

A NEW BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Camrose 2019

Enterprising Bridge Tales

The Abbot Goes West

EDITION 17
May 2019



A NEW BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Editor:

Mark Horton

Advertising:

Mark Horton

Photographers:

Ron Tacchi

Francesca Canali

Proofreaders:

Monika Kummel, Herman De Wael

Typesetter:

Ron Tacchi

Reviews:

Martin Cantor

A NEW BRIDGE Magazine is published monthly.

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

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

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

England Hopefuls

We now know England's teams for the 2019 World Championships in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

In the Bermuda Bowl, Jeffrey Allerton, Chris Jagger, David Bakhshi, Artur Malinowski, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson, with Neil Rosen (NPC) and Andrew Murphy (Coach) will be hoping to reach the knock-out rounds.

The Venice Cup team of Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Catherine Draper, Gillian Fawcett, Nicola Smith and Yvonne Wiseman with David Gold (NPC) and David Burn (Coach) should certainly reach the play-offs and if the wind is in the right direction.....

In the D'Orsi Trophy England's Seniors are John Holland, Alan Mould, David Muller, Malcolm Pryor, Peter Shelley and Trevor Ward, with David Jones as NPC. They will be eager to justify their selection by qualifying for the second phase.

In the new Championship for Mixed Teams England's hopes rest with Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Sally Brock, Barry Myers, Fiona Brown and Michael Byrne. If they are in form, a medal is not out of the question.

Where in the World

The 2019 World Wide Bridge Contest will be held on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th June. The World Bridge Federation is offering fantastic prizes for the leading pairs, in the form of entries to the 2020 World Bridge Games.

1st and 2nd placed Pair on each day

B&B hotel accommodation in a double room at the World Bridge Games 2020 for the

duration of the Pairs Tournament, a subsidy of € 500.00 (five hundred Euro) to each player and free entry-fee to the pairs event of their choice (Open, Women's, Mixed or Seniors)



3rd placed Pair on each day

B&B hotel accommodation in a double room at the World Bridge Games 2020 for the duration of the Pairs Tournament and free entry-fee to the pairs event of their choice (Open, Women's, Mixed or Seniors)

4th and 5th placed Pair on each day

Free entry-fee to the pairs event of their choice at the World Bridge Games 2020 (Open, Women's, Mixed or Seniors)

Please note that these are all National Pairs events so partners need to be eligible members of the same WBF member National Bridge Organisation, and the regulations pertaining to the specific event with regards to age and gender criteria must be met.

The entry fee for both days remains unchanged at just US\$2, £1.50 GBP or €1.80 per player per event. Payment instructions will be sent to the participating clubs.

More information including how to enter this exciting event will be found at: <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/>.

Give us the Tools and We will finish the job

Winston Churchill, London 9 February 1941

A great new teaching programme for bridge is now available for all NBOs, teacher and clubs to download and use thanks to the efforts of the Swedish Bridge Federation. It has been translated into English – and you are welcome to translate it into your own language as well.

The material is provided in three different formats – Word Documents, PowerPoint format and PDF files.

This material should be useful in the development of Bridge and particularly of Youth Bridge. You can read about it, and download the zip files at: <http://www.worldbridge.org/resources/youth/wbf-teaching-material/>

Bid72

If bridge is to prosper in the 21st Century, it will be linked inextricably to the advance of technology. With virtually everyone owning a mobile telephone, a computer and/or an ipad all sorts of opportunities are available to bridge players and we will make sure that the best of them feature in A New Bridge Magazine.

We are delighted to announce that we have negotiated some special terms for readers with Bid72, an outstanding app that offers a wide range of features:

- bidding with an app
- suitable for smart phones and tablets, iOS and Android
- working on your partnership with your own partner, coach or teacher
- unlimited number of highly interesting boards
- every system, every level (beginners, club, expert)
- interesting Topics of 100 games each, such as: Defense against 1NT, 2-way Check Back Stayman, Limit raises

Try the app for free for 21 days

download bid72 via the buttons below (iOS or Android)
free trial period for 7 days, or 21 days if you sign up for our newsletter

What does bid72 cost?

per month: US\$ 3.49 (€2,99)

per year: US\$ 28.99 (€24,99)

What does a topic cost?

One Topic (100 boards) costs 100 bid points

100 bid points: US\$ 1.99 (€2,29)

500 bid points: US\$ 6.99 (€7,99)

1000 bid points: US\$ 12.99 (€13,99)

Special offer:

100 bid points for free for each reader of A New Bridge Magazine who downloads bid72 and registers to our News Letter.

An additional 100 bid points for free for each reader of A New Bridge Magazine who purchases an annual subscription.



Card Game Books

Bridge books, ephemera, other card games and playing cards

Gordon Bickley
Card Game Books
208 Strines Road, Strines, Stockport
Cheshire SK6 7GA
Tel: 0161-427 4630 or 07530 553594 e-mail: gordonarf@aol.com

In This Issue

- 4 **FUNBRIDGE** — Test Your Technique
- 5 **Camrose 2019** — The Editor reports on the second weekend of the Camrose Trophy
- 29 **GOTO Bridge 19**
- 33 **FUNBRIDGE** — Misplay These Hands With Me
- 35 **Aces and Knives**
- 36 **Deals That Caught My Eye** — David Bird looks at the Acol Club International Pairs
- 40 **Bid72**
- 45 **Defend With Julian Pottage**
- 46 **FUNBRIDGE** — Test Your Technique solution
- 47 **A Little Learning Is A Dangerous Thing** — Alex Adamson & Harry Smith with another tale from the Over The Rainbow Bridge Club
- 53 **Defend With Julian Pottage** — The Answers
- 54 **Bridge With Larry Cohen**
- 56 **Enterprising Bridge Tales** — Marc Smith
- 61 **Kit's Corner** — Kit Woolsey
- 66 **Excerpt from Close Encounters by Eric Kokish & Mark Horton**
- 71 **The Abbot Goes West** — David Bird
- 76 **The uBid Auction Room** — Mark Horton
- 81 **Master Point Press Bidding Battle** — Moderated by Brian Senior
- 94 **Master Point Press Bidding Battle Competition** — Set 17
- 98 **Hands for This Month's Auction Room**
- 99 **Comments on Bidding Battle 15** — Brian Senior



Test Your Technique

with *Christophe Grosset* see Page 46

With neither side vulnerable as South you pick up a decent hand:

♠ KJ32
 ♥ K1062
 ♦ A6
 ♣ A64
 ♠ —
 ♥ A54
 ♦ KQJ875
 ♣ KJ93

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠*
Double	Redouble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Double	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

2♠ shortage
 5NT 2 keys and a void

West leads the ♠10:

Dummy's jack is covered by the ace and ruffed by you. You now have a parking place for a losing heart. A diamond to the ace is followed by the spade king, on which you pitch the ♥4. You draw trumps, cash the ♥A and cross to dummy's king. A third heart is ruffed, East discarding a spade. How do you continue?

Camrose 2019

The Editor reports on the second weekend of the Camrose Trophy

This year's Camrose Trophy gave England the chance to field a second team – designated EBU. Why the home unions have resisted the temptation to re-invigorate this series by asking a team from Europe to become the sixth country, France for example, remains a mystery. After the first weekend, England trailed the EBU by 7.1VP.

Here is how the teams lined up for the second weekend in Manchester:

EBU	Ben Green, Peter Taylor, Cameron Small, Jon Cooke, Ankuush Khandelwal, John Cox, Chris Dixon (NPC).
England	Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, Graham Osborne, David Gold, Mike Bell, David Burn (NPC)
Ireland	John Carroll, Tom Hanlon, Donal MacAonghusa, Mark Moran, Edna Glynn, David Walsh, Grainne Barton (NPC)
Scotland	Alex Adamson, Derek Sanders, Irving Gordon, Danny Kane, John Faben, Phil Morrison, Jim Hay (NPC)
N. Ireland	Rex Anderson, David Greenwood, Hastings Cambell, Sam Hall, Paul Tranmer, Wayne Somerville, Ian Lindsay (NPC)
Wales	Julian Pottage, Tony Ratcliff, Simon Richards, Jonny Richards, John Salisbury, Tim Rees, Mike Tedd (NPC)

If you would like to study any of these pair's methods in detail, you will find the convention cards [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y3xl8ur8>

Round 6

The Irish and English teams faced their compatriots in the first match.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ KJ8432		♠ —									
♥ A8		♥ 754									
♦ 2		♦ KJ743									
♣ 10852		♣ K7643									
♠ A765	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;"> </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		♠ —
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 109		♥ 754									
♦ AQ109865		♦ KJ743									
♣ —		♣ K7643									
♠ Q109		♠ —									
♥ KQJ632		♥ —									
♦ —		♦ —									
♣ AQJ9		♣ —									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kane</i>	<i>Rees</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
–	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led the ♦4 and declarer ruffed in dummy and played trumps for +480.

No doubt West was deterred by the vulnerability, but his hand looks like a 5♦ overcall.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pottage</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Ratcliffe</i>	<i>Faben</i>
–	3♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble
All Pass			

East led the $\heartsuit 3$ and declarer was soon inscribing +1210 onto his scorecard – along with 15 IMPs.

South's decision to ask for key cards is flawed; if North has the $\heartsuit A$ and the $\spadesuit K$ two aces will be missing.

If West had overcalled $5\heartsuit$ and then doubled $6\spadesuit$ East would have had an easier time finding a club lead.

\spadesuit KJ8432	\heartsuit A8	\diamonds 2	\clubsuit 10852
\spadesuit A765	\heartsuit 109	\diamonds AQ109865	\clubsuit —
\spadesuit —	\heartsuit 754	\diamonds KJ743	\clubsuit K7643
\spadesuit Q109	\heartsuit KQJ632	\diamonds —	\clubsuit AQJ9

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

\spadesuit 9	\heartsuit 86	\diamonds KQ852	\clubsuit A10964
\spadesuit KJ10654	\heartsuit A972	\diamonds 7	\clubsuit Q3
\spadesuit —	\heartsuit —	\diamonds —	\clubsuit —
\spadesuit A83	\heartsuit KJ	\diamonds AJ93	\clubsuit K875
\spadesuit Q72	\heartsuit Q10543	\diamonds 1064	\clubsuit J2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Small</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Robson</i>
–	$2\heartsuit^*$	Pass	$2NT^*$
$3\heartsuit$	$3\heartsuit$	$4\clubsuit$	$4\heartsuit^*$
Pass	$4\spadesuit$	$5\heartsuit$	$6\heartsuit$
Pass	$6\spadesuit$	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

$2\heartsuit$ Weak two in a major or 4441, 16+
 $2NT$ Enquiry
 $4\heartsuit$ Cue-bid

It looks as if $3\heartsuit$ showed spades and presumably a maximum.

East's decision to lead the $\heartsuit 3$ cost his side -1210.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Cox</i>
–	$2\spadesuit$	Pass	$4\spadesuit$
$5\heartsuit$	Double	$6\heartsuit$	$6\spadesuit$
Double	All Pass		

Here East led the $\clubsuit 3$ – 16 IMPs for England.

In the all Ireland encounter both teams played in $6\heartsuit$ doubled and North led the $\heartsuit A$. Northern Ireland picked up 17 IMPs when North did not play a second heart

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Small</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Robson</i>
–	–	$1NT$	Pass
$2\heartsuit^*$	$2NT^*$	$3\spadesuit$	Pass
$4\spadesuit$	All Pass		

$2\heartsuit$ Transfer
 $2NT$ Minors

South led the $\clubsuit J$ and declarer won with the king, cashed the $\spadesuit A$, played a spade to the jack followed by three rounds of hearts, ruffing, for eleven tricks, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Cox</i>
–	–	$1NT$	Pass
$2\heartsuit^*$	Pass	$2\spadesuit$	Pass
$3\heartsuit^*$	Pass	$3\heartsuit$	Pass
$4\clubsuit^*$	Pass	$4NT^*$	Pass
$5\spadesuit^*$	Pass	$6\spadesuit$	All Pass

$2\heartsuit$ Transfer
 $3\heartsuit$ Spade single suiter
 $4\clubsuit$ Diamond shortage
 $4NT$ RKCB
 $5\spadesuit$ 2 key cards + $\spadesuit Q$

Declarer had no overcall here to paint a road map of the distribution.

South led the $\heartsuit 4$ and declarer won with the ace and played a club for the queen and ace. (Would you have thought of ruffing a diamond at trick two?) When North returned the $\clubsuit 6$ declarer won with the king, ruffed a diamond, played a heart to the king, ruffed a diamond, cashed the $\heartsuit A$ and ruffed a heart, North pitching the $\clubsuit 4$. If declarer now cashes the $\spadesuit A$ he can then ruff a diamond, ruff a heart and play a club, collecting South's trumps, but he ruffed a diamond immediately and when he played dummy's last heart North could ruff with the $\spadesuit 9$ which meant South scored the $\spadesuit Q$ at the end for one down and 13 IMPs.

Wales and Scotland played peacefully in $4\spadesuit$ as did the Irish teams.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

\spadesuit A985 \heartsuit J86 \diamondsuit 9643 \clubsuit A5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit KQ43 \heartsuit K \diamondsuit K72 \clubsuit QJ1084	\spadesuit 1062 \heartsuit Q10743 \diamondsuit A10 \clubsuit 962
	\spadesuit J7 \heartsuit A952 \diamondsuit QJ85 \clubsuit K73		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kane</i>	<i>Rees</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
-	1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \diamondsuit
Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass	2 \heartsuit^*
Pass	3 \diamondsuit	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2 \heartsuit Fourth suit forcing

West led the $\heartsuit 6$ and having won perforce with dummy's king declarer played the $\clubsuit Q$, West winning with the ace and returning the $\heartsuit J$ which led to a rapid two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pottage</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Ratcliffe</i>	<i>Faben</i>
-	1 \clubsuit^*	Pass	1 \diamondsuit
Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
1 \clubsuit	2+ \clubsuit		

Here West led the $\spadesuit 5$ and declarer won with jack and played a club to the queen and a club to the king and ace. West switched to the $\heartsuit 6$ but it was a case of too late the hero and declarer scored nine tricks and 13 IMPs.

Small led the $\spadesuit 9$ against 3NT – Robson's 1 \diamondsuit response having shown 4+ \heartsuit . Cox responded 1 \heartsuit and Bell led the $\diamondsuit 6$.

Ireland picked up 10 IMPs because they made 3NT while they stopped in 1NT at the other table.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

\spadesuit AJ92 \heartsuit K843 \diamondsuit KQ \clubsuit QJ6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit K865 \heartsuit AQ \diamondsuit J109432 \clubsuit 10	\spadesuit 74 \heartsuit J92 \diamondsuit 76 \clubsuit A87543
		\spadesuit Q103 \heartsuit 10765 \diamondsuit A85 \clubsuit K92	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Small</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Robson</i>
-	-	3 \clubsuit	Pass
Pass	3 \diamondsuit	Pass	3NT
Double	All Pass		

I confess I would have bid 3NT over 3 \clubsuit with West's cards, taking the

view that as little as ace to seven clubs would give you a play for game. West led the ♣Q and continued with the jack, declarer winning, playing a spade to the king and a diamond for the eight and queen. When West produced a third club the contract was five down, -1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Cox</i>
-	-	Pass	Pass
1NT	Double*	2♠*	Double
3♣	3♠	All Pass	

Double 5♦/♣ + 4♥/♠

2♠ Clubs or no-trumps

East led the ♥2 and declarer won with the queen and played a spade for the ten and jack. He won the heart return, and played two rounds of diamonds, West winning and playing the ♥8. Declarer ruffed and played a spade, but West could win and return a spade and that held declarer to six tricks, -150 but 14 IMPs for the EBU.

You can replay these deals [here](https://tinyurl.com/yyp2kpau) or <https://tinyurl.com/yyp2kpau> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yyp2kpau) or <https://tinyurl.com/yyp2kpau>

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ AJ103 ♥ AJ7 ♦ 7 ♣ Q10754	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 65 ♥ 10986 ♦ K96 ♣ A862	♠ KQ872 ♥ KQ43 ♦ A10 ♣ J3
♠ 94 ♥ 52 ♦ QJ85432 ♣ K9			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Small</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Bell</i>
-	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

According to the convention card 3NT promised a void somewhere (2NT would be invitational plus with 4♠ and 2♣ an artificial game force). Whatever the precise meaning of this sequence it saw E/W reach a hopeless slam.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Khandelwal</i>
-	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♠	All Pass
2NT	Game forcing, 4+♠		
4NT	RKCB		
5♥	2 key cards		

Somewhere in my library, there is at least one book that cautions against using Blackwood with a small doubleton.

The other four teams stopped at a safe level.

Board 31. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A97432 ♥ 72 ♦ 106 ♣ J97		♠ 865 ♥ AKQ ♦ AJ84 ♣ KQ5
♠ KQ10 ♥ J9843 ♦ K95 ♣ A4		♠ J ♥ 1065 ♦ Q732 ♣ 108632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Small</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Bell</i>
-	-	-	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6NT	All Pass

2♣ Artificial game force

EW were using artificial responses after 2♣.

So far in this session they had failed to bring home any of the seven contracts they had attempted. North's lead of the ♦10 served to speed up the play, +990.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Khandelwal</i>
-	-	-	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

When East made a move with 4♣ West must have been tempted to bid 4♦, but perhaps influenced by the quality of his hearts he signed off. The 11 IMPs that went to the EBU were just enough to give them a win.


The other four teams were content with game.

It was an important win for the EBU – 11.86-8.14.

You can replay these deals [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y5gm9yyr> and here or <https://tinyurl.com/y2ezbkyf>

Round 7

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 5 ♥ 94 ♦ AJ1087 ♣ Q10432		♠ QJ3 ♥ KQ105 ♦ Q2 ♣ KJ85
♠ K109876 ♥ 7 ♦ 94 ♣ A976		♠ A42 ♥ AJ8632 ♦ K653 ♣ -

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cambell</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Faben</i>
-	Pass	1NT	2♦*
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♠	4♦	All Pass	

2♦ One major

North's decision to raise to only 4♦ looks timid.

West led the ♥7 and declarer took East's queen with the ace, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade and ruffed a club. Now the right play is a heart, but declarer crossed to dummy with the ♦A, ruffed a club and only then played the ♥J. West ruffed and played the ♠K and the defenders were in charge, one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kane</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Tranmer</i>
-	Pass	1♣*	1♥
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♦
2♠	5♦	All Pass	
	1♣	2+♣	

♠ 5	♥ 94	♦ AJ1087	♣ Q10432
♠ K109876	♥ 7	♦ 94	♠ QJ3
♥ A976	♦ A42	♠ A42	♥ KQ105
♠ A42	♥ AJ8632	♦ K653	♦ Q2
♥ AJ8632	♦ K653	♣ —	♣ KJ85
♦ K653	♣ —		

West led the ♣A and declarer ruffed, cashed the ♥A and played a second heart, West pitching the ♠8 as East won with the ten. East tried exiting with the ♣8 but declarer pitched a heart, won with dummy's ten, played a spade to the ace, ruffed a heart, played two rounds of diamonds and ruffed a heart for eleven tricks and 12 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
-	Pass	1♣*	1♥
2♥*	Pass	2♠	All Pass
1♣	2+♣		
2♥	6♠, 8+		

South led the ♥A and continued with the two, declarer winning with the ten and playing the king. North would ruff that, but both diamonds had been discarded from dummy, and declarer finished with nine tricks, +140.

How would you play a double of 2♥ by North? If it shows the unbid suit and tolerance for hearts should North try it?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Glynn</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Walsh</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
-	Pass	1♣*	1♥
1♠	Double*	2♠	Double
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
	All Pass		
1♣	2+♣		
Dble	Diamonds		

West led the ♠10 and declarer won with the ace and played two rounds of hearts, West ruffing and returning the ♦9. Declarer won with dummy's ten, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club and ruffed a heart. He drew the outstanding trump and claimed, +600 and 12 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Richards</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Richards</i>	<i>Khandelwal</i>
-	Pass	1♣*	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
	All Pass		
1♣	2+♣		

South was hoping his partner would interpret the double as Lightner – a club lead results in three down – but North looked no further than the ♥9. South won with the ace and returned the ♥2, declarer winning with the ten and playing the king – so once again the losing diamonds had put in a disappearing act and the contract was only one down when North ruffed and continued with a club, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Rees</i>	<i>Cox</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
-	Pass	1♣*	1♥
2♥*	Pass	2♠	All Pass
1♣	2+♣		
2♥	Spades, weak or game forcing.		

South led the ♥A and switched to the ♦3. North won and returned a diamond, so that was +140 and 6 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 975 ♥ KQJ1087 ♦ 93 ♣ 85	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A2 ♥ A9542 ♦ KQ76 ♣ KQ
♠ Q10843 ♥ — ♦ AJ1084 ♣ A109		
♠ KJ6 ♥ 63 ♦ 52 ♣ J76432		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cambell</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Faben</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

When East introduced diamonds West decided a jump to game was enough – the alternative perhaps being to bid 4♣.

South led the ♣7 and declarer won with the queen, cashed the ♥A, ruffed a heart, came to hand with a club and ruffed another heart. When declarer played the ♣A North ruffed with the ♦9 and declarer overruffed, ruffed a heart, played a spade to the ace and ruffed another heart, claiming as his trumps were high, +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kane</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Tranmer</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	3♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

East led the ♦K and switched to the ♠2. If declarer puts up dummy's king he can escape for -800, but he put in the jack and West won and returned

a spade, East winning and continuing with the king and queen of clubs. If West had studied the classics he would have overtaken this, as West plays a spade and East ruffs and returns a diamond, West wins and plays a black card to promote the ♥9. However he played low and East exited with a diamond, West winning and playing the ♣A. Declarer should ruff this low after which he must score five trump tricks, but he ruffed high and East discarded, holding declarer to four tricks, -1100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass
2♦	5+♥, 8+		
2NT	Forcing		

Presumably someone had removed a large number of bidding cards from Robson's box, as he decided against any attempt to discover if 7♦ was a possibility.

Declarer won the club lead, cashed a second club and the ♥A, ruffed a heart and played the ♣A. When North ruffed declarer pitched his losing spade, +920.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Glynn</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Walsh</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	3♥	Double*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♦	All Pass
4NT	RKCB		
5♥	2 key cards		

Declarer won the heart lead pitching a spade from hand, took two rounds of trumps, unblocked the clubs, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a heart, pitched a spade on the ♣A and then crossruffed, claiming all the tricks when the spades divided for an IMP.

Wales and the EBU both bid and made 6♦.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ AJ7 ♥ 743 ♦ AKQ1064 ♣ 5		♠ Q109654 ♥ KQ9 ♦ 83 ♣ 43	♠ — ♥ A62 ♦ J75 ♣ AKQ9872
------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cambell</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Faben</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			
3♣	Muppet Stayman		
3♥	Denies four hearts		

Northern Ireland got as far as 6♦ and must have been pleased to discover it was worth 11 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	1NT*
2♠	3♦	Pass	5♠*
Pass	6♦*	All Pass	
1NT	Transfer		
5♠	Exclusion Blackwood		

According to the BBO operator, South said North was showing 2 keycards outside spades, but denying the ♦Q.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Glynn</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Walsh</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣
2♠	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	7♦
All Pass			
4NT	RKCB		
5♦	3 key cards		

If 3NT promised solid diamonds then 5♥ was not necessary, but it cost nothing to make sure and England soon had 11 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Richards</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Richards</i>	<i>Khandelwal</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣
3♠	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Rees</i>	<i>Cox</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣
2♠	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Double	4NT
All Pass			

Do you think South was expecting 4NT to be passed out? It cost Wales 9 IMPs.

You can replay these deals [here](https://tinyurl.com/yyzp7rkf) or <https://tinyurl.com/yyzp7rkf> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yxthbvfa) or <https://tinyurl.com/yxthbvfa> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y5fonzhh) or <https://tinyurl.com/y5fonzhh>

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 8762 ♥ 9863 ♦ 106 ♣ A82	<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	♠ K1095 ♥ KQJ10 ♦ 32 ♣ KQ10	♠ AJ4 ♥ 754 ♦ J84 ♣ 7653
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tranmer</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Sanders</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
7♦	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			
4NT	RKCB		
5♣	3 key cards		

It's clear that East intended 5♠ to ask West to bid 5NT which he was going to pass. West took it as a grand slam try, asking for third round spade control.

North led the ♣A but when South followed with the three he switched to a heart so declarer 'escaped' for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kane</i>	<i>Greenwood</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Anderson</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
2♣ Puppet Stayman			

That was eleven tricks and 13 IMPs.

In the other matches E/W played in no-trump games.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ Q7 ♥ KQ76 ♦ K863 ♣ A86	<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	♠ J10964 ♥ 1094 ♦ Q9742 ♣ —	♠ K8532 ♥ 32 ♦ 105 ♣ KJ95
N						
W E						
S						

♠ A	♥ AJ85	♦ AJ	♣ Q107432
-----	--------	------	-----------

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tranmer</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Sanders</i>
–	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

North decided to upgrade his weak notrump -it is worth only 13.05 on the K & R Hand Evaluator. East doubled hoping West would lead a club and that there would be another trick, but West, with very good clubs, led a heart. Declarer won, drew trumps and played a club but West put in the nine and had two club tricks for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kane	Greenwood	Gordon	Anderson
-	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

♠ Q7	♥ KQ76	♦ K863	♣ A86
♠ K8532	♥ 32	♦ 105	♣ KJ95
♠ J10964	♥ 1094	♦ Q9742	♣ —
♠ A	♥ AJ85	♦ AJ	♣ Q107432

East led the ♠J and declarer won perforce in dummy, drew trumps and played the ♣2. When West covered with the five playing the six looks promising, but declarer put up dummy's ace. He continued with the ♣8 and West won with the nine and made the very poor play of switching to the ♦10 (the ♠K leads to two down). Now declarer could win in hand, give up a club and then ruff a club, establishing an eleventh trick for a somewhat fortunate 13 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bell	Hanlon	Gold	Carroll
-	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Double	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

After the lead of the spade jack declarer won in dummy, drew trumps and played a club. It says West put up the jack so declarer had an easy route to twelve tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Moran	Osborne	MacAonghusa	Forrester
-	1♣*	1♠	Double*
4♠	Pass	Pass	6♣
Double	6♥	All Pass	
1♣	2+♣		

After an identical start to the play declarer tried the ♣Q at trick five – one down and 13 IMPs to Ireland.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pottage	Green	Ratcliffe	Khandelwal
-	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♠*
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble*
Pass	4♥	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
6♠	Double	All Pass	

1NT	14-16
2♣	Stayman
3♠	Cue-bid
Rdbl	First round control
5NT	Pick a slam

Only West knows why he preferred a double to a space removing 4♠.

South led the ♣7 and declarer played dummy's five, ruffed North's ace and continued with the ♠9. South won and the defenders cashed their red winners for four down, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Cooke	Rees	Small	Salisbury
-	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

3♣ was natural, showing a good hand with slam interest.

Declarer won the heart lead and played a club to the ace and club, two down and 14 IMPs for the EBU.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 876 ♥ AK ♦ AQ10853 ♣ Q9	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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	♠ J1052 ♥ 3 ♦ 972 ♣ KJ532	♠ AKQ943 ♥ 64 ♦ K ♣ A1064
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tranmer</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Sanders</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
3♥	4♥*	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

West led the ♥Q and declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade to the ace, West pitching the ♥5. Declarer overtook the ♦K with dummy's ace, pitched a club on the queen and played a spade, covered by the ten and queen. Now the winning line is to play two more rounds of spades. East wins and must play a minor suit, which is all the help declarer needs (as long as he ruffs a diamond return). Hoping hearts were 7-2 declarer tried to get to dummy and East ruffed and exited with his last spade for two down.

