

A NEW BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Last Point of The Board

Enterprising Tales ♠

The Blues Brothers ♣

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A NEW BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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Ladies First

If you want to watch some top-level bridge at the start of this month, you can see some of England's (and the world's) finest women in the Lady Milne Trial, 2-3 February. Simply pay a visit to the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, Brooklyn House, Goldhawk Rd, White City, London W12 8HA. Don't expect an imposing building, that is just a psyche! Access is via a gate and passageway between Sainsbury's Local, and the Goldhawk Watch & Clock Repairers.

The pre-qualified Nicola Smith & Yvonne Wiseman and Heather Dhondy & Sally Anoyrkatis are joined by the qualifiers, Diana Nettleton & Marusa Gold, Anne Rosen & Nevena Senior, Olivia Bailey & Elizabeth Gahan, Sally Brock & Gilly Cardiff, Susanna Gross & Catherine Draper and Dinah Caplan & Lizzie Godfrey in the battle for the three places on the team.

It's surprising that the World's number one ranked player, Sally Brock and the current number eight, Nevena Senior were required to take part in the preliminary trial. Perhaps it was a case of 'pour encourager les autres'.

Go East Young Man

The 2019 World Bridge Championships will be staged in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, 14-18 September. During the second week of the Championships the 12th World Transnational Open Championships will run alongside the contest for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy and Mixed Teams Championship. You can see preliminary details including the timetable at: <http://www.worldbridge.org/2019/01/09/2019-world-team-championships-information-letter/>

Promoting Bridge

If Tournament Bridge is to survive it is essential that more players join clubs - and that applies all around the world. The EBU has a Membership Development Officer (Tim Anderson) and they have set up a web site that contains a lot of useful advice on how to launch membership campaigns.

<https://ebumemberdevelop.org.uk/>

Keep Bridge Alive

'Bridge is the only game where humans can out-play a computer - keep it alive!'

<http://www.sociologyofbridge.wordpress.com>



@soc_of_bridge

Promoted to Glory

The Salvation Army started using this phrase in 1882 to report the death of a Salvationist. On Friday nights, my father would buy a copy of the 'War Cry' (along with a pint and a bag of scratchings). In recent weeks, a number of well-known bridge players have passed away.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer represented Great Britain twice in the European Championships but perhaps his greatest contribution to the game was to persuade Sandra Landy that she had the potential to become a top-class player.

Gerald Haase was one of Scotland's finest players. The first of his many Camrose matches in 1973 saw him partner one Michael Rosenberg. <http://www.sbu.org.uk/>



article/86-news-items/1568-gerald-haase-1950-2019

Maurice Esterson was a familiar figure on the tournament circuit and at the rubber bridge table. In the late 60's and 70's he was a regular winner of the biggest events, including the Gold Cup & Crockfords.
<https://www.ebu.co.uk/node/3324>

Master Point Press Bidding Battle

Don't forget changes have been made to the prize structure for our Master Point Press Bidding Battle. Each month the three contestants with the highest scores will receive an e-book of a specific title. The books will be relatively advanced when technical, or of general interest. This month it is Tony Forrester's The Bridge Player's Bedside Book. A fourth prize will be awarded, using the time honoured method of a random draw from Mrs Tacchi's 'sorting-hat'.

La Belle Alliance

The alliance between Funbridge and BBO (see facing page) is great news for everyone who enjoys watching and playing bridge online.

Let's Go!

GOTO Bridge 19 has been released – now in its twentieth year it's multi-faceted features reflect its position in the world of bridge software. A full review will appear in our next issue.

Unhinged

One of our readers is trying to find replacement lockout hinges for 30mm legs to repair some bridge tables. The hinges he is looking for must screw into the side rails. They are a neat compact design. There is a photo of the underside of a bridge table at:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/JYW-Deluxe-Luxury-Bridge-Table/dp/B017M6XAU6>.

His club's tables have mixed types of hinges and anything similar would do. Card table suppliers will not sell replacement hinges. Do you know a club hinge supplier? Or perhaps as a table supplier you would be willing to change your no-sale of hinges policy as a special service for UK bridge clubs?



Online Bridge Leaders Bridge Base Online and Funbridge Announce Merger

Bridge Base Online, and GOTO Games, the video games publisher behind the bridge app **Funbridge**, have announced that they have just come together.

Making bridge even more popular

With this merger, BBO and Funbridge will join efforts to not only promote bridge but also to nurture bridge developments across the world and in the next generation of players.

Sharing knowledge, Advancing innovation

The BBO and Funbridge teams will share their respective expertise and experience to offer even more exciting and creative services to their users.

Unchanged fundamentals

BBO and Funbridge will remain separate brands. Players will not be affected in any way by this merger. They will continue to play bridge via their favourite apps and software.

About Bridge Base Online, Inc.

Created as a byproduct of World Champion Fred Gitelman's award winning software series Bridge Master 2000, the free online bridge website Bridge Base Online was launched in 2001 and quickly became one of the most popular bridge platforms in the market with an all encompassing set of products serving the needs of bridge educators, serious or casual players. Bridge Base is available as both a web or mobile app.

BBO in figures:

Over 2.5 million deals played per day
Over 175,000 players online every day
Over 180 countries represented
Available in 29 languages

www.bridgebase.com

About GOTO Games

Company founded in 1994, previously part of the family-owned company GOTO Software specialised in computer software. The company started bridge in the same year with the software GOTO Bridge, the first of many to come.

In 1999, Jérôme Rombaut, who was a fresh European Bridge Champion at that time and has won many other titles since then (the last one being 2017 Vice World Champion), joined the team and brought his bridge expertise to the company.

This was the beginning of Funbridge, first on PC (2003) and later on smartphones, tablets and Mac (2011).

Funbridge has quickly become a major player in online bridge games.

Funbridge in figures:

1 million deals played every day
65,000 players online every day
Over 200 countries represented
Available in 13 languages

www.funbridge.com

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Test Your Technique

with *Christophe Grosset*

see *Page 40*

Dealer South. N/S Vul. Pairs.

♠ A109
♥ A8742
♦ K
♣ J1064

♠ J5
♥ J6
♦ AJ4
♣ Q98732

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♣	All Pass	

West leads a small spade. What's your plan? If you play low at trick one, East takes the king and returns the king of hearts.

Last Point of the Board

The Editor reports on the toughest event in North America, the Reisinger Final

Two days of qualifying reduces the field to ten teams hoping to capture this prestigious title. Here they are, along with their carry-over:

Josef Blass, Jacek Pszczola, Jacek Kalita, Sjoert Brink, Michal Nowosadzki, Bas Drijver	4.61
Gaylor Kasle, P Drew Cannell, James Krekorian, Drew Casen, Michal Kwiecien, Wlodzimierz Starkowski	3.53
Roger Lee, Michael Rosenberg, Simon De Wijs, Giovanni Donati	3.11
George Mittelman, Ken Bercuson, Ron Pachtmann, Piotr Pawel Zatorski	3.05
Daniel Zagorin, Peter Bertheau, Per-Ola Cullin, Marion Michielsen	2.70
Andrew Rosenthal, Aaron Silverstein, Migry Zur Campanile, David Berkowitz, Chris Willenken, Eldad Ginossar	2.50
Fu Zhong, Jie Li, Michael Polowan, Alexander Hydes	2.26
Martin Fleisher Chip Martel, Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco, Brad Moss, Joe Grue	1.20
Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon, Michal Klukowski, Piotr Gawrys, Fredrik Helness, Tor Helness	1.14
Pratap Rajadhyaksha, John Lusky, Venkatrao Koneru, Allan Falk	0.00

Thanks to the brilliance of the ACBL and BBO you can check the results from (almost) every table on the featured deals.

Round 1/1

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K9543		♠ Q82
♥ A2		♥ QJ1085
♦ 743		♦ K108
♣ J105		♣ 83
♠ —		♠ AJ1076
♥ 9764		♥ K3
♦ AQ952		♦ J6
♣ A764		♣ KQ92



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Zhong</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	2NT*	3♥	Double*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
2NT	Spade support		
Dble	Game try		

I'm willing to bet that there are many players who are not familiar with the concept of the game try double that South used on this deal. It applies when the opponents have taken away the space for a more conventional trial bid.

West led the ♥4 and declarer won and played a spade to the king, claiming ten tricks, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Polowan</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	3♥*	4♥	4♠
5♥	All Pass		
	3♥	Spade support	

South led the ♣K and declarer lost a club and two hearts, one down, but an easy win.

Remember the size of the win does not matter:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Koneru</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Rajadhyaksha</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	4♠	Double	All Pass

Declarer was not hard pressed to record +590.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lusky</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Falk</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	2NT*	3♥	Double*
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

2NT Spade support
Dble Game try

In contrast to Multon, Drijver rejected the game try and then saw no reason to remove the double, although his five-card support for spades was perhaps a warning sign. That was another +590 – 15 IMPs at another form of scoring, but here just a simple win.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/yarevwtz) or <https://tinyurl.com/yarevwtz>
and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y87b6bh5) or <https://tinyurl.com/y87b6bh5>
and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7wwfvyb) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7wwfvyb>

♠ —	♠ K9543	♠ Q82
♥ 9764	♥ A2	♥ QJ1085
♦ AQ952	♦ 743	♦ K108
♣ A764	♣ J105	♣ 83
	♠ AJ1076	
	♥ K3	
	♦ J6	
	♣ KQ92	

and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yatqsqr) or <https://tinyurl.com/yatqsqr>
and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y79e9apn) or <https://tinyurl.com/y79e9apn>

Round 2/1

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ —	♠ KJ952	♠ 10876
♥ KQ9874	♥ AJ	♥ 1062
♦ AJ107	♦ Q9843	♦ 6
♣ QJ5	♣ —	♣ AK1063
	♠ AQ43	
	♥ 53	
	♦ K5	
	♣ 98742	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Polowan</i>
-	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	5♣	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♣	Double
All Pass			

South led the ♦K and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♥K, North winning with the ace. At this point, the strongest defence is to switch to spades, which should lead to three down. However, North continued with the ♦Q and declarer ruffed, played a club to the queen and pitched a spade on the ♦J. South ruffed and played the ♠A and declarer ruffed in dummy, drew trumps and played a heart to the queen for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Zhong</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
–	1♠	Pass	3♠
4♥	4♠	5♣	Double
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

♠ —	♠ KJ952	♠ 10876
♥ KQ9874	♥ AJ	♥ 1062
♦ AJ107	♦ Q9843	♦ 6
♣ QJ5	♣ —	♣ AK1063
	♠ AQ43	
	♥ 53	
	♦ K5	
	♣ 98742	

North led the ♠5 and declarer ruffed and played the ♥Q. North took the ace and returned the jack and declarer claimed, +750 and a win.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 76	♠ AJ3
♥ J75	♥ K942
♦ KQJ9875	♦ 104
♣ 7	♣ A1086
♠ K108	
♥ Q10863	
♦ A3	
♣ KQJ	
♠ Q9542	
♥ A	
♦ 62	
♣ 95432	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Polowan</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	4♦	Pass	Pass
Double	4♥	5♦	
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

North led the ♦K and declarer won with the ace. How to tackle the trump suit? North was marked with seven diamonds, so it seemed logical to place him with a shortage in hearts and declarer played a heart to the king and was one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Zhong</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
–	–	1♦	1♠
2♦*	3♦	3♥	Pass
3♠	4♦	4♥	5♦
Double	All Pass		
2♦	Transfer		

East led the ♥4 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♣2. West won with the king and played two rounds of diamonds, so that was four down, +800 and an emphatic win.

To replay this deal go [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y784bbuq> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y784bbuq> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/yc8prdn1> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/yc4wyr2j> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/ybh5u69s> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/yayrdhwt>

Round 3/1

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ —	♠ A76532
♥ AKJ942	♥ 7
♦ 92	♦ Q3
♣ AQJ73	♣ K854
♠ J94	
♥ 10863	
♦ K764	
♣ 102	
♠ KQ108	
♥ Q5	
♦ AJ1085	
♣ 96	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

♠ —	♠ A76532
♥ AKJ942	♥ 7
♦ 92	♦ Q3
♣ AQJ73	♣ K854
♠ J94	♠ A76532
♥ 10863	♥ 7
♦ K764	♦ Q3
♣ 102	♣ K854
♠ KQ108	♠ KQ108
♥ Q5	♥ Q5
♦ AJ1085	♦ AJ1085
♣ 96	♣ 96

East found the devilish lead of the ♦3 and declarer went up with dummy's ace, West following with the seven, and played the six of clubs for the two, queen and king. If East now plays the ♦Q and West overtakes it a third diamond ensures a trump trick for the defenders, but East returned a club for the nine, ten and ace. Declarer ruffed a club with dummy's ♥Q and played a heart. Was it possible that East had started with two red singletons? Dismissing that idea, declarer put up the ♥J and was one down.

To make 5♥ without giving the defenders a chance declarer has to play a top spade at trick two, pitching his second diamond. East wins and can exit with a spade or a diamond, but declarer can play two rounds of clubs, subsequently ruff a club high and then play a heart to the nine – wouldn't that be something!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East led the ♠A and declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with a diamond and pitched a diamond on a spade before taking a club finesse. He finished with eleven tricks, +650.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
–	–	–	1♦*
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♦ Precision, 2+♦, 11-15, stiff honour possible

West led the ♠4 and East took the ace and returned the two, declarer winning with the king and playing a club to the jack and king, +660.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

As soon as East avoided a spade lead – he went with the ♦Q – declarer had no chance.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8gfdwjq) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8gfdwjq> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ybyunhgv) or <https://tinyurl.com/ybyunhgv> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ycunld3r) or <https://tinyurl.com/ycunld3r>

Round 4/1

Board 12. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ AKQ83 ♥ 7 ♦ 863 ♣ A986		♠ J95 ♥ K53 ♦ 7 ♣ KQ7532	♠ 74 ♥ Q94 ♦ AKQ10954 ♣ J
♠ 1062 ♥ AJ10862 ♦ J2 ♣ 104			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Koneru</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Rajadhyaksha</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	2♥
3♦	4♣	5♦	All Pass

South's intervention combined with North's thoughtful bid of 4♣ which might help partner to judge how high to bid and/or what to lead saw E/W fall short.

It turned out badly this time, as South led the ♣10 and declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps and played on spades, claiming all the tricks when the suit divided, +440.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Lusky</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Falk</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

South led the ♥A, which on another day might have won the board.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/y9t722b5) or <https://tinyurl.com/y9t722b5> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8t4hkb8) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8t4hkb8> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ya5fz494) or <https://tinyurl.com/ya5fz494> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8g2urug) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8g2urug>

Round 5/1

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ J107 ♥ A76 ♦ 5 ♣ 1098542		♠ A4 ♥ J10532 ♦ 106 ♣ KQJ6	♠ 932 ♥ Q984 ♦ AK32 ♣ A7
♠ KQ865 ♥ K ♦ QJ9874 ♣ 3			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	-	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Double	All Pass	
2♣	Hearts		

When N/S subsided in 2♠ West felt entitled to compete.

North led the ♠A and continued the suit, South winning and switching to the ♥K when West followed with the jack. Declarer won and made the natural looking play of cashing dummy's diamonds to get rid of his losing spade, but when an honour did not fall under the ♣A he was two down, -300.

If declarer had played a club at trick four, putting in dummy's seven if North did not play an honour he would have been only one down – and N/S were going to make 2♠.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
-	-	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

East led the ♦A and when declarer dropped the ♦10 he switched to the ♥4 West taking the ace and returning the ♣2. East took the ace and now does best to cash the ♦K after which declarer will almost certainly finish two down. However, he played a spade and now declarer could have cashed three rounds of the suit to get rid of the losing diamond, which would have saved a trick. Instead he tried the ♥10 and East won with the queen and exited with the ♥9. That allowed declarer to win and play three rounds of spades, disposing of a diamond and a club for +110 – still a comfortable loss.

♠ A4	♥ J10532	♦ 106	♣ KQJ6
♠ J107	♥ A76	♦ 5	♣ 1098542
♠ 932	♥ Q984	♦ AK32	♣ A7
♠ KQ865	♥ K	♦ QJ9874	♣ 3

East led the ♥4 and West won and returned the ♥7 for the jack and queen. East continued with the ♥9 and declarer won and having pitched a diamond and a spade from dummy continued with a diamond to the queen and a club for the jack and ace, East cashing his red winners for two down.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/ybstslln) or <https://tinyurl.com/ybstslln> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yb7rxeas) or <https://tinyurl.com/yb7rxeas> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yaos3w9n) or <https://tinyurl.com/yaos3w9n>

Round 6/1

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
-	-	1♦*	1♠
2♣	Double*	Redouble	2♦
Pass	2♥	Double	3♦
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

1♦ Precision, 2+♦, 10-15

Why East though he could defeat 3♦ is a mystery.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
-	-	1♣*	1♦
3♣*	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ Polish Club
3♣ Weak

You can understand why South bid 3♠, but there is a lot to be said for a double.

♠ 9	♥ K1042	♦ AJ9872	♣ J6
♠ 642	♥ J765	♦ 63	♣ AKQ5
♠ AKJ1087	♥ 9	♦ KQ104	♣ 82
♠ Q53	♥ AQ83	♦ 5	♣ 109743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	2♦	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♦5 and North won with the ace and returned the nine, South ruffing and switching to the ♥3. North won and played a third diamond, one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Mittleman</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	2♦	4♠	All Pass
	2♣	Drury	

Here North returned the ♦8 at trick two. South ruffed and switched to a heart but it was the ace and declarer had the rest.

♠ 9	♥ K1042	♦ AJ9872	♣ J6
♠ 642	♥ J765	♦ 63	♣ AKQ5
♠ AKJ1087	♥ 9	♦ KQ104	♣ 82
♠ Q53	♥ AQ83	♦ 5	♣ 109743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Zagorin</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

With a nasty hand to lead from East found the ♣3 and West won and switched to the ♠2. Declarer put up dummy's king and East took the ace and returned the six, West winning with the queen and exiting with the seven. Declarer ruffed in dummy, played a heart to the ace and heart to the jack and East won and returned a heart holding declarer to eight tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Polowan</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Double	4♠	4NT*
Pass	5♦	Double	5♥
Double	All Pass		

At the other table Greco and Hampson had defeated 4♠. West led the ♣A and switched to the ♦6, declarer winning with dummy's ace and playing a spade. East won with the ace and exited with a club, West winning with the king and returning a diamond. Declarer ruffed and played the ♣7. When West followed with the five he elected to ruff with the ♥2 and East overruffed and played the ♦K. Declarer was in deep trouble now and all he could do was resort to a high cross-ruff which left him four down.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ K10	♥ KJ86	♦ Q8	♣ Q10754
♠ QJ72	♥ 104	♦ 7532	♣ A82
♠ A63	♥ Q95	♦ 1094	♣ KJ63
♠ 9854	♥ A732	♦ AKJ6	♣ 9

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

1♦ 5+♦ or 4441 with a singleton club

Here East went for the ♠3 – and declarer won with the king, played three rounds of diamonds pitching a spade and then ran the ♣9. He was subsequently able to cross-ruff and in the three-card ending East was forced to ruff his partner's spade and lead into the ♥KJ so declarer took eleven tricks.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/yaney7vb) or <https://tinyurl.com/yaney7vb> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yas3pdtl) or <https://tinyurl.com/yas3pdtl> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yakpgjsb) or <https://tinyurl.com/yakpgjsb> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yd58vo3d) or <https://tinyurl.com/yd58vo3d> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ycptfdmd) or <https://tinyurl.com/ycptfdmd>

Round 7/1

Board 19. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ KJ103 ♥ 3 ♦ 965 ♣ A8743	<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	♠ 94 ♥ QJ52 ♦ QJ73 ♣ J92
N					
W E					
S					
♠ A8 ♥ K9764 ♦ 842 ♣ Q65		♠ Q7652 ♥ A108 ♦ AK10 ♣ K10			

Open Room

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
	–	–	–	1♣*
	Pass	1♥*	Pass	1NT
	Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠*
	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
	Pass	4♥*	Pass	4NT*
	Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠
	All Pass			
1♣	16+			
1♥	5+♠, 8+			
2♠	5♠			
4♥	Cue-bid			
4NT	RKCB			
5♥	2 key cards			

With everything friendly, this was a painless +980.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The same twelve tricks but a loss.

I suppose North might have bid 4♥ over 2♠, but partner will only have the right hand once in blue moon.

To replay this deal go [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/ya7taz2l> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ybtrpwbq) or <https://tinyurl.com/ybtrpwbq> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yc3selro) or <https://tinyurl.com/yc3selro>

Round 8/1

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ KQ7 ♥ 8 ♦ J10842 ♣ K972	<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	♠ A864 ♥ AKQJ92 ♦ A76 ♣ –
N					
W E					
S					
♠ 103 ♥ 76543 ♦ KQ5 ♣ A84		♠ J952 ♥ 10 ♦ 93 ♣ QJ10653			

Open Room

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
	–	–	1♣*	3♣
	Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
	Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
	Double	All Pass		
1♣	11-14 balanced or 16+ with ♣ or 18+ any			

West led the ♥8 and East won with the ace and continued with the king, ruffed by the queen and overruffed by the king, West exiting with the ♣7. Declarer won with dummy's eight and continued with the ♠3 (it is of academic interest only that playing a top diamond would save a trick) West winning with the queen and returning the ♣2. Declarer won in hand and played a diamond for the eight, king and ace and East continued with the

♥Q. Declarer ruffed high and played a spade, but West went in with the king and exited with a club. That meant the contract was five down, -1100.

♠ KQ7 ♥ 8 ♦ J10842 ♣ K972	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <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		♠ 103 ♥ 76543 ♦ KQ5 ♣ A84 ♠ A864 ♥ AKQJ92 ♦ A76 ♣ — ♠ J952 ♥ 10 ♦ 93 ♣ QJ10653
	N										
W		E									
	S										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	1♠	Double	2♠
3♦	4♠	All Pass	

East led the ♦7. Would East have doubled without the ♦Q? Declarer though so, went up with dummy's king, played a club to the ace and ruffed a club with the ♠6. West overruffed with the ♠7 and returned the ♦3 for the queen and ace. Declarer came to hand with the ♥A and ruffed a club with the ♠10. West overruffed and played a third diamond, declarer ruffing and running the ♠8. Although that held, there was no longer a route to ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
-	-	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	4♥	All Pass
1♣	Polish Club		
1♦	0-6 any or 7-11 unbalanced without a major or 16-17 balanced without a major		

South led the ♣Q and declarer ruffed and cashed two hearts. When South discarded he crossed to dummy with a spade and played a low diamond to the ace, settling for ten tricks.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K74 ♥ 98532 ♦ 10632 ♣ Q	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <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		♠ J982 ♥ A ♦ J4 ♣ AJ8532 ♠ Q5 ♥ KQ ♦ Q987 ♣ K10976 ♠ A1063 ♥ J10764 ♦ AK5 ♣ 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	1♠	Double	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	


East led the ♦7. This time declarer played dummy's five and won in hand with the jack. He cashed the ♣A and ruffed a club with the ♠10, West overruffing and switching to the ♥8. Declarer won with the ace, ran the ♠8, drew the outstanding trump and ruffed a heart for twelve tricks.

Alex Hydes played the hand in identical fashion.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/yby8okwy) or <https://tinyurl.com/yby8okwy> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7paqc2f) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7paqc2f> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7zsne25) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7zsne25> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7p4k3u8) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7p4k3u8> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yasr4ryx) or <https://tinyurl.com/yasr4ryx>

Round 9/1

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ A98 ♦ J108743 ♣ A95		♠ AK54 ♥ Q107632 ♦ A9 ♣ 7	♠ Q73 ♥ KJ4 ♦ Q62 ♣ KQJ8
♠ J10862 ♥ 5 ♦ K5 ♣ 106432			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Mittleman</i>	<i>Zagorin</i>
–	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	3♠	4♦	All Pass


No doubt South thought his ♦K was worthless – he will not be the last player to discover that an apparently badly placed card can be an asset. North led the ♣7 but the defenders could only take three tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
–	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♦4 and declarer won in hand and played a heart to the ten and jack. East switched to the ♣Q and continued with the eight, declarer ruffing in dummy, ruffing a heart, playing a spade to the ace, ruffing a heart and playing a spade to the ace for ten tricks.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ J3 ♥ 6 ♦ AJ109 ♣ Q98543		♠ AKQ1087 ♥ J10983 ♦ – ♣ AJ
♠ 654 ♥ A5 ♦ 876432 ♣ 62		
♠ 92 ♥ KQ742 ♦ KQ5 ♣ K107		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Mittleman</i>	<i>Zagorin</i>
–	–	1♠	Double
2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♥K and North overtook it with the ace and switched to the ♠6. Declarer won with the ace and played the ♥J. When South obligingly covered, declarer had a useful second overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
–	–	1♣*	1♥
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Double	3♠	All Pass
1♣	Strong		

On the face of it stopping out of game looks reasonable, as how can declarer come to ten tricks after a trump lead? Well, declarer wins in hand and plays the ♥3. If North wins that with the ace then declarer will win the trump return in dummy, pitch a losing club on the ♦A, draw trumps

and knock out the top hearts. So, I hear you say South wins with the ♥7 and returns a spade. Declarer wins in dummy, ruffs a diamond, draws the outstanding trump and plays the ♣A followed by the jack. South can win, but North's ♥A is in the way.


Gaylor Kastle led a trump against 4♠ and declarer won and played a heart, but it was the jack, and had South ducked the contract would have been hopeless. However, South won and played a second spade, declarer winning, pitching a club on the ♦A, ruffing a diamond and playing a second heart. The three would have led to ten tricks, but naturally declarer played the ♥10 and was one down.

Zimmermann overcalled 2♥ with the South hand, and East passed West's double, the defenders collecting an easy 800.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8jj4zch) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8jj4zch> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yaoqa4l2) or <https://tinyurl.com/yaoqa4l2> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y9hoepfp) or <https://tinyurl.com/y9hoepfp> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y9rahvw3) or <https://tinyurl.com/y9rahvw3> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7enb6u6) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7enb6u6> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y9dbt4la) or <https://tinyurl.com/y9dbt4la>

Round 10/2

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J94 ♥ – ♦ KQ7432 ♣ Q654		♠ K87652 ♥ J3 ♦ AJ9 ♣ K10	♠ AQ ♥ AK1098 ♦ 1086 ♣ A32
♠ 103 ♥ Q76542 ♦ 5 ♣ J987			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Polowan</i>
–	1♠	1NT	2♥
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
3♣ Diamonds			


South led the ♠10 and declarer won with the queen and played a diamond to the king, continuing with the three when it held. North won and returned the ♠7 (having played the eight on the first round) and declarer won and played three rounds of hearts. South won and decided it was safe to exit with a heart. Declarer won and cashed another heart, squeezing North in three suits. He threw the ♠6 but declarer exited with a diamond and at trick twelve North had to lead into the split club tenace.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Zhong</i>	<i>F Helness</i>
–	1♠	1NT	2♥
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
3♣ Diamonds			

At this table North's first two spades were the two and five. The play went the same way, but when South came in with the ♥Q he returned the ♣8 and that was one down.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ K10654 ♥ 1098 ♦ A6 ♣ 1094		♠ J93 ♥ 642 ♦ J10982 ♣ 63	♠ 72 ♥ AKQJ5 ♦ K3 ♣ KQ82
♠ AQ8 ♥ 73 ♦ Q754 ♣ AJ75			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Cullin</i>
-	-	1♥	Double
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Declarer won the trump lead and played a spade, which led to an easy eleven tricks, +450.

♠ J93	♥ 642	♦ J10982	♣ 63
♠ K10654	♥ 1098	♦ A6	♣ 1094
♠ 72	♥ AKQJ5	♦ K3	♣ KQ82
♠ AQ8	♥ 73	♦ Q754	♣ AJ75

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zagorin</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	-	2♣*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass
2♣	18/19 balanced		
2♥	Spades		

South led the ♦4 and declarer won with dummy's ace, North following with the jack, and ran the ♣10. When it lost to the jack, the diamond continuation meant he was soon two down.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ J1053	♥ J7543	♦ 42	♣ J3
♠ KQ	♥ AK2	♦ KQJ	♣ AQ842
♠ 64	♥ Q98	♦ 10765	♣ 10765
♠ A9872	♥ 106	♦ A983	♣ K9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Pratap</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Koneru</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Double	3♠	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

West led the ♠K and when it held he switched to the ♦J. That also held, East following with the seven. Searching for an entry to partner's hand West now cashed the ♥K, three, eight, six. When West continued with the ♥A the best he could do was cash the ♣A ensuring one down.

Without a convention card, it is unclear how E/W were signalling, but it seems clear that declarer would not run the risk of East scoring a heart ruff. In that case West needs to be able to discover if East has the ♥Q. Ace for attitude and king for count might have supplied the answer on this occasion.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Lusky</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Falk</i>	<i>Donati</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Double	3♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Declarer could reach hand with the ♥Q and draw trumps.

