club to the ace, West parting with the  $\spadesuit 5$ . Declarer then ran the  $\diamond 6$ , East following with the two and tried the  $\diamond 10$ . West took the ace and gave his partner a diamond ruff for one down.

Declarer needed to play a diamond before touching trumps. When the finesse works he can draw trumps ending in hand and then play diamonds for a second time.

$\spadesuit$ 9	$\heartsuit$ Q	$\diamond$ KJ985	$\clubsuit$ KQ9854
$\spadesuit$ Q10853	$\heartsuit$ AJ103	$\diamond$ AQ4	$\clubsuit$ 10
$\spadesuit$ KJ72	$\heartsuit$ 8642	$\diamond$ 32	$\clubsuit$ J72
$\spadesuit$ A64	$\heartsuit$ K975	$\diamond$ 1076	$\clubsuit$ A63

## Board 42. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

$\spadesuit$ KQ106	$\heartsuit$ Q9	$\diamond$ A7	$\clubsuit$ K9732
$\spadesuit$ J4	$\heartsuit$ A10	$\diamond$ KQ10853	$\clubsuit$ A108
$\spadesuit$ 9732	$\heartsuit$ 7542	$\diamond$ 6	$\clubsuit$ QJ65
$\spadesuit$ A85	$\heartsuit$ KJ863	$\diamond$ J942	$\clubsuit$ 4

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
1NT	All Pass		

It's worth noting that East was happy to sit for 1NT - I suspect some players would have tried a manoeuvre with 2 $\clubsuit$ .

North led the  $\spadesuit Q$  and when it held he continued with the six, South taking the ace and returning the  $\heartsuit 3$ . North won with the queen, cashed two spades and exited with a heart. Declarer won and played the  $\diamond K$ , North winning and exiting with a diamond for the nine and ten. Declarer cashed the  $\diamond Q$  and then played the ace of clubs and a club. North could win, but had to surrender the last two tricks to dummy, just one down.

If North returns a club after taking the  $\diamond A$  the defenders will score an extra trick.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
1NT	Pass	2 $\clubsuit$ *	Pass
2 $\diamond$ *	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$	Pass
3 $\diamond$	All Pass		

North led the  $\heartsuit Q$  and continued with the nine, declarer winning and trying the  $\clubsuit 8$ . North pounced on that with the king and returned the  $\clubsuit 9$

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
-	-	Pass	1 $\diamond$ *
1 $\spadesuit$	2 $\clubsuit$	3 $\spadesuit$	Pass
4 $\spadesuit$	4NT*	Pass	5 $\clubsuit$
Double	All Pass		
1 $\diamond$	10-15, 0+ $\diamond$		
4NT	Minors		

East led the  $\spadesuit 7$  and declarer won with dummy's ace and advanced the  $\diamond 10$ . When it held he took three rounds of trumps and played a second diamond, +750 and 13 IMPs, only 3 IMPs in it now.


South ruffing and returning a sneaky ♥8. When declarer ruffed with the ♦3 North overruffed and gave his partner another club ruff. South continued with a heart and declarer had to go four down, -200 and 5 IMPs to Gupta, now ahead by 2, 84-82.

The teams swapped four overtrick IMPs to leave Gupta ahead 86-84 going into the final session.

You can replay these deals [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y772ma8j>

## Set 4

### Board 46. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A652 ♥ K8652 ♦ KJ64 ♣ —		♠ 743 ♥ J103 ♦ A95 ♣ Q975	♠ KJ98 ♥ 974 ♦ 10 ♣ K8632
		♠ Q10 ♥ AQ ♦ Q8732 ♣ AJ104	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i> 1♥	<i>Migry</i> Pass	<i>Jansma</i> 2♥	<i>Berkowitz</i> All Pass

North led the ♣7 and declarer ruffed South's ten and played the ♦4, South winning with the queen and playing the ace of hearts followed by the queen. Declarer won and played a spade to the jack and queen, South exiting with the ♦8. Declarer played the jack, ruffed North's ace in dummy, came to hand with the ♠A and claimed, +110.


### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i> 2♦* 3NT	<i>Upmark</i> Pass Pass	<i>Ginossar</i> 3♦* 4♥	<i>Nystrom</i> Pass All Pass
2♦	11-15, 4(5) ♠ + 5(6) ♥		
3♦	Invitational in hearts		

It seems strange that East would choose hearts as trumps and that he would make an invitational bid with a relatively modest hand.

South led the ♦2 and North took the ace and switched to the ♥3, South taking the ace and returning the queen. Declarer won, ruffed a diamond, played a spade to the ace and a spade to the jack, South winning and exiting with the ♣10. When declarer ruffed he had to go two down, -200 and 7 IMPs to Gupta, 93-84.

### Board 48. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ K7 ♥ 109 ♦ QJ65 ♣ QJ1054		♠ Q109632 ♥ Q64 ♦ 9 ♣ K98	♠ J5 ♥ 8732 ♦ A10742 ♣ A6
		♠ A84 ♥ AKJ5 ♦ K83 ♣ 732	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i> -	<i>Migry</i> -	<i>Jansma</i> Pass	<i>Berkowitz</i> 1NT
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
4♥	Transfer		

West led the ♣Q and continued with the ten, East winning with the ace

and returning the ♦4. Declarer must have been surprised when the king won - he continued with the ace of spades and a spade for +620.

Clearly East drew great significance from West's play of the ♣10. Had his partner started with the ♦K instead of the ♠K it would have been a brilliant defence.

♠ K7	♠ Q109632	♠ J5						
♥ 109	♥ Q64	♥ 8732						
♦ QJ65	♦ 9	♦ A10742						
♣ QJ1054	♣ K98	♣ A6						
<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">W</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table>			W	N	E	S		
W	N	E						
S								
♠ A84	♠ A84	♠ A84						
♥ AKJ5	♥ AKJ5	♥ AKJ5						
♦ K83	♦ K83	♦ K83						
♣ 732	♣ 732	♣ 732						

### Closed Room

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
	-	-	Pass	1NT
	Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠
	Pass	3♦*	Double	3♥
	4♦	4♠	All Pass	
2♥	Transfer			
3♦	6♠, game try or slam interest			

West led the ♦Q and East took the ace and switched to the ♥8. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♠A, pitched a club on the ♦K and played a spade, West winning with the king and switching to the ♣Q - one down and 12 IMPs that moved Rosenthal back into the lead, 96-94.

### Board 49. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AK86	♠ J52	♠ Q974						
♥ AKQJ762	♥ 4	♥ 83						
♦ J3	♦ Q95	♦ AK6						
♣ -	♣ AKJ432	♣ 10985						
<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">W</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table>			W	N	E	S		
W	N	E						
S								
♠ 103	♠ 103	♠ 103						
♥ 1095	♥ 1095	♥ 1095						
♦ 108742	♦ 108742	♦ 108742						
♣ Q86	♣ Q86	♣ Q86						

### Open Room

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
	-	-	-	Pass
	1♥	2♣	Double	Pass
	4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
	5♣*	Pass	6♠	Pass
	7♠	All Pass		
4♣	Shortage			
4♦	Cue-bid			
5♣	Void			

South led the ♣6 and declarer ruffed. Two rounds of trumps later he was leaning forward, +2210.


### Closed Room

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
	-	-	-	Pass
	1♥	2♣	Double*	3♣
	5♣*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
	6♥	All Pass		

It looks as if 5♣ was intended as Exclusion Keycard Blackwood. Even if you normally play 4130 responses, in this instance you should switch to 3041 because there is effectively one less ace in the pack.

Al Hollander thought it was possible East forgot (or the partnership retained 4130) but the upshot was a loss of 13 IMPs, Gupta regaining the lead at 107-96.

## Board 50. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K84 ♥ AQ93 ♦ KJ8643 ♣ —		♠ 52 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ1097 ♣ A9753	♠ AQ73 ♥ J10875 ♦ 5 ♣ J84
		♠ J1096 ♥ K64 ♦ 2 ♣ KQ1062	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
4♣ Splinter			
4♦ Cue-bid			

South led the ♦2 and North won with the seven and returned the nine, South ruffing and exiting with the ♥6. Declarer put in dummy's queen, cashed the ace and claimed eleven tricks, +650.

### Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

It looks as if 3♠ promised an unbalanced raise, possibly with an undisclosed shortage.

South led the ♣K and declarer ruffed in dummy, played a spade to the ace and a diamond for the jack and queen. North returned a heart and declarer won with dummy's nine and ruffed a diamond. South overruffed

and exited with a heart and declarer had to lose another trick, one down and another 13 IMP pick up for Gupta, 120-96.

## Board 51. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A109542 ♥ K52 ♦ 54 ♣ A10		♠ KJ63 ♥ 1073 ♦ KJ2 ♣ J96	♠ 7 ♥ J4 ♦ Q1083 ♣ K87532
		♠ Q8 ♥ AQ986 ♦ A976 ♣ Q4	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
–	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

South led the ♥A and switched to the ace of diamonds and a diamond, North winning with the king and returning the ♥10. Declarer won in dummy and could organise a diamond ruff for one down, -50.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

West led the ♣A and continued with the ten, East winning and returning the ♣5. Declarer ruffed with the ♥8 and West overruffed and played the ace of spades and a spade, one down and 6 IMPs back to Rosenthal, reducing the gap to 18.



## Board 52. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ KJ9 ♥ AKJ10 ♦ Q1094 ♣ 95	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ 108754 ♥ 987643 ♦ J ♣ 3	♠ A63 ♥ Q ♦ A8753 ♣ KJ87
-------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦
2♣	Double	All Pass	

North led the ♣9 and declarer won with the ten and exited with the ♠Q, North winning with the king and cashing the ♥AK before switching to the ♣5. Declarer won with the queen and exited with a spade, South winning and returning the ♣K. Declarer won, exited with a club, ruffed the spade return and exited with a diamond. North took that and exited with a heart so declarer was three down, -800.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
-	-	Pass	1NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT

- All Pass
- 1NT 13-16
  - 3♣ Puppet Stayman
  - 3♦ No five card major
  - 3♠ Hearts

West led the heart five and declarer won with dummy's ace and ran the ♦Q, West winning and cashing the ♣A, +460 but an 8 IMP loss - Rosenthal now only 10 adrift.

## Board 53. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 963 ♥ 9873 ♦ K764 ♣ Q2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ 1075 ♥ K62 ♦ Q1085 ♣ J97	♠ AKQ82 ♥ Q1054 ♦ A3 ♣ A6
-----------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------	------------------------------------

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

3♣ ♠+♥ or ♠+♣ or ♠

To defeat 4♠ the defenders need to start with three rounds of hearts.

West led the ♦2 and declarer won in hand and drew trumps. As the cards lie the winning line now is to cross to the ♦K, ruff a diamond and exit with a heart, but that's hardly obvious (easier if West overcalls 2♣) and declarer opted for deception by playing a low club. When West followed with the four, declarer had stolen a tenth trick, +620.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>

–	–	–	1♣*
2♣	Pass*	3♣	Double
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1♣	16+ unbalanced or 17+ balanced
Pass	Less than a game force or penalty orientated

♠ J4		♠ 1075													
♥ AJ		♥ K62													
♦ J92		♦ Q1085													
♣ K108543		♣ J97													
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ 963</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♥ 9873</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♦ K764</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♣ Q2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ AKQ82</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♥ Q1054</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♦ A3</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♣ A6</td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> </table>				♠ 963	♥ 9873	♦ K764	♣ Q2	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ AKQ82</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♥ Q1054</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♦ A3</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♣ A6</td> </tr> </table>				♠ AKQ82	♥ Q1054	♦ A3	♣ A6
♠ 963	♥ 9873	♦ K764	♣ Q2												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ AKQ82</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♥ Q1054</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♦ A3</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♣ A6</td> </tr> </table>				♠ AKQ82	♥ Q1054	♦ A3	♣ A6								
♠ AKQ82	♥ Q1054	♦ A3	♣ A6												

East led the ♣7 and the contract was doomed, Rosenthal collecting 12 IMPs to retake the lead, 122-120.

Note that if South is the declarer there is no way to defeat 4♥ as the cards lie. The teams exchanged overtrick IMPs to advance the score to 123-121.

### Board 58. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ Q852						
	♥ AJ107						
	♦ 8643						
	♣ 3						
♠ 6		♠ J94					
♥ Q98		♥ K642					
♦ QJ10952		♦ AK7					
♣ K86		♣ J92					
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ AK1073</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♥ 53</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♦ –</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♣ AQ10754</td> </tr> </table>				♠ AK1073	♥ 53	♦ –	♣ AQ10754
♠ AK1073	♥ 53	♦ –	♣ AQ10754				

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	3♣*
5♦	5♠	All Pass	
3♣	♠+♣		

East led the ♦K and declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club, crossed to dummy with a spade, drew trumps and claimed eleven

tricks - East had followed to the clubs with the nine and jack.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♣	3♦*	Double	4♦
Double	4♥*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

3♦	Mixed raise
4♥	Cue-bid

West led the ♦Q and declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club, went to dummy with a spade, ruffed a club and claimed, +1430 and 13 lead changing IMPs for Gupta, 134-132.

### Board 59. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ KJ65						
	♥ 94						
	♦ QJ109763						
	♣ –						
♠ A109		♠ 87					
♥ KQ862		♥ A10					
♦ –		♦ AK42					
♣ KQJ98		♣ 107654					
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ Q432</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♥ J753</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♦ 85</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♣ A32</td> </tr> </table>				♠ Q432	♥ J753	♦ 85	♣ A32
♠ Q432	♥ J753	♦ 85	♣ A32				

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	3♦	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦*	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

4♦	Cue-bid
----	---------

East's diamond cue-bid persuaded West to take the low road. Had he bid 4♠ East would surely have gone on to 6♣.

North led the ♠6 and declarer won and played the ♣9 so that was eleven tricks.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken Upmark</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	
-	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦*	3♦	Pass	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
1♦	Transfer		
4♦	Cue-bid		
4♥	Cue-bid		

♠ A109	♠ KJ65	♠ 87
♥ KQ862	♥ 94	♥ A10
♦ —	♦ QJ109763	♦ AK42
♣ KQJ98	♣ —	♣ 107654
		♠ Q432
		♥ J753
		♦ 85
		♣ A32

After the obvious 1♦-1♥ would either East feel constrained to rebid 3♦ when West would surely take a shot at 3NT?

When Jansma rebid 2♦ the match was over (they played in 3♦ at the other table, North's first round double seeing South bid 2♠ over East's 2♥ and West compete to 3♦) both sides recording +130.

Although the quality of the bridge had been variable, it had been a classic struggle which could have gone either way.

You can replay these deals [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/ybjp7kg9>

South led the ♠2 and declarer won with dummy's ace, crossed to the ♥A, pitched dummy's spades on the top diamonds and played a club for +1370 and a 13 IMPs swing that put Rosenthal ahead 136-134.

This was the last board:

## Board 60. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ AK104		♠ 75
♥ QJ3		♥ A2
♦ K105		♦ AQJ8432
♣ Q102		♣ 93
♠ Q92	♠ N	♠ J863
♥ 9754	♥ E	♥ K1086
♦ 96	♦ W	♦ 7
♣ AK86	♣ S	♣ J754

As you can see, with the ♦K onside on this layout you can take ten tricks in 3NT by West.

## MASTER POINT PRESS THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

### ENTERPRISING BRIDGE TALES THE ORIGINAL STORIES

Marc Smith



### ENTERPRISING BRIDGE TALES THE ORIGINAL STORIES

By Marc Smith

Follow the adventures of Captain Quirk and First Officer Sprock as their team competes against some of the best bridge players in the universe in a major championship.

First published in 1990, this is an updated edition of internationally-acclaimed, award-winning author Marc Smith's debut novel.

AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE RETAILER NEAR YOU



# Misplay These Hands With Me

## Avoidance Play

The pace of modern life is such that the once popular bridge congress has gradually been replaced by a proliferation of one-day events.

During a two session Swiss Teams I pick up the following hand as dealer with only our side vulnerable:

- ♠ A53
- ♥ A64
- ♦ AQ65
- ♣ AK7

I open the obvious 2NT and partner bids 3♣ which asks if I have a five card major. When I deny one with 3♦ partner signs off with 3NT, leaving us with this simple auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ten of hearts and when dummy is displayed it is clear I will have some work to do:

- ♠ KQ6
- ♥ 73
- ♦ 98743
- ♣ 832

- ♠ A53
- ♥ A64
- ♦ AQ65
- ♣ AK7

I ask about the lead and learn it usually promises an interior sequence, perhaps ♥AJ10 or ♥KJ10. I duck the first round, East playing the nine, and duck again when West continues with the five of hearts, East playing

the queen and returning the eight, which I win (throwing a club from dummy) as West follows with the jack.

While it is just possible the hearts were originally 4-4 I am inclined to place West with five particularly as the two has not yet appeared.

Clearly I want to avoid West getting the lead, but needing tricks from diamonds I must play that suit. I can do nothing if West has the guarded king, but rather than risk the finesse, I lay down the ace of diamonds, hoping to see West play the singleton king. As it turns out I am half right, as the king does appear, but from East. Unable to develop the diamonds without giving West the lead I can muster only eight tricks.

This was the full deal:

♠ KQ6		♠ J10942									
♥ 73		♥ Q98									
♦ 98743		♦ K									
♣ 832		♣ J1065									
♠ 87											
♥ KJ1052											
♦ J106											
♣ Q94											
	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A53										
	♥ A64										
	♦ AQ52										
	♣ AK7										

### Post mortem

Declarer was on the right lines, but missed a significant improvement. At trick four he crosses to dummy with a spade and plays a diamond, intending to put up the ace if East follows with anything other than the king. When his majesty does appear declarer ducks and is soon able to claim the rest, scoring an overtrick. Luckily declarer made the same mistake at the other table.

## Racing Certainty

The American Nationals offer a veritable feast of bridge, with something for everyone. The major events are always fiercely contested. On the second day of the Blue Ribbon Pairs I pick up the following hand as dealer with neither side vulnerable:

♠ 3  
♥ KJ53  
♦ K103  
♣ AQ872

I open 1♣ and when West overcalls 1♥ partner jumps to 4♣, which we play as agreeing clubs and asking for key cards. When I bid 4♦ to show one ‘ace’, partner jumps to 6♣ leaving us with this auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
1♥	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West leads the queen of diamonds and I get a decent dummy:

♠ AQJ3  
♥ 6  
♦ A74  
♣ KJ1094

♠ 3  
♥ KJ53  
♦ K103  
♣ AQ872

West’s overcall suggests that the spade finesse will work, so after winning the diamond lead in dummy I draw trumps in two rounds, West discarding a heart, cash the king of diamonds (in case West has led from ♦QJ doubleton) and play a spade to the queen. When East unexpectedly produces the king and returns a heart I am one down.

This was the full deal:

♠ 9764 ♥ AQ842 ♦ QJ9 ♣ 3	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N W     E S                 </div>	♠ AQJ3 ♥ 6 ♦ A74 ♣ KJ1094	♠ K1085 ♥ 1097 ♦ 8652 ♣ 65
♠ 2 ♥ KJ53 ♦ K103 ♣ AQ872			

### Post mortem

Rather than rely on West holding the king of spades it was possible to take advantage of the knowledge that West must have the ace of hearts.

After winning the diamond lead declarer draws trumps and plays a spade to the ace. Now comes a heart to the jack and queen. If West exits with a spade declarer will put up the jack, collect East’s king, and a diamond will go on the queen of spades.


A low heart will run to declarer’s king as a diamond is thrown from dummy and a diamond gives declarer a third trick in the suit.

# Deals that Caught My Eye

David Bird looks at a critical late match in the European Championships – England against Norway

In the 31st round (out of 33) in the European Championships, England faced Norway. Only a short while before, England had plummeted to 16th place. They had fought back strongly and might cement a top-eight place (qualifying for the 2019 Bermuda Bowl) if they did well in this encounter. Norway, meanwhile, had high hopes of collecting the gold medals in a few hours time.

**Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**

♠ — ♥ KQJ8542 ♦ AQ9 ♣ K83		♠ J1098762 ♥ A ♦ 8 ♣ Q764
♠ 53 ♥ 1076 ♦ K1075 ♣ A952		♠ AKQ4 ♥ 93 ♦ J6432 ♣ J10

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Jagger</i>
–	–	3♠	Pass
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

Brogeland found a raise to 4♠, pushing England to the five-level. Allerton won the ♠J lead in the dummy. Which minor should he discard from his hand?

Eleven tricks can be made by discarding two diamonds and guessing to play a club to the king. The blockage in the trump suit would then allow declarer to score a club ruff. Understandably, declarer preferred

to discard two clubs. Since there was little hope of picking up the diamonds without loss, he hoped that the pre-empt had been made on a 6-card suit and continued with a third top spade. West ruffed, overruffed by declarer, and the contract was one down.


**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Tundal</i>
–	–	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

At double-dummy, East can beat the game by cashing the ♥A and switching to a minor suit, keeping declarer out of the dummy. Kvangraven won the ♠J lead and played another top spade, ditching two clubs. The third spade was ruffed and overruffed. Declarer then drew trumps and made the game for the loss of a trump, a diamond and a club. Norway gained 12 IMPs.

Both sides had a good trump fit on the next board. Who would manage the auction better?

**Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.**

♠ A632 ♥ Q ♦ AJ ♣ K108652		♠ — ♥ AKJ1095 ♦ K97532 ♣ 3
♠ QJ10854 ♥ 74 ♦ Q1084 ♣ Q		♠ K97 ♥ 8632 ♦ 6 ♣ AJ974

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Jagger</i>
-	-	-	Pass
2♦	3♣	4♥	5♣
All Pass			

Brogeland's multi showed 0-7 points, with 2♥ and 2♠ available on 8-11 points. Lindqvist would have bid 4♣ to play in partner's suit (via a transfer from the opener), so his 4♥ was to play. He led the ♥K against North's 5♣ and eleven tricks were soon claimed for +400.

♠ A632	♠ —
♥ Q	♥ AKJ1095
♦ AJ	♦ K97532
♣ K108652	♣ 3
♠ QJ10854	♠ —
♥ 74	♥ AKJ1095
♦ Q1084	♦ K97532
♣ Q	♣ 3
♠ K97	
♥ 8632	
♦ 6	
♣ AJ974	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Tundal</i>
-	-	-	Pass
2♦	3♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Double	Redouble
Pass	4NT	5♦	Pass
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
6♦	Double	All Pass	

England were drawn into a phantom sacrifice, vulnerable against not. Robson's 6♦ surprised me somewhat, since it was difficult to judge what type of hand would cause Forrester to pass a non-forcing 3♣, before doubling 4♥ and bidding 5♦.

Kvangraven found the only lead to collect 500, his singleton ♥Q. He won the first round of trumps and crossed to partner's ♣A for a heart ruff. England lost 3 IMPs, where passing out 6♣ would have gained 10 IMPs

## Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A7	♠ 9
♥ K8762	♥ AQ104
♦ QJ2	♦ AK987
♣ 875	♣ Q63
♠ K108642	♠ QJ53
♥ 95	♥ J3
♦ 3	♦ 10654
♣ AJ102	♣ K94

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Jagger</i>
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Brogeland had available a 2♥ response that could be used on hands with 6 spades and 0-8 points. His actual sequence suggested a hand beyond this range. It was non-forcing, however, and Lindqvist chose not to advance with only one spade in his hand.

Allerton led the ♣5 and the ♣Q was played from dummy. Reasoning that declarer would not have played this card without the ♣AJ10 in his hand, Jagger declined to cover. Brogeland later lost three trumps and a club to record only +140.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Tundal</i>
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The England pair play 1♦ – 2♠ as weak. Robson’s 2♠ implied a reasonable hand and Forrester had an easy 3NT bid, with his hearts sitting over the heart bidder. Tundal led the ♥J, won with the queen, and Forrester advanced the ♣Q, covered by the king and ace. All followed to the ♣J and Forrester then led the ♦3, to North’s queen and his king.