You will have noticed that declarer could have ruffed the third round of diamonds and then thrown East in on the fourth round of spades.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kane</i>	<i>Greenwood</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Anderson</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

Declarer won the heart lead in dummy, played three rounds of spades,

unblocked the ♦K and exited with a spade, +680.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣*
4♥	Double	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

1♣ 11-13 balanced or any 17+

East led the ♥3 and declarer won with the king, crossed to dummy with a spade and played a club for the seven, nine and jack. East switched to the ♦7 and declarer won with dummy's king, played a heart to the ace and cashed the top diamonds, claiming when the suit divided.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moran</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>MacAonghusa</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
3♥	4♥*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♥	Pass	6♠

All Pass

- 4♥ Cue-bid
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♥ 2 key cards
- 5NT Kings?
- 6♥ ♥K

West led the ♥Q and declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade, West discarding the ♥2. When declarer continued with a club to the nine East won with the jack and returned a club. Unfortunately it was the two and declarer ran it to dummy's queen, played a spade for the ten and ace, overtook the ♦K and played a spade to the nine, claiming after drawing the outstanding trump. If East had returned the ♣K declarer would have been a trick/entry short and a diamond switch would have had the same effect.

A lucky escape for England.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pottage</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Ratcliffe</i>	<i>Khandelwal</i>
-	-	Pass	1♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

Declarer won the heart lead and played a spade to the queen – one down.

Had he bid 7NT, he could hardly have failed to take all the tricks, as East will be squeezed in the black suits.

♠ —	♠ 876	♠ J1052
♥ QJ1098752	♥ AK	♥ 3
♦ J64	♦ AQ10853	♦ 972
♣ 87	♣ Q9	♣ KJ532
	♠ AKQ943	
	♥ 64	
	♦ K	
	♣ A1064	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Rees</i>	<i>Small</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
-	-	Pass	1♠
4♥	Double	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

On a heart lead declarer followed the line to endplay East, +680 and 13 IMPs – the EBU could afford them.

You can replay these deals [here](https://tinyurl.com/y6jlxk5a) or <https://tinyurl.com/y6jlxk5a> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y4cmcenq) or <https://tinyurl.com/y4cmcenq> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yy9elfrq) or <https://tinyurl.com/yy9elfrq>

Round 8

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A86432	♠ J95	♠ Q
♥ —	♥ AJ1053	♥ K42
♦ QJ72	♦ 965	♦ AK3
♣ KJ4	♣ 98	♣ Q107532
	♠ K107	
	♥ Q9876	
	♦ 1084	
	♣ A6	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Cox</i>
-	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

South led the ♥6 and declarer pitched a spade from dummy, losing to the two aces, +600.

In the Closed Room Cooke and Small reached 6♣. South led the ♦4 and declarer found a route to twelve tricks and 12 IMPs. (I cannot tell you the precise line as the play record is missing).

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Richards</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Richards</i>
-	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦*	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass
1♣	2+♣		
1♥	Spades		
3♥	Fourth-suit forcing		
4♦	Cue-bid		

♠ J95	♥ AJ1053	♦ 965	♣ 98
♠ A86432	♥ —	♦ QJ72	♣ KJ4
♠ K107	♥ Q9876	♦ 1084	♣ A6
♠ Q	♥ K42	♦ AK3	♣ Q107532

South led the ♥7 and declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade, played a club to the king, ruffed a spade with the ♣Q and played four rounds of diamonds. North ruffed with the ♣9 and declarer overruffed, ruffed the ♥K and then pitched the ♥4 on the ♠8, losing only to the ♣A, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pottage</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ratcliff</i>	<i>Bell</i>
-	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
Double*	Pass	5♣	All Pass

South led the ♥6 and declarer ruffed and played the ♣K. When it held he came to hand with a diamond, ruffed a heart, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade and played a club (the five according to the operator, which I somehow doubt). +600 but a loss of 13 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moran</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>MacAonghusa</i>	<i>Faben</i>
-	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Double	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	All Pass
1♣	2+♣		
1♥	Spades		
4♥	Splinter		

North led the ♦5 and declarer won in dummy and played a club, South going up with the ace and switching to the ♥8. Declarer pitched a spade and was soon claiming, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kane</i>	<i>Walsh</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Glynn</i>
-	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♣9 and South won and switched to the ♥6, declarer ruffing, cashing the ♠A and exiting with a spade. He won the club return and played a third spade, claiming when the suit divided.

I daresay E/W would have preferred to be in 6♣, but if you never bid the suit.....

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 43	♥ 863	♦ 1065	♣ QJ864
♠ Q85	♥ AK72	♦ A8	♣ 10753
♠ AKJ92	♥ J94	♦ KQ3	♣ A2
♠ 1076	♥ Q105	♦ J9742	♣ K9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Cox</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
2♥	Transfer		

North led the ♣Q and declarer won in dummy, drew trumps and played three rounds of hearts, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Greenwood</i>	<i>Small</i>	<i>Anderson</i>
1♦*	Pass	1♠*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass
1♦	0+♦, 10-15		
1♠	5+♠		

♠ 43		♠ AKJ92
♥ 863		♥ J94
♦ 1065		♦ KQ3
♣ QJ864		♣ A2
♠ Q85		♠ 1076
♥ AK72		♥ Q105
♦ A8		♦ J9742
♣ 10753		♣ K9

South led the ♦4 and declarer won with dummy's ace, and played a heart for the nine and ten. In due course he had a parking place for his losing club, +1430 and 13 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Richards</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Richards</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass
1♣	2+♣		
1♥	Spades		
1♠	3/4 spades, minimum		
2♣	Artificial game force		

North led the ♣6 and when declarer played low from dummy South won and switched to a diamond. In due course declarer had to lose a heart.

One of the BBO commentators mentioned that GIB could make 6♣ but he could not see how. It is certainly far from obvious.

Declarer must win the club lead, draw trumps and play the ♥J for the queen and king. Now declarer cashes three diamonds followed by two spades. If South has kept the ♣K he is thrown in to lead into the split tenace in hearts. If he has discarded or unblocked it then North will have been forced down to ♥86 (otherwise declarer can play the ♥9 pinning the eight) so can only keep one club. Declarer exits with a club and North is forced to lead a heart giving declarer two tricks in the suit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pottage</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ratcliff</i>	<i>Bell</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Do you think South should have doubled 4♣?

North led the ♥3 and declarer had an easy route to +680 and 13 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moran</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>MacAonghusa</i>	<i>Faben</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass
1♣	2+♣		

North led the ♣Q and declarer ducked, leaving him with no play on the lie of the cards, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kane</i>	<i>Walsh</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Glynn</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass
1♣	2+♣		

South led the ♦4 and declarer won, drew trumps ending in dummy and played a heart to the nine and ten, eventually scoring his twelfth trick with dummy's ♥7.

You can replay these deals [here](https://tinyurl.com/y5lvo88g) or <https://tinyurl.com/y5lvo88g> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/yycp296q) or <https://tinyurl.com/yycp296q> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y36kcmjv) or <https://tinyurl.com/y36kcmjv>

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 832 ♥ A94 ♦ AKQ3 ♣ J95	♠ AJ7654 ♥ 7653 ♦ 8 ♣ 82 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K9 ♥ 2 ♦ J109642 ♣ AQ74	♠ Q10 ♥ KQJ108 ♦ 75 ♣ K1063
-----------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Glynn</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Walsh</i>	<i>Faben</i>
–	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♥*	3♥	Pass	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

South led the ♥K and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a club to the queen and king. He ruffed the heart return, drew trumps and in due course played a spade to the king for +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sanders</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
–	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North was not inhibited by his four-card heart suit and he posed a problem that E/W could not solve. South led the ♥K and declarer won in dummy and played a club to the queen for two down and a loss of 11 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Rees</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
–	2♦*	3♦	3♥*
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		
2♦	Multi		
3♥	Pass or correct		

Although he had hearts stopped West went past 3NT with his 'fake news' bid of 4♣ and with East having a weak hand for his overcall it was easy enough to stop at a safe level.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Richards</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Richards</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>
–	2♦*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
2♦	Weak major or 4441, 16+		
2♠	Pass or correct		

South led the ♥K and declarer ducked twice, won the third round and played a spade, so he was only one down, -50, but 10 IMPs the poorer.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Cox</i>
–	2♠	3♦	3♠
5♦	All Pass		

That was an easy +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khandelwal</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Tranmer</i>
–	2♦*	Pass	2♠*
Double	Pass	3♦*	All Pass

That was an easy +150 – and 6 IMPs in the out column.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A ♥ 10652 ♦ 86532 ♣ J109		♠ 6 ♥ QJ3 ♦ AJ109 ♣ KQ743	♠ K875432 ♥ A ♦ 7 ♣ A652
♠ QJ109 ♥ K9874 ♦ KQ4 ♣ 8			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Glynn</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Walsh</i>	<i>Faben</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
3♦	Splinter		
4♦	Cue-bid		

For my money 3♦ is an overbid.

South gave declarer a helping hand by leading the ♠Q and when declarer played low from dummy North's ace hit thin air. Declarer took the diamond return, cashed the ♣K, crossed to dummy's ace and ruffed a spade, North pitching a diamond. A heart to the ace allowed declarer to ruff another spade, establishing the suit. Declarer drew the outstanding trump, ruffed a diamond and claimed, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sanders</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

There is an old Russian proverb that says 'having said A, you have to say B' so West followed up his splinter bid with 4♥ and once again the slam was reached.

South led a cunning ♥9 which removed an important entry from dummy. Having won perforce with dummy's ace declarer was already at the crossroads. He made the obvious looking play of a club to the king followed by a spade, ducking when South contributed the nine. North won with the ace and returned the ♣J and when South discarded a heart declarer knew his fate, one down and a 17 IMP loss.

The winning line is not easy to find, but if declarer comes to hand with a diamond at trick two and then ducks a spade he has a chance. North wins and returns the ♣J and declarer wins in dummy, ruffs a spade, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a spade and ruffs a diamond. With the ♦J now established declarer plays the ♠K and North is helpless. If he ruffs, declarer overruffs and takes the ruffing heart finesse. If he discards, so does declarer who then plays another spade. If North ruffs that one declarer overruffs, ruffs a heart and plays another spade.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Rees</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♦6 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade for the nine, king and ace – one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Richards</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Richards</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♣J and declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade, covering South's queen with the king – no swing.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Cox</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

South led the ♦K and declarer won, drew trumps and played the ♦J, covered and ruffed. He then cashed the ♥A and claimed,+600.

♠ A			
♥ 10652			
♦ 86532			
♣ J109			
♠ K875432			♠ 6
♥ A			♥ QJ3
♦ 7			♦ AJ109
♣ A652			♣ KQ743
			♠ QJ109
			♥ K9874
			♦ KQ4
			♣ 8

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khandelwal</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Tranmer</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♥
2♠	4♥	Double	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy and played a spade for the nine, king and ace, 12 IMPs to Northern Ireland.

The BBO operator remarked that at the site of dummy on the previous deal South remarked, 'as the poet said, could be better, could be verse'.

You can replay these deals [here](https://tinyurl.com/yxb9jujp) or <https://tinyurl.com/yxb9jujp> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y6ahwkws) or <https://tinyurl.com/y6ahwkws> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y3tnpzkr) or <https://tinyurl.com/y3tnpzkr>

Round 9

The last deal of the first half was a bidding test:

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

		♠ AQJ10	
		♥ AQJ10	
		♦ J2	
		♣ A75	
♠ 943			♠ 8652
♥ 764			♥ 985
♦ 8764			♦ 1095
♣ J94			♣ K63
			♠ K7
			♥ K32
			♦ AKQ3
			♣ Q1082

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Faben</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Robson</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♦
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣

1NT 5+♣ or 4+♦, game forcing

Could they do better at the other table?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Kane</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

No.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Campbell Richards	Hall	Richards	
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Another miss.

♠ AQJ10	♥ AQJ10	♦ J2	♣ A75
♠ 943	♥ 764	♦ 8764	♣ J94
♠ 8652	♥ 985	♦ 1095	♣ K63
♠ K7	♥ K32	♦ AKQ3	♣ Q1082

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khandelwal	Hanlon	Green	Carroll
-	2NT	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

According to the convention card 4♣ was a heart slam try – which looks doubtful. Perhaps it was asking for aces!

You can replay these deals [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y4yd254k> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/yxfttsko> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y29z3fs6>

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 5	♥ AJ982	♦ Q753	♣ 1097
♠ KQ10986	♥ Q103	♦ AJ2	♣ 8
♠ AJ732	♥ 654	♦ K106	♣ A2
♠ 4	♥ K7	♦ 984	♣ KQJ6543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tranmer	Rees	Somerville	Salisbury
-	-	-	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

Having shown interest with 4♣ East might have contented himself with 4♠, leaving any further move to his partner.

North led the ♥2, so declarer was down, 'on the go'. He located the ♦Q, so -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Pottage	Somerville	Ratcliffe	Tranmer
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♣

All Pass

2♣ 9+, one round force

Opposite the inverted raise 2♥ showed a stopper but did not guarantee a four-card suit.

The fate of 6♣ rested on how declarer tackled the trump suit – he cashed the ace and then played one to the ten – one down and a loss of 14 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moran	Small	MacAonghusa	Cook
-	1♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

1♣ Strong

2♦ 8-10 balanced

2♥ was a relay, but what everything meant after that is unclear.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Richards</i>	<i>Anderson</i>	<i>Richards</i>	<i>Greenwood</i>
-	-	-	3♣
3♠	5♣	6♠	All Pass

North's raise left East guessing – and no-one guesses right every time.

North led the ♥A and continued the suit, but declarer got the diamonds wrong, so -200 and a 3 IMP swing.

♠ 5	♥ AJ982	♦ Q753	♣ 1097									
♠ KQ10986	♥ Q103	♦ AJ2	♣ 8									
<table border="1" 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		♠ AJ732 ♥ 654 ♦ K106 ♣ A2	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ 4	♥ K7	♦ 984	♣ KQJ6543									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanders</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Bell</i>
-	-	-	Pass
1♠	Pass	3NT*	4♣
4♠	All Pass		
3NT	13-15, balanced raise		

South was the only player not to open the South hand, but he was happy to come in at the four-level. North led the ♣10 and the elimination line led to ten tricks, +620.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khandelwal</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
-	-	-	2♣
2♠	Double*	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Double	All Pass

4♠ looks conservative, but if N/S held even modest values for their actions then it was very unlikely that E/W should be looking beyond game. Applying the same logic, East was not tempted to bid 5♠.

West led the ♠K and when East followed with the two he continued with the ♦A followed by the jack, three down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Kane</i>
-	-	-	3♣
3♠	5♣	All Pass	

East thought his pass was forcing – West had a different view. Three down was -150, 10 IMPs to Scotland.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Walsh</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Glynn</i>	<i>Cox</i>
-	-	-	3♣
3♠	Double*	4♣*	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Dble Willingness to sacrifice

North led the ♣10 and declarer won, ruffed a club, drew trumps and played a heart, South rising with the king and continuing with the seven, one down and 12 IMPs.

♠ A106	♥ K8	♦ AK9	♣ KQ1084									
♠ 743	♥ A104	♦ 8532	♣ 973									
<table border="1" 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		♠ 98 ♥ Q97532 ♦ 1076 ♣ A6	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ KQJ52	♥ J6	♦ QJ4	♣ J52									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tranmer</i>	<i>Rees</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
-	2NT*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
	2NT	20-21	
	3♥	Transfer	

♠ A 106		♠ 98									
♥ K8		♥ Q9753									
♦ AK9		♦ 1076									
♣ KQ 1084		♣ A6									
♠ 743	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 98
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A104		♥ Q9753									
♦ 8532		♦ 1076									
♣ 973		♣ A6									
♠ KQJ52											
♥ J6											
♦ QJ4											
♣ J52											

How do you play 4NT? If it is invitational why would North, holding a minimum (20.45 on the KR Hand Evaluator) bid on? Mind you, 4NT is not a great spot if East leads a heart.

East led the ♣6 and declarer won, drew trumps and played dummy's ♣J. East won and switched to a heart, -50.

In the other room they stopped in 4♠ for 11 IMPs.

The EBU and Ireland settled for 4♠ and 3NT, a couple of IMPs going to Ireland.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanders</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Bell</i>
-	2NT*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♠	All Pass	
	2NT	20-21	
	3♥	Transfer	
	3♠	3+♠	
	5♦	1 key card	

South's sequence showed values, but the brakes were applied just in time, +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Kane</i>
-	2NT	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

An auction we have seen before handed 11 IMPs to England.

You can replay these deals [here](https://tinyurl.com/y2r7v6bt) or <https://tinyurl.com/y6gmvs28> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y6t5wtxc) or <https://tinyurl.com/y6t5wtxc>

Round 10

When the last match got underway the EBU led with 64.98 against England's 57.88 – and remember they had a handy cushion in the form of the 7.1 VP lead they had carried forward from the first weekend.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 105		♠ K6									
♥ KJ85		♥ AQ107									
♦ A85		♦ 72									
♣ A74		♣ KJ952									
♠ A9873	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 4		♥ AQ107									
♦ KJ96		♦ 72									
♣ Q63		♣ KJ952									
		♠ J42									
		♥ 9632									
		♦ Q1043									
		♣ 108									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Greenwood</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Anderson</i>
-	-	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Double	Pass*	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
Double	All Pass		
1♣	2+♣		
1♥	Spades		
Pass	Denies 3♠		

East's decision to pass 2♦ looks odd, but South's decision to bid 2♥, knowing that E/W had no fit (not to mention his diamond holding) met a

grizzly fate.

West led the ♣3 and East won with the king and switched to the ♦7 for the ten, jack and ace. A diamond to the queen saw West take the king and return the ♠3. East won and returned a spade and West won, cashed the ♦9 and played a spade. East ruffed and exited with a club and still had three trump tricks to come, -1100.

♠ A9873 ♥ 4 ♦ KJ96 ♣ Q63	<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</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> </table>	N	W	S	E	♠ Q105 ♥ KJ85 ♦ A85 ♣ A74 ♠ K6 ♥ AQ107 ♦ 72 ♣ KJ952 ♠ J42 ♥ 9632 ♦ Q1043 ♣ 108
N						
W						
S						
E						

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Robson</i>
-	-	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

After a heart lead declarer played to ruff two hearts in dummy and got the diamonds right for eleven tricks, a mere 14 IMP loss.

Scotland picked up 7 IMPs against the EBU when Sanders and Adamson bid 3NT while Small and Cooke stopped in 3♣. Wales lost 6 IMPs, Rees and Salisbury's 2♠ being matched against Walsh & Glynn's 3NT.

You can replay these deals [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/yxw6anvb> and [here](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y3hyrde6>

At half time, the EBU trailed 16-44 while England led 55-20. If those trends continued then England would overhaul the EBU.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ Q654 ♥ 3 ♦ AQ8765 ♣ K8	<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</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> </table>	N	W	S	E	♠ K83 ♥ Q5 ♦ 1042 ♣ J10764 ♠ AJ102 ♥ AK106 ♦ J ♣ AQ32 ♠ 97 ♥ J98742 ♦ K93 ♣ 95
N						
W						
S						
E						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Tranmer</i>
-	-	2♦*	All Pass
2♦	Weak major, 5-9 or any 4441 16+		

Many years ago I recall a similar deal from a Hubert Phillips match where Forrester passed out 2♦ – in the other room they bid and made 7NT.

Here declarer made twelve tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Anderson</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Greenwood</i>	<i>Bell</i>
-	-	1♣*	Pass
1♠*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
1♣	2+♣		
1♠	May have longer minor		

After a couple of cue-bids East asked for key cards and the trump queen. Declarer took the club lead in hand, played a spade to the jack and

the diamond jack. South put up the king and it was not long before declarer had all the tricks, +1010 and 13 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kane	Taylor	Gordon	Cox
-	-	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

♠ K83	♥ Q5	♦ 1042	♣ J10764
♠ Q654	♥ 3	♦ AQ8765	♣ K8
♠ AJ102	♥ AK106	♦ J	♣ AQ32
♠ 97	♥ J98742	♦ K93	♣ 95

South led the ♦9 and declarer put up dummy's ace and played three rounds of hearts, ruffing. North overruffed and played a diamond and declarer pitched a heart, South's ♦K becoming the setting trick.

In the Closed Room South led the ♣9 against 6♠ (the bidding record is lost) and declarer won with dummy's king and played the ♠Q, covered by the king and ace. When South covered the ♦J declarer won and played to ruff two hearts, so +980 and 14 IMPs for the EBU, already a significant deal for the overall result.

Ireland and Wales split the points, both sides stopping safely in 4♠ and taking twelve tricks.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AJ93	♥ 8	♦ QJ9763	♣ 75
♠ K6	♥ Q1032	♦ K2	♣ AJ1086
♠ 8754	♥ KJ654	♦ 10	♣ Q93
♠ Q102	♥ A97	♦ A854	♣ K42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Somerville	Osborne	Tranmer
-	-	-	1♦
2♣	5♦	All Pass	

North 'stood not upon the order of his going but went at once' and West's lead of the ♣A simplified matters, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Anderson	Gold	Greenwood	Bell
-	-	-	1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Double	3♦	3♥	3♠
4♥	5♦	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		
1♦	2+♦		

With almost half his points in suits bid by his opponents West decided to enter the auction.

He led the ♥3 and declarer won with the ace, ruffed a heart, played a diamond to the ace and advanced the ♠Q. When West played the king declarer took dummy's ace, came to hand with a spade, ruffed a heart and played the ♠9. West ruffed, but was endplayed, +550.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kane	Taylor	Gordon	Cox
-	-	-	1♦
2♣	5♦	All Pass	

West led the ♥2 and when East played the jack declarer won with the ace, ruffed a heart and ran the ♦Q. West won with the king and decided to cash the ♣A – handing declarer the contract. It may look foolish, but declarer might have been 3442 or perhaps held the ♥K and not the ♣K (although the play to trick one suggests East has the king).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Small</i>	<i>Faben</i>
-	-	-	1♣*
1NT	2♦	Pass	3♦
All Pass			
	1♣	2+♣	

East led the ♣3 and the defenders took the first two tricks in the suit and West waited for a diamond, +130 but 7 IMPs for the EBU.

♠ AJ93		♠ 8754
♥ 8		♥ KJ654
♦ QJ9763		♦ 10
♣ 75		♣ Q93
♠ K6	♠ N	♠ 8754
♥ Q1032	♠ W	♥ KJ654
♦ K2	♠ E	♦ 10
♣ AJ1086	♠ S	♣ Q93
♠ Q102		
♥ A97		
♦ A854		
♣ K42		

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ QJ865		♠ K942
♥ 832		♥ A
♦ K106		♦ 8742
♣ 87		♣ J962
♠ A10	♠ N	♠ K942
♥ KQ4	♠ W	♥ A
♦ AQ3	♠ E	♦ 8742
♣ AK1043	♠ S	♣ J962
♠ 73		
♥ J109765		
♦ J95		
♣ Q5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Tranmer</i>
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
2♦	Negative or waiting		
2NT	(22)23-24 balanced		
3♣	Stayman + Smolen		

North led the ♠3 so declarer had an easy route to twelve tricks, +490.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Anderson</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Greenwood</i>	<i>Bell</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
3♣	Puppet Stayman		

The BBO operator was having a few problems with the connection at this point – I suspect West opened 2♣ and rebid 2NT. The ♠5 meant a flat board.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rees</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
-	-	-	1♣*
Pass	1♠*	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
All Pass			
1♣	11-13 balanced or any 17+		
1♠	8+, possible canapé		
1NT	11-13		
2♣	Two-way checkback		

Declarer took the diamond finesse and West returned a diamond, so +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moran</i>	<i>Richards</i>	<i>MacAonghusa</i>	<i>Richards</i>
-	-	-	1♣*
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
All Pass			
1♣	2+♣		

East led the ♠7 for the queen, king and ace and West won the next trick with the ♦K and exited with a spade – no swing.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kane	Taylor	Gordon	Cox
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
	2NT	20-22	

Liz McGowan reckoned West was worth an upgrade – and these cards are worth 23.45 on the K & R Hand Evaluator. Still, as we have seen opening 2♣ does not guarantee you will reach 6♣. The low spade lead meant +490.

♠ QJ865			
♥ 832			
♦ K106			
♣ 87			
♠ A10		♠ K942	
♥ KQ4		♥ A	
♦ AQ3		♦ 8742	
♣ AK1043		♣ J962	
♠ 73			
♥ J109765			
♦ J95			
♣ Q5			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Moran	Richards	MacAonghusa	Richards
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
3♣	Puppet Stayman		

At both table North led a low spade – no swing.

You can replay these deals [here](https://tinyurl.com/yyabu3) or <https://tinyurl.com/yyabu3> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y5o6z5my) or <https://tinyurl.com/y5o6z5my> and [here](https://tinyurl.com/y2ohw4jf) or <https://tinyurl.com/y2ohw4jf>

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Cooke	Morrison	Small	Faben
1♣*	1♠	Double*	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

1♣ Strong
Double Artificial, game forcing
5NT Pick a slam

The BBO operator mentioned something being said about Gerber through the screen. With the ♣Q falling there was nothing to the play, and the EBU added another 10 IMPs to round off a perfect weekend which had seen them win all five matches.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rees	Hanlon	Salisbury	Carroll
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♦ Multi
2♥ Pass or correct
2NT 22-23
3♣ 5-card Stayman

Here is the final cross-table:

	EBU	Eng.	N. Ire.	Wales	Scot.	Ire.	Adj	Total
EBU	-	8.93	10.00	16.79	12.05	17.21	0	141.58
	-	11.86	15.10	19.04	14.09	17.51	-1	
	-	20.79	25.10	35.83	26.14	34.72	-1	
England	11.07	-	16.12	7.05	8.14	15.50	0	126.41
	8.14	-	15.88	16.46	14.09	14.96	-1	
	19.21	-	32.00	23.51	22.23	30.46	-1	
N. Ireland	10.00	3.88	-	12.95	11.67	12.05	-0.5	109.65
	4.90	4.12	-	14.96	18.61	17.01	0	
	14.90	8.00	-	27.91	30.28	29.06	-0.5	
Wales	3.21	12.95	7.05	-	15.10	16.24	0	85.21
	0.96	3.54	5.04	-	3.43	17.69	0	
	4.17	16.49	12.09	-	18.53	33.93	0	
Scotland	10.00	11.86	8.33	4.90	-	8.33	0	77.96
	5.91	5.91	1.39	16.57	-	4.76	0	
	15.91	17.77	9.72	21.47	-	13.09	0	
Ireland	2.79	4.50	7.95	3.76	11.67	-	0	58.24
	2.49	5.04	2.99	2.31	15.24	-	0	
	5.28	9.54	10.94	6.07	26.91	-	0.5	

GOTO Bridge 19

The must-have bridge software for more than 20 years. Lessons, practice and competition directly at home.

Lessons and exercises

GOTO Bridge 19 bidding and card play lessons and exercises are an excellent source of learning and progress.

Easy deals

Ideal to take up bridge or have fun, it is the perfect game mode to practise without any constraints.

Bidding practice

GOTO Bridge 19 allows you to practise the auction of your choice.

Card play practice

The software makes bids on your behalf for the contract you want to play.

Play bridge offline

Take the new GOTO Bridge 19 software everywhere with you and play whenever you want!

On the plane, the train, the underground... You can play anywhere without an Internet connection.

GOTO Bridge lessons and exercises are made for you! Written by bridge professionals, they will help you learn the basics of bridge in all game areas (bidding and card play). Then you will be able to apply what you have learned with exercises.

Evaluate your level, strengths and weaknesses thanks to the various practice exercises offered by GOTO Bridge. Select the game area of your choice (bidding or card play, attack or defence) and make progress thanks to the corrections suggested by the software.

Pit yourself against the best players in the “Tournaments” mode! At the end of each deal, you will be compared to them on the same deals and in the same conditions.

The game mode “Challenge the best international players” will even give you the opportunity to compare yourself to world champions.

The deal manager is made for you. This tool can be used as teaching material for your bridge lessons since it allows you to prepare and import your own deals, save them and sort them as you see fit. Besides, thanks to the printing module included, you can print your deals, bidding boards, tricks and commentary.

Developed by bridge experts

Among them is Jérôme Rombaut, 2017 Vice World Bridge Champion.

The team is not new to this game. They are also behind the Funbridge app with a community of 400,000 players worldwide

Corrections to your bidding

GOTO Bridge 19 suggests corrections to your bidding and explains why.

Corrections to your card play

The app tells you which card you should play to take as many tricks as possible on the deal.

Tips given by the computer

Ask the computer for advice and it will tell you what it would play if it were in your shoes.

Play all hands

Play all players’ hands at the table.

“Show cards” feature

GOTO Bridge 19 shows you the cards held by the other players sitting at the table.