To replay this deal go [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/ycqnv3dl> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/yamq72cz> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7cc6dlq> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y993h3g8>

Round 11/2

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A9 ♥ A76 ♦ A643 ♣ K765		♠ 1054 ♥ K103 ♦ Q72 ♣ A1092	♠ KJ863 ♥ 8 ♦ K985 ♣ Q84
		♠ Q72 ♥ QJ9542 ♦ J10 ♣ J3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Pratap</i>	<i>Krekorian</i>	<i>Koneru</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Double
2♠	3♥	Double*	All Pass

South's double showed hearts, but his partner obviously thought it also showed some high cards. For most people West's 2♠ would promise three-card support.

East led his heart and declarer won with the jack and played the ♦J to East's ace. The club return went to the king and ace and declarer continued with a diamond, West taking the ace and playing two rounds of spades. East won, cashed the ♣Q and played a spade, three down, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lusky</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Falk</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Double
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the heart three and declarer took the third round of the suit,

discarding a diamond and a club from dummy. He cashed the ♠A and played a spade to the jack, three down.


If the ♠Q had been onside (and the suit 3-3) North would have been squeezed in the minors and declarer would have emerged with an overtrick.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/yd8rgv6s) or <https://tinyurl.com/yd8rgv6s> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ya8sg83o) or <https://tinyurl.com/ya8sg83o> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ycqr3ym6) or <https://tinyurl.com/ycqr3ym6> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7m3lglk8) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7m3lglk8>

and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y76lfnxp) or <https://tinyurl.com/y76lfnxp>

Round 12/2

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ — ♥ A3 ♦ K7542 ♣ KQ10632		♠ A9643 ♥ 1087 ♦ 63 ♣ A97	♠ QJ852 ♥ J92 ♦ A1098 ♣ 8
			♠ K107 ♥ KQ654 ♦ QJ ♣ J54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Polowan</i>
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	3♠	Double
Pass	4♠*	Double	5♣
All Pass			
4♠	Cue-bid		

Declarer ruffed the lead of the ♠A and set about drawing trumps, soon claiming eleven tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Zhong</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
-	1♣	Pass	1♦*
1♠	2♦	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♠5 and declarer was soon two down.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/yaodgvw3) or <https://tinyurl.com/yaw6jh85>
and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yaw6jh85) or <https://tinyurl.com/yaw6jh85>
and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yc98frus) or <https://tinyurl.com/yc98frus>

Round 13/2

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 652 ♥ AK1075 ♦ 10742 ♣ J		♠ A1084 ♥ 4 ♦ KQJ ♣ AQ732	♠ 97 ♥ J932 ♦ A985 ♣ 1065 ♠ KQJ3 ♥ Q86 ♦ 63 ♣ K984
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>F Helness</i>
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♠Q and when North followed with the nine declarer won with the ace and played the ♦K. North took the ace and returned a spade,

South winning and playing two more rounds of the suit, North discarding the ten and six of clubs. When declarer played the ♣3 South went in with the king, the defenders fourth trick. At this point South needed to exit with a heart, destroying declarer's communications. It does not appear to be a difficult play to find, but South returned the ♣9 and declarer claimed.

Starkowski as North against Migry & Berkowitz defending 3NT ducked the first diamond, won the next round and returned the ♥2, which made life very easy for the defenders. (Their teammates were in 4♠ down three, so they had to be content with a moral victory.)

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	-	-	Pass
2♥*	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2NT*	Double	3♣
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass
2♥	6-10, 5+♥ & 5+♣/♦		
2NT	Scramble		

West led the ♥A and switched to the ♦2, East winning with the jack and returning the king (a low club is the route to four down). Declarer won in dummy and now does best to ruff a diamond and play a top spade, which should lead to seven tricks. He tried a spade to the king and continued with the queen, East taking the ace and returning the ♦Q. Declarer ruffed, and might now have ruffed a spade and played the ♣10, again leading to seven tricks. When he preferred to cash the ♠J and then play a spade West ruffed with the ♣J and that was three down, -500.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/ybb4yqnl) or <https://tinyurl.com/ybb4yqnl>
and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y9m6xvtx) or <https://tinyurl.com/y9m6xvtx>
and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7z23mmn) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7z23mmn>
and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yawbvpv5f) or <https://tinyurl.com/yawbvpv5f>
and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y6vdes23) or <https://tinyurl.com/y6vdes23>

Round 14/2

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 42 ♥ 10975 ♦ 84 ♣ 109732		♠ Q 10986 ♥ 8 ♦ A 1062 ♣ Q54	♠ K753 ♥ AK42 ♦ Q5 ♣ KJ8
♠ AJ ♥ QJ63 ♦ KJ973 ♣ A6			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Donati</i>
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

West led the ♣9 and the critical point was already at hand. If declarer plays low from dummy and then plays on spades he is likely to take nine tricks. However, the lead could have been from a suit headed by the ♣K109 and declarer put up dummy's queen, covered by the king and ace. Declarer cashed the ♦K and then played the nine. West followed with the eight and four and when declarer finessed, he finished three down.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

East led the ♥K and probably unable to read West's five, continued with the ace (although nothing else is better) declarer ruffing and playing a

spade to the ace followed by the jack, overtaking with the queen. East won and exited with the ♣8 and declarer won with the queen and drew trumps, pitching two diamonds from dummy. A diamond to the king was followed by the winning hearts and the ♣A. According to the BBO operator East followed to that with the ♣J, so his last two cards had to be a diamond and the ♣K. However, the record says declarer now played a diamond to the ten thereby losing the last two tricks, +140. Little did he know he was playing with the house's money.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ K 1097 ♥ Q985 ♦ A72 ♣ A6		♠ J43 ♥ A1043 ♦ 6 ♣ KQ983	♠ Q2 ♥ K7 ♦ KJ1095 ♣ 10754
♠ A865 ♥ J62 ♦ Q843 ♣ J2			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Martel</i>
-	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1NT*	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2♠
Double	All Pass		
1♣	Polish Club		
1NT	9-11		

North's decision to compete was harshly dealt with.

West led the ♥9 and West won with the king and returned the seven, declarer winning with dummy's ten and playing a club to the jack and ace. West continued with the queen of hearts, covered and ruffed and East switched to the ♦J, followed by the ten. Declarer ruffed in dummy

and played a spade for the queen and ace, but he was two down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Greco</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>F Helness</i>
-	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦*	Double	1♠	Double
1NT	All Pass		
	1♦	Precision, 2(1) +♦, 11-15, stiff honour possible	

♠ J43			
♥ A1043			
♦ 6			
♣ KQ983			
♠ K1097	♠ Q2		
♥ Q985	♥ K7		
♦ A72	♦ KJ1095		
♣ A6	♣ 10754		
	♠ A865		
	♥ J62		
	♦ Q843		
	♣ J2		

North led the ♠3 and South won with the ace and switched to the ♥2 for the nine ten and king, declarer then running the ♦J followed by the ♦10. A diamond to the ace was followed by a spade to the queen and two winning diamonds. A heart to the eight meant declarer had eleven tricks – but a losing board.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/ybk5j2w8) or <https://tinyurl.com/ybk5j2w8> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ydhm3bt2) or <https://tinyurl.com/ydhm3bt2> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8o7tr5t) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8o7tr5t> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y98lkkwj) or <https://tinyurl.com/y98lkkwj> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8nw7gud) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8nw7gud>

Round 15/2

At this point the leading scores were: Mittelman 30.55, Blass 27.61, Rosenthal 26.00, Fleisher 24.70, Kasle 23.03.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 52			
♥ AKQ754			
♦ A954			
♣ 6			
♠ AJ10	♠ K8763		
♥ 92	♥ 10		
♦ J632	♦ K8		
♣ K742	♣ J10983		
	♠ Q94		
	♥ J863		
	♦ Q107		
	♣ AQ5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Zhong</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
-	1♥	2♥*	4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			
	2♥	Spades and a minor	

North led his club and South won with the ace and returned the five. North ruffed and cashed a top heart, but declarer got the spades right and was only two down, -300. To collect 500 North needs to get South in to lead a third club. Knowing that South almost certainly held four hearts should North have under led his ♥AKQ? Should South have returned the ♣Q at trick two, suggesting his only possible entry was in hearts?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Polowan</i>
-	1♥	2♥*	2NT
3♠	4♥	All Pass	
	2♥	Spades and a minor	

Declarer lost two spades and a diamond.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/yarurnrh) or <https://tinyurl.com/yarurnrh> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y92pnge8) or <https://tinyurl.com/y92pnge8> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7zprxtn) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7zprxtn> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ycmdx8td) or <https://tinyurl.com/ycmdx8td> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7ck7orw) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7ck7orw>

Round 16/2

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AQ108 ♥ K973 ♦ J74 ♣ J3	♠ J742 ♥ 65 ♦ Q1052 ♣ AQ7	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K965 ♥ AJ8 ♦ K ♣ 109542
N						
W E						
S						
♠ 3 ♥ Q1042 ♦ A9863 ♣ K86						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♥	All Pass		

1♣ 11- GF, 3+♣, can be 2 cards and longer diamonds only with 18-19 balanced

North led the ♦5 and South took the ace and returned the six for the jack and queen, declarer ruffing in dummy. A club to the jack saw North win and return the ♥5 and declarer went up with dummy's ace, crossed to the ♠A, ruffed a diamond and played a spade. South ruffed and exited with a diamond and declarer ruffed with the ♥9 and claimed eight tricks, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brink</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K102 ♥ K953 ♦ J94 ♣ Q108	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ QJ987 ♥ 82 ♦ A82 ♣ KJ4	♠ A64 ♥ A76 ♦ Q75 ♣ 9732
N						
W E						
S						
♠ 53 ♥ QJ104 ♦ K1063 ♣ A65						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brink</i>
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

The defenders started with three rounds of hearts and declarer won and played a spade to the queen and ace. East's club return went to the queen and king and declarer cashed the ♣J, came to hand with a diamond, cashed two hearts and played a spade, claiming nine tricks when West went up with the king, +150.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7qzpuqt) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7qzpuqt> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7tdgr23) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7tdgr23> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ychjsxps) or <https://tinyurl.com/ychjsxps> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ya6pxxpv) or <https://tinyurl.com/ya6pxxpv> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8zstnnx) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8zstnnx>

Round 17/2

The leaders met in the penultimate round:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ K109752 ♦ Q5 ♣ K964	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J652 ♥ J8 ♦ J64 ♣ AQJ5	♠ K10873 ♥ Q4 ♦ K9873 ♣ 8
		♠ AQ4 ♥ A63 ♦ A102 ♣ 10732	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
-	-	Pass	1NT*
2♦*	Double	2♥*	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

- 1NT 15-17 balanced, 5-card major possible
- 2♦ One Major
- 2♥ Pass or correct

South led the ♥3 for the ten, jack and queen and declarer played a club for the three, king and ace. North returned the ♥8 and South won and switched to the ♣2, the defenders taking their top tricks for two down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	-	Pass	1♣
2♥	Double	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

West led the ♥9 and declarer took the third round of the suit pitching a diamond from dummy, played a club to the queen, a spade to the queen and a club to

the jack. When East discarded the ♦3 declarer played dummy's ♦J, overtook it with the ace, cashed the ♠A and exited with a diamond. West could win with the queen and cash two hearts, but then had to lead into the split club tenace, +120.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K42 ♥ KQ96 ♦ 98 ♣ J962	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J763 ♥ 1074 ♦ A10765 ♣ 5	♠ A8 ♥ J853 ♦ J3 ♣ KQ1043
		♠ Q1095 ♥ A2 ♦ KQ42 ♣ A87	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Double	Pass*
Pass	Redouble	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

South's Pass was alerted, but its precise meaning is unclear.

West led the ♦8 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade to the ten and king. He ducked the switch to the king of hearts, won the next round and played a second spade, soon claiming ten tricks.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Double	Pass*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
Pass	Club stopper		

North took the opportunity to show his diamonds, but at this form of scoring South introduced his spades.

West led the ♣6 and declarer won, ruffed a club, came to hand with a diamond, ruffed a club and played a spade to the ten and king. When West returned a diamond declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade – eventually he could pitch his losing heart on a diamond for +200 and another win for Blass.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ AKJ42 ♥ A853 ♦ 5 ♣ A53		♠ 10 ♥ J1042 ♦ KQ9 ♣ K10942	♠ Q986 ♥ 96 ♦ J107 ♣ QJ87
		♠ 753 ♥ KQ7 ♦ A86432 ♣ 6	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass

According to the convention card a response of 2NT would be any invitational bid with 3/4 spades and 5-11 points. To what extent that influenced West's subsequent bidding is unclear, but when I asked the man on the Clapham Omnibus what he would do with the West cards he bid 4♠.

North led the ♠10 and declarer won with the ace and ducked a heart to South's queen. He ducked the club return and North won with the king and returned the two, South ruffing and switching to the ♦2 which allowed North to win and give his partner another ruff for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		


North led the ♥J and when South overtook it with the queen declarer ducked. South switched to the ♣6 and declarer won with the ace, drew trumps and played a club, soon claiming ten tricks and a vital win.

To replay this deal go [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/ydygeyos> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8rhjf56) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8evxnmv> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yc9hqja4) or <https://tinyurl.com/yc9hqja4> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/ybeq3vxc) or <https://tinyurl.com/ybeq3vxc>

Round 18/2

With three deals to play the Mittelman team had scored 34.55 putting them .44 ahead of Blass. They were so far ahead of the third placed team that the title lay between them.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K7 ♥ AJ103 ♦ AJ62 ♣ K54		♠ J10865 ♥ K42 ♦ K ♣ A762	♠ AQ2 ♥ Q98 ♦ Q74 ♣ Q1098
		♠ 943 ♥ 765 ♦ 109853 ♣ J3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Fleisher	Nowosadzki	Martel
-	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Double	2♣	2♠*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1NT Semi-forcing

North led the ♠10 and declarer won with the king and played a club to the queen, followed by the ♥9, overtaking it with the ace and continuing with the three, North taking the king and exiting with the ♠6. Declarer won in dummy, came to hand with the ♥A and cashed the ♦A, felling the king. Next came the ♣K and when it collected the outstanding honours declarer claimed eleven tricks, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Drijver	Greco	Brink
-	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥	1NT*	Double	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1♦ Precision, 2(1) +♦, 11-15, stiff honour possible

1NT 5♠+4♣

Double Support double

It was surprising that North didn't open, but he had a gadget available on the next round.

He led the ♠J and declarer won with dummy's queen and ran the ♥8 North winning and exiting with a spade. Declarer won with the king, crossed to dummy with a heart and played a club to the king and ace. Back came a spade and after winning in dummy declarer played a diamond to the jack and king and was one down. Put that down to Drijver's initial pass.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bercuson	Helness	Mittelman	F Helness
-	1♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Declarer won the spade lead in hand and ran the ♥9, North winning an returning a spade to dummy's king. Declarer played a club to the queen and a heart to the ace, but then played a low diamond, giving the defenders a third trick, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Zatorski	Gawrys	Pachtmann
-	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Double	2♣	3NT	All Pass

Declarer won the spade lead in hand, played a heart to the ace and a heart, North winning and exiting with a spade. Declarer won with dummy's king, played a club to the queen and a diamond to the ace – eleven tricks and a win.

Blass was in the lead.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 93	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <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		♠ 102
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 4		♥ KQ1065									
♦ A843		♦ K62									
♣ KJ10976	♣ Q82										
♠ Q87654	♠ AKJ										
♥ J872	♥ A93										
♦ Q	♦ J10975										
♣ 43	♣ A5										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Fleisher	Nowosadzki	Martel
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠4 and declarer won with the jack and played on clubs, taking ten tricks when East switched to the ♥5 after winning the ♣Q.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Drijver	Greco	Brink
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥*	Double	Redble*
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

♠ 93	♠ 102
♥ 4	♥ KQ1065
♦ A843	♦ K62
♣ KJ10976	♣ Q82
♠ Q87654	♠ AKJ
♥ J872	♥ A93
♦ Q	♦ J10975
♣ 43	♣ A5

Annoyingly the convention card gives no indication as to the precise meaning of 2♠ - perhaps it was minor-suit Stayman? 3♥ promised a shortage and the redouble indicated first round control in hearts. North's jump to 5♣ looks like an attempt to show six clubs, but when South signed off the board was lost.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Zatorski	Gawrys	Pachtmann
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Double	Redouble
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

It looks as if diamonds were never in the picture here. Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy and ran the ♣J for twelve tricks – another loss which meant Mittleman trailed by 0.56 – they had to get a win on the last board to have any chance.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bercuson	Helness	Mittleman	F Helness
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥*	Double	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♦
All Pass			
2♠	Minor-suit Stayman		
3♥	Shortage		
4NT	RKCB		
5♦	1 key card		

Declarer won the heart lead and played the ♦J for the queen and ace. East ducked the next diamond but declarer now went after the clubs for an easy twelve tricks. Despite the strength of the field, they were the only pair to bid 6♦.

♠ 865	♠ K1092
♥ K832	♥ Q5
♦ Q82	♦ K9753
♣ 1074	♣ 85
♠ Q	♠ AJ743
♥ AJ104	♥ 976
♦ AJ10	♦ 64
♣ A9632	♣ KQJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bercuson	Helness	Mittleman	F Helness
-	-	-	1♠
Double	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

3NT doubled might, as the Duke of Wellington would have said, 'A close

run thing'.

On a spade lead declarer wins in dummy and might play the ♦J. North must cover that and after three rounds of diamonds and a low heart go in with the king and play a spade, South winning an switching to a top club.

South led the ♣K and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♠Q, South winning and switching to the ♥6. North won with the king and went back to clubs, South taking the jack and continuing with the queen, forcing declarer to ruff. North's double would be very thin without the ♦Q and declarer played a diamond to the ace and ran the jack for +130.

♠ Q	♠ 865	♠ K1092
♥ AJ104	♥ K832	♥ Q5
♦ AJ10	♦ Q82	♦ K9753
♣ A9632	♣ 1074	♣ 85
		♠ AJ743
		♥ 976
		♦ 64
		♣ KQJ

♦Q, losing a trick in each suit, +110.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Martel</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Double	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The auction meant that a tie on board was impossible.

Here too the ♣Q was led and again declarer withheld dummy's ace. But now South found the potentially killing spade switch. Declarer won in dummy, North following with the eight, cashed the ♦A and followed it with the ten. North found the essential play of covering with the jack and declarer won with dummy's king and played a heart to the jack, North winning and playing the ♠6. South took East's ten with the jack and now faced a crucial decision – cash the ♠A or play a club.

What was declarer's shape?

North was known to hold three spades and three clubs. If he held three diamonds he would have four hearts, leaving declarer with only two. If he held four diamonds declarer would have a third heart. In that case, declarer would have nine tricks as long as he held the ♦9, but – and this was the vital point – no chance of a tenth trick. Playing a club would see Mittelman home, cashing the ♠A would see Blass emerge victorious.

South played..... the ♠A.

To replay this deal go [here](https://tinyurl.com/y7r7llyd) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7r7llyd> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yadqonr6) or <https://tinyurl.com/yadqonr6> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y9s8w5b4) or <https://tinyurl.com/y9s8w5b4> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y8bo3np3) or <https://tinyurl.com/y8bo3np3> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y9wpvmzo) or <https://tinyurl.com/y9wpvmzo>

It was tough luck for the Mittelman foursome, who joined the 1993 & 1994 runners-up Jimmy Cayne, Chuck Burger, Bobby Goldman, Paul Soloway, Mark Lair & Mike Passell as the only teams to have missed out in successive years.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Double	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♣Q. If declarer wins this with dummy's ace and gets the diamonds right, he should always arrive at nine tricks, but he ducked. A spade switch puts the defenders one step ahead, but South went with the ♥7 and North won with the king and switched to a spade, South taking the ace and playing the ♣K. Declarer won, crossed to the ♥Q and played a diamond to the ten. North won and produced a club to defeat the contract.

Now Blass had to avoid a loss.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Double	2♠*	3♦	All Pass
2♠	The weakest raise		

Declarer won the club lead with dummy's ace and played South for the

This was how the teams finished:

Josef Blass, Jacek Pszczola, Jacek Kalita, Michal Nowosadzki, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver	36.11
George Mittelman, Ken Bercuson, Ron Pachtmann, Piotr Pawel Zatorski	35.55
Andrew Rosenthal Aaron Silverstein, Migry Zur Campanile, David Berkowitz, Chris Willenken, Eldad Ginossar	31.50
Martin Fleisher Chip Martel, Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco, Brad Moss, Joe Grue	29.70
Roger Lee, Michael Rosenberg, Simon De Wijs, Giovanni Donati	29.61
Gaylor Kasle, P Drew Cannell, James Krekorian, Drew Casen, Michal Kwiecien, Wlodzimierz Starkowski	29.03
Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon, Michal Klukowski, Piotr Gawrys, Fredrik Helness, Tor Helness	27.64
Pratap Rajadhyaksha, John Lusky, Venkatrao Koneru, Allan Falk	27.00
Fu Zhong, Jie Li, Michael Polowan, Alexander Hydes	24.76
Daniel Zagorin, Peter Bertheau, Per-Ola Cullin, Mar-ion Michielsen	23.20



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Who is to blame?

bid72

dealer East vulnerability East-West

<p>West</p> <p>♠ Q 6</p> <p>♥ 5</p> <p>♦ J 8 7 5 3</p> <p>♣ A J 8 6 5</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ A J 3</p> <p>♥ A J 9 6 3</p> <p>♦ 9</p> <p>♣ K Q 10 3</p>
--	---

West <small>Ducky</small>	North	East <small>tob72</small>	South
1NT	2♠	1♥	Pass
Pass		Pass	Pass

East-West clearly missed game (5C), but who is to blame?

Tim Verbeek (European and Junior World Champion)

East should have bid 3C over 2S. I sympathize with West's Pass, though Dbl or 2NT minors, if so agreed, might have been a possibility. Therefore I blame East for 80 percent and West 20 percent missing game.

Jan van Cleeff (National Champion and co-founder bid72)

I blame East for 95 percent. East should have bid 3C: competitive, usually showing 5C. After that West should press to game. West might have bid 3C, but that is a wild gamble. Therefore West takes only 5 percent of the blame.

Sally Brock (European and World Champion)

West is guilty. I would have bid 2NT as West, when 2S is passed round to me. I think East's pass is fine with just 15 HCP and no other 5card suit and good defence.

Simon de Wijs (European Champion and Bermuda Bowl Winner)

Tough hand actually. I don't mind pass by East that much, but would bid 3C. In competition that should be NF. As West you'd love to bid 2NT for the minors in the Pass out, but for me 2NT is natural. A take out double is possible. Only goes wrong if partner bids 3H, Pass or 3m would be great. So both could do better. I'll give them 50-50 of the blame.

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Misplay These Hands With Me

Unsound Combination

My partner in a multiple team event has won more than one world title and our teammates have a silver from the Bermuda Bowl so any mistakes on my part are unlikely to be overlooked. With both sides vulnerable I pick up as dealer:

♠ A642
♥ AQ3
♦ 10874
♣ A5

I open 1♦ and when partner bids 2♣ I bid 2NT which partner raises to game.

This has been our brief auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the two of hearts and dummy has nothing to spare:

♠ K7
♥ KJ8
♦ K53
♣ Q10986

♠ A642
♥ AQ3
♦ 10874
♣ A5

With only six tricks on top, it is clear I must make something of the clubs. Fortunately, a memory stirs and after winning with the ace of hearts I cash the ace of clubs and then play a club. If the suit is divided 3-3 then it is a guess as to which card to play at this point, but when West plays low I put up the queen. The point of this play is to pick up ♣Jx in the

East hand (if East has ♣Kx then two tricks must always be lost). However, East wins with the king and returns the five of spades. I win with dummy's king and play another club and West wins as East discards a heart. I win the spade return and try a diamond to the king, but East wins with the ace and cashes two spades and the queen of diamonds to leave me two down.

♠ K7
♥ KJ6
♦ K53
♣ Q10986

♠ Q93
♥ 10872
♦ J6
♣ J732

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J1085
♥ 954
♦ AQ92
♣ K4

♠ A642
♥ AQ3
♦ 10874
♣ A5

Post mortem

At the other table, declarer won the heart lead with dummy's jack and advanced the queen of clubs at trick two, ensuring four club tricks.

For a long time it was considered the best line of play for four tricks was to cash the ace and then play low to the queen, hoping for the layout I described.

However, North American star Fred Gitelman worked out that the best line is to start by leading the queen, running it if it is not covered. The chance of scoring four tricks is 42.79%. While many suit combinations can be calculated at the table, it is well worth memorising some of the less well-known ones, as this deal illustrates.

Too Quick by Half

Towards the end of a two session Pairs event in which we were well placed at the half, I pick up a reasonable hand:

♠ 83
♥ AKQ1075
♦ 1094
♣ K6

With neither side vulnerable I open 1♥ and my partner bids 1♠. With such a powerful suit I reject the obvious 2♥ and instead jump to 3♥. That appears to excite partner, who asks for key cards. When I admit to two along with the queen of trumps he bids 6♥, giving us this auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West leads the eight of clubs and when dummy appears, I see I have been given a stay of execution:

♠ AK42
♥ J98
♦ Q2
♣ AQ103

♠ 83
♥ AKQ1075
♦ 1094
♣ K6

My best chance must be that West has led from ♣9875 or the like.

Wasting little time I win the opening lead in hand, draw trumps in three rounds (East discards the eight and seven of diamonds) cross to the ace of clubs and cash the queen, hoping to see the jack appear. Unfortunately West discards so I am one down.

This was the full deal:

♠ AK42		♠ J105
♥ J98		♥ 2
♦ Q2		♦ K876
♣ AQ103		♣ J9752
♠ Q976		
♥ 643		
♦ A1053		
♣ 84		

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 83
♥ AKQ1075
♦ J94
♣ K6

Post mortem

There was no rush to tackle the club suit. After winning the opening lead declarer should take two rounds of trumps, cash dummy's top spades, ruff a spade, cross to dummy with a trump and ruff the last spade to reach this ending:

♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ Q2		♦ K6
♣ AQ10		♣ J87
♠ —		
♥ —		
♦ A1053		
♣ 4		

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ —
♥ Q
♦ J94
♣ 6

Declarer cashes the queen of hearts pitching a diamond and East must throw a diamond. Now declarer crosses to the ace of clubs and exits with a diamond to endplay whoever wins the trick.

Deals that Caught My Eye

David Bird looks at the exciting final of the USA's 2018 Baze Seniors KO.

Nickell faced Kasle in the Baze final. As always, we will take a look at some of the biggest swings, trying to assess the balance between blame, credit and luck. This was the top swing in the first set of 15 boards:

S1-Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ AQ10853 ♥ 4 ♦ J76432 ♣ —		♠ KJ762 ♥ Q32 ♦ 10 ♣ QJ87	♠ — ♥ AJ10976 ♦ AKQ85 ♣ 96 ♠ 94 ♥ K85 ♦ 9 ♣ AK105432
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
3♠	4♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	6♦	6♠	Pass
Pass	7♦	7♠	Double
All Pass			

At first glance it seems that Nickell, with no fit for diamonds and only three trumps, might have doubled 6♠. However, he had three good cards and could expect his partner to be very short in spades. Katz judged to advance to the seven-level. Even if this was the wrong decision, the other side would have to look seriously at a sacrifice. Kasle had one eye on the red Lightner Double card in his box, but Cannell sacrificed in front of him.

North led the ♦K and followed with the ♥A. We are told that Kasle then claimed two down, drawing trumps. The TD was called and the play

was evaluated. After drawing two rounds of trumps, you can escape for three down at double-dummy. Suppose that North switches to a club at trick three, for example. Declarer can ruff in his hand, ruff a diamond and lead the ♣Q, discarding a diamond. South wins and has to give an extra trick to the ♥Q or ♣J in dummy.

The contract was ruled to be four down and that was 800 away.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kwiecen</i>
2♠	4♦	4♠	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

North's 4♦ was Leaping Michaels, showing hearts and diamonds. Kwiecen's 5♣ was natural and North was happy to raise to 6♣. Levin was equally happy to defend this contract.

Hamman's ♠A put paid to any distant hope of making the slam against the 4-0 trump break. Kwiecen ruffed in dummy and led the ♣9, Levin covering with the jack. When dummy's three top diamonds were played, East discarded two hearts. Two trump tricks had to be lost, and that was one down for 14 IMPs away. Nickell led by 42-21 at the end of the first set.