With the clubs 3-3, unknown to declarer, there were nine tricks available at this stage. Forrester continued with ace and another diamond to North’s jack. Kvangraven returned the ♥K to knock out declarer’s entry to an eventual long diamond. Forrester won and cashed the ♥10. These cards were still in play:

♠ A7		♠ 9
♥ 76		♥ 4
♦ —		♦ 87
♣ 8		♣ 6
♠ K108	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> </div> </div>	♠ 9
♥ —		♥ 4
♦ —		♦ 87
♣ 102		♣ 6
	♠ QJ5	
	♥ —	
	♦ 10	
	♣ 9	

With seven tricks already taken, declarer needed to claim two more with dummy’s ♣102. Reading North for an initial 3-5-3-2 shape, Forrester exited with the ♥4 to North’s ♥6, discarding the ♠8 from dummy. Kvangraven could have beaten the contract now by cashing the ♥7 to squeeze the dummy. He led a club instead and (sighs of relief from the England kibitzers) dummy’s ♣102 brought declarer’s total to nine. That was +600, and a much needed 10 IMPs.

North must have read his partner for ♣K964 after declarer had not taken the chance of finding clubs 3-3. However, if Forrester had begun with only two clubs it’s unlikely that he would have cashed the ♣J at trick 2.

There was potential for a swing on this board:

### Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ Q7		♠ J98632
♥ J2		♥ Q109
♦ 932		♦ A
♣ J98432		♣ AQ7
♠ AK10	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> </div> </div>	♠ J98632
♥ K654		♥ Q109
♦ J7		♦ A
♣ K1065		♣ AQ7
	♠ 54	
	♥ A873	
	♦ KQ108654	
	♣ —	

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Jagger</i>
-	Pass	1♠	4♦
4♠	All Pass		

Brogeland had no sensible alternative to 4♠ over Jagger’s high pre-empt. Lindqvist won the ♦K lead, drew trumps in two rounds and played a heart to the queen and ace. When the ♥3 was returned, he rose with the ♥K, dropping the jack, and claimed twelve tricks.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Tundal</i>
-	Pass	1♠	4♦
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Kvangraven sacrificed in 5♦. When this ran back to Robson, he had two extra pieces of information at his disposal. North’s raise indicated a diamond shortage in Forrester’s hand, perhaps even a void. Also, Forrester’s pass, rather than a double, meant that he would not be averse to partner bidding further.

Robson bid further and some! His 5NT asked partner to pick a slam



and 6♠ was reached. Declarer would have no reason to finesse the preempter for the ♠Q, so it seemed that all would depend on guessing who held the ♥J. We will never know what would have happened after a ♦K lead. Tundal led the ♥A. Forrester won the heart continuation, drew trumps and claimed. It was 13 IMPs to England.

Brogeland and Lindqvist diagnosed a splendid fit on this deal:

### Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 108 ♥ KQ107 ♦ Q852 ♣ A98		♠ 9753 ♥ 9 ♦ AJ764 ♣ Q72
♠ AJ42 ♥ AJ43 ♦ 10 ♣ KJ54		♠ KQ6 ♥ 8652 ♦ K93 ♣ 1063

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Jagger</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Brogeland's 1♣ showed 2+ clubs and the 1♥ response indicated 4+ spades. The 3♦ rebid was a mini-splinter, agreeing spades and showing diamond shortage. Lindqvist co-operated with 3♥ and then raised 3♠ to game.

Brogeland won the ♥K lead and ruffed a heart in dummy. When a club to the jack was ducked by North, he ruffed another heart. The ♣7 to the king was won with the ace and declarer won the diamond switch with dummy's ace. Since his plan was to cross-ruff, Brogeland then cashed dummy's ♣Q successfully. Diamond ruff, heart ruff, diamond ruff brought his total to nine, with the ♠A still to come. It was an adventurous +420 for Norway.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Tundal</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥*	Pass
2♠	All Pass		
1♥ spades			

Unusually, the England pair is willing to rebid only 1♠ with a minimum hand and four-card support. Robson's 2♠ therefore showed some extra values. He won the ♥K lead and scored two club tricks at the start. He then ruffed a diamond and a heart, played the ♠A and continued to cross-ruff. That was +170, but 6 IMPs to Norway.

The last sizeable swing arose on this board:

### Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 9832 ♥ Q63 ♦ A864 ♣ 106		♠ K7 ♥ 9742 ♦ 9 ♣ AQJ982
		♠ A106 ♥ AK10 ♦ KQJ10732 ♣ —
		♠ QJ54 ♥ J85 ♦ 5 ♣ K7543

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Jagger</i>
–	–	2♣	Pass
2♦	3♣	3♦	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Allerton led the ♣A and down went the dummy. Brogeland could see two likely spade losers. His main chance would be to eliminate hearts and clubs and then endplay a defender who had started with ♠KQ, ♠KJ

or ♠QJ. An additional chance was to find a defender with ♠Kx and hope that he failed to unblock the ♠K on the first round.

Brogeland ruffed the club lead and drew trumps with the king and ace. Then – moment of truth – he led the ♠3 towards dummy. If North plays the ♠K, his partner will score two subsequent tricks with his ♠QJ. When he played the ♠7 instead, the slam was made. Declarer

won with the ace, played three hearts and ruffed his last club. A spade to the bare king then forced North to give a ruff-and-sluff.

The small slam in diamonds was bid at 14 tables and made 7 times when North failed to unblock the ♠K. It was perhaps less easy to find the unblock with the ♠A10x visible in the dummy. In another match North for Russia failed to unblock when declarer led the ♠A from hand at trick 2. Elsewhere, the declarer for France made the unblock very easy by eliminating hearts and clubs before playing the ♠A. What would happen at the other table of this match?

♠ 9832	♥ Q63	♦ A864	♣ 106	♠ K7	♥ 9742	♦ 9	♣ AQJ982
♠ A106	♥ AK10	♦ KQJ10732	♣ —	♠ QJ54	♥ J85	♦ 5	♣ K7543

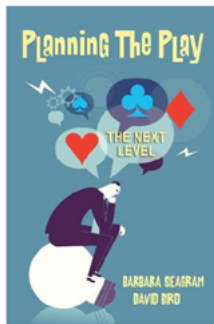
	N	
W		E
	S	



## BRIDGE SHOP.com

### London Bridge Centre

Books | Equipment | Tables | Cards | DVDs | Software | Gifts



#### Closed Room

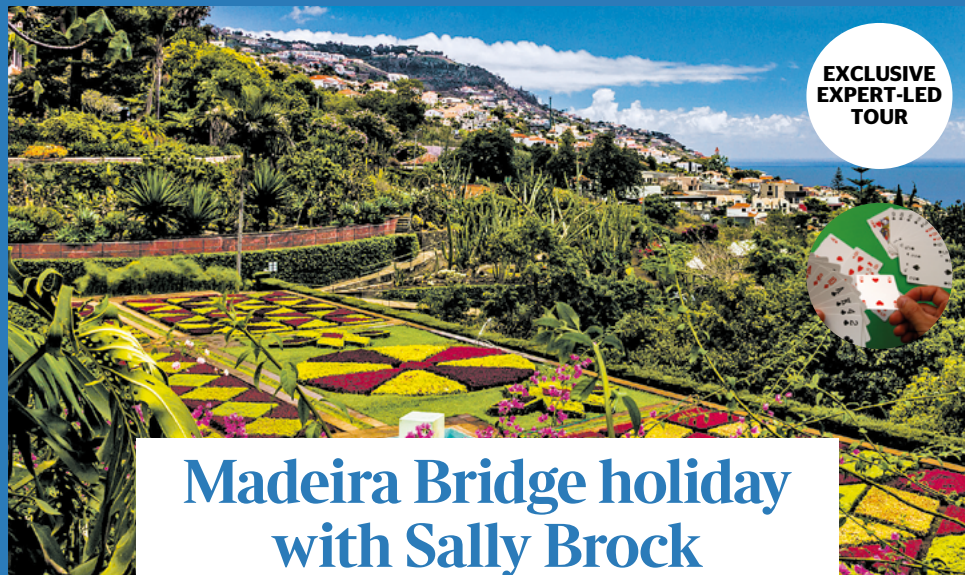
West	North	East	South
Robson	Kvangraven	Forrester	Tundal
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♠	3♣	4♣	5♣
Double	All Pass		

Forrester was stuck for a rebid after opening 1♦. When he tried 4♣, Robson expected a sound raise to 4♠ opposite and was happy to double the 5♣ sacrifice. East-West collected 500, which would have been worth 11 IMPs if 6♦ had been beaten at the other table. As it was, Norway gained 9 IMPs.

The deals had been splendid, I hope you agree. Both sides had created enterprising swings their way, while also missing some big opportunities. England won by 40 IMPs to 37 (10.91VP to 9.09) and would now surely finish in the top eight. Well played to them! With two matches to go, Norway still had the gold medals very much in their sights.

Visit our central London Store:  
 Chess & Bridge Shop  
 44 Baker Street, London, W1U 7RT  
[www.bridgeshop.com](http://www.bridgeshop.com)  
 0207 486 7015 | [info@bridgeshop.com](mailto:info@bridgeshop.com)

THE  TIMES  
**Expert Traveller**



## Madeira Bridge holiday with Sally Brock

You could find yourself surrounded by all the natural beauty of Madeira as you immerse yourself in a varied bridge programme, including sessions from master of bridge, Sally Brock. Indulge in the five-star Vidamar Resort's superb leisure facilities which boast panoramic views across Funchal and the ocean.

### Price includes

- Seven night half-board stay in a side sea view room at the five-star Vidamar Hotel
- Return British Airways flights from Gatwick with transfers
- Daily duplicate bridge with Masterpoints and prizes awarded

Exclusively with



Departs October 18, 2018

**SEVEN NIGHTS FROM  
£1,199\* per person**

**TO BOOK CALL  
0330 160 5037**

QUOTE code KM163

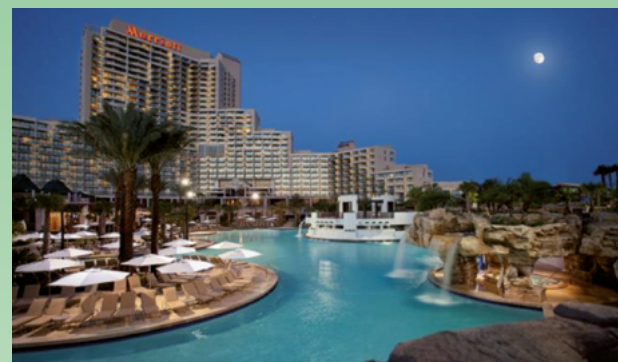
[thetimes.co.uk/bridge-tour](http://thetimes.co.uk/bridge-tour)

\*One piece of hold baggage per person. This holiday is organised and operated by Arena Tours Limited. Subject to availability. Single supplements apply. Standard landline charges apply. KM163.

## 15<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Series Marriott World Center, Orlando, Florida September 21 – October 6, 2018



“Bridge for Peace”



\$159 + 12.5% tax, no resort fees

<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b>	<b>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21</b>
<b>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS</b>	<b>START DATE</b>
<b>ROSENBLUM OPEN TEAMS*</b> (2 days Qual. to KO round of 64)	<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22</b>
<b>MCCONNELL WOMEN'S TEAMS*</b> (2 days Qual. to KO stage)	<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23</b>
<b>RAND SENIOR TEAMS*</b> (2 days Qual. to KO stage)	<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23</b>
<b>OPEN PAIRS</b> (7 days playthrough; A & B final)	<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24</b>
<b>WOMEN'S PAIRS</b> (6 days playthrough; A & B final)	<b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25</b>
<b>SENIOR PAIRS</b> (6 days playthrough; A & B final)	<b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25</b>
* Players eliminated from the KO stages of the Teams, up to and including the semi-finals, will be eligible to drop into the Pairs events.	
* Players eliminated from any team qualifier or Rosenblum round of 64, can play in one-day Swiss event for free.	
<b>MIXED TEAMS**</b> (2 days Qual. to KO stage)	<b>MONDAY, OCTOBER 1</b>
<b>MIXED PAIRS</b> (4 days playthrough; A & B final)	<b>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3</b>
** Players eliminated from the KO stages of the Teams, up to, but not including the semi-finals, will be eligible to drop into the Mixed Pairs.	
<b>YOUTH TRIATHLON EVENT</b> (6 days; Teams, Pairs, Individual)	<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22</b>
<b>SENIOR WORLD TRIATHLON</b> (4 days; Teams, Pairs, Individual)	<b>MONDAY, OCTOBER 1</b>

In addition, there will one- and two-day Pairs and Swiss events (see schedule online)

**Check the WBF website, [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org) for full Schedule, entry fees, conditions of contest and online registration.**

**Hotel reservations must be made through the WBF website, [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org)**



# Highlights and New Features

## Learn how to play bridge with Funbridge!

The latest update of the Funbridge bridge game now makes it possible to learn bridge through the app with their brand-new “introductory module to bridge”.

Thanks to lessons and exercises developed by our experts, learning the basics of bridge has never been so easy. And it’s FREE!

You can:

- Take fun and interactive lessons
- Play deals step by step and get advice
- Play deals on your own at the end of each chapter

This introductory module is designed for beginners who want to start playing easily as well as any players willing to review the basics of the game quickly.

Feel free to share the good news with your relatives and friends!

To access the module, open the Funbridge app and click

**Get started/Practise > Get started with bridge.**

If you haven’t updated your Funbridge version yet, you will be asked to do so the next time you will launch the app.

And if you don’t have the Funbridge app yet, go to [www.funbridge.com](http://www.funbridge.com), the App Store or the Google Play Store to download it for free. What’s more, you will get 100 deals for free. Enjoy!

# DEFEND WITH JULIAN

## POTTAGE

The Questions

1

♠ 97  
♥ J4  
♦ AJ1097  
♣ AKJ5

♠ J8653  
♥ K2  
♦ KQ6  
♣ 1063



WEST	NORTH	EAST	North
-	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

You lead the five of spades, headed by the seven, ten and king. Declarer leads the eight of diamonds, on which go the queen, ace and three. Back comes the jack of diamonds, on which go the five and two. What is your plan?

2

♠ 73  
♥ AKQ7  
♦ 10  
♣ 1087632

♠ A9  
♥ J96  
♦ 986432  
♣ J4



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	1♣*	4♠
All Pass			
		1♣ Better minor	

You lead the jack of clubs, which partner wins with the ace, felling the king. Back comes a low spade covered by the king. What is your plan?

# Book Review

by Martin Cantor

## Master of Bridge Psychology : Jeppe Juhl with Peter Fredin

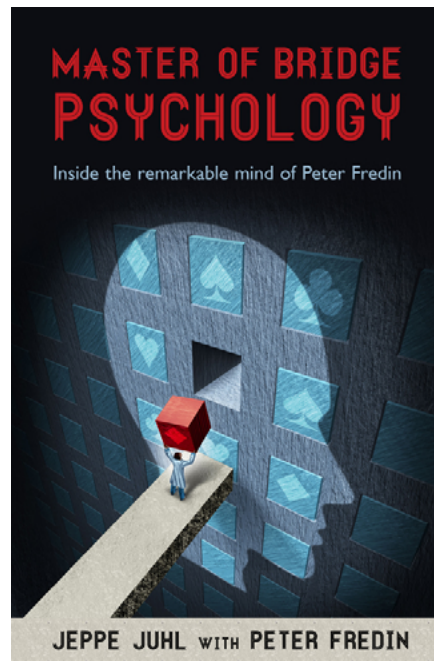
Master Point Press 240pp. US\$ 21.95 GBE 14.95

### Master of Bridge Psychology : Inside the remarkable mind of Peter Fredin

Peter Fredin is known by his peers at the top of our game to be exceptional. Exceptional in the sense that he frequently makes bids and takes lines of play that can be variously described as creative or counter-intuitive, even bizarre. Often, but by no means always, with devastating success. Making him one of the hardest of opponents to play against. He is also, sometimes, one of the most difficult of partners and teammates. All of which is amply evidenced in the testimonies from thirteen world class partners and opponents that Juhl has collected.

This book aims to get under the surface of all this, to understand why Fredin does the apparently strange things he does, and to explain why they are so often successful. As a close friend of his subject Jeppe Juhl has the obvious advantages of knowing his subject well, having personal experience of some of the events he describes, and enjoying Fredin's close collaboration in pulling together the hands and the stories. On the other hand the friendship also brings a natural positive bias, and while this is no hagiography, you can't help feeling that other authors might have been less uncritical. For both balance and entertainment it might have been good to include a few more disasters alongside the many triumphs, while the language tends towards the effusive, with too many of the introductions to hands using adjectives like 'sensational' or 'amazing'.

There is certainly no shortage of remarkable hands. In fact, since quite reasonably only the remarkable hands are described, you come out of the



book feeling like you've been white water rafting. Great fun, exhilarating, mildly terrifying, somewhat drained.

For most of the hands Juhl inserts a "STOP – think – what would you bid/play?" challenge to the readers, and even though you know it will be something exotic, it's not easy to get the right answer. Largely because Fredin's unusual approach depends more on the psychology of his opponents than on technique; not that he lacks technique, since exceptional card reading is the prerequisite for the application of his mind games. He is particularly adept at using what Tony Forrester in his *Bols Bridge Tip* called "the power of the closed hand". Juhl's explanation of Fredin's thought processes is lucid and you mostly end up thinking "yeah, that makes sense".

You get a real idea of Fredin's character – flamboyant, outspoken and with an almost unshakeable belief in himself and his analyses. Which accounts for some of the difficulties he has had with partners, teammates and captains.

The final two chapters move away from hands, firstly to cover Fredin's views on ethics and cheating, which are forthright to say the least (and all the more welcome for that), although disturbing in his adamant assertion that there are more top level cheats still to be exposed. And secondly to offer his six 'top tips', which I found variable in their relevance, and to my mind not always right – I'm afraid I just can't accept 'never pre-empt with a 7-2-2-2 hand', and I suspect I'm not alone in that, at all levels of the game.

Like its subject – indeed because of him – this is no run of the mill bridge book. Its practical application for average players will be limited, not to say dangerous, but its entertainment value is high.



## Test Your Technique

with Christophe Grosset

see Page 4

### Matchpoints. E/W Vul.

♠ 10986  
♥ 9  
♦ Q764  
♣ K743

♠ K753  
♥ AQ  
♦ A10  
♣ AQJ82

South plays 4♠ after the following bidding:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

What's your plan on the ♣9 lead ?

The play seems quite straightforward, if trumps are 3-2, you should take the king of clubs and run the 10 of spades; whatever West returns, you will get back to dummy by ruffing a heart and play the 9 of spades, hoping to catch East with either ♠Q or ♠J, losing 1♦ and 2♠.

What if trumps are 4-1 ? If West has ♠AQJx or a stiff ♠Q or J, you will be going down. The interesting holding are when East has stiff ♠Q (or J) or ♠AQJx. In that case, you will manage to play trumps for one loser but ruffing your heart will be impossible (if you do it early, the defence will be able to shorten you by playing a 3rd heart; if you don't do it early, the defence will play a 4th round of spades). The other 2 ways of getting rid of the heart loser is to discard it on the diamonds or to finesse the kings. Both of these options will require entries to dummy, which you are short of.

The key to the hand is to unblock the 8 of clubs under the king at trick one, so you can later get back to dummy with clubs (and guess which option to take between diamonds and hearts)

You might tell me that thinking about this when dummy comes down at the table is too hard, and so unlikely. You'd be right!! When I played the board, at this time, I had no idea if unblocking the 8 of clubs would prove useful, but a sure thing is that it can't be harmful and might be useful. It is good general technique to try preserving your entries, and you should always do it.

This was the full deal:

♠ AJ42 ♥ KJ753 ♦ K95 ♣ 9		♠ Q ♥ 108642 ♦ J832 ♣ 1065
♠ 10986 ♥ 9 ♦ Q764 ♣ K743	♠ K753 ♥ AQ ♦ A10 ♣ AQJ82	

## Yesterday

*Alex Adamson & Harry Smith give us More Tales from the Over The Rainbow Bridge Club*

She hated this time of the year! The Wicked Witch of the West glowered around the room. Outside, the daffodils were in full bloom, and the buds were showing on the trees. There was still a chill in the air, but the sun was higher in the sky and the days were longer. Everyone was remarking about it, how pleasant it was to feel winter was behind them. People were generally happy.

That didn't appeal to her at all. Spreading happiness was not what she, or her two friends, the Irritable Witch of the South and the Unpleasant Witch of the North, were interested in. And after the indignity she had had to suffer the previous day, it was very far indeed from her mind.

It was the evening after the evening before. A few minutes earlier she had entered the club only to be confronted by the unwelcome sight of Glinda chatting, nay flirting, with that insufferable Lion. All the women in the club seemed to think he was wonderful, so chivalrous and attentive. Well all, that is, except her and her two colleagues and, she had to concede, Almira Gulch.

But Glinda was the worst. She was doing everything that she could to let the Lion know she was interested in him, but he seemed to be unable to take the hint.

'Get your system card out,' she had growled on her way past to the cloakroom. 'We need to discuss a few points to stop you making the same stupid mistakes you made last Thursday. And the Thursday before that.'

A few minutes later Aunty Em appeared, the lightness of her step apparently not in keeping with her years. She caught sight of Glinda cowering at the corner table of the social area with the Wicked Witch of the West leaning over her pointing to a line on their system card with one hand and banging the table with the other. 'What a shame that what gave me such pleasure yesterday should be taken out on that poor girl,' she thought.

Uncle Henry trudged behind her. He couldn't remember his wife being so cheery since she had read the obituary of the Eerie Witch of the East.

Almira Gulch sipped her coffee, staring frostily at all around. Professor Marvel pulled back a chair at her table, carefully balancing his cup

of green tea. 'I must find out who is on the new committee. It's about time they had proper bicycle racks outside this club,' Almira thundered.

'Did you not go to the AGM last night?' Professor Marvel asked between bites of his apple. 'I'm afraid I was unable to attend as it clashed with a very interesting talk at the local alchemy club.'

'Go to the AGM! Of course not! Who do you think I am?' Professor Marvel drew back as the tirade poured out at him. 'If I want anything done, I expect the Committee to listen to me. I do not expect to have to raise anything in a public forum. That,' she announced, 'is for the hoi polloi.'

'I would have thought you would make an excellent committee member, Miss Gulch.' Professor Marvel was well aware of the power of flattery to defuse a situation. Unfortunately on this occasion, his well-meaning attempt was not received as he had hoped.

'I expect the club to be run properly, but the actual tasks can and should be left to the working class, farmers and such like.' Almira Gulch pointed vaguely at Aunty Em, and looked askance at her bridge partner. How could he be so naïve as to think that she should get her hands dirty? That was the role of others. She thought for a moment. 'They can of course come to me at any time for advice and guidance' she added. 'Indeed, they might well want to offer me an honorary position. That would be a different matter.'

'Indeed,' said Professor Marvel, noticing with relief that people had started to move towards the card room. He took a final sip of his tea, and started to rise. Almira followed, and they found they were starting against Aunty Em and Dorothy.

'Congratulations on your appointment.' The Professor turned to Aunty Em as he took his seat. I couldn't think of a better person to be our next President. I'm sure both my partner and I would have voted for you had we been there.'

'Well as there was no candidate of stature and just a choice between her and that awful creature over there,' Almira pointed vaguely in the direction of the Wicked Witch of the West, 'I can see why she won so handsomely.'



Aunty Em picked the West cards out of the first of the two boards the director had just placed on the table. ‘Have a nice game,’ she said managing the difficult task of simultaneously sounding sincere to her right and frosty to her left. She examined her hand:

♠ A4  
♥ AK9732  
♦ AQ2  
♣ J7

She was thinking that this was a very tasty eighteen-count, when the Professor opened 1NT in front of her. ‘Do you play a weak no-trump?’ she asked Almira as she reached for a Double card.

‘Of course not,’ Miss Gulch hissed. ‘We believe in good sound methods even if some regard them as old-fashioned.’

Aunty Em sneaked a quick glance at her right hand opponent. Yes, she felt sure he had shifted uneasily in his seat. She licked her lips and doubled, confident that the Professor’s main concern throughout this hand would be how to explain his opening to his partner. It was difficult to hide her disappointment when Dorothy removed to Two Spades.

Reluctantly, Aunty Em passed, and heard Miss Gulch on her left back into the auction with Three Clubs. Professor Marvel looked at his hand and converted the contract to 3NT. The table shook when Aunty Em’s double hit it.