Reverse, forward and replay buttons

Navigate through the deal as you want and replay tricks.

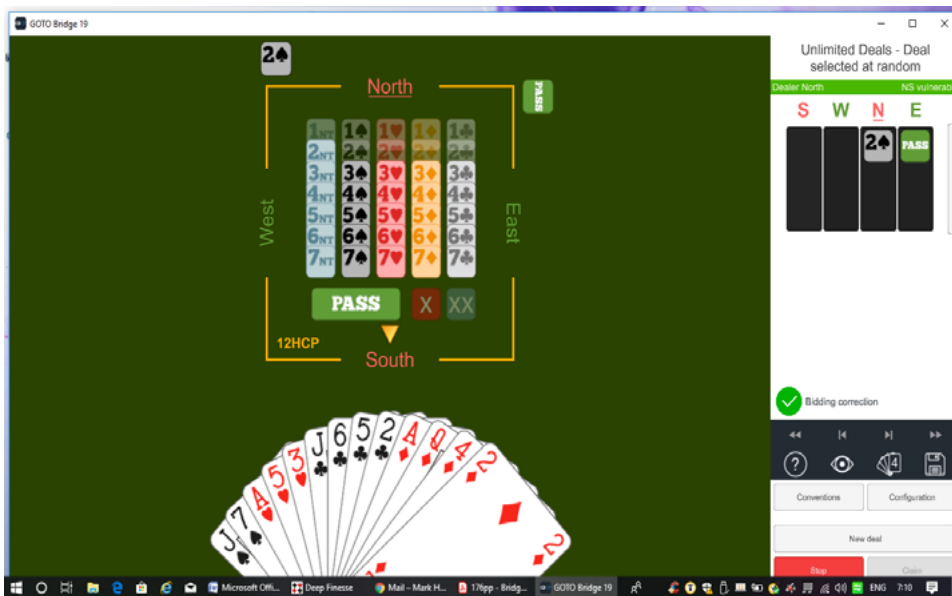
GOTO Bridge is seen as the reference among bridge software in France. Thanks to its numerous game modes and features, it allows players of all ages and levels to have endless fun.

Playing bridge has never been easier

Feel the atmosphere of a game of bridge wherever you are (at home, in public transport, travelling abroad...)

thanks to GOTO Bridge numerous assets and features.

- Unlimited deals.
- Immediate comparison on all deals played.
- Tips and help given by the computer.
- Analysis of your bidding and card play at the end of each deal.
- Par score and contracts most often played on the deal.
- Bidding and card play lessons with exercises.
- Practise bidding and card play in the sequence and contract of your choice.



- Assessment of your bidding and card play on thousands of deals and for 10 game levels.
- Undo: you can cancel your last action if you made a mistake.
- Claim: as at a real table, claim the tricks you are certain you can take without being obliged to play the deal until the end.
- History: GOTO Bridge manages the history of the deals you play. Therefore you will always be able to search for a deal that you particularly liked.
- Force a bid or the lead, play the hands of your choice: with GOTO Bridge, you are completely free at the table. You can view and play all hands, replay a card and force the lead. In a nutshell, you do what you want.
- Save a deal and play it again later.

Unlimited deals

- The ideal game mode for a quick game.

“Unlimited deals” game mode

- This game mode allows you to play an unlimited number of deals, one after the other.

At the end of the deal, you are compared to the software which has played the same deal as you in the same conditions.

You have access to its auction and card play to be able to analyse your deals in minute detail.

- Lessons and exercises
- Enrich your knowledge thanks to GOTO Bridge lessons.

“Lessons and exercises” game mode

GOTO Bridge lessons and exercises are an excellent source of learning and progress.

In this game mode, you will take lessons on:

- Bidding: 19 topics (major two-suiters after 1NT, natural responses after an overcall, etc. with corrected exercises).
- Card play: 17 topics (defence in a trump contract, squeeze*, etc.

with corrected exercises).

*This lesson is based on the book entitled “Le Squeeze au bridge” (“The squeeze in bridge”) by Romanet, available at lebridgeur.com.

- Practice
- Improve your skills in different game areas.

“Practice” game mode

This game mode allows you to practice the different areas of the game. It includes the following features:

- The “correction” mode behind the success of the previous versions of GOTO Bridge. Its principle is simple. During card play, GOTO Bridge will show you the best card to play to take the highest number of tricks on the deal. During the bidding phase, it will correct your bidding cards and will explain your mistakes to you. At the end of the deal, you will have the possibility to replay your deal from the moment when you made a mistake.

- Easy deals to take up bridge or have fun: excellent practice without any constraints.
- Card play practice: GOTO Bridge makes bids on your behalf in the type of contract that you want to play.
- Bidding practice in the auction of your choice.
- Random deals requiring special attention as when playing in a club.
- Save your deals while playing tournaments and replay them.

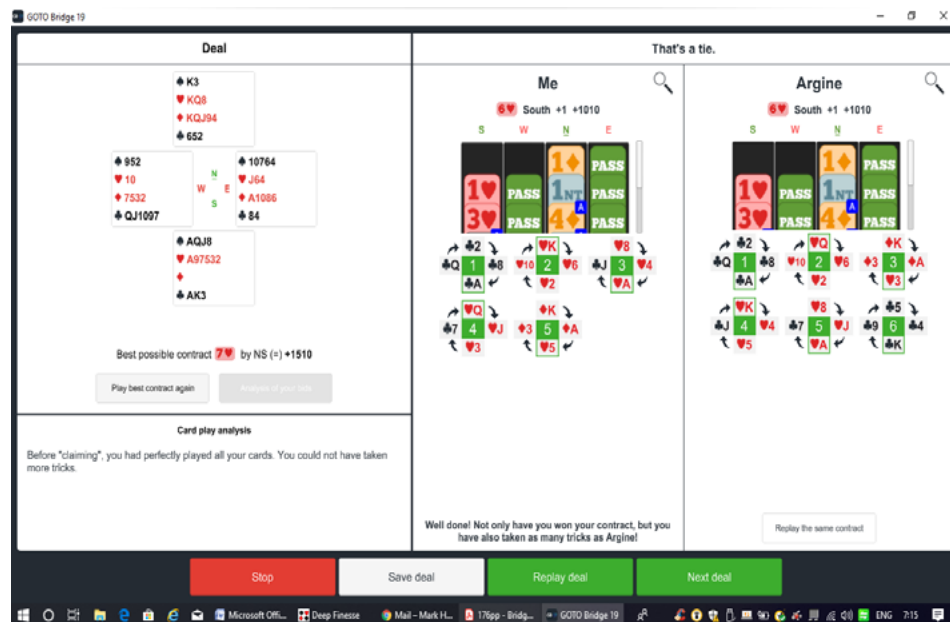
Tournaments

- Compare yourself to other players and challenge champions.

“Tournaments” game mode

This game mode allows you to compare yourself to other players and to be ranked among the best ones: this is the competition part of GOTO Bridge.

- Assessment of the way you play on thousands of deals and for 10 game levels
- Statistics per game area (bidding, card play, attack or defence)



- Head-to-head comparison with the best international and Funbridge players
- Card play tournaments: you are compared (card play only) to other players who have played the same contract
- Challenge “Argine”: pit yourself against the latest version of GOTO Bridge game engine (i.e. the artificial intelligence playing with you) in a 5-deal tournament in IMP scoring. Win 10 tournaments in a row and get a 1-year subscription to the online bridge game Funbridge!

Set your own conventions

Select your bidding system in “Settings” among the SAYC (Standard American Yellow Card), the English ACOL system, the French 5-card major system, the Polish system, the Nordic system, the NBB Standard system and the 2/1 system. A free profile also allows you to set your own conventions.

Bidding systems and conventions

GOTO Bridge allows you to play several bidding systems:

- SAYC system.

- English ACOL system.
- French 5-card major system.
- Polish system.
- Nordic system.
- NBB Standard system.
- 2/1 system.
- Forum D system.

Several profiles are available for each system: beginner, intermediate, competition and strong 2.

You also have the possibility to create a free profile with your own conventions to play GOTO Bridge as you wish.

But since a picture is worth a thousand words, the opposite screen shot should speak for itself.

Deal manager

Sort, prepare, view and print your deals thanks to the brand-new deal manager.

“Deal manager” game mode

Useful resource for your bridge lessons. Thanks to this tool, you can:

- Prepare your deals as you want: set distribution, vulnerability, dealer, bidding sequence and lead.
- Import your deals, edit them and play them from any hand.
- Sort, view and save the deals you have created or imported.
- Print your deals thanks to the customised printing module: print all or part of the deal (i.e. bidding, card play or players' hands) and add your own commentary.

New « Goulash » game mode

Challenge GOTO Bridge 19 artificial intelligence “Argine” on deals with freak distributions (also called “Goulash deals”)!

Goulash mode

It consists of a challenge against Argine on 8 deals.

What makes it special is that some deals are “Goulash”, i.e. with freak distributions.

You play the first deal as usual:

- If the contract bid is at least a game, a slam or if it is doubled or redoubled, you play the deal.
- If the contract is a part-score or the deal is passed out, the pair who has bid the contract gets the score that goes with it.

If the contract is a part-score, on the next deal, each player sorts his 13 cards by suits. All four hands are stacked back in the deck which is cut once. Cards are then dealt in groups of 5-3-5 for instance instead of one at a time as usual. It allows to create deals where the suits are more unevenly distributed between the players. On this deal, you follow the same rules as above and so on.

Once the 8 deals are played, the winner is the one who has scored the highest number of points: Argine (E/O) or the player in South. So this is not duplicate.

15,000 new deals

- 5,000 new easy deals for practice
- Challenge Argine on 5,000 new deals
- 2,000 new deals in series tournaments
- Challenge elites on 2,00 new deals
- 1,000 new deals in card play tournaments
- Latest version of the game engine Argine
- Accurately mimicking human behaviour

Same robot as in the Funbridge app

- Win a 10-year subscription to Funbridge
- All you have to do is challenge Argine



Misplay These Hands With Me

The Mirage

Multiple teams events have become almost extinct but clinging to tradition my club still stages one once a month.

Against one of the less fancied teams I pick up:

- ♠ J98
- ♥ AK1096
- ♦ 107
- ♣ AJ10

With neither side vulnerable I open 1♥ and partner bids 2NT, which we play as a game forcing raise with four card support. I consider jumping to game, but influenced by my good trump holding and the club control I mark time by bidding 3♥. When partner raises to 4♥ we are left with this straightforward sequence:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

When West leads the three of clubs, I see that dummy has nothing to spare:

- ♠ AK107
- ♥ Q874
- ♦ K64
- ♣ 87

- ♠ J98
- ♥ AK1096
- ♦ 107
- ♣ AJ10

East plays the queen and I win with the ace and lay down the ace of hearts. When both defenders follow, I cross to dummy with a trump. When the suit divides, I cash the ace of spades, come to hand with a trump and

run the jack of spades. East wins with the queen and returns a club to West's king. When a diamond is returned, I go up with the king but East wins with the ace and cashes the queen so I am one down.

This was the full deal:

♠ AK107											
♥ Q874											
♦ K64											
♣ 87											
♠ 432	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 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		♠ Q65
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J5		♥ 32									
♦ J952		♦ AQ83									
♣ K943		♣ Q652									
		♠ J98									
		♥ AK1096									
		♦ 107									
		♣ AJ10									

Post mortem

As is frequently the case declarer's mistake came at trick one. Unless the trumps are 4-0 the only danger to the contract is that West might gain the lead and make a damaging switch to a diamond. To prevent that declarer simply ducks the queen of clubs. After winning the next club declarer draws trumps and takes the spade finesse. A losing diamond will go on the fourth spade and a club ruff in dummy will be the tenth trick.

Declarer was blinded by the presence of the ♣J10 – had they been small cards it would have been obvious to duck.

At the other table West eschewed the dangerous lead from the king of clubs and started with the two of diamonds. East won with the queen and switched to a club. When West won with the king he had the wit to return the jack of diamonds and declarer was without resource.

Lucky Escape

In an early round of the Gold Cup against less than formidable opposition, I pick up the following cards:

♠ K1098632
♥ Q83
♦ 6
♣ A2

Only our side is vulnerable and when my partner opens 1♥ East comes in with 2NT promising the minors. I bid 3♠ and when West bids 4♣ partner asks for key cards. East is still there with 5♣ but I bid 5♠ to show two key cards and the queen of spades, trusting that a seven card suit will be sufficient compensation. Partner carries on to 6♠ and everyone passes leaving us with this auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	2NT*	3♠
4♣	4NT*	5♣	5♥*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

West leads the jack of clubs and when dummy appears I see there is a problem.

♠ AQ74
♥ A97542
♦ K2
♣ 9

♠ K1098632
♥ Q83
♦ 6
♣ A2

My partner is not normally associated with the wearing of rose tinted spectacles, but his optimistic use of Blackwood has landed us in an apparently hopeless contract.

Even if the king of hearts is singleton I must lose a heart and a diamond and I am about to concede when I spot a hidden possibility. I win with the ace of clubs, cross to dummy with a trump (East discarding the three of clubs) and play the two of diamonds. If East's diamonds are not headed by the AQ and he is of a nervous disposition he might go up with

the ace. Then I will be able to pitch a heart on a diamond and get home if the ♥K is singleton.

East gives the diamond a long look and eventually takes the ace. When the king of hearts subsequently falls under the ace I am home.

This was the full deal:

♠ AQ74		♠ —
♥ A97542		♥ J106
♦ K2		♦ AJ1074
♣ 9		♣ KQ743
	♠ —	
♠ J5		♥ K
♥ K		♦ Q9853
♦ Q9853		♣ J10865
♣ J10865		
	♠ K1098632	
	♥ Q83	
	♦ 6	
	♣ A2	

Post mortem

They also reached 6♠ in the other room. Declarer won the club lead, ruffed a club and ran his trumps to reach this ending:

♠ —		♠ —
♥ A97		♥ J106
♦ K2		♦ AJ
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ —	
♠ —		♥ K
♥ K		♦ Q98
♦ Q98		♣ 10
♣ 10		
	♠ 6	
	♥ Q83	
	♦ 6	
	♣ —	

When the last trump was played, a heart went from dummy and East was caught. When he threw a diamond, declarer ducked a diamond and the king was his twelfth trick.

Unlike my line, which relied on luck, this required no more than that East hold the ♦A and that the ♥K was singleton. I should have thought of that.



Currently the hottest ticket around is one that will gain you entry to a showing of *Aces & Knaves*, a documentary that takes you into the world of bridge. It focuses on world-class players, scandals and the fierceness of competition.

The popular misconception that bridge is strictly for the older generation is debunked as it is revealed that bridge is a battle for supremacy between a microcosm of the millions who play every day, encapsulating inventors, lawyers, musicians, scientists, Wall Street Wizards and students.

In part, the film reveals the story of the individuals who worked tirelessly to expose the dishonest play by two world-class pairs that put bridge into the headlines all around the world.

Aces & Knaves combines vintage stills and old movie footage with coverage of international tournaments. An original score by Bessie winner and STOMP veteran Nicholas Van Young and striking animation and graphics by Lucien Harriot compliment the look, the sound, and the beautiful imagery woven throughout the film.

Following a recent showing at the ACBL Nationals in Memphis, the film is an official selection at the 2019 Boston International Film Festival.

Aces & Knaves is a must see for every bridge player, but it will also be enjoyed by those who have never held a hand or cards. Bridge is a mirror to the human spirit – at its best and worst. Like life, it's about the cards you're dealt and how to make the best of them.

“A gem! Humorous, frank, and personal. A story that even non-bridge players will find entertaining and completely accessible.” ACBL Bulletin

Aces & Knaves premiered at the Boston International Film Festival.


Deals that Caught My Eye

David Bird follows Zia and Dennis Bilde at the 2019 Acol Club International Pairs.

Since this series is generally billed as an inspection of ‘big swings’, it is perhaps no surprise that we have had to wait until the 30th such article before I look at a match-point event. Well, it will be a fairly random collection of deals that caught my eye. Bridge Base Online knows who kibitzers like to watch and they covered the table occupied by Zia and Dennis Bilde throughout the two days of the event. So be it. No complaints from me.

Twenty-nine pairs began the five-round qualifying phase on the Saturday. We will start with a deal where our featured pair was caught speeding:

QR 2, Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ KQJ4 ♥ Q ♦ Q987 ♣ K1054		♠ 63 ♥ K54 ♦ 52 ♣ Q87632	♠ A52 ♥ J82 ♦ AK106 ♣ AJ9
		♠ 10987 ♥ A109763 ♦ J43 ♣ —	

West	North	East	South
<i>Castner</i>	<i>D. Bilde</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Zia</i>
1♦	Pass	2♦	2♥
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

Gold’s 2♦ was natural and game-forcing. The BBO VuGraph operator, Stefan Skorchev, was able to give us some table-talk:

Zia: “So the double is penalty?”


Gold: “Well... he said he doesn’t want to bid, so...”

Castner proceeded to find the best lead – the queen of trumps. Zia won with dummy’s king and played a spade to the 9 and jack. A diamond switch to Gold’s king, allowed him to return the ♥8. Zia finessed the ♥10 successfully and persevered with the ♠10 to the queen. Castner crossed again in diamonds and Gold removed dummy’s last trump. After this neat defence, E/W collected 800. How many match-points this would produce would depend on whether any E/W pairs could bid and make a slam.

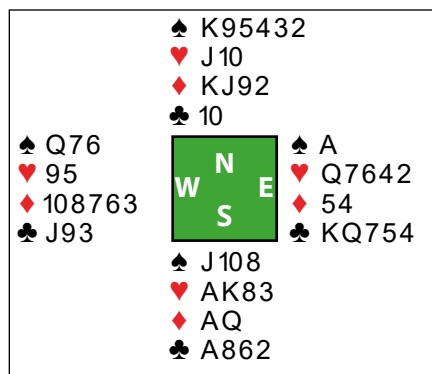
What happened at the other tables? Five E/W pairs failed in a slam, with two of them Lightner-doubled for a club lead. Five E/W pairs made game in diamonds, spades or no-trumps. One pair was defeated in 3NT. Meanwhile, Clow and Cornfeld bid and made 6NT on the West cards after a diamond lead! They picked up 100%, just ahead of Castner and Gold who netted 92% for their 800.

Zia and Bilde scored well by bidding a slam on this deal:

QR 3, Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K95432 ♥ J10 ♦ KJ92 ♣ 10		♠ A ♥ Q7642 ♦ 54 ♣ KQ754	♠ Q76 ♥ 95 ♦ 108763 ♣ J93
			♠ J108 ♥ AK83 ♦ AQ ♣ A862

West	North	East	South
<i>S. Law</i>	<i>D. Bilde</i>	<i>R. Law</i>	<i>Zia</i>
-	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Double	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

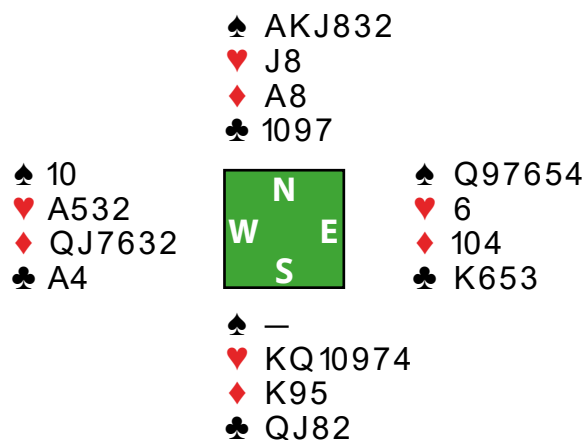


Bilde's 2♠ was announced as a 'Good weak-two'. Presumably a multi 2♦ would be used on a truly miserable hand. The 3♦ rebid was not marked as artificial, so East's double was for take-out. Zia then bid boldly to 6♠. He knew that his side was missing one key-card and the trump queen. If North's trumps were ♠A9xxxx, though, the odds would be OK.

There was nothing to the play. Bilde won the ♣K lead with dummy's ace and ran the ♠J to the ace. He ruffed the club continuation and crossed to a heart to pick up the trumps. Perhaps surprisingly, the reward for +1430 was a full 100%. Eleven pairs made +680, one +650 and one picked up 0% for just +600 in 3NT.

Next we will see a deal where Zia managed to deflect the defenders from beating his contract.

QR 5, Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Stock</i>	<i>D. Bilde</i>	<i>Silverstone</i>	<i>Zia</i>
-	-	2♦	2♥
2♠	Double	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

An almighty mess in the auction, as you see. West's 2♠ bid is hard to understand. Some table-talk was reported by the VuGraph operator:

Dennis laughing, as he puts down the dummy.

Zia: "Did he open with five spades?"

Dennis: "We should play the Italian way, now you double for take-out."

I hope that clarifies the bidding for you. Let's move tactfully to the play. West led the ♠10, Zia winning with dummy's ace and ditching a diamond. The ♥8 was allowed to win the next trick. When the ♥J was led, East discarded the ♣3, presumably reverse-attitude to ask for that suit. West won with the ♥A and played ace and another club. Did a club ruff then put the game one down? No, Silverstone switched back to spades. Zia could then ruff high, draw trumps and claim the contract.

How did Zia influence events in his favour? On the first two rounds of clubs he followed with the jack and queen. In retrospect, East might think that he should have seen through this deception. Firstly, it was unlikely that a second spade would promote a trump trick for West after the ♥8 had been run successfully at trick two. It was also unlikely that West would have led the ♣4 on the second round from ♣A842, particularly if he did want a spade return from partner. Let's admit that Zia seems to have the ability to mesmerize opponents, even of a very high calibre.

What happened at the other tables? Six N/S pairs made 3NT, five with an overtrick. Two pairs made 4♥, with three going down and one two down in 5♥. Hallberg and Hoftaniska failed to trouble the scorers in an ambitious 6NT doubled.

The qualifying rounds drew to a close with these pairs heading the table:

1st Jeremy Dhondy & Ian Pagan	62.44%
2nd Dennis Bilde & Zia Mahmood	60.56%
3rd Kevin Castner & David Gold	58.74%

The top 18 pairs would now advance to Final 'A'.

On this board from the final, Zia and Bilde picked up a top score with splendidly bold bidding and a fine defence:

Final, Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ K976 ♥ K1097 ♦ AKQ3 ♣ 8	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 104 ♥ AQJ ♦ 9762 ♣ 10975	♠ Q52 ♥ 854 ♦ J1084 ♣ K32
	♠ AJ83 ♥ 632 ♦ 5 ♣ AQJ64		

West	North	East	South
<i>Igoe</i>	<i>D. Bilde</i>	<i>Johnson</i>	<i>Zia</i>
-	-	Pass	1♣
Double	2♣	Pass	3♣
Double	Redouble	3♦	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Zia pushes up the bidding on the strength of his extra length in clubs. Bilde then produces a Tiger Redouble followed by a Tiger Double. Wonderful! What would you lead from the South hand?

Zia found the best lead, the singleton trump. Declarer won with dummy's ace and led a club to the king and ace. The best continuation now, as the cards lie, is a heart. Zia preferred the ♣6 and declarer ruffed with dummy's ♦3. That immaculate performer, Deep Finesse, would have reduced the potential penalty from 500 to 300 by ruffing with the ♦K or ♦Q. Not a play that I would have found, I don't mind admitting.

Declarer played the queen of trumps, Zia throwing the ♥6, and continued with a spade to the queen and ace. Now Zia did find a heart switch, Bilde winning with the jack. The ♠10 was allowed to win, a mistake by declarer, and North then played a third round of trumps to dummy's queen. Bilde ruffed the ♠K and scored a trick with the ♣9. Declarer ruffed the ♣10 and had to surrender the last two tricks to North's ♥AQ. It was four down – a magnificent +800 plucked from the air and a well-deserved 100% score for N/S.

If you want further evidence of Zia's ability to mesmerize opponents, take a look at this board from the final. How else can it be explained?

Final, Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A76 ♥ 96 ♦ 108 ♣ AK9632	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q98 ♥ 103 ♦ A93 ♣ Q10874	♠ K3 ♥ KQ72 ♦ KQJ752 ♣ 5
	♠ J10542 ♥ AJ854 ♦ 64 ♣ J		

West	North	East	South
-	<i>D. Bilde</i>		<i>Zia</i>
-	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

East did well to bid 3NT and Bilde ventured a double. If this was just because he held 8 points opposite a one-level overcall, it would be a beginners' mistake. Here it was a possibly worthwhile gamble because he had a stack of clubs over West's long suit. How would you expect declarer to fare when the ♠4 is led?

Is it not clear to win with dummy's ♠A and clear the diamonds? The ♠K will then serve as an entry to the East hand and declarer will score five diamonds and two AK combinations for +750. That would leave Zia and Bilde with a puny 8% match-point score. A mesmeric wave passed over the table... 'Small, please,' said the declarer.

It was no longer possible to make the contract. Declarer won with the ♠K and played on diamonds. Bilde won the third round and cleared the spades. It was +200 for N/S and 100% of the match-points. Amazing. Martin Hoffman had a similar hypnotic power at his disposal, as I

remember from personal experience.

We will end with a 3NT deal that was well read by Dennis Bilde:

Final, Board 42. Dealer West N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 842 ♥ 10863 ♦ 2 ♣ K9642</p>	<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	<p>♠ AQ103 ♥ AK7 ♦ Q1083 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ J975 ♥ J42 ♦ J965 ♣ AQ</p> <p>♠ K6 ♥ Q95 ♦ AK74 ♣ J853</p>
N					
W E					
S					

West	North	East	South
<i>Shashou</i>	<i>D. Bilde</i>	<i>Sandkvist</i>	<i>Zia</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Sandkvist did well initially, avoiding the spade lead. Bilde won the ♥2 lead with dummy's queen and played a club to the 10 and queen. The heart position was unclear to East and he did not concede ground by switching to a spade. Declarer won with the ♠10 and played dummy's two top diamonds, discovering the 4-1 break. He had ten tricks but wanted more.

Bilde crossed to the king of spades and cashed his remaining tricks in the major suits, stripping East down to ♦J ♣A. A club to the bare ace then forced East to lead into declarer's ♦Q10 and that was 11 tricks for an 87.5% score. Only two other declarers, Andrew McIntosh and Andrew Kay matched this score. The rest of the field scored 31.25% for +630.

At the end of this splendid event, the leader board was headed by these pairs:

1st Gunnar Hallberg and Thor Erik Hoftaniska	61.47%
2nd Dennis Bilde and Zia Mahmood	59.74%
3rd Rob Cliff and Alan Mayo	58.74%

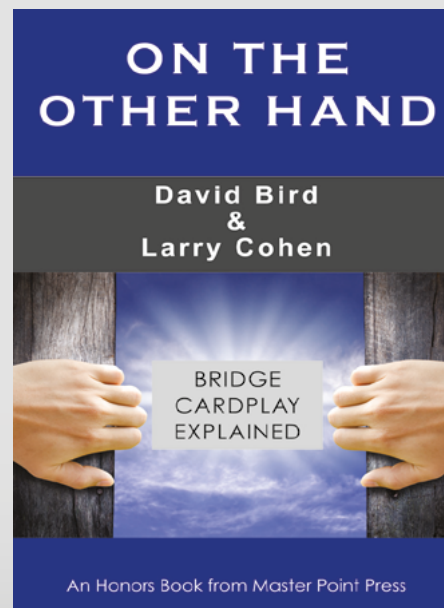
MASTER POINT PRESS

THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

ON THE OTHER HAND

BRIDGE CARDPLAY EXPLAINED

DAVID BIRD AND LARRY COHEN



A New Way to Learn Bridge Cardplay

In this unusual book, David Bird and Larry Cohen join forces to present cardplay instruction in a new way. 100 pairs of deals are shown — one described by David and the other by Larry. The deals look similar (in some cases very similar) but an entirely different line of play is necessary to make each of the contracts. Only by clearly understanding the techniques involved will you be able to tackle such deals when you encounter them at the table.

AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE RETAILER NEAR YOU



Bridge Educational Software

www.bid72.com

Your Bid Please

The World's Smallest Bidding Panel offered by **bid72**

This month's bidding problem is from the Open Pairs of the brilliant 5th Merit Bridge Festival at Northern Cyprus. You are South with:

♠74 ♥Q108 ♦854 ♣AJ1082

Dealer West. None Vul.

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	You
1♦	1♥	Double*	?
Double 4 or 5 ♠			

Your bid please.