There was interest in the bidding of this deal from the second set:

S2-Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ AK532 ♥ J4 ♦ K105 ♣ J65	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q ♥ AK853 ♦ AQ84 ♣ K42	♠ 96 ♥ 102 ♦ J97632 ♣ Q73
			♠ J10874 ♥ Q976 ♦ — ♣ A1098

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Drewski</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Krekorian</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Who was to blame for reaching this very poor slam? On the face of it, West's advance to 4♦ on a 12-count with three-card support was highly questionable. System guru, Al Hollander, who was doing BBO written commentary at the time, offered a possible explanation. He said that some East players would raise 2NT to a natural 4NT with extra values and 5-4 in the red suits, after which a 4-4 diamond fit could still be found. On that basis, perhaps East was 5-5 in the reds and West was worried that the clubs could be weakly held.

This may offer a glimmer of an excuse for West, but I still cannot see why he should go past East's 3NT sign-off with such a minimum hand. The 6-0 trump break may have been the Great Dealer's verdict, and the slam went three down even after a helpful ♣A lead.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

West appears to have a text-book 2NT rebid. He preferred to rebid the 5-card spades and the brakes were applied in 4NT. Kasle led the ♣10, West and North playing low. *Deep Finesse* tells us that declarer must now play low himself if he wishes to make the contract. Needing a potential tenth trick, Katz preferred to win with the king. He unblocked the ♠Q and exited with the ♣4 to the jack and North's queen.

Deep Finesse would have placed its electronic finger on the ♥10 now, but Cannell played back a club. Kasle took his club winners but was subsequently squeezed in the major suits for 430 away. It was 11 IMPs to Nickell, who led 75-36 as the second set closed.

The third set saw a massive fight-back by the Kasle team. They scored four double-digit swings. Let me see which of them are worthy of mention in *A New Bridge Magazine*... There was not much interest in the first two. This was the third of them:

S3-Board 39. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ J5 ♦ AJ6 ♣ Q1087652	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q754 ♥ AK976 ♦ 7 ♣ KJ9	♠ K108 ♥ 42 ♦ K1098432 ♣ 4
			♠ AJ632 ♥ Q1083 ♦ Q5 ♣ A3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Drewski</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Krekorian</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
-	3♦	Double	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

Meckstroth found an aggressive double of 5♣, despite holding no surprises for declarer. Perhaps he reasoned that such a double would not cost much if the contract was made. Who are we humble kibitzers to query the judgment of the maestro? As the cards lay, a trump lead (or a spade lead and a trump switch) was required to justify the double.

When Rodwell led a heart, Drewski won with the ace and continued with the king and nine of hearts, ruffing mischievously with the ♣5. Rodwell discarded a diamond and declarer took his second diamond ruff, claiming the contract for +750.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kwiecen</i>
-	3♦	Double	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Double
4♣	All Pass		

Most readers will be familiar with Hamman's Law: 'If you have a choice of plausible bids and 3NT is one of them, look no further.' I will leave you to judge how plausible 3NT was, compared with 5♣. It certainly wouldn't have worked well on this deal.

Kwiecen may have doubled to insist on a diamond lead. If Hamman had pulled to 5♣, he might have regretted the double. No, Hamman bid only 4♣. The defenders allowed him to ruff two diamonds and discard his spade loser on the thirteenth heart. That was an impressive twelve tricks but 11 IMPs to Kasle.

A few deals later, Meckstroth chose an unsuccessful line in 4♠, made at the other table. See what you think of it:

♠ 9	♠ K 108	♠ Q754
♥ J5	♥ 42	♥ AK976
♦ AJ6	♦ K 1098432	♦ 7
♣ Q1087652	♣ 4	♣ KJ9
	♠ AJ632	
	♥ Q 1083	
	♦ Q5	
	♣ A3	

S3-Board 42. Dealer West. N/S Vul

♠ 1083	♠ K94	♠ Q7
♥ 95432	♥ 6	♥ Q107
♦ K3	♦ 9876	♦ QJ54
♣ Q95	♣ J7643	♣ AK102
	♠ AJ652	
	♥ AKJ8	
	♦ A102	
	♣ 8	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Drewski</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Krekorian</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Double
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Meckstroth won the ♦K lead, crossed to the ♠K and took a successful finesse of the ♥J. As you see, he could now have made the contract by ruffing the ♥8 and leading dummy's last trump to pick up East's queen.

Perhaps hoping to make the contract when West held the ♠Q, Meckstroth followed a different line. He played the ♥AK, throwing two diamonds from dummy. He then led the ♥8, discarding dummy's last diamond. On lead with the ♥9, West switched to the ♠10.

Meckstroth won with the trump ace, and there was no way home after this diversion. If he ruffed a diamond with the ♠9 and played a club, East would win and play the ♦Q to promote West's ♠8. Declarer drew the last trump and lost three tricks in the minors for one down

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kwiecen</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

South's 2♣ showed both majors and North became the declarer in 4♠. Levin led the ♣K and switched to the ♥10. Starkowski won with dummy's ace and led the ♥J, hoping for a cover and to pin East's original ♥1097. When no cover came, he ruffed with the ♠4. A club ruff was followed by a ruff of the ♥8. He drew a round of trumps with the king, crossed to the ♦A and played the ♠A, dropping East's queen. It remained only to draw the last trump and claim the contract. It was another 12 IMPs to Kasle.

The third set ended with new leaders, Kasle by 86-77.

Meckstroth and Rodwell are famed for their last set recoveries, sometimes overcoming a sizeable deficit. Surely a hurdle of 9 IMPs would be no problem at all for them? Let's see.

There was only one double-digit swing in the final set but it was a notable one:

S4-Board 50. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 ♥ J8 ♦ A98653 ♣ 10875		♠ K42 ♥ Q6 ♦ KJ102 ♣ AQJ6	♠ AQJ98653 ♥ 1073 ♦ 74 ♣ —
♠ 7 ♥ AK9542 ♦ Q ♣ K9432			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kwiecen</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
–	Pass	1NT	2♥
3♦	3NT	Double	4♣
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Double	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

Hamman's 2♥ showed hearts and a minor. If you know what West's 3♦ meant, please send me an email. I could find nothing on the internet. 3NT asked for partner's minor suit and 4♥ was a transfer to 4♠. East ended in 5♠ doubled. What would you have led from the South hand?

I have explained 'Ace for attitude, king for count' opening leads in at least four books, and continually when commentating on BBO. Why does such an excellent method not find general favour in the USA? I was pleasantly surprised when Hamman did lead the ♥K. Levin's ♥8 was presumably upside-down count and Hamman cashed a second heart successfully. It was not easy to see what to do next. Since dummy's ♥10 had become established, Hamman led a third round of hearts, ruffed and overruffed.

Kwiecen led the ♣A, throwing a diamond, and the ♣Q, covered and ruffed with dummy's ♠6. He then played the ♠A and the preserved ♠3, overtaking with the ♠4. Away went dummy's remaining diamond on the established ♣J and the doubled game was made. That was +650 to Kasle.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Drewski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Krekorian</i>
–	Pass	1NT	2♦
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Meckstroth opened a 14-16 point 1NT and the 2♦ overcall showed hearts. Rodwell transferred into the spade game and Krekorian led the ♥A. North played the ♥8 and a second heart trick was taken. With the defenders needing two further tricks to beat this lower contract, it was more attractive for South to reach for the ♦Q. He duly did so, and the ensuing diamond ruff put the game one down for a swing of 12 IMPs.

Kasle added another 9 IMPs in the final set to win by 113-93. If Hamman had found the ♦Q switch against 5♠ doubled, he would have saved his side 18 IMPs, but still lost by 2!

Enterprising Bridge Tales: The Next Generation

Marc Smith

New BRIDGE Magazine is pleased to present a series of custom-written adventures featuring the characters from the much-awaited sequel to “Enterprising Bridge Tales: The Original Stories”. These articles are a continuation of the new book, which was published by Master Point Press in September 2018.

Captain’s log, stardate 21316.1. The Universal Championships began well for the crew, with a bronze medal in the Mixed Pairs for young Daniel Prussia and his mother, Doctor Prussia. Four teams from the USS Competitor have entered the Universal Bowl, which begins today, although most of the crew will be closely following the progress of Daniel and Lieutenant-Commander Dieter, who are representing us as part of the highly-favored team that also includes top Vulcan and Romulan pairs.

The Universal Bowl starts with a two-day qualifying round, with eight-team groups playing a complete Round Robin of 14-board matches. The leading two teams from each group will advance to leave 64 teams in the knockout stage of the event.

Sitting out the opening match, Daniel and Dieter join a number of Competitor crew members who have gathered to watch the action. Large VuGraph screens are dotted throughout the massive complex, which is buried deep underground due to the hostile conditions on the surface of Armstrong III.

Their first opponents hail from the far side of Romulan territory and are known to the team’s Romulan partnership as more than capable players. They are known as The Flatmen for reasons that become obvious when you see them: they look like normal humanoids from the front, but when they turn side on they become almost invisible as they are barely wider than a sheet of plate glass.

“Amazing”, says Daniel, who has come across plenty of strange-looking species during his time aboard the starship, but has never seen anything quite like The Flatmen. “It’s remarkable that there is room inside them for their vital organs.”

Dieter studies their opponents on the VuGraph screen. “I understand

that their planet is extremely cold, so I imagine they evolved in this way as a means of limiting temperature loss,” he comments.

“Well, for a species with a relatively small brain they are apparently fine bridge players according to the Romulans,” adds Daniel.

Neither team gives much away on the early boards, and then comes the first potential slam deal of the event. After a short auction, this is what declarer for The Flatmen team can see:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

- ♠ J5
- ♥ Q8
- ♦ AQ104
- ♣ AQ1073
- ♠ AQ62
- ♥ K75
- ♦ KJ2
- ♣ K84

West	North	East	South
Mickstorm		Radwill	
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

South opens a 15-17 notrump and North’s Two Spades is minor-suit Stayman. When South denies a four-card minor, North makes a quantitative notrump raise and, with useful-looking minor-suit holdings, South is happy to accept.

Corporal Jeffrey Mickstorm opens the ♦7 and at first glance it seems that the fate of the contract depends on the spade finesse, assuming that the club suit produces five tricks. Most of those in the VuGraph audience, who can see all four hands, conclude that the fate of the contract is already sealed.

Declarer wins the opening diamond lead in hand and plays a club to the ace and a second back to the king, confirming the 3-2 break in that suit. Then comes a heart to dummy's queen, which wins.

When declarer then cashes his remaining clubs, West follows to the third round, then discards first a spade and then a heart. East discards two diamonds and spade.

Declarer then plays off his diamonds, West following twice more. On the final diamond, declarer discards his low heart and West the ♥J.

Declarer considers the position for some time. Obviously, taking the spade finesse is one option. Alternatively, he can play West to have started with ♠Kxx and ♥AJxx, in which case he can now be endplayed with a heart. South turns and stares at the bear-like Romulan, much like a poker player might inspect an opponent who has just pushed all of his chips into the pot. Mickstorm is much too seasoned a campaigner to give anything away, though.

Declarer eventually calls for a spade from dummy. Much to the watching VuGraph audience's surprise, though, he rises with the ♠A and turns to look at Mickstorm. The big Romulan shows the ♠K before collecting up his cards and returning them to the board.

"Well read," says Mickstorm.

There is hushed silence in the VuGraph room.

"Looks like we're in a tough group," comments Daniel.

"Jeffrey defended well," observes Dieter. "He disguised his holding as well as he could, but declarer was astute enough to realize that he would defend that way with king doubleton spade and AJ10xx hearts."

At the other table, the Vulcans played Six Diamonds from the North seat and the opening spade lead left declarer with no chance. The team thus begins with an 8-12 loss, but there is still a long way to go.

Daniel and Dieter take their places for the next two matches, both of which result in healthy victories. They sit out the final match of the first day, and again the team wins well. Things continue to go well on day two and after six of the seven group matches they are one of three teams that have pulled clear of the field, along with The Flatmen and their final opponents, a team of Pakleds.

A species of space-faring humanoids, Pakleds are diminutive in stature with disproportionately large, hairless heads and webbed, fur-covered feet and hands. Rarely encountered in the Alpha quadrant, Pakleds have an unsavory reputation for trickery, by which means they are said to have acquired much


of their technology from other species. Dieter relates this information and Daniel muses whether this trait also applies to the way they approach bridge.

None of the team has played against Pakleds before, and it is something of a surprise to find them still in contention at this late stage.

There is little in the early deals, and Daniel is becoming concerned that one unfortunate result might make all the difference in a very close match. "So much for being hot favorites to win the event if we can't even qualify for the knockout stage," he thinks.

Watching the match unfold on VuGraph, the Romulans are having similar thoughts as what appears likely to be another flat board appears on the screen. At the table, Daniel tries to focus on another unpromising collection as the opponents bid to yet another game contract. This is what the large VuGraph audience can see:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 1083 ♥ 64 ♦ K10632 ♣ K92		♠ AQJ4 ♥ J8 ♦ QJ75 ♣ A103	♠ K975 ♥ Q10 ♦ A8 ♣ J8764
♠ 62 ♥ AK97532 ♦ 94 ♣ Q5			

West	North	East	South
<i>Daniel</i>	-	<i>Dieter</i>	
-	-	-	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

No lead is particularly attractive, and Daniel eventually settles on the ♠3.

Declarer studies dummy for some time. With two top diamonds missing and also a potential trump loser, he eventually decides that he cannot afford to spurn the spade finesse.

The ♠Q loses to the king and Dieter promptly switches to the ♦A. A second diamond is played to the king and Daniel can see nothing better

than continuing with a third round of the suit. Dieter ruffs with the ♥Q and declarer overruffs with the king.

Sitting precariously on a box that is perched on his chair so that he can see across the table to dummy, the stout little Pakled declarer is clearly not enamored with this development. He glares first at Dieter and then at Daniel before eventually leading a trump towards dummy.

“Hmmm,” mumbles declarer, when Daniel follows innocently with the ♥4. After a brief pause, he calls for the ♥8 from dummy.

When Dieter wins with the ♥10, dummy launches an excited tirade across the table in what Daniel assumes is their native language.

“I guess he isn’t saying ‘Well played, partner,’” thinks Daniel, marking up a shift in the state of the match.

Indeed, this proves to be the decisive deal. Not only because West led a trump against the same contract at the other table, allowing Sartak to make a comfortable ten tricks, but because the Pakled pair at Daniel’s table haemorrhage IMPs over the second half of the match.

The final group table sees the pre-tournament favorites in first place, with The Flatmen just a few Victory Points behind. The Pakleds’ heavy loss in their final match sees them rejoining the rest of the field as also-rans.

“Tomorrow the tournament starts for real,” comments Mickstorm, as they head off for a team dinner at a highly-recommended Edosian eatery. Although Dieter doesn’t eat or drink in the traditional manner, he is happy to tag along to discuss the hands and maintain team unity.

The restaurant is staffed by a race of sentient, tripod-like beings with glowing orange skin, two protruding yellow eyes, three arms and three dog-like legs. As they enter, Daniel wonders quite what sort of food they might be presented with.

“I’ve eaten Edosian before, so should I order for us all?” asks Mickstorm.

Daniel soon realizes that he need not have worried: they are quickly presented with a Klingon-sized feast: a selection of tapas (all of them spicy and some actually not still wriggling around on the plate) are augmented by incredibly large tankards of foaming ale.

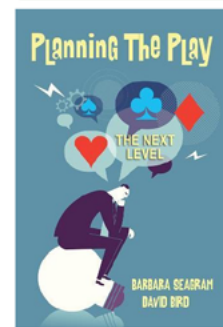
“If you want to be able to see your cards tomorrow, I’d recommend no more than two of those,” whispers Radwill to Daniel.

Daniel decides that to be safe he had better limit himself to just one but. Having tasted it, though, he mentally adds Edosian cuisine to his list of pleasures to be enjoyed when he doesn’t have an important bridge game the next day...



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Postcard from Germany

Martin Cantor

Hi Mark

It's late at night and I'm just finishing off a final glass of red wine, so I logged into BBO to watch a hand or two, and was delighted to find live vugraph of the Chile Open Trials Final. This was the first and only hand I watched, and it should reassure your less expert readers that bridge players at all levels make mistakes, some of them egregious.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 5 ♥ A7 ♦ J109854 ♣ K954		♠ 432 ♥ K10832 ♦ AQ72 ♣ 8	♠ AKQ86 ♥ J9654 ♦ 6 ♣ 102
♠ J1097 ♥ Q ♦ K3 ♣ AQJ763			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rosen	Pacareu	Van Eicjk	Robles
-	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♦	2♥	Double	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

The first two bids are unexceptional. As is 2♦ if played as non-forcing. I can't see any justification at all for 2♥. If 2♦ was forcing 2♥ is suicidal. If non-forcing it's totally unnecessary since either partner has short diamonds and will reopen with anything more than a minimum overcall, or opponents are in a horrible misfit. East's double seems designed to

force opponents out of their misfit into what might be a perfectly comfortable 3♣ contract. I have no words for West's 2NT, unless he thought that East's double promised a strong opening hand. So either awful bidding or terrible misunderstandings. And the play matched the bidding. According to the all-knowing GIB, 2NT makes if North leads the ♥K (at this table even that wouldn't surprise), it goes down one on the lead of any diamond or the heart 10, and down two on any other lead. The result here was down three. I won't give you all the gory details, suffice to say that after the singleton club was led declarer made the heart ace and the ace, king, queen and eight of spades - and this last only because South played the jack under the ace on the first round of the suit. So 150 to N/S.

If you think that was blood-curdling, wait till you hear what happened at the other table, where this was the auction:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Caracci	Rondon	Robles	Milano
-	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	3♠	Double
All Pass			

GIB says that this is 1 down on the lead of the ♠7 or any small club, 3 down on the ♣A lead, and 2 down on anything else. South led the ♥Q to dummy's ace, then came a second heart to North's king (club discard), then four rounds of trumps left South on play. After cashing the ♣A he led the ♦K which his partner overtook, this being the defence's last trick as when North tried to cash the ♦Q declarer could ruff, cash ♥J and enter dummy with the ♣K to enjoy the good diamonds. 3♠X= for 530 and 12 IMPs to E/W.

If you want to try to find an excuse for any of this, maybe you can find one in the fact that team Rosen started the session 59-8 down, and that deficit had extended to 72-17 by the time of this hand. But as excuses go it looks rather feeble to me. For the record, the final result was 140-79 to Caracci.
 Cheers, Martin



Highlights and New Features

Today Funbridge creators are sharing in exclusivity the impressive figures of an infographic to be released soon showing how Funbridge players have used their online bridge app over 2018. Let's take a look back at this crazy year!

Funbridge community in 2018

- 569,407 online players
- 413,949,000 deals played (+31%)
- 1,284,781: record number of deals played in one day

Top game modes in 2018

- 1- Series tournaments: 144,654,000 deals played (+20%)
- 2- Challenges: 94,430,000 deals played (+30%)
- 3- Tournaments of the day: 80,878,000 deals played (+21%)

Most active countries in 2018

- 1- USA
- 2- France
- 3- UK

Argine's results in challenges in 2018

- 2,439,291 wins
- 527,240 losses
- 85,602 draws
- 3,052,133 challenges played in total (+400%)

Argine is the name of Funbridge AI playing with you at the table. You can pit your skills against it in the game mode "Challenge Argine" through short-format tournaments (5 boards).

Challenges played between players in 2018

- 9,134,572 challenges played (+ 50%)

Team Championship in 2018

- 1,450 teams registered (+350)

Federation tournaments in 2018

- 5 new partner federations: WBF, EBL, FPB, AEB, RBBF
- 3,181 federation tournaments (x2)
- 198,840 participants (x3)
- 3,949,424 deals played

Funbridge Points tournaments in 2018

- 1,340 tournaments
- 72,498 participants
- 878,133 deals played
- 65,453,838 Funbridge Points awarded

As you can see, Funbridge is attracting an increasing number of players. Indeed, the app has many advantages: it is user-friendly, the AI mimics human behaviour, it has a nice design and above all it offers multiple game modes.

If you haven't tried Funbridge yet, give it a go now! Free download on smartphones, tablets and computers. Sign up and get 100 free boards!

Go to www.funbridge.com.

DEFEND WITH JULIAN POTTAGE

The Questions

1

♠ 932
♥ 86
♦ AKJ1053
♣ 96



♠ Q7
♥ AK1054
♦ 76
♣ KQ103

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	1♥	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Partner leads the two of hearts. What is your plan?

2

♠ AJ103
♥ AJ42
♦ Q96
♣ Q4



♠ K654
♥ 763
♦ AKJ8
♣ K10

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1♦*	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

1♦ Better minor (5-card majors and strong NT)

Partner leads the seven of clubs, covered by the queen and king. You return the ten of clubs, which holds, partner playing the three. How do you continue?



Test Your Technique

with Christophe Grosset

see Page 4

Dealer South. N/S Vul. Pairs.

♠ A109
♥ A8742
♦ K
♣ J1064

♠ J5
♥ J6
♦ AJ4
♣ Q98732

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♣	All Pass	

West leads a small spade. What's your plan?

If you play low at trick one, East takes the king and returns the king of hearts.

Solution

Anyway, now East is marked with the ♠K, ♥KQ and probably one of the top club honours (West didn't lead a high club). Also, he played the king of spades and not the queen at trick one. Most of the clues point to West having the spade queen. Although it is not a certainty, at match points, it's clearly right taking a risk to score an overtrick.

How do you do that? You need to have unblocked the ♠J at trick one (did you?) and now to overtake the king of diamonds with the ace at trick 3 in order to play a spade to the 10 and then cash the ace discarding your losing heart. All of this before the opponent have a chance play a second round of hearts.

It is sometimes interesting how the human brain works. On this deal played in a rather good field, most of the players playing 3♣ made 9 tricks while all of the players playing 4♣ made 10 tricks. Who said overbidding was bad?

The Blues Brothers

Alex Adamson & Harry Smith Give Us More Tales From The Over The Rainbow Bridge Club

‘You’re far too soft-hearted, Dorothy,’ Aunty Em was scathing. ‘He deliberately didn’t tell you about this event, so that he could catch up on, or even overtake your holding of blue national master points.’

‘I know, but look at him sitting there. Beating him 18 – 2 was rather harsh.’ Dorothy’s voice broke slightly.

‘It should have been 20 – 0, and I would have been even happier.’ Aunty Em was having none of it! ‘We’re now lying second and he and the professor are nineteenth. I wouldn’t be upset if he dropped down to two-hundredth!’ Minor issues such as there only being 120 pairs at the event didn’t get in the way of Aunty Em’s rhetoric.

‘They played very well in that match,’ the Professor was vainly trying to console his partner. ‘However, we are certainly not out of it. They will be playing the cream up at table one, and we should be able to claw our way up.’ He looked at his forlorn partner. ‘It does look likely that Dorothy will get a good number of blue points out of this event. What you’ve, I mean we’ve, got to do now is to get up to the top again and get as many blue points as possible.’

The Tin Man didn’t move. ‘Who do we play now?’ he asked, with a distinct lack of enthusiasm in his voice. He was wondering why he had bothered entering this event at all, especially with such an annoyingly upbeat partner. The Poppyfield Swiss Pairs felt like it had gone on for ever yet they were only at the half way point. He still had another four rounds to endure.

‘Actually, it happens to be the only other pair from our club, the two witches.’ Professor Marvel knew this would encourage the Tin Man.

For the first time since they had left the bridge table to go for lunch, the Tin Man looked up. This was a pair he was confident he could beat, and as they were about to go into the fifth round, it was a certainty that the Irritable Witch of the South and the Unpleasant Witch of the North would already have fallen out. A bit of judicious stirring and a good result would be assured.

Professor Marvel opened up a zip pocket halfway down the leg of his jeans, and extracted a small packet. ‘Take two of these, washed down

with your coffee,’ he said, handing the Tin Man two small green objects. ‘Mostly dried courgette - helps sharpen the brain.’ He paused. ‘And it’s not on any list of banned substances. I’m almost sure.’

The Irritable Witch of the South wiped her face with an oversize hankie. She was sitting by herself with her third plate of sherry trifle from the buffet. The Unpleasant Witch of the North was at the notice board inspecting the draw for round five. Irritable looked up and saw her partner smiling as she came back to the table. This wasn’t something the Unpleasant Witch did without good reason and Irritable was instantly on her guard. ‘She’s worked out I should have made board 22’, the Irritable Witch thought to herself. That would certainly merit a smile.

‘Guess who we’re been drawn against in round five?’ Unpleasant continued clearly in a good humour.

‘Does it matter?’ Irritable responded. ‘More defences like yours on board 29, and we would lose to Noddy and Big Ears.’ Offence was always the safest form of defence.

‘It’s that clanking monstrosity,’ Unpleasant sneered. ‘Usual strategy against him – you scratch and I’ll cough, and by the end of eight boards, he should be up to high doh trying to concentrate.’ She laughed at the thought. ‘Assuming of course you can play like an intelligent human being, just for a change.’ She paused for effect. ‘Unlike your efforts on board 22!’

‘This chair is hard!’ The Unpleasant Witch of the North sniffed as she lowered herself into the West seat. ‘And it has no arms, unlike the seats for North and South.’

‘Please let me swap your chair with mine.’ The Professor had jumped up immediately. Before she could catch her breath for the next snide comment, the Professor had already pushed his chair round to behind the Unpleasant Witch.

‘Oh no, I wouldn’t want to upset the arrangements. I’ll just put up with it,’ she announced with the resigned air of a martyr, and a further sniff specifically directed at the Tin Man.

After seven of the eight boards, the Professor was quite worried about his partner. He had been aware, as indeed all the members of the club were, that the Tin Man did suffer from a deficit of patience and tolerance. But even a saint would have been affected by the antics of these two ladies. The Irritable Witch of the South was leaning over almost touching the Tin Man, as she scratched away at various parts of her body.

He had offered her partner camomile pastilles for her loud cough that always seemed to be directed at the Tin Man's face. On the fifth board, a particularly loud outburst had caused the Tin Man to drop a card face up on the table, the witches then taking great pleasure in calling the director. Fortunately the poor score this had resulted in had been balanced out by a couple of sound hands where he had been declarer.

The match, the Professor felt, was finely balanced. A good final board was essential, and as he picked his cards out for the last board, he was relieved to find himself looking at a balanced 22-count. This would greatly enhance the chances that he would play the hand.

The full hand was:

Dealer West. Love All

♠ 654 ♥ K108 ♦ J64 ♣ 9852	♠ Q98 ♥ 6543 ♦ 105 ♣ J1076	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ KJ10 ♥ AJ7 ♦ 98732 ♣ Q4
	♠ A732 ♥ Q92 ♦ AKQ ♣ AK3		

And all went to plan, after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Unpleasant</i>	<i>Tin Man</i>	<i>Irritable</i>	<i>Professor</i>
–	–	1♦	Double
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Unpleasant Witch, sitting West, had to find a lead. As this was the last board and the Tin Man was to be dummy, there was little point in continuing her coughing spasm. She gave one perfunctory last cough in his direction, and then turned her mind to the question of what to lead. ‘What was the range of 2NT?’ she asked the Tin Man.

He gave a hissing laugh. ‘I expect you are hoping I give an incorrect explanation since we are a scratch partnership. A 1NT overcall would have been 15-17. Double then 1NT would have been stronger and this is even stronger. That’s all we have agreed. Use your common sense.’

Irritable turned back to her hand. She really could find no good reason that would stand up in the post mortem for leading anything other than her partner’s suit.

Professor Marvel looked at the ♦4, and then inspected the dummy as the Tin Man laid it down. ‘Thank you partner, well bid,’ he announced, exuding an air of unjustified confidence.

From the auction, he could be sure that most of the defence’s values were on his right, so trying to set up an entry with the ♠Q looked optimistic. He started on the clubs, and was delighted to see the queen drop. He took all four rounds of the suit discarding a spade, as the Irritable Witch sniffed with displeasure and threw two diamonds.

The Professor now had eight tricks available, and played a heart towards his queen, losing to West’s king. The Unpleasant Witch switched to a spade to the eight, ten and ace. Two more rounds of diamonds cleared this suit, before the Professor exited with a heart, won, perforce, by East. End-played, all she could do was cash her winners and concede the Professor his ninth trick with the ♠Q.

‘Typical,’ the Irritable Witch cried. ‘The spade lead was obvious to anyone who had half a brain.’

‘Really,’ the Unpleasant Witch’s face was turning a deep shade of crimson. ‘I suppose that’s why you bid diamonds. I should know by now that leading your suit is a total waste of time!’ She paused for effect. ‘And what was wrong with playing ♥J on the first round of the suit. That lets me in twice to lead spades.’

‘Do you think you’re playing against a pair of Munchkins?’ The Tin Man looked dismissively at them. ‘Just trivial for my partner to duck if the ♥J is played.’

‘What a brilliant move that would be if I had played it from ace, king

jack!’ the Irritable Witch protested.

‘The day you play low from that holding I’ll...’ The Tin Man cast around for something scathing to say then simply raised his hands in disbelief.