This was the full hand:

Dealer South. N/S Vul

♠ A4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                 N W     E    S             </div>	♠ 1087653
♥ AK9732		♥ J
♦ AQ2		♦ 10753
♣ J7		♣ 32
♠ KQ9		
♥ Q8654		
♦ KJ4		
♣ Q5		

The auction had been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Aunty Em</i>	<i>Miss Gulch</i>	<i>Dorothy</i>	<i>Prof Marvel</i>
-	-	-	1NT
Double	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Double	All Pass		

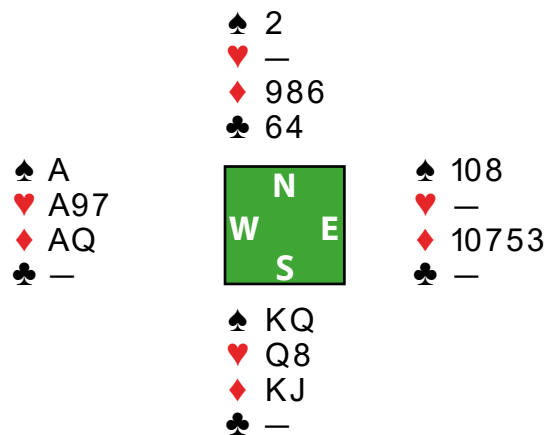
Aunty Em led out the ♥K, and when this produced the ten, jack and four, she sat back to think. Declarer clearly had seven tricks in clubs, but he could make nothing else without first letting her in. There were only thirteen points outstanding so it was hard to imagine Dorothy holding any of them: declarer had to have everything else unless he was actively seeking martyrdom, particularly with Miss Gulch as his partner. Clearly he had accidentally opened a weak no-trump.

She could play a diamond hoping Dorothy held ♦J, but if she didn’t have this card, that would concede the contract as declarer would win the diamond trick cheaply and could now set up a spade for his ninth trick.

She made up her mind and led a club. Declarer could run his long suit but he had to discard in front of her. She could trust Dorothy’s signalling and her own intuition to let declarer squeeze himself.

The Professor won the club in hand with the queen and led a spade. To win this would be fatal, so Aunty Em ducked and the jack won in dummy. The Professor now led out his long club suit. The first three discards were easy for everyone. Dorothy threw three spades and the Professor and Aunty Em each threw two hearts and a diamond.

With six cards left, the defence had only taken one trick and the situation was now:



On the penultimate club, Dorothy in the East seat discarded a diamond. The Professor stroked his chin thoughtfully, and placed the ♠K on the table. Aunty Em looked at this and discarded another heart.

On the last club the Professor jettisoned his ♠Q, and Aunty Em looked at her hand distraught. She knew the layout was an open book to the Professor. If she discarded a red card, she would be thrown in with either a spade or the suit whose ace she had bared, and would be endplayed in the other red suit. If she discarded ♠A, even with her partner holding the ♠10, it wouldn't help as she could now be thrown in with either red suit to give a trick in the other.

Half a minute later Miss Gulch was entering the score onto the Bridge Mate. 'Was that nine tricks partner?' she asked. 'I would have thought our future President would have had more sense than to double you.' Once again, there was evidence of that rare sight, a smile on Miss Gulch's lips. There was no such sight on Aunty Em. Her buoyant mood had evaporated. The Professor was relieved. Success in a contract was usually sufficient to avoid any analysis of his bidding.

Seven minutes later, long minutes in Aunty Em's view, the move was called, and the Professor and Miss Gulch moved to the East-West seats at table five. Glinda was already in the North seat and the Wicked Witch approached muttering about the nonsense of Howell movements forcing her out of her favourite West seat.

Glinda took the North cards out of the first of the two boards. 'Have a nice game,' she said to her two opponents.

'Not likely with that woman at the table,' muttered Miss Gulch in a

voice distinctly louder than an undertone. 'At least we had one sensible decision at the AGM.'

The Wicked Witch glowered, but couldn't find a riposte. Everything seemed wrong today. She looked down and realised there had been two passes after which the Professor had opened the auction with a bid of One Spade.

She was seething. She glanced at her hand and doubled.



Miss Gulch bid Four Spades and Glinda went into a huddle. As she waited, impatiently, she looked at her hand again. She realised she didn't have the ♦8 and ♦9, but rather the ♥8 and ♥9. She should have bid Two Spades to show a two-suited hand with hearts and a minor.

Glinda emerged from her long thought with a bid of 4NT, asking her to pick a minor. Realising this might work out well, the Wicked Witch bid Five Clubs, and a few moments later, after three passes, she found herself as declarer on the lead of ♠6.

The full auction had been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Miss Gulch</i>	<i>Glinda</i>	<i>Prof Marvel</i>	<i>Wicked Witch</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Double
4♠	4NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

This was what she saw when dummy went down:



On the first trick, the Professor covered dummy's ♠9 with his ♠J, and the Wicked Witch, as declarer, ruffed. The contract seemed to depend

on finding the ♣Q. East had the opening bid, so any values were more likely to be in his hand.

The Wicked Witch kept her left eye focussed on her left hand opponent, and played ♣J. When Miss Gulch followed smoothly, she went up with her king in dummy, and was about to continue trumps when the Professor, as East, played the ♣Q under the king.

She paused for reflection. This was both good and bad. She had found the ♣Q, but the four-one trump split would cause problems. Having ruffed at trick one, she was down to the same trump length as West. What would happen if she now drew the trumps? The auction suggested that East, the Professor, held the ♥A. However, if West had the ♥A, then when in with it she would play another spade through dummy's king, and that would spell disaster. She realised that even if East had the ♥A then she was not in the clear. If she drew trumps and played on hearts then a hold up to the third round by East, followed by the ♠A, would leave her with no way back to hand.

Of course there would be no problem if the ace was played on the first two rounds, as she could then afford to discard a diamond on the ♠A, losing only a heart and a diamond. However, she couldn't rely on that. If they were four-nil the situation would quickly become clear to the defenders. Three-one was definitely the distribution that she needed to focus on.

Perhaps her mistake in the auction had given her a chance? Professor Marvel would never guess she had six of them, and that his partner could ruff the second round. There was a chance that if she played one from the dummy he might, flamboyantly, go in with ace, perhaps in order to attack diamonds. It seemed that it gave her an extra chance and could not cost. She chuckled to herself at the thought of him trying to justify to Almira at the end of the hand how he had failed to read her card as a singleton.

Her mind made up, she played a heart from dummy, East ducked and Miss Gulch ruffed declarer's ♥K.

The Professor blinked. Did declarer really have an unbid six-card heart suit? With his approach to the game, he was more used to generating surprises than receiving them.

'No heart, partner?' his voice betrayed his surprise.

'Never was a truer word spoken,' came through the gritted teeth of the Wicked Witch.

Reading her partner's ♥2 as suit preference, Miss Gulch switched to the ♦J. There was no way now to avoid the contract going one down.

'Nothing I can do about that,' grunted the Wicked Witch. 'After avoiding a diamond lead, the contract would have been made without the four one split in trumps.'

'Your arithmetic is a good match for your manners,' Miss Gulch stared at her. 'I only had three trumps.' This was the full hand:

Dealer West. N/S Vul

♠ K92 ♥ 1053 ♦ A763 ♣ K74	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ AJ854 ♥ A762 ♦ KQ ♣ Q2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ Q10763 ♥ — ♦ J10984 ♣ 653	♠ — ♥ KQJ984 ♦ 52 ♣ AJ1098										

The Wicked Witch fell back in her chair, realising she had been robbed. Others might have congratulated Professor Marvel on his good defence. She just glared at him.

'An excellent diamond return, partner,' said the Professor.

Now there was definitely a smile on Miss Gulch's face. 'A pretty deception, partner,' she remarked. She was so delighted with her own defence, she felt she could be atypically generous and compliment her partner, within limits. 'But of course it could only work against a weak declarer.'

'It certainly wouldn't work against you,' shrieked the Wicked Witch. 'You wouldn't have had the wit to play on hearts when you thought the trumps were splitting badly.'

'But I might have had the wit to bid my good six-card major at some point. How eccentric!' Miss Gulch bit back.

'Now now ladies,' the Professor intervened. 'Just because I pulled the wrong card, for which I do apologise, that should not lead to bad feeling. You're both such good players.' He coughed. Almira nodded. The

Wicked Witch seethed.

Seven further frosty minutes passed while the second board was played. As soon as the move was called, the Wicked Witch rose, told her partner ‘Table six North/South,’ and departed with a glare to her left. She pulled the South hand out of the board and with a cursory glance at it, opened One Spade. Glinda and the Lion were both still taking their seats, the Lion having found it necessary to ensure Glinda was comfortable and didn’t have to undertake by herself the arduous task of pushing her chair in towards the table. The Scarecrow was still looking for table six.

Eventually the Scarecrow arrived and passed, and Glinda, after some thought, bid Four Clubs, a splinter showing spade agreement and a shortage in clubs. After the Lion had again ensured Glinda was comfortable, he passed and the Wicked Witch, still wondering how to get revenge on Miss Gulch, looked at her hand again. She stared at it. She had done it again. That ♠5 was definitely a bit curly! Her bid of Four Spades closed the auction.

This was the full hand:

Dealer South. N/S Vul

♠ KQJ65 ♥ Q1083 ♦ AQ10 ♣ 10	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 1084 ♥ KJ9 ♦ K9762 ♣ 76
N					
W E					
S					
♠ 9 ♥ A764 ♦ 543 ♣ K8432	♠ A732 ♥ 52 ♦ J8 ♣ AQJ95				

The full auction had been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Scarecrow</i>	<i>Glinda</i>	<i>Lion</i>	<i>Wicked Witch</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Nothing happened for the next three minutes. Well, almost nothing. The Lion checked again that Glinda was comfortable. Glinda looked contented. The Wicked Witch glared.

Eventually she took her wrath out on the Scarecrow. ‘You aren’t thinking of leading before the move is called, are you?’ Her voice was cutting.

The Scarecrow jumped and the ♥6 fell on to the table. ‘I’m so sorry, I was just waiting for my partner to lead,’ he squeaked. He looked down in horror. ‘I suppose that ♥6 is an exposed card.’

‘Fortunately your partner has managed to keep just enough attention on the table not to lead out of turn, while you can’t keep enough attention on the table to lead in turn. Why am I surrounded by idiots?’ she screamed, and called for the eight of hearts.


Much to his surprise, the Lion took the first trick with the ♥9. After a moment’s thought he switched to the seven of clubs. The Wicked Witch looked at this. It was clear she would have to take the finesse in one of the minor suits. Even if the club finesse failed it would allow her four discards in dummy, so she played the five of clubs.

After winning this trick, it would be an exaggeration to say that the Scarecrow thought. However, he was baffled by what had happened at the first trick. Forgetting he had the ace of hearts himself, he continued with the four of hearts, and the Lion on winning the jack continued with the king.

The Wicked Witch sat back and snarled. The lead could surely only be from a doubleton. She couldn’t take the risk of ruffing low, so she ruffed with the ace of trumps, gasping when the Scarecrow followed suit with the seven of hearts. She was left with this position:

wicked witch  
of the  
west



♠ 9		♠ 1084
♥ A		♥ —
♦ 543		♦ K9762
♣ 8432		♣ 6
	♠ 732	
	♥ —	
	♦ J8	
	♣ AQJ9	

She pulled two rounds of trumps. When they failed to split, she still felt in control. The Lion had the last trump, and was marked with the ♥A. She could return to hand with a heart ruff to get rid of her losing diamonds on the clubs. It was not to be; the Lion ruffed, the Scarecrow played the ♥A, and once again she was one down.

‘Let me see your hand,’ she screamed, tearing the cards from the terrified Scarecrow. ‘How can you possibly find that lead?’

Glinda leaned over. ‘But partner, it was an exposed card. You really should have let the Scarecrow correct it.’ The Scarecrow continued to shake. The Lion beamed. The Wicked Witch seemed to have lost the power of speech. Gathering her handbag, she stormed off to the toilet.

Aunty Em looked on from the adjacent table. She couldn’t know exactly what had happened, but she could see the result. She had recovered all her good humour. Her adversary was clearly having another evening as good as the previous one.

NEW FROM  
**MASTER POINT PRESS**  
 THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

## A SIMPLER BLUE CLUB MISSISSAUGA STYLE

DAN BERKLEY



AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE RETAILER NEAR YOU

# Letter from Norway

Tommy Sandsmark The President Emeritus of the International Bridge Press Association presents two fantastic deals

## Simply Extraordinary

If you think participating in a European Veteran Championship is an easy ride, you should rethink. The players are quite far removed from pre-senile elderly folk who are just a hair's breadth away from the nursing home. With few exceptions they are former national champions, bridge stars and con men with quite impressive bridge-CVs. Take a peek at this unbelievable variant performed by the earlier Polish international star Michael Kwiecien against the Norwegian brothers Tolle and Leif-Erik Stabell:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A874  
♥ A9  
♦ J72  
♣ 9762

♠ 63  
♥ Q104  
♦ KQ83  
♣ AQJ4

West	North	East	South
<i>T. Stabell</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>L-E. Stabell</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥*	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♥ Shows 4+♥ (especially third in hand)

West leads the ♥5. Does any brilliant plan enter your mind?

My best guess would be that you thoughtlessly let the lead run to your hand without any ado, or am I wrong?

However, Kwiecien, who has been out on a winter's day before, spotted

a severe threat against this plan. East probably has the ♥K, and if he wins the first trick and switches to ♠K, South will go down if East holds 4♠!

Consequently, South «played safe», won the lead with the ♥A and played ♣2 to the ♣Q, which held the trick. Then he played the ♦K, which East won with the ♦A. East then switched back to ♥2.

The blessed world renowned VuGraph commentator Edgar Kaplan would for sure have said about South's next play: Up with the queen and down with the contract!

Michael Kwiecien thus managed to go down in a contract in which even Grandma Duck would have reeled in 10 tricks, in spite of being on the brink of senility:

Believe it or not, but you actually have to be an expert player to manage to go down here! We normal deadly declarers would have been miles away from the thinking process that obviously went on in Kwiecien's mind.

This was the full deal:

	♠ A874											
	♥ A9											
	♦ J72											
	♣ 9762											
♠ J1052		<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQ9
	N											
W			E									
	S											
♥ K53		♥ J8762										
♦ 1095		♦ A64										
♣ 1085		♣ K3										
	♠ 63											
	♥ Q104											
	♦ KQ83											
	♣ AQJ4											

## The 4 in 1 Coup

I never thought I would encounter such a wonderful play in a normal tedious one night summer bridge session at Kolbotn BC right outside Oslo. This was so spectacular that I just have to nominate it for the Best Play of the Year Award. The player who performed this amazing masterpiece was an elderly gentleman and formerly Norwegian top player, Olav Hjerkin. This was the lay-out:

♠ A52  
♥ A762  
♦ K92  
♣ AQ5



♠ Q9  
♥ KQ9853  
♦ 107  
♣ 974

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT*	2♠	Hjerkin 4♥
All Pass			
1NT	Balanced 15-17.		

West led the ♠K, an obvious favour. How would you plan the play?

The normal thing to do when receiving a gift is to utilize it for your own benefit (unless, of course, you believe it to be a Greek gift - a Trojan horse).

The same bidding occurred at several tables, and the lead was also the same. Most declarers took the first trick with the ♠A and drew trumps, which were 2-1. Then they played the ♠Q, and a trump to dummy. The spade suit was eliminated through a spade ruff, and this can hardly strike you as being anything but favourable. Then they put all their money on a finesse with a club to West's ♣10 and dummy's ♣Q, which would give them a 50 % chance of winning the contract. An easy match, don't you think?

Not at all! If you play like that, you have taken your assignment far too lightly, for the full deal looked like this:

♠ K7 ♥ 4 ♦ J8543 ♣ J10862		♠ A52 ♥ A762 ♦ K92 ♣ AQ5	♠ J108643 ♥ J10 ♦ AQ6 ♣ K3
	♠ Q9 ♥ KQ9853 ♦ 107 ♣ 974		

The club finesse failed, and when East returned a club to South's ♣9 and West's ♣J, West would get an entry in due course, enabling him to run a diamond through dummy's ♦K, and thus beat the contract.

Olav Hjerkin, however, found a simple but incredibly brilliant move, which will doubtlessly find its righteous place in bridge history as The 4 in 1 Coup! The first four tricks were the same, but:

When Olav played his last spade from dummy, he didn't ruff, but discarded a club from hand instead!!

This was a piece of pure bridge art if we have ever seen one. On this one card, the ♠5, he managed to encompass four different plays at the same time! First it eliminated the spades. Then it endplayed East by means of a technique called Loser on Loser, and finally, at the same time this was an Avoidance play, as he kept West, the dangerous hand from leading a diamond through dummy's ♦K. Extremely elegant, don't you agree?

East was thrown in, and as you can see, he was left with only losing options. He could either play a spade offering a ruff and discard, play a club from the ♣K into dummy's tenace, or had to surrender a diamond trick to North's ♦K. Either way, Olav would win his contract in a most astonishing but convincing way.

I must admit that I have never in my life seen a play of this magnitude! What a stroke of genius!

*(Once East has followed to two trumps he is known to be 6-2 in the majors. That leaves five minor suit cards. If declarer guesses to cash the ace of clubs, ruff a spade and exit with a club he will make eleven tricks. It's not totally safe - East could have three clubs that allow West to get in - but at Pairs....)*

# Answers to “Defend With Julian Pottage”

1

♠ 97  
♥ J4  
♦ AJ1097  
♣ AKJ5

♠ J8653  
♥ K2  
♦ KQ6  
♣ 1063

N	
W	E
S	

♠ 104  
♥ AQ105  
♦ 543  
♣ 9872

♠ AKQ2  
♥ 98763  
♦ 82  
♣ Q4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	North
-	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

You lead the five of spades, headed by the seven, ten and king. Declarer leads the eight of diamonds, on which go the queen, ace and three. Back comes the jack of diamonds, on which go the five and two. What is your plan?

The bidding and, more importantly, the play to date has been quite revealing. Assuming that partner plays third hand high, the play to the first trick has marked declarer with all of the three top spades. Three spade tricks, four diamond tricks and two club tricks comes to nine.

The only possible hope of defeating the contract is to cash the next four tricks. This entails placing partner with the ace-queen-ten and at least one small heart. You should win the second round of diamonds and switch to the king of hearts, continuing the suit whatever your partner plays.

Note that you can ill afford to hold up in diamonds because four club tricks (if South has the queen, which will be the case if East has the ace-queen of hearts) would enable your opponent to cash out. In any case, partner’s five of diamonds looks like an attempt to signal for a heart switch.

2

♠ 73  
♥ AKQ7  
♦ 10  
♣ 1087632

♠ A9  
♥ J96  
♦ 986432  
♣ J4

N	
W	E
S	

♠ 64  
♥ 10853  
♦ AK7  
♣ AQ95

♠ KQJ10852  
♥ 42  
♦ QJ5  
♣ K

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	1♣*	4♠
All Pass			
		1♣ Better minor	

You lead the jack of clubs, which partner wins with the ace, felling the king. Back comes a low spade covered by the king. What is your plan? The important thing here is not to play too quickly. With a trump switch from partner and a singleton diamond visible in dummy, it is all too easy to take the first spade and play a second round. What happens if you do that?

Declarer might use one heart entry to lead the ten of clubs, hoping to pin the nine. When that fails, running the trumps is the only option. Trying to protect three suits, partner will be in a hopeless position on the next to last trump, unable to keep the boss club, parity with the heart length in dummy and both top diamonds. Any discard will give up a trick.

Since you need partner to hold the top diamonds and a second trump to stop declarer from having ten easy tricks, there is no rush to play two rounds of trumps. You should duck the first round. Then, when you come in with the ace of spades later (most probably two tricks from now), you will switch to a diamond, enabling partner to cash out.



# Bridge with Larry Cohen

www.larryco.com

The brilliant American player, writer and teacher looks at a couple of interesting defensive situations

## A Vital Opening Lead

What would you lead against 6NT with this hand:

♠ J643  
♥ 98732  
♦ 3  
♣ 1042

Oh, you want the auction? It was short and sweet. RHO opens 3NT, showing a solid minor with no outside “cards.” LHO jumps to 6NT. You are playing IMPs (actually, it was IMP Pairs).

My partner, David Berkowitz, faced this situation in the National IMP Pairs in St. Louis. This was the full deal:

Dealer East. E/W Vul.

		♠ AK107									
		♥ K10									
		♦ 84									
		♣ AKQJ8									
♠ J643	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 985
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 98732	♥ AQJ										
♦ 3	♦ 765										
♣ 1042	♣ 9765										
		♠ Q2									
		♥ 654									
		♦ AKQJ1092									
		♣ 3									
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>								
-	-	Pass	3NT								
Pass	6NT	All Pass									

partner had solid diamonds and it was crucial to play from the North side where the ♥K would be protected. If it were matchpoints, then the 6NT gamble would be reasonable (making the larger score whenever the ♥A was right, or there was no heart lead, or partner held something helpful like the ♥J or ♥Q).

So, here they were in 6NT from the wrong side. What should David lead? We have a special agreement against “randomly bid slams.” Whenever dummy jumps to a slam, and dummy hasn’t shown a suit, a DOUBLE asks for the highest unbid suit. So, here, if I happened to want a spade lead, I’d have doubled. Knowing that I didn’t want a spade lead, David tried a heart – and struck gold. I took the first 3 tricks, not even minding that they were blocked. We knew 100 would be worth a ton of IMPs (it was worth approximately 12 across the field).

## A Thoughtful Defensive Play

On this deal from the 2007 New Orleans regional, my partner, Steve Weinstein, made a thoughtful play:

Dealer South. E/W Vul.

		♠ QJ43									
		♥ J73									
		♦ 96									
		♣ QJ109									
♠ 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10865
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A62	♥ 5										
♦ AQJ52	♦ 8743										
♣ AK87	♣ 8743										
		♠ AK92									
		♥ KQ10984									
		♦ K10									
		♣ 2									

Surely, at this form of scoring, North should have bid 6♦. She knew her

West	North	East	South
Steve	Larry		
-	-	-	1♥
2♦	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

I was tempted to bid 4♣, pre-emptive, but didn't think anything good could come from it. The opponents had already found their fit, and LHO would either have enough to bid 4♥ or not enough. If the former, my bid would just help him place the cards and maybe guess trumps. If the latter (or the former), it might goad partner into bidding too much.

Steve didn't double 4♥, because such a double is not really for penalty. It would show "extra offense" and would invite me to take it out. Surely, with short hearts, I'd take it out and we would probably be trading a plus for a minus. Declarer seems to be off 4 tricks (3 aces and a second diamond trick), but not so fast.

What would you lead with Steve's (West) hand? I think a low trump is a standout. The goal (at IMPs) is down one (don't worry about leading the ♣K to try for a club ruff for down two). There is no hurry to take tricks. Neither is there a reason to lead a singleton spade (you are most unlikely to find partner able to get in and give you a spade ruff). The only way the opponents might make this contract is by ruffing losers in the dummy, thus Steve led a low trump. Declarer won and played another trump.

At this point, a careful defensive play was required. Steve won his ♥A and laid down the ♣K to get count (I showed an even number). Now, Steve exited safely and sat back to wait for the setting tricks in diamonds. Notice the danger. If he had cashed no clubs (or tried to cash two clubs), declarer would have 10 tricks. On any non-club return declarer draws trump, cashes a few spades, then plays a club. West would win and be endplayed. He'd have to either play another club (setting up a discard), or break diamonds.

It doesn't seem like such a hard play to cash that high club early, but many defenders would have been lazy and minus 420 (our teammates made 590 on this board).

You and your partner might want to consider adding such an agreement – this has come up several times already for us. Maybe this deal will make my next *Favorite 52*.

# BARON BARCLAY BRIDGE SUPPLY

Books, Learning Materials,  
Duplicate & Rubber Bridge  
Supplies, Gifts, Games & More.

WWW.BARONBARCLAY.COM  
800.274.2221

# From The Archives – Syrian Squeeze

by Brian Senior

When we look at Syria today we see a tragedy, a country that has been war torn for several years and in which the population endure great suffering. Prior to that the general perception in the West would have been negative as all we ever saw in the media was how Syria meddled in the neighbouring country of Lebanon and was an enemy of Israel, while the Syrian leader, Assad, was effectively a dictator.