The Panel

Marshall Lewis (US-born lives in Zagreb since 2011 and represented Croatia internationally in the Open, Senior, and Mixed categories, also serving as Coach/NPC)

2♣. My general strategy here is to prioritize lead direction, which takes precedence over "support with support" when: (a) the foe have spades and are likely fitted there; AND (b) we lack enough strength to believe it rates to be our hand. If we have methods that would allow me to pursue both objectives – e.g. transfers over doubles and/or Fit-Showing Jumps – all the better. (Owing a trump for a FSJ is very unlikely to matter at the practical level when they have spades, especially if we are vul.) Thus 2♣ in a vanilla context, otherwise Transfer or maybe FSJ.

David Bakhshi (multiple Gold Cup winner and winner of several North American Bridge Championships events such as the Vanderbilt)

2♣. Playing matchpoints I would be keen to direct partner to a club lead, but would also like to show a heart fit, so my answer depends a little on my agreements. If we play fit jumps then I would make a mild overbid of 3♣, but without this agreement then I would bid 2♣ (or 1NT if we play transfers here).

Playing IMPs I would just make a constructive raise to 2♥ and be prepared to balance with 3♣ if I am given the opportunity.

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

3♣. This was the bid I made at the table: meant as an invitational heart raise with clubs. Not that it mattered, as they still reached game (3NT). Declarer misplayed. He went three down on the lead of the ♥8 where he could have made it. On another table Zia bid 3♦ instead, meant as a mixed raised. In hindsight I think that is the correct bid.

Tim Verbeek (European and Junior World Champion)

2♣. But nothing wrong with 2♥ either.

Simon de Wijs (European Champion and Bermuda Bowl Winner)

2♥. I could bid 3♣, fitbid, which shows 9 cards to be precise. Or I could transfer into clubs, intending to bid hearts later, but I resist temptation and bid a very normal 2♥.

Mark Horton (Editor A New Bridge Magazine and a prolific author)

2♣. With a fit for hearts you are certainly worth a bid. I was brought up on raising partner with three or four card support, and with good raises you can cue-bid the opponent's suit. However, with this hand I am going to step out of line and bid 2♣. Part of the reason for this is that it may help partner with the lead when the opponents bid spades. It would be nice if bidding 2♣ implied a fit for hearts (making it a fit-non-jump as suggested by Robson & Segal in *Partnership Bidding in Bridge*) but that is a partnership matter.

Offer for all readers of A New Bridge Magazine

Make use of our special offer and download **bid72** [HERE](#).





Keep Bridge Alive

UNIVERSITY of STIRLING 

Keep Bridge Alive

The Sociology of Bridge is a research project and an emerging academic field exploring interactions within the mind sport, well-being, healthy ageing and social connection as experienced in the bridge world.



Professor Samantha Punch,
UK Bridge Player

How you can help

We need players, bridge clubs and organisations and other supporters to join us in the Keep Bridge Alive campaign so we can publicise and promote bridge more widely. We would also be delighted to hear from you if you have research ideas, expertise or even time to support the campaign.

Please contact us at alumni@stir.ac.uk

“I totally support the Keep Bridge Alive Campaign which hopefully will become a global campaign by generating momentum to get people together to tackle the sustainability issues that the game faces.”

Zia Mahmood,
International Bridge Player

“I welcome the Keep Bridge Alive initiative to reach out to young people - indeed everybody - informing them of all the reasons why they have to play bridge. Any research to confirm to all my students what they feel already - that bridge is a life-enhancing activity for so many reasons - is very welcome.”

Andrew Robson,
English Bridge Player

For more information, search: 'Keep Bridge Alive Crowdfund'

 @soc_of_bridge

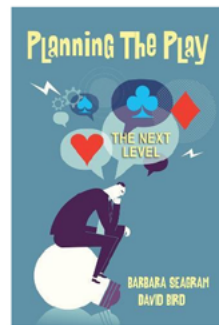
BE THE DIFFERENCE



BRIDGE SHOP.com

London Bridge Centre

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



Visit our central London Store:
Chess & Bridge Shop
44 Baker Street, London, W1U 7RT
www.bridgeshop.com
0207 486 7015 | info@bridgeshop.com



Highlights and New Features

Funbridge News – May

Pop-Up Window With Bidding Tips: Understanding Bids Has Never Been Easier

The Funbridge Team has recently redesigned the pop-up window with bidding tips displayed at the table. It will prove very useful to make sure your partner and you are on the same wavelength. Let's have a closer look!

POP-UP WINDOW WITH BIDDING TIPS: WHAT IS IT?

The most complicated phase to learn for a player is the bidding.

Indeed, it is essential that your partner and you have a perfect understanding of the bids made by each other. Otherwise you will have trouble finding which contract to make.

On Funbridge, everything is done to help you! You don't need to know bidding systems by heart to play your first game of bridge.

The very first version of Funbridge on computers already included what we call the 'pop-up window with bidding tips'. The aim is simple: **it gives the meaning of each bid made at the table**, whether we are talking about the bid you intend to make, the one your partner has just played or the one your opponents have just made.

The window helps you choose the right bid based on your hand...

Funbridge News – May

- ♠ At least 5 cards
- ♥ At most 6 cards
- ♦ At most 8 cards
- ♣ At most 8 cards

You must have a hand of **12-23 points**.

If it meets these requirements, then you can confirm the bid.

... and also gives you an idea of what the hand held by the player who made the last bid looks like.

You bid **1S** and your partner responded with the **2S** bid. What does it mean?

Your partner has **6-10 points** and the cards below:

- ♠ 3-5 cards
- ♥ At most 6 cards
- ♦ At most 6 cards
- ♣ At most 6 cards

The window shows that your partner and you have a spade fit (8 cards).

All you have to do is continue using the information given by the pop-up window with bidding tips to determine the best contract to make on the deal.

Funbridge News – May

WHICH **BIDDING SYSTEMS** ARE INCLUDED?

The pop-up window with bidding tips works with all the bidding systems available and customisable on Funbridge:

- SAYC
- 5-card major
- ACOL
- Polish Club
- Nordisk Standard
- NBB Standaard Hoog
- 2/1
- Forum D

Each system has 3 levels: beginner, intermediate and competition. Only the French 5-card major system and the British ACOL system also offer the 'Strong 2' level.

According to the level selected, you won't play the same bidding conventions.

You can also opt for the free profile and select your own conventions. But this profile is aimed at advanced players.

To edit your bidding system and conventions on Funbridge, go to [Menu > Settings > Bidding conventions](#).

Funbridge News – May

HOW TO **ENABLE AND DISABLE** THE POP-UP WINDOW WITH BIDDING TIPS?

The window is **enabled by default** on Funbridge.

To disable it, go to [Menu > Settings > Game table, display and ergonomics](#) and uncheck [Display pop-up window with bidding tips](#).

LET'S GO FURTHER WITH THE **BID DECODER!**

The bid decoder is an interactive tool derived from the pop-up window with bidding tips. You can enter **a bidding sequence and get the meaning of each bid** instantly on our website.

[Find out more about the bid decoder](#)



SWEDISH BRIDGE FESTIVAL

CONVENTUM ARENA | ÖREBRO | SWEDEN
JULY 26th - AUGUST 4th 2019

SIMPLY WORLD CLASS



BE PART OF A NEW RECORD!

We scored a new record in 2018 when we had 486 pairs in a one session pair tournament. We are aiming to break this record in 2019 and are hoping for a magic 500+ pairs.

HOW TO GET TO ÖREBRO?

By plane: Örebro has a small airport but not many flights. However, the most convenient and least expensive way would be to fly to Gothenburg or Stockholm, then take the train (see below).

By train: Trains from all major cities in Sweden go to Örebro. The venue is just 200 meters from the Örebro Södra train station. Tickets at www.sj.se.

By car: 200 km from Stockholm (E18 towards Oslo). 280 km from Gothenburg (E20 towards Stockholm). 500 km from Malmö (E4/E6) towards Stockholm, then road 50 towards Örebro).

How to get to the Bridge Festival venue: Conventum Arena (Fabriksgratan 28) is situated in the middle of the city, just 200 meters from the Örebro Södra train station, and straight across the street from Scandic Grand Hotel.

ENTRY FEES & PRIZES

The entry fees for our tournaments are as follows:

Bronze tournaments	1 ticket
Silver Tournaments	2 tickets
Gold Mine Pairs	3 tickets

Tickets may be pre-bought at our hospitality desk for 100 SEK/ticket (more or less 10€).

40% of the entry fees are going back as cash prizes in all tournaments.

Chairmans Cup entry fee 2800 SEK/team, if pre-paid 2400. Fixed prizes with 50 000 SEK to the winning team. 2nd to 6th get 25 000, 15000, 10 000, 7500 and 7500.

Masterpoints in all tournaments in three categories: bronze, silver and goldpoints.

ACCOMODATION?

Örebro offers many hotels and different kinds of accommodation. We are happy to have five of the hotels as partners.

City Hotel	+46 19-601 42 00
www.cityhotellorebro.se/	
Clarion Hotel	+46 19-670 67 00
www.nordicchoicehotels.se/hotell/sverige/orebro/clarion-hotel-orebro/	
Elite Stora Hotellet	+46 19-15 69 00
www.elite.se/sv/hotell/orebro/stora-hotellet/	
Scandic Grand	+46 19-767 44 00
www.scandichotels.se/hotell/sverige/orebro/scandic-orebro-vast	
Scandic Väst	+46 19-767 43 00
www.scandichotels.se/hotell/sverige/orebro/scandic-grand-orebro	

HOW TO REGISTER?

You need to pre-register your team to be able to play the Chairman's Cup. Your registration has to be submitted latest Friday 26th of July at 20.00. Register by sending an e-mail to kansliet@svensksbridge.se.

For all other tournaments, you just need to reserve a seat 20 minutes before game time. Please remember that we always start and stop at the scheduled time!

DEFEND WITH JULIAN POTTAGGE

The Questions

1

♠ AQ9
♥ 109
♦ KQ96
♣ KQ86

♠ J
♥ AJ85432
♦ AJ3
♣ J5

	N	
W		E
	S	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	Pass
1♥	Double	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

You lead the ace of hearts on which go the nine, queen and six. How should you continue?

2

♠ AJ42
♥ -
♦ A1094
♣ KJ1085

♠ KQ107
♥ 64
♦ K862
♣ A62

	N	
W		E
	S	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	2♥*
Double*	All Pass		
2♥ Weak			
Dble Takeout			

You lead the king of spades, on which go the two, nine and three. What is your plan?



Test Your Technique

with Christophe Grosset

see Page 4

With neither side vulnerable as South you pick up a decent hand:

♠ KJ32
♥ K1062
♦ A6
♣ A64

♠ —
♥ A54
♦ KQJ875
♣ KJ93

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠*
Double	Redouble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Double	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

2♠ shortage
5NT 2 keys and a void

West leads the ♠10:

Dummy's jack is covered by the ace and ruffed by you. You now have a parking place for a losing heart. A diamond to the ace is followed by the spade king, on which you pitch the ♥4. You draw trumps, cash the ♥A and cross to dummy's king. A third heart is ruffed, East discarding a spade. How do you continue?

♠ KJ32
♥ K1062
♦ A6
♣ A64

♠ Q10985
♥ J873
♦ 102
♣ Q7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A764
♥ Q9
♦ 943
♣ 10852

♠ —
♥ A54
♦ KQJ875
♣ KJ93

Declarer continued with a club to the ace and a club for the jack and queen. That meant East took the setting trick with the ♣10.

After ruffing a heart, declarer should cash the ♣K, cross to dummy with the ♣A and play a third round, scoring the three tricks needed 84.72% of the time.

A Little Learning Is A Dangerous Thing

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

A Little Learning is a Dangerous Thing

The Lion curled up on his sofa. He didn't know what to do. He hadn't been outdoors for three days nor had he answered his phone in that time. He had been so pleased when his team had beaten Poppyfield in the first round of the Ozian Cup. Even better, Glinda had been delighted. He had never felt so close to her as that evening, discussing the hands over a glass of wine.

But it should come to this! How could he tell her? The doorbell rang. He didn't want to move. But it rang again, and then again.

Reluctantly he edged towards the front door. 'Who's there?' he barked. 'It's me. What's up?' The Scarecrow's reedy voice was unmistakable. 'I kept ringing to discuss our system, but you never answered. We're playing tonight, and I was worried about you.'

He opened the door. 'Goodness, so we are. I'd completely forgotten. My mind's been on other matters,' he responded distractedly. The Lion shook himself. And then it dawned on him. He could put it off no longer. Glinda and the Wicked Witch would both be at the club. His face fell visibly.

'What's wrong?' The Scarecrow was clearly worried.

'I'll have to tell her,' the Lion's squeal was at least an octave above his usual pitch.

'Who will you have to tell? What will you have to tell?' The Scarecrow wasn't used to being the stable and sensible one.

'We've been drawn against the witches in the Ozian Cup. I know I haven't told you either. It's a horrible draw for anyone, but for Glinda ...' His voice tailed off.

'I'm sure she'll be fine,' the Scarecrow responded in what he thought was a reassuring voice. 'She so enjoyed playing with you last time, and Shy and I at the other tables will be up for the fight.' The Lion shivered at the thought. Relying on the combative skills of that pair was about as good a strategy as selecting a summer jacket for a trip up Mount Everest.

The Scarecrow was casting around for the right words to buck his partner up. 'And of course you'll be able to stand up to these four harridans, and make sure they behave properly to your partner.' Against his better judgement, the Lion's chest puffed out a little at that thought.

Glinda had taken it surprisingly well. 'They are a very good team,' she said, 'but I do have inside knowledge of their tactics, and with such good teammates, I'm sure we'll give them a good battle. Whatever else, we shall enjoy our game.' Though the Lion tried to smile fiercely the repeated martial allusions were having an undesirable effect on his stomach.

In public, the Lion had put on his bravest face for the following three weeks, but now with the match only three hours away, disaster had struck. The Scarecrow had just come off the phone from his partner. 'He didn't sound at all well! He was up all night being sick,' the Scarecrow reported. 'I really don't think that he can play. The Lion could not, in fact, recall ever having heard Shy's voice so he had no point of reference but accepted the Scarecrow's assessment. A reserve had to be found and the rules were that the reserve could not strengthen the team.'

Everyone he knew was either playing in the event or seemed to be busy that afternoon. Some had thought they might be interested until they heard it was to partner the Scarecrow against the witches. Three separate club members had remembered they had to visit their chiroprapist that afternoon.

In desperation he had phoned Aunty Em for advice. 'Well I know Hank is free,' she started, 'and you can be sure that no one will complain that he has improved your team.' Hank, now in his seventh successive year in the beginners' class, was known as Hank the Hunk, not due to any physical attributes, but rather to the general view that in an intelligence test he would stand a sporting chance against a plank. While some people are blessed with a photographic memory, Hank had the opposite ability: within a matter of hours he could unlearn practically anything that

he had been taught.

The Lion had already tried every other option. ‘It’ll have to be him.’ He groaned at the thought, put the phone down, sat on his couch and put his head in his hands.

They were only waiting for Munchkin Meg. The Unpleasant Witch of the North and the Irritable Witch of the South were engaged in deep conversation. Both were smiling, a notable and exceptional occurrence. The Wicked Witch of the West was sipping a cup of tea. The Lion and Glinda sat looking worried, while the Scarecrow was slowly explaining Stayman to Hank, and starting to doubt his own grasp of it.

Munchkin Meg walked in and went to the cloakroom. As she emerged and walked towards the Wicked Witch, a broad smile developed on her face when she saw Hank. ‘I hear you’ve allowed them to strengthen their team,’ she winked at her partner, and continued in a voice carefully modulated to ensure all the opposing team heard her. ‘With seven years of experience from the beginners’ class, he might be able to take a finesse! Probably more than any of the rest of them can.’ The three witches all joined with her in chortling away at her wit.

The Scarecrow sat silently pretending he hadn’t heard. Hank was also silent, lost in deep contemplation. ‘So it’s like a psyche, really. I bid Two Clubs even though I probably don’t have them, and instead of raising you bid another suit?’ Glinda tried her best to stare firmly at her former teammates. The Lion’s attempted menacing growl came out as a high pitched whine. He cleared his throat and addressed his other pair. ‘Don’t bother about the bidding, Scarecrow. Just keep it natural and simple. Make sure you get your signals sorted out. High to encourage has more chance than expecting him to work out how many cards he has and if that is an odd or an even number.’

He stood up and beckoned to Glinda to follow him for support, summoned up a show of courage, and marched over to the Wicked Witch. ‘We had better toss for seating rights,’ he said, and two minutes later, without any attempt at pleasantries, the two teams took their seats.

The Unpleasant and Irritable witches had been given the privilege of playing the first sixteen boards against the Scarecrow and Hank. By the time the last board appeared on the table, insults were flying. They had done nothing particularly wrong. That wasn’t the problem. It was just

that the hands appeared to be Hank-proof and the Scarecrow’s notorious luck was very much in evidence. They had gained quite a few single IMP swings from impossible overtricks donated by Hank, but nothing significant. They were only too well aware that at the scoring up, their teammates would be expecting at least 40 IMPs from their card alone. That indeed would be a conservative estimate of the value of the Scarecrow and Hank as opponents.

They had played the boards out of order. The Unpleasant Witch of the North reckoned that was good tactics as the Scarecrow and Hank had to use some of their very limited mental energy working out where to enter the result on their scorecards. The Scarecrow’s record of events was now scrawled across three cards and scoring up was likely to take at least half an hour.

The last board of the set was number twelve:

Dealer West, N/S Vul

♠ K82	♠ QJ6	♠ 107543			
♥ Q42	♥ 653	♥ AJ9			
♦ K63	♦ A742	♦ 10985			
♣ Q642	♣ 987	♣ 5			
	<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	
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ A9				
	♥ K1087				
	♦ QJ				
	♣ AKJ103				

The auction was uneventful:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hank</i>	<i>Unpleasant</i>	<i>Scarecrow</i>	<i>Irritable</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Hank looked at the West hand. He had to find a lead, and he had a dim awareness that with so many points in his hand his choice of card might

well be critical. Something told him that this might not be the time to lead fourth highest of his longest suit, leaving him unsure what to do. He tried desperately to remember the advice Auntie Em had given him. Suddenly it came back to him. 'Lead through dummy's strength,' Auntie Em had said. He placed the three of diamonds on the table.

The Unpleasant Witch of the North sniffed loudly as she laid down the dummy. 'Probably another flattish board,' she moaned, 'And with you at the helm, we'll be lucky if we even gain another IMP.'

'Huh,' grunted the Irritable Witch of the South. 'Thank you partner,' was not part of her vocabulary. She won the opening lead in hand, cashed one top club, then played ace followed by another spade.

Hank was on lead again, and not seeing any reason to play any other suit decided to continue with his other small diamond. At least, that was his intention, but as he reached for the six the Irritable Witch felt an urgent need to stretch out her left leg. 'Ah, cramp!' she muttered, as her boot caught Hank on the shin. The king of diamonds fell onto the table.

The Irritable Witch turned to glare at Hank. He jerked back, rubbing his leg, and had to be told twice that he was still on lead, declarer having ducked in dummy. Analysing the hands was not his greatest strength, and he had failed to notice his partner's encouraging ten, but Hank took the view that if your opponent does not like something then it is probably good to keep doing it. He played his last diamond.

After that it was all downhill for declarer. She ran the nine of clubs, but the finesse lost. Then for want of anything better to do Hank played back another club. The Scarecrow, probably accidentally as he had lost concentration and rarely gave much thought to his discards anyway, held on to his winning diamond and the ace of hearts, and the contract went one down.

The two witches grunted and sniffed as they pushed their chairs back, and scowled their way to the social area to score up. The Wicked Witch and Munchkin Meg were sitting waiting for them, anticipation written across their faces. They scored up rapidly, the Wicked Witch smiling at each of the single IMP swings, a smile which quickly evaporated when they reached the end. Twelve IMPs out on board twelve meant that overall they had a deficit of five IMPs.

'What happened on board twelve?' Munchkin Meg's voice was menacing. The Irritable Witch described the auction. 'That was the same as

at our table.' Meg's voice had become distinctly more menacing.

'Yes, indeed,' the Irritable Witch continued, 'and like any sane person with that auction, I bet your partner led a major. It doesn't matter which, but Three Notrump is then cold. Even with Glinda playing it,' she added. 'He actually found a diamond lead, and not only that followed up with unblocking the king.'

'The Wicked Witch of the West had been silent until then, hoping no one would come up with a reason for a diamond lead. 'I led a heart, of course. My partner won the ace and led the jack back. It was easy after that. In fact Glinda could have made ten. A spade is no better. Declarer wins in the dummy and finesses a club. West can't continue spades without either blocking them or giving up a third trick in the suit. Hank's got no idea about what to lead and his play at trick four looks like a 10% chance to me,' she growled. 'He had ten cards left in his hand and he found the right one.'

Then Unpleasant Witch of the North shifted uncomfortably in her seat. It really upset her that she couldn't find any way to blame her partner, but she would continue to mull it over. 'Let's get on with the second half,' she eventually said. 'Luck like that can't continue.'

Dorothy had been busy that afternoon, but came along hoping to arrive in time to see the last few boards, and to console her friends on what she expected to be a heavy, and probably unpleasant, defeat. As she stepped out of her car the noise was deafening. She could make out four distinct voices, all at a high level of decibels and all screeching. As she walked towards the club, the door flew open. Munchkin Meg marched out, her head high, staring fixedly ahead. The three witches followed close behind, the noise of a moment earlier had metamorphosed into stony silence. The car doors of all four banged one after the other, as Dorothy looked on with a grin spreading across her face.

'What happened?' She could hardly wait to take her coat off as she entered the social area.

The Lion was occupied making sure Glinda's tea was neither too hot nor too cold, and had just the right amount of milk in it, so it was a very baffled Scarecrow who replied. 'I lost count,' he told Dorothy, 'but I think we won by four IMPs. 'It's very odd,' he continued. 'We seemed to lose on almost all of the boards in the second half, but we only lost the set

by one IMP. As we were five up at half-time, I think that means we won.’

Dorothy lifted the Lion’s card that had been left on the table while he attended to Glinda’s needs. There were lots of IMPs out but all between one and three, while two boards showed double figure swings in. ‘What happened on board 20?’ she asked and looked at the diagram on the printout:

Dealer West. Game All

♠ AK843 ♥ 9 ♦ 3 ♣ AJ9642		♠ J5 ♥ A4 ♦ 9642 ♣ Q10753	♠ Q1072 ♥ 7632 ♦ A1085 ♣ K
♠ 96 ♥ KQJ1085 ♦ KQJ7 ♣ 8			

If the Scarecrow’s look was the benchmark for blank, then Hank elevated the concept to a new level. With the Lion’s mind elsewhere, it was Glinda who replied. ‘Both witches were silent during our auction,’ she started. ‘And I don’t just mean that they passed throughout. They didn’t even shout at us or each other. My clever partner decided that with the quality of his heart suit, the contract would play better there.’ The full auction had been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Unpleasant</i>	<i>Glinda</i>	<i>Irritable</i>	<i>Lion</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

‘Yes, indeed.’ The Lion had heard Glinda, and, with his chest puffed out, brought his attention onto the hand. ‘These misfits are very dangerous, and I didn’t want to force to game, but my partner showed excellent

evaluation of her controls.’ Dorothy felt a bit queasy at the exchange of mutual compliments. ‘The play, as you can see, was easy for ten tricks. I had one club, two diamonds, five hearts and two spades.’

‘While the Lion and Glinda were speaking, the Scarecrow was desperately trying to remember what had happened at the table. ‘I think they played in Three Notrumps,’ he said, ‘and Hank led fourth highest of his longest and strongest, just like in the lessons, the five of diamonds.’

The Scarecrow looked embarrassed. ‘Actually, my partner gave away a trick possibly because of my carding, so we were lucky she went down.’ The Scarecrow looked contrite and explained further. ‘She won the first trick with the king of diamonds, and I won the second trick when she played the king of hearts. I played my jack of spades and Hank played the ten to tell me that he liked them.

‘Declarer won this trick with the king in dummy, and then cashed the ace of clubs. When Hank played the king, she seemed to spend a long time looking at this and thinking. Next came the ace of spades and Hank played the seven to remind me that he liked them. I suppose he liked them even more with the ace and king out of the way. She now played a third round of the suit, which Hank won, and possibly not having seen that I had discarded a club on the previous trick, played back his two of spades. I should have thrown a red card to help him.’

This was the position when Hank played back the spade:

♠ 43 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ J9642		♠ — ♥ 4 ♦ 642 ♣ Q107	♠ 2 ♥ 763 ♦ A108 ♣ —

Declarer had won four tricks and lost two. If Hank’s last spade had been a winner then the defence would have been limited to that trick plus the ace of diamonds.

The Scarecrow continued: ‘We actually let declarer win four tricks in that spade suit. I’m really sorry,’ he was well used to apologising. ‘It was really lucky I still had a couple of club tricks and he had the ace of diamonds.’

Dorothy smiled and turned to Hank. ‘That was really clever of you holding on to that two of spades. You found the only way to get your partner in and keep declarer out of her hand.’

Hank looked perplexed. No one had ever complimented his play before. The Scarecrow beamed. He had understood all of the words that Dorothy had said but was struggling to make sense of them as a sentence. Regardless, many years of experience had taught him never to argue with a good player who thought he or his partner had done something good, or, more often, bad.

Dorothy looked further down the Lion’s card to the other good score, and picked up the hand record to look at board 28.

Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 9642 ♥ A1086 ♦ 1054 ♣ 63	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ KJ75 ♥ KQ754 ♦ K6 ♣ 94
♠ Q103 ♥ J92 ♦ J87 ♣ K872	♠ A8 ♥ 3 ♦ AQ932 ♣ AQJ105	

‘I can remember this hand,’ said the Scarecrow. ‘Munchkin Meg was sitting in the South seat, and played in Three Notrump. I opened One Heart and she bid Two Notrump to show the minors. I’m not exactly sure what happened next but they got to game.’

Dorothy correctly deduced that the full auction must have been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hank</i>	<i>Wicked</i>	<i>Scarecrow</i>	<i>Meg</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

‘Hank had another lead problem. He remembered about leading partner’s suit, and he also remembered which one that was, which is good. Declarer ducked so I won this trick with the queen, but I didn’t like the look of dummy’s hearts so I switched to a spade. She won that with the ace and tried one of the minors, diamonds I think. I won the king on the second round and we took the spades. That was five tricks to us.’ He counted on his fingers.

‘Then I tried another heart so Hank played the jack and she won the ace. After that she played a club to the queen and king. I still had another heart trick so she went three down.’ The Scarecrow paused. ‘They had a bit of an argument about the bidding,’ he continued. ‘It looked like a horrible hand to play. Even though I thought that the Lion would stop in part score it still seemed likely that we would only get a small gain. He thought for a moment as he looked at the Lion’s score card. ‘That’s odd. We gained fourteen IMPs.’

‘Oh, my partner was so clever on this hand.’ The Lion looked dizzy as he listened to Glinda. ‘I know he believes in solid bidding and can need some persuasion to go to game, so when he showed some extra values, I just went straight into game. He is such a good card player I had complete confidence in him. And how he justified that!’ The full auction had been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Unpleasant</i>	<i>Glinda</i>	<i>Irritable</i>	<i>Lion</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦
Double	Pass	2♠	3♣
Pass	5♦	Double	All Pass

The Lion’s smile was so wide, it looked as if he would have some difficulty speaking. ‘The Unpleasant Witch led her partner’s first suit, the two of hearts,’ he eventually mumbled. ‘I was now in dummy and had to choose which finesse to take. I decided to go for the diamonds but when the queen won, I stopped to think.

‘West really had to have something for her double, so it seemed likely

that she had the king of clubs. I thought about what would happen when she won it. If I had already played the ace of trumps then she would be able to play a third round and I would still have a spade loser, so that was no good. Then I thought I should keep the ace of trumps, and play out the ace and queen of clubs. How could that go wrong? Well, if clubs were four-two, and remember that East had shown nine cards in the majors and at least two diamonds, then West could give her partner a club ruff and I would still have another trump to lose. Since both of these lines were going to fail I did something else. I played the queen of clubs at trick three! West won her king but she was powerless. She tried another heart, which I ruffed, played the ace of trumps, and then played clubs throwing spades from dummy. Eventually I was able to ruff a spade in dummy and just lost one trump and the king of clubs.'