‘Look, we have the move for the next round,’ the Professor interrupted, while the Irritable Witch was still drawing breath for her riposte. ‘We’re going to be North-South at table five. He was already halfway there before the Irritable Witch’s tirade got into full flow.

The next two matches went well for the Tin Man and the Professor, and they entered the final round as East-West at table two. In normal circumstances this would have been very acceptable, but as the Tin Man approached the table he saw that Dorothy and Aunty Em remained as North-South at table one. As he took his seat, the director’s microphone burst into action. ‘The current situation going into the final round,’ the director intoned, ‘is that two pairs from the Over The Rainbow Club are first and fourth on scores of 108 and 102, and two pairs from the Emerald City are lying in between them. Ken and Jack, long time friends of this tournament, are second on 105, and junior internationalists, Ben and Trevor are third on 104.’

‘Ah, so we’re meeting Dorothy’s partner, the Thin Man isn’t it?’ said Trevor, throwing himself into the South seat, ‘I see your fellow National Pairs champion is outperforming you.’ Trevor always reckoned that a good bit of stirring went a long way in the scoring, particularly with an opponent whom he already knew to be thin-skinned.

‘Delighted to meet you,’ the Professor was quick off the mark to distract his partner. ‘It’s good to see juniors able to get to such a high position despite their inexperience. Did your parents bring you today?’ Gamesmanship, thought the Professor, must be fought with its own weapons.

After six very dull boards, neither side felt it had made an impact on the match. Then the penultimate board was placed on the table:

Dealer East. E/W Game

♠ K8543 ♥ 1064 ♦ 7 ♣ J985	<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		♠ J6 ♥ QJ7532 ♦ A10 ♣ 763	♠ AQ1092 ♥ A98 ♦ 942 ♣ Q4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 7 ♥ K ♦ KQJ8653 ♣ AK102											

The Professor opened One Spade and Trevor, after studying his hand, decided to start with a double. The Tin Man, aware of the adverse vulnerability, limited himself to a Three Spades pre-emptive response. Ben now had an obvious call of Four Hearts and after Trevor converted to Five Diamonds, Ben thought for a while before passing. The full auction had been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Tin Man</i>	<i>Ben</i>	<i>Professor</i>	<i>Trevor</i>
–	–	1♠	Double
3♠	4♥	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

‘I hope this isn’t too good,’ mumbled Ben as he laid dummy out. ‘I know you’re short in both majors, so it depends on your club holding.’

The Tin Man led the king of spades to get a look at dummy. Typical junior, thought the Tin Man, thinking of slam with only one first or second round control

‘Thank you partner, this looks like a normal spot. Play the six of spades,’ Trevor responded.

The Professor, sitting East, overtook the first trick and switched to a trump, won by Trevor in hand. He played the ♥K and the Professor ducked without a second’s hesitation. Trevor now played three rounds of clubs. On the last club, the Tin Man’s nine was winning, but the Professor ruffed and played his last trump. There was now no way to get rid of the other

club loser, and a few moments later, Trevor conceded one down.


‘Well defended. You made four good plays’ said Ben, while Trevor grunted something that sounded vaguely like ‘Well done.’ He hadn’t expected this class of defence from the multi-coloured hippy pensioner on his right.

The Tin Man glared at Ben and the Professor. ‘It seems that no-one thinks I would be capable of finding the trump switch at trick two.’

The Professor laughed apologetically. ‘Not at all. I just couldn’t be sure that you had a trump to play.’

The Tin Man, exercising the North duties from the West seat, already had the next board on the table. While they were reeling from a probable bad score, he wasn’t going to give the opposition time to recover.

Dealer South. Game All

♠ AJ ♥ 109 ♦ Q42 ♣ QJ7542		♠ 942 ♥ A8 ♦ A753 ♣ K1063
♠ 753 ♥ 7543 ♦ K108 ♣ A98		♠ KQ1086 ♥ KQJ62 ♦ J96 ♣ —

The auction was relatively straightforward, with Ben deciding to show simple support for his partner’s spades rather than introduce such a poor heart suit.


West	North	East	South
<i>Tin Man</i>	<i>Ben</i>	<i>Professor</i>	<i>Trevor</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
3♣	3♠	4♣	4♠
All Pass			

The Tin Man led the ♣Q and declarer won in dummy discarding a diamond from hand. Trevor took a few moments to plan his line of play, and

the Tin Man used that critical time to try to figure out Trevor’s hand. To raise to game over a potentially stretched Three Spades from his partner, South must have good values in at least one of the red suits. Whichever suit it was, the defender’s cards seemed to be lying well for declarer.

Trevor led a trump to his queen and the Tin Man played his jack. Everything seemed to bode well for declarer, so an unusual play was called for. Declarer now played another top spade. The Tin Man won this and forced declarer with another club.

Trevor paused briefly then played on hearts, with the Professor winning the second round. As he played another club the position was as follows:

♠ — ♥ — ♦ Q42 ♣ J754		♠ 9 ♥ — ♦ A753 ♣ K3
♠ 7 ♥ 75 ♦ K108 ♣ 9		♠ 108 ♥ J62 ♦ J9 ♣ —

Trevor had no answer to this. If he ruffed, and pulled the last trump, he could cash his hearts but he would then still lose a diamond and a club at the end. If he didn’t ruff the ♦A would be cashed, and if he didn’t pull trumps, his next heart would be ruffed. Whatever route he took led to one down.

‘Hard luck, lads, that was a good contract,’ the Professor remarked as he checked the scores with Ben. He looked up and realised the Tin Man was already out of his seat on his way to see how Dorothy and Aunty Em had fared.

‘Well, how have you done,’ the Professor heard Aunty Em ask the Tin Man as he caught up with his partner.

‘These last two boards will probably seal a 20 – 0 victory for us,’ the Tin Man admitted with his usual degree of humility. ‘We showed these youngsters a thing or two.’

‘Oh I think it was a fairly routine defence against Five Diamonds on

board 22,' the Professor added. 'Did they find it against you.'

'They didn't have to,' rasped Aunty Em. We played in Four Hearts, and it should have been pretty double dummy for East to lead a diamond from three small to get their diamond ruff. We also played in Four Hearts on board 23, and they failed to find the double-dummy lead in spades to get a the killing ruff there also.'

'Our opponents chose Four Spades, and without my partner's far-sighted play, that would have made.' The Tin Man glowed as the Professor continued. 'He found the only lead to beat it, and then on the first round of spades he played the jack under the king. He talked through the play and wrote out the position at the point at which he played the third round of clubs.'

'Now look at the difference if the Tin Man wins the first trump. Let's say he plays a second club, ruffed by South. Declarer plays hearts. I hold up to the second round and we are down to:

♠ J ♥ — ♦ Q42 ♣ J754	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 94 ♥ — ♦ A753 ♣ K3	♠ Q108 ♥ J62 ♦ J9 ♣ —
N						
W E						
S						

This is very similar to the position that we reached but everyone has another trump. Now when I play the king of clubs declarer can ruff and finesse in diamonds. Whatever I play after taking the ace of diamonds declarer is home. He can cross to hand in trumps, take out my last trump and his hand is high.'

'All very true, but once again we are into the double dummy,' Aunty Em looked unimpressed. 'Why should declarer play to the queen of trumps, dropping the jack, rather than finessing the ten?'

The Professor reflected for a moment. 'That is true, but the fact remains that after my partner's duck of the king of spades the contract must go

down, while if he takes it then it can be made.'

'Well done, Tin Man,' said Dorothy, 'The results have just gone up on screen. You really do deserve your second place!'

Dorothy and Aunty Em had finished in style with a 20-0 to put the result beyond doubt.

'Another good day for the Over The Rainbow Club, wouldn't you say?' Aunty Em observed to the Tin Man. 'I was so lucky that you hadn't already booked Dorothy!'



MASTER POINT PRESS
THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS BOOK 2: 2003-2017

Eric Kokish and Mark Horton

Close Encounters is a two-book series that describes some of the most memorable bridge matches of the last fifty years. There are amazing comebacks, down to the wire finishes, overtime victories, and an insight into how the game has changed over the last half century.

AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE RETAILER NEAR YOU

Answers to “Defend With Julian Pottage”

1

♠ 932
 ♥ 86
 ♦ AKJ1053
 ♣ 96

 ♠ J865
 ♥ J72
 ♦ 82
 ♣ 8754

 ♠ Q7
 ♥ AK1054
 ♦ 76
 ♣ KQ103

 ♠ AK104
 ♥ Q93
 ♦ Q94
 ♣ AJ2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	1♥	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Partner leads the two of hearts. What is your plan?

Some players, like the late Martin Hoffman, have the ability to think quickly. This is useful in situations like this where declarer might play from dummy quite quickly.

The strong diamonds in dummy make it very likely that the suit will run. If so, your opponent surely has plenty of tricks to make given time.

A count of points tells you that the ace of clubs is on your left—there would be at most 14 points there otherwise. This being the case, you cannot run the clubs. If South has sportingly bid 1NT with Jxx, you can cash five heart tricks. A holding of Qxx is more likely, of course. You can give yourself a chance against this holding if you smoothly win the first trick with the ace of hearts and return the ten. If you had AJ10xx, the winning play would be to duck the second heart to leave the king to win the third and so block the suit. As the cards lie, ducking allows you to run the hearts.

2

♠ AJ103
 ♥ AJ42
 ♦ Q96
 ♣ Q4

 ♠ 972
 ♥ 1095
 ♦ 105
 ♣ AJ873

 ♠ K654
 ♥ 763
 ♦ AKJ8
 ♣ K10

 ♠ Q8
 ♥ KQ8
 ♦ 7432
 ♣ 9652

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1♦*	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

1♦ Better minor (5-card majors and strong NT)

Partner leads the seven of clubs, covered by the queen and king. You return the ten of clubs, which holds, partner playing the three. How do you continue?

The play to the first two tricks rather suggests that the lead is from AJxxx. (Conceivably declarer is holding up the ace of clubs but then whatever partner has in the majors will be subject to finesse.) With 27 points visible between your hand and dummy, realistically you must place the rest of the high cards on your left.

Given time to set up the spades you can imagine seven tricks for your opponent: three spades and four hearts. Defending passively will not be good enough. Nor will it work for you to switch to the ace, the king and another diamond. Your side makes three diamonds, two clubs and a spade – a total of only six.

What you would really like to do is find a way of creating an entry to partner’s hand. Have you spotted the answer now? You switch to the jack of diamonds! Then when you get in with the king of spades you can cross to the ten. While you do not make your ace or king, five clubs, a spade and a diamond suffice to beat the contract.

Bridge with Larry Cohen

www.larryco.com

The brilliant American player, writer and teacher presents a series of articles aimed at intermediate players

Opening Leads (Good, Bad, and Ugly)

Opening Guess

One of my favourite teaching lesson topics is “Opening Leads”. It is not my favourite “at-the-table” topic. After you read my exploits, you might wonder if they have revoked my teaching privileges. When teaching, I love to tell the story of the “Fantoni Lead”. When playing, I hope to avoid such leads myself. My odyssey started in mid-July at the Arlington Heights, IL Regional. I was on lead against 6♣ holding:

♠ Q 10 9 4
♥ Q 10 5 3
♦ J 7 6 3
♣ 9

RHO had opened 1♣ and rebid 3NT over my LHO’s 1♥ response. LHO jumped to 6♣. What’s your guess? I considered a trump, but didn’t think that would accomplish much. A jump rebid of 3NT is usually based on a long suit, often with shortness in dummy’s suit. I thought dummy might have AK or even AKJ of hearts and declarer could be taking fast discards. Or, declarer might have a singleton heart opposite dummy’s king-jack and he might set up a slow discard. I wanted to make an attacking lead. Since I had more in spades, this required less from partner. I led the ♠10 and this was the full layout:

Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 6 3 ♥ A J 8 6 ♦ 2 ♣ 10 8 7 5 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <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		♠ 8 7 2 ♥ K 9 4 2 ♦ A K 9 8 4 ♣ 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ Q 10 9 4 ♥ Q 10 5 3 ♦ J 7 6 3 ♣ 9		♠ A J 5 ♥ 7 ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ A K Q J 6 4									

West	North	East	South
Larry			
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠10

Brilliant. Declarer won the spade lead with his jack and claimed. Any other suit would have defeated the contract. This is why David refers to me as “golden arm”. I had the misfortune of playing this deal against the local Daily Bulletin editor. She thought it a good idea to publish it in the next day’s news.

Next, I moved down the road to the Nationals in Nashville, Tennessee, where again my poor lead made news. In the Grand National team finals I was on lead against 7NT doubled. This is how Mark Horton wrote it up in the Daily Bulletin (why must all my failures appear in print?)

The Unreal Deal By Mark Horton

Larry Cohen’s column in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin “The Real Deal” is justifiably popular. This deal from the final of the GNT may appear in

due course or maybe not. This was Cohen's hand:

♠ J10
♥ J102
♦ 743
♣ J9765

And he heard this auction (both sides were vulnerable):

West	North	East	South
Larry			
-	-	3♦	Double
4♦	5♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♠	Pass	7NT
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

Having made a very law abiding bid, all you have to do is find the winning lead. Before we reveal the answer, here is how you might approach the problem. In the absence of a double, you would have led a diamond, but now it seems clear partner has an ace in one of the other three suits. If it is in spades, it surely cannot run away, so that narrows the choice down to a heart or a club.

If partner's ace is in hearts, the fact that you have the club suit held must mean that 13 tricks will not be available. However, given that North's bid of 5♦ suggests length in both majors, there must be some risk that if partner's presumed ace is in clubs, the opponents may be able to take the tricks they need.

Okay, time to make up your mind, the full deal is coming up:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ K96542 ♥ AK865 ♦ 6 ♣ 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7 ♥ 9 ♦ QJ109852 ♣ A832
♠ J10 ♥ J102 ♦ 743 ♣ J9765		
	♠ AQ83 ♥ Q743 ♦ AK ♣ KQ10	

Opening Lead: ??

As you can see, you need to lead a club. Talking to Cohen about this deal, he revealed that he and David Berkowitz play that a double in this situation suggests that partner lead the highest reasonable suit. It was clear that there was no need to lead a spade, and with a diamond already ruled out the choice lay between the other two suits.

Larry was worried that if he led a club and partner's ace was in hearts, that might just be into some holding like ♣AKQ10, giving declarer seven spades, two diamonds and four clubs. There was also the chance that partner might just have good diamonds headed by the KQJ, and so leading that suit might produce a more substantial penalty.

Even so, we agreed that you really should lead a club, but at the table Larry led a diamond and declarer claimed plus 2490 and a useful 14 IMPs against the 1460 recorded at the other table.

Oh, by the way, Larry and David overcame this minor setback and went on to win the GNT.


Well, I might have referred to it as more than a "minor" setback.

Am I the only one in our partnership who can't lead? In the same event, my partner, David Berkowitz had to lead against 6♥ holding:

♠ 875
♥ —
♦ J10873
♣ J10874

After a fancy Jacoby 2NT auction, declarer had shown 4=5=2=2 distribution. Dummy had shown four-card heart support and Blackwooded into slam. David guessed to lead a minor. With nothing to go by, he chose his "better" suit, a club. This was the layout:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ 875 ♥ — ♦ J10873 ♣ J10874		♠ 1093 ♥ A432 ♦ K954 ♣ 96
♠ AKQ6 ♥ J10965 ♦ Q2 ♣ Q3		

West	North	East	South
<i>David</i>		<i>Larry</i>	
–	–	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

*Declarer showed 4=5=2=2 shape and 1 Keycard
 (3♦artificially showed any 5-4 shape, 3♥asked, and 4♣artificially showed South's exact pattern)

Opening Lead:♣J

How sad (for us, anyway). Declarer won the ♣Q and knocked out the ♥A. He drew trump and later discarded a diamond on the clubs. At the other table, with no good reason, West guessed to lead a diamond, which easily defeated the contract (declarer won the ace and tried 3 rounds of clubs, but East ruffed low). This is why in my lessons (remember those?), I call it the “opening guess”.

This was the *Fantoni Lead*:

I just returned from the Nationals in Hawaii. It was a beautiful place (of course) with perfect weather - sort of a shame to be inside playing bridge. My partner, David Berkowitz and I had a few top-10 finishes early, and then should have won the concluding 3-Day National Swiss Teams. Our team led for 2 & 7/8 days, but lost the event on the 8th and final match

of the final day. Agonizing! Masterpoint awards are surging. Second place in the event paid 120 points. Too bad they don't really do me any good at this stage.

The most thrilling deal of the week came in the Board-A-Match teams against the Italian World Champions, Fantoni-Nunes. I held the following hand:

♠ 87
♥ 106
♦ K52
♣ K108763


On my left, Fantoni opened with a 3♦ preempt. My partner doubled and RHO passed. What should I do? I was a bit heavy for 4♣ (a bid I might make with 0 HCP), but didn't feel like bidding 5♣. I compromised with a greedy (some would call it an overbid) 3NT. Partner started to think. “Please don't go crazy, partner - I don't have my bid,” I thought. He went crazy.

He bid 5NT, saying : “Let's play in a small slam – you chose where.”

Incidentally, this is an excellent use of a jump to 5NT - I highly recommend it. I chose 6♣, of course. He didn't care for clubs. He corrected to 6♥. I presumed he was offering me a choice between hearts and spades (or maybe hearts and notrump). I chose notrump. 6NT-Pass-Pass-Pass. At least we weren't doubled.

Fantoni considered his opening lead. He thought a long time. He thought some more. He asked about the 5NT bid. He thought even longer. At this point, I'll let you, dear reader, see the entire layout:

Dealer West.Both Vul.

♠ Q42 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ98643 ♣ 95		♠ K6 ♥ AKQJ864 ♦ J ♣ AQ2
♠ AJ10953 ♥ 973 ♦ 107 ♣ J4		
♠ 87 ♥ 106 ♦ K52 ♣ K108763		

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
3♦	Double	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Opening Lead: ??

You can see that a lot was riding on the opening lead. How is that for an understatement? Fantoni finally decided that dummy probably had both majors. He didn't want to lead a diamond (presenting declarer with his ♦K that he surely held). He didn't want to lead a spade from the queen, maybe guessing the suit for declarer. He chose his singleton heart! Dummy came down and with clubs behaving I was soon claiming 13 tricks. Notice that on a spade lead, the defence can take all 13 tricks (spade over, ♦10, more spades and then run the diamonds). Have you ever seen a 26-trick swing on a real-life bridge deal, bid by supposedly experts? Instead of down 12 (-1200) we scored +1470. (At the other table, North-South bid to 6♥, and East-West took the phantom sacrifice in 6♠X down 2). This is not a deal I will soon (probably never) forget.

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European Champions' Cup

Martin Cantor reports on the latest edition of this elite competition

The 2018 European Champions' Cup was held in Eilat, Israel and featured twelve teams: the national champion club team from each of the top ten finishers in the European Teams Championships held earlier in the year in Ostend, plus the holders, and a second team from the host country. After a full round robin, the top four play a semi-final and final, with the winners choosing their semi-final opponents from third and fourth. Round Robin places five to eight, and nine to twelve also play a semi-final and final in their bracket, so at the end there is a full one to twelve ranking. The final was between BC't Onstein 1 (Netherlands) and Connector (Poland), but before we get to that here's a hand from the semi-final between Connector and Black (England) which I suspect might still be causing Andrew Black some lost sleep.

Board 10. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J6 ♥ K43 ♦ A9863 ♣ QJ2	N W E S	♠ A1094 ♥ AJ9752 ♦ — ♣ 1054	♠ Q853 ♥ 8 ♦ J1074 ♣ 9763
		♠ K72 ♥ Q106 ♦ KQ52 ♣ AK8	

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewi</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Black</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

The other table made 4♥+2. I'm afraid I can't explain the auction here after the first three bids, but 6NT isn't a great contract with only 11 tricks even if the heart finesse is right, unless you get very lucky with the black queen-jacks. 6♥ is a bit better, though still odds against. It may have been bid because Black were 28-8 down at this point in the match, and while they wouldn't have known the exact score, they surely knew that some earlier boards were likely to be poor.

West led the ♦6 so declarer may have hoped that East would take the ace in which case he would just need the ♥ finesse. In the meantime he had to discard from dummy, weakening one of his potential sources of a twelfth trick. He chose a club, took the first trick with the ♦K, and played the ♥Q. West covered so the hearts were run. East discarded ♣6 ♣3 ♣7 ♣9 ♠3, South the ♦2 ♠7 and ♦5, West the ♦3 ♠6 and ♠J, leaving this position:

♠ — ♥ — ♦ A98 ♣ QJ2	N W E S	♠ A1094 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 105	♠ Q85 ♥ — ♦ J74 ♣ —
		♠ K2 ♥ — ♦ Q ♣ AK8	

and declarer with no recourse against best defence. As the cards lie his best chance is to lead the ♠10 in the probably vain hope that East will cover, in which case he makes an overtrick. Hoping to endplay whoever held the ♦A he crossed to the ♠K, cashed the two top clubs and exited the ♦Q, going 2 down. If declarer had discarded his small club instead of the spade - and IF (big if) opponents had still discarded the same cards - then he could have made his overtrick and gained 13 IMPs rather than losing that number. Combined swing -26 IMPs. The result

of this semi-final - 95-70 to Connector, a margin of 25 IMPs. Bridge can be cruel sometimes.

And so to the final which started with a bang - a slam on 24 combined HCP missing two aces. Bid and made at both tables, with an overtrick in the closed room. First small drop of blood to Connector.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ KQ943
♥ K542
♦ —
♣ KJ106

♠ A76
♥ AQJ1096
♦ J43
♣ 4

Open Room

North	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♠	2♦*
4♥	4♠*
5♣*	5♥
6♥	

2♦ Transfer to hearts (I presume)

Closed Room

North	South
<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Nawrocki</i>
1♠	2♣*
2♥	2♠
2NT	3♣
4♣	6♥

2♣ artificial game force (I presume)

The first significant swing came on this:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ QJ10
♥ AJ9
♦ AJ62
♣ A87

♠ K985
♥ 85
♦ K93
♣ KQ54



♠ A6
♥ Q107642
♦ 4
♣ J1093

♠ 7432
♥ K3
♦ Q10875
♣ 62

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nab</i>	<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Nawrocki</i>
Pass	1♣*	2♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the open room East led a heart and when the diamond king was onside declarer had nine tricks. The stakes were higher in the closed room, but East found the safe lead of the ♣J and declarer could do no better than run the first eight tricks and concede one down and 6 IMPs away.

Onstein added a further 12 IMPs on the next board, when De Wijs - Muller bid and made 6♥ while Wiankowski - Nawrocki stopped in 4♥ making +3.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 1092 ♥ 6 ♦ QJ875 ♣ 10982		♠ AQJ86 ♥ Q87 ♦ AK ♣ K3	♠ K53 ♥ 1043 ♦ 10643 ♣ AJ6
		♠ 4 ♥ AKJ952 ♦ 92 ♣ Q754	

Open Room

North	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♣	1♠
1NT	2♣
2♦	2NT
3♣	3♥
3♠	4♣
6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

North	South
<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Nawrocki</i>
1♣*	1♥
2♦*	3♠*
3NT	4♥
All Pass	

- 1♣ Polish Club, weak NT or natural 15+ or any 18+
- 2♦ 18+HCP 3+♥s
- 3♠ splinter

an offer to play, or maybe a non-serious slam try, but either way it was enough to deter South from bidding on with no further controls to show.

On Board 8 both Polish pairs competed too hard and high, going down two tricks in the open room in 4♠X as well as two down in the closed room in 5♣.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 1072 ♥ KQ43 ♦ 943 ♣ Q65		♠ 3 ♥ AJ8 ♦ Q87 ♣ AKJ1074	♠ AJ8654 ♥ 1096 ♦ A2 ♣ 93
			♠ KQ9 ♥ 752 ♦ KJ1065 ♣ 82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♠
Double	3♠	Double	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nab</i>	<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Nawrocki</i>
Pass	2♠	3♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

The Dutch of course play their own 'eponymous' Tarzan system, which I can't interpret for you, but it certainly got them to a good spot with the cards not too unfriendly. The 3NT in the closed room was probably

A few relatively minor swings in the next eight boards left Onstein leading 32-11 at the halfway point. They added a further 11 by outbidding their opponents on the first board of the second set:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ AKQJ ♥ AJ10752 ♦ J ♣ 32		♠ 98 ♥ K3 ♦ A3 ♣ AQ98764	♠ 107654 ♥ 9864 ♦ 85 ♣ K10
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Open Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Bestrzynski</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Serek</i>	<i>Muller</i>
-	4♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Nawrocki</i>
-	3♦	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Twelve tricks were made at both tables. Then this:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/s Vul.

♠ A9652 ♥ 5 ♦ Q54 ♣ 10986		♠ K10 ♥ AQ97 ♦ AJ7 ♣ KQ43	♠ J874 ♥ 842 ♦ K1062 ♣ A7
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bestrzynski</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Serek</i>	<i>Muller</i>
-	-	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	1NT	2♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Nawrocki</i>
-	-	Pass	Pass
2♠*	Double	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

Single dummy 4♥ has pretty good chances, needing the ♦KQ or the ♦10 onside and you guess which, or on a non-diamond lead ♣s 3-3 or ace doubleton and you find it. Played by North, as it was by the Dutch in the open room, you can also survive a diamond lead if the ♣A is with East. Both declarers had the chance to make the contract but neither did. De Wijs got a spade lead to the ace and a second spade. He played a trump to hand then a club to the king and ace. When East returned a trump he drew a third round, tested the clubs, then finessed the ♦10 to go one down.

At the other table West led the ♣10 ducked to declarer's jack. He

drew trumps ending in dummy, then led the ♣K. East exited a spade and declarer here too had to try the finesse of the ♦7 for a flat board. I think both declarers might have got it right. In the open room there are some small clues that the ♣A is more likely with East. Yes most anything goes for a third hand weak opener, but players do it less happily holding two aces. In addition, West rates to have a diamond honour, because if East had them both either he might have led one or West might have switched to a diamond at trick 2. In the closed room the lead puts the ♣A pretty certainly in the East hand, so it can't cost to play a small club from both hands - if the ace doesn't drop you have a ruffing finesse against East.

On Board 19 it was the Dutch's turn to bid too much at both tables, at a cost of 12 IMPs going 3 down in the open and 2 down in the closed.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AK85 ♠ KQJ874 ♦ 2 ♣ 72	♠ Q10942 ♥ 1063 ♦ 76 ♣ QJ6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J763 ♥ A9 ♦ AKQ84 ♣ 53	♠ — ♥ 52 ♦ J10953 ♣ AK10984
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bestzynsk</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Serek</i>	<i>Muller</i>
–	–	–	2NT*
3♣*	4♣	4♦	5♣
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Van Prooij</i>	<i>Nawrocki</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

The next board was another exciting one - even though the swing was just 3 IMPs to the Poles, it could have been 17.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A9 ♥ J832 ♦ Q ♣ AQ10963	♠ 8 ♥ Q104 ♦ K10965 ♣ K754 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ KJ6 ♥ AK976 ♦ A32 ♣ J2	♠ Q1075432 ♥ 5 ♦ J874 ♣ 8
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bestzynsk</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Serek</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	3♠
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Wiankowski	Van Prooij	Nawrocki
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

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

In the open room Muller led his club. Estimating it to be a singleton declarer went up with the ace and then cashed the ace and king of trumps, conceding one off when they didn't break. In the closed room Nawrocki led a diamond and these were continued until the ace was knocked out. Van Prooij might not have taken the technically correct line in the auction, failing to convert 3NT to 4♥, but he did take the technically correct line of playing for the ♥Q to drop, then falling back on the club finesse. Two down.

Might Serek have got it right in the open? Again I think maybe, although it's much easier to suggest brave plays from the safety of my study than it is at the table. The vulnerable pre-empt on a queen high suit suggests a lot of distribution. Meaning that two singletons is not too unlikely, not to mention that the ♣8 might have been doubleton (even if De Wijs's carding at trick 1 might suggest singleton). It can hardly cost declarer to lead the ♦Q at trick 2 as a discovery play. If North covers there are even fewer values for South to hold, which on the one hand suggests the ♥Q there, but on the other hand extreme shape. And South's diamond card would also be a clue, albeit of uncertain value.

The score after that was 43-26 to Onstein, so with twelve boards to go the event was still wide open. But the next seven boards scored 22-0 to Onstein, meaning Connector needed a medium-sized miracle in the last five boards. Board 28 saw them get six back when Serek-Bestrzynsk stopped in 1NT and made an overtrick, while Van Prooij-Verhees stretched to 3NT and went two light. Next was this:

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bestrzynsk	De Wijs	Serek	Muller
-	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Wiankowski	Van Prooij	Nawrocki
-	1♣*	Pass	1♠
2♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	Double	All Pass	

De Wijs was always a trick short in his 3♠ contract. Verhees's "insurance" proved to be an expensive premium against a non-making 4♠. Wiankowski cashed the ace and king of diamonds then the ace of spades before playing a third diamond. Van Prooij played and ruffed a number of black cards to try to get a picture of the trump suit, but in the end took the finesse for 2 down, -500 and 12 IMPs to Connector.