I was fortunate to visit Damascus, the Syrian capital, for the 2007 Syrian Bridge Festival. Little could I have imagined just 11 years ago what fate was to befall the country a few years later.

What were my impressions of Syria? The Damascus airport was old-fashioned but getting in and out was a lot quicker than at many other places I have visited. Walking the streets of Damascus, we saw more men with uniforms and guns than we are used to back home, but there was never any feeling of danger or threat. Far from it, I felt very safe even walking around a strange area late at night. People were very friendly. We called in a shop for a couple of cans of drink. When the proprietor saw us hanging around in the yard outside to drink, two plastic chairs were quickly produced for us – this was not in any way a cafe or similar, simply someone being nice. It seemed that during the bridge we were welcomed to Syria by everyone we met – none of the scowls and silence that a visitor might find at times in an English tournament. And, as seems to be the case at all bridge festivals in this part of the world, official and unofficial invitations to various meals were a regular occurrence.

Damascus was an interesting city with many historical sites (and sights) – it claims to be the longest continuously inhabited city in the world. We could eat very cheaply and taxi fares were laughably low for those of us used to western capital cities. While there were more moslems than any other religion, as one would expect in an essentially arab country, it is possible to drink alcohol without any difficulty. However, one of the most interesting experiences for me was when we stopped off in a local bar/restaurant on the way home one night after the bridge. There were probably 70 to 80 Syrian men spread between 20 or so tables, playing cards, backgammon, chess, watching TV or just chatting. Not a

drop of alcohol in the place but everyone relaxed and enjoying themselves. I can't think when I have seen such a place in the UK, where alcohol would surely be involved in any such gathering, yet its absence clearly had no negative effect on the atmosphere.

Some of the Syrian players were not at all bad. As is often the case in countries which are less exposed to the wider bridge world, bidding could be at times rather agricultural, but there were some pretty sharp card players. Witness this deal, featuring a gentleman by the name of Khaldoun Sanadiki.

### Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 862 ♥ QJ108 ♦ 753 ♣ 854	♠ Q93 ♥ K542 ♦ Q106 ♣ AQ3		♠ K1054 ♥ 97 ♦ 942 ♣ J962
♠ AJ7 ♥ A63 ♦ AKJ8 ♣ K107			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
-	-	-	2NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

The bidding was short and to the point. When West led the queen of hearts declarer had a number of options to consider. Winning with the intention to endplay West with the the third round of hearts could obviate the need to take the spade finesse should the hearts prove to be three-three and West not have a long minor, or declarer could duck the opening lead, creating the possibility of a squeeze, but leaving himself reliant on the spade finesse.

Khaldoun judged to duck the heart and West continued with the jack. The fall of the seven and nine on his right was sufficient to convince Khaldoun that the hearts were four-two. Also, he judged that East was unlikely to be short in spades so that to play a spade to the jack then cash the ace was unlikely to produce three winners. He therefore won the second heart in hand, crossed to dummy with a diamond and led the queen of spades to the king and ace. East covered the spade in such an automatic fashion that Khaldoun judged that she would also hold the ten – East was apparently only a moderate player who was known to declarer. He backed his judgement by crossing to dummy again and leading the spade nine, his first hope being that this might pin a doubleton eight on his left. The nine was covered by the ten and jack and, while the eight had not put in an appearance, the double spade play had transferred the spade stopper to West. I have previously seen this transferring the menace to set up a squeeze done as a single play, but don't remember ever having seen such a double play.

Of course, West was now in control of both major suits and the run of the minor-suit winners crushed him into submission so the slam was made. Not a bad little effort from someone who is clearly a star in Syria, but of whom I was previously unaware.



## 2018 Book of the Year

*“The ABTA wishes to award its first-ever Newcomer Book of the Year Award to **Jeff Bayone** for his amazing work, *A Taste of Bridge*.”*

*It’s magic how much they know when they finish without realizing just how much they learned.”*

**Betty Starzec**, ABTA President.

*“If I could recommend just one book for beginning players it would be *A Taste of Bridge*.”*

**Barbara Seagram**.

*“I’m reviewing your book and I absolutely love it.”*

**Chip Dombrowski**, ACBL Bulletin editor.

*“This is the only beginner book I know that begins by concentrating almost 100% on card play. I like this approach.”*

**Phillip Alder**.

*A Taste of Bridge* is fun, but it is only half of the Honors Bridge Club beginner course. The amazing Israeli online teaching site, **bestebriidge.com**, is the other half. Teacher and student notes, along with all the example hands your beginners will ever need, are included in the program. Contact [sally@masterpointpress.com](mailto:sally@masterpointpress.com) and ask that she send you a complimentary e-book, course material, and free access to BeB.

This fun combination of *A Taste of Bridge* and **bestebriidge.com** work wonders. Together they helped, and continue to be instrumental, in building Honors into the largest bridge club in the world.

Jeff Bayone



## Play bridge wherever and whenever you like!

Funbridge is a game available on smartphones, tablets and computers allowing you to play duplicate bridge anywhere, anytime.

As you know, bridge is played with four people sitting at a table and it may be hard to find four players... With Funbridge, this problem is a thing of the past! Indeed, you don't have to wait until your partner or opponents are available to play a deal with you because on Funbridge, they are managed by the artificial intelligence. Yes, you partner a robot and play against robots that are available 24/7!

Robots offer many advantages. Among them, you can pause and resume the game later. You are the game master! Moreover, and this is precisely the very essence of Funbridge, you are judged fairly against thousands of other players of the app who play the same deals as you.

As the app is easy to navigate around and well-designed, you will easily and quickly discover the various game modes offered that are split into three main themes: tournaments, practice and challenges between players. Each of them comes along with sub-game modes that are equally attractive. You won't get bored!

Funbridge will be the perfect ally if you want to take up bridge or just improve your skills. Indeed, you will make rapid progress thanks to the practice modes available including "exclusive tournaments", i.e. customised tournaments created by other community players providing opportunities for exchanges about the deals played. You will thus be able to ask your questions to advanced players and to increase your knowledge.

The app is full of very useful small features: watch a replay of other players' moves (bidding and card play), replay deals to score better, get the meaning of the bids played by the other players sitting at the table, ask the computer for advice, get an analysis of the way you play by the artificial intelligence at the end of a deal played... You will definitely learn from the app!

When you will feel ready, you will be able to pit yourself against thousands of other players by playing tournaments on Funbridge: tournaments of the day, series tournaments and Team Championships. As you can understand, this is the competition part of the app. In these different game modes, you will join rankings and see your rank change live based on your results.

You will also find "federation tournaments" in that section of the app. Several national bridge federations including the English Bridge Union and the French Bridge Federation have placed their trust in Funbridge to hold official tournaments awarding federation points allowing their members to increase their national rank directly via the app. You can't find your federation on Funbridge yet? Be patient, it is only a matter of time! Meanwhile, you can take part in tournaments of other federations since they are open to all.

Finally, you will enjoy comparing yourself with the other community players thanks to short individual tournaments called "challenges". The aim is to get the best scores on all the deals of the tournament to beat your opponent. May the best win!

Note also that the developers of the app are surrounded by experts... Indeed, Jérôme Rombaut, 2017 Vice World Bridge Champion with France, is by their side. He is in charge of the artificial intelligence of the app. His objective? Make it behave like a human player.

Funbridge is the perfect bridge app. It suits all players with its comprehensive and various game modes. Its weak point? It is highly addictive! We strongly encourage you to try it out if you have not already done so, especially since you get 100 free deals when you sign up. Once you have used them up, you receive 10 free deals every week or you can opt for one of our subscription offers with unlimited deals (from €9 per month).

A few figures

8 bidding systems (ACOL, SAYC, French 5-card major, 2/1, Polish Club, Nordic system, NBB Standard, Forum D)

Over 150 countries represented

50,000 active players every day

1 million deals played every day

Download Funbridge

To download Funbridge (free), just open your favourite application store (App Store or Google Play Store) and enter "Funbridge" in the search bar or go to our website [www.funbridge.com](http://www.funbridge.com).



The app that takes you to the right contract in a split second.

*Fit to bid!*

**We are looking for testers!**

Join us and register at [www.bid72.com](http://www.bid72.com)



## FUNBRIDGE.com

Play bridge wherever and whenever you like!





iPhone, iPad, Mac, PC, Android, Amazon

**Compare** yourself to thousands of players

**Challenge** players in one vs one matches

**Improve** your skills

[WWW.FUNBRIDGE.COM](http://WWW.FUNBRIDGE.COM)

# Kit's Corner

by World Champion Kit Woolsey

World Champion Kit Woolsey reveals how an expert thinks, using real deals from major events. Sit beside the master and compare his thoughts with your own.

## Double Hold Up

In a round-robin match in the Bermuda Bowl, you have to decide how far to go raising partner's overcall.

As West, you hold:

Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 973  
♥ J10864  
♦ A6  
♣ Q54

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1♠	3NT*
?			

3NT: Natural

Your call?

While raising partner is always nice, on this hand it would be a complete shot in the dark. At this vulnerability you could easily be going for more than the value of their game, and just because South bid 3NT doesn't mean he will make it. Passing is clear.

You pass, ending the auction.

Your lead. Attitude leads and Rusinow vs. no-trump

Clearly you are going to be leading partner's suit. The question is which spade should you lead.

Leading the ♠9 would show partner you had nothing higher in the suit. However the ♠9 is far too important a spot to toss on the table. Imagine dummy having a stiff ♠10, partner ♠AQJxx and declarer ♠K8xx. If you led the ♠9 you would want it back very badly.

You could lead the ♠7. But partner might not be able to read the

position. It is better to lead the ♠3. This will make it clear to partner that you have at least three spades. Partner will play you for something in spades, but you do have something in spades. Also, leading low may cause declarer to play you for an honour you don't have and misguess the spade position when partner leads a spade through later in the hand.

You lead the ♠3.

♠ 5  
♥ A7532  
♦ 1093  
♣ AJ63

♠ 973  
♥ J10864  
♦ A6  
♣ Q54



Partner wins the ♠10, declarer playing the ♠4. Partner returns the ♠2 to the ♠8 and your ♠9, a heart being discarded from dummy. What do you play now?

What is going on in the spade suit? Declarer must have a second spade stopper, since if partner had ♠KQJ10x or ♠AQJ10x he would not have led back a small spade. If declarer had the jack of spades he certainly would have won the first trick with that, and probably with the queen also. The conclusion is that declarer started with ♠AK8x of spades, or possibly ♠AQ8x.

Why did declarer make this double holdup? He can deduce that the spades are 5-3. He must have two cards which need to be knocked out, and fear that the honours are split. Looking at your hand, it appears as though the other card which needs to be knocked out must be the ♦K. Nothing else makes much sense.

Can there be any future in continuing spades? Not really. You know declarer has 2 stoppers, so if you continue spades partner will need 2 entries to establish and cash his long spade. If partner has 2 entries, your side will always have 5 tricks since you have the ace of diamonds. So, continuing spades can never be necessary.

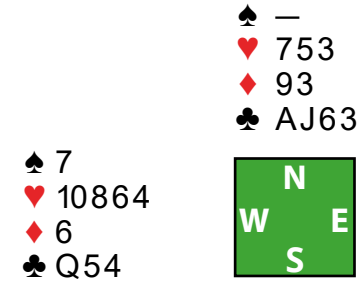
Assuming partner has the king of diamonds and another card, should you play him for a heart card or a club card? It looks clear to play him for a heart card. If you don't find what you need in hearts and partner has the king of clubs, you will still have time to shift to clubs if that looks right. But if partner has, say, Qx of hearts, you must shift to a heart now to have a chance.

Does it matter which heart you play? If declarer has ♥KQ9 you would not want to lead a small heart, but that isn't likely considering the bidding and the line of play. One critical layout is where partner has ♥Qx and declarer the stiff king. If that is the case, it may be vital for partner to win the first round of diamonds and lead a heart. If you are forced to win the first round of diamonds, you won't have an entry to your good heart. If declarer leads a diamond from his hand it will be easy for you to duck. But declarer might cross to the ace of clubs and lead a diamond from dummy. Partner will have to rise king, possibly from ♦Kxx. He should find this if he considers declarer's line of play. By leading the jack of hearts you make it clear that you have a heart trick ready. That is an argument for leading the jack.

On the other hand, suppose partner has a singleton king of hearts. If you held ♥KJ10xx and shifted to a heart, wouldn't you shift to the king in case declarer has a singleton queen? If you lead the jack of hearts and declarer comes to this conclusion he will be sure that your partner holds the king, and he will go up ace since that would be his only chance to make. If you lead a small heart he will never go right because you would have to lead a small heart from K109xx - from your point of view your partner might have the singleton queen.

Partner should know from your small heart lead that he should play you for the jack of hearts if he has ♥Qx, so if declarer crosses to the ace of clubs and leads a diamond, partner should work out to put up the king. Therefore, it is better to lead a small heart than the jack.

You choose to shift to the jack of hearts. Declarer wins the ace in dummy, partner playing the queen and declarer the ♥9. Declarer now rides the ♦10 to partner's ♦5, declarer's ♦2, and your ace. What do you play now?



It is apparent that hearts are a lost cause. Declarer appears to have king-doubleton. Even if partner has the king, there can't be any gain from continuing hearts as far as setting up a heart trick.

Can a club shift be necessary? Partner would have to have the ♣K. If that is the case declarer probably doesn't have enough tricks anyway, but if he happens to have started with ♠AK8x ♥K9 ♦QJxxx ♣10 he will have 9 winners (4 diamonds, 2 spades, 2 hearts, and 1 club) if you don't shift to a club. That doesn't seem likely. It is hard to imagine declarer wouldn't have bid 2♦ with that hand. And if declarer has 5 diamonds he has only 8 tricks if partner has the king of clubs.

Can a club shift cost? It could. Declarer might have only 4 diamonds, in which case after knocking out partner's king of diamonds he will have only 2 tricks in each suit and perhaps be on a guess for the queen of clubs. It is true that you will be on a heart-club squeeze, but declarer doesn't know that. Partner won't be under pressure so he will be able to keep all of his clubs. If declarer's hand is ♠AK8x ♥K9 ♦QJxx ♣K10x, he will be on a complete guess for the queen of clubs. You should simply play another heart.

You choose to shift to a club. It doesn't matter, as declarer has the ♣K and 5 diamonds. He wins, knocks out partner's ♦K, and has 9 tricks. The full hand is:



	♠ 5		
	♥ A7532		
	♦ 1093		
	♣ AJ63		
♠ 973		♠ QJ1062	
♥ J10864		♥ Q	
♦ A6		♦ K75	
♣ Q54		♣ 10872	
	♠ AK84		
	♥ K9		
	♦ QJ842		
	♣ K9		



Do you like declarer's line of play?

Declarer's line of play was superb. The double hold-up play with a double stopper is rare indeed, but on this hand it was the only chance to make. If declarer had won either of the first 2 spade tricks, the defence would have triumphed provided West wins the first round of diamonds.

Declarer also showed class by winning the heart shift in dummy to lead the ♦10. If anybody had four hearts it figured to be West. If that is the case declarer wants to knock out West's entry first. Imagine if East had one more heart and one fewer minor-suit card. East would have to rise king of diamonds. Granted he should find this play, but it is an easy one to miss.

While leading the small spade looks right, on this hand it would have been better to lead the ♠9. If declarer thinks the spades are 6-2, he would win the second round of spades rather than risk the heart shift which is almost certain to defeat him.

Do you agree with East's overcall?

As with any such bid there are plusses and minuses. On a bad day East could go for a number in 1♠, but that isn't likely to happen even at adverse vulnerability. The overcall isn't likely to help declarer play the hand. E/W certainly don't have a game after West's initial pass, and competing to 4♠ over 4♥ isn't likely vulnerable vs. not.

On the plus side, the overcall may get West off to a good lead, as was the case here. Also if West fits spades the overcall might allow West to buy the contract at a making spade partial or push the opponents to where they can be defeated.

One of the big dangers of overcalling light is that partner might not take a joke and bury you. With West being a passed hand, that danger is much less. West isn't going to be leaping to 3NT on a 10-count, and if he had more he would have opened. The only time West will bid a lot is when he fits spades, and that might not be so bad. It may seem strange, but it is a lot safer to make a light overcall when partner is a passed hand than when partner hasn't acted yet. The third opponent is the big danger when you overbid, and if the third opponent can't have enough to bury you, things will probably be okay.

David Bird

**TRICK ONE**

AN HONORS BOOK FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

**MASTER POINT PRESS**  
THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

**TRICK ONE**  
AN HONORS BOOK  
by David Bird

AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE  
RETAILER NEAR YOU



# The Abbot Plays The Odds

by David Bird

The Abbot's fourth match in the St Titus summer league was against the top novice team, captained by Brother Cameron. Defying all the odds, they were only 3 VPs behind the Abbot's team.

'I suppose it's to be expected,' observed the Abbot. 'Any team that has not faced us yet is bound to be higher in the table than their abilities would suggest.'

'Anything can happen in these short matches,' Brother Xavier replied. 'The summer league's not very important, anyway.'

The Abbot peered over his glasses. 'I'm not impressed by that attitude,' he said. 'There's no point in three members of a team giving their best effort if the fourth member couldn't care less about it.'

For the first half of the match, the Abbot and Brother Xavier would face Brother Mark and Brother Adam. He was disappointed to see that the two novices showed no sign of nerves as they took their seats. Did they not realize they were about to face a seasoned player with Bermuda Bowl experience?

This was an early board:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 83		♠ 62						
♥ 32		♥ AQJ5						
♦ 87653		♦ 94						
♣ AK74		♣ J9532						
♠ Q74								
♥ K1087								
♦ QJ102								
♣ Q10								
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> </table>		N		W	S	E	
	N							
W	S	E						
		♠ AKJ1095						
		♥ 964						
		♦ AK						
		♣ 86						

West	North	East	South
<i>The Abbot</i>	<i>Brother Mark</i>	<i>Brother Xavier</i>	<i>Brother Adam</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Abbot led the ♦Q and down went the dummy. Brother Adam could sense that the Abbot's eyes were upon him. 'Thank you, partner,' he said, drawing a small nod from the Abbot.

Now, thought the novice, what were his chances in the spade game? The defenders would doubtless prevent him from scoring a heart ruff, but he would still be OK if the ♠Q was onside. If there was a trump loser, how about setting up dummy's diamonds?

Brother Adam won the first trick with the ♦A and cashed the ♦K successfully. He then led the ♠9 from his hand. The Abbot viewed this card suspiciously. Declarer's 3♠ rebid had suggested a sturdy trump suit. Why should he lead the nine at this early stage?

The Abbot won with the trump queen and switched to the ♣10, aiming to drive out one of dummy's entries. Brother Adam called for the club ace and ruffed a diamond high in his hand, East showing out. A trump to the eight allowed him to ruff another diamond and he then drew the Abbot's last trump. Finally, he crossed to the ♣K and discarded one of his heart losers on the thirteenth diamond. The game was his.

The Abbot shrugged his shoulders. The boy had given up a trump trick when there would still be a trump in dummy to control the heart suit. So what? It wasn't rocket science!

'That diamond lead didn't help us,' Brother Xavier observed. 'Lead a club and you remove a key entry from the dummy.'

The Abbot closed his eyes for a brief moment. Had anyone in the history of the game led from a doubleton queen when they had a solid sequence in an unbid suit available?

'Even a heart lead is good enough, I think,' continued Brother Xavier. 'I win and return a trump. We can prevent a heart ruff after that start.'

‘Call me old-fashioned,’ retorted the Abbot, ‘but perhaps we could leave any superfluous and uninteresting double-dummy analysis until after the match. It’s an overrated part of the game, as I see it.’

At the other table the early exchanges had been keenly contested. Brother Paulo had just arrived in game on this board:

**Dealer South. E/W Vul.**

♠ 10432 ♥ A2 ♦ 10732 ♣ A65	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ Q7 ♥ 109864 ♦ Q8 ♣ K842	♠ AK5 ♥ KQJ753 ♦ A64 ♣ 3
-------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

West	North	East	South
<i>Brother Damien</i>	<i>Brother Lucius</i>	<i>Brother Cameron</i>	<i>Brother Paulo</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Brother Damien led the ♣Q, won with dummy’s ace. Brother Paulo counted his top tricks—six trumps, three aces and a king. That was ten unless... well, unless the trumps broke 5-0. What could be done in that case?

‘Small club,’ said Brother Paulo. He ruffed in his hand and played the king of trumps. ‘Ah, so that is the break,’ he murmured, as Brother Damien discarded a club. ‘It’s lucky I was not asleep on this one, partner.’

Brother Paulo cashed the three top winners in the black suits and returned to dummy with the ace of trumps. He then led a third round of clubs. If East had begun with a doubleton club and ruffed in with the ♥8, declarer would have discarded a loser. When he followed to the third club, Brother Paulo ruffed with his last low trump and claimed the contract. Four side-suit winners had been cashed. Add the six trump tricks

and that brought the total to ten.

‘Yes, well done,’ said Brother Cameron. ‘We’ll find out at half-time if Brother Adam is as awake as you were!’

The senior team led by 12 IMPs at the half-way stage, the Abbot declaring his customary dissatisfaction that the margin was not greater. ‘They played quite well at our table,’ said Brother Paulo. ‘These youngsters may be better than you think. Damien and Cameron are usually near the top in the weekly pairs game.’

‘You know why that is,’ replied the Abbot. ‘The other novices go to pieces against them. They play at the top of their form against me, of course, thinking they’ll be reprimanded if they make a stupid mistake.’

Brother Paulo managed to keep a straight face. ‘It’s a cross you have to bear, Abbot,’ he said. ‘You accept it very gracefully, I must say.’

The opponents were switched for the second half of the match and the Abbot reached a slam on this deal:

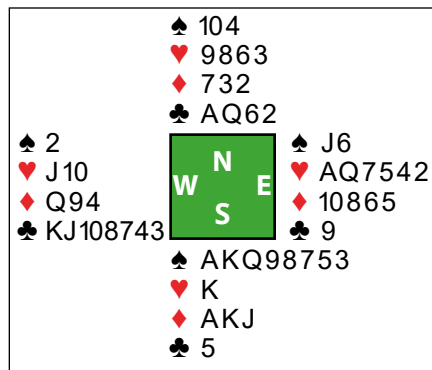
**Dealer South. N/S Vul.**

♠ 104 ♥ 9863 ♦ 732 ♣ AQ62	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ J6 ♥ AQ7542 ♦ 10865 ♣ 9	♠ 2 ♥ J10 ♦ Q94 ♣ KJ108743
------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

♠ AKQ98753  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ AKJ  
 ♣ 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Brother Damien</i>	<i>Brother Xavier</i>	<i>Brother Cameron</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>
–	–	–	2♣
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

The ♥J was led against the spade slam and Brother Cameron won with the ace, noting the fall of declarer's king. What now? Some declarers might have dropped the king from ♥K-10, hoping to deter a ruff. Such a play was unlikely to be in the Abbot's repertoire. Nor would he bid 6♠ so readily when holding ♥K10. Brother Cameron turned his thoughts elsewhere. Perhaps Damien held seven clubs for his overcall, which would leave the Abbot with a singleton in the suit. Yes, that would make his RKCB call more sensible.



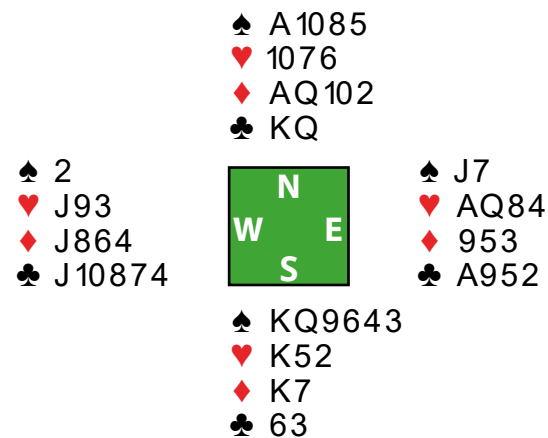
At trick 2, Brother Cameron switched to the ♣9 into dummy's tenace. The Abbot won with dummy's queen and paused to consider his next move. If the trump jack was singleton, he could draw trumps with the ace and 10. He would then be able to discard the jack of diamonds on the club ace. It was an unattractive shot to follow. If it failed, he would not even have an entry to dummy to take the diamond finesse. 'Play the ace of clubs,' he said.