Glinda beamed at him. 'Our opponents also had an argument after this hand,' Glinda added. 'The Irritable Witch seemed to think a spade lead was obvious to anyone who had played the game before.'

'That's very well played Lion,' said Dorothy, genuinely impressed. 'Any other line and you'll go down.'

'It's so wonderful partnering such a good declarer.' Glinda looked starry-eyed.

Time to go, thought Dorothy as she picked up her coat. 'Well done and good luck!' she shouted over her shoulder. She wondered if the Lion would realise that she wasn't referring to the next round.

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 - 1st session, 32 boards, 50C
Saturday	10 th of August	1:30 p.m.	Main Pairs Tournament - 2nd session, 32 boards
Saturday	10 th of August	appr. from 9:30 p.m.	Festive awards ceremony, closing event with live music and dance

OUR SERVICES
WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU IN FINDING SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE REGION.
(margit.schwarz@inode.at)

DAILY BULLETINS
EXCITING RAFFLE
FRIENDLY HOSPITALITY DESK
SURPRIZE PRIZES

WINE TAVERN EVENING
ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR LOW-MASTER POINT CATEGORY PLAYERS

Registration:
wachauer-bridgewoche2019@bridgeaustria.at

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: Diego Wespisari

INTERNATIONAL WACHAUER BRIDGE-WEEK RELOADED

2019

Sunday 4th to Saturday 10th of August

Venue:
Römerhalle A-3512 Mautern Austria

Organisation:
Austrian Bridge Federation (ÖBV)

Management:
Executive Board of ÖBV

Contacts:
wachauer-bridgewoche2019@bridgeaustria.at

WACHAU, AN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE
With its outstanding cultural and natural landscape, the Wachau region is a more than worthy destination in its own right.


Bild: Roman Zöchlinger

MAUTERN
AN DER DONAU
KULTURLAND

ÖBVSCHACHENBERG

Answers to “Defend With Julian Pottage”

1

♠ J ♥ AJ85432 ♦ AJ3 ♣ J5		♠ AQ9 ♥ 109 ♦ KQ96 ♣ KQ86	♠ 10863 ♥ Q ♦ 8742 ♣ 9743
		♠ K7542 ♥ K76 ♦ 105 ♣ A105	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	Pass
1♥	Double	Pass	4♠
All Pass			


You lead the ace of hearts on which go the nine, queen and six. How should you continue?

You need to begin by assessing the heart position. Dropping the queen under the ace would normally denote possession of the jack to go with it and invite you to underlead the king (if you have it). Here, since you can see the jack in your own hand, you know this is not the case. The queen is surely a singleton.

You want to give partner a ruff at trick two, regain the lead with the ace of diamonds and play a third round of hearts. Although dummy will have run out of hearts, partner might hold the ten of spades and be in a position to overruff.

When delivering a ruff its usual to give a suit-preference signal, leading high to ask for a high suit back and low for a low suit back. Here you need to bear in mind that partner might think you have the king of hearts, which would make the jack a winner, and so lead the eight. Gary Jones found this defence in a Welsh trial.

2

♠ KQ107 ♥ 64 ♦ K862 ♣ A62		♠ AJ42 ♥ - ♦ A1094 ♣ KJ1085	♠ 95 ♥ AJ1032 ♦ J73 ♣ Q93
		♠ 863 ♥ KQ9875 ♦ Q5 ♣ 74	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	2♥*
Double*	All Pass	-	
2♥ Weak			
Double Takeout			

You lead the king of spades, on which go the two, nine and three. What is your plan?

You know less about the layout this time, although you can place five hearts opposite and six on your right. The fast high cards in dummy over yours create the danger that declarer can score a couple of ruffs in hand and later subject your partner to a trump endplay. Another thing to think about is the possibility that declarer holds a doubleton of queen of diamonds, making it unsafe for either defender to broach the suit.

Fortunately partner’s high nine of spades looks like the top card from a doubleton. Perhaps partner can get in a ruff early – in any case the ace-jack of spades are over your queen whether you lead the suit yourself or wait for declarer to do so. Not wishing a diamond return unless partner has the queen, you should lead the ten of spades (rather than the queen). When partner ruffs the third round of spades and leads a club, you should take the ace and return a club. Eventually partner might have to lead a diamond – but three trump tricks, a spade, a ruff and a club gives you enough 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. This month he examines an important competitive topic.

It's one thing to learn how to play Michaels Bids and the Unusual Notrump. The next step is to learn how to defend against these bids when your opponents use them. When they make such a 2-suited bid, the first thing we need to know is "What 2 suits are they showing?"

In some cases we know exactly the 2 suits, in other cases, we are not sure.

For example:

West	North
1♠	2NT

North's Unusual 2NT bid promises the 2 lowest unbid suits – so we know he has both ♣+♦

West	North
1♣	2♣

We know that for his Michaels Bid, North has both ♥+♠

However, if the auction begins:

West	North
1♥	2♥

North is showing ♠ + either minor. We are sure of only 1 suit. The other is unknown.

In preparing our defence, it is important to distinguish between these 2 situations. Either we know for sure both suits, or sometimes we know only one suit. Now, let's formulate our simple defence (although it does require work and memory).

In all cases, we can define a double as "penalty oriented." It means we are interested in penalizing the opponents. All future doubles by either player in our partnership are for penalty.

In all cases, we can say that if we pass, we likely don't have a good hand. I'd say about 0-8 depending on the level/situation.

What about other actions?

Raising Partner's Suit

In all cases, raising partner's suit is natural. Raising to the minimum level is about 7-10 points. Raising to game shows a little more.

Examples:

West	North	East
1♠	2NT	3♠

West	North	East
1♦	2♦	3♦

In both cases, East is showing about 7-10 and support (to raise the major, he has at least 3-card support; to raise the minor, at least 4-card support).

Bidding the Opponent's Suit

If the opponents have only one known suit, then bidding that suit is artificial and shows at least a limit raise for our partner.

Examples:

West	North	East
1♥	2♥	2♠

West	North	East
1♠	2♠	3♥

In both cases, East is bidding the opponent's one known suit. He is saying, "Partner, I have support for you (at least 3-card support) and at least a limit raise. I have 10+ in support – I might be just inviting you to go to game with a maximum. On the other hand, I might be looking for slam – you will find out later."

So, East might have: ♠5 4 ♥A Q 2 ♦A 8 7 5 3 ♣10 3 2 in the first example, and ♠Q 7 6 ♥7 ♦A K 7 6 ♣K J 7 6 4 in the second example. In neither case is East saying anything about the opponent's suit – he may or may not have the suit controlled.

Note that there are 2 ways to raise opener. One is by simply raising

(bidding his suit). The other, which is the stronger way, is to artificially bid the opponent's known suit (showing invitational to game or better).

What if the opponent's have two known suits? Now, the responder will have 2 suits to cue-bid. For example:

West	North
1♥	2NT

or

West	North
1♦	2♦

In these cases, North has two known suits. In the first case he has specifically ♣+♦.

In the second case he has specifically ♥+♠.

East now has many options. He can raise partner naturally (as discussed above). He can also cue-bid in either of 2 different suits! What do these cue-bids mean? One of them should be the limit raise or better (as discussed above). The other cue-bid means something entirely different, which I will get to in a moment.

First, we have to decide which cue-bid is the limit raise or better. There are several different ways to do this and all partnerships must agree. I think the best is to say that the "second" cue-bid is the limit raise or better. By "second," I mean the higher of the 2 bids the responder can make. For example, if it starts 1♥-2NT, the two possible cue-bids are 3♣ and 3♦. The highest is 3♦, so that would indicate the limit-raise or better. It is important to agree on which cue-bid is which. There are 2 other ways which I won't go into here, but make sure you pick one and agree.

So, what does the "other" cue-bid mean? It says that the responder has the "4th" suit: Not partner's suit and not one of the opponents suits. It also says he has at least an invitation to game. For example:

West	North	East
1♥	2NT	3♣

We have agreed that 3♦ (the highest cue-bid) shows the limit or better raise of partner's suit. Therefore, 3♣ is the "other" cue-bid. In this case it shows the "4th suit." What is that suit? West has ♥. North has ♣+♦. So, East is saying he has spades (at least 5) and at least game interest. If he had spades and a weaker hand, he would just bid 3♠. A bid of 3♠ by East would be Non-Forcing. In that case, it must be a pretty good suit (like

a weak two-bid) – at least 6 cards. East wouldn't bid 3♠ just because he happened to have 8 HCP and king-empty fifth of spades.

Review

Using the definitions above, what does East have for each action shown?

West	North	East	East Is Showing....
1♣	2♣	Double	Penalty Interest
1♣	2♣	2♦	Diamonds, not forcing
1♣	2♣	2♥	Diamonds, Game Interest
1♣	2♣	2♠	Club raise, Limit or better
1♦	2♦	2♥	Clubs, Game Interest
1♥	2NT	3♦	Hearts, Limit or better
1♠	2♠	3♥	Spades, Limit or better
1♠	2♠	3♠	Spades, 7-10
1♠	2NT	3♥	Like a weak 2-bid in ♥

This is far from a complete treatise on the subject, but should be good enough to get any partnership started. It is not easy on the memory and requires work and study.

I don't like teaching this topic, because the natural reaction is to say: "This is too complicated." I don't like complicated. However, your opponents will use Michaels and Unusual 2NT bids. If you don't want to study/learn this defence, then you will be at a huge disadvantage on these auctions.

Enterprising Bridge Tales: The Next Generation

By 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 21317.7. Unfortunately, my own team was defeated by a strong Vulcan quartet yesterday. However, two teams containing USS Competitor crew members have made it into the draw for the Round of 32. The team led by Chief Engineer O’Brain survived against a team from Virgo V yesterday, and they are now drawn to play against last year’s Delta Quadrant Championship finalists, the Kazon national team. Meanwhile, the highly-fancied team including young Daniel Prussia and Lieutenant-Commander Dieter has been drawn against a combined team of Starfleet personnel and locals based on the Federation outpost at Deep Space 13.

With 32 teams having been eliminated yesterday, the first thing that strikes players as they enter the huge ballroom is that there is now much more room around each of the remaining tables. Many have a gaggle of chattering kibitzers surrounding them, but the crowds massed around the two tables where the pre-tournament favourites will be playing are noticeably the largest. All three pairs have become accustomed to playing under intense scrutiny so, if anything, the environment is much more likely to affect their less-experienced opponents.

Daniel and Dieter sit out the first of the 16-board stanzas, and after a relatively quiet set of boards their Vulcan and Romulan teammates eke out a 9-IMP advantage. Taking their seats for the second of the three stanzas, the USS Competitor pair find themselves opposing two more humans wearing Starfleet uniforms. Their opponents introduce themselves as Captain Sesko and Doctor Batheer, who are on permanent assignment aboard the Deep Space 13 space station.

“It’s a fairly quiet region,” outlines Sesko in response to Daniel’s inquiry.

“Apart from the ongoing tension between the Bajorans and the Cardassians, and the wormhole to the Gamma quadrant and the threat posed

by The Dominion,” adds Basheer.

“I’ve not come across them,” comments Daniel.

“There were a couple of Dominion teams here,” observes Sesko. “I think one of the Jem’Hadar teams won comfortably yesterday, so they were in today’s draw.”

“Yes,” adds Basheer, wistfully, “we were hoping to avoid drawing them...”

“But one should always be careful what you wish for,” finishes Sesko, looking around at the massed banks of kibitzers waiting for the action to start.

The arrival of the boards curtails further discussion. Little side gains any advantage in the early deals, and then Dieter arrives in what looks like a routine game contract:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ QJ105 ♥ 83 ♦ A96 ♣ J1084	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W S E </div>	♠ A73 ♥ AJ62 ♦ Q4 ♣ Q963
♠ 84 ♥ K10974 ♦ 107 ♣ AK52	♠ K962 ♥ Q5 ♦ KJ8532 ♣ 7	

West	North	East	South
Sesko	Daniel	Basheer	Dieter
-	-	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

“Two Spades?” asks Sesko.

“That’s Jacoby,” replies Dieter. “An artificial, game-forcing heart raise.”

“And Four Hearts?”

“A hand that many might not have opened,” confirms Damien. “It also denies a singleton.”

Sesko wastes no more time before leading the ♠Q and Daniel produces dummy.

With no apparent thought, Dieter calls for a low spade and the Doctor signals with the ♠9, confirming possession of the king.

With no way of telling whether declarer began with two spades or three, it is hard to fault Sesko for continuing with the ♠J, but that is all the help the android declarer needs. He wins with the ♠A and plays two top trumps, felling East’s queen, before ruffing dummy’s third spade and cashing the ♣A. When he then exits with a diamond, the defence has no answer. Whichever defender wins the second round of diamonds will be endplayed, either to give a ruff-and-discard or to open up the clubs. Of course, if clubs had broken 3-2 then the contract would have always made, but the endplay became necessary when West proved to have started with ♣J10xx.

In the replay at the other table, N/S also reached Four Hearts, but only after the aggressive ‘T’Grau had opened One Diamond on the East cards. Consequently, Sartak had begun the Vulcan defense with ace and another diamond. T’Grau switched to her singleton club at trick three, but there was now no way for declarer to avoid losing a trick in each black suit. The 12 IMPs gained on this board contributed to the 32-IMP lead enjoyed by the pre-tournament favourites going into the final set.

Having played two sets, the Vulcans sit out the final 16 deals and the Romulans come in to face Sesko and Basheer. Meanwhile, Daniel and Dieter sit down against the diminutive Commander Kyra, a Bajoran military officer assigned to Deep Space 13 as their liaison officer. Her partner, who introduces himself simply as Domo, is apparently the space station’s security officer. More intriguing for Dieter, he is also a Changeling, or shape-shifter, a Gamma quadrant species that the android has studied extensively without ever having met one in the flesh.

“You can’t change queens into kings, can you?” asks Daniel.

“Uh, no. It is only my own physical shape that I can change,” explains Domo. “So not water into wine, nor queens into kings, I’m afraid.”

The starship pair do not get the better of the early exchanges, losing -500 in what turns out to be a phantom sacrifice and then conceding a 3NT game that a different opening lead would have beaten. With just a few deals remaining, the comfortable lead with which they began the set could easily be in danger. Then, with neither side vulnerable, Daniel picks up this hand as Dealer: ♠AK1073 ♥K9 ♦AJ863 ♣5.

Daniel opens One Spade, hears a Two Club overcall from the Bajoran on his left and a Three Club cue-bid raise from Dieter. Aware that the match could now be very close, Daniel knows that another soft result at their table could have disastrous consequences for his team. A simple jump to Four Spades is clearly not enough on this promising collection. Will introducing his diamond suit help? In the end, he decides to advance with a Four Club cue-bid. Dieter co-operates with Four Diamonds, which is exactly what Daniel wants to hear.

Bidding Four Hearts now is unlikely to produce anything other than Four Spades from across the table, so Daniel instead rolls out RKCB, 4NT. Daniel gets a Five Clubs response from Dieter, showing one (or four) key card, so he continues with Five Diamonds, asking for the queen of trumps. The Six Club response from opposite is both good news and bad – partner has the ♠Q but he also has what could easily be a wasted ♣K. Still, there’s nothing that can be done now as they are already committed to bidding the slam, and Daniel’s Six Spades ends the auction.

Commander Kyra leads the ♣Q and Dieter produces the expected 12-count, although not the one that Daniel might have wished for:

♠ Q54

♥ 8642

♦ K5

♣ AK73



♠ AK1073

♥ K9

♦ AJ863

♣ 5

♣Q led

Dummy could certainly have been more suitable – the ♠Q, ♥A and ♦KQ were quite consistent with Dieter’s bidding up to the Six Club response, but it’s too late to be worrying about that now.

Daniel wins the club lead and cashes dummy's second high club to dispose of a heart from his hand. He then plays a trump to the king and a second round back to dummy's ♠Q, both defenders following suit.

"Just a little more luck now," thinks Daniel. How should he broach the diamond suit. If diamonds are 3-3, he can simply cash the ace-king and ruff the third round, setting up the suit. A 4-2 split seems more likely, though. He eventually cashes the ♦K and plays a second diamond to the jack. When West fails to produce the ♦Q, declarer is still in the game. When Daniel now leads a low diamond, he is gratified to see West discard a club. He ruffs with dummy's last trump and it is then a simple matter to ruff a club to hand, draw East's last trump, and claim twelve tricks, conceding a heart at the end.

This was the full deal:

Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ Q54 ♥ 8642 ♦ K5 ♣ AK73	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 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	♠ J82 ♥ J753 ♦ Q1074 ♣ 106	♠ 96 ♥ AQ10 ♦ 92 ♣ QJ9842
N						
W E						
S						
♠ AK1073 ♥ K9 ♦ AJ863 ♣ 5						

"It looks like you're the one who can turn small cards into aces," observes Domo, ruefully, as he returns his cards to the wallet.

The Deep Space 13 pair stop in game at the other table, so Daniel and Dieter gain 11 IMPs for bidding their slam. Thanks to an excellent card from the Romulans, the result was never as close as Daniel had feared, and the pre-tournament favourites win by 41 IMPs.

The team is in good spirits as they head off to a haute cuisine restaurant that has been recommended to their resident foodie, Jeff Mickstorm. "I'm really looking forward to trying the braised racht," says Mickstorm. "Aren't they worms?" asks Dieter, drawing a look of disgust from

Daniel.

"More like small serpents," says Mickstorm. "Klingons eat them raw, but the chef at this restaurant has developed the original recipe to suit more civilized races."

With just 16 teams surviving in the Universal Bowl, the standard of opponents will only get higher from here on in. At this moment, though, the team's thoughts are concentrated more about what they might find on their plates tonight rather than tomorrow.



MASTER POINT PRESS
THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

TRANSFER RESPONSES TO ONE CLUB WITH RELAYS

Lyle Poe

This book is an ideal introduction for players wanting to try an effective new approach to bidding that is not too complicated, and capable of extension and refinement as the partnership gains experience with it.

AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE RETAILER NEAR YOU



Play bridge wherever and whenever you like!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A few figures

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

Over 150 countries represented

50,000 active players every day

1 million deals played every day

Download Funbridge

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



Play bridge wherever and whenever you like!



iPhone, iPad, Mac, PC, Android, Amazon

Compare yourself to thousands of players

Challenge players in one vs one matches

Improve your skills

WWW.FUNBRIDGE.COM

Kit's Corner

by World Champion Kit Woolsey

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

The Best Line

In the third quarter of a Rosenblum match, you have to make a decision of how hard to push a hand.

As North, you hold:

Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 854
♥ KQ
♦ 873
♣ AJ863

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
2♦	?		

1♠: 5+ spades, 11-15 points

3♦ would be a limit raise or better. Double followed by a spade raise would be assumed to show a doubleton honour in spades, although a soft 3-card limit raise with interest in other strains is possible.

Your call?

There doesn't seem to be any reason to get involved with a negative double. You know you almost certainly belong in spades, so it isn't worth confusing the issue for a fine-tuned evaluation which might not help anyway. The question is whether you are worth a limit raise or you should just settle for 2♠.

Partner is known to be limited to 15 points, so game will probably be marginal even if he has a maximum. Your hand has a lot of poor features. Most notable is the awful trump holding. When a decision is close it is often right to let the trumps be the deciding factor, and your trumps couldn't be much worse. You have honours packed in your short suit. You have 3 small in the overcalled suit. The only positive feature about

your hand is the club suit which is a potential source of tricks.

All things considered, a simple 2♠ call looks sufficient. Partner still might make a move with a distributional maximum, particularly if he is short in diamonds. Opposite most of partner's hands game will be marginal at best, and if partner is minimal even 3♠ might be too high.


You choose to bid 3♦. Partner bids 4♠, ending the auction.

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
2♦	3♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Having gotten the partnership to 4♠ with the aggressive 3♦ call, you get to move over to partner's seat and see if you can make it.

West leads the ♣2 (3rd and 5th best) and you see:

♠ 854
♥ KQ
♦ 873
♣ AJ863



♠ QJ762
♥ A10542
♦ K9
♣ K

First of all, what do you think of South's 4♠ call?

South's king of diamonds is of dubious value considering the overcall, and the singleton king of clubs might not pull full weight. Still, South is 5-5, and he has the intermediates in the trump suit rather than the side suit which is good. The high card count is well above minimum, even if some of the high cards are tainted. South could have temporized with 3♥. This says nothing about hearts. It is a last train call, tossing the ball back to North. However, it generally doesn't pay to take fine-tuned invitational sequences with distributional hands, since partner might not be able to evaluate accurately anyway. With the sort of hand that South has it is better to make an old-fashioned game try – bid game and try to

make it. (*What has become known as a Landy Game Try. Editor*)

Is it worth suggesting playing in hearts? Not really. Even if North has 4 hearts and 3 spades, it is likely that spades will play okay since South has QJ of spades. Also, if North had that hand he probably would have started with a negative double in order to get hearts into the picture. It is better to conceal the nature of the South hand from the opponents.

On the ♣2 lead you play low from dummy. East plays the ♣9, and you win your singleton king. How do you proceed?

♠ 854
♥ KQ
♦ 873
♣ AJ86



♠ QJ762
♥ A10542
♦ K9
♣ —

There is a lot of work to be done. It looks like there are 2 spades and a diamond to be lost. One diamond can be discarded on the ace of clubs. You will then have to avoid a third spade loser. In addition, you will have to navigate the heart suit without losing a trick there.

The obvious play appears to be to win the king of clubs, cross to a heart, cash the ace of clubs discarding a diamond, and lead a trump. This will need a 3-2 trump split with one of the honours onside, as well as running the heart suit.

What do you know about the enemy cards? West made a vulnerable overcall missing the king of diamonds, so it is very likely that he has at least 6 diamonds. He led the ♣2, so he has an odd number of clubs. If the ♣2 is a singleton the hand looks impossible to make, so assume he has 3 clubs. That leaves him only 4 major-suit cards. He pretty much has to have one of the spade honours to justify the vulnerable overcall.

Suppose the spades are 3-2 as hoped, with West having the doubleton spade. You cross to the king of hearts, cash the ace of clubs discarding a diamond, and lead a spade to your queen and West's king or ace. West will lead ace and a diamond, forcing you. You have to lead another heart to dummy and a spade off if the spade honours are split as you hope. East can win the spade trick and lead a spade back, preventing you from

ruffing a heart in dummy. Thus, in addition to the spades behaving you will need West's doubleton heart to include the jack.

Can you do better? Suppose the hearts are 3-3. Along with the projected 6-3 in the minors that leaves West with a stiff spade, and for him to have his overcall it figures to be a stiff king or stiff ace. You lead a low spade from your hand at trick 2. West would win his honor, and return a heart (nothing is any better). You win, cash the ace of clubs pitching a diamond, and lead a trump. East ducks (best) and you win your queen. Heart to dummy, another trump off, and with the hearts 3-3 you have 10 tricks. That works.

What if West has AK doubleton of spades? The hearts will now be 4-2, but the opponents won't be able to draw the third round of trumps. West will win the second round of spades and play ace and a diamond tapping you. You cross to the queen of hearts, claiming if West has jack-doubleton. Otherwise, you ruff a club back, cash ace of hearts, and ruff a heart. If West started with Qxx of clubs you can now make by putting the good jack of clubs through East at trick 12. Otherwise you will be forced to tap yourself and go down 1.

So, assuming West has 6 diamonds and 3 clubs, which line of play is better? The first line needs West to have A10, A9, A3, K10, K9, or K3 of spades – 6 combinations. It also needs West's doubleton heart to include the jack, which will happen 1/3 of the time. So, on balance, the first line makes 1/3 X 6 or on 2 of the combinations. The second line always makes when West has a stiff spade honour (even the unheard-of defence of overtaking the stiff king of spades to put a diamond through doesn't work, as you can then take 2 spade finesses), which is 2 combinations. The second line also succeeds some of the time when West has AK doubleton of spades. Thus, it appears that the second line is the better line of play.

That is a small improvement. Can you see a way to do even better?

♠ 854
♥ KQ
♦ 873
♣ AJ86



♠ QJ762
♥ A10542
♦ K9
♣ —

There is one other possibility to look at. How about trying to ruff out a possible ♣Qxx in the West hand, so you can discard your other diamond on the jack of clubs. West will be able to ruff, but getting rid of one trump might be all you need to do.

Let's see how that might work. Heart to dummy, ace of clubs for diamond discard, club ruff dropping the queen, heart to dummy, jack of clubs discarding a diamond. Suppose West has a doubleton spade, thus 2-2-6-3 shape. He ruffs small, and leads the ace of diamonds, which you ruff. You lead a low trump, which will force West to win with his now stiff honour. He leads another diamond and forces you again. You play ace of hearts, ruff a heart (East must be following), and put through dummy's last club. East has no defence.

Will this work if West's shape is 1-3-6-3? Not quite. West ruffs the jack of clubs with his stiff trump honour and forces you with a diamond. Now if you play a spade East wins and forces you once more, getting 3 more trump tricks. You suffer a similar fate if you try running hearts.

How often will you succeed in ruffing out the queen of clubs? Assuming that West started with 3 clubs, which is the logical assumption, a priori he will have the queen 3/7 of the time. If you believe that he might not have overcalled without the queen of clubs or that he might have led a heart if he didn't have the queen of clubs, his chances of having the queen of clubs are even higher. But they are definitely at least 3/7.

If the queen of clubs ruffs out, this line of play succeeds when West has a doubleton spade with one or both honours. Possible holdings are ♠AK, ♠A10, ♠A9, ♠A3, ♠K10, ♠K9, ♠K3. That is 7 combinations with 3/7 chance of success on any of them, which on balance comes to success on 3 combinations. There are more successful layouts than for either of the other approaches. This looks like the best line of play.

There is a bonus for trying to ruff out the queen of clubs. West might have a 7-card diamond suit, leaving him 1-2-7-3 shape. Now you do succeed. He ruffs the jack of clubs with his stiff trump honour and forces you with a diamond. You ruff, play ace of hearts, heart ruff while East helplessly follows, and lead the good club. East ruffs, you overruff, lead your last heart, and come to another trump trick for 10 tricks. Even though you will have no chance if the queen of clubs doesn't ruff out, trying to ruff it out is truly the best line of play.

You choose line 1. You cross to dummy with a heart, cash the ace of

clubs discarding a diamond, and lead a spade to the 3, queen, and ace. West cashes the ace of diamonds, and leads the queen of diamonds. East discards a club, and you ruff. You cross to the queen of hearts, both opponents following small. What do you do now?

♠ 85
♥ —
♦ 8
♣ J86



♠ J76
♥ A105
♦ —
♣ —

It is clear that you aren't making. West started with 7 diamonds, so his expected shape is 1-2-7-3. The jack of hearts isn't dropping, and the trumps are 4-1. You can scramble out for down 1. Ruff a club, ace of hearts, heart ruff, and a club through lets you score your jack of spades, coming to 3 ruffs in your hand, 1 ruff in dummy, 3 heart tricks, and 2 club tricks for a total of 9 tricks.

You unwisely play a trump from dummy. East wins his king, as West discards a diamond. East continues with the ♠10 to your jack, West discarding another diamond. Now what?

♠ —
♥ —
♦ 8
♣ J86



♠ 7
♥ A105
♦ —
♣ —

You have the same count on the hand. The hearts aren't splitting. If East has the queen of clubs you can throw him in with your last trump. He gets his queen of clubs, but then has to lead to your heart tenace and you get out for down 2. But if West has the queen of clubs you don't take any more tricks and are down an embarrassing 4. Alternatively, you could

just cash the ace of hearts for a sure down 3.

On a percentage basis, East is a 4 to 3 favourite to have the queen of clubs. That makes going for the end-play better. It is also the better play looking at the IMP odds. Let's suppose the result at the other table is 4♠ down 2, which is a possible result if declarer doesn't have the same information that you have. If you settle for down 3, you lose 3 IMPs. If you go for down 2 or down 4, you either push the board or lose 5 IMPs. Thus, you are getting 3 to 2 IMP odds going for the end-play. This sort of result is a function of the IMP scale, which tends to dampen the effect of large swings compared to total points.