That was the last of the heroics, the last three boards going 8-7 to BC't Onstein, who ran out worthy winners by 73-51.



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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).

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Kit's Corner

by World Champion Kit Woolsey

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Hamman's Rule

In a quarter-final match in the Senior trials for USA2, you face a difficult decision over an enemy pre-empt.

As West, you hold:

Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A4
♥ AQJ4
♦ A87
♣ K643

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	3♠

Your call?

The choice is between double and 3NT. It is not an easy choice.

The argument in favour of double is that it keeps all strains in play. You have support for all the other suits, including that all-important 4-card heart support. If you bid 3NT, partner isn't going to do anything unless he is either strong enough to move towards slam or very distributional. For all he knows your 3NT call is based on a running minor suit, so he isn't going to pull even if he has a stiff spade and a 5 or even 6-card heart suit.

The argument in favour of 3NT is that if you belong in 3NT you are unlikely to get there if you double. If partner doesn't have a spade stopper and doesn't have 4 hearts he is going to be forced to bid a minor suit, and that could lead to a missed game or the wrong game if 3NT is where you belong. Even if you have a 4-4 heart fit 3NT might be better, as the pre-empt suggests potential bad splits. You can hold up once with your ace-doubleton, and that might be sufficient to shut out East's spade suit.

Hamman's Rule is that if there are possible calls and one of them is

3NT, then 3NT should be chosen. The rule tends to work very well vs. pre-empts. 3NT is probably the percentage action.

You choose to double. The bidding continues:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	3♠
Double	4♠	Double	Pass
?			

Your call?

It is clear to pass. Partner is saying he likes the idea of defending 4♠ doubled, and your hand is as defensively oriented as it could be for your previous auction. You should collect a decent penalty, and you might not have a game or might not be able to find the best game.

You pass, ending the auction.

Your lead. Third and fifth leads. After trick 1, shifts to new suits tend to be attitude.

You do not have an obvious lead. Either red ace could be fine, but declarer is allowed to have the king in which case the lead would be costly. A club lead is likely to hit something in partner's hand, but that isn't guaranteed.

In this type of situation, leading the ace of trumps is often a good idea. It could be a disaster if partner happens to hold the stiff king, but otherwise it doesn't figure to cost a trick. You will hold the lead, and when seeing dummy the right shift might be apparent. Also, it could be handy to take away an unexpected ruff in dummy.

You lead the ace of spades.

♠ Q8	
♥ 102	
♦ KQ10	
♣ QJ9872	
♠ A4	
♥ AQJ4	
♦ A87	
♣ K643	



Partner plays the jack, and declarer the ♠2. UDCA after trick 1. How do you continue?

♠ 4	♠ Q
♥ AQJ4	♥ 102
♦ A87	♦ KQ10
♣ K643	♣ QJ9872

N		E
W	S	

Whatever is going on, it has to be right to continue with another trump. You want to make sure that dummy has no trump entry and no potential to ruff a heart later in the hand.

You lead the ♠4. Partner wins the king, declarer playing the ♠3. Partner now shifts to the ♥9. Declarer plays the ♥5, and you win the jack.

What next?

♠ —	♠ —
♥ AQ4	♥ 10
♦ A87	♦ KQ10
♣ K643	♣ QJ9872

N		E
W	S	

You now know a little more about the hand. Declarer started with 109 seventh of spades. Declarer is marked with the king of hearts, since if partner had the king he would have led a small heart. It is very likely that declarer has at least Kxx of hearts, since with king-doubleton declarer would have gone up king - he wouldn't have trusted the ♥9 shift that much.

Declarer has at most 3 minor-suit cards. A club shift has to be right. Partner probably has the ace of clubs, since without that card he wouldn't have much of a double. Even if declarer started with Ax of clubs, the club shift is okay. Declarer will be marked with at most one diamond, so you can grab your ace of diamonds on the first round, exit with a club, and wait for your heart tricks.

Since your leads in the middle of the hand tend to be attitude, you should lead the ♣3.

You lead the ♣3. ♣7 from dummy, ace from partner, and declarer ruffs. Declarer leads the ♦5. Do you win or duck?

♠ —	♠ —
♥ AQ4	♥ 10
♦ A87	♦ KQ10
♣ K64	♣ QJ982

N		E
W	S	

Declarer doesn't figure to have a singleton diamond along with his club void, as that would make his shape 7-5-1-0. Still, it is possible, and if declarer does have that you need to take your ace of diamonds. The key is that declarer is known to have 6 red cards. However those red cards are divided, by winning the ace of diamonds and leading back a diamond you are guaranteed to get 2 more heart tricks. Thus, ducking can never gain.

You choose to play the ♦8. Declarer wins the king, partner playing the ♦2. Now declarer leads the queen of clubs from dummy. Partner plays the ♣5, declarer discards the ♥6, and you win your king. What do you do now?

♠ —	♠ —
♥ AQ4	♥ 10
♦ A7	♦ Q10
♣ 64	♣ J982


N		E
W	S	

From partner's carding and declarer's line of play, it looks almost certain that declarer started with 7-3-3-0 distribution. You could try for down 4 by cashing your ace of hearts and underleading your ace of diamonds, but this isn't a good idea. Partner might not have the jack of diamonds. Even if partner has that card, declarer is likely to guess it right. If declarer does guess it right, you will lose your ace of diamonds since dummy's clubs are good.

As long as you are cashing your aces, you might as well start with the

ace of diamonds. If this unexpectedly gets ruffed, you still have your AQ of hearts over declarer's king.

You cash your ace of diamonds, and then your ace of hearts. Declarer has the rest, for down 3. The full hand is:

♠ A4 ♥ AQJ4 ♦ A87 ♣ K643		♠ Q8 ♥ 102 ♦ KQ10 ♣ QJ9872	♠ KJ ♥ 9873 ♦ 6432 ♣ A105
♠ 10976532 ♥ K65 ♦ J95 ♣ —			

How was East's defence?

The heart shift was pretty clear. If East were sure that West had the king of clubs, East could have inserted the 10. East worked out that playing the ace could never cost whatever the hand is, and it is possible that West thought it was more important to show count looking at that dummy.

How do you like the N/S bidding?

South's 3♠ opening at favourable vulnerability is clearly winning bridge. Anything lower makes life too easy for the opponents. The only real question is whether or not South should open 4♥, but that does look like it would be carrying things too far.

North's 4♠ call is questionable. 4♠ doesn't figure to have any play, and is likely to be doubled. It is true that E/W might have a game and that 4♠ figures to go for less than the value of that game, but North can't be sure of that nor can he be sure that E/W will get to the right game.

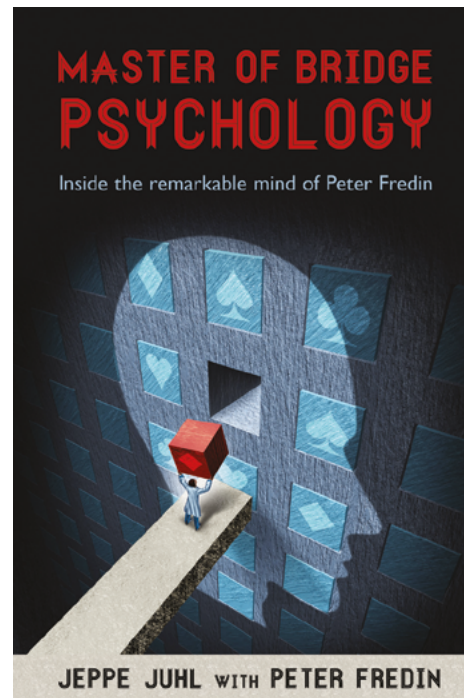
How was East's bidding?

East has a clear double. He has enough defence so 4♠ doesn't figure to make, and he has no expectations of making anything higher unless his partner has an unusual hand. East is too strong to pass, as that could put his partner under a lot of pressure.

At the other table, West did follow Hamman's Rule and bid 3NT. North

led the queen of spades. Declarer won the king, took a winning heart finesse, led a club to the 10 as North ducked, and another heart finesse gave him 10 easy tricks for 4 IMPs.

What would have happened if North had passed over 3♠ doubled? East might have bid 3NT, although if his partner has a singleton spade and 4 hearts for the takeout double 3NT could be a bad contract. This time following Hamman's Rule would have been a good idea, as 4♥ can't make because of South's club void. We will never know what East would have done.



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Useful Hints For Useless Players

an excerpt from Tony Forrester's Bridge Player's Bedside Book

I am often asked how it is, with my mediocre talent for the game, that I have reached such dizzy heights. (it is a little known fact that I have achieved Club Master in just over seven years, despite the fact that during this time I suffered from a bout of influenza and did not play for a whole week!) the psychological aspect of the game is often underestimated, and I have decided to impart the brain-washing technique that has stood me in such good stead over the years.

The idea of this advice is based upon the fact that many of us will never get any better. it is obviously a complete waste of time to actually try and improve our Bridge standards, so I offer a practical alternative.

Please read, memorise, and then eat the following:

Never smile during the play, always frown, this gives your opponents (and your partners, come to that) the impression that you are thinking.

When defending, suddenly relax, and look relieved, at around trick four. this should be timed to coincide with declarer playing an insignificant card from his hand that has absolutely nothing to do with anything. it is very disconcerting for you to be seen, at the sight of, say, the six of diamonds, smiling and nodding, knowingly. An audible aside to a startled kibitzer on the lines of, "I thought so – he did have it!" is an optional extra. The point is that the thought, planted in the declarer's mind, that you are a player who worries about sixes, absolutely guarantees panic.

Never ask what an opponent's bid means, inform them. First of all think up a lot of odd names (stick to television as a source – it is safer as dedicated players never watch it anyway) then invent, and pair them into conventions. if you are stuck, and need to know what is going on, remember that a suggestion works as well as a question.

For example:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	

At this point, as South, you should pick up West's convention card, peruse it, and casually query, as follows:

"Are you playing Seinfeld Raises?"

The effect can be devastating. Your opponents will probably just say: "no, it just means..." and you get your answer. But think of what your simple question has implied. You are obviously a student of the game with a knowledge of the most obscure bidding systems at your fingertips.

'Modified Frasier' 'Mulder over two no-trumps' 'Simpson Cue Bids' and 'Kramer leads' all have the same effect. you need have no worries. they will never ask you about the convention as this will only show their ignorance.

In the second half of any pairs competition you should say to your partner as you join new opponents:

"We only need averages now."

This also guarantees success. Nothing infuriates a bridge player more than to be labelled as an 'Average Board'. He or she will be so determined to give you a bottom you will, invariably, end up with a top.

When you are declarer remember to say, with a smile, and a nod, at the first sight of a dummy:

"That's what I thought you had."

This implies that you are in the right contract. If, however, partner's shape is 10-1-1-1 and he has bid no-trumps several times, it is essential to deliver the line without swearing.

Depending on the time of year, it can be very rewarding when meeting new opponents to look at their convention card. if they have given their names, read them out – aloud and thoughtfully – as though to yourself, and then ask:

"Didn't we just play you recently in the round of 16 in the Spingold?"

This works two-fold.

You are revealing that you got that far in the competition – so you must be good and, in an effort to confirm your estimation of their abilities, they will play very badly trying to prove it.

Never fail to drop at least one thoroughly demoralizing remark during any lull in the play. I have found particularly useful:

“Did Zia tell you about that hand he played last week?” this is positively packed with innuendo. apart from the fact that it reveals you hob-nob with the likes of Zia Mahmood, it also points out that he thinks you will appreciate what he is talking about.

“I always play better when there’s a lot of people watching me.”

Powerful stuff. Now they know that you are used to having temporary grandstands erected behind your chair.

“Bob Hamman’s asked me to play with him, again.” the “again” is essential, and best delivered after a pause, and a sigh that suggests you will really be glad when he stops bothering you.

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“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*.

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Jeff Bayone



The Abbot's Pipe Dream

by David Bird

Play finished on the first Thursday of the monastery's annual pairs championship with the Abbot and Brother Xavier well in the lead. The Abbot spent much of Friday morning standing by the bridge notice-board, chatting at length to those players who came by to note their own standings.

'Seventh is a very good position for you,' declared the Abbot, as two novices came into view. 'There are still 27 boards to be played, next Thursday. Let's see how far behind the leading pair you are. Yes, well, there's a gap of nearly three tops. I'm afraid I had an unusually good session with Brother Xavier.'

'We'll be happy if we finish above average,' replied Brother Shayne. 'How did Brother Lucius do? We didn't play against him last night.'

'He's away somewhere,' the Abbot replied. 'He didn't enter this year.' 'Isn't it for a funeral in Ireland?' queried Brother Jake. 'It's rather a pity that the date couldn't be changed. I'm sure he would have liked to play in the annual pairs.'

'We certainly could have done with some stiffer opposition last night,' declared the Abbot. 'It was one good board after another. Very uninspired play by our opponents.'

Brother Shayne smiled politely. 'We'll certainly try our best if we play against you next week, Abbot. Not guaranteeing anything!'

The following Thursday, the young pair faced the Abbot on the first round.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ Q87 ♥ J9874 ♦ — ♣ KQ1093	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J53 ♥ K62 ♦ A1092 ♣ J75 ♠ K1094 ♥ 1053 ♦ J863 ♣ A2 ♠ A62 ♥ AQ ♦ KQ754 ♣ 864
-------------------------------------	--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Brother Shayne</i>	<i>Brother Xavier</i>	<i>Brother Jake</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>
–	–	–	1NT
2♥	3NT	All Pass	

Brother Shayne led the king of clubs and down went the dummy. 'You alerted the Two Heart overcall?' queried the Abbot.

'Yes,' replied Brother Jake proudly. 'It's Modified Cappelletti. I read about it in an American bridge magazine that my uncle sent me. Two Hearts shows hearts and an unspecified minor suit.'

'Apart from that being an absurd method, you won't find it on the list of conventions approved for use by novices,' continued the Abbot. 'You will delete it from your convention card.'

'Can't we play it just for the rest of this session?' asked Brother Shayne. 'We had some very good results with it last week.'

'Play low,' said the Abbot.

With the ♣J on display in the dummy, it was unattractive for Brother Jake to overtake with the club ace. He played a reluctant ♣2 and West's

king held the trick. A continuation of the ♣10 was won with the bare ace and Brother Jake switched to the ♥3. The Abbot won with the ace and cashed the queen of hearts. It was clear to him that West held hearts and clubs. Unless he had used the convention on a hand with 0=4=4=5 shape, he could not hold all four missing diamonds. Ah well, it seemed that nothing much would be lost by cashing the ace of spades to take a look there.

The Abbot nodded when West followed to the first round of spades. He led a low diamond from his hand, pleased to see West show out. ‘Ten of diamonds, please,’ he said. Five diamond tricks were soon collected and the game was made.

‘I think it works better if you lead the ten of clubs,’ said Brother Jake. ‘I can play my ace then and we take five club tricks.’

Brother Shayne nodded ruefully. ‘It would have been another good one for Modified Cappelletti,’ he replied. ‘When the second suit is unknown, the opponents can’t check if they have a stopper there.’

Not long afterwards, the Abbot faced Brother Paulo. With Brother Lucius unavailable, he had reluctantly agreed to partner the aged Brother Arbuthnot. The Abbot looked on disapprovingly as Brother Paulo lowered himself into the South seat. It was well known that this seat was favoured by those who thought they played the dummy well. This was the first deal of the round

Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ J987 ♥ 1085 ♦ AQJ104 ♣ 2	<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></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		♠ 1054 ♥ A6 ♦ K863 ♣ 9843
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ KQ32 ♥ KQ2 ♦ 92 ♣ AKQ7		♠ A6 ♥ J9743 ♦ 75 ♣ J1065									

West	North	East	South
<i>Brother Xavier</i>	<i>Brother Arbuthnot</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>	<i>Brother Paulo</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	Double	3♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

‘Support Double, was it?’ queried Brother Xavier.

‘That’s right,’ replied Brother Paulo. ‘I explained it to my partner especially for this event. I’m glad it has come up.’

The Abbot raised an eyebrow. How absurd to saddle an ancient partner with a tricky convention like that. It was surprising that he’d remembered it. The ♣2 was led and Brother Arbuthnot took some time to lay out his dummy.

It was clear to Brother Paulo that the opening lead was a singleton. If he won and played a trump he would suffer at least one club ruff and go one or two down. He won the first trick with the ace of clubs and turned to the spade suit. Three rounds stood up and he discarded one of his diamond losers. When he continued with dummy’s ♠3, the Abbot discarded the ♦8. Brother Paulo threw the last diamond from his hand.

Brother Xavier won with the fourth round of spades and tried his luck with a low diamond. The Abbot produced the king, but Brother Paulo ruffed in his hand. A trump to the king and ace was followed by one club ruff, but the contract was secure. Declarer lost just two trumps and the ducked round of spades.

‘Lead a diamond, partner!’ exclaimed the Abbot ‘We take two winners there and switch to clubs. Then you get a club ruff when I win with the ace of trumps.’

‘The singleton lead was obvious from my hand,’ Brother Xavier replied. ‘Paulo did well to lead the fourth spade, ditching his last diamond before playing trumps. Otherwise I’d have scored two club ruffs anyway.’

‘It’s a good one for us,’ announced Brother Arbuthnot, unscrewing his fountain pen as he inspected the scoresheet. ‘Well played, partner!’

‘We were a bit lucky,’ Brother Paulo replied. ‘The Abbot might perhaps have ruffed the ♠3 on the fourth round. If I ditch my last diamond then, I still lose two club ruffs.’

The Abbot’s brain whirred. Ruff the spade loser? Would that have

made any difference?

‘Yes, I see,’ said Brother Xavier. ‘And if Paulo overruffs and plays a trump, I would still have a diamond entry to your hand for a second club ruff.’

The Abbot beckoned for the next board to be placed in position. ‘There may be a parallel universe somewhere where everyone makes ludicrous double-dummy plays all the time,’ he replied. ‘Fortunately, we don’t inhabit it.’

A few rounds later, the Abbot was in two minds as he took his seat against Brother Arthur and Brother Gordon. Although the two 80-year-olds rarely participated in the weekly duplicate, or any of the occasional social games, they always entered the annual championship. With no idea of playing a disciplined game, their results were a mixture of below average scores and the occasional outright top when their eccentric bidding or play happened to pay off.

The Abbot gathered his concentration as he reached for his cards. This pair had been awarding good scores to all and sundry. He had no intention of losing ground by suffering one of their absurd, undeserved tops.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ KQ82 ♥ 108 ♦ 3 ♣ Q109542		♠ 1096 ♥ KQ ♦ KJ1085 ♣ KJ7
♠ A53 ♥ A642 ♦ 942 ♣ A86	♠ J74 ♥ J9753 ♦ AQ76 ♣ 3	

West	North	East	South
Brother Xavier	Brother Arthur	The Abbot	Brother Gordon
-	Pass	1♦	1♥
Double	4♥	All Pass	

Brother Xavier led the ♦3 and down went the dummy. ‘You passed on that?’ he queried.

‘I always pass on three aces, unless I have compensating values,’ Brother Arthur replied. ‘It wasn’t a difficult decision here. We were vulnerable and I have nine losers.’

Brother Gordon, who was tall and thin, did not think much of his prospects. ‘Play low,’ he said.

The Abbot turned towards the North player. ‘If you don’t rate your hand highly, it’s surprising you raised to game, isn’t it?’

‘If I don’t bid game on this, I never would,’ Brother Arthur replied. ‘I could hardly be better for a passed hand. The bridge writer in the *Church Times* was saying only last week how useful aces are in a suit contract.’

Brother Gordon won the Abbot’s king of diamonds with the ace and could see some ruffing potential in the club suit. He crossed to the ace of clubs and ruffed a club in his hand. All followed when a trump was played to the ace and he ruffed dummy’s last club.

With no further ruffs available, Brother Gordon played a second round of trumps to the Abbot king. He ducked the ♠10 switch and won the ♠9 continuation with dummy’s ace. ‘Play a diamond,’ he said.

The Abbot inserted the ♦10 and Brother Gordon won with the queen. Concluding that it would make little difference what he played next, he tossed the jack of spades onto the table. Brother Xavier won with the queen and had no good return.

Brother Gordon, who had been about to concede one down, perked up when the spade king appeared on the table. ‘I’m not sure that was wise,’ he declared. ‘Throw the diamond loser, please, partner.’ He ruffed in his hand and claimed the remaining tricks.

‘I thought you’d make it,’ observed Brother Arthur. ‘After passing, my hand could hardly be better.’

‘I didn’t have very much,’ Brother Gordon replied. ‘Still, an overbid at the one-level doesn’t promise many points. With the values for an opening bid, I would have doubled instead.’

The last round of the championship saw the Abbot facing the black-bearded Brother Zac and his less able partner, Brother Sextus. Once again, the Abbot was less than entranced to see Brother Zac assume occupancy of the South seat. There was no logic to such a practice. It could hardly be more obvious that bridge contracts must fall to each compass point

with equal regularity.

Brother Xavier collected with a 60% board in 3♦, and this was the final board of the event:

Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 654 ♥ 82 ♦ A1083 ♣ QJ104	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q87 ♥ AQJ9 ♦ QJ65 ♣ K7	♠ 3 ♥ K10653 ♦ 92 ♣ 98632
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ AKJ1092 ♥ 74 ♦ K74 ♣ A5					

West	North	East	South
Brother Xavier	Brother Sextus	The Abbot	Brother Zac
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

The Abbot winced when, yet again, South ended as declarer. In all future sessions, he was going to sit West rather than East. If there did happen to be any bias towards South ending as declarer, at least he would be spared Xavier's very moderate opening leads.

The queen of clubs appeared on the table and Brother Sextus laid down a respectable dummy. Brother Zac stroked his beard thoughtfully. There was a fair chance of setting up a heart discard on the diamonds. If that chance failed, he would fall back on the heart finesse. 'Thank you, partner,' he said, somewhat belatedly.

Brother Zac won the club lead with dummy's king and reached his hand with a trump to the ace. His next move was the ♦4 to dummy's queen, winning the trick. He overtook the trump queen with the ace, East discarding a club, and led ♦7. Once again, Brother Xavier could not

afford to play the ace, or declarer would have three diamond tricks and a discard for his heart loser.

Dummy's ♦J won the trick, and Brother Zac paused to assess his next move. If diamonds were 3-3, a third round of the suit would set up a long diamond in dummy. Finessing the queen of hearts was a better chance, a full 50%. If the finesse lost to the king, there was an additional chance that the Abbot might have no diamonds left.

Brother Zac reached his hand with a third round of trumps. A heart to the queen lost to the king but declarer's second chance paid off. With no diamond to play, the Abbot returned a club, won with the ace. Declarer was then able to discard his diamond loser on dummy's ♥AJ and the slam was made/

'We were lucky there,' said Brother Zac. 'On a heart lead, I'd have to lose a trick in each red suit.'

The Abbot reached resignedly for his scorecard. He had suffered two hammer blows on one deal. If Brother Sextus had been sitting South, there would have been no chance whatsoever of him finding the winning play. Secondly, Brother Xavier had been West, pushing out a typically wooden ♣Q. Had he not read recent books on opening leads that commended leading from a low doubleton?

The Abbot rose to his feet. Thanks to his own efforts, they might well still win this event. Just imagine, though, if for the last few decades he had been blessed with a partner who matched his own natural flair for the game. An extra 8-10% on every session that they played? It would have made a world of difference!



The Abbot

The uBid Auction Room

Mark Horton

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

This month we are at the English Senior trials, played as a round-robin involving these eight teams:

Mossop (David Mossop, Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland, Brian Senior)

Penfold (Sandra Penfold, Tony Forrester, David Kendrick, Norman Selway)

Mould (Alan Mould, Gary Hyett, Sally Brock, Barry Myers)

Smith (Nick Smith, Roger Bryant, Peter Shelley, Trevor Ward)

Granville (Richard Granville, Richard Chamberlain, Graham Sadie, Patrick Shields)

Procter (Robert Procter, Bob Holder, Michael Robinson, Phil Thornton)

Robinson (Dave Robinson, Tony McNiff, Tony Sowter, Bill Townsend)

Sansom (John Sansom, Stewart Fishburne, Richard Jephcott, Mike Willoughby)

It proved to be a race between two teams who left the rest in their wake; by the time they reached the last round Mossop (90.93) was playing Procter while Penfold (89.92) faced Mould.

The Hands

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

Hand 1. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ AKQ84
♥ AQ76
♦ 1087
♣ 4



♠ 10765
♥ KJ852
♦ —
♣ A986

North overcalls 2♦ and South raises to 5♦

West	North	East	South
Mossop	Chamberlain	Hallberg	Shields
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♦	4♦*	5♦
5♥	Pass	6♣*	Double
Pass*	Pass	Redouble	Pass
7♠	All Pass		
4♦	Splinter		
6♣	Cue-bid		
Pass	Denies first round club control		
Rdbl	First round club control		

West's jump to 7♠ suggests that 4♦ promised a void. North held ♠32 ♥43 ♦AKQJ43 ♣J102 and led a diamond, declarer ruffing, coming to hand with a spade, ruffing a second diamond and claiming, +2210.

Although it would have made little difference, South might have preferred 5♣ to 5♦.

West	North	East	South
Granville	Hackett	Sadie	Senior
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♦	4♠	All Pass

What can one say about that? It cost 17 IMPs.

Recommended auction: I don't think you can do much better than Mossop-Hallberg.

Marks: 7♠/7♥ 10, 6♠/6♥ 7, 4♠/4♥ 5.

Running score: Mossop/Penfold 10 (17) The Rest 5 (0)

Hand 2. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A		♠ 95
♥ AQ64		♥ K108752
♦ AKJ1075		♦ Q3
♣ 93		♣ KQ2

South opens 4♣

West	North	East	South
Mossop	Chamberlain	Hallberg	Shields
-	-	-	4♠
Double	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Looking at two small clubs, West could hardly go on with 5♠. Not to mention the fact that East might have had a weaker hand. Some players would simply bid 6♥ – but they are not yet eligible for this event.

For the record South's hand was ♠KQJ7632 ♥9 ♦2 ♣A854

West	North	East	South
Granville	Hackett	Sadie	Senior
-	-	-	4♠
5♦	All Pass		

Recommended auction: Suppose East bids 4NT (frequently used as suggesting two places to play) over West's double and then bids 5♥ over 5♦. Would that show a hand with real slam interest, or indicate that East has some values? Would partner assume East was showing hearts and clubs? The preemption made it too difficult – although I prefer a double to 5♦.

Marks: 6♥/6♦/6NT 10, 5♥/5♦/5NT 5.

Running score: Mossop/Penfold 15 (19) The Rest 10 (0)

Hand 3. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10982		♠ AKQ73
♥ AK932		♥ Q104
♦ 98		♦ K
♣ AQ		♣ K875

West	East
Penfold	Selway
-	1♠
2NT*	3♣*
3♠*	4♦
4♥*	4NT*
5♥*	6♠
Pass	

- 2NT Spade support
- 3♣ Natural, not minimum
- 3♠ Asking for shortage
- 4♦ Short diamond
- 4♥ Cue-bid
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♥ 2 key cards

West	East
Jephcott	Sansom
-	1♠
2NT*	3♣
3♥	4♠
Pass	

With such powerful trumps East's decision to jump to 4♠ was surprising. Had he bid 4♦ West could bid 4♥ and then continue with 5♣ over East's 4♠.

Recommended auction: Penfold-Selway is fine – I would expect most pairs to find a route to 6♠.

Marks: 6♠/6♥ 10, 4♥/4♠ 4.

Running score: Mossop/Penfold 25 (30) The Rest 14 (0)

The two teams who dominated the event met in Round 4. Most of the swing came in the bidding – take a look at Boards 26, 27 and 32 by following the link at the end of the article.

Hand 4. Dealer West. N/S Vul

♠ A84
♥ AKQ53
♦ A753
♣ Q



♠ 9
♥ 76
♦ K102
♣ AKJ10654

West	East
Forrester	Kendrick
1♥	2♣
2♦	2♠*
2NT	3NT
4♣	5♣
5♠*	7♣
Pass	

2♠ Fourth-Suit forcing

West's 5♠ confirmed he had a first round control in all the side suits and that, along with his excellent 4♣ bid made it easy for East to jump to 7♣.

West	North	East	South
Smith	Penfold	Bryant	Selway
1♣*	1♠	2♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

1♣ Strong

Not for the first time, intervention over a Strong ♣ made things more difficult.

North's hand was ♠QJ1072 ♥84 ♦Q8 ♣9873 – and notice she was vulnerable.