Brother Cameron ruffed with the jack, overruffed with the queen. The Abbot then played the ace of trumps and the ace of diamonds, crossing to the ♠10 to take a diamond finesse. When this failed, he was one down. 'Nothing I can do about it,' he informed Brother Xavier. 'If he plays a diamond instead of the club into the ace-queen, I just draw trumps and take the club finesse.'

Brother Xavier nodded. 'It was a good defence,' he said.

A few deals later, the Abbot was tested again. This was the lay-out:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Brother Damien</i>	<i>Brother Xavier</i>	<i>Brother Cameron</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Brother Xavier's Jacoby 2NT showed at least a sound game-raise in spades. The Abbot's 4♠ rebid then announced a minimum hand with no shortage. The jack of clubs was led and down went the dummy. Brother Cameron won with the ace of clubs and, seemingly without much thought on the matter, switched to the queen of hearts.

The Abbot sat back in his chair. To beat the contract, the defenders would have to score three immediate heart tricks. That much was obvious to everyone. If the queen switch was from the queen-jack, the winning play would be to play low from his hand. If East then led a second round from the jack, this could be run to dummy's ten and there would be only two heart losers.

Against most of the monastery players, the Abbot would already have played low from his hand. Brother Cameron could be a sharp customer on his day and was well capable of leading the queen from AQx. If the Abbot played a low card, a second heart might go to West's jack and a third back to East's ace. Goodness me, Brother Cameron wouldn't stop talking about the deal for weeks!

‘You do know it’s your play, do you?’ queried Brother Xavier.

The Abbot closed his eyes for a moment. How on earth had he tolerated such a partner, not just occasionally but continually for over three decades? ‘As it happens, I do realize that,’ he replied heavily. ‘It was kind of you to point it out, though.’

The lie of the heart suit was now obvious to Brother Damien in the West seat. Wow, what a story they would have to tell if the Abbot played low and went down!

The Abbot steeled himself to play a card. With a resigned air, he reached for the king of hearts. When it held the trick, he suddenly felt very tired. His heart rate was far too rapid from the stress of the moment; his blood pressure must be dangerously high. Maybe the time had finally come for him to stop playing the game. A moment or two later, he had recovered his composure. He drew trumps and discarded a heart on the third round of diamonds, ending with an overtrick.

‘He might have held the queen-jack of hearts,’ observed Brother Xavier.

‘So he might,’ replied the Abbot, wondering if Xavier was showing the first signs of some age-related mental condition. ‘It was an example of Restricted Choice. Playing against someone who might be capable of leading the middle card from AQx or AJx, that was twice as likely as him holding QJx.’

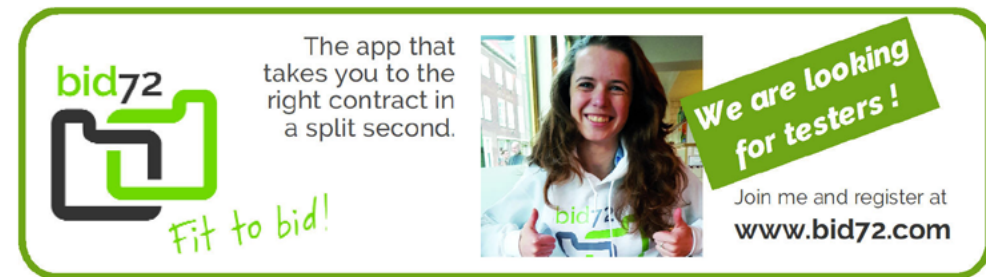
Brother Cameron leaned forwards. ‘More than that, isn’t it?’ he said. ‘I’d make the same switch from Qxx or Jxx. It’s right to play the king in those cases too, so that’s about 4-to-1.’

The Abbot waved this point aside. ‘Playing against most of the moderate performers in this room, it would be 100-to-1 in favour of them holding the queen-jack,’ he retorted. ‘When I was playing in the Bermuda Bowl I could at least rely on every player there being world-class.’

Lucius and Paulo produced their usual reliable card from the other table and the Abbot was relieved to see that his team had won by 29 IMPs. There was only one match to go in the Summer League and that was against Brother Aelred’s team. A maximum win in that encounter would see the senior team win the league by an impressive margin. Excellent! In retrospect, it was too soon for him to call a close on his bridge career. He was still at the very top of his game, as anyone watching him play that 4♠ contract would agree. Did maestros such as Monet and Lautrec stop painting when they were still well capable of producing further masterpieces? No, indeed.



**Paul Lavings**  
**Bridge Supplies, Books, Cards.**



**bid72**  
Fit to bid!

The app that takes you to the right contract in a split second.

**We are looking for testers!**

Join me and register at [www.bid72.com](http://www.bid72.com)

# The Auction Room

Mark Horton

Welcome to the Auction Room, where we examine bidding methods from recent events.

This month we take a look at the Final of the 2018 Spingold between **Gawrys** (Piotr Gawrys, Michal Klukowski, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon and coach Krzysztof Martens) and **Rosenthal** (Andrew Rosenthal, Aaron Silverstein, David Berkowitz, Migry Zur Campa-nile Eldad Ginossar and Chris Willenken).

## The Hands

(This month all the deals were played at IMPs.)

### Hand 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ Q53		♠ K10
♥ K52		♥ AQJ109743
♦ 9865		♦ A
♣ A962		♣ 107

If East opens 1♥ South overcalls 2NT

West	East	
Willenken	Ginossar	
–	1♥	(2NT)
3♥	4♥	
Pass		

Helgemo, South, held ♠A74 ♥- ♦KQJ104 ♣K8543 and led the ♦K. Declarer won, drew trumps ending in dummy and played a spade to the ten, +480.

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Migry	Multon	Berkowitz
–	Pass	2♣*	3NT*
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣*	Double	Pass	Pass
Redouble*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

2♣ Strong with hearts (not game forcing) or any game force

- 3NT Minors
- 5♣ Cue-bid
- Rdbl First round control
- 5♦ Cue-bid

South led the ♦K and an identical line of play saw declarer record +980.

*Recommended auction:* 6♥ is the sort of contract you make when your luck is in. Having made a move with 5♣, West might have contented himself with 5♥, leaving the final word to his partner.

Marks: 5♥ 10, 6♥ 4.

Running score: Gawrys 4 (11) Rosenthal 10 (0)

At the end of the first set of 15 deals Gawrys led 32-7.

### Hand 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 6543		♠ AK
♥ AJ63		♥ KQ92
♦ K972		♦ QJ10
♣ 5		♣ A862

If East opens 1♣ South overcalls 2♣ natural

West	East	
Silverstein	Rosenthal	
–	1♣	(2♣)
Double*	2♥	
Pass		

Klukowski, who held ♠QJ9 ♥104 ♦A5 ♣KQJ1074 led the ♣K and declarer drew trumps and knocked out the ♦A for eleven tricks.

West	East	
Zimmermann	Multon	
–	1♣	
1♦*	4♥	
Pass		
1♦	Transfer	

Declarer won the club lead and played the  $\heartsuit J$ , South taking the ace and forcing dummy with a club. Having ruffed, declarer took two rounds of trumps ending in hand and claimed twelve tricks.

*Recommended auction:* Rosenthal's  $2\heartsuit$  was very cautious. I expect everyone to reach at least  $4\heartsuit$ .  $6\heartsuit$  is not bad, and as the cards lie there is no defence. However, hands that fit perfectly are almost always difficult.

*Marks:*  $6\heartsuit 10$ ,  $4\heartsuit 9$ ,  $2\heartsuit 2$ .

*Running score:* Gawrys 13 (18) Rosenthal 12 (0)

### Hand 3. Dealer South. None Vul.

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> K1096  <math>\heartsuit</math> AK7  <math>\diamondsuit</math> Q1083  <math>\clubsuit</math> AK</p>		<p><math>\spadesuit</math> AQ85  <math>\heartsuit</math> —  <math>\diamondsuit</math> AK965  <math>\clubsuit</math> J1073</p>
---	---	---

West	East
<i>Silverstein</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
2NT	3 $\clubsuit$ *
3 $\diamondsuit$ *	3 $\heartsuit$ *
3 $\spadesuit$	5 $\heartsuit$ *
6 $\clubsuit$	7 $\spadesuit$

That looks like a classic Puppet Stayman auction, with West's  $3\diamondsuit$  promising at least one four-card major and East's  $3\heartsuit$  promising spades.  $5\heartsuit$  was Exclusion Keycard Blackwood,  $6\clubsuit$  promising 2 outside hearts. Trumps were 3-2.

West	East
<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Multon</i>
2NT	3 $\clubsuit$ *
3 $\spadesuit$	4 $\heartsuit$ *
Redouble	4NT*
5 $\clubsuit$ *	7 $\spadesuit$
Pass	

(Dble)

Here  $3\clubsuit$  was simple Stayman. Assuming  $4\heartsuit$  was a cue-bid West's redouble promised first round control and 4NT was then asking for keycards.

*Recommended auction:*  $7\diamondsuit$  is the best grand slam, but  $7\spadesuit$  is not far behind. Silverstein and Rosenthal's auction is hard to beat, unless you

think East should bid  $6\diamondsuit$  over  $6\clubsuit$ .

*Marks:*  $7\spadesuit/7\diamondsuit/7NT 10$ ,  $6\spadesuit/6\diamondsuit/6NT 5$ .

*Running score:* Gawrys 23 (18) Rosenthal 22 (0)

Gawrys won a low scoring second set 19-18 to lead 51-25 at half-time.

### Hand 4. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> AJ1094  <math>\heartsuit</math> AQ52  <math>\diamondsuit</math> K2  <math>\clubsuit</math> A10</p>		<p><math>\spadesuit</math> 2  <math>\heartsuit</math> J9743  <math>\diamondsuit</math> AJ104  <math>\clubsuit</math> J94</p>
---	---	--

West	East
<i>Helness</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
1 $\spadesuit$	1NT
2NT	3 $\heartsuit$
4 $\clubsuit$ *	4 $\diamondsuit$ *
4NT*	5 $\diamondsuit$ *
6 $\heartsuit$	Pass
4 $\clubsuit$	Cue-bid
4 $\diamondsuit$	Cue-bid
4NT	RKCB
5 $\diamondsuit$	1 key card

South held  $\spadesuit K8753$   $\heartsuit 106$   $\diamondsuit 65$   $\clubsuit KQ62$  and led the  $\clubsuit K$ . According to the BBO operator declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the  $\diamondsuit K$  followed by the  $\heartsuit A$ , and then played a diamond to the ace, a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade, finishing with eleven tricks.

West	East
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
1 $\spadesuit$	1NT
2 $\heartsuit$	4 $\heartsuit$
4NT*	5 $\clubsuit$ *
6 $\heartsuit$	Pass

(Dble)

North led the  $\clubsuit 7$  and declarer won with the ace, cashed the  $\diamondsuit K$  and played a diamond to the ten. Declarer continued with dummy's  $\diamondsuit A$ , overruffed West's  $\heartsuit 10$  with the queen and laid down the  $\heartsuit A$ . When the king did not appear there were only eleven tricks.

*Recommended auction:* 6♥ is not a great contract. Can it be avoided? In the Helness-Helgemo auction, perhaps West, having already shown slam interest with 4♣, can bid 4♥ over 4♦. Even then, East might feel obliged to continue with 4♠.

*Marks:* 4♥ 10, 6♥ 4.

*Running score:* Gawrys 27 (18) Rosenthal 26 (0)

Rosenthal won the third set 40-23 to trail 65-74 with 15 deals to play.

### Hand 5. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ AK1062	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	♠ –
♥ 3		♥ KJ8764
♦ AJ6		♦ 1085
♣ A1042		♣ KQ97

*If East opens 2♦ Multi and then passes West's 2♥, South bids 2♠*

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Ginossar	Klukowski	Willenken
–	–	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	Pass	2♠
Double	Redouble	All Pass	

- 2♦ Minimulti, 6-10 with a major
- 2♥ Pass or correct

West led the ♥3 and declarer, who had bid 2♠ on ♠QJ98754 ♥Q9 ♦972 ♣6, put up dummy's ace and played a spade (at double dummy a club is best) West taking the queen with the ace as East discarded the ♥6. The convention card suggests that showed something in clubs, but it was not easy for West to switch to a low club and he went with the ♦6, declarer winning with dummy's king as East followed with the ♦10. When declarer exited with a club East put up the queen, cashed the ♥K, West discarding the ♦J, and continued with the ♥J, ruffed by the ♠ and overruffed by West, who exited with the ♣10. When declarer played low from dummy East put up the king and declarer ruffed and played the ♠J. North could win, but had no good move. He tried the ♣A but declarer ruffed, drew trumps and crossed to dummy with a diamond, his last diamond going on the ♦J. That was only one down, -400.

West	North	East	South
<i>Migry</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
–	–	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass

South led the ♦2 and declarer made the natural looking play of winning with dummy's ace and cashing the top spades to dispose of the losing diamonds. Unfortunately North ruffed the second diamond with the ♣8, causing declarer to exclaim, 'holy moly'. Declarer pitched his last diamond anyway, ruffed the diamond return and tried the ♥K, North taking the ace and playing another diamond. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a heart felling the jack and could now cross-ruff, cashing the ♥J along the way, but that was only ten tricks, North having to score a second trump trick.

There is a winning line, but it looks too difficult to find - declarer must put in the ♦J at trick one! Even then, he will still need to get the hearts right.

3NT is a reasonable alternative to 4♣ - and as the cards lie declarer is very likely to make.

*Recommended auction:* Given a free run, perhaps 2♥-2♠-3♣-3NT is best, but there is not a lot in it.

*Marks:* 2♠X/3NT 10, 5♣ 9.

*Running score:* Gawrys 37 (28) Rosenthal 35 (0)

### Hand 6. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ AK	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	♠ J108542
♥ AKQJ2		♥ –
♦ 854		♦ A3
♣ K109		♣ AJ654

West	East
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>
–	1♠
2♥*	2♠
2NT	3♣
3♠	4♠
5♠	Pass

2♥ Game forcing



If 5♠ asked for a diamond control, then East should bid 6♠. However, he may have thought it asked for good trumps.

South held ♠Q63 ♥8763 ♦Q9762 ♣8 and led the ♦6, declarer winning with the ace, cashing dummy's top trumps and pitching a diamond on a heart for twelve tricks.

West	East
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Helness</i>
-	1♠
2♥*	2♠
2NT	3♣
3♥	3♠
4♦*	(Dble) 4♠
Pass	

Kit Woolsey, commentating on BBO, thought West would ask for key-cards, then the ♠Q before settling for 6♠, but he must have been put off by East's 4♠, which for most people would deny a diamond control.

*Recommended auction:* In the first auction, if you accept that 5♠ asks for a diamond control then East should bid 6♠ (or possibly 6♦ to indicate first round control).

In the second auction if East redoubles 4♦, to show first round control West can ask for key-cards before settling for 6♠.

Marks: 6♠ 10, 6♣ 9, 5♠ 5.

Running score: Gawrys 42 (28) Rosenthal 40 (0)

### Hand 7. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W   E S             </div>	♠ A1095
♥ 1054		♥ AJ6
♦ AKJ		♦ Q
♣ QJ10954		♣ AK863

If East opens 1♣ South bids 3♣ to show ♠+♦

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
-	-	1♣	Pass
2♣*	2♥	4♦*	Pass
4♥*	Double	4NT*	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

- 2♣ Inverted raise
- 4♦ RKCB
- 4♥ 1keycard
- 4NT ♣Q?
- 5♦ Yes
- 5♥ Kings?

South led the ♥7 from ♠Q8642 ♥97 ♦985432 and declarer claimed.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
-	-	1♣	3♣*
3♠*	Double	4♦*	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

- 3♣ Spades and diamonds
- 3♠ Asking for a stopper
- 4♦ Cue-bid

The interference made things harder. With his diamond honours opposite a shortage West was unwilling to bid 4♠. Perhaps East could have bid 5♥ over 5♣.

*Recommended auction:* If South does not overcall you would be hard pressed to beat the first auction (some pairs could bid 4♣ to ask for key-cards). It's much tougher after South's intervention - West has no obvious way to show his huge club support. Maybe if West bids 4♠ over 4♦ East will draw the right inference, but it's not a certainty.

Marks: 7♣ 10, 6♣ 6, 5♣/3NT 4.

Running score: Gawrys 48 (28) Rosenthal 50 (13)

## Hand 8. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ KQJ1076	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	♠ 93
♥ AQ6		♥ J42
♦ AJ109		♦ K87653
♣ –		♣ 95

### West                  East

<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>
–	Pass
1♣*	1♦*
4♠	Pass

1♣ Polish Club

1♦ 0-6 any; 7-11, unbalanced without 4 in a major suit; 16-17, balanced without 4 in a major suit

North led the ♠4 from ♠42 ♥K1097 ♦Q2 ♣AQ763 and the blockage in diamonds meant there were, in theory at least, only eleven tricks. South ducked the first spade, won the next one and switched to the ♥8. Declarer took the ace, drew the outstanding trump and took another round before playing the ♦9, running it when West did not cover. Now there were twelve tricks.

### West                  East

<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Migry</i>
–	3♦
4♣* (Dbl)	Pass
6♦	Pass

It is unclear what 4♣ meant - perhaps RKCB, with East's pass showing one key card.

To defeat 6♦ South has to find a heart lead, which is virtually impossible. He tried the ♠A and continued the suit, declarer soon claiming.

*Recommended auction:* If you can find a route to 6♦ by West well done! Otherwise one unsophisticated sequence would be 2♦-6♦.

Marks: 6♦ (W) 10, 6♦ (E) 9, 5♦/4♠ 6, 6♠(W) 4.

*Running score:* Gawrys 54 (28) Rosenthal 59 (23)

Gawrys took the last set 57-33 to win 131-98.

Here is a brilliant bonus deal from the third session:

## Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J64	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	♠ A987
♥ KJ9865432		♥ –
♦ 2		♦ AJ1074
♣ –		♣ 8752

♠ Q105	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	♠ K32
♥ 10		♥ AQ7
♦ K9863		♦ Q5
♣ AQ64		♣ KJ1093

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♦	4♥	5♦	5♥
All Pass			

East led the ♦A. The auction strongly suggested that North would have at most one diamond, so West's card could be expected to have suit preference overtones. Appreciating that any club tricks the defenders were entitled to could not run away West followed with the ♦9. East switched to the ♠7 and when declarer played dummy's two West could win with the queen and return a spade for one down.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Double	2♥*
4♦	5♣*	5♦	5♥
All Pass			

West led the ♣A, which speeded up the play, declarer ruffing, crossing to dummy with a heart, pitching a diamond on the ♣K and continuing with the ♣J, establishing two winners for spade discards.

You can play through the deals mentioned in this article.

Just follow the links:

Hand 1: [here](https://tinyurl.com/y9bd8gvj) or <https://tinyurl.com/y9bd8gvj>

Hands 2 & 3: [here](https://tinyurl.com/yan26he3) or <https://tinyurl.com/yan26he3>

Hand 4 and the bonus deal [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8re44lt) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8re44lt>

Hands 5,6, 7 & 8: [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8dbyduv) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8dbyduv>

## Bridge at the 5\* Amathus Beach Hotel, Rhodes

3 - 10 Oct 2018, 7 nights half board  
excl. flights from £799 per person

We will be joined by David Bird, who will give three interesting & amusing bridge seminars. Eddie and Kathy Williams will direct our duplicate bridge sessions.



### TWO FABULOUS EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- City tour of Filerimos - Discover the Ancient stadium, temple of Apollon and enjoy a guided tour of the old Town of Rhodes
- Half day trip to Lindos - visit the Acropolis of Athena Lindia



Quote 'BRIDGEMAGRHODES' at the time of booking to receive a free signed book by David Bird!\*



Call **01473 660 802** or visit [www.firstforbridge.com](http://www.firstforbridge.com) for more information

\*Applicable to new bookings only

**ABTA ARENA**  
Travel with confidence  
ABTA No. Y6426 T . R . A . V . E . L

## MASTER POINT PRESS THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

### ENTERPRISING BRIDGE TALES

THE ORIGINAL STORIES

Marc Smith

## ENTERPRISING BRIDGE TALES

THE ORIGINAL STORIES

By Marc Smith

Follow the adventures of Captain Quirk and First Officer Sprock as their team competes against some of the best bridge players in the universe in a major championship.

First published in 1990, this is an updated edition of internationally-acclaimed, award-winning author Marc Smith's debut novel.



An Honors Book from Master Point Press

AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE RETAILER NEAR YOU



# The Master Point Press Bidding Battle Set 8

Moderated by Brian Senior

A slightly smaller panel this month – no doubt, like me, many are busy during the summer months. Anyway, thank you to those who did send in their answers, and let's get underway.

## PROBLEM 1

IMPs. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

- ♠ AK9632
- ♥ Q
- ♦ K875
- ♣ A2

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♥
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
?			

Bids	Votes	Marks
2♥	12	10
3♦	2	6
2♦	1	4
2NT	1	4
3NT	1	4

So, do we have sufficient to drive to game? No, says Eric:

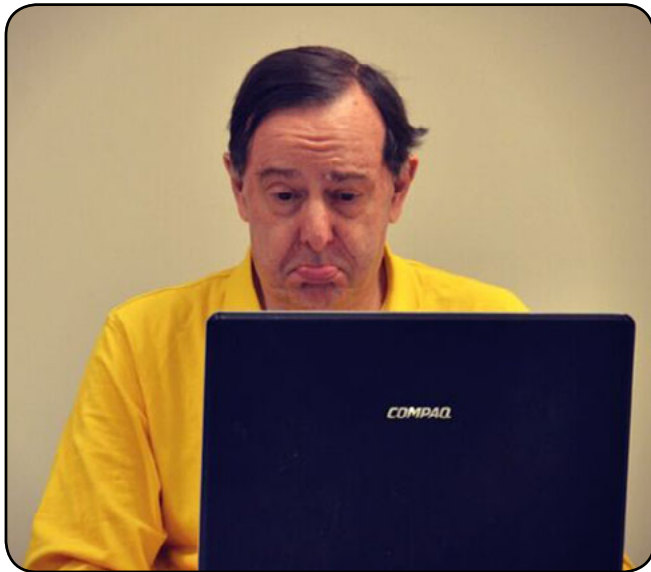
**Kokish:** 2♦: If it doesn't end here 2♦ will help partner decide between 4♠ and 3NT if game is worth bidding.

Very true – if it doesn't end here. And no says Liz, while coming up with a different solution to the problem:

**McGowan:** 2NT. Hard to imagine that spades

## THE BIDS & MARKS

	Bid	No. of Votes	Marks		Bid	No. of Votes	Marks
1.	2♥	12	10	5.	3NT	13	10
	3♦	2	6		3♦	2	6
	2♦	1	4		3♥	1	2
	2NT	1	4		3♠	1	2
	3NT	1	4		6.	3♥	7
2.	3♦	12	10	2♦		4	10
	4♦	4	8	Dble		4	7
	5♦	1	4	4♥	2	4	
	2♦	0	2	7.	Pass	10	10
	1NT	0	2		4♣	6	8
3.	4♦	7	10	3♣	1	2	
	3♦	7	9	8.	2♣	6	10
	2♥	1	4		4♣	4	8
	3♥	1	4		5♠	4	7
	4♣	1	2		4♦	1	5
4.	4♦	9	10				
	5♥	3	6				
	4♣	1	5				
	6♥	1	4				
	4♥	2	2				
	4NT	1	2				



**Brian Senior - your Moderator -  
universally and affectionately known as  
Mr. Grumpy**

will play better.

*With a six-four hand and good spades I find it surprisingly easy to imagine that spades could play better.*

*If we are going to raise no-trumps, perhaps we are simply too good for a mere invitation?*

**Carruthers:** 3NT. I like my hand very much opposite a 1NT response to an overcall. My spades are good whatever he has in the suit, if he has only one spade he'll have compensating high-card values. My honours in the other three suits are great. This is a great problem, with Two Diamonds, Two Hearts, Two Spades and 2NT all also in the running.