You choose to lay down the ace of hearts. Not surprisingly, you are down 3. The full hand is:

♠ 854 ♥ KQ ♦ 873 ♣ AJ863	♠ K1093 ♥ J873 ♦ J ♣ 10974	<table style="border: 1px solid black; 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	♠ QJ762 ♥ A10542 ♦ K9 ♣ K
N						
W E						
S						

I regret to say that I was the declarer on this hand. I never saw any line of play other than taking the quick pitch and then trying to bring in both major suits. Later in the hand I completely lost focus, playing for things which couldn't possibly exist. It was pretty obvious that I should have gotten out for down 1. What I didn't realize until much later was that I could and should have made the contract by ruffing out the queen of clubs, since the extra chance that West's shape is 1-2-7-3 comes home.

There are two important lessons to be learned from this hand. One is that even after you have found a reasonable line of play, it is worth taking a second look to see if a better line exists. The second is to be sure and process all information that comes your way, and be ready to change plans when that is dictated by new information.



'Malahide regional bridge club has announced the revival of Malahide bridge congress. First organised in 1965 the congress was subsequently discontinued. The renewal of the festival will take place at the home of the original event, the Grand hotel over the weekend of March 6th to 8th, 2020.'

Irish Times
Seamus Dowling Bridge
Notes March 9th.

The Programme will have Gala Open Pairs, Mixed Pairs and Novice Pairs on its Opening night of Friday March 6th. Saturday is a Pairs day of 2 sessional Congress, Intermediate A and B categories and these categories will be repeated for 2 sessional Teams on Sunday 8th finishing around 5.30pm. These competitions are all pre entry and alongside them will be one sessional Open Pairs with No pre entry required.

The Grand Hotel Malahide is an excellent Congress venue with superb facilities and it has much more to offer with its gorgeous view of Dublin bay and being situated in the historic and homely village of Malahide.

Visit <http://www.visitmalahide.ie/> to know more about Malahide and all it has to offer from Medieval Castle to beaches with coastal walks and it is a 10-minute drive from Dublin Airport.

You might consider adding Malahide Bridge Congress to your diary for 2020!

For more information:

Malahide Regional Bridge Club email: malahidebridgecongress@mrbc.ie

Brochure will be found on

...when ready.... <http://malahideregionalbridgeclub.com/>

The Grand Hotel Malahide email: info@the.grand.ie

Quote Bridge Congress Phone: +353 1 845 0000

<https://www.thegrand.ie/contact-us/>

MALAHIDE BRIDGE CONGRESS March 6th to 8th 2020 GRAND HOTEL MALAHIDE

will be run under the auspices of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland (CBAI)

GOTO BRIDGE / 19

The must-have game to improve at bridge!

Game modes for all levels
And ideal features to progress

\$20
OFF



NBM special offer

USD20 off - From USD59.99 only

Click to enjoy

www.gotobridge.com



WINTER GAMES 2020
3rd European Transnational Open Teams



YOU LOVED THE WINTER GAMES 2018!
YOU WILL AD[♥]RE THE WINTER GAMES 2020!

📅 February 29 - March 6, 2020: Teams events 📅 March 6 - 8, 2020: Pairs tournament

PRIZE MONEY
150 000 € MINIMUM
35+ teams and 10+ pairs will get a prize
9 Days of competition
inside the Hotel
over the sea



Special Hotel Rates
at Le Fairmont ★★★★★
Starting from 199 € per room per night
Rich buffet breakfast included
Low Cost Housing
In Beausoleil, at walking
distance from the venue

Find out more: www.wintergames.bridgemonaco.com

An Excerpt from Close Encounters

this month's Master Point Press Bidding Battle book prize

Chapter 3. 1979 The History Boys

Cincinnati, also known as the Queen City, the Queen of the West, the Blue Chip City and the City of the Seven Hills, whose beloved Reds lost the National League baseball pennant to the Pittsburgh Pirates in September, 1979, played host to the ACBL's Fall North American Bridge Championships (a.k.a. the Fall Nationals) in November of the same year. In unrelated, but not fake U.S. news, Jack Haley (the Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz), Zeppo Marx, and Mr. Ed (the talking horse) all passed away. When the scores after the sixth and final session in the main event, the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, were totaled, REINHOLD (Bud Reinhold, Bobby Levin, Russ Arnold, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell) had amassed 37.13, while the defending champions, the ACES (Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Fred Hamilton, Ira Rubin) had finished with 37.05 (fractions due to carryover formula). As the Conditions of Contest specified that the margin of victory had to be 0.25 or more, the teams went into the record books as co-titleholders.

However, that was not the end of the matter. The Reisinger was one of four qualifying events for the U.S. Team Trials (for the 1980 Olympiad) due to take place only a few days later, but only one team could emerge. Thus, after two long tension-filled sessions that day, there would be a playoff between the Reisinger co-winners for a place in the Team Trials. It was history in the making — the first-ever Reisinger playoff — and not just sudden-death or a handful of boards; the Directors dusted off the Conditions of Contest to reveal an obscure regulation stating that the two teams would have to contest another 12 deals (still scored at Board-a-Match) to break the tie.

There was a complication: REINHOLD would normally have fielded Levin and Arnold, leaving the triumvirate's third member — team sponsor Reinhold — on the sidelines, but Arnold, who had not played in the final session, was already on his way back to Florida. REINHOLD's request for a postponement was politely refused. Despite the playoff start time of 1 a.m., there were huge crowds of spectators in both rooms.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 7 ♥ 9873 ♦ AQ9 ♣ K8532		♠ 5 ♥ QJ1065 ♦ 542 ♣ J976
♠ AKQ98 ♥ AK42 ♦ J87 ♣ 10	♠ J106432 ♥ — ♦ K1063 ♣ AQ4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reinhold</i>	<i>Wolff</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
-	Pass	pass 1♣*	
Pass	1♥*	2♠	Double
all pass			

1♣ Strong, artificial, forcing one round.

1♥ Artificial negative.

South took five trump tricks, but there was no way the defenders could generate a sixth trick, so REINHOLD scored up +470. It's interesting to note that in 1979 Hamman had a penalty double of 2♠ available; even then, it was more common to treat this double as takeout, and today it's almost universal to double for takeout when a pass by a strong hand would not be forcing on a weak one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamilton	Meckstroth	Rubin	Rodwell
-	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	1♠	Double
Redouble*	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	3♥
all pass			

- 1♣ Strong, artificial, forcing one round.
- 1♦ Artificial negative.
- Redble Rescue.

Here too, the strong-club opener could double for penalty, but the context was different, as apparently at the one-level opener's pass would be forcing. Given the Open Room result, the number of tricks Meckstroth took in 3♥ was irrelevant, but the play was of some interest.

East led the ♦3 and the defenders cashed three tricks in the suit and then switched to spades. Declarer took the ace and played a trump to the queen, which eventually led to West scoring a trump trick by ruffing spades with his remaining equal intermediates for one down, -50. Had declarer started with one of dummy's top trumps he would have managed safe club ruffs and been able to neutralize West's trumps. REINHOLD 1, ACES 0.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A98 ♥ K743 ♦ AQ109 ♣ Q8	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 106 ♥ AQ9 ♦ 654 ♣ KJ654
♠ KJ53 ♥ 865 ♦ KJ72 ♣ 72	♠ Q742 ♥ J102 ♦ 83 ♣ A1093	

Open Room & Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Reinhold	Wolff	Levin	Hamman
Hamilton	Meckstroth	Rubin	Rodwell
-	Pass	Pass	
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

After identical auctions, North led the ♠3 at both tables, declarer winning the third round as North ensured that his partner would win the fourth. In the Open Room, Reinhold led the ♣8 to the jack and ace, and after cashing the ♠7, on which declarer threw a diamond from both hands, Hamman switched to the ♦8. Declarer went up with the ace, unblocked the ♣Q, crossed to dummy with a heart and cashed the ♣K. When declarer, perhaps showing his fatigue, inexplicably discarded a heart and exited with a club, North could dispose of his remaining heart. A second diamond through the queen-ten allowed North to take the rest, which added up to down four, -200. That would be a tough result to duplicate.

Indeed. Hamilton, after the same start to the play in the Closed Room, discarded a diamond on the ♣K and then cashed his three remaining heart winners when the suit broke 3-3 for the normal one down, -50. The score was even. REINHOLD 1, ACES 1.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K ♥ KJ108 ♦ AJ852 ♣ K102	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 107543 ♥ 72 ♦ K4 ♣ AQ43
♠ AJ2 ♥ A653 ♦ Q76 ♣ 875	♠ Q986 ♥ Q94 ♦ 1093 ♣ J96	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Reinhold	Wolff	Levin	Hamman
-	-	-	Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

♠ AJ2		
♥ A653		
♦ Q76		
♣ 875		
♠ K		♠ 107543
♥ KJ108		♥ 72
♦ AJ852		♦ K4
♣ K102		♣ AQ43
		♠ Q986
		♥ Q94
		♦ 1093
		♣ J96

Appreciating Reinhold's discomfort on the previous deal, Wolff risked a truly vile 1♥ overcall to stir the pot before calm was restored. Against 1NT, he led the ♣8, and the trick continued with the four, jack and king. Declarer continued with a diamond to the king, and another diamond to the jack and queen. At first blush, it may have seemed that it was asking a lot for Wolff to find the switch to the ♠A, but if South would have raised with four-card heart support, it was likely that declarer's shape was 1=4=5=3. However, Wolff continued with a second club. Declarer won and cashed all his minor-suit winners ending in dummy. This was the position:

	♠ AJ2	
	♥ A	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	
♠ K		♠ 1075
♥ KJ10		♥ 7
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
		♠ Q9
		♥ Q9
		♦ —
		♣ —

With the spade suit blocked (South would have done better to keep a third spade and release a heart — probably the queen, given that overcall!), declarer can secure a ninth trick by leading a heart to the ten. When, instead, he exited with a spade, North won, returned a spade to South's queen and claimed the last two tricks, holding 1NT to two, +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamilton	Meckstroth	Rubin	Rodwell
-	-	-	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	All Pass

Rubin's 2♣ was not an encouraging move and could easily have delivered four spades and at least five clubs, so might not have led to a superior 5-3 spade fit had West held three of those. Meanwhile, 2♣ took the partnership out of a higher-scoring strain with insufficient evidence to support the decision. South led the ♥4 to the ten and ace, Rubin concealing the two. North returned the ♥6 to the queen and king, and declarer tried the ♠K. North won and switched to a trump, won in dummy. Declarer threw a spade on the ♥J, came to the ♦K, ruffed a spade, cashed the ♦A, ruffed a diamond and ruffed a spade, which added up to ten tricks for a lovely +130 and a win for ACES, ahead now 2-1. Rubin's unusual action had paid off in a way that could not easily have been foreseen.

In fact, as it went, had Rubin played to set up the diamonds without giving up a spade he would have taken eleven tricks, which would have been necessary to push the board had Reinhold guessed accurately in the endgame to land +150. North can deny declarer an eleventh trick in clubs by withholding the ♥A on the first round.

Could the defense have held 2♣ to nine tricks to win the board for REINHOLD? The short answer is yes; the long answer is that only one card gets the job done. It's somewhat intuitive to think that South must lead a trump, but something else to divine that it must be the jack!

If South starts with the ♣6 or the ♣9, declarer wins with dummy's ten, comes to hand with a diamond, and plays a heart to the ten. When North ducks, declarer can cash dummy's ♦A, ruff a diamond and play a second heart. North wins, but now playing two rounds of spades can be countered by ruffing, cashing the ♥K and then taking three more trump tricks via a high crossruff.

Leading the ♣J stops this line of play. If declarer wins in hand and plays a heart to the ten, North must duck and declarer cannot untangle his tricks if the rest of the defense is equally efficient. Say he continues with a diamond to the king and a second heart. North wins, and must cash the ♠A and continue with the jack. Declarer ruffs in dummy, but lacks

the necessary communications to score more than nine tricks. Winning Trick 1 with dummy's king removes a vital high trump entry to dummy.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ 1085 ♥ 104 ♦ J98752 ♣ 93		♠ AKJ6 ♥ AQ3 ♦ K63 ♣ J65
♠ Q ♥ 9875 ♦ A4 ♣ AQ10742		
♠ 97432 ♥ KJ62 ♦ Q10 ♣ K8		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reinhold</i>	<i>Wolff</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
Pass	1♣*	3♣	Double*
all pass			

1♣ Artificial, 17+, forcing one round.
 Double Negative double.

Hamman's double of Levin's enterprising jump to 3♣ was value-showing, and with his balanced hand, Wolff elected to pass for penalty. South led a heart and North won with the ace and switched to a trump, ducked to the king. A second trump left declarer looking at only six tricks and almost surely a lost board, but after cashing three more clubs declarer played the ♥8. South went in with the jack and exited with a spade. Declarer ruffed the second round of spades with his last trump and played the ♥9. When Hamman misjudged by playing the ♥K, crashing the queen, Wolff's earlier spade discard meant that the defense could cash only one spade as Levin discarded his diamond loser. Now Wolff had to play a diamond and

Levin took the last two tricks with the ♦A and the ♥7 to escape with seven tricks, -500, an excellent result for REINHOLD as North-South were entitled to the vulnerable game bonus.

Closed Room

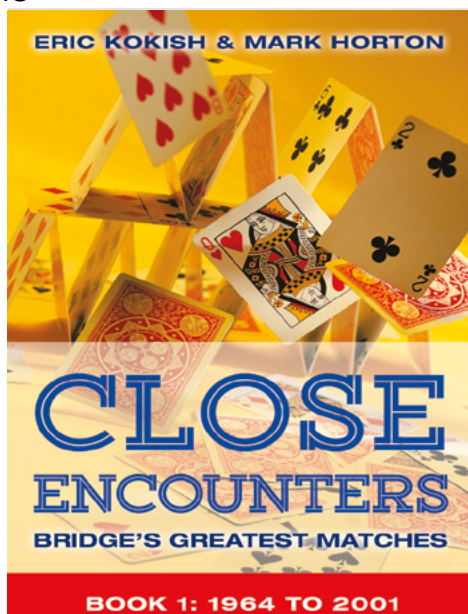
West	North	East	South
<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Rubin</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
Pass	1♣*	2♣	2♠*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1♣ Artificial 16+, forcing one round.
 22x Game force.

Rubin's less-adventurous 2♣ gave North-South plenty of room to bid their vulnerable game with no realistic temptation to propose defending 2♣ doubled. Rodwell lost tricks to the two missing aces, +650 and a win for REINHOLD, tying the score at 2-2.

BAM scoring has traditionally stressed the wisdom of taking actions that will most often ensure at least a half-point (a tie) while expecting better judgment, greater skill in the play and opponents' errors to create a significant number of wins. Levin's atypical 3♣ (indifferent

intermediates in clubs, good defense, potentially fine dummy for hearts or diamonds) offers us a glimpse of what might reasonably happen after stepping out just a bit. First, 3♣ made it much more difficult for North-South to reach their best contract; second, it created a 'win or lose' scenario rather than the expected tie at North-South +650; third, it may well have played a role in steering the defenders wrong as they were not focused on declarer having both a fourth heart and a second ace. One conclusion we can take from this deal is that sometimes you must give to get, i.e., put yourself at some risk if your objective is to win rather than tie a board against a very strong team.





9th European Open Championships

15 – 29 June 2019 – Save the dates for Turkish Delight!

Situated in the seafront 5 star Green Park Hotel & Convention Center in Pendik, a secure residential suburb on the outskirts of Istanbul, these championships will give you an opportunity to play bridge in an excellent fully air-conditioned venue against top class opponents from around the globe.

- In an ancient city that has become one of the most advanced in this part of the world, you can join the many visitors to take in the wonderful sights of Istanbul that we have seen in so many films – for example Topkapi Palace, Basilica Cistern, Aya Sofya, Grand Bazaar.
- Ample opportunities to enjoy international and Turkish cuisine in nearby restaurants suitable for every budget
- You can boost your well-being by availing of the opportunity to have a Turkish bath and massage where they were first developed.

All you need to do is

- visit the microsite for the Championships on the following: <http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/19Istanbul/microSite/Participants.htm>
 - for the specific playing schedule, where all events are transnational – 7 days of Mixed Teams & Pairs followed by 8 days of Open, Women and Senior Teams and Pairs; By popular request, Mixed and Open Team Knockouts will start from the round of 32
 - Guaranteed play every day for the duration
 - for a new entry fee structure with opportunities to save on a weekly package deal
 - **Special rates for early birds**
 - **for substantially reduced entry fees for Women's and Seniors' events**

<http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/19Istanbul/microSite/Information.htm#Fees>

- Book your flight to the nearest international airport in Istanbul, Sabiha Gökçen (SAW), just 15 minutes away

Reserve your accommodation at the venue hotel (500+ rooms at very attractive rates) or one of the many local excellent hotels of various categories linked to Prowin, the Turkish Bridge Federation accommodation liaison at <https://eobc2019.com/#!/hotels>



2018 Book of the Year

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

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

Betty Starzec, ABTA President.

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

Barbara Seagram.

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

Chip Dombrowski, ACBL Bulletin editor.

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

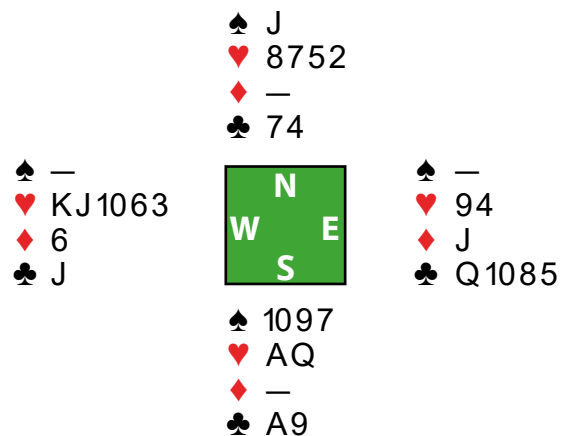
Phillip Alder.

A Taste of Bridge is fun, but it is only half of the Honors Bridge Club beginner course. The amazing Israeli online teaching site, **bestebriidge.com**, is the other half. Teacher and student notes, along with all the example hands your beginners will ever need, are included in the program. If you’ll email me at honorsbridge@gmail.com, I’ll send you a complimentary e-book, course materials, and two full-day free access to the Best e-Bridge website. If you’ve been unhappy with materials you’ve been using to reach your newest students, you owe it to them to give us a try.

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

Jeff Bayone

Honors Bridge Club



The Abbot, who was planning an endplay, paused to count the West hand. He had probably started with 2=5=4=2 or 2=5=3=3 shape. East had produced the 7, 8 and 9 of diamonds. If West held the missing ♦6, he would now have only one club left. ‘Club, please,’ said the Abbot.

When East followed with the ♣5, the Abbot played the ♣9. West won with the jack and had no good return. He chose to lead the jack of hearts and the Abbot then claimed the remaining tricks.

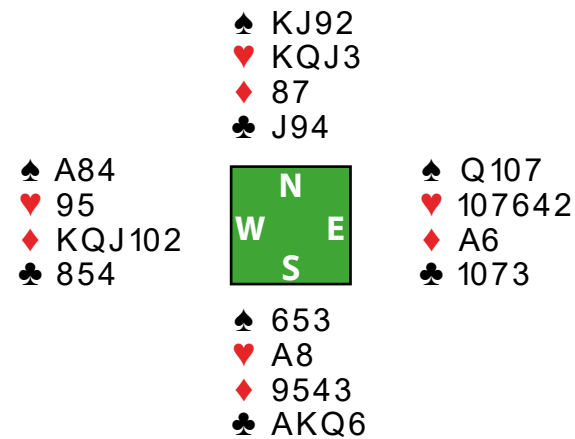
‘Was that heart into his ace-queen a good idea?’ queried Father Dennis. ‘Didn’t you have anything else to play?’

‘I was hoping you had the ace or the queen of hearts,’ Dom Francis replied. ‘Still, you’re right; I should have played safe by returning a diamond. Too late now, I’m afraid.’

The Abbot sat back contentedly in his chair. These players were as hopeless as one would expect. He wouldn’t exhaust himself, trying to explain the intricacies of elimination play. Nor how East could have beaten the contract by rising with his ♣Q. No. Just take things easy, after the long journey, and wait for his reward when dinner was served.

This was the next board:

Dealer East. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Dom Francis</i>	<i>Father Brendan</i>	<i>Father Dennis</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Dom Francis led the king of diamonds and down went the dummy. The Abbot raised an eyebrow. It wouldn’t have made any difference, as it happened, but did the famed Rhoda Lederer not espouse the Stayman convention?

‘I intended my response as a limited bid,’ said Father Brendan. ‘Do you play limited bids?’

‘Limit bids, you mean,’ replied the Abbot. ‘Yes, I have heard of them.’

The king of diamonds won the first trick and Dom Francis continued with the diamond queen, his partner overtaking with the ace. The Abbot could not believe his luck when East then switched to the ♣3. Was it not obvious, even to a complete beginner, that he should overtake his partner’s lead when he held a doubleton ace?

The Abbot won with the ace of clubs and decided to seek his ninth trick immediately. He led the ♠5 and was pleased to see West play low. ‘Jack, please,’ he said.

East won with the spade queen and returned another club. The Abbot won with the club king and led his remaining spade towards dummy,

West playing the ♠8. ‘Try the nine,’ said the Abbot.

The nine lost to the ten and Father Dennis spent a few moments considering his next move. Surely declarer wouldn’t have played spades this way if he held the ace of the suit. When he eventually returned a third round of spades, Dom Francis won with the ace. He then took great pleasure in playing his three remaining diamond winners. ‘Goodness me, that’s four down, Abbot,’ he declared. ‘We nearly made 3NT our way.’

Father Dennis chuckled as he made an entry in his scorecard. ‘It’s rather amusing,’ he said. ‘I’ve put in 3NT as the contract and 400 in the plus column. We were non-vulnerable, so it looks as if we made 3NT!’

Father Brendan reached for the Abbot’s curtain card. ‘You had four heart tricks and four clubs,’ he said. ‘Wouldn’t you have made it if you’d played dummy’s king on the first round of spades? Even on the second round?’

The Abbot gritted his teeth. How could he explain that no sensible West could possibly hold the ace of spades or he would have risen with it and cashed his diamonds for two down?

Dom Francis leaned forward, looking rather pleased with himself. ‘Rhoda Lederer recommends a technique called second-hand-low,’ he informed the Abbot. ‘I don’t know if you’ve heard of it, but it worked very well here. When I played low from the ace of spades, you lost two extra tricks!’

The Abbot had heard enough. ‘You and your partner could have taken the first six tricks anyway,’ he declared. ‘Your partner should play the ace of diamonds on your king, unblocking the suit. Then he can return his remaining diamond and you score five more tricks.’

‘Ah yes, play the ace,’ replied Dom Francis. ‘Rhoda Lederer recommends that too. She calls it third-hand-high. It’s amazing how much you can learn from books. I suppose, in a way, we could regard her tome as the Bible of the bridge game.’

A few rounds later, the Abbot and his partner faced two monks who would require some beating for the title of ‘Oldest Pair in the Community’.

‘I’m 87,’ said Father Bernard proudly, ‘and my partner, Father Musgrove, is 91. He can’t talk at the moment because he has a very bad throat infection.’

The Abbot moved his chair to the left. The last thing he wanted was to catch some virulent infection. This was the board before them:

Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ J 10 9 4 2 ♥ 10 9 5 4 ♦ AKQ ♣ J	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		♠ Q 8 7 3 ♥ Q 6 2 ♦ 8 3 ♣ 8 6 3 2	♠ 6 5 ♥ AKJ8 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ 9 7 4 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ AK ♥ 7 3 ♦ J 10 8 4 2 ♣ AKQ 10												

West	North	East	South
<i>Father Bernard</i>	<i>Father Brendan</i>	<i>Father Musgrove</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Abbot was somewhat nervous about overcalling 2NT on his hand. What if the much heralded Rhoda Lederer book had made some mention of the Unusual Notrump? Still, if his partner took that view and bid three of a minor in response, he could always bid 3NT and hope for the best.

Father Brendan raised to 3NT and the jack of spades was led, East signalling encouragement with the ♠8. The Abbot won with the king and played the ace of clubs. When the jack fell from West, he could count eight top tricks. There was clearly no time to develop the diamonds, so he would need an extra trick from the heart suit. Only 15 points were out and East presumably held the queen of spades, It was therefore very likely that Father Bernard would hold the missing heart queen.

The Abbot finessed the jack of hearts at trick two, wincing when this lost to the queen. He won the spade return with the ace and marked time by scoring three more club tricks. Father Bernard spent a while choosing three discards. He needed to keep the hearts to guard against dummy’s remaining cards in the suit. He could hardly throw any of his top diamond winners, so he would have to throw three spades. His partner had encouraged in spades, so perhaps he held the queen of the suit.

Not overjoyed with the discards he had seen, the Abbot returned to the heart suit. West still had that suit guarded and the game was one down.

Father Musgrove leaned forward from the East seat and muttered something barely audible. When this triggered a painful-sounding cough, he reached for his handkerchief and sat back in his chair.

‘Did you hear what he said?’ asked Father Brendan.

‘Something about an eight,’ Dom Francis replied. ‘He was pointing at the dummy.’

Father Brendan retrieved his cards from the table. ‘The only eight I had was the eight of hearts,’ he said.

Father Musgrove nodded vigorously, the handkerchief still clamped to his mouth.

Light dawned on the Abbot. How had he missed it? The right play in hearts was low to the eight on the first round, gaining when West held the 10 and 9. If nothing came from that, he would still be able to finesse the jack on the next round.

‘Do you understand what Father Musgrove meant, Abbot?’ asked Dom Francis.

The Abbot shrugged his shoulders. ‘I think we should play the next board,’ he replied. ‘I wouldn’t like to hold up the movement.’

The last round of the session ended with this board:

Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ J 1096 ♥ Q983 ♦ A95 ♣ Q8	<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		♠ 84 ♥ J76 ♦ QJ1073 ♣ 753	♠ 7532 ♥ 1052 ♦ 82 ♣ K1094
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ AKQ ♥ AK4 ♦ K64 ♣ AJ62											

West	North	East	South
<i>Father Gavin</i>	<i>Father Brendan</i>	<i>Father Delwyn</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the jack of spades and the Abbot won with the ace, finding that he had six tricks on top. Unless the ♦A was singleton or doubleton, the defenders would hold up the ace twice and cut him off from dummy’s long cards. Where could he find a ninth trick in that case?

The Abbot soon spotted a possible answer. At trick two he ducked a club, West winning and playing another spade. The Abbot won with the king and played the ace of clubs, sucking in his right cheek when the queen fell from West. Just what the doctor ordered! An instructive extra-chance play, one that he could explain to these fledgling bridge players at some later time.

When the Abbot played king and another diamond, Father Gavin held up the ace for two rounds. Taking advantage of being in the dummy, the Abbot led a third round of clubs towards his jack. East rose with the club king and returned a spade but the game was there.

Father Brendan unwrapped the scoresheet. ‘Nine tricks, was it?’ he enquired.

‘Yes, indeed,’ replied the Abbot proudly. ‘It required an expert line of play. I was going to explain it to you.’

‘I’m afraid most tables made +630 for 10 tricks,’ continued Father Brendan.

The Abbot could not believe what he was hearing. ‘What awful defence!’ he exclaimed. ‘West can’t have held up his ace of diamonds.’

‘Two pairs made +660,’ added Father Brendan. ‘What was the lead at those tables? Ah, a heart. Dummy’s jack wins then. That explains the extra trick.’

The session drew to a close and Dom Francis approached the Abbot. ‘We dine early here,’ he informed him. ‘At 6pm. I’m not sure what your preferences are. Do you follow a vegetarian diet?’

The Abbot’s heart sank. A vegetarian diet? What a truly horrible thought for anyone still in possession of his sense of taste. ‘Not usually,’ the Abbot replied. ‘I’ve always thought we should show appreciation for

the wondrous array of food the Good Lord has provided for us.’

‘I’m pleased to hear it,’ Dom Francis replied. ‘We’ll be eating roast partridge, with game chips and braised cabbage. Our chef, Father Gilbert, is known for his well-constructed sauces. I believe we will have blackberry crumble to follow. Properly made custard may be a rarity in the outside world, but not here.’

The Abbot could barely suppress a small prayer of thanks after this splendid culinary news. ‘I look forward to it immensely,’ he informed his host. ‘It seems that my stay with you will be a memorable one!’