Recommended auction: A perfect 10 for Forrester-Kendrick.

Marks: 7♣/7NT 10, 6♣/6NT 7, 5♣/3NT 5.

Running score: Mossop/Penfold 35 (41) The Rest 21 (0)

Hand 5. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AJ106
♥ K7
♦ K1096
♣ Q65



♠ K742
♥ AJ4
♦ 54
♣ AJ73

North opens 2♥ (weak) South bids 3♦ and North 3♥

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Bryant	Mossop	Smith
-	3♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North's preempt was based on ♠853 ♥Q109862 ♦2 ♣K98

After a heart lead to the queen and ace declarer might have taken 12 tricks, but he settled for eleven, +650.

West	North	East	South
Ward	Holland	Shelley	Senior
-	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

3♥ went three down, but it was obviously a bargain.

Recommended auction: How to cope with Brian Senior's 3♦? Nothing obvious occurs to me. East might double 2♥, because it focuses attention on spades, but you are stuck if partner bids 3♦ (and if he has a rotten hand you might be unstuck).

Marks: 4♠/3NT10, 3♥(EW) 4.

Running score: Mossop/Penfold 56 (41) The Rest 25 (0)

Hand 6. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AKQ54
♥ -
♦ K106
♣ AKJ74



♠ 6
♥ K10953
♦ AQJ542
♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Smith	Hallberg	Bryant	Mossop
-	-	-	Pass
1♣*	Pass	2♦	Double
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

1♣ Strong

3♦ Asking bid

4♦ 6♦, two of the top three honours

South held ♠J872 ♥AQ762 ♦- ♣Q863. Leading the ♥A allowed declarer to make a rapid claim.

West	North	East	South
Senior	Ward	Holland	Shelley
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Double
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♦	All Pass

It looks as if 5NT was a grand slam force.

South led the ♠8 and declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the ♦K, South pitching a heart. Declarer continued with dummy's top spades throwing hearts, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, drew trumps and claimed.

Recommended auction: Senior-Holland is as good as anything (although it is possible to play more sophisticated responses to 5NT).

Marks: 7♦ 10, 6♦ 7, 5♦ 5.

Running score: Mossop/Penfold 66 (41) The Rest 35 (0)

Hand 7. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ K5	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ A104
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ J8	♥ AK109										
♦ AKJ9872	♦ 6										
♣ J4	♣ 97532										

West	East
Brock	Myers
–	1♣
1♦	1♥
1♠*	1NT
3♦	3♥
3NT	Pass

South led the ♠6 from ♠Q876 ♥75432 ♦105 ♣A8 and declarer took North's jack with the ace and played a diamond to the five, jack and queen. Norman Selway switched to the ♣6 and the defenders took the next four tricks for one down.

West	East
Kendrick	Forrester
–	1♣
1♦	1♥
1♠*	1NT
3NT	Pass

The first two tricks were identical but Alan Mould returned a spade and declarer took twelve tricks.

Recommended auction: Anything that gets you to 3NT.

Marks: 3NT10, 5♦ 7, 2NT/3♦ 5.

Running score: Mossop/Penfold 76 (54) The Rest 45 (0)

Hand 8. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ K32	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ AQJ98654
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ QJ76	♥ K94										
♦ 109	♦ J3										
♣ AQJ4	♣ –										

South opens 1♦ and North raises to 4♦

West	North	East	South
Penfold	Brock	Selway	Myers
–	–	–	1♦
Double	4♦	6♠	All Pass

South led the ♦K from ♠7 ♥10852 ♦AKQ5 ♣K762 and the contract was two down.

West	North	East	South
Hyett	Kendrick	Mould	Forrester
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	3♣	4♠	All Pass

The different opening bid meant West had no reason to get involved.

Recommended auction: East's jump to 6♠ was speculative, but had it made his team would have won the trial.

Marks: 4 ♠10, 6♠ 5 (for bravery).

Running score: Mossop/Penfold 81 (54) The Rest 55 (11)

You can play through all the deals from this event.

Just follow the links:

Round 1: [here](https://tinyurl.com/y6wvgnnu) or <https://tinyurl.com/y6wvgnnu>

Round 2: [here](https://tinyurl.com/yd46hy9f) or <https://tinyurl.com/yd46hy9f>

Round 3: [here](https://tinyurl.com/yceadtj) or <https://tinyurl.com/yceadtj>

Round 4: [here](https://tinyurl.com/yazlittq) or <https://tinyurl.com/yazlittq>

Round 5: [here](https://tinyurl.com/yc57mfqa) or <https://tinyurl.com/yc57mfqa>

Round 6: [here](https://tinyurl.com/yark7dkw) or <https://tinyurl.com/yark7dkw>

Round 7: [here](https://tinyurl.com/yclt6nhl) or <https://tinyurl.com/yclt6nhl>

AS OF THE 51st WACHAUER BRIDGE-WEEK FROM AUGUST 4 TO 10 2019, THE AUSTRIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION (ÖBV) WILL REPLACE THE NÖBV AS PREVIOUS ORGANIZER OF THIS TRADITIONAL TOURNAMENT. HOWEVER, THE NÖBV WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE ÖBV, FOR WHICH WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL.

**INTERNATIONAL
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2019
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Venue:
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Austria**

Organisation:
Austrian Bridge Federation (ÖBV)

Management:
Executive Board of ÖBV

Contacts:
**wachauer-bridgewoche2019@
bridgeaustria.at**

Bild: Roman Zöchlinger

BRIDGE SCHEDULE 2019

Sunday	4 th of August	12:30 p.m.	Opening Pairs Tournament - 2x18 boards, 30C/player
Monday	5 th of August	12:00 p.m./noon	Mini Team - 6x8 boards, 120C/Team
Tuesday	6 th of August	2:00 p.m.	Individual Tournament - 26 boards, 15C/player
		7:30 p.m.	Barometer Tournament - 32 boards, 25C
Wednesday	7 th of August	5:00 p.m.	Team Tournament – session1, 6x8 boards, 240C/Team
Thursday	8 th of August	12:00 p.m./noon	Team Tournament – session2, 6x8 boards
Friday	9 th of August	1:30 p.m.	Main Pairs Tournament – 1 st session, 32 boards, 50C
Saturday	10 th of August	1:30 p.m.	Main Pairs Tournament – 2 nd session, 32 boards
Saturday	10 th of August	appr. from 9:30 p.m.	Festive awards ceremony, closing event with live music and dance

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Registration:
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Detailed information about the event will be available on the ÖBV homepage (www.bridgeaustria.at) as of November 2018.

The organizer reserves the right to make changes for convenient reasons

Bild: Bwog 10/2018



The Master Point Press Bidding Battle Set 13

Moderated by Brian Senior

A bigger than usual panel this month, which is nice to see. Happy New Year to everyone – panellists, readers, and even the editors. May the magazine consolidate its position and go from strength to strength in the next 12 months.

PROBLEM 1

IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 103
♥ 52
♦ A9
♣ AKQ8532

West	North	East	South
1♣	Double	1♦	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
3♣	22	10
3NT	2	5

An easy 10 points for most to kick-off the new year.

Sver: 3♣.

Cope: 3♣. What else without a major suit stopped.

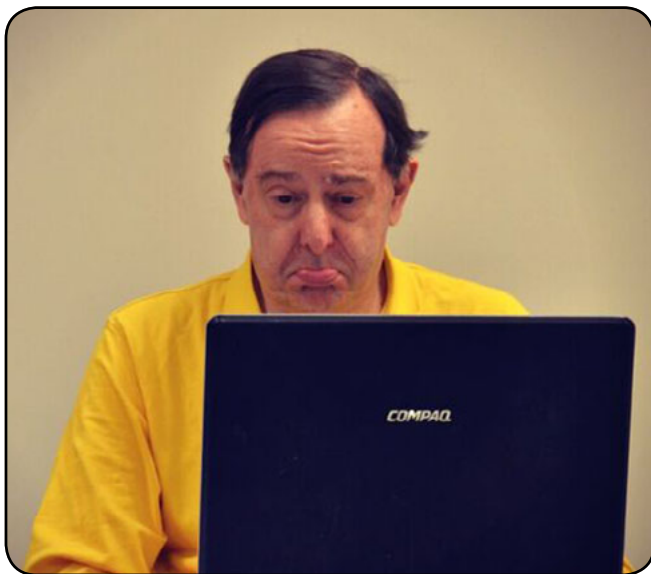
Cannell: 3♣. The value bid. A possible eight tricks. Taking some room from North.

Teramoto: 3♣. Excellent club suit has values to invite. I hope partner can bid 3NT with Major stoppers.

McGowan: 3♣. This is an odd auction, but someone has the Majors... Maybe partner can bid 3NT, even with a singleton club.

THE BIDS & MARKS

	Bid	No. of Votes	Marks		Bid	No. of Votes	Marks
1.	3♣	22	10	5.	Pass	15	10
	3NT	2	5		1♠	6	7
2.	Redouble	18	10	3♣	3	5	
	3♦	4	7	1♣	0	2	
	3NT	1	3	6.	6♣	13	10
4♦	1	3	Double		7	7	
3.	4♣	9	10	Pass	4	6	
	3♠	6	8	7.	4♥	12	10
	3NT	4	6		4♣	2	8
	4♦	3	5	3♦	4	7	
	3♥	2	4	4♠	3	5	
4.	Pass	13	10	3♥	2	4	
	3♠	4	6	Pass	1	2	
	2NT	4	6	8.	3♥	11	10
	3♣	3	6		2♦	10	9
			2♠		2	2	
			6♦		1	4	



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

♠ 103
♥ 52
♦ A9
♣ AKQ8532

♠ AQ4
♥ 6
♦ K108752
♣ 974

With these hands a club slam depends upon a successful spade finesse which is not at all unlikely. Therefore, to bid 3NT is just another punch-drunk blow, and if you bid 2♣, this is a huge underbid in my book! However, I feel confident that 3♣ will be the choice of the majority, so for once, I choose to howl with the wolves.

Stabell: 3♣. A bit wet, but 3NT is not so tempting with the strong hand on lead when my clubs might not be solid.

Rigal: 3♣. The quick tricks make this so obvious that (to quote the opinion of another pannelist) I am just waiting to discover what I have missed and how I shall learn from others' opinions. As is usual in this position what I actually mean is that no other call is seriously possible.

Alder: 3♣. A one-trick underbid, but what else? I don't want to go beyond 3NT.

Sime: 3♣. A tad heavy, but I am struggling to find an alternative.

Green: 3♣. Down the middle for me. One might try 3NT, particularly as the opponents haven't bid over 1♦ so there may not be a cashable five-card suit (but the doubler might well have one). I think 3NT with nothing in spades is a little too much. Far too strong to even imagine bidding only 2♣ with this.

Smith: 3♣. The only vaguely sensible alternatives seems to be Two Clubs (a significant underbid) or 3NT. Close to the latter, which could easily be right opposite something like:

♠ Jxxx
♥ Ax
♦ Jxxxx
♣ xx

when partner will obviously pass Three Clubs with nine tricks cold in no-trumps. The downside is that bidding 3NT will get the contract played the wrong way round when partner is a bit better, say:

♠ Axx
♥ Kx
♦ Kxxxx
♣ xx

Bird: 3♣. The hand is a bit good, yes, but what is the alternative? Am I meant to consider 3NT with no major-suit stopper, placing the contract the wrong way round?

Leufkens: 3♣. Easy: constructive and destructive. East probably doesn't have a great hand as he could redouble. North might have a strong hand so the higher to go, the more difficult for him.

Lawrence: 3♣. Seems straightforward.

Brock: 3♣. Let's hope he can bid 3NT.

That's a great weight of expert opinion in favour of the obvious value bid. Eric gives a more detailed analysis, before coming to the same conclusion:

Kokish: 3♣. Without North's double, a jump to 3NT would (for me) show solid clubs, a stiff diamond and stoppers or near-stoppers in the majors. Whether to use the same treatment in COMP is not something to which I've given much thought, but here I am, pondering the issue. South's silence strongly (again, to me) suggests that he has no five-card major, so the fate of 3NT, assuming clubs run, will turn on

Mould: 3♣. I am not a big fan of light on HCP jump rebids but, for Gawd's sake, what else here? I have eight quick tricks, and cannot see another rational alternative. 2♣ is a huge underbid and 3NT is for the birds. Do you want me to bid a two-card major?

Apteker: 3♣. Looks right on evaluation and allows partner to make a move to 3NT.

Carruthers: Three Clubs. I'd like a rule change please so I can redouble. While Three Clubs may be considered inadequate, I have no idea what alternatives I should consider.

Zia: 3♣. A simple answer to a simpler problem! I carefully didn't add wtf!

Sandsmark: 3♣. There is a huge trick potential here, and there may be a possible slam, even if partner doesn't hold very much:

whether North has a five-card suit and did not overcall, or whether North can cash enough winners when less length-endowed. If you told me that partner had an ace and nothing else, I would take my chances in 3NT, but when we add the possibility that clubs won't break, there are slightly too many question marks to do other than jump-rebid my suit.

North's choice of double rather than an overcall is significant, given that modern style is to overcall with a five-card suit unless very strong. Perhaps North has a normal double and therefore no five-card suit, when 3NT will need just a little good fortune to succeed. Neil looks towards 3NT but plumps for the mainstream approach:

Rosen: 3♣. Straight choice between this and 3NT in my book. With two suits wide open I'll take the low road here. (Spare me from any 2♣ bidders!).

While Andrew takes the gamble:

Robson: 3NT. Although I'm a bit nervous clubs won't run.

Yes, there is no guarantee that we have seven running club tricks.

The alternative to North having a normal take-out double and therefore probably no five-card major is that North may be too strong to overcall, when Pablo's idea may come into play. 3NT has the merit of being pre-emptive as well as getting to a possibly making game.

Lambardi: 3NT. If we do have a stopper in the majors, it is well placed. If we don't, we might not be able to beat 3/4M anyway. Unless LHO has a running suit it might be better to play it from my side as RHO could make things clearer with his lead. A look at eight running tricks

will help defeat the contract when this can be done. Bidding 3♣ sounds safer but it may not actually be so.

If North is strong 3NT will surprise him and may cause him problems. If a second double comes round to us we can always run to 4♣, where we are unlikely to come to too much trouble.

All in all, however, I think we must go with the majority on this one. 3NT could easily work out well for us, but the hand maybe is too flawed.

Partner held ♠Qxxx ♥Jxxx ♦K10xx ♣x. That brings up a point we might explore some time. He clearly thought that Walsh was off after the double as he failed to bypass diamonds with a weakish hand – is that the mainstream view?

PROBLEM 2

IMPs. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K9
♥ J94
♦ AKJ10962
♣ A

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Double
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
Redouble	18	10
3♦	4	7
3NT	1	3
4♦	1	3

We'll start with the majority, and congratulations to the panel as a whole host of them seem to have read the system and only three try to make a Support Redouble.

Teramoto: Redouble. It shows three-card heart support. Support for Major suit is important to find fit.

Sandsmark: Redouble! In modern bidding this is called a Support Redouble, and the bid shows exactly a three-card heart support. An obvious choice, since you will always be primarily interested in finding a major fit if there is one. In your next bid(s) you can elaborate on your other values. If Support doubles and redoubles are not included in our system yet, they should be added asap.

Lawrence: Redouble. Support double first. The rest of the bidding will be interesting.

Even if not playing support redoubles, the majority are happy to redouble anyway, simply as the way to start to show a good hand.

Sver: Redouble. Even if I don't play it clearly as a three-card support it sounds as a stronger hand with no clear bid.

Cope: Redouble. The system does not speak of support doubles, so I am assuming that Redouble just shows a strong hand that gives us the most room to investigate a good landing spot. We can always bash 3NT later if partner cannot assist us with a better direction.

Cannell: Redouble. We are not playing Support Doubles or Redoubles, but I do have a very good hand in context. If I jump to Three Diamonds instead the heart suit may get lost in the shuffle.

Rigal: Redouble. I'd like to redouble to show a good hand not just to show support but the good news is that I can make the call whatever it means!

Alder: Redouble. I assume that this shows three-card heart support. If it does not, then I

will rebid 3♦, being slightly more nervous than on the previous problem.

Carruthers: Redouble. The Support Double and Redouble are, IMO, among the most useful conventions invented. Whether or not we play them, that's my choice here. Three Diamonds would describe the playing strength of my hand, but might preclude hearts as a strain.

Lambardi: Redouble. Automatic if we play support doubles and redoubles - couldn't find it in the notes. Making things easier for opponents perhaps, but cannot bring myself to bid only 3♦, and 3NT may be very wrong when partner has 5+ hearts.

Sime: Redouble. Even if support doubles and redoubles are not part of our armoury, this may be the best chance to find out about partner's heart and diamond lengths. Again, no alternative looks attractive; 3NT maybe, but that can wait.

Happy perhaps to redouble merely to show strength, but so many are looking at the Support Redouble that it is clear that our panel would be happy to be playing the method.

Green: Redouble. The system does not refer to either support doubles or redoubles (I don't play them anyway) therefore I'm happy to show a strong hand and then bid my diamonds later. In the context of redouble being strong I think a 3♦ bid should be weaker and more distributional.

Now there is a point I was hoping to see from someone – if redouble merely shows strength, is an immediate 3♦ weaker than redoubling then following up with 3♦ on the next round? There was some support for Ben's view of the situation:

Brock: Redouble. I might regret this! But I want

to show a good hand rather than a pre-emptive one which 3♦ would show. Alternative is to bid 3NT but hearts could so easily be better. If the bidding is at the 4♠/5♣ level when it gets back to me, it won't be too bad to have to bid 5♦.

Zia: Redouble. I admit redouble as support would work well but I don't play that. I would bid 3♦ here without the ace of clubs and I have almost nine tricks in NT. I will redouble and see where we belong (hopefully!).

But most just talked about showing strength without suggesting that 3♦ would therefore be weaker.

Smith: Redouble. This would be clear if we played support doubles, but for some reason they do not appear to be part of the recently-revised NBM Standard. When you try to come up with sensible alternatives, though, a strength-showing redouble seems to be the best of a selection of poor alternatives. Perhaps this is only kicking the can down the road, but that seems to be a popular choice in the UK these days. One advantage of a redouble is that I do not have to commit immediately to something like Three Diamonds (which will sometimes lead to playing in 3♦ with game in hearts excellent). If I subsequently bid Three Diamonds partner will realize that I had interest in other denominations too, and since I haven't bid a black suit he may surmise that it is hearts.

Bird: Redouble. So far as I can tell, Support Doubles and Redoubles are not part of the approved system. That's a pity. A Support Redouble would have been ideal. If I rebid 3♦, I risk missing game on a 5-3 heart fit. It looks better to redouble anyway, for the moment, showing a strong hand.

Yes, playing that 3♦ stresses diamonds while redouble goes more slowly to allow exploration of other suits sounds very reasonable.

Kokish: Redouble. The Support Redoublers will have their smirks here, but that treatment is far more useful in limited-openings-strong-club systems (*Just as 2-over-1 GF works better in limited-opening-strong-club-systems, for much the same reason.*). I play some stuff here based on the assumption that East has the two suits he's advertising, the relevant parts for this problem being: 1♠ would be a three-card heart raise, 2♣ an extra-value diamond rebid, redouble a strong balanced hand. Without those toys, redouble to show a strong hand seems the best we can do without emphasizing a red suit at the expense of the other.

Interesting.

Robson: Redouble, for now.

Mould: 3♦. Sorry to be boring! If you are trying to make a point, OK you have made one. Yes, jump rebids are quite wide ranging, so be it. But again, what are the alternatives? I suppose I could bid 3NT this time but somehow it 'feels' wrong with three hearts – usually you are short in pard's suit. I will doubtless be proved wildly wrong as usual, but I cannot see how you will not get a majority for the jump rebid on both of these hands.

McGowan: 3♦. Should show a bit of a heart fit – I could redouble with good diamonds and no fit.

You could – by agreement – but doesn't it feel more natural to jump in diamonds to stress diamonds and to start with a redouble on the hands that might have interest in hearts also, leaving

more room in which to explore the heart fit?

Leufkens: 3♦. As I couldn't find redouble as three-card support, 3♦ is easy. Otherwise it would have been more difficult. What would 1♦ – Pass – 1♥ – Dble – Redouble – 1♠ – Pass – 2♠ – 3♦ mean? Can be weak or should be constructive?

As you say, in the absence of Support Redoubles, the answer is easy. If playing Support Redoubles, one might well wish to merely compete with 3♦ on the auction you give, so maybe a strong hand needs to redouble to show the three-card support, then double 2♠, then rebid diamonds if possible?

Stabell: 4♦. 7-3 in the red suits, I suppose. I can't see that South's double makes a difference – 4♦ still doesn't show that I forgot to open with a pre-empt.

Perfect when the hand comes up, but how many of us still play that 1♦ – 1♥ – 4♦ shows seven-three? In my partnerships it is more likely to be 2-4-5-2 with good diamonds. Maybe this is another area to explore in a future problem.

Apteker: 3NT. Playing support doubles, I would RD but it does not look to be part of the system? Based on playing strength and likely tricks, 3♦ is not enough which leaves me then with 2♠, 3♣ and 3NT. If I bid 2♠, I cannot control the auction if partner supports spades. 3♣ allows partner space to show 5+ hearts and I may be able to control the auction if partner raises clubs but it could get messy when I convert back to diamonds and 3NT may be our last making spot. 3NT is nearly the right description of this hand save for the extra heart that I should not have.

So why not redouble to show strength? I suppose that 3NT has some pre-emptive merit – maybe

LHO will get shut out when they have a big black-suit fit.

Rosen: Redouble. Plenty of time to start describing later.

Well, maybe. We are short enough in the two suits in which RHO has expressed interest that it is quite possible for the bidding to be at quite a high level before we get another go. Sally touched on this and said that it would be no great pain to be forced to bid 5♦ over a black game bid, but actually describing our hand at our leisure may not always be an option.

Whatever the meaning of redouble, it seems to be the popular choice and the best way in which to begin to describe what we've got. I have some sympathy with the idea that an immediate 3♦ might be played as weaker than a delayed diamond bid, given that redouble shows a good hand, but that does not appear to be a mainstream approach. Liz suggested that the immediate 3♦ implied some heart support but the rest of those who mentioned this aspect of the situation were more inclined to think that 3♦ would deny hearts and that redouble was better on the actual hand due to its greater flexibility. There was a surprisingly large amount to discuss given the large majority for one call.

I know that this next will not appeal to everyone, but it is clear that most of the panel are used to playing Support Doubles and Redoubles. Accordingly, as we slowly develop our agreements, the latest change to the NBM methods is to incorporate this idea. They will apply after we have started 1x – (Pass) – 1y – (intervention), when opener has the option of supporting partner at the two level to show four-card support; if two-level support is not an option, double is take-out and redouble strong.

PROBLEM 3

IMPs. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ J
♥ 1094
♦ Q85
♣ AQ10953

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
4♣	9	10
3♠	6	8
3NT	4	6
4♦	3	5
3♥	2	4

This one split the panel nicely.

Sver: 3♥.

Sandsmark: 3♥. Must be looking for a 3NT without a heart stopper. If you have a heart stopper and approximately the same values, you would normally bid 3NT, wouldn't you? Since it cannot be a five-card suit, and since it would be redundant to bid a four-card suit which partner is sure not to be able to support, my assumption must be correct. Anyway, if partner tries 3♠, I will show my true colours with 4♦ (or possibly pass).

Why on earth can 3♥ not be a five-card suit – we didn't bypass hearts when we responded 1NT to 1♠? Surely the issue is whether 3♥ shows a suit or merely a stopper – assuming it to be a showing-bid rather than an ask (see below).

Cope: 3♠. Not a good advert for a natural system

where a strong club system would be advantageous. It also brings up the argument in whether we show or ask when probing for 3NT, and I remain convinced that when 3♦ has been the last bid we should play asks rather than tells (and the reverse if 3♣ is the last bid). The problem with finding a bid here is that partner's 3♦ bid may be not even a real suit (say ♠AKxxxx ♥AKx ♦AJx ♣x). So, if allowed to play 3♥ as an ask, please change my vote accordingly, else at least 3♠ leaves room for partner to try 3NT with only a five-card suit.

Sorry, while you may be right, I'm not going to allow 3♥ as an ask. Note that your example hand would love to see a natural, length-showing 3♥ from partner. Indeed, that would be the only way to get to a cold heart game/slam.



Ben Green

Enri clearly plays 3♥ as showing, but only strength, not necessarily length:

Leufkens: 3NT. 3♥ could mean no club stopper, but 3NT indicates club stopper but might not have heart stopper. 3♠ is taking the principle too far. How should partner know to bid 3NT with ♠AKxxx ♥Kxx ♦AKJx ♣x then?

While Drew has my concern that 3♥ could show a suit:

Cannell: Four Clubs. A natural continuation. I fear that if I rebid 3NT the opponents may run the heart suit on us. I cannot bid Three Hearts as a probe since it would be natural as well. Will EOK bid Three Spades? I guess yes!

Three Spades was the second most popular choice, though I'll be surprised if it scores as well amongst the readers (we shall see).

Carruthers: 3♠. Did I really bid that?

Sime: 3♠. My most likely spade holding is two small, so if partner insists upon playing in spades he will have good trumps. If we don't belong in spades, partner has a lot of room to suggest an alternative.

Brock: 3♠. First thoughts were to go for 3NT, but I would rather partner be declarer. The singleton jack is quite a good holding and partner won't expect more than a doubleton. He might well try 3NT over 3♠ with bits in the rounded suits. Standard methods really are inadequate here.

Green: 3♠. This one is a bit tricky. I could shoot out 3NT and hope that partner has the hearts guarded. I can't raise diamonds with only three of them and who knows whether 4♣ is natural or not (for me 5♣ would be and 4♣ would be a cue for diamonds). So that just leaves 3♠, it doesn't show spade support (I am sure that

Eric will provide the full synopsis) it is just a waiting bid. Of course, it doesn't solve all of our problems but at least it keeps us in the game.

Rigal: 3♠. I'm not sure if Kokonuts will agree but I'm expecting partner to bid 3NT with a heart stop (knowing I'd bid 3♥ with stopper/length) and only re-raise if he has six.

Yes I could gamble out 3NT but when partner has a small singleton heart it will be hard to say there weren't less committal alternatives.

Mould: 3NT. The real question is whether this is a 3♠ bid for the KOACH? You simply have to have a philosophy on these hands and stick to it. With hearts stopped but not clubs you can always bid 3♥, so 3NT shows either both stopped or just clubs. And yes, pard has to guess. The only other option is 4♣ but I am a bit worried pard will think that is a cue for diamonds. It should not be since I can simply bid 4♦ to set diamonds. I think it is close between 3NT and 4♣ and do not mind either. I suspect I will be in the minority here.

I must confess that I too had been expecting 3♠ to the choice of KOACH/Kokonuts, aka Eric Kokish, who recommends this type of false preference in all sorts of sequences where space is at a premium. But not this time!

Kokish: 4♣. I could safely (in my fave partnerships) bid a waiting 3♠ without showing support while denying worthwhile hearts, a happy 3NT bid, a slam-suitable four-plus-card diamond raise and a weak double-fit hand unsuitable for a not-terrible direct raise to 2♠. Whether or not it pays to treat 4♣ as natural or an advance cue-bid for diamonds is something that the panel might address. As I play it natural, I have no

problem choosing this bid rather than hope we can back into clubs when East is 5-1-4-3 or 6-1-4-2 (or similar). FWIW, 2/1 GF players might want to be sure they've discussed the nature of 5♣ over 3♦.

McGowan: 4♣. I would bid 3♥ with good hearts and weak clubs, so 3NT should show good clubs and not so great hearts, but this is too extreme for my taste. If partner is 5-3-4-1 I have done the wrong thing. I shall Pass 4♠ if he bids that now.

Lambardi: 4♣. 3NT may well be the winning call when partner is 5-3-4-1, but would he bid 3♦ with that shape? Even if we do stop the hearts once, we may still be better off in 4♠/5♦. Unlikely as it is that we belong in clubs, I am reluctant to rule it out. If he is 5-5 in the pointed suits he can return to diamonds. When I then raise to Five he will be better placed to make the final decision.

Teramoto: 4♣. It shows a good and long suit and trying to find good spot.

Zia: 4♣. Did partner open 1♠ and rebid 3♦? If so I will bid 4♣ – NATURAL.. He can always show five diamonds or six spades (or on a good day support clubs?)

Stabell: 4♣. Natural and forcing, mainly looking for the best game. Will happily pass 4♠, but if partner bids 4♦, I am probably worth a last-train 4♥ on the way to 5♦.

Lawrence: 4♣. Very awkward. At this point, we are looking at four potential games and slams are in the picture. I can't imagine there being a perfect bid here.

Alder: Four Diamonds. Come back Gazzilli, all is forgiven.