*Nobody opted for 2♠, though it did get a mention, and you missed out this effort, which did get two votes:*

**Apteker:** 3♦. I am forcing to game opposite partner's 8-11 HCPs while keeping all strains in the picture.

**Alder:** 3♦. My immediate reaction was to raise to 3NT, but then I thought that perhaps partner had been endplayed into 1NT with, say, four low hearts. He should assume 6-4 because I did not make a Michaels Cue-bid. If his next bid is 3♥, I will happily convert to 3NT.

*Yes, the failure to start with a Michaels Cue-bid does suggest that our spades are longer than our diamonds. Is it possible, however, that we could be only 5-4 to bid this way? Maybe Phillip would argue that a 5-4 hand would be more likely to cue-bid 2♥ rather than jump, the latter implying more extreme distribution.*

*The remainder of the panel are happy to drive to game and, rather than attempt to describe their own hand immediately, prefer to set up a force and ask partner for further information.*

**Rosen:** 2♥ – A big hand in context of this auction.

**Cannell:** 2♥. A general unassuming cue-bid in essence. I do not think that either 2♠ or 2♦ does this hand justice. I believe we have a game bonus available, and I am trying to ascertain the strain and level. Let's see what partner has to offer after this advance.

**Lawrence:** 2♥. Intending to force to 4♠ or 3NT.

**Bird:** 2♥. 1NT is a constructive move and I'm heading for game. If he rebids 2NT, I will raise to 3NT.

**Green:** 2♥. I'm not sure what the best contract is but if I hear 2♠ preference then I can bid a forcing 3♦ and hopefully find out whether 4♠ or 3NT is the top spot. I think that although

partner is likely to have a heart stopper that it is by no means guaranteed e.g. xx 10xx AQxx KQxx (where 6♦ is a reasonable spot) and so a direct 3NT from me is out.

*Perhaps that offers a future problem – what would partner have bid with Ben's example hand?*

**Rigal:** 2♥. I'm going to force this hand to game I think and 2♥ will allow me to bid diamonds next and try to extract spade support/tolerance from my ox. Other calls may or may not be as accurate for valuation of this hand but the slight overbid will let me develop the hand more intelligently. Always a decent trade off.

**Robson:** 2♥. Clearly we're going for game. Let's see if partner has a couple of spades. Failing that (e.g. over 2NT), we'll follow with 3♦.

**Mould:** 2♥. 2♦ and 2♠ are weak (though 2♠ has some constructive overtones – no WJO) so are out with a 16-count (♥Q now looks like a working card). 3♠ does not have enough suit and 3NT is too committal when game or even slam in other denominations may be better (why cannot partner have for example ♠x ♥Axxx ♦QJ10xx ♣Kxx when an admittedly unlike ♥K lead will beat 3NT with 6♦ excellent. So that leaves 2♥ and hope to work it all out later.

**Brock:** 2♥. For now. Then 3♠, to offer partner the choice of games.

**Smith:** 2♥. I could just raise to 3NT, but I'll give partner a chance to show doubleton spade support, in which case 4♠ rates to be the better contract.

**Sime:** 2♥. Enough to force rather than risk being dropped in 2♦. I hope that partner confesses to a doubleton spade. Then I won't even have to disclose the diamonds.

And finally, one who cue-bids while not believing it to be game-forcing:

**Lambardi:** 2♥. We can end up in a partscore, game (most likely) or slam. In NT, spades or diamonds. A cue-bid seems the best way to bid time. Not game-forcing in my opinion so partner needs to combine strength and denomination description.

*I'm with those who force to game. Yes, we may get to a poor game once in a while, but 2♥ seems to allow the most room to explore and, yes, I do think it is game-forcing as I'm not sure in which auctions we are allowed to drop the bidding in part-score.*

*I expect to end up in 4♠ more often than not, as that is surely where we are headed whenever partner has doubleton support.*

## PROBLEM 2

**IMPs. Dealer West. N/S Vul.**

♠ 82  
♥ K4  
♦ Q10963  
♣ 10643

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦*	Double
?			

1♦ = 4+ cards, unbalanced, not a weak NT

Bids	Votes	Marks
3♦	12	10
4♦	4	8
5♦	1	4
2♦	0	2
1NT	0	2

*This one is, of course, all about how many diamonds to bid. Had we been playing Acol with a weak no trump, or any method where 1♦ promised only three cards, I would have expected the following to be virtually unanimous:*

**Rigal:** 3♦. Hard to see we should do less (or more). I await with interest an edifying explanation of why this should be a miss-evaluation. A plurality vote? I think so.

**Cannell:** 3♦ – This looks like a pre-emptive jump raise to me.

*So pessimistic, Barry – you got a clearcut majority vote.*

**Bird:** 3♦. This looks like a middle-of-the-road, totally obvious to man or beast, pre-emptive raise. Please record this as my entry for ‘dud problem of the year’.

**Rosen:** 3♦ – boring I know...

**Alder:** 3♦. Why not?

**Apteker:** 3♦. 5♦ is too much with this shape for now and 4♦ may just propel the opponents into game. If the opponents freely bid to game in a major, I may reconsider bidding 5♦ at these colours.

**Mould:** 3♦ Don't mind 4♦, but would prefer some more shape for that. 4♦ may also bully them into a game they were not bidding otherwise. This seems middle of the road.

**Smith:** 3♦. I am struggling to think of a sensible alternative, although perhaps the panel will enlighten me. Even at this vulnerability, 4♦ seems like too much and anything less than 3♦ seems rather feeble.

*There now, that wasn't so hard, was it? You did think of an alternative and it can hardly be described as ridiculous, even if the vote went against it.*

**Sime:** 3♦. I am struggling to think of an alternative. Maybe a psyche. No reason to bid more diamonds, which would put 3NT out of the picture.

*But how often will 3NT be right if partner is unbalanced? OK, that would include 5-4-2-2s, I guess, but any singleton would make the no trump game's chances problematic.*

**Carruthers:** 3♦. Unlike the previous problem, I see no alternative here.

**Lawrence:** 3♦. Can't see any problem or objection to 3♦. I don't want to bid 4♦ since I have some defense.

*A point also made by:*

**Green:** 3♦. I understand the footnote but I'm sure that partner 'could' open third in hand for the lead on AKJx and so I'm not inclined to pre-empt to the four level. If I was to bid 4♦ I would rather not have a probable defensive trick on the side.

*Even if partner has opened on AKJx in third seat, I'm not sure that raising to 4♦ will work out badly – the opposition surely have at least a partscore unless partner is both strong and short in clubs, and when it is their hand they will not find it easy to penalise us, so going for a penalty against nothing will be a rare occurrence.*

*There is a minority in favour of the 4♦ bid mentioned by a couple of panellists already.*

**Robson:** 4♦. Seems about right. This may jostle the opponents into the wrong contract or encourage partner to find a profitable save.

**Kokish:** 4♦. A better footnote would help as there are many ways to raise diamonds below the level of 3NT, all of which would require agreements. Of course, if we choose 4♦ no explanation is required. Are you trying to point us to

4♦, Brian? This is closer to a mixed raise than a PRE raise but without that club in our golf bag I'd bid 4♦ after all, rather than 2NT or 3♦ (whichever is PRE in the system). Because East and his hand are unbalanced, this has much more appeal than after a standard 1♦ opening, especially in a weak no trump environment.

*There are indeed a number of different ways to raise diamonds, but we don't have a fit-jump hand and as far as I can see the system does not include a Mixed Raise here (presumably, if it did, we would give up the 3♣ fit-jump to fit it in, though which of 2NT, 3♣ and 3♦ would be which strength of raise would need to be discussed). I'm not going to put footnotes listing all the things that we don't play. For what it's worth, I think this hand is just short, in high-card terms, of being worth a Mixed Raise, so I would choose between the pre-emptive raises – but it's close.*

*I wasn't trying to point anyone towards any particular bid, but I was interested to see how many people would bid more (4♦) because they were playing the unbalanced diamond, than would have been the case playing more traditional methods (3♦). I am coming across more and more 'ordinary' tournament players recently who are playing short club and unbalanced diamond, and wonder if they are all on top of the fact that they can afford to be so much more aggressive facing their new 1♦ opening than they used to be facing the standard 1♦.*

**Lambardi:** 4♦. 3NT does not seem to be makeable opposite an unbalanced hand. Whichever suit partner is short in we do not stop enough. The issue seems to be more how to pre-empt opponents or judge whether to drive on to 5♦ over their major game. Would be better to have a singleton

somewhere but two doubletons may help. Partner rates to be short in clubs which will work well.

*And if he isn't short in clubs then the opposition have a good fit in at least one major – which is when we most want to pre-empt them.*

**Brock:** 4♦. One tends to develop a style for the sort of thing. I generally prefer jumps to four as it seems to give more of a problem. If I bid 5♦ then they just double.

*I agree with all of that. Liz, however, goes for the biggest pre-empt of anyone:*

**McGowan:** 5♦. Prefer to make them make the last guess. Happy to apologise if wrong.

*A bridge-player who is happy to apologise – now I've seen everything!*



**Liz McGowan**

*My own preference is for the bigger pre-empt of 4♦, but I bow to the wisdom of the majority, who prefer 3♦.*

## PROBLEM 3

**IMPs. Dealer North. E/W Vul.**

♠ J2  
♥ K10964  
♦ 76532  
♣ 4

West	North	East	South
–	1♣	1♦	Double
?			

Bids	Votes	Marks
4♦	7	10
3♦	7	9
2♥	1	4
3♥	1	4
4♣	1	2

*Another decision how high to go in support of partner on a weak hand, but this time with a possibly useful side-suit. This one really split the panel.*

**Cannell:** 3♦ – This looks like a pre-emptive jump raise to me. Second choice is 1♥, but I would rather take some room from the opponents.

**Apteker:** 4♦. 3♦ will not stop the opponents from bidding their black suit fit and 5♦ once again feels too much.

**Bird:** 3♦. I can see that 4♦ might be more effective pre-emptively, but it's too much for me when vulnerable.

**Lawrence:** 4♦. One difference between this hand and Hand 2 is that East usually has a real suit, not just 'four cards'.

**McGowan:** 3♦. Pre-emptive raise of partner's pre-emptive overcall.

*And they say the Scots have no sense of humour.*

**Robson:** 4♦. The vulnerability is a concern but my shape compensates.

**Alder:** 3♦. Why not? I assume East's double shows 4-4 in the majors (my preference) or at least 4-4.

*That is certainly a very common agreement. I have also played that double shows either four-four in the majors or neither major – not sufficient club support for a raise and no diamond stopper.*

**Mould:** 4♦. Now this I do think is 4♦, despite the vulnerability. With us having so many diamonds between us they are not going to be able to double us for penalties even assuming that was right for them. I see no reason to bid hearts – if we have a heart fit, they have a spade fit, so our suits are effectively the same. If I had my majors reversed I might think about bidding spades as they outrank their hearts. I think this is a hand for getting as high as possible as quickly as possible. Second choice 3♦.

*Yes, they are highly unlikely to be able to penalise 4♦ even if that is the right thing for them to do. And again, yes, it would be much more attractive to get our second suit into the game if that suit was spades, when we would be far more eager to see partner compete further.*

*A number of panellists mention the possibility of getting the heart suit into the auction but reject the idea:*

**Smith:** 3♦. I am struggling not to repeat my comment from Hand 2. Perhaps a fit jump of 2♥ is an alternative here, although it seems rather light for that action and do I really want

to encourage partner to save over 4♠ at this vulnerability?

**Carruthers:** 4♦. If game in hearts is on, someone will have another bid, either Partner or the opponents for Four Spades.

**Sime:** 3♦. I'd bid 4♦ at anything other than unfavourable at teams. Maybe we lose a heart fit but, if so, it is probably not our hand. Even if we don't, it is probably not our hand. The primary consequence of my bidding hearts might be to help North/South bid and play the hand.

**Rosen:** 4♦. I considered but rejected showing hearts

**Green:** 4♦. I was thinking about bidding 2♥ (as a fit jump) but I'm not sure I want to tip the opponents off (sometimes they might play in hearts!) and also I'm not sure that I'm strong enough. Too shapely for a cowardly 3♦ in my view. I suppose I could bid 1♥ but I will never get my diamond length across in time to inconvenience the opponents.

**Kokish:** 3♦. A fit-showing 2♥ has some seductive appeal but it's closer to a psych than an accurate strength statement. Can't do everything, and the vulnerability cautions against the more manly 4♦.

*Well, we are pretty low on high cards, but whether or not this hand is worth a fit-jump depends on what you think a fit-jump means. Sally would love to know:*

**Brock:** 2♥. Everyone talks about 'fit jumps' but does anyone know exactly what they promise?

*While Barry is quite comfortable regarding the bid's meaning but comes up with a different answer.*

**Rigal:** 3♥. Fit showing jump to show a raise

to the four-level and heart lead-director. 2♥ if that is not acceptable. The problem comes when THEY were about to play 4♥ I suppose. Maybe they will think I'm psyching.

*Doesn't a fit-jump show genuine support for partner, a decent side-suit, with most of the high-card strength concentrated in the two suits, and the playing strength for a raise to the next level of partner's suit? In other words, it doesn't necessarily contain a huge amount of high-card strength.*

*If we agree with that description, then it becomes a matter of judgement – is the West hand a raise to 3♦, in which case the fit-lump option is 2♥, or is the hand a raise to 4♦, when the fit-jump option becomes 3♥?*

*Alas, the panel does not give us a clearcut answer regarding what level we should raise to. However, more of those who bid 3♦ were close to the bigger raise than were 4♦ bidders close to bidding only 3♦, so I'd say the 4♦ bidders just have the edge. Now, as to whether the hand should make a fit-jump, though there were a couple of votes for doing so, but others fear that the bid will help the opposition more than partner, or will encourage partner to bid on too often. On balance, the simple diamond raisers win the day.*

*There is one more possibility which no-one else mentioned. Once you choose the four-level raise, how about:*

**Lambardi:** 4♣. No point in showing hearts as if we have a red double fit we will not be allowed to play at the four level anyhow. Trying to help partner decide what to do over their game. I am willing to risk the four level (however wrong it may be if partner is strong and they can go nowhere).



*Pablo is right – if we have a red double fit we will see the opposition outbid us. On the other hand, while I’m happy that a fit-jump doesn’t promise the earth, I think most of us would expect a splinter to be a little more constructive, and if an opposing declarer believes it we may also tip him off how to play a key suit when we are outbid.*

## PROBLEM 4

**IMPs. Dealer North. E/W Vul.**

♠ A  
♥ J10653  
♦ QJ62  
♣ AQ7

West	North	East	South
–	1♦	2♦*	3♦
?			
2♦	5-5+ Majors, 10+ HCP if only 5-5		

Bids	Votes	Marks
4♦	9	10
5♥	3	6
4♣	1	5
4♥	2	2
4NT	1	2
6♥	1	2

**Cannell:** 4♥. I am doing this instead of 4♦ in case partner would bid 4♠ when holding six spades and five hearts. As this situation has not been discussed in this forum I will simply bid 4♥. Will I bid 5♥ if the opponents bid 5♦? Brian will ask us in a few months.

**Lawrence:** 4♥. Fascinating problem. If I am to believe that comment about ten points, it means that one of the opponents is short some values.

The 3♦ bidder usually isn’t the guilty one. So, if everyone is honest, East must have 5-6 in the majors and be fairly weak. I’m bidding 4♥. Feels right for many reasons including that I have no other bid to suggest a slam.

*Clearly, then, Mike would play a 4♦ bid as asking for partner’s better major, as feared by Drew.*

*Nobody else was prepared to give up on slam so easily, however.*

**Bird:** 4♦. This should be viewed as a strong raise in one of partner’s suits, rather than ‘you choose a suit’. If he bids just 4♥ I will raise to 5♥ as a slam try. Since I did not cue-bid a black-suit control, he should read me for both these controls and concentrate on his trump quality.

**Aptecker:** 4♦. Over 4♥, I will bid 4NT. I expect to make opposite two key cards and normal breaks. Over 4♠, I will bid 5♥.

**Green:** 4♦ followed by 5♣ over the expected 4♥ sign off. I could shoot out 6♥ but I think that is punishing partner when we are off two aces and partner isn’t void in diamonds.

**Rigal:** 4♦. What a seductive footnote. And who would believe it even if that were our agreement? 4♥ seems wet, 5♥ doesn’t help partner evaluate that well...cue-bid gets us to 5♥ without really showing what we have. But maybe 4♦ – 4♠ – 5♥ does at least let partner raise to six if he likes his hand.

*And if I hadn’t given the footnote someone would have complained that I didn’t tell them what the partnership agreement was – you can’t win.*

*The Canadians are on the same page:*

**Carruthers:** 4♦. I refuse to be the only guy not bidding diamonds. This has a dual purpose: one, to let partner know it’s our hand and two, just



**Eric ‘The Koach’ Kokish**

in case he has some 6-5 good hand and we are cold for 12 tricks.

**Kokish:** 4♦. Even in the jungle, there’s no reason East can’t have enough for slam (he will bid 4♥ as a retreat and anything else to cooperate) but it’s likely that I will need to make a further decision at my next turn. ♠Qxxxx ♥AQxx ♦–, ♣xxx, offers a tolerable play for slam and he won’t cooperate initially with that.

**Rosen:** 4♦ – too good just to bid 4♥.

**Sime:** 4♦. If I was forced to name the contract on this round it would be 6♥. However, if we make eleven or thirteen tricks, I would deserve partner’s jibe “don’t you know any bids between 3♦ and 6♥?” If partner bids the expected 4♥, I am not sure if I could apply the brake in Five when right, but we should reach the grand when right.

*Iain is the only panellist to mention the grand slam but yes, I suppose it is possible we have 13 tricks facing ♠Kxxxx ♥AKxxx ♦ – ♣xx.*

**Smith:** 4♦. Four Hearts is not enough with this hand: surely we want to play slam opposite ♠KQJxx ♥AQxxx ♦x ♣xx. An immediate 5♥ would ask for a diamond control, which I already know he has. I'll raise 4♥ to 5♥ on the next round, asking about his trumps, and hope partner doesn't think KQxxx are enough unless he has a diamond void.

*There is a significant minority who choose something other than 4♦ as their slam try. This first group clearly do not share Marc's view that 5♥ asks for a diamond control, using it as a general slam try.*

**Alder:** 5♥. If I was told that my bid would end the auction, I would jump to Six Hearts. And I am tempted to go with that.

**McGowan:** 5♥. Maybe he has the right cards. Maybe he will recognise them. Can't be pre-emptive at this vulnerability.

**Mould:** 5♥. I have absolutely no idea what to do on this hand! No change there then. I have heard an argument that in this and similar auctions you should play 4♣ as a slam try in hearts and 4♦ as a slam try in spades. That seems very sensible to me. The only thing you lose is of course a natural bid in the other minor. Now, how many times have I wanted to bid 4♣/♦ naturally after partner has shown 5-5 majors. Errrrr... that would be none. However, clearly that is not ANBM standard, so I have to make do with what I have available. Pard is at red, so is expected to have something decent, but ♠KQJxx ♥KQxxxx ♦x ♣x obviously qualifies so I

am unsure I can just blast slam. But equally 4♥ is massively inadequate. I cannot see where 4♦ will get me – pard will bid 4♥ and when I now bid 5♣ or 5♥ pard might think I have a diamond control. So I will plump for 5♥, believing this to be a general slam try. It feels like not enough, but I cannot see what I can do – I really want to Keycard in hearts but cannot see how to. Second choice 6♥. Easily the hardest problem of the set IMHO and I will be interested to see what the panel make of it.

*So how about a 4♣ cue-bid?*  
**Brock:** 4♣. Surely a cue. Can't really believe it is natural here (and if it is it must be forcing so partner should get the message if I go back to 5♥).

*I agree that 4♣ should be some kind of slam try. As Sally and Alan say, how often will we want a natural 4♣ bid here and, even if there is a risk of partner treating it as natural, a conversion to 5♥ should clear up the misunderstanding. There is merit in playing 4♣ to agree hearts and 4♦ to agree spades, in that slam bidding is so much easier when both partners know what the trump suit will be. Against that, the importance of being able to clear up the control situation in partner's short suits cannot be ignored.*

**Lambardi:** 4NT. Will stop in 5♥ with 0 and drive to Six with 1. Not perfect as we might be missing both ♥K and ♥Q but cannot see how to key card in hearts. 3♥ or 4♥ are out of the question and 5♥ asks for diamond control in my book – not two top honours (which would still not be enough, btw). It is better that I declare – a club lead might sink partner's chances so Double is also out. Partner may be void in diamonds so

even with one key card we might be cold.  
*I don't think there is a way to key-card in hearts – unless you play Alan's suggestion – and maybe this is good enough reason to adopt it?*

*Nor do I see how 4NT helps. We can miss a cold slam easily enough if this is taken as four-ace Blackwood, while chaos may ensue if our ox treats it as six-ace Blackwood.*

*Or we can just make 'the practical man's bid':*  
**Robson:** 6♥. If it's on a heart finesse, it will work.

*That is very likely, but we could be off two top tricks, and I have always preferred to miss a good*



**Andrew Robson**

slam rather than go off in a bad one, even though both cost the same number of IMPs, so I prefer the panel's slower approach, though granting that it is far from automatic that we will end up at the right level via that route.

## PROBLEM 5

IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A97642  
♥ KQJ5  
♦ 10  
♣ 85

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
3NT	13	10
3♦	2	6
3♥	1	2
3♠	1	2

There was a large majority for 3NT.

**Apteker:** 3NT. Maybe our only chance to bid it. Bidding 3♥ hoping for delayed spade support may snooker partner into bypassing 3NT.

*It may indeed, and if he doesn't have spade tolerance we definitely want to be in 3NT – maybe even if he does have spade tolerance and two big minor suits.*

**Bird:** 3NT. Not ideal, perhaps, but 3♥ would be fourth suit and there must be a good bunch of hands where we need to be in 3NT.

**Green:** 3NT. With the hearts double stopped and no fit for partner this seems like the normal action. I'm not thinking about slam unless

partner bids again.

**Rigal:** 3NT. Since even facing 3-0-5-5 we might be in a sensible spot, and my hand really isn't suitable for slam unless facing three spades, I'm going to break my rules and conceal the spades. With minors switched I admire anyone who bids 3♦, but even EOK wouldn't do that here...would he?

**Robson:** 3NT. Ugly, but so was partner's 3♣. Bidding 3♠ with such a good heart stopper will tempo partner out of the most likely game.

**McGowan:** 3NT. 'I have a load of wasted stuff in hearts partner.

**Lambardi:** 3NT. Giving up on slam possibilities as my heart strength is unlikely to be much help. 3♥ and 3♠ might drive us beyond our safe spot as 3♠ might fetch a raise on a singleton honour which wouldn't be best. If partner is 3154 and passes we will survive easily although we might admittedly miss the slam. If he has the right cards for it, however, e.g. ♠KQx ♥x ♦AKxxx ♣AQxx he might risk 4♠ as it would only be wrong when I have a weak 4-card suit plus a double stopper in hearts. Or 4♥ with 3055.

**Alder:** 3NT. I do not expect much company, but at least it is clearer than a three-heart fudge or a 3♠ rebid that would surely take 3NT out of the picture.

*Then you should be pleasantly surprised as you have a lot of company, with 13 out of 17 opting for 3NT.*

**Sime:** 3NT. The late Ken Baxter preached that misfits with about 30 points should be played in 3NT. That advice has won (saved) points over the years. If this is the exception, c'est la vie. "I will do the same again next time" was another

Ken Baxter mantra.

**Lawrence:** 3NT. Neither 3♥ or 3♠ appeals since these bids seldom lead to a major suit contract. Often they lead to partner rebidding a minor and I hate that. The downside of this is that if partner is 3-0-5-5, we will miss a good spade spot. Is 0-4-5-4 possible?

*I think that with 0-4-5-4 he would rebid 2♥ to save space and keep the relatively more important major suit in the game.*

**Brock:** 3NT. In some ways would like to bid 3♥ to allow for a spade contract, but even if partner has 3-card spade support, my hearts will be wasted. If partner has a strong 5-5 in the minors it might be important to suggest its now.