BRIDGE AND THE ROMANTICS

Nick Smith



An Honors Book from Master Point Press

MASTER POINT PRESS
THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

BRIDGE AND THE ROMANTICS
AN HONORS EBOOK

Nick Smith

Nick Smith has unearthed a series of unchronicled episodes in the life of poet and bridge player Percy Shelley. “Historically accurate” and beautifully illustrated, this is a book for fans of classic literature as well as bridge players.

AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE RETAILER NEAR YOU

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF



HCL

17TH HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP



WHERE THE SHARPEST MINDS
PARTNER TO CONQUER

PRIZE MONEY: ₹1.8CR (\$250,000)

AUGUST 5th-10th, 2019 | JW Marriott Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi

Ph: 91-11-45212121

www.hcl-bridge.com



The uBid Auction Room

Mark Horton

Welcome to the Auction Room, where we examine bidding methods from recent events. This month we pay a visit to the Bulgarian National Teams Championship.

Bulgarian players have been performing well at the highest level for some time, and they have titles and medals from many major championships. This article covers deals from the final match of the 11 Round Swiss between the leaders that would determine the 2019 National Champions. K1 were leading with 146.49 while Bridge+ lay second on 141.68.

The Hands

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

Hand 1. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 5		♠ AK73
♥ AQ86		♥ 1097
♦ AKJ		♦ 6
♣ K9752		♣ AQJ43

West	East
Aronov	Karakolev
1♣*	2♣*
3♠*	4♣
4NT*	5♠*
5NT*	6♣
Pass	

1♣	16+
2♣	5+♣ game forcing
3♠	Splinter
4NT	RKCB
5♠	2 key cards +♣Q
5NT	Kings?

When East could not show the ♥K West settled for 6♣.

East might have bid 4♦ over 3♠, then cue-bidding 4♠ over West's 4♥. Even so, West would not know East's distribution and bidding a grand

slam would be speculative.

West	East
Gunev	Stefanov
1♣*	2♣*
2♦*	2♥*
3♣	3♦
3♥	4♣
4NT*	5♦*
7♣	Pass
1♣	16+
2♣	5+♣, 8+
2♦	Relay
2♥	4♠
5♦	0-3/5 key cards

It looks as if E/W were using a version of Relay Precision. It's likely that West knew East's shape, and was willing to take his chances in 7♣, knowing that at worst the contract would depend on a finesse.

North held ♠QJ ♥542 ♦10987532 ♣10 and led the ♠Q. After winning, drawing trumps and pitching a heart on a spade, declarer played a diamond to the jack.

Recommended auction: There are many ways to reach 6♣. For example: 1♣-1♠-2♥-4♣-4♦-4♠-4NT-5♠-5NT-6♣. What needs to be considered is how 7♣ could be reached if East is 4-2-1-6.

Marks: 6♣10, 7♣ 7, 6NT 6, 5♣/3NT 5.

Running score: Bridge+ 7 (11) KI 10 (0)

Hand 2. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ AQ5432		♠ K106
♥ 82		♥ A
♦ 42		♦ AK985
♣ AK8		♣ 9654

South overcalls 3♥ and North raises to 4♥

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Danailov</i>	<i>Aronov</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	3♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

By passing and then bidding 4♥ over partner's double East was making a slam try in spades and when West showed interest by cue-bidding 5♣ East showed his heart control and then asked West to pick a slam.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Gunev</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣*	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥*	Pass	7♠	All Pass

- 2♣ Game forcing
- 4♥ Cue-bid
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♦ 0-3/5 key cards
- 5NT Kings?
- 6♦ ♦K
- 6♥ Grand Slam try

When North did not raise to 4♥ East was able to cue-bid in hearts and the grand slam was reached. Although 7♠ is not laydown, either player might have held something useful – for instance, a minor suit queen.

North held ♠J ♥J107 ♦QJ1073 ♣QJ32 and declarer won the diamond lead in dummy, cashed the ♥A, came to hand with a spade, ruffed a heart, unblocked the ♠K, re-entered hand with a club and drew the outstanding trump. Declarer cashed his remaining top club and then ran the trumps, squeezing North in the minors.

Recommended auction: The second auction is very good. Is there any way to bring 7♠ into the picture if North bids 4♥? Maybe East can bid 5♦ and then continue with 6♥. Give South a third club and the minor suit squeeze would fail to operate.

If you want to give yourself a little mental exercise can you spot a winning line if North's hand is ♠J87 ♥J107 ♦QJ107 ♣QJ3 and the ♦Q or ♣Q is led?

Marks: 6♠10, 7♠ 8.

Running score: Bridge+ 17 (11) KI 18 (11)

Hand 3. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AK43	N	♠ 98
♥ A63	W	♥ J84
♦ AKJ	E	♦ Q2
♣ A98	S	♣ QJ7654

South opens 1♦, 1+♦, 10-15

West	East
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
-	Pass (1♦)
Double (Pass)	2♣
3NT	Pass

South's opening bid was based on ♠QJ62 ♥10975 ♦653 ♣K10. Declarer won the diamond lead in hand with the ace and played two rounds of clubs for eleven tricks.

West	East
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
1♣*	1♦*
1♥*	1♠*
2NT	4♥*
6♣	Pass
1♣	16+
1♦	0-7
1♥	Relay
1♠	Forced
4♥	6♣

North led the ♥K and declarer won, crossed to dummy with the ♦Q and advanced the ♣Q for +1370.

Recommended auction: 2♣-2♦-2NT-3NT. If you think the East hand is worth a slam try in clubs you have to do something different over 2NT – maybe 3♠ to force 3NT then 4♥ to show the club suit.

Marks: 3NT 10, 5♣ 7, 6♣/6NT 5.

Running score: Bridge+ 27 (11) KI 23 (23)

Hand 4. Dealer North. Both Vul

♠ 53	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ KQ87
♥ K95		♥ A84
♦ AKJ1087		♦ 952
♣ 74		♣ K52

South overcalls 1♠

	West	East
	Karakolev	Aronov
	–	1♦* (1♠)
	3♠* (Pass)	3NT
	Pass	
1♦	1+♦, 10-15	
3♠	Spade stopper?	

South held ♠AJ1096 ♥Q3 ♦4 ♣A10963 and led the ♠J and declarer won with the king as North followed with the ♠2 (low from an even number). Three rounds of diamonds saw South pitch the six and nine of spades and North switched to the ♣Q. When that held, mysteriously he went back to spades so declarer was only one down instead of four.

	West	East
	Stefanov	Gunev
	–	1♦* (1♠)
	2♠* (Pass)	2NT
	3NT	Pass
1♦	11-15, 1+♦	

South led the ♠10 and North followed with the four as declarer won with the king. Three rounds of diamonds saw South pitch the six and three of clubs and North returned the ♠2, South winning with the nine. When South continued with the ♠A declarer had a ninth trick. Looking at a number of convention cards it appears that North had promised an odd number of spades – but it's hard to imagine this pair making that type of mistake.

Recommended auction: All roads should lead to 3NT.

Marks: 3NT 10.

Running score: Bridge+ 37 (21) KI 33 (23)

Hand 5. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ KJ1092	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AQ75
♥ 954		♥ AJ2
♦ AQ9		♦ J8
♣ Q3		♣ AK92

	West	East
	Karakolev	Aronov
	1♠	2♣*
	2NT	3♠
	4♠	Pass
2♣	Game forcing	

When West showed no interest over 3♠ East let matters rest.

	West	East
	Stefanov	Gunev
	1♠	2♣*
	2NT	3♣*
	3♦*	3♠
	4♥	6♠
2♣	Game forcing	
3♣	Relay	
3♦	5-3-3-2	

Recommended auction: 1♠-2NT-4♠-5♣-5♦-6♠. Although we are in an era where light opening bids are *de rigueur* it is very conservative not to drive to 6♠ with the East hand. The king of diamonds was onside.

Marks: 4♠ 0, 6♠ 6.

Running score: Bridge+ 43 (34) KI 43 (23)

Hand 6. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ J10	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K95
♥ AQ5		♥ K1063
♦ AKJ643		♦ –
♣ A5		♣ KQJ1064

West	East
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
1♣*	2♣*
2♦	2♠*
3♦	4♣
4♥*	4♠ (Dble)
Pass	4NT*
5♦*	6NT
Pass	
1♣ 16+	
2♣ 5+♣, game forcing	
2♠ 4♥	
4NT RKCB	
5♦ 0/3 key cards	

East knew the ♠A was missing because West had failed to redouble 4♠. In order to protect the ♠K he rejected the idea of bidding 6♣.

South held ♠A873 ♥987 ♦9752 ♣83 and led the ♦2. Declarer took dummy's top diamonds, ran the clubs and then played hearts, +990.

West	East
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
2NT	6♣
Pass	

South led the ♠A so declarer claimed.

Recommended auction: I like Nanev's practical approach. 6♣ by East is a better slam than 6NT, as declarer can ruff a diamond, gaining when either player holds queen to three diamonds. West might have the right cards for a grand slam, but how do you find out?

Marks: 6♣(E)10, 6NT (E) 8, 6♣/6NT (W) 5. 3NT/5♣ 4.

Running score: Bridge+ 51 (36) KI 53 (23)

Hand 7. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ KQ97
♥ K72
♦ K954
♣ K8



♠ A42
♥ AJ94
♦ AJ3
♣ A102

West	East
<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Aronov</i>
-	1♣*
1NT	3NT
4NT*	5♣*
5♠*	6♥
Pass	
1♣ 16+	
1NT Game forcing, balanced	
5♣ 1/4 aces	
5♠ Slam invitation with 2 four-card suits	

South held ♠1083 ♥Q1085 ♦Q108 ♣543 so 6♥ had to go one down

West	East
<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Gunev</i>
-	1♣*
1♥*	1♠*
2♣*	2♦*
2♥*	2♠*
3♦*	3♥*
3♠*	6NT
Pass	
1♣ 16+	

This sequence of relays led to a slam that had chances, but on this layout declarer did not have a winning line, losing a diamond and a heart after South's club lead.

I noticed that if declarer were to follow the strange line of cashing four spades South would have to pitch a heart in order to avoid a possible endplay.

Recommended auction: 1♣-1♦-2NT-3NT. 32 points but no five-card suits. On a good day, this sort of slam makes.

Marks: 3NT 10, 6NT 7, 6♥ 6.

Running score: Bridge+ 58 (36) KI 59 (23)

Hand 8. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A74 ♥ Q8 ♦ A3 ♣ AQJ1076		♠ 1065 ♥ 10962 ♦ J10 ♣ K543
------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------

North overcalls 1♥ and South bids 2♦. If E/W bid 3♣ North bids 3♦.

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Danailov</i>	<i>Aronov</i>
1♣*	1♥	Pass	2♦
3♣	4♥	5♣	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	
1♣	16+		

This was the last board of the match. North's hand was ♠KQJ ♥AKJ753 ♦Q54 ♣9. Declarer lost two spades, two hearts and a diamond for -800.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Gunev</i>
1♣*	1♥	Pass	Pass
2♣	Double	3♣	3♦
All Pass			
1♣	16+		

West cashed his aces declarer claiming the remaining ten tricks. It gave K1 12 IMPs – but that was not enough for the title, which went to their opponents.

Recommended auction: The second auction is a sound one which could easily be repeated using ANBM Standard. Were West to open 1NT the auction would follow a different route.

Marks: 3♦ (NS) 10, 3NT 6, 4♣ 2.

Running score: Bridge+ 68 (36) KI 69 (35)

As you can see it was a close call on both fronts.

You can play through the deals mentioned in this article.

Just follow the links:

[here](https://tinyurl.com/y5jgfoxag) or <https://tinyurl.com/y5jgfoxag> and
[here](https://tinyurl.com/y4cop69y) or <https://tinyurl.com/y4cop69y>

You can also follow the play at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrDKk-9Qj7o>.

**BARON
BARCLAY**
BRIDGE SUPPLY





The Master Point Press Bidding Battle Set 16

Moderated by Brian Senior

A smaller than usual panel this month so we'll have to settle for quality over quantity.

PROBLEM 1

PAIRS. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ AK73
♥ K86
♦ 7
♣ 107642

West	North	East	South
–	2♥*	3♦	3♥

?
2♥ Weak

Bid	Votes	Marks
Pass	10	10
Double	5	6
3NT	1	2

We have an ace and two kings, which strongly suggests bidding facing a three-level overcall, but a small singleton in partner's suit, which suggests not getting involved. For the pessimists (or perhaps that should be realists?):

Cope: Pass. The auction is not necessarily over as partner can come again with the right hand. But if partner does not bid again, then this is probably the best way of getting a plus score. 3NT looks unlikely as partner could have bid 3♥ with solid diamonds to ask for a heart stopper, and if partner cannot bid again I prefer defending 3♥ to playing 4♦.

THE BIDS & MARKS

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



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

Stabell: Pass. I have no reason to expect that we have the highest contract, so I do not want to punish partner by bidding on here. I suppose Double would (at least initially) show the black suits but a bit more offensive strength than this.

Sime: Pass. There is no need to chase thin games at pairs. Especially when down three vulnerable is a serious contender. Double risks partner bidding 4♦. There is a good chance of 200 on defence even if partner doesn't reopen with a double.

Green: Pass. With a singleton diamond and the king of hearts under the pre-emptor I am not inclined to get involved. 3NT is a big gamble in my view needing solid diamonds in dummy as well as some other stuffing. Double might get us to spades but partner will probably bid again

on his own with four spades. The most likely outcome of double is that partner bids 4♦ and I have no idea whether that is making so I will pass and hope it goes two down for the magic (at matchpoints) +200 even one down could be a sensible score.

Lambardi: Pass. My singleton diamond rules out 3NT; Double will work only if partner has specifically four spades. If so, he will be 6-4 or 7-4 and may can/should bid again himself. Confident we will go plus in 3♥ – would double for penalties perhaps if that were an option.

Bird: Pass. I don't expect we can make anything much our way. I would have passed 3♦ if South had not bid. A pass now may collect 200. If partner reopens with a double, I will let it stand.

Brock: Pass. Think we have pretty good chance of +200 and partner will not pass if I double. Game seems a slim chance for us (unless partner can bid again).

Apteker: Pass. Expect to go plus defending, which in pairs is critical, and perhaps even taking the opponents down two. The alternatives of 3NT and double are unappealing. I hold the wrong stopper for 3NT and will require to run an unlikely additional eight tricks after the lead. If I double, I may well hear 4♦ from partner. I will have a difficult bid if partner reopens with a double. Playing teams, I would bid 3NT.

Robson: Pass. Most of the time a bid, either double or 3NT will turn plus into minus. And Pairs is all about “most of the time”.

That pretty much sums it up for me, but there was a significant minority vote for action:

Sandsmark: 3NT. I would have to be a yellow chicken here to pass, and a stupid retard to

double, so the only good bid I can spot is 3NT.

Tommy is on his own with that, for reasons already expressed by the majority.

Teramoto: Double. Responsive, Pass is also interesting, though only at Pairs.

Cannell: Double. Responsive. Seems to fit the bill nicely.

Kokish: Double. 3NT needs solid diamonds or very good diamonds and a second heart stopper, so I won't try that. Whether a responsive double catches four spades (much less likely in some partnerships than others, based on either Equal Level Conversion or a willingness to double regardless with 4♠+6♦) or enough club fit to give us a good shot at a plus has little evidence pro or con, and it's very reasonable to pass at Pairs, hoping for +100 when others go minus or +200 when we have no game. Hoping that pass will catch East reopening with a double is optimistic, and if that happened, would we know the best way to react to it?

Byrne: Double. This is my last chance to bid 3NT and if I thought the diamonds were running I might try it, but even ♠QJx ♥x ♦AKQ10xx ♣Axx isn't enough to make it good (surely 4-2 offside is massively more likely on the bidding) and that is a far better hand that I am entitled to expect. I seem to remember a lot of people claiming 3♦ denies four spades since with 6/4 they would always double; even if that is true it just means we are more likely to have a club fit.

A lot of people would always double with 6-4? I'm not convinced. I understand equal-level conversion at the two level, but are they saying that to double then convert 3♣ to 3♦ could be a minimum double, when there is no other way to show a good hand with diamonds as there is no room

for a jump rebid?

Smith: Pass. 3NT would be gambling on partner holding six (or more) solid diamonds and a club holding that stops South getting in quickly to play a heart through my king. Whilst he might have that, the odds are surely against. Whilst 3♥ doubled is probably our best spot, we can't get there with a double from me now, since that is surely for take-out. That might be the right action is partner produces a four-card black suit but, again, whilst he may be 6-4 the odds are surely against it. I would have passed Three Diamonds had RHO not bid, and I see no reason to bid now. At least they are going down (probably) in hundreds whilst any bid from me now is likely to turn a small plus into a minus.



Iain Sime

Rigal: Double. I can see how passing might allow us to go plus, but I wouldn't have passed 3♦ (even if I should) so I'm looking for more. Will pass 4♦ from my partner.

Partner held:

- ♠ QJx
- ♥ x
- ♦ AJxxxxx
- ♣ Ax

Three Hearts would have been down two for +200 and all the matchpoints.

PROBLEM 2

PAIRS. Dealer South. All Vul.

- ♠ KQ9865
- ♥ –
- ♦ 96
- ♣ QJ1063

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
2♠	7	10
3♠	4	8
1♠	3	6
Pass	2	5

This one is as much about personality as anything, as noted by Sally:

Brock: 3♠. It's a matter of personality.

Bird: 3♠. With six spades rather than five, the hand is not suitable for pass and then a Michaels bid. Perhaps I should not pre-empt on this in second seat. If that's the opinion of the rest of the panel, I will agree with them.

Robson: 3♠. Feels a bit wet with 4♠ a possibility. But 4♠ is probably too much, vulnerable.

I must admit that 3♠ looks right to me, but the majority, far from succumbing to Andrew's temptation to bid higher, actually bid lower.

Cannell: 2♠. A New York weak-two bid. Sound. Maybe too sound.

Byrne: 2♠. It is rare I am too good for a pre-empt but I can't bring myself to open 1♠ with so little defence, and the suit is too patchy for a second in seat three opener. This could lead to a crazy result (partner passing with ♠x ♥xxxx ♦AKxx ♣AKxx) but the void heart cries out for a pre-empt, otherwise I am sure we will end up bidding 4♠ on the next round if we start by passing.

Certainly, if the opposition bid to 4♥ after we pass we will wish we had opened at least 2♠.

Rigal: 2♠. 4♠ is often a transfer to double and 3♠ is just too much of a position. Over a 2NT relay 4♣ shows this sort of hand. Trent weak-twos where you promise a good suit but may or may not have additional side-suit shape were popular in NYC once. Graham Kirby would open this a strong two by the way...

I question that, but I would expect that he would have opened more than 2♠ in his heyday. He and John Armstrong rarely under-pre-empted.

Cope: 2♠ We hope partner is good enough for 2NT so that we can complete our shape via a 4♣ bid or I may get to bid 3♣ myself on some auctions to show the same shape.

Kokish: 2♠. Seems to work for everyone else. Why not us? Not enough defense for 1♠ or urgency for 3♠ and passing commits us to bidding later to any level. Apteker: 2♠. Intending to show clubs at either the three- or four-level

if given the opportunity.

Green: 2♠. Close between 2♠ and 3♠. Vulnerable second in hand I prefer to have a seven-bagger for 3♠. I would open 3♠ if partner had passed.

Yes, and we are more likely to be able to show the clubs after opening 2♠ than if we open 3♠.

Lambardi: 1♠. A lot depends on partnership style and trust. Although opening with 8 HCP is against my principles, I will pre-empt myself if I open 2♠. If I do, I won't want to sell out without bidding my clubs and that may prove too high. Even if I hit partner with a spade fit and we arrive uneventfully in game, who is to say slam doesn't have a good chance? Opening lower may give us a much-needed space.

Smith: 1♠. Any number of pre-emptive spades might be right on this hand, but partner is never going to guess that I have so much playing strength. Of course, the one-level opening is not without risks too, but it also has the advantage of showing that potential strength if we can find a fit. Passing does not seem much more attractive – surely you will just then have to guess when the bidding starts (1♥) – Pass – (3/4♥) – back to you.

Sandsmark: 1♠. If you apply the ZAR count, you have 26 ZAR (Nos of HCP (=8) + Nos of Ctrl (=1) + Numbers of cards in your two longest suits (=11) + your longest suit minus your shortest suit (=6)), which is so valuable that it justifies an opening bid. If you don't apply the ZAR count, please do, for it is easy and it brings you right into a productive path!

I'm not familiar with ZAR points but if they persuade people to open eight-counts at the one-level I might need a lot of convincing that they were a

good idea. Are you sure that they say open 1♠ or merely open something?

Teramoto: Pass. When Vul I'm not too aggressive. South Passed already, and the effectiveness of a pre-empt is not as high as when Dealer. **Stabell:** Pass. I have the highest suit, so no need for a desperate pre-empt, since it is close to a 50% chance that I pre-empt partner instead of North. Will bid spades next time if possible, and partner will know that I have a side-suit.

And, finally:

Sime: 3♠. About what the hand is worth. Other options, or non-options in some cases:

1♠ – not quite enough but my second choice.

2♠ – OK on spades, but ignores the other seven cards.

4♠ – ignores the vulnerability, game type and position.

Pass – Passing because you don't know how many to bid deserves a zero, and will usually achieve one.

A little harsh on passing. Pass then bid puts the opposition under far less pressure than an immediate pre-empt, but it does imply a second suit, so may help partner to work out what to do.

Partner held:

♠ 10742

♥ J64

♦ Q4

♣ AK87

Four Spades would be down one, while 5♥ was making the other way. Where the music would stop after the various opening bids, who knows, but we would have been glad to have opened – the higher the better.

PROBLEM 3

PAIRS. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A

♥ AK72

♦ AK64

♣ A983

	West	North	East	South
	?			
Bid		Votes		Marks
2♣		7		10
2NT		4		7
1♦		4		6
1♣		1		4

Roughly half the panel chose to open 2♣, though not everyone had the same plan for their continuation.

Lambardi: 2♣. Too many controls to open at the one-level. I know I will have an awkward rebid over the likely 2♦, but even if I survive the first round after a one-opener, how am I to avoid driving partner crazy afterwards?

We certainly do have a lot of controls and convincing partner of that fact may prove to be impossible. While Pablo does not say what he will rebid over the expected 2♦ response, the majority plan to treat the hand as balanced.

Teramoto: 2♣. Plan to rebid 2NT showing 22-23. I would like to find a normal Game.

Byrne: 2♣. It never seems to work well opening these hands with anything, but I think 1♦ is just a recipe for disaster, it's not like we have a clear path even when partner dredges up a 1♠ response. I shall show this as 22-23 balanced (whatever the range is) and hope to survive. The one subtle point about opening 2♣

rather than 2NT is that opponents always bid over it, and I can cope admirably with spade intervention, (indeed it might be the only way to reach our delicate 6♣/♦ partner holding xxx, xxx, xx, QJxxx etc).

Brock: 2♣. I'm going to call it 23-24 balanced.

Sime: 2♣. Looks like 23/24 balanced to me.

Cannell: 2♣. Yes, and I likely will follow with 2NT after partner's 2♦ response.

I ought to be able to give an extra point to those showing 23-24 as opposed to 22-23, as the system does say that we play a 2NT opener as 20-22 – not that this is a big deal, of course.

Stabell: 2♣. Since as little as ♠xxxx ♥xxxx ♦xx ♣xxx gives excellent play for game, I cannot bring myself to open at the one-level. Hope I am allowed to rebid 2♥ after 2♣ – 2♦, otherwise I don't quite see how we get to 4♥ even after the 2♣ start.

In olde worlde Acoll you could definitely rebid 2♥ on a four-card suit. The problem is that we play Kokish, so that we can't have the natural continuation – 2♠ from partner – 2NT from us. So a 2♥ rebid commits us to either rebidding 2NT and cancelling the message of holding hearts, or bid a second suit and convince partner that we hold at least five hearts. Otherwise, I would favour a 2♥ rebid myself as this control-rich three-suiter doesn't feel no-trumpy at all to me.

Then there were those who wanted to treat the hand as balanced but didn't think it was worth more than 20-22:

Apteker: 2NT. Nothing is ideal but this seems to best describe the hand. If partner gets us to a spade contract, at least I have one of the top three honours for my singleton.

Sandsmark: 2NT! What else? You will never find another opening bid which will make your partner understand that this is the hand you have. I prefer to lie by only one card instead of starting something that will entangle me and strangle me in the end

Bird: 2NT. Whether or not 1♣ would be passed out is not the only consideration. If partner responded 1♠, we would still be in some trouble. 2NT is risky too, because partner will not expect this giant if we have a fit somewhere.

Smith: 2NT. Sure, the shape is imperfect, but you would automatically make this bid with ♠xx ♥AKxx ♦AKxx ♣AKx, which is, surely, an even less suitable hand. Of course, we can start with 1♣ but, even if we survive the first round without becoming declarer, we are hardly out of the woods. I can imagine tortuous auctions such as 1♣ – 1♠ – 2♦ – 2♥ – 3♥, and we have now shown a 0-4-4-5 shape and partner will still never imagine quite so much playing strength, never mind that we may easily wind up with an inadequate trump suit in a high club contract.

Actually, we have huge controls, but 1-4-4-4 does not provide huge playing strength. I think partner is more likely to expect more playing strength rather than less for your projected auction, that missing fifth club being a spade being a sad disappointment to him.

Some could not bring themselves to show a balanced hand.

Green: 1♦. I'm torn between 1♦ and 2♣. The hand is too strong for a 2NT opening. If I survive the first round of the auction I will be reasonably placed by reversing into 2♥. I don't mind opening 1♣ but the diamonds are more

attractive.

Kokish: 1♦. In November we'll be asked what we rebid after a 1S response. This month we'll listen to Brian reveal that 1♦ would go one down while we could make 6♣. I'm betting that 1♣ gets way more votes than 1♦ among those who open neither 2♣ nor 2NT. And now... heeere's why.....
Rigal: 1♦. Not perfect but planning to reverse over 1♠ into 2♥ and hope to get my hand off my chest later rather than sooner. 2♣ (then 2♥) is preferable to a 2NT opener or rebid.

Cope: 1♦. To be followed by 2♥ if partner bids the expected 1♠. Being pairs, even though the club suit is weaker, the spot cards may mean a club lead to an eventual 3NT may be more advantageous if the hand is going in that direction.

Robson: 1♣. Hate opening 2♣ with unbalanced hands.

So Tim considered opening 1♣, while Andrew makes that call. One Club makes it easier than does 1♦ to find any fit that may exist, and perhaps inhibits a club lead against 3NT. One Diamond is a better spot if it ends the auction simply because the trumps are stronger, and its extra strength also makes it a more likely trump suit for game or slam purposes.

Like Andrew, I hate opening 2NT with a singleton. When there is a fit we never persuade partner that slam is an option as we have so much more playing strength than suggested by a 2NT opening – plus, we always struggle to find the minor-suit fit. It won't be a trivial matter to get to slam with this hand, but I think it will be easier than after opening 2NT, and when partner is weak we will find it easier to scramble seven tricks in

1♣/♦ than eight in 2NT. Also, if the opposition bid spades, we can start to show our true potential. Having said all of which, the plurality vote is for 2♣ and that must be the call to be awarded 10 points.

This was an invented hand, just to see what the panel would do, so I can't say what would have been successful.

PROBLEM 4

PAIRS. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 6
♥ KQ8
♦ KQ875
♣ 10643

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♣*
1♦	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Double
?			
1♣	2+ Clubs		
2♠	Fit, F1		

Bid	Votes	Marks
Pass	12	10
4♦	2	5
4♥	2	4

Sandsmark: 4♦. I have already depleted my hand fully in my first bid. If I say something else, partner will believe that I would be willing to move towards slam. Well, I am not! I may be dragged there, but I will never volunteer any bid that could suggest strength

Apteker: 4♦. My hand is poor in the context of a minimum overcall and poor fit with partner, which I mildly conveyed when I regressed to 3♦.

Partner has slam aspirations having bypassed 3NT by not bidding 3♥ so I expect a shortage in clubs opposite. If partner has three aces and 4+ diamonds, 6♦ looks like a reasonable contract. Whatever partner cues, I will bid 5♦ next..