Robson: 4♣. Obviously the methods are poor



Liz McGowan

here, Gazilli would have been better. Sort of have to try 4♣ in case partner is 5-1-4-3.

Apteker: 3NT. Hoping partner has at least a partial heart stopper or that opponents cannot run 5+ heart winners. 3♥ is showing so that does not help, 3♠ is a spade short and 4♦ risks passing our most likely game, although may well be correct if partner is either short in hearts or has a fifth diamond.

3NT could be the right spot or it could be off before we get in – but then most of the other possibilities are also more committal than we would like. Addressing the meaning of 4♣:

Smith: 4♦. I expect partner to be 5-5 most of the time for this game-forcing jump rebid, but a very good 6-4 is possible so I'll give him a chance to offer spades as an alternative on something like ♠AK10xxx ♥Ax ♦AKxx ♣x. Four Clubs here should be value-showing agreeing diamonds, but I feel like I should have four-card support for that. Three Spades is an imaginative option, which seems like the only way to keep 3NT in the picture (since Three Hearts is surely natural here), but will anyone be tempted by this extreme false preference?

Bird: 4♦. The alternative is 4♣, but partner might read that as a better hand in support of diamonds. Partner is 90% likely to hold five diamonds. If he is 6-4, he can suggest 4♠ next.

Once in a while we will come across a hand where it is absolutely essential to be able to cue-bid 4♣ in support of diamonds, but most of the time a simple raise to 4♦ – limited only by our initial 1NT response – will be a perfectly adequate way in which to start a diamond slam hunt. I'm with those who consider 4♣ here to be natural.

Rosen: 3NT. In the absence of any convoluted agreements I'll stick to basics, i.e. 3♥ would draw attention to clubs, whereas 3NT has to be bid to show a club holding first and foremost.

Which is rather where we came in – the meaning of 3♥. While the panel is mostly content to play that 4♣ is natural, they almost all consider 3♥ to be just a no trump probe, with the discussion being whether it should be asking or showing. Well, I guess I'd back the plurality in bidding 4♣, as I would play 3♥ as showing and think that we have a good chance to find a making game in one of three suits rather than shoot out 3NT with

a possibly wide-open heart suit.

In real life partner held:

- ♠ KQ874
- ♥ AQ5
- ♦ AKJ94
- ♣ —

The problem was sent in by panellist, Mike Lawrence, and, as he says, it is hard to imagine that there is a perfect solution to it.

PROBLEM 4

IMPs. Dealer North. All Vul.

- ♠ AK5
- ♥ A42
- ♦ Q5
- ♣ AK1052

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
Double	Pass	1♠	2♥
Double	Pass	2♠	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
Pass	13	10
3♠	4	6
2NT	4	6
3♣	3	6

We have 20 HCP and there is the possibility of a vulnerable game bonus. Should we therefore make one more try and, if so, should we support spades – partner has bid them twice – or look elsewhere?

Teramoto: 3♠. It shows a very strong hand with three spades.

Sandsmark: 3♠. Not at all an easy problem! However, there might be a spade game here if

partner has a long spade suit. You shouldn't expect too many HCP from him, for he has bid as carefully as possible up till now. I would think that 3♠ will do the trick, and make partner pass or bid the game. So, even if I risk going down with men and mice even in 3♠, I always think it is beneficial to think positively. My guess would be that most of the panel pass 2♠!

Stabell: 3♠. Might convert a small plus into a small minus, but I can't see how partner can bid differently with ♠Q10xxx ♥xx ♦xxx ♣Qxx.

Rosen: 3♠. I know partner may have been forced to rebid a four-card suit, but not always! 3♣ stresses the clubs too much. 3♥ or 2NT mainstream alternatives, 3♥ just seems too much in my opinion.

But has partner even guaranteed four spades?

Carruthers: 2NT. I'm not committing to spades when that might be a 3-3. I'm no more than 800 down.

Mould: Pass. I would probably have bid 2NT over 2♥, notwithstanding my unattractive heart stop, but having doubled again I see no reason at all to bid now. Pard's bidding is entirely consistent with ♠xxxx ♥xx ♦xxxx ♣xxx or even worse ♠xxx ♥xxx ♦xxxx ♣xxx. Let's hope s/he can make 2♠.

McGowan: 2NT. I think I should have bid this last time! The second double probably means I do not have four spades, but it does not exactly describe my hand. I suppose partner must have four spades now – he would pass with four hearts?? – but I don't see how this helps me decide what to do. Hope he has the sense to remove to 3♠ if he has a long suit in a weak hand. *I'm not convinced that partner would necessarily*

pass the second double with ♠xxx ♥xxxx ♦xxx ♣xxx. There was a small majority for passing:

Sver: Pass.

Green: Pass. I think South has a good hand otherwise why didn't he open 2/3♥? On a really bad day partner could have a bust with three spades (when 3-4-3-3) as 2♠ (at least for me) is the default bid with a poor hand. I don't want to punish partner when game could be a long way away so I take the low road.

Cope: Pass. Partner, by bidding 1♠ has shown 0-7 with four spades. Our double has shown extra values with only three spades. Take away the ♦Q and we would all be passing I think, and does it have any real value. Partner knows we are making a game interest bid when we double, and the best that they can come up with is a 2♠ bid – this does not even promise five spades – they may be endplayed into repeating a four-card suit. I understand we are vul at IMPs, but how high do you want to be opposite ♠Jxxxx-♥xx ♦Jxx ♣xxx?

Sime: Pass. It is more likely that 3♠ will get us to a minus score than to game. ♠Qxxxx and out would surely raise, and the re-entry to the clubs will be gone early doors. A Moysian, or even 3/3 fit, is quite likely. The alternative of 2NT might be down a few if neither black suit runs. Partner would need both black queens for 3NT to be a favourite.

Cannell: Three Clubs. I believe that my second double portrayed something like 17-19 HCPs and three spades. Since I have slightly more than that I am trying give partner a picture of my hand. This will allow partner to make the final assessment of level and strain.

Brock: Pass. Hard to see game being on.

Robson: Pass. Partner is probably ♠xxxx ♥xxx ♦xxxx ♣xx or similar.

Leufkens: Pass. Easy. Partner should show bid more with values enough for game. And we don't even know what game we should aim for.

Bird: Pass. Partner can easily hold only ♠Jxxx on this auction. I have a bundle of losers and reckon that I have done enough.

Smith: Pass. I have about what I've shown already, and partner has made the weakest bid possible in response to my second double. Why would I want to play any higher opposite close to a bust (which has not promised more than four spades). Even if you give partner ♠Qxxxx and out, which is about his maximum for Two Spades, game is still a fair way off.

Alder: No Bid. Partner has promised nothing, and I have shown extra values. If I were not allowed to pass, I would bid 2NT, which would be better than Three Spades.

Kokish: Pass. 3♣ might be the right contract – what would East do with a 3=4=3=3 near-yarborough? – but a further bid would be an overstatement. I would be mildly surprised if this were not an 85+% panel choice.

Closer to 55%, but at least you were correct to say that Pass would be a majority vote. Meanwhile, 3♣ could indeed be a better spot – particularly if partner has only three spades. So how about:

Zia: 3♣. I think this shows a 'flex' hand, catering for: ♠xxx ♥xxxx ♦xxx ♣xxx!!

Rigal: 3♣. Good hand one-round force with clubs; can partner pass with a complete yarborough – and what should he bid with ♠987642 ♥xx ♦xx ♣Qxx? Not sure.

I'm not convinced that 3♣ now would be a one-round force, and I'm totally convinced that our hand doesn't justify any force. What about:

Apteker: 2NT. Making another move with 2NT likely to be safe if partner has 3+ ♣ clubs. With 5+ spades and a little more than a bust, partner should bid 3♥, allowing me to show the delayed spade support en-route to 4♠.

Why is 2NT safe facing three-plus clubs? I would have thought that if clubs don't run we normally come to our five top tricks, with the ♥A knocked out immediately. Well, no double no trouble, and all that, but down three is still – 300.

Lawrence: 2NT. This sequence shows in the range of 19-20 points with suitable stoppers and three cards in spades. 3♣ would show a more suit-oriented hand. Passing may be a winner too. One small advantage to 2NT is that 2♠ may be down when we have better spots.

Mike is not the only panellist to tell us that we have shown three spades. Presumably, with 2-3-4-4, we would have bid 2NT rather than made the second double.

There may indeed be better spots than 2♠, but will 2NT find the most likely one, which is 3♣? Partner cannot convert 2NT to 3♣ with any confidence as our minors could just as easily be switched. If we are likely to be left to play in 2NT, I would like better than A42 in my opponent's six-card suit.

If we do bid again, I prefer 3♣ to 2NT as it gets us to 3♣ when that is the right spot. However, Leif-Erik's example hand for partner with two black queens and five spades is already borderline for a simple 2♠ rebid, and this next comment sums the problem up for me.

Lambardi: Pass. Partner is unlikely to have five spades AND two good cards (♠Q+ ♦K) which is roughly what we would need to make 4♠ a good bet (not considering a not improbable bad break in one of the blacks). If clubs are running 3NT might also be makeable when partner has the perfect cards. On a bright day I would try 3♣.

On the actual hand, partner held:

♠ 9743
♥ 9
♦ KJ87
♣ 9843

Clubs were three-one and 5♣ was the top spot.

PROBLEM 5

IMPs. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ KJ104
♥ 93
♦ 105
♣ QJ1094

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
Pass	15	10
1♠	6	7
3♣	3	5
1♣	0	2

Bridge philosophy, personal style, state of the match, is partner of sensitive disposition? Nobody can say that you must open hands of this type in third seat, but from what I have seen at major championships lately there is definitely a trend towards doing so, particularly amongst the

younger generation of top players.

For the mainstream:

Cannell: Pass. A test on everyone's thoughts in this situation. This is mine.

And Tommy's:

Sandsmark: Pass. Oh, Brian, this is nonsense! If you open on hands like this, even in the third hand, you deserve a partner who jumps to game on a hunch every time! Furthermore, you deserve to be doubled and leave the opponents with a telephone number! What in the world could you possibly gain from opening on this shit? Pass! Every day of the year!

Lambardi: Pass. Not having the vocation to be the centre of every party.

Alder: No bid. No imagination any more.

Leufkens: Pass. I feel very old when I see this problem.

Rosen: Pass. (officially old.....).

Why, you are younger than I am young Rosen. That must make me... old, I suppose. But I would sometimes open this hand, depending on my mood at the time.

Lawrence: Pass. I'd open 2♣ if it was weak. If I was going to psyche, I'd bid 1♠.

Sime: Pass. It is bad ethics to psyche against weaker opponents. And I ain't giving anyone the satisfaction that I don't consider them a weaker opponent.

It is not good to psyche against very weak players, certainly, for a number of reasons, but it is not bad ethics to psyche against any weaker opponent.

McGowan: Pass. If playing a natural 1♣ I would open for the lead, but not much point when 1♣ does not show clubs.

Yes, that is a point against a 1♣ opening, and in

fact nobody opted for 1♣, though it would hardly be ridiculous to bid your longest suit and the one in which you hold a nice sequence.

There were votes for 1♠, however.

Carruthers: 1♠. Joey Silver will be proud of me.

Teramoto: 1♠. I Struggle with this situation. A third-hand favourite.

Sver: 1♠. At these vulnerabilities it has everything, pre-emptive element, lead directing.

Robson: 1♠. Cut out the reds.

Yes, that is a good reason to prefer 1♠ to 1♣.

Smith: 1♠. Of course you can pass, which will leave you better placed in the post-mortem if bidding goes wrong, but at this vulnerability we might as well make some attempt to interfere. This seems safer than Three Clubs, which may be the most popular non-passing choice. Prefer One Heart to something like a Multi (why tell the opponents you have a bad hand), although I confess a sneaking admiration for a natural weak Two Heart opening; you need very understanding teammates for that, though.

Back to the mainstream:

Stabell: Pass. Prefer 1♠ to 3♣, but such opening bids always put a lot of strain on the partnership. We might easily get away with it this time, but next time when we have what we are supposed to have, partner might not believe us.

Rigal: Pass. A 1♠ opening is certainly possible but I don't think I can advocate it in a column that might be read by players of delicate sensibilities or with heart conditions – let alone minors. Socrates was condemned to death for less, as I recall. I pass.

Apteker: Pass. 1♣ not unreasonable given colours and third seat but I don't think bidding is

going to gain much here.

Mould: Pass. For sure Pass with John Holland. 2♠ with you? Or 3♣? Or 1NT strong? Or 1♠?

Bird: Pass. It's certainly tempting to impress readers by opening 1♠ or 3♣. (Those panellists peddling some red-suit venture will surely be willing to send out signed photos to their admirers.) I will go out on a limb and pass.

So several panellists are willing to consider bidding something before finally choosing to pass. Eric opens 1♠, while looking towards 3♣:

Kokish: 1♠. In real life, more than half the expert and/or cowboy field would open 3♣ without remorse and worry about consequently over- or under-saving in the post-mortem. I don't hate 3♣, but I'd rather try for a different approach to keep the bad guys out of 3NT, among things. The potential to reach 3♠ quickly and perhaps survive a lead from ace-and-one (which 3♣ might not do) makes 1♠ more attractive to me. If the panel is being honest, virtually no one will pass at these colours in third seat.

And we have three 3♣ bidders:

Green: 3♣. You have tempted me with the vulnerability! One could make the normal pass and one might also consider 1♠ for the lead but for the true adrenaline junkie it's got to be 3♣, this exerts maximum pressure (hopefully on the opponents and not on partner).

Zia: 3♣. I used to bid 3♣ when I was 30 years old. Now it's main stream so maybe I should try 2NT or 1NT. But 3♣. This is sort of 'standard' now.

Brock: 3♣. That or 1♠ I guess.

And finally, a voice of sanity:

Cope: Pass. Is this not a state of the match



John Carruthers

decision? 1♠, 1NT and 3♣ are all possible disruptive actions that we might consider if we were behind in the match, but if this is Board 1 of a long match I will take my risks later, rather than upsetting partner when we have just sat down.

Yes, the state of a match and one's expectations as to how it will go if we just play down the middle has to be of paramount concern when deciding what to do in this type of situation. If we are leading, why rock the boat? If we are on the significantly stronger team, again, why take risks? But if it is Board 28 of 64, the match is level and the two teams are of comparable strength, I agree with Eric that in today's pressure-filled game there would be plenty of votes in real life for either a 1♠ or 3♣

opening. Which would I choose? Sometimes 1♠, sometimes 3♣, occasionally 1♣, and sometimes Pass – just what feels right at the time.

Partner held:

- ♠ A85
- ♥ KJ87
- ♦ Q64
- ♣ 863

The opposition had a diamond part-score.

PROBLEM 6

IMPs. Dealer North. All Vul.

- ♠ 43
- ♥ A105
- ♦ AKJ962
- ♣ 105

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	1♣	1♥
2♦	3♥	4♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♣	5♥
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
6♣	13	10
Dble	7	7
Pass	4	6

We have made one forcing pass, so should we make another one?

Sver: Pass. I guess all those controls deserve another forcing pass even though the ace of hearts looks pretty useless altogether.

Cannell: Pass. We are in a forcing auction and I wish to encourage partner. A double would be a slowdown bid with no interest in anything higher. If partner doubles Five Hearts I will pass.

Zia: 6♣. Did I pass 4♥? Wasn't forcing to me but obviously was for the problem-setters (I would have bid Keycard!). Now I bid 6♣, though maybe pass forcing here would be reasonable. *(I admit I would not think pass as forcing here either in my style!)*

Carruthers: Six Clubs. Really? I passed Four Hearts after Partner bid to Four Clubs and I have ace, ace-king and a doubleton honour in his suit?

Green: Double. I guess I have a few questions about the auction; was 4♣ forcing (I think it should be)? If so then I agree with my forcing pass on the last round, if not then I would have doubled to show extras. I am a little concerned that partner did not cue-bid 4♠ over 4♥, which surely he would have done holding the magical ♠Kx ♠ – ♦Qxx ♣AKQxxxxx. I also think that partner probably holds a heart void in which case my ace of hearts may not be that useful. If I made a forcing pass last time then I don't mind making another one now but it's close and I think double is probably a better call. If I didn't make a forcing pass last time then I have to double now. Hope that makes some sense.

Rightly or wrongly, our partnership would appear to play our pass over 4♥ as forcing. For me, it follows that a pass now would also be forcing. Neil obviously sees things differently:

Rosen: 6♣. Would like to consult with a forcing pass – but why would it be forcing here? Everyone's guessing.....

Kokish: 6♣. 2♦ did not create a competitive force past 3♦ and we can't expect East to pass over 3♥ with big clubs, a few diamonds, no hearts, and a minimum or sub-minimum. Which

is to say that West's pass over 4♥ could reasonably be interpreted as non-forcing. The fact that we are given that pass tells us this partnership treats 4♣ as forcing and that had West bid 5♣ it would be weaker than pass and pull a double to 5♣. Really, much of the guts of this problem is partnership-related, so our choice over 5♥ inevitably will be depend on our agreements. Given that pass over 4♥ was forcing (here), so would a pass be over 5♥. East is almost certainly void in hearts and N/S have a fit in spades that may well include the ace-king, given East's failure to bid 4♠ when 4♥ came around to him. If East is 3=0=2=8 with no spade trick, we should be defending if we can cash two minor-suit winners. That is not clear at all and the insurance action would be to bid 6♣, perhaps getting the extra 300 from 6♥ doubled if South deals with the same insurance agent. One could argue that pass suggests enough doubt that East will do the right thing with his solid clubs and not-unlikely doubleton ♦Q, but perhaps I should not put him under so much pressure. So I won't. I do not expect South to lead a heart, but stranger things have happened.

Absolutely – 2♦ only forced us as far as 3♦; it was partner's 4♣ bid which this partnership must have treated as being strong enough to set up a force (note that Ben wanted 4♣ to be forcing). Eric has summed up the issues nicely for me, but not everyone comes to the same conclusion.

Sandsmark: Double! You already reached the outskirts of the value of this hand with 2♦. However, you do have defensive values which you should utilize by doubling instead of bidding on. If you 'sacrifice' in 6♣, you are a Mad Hatter,

and should return to Wonderland instead! (Then chances are that Alice won't talk to you again!)

No, we are a bit better than a minimum for our 2♦ bid – AKJ9xx and an ace would have driven to game in an uncontested auction, so it has something to spare for a non-game-forcing 2♦ in competition.

Stabell: Double. Looks like partner is void in hearts, so I have to warn him that not all my points are working. I would expect South to have at least three minor-suit cards (no 2♣ overcall, and North will usually have four-card hearts for his weak jump) so we should normally be able to defeat 5♥. Another forcing pass from me is too much given the absence of a 4♠ cue/last train from partner.

Teramoto: Double. Partner didn't bid 4♠ over 4♥, so he doesn't have spade controls or does not have an excellent hand.

Robson: Double. Seems to depend on whether or not partner has a high spade in his likely 3-0-3-7 shape. Even with one, there may be a third-round diamond loser. I'll take the money (I hope).

Brock: Double. OK, I'm a sucker. Where are the spades?

Sime: Double. Let's assume that my pass of 4♥ is forcing, since otherwise the pass makes no sense to me. Partner had an easy 4♠ with a control there. So 5♣ denied a spade control, in which case we had better defend.

But not all were confident that there would be any money, while thinking that there might be chances to make slam our way.

Cope: 6♣. A two-way shot. First, I expect to make it more often than not, and secondly, they

may take the push to 6♥ which means they will be one more down doubled than in 5♥.

Rigal: 6♣. I think I would have bid 5♣ over 4♥ so I'm going to see through my evaluation and hope to buy a Yarborough such as ♠Kx♥ – ♦Qxx♣AKxxxxxx. Note that if RHO has a 4-7-0-2 we might be saving?

McGowan: 6♣. No idea who can make what, but I am probably not alone. Partner should have something apart from clubs since he did not open 5♣. Let's hope his extra high card is in spades – hard to see where else it can be. This may not make, but I am not absolutely confident of beating 5♥ either.

Lambardi: 6♣. I wouldn't have passed 4♥ as I have prime values for clubs. Even if ♥A is not the best of cards facing a likely void.

Mould: 6♣. I must bid a slam and I toyed with a FP, but given the ♥A is opposite a void almost certainly and I have already made one FP I think I will content myself with Six. The save may well be cheaper than our slam anyway since there is clearly loads of distribution about.

Apteker: 6♣. While partner is likely void in hearts with the ♥A not necessarily of much value on offense, I expect 3-0-2-8 shape from partner with either the ace or king in spades for the non 5♣ opening or non-jump after 3♥. So this should have some play while double may be off only one or two. Not sure I would have passed 4♣ as I don't think it is forcing.

Smith: 6♣. The choice here is presumably between pass and double, and I expect a big majority for bidding. Partner didn't open a gambling 3NT, so he doesn't have solid clubs and nothing. He is marked with short hearts so it

seems like about the worst hand he can have is something like ♠Kxx ♥ – ♦xx ♣AKxxxxxx, when he has to guess which finesse to take (assuming a 2-1 trump break).

Bird: 6♣. That's a good problem! I think our expectations in 6♣ are higher than those from defending 5♥. I could be wrong. (Readers who noted my total marks a couple of months ago will nod in agreement.)

Lawrence: 6♣. Too much to pass. My pass to 4♥ was forcing so this may be bidding a bit too much (my partner could have bid 6♣ instead of 5♣ or perhaps 4♠) but slam should be playable facing ♠Kxx ♥ – ♦xxx ♣AKQ8743. I can fall back on the trite philosophy that they will bid one more.

Or we can rely on partner to make the right decision:

Alder: No bid. Forcing. In a moment, I might wish I had doubled, but if partner bids Six Clubs, he will probably be right.

Leufkens: Pass. Probably South has a two-suiter with spades, but that doesn't mean he's got two spade tricks. Can partner have ♠QJx ♥ – ♦xx ♣AKJxxxxx or ♠Axx ♥ – ♦xxx ♣AKJxxxx or even ♠Axx ♥ – ♦Qxx ♣AKQxxxxx? I'm not sure we get rich from 5♥ and 6♣ could be good. So to invite partner again seems a good solution.

Only partner knows which of these examples he has, or perhaps a hand with a fourth spade. Will he do the right thing if we make a forcing pass? Probably – he will not bid on with two top spade losers, because if our ♥A was a small card with a top spade to compensate we would not have left the decision to partner (unless contemplating a pass then pull the double grand slam try).

My suspicion, nonetheless, is that a forcing pass may be the theoretically correct solution, but that bidding 6♣ ourselves may be the better practical choice – and partner for sure will not thank us for being left with a decision we might have made ourselves.

Partner held:

- ♠ J952
- ♥ –
- ♦ 84
- ♣ AKQJ986

In Orlando, the bid chosen was 6♣, and that saw the opposition go on to 6♥, down one, so was a big winner.

PROBLEM 7

IMPs. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

- ♠ AKQ108754
- ♥ –
- ♦ A1098
- ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♠*
?			
2♠	Hearts and a minor		

Bid	Votes	Marks
4♥	12	10
4♣	2	8
3♦	4	7
4♠	3	5
3♥	2	4
Pass	1	2

The simple bid is 4♠.

Alder: 4♠. Boring ... and presumably next month

we will be asked what we would do after North's Five-Heart advance is passed around.

But nobody else found it quite so boring:

Lawrence: 4♠. Avoids accidents. I need specific cards for slam. If I wished to try for slam, my bid would be 4♥, a self-splinter. 4♥ has a mixed advantage. Partner's judgment will be better for it.

Green: 4♠. I'm tempted to bid a technical 4♥, showing shortage, just in case partner has the magic cards for slam. However, at this vulnerability 4♠ seems a better bid as it avoids the possibility of North doubling 4♥ and thereby getting to their heart fit. I suppose I could pass and wait for more information but since they may have a huge heart fit I would prefer to get in their way and give up on slam possibilities. Another possibility would be to 'walk the dog' with 3♠ and then bid 4♠ and possibly 5♠, which may induce a double, but it's risky.

They both mention 4♥, and that is the choice of half the panel. So what is good about bidding 4♥?

Bird: 4♥. This must show a strong 4♠ bid. Only at the last moment did I shy away from suggesting a unanimous panel.

Very wise, David – only 50% – you are learning.

Cannell: 4♥. Self-supporting splinter. I am not sure this will help us bid a close slam, or not.

Teramoto: 4♥. This is self-agreeing Splinter showing short in hearts. Also a good hand with long and very good spades.

Rigal: 4♥. You cue-bid my suit I cue-bid yours. A revenge cue-bid we call it in the trade, but it does seem like showing short hearts and a 4♠ call looks about right.

Sver: 4♥. I doubt I can really describe my hand

anyhow, but at least it looks like a void and good spades so he can judge his hand accordingly.

Yes, that is exactly what it looks like, no doubt why several more panellists also opted for 4♥.

Lambardi: 4♥. Auto-splinter. If partner can find two good cards for me outside the heart suit we should have excellent chances in the spade slam. It should be clear that my spades are running as I would double or bid my second suit otherwise.

Rosen: 4♥. Auto-splinter - trying to get diamonds in is too difficult at this stage.

Brook: 4♥. First thoughts were 4♠, but slam could be good. This must show a void here, surely. It does allow North to double, but they probably don't know exactly what that shows anyway.

Mould: 4♥. Seems a good place to start. I suppose I have to give it up over 4♠ but at least I have tried.

Robson: 4♥. Self-agreeing splinter for my own spades. A bid that sets trumps and shows something else besides can't be too bad.

Smith: 4♥. This looks like the obvious bid, showing a good Four Spade bid with short hearts, which seems to be about what I have. Four Spades seems to be the most likely alternative, and that seems fairly feeble.

Kokish: 4♥. Although in a Bad/Good 2NT context, West could bid a 'good' 3♦, not everyone would treat that as a one-round force. I prefer to define 3♦ as forcing, and the merit in that treatment could be significant on this deal should East hold values in diamonds rather than clubs. Without such luxuries, it becomes a question of whether to bash 4♠, try a tactical 3♠ hoping

to be pushed into 4♠, show a strong one-suiter via 3♥, or jump to 4♥, expecting partner to work out what this means, leaving the minor-suit lengths concealed. All these bids have merit.

Partner's diamond holding could be critical in deciding how high we should go. I doubt that whether partner considers 3♦ to be forcing will matter as surely there will be a heart bid from the opposition to give us another chance. Hence, there was a minority vote in favour of getting diamonds into the game.

Apteker: 3♦. As I am near certain that it will not go all pass and that one of the opponents will bid hearts, this will help me decide whether to bid slam should partner support diamonds. I can control the bidding with spades and given that the opponents are vulnerable I am not concerned that I am giving them space to show their fit.

McGowan: 3♦. Softly softly... I do not think 4♠ will buy this. Will bid that next time, then leave partner to decide what to do at the five-level.

Leufkens: 3♦. Just a little creative. Let's see whether partner supports me. I don't know what to do after 4♠ – 5♥ anyway. We can miss slam and we can go down in 4♠. But when I know of partner's diamonds I can make a better guess. I help opponents as well, but I've got the master suit.

Stabell: 3♦. No need to panic – we have the highest suit and just need partner to support diamonds (enthusiastically) in order to have a stab at slam. A 4♥ splinter won't do the job – how will partner then know that KQxx in diamonds is enough for slam and KQxx in clubs means we must defend?

Tim and Zia have an answer to that last question:

Cope: 4♣. The odds are that South has Hearts and Clubs, so some minimal diamond values opposite may make slam a possibility. I am not prepared to sell out below 5♠, if the opponents bid on, so whilst the top score will go to the less thoughtful auto splinter of 4♥, I can get both cues in provided I start with 4♣, then over a 4♥ bid by the opponents I can bid 5♣ to complete the picture.

Zia: 4♣. 1) to try and get a heart lead later; 2) to get partner to like his diamonds; 3) to try and buy the hand in 5/6♠ by letting partner know which minor I have (he will see that I have short hearts later in the bidding).

Yes, I like that, but no-one else even mentioned 4♣ as a possibility. Then there were the other minority votes:

Sandsmark: 3♥! Your hand is so valuable that you just have to make a forcing bid before you can show your additional values. Your partner could hold:

♠ AKQ108754	♠ 62
♥ –	♥ 1074
♦ A1098	♦ KQ752
♣ 2	♣ A74

If he does, both 7♠ and 7♦ would be promising ventures!

Sime: 3♥. Announces ownership and leaves partner room to tell me something about his hand. An auto-splinter of 4♥ is unlikely to enthruse partner, so wastes space. Why didn't I open 2♣? Was I playing in a jurisdiction where common-sense hand evaluation is prohibited?