**Cannell:** 3NT – Three choices I think: 3♥/3♠/3NT... though, EOK may have a longing for a 3♦ rebid as a false preference to leave partner a ton of room to explain his jump shift. If I choose either major after 3♣ it 'may' end-play partner depending on his major-suit holdings. I will go with 3NT, and blame R. Hamman if it fails.

**Rosen:** 3NT - used to seeing 3♦ get high marks here. I need to stress heart stop and misfit.

**Carruthers:** 3♥. If he volunteers Three Spades, we might have bigger things. If he really has some minor-suit hand, he can bid 3NT.

**Mould:** 3♠. Don't mind 3♥ which amusingly is a bid for all seasons – FSF or natural. Hate 3NT. Will Kokish consider this a 3♦ bid?

*I bet you don't hate 3NT as much as I hate 3♥ – and 3♠ also risks going past our best spot when partner just has two powerful minor suits.*

*Anyway, his adoring fans have led us nicely into Eric's contribution to the discussion – well*

predicted Drew and Alan. But Neil will be pleased to see that his choice of 3NT comfortably out-scores 3♦.

**Kokish:** 3♦. The bid that dares to be known for good taste alone. If I had to make the last bid for our side it would be 3NT, as both 3♥ (nominally fourth suit but IMO best used to show at least 5/5; else 3♦ to mark time) and 3♠ will too often endplay partner. Maybe I should bid 3NT anyway, but there is merit in treating this as 5-4-2-2 with chunky majors, about 10-12 – a hand that is delighted to finish in 3NT but that might be just what opener needs to choose the right strain and level. My instincts make me a ‘picture’ guy whenever possible, so 3NT would be a misbid for me. To go past 3NT opposite ‘meaningless’ preference to 3♦ East needs both a big hand and clear direction; he will not count on me for real support though I might have it. Stiff ten is not so bad, regardless and the rest might be useful or not. Picture the likes of: ♠x ♥Ax ♦KQJxxx ♣AKJx, and he might have an ace more, even in the Acol land.

Maybe, but please note for the future that we are not in Acol land. In the absence of any footnote to the contrary, we play strong NT and five-card majors (not that this is particularly relevant to this problem).

Maybe it is partly a function of the sort of people I partner, but I would find it very difficult to explore if my partner and I were in the habit of giving preference to a singleton in opener’s first suit, particularly on strong hands where slam will sometimes be in the picture. I am used to the idea that 3♦ shows genuine diamond preference, the reason being that FSF is available to pick up hands



**Marc Smith**

with no clearcut direction. Having to go through FSF with a fit, but give preference without a fit, just looks like a surefire road to a migraine.

I can see how Eric, partnering an Eric clone – is the world ready for this? – will be far better placed than the rest of us on this and similar deals, but Eric partnering someone else? That might be a different matter. He does, however, have a non-clone with whom to start a new world-beating partnership:

**Smith:** 3♦. I’m sure some panellists will follow Hamman’s First Law and bid the House, but it seems that 4♠ would be better opposite a 2-0-6-5 shape? Without a partial spade fit, partner can still grope with 3♥ to get us to 3NT. He can, as long as he is on the same wavelength

and doesn’t think that diamonds are agreed. Eric could be right – his views are always deserving of respect – but I doubt that many will choose to follow him in this particular situation.

## PROBLEM 6

**IMPs. Dealer North. None Vul.**

♠ K74  
♥ AKQJ543  
♦ 5  
♣ 105

West	North	East	South
–	1NT*	Pass	Pass
?			
1NT 15-17			

Bid	Votes	Marks
3♥	7	10
2♦	4	10
Double	4	7
4♥	2	4

Apologies, it was my intention to include the footnote that 1NT was 15-17. That would be the default expectation, of course, as no footnote should mean that everyone is playing ANBM standard.

So our methods are currently double for penalty, 2♣ both majors, 2♦ one major, 2♥/♠ five of the bid major plus a four-card or longer minor. I suspect that the majority of those panellists who bid some number of hearts don’t know the system – but then I don’t know all of it myself so who am I to criticize?

Two panellists have been reading the same fairy tale, though, sadly, not the system notes:

**Bird:** 3♥. This is a ‘three bears’ situation, where

2♥ is too little, 4♥ is too much... and (Hint to the Director) 3♥ is just right for 10 points.

**Smith:** 3♥. This seems like the Goldilocks bid: 2♥ is not enough and 4♥ is too much. In fourth seat, a jump to the 3-level should be more constructive than it would be in second seat, since we do not need to pre-empt South.

*Others went for the same bid.*

**Lambardi:** 3♥. Must be invitational as there is no reason to pre-empt an opponent who has shown no interest in a suit contract. Partner will be hard pressed to decide, but I will happily pass 3NT or 4♥ if he finds a raise. I am aware that as little as AJx in spades may do the trick and partner will not know, however. 2NT (CUE) followed by 3♥ could show this hand-type (although some details would need some caring after in responding).

**Sime:** 3♥. Seems about an adequate description in the balancing chair. If partner has more than a share of the missing points, he will move on. On a really inspired day, he bids 3NT and that is the only making game.

*Even if 2♦ does show one major, as it does, perhaps if 3♥ is invitational it is the right bid anyway? It does get the contract played by our hand, which is probably good.*

**Rigal:** 3♥. Double may be penalty but I doubt if we will play there. Or necessarily beat it on the wrong lead? yes pessimistic I know. Footnote on 1NT defence and NT range would be nice for the lazy...that said 3♥ as an invite seems OK to me. Partner will look at tricks not trumps.

**Carruthers:** 3♥. The value bid. If double said lead a heart, that would be good, but it doesn't.

**Alder:** 3♥. I must admit I am sorely tempted to

bid 3NT. If nothing else, it would give the moderator and readers a good laugh. But after scoring +400, I would get the last laugh!

*Surely none of us would ever laugh at you Phillip? I think there is too big a risk of opener knowing exactly what to lead to 3NT, and it won't be his small doubleton heart. I think, if 3NT is where we belong, we can still get there after a heart overcall, albeit played by partner.*

*Alan too was tempted by 3NT before settling for:*

**Mould:** 4♥. My experience is (a) you should never ever double on these hands – you defend 1NT doubled, pard for some reason does not lead a heart and you are – 280, and (b) it is right to bid game on them even if it is technically unsound. It can be argued that this is a 3♥ bid in fourth seat, but it is just putting too much pressure on partner to bid in my view, so I will just bid game. I have a sneaking admiration for a Belladonna-style 3NT but it is a bit rich for my taste.

**Lawrence:** 4♥. It won't be doubled (usually) and given I will know where the missing values are, making 4♥ should be possible if there is, in fact, a winning line. The only other bid is 3♥ and that doesn't show this hand. Might bid 3♥ without the king of spades.

*Double got a significant minority vote.*

**Brock:** Double. Might end up looking very silly, but other actions far from clear. Let's hope partner has a bit (if not he might run and now I'm happy to bid 2♥) and his opening lead won't be fatal for us.

**McGowan:** Double. Expect them to run to a minor then I can bid hearts. This may not work

well if they do not run...

**Robson:** Double. You never know. I can always bid lots of hearts later.

**Green:** Double. It would be useful to know the range of the NT but one might double both weak and strong NT ranges. If I were to bid 2♦ as Multi Landy I might well be wrong siding the contract as partner is likely to respond 2♥. The other decision would be whether to raise if partner bids 2♥ as with the right cards (AJx of spades for example) game could be cold. Not that double is risk free of course, partner might lead the wrong suit and the opponents might scramble seven tricks (or more) who knows, let's roll the dice!

*Yes, you will very often get a chance to bid hearts after doubling. The worry starts when double ends the auction and you wait for partner's opening lead. They could so easily have seven or eight winners if we don't take our winners first.*

*Now for those who would like to bid 2♦:*

**Kokish:** 3♥. If 2♦ showed one major I'd do that and raise myself to 3♥. Double is too likely to lead to someone escaping or to partner not leading hearts in time vs 1NT doubled.

*And those who actually know the system so do so:*

**Rosen:** 2♦.

**Cannell:** 2♦. Sure, a penalty double will work well if partner leads a heart, but that will not happen. So, I will go with 2♦ showing either major.

**Apteker:** 2♦. Showing my single-suited major which I intend to raise to show invitational values.

*Both Eric and Alon mention that they intend to*

raise the 2♥ response to 3♥ to invite game. That seems to show the hand pretty well. And if we are agreed that a 3♥ overcall in pass-out seat is also invitational, stronger than a simple two-level overcall, as opposed to the situation in second seat, where most of us would expect a more pre-emptive hand, then that too seems to get the job done.

## PROBLEM 7

**IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.**

♠ K9853  
♥ –  
♦ 103  
♣ KJ9874

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
Pass	10	10
4♣	6	8
3♣	1	2

We start with a panellist who is out on his own.  
**Rigal:** 3♣. UGHHHHHHHHH! I bid clubs going past 3NT and find partner with ♠x ♥AKQxx ♦KQ10xx ♣Qx. I pass and find partner with 0544 and ♦Jxxx and they wrap it up. I bid 3♣ and partner passes reluctantly with ♠A ♥Qxxxx ♦AKxx ♣Axx...

All very true, but nobody else is willing to settle for a part-score without even trying for something more lucrative. They are split between those hoping for a juicy penalty and those who look for game or, who knows, even slam, our way.

**Apteker:** Pass. Seems obvious.

**Cannell:** 4♣. South has either AQJ10 sixth or seventh of spades depending on aggression. Will we get rich defending 2♠ doubled? I am not certain of that. Therefore, I will try a value-showing leap to 4♣ given my previous pass of 2♠.

*Well, I could remove one of those spade honours and still overcall 2♠ but it is comforting to know that I can afford to do so because you will not try to extract a penalty from me.*

**Bird:** Pass. Partner is unlikely to have four clubs when I have such a discrepancy in minor-suit lengths. When he holds fewer clubs, I might have to eat my spade losers in a club contract.

**Robson:** 4♣. Crapshoot whether partner has a second suit of clubs or diamonds. Taking a middle route.

*Well, I suppose partner is more likely to have longer diamonds than clubs simply because there are fewer clubs available to the other players due to my length, but he could easily hold four clubs, and then playing will usually be a much better idea than defending.*

**Green:** Pass. I'm torn between Pass and 4♣ (showing a strong invite with long clubs) or 3♠ followed by 5♣. When using Lebensohl 3♣ here would be constructive (weak hands going via 2NT) and 4♣ even more constructive. If we have a club fit then we might easily make a game (or slam), on the other hand if partner is 5-5 in the red suits (planning to correct 3♣ to 3♦) then my hand is not nearly so good. With hopefully 2.5 tricks in defence I opt to pass but not with much confidence.

*I think that, once you decide to bid, 4♣ is plenty – 3♠ followed by 5♣ looks too much with*

*a possibly useless ♠K.*

*Should 2NT be Lebensohl? Probably, though next time I'll give you 4-4 in the minors and see how many panellists tell us that 2NT should obviously show two places to play.*

**Kokish:** Pass. Not as obvious as it looks with all those spades, but for once I think I'll go with the flow, so to speak.

**Lambardi:** 4♣. Will partner double with every hand that is short in spades? 1-5-5-2? If so, passing the double might be best, but I cannot risk missing a big fit in clubs and trading + 600 (or 1370) for a meagre 200 / 500. Even if he is 1-5-5-2 we might survive in 5♣.

**Lawrence:** Pass and lead a club. This is a percentage problem. Does partner have real clubs or just a good 1-5-4-3 hand? Or even, a good 1-5-5-2 hand? If he has a spade void, I should be bidding. Kind of a 'go fish' moment.

**Rosen:** Pass - no idea how many clubs we will be able to make instead?!

**Sim:** 4♣. We should be told whether 2NT is natural, Lebensohl or pick-a-minor. Perhaps, for the more sophisticated, pick a minor or a bust with hearts (thus a direct 3♥ has a little). Even if 2NT is Lebensohl, this hand is too good for 3♣. Perhaps passing the double would collect 1100, perhaps it is minus 670. Since the latter is possible opposite a dummy which makes 6♣, I won't be risking it.

*2NT is undefined in the system, so far as I know.*

**Alder:** Pass. Do I pass and miss 6♣ or bid and miss 800, he asked optimistically?

**Carruthers:** 4♣. Is that cowardly? I like this as a Lebenstension where 2NT is the weakness call. It's not too hard to imagine them only one

off here and us making a game. Close among Three Clubs, Four Clubs and Pass.

**McGowan:** Pass. Lead a diamond (always lead shortest suit with a 5+card trump stack). Hope partner does not have four clubs and/or zero spades. (He should not re-open with a double if he has a spade void....) Could easily be wrong again.

*Sometimes there is no sensible alternative to a reopening double, even with a void. What else do you expect from a 0-5-4-4 hand?*

**Brock:** Pass. Obviously could be wrong but also could be right!

**Smith:** Pass. Of course, if partner leads the ace of clubs and it gets ruffed, I've probably done the wrong thing. The odds are surely that partner is 1-6-4-2 or 0-6-4-3 rather than some shape with four clubs, though. Even if Two Spades is only one down, +200 is not a disaster when there is no guarantee we can make a game. If it makes, then let's hope the auction is the same at the other table.

*And finally, the man who thinks he knows:*

**Mould:** 4♣. Do I know this hand? I have a feeling I may have sent it in. If so, if I recall correctly, the player at the table passed and was +200 with slam in clubs playable. This whole hand revolves around how many black cards partner has and where. If partner is (say) 0-5-4-4 then you should definitely be bidding; if partner is 1-5-4-3 you should probably be bidding but if partner is (say) 2-5-4-2 or even 2-6-4-1 (shudder), thinking he can convert clubs to diamonds, you definitely should not. For the second time in this set I have no idea what to bid, and will await the panel's comments with

interest. I shall bid 4♣. If partner passes that I doubt we have missed much. Second choice 5♣, third choice Pass.

*I'm not sure that I have much to add. My inclination would be to jump to 4♣ – a decent six-card suit is just too tempting. Could that work out badly? Absolutely! Two Spades could easily be cold, it could easily be going for 800, while we could be cold for slam or going down in 4♣.*

## PROBLEM 8

**IMPs. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**

♠ J9843  
♥ AKJ107543  
♦ –  
♣ –

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠*	Pass
?			

1♠ Natural, unbalanced hand as a weak NT would have rebid 1NT

Bid	Votes	Marks
2♣	6	10
4♣	4	8
5♠	4	7
4♦	1	5
6♠	1	3
5♣	1	2

*I have no idea where this problem comes from, only that it was a real-life hand, and it does allow us to end this set with a little light relief.*

*The plurality vote went to what was once described as that pitiful crutch – fourth-suit-forcing.*

**Apteker:** 2♣. Not sure how much the fourth-suit

forcing start is going to help but I may learn something useful and surprising. Seems like a reasonable way to agree Spades at a low level and to get into a cue-bidding sequence. If partner bypasses clubs or diamonds once we start cue-bidding, that will be helpful when I eventually initiate Keycard. Cannot see how splintering or bidding exclusion in either clubs or diamonds can be better.

**Rigal:** 2♣ won't help me know what to do yet but when I bid 2♠ over 2♦ I'll at least set spades and begin a forcing auction. Maybe hearts plays better facing anything but a void? Probably but a spade ruff against hearts can't be ruled out. Set up GF first and guess well later.

**Smith:** 2♣. Of course, this is a cop out as it just kicks the can down the road (an expression we seem to have heard a lot of in the news recently). However, it seems wrong to lock us into spades (via something like a 4♣ splinter) when it is quite possible that the hand will play better in hearts. Consider something like ♠Axxx ♥Q♦AKxxx ♣AKx when 7♥ is excellent and even 6♠ needs a favorable trump break.

**Sime:** 2♣. First things first. Let's set up the game force. It is even better that I don't consume our space to do so.

**Bird:** 2♣. At first I thought of 5♠, but it will not be easy for partner to judge whether his spade holding is good enough to advance. Although it may seem bizarre to use fourth-suit-forcing with my 8-5 shape, I will step in that direction. My battle-cry will be 'How can it be wrong?'

**Kokish:** 2♣. Perfect! Although a jump to 5♠ will keep us out of slam when missing AK of trumps, we might not make 5♠ and we won't

necessarily reach slam opposite A10xx. The idea will be to set spades as low as possible unless we catch 2♥ next from East. We also need to keep hearts in the picture as there may be three or four discards for spades on East's minors when his spades are (say) Axxx.

*Two Clubs is indeed the way to set spades as trumps while leaving the maximum room to explore. The question is, how useful will that space be when we hold this freak?*

*We have seen a couple of mentions for 5♠ already, so let's hear from those who favour that call.*

**Alder:** 5♠. Should simplify the auction, even if it results in one down!

**McGowan:** 5♠. Ho ho ho. Bid 6♠ with 2 hon, 7♠ with 3. Obvious to me, perhaps not to partner.

*And the difference between this and 5NT is? Let me guess – over 5NT we bid 6♠ with one top honour, 7♠ with two???* I have to say that, if that is your intention, I'd be more likely to swap the two bids around and make 5♠ the weaker of the two, 5NT the stronger, because then we can stop in 5♠ facing no ace or king. I am certain of one thing though – partner won't have a clue what the difference is without getting a headache along the way.

**Lawrence:** 5♠. A substitute for the GSF. Partner assumes I have spades along these lines and bids accordingly. Here, there is lots of room to show various holdings. He should bid seven with AKQ. Six with Two top honours, and can, with agreements, bid 6♣ or 6♦ to show other useful holdings such as KJxx (which he doesn't have here) or holdings like A10xx. I admit I don't have much experience with this bid but since it addresses my needs, I'm willing to go with it unless someone comes up with something

better. I don't expect to see this hand again. I believe 5♠ should have the desired effect but if there's double, perhaps bidding 2♣ and then 5♠ should focus on spades. Nice annoying hand.

*Yes, there is space in which to differentiate between more than just the raw number of top honours.*

**Mould:** 5♠. You have got to be joking! Is this hand for real? It could easily be right to play this hand in hearts rather than spades, but I cannot see how I can sort everything out (i.e. spade honours and which major to play in). I could splinter but where will that get me? Exclusion with two doctors is useless. I will try something I have never bid before 5♠. Surely this must be the same as an initial 1M – 5M? That is, it asks about trumps and nothing else. Pard will pass without either the ace or king, bid six with one and force to a grand in some way with AK. May get us too high opposite Kxxx in particular but I cannot think of anything better. John Collings used to say that he was no longer prepared to discuss hands with nine-card suits or with two voids as absolutely anything could be right. The man had a point.

*I agree, it could be right to play in hearts, and it will be virtually impossible to know when it is right to do so – though maybe if partner's response to FSF was 2♥ we'd have a chance. Oh, but we haven't used FSF, have we?*

**Green:** 6♠. I could try 5♣ Exclusion Keycard but I would still be guessing where the keycards are. 5NT would be perfect if I held the queen of spades but partner would bid grand with AKxx. I will just have a go at what I think I can make.

*Practical, perhaps, but it seems a shame not to at least make one effort to find the right level*

*before we guess.*

*With that in mind, there are two possible splinter bids available to us, to say nothing of two possible Exclusion Keycard asks.*

**Cannell:** 5♣. Very funny! I will try Exclusion RKCB. However, I suggest we change Exclusion RKCB responses from: 0/1/2 to: 0/1/1 with the Q/2/2 with the Q, etc.

*Only Drew actually went for an Exclusion bid – it wouldn't usually solve the problem of course, as partner would show a wasted ace in the other minor – but there were votes for both splinters.*

**Robson:** 4♦. Splinter bid. Partner will not sign off with good spades. Even if he does, I'll make one more move, perhaps 5♠.

*I'm not sure why Andrew chose 4♦ rather than the slightly more economical 4♣.*

**Lambardi:** 4♣. To continue with 5♠ over the expected 4♠. Hoping partner does no more than 4♦ or 4♠ at this stage – as I have taken over the steering wheel. He can bid 5NT over 5♠ with all three honours in which case I will happily bid the grand.

*Yes, but they haven't bid a suit, so 5♠ can mean whatever you want it to mean.*

**Rosen:** 4♣. Almost impossible problem (never seen Exclusion for two suits!).

**Carruthers:** 4♣. Goodness, where did you get this little treasure? I plan to drive to slam. May we play Double Exclusion Key Card Blackwood please?

*No, you may not – sorry.*

**Brock:** 4♣. At least agrees spades (I know we could belong in hearts). If he has the good trumps I need, at least he'll know he's got them. I'll cue 4♥ over 4♦ but then pass 4♠.

*You may be right, but in general the panel*



seemed willing to commit to more than the four-level. As little as the ace of spades means that having only one trump loser is odds on, and I think there are too many hands partner can hold where he will not go over your suggested sequence and slam is good or, indeed, quite cold.

Although it seems mildly absurd to be using FSF on such a strange hand, I think 2♣ would be my choice. It sets the stage to torture partner and, if we get nothing definitive from him, we can always just pick a number of spades at any time.

Congratulations to David Bird, whose 79 makes him this month's champion, just one point ahead of Neil Rosen with Iain Sime a further point behind.



**David Bird**

## SET 8 – THE PANEL'S BIDS & MARKS

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
David Bird	England	2♥	3♦	3♦	4♦	3NT	3♥	Pass	2♣	79
Neil Rosen	England	2♥	3♦	4♦	4♦	3NT	2♦	Pass	4♣	78
Iain Sime	Scotland	2♥	3♦	3♦	4♦	3NT	3♥	4♣	2♣	77
Alon Apteker	South Africa	3♦	3♦	4♦	4♦	3NT	2♦	Pass	2♣	76
Marc Smith	England	2♥	3♦	3♦	4♦	3♦	3♥	Pass	2♣	75
Ben Green	England	2♥	3♦	4♦	4♦	3NT	Dble	Pass	6♠	70
Phillip Alder	USA	3♦	3♦	3♦	5♥	3NT	3♥	Pass	5♠	68
Eric Kokish	Canada	2♦	4♦	3♦	4♦	3♦	2♦	Pass	2♣	67
Barry Rigal	USA	2♥	3♦	3♥	4♦	3NT	3♥	3♣	2♣	66
Mike Lawrence	USA	2♥	3♦	4♦	4♥	3NT	4♥	Pass	5♠	63
Sally Brock	England	2♥	4♦	2♥	4♣	3NT	Dble	Pass	4♣	62
John Carruthers	Canada	3NT	3♦	4♦	4♦	3♥	3♥	4♣	4♣	62
Andrew Robson	England	2♥	4♦	4♦	6♥	3NT	Dble	4♣	4♦	62
Drew Cannell	Canada	2♥	3♦	3♦	4♥	3NT	2♦	4♣	5♣	61
Liz McGowan	Scotland	2NT	5♦	3♦	5♥	3NT	Dble	Pass	5♠	58
Pablo Lambardi	Argentina	2♥	4♦	4♣	4NT	3NT	3♥	4♣	4♣	58
Alan Mould	England	2♥	3♦	4♦	5♥	3♠	4♥	4♣	5♠	57



## Master Point Bidding Battle Competition – Set 9

Open to All – Free Entry

### PROBLEM 1

IMPs. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 754  
♥ 83  
♦ 8765  
♣ Q974

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♦*	Double
?			
1♦	4+ cards		

### PROBLEM 2

IMPs. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 10963  
♥ 842  
♦ J87  
♣ 984

West	North	East	South
–	–	2♣	Pass
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
?			

### PROBLEM 3

IMPs. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 5  
♥ K106  
♦ A93  
♣ AQ8753

West	North	East	South
1♣	3♠	4♥	Pass
?			

### PROBLEM 4

IMPs. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A1064  
♥ AJ7  
♦ A109753  
♣ –

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	3♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
?			

### PROBLEM 5

IMPs. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ –  
♥ QJ873  
♦ 983  
♣ AK1084

West	North	East	South
–	1NT*	Pass	2♣
Double	2♠	Pass	Pass
?			
	1NT 12-14		

### PROBLEM 6

IMPs. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 7  
♥ AKJ  
♦ AKJ854  
♣ A103

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
?			

### PROBLEM 7

IMPs. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ –  
♥ AK983  
♦ A62  
♣ J10532

West	North	East	South
–	3♦	3♠	Pass
?			

### PROBLEM 8

IMPs. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ J7  
♥ J9  
♦ AKQ6  
♣ AKQ98

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
?			

Send entry to [biddingbattle@newbridgemag.com](mailto:biddingbattle@newbridgemag.com) or enter via the website [www.newbridgemag.com](http://www.newbridgemag.com).

Entries to arrive before the end of the month.

# A New Bridge Magazine Bidding System

Basic Method

## Natural

### Five-card majors

Minors are three cards in length minimum. Always open 1♣ with 3-3 or 4-4, so 1♦ is 3 cards only if precisely 4-4-3-2 shape

15-17 no-trump in all positions and vulnerabilities

Two over one is game forcing in all uncontested auctions

A 1NT is up to a non-game force but it is not-forcing. However the only hands that Pass are weak no-trump types.

Jumps at the two-level are weak (eg, 1♦-2♠) and at the three-level are invitational (eg 1♥-3♣)

1M-3M is a limit raise

Inverted minors are played. 1m-2m is F2NT and 1m-3m is pre-emptive. Over 1m-2m, 2NT is a WNT and is non-forcing, 3m is unbalanced and non-forcing. All other bids are at least quasi-natural and FG

2♣ shows 23+ balanced or any game forcing hand Weak 2♦, 2♥ and 2♠ (5-9, six-card suit). In response 2NT is a relay asking for a high-card feature if not minimum with 3NT showing a

good suit, non-minimum. 3♣ asks for a singleton with 3NT showing a singleton ♣. 4♣ is RKCB Three-level openings are natural and pre-emptive. Over 3♦/♥/♠, 4♣ is RKCB and over 3♣, 4♦ is RKCB.

3NT opening is Acol gambling – solid suit and at most a queen outside.

Four-level openings are natural.

### No-trump bidding:

After 1NT 15-17, 2♣ = Stayman, 2♦/2♥ = transfers, 2♠ = ♣s with 2NT/3♣ denying/showing a fit, 2NT = ♦s with 3♣/♦ denying/showing a fit. After this new suits are splinters. 3♣ is 5 card Stayman, 3♦ is 5-5 ms FG, 3♥/♠ 1-3-(4-5)/3-1-(4-5) and FG. 4♣ is 5-5 majors, game only, 4♦/♥ = ♥/♠s (then 4NT = RKCB and new suits are Exclusion).

1NT rebid = 12-14 with 2♣ a puppet to 2♦ to play in 2♦ or make an invitational bid, 2♦ is game forcing checkback, new suits at the 3 level are 5-5 FG and higher bids are auto-splinters.

Jump 2NT rebid = 18-19 with natural continuations.

After 2 over 1, 2NT is 12-14 balanced or 18-19 balanced and 3NT is 15-17 range with a reason not to have opened 1NT

3NT rebid after a one-level response shows a

good suit and a good hand.

After 2NT, 20-22, 3♣ = Stayman, 3♦/3♥ = transfers, 3♠ = slam try with both minors. Four-level bids are as after 1NT opening.

Kokish is played after 2♣ opening (2♣-2♦-2♥-2♠-2NT is 25+ balanced FG, and 2♣-2♦-2NT is 23-24 balanced NF)

### Initial response:

Jump shifts are weak at the two-level and invitational at the three-level. Bidding and rebidding a suit is invitational, bidding and jump rebidding a suit is FG (eg 1♦, 2♥ is weak, 1♦, 1♥, 2♣ 2♥ is invitational; 1♦, 1♥, 2♣, 3♥ is FG).

2NT after 1♣/1♦ is natural and invitational without 4M.

2NT after 1♥/1♠ = game-forcing with 4+ card support. Continuations in new suits are splinters, 3♥/♠ extras with no singleton, 3NT = 18-19 balanced, 4 new suits are 5-5 good suits, 4♥/♠ minimum balanced.

### Continuations:

1x-1M-2M promises four-card support or three-card support and an unbalanced hand. Balanced hands with three-card support rebid 1NT

Reverses are forcing for one round after a one-level

### How to Enter

Send your chosen bid in each of the eight problems, by email to [biddingbattle@newbridgemag.com](mailto:biddingbattle@newbridgemag.com) or enter via the website [www.newbridgemag.com](http://www.newbridgemag.com). Entries must be received before the end of the month. Include your name, email address and number of the set which you are entering.

response. The lower of 2NT and 4th suit encompasses all weak hands, responder's rebid of own suit is F1 but not necessarily strong, all other bids are FG.

All high reverses are game-forcing.

Jumps when a bid of the suit one level lower is forcing are splinters, as are four-level responses in a lower-ranking suit to 1♥/1♠. Jumps when the previous level is forcing are splinters.

4th suit = game-forcing.

When responder's suit is raised a return to opener's suit is forcing.

## Slam bidding:

Roman Key Card Blackwood (1 or 4, 0 or 3, 2, 2 + trump Q).

Exclusion Blackwood only in clear circumstances including a jump to the five-level in a new suit and after 1NT – 4♦/♥. Responses are 0, 1, 2.

Cue-bids are Italian style, that is the lowest control is shown regardless of whether it is first or second round or a positive or negative control and skipping a suit denies a control in that suit. Exception: a negative control in partner's suit is not shown immediately.

The default for 5NT is "pick a slam".

## Competition:

Responsive and competitive Doubles through 3♠ – after that, Doubles are value-showing, not penalties.

Negative Doubles through 3♠ – after that, Doubles are value showing, not penalties.

After a 1M opening bid and an overcall, 2NT = four-card limit raise or better and a cue-bid

is a three-card limit raise or better, raises are pre-emptive, change of suit forcing one round but not FG. New suits at the three-level are FG.

After a 1m opening and an overcall, 2NT is natural and invitational and the cue-bid is a limit raise or better, raises are pre-emptive, change of suit F1 but not FG, new suit at the three-level is FG.

Fit-jumps after opponents overcall or take-out Double.

Fit jumps after our overcalls. Jump cue-bid is a mixed raise (about 6-9 with four-card support)

Double jumps are splinters.

Lebensohl applies after interference over our 1NT. An immediate 3NT shows a stopper but not 4oM, 2NT then 3NT shows a stopper and 4oM, 2NT then cue-bid shows no stopper but 4oM immediate cue-bid shows no stopper and no 4oM. In summary 3NT at any time shows a stopper and cue-bid at any time denies one, a jump to 3♠ (eg 1NT-2♥-3♠) is FG.

2NT is rarely natural in competition (except as defined above). Possibilities include Lebensohl or scramble if game is not viable.

## Overcalls:

After a 1M overcall, 2NT = four-card limit raise or better and a cue-bid is a three-card limit raise or better, raises are pre-emptive, change of suit forcing one round. Fit jumps, jump cue is a mixed raise (about 6-9 and four trumps)

After a minor-suit overcall, 2NT is natural and invitational and the cue-bid is a limit raise or better, raises are pre-emptive. Fit jumps, jump cue is a mixed raise (about 6-9 and four trumps)

Weak jump overcalls, intermediate in 4th.

Michaels cue-bids. 1m-2m = Ms, 1M-2M = oM and m with 2NT asking for the m, inv+ and 3m P/C

## Defences:

Against all pre-empts, take-out Doubles with Lebensohl responses – same structure as above.

2NT is rarely natural in competition (except as defined above). Possibilities include Lebensohl or scramble if game is not viable.

Over 2M, 4♣/♦ are Leaping Michaels (5,5 in ♣/♦ and oM, FG). Over Natural weak 2♦, 4♣ = Leaping Michaels (5, 5 in ♣ & a M with 4♦ to ask for M). Over 3♣, 4♣ = Ms and 4♦ = ♦&M with 4♥/♠ as P/C. Over 3♦, 4♣ = Nat and 4♦ = Ms. Over 3♥, 4♣/♦ = Nat, 4♥ = ♠&m, 4NT = ms. Over 3♠, 4♠/♦/♥ = nat, 4♠/4NT = two-suiter

Over their 1NT, Double = pens, 2♣ = majors, 2♦ = 1 major, 2♥/♠ = 5♥/♠ & 4+m 2NT = minors or game-forcing 2-suiter.

Over a strong 1♣, natural, Double = majors, 1NT = minors, Pass then bid is strong.

### Grand Prix

In addition there is an annual Grand Prix with Master Point Press prizes of £100, £50 and £35. Only scores of 50 and over will count and the maximum score is 400. Each contestant's Grand Prix total is their five best scores over the year (January – December).

## WEST

Hands for the  
September 2018 The Auction Room

Bid these hands with those on the following page with your favourite partner; then turn to The Auction Room inside to see how your score compares to that of the experts

Hand 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ Q53  
♥ K52  
♦ 9865  
♣ A962

If East opens 1♥ South overcalls 2NT

Hand 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 6543  
♥ AJ63  
♦ K972  
♣ 5

If East opens 1♣ South overcalls 2♣ natural

Hand 3. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ K1096  
♥ AK7  
♦ Q1083  
♣ AK

Hand 4. Dealer South. Both Vul

♠ AJ1094  
♥ AQ52  
♦ K2  
♣ A10

Hand 5. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ AK1062  
♥ 3  
♦ AJ6  
♣ A1042

If East opens 2♦ Multi and then passes  
West's 2♥, South bids 2♠

Hand 6. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ AK  
♥ AKQJ2  
♦ 854  
♣ K109

Hand 7. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J  
♥ 1054  
♦ AKJ  
♣ QJ10954

If East opens 1♣ South bids 3♣ to show ♠+♦

Hand 8. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ KQJ1076  
♥ AQ6  
♦ AJ109  
♣ —

# MASTER POINT BIDDING BATTLE



## Results - Set 7

July's winner was **Dean Pokorny** on 76, a fine performance from a first-time entrant! **Alex Athanasiadis** and **David Barnes** both scored 73, with **Michael Prior** on 71 in fourth, Dean is awarded a voucher of £40, David £30, Alex £20, and Michael £10.

We have been reliably informed that Master Point Press has now sorted out their technical issues. All winners should receive news this month.

## Other Good Scores

70 *Par Ol-Mars, Peter Barker*

68 *Páll Ólafur Bergsson, Mike Perkins, Stuart Nelson*

65 *James Dunlop, Norman Massey*

64 *Raj Krishan Aneja, Dominic Connolly*

## Grand Prix standings:

The top twenty scorers currently are:

Alex Athanasiadis	367
Mike Ralph	364
Mark Bartusek	363
Michael Prior	359
Stuart Nelson	357
David Barnes	354
Rodney Lighton	353
Peter Barker	350
Nigel Guthrie	348
Dominic Connolly	346

Colin Brown	344
Andrew King	340
Bill Gordon	340
Derek Markham	337
Jeff Callaghan	335
Bill Linton	334
Norman Massey	332
Olga Shadyro	331
Dudley Leigh	330
Mike Perkins	329

## How to Claim Your Prize

The winners will receive an email from Master Point Press sending you a Gift Certificate. You will then need to create an account using your email address in order to validate your Certificate.

# Comments on Bidding Battle Set 7

*Brian Senior examines the responses of the readers and compares them against those of the panel.*

OK, let's take a look at those bids chosen by readers but not by any of the panellists.

## PROBLEM 1

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
4♠	7	10	7
3♣	6	7	4
4♣	4	8	3
3♠	2	7	15
3♦	1	5	0
4♦	1	5	0
5♣	0	2	1
Pass	0	2	11

Twenty-one panellists bid on, none passed. Of those who bid on the majority either bid game or invited game. Over 25% of readers passed. It looks as though they simply did not appreciate that partner has not only shown six-five in modern style but also a strong hand – a six-five 12-count would not bid three times – and that our values, limited though they may be, are all working overtime. In the face of the panel voting and comments, I can't bring myself to give more than two points to the pass.

As for 5♣, it is closer to reflecting the general feeling of the panel, but is very committal and, as a solo vote, also is awarded just two points.

## PROBLEM 2

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
6♥	9	10	6
4♠	7	9	8
5NT	1	8	0
Double	1	8	5
5♥	2	7	3
4♥	1	3	16
4♣	0	0	1
5♣	0	4	2

Four Clubs is a natural bid in this sequence unless specifically discussed and agreed to the contrary, and at best will cause confusion – zero points. However, 4♣ would normally be played as forcing, in which case it would be reasonable to play a jump to 5♣ as agreeing diamonds – whether Exclusion Keycard or just showing the control is another matter for agreement. On the basis that a partnership could reasonably have such an agreement and it could help with West's judgment in a situation where nothing is perfect, I'll award it four points. If 5♣ is EKCB, West will have to pass a 5♥ response, showing one key-card, and bid 6♦ over 5♠, which shows two keycards.

## PROBLEM 3

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
6♣	11	10	21
5NT	1	9	0
Pass	5	8	5
Double	4	6	15

## PROBLEM 4

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
Double	9	10	9
5♥	9	10	27
Pass	3	5	5

## PROBLEM 5

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
3♣	13	10	17
4♥	4	8	13
3♠	2	6	0
2♣	1	6	1
4♣	2	2	2
2NT	0	5	2
3♥	0	2	6

It appears that a number of readers are not familiar with fit jumps, as a descriptive 3♣ is surely more helpful to partner than either a pre-emptive 3♥ or a constructive-raise 2NT. Both of those calls had their adherents and both are deserving of points. I consider this hand to be well worth a constructive heart raise, so 2NT will score better than 3♥, which is a serious underbid with a known nine-card fit and such outside playing potential.

## PROBLEM 6

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
4♣	10	10	9
4♦	6	10	5
5NT	2	8	0
6♦	2	6	6
4NT	1	5	4
5♦	0	0	1
6NT	0	2	2
Pass	0	0	14

No panellist gave serious consideration to passing and to do so would be very pessimistic, so I am not prepared to give an award to the readers who made that call – sorry. Five Diamonds will end the auction so is effectively the same as passing 3NT. 6NT is too committal – even if slam is on, which is quite likely, it is easy to see how 6♦ could be far superior to 6NT. Give partner ♥Kx, for example, when it may be possible to ruff out the suit – or facing ♠Kxx a ruff in dummy may be the twelfth trick. However, 6NT is at least closer to the general view of the panel so gets an award of two points.

## PROBLEM 7

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
4♣	9	10	7
3♦	8	9	14
4♥	4	7	18
5♣	0	2	1
Double	0	0	1

We have solo actions from two readers. I don't understand double at all and simply do not believe that it is appropriate on such an unbalanced hand with which the only question should be whether to settle for a heart game or look for slam. Double will not help with this. Five Clubs, on the other hand, at least is descriptive, except that it is very committal and could take us past our last making contract. I'm assuming 5♣ to be EKCB rather than just shortage-showing, and award two points.

## PROBLEM 8

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
5♣	7	10	8
4♠	4	9	1
4NT	2	9	0
4♥	5	8	28
6♣	2	5	0
5♥	1	5	1
4♣	0	0	3

The only answer given by readers but not by panellists was 4♣. It is true that other answers may get us a minus score, while 4♣ makes a plus score very likely, but it is a gross underbid. We have an opening bid of our own and partner has forced us to bid at the four level (or 3NT). How can we possibly not bid a game?

## XXI MADEIRA INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE OPEN

VIDAMAR RESORT HOTEL MADEIRA

1<sup>ST</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

PRE-TOURNAMENT EVENTS:

1<sup>ST</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER

MAIN EVENTS: 6<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

WARM-UP: 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

COOL-DOWN: 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER



### A grand slam of pleasures

Since the seeds of tourism were sown in the early 19th century, Madeira has grown famous as a holiday destination. The temperate climate, the natural beauty of the island and the lush landscapes ... combine these with Madeira's cosmopolitan and welcoming people and it's an unforgettable experience for visitors. It is in this wonderful setting that the Madeira Bridge Association is hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> Madeira International Bridge Open, in partnership with the VidaMar Resort and Intertours.

#### VidaMar Resort Hotel Madeira

Estrada Monumental 175 - 177  
9000-100 Funchal - Madeira  
Tel: (+351) 291 768 447 | Fax: (+351) 291 768 449  
E-mail: [sales@madeira.vdm.pt](mailto:sales@madeira.vdm.pt)  
Website: [www.vidamarresorts.com](http://www.vidamarresorts.com)

### Do you love playing against good opponents?

Then today's your lucky day: some top players will once again be in Funchal for the 21<sup>st</sup> Madeira International Bridge Open.

Come and enjoy good bridge in a hotel that measures up to the occasion.

VidaMar's rooms all have sea views.

Natural daylight floods the public areas and the playing-rooms. The VidaMar Resort Hotel Madeira offers many leisure and sports facilities, including restaurants and bars, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a sauna, a whirlpool and a fitness centre. It is also home to the sensational Thalasso Sea Spa.

#### INTERTOURS: RESERVATIONS

Tânia Cruz or Rosana Pereira  
Tel.: (+351) 291 208 906 ( direct ) or (+351) 291 208 900 Fax: (+351) 291 225 020  
E-mail: [groups@intertours.com.pt](mailto:groups@intertours.com.pt)  
Website: [www.intertours.com.pt](http://www.intertours.com.pt)

#### Bridge package includes:

- 7 nights' stay including breakfast
- Entry fees for both main events ( Pairs and Teams )
- Airport transfers
- Welcome cocktail party
- Prize-giving and gala dinner
- Light lunch on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> NOV'18
- Social programme ( bookable through Intertours )

#### Pre- and post-tournament side events

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – 9pm | National Simultaneous Pairs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – 4.30pm | IMP Pairs
- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov – 9pm | Warm-up Pairs
- 12<sup>th</sup> Nov – 9pm | Cool-down Pairs

#### Main tournament programme

- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov – 6pm | Welcome cocktail
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Nov – 4.30pm | Open Pairs
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Nov | Open Teams
- Start times: 9<sup>th</sup> Nov - 8.30pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> Nov - 11.30am and 3.30pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Nov - 3pm

#### PRICES

	DOUBLE (2) ROOM B&B	SINGLE ROOM B&B
Early booking (1) ( by 31 <sup>st</sup> July )	€ 637.50	€ 928.00
Extra nights ( per person per night )	€ 49.50	€ 91.00
Standard bridge rate (1) ( bookings from 1 <sup>st</sup> August )	€ 708.00	€ 1030.00
Extra nights ( per person per night )	€ 55.00	€ 101.00

#### PRICES (1) OTHER HOTELS

Price per person  
for 7-night package

	DOUBLE (2) B&B	SINGLE B&B
	€ 463.00	€ 603.00

- (1) Package price per person, 7 nights
- (2) Minimum occupancy 2 persons

For other accommodation options  
please contact Intertours.

For more information and FAQs visit [www.bridge-madeira.com](http://www.bridge-madeira.com)

Please check the tournament website for changes to the programme.

#### BRIDGE MADEIRA CONTACTS

Miguel Teixeira  
Tel.: (+351) 965 477 574 | E-mail: [migtei@netmadeira.com](mailto:migtei@netmadeira.com)  
Carlos Luíz  
Tel.: (+351) 914 440 580 | E-mail: [cluiz57@gmail.com](mailto:cluiz57@gmail.com)  
José Júlio Curado  
Tel.: (+351) 937 951 515 | E-mail: [j.curado@yahoo.com](mailto:j.curado@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.bridge-madeira.com](http://www.bridge-madeira.com)



Associação de bridge da madeira



madeira islands



Secretaria Regional de Educação  
Direção Regional de Juventude e Desporto





## Book Reviews

*by Martin Cantor*

### Famous Bridge Swings. David Bird

*Master Point Press 224pp. US\$ 18.95 GBE 11.95*

### Trick One. David Bird

*Master Point Press 224pp. US\$ 18.95 GBE 11.95*

Two more entertaining and instructive books from the keyboard of the prolific David Bird (how many is it now David?).

Famous Bridge Swings leans more towards entertainment, with over 150 deals from real life major events where the bidding or play resulted in net swings well into double figures. Credit for finding this multitude of fascinating examples has to be shared with the author's collaborator and erstwhile bridge partner Tal Anthias for designing a computer programme to search the fabulous resource that is the archives of Bridge Base Online.

Twenty-two chapters divide the deals into themes, and while there is, inevitably, some overlap between the themes, there is a pleasant interweaving as the book progresses between declarer play, defensive play and bidding.

It's refreshing that David names the 'guilty' parties whenever the names are available, as it reassures us ordinary bridge-playing mortals that even the greatest make the same mistakes that we do.

I particularly liked that the chapter on opening leads presented each of the deals as a problem, giving readers the chance to test themselves against the original world-class players.



In Trick One, on the other hand, it is the instructional that predominates, although entertainment is there too, both in the deals themselves and in the author's habitual clear and sometimes wry presentation of them. 25 deals are presented at an almost Raymond Chandler-esque pace that sometimes approaches the brusque. The central point, as the title suggests, is the importance of taking care before playing to the first trick; an important lesson for novice and intermediate players, indeed one that even some experts could usefully apply more consistently.

Sixteen chapters cover the whole range of first trick declarer play issues, followed by seven covering all the aspects that defenders need to consider. The hands in these, as in the 28 declarer and 16 defence quizzes that follow, have been carefully constructed to illustrate the point at issue. Each chapter ends with a set of 'Points to Remember' that usefully summarise the key lessons and will be an aid to revision.

The target audience seems to be primarily the less advanced level of intermediate players, but I felt that some deals and subjects, particularly around squeeze play, might prove rather challenging for this readership. Some of whom might also be a little disappointed that teams or rubber scoring is in force throughout, even though matchpoints is probably their more usual form of the game.

In both books there are occasions, albeit not many, where the analysis or explanation is less complete than it might have been, even one or two where they err. And UK readers will have to inure themselves to USA spelling and phrasing such as ruff and sluff.

Having aired those minor quibbles, both the books contain plenty of substance, and are as ever well written. Which means that either or both of them are worth a place on your bookshelf, or would make a suitable present for a bridge player of your acquaintance.

*Martin Cantor*



## EAST

Hands for the  
September 2018 The Auction Room

Bid these hands with those on the previous page with your favourite partner; then turn to The Auction Room inside to see how your score compares to that of the experts

### Hand 1. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ K10  
♥ AQJ109743  
♦ A  
♣ 107

South overcalls 2♠

### Hand 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ AK  
♥ KQ92  
♦ QJ10  
♣ A862

If East opens 1♣ South overcalls 2♣ natural

### Hand 3. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ AQ85  
♥ —  
♦ AK965  
♣ J1073

### Hand 4. Dealer South. Both Vul

♠ 2  
♥ J9743  
♦ AJ104  
♣ J94

### Hand 5. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ —  
♥ KJ8764  
♦ 1085  
♣ KQ97

If East opens 2♦ Multi and then passes  
West's 2♥, South bids 2♠

### Hand 6. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ J108542  
♥ —  
♦ A3  
♣ AJ654

### Hand 7. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A1095  
♥ AJ6  
♦ Q  
♣ AK863

If East opens 1♣ South bids 3♣ to show ♠♦

### Hand 8. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ 93  
♥ J42  
♦ K87653  
♣ 95

## Running Costs

In order to meet our production costs we are relying on sponsorship, advertising revenue and donations.

Sponsorship can come in many forms – one that is proving popular is the sponsorship of a particular column – as you will see from the association of FunBridge with Misplay these Hands with Me and Master Point Press with The Bidding Battle.

We have set ourselves a target of 50,000+ readers, which should be enough to attract a significant level of advertising. As that number increases we will be able to approach more famous companies who might wish to associate themselves with the bridge playing community.

You can help us to achieve our aims in several ways.

Firstly – and by far the most important – by telling all your bridge playing friends that we exist and making sure they register at our web site, [www.newbridgemag.com](http://www.newbridgemag.com)

Secondly by becoming a sponsor. That could take many forms – I have already mentioned the possibility of being linked to a column within the magazine and you will see from this issue that is already popular. There is also the possibility of linking directly to the title.

Thirdly by becoming a Friend of the magazine. That would involve a donation. Anyone donating £500 would become a Golden Friend.

It is possible to make a donation by credit card – just go to the appropriate page on the web site. A number of readers are making regular donations by bank transfer.

If you would like to discuss any of the above contact me at: [editor@newbridgemag.com](mailto:editor@newbridgemag.com)

Ask not what A New Bridge Magazine can do for you – ask what you can do for A New Bridge Magazine.