How can we make the totally arbitrary decision

that 4♥ is unlikely to enthruse partner? The whole point of any splinter is that it allows partner to evaluate his hand more accurately, and if 4♥ shows self-supporting spades and a heart void, it is extremely descriptive so may well enthruse him – a sight more so than 3♥, which may well save no space at all when LHO next bids 4♥.

As for why we did not open 2♣ – that is surely a personal stylistic matter on such a low-point-count hand and, while opening 2♣ is perfectly plausible, it is hardly criminal to open 1♠.

And finally, as 2♠ cannot end the auction, perhaps we can stay quiet and learn something that may help us later in the auction?

Carruthers: Pass. I'm not usually a big fan of lying in the weeds but, here, no other spade, heart or diamond bid is appropriate. Had South passed, I'd have a big problem but at least there would be alternatives. If I were bullied into a bid as opposed to a call, I suppose I might try Three Hearts.

Much as it pains me to do so, I have to disagree with John this time. It seems to me that either 4♥ or 4♣ tells partner quite a lot, while anything else just gives up on what may be our only opportunity to make a descriptive bid – it is easy to see how LHO may be about to jump to 4♥, and then what will we have learned? No, I am happy enough with 4♥, but like 4♣ even better. There is some merit in 3♦, as when we follow through with 4♠ over an opposing 4♥ partner will know that his diamond holding is important, but he will never believe that we have quite such long spades unless we bid beyond the four level after stopping off to show the diamonds.

Partner held:

- ♠ 932
- ♥ 984
- ♦ KJ6
- ♣ J863

So 6♠ was on the diamond guess – the queen was in South's 0-5-3-5 hand.

PROBLEM 8

IMPs. Dealer North. All Vul.

- ♠ AJ10
- ♥ –
- ♦ AJ98752
- ♣ A102

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT*	Pass
?			

1NT (11)12-14, Does not deny a four-card major

Bid	Votes	Marks
3♥	11	10
2♦	10	9
6♦	1	4
2♠	2	2

I suspect that these first two panellists are simply unaware that we play two-way checkback here, as I can see no merit at all in telling partner that we have four spades when we have only three.

Sver: 2♠.

Sandsmark: 2♠. You are not at all interested in partner's four-card spade support, but you would very much like to hear a preference bid to 3♦! You want to play at least game here, so you will have to invent a shadow spade suit to create a forcing situation. If partner bids 2NT

or 3♣, you say 3♦, and then you will have lied just a little bit in order to find out if there is an alternative contract to 3NT, for if partner says 3NT over 3♦, I think you will have to throw in the blanket and pass. My guess, uneducated as it is, would be that you will have a range of strange bids as a reply to this bidding problem!

For the overwhelming majority it was simply a matter of another auto-splinter or of using game-forcing checkback.

Robson: 2♦. Is this game-force checkback? If not, can you change my answer to 2♣ (if that's our checkback). Not really sure what this problem is all about but surely the first thing is to set up a game force.

Leufkens: 2♦. Seems I have to bid 2♦ and then 3♦ to bid a GF with diamonds. Maybe I'll learn about long clubs as well. And after 3♦ partner can bid 3♥ or 3♠ which will be useful as well. It can be 3NT, 5♣/♦, 6♣/♦, so no premature jumping please.

Carruthers: 2♦. According to my reading of the system notes, this is forcing to game, artificial. We could have a good slam if Partner is as good as ♠732 ♥AJ72 ♦K3 ♣KJ53. When Partner bids Two Hearts, I shall emphasize diamonds and not fuff around with Two Spades as Hamman did when he held this hand.

Cope: 2♦. No reason just because partner has only 12-14 to rule out slam in diamonds or even clubs – so let us start investigating partner's distribution via GF checkback.

Cannell: 2♦. The artificial game-force feels right here. I will bid Three Diamonds next.

Alder: 2♦. The system notes say that this is an artificial game-force, so how bad can that be?

If you now, on the fly, say that this is true only after responder bids a major, then I must 'risk' either 2♠ or 3♣. I suppose 3♣ is slightly safer.

Zia: 2♦. Is 2♦ GF checkback? If not I would bid 2♠. I have a hand to bid 6♦ down the line.. just want to know which line the system suggests.

Lambardi: 2♦. GF checkback as per notes (I would need to be sure at the table we have discussed this sequence!!). We may belong anywhere from 3NT to 6m.

Smith: 2♦. As I understand the system, this shows an artificial game force. Since no descriptive bid seems to describe this hand particularly well, I'll start by establishing a forcing auction and then bid a forcing Three Diamonds at my next turn. It seems to me that the potential problems in this auction are likely to occur at some point after that. It would be particularly useful if partner can rebid his clubs over Two Diamonds, when I can then safely advance beyond 3NT to show club support having already rebid my seven-card suit.

Bird: 2♦. Game-forcing checkback. I would rather bid a forcing 3♦, but the system notes are eerily silent on the meaning of 3♦. This new Director is so fierce. I'd better not risk further chastisement,

Eerily silent is a little harsh – I can't get the whole panel to check the methods when they are given four or five pages to look through, so can you imagine if they were given a full-scale system file?

I would imagine that 3♦ would be natural and invitational without prior discussion, given that we can use 2♦ to set up a force.

Then there are those who prefer the auto-splinter:

Teramoto: 3♥. SPL and at least six cards in Diamonds. Partner can judge 3NT or a Diamond contract. We may have Slam if partner's cards are well located.

Stabell: 3♥. Splinter setting diamonds as trumps. Will make one more try with 4♣ over 3NT, and then respect a sign-off from partner. Can't bring myself to bid slam on my own, even though an ill-fitting minimum like ♠Qxx ♥KQ10x ♦10xx ♣KQx gives a decent play (45% or so) for 6♦

Rigal: 3♥. Short hearts, doubt about strain or level, and a GF hand. Looks good, tastes good, and by golly it does you good...Just for the record. If I add up my long suit lengths from eight deals it comes out at over six cards...I'm not sure this is what the feature should be about. Learning about how to bid relatively balanced hands may be more generally useful to our readers – and problems 4/5 are arguably the most interesting of the set.

Sime: 3♥. Auto-splinter this time. If partner's weak 1NT includes wastage in hearts, slam prospects will have deteriorated.

McGowan: 3♥. Auto-splinter. Surprising that no-one has bid hearts, so partner probably has a few and we may want to play 3NT anyway.

Green: 3♥. I prefer the descriptive call here of a 3♥ splinter focusing partner's attention on the heart suit. I could bid 2♦ as GF and then 3♦ but partner would have no idea I had a shortage and if partner responded 2♥ to 2♦ then I would still have no idea whether he/she held 10xxx or AKxx. The other benefit of 3♥ is that sometimes we will bid to a good slam or even grand slam – imagine partner with the magic

♠Kx ♥xxxx ♦Kxx ♣KQJxx?

Mould: 3♥. System says this is an auto-splinter, which is fine on this hand. If pard bids 3NT then I table the dummy.

Apteker: 3♥. I think an auto-splinter as per system notes....perfect!

Kokish: 3♥. Long diamonds, short hearts, at least a game force. Enough said.

Rosen: 3♥. Another auto-splinter (if this is unavailable put me down for 3♦, but surely 3♥ must describe this hand better).

Brock: 3♥. Shortage with good diamonds.

They are all very happy with their choice, as they were with a similar answer to the previous problem. I am sure that they are correct in treating 3♥ as an auto-splinter, with six or more diamonds and heart shortage. I suppose I should point out that on the previous problem the auto-splinter was based on a suit we could assume to be solid, i.e. completely self-supporting, while this time partner's diamond holding will be important in deciding how high we can afford to go. The difference is that 4♥ on the previous hand was a clearcut slam-interest bid, while 3♥ on this one should surely be, as intended by the panel, merely the best way in which to judge what will be the best game, with slam only coming into the picture once partner shows little heart wastage.

And finally:

Lawrence: 6♦. I don't care for this approach in general but it has the merit of being uninformative. The opponents will be clueless on opening lead and perhaps later too.

It is easy to see how this could allow us to bring home a slam that, in theory, should be defeated, as it will make the defence very tough. Perhaps if

in need of a swing, this would be a perfect opportunity to try to create one, but otherwise I prefer to go slowly. I don't have strong feeling either way regarding the choice between 2♦ and 3♥, but if I had to award a casting vote I guess I'd plump for the auto-splinter.

In real life, partner held the hand given by John Carruthers as an example hand and 6♦ was cold as the cards lay.

Thank you as always to our illustrious panel and congratulations to this month's winner, Eric Kokish, with 77 out of 80.



Eric Kokish

SET 13 – THE PANEL'S BIDS & MARKS

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Eric Kokish	Canada	3♣	Rdbl	4♣	Pass	1♠	6♣	4♥	3♥	77
Tim Cope	South Africa	3♣	Rdbl	3♠	Pass	Pass	6♣	4♣	2♦	75
Barry Rigal	USA	3♣	Rdbl	3♠	3♣	Pass	6♣	4♥	3♥	74
David Bird	England	3♣	Rdbl	4♦	Pass	Pass	6♣	4♥	2♦	74
Pablo Lambardi	Argentina	3NT	Rdbl	4♣	Pass	Pass	6♣	4♥	2♦	74
Tadashi Teramoto	Japan	3♣	Rdbl	4♣	3♠	1♠	Dble	4♥	3♥	73
Alan Mould	England	3♣	3♦	3NT	Pass	Pass	6♣	4♥	3♥	73
Neil Rosen	England	3♣	Rdbl	3NT	3♠	Pass	6♣	4♥	3♥	72
Marc Smith	England	3♣	Rdbl	4♦	Pass	1♠	6♣	4♥	2♦	71
Drew Cannell	Canada	3♣	Rdbl	4♣	3♣	Pass	Pass	4♥	2♦	71
Sally Brock	England	3♣	Rdbl	3♠	Pass	3♣	Dble	4♥	3♥	70
Liz McGowan	Scotland	3♣	3♦	4♣	2NT	Pass	6♣	3♦	3♥	70
Iain Sime	Scotland	3♣	Rdbl	3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	3♥	3♥	69
Zia Mahmood	USA	3♣	Rdbl	4♣	3♣	3♣	6♣	4♣	2♦	68
Andrew Robson	England	3NT	Rdbl	4♣	Pass	1♠	Dble	4♥	2♦	68
Enri Leufkens	Netherlands	3♣	3♦	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	3♦	2♦	65
Mike Lawrence	USA	3♣	Rdbl	4♣	2NT	Pass	6♣	4♠	6♦	65
Ben Green	England	3♣	Rdbl	3♠	Pass	3♣	Dble	4♠	3♥	65
Phillip Alder	USA	3♣	Rdbl	4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠	2♦	65
Leif-Erik Stabell	Zimbabwe	3♣	4♦	4♣	3♠	Pass	Dble	3♦	3♥	63
Alon Apteker	South Africa	3♣	3NT	3NT	2NT	Pass	6♣	3♦	3♥	62
John Carruthers	Canada	3♣	Rdbl	3♠	2NT	1♠	6♣	Pass	2♦	62
Nikica Sver	Croatia	3♣	Rdbl	3♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♥	2♠	59
Tommy Sandsmark	Norway	3♣	Rdbl	3♥	3♠	Pass	Dble	2♥	2♠	53



Master Point Bidding Battle Competition – Set 14

Open to All – Free Entry

PROBLEM 1

IMPs. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A9732
♥ AJ9653
♦ 86
♣ —

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2NT	Pass
?			

2♥ Constructive as 1♣–2♥ would have been weak.

PROBLEM 2

IMPs. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 7653
♥ AKJ64
♦ 93
♣ 72

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♦	Pass
?			

PROBLEM 3

IMPs. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ AQJ98654
♥ K94
♦ J3
♣ —

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Double	3♦
?			

PROBLEM 4

IMPs. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 6
♥ K10953
♦ AQJ542
♣ 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♠	Pass
?			

PROBLEM 5

IMPs. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A1032
♥ 8
♦ AK107
♣ AQ85

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	3♣
?			

PROBLEM 6

IMPs. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AK875
♥ A
♦ J8
♣ KQJ64

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	1♠	3♥
4♥	5♥	5♠	Pass
?			

PROBLEM 7

IMPs. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A4
♥ AQ4
♦ K8
♣ A96432

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
?			

PROBLEM 8

IMPs. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 84
♥ AKQJ87
♦ 963
♣ Q8

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	2♠
3♥	4sx	Pass	Pass
?			

Send entry to biddingbattle@newbridgemag.com or enter via the website www.newbridgemag.com.

Entries to arrive before the end of the month.

A New Bridge Magazine Bidding System

Attention!!!

The Bidding System has been modified – please read carefully, this is the system to be used for the Bidding Battle from now on

Basic Method

Natural

Five-card majors

Minors are three cards in length minimum. Always open 1♣ with 3-3 but 1♦ with 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 response 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, next step is a WNT and 2NT is GF with the next step suit; 3m is unbalanced and non-forcing. All other bids are at least quasi-natural and FG.

After, say, 1♣ – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2NT/3♣ are WNT/long

clubs minimum so NF, anything else is GF.

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. 4♣ is RKCB. 2any – 2new = NAT Constructive NF; 2any – 3new = NAT Forcing.

Three-level openings are natural and pre-emptive. Over 3♦/♥/♠, 4♣ is RKCB and over 3♣, 4♦ is RKCB.

3NT opening is Acoll gambling – solid suit and at most a queen outside.

Four-level opening 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 in a suit shows a good suit and a good hand. Where the response was 1NT, 3NT may be a flat 19-count.

After 2NT, 20-22, 3♣ = Stayman with Smolen, 3♦/3♥ = transfers, 3♠ = slam try with both minors. Four level bids are as after 1NT opening.

Reverse Kokish is played after 2♣ opening (2♣-2♦-2♥-2♠-2NT is 23-24 balanced, and 2♣-2♦-2NT is 25+ balanced GF).

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 natural, 3 partner's suit extras with no singleton, 3NT

=18-19 balanced, 4 of new suits are splinters but deny a second suit. 4 of partner's major shows a bad opening. Such as 1M – 2NT – 3♦ – 3M – 4♣ = splinter (3NT is 5M-4♦-2-2).

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 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.

Where responder jumps in a third suit after opener has bid and rebid a suit, that is a splinter, with a non-jump new suit NAT F1.

Sequences such as 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♦ – 2♥ are F1; 1♣ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♦ = ART GF, while 2♥ would be NF but opener is can raise. 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♦ – 3♥ = splinter in support of ♦.

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. 4NT followed by 5NT is for specific kings.

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 normally denies a control in that suit, except that a player may revert to traditional cue-bidding, e.g. spades are trumps, cue-bidding 4♦ then 5♣ with 1st-round ♦, 2nd-round ♣ if he feels that to be appropriate and he is happy to commit to the five level.

Exception: a shortage control in partner's suit is not shown immediately.

The default for 5NT is "pick a slam" unless following on from 4NT by the same player.

Competition:

Responsive and competitive doubles through 4♦ – after that, doubles are value-showing, not penalties.

1x – Dble – 1y – Dble = 4y and some values; 2y = 5y and a hand that would have bid 2y over a pass from RHO.

Negative doubles through 4♦ – after that, doubles are value showing, not penalties.

Game try doubles where no space for any other game try.

After our 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, raise 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). Where we overcall 1M, a 2NT response is a four-card limit or better raise, a cue-bid could contain four-card support if only worth a two-level raise, but is otherwise a three-card raise.

Double jumps are splinters.

Lebensohl applies after interference over our 1NT and facing our T/O double of a weak two bid or of 2M after they opened a multi 2♦ against us. 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

How to Enter

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1NT – 2♥ – 3♠ is FG). Note that most relatively balanced hands with no stopper will start with a T/O double.

We open 1NT and they overcall. Whatever its meaning, double of the overcall is T/O of the suit BID. Pass then double is also T/O and therefore implies length in the first opposing suit.

2NT is rarely natural in competition (except as defined above). Possibilities include Lebensohl or scramble if game is not viable. Scramble will tend to apply in balancing situations, Lebensohl (Good/Bad) where game is still a live possibility.

This includes the Good/Bad 2NT in situations where it is appropriate.

We double their Stayman or transfer over 1NT: if 1NT = 14+, double shows the suit doubled. If 1NT is maximum 15 HCP, double is PEN of 1NT.

Our 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 single-jumps, splinter double-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 against two-level openings – 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♣ = ♣&M and 4♦ = Ms. Over 3♥, 4♣/♦ = Nat, 4♥ = ♠&m, 4NT = ms. Over 3♠, 4♠/♦/♥ = nat, 4♠/4NT = two-suiter.

Over their 1NT, Dble = 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.



WEST

Hands for the
February 2019 The uBid 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 East. Both Vul.

♠ AKQ84
♥ AQ76
♦ 1087
♣ 4

North overcalls 2♦ and South raises to 5♦

Hand 2. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A
♥ AQ64
♦ AKJ1075
♣ 93

South opens 4♠

Hand 3. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10982
♥ AK932
♦ 98
♣ AQ

Hand 4. Dealer West. N/S Vul

♠ A84
♥ AKQ53
♦ A753
♣ Q

Hand 5. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AJ106
♥ K7
♦ K1096
♣ Q65

North opens 2♥ (weak) and South bids 3♦

Hand 6. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AKQ54
♥ —
♦ K106
♣ AKJ74

After 1♠-2♦ South doubles

Hand 7. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ K5
♥ J8
♦ AKJ9872
♣ J4

Hand 8. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ K32
♥ QJ76
♦ 109
♣ AQJ4

South opens 1♦ and North raises to 4♦

MASTER POINT BIDDING BATTLE



Results – Set 12

Nelson Pearson, Bill March and **Alex Athansiadis** all scored 72 whilst **Norman Massey** was fourth with 69. For the final time the prizes are awarded with Bill getting £40, Nelson £30, Alex £20 and Norman £10.

Other Good Scores

68 *Dean Pokorny*

67 *Andy Poole, Dimeter Zlatanov, Brian McDowell*

65 *Andrew King*

The Final Grand Prix standings:

The last set again did not bring changes to the top of the table but unfortunately, I discovered a mistake in the previous calculation, meaning that instead of a three-way tie, it's only a two way one (sorry to get your hopes up, Alex).

Mike Ralph	367
Rodney Lighton	367
Alex Athansiadis	365
Mark Bartusek	363
David Barnes	360
Lars Erik Bergerud	359
Michael Prior	359
Stuart Nelson	357
Mike Perkins	356
Dominic Connolly	354

Nigel Guthrie	351
Colin Brown	351
Bill Linton	351
Andrew King	350
Peter Barker	350
Bill Gordon	347
Derek Markham	345
Dean Pokorny	344
Norman Massey	341
Jeff Callaghan	340

Mike Ralph has a sixth best score of 69, as against Rodney Lighton's 68, so we declare Mike Ralph to be this year's Grand Prix winner.

Comments on Bidding Battle Set 12

Brian Senior examines the responses of the readers and compares them against those of the panel.

PROBLEM 1

PAIRS. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ Q6
♥ AJ875
♦ 73
♣ K853

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦*	2♠	3♦

?
1♦ Precision, promising 2+ diamonds

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
3♠	11	10	18
Pass	5	6	8
3♥	2	5	4
Dble	0	2	7

Dudley Leigh called this a really hard problem at pairs.

Well, that's why we gave it to the panel, of course. It is made doubly difficult by the fact that the weak jump overcall is facing a passed partner, so has a wider range than otherwise, and if partner is the type to make WJOs on five-card suits it becomes even tougher.

PROBLEM 2

PAIRS. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J10
♥ 853
♦ A652
♣ AKQ2

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♦*	2♦*
2♥*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
?			

1♦ Natural, unbalanced
2♦ Majors
2♥ Constructive diamond raise
3♦ To play facing invitational raise

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
3♥	9	10	7
4♣	3	8	13
Pass	4	6	4
3♠	2	4	3
3NT	0	2	3
4♦	0	2	2
5♦	0	2	2

Carles Acero called 3NT “a leap of faith”

Nelson Pearson bid 3♠, commenting that it was encouraging partner to bid 3NT with ♠Qxx ♥Ax ♦KQxxx ♣xxx or better). This also applies if Opener has ♠98xx ♥AQ ♦KQJxx ♣xx. His second choice would be Four Clubs... If so, he would have won the set solo, now he has to share the honours.

Three calls attracted votes from readers but no from any of our panellists. I've given them all a couple of points, mostly on the basis that there is no ideal solution to the problem so 3NT, 4♦ or 5♦ could work out as well as anything else. Apart from that, I see little to commend any of these actions.

After I circulated the article to the panel, I received a much more complete argument in favour of his call from Tim Cope than he had originally made. Tim's argument is:

'I have no problem in getting low scores in the competition, and even if I am not totally swayed by the majority verdict, I will accept them with

good grace and occasionally learn something. So it takes a lot to get me annoyed

‘In problem 2. I chose 3♠, which you scored as 3/10 with the top marks going to 3♥. Your comment was on the lines of how can 3♠ be better than 3♥. Unless one is Tommy, one cannot go into the greatest detail about the choice of one’s bids but for the first time ever I felt that the scoring and analysis sucked. So I hope you will allow me to go into more detail

‘I respect those who took the conservative view of passing, and also those who made the value showing bid of 4♣.

‘As for the 3♥ bidders.....

‘We are told that partner is unbalanced so let us look at the hands where partner has a singleton first. If you were to price up as a book-maker they would make the shortage a probability in clubs, a possibility in hearts and 100/1 or better that the shortage is in spades. Why 100/1 – well the player on our left passed and if they had 5 spades we would have heard some pre-emptive action. So if there is a shortage, it is going to be clubs or hearts.

‘The next question is, does partner have to bid 2NT with both majors stopped if they are sub-minimum and opened on shape -e.g. ♠Kxxx ♥Kxx ♦KQxxx ♣x – 2NT would be an aggressive call here even if partner does stop both majors – it would be hard for them to see their way to 9 tricks unless we can come again – so both majors being stopped is still possible.

‘The one thing I feel confident about (in the shortage situation) is that partner has a spade stopper – either by length (♠9xxx would be enough) or ♠Qxx or better. So by bidding 3♠ I am actually showing partner’s “known” stopper and allowing them to focus on their heart holding for 3NT. The other advantage of bidding 3♠ is that if partner has no heart stopper but a heart shortage they can upgrade their hand opposite a hand that should have spade values and extras (in clubs one assumes) so that one can get to a good 5♦ (e.g. ♠KQxx ♥x ♦KQxxx ♣Jxx) – whereas bidding 3♥ would get us to a ludicrous 3NT (the 3NT reached opposite those who bid 3♥ was ludicrous, but also has a ridiculous happy ending – not that I think many would have opened the hand that was opened)

‘If partner is 4M5♦ 22 which is also a strong possibility, I respect those who passed – their gut feel could be right. But if you are bidding on over 3♦ as I chose to do, to score 3♥ was 10 (obligatory as it received the most votes), but 3♠ as 3 is a disservice to a possibly better analysis

‘Hope I have converted you.’

And my reply:

Actually, I gave 3♠ 4 not 3 marks.

No, you haven’t convinced me. If you’ve read the article, then you know that it was the 4♣ bidders who convinced me. I don’t think partner should have bid 3♦ if he had both majors stopped. Well, he didn’t have an opening bid, of course, but that’s not something we can take into account.

You expect that if LHO had five spades they would have bid. I am surprised that he didn’t bid with four hearts (and had he had four spades he might also have bid, of course), while top honour to three hearts might have doubled 2♥. While I agree that it is hard to imagine LHO not bidding with five spades, I’m not convinced beyond that.

I was stuck with 3♥ getting the top mark, as it garnered as many votes as all other bids combined. I upgraded 4♣ quite a bit, but I still don’t really see a strong argument for 3♠, and it isn’t as though the rest of the panel made several comments suggesting that 3♠ was a serious option.

Obviously, I respect your views, even if I am still not convinced.

PROBLEM 3

IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ AKQ1094
♥ K7
♦ A642
♣ 3

West	North	East	South
–	–	4♣	4♦
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
4♠	7	10	17
5♣	6	10	11
Pass	4	7	3
Dble	1	3	5
6♣	0	0	1

Dudley Leigh bid 6♣ and called it a great problem ! 4♠, 6♣, 6♠ and 6NT

could all be winners, but a club lead against a spade contract might make life very difficult, while a heart lead against clubs is less likely.

A club lead could indeed make life tough in a spade contract. I'm not sure, however, why the hand is worth a slam bid – some of the panel were not bidding at all. There will usually be at least one heart loser in 6♣ and we may be off immediately on a heart lead. An important point is that many hands with solid clubs are ruled out for partner by the failure to open with a gambling 3NT, so there will very often also be a trump loser. As no panellists seriously considered a slam bid, I'm disinclined to add an award for 6♣.

PROBLEM 4

IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ AKJ108762
♥ 9
♦ 107
♣ 73

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	1NT*
?			
1NT 15-17			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
4♠	9	10	12
3♠	7	8	14
Dble	1	3	0
Pass	1	3	3
2♦	0	3	5
2♠	0	2	3

The panel was basically split between overcalling 3♠ and 4♠. We had two actions chosen by readers which had not been selected by any of the panel. Unless someone voting for 2♠ was trying to be very clever, I imagine that all those readers' votes were actually identical – a one-suited spade overcall at the two level – either 2♦ or 2♠.

I think 2♠ is inadequate and a jump is better because it puts pressure on the opposition, as well as showing our playing strength, but a

two-level overcall is a legitimate option. I'm going to award 3 points to 2♦ and 2 to 2♠ – the difference simply being that actually knowing the system deserves an extra point (2♠ shows spade and a minor).

PROBLEM 5

IMPs. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ Q42
♥ 2
♦ K1098532
♣ K6

West	North	East	South
–	1♣*	1♠	Double
?			
1♣ Three+ clubs, playing 15-17 NT			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
3♦	9	10	11
2♦	3	7	1
2♣	2	5	4
3♠	1	4	5
2♠	1	3	13
4♦	1	3	0
3♣	1	2	0
4♠	0	2	2
Rdbl	0	0	1

Two readers voted for a leap to 4♠. While that is too much on three-card support and there are a number of more descriptive options available to involve partner in future decision-making, 4♠ could work if it bullies LHO into bidding 5♥ or convinces the opposition not to double when they should be doing so. A couple of points, then, but I don't really like the bid.

One reader chose to redouble. Maybe they play that as showing a top spade honour – I don't know – but I don't see any merit in leaving the opposition with all the bidding space they might need and failing to do anything to involve partner in the decision-making.

PROBLEM 6

IMPs. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ AQ3
♥ 64
♦ J73
♣ AQ1062

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
2♠	14	10	18
4♠	3	7	12
3♠	0	4	4
3♦	1	2	3

PROBLEM 7

IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 1064
♥ 5
♦ KQJ75
♣ K863

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
4♣	12	10	20
3♠	3	5	10
Pass	2	4	4
3NT	1	2	2

5♣ 0 2 1

Stuart Nelson called this an impossible bid – Guessing partner short in ♦, as no 3♦ (♠QJ ♥KQ10xxx ♦A ♣AJxx?) he bid 3NT.

But partner will almost always show a sixth heart rather than show a diamond feature, so it really is a guess whether they are shorter in diamonds or in spades. The lack of a spade overcall from the opposition suggests that partner is not very short in that suit, which would make him more likely to be short in diamonds, however.

There was one vote for 5♣. While that could very easily be cold off and looks too much to me, it is not that much more of a gamble than one or two of the other calls chosen by the panel, so I'll award 2 points to 5♣.

PROBLEM 8

IMPs. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ KQ4
♥ A6
♦ K
♣ AK98742

West	North	East	South
1♣	3♦	Pass	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
3NT	12	10	7
Dble	6	6	19
4♣	0	4	9
5♣	0	2	2

The panel was divided between 3NT and double. I had already given 2 points for a 4♣ rebid and I'm now inclined to increase that to 4 – just to annoy Herman, who will have to rescore the nine readers who chose 4♣. While I think 5♣ is a definite overbid, I will also award 2 points to the two readers who selected the jump to game

EAST

Hands for the
February 2019 The uBid 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 East. Both Vul.

♠ 10765
♥ KJ852
♦ —
♣ A986

North overcalls 2♦ and South raises to 5♦

Hand 2. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 95
♥ K108752
♦ Q3
♣ KQ2

South opens 4♠

Hand 3. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ AKQ73
♥ Q104
♦ K
♣ K875

Hand 4. Dealer West. N/S Vul

♠ 9
♥ 76
♦ K102
♣ AKJ10654

Hand 5. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K742
♥ AJ4
♦ 54
♣ AJ73

North opens 2♥ (weak) and South bids 3♦

Hand 6. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 6
♥ K10953
♦ AQJ542
♣ 5

After 1♠-2♦ South doubles

Hand 7. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A104
♥ AK109
♦ 6
♣ 97532

Hand 8. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ AQJ98654
♥ K94
♦ J3
♣ —

South opens 1♦ and North raises to 4♦

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