They are both showing minimum hands and no great enthusiasm. The rest, however, were all willing to consider slam possibilities.

Kokish: 4♥. As my agreement is that a new suit by the fit dude is shortness this West hand has grown up significantly. If E has three aces or two aces and a club void we might make six, but even opposite a less well-defined 4♣ here in the Bridge Battle, I've got to do something positive and this is where I reside.

Teramoto: 4♥. Cue-bid, not a bad hand, and I said I was minimum already by bidding 3♦.

I have a couple of reasons for not liking this bid. The first is that, with both pass and 4♦ available as mark-time actions, I would play 4♥ as promising first-round control here. The second is that, if we are to get involved in a slam auction, it would be nice to hear if partner's club control is first- or second-round, which we can do by passing:

Byrne: Pass! Completely clearcut, I want partner to redouble to show his void in which case we will be in business and I can follow up with 4♥. I don't have a bad hand, in fact in the context of signing off in 3♦ I am huge and must make the most of partner's bravery. OK, in fairness I should admit I know this hand, in fact I think I dealt it, it was certainly played in my house, a league match at the tail end of last year. I held these cards and the auction went (1♣) – 1♦ – (3♣) – 3♠ – Pass – ?

I had no idea if partner meant 3♠ as forcing

so I rebid 4♦ and partner raised to game; we had missed a fair slam though as partner held ♠KQxxxx, ♥Axx, ♦Axxx, ♣–.

It was OK though, as I think the other room played a part-score or something(!) I had clearly stuffed them too full of brownies, another victory for good old-fashioned home cooking.

Yes, that was indeed partner's hand. I was given it by our former conductor, Alan Mould, I think.

Cope: Pass. I think partner is showing shortage rather than values as in my style they could have looked for 3NT with a 3♥ bid. So if we assume that partner has ♠AKxxxx ♥xx ♦AJxx ♣x, as a minimum for the way that they are bidding, I am now happy to play 5♦ even on a trump lead as the ♥A rates to be onside. If, however, their



Alon Apteker



Drew Cannel

singleton club turns into a void, and they hold an extra diamond, then we would like to pass it back to partner so that they can redouble. So in essence my vote is for 5♦, but passing gives me the chance of finding 6♦.

Stabell: Pass. Slightly stronger than 4♦, I suppose, so I am worth an encouraging move now, having signed off at the three-level.

Green: Pass. Unusual auction. Can partner be making a game try at the four level having already shown nine of his cards in spades and diamonds? If so then I should sign off quickly. It seems more likely that partner has a slam try and if he is short then in the context of a 3♦ sign off I'm not ashamed of my hand.

Brock: Pass. If partner is void, for example, he

will redouble and now my heart values look good.

Robson: Pass. I'm guessing partner may be trying to show shortage but I'd much rather they patterned out with 3♥ with such a shape. Anyway, if partner is 5-3-4-1 or similar, I've clearly got a good hand, so I'll pass (better than 4♦) and see what partner does now. If they make an ace-showing cue-bid of 4♥, we may have a slam.

Rigal: Pass. I've already limited my hand and in context am prepared to hear partner announce what sort of club control they have. Redouble would show first, other actions a second-round control.

Lambardi: Pass: I have shown a weak hand when I could not bid more than 3♦ over 2♠. That said, I am not hopeless: my trumps are decent and I have second-round control in two side suits and no wastage in clubs opposite a likely shortness. Grateful to LHO for his Double (which allows me to Pass, denying first round controls); will now bid 4♥ over partner's expected 4♦.

Smith: Pass. South's double allows me to show some interest (4♦ would be the weakest bid now) without committing to game on this aceless junk. If, as I suspect, partner's club cue-bid is based on shortage, my heart holding will be just what he needs, so I am quite happy to encourage him.

Sime: Pass. Inviting partner to redouble with first-round control. If he does, I can cue hearts. I have already shown a minimum overcall by bidding 3♦.

Cannell: Pass. I have no club control so will pass for the time being. If pass shows a second-round

club control systemically, then I bid 4♥ to show the lack of a club control and the holding of a heart control.

Bird: Pass. Nothing is lost by allowing partner to describe the nature of his control. I intend to bid 4♥ next.

The majority agree with me for once, and a number plan to follow the same route of pass followed by 4♥, suggesting only second-round control.

PROBLEM 5

IMPs. Dealer East. None Vul.

- ♠ K 10 3
- ♥ AKQ 10 7 5
- ♦ —
- ♣ K 10 6 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
4♣	6	10
4♥	4	6
5♦	4	6
4NT	1	3
6♣	1	3
5♣	0	2

We'll start with the minority actions this time.

Teramoto: 4NT. Club RKC, I think that partner doesn't have ace of diamonds.

Not clear. Would 3♦ have shown the ace or merely a concentration of strength in the suit? My

vote goes to the latter. That being the case, I think partner could still hold $\spadesuit Axxxx$ so that we can't be sure which aces he has for his response to RKCB.

Rigal: $6\clubsuit$. For me, $3\spadesuit$ suggests good spades and bad diamonds ($\spadesuit AQx \heartsuit x \diamond Qxxxx \clubsuit AQxx$), so I'm going to put my money where my mouth is and bid $6\clubsuit$. $5\diamond$ Exclusion Blackwood is my real choice but I don't fancy playing there...if you tell me it is unambiguous I'll bid it and accept my 2 out of 10 with my usual grace and humility.

It's hard to say whether you are better known for your grace or for your humility.

I can't tell you it is unambiguous, but I'm sure it should be Exclusion as we would have shown diamond support long ago had we held it – wouldn't we? And I agree that $3\spadesuit$ is showing rather than asking, hence implying dodgy diamonds.

Some were willing to trust partner and use Exclusion:

Sime: $5\diamond$. Exclusion should sort this out. I am willing to bid a grand opposite the black aces and the queen of trump. I appreciate that there might be a bit of work required if partner has nothing else of use.

Kokish: $5\diamond$. Hard to stay out of slam and we may as well try to reach seven by learning about East's club quality via Exclusion KCB, or if you prefer different strokes a void-showing grand-slam try that should get East to bid 5NT with strong trumps.

Cope: $5\diamond$. Exclusion. I take partner's $3\spadesuit$ as saying they like their hand for clubs after the fourth-suit auction

Cannell: $5\diamond$. Given my first three bids this must be Exclusion RKCB for clubs. We should be using some scientific steps here: 0, 1, 1 with Q, 2, 2

with Q, etc. Hoping to hear two with the club queen.

I doubt that we have such sophistication in our system, but for a very regular partnerships to vary the responses to EKCB according to the situation would make sense.

And if $5\diamond$ is EKCB, then presumably $4\diamond$ is just a cue-bid, though I would be wary of making it holding a void in partner's first-bid suit.

Stabell: $4\clubsuit$. I assume that $3\spadesuit$ shows some interest for a club contract, so we better set the trump suit now. With weak clubs and worry about spades, partner would have bid $3\diamond$. Would $5\diamond$ be exclusion BW? Maybe it should, but the system dictates "jump to the 5-level in a new suit".

Would $4\diamond - 4\heartsuit - 4\spadesuit - 5\spadesuit$ be GSF in clubs? I hope so, and will throw it at him if this is the continuation. On a good day, partner cue-bids $4\spadesuit$ over $4\clubsuit$ and I can use RKCB.

OK. That gives partner more say in what is happening than does Exclusion.

Byrne: $4\heartsuit$. I am not quite sure what is happening in this auction, I have suggested playing in clubs and partner is showing doubt about 3NT. That may be because he has very bad diamonds (hurray!) or because he has a dodgy spade stop, or maybe both? I would rather have bid $3\heartsuit$ on the previous round and then bid $4\clubsuit$ now, but such is life, I must bid on and see where we end up. I think partner's failure to bid $3\diamond$ (which would be natural and strength showing) must surely justify a further move, since most opening bids with scattered values will give a good play for slam eg $\spadesuit AJx \heartsuit x Kxxxx AJxx$.

I recognise this one as well, it came from a Nicko

match last year. I defended $6\clubsuit$ and was very sympathetic when it went four down with clubs 5-0 and both red suits horrible. (My team-mates judged well to miss the decent slam, being able to tell how horrific the breaks were due to the opponents passing throughout!)

Brock: $4\heartsuit$. I don't much like my hand for slam now. What is $3\spadesuit$ is the question, I guess. I think it is kind of FSF, i.e. iffy spade stopper.

A matter for partnership agreement, but I prefer to show rather than ask, so for me $3\spadesuit$ shows spade strength if it is not just a cue-bid for clubs.

Green: $4\heartsuit$. What is partner's $3\spadesuit$ bid here? Having already bid 2NT, $3\spadesuit$ sounds like uncertainty around the final contract (though it could turn out to be a cue-bid if, for example, partner were to remove my 3NT bid). I'm still in the hunt for slam (as it sounds like partner doesn't have a mountain of wastage in diamonds – no $3\diamond$ bid over $3\clubsuit$) so for me it's close between $4\clubsuit$ and $4\heartsuit$ and I would like to show the length in hearts. The problem I have is could I have bid this way without the king of spades and also is $4\heartsuit$ forward going, or just a potential spot to play in? Tricky.

Smith: $4\heartsuit$. Very tricky. This is something of a humpty-dumpty bid. I have no idea whether $4\heartsuit$ is 100% a cue-bid agreeing clubs or an offer of an alternative strain, but I'll be convinced about its clarity by the post-mortem, I'm sure. The problem is that $6\heartsuit$ could easily be our best slam (opposite something like $\spadesuit Ax \heartsuit xx \diamond AKxxx \clubsuit Qxxx$), and I don't see how we are likely to get there if I don't bid them again now. I wonder if perhaps I should have bid $3\heartsuit$ over 2NT intending to continue with $4\clubsuit$ if partner then bids 3NT.

You were not the only one who might have preferred to bid 3♥ rather than 3♣. That works well if partner's next bid is 3NT so that you can follow through with 4♣, but on other auctions the genuine club support may get lost.

The plurality vote was to mark time with 4♣.

Lambardi: 4♣. Partner has chosen 3♠ rather than 3NT on his last round, so his hand must be good for clubs. He either has five or four good ones. Plus, skipping 3♦ makes me hope for non-excessive diamond wastage. ♠A and ♣AQ gives us good play for Six and he must be better than that. Problem is more likely to be how to bid Seven when it is on.

Apteker: 4♣. I am unsure as to what 3♠ means whether it shows weakness in spades with, say, Qxx, or merely extra values or weakness in diamonds as partner could have bid 3♦. Either way, I have enough to explore slam and allow partner the most room to describe further.

Bird: 4♣. I would have bid 3♥ on the previous round, advancing with 4♣ over 3NT. To bid 4♥ now would be taken as a cue-bid, rather than a suggestion to play there. On what I have heard so far, the best contract could still be anywhere between 3NT and 7♣. Perhaps partner knows.

Sandsmark: 4♣. I am not going to confuse the issue by cue-bidding any red suit. 4♣ is a strong bid since I have already forced for game. It is important that partner realizes that I have genuine club support, and this may be the best way of doing just that.

Robson: 4♣. The interesting thing is partner did not bid 3♦ over 3♣ so their diamonds aren't that good, which vastly improves our hand (as partner must have good clubs). You could expect,

say, ♠Axx ♥x ♦Kxxxx ♣AQxx. Let's set clubs and start cue-bidding.

Yes, as more than one panellist mentions, it is interesting that partner did not bid 3♦. Did 3♠ show spade strength or spade doubt? A regular partnership would know, while we are to a degree left guessing – but it just feels so natural for 3♦ to show extra diamond strength that the fact that partner failed to make the bid encourages me to at least contemplate slam. The best way to do that in a non-committal way is to bid 4♣ at this stage of the auction.

I have downgraded the 4♥ bid as those who chose it didn't seem to be very confident as to its meaning.

PROBLEM 6

IMPs. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ AKJ7542
♥ K7654
♦ —
♣ 7

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	3♣	Double	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
4♣	10	10
5♦	2	4
5♥	2	5
6♥	2	4
4♥	0	2

Byrne: 4♣. With 7-4 shape I would just bash 4♣ but here even Qxxxx hearts makes slam good so

I must make a try, and also get both strains in. The trouble with leaping to 4♥ is that if partner doesn't have four (unlikely but possible) he won't know when to go back to spades, if he has ♠Qx ♥Qxx ♦KQJx ♣Jxxx then 4♥ is in trouble but 4♠ looks cold. If he has ♠xx ♥AQxx ♦Axxx ♣Qxx then 7♥ looks good and he might pass 4♥, devaluing the ♣Q.

Smith: 4♣. Any number of hearts just seems like a pure guess, since even as little as ♠xx ♥Axxx ♦xxxx ♣xxx opposite gives us play for a small slam. Whether I can ever find out what I need to know to either stop short of slam or to bid the grand with confidence is unclear. This seems like the obvious starting point, although what to do on the next round is likely to be equally problematic.

Kokish: 4♣. Could jump to 5♥ or 6♥ without confidence but with definite upside, or fake Exclusion RKC (or a void) by bidding 5♣ a la Zia, but why do we need to do anything unilateral when the bidding is still at a manageable level?

Teramoto: 4♣. Shows a good hand with Hearts.

Cope: 4♣. Club control with an inferred heart fit. Cannot bid diamonds at this stage at any level as that for now would be natural, and I am too good to sign off in 4♥.

You would never start with 4♣ on any old big hand that had no clearcut bid, just to see what partner had to say? What about a 5-4-4-0 hand, for example? Would you really commit to hearts or would a 5-4-4-0 hand bid 4♣ then agree diamonds as trumps if partner responded 4♦? Or what if I had given you:

♠ AKJxxxx ♥ – ♦ Kxxxx ♣ x

You wouldn't start with 4♣ again to test slam

possibilities?

Cannell: 4♣. I hope this implies a strong heart-fit hand-type. I think a leap to 5♥ may ask partner for a club control for slam.

You can hope, and you will be OK with some of the panel, but I'm not convinced.

Sime: 4♣. I don't know where we are going but the road surely starts here.

Bird: 4♣. Too good for 4♥, and 5♥ would ask for a club control. I will advise partner that I have a good hand.

Rigal: 4♣. just too good for 4♥. will bid that next and leave it to partner to do more.

Lambardi: 4♣. Not that it will solve my problems for the next round, but it is the only way forward I can think of. I'll convert 4♦ to 4♥.

Yes, that would be my plan. At the table, partner bid 4♥ over 4♣ and I raised to 5♥. He held:

♠ xx
♥ Q98xx
♦ Axx
♣ Axx

and went on the slam. This could have been defeated by a spade ruff, but they didn't find the lead so it rolled home.

Robson: 5♥. I think this is a quantitative bid. If partner has decent hearts, they'll bid a sixth.

Stabell: 5♥. Since AQxx in hearts should be enough for slam, I can hardly bid less. We might still reach a grand slam via – 6♣ – 6♦ if partner has the magical hand (♥AQ ♣A).

Just quantitative, asking about hearts, or asking for a club control? Four Clubs followed by a raise to 5♥ is also invitational. Doesn't that show club control, and the immediate jump deny it?

Green: 6♥. Worth a shot. Tough to find out

whether partner has the right cards so I'm going to punt it. Opposite AQxx in hearts and nothing this is an excellent contract so I can hardly do less. I may miss grand but pre-empts work.

Apteker: 6♥. Practical bid as I don't see any way to easily stop at 5♥ if partner is missing two of the required key-cards or explore the Grand.

This next one terrifies me. Yes, we should be able to bid a forcing 4♦ here, so that 5♦ is not required to show diamonds, but I don't have any partners with whom I would have the confidence to risk this bid.

Brock: 5♦. Might not risk this at the table, but I think it should be Exclusion for hearts. Surely can't be natural (he'd bid 3♦ or 4♦), and can I be too good for 4♠ if single-suited?

Yes, I think you can be much too good for 4♠ if single-suited, given how strong most of us play our one-level openings up to these days.

Sandsmark: 5♦. Exclusion Blackwood with hearts as the agreed suit. Partner's double is negative, which places him with hearts, and he doesn't need very much before a grand slam in hearts may be laydown, e.g.

♠ AKJ7542	♠ 6
♥ K7654	♥ AQJ3
♦ —	♦ 108643
♣ 7	♣ A104

Maybe I should be upgrading the Exclusion bid but, as you will have gathered, I cannot imagine risking it in real life, and surely in this feature we should be trying to come up with practical choices. I bid 4♣ at the table and am happy that this is the best choice for now.

PROBLEM 7

IMPs. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A
♥ QJ1064
♦ 87
♣ AJ874

West	North	East	South
–	3♠	Pass	4♠
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
4NT	7	10
Pass	6	9
Double	3	6

At the table I bid 4NT. I am a very long way from being convinced that this was a good idea in theory, though it did prove to be in practice when partner turned up with:

♠ Q
♥ AK8753
♦ Q64
♣ 1093

Of course, we played in 5♣, not 5♥, but that was OK.

My supporters:

Lambardi: 4NT. No idea who can make what. Pass can easily be the winning action but although it can avoid a big loss it will never be a big win.

Cope: 4NT. Two places to play. Not proud of the fact that we are bidding a little understrength, but our positive action may be a winner or a small loser, whereas passing is too cowardly for me and a take-out double just doesn't feel right when we are undervalued and have only

a doubleton diamond.

Sandsmark: 4NT. Shows a two-suiter. Real men bid on this hand! If partner bids 5♣, I will pass. If he bids 5♦, I will bid 5♥ (and partner will understand that I have hearts and clubs).

Rigal: 4NT, two-suiter. Yes, passing could so easily be right...but there again would you blame partner for passing 3♠ with ♠xx ♥Ax ♦Axxx ♣KQxxx. Now even 6♣ might be making.

Kokish: 4NT. I could pretend to pass because my ♠A is poorly located, but why lie in a family magazine?

Cannell: 4NT. Usually an any two-suit take-out. A double would be for all three suits.

Apteker: 4NT. Pass is a reasonable alternative as we may go for a number but this is a bidders' game so it's either the double or 4NT for me. The presence of the ace of spades is a positive for the double but I fear with 2-2-6-3 type shape that partner will bypass 5♣ when that is our best contract.

Well, OK, but nobody sounds thrilled to bid 4NT, do they?

Brock: Double. I'm not going to pass, and it looks too defensive for 4NT.

Yes, it is a bit too defensive and with rather ordinary suits for a two-suited bid.

Robson: Double. Partner will pass with a 2-3-5-3 shape, I think, so if they bid 5♦, they should have six cards.

That's a reasonable hope.

Green: Double. Passing could be right but seems so wet. Bidding 4NT forcing us to the five level seems too committal. Double is my middle ground.

Fair enough. Double does seem more flexible

on a hand with a lower than Offence to Defence Ratio than usual for a 4NT bid, as noted by:

Smith: Pass. Just not a high enough offence-defence ratio to be coming in with 4NT now. Of course, bidding might be right, but with no guarantee of finding our best fit it seems right to hope that defending produces a small plus (or even a small enough minus) whilst bidding would work out poorly

Teramoto: Pass. This is slightly short of values or tricks. Partner didn't Double, it looks too dangerous to go to the five-level.



Michael Byrne

Byrne: Pass. Are you a man or a mouse? Squeak, squeak, from me as the ♠A is just too defensive to justify bidding. 4NT is always wrong with points in the short suit (on the rare occasion partner has enough to make five of a suit he will surely try a slam) and double will get partner to do the wrong thing too often. Is it so likely they are out and out saving with a weak hand? I don't see why when partner couldn't bid over 3♠, as he would have done with short spades and a hand that has enough to own the auction facing this one.

Stabell: Pass. Tempting to bid, but if we can make anything at the five-level chances are that we will end up in slam if I venture 4NT. Must not take more than my allotted 6-7 second, though (can't have the full 10 now that partner has already paused over 3♠) in case partner has a two-suiter of his own and wants to act.

Sime: Pass. This month's high-level guess. With some defensive prospects, I will go quietly and blame The Law if this is wrong.

Bird: Pass. Yes, 4NT would show two places to play. It's too wild for me. Could easily lose 500 or 800 in a poor cause.

Well, there were six votes for Pass and six votes for 4NT, but there were nine votes for action against only six for inaction, hence 4NT gets the upgrade, even though I don't like the bid as much as I did at the time that I made it. Tomorrow, I might double instead, as I hate passing when there is any excuse to bid.

PROBLEM 8

IMPs. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 1087
♥ J542
♦ KQ
♣ AJ109

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	Pass	Double	2♠
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
Double	8	10
3♥	5	8
2NT	2	5
3♠	1	3
3♣	0	2

This problem is here partly to discover how the panel plays a double from West – is it penalty or responsive? Well spotted Michael.

Byrne: Double. Ah, this appears to be a simple test of "what do you play double as?". In general I favour old school penalty doubles in these sort of sequences since I double 1♠ freely on any old rubbish, although this hand is not quite enough even for me. Having said that, all of my expert partners think every double is for take-out so I shall try that. Those that play penalty doubles would presumably bid 2NT or 3♥ or something, that seems messy. At least if I double I can pass 3♣ with a clear conscience, as partner could have bid 2NT (scramble) himself. Yep, stick me down for double and if we lose 470 at least we will know for next time.

Green: Double. Take-out for me but this is a

matter of agreement. I play that when partner reopens with a double then if the opponents rebid in No Trump or a new suit then double is penalty but if opener rebids his suit then double is take-out. I don't expect to be in the majority here.

Lambardi: Double. A system question: what would Double be? If we had an agreement that it was for T/O, it obviously stands out. Otherwise I choose the value bid of 3♥. 11 HCP but a terrible hand; if partner passes I doubt we will miss game.

Cannell: Double. I play this as take-out. A penalty double here is low frequency.

Yes, it is.

Teramoto: Double. Shows cards, not for penalty. Then bid 3♥ at my next turn.

Robson: Double. Take-out in my methods.

Rigal: Double. Take-out, not penalty. Separating the sheep ("double is penalty and my RHO is an idiot") from the goats (you are dealt a t/o hand 10 times as often as penalty). Play for hand frequency not size of gain. My wife tells me size isn't important...

That's sweet of her...

Brock: Double. I'm on firm ground here in most of my partnerships. And it's all because of David Gold. He said that if you would be completely stuck with a decent weak NT without much of a fit, then double must be cards not penalty. Sounds sensible to me. For years I used to play this double as penalty, but I can't remember it ever coming up.

I'm with David and, like you, I can't remember the last time I was gagging to double for penalty. I suppose that must mean I'm about due for it to

come up.

Apteker: 3♥. Despite all my points working, partner balanced so this is about right on values. If partner would definitely understand my double as take-out, I would do so intending to bid 3♥ over any 3m bid to show hearts and clubs.

Cope: 3♥. Even opposite a transferred king protective double, we are worth a bid. Partnerships would need an agreement as to the meaning of Double here (for me it would be penalty based) as if it is take-out it would fit the bill.

Stabell: 3♥. Borderline since partner might be quite weak for the reopening double, but it will be close to impossible for them to double us if we are in a silly 4-3 fit. A negative double would describe the hand well, but I take it that it shows that I was probably planning to pass for penalties at the one-level.

Smith: 3♥. Yuk! What a horrible problem. My first inclination was that this hand was ideal for a responsive double. Indeed, it would be after a second-seat double from partner and a raise, but in this sequence double should surely be for penalties, shouldn't it? It certainly sounds like a penalty double, and I would not risk doubling with this if I hadn't specifically agreed it was for take-out. So, we're left with a selection of unappetizing choices, and although 2NT is presumably Lebensohl, I'm not sure that helps much. I'm not strong enough to force to game showing four hearts, so I have to decide either to show hearts or clubs and values, or to pick one of those suits after first denying values by starting with 2NT. Anything I choose could lead to a minus score (in which case perhaps even passing is an option) or to missing an easy

game. I wait with interest to see if the panel can come up with a convincing argument for any particular action.

Bird: 3♥. If you're handing out 10 points to those who double, I will have to shrug my shoulders. A double would be for penalties, as I see it. Why should spades not be 6-5-1-1 round the table?

They could be 6-5-1-1 round the table, but the frequency of that will be very low. And if you have to pass with your spade stack you still might get lucky and see partner double again.

Kokish: 3♠. If the system has agreements about DBL and 2NT here we all assume you'd provide a footnote, but if this is a test to see who plays DBL as Responsive and/or 2NT as either a lebensohl thing or a scramble thing, only the true believers rather than fan-favourite 3♠. But now that you ask treating this as you would (1♠) P (2♠) DBL; (P) is a reasonable way to play if you want to retain the traditional and proven penalty double. It's not as if South did not notice North's pass of 1♠, so 2♠ in general won't be going for a number.

Sime: 2NT. Yes, I have read the system, and it is not clear (to me) if 2NT is a scramble (my preference) or Lebensohl in this particular situation. Is it a balancing situation or is game live? However, I don't have to care because I have both. And what would double mean? I have some partners who insist that it is penalties. Every five years, I hear about it, unfortunately when I am not sitting opposite. In one partnership, we play take-out doubles and Rubensohl type (transfer) bids, which deals with this sort of situation quite well.

Sandsmark: 2NT. Not to play, but to show some values and at least two suits that will play well at the three level. This is probably the most flexible call, as partner may be strong, with a good and long minor, and in that case he doesn't have to have hearts. If I held spades, I would probably have doubled 2♠.

So Tommy's vote is added to those for double being penalty and, far from settling anything, we appear to have a split panel regarding what it should mean.

Regarding the meaning of 2NT, if double is T/O then 2NT scramble is not required so it is easy to

say that it is Lebensohl, but if double is penalty then we need 2NT to show two or more places to play – we are very unlikely to have sufficient for a natural 2NT bid.

In real life, partner held:

- ♠ 2
- ♥ AK6
- ♦ AJ9863
- ♣ Q82

and 5♦ was the place to play. I guess that he felt that his support for clubs and hearts was too good to make an intermediate jump overcall of 3♦.

SET 16 – THE PANEL'S BIDS & MARKS

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Pablo Lambardi	Argentina	Pass	1♠	2♣	Pass	4♣	4♣	4NT	Dble	76
Andrew Robson	England	Pass	3♠	1♣	Pass	4♣	5♥	Dble	Dble	73
Drew Cannell	Canada	Dble	2♠	2♣	Pass	5♦	4♣	4NT	Dble	72
David Bird	England	Pass	3♠	2NT	Pass	4♣	4♣	Pass	3♥	72
Tim Cope	South Africa	Pass	2♠	1♦	Pass	5♦	4♣	4NT	3♥	70
Ben Green	England	Pass	2♠	1♦	Pass	4♥	6♥	Dble	Dble	69
Iain Sime	Scotland	Pass	3♠	2♣	Pass	5♦	4♣	Pass	2NT	68
Michael Byrne	England	Dble	2♠	2♣	Pass	4♥	4♣	Pass	Dble	67
Leif-Erik Stabell	Zimbabwe	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	4♣	5♥	Pass	3♥	67
Marc Smith	England	Pass	1♠	2NT	Pass	4♥	4♣	Pass	3♥	66
Barry Rigal	USA	Dble	2♠	1♦	Pass	6♣	4♣	4NT	Dble	65
Sally Brock	England	Pass	3♠	2♣	Pass	4♥	5♦	Dble	Dble	64
Alon Apteker	South Africa	Pass	2♠	2NT	4♦	4♣	6♥	4NT	3♥	64
Tadashi Teramoto	Japan	Dble	Pass	2♣	4♥	4NT	4♣	Pass	Dble	57
Eric Kokish	Canada	Dble	2♠	1♦	4♥	5♦	4♣	4NT	3♠	55
Tommy Sandsmark	Norway	3NT	1♠	2NT	4♦	4♣	5♦	4NT	2NT	49



Master Point Bidding Battle Competition – Set 17

Open to All – Free Entry

PROBLEM 1

IMPs. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ —
♥ K865
♦ AKQ762
♣ KQ4

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	3♥
?			

PROBLEM 2

IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ AJ5
♥ AK6
♦ K732
♣ AJ8

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	2♠
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
?			

PROBLEM 3

IMPs. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A52
♥ AQ1064
♦ 7
♣ 10853

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣*	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

1♣ Three or more clubs

PROBLEM 4

IMPs. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ AQ6
♥ 75
♦ Q84
♣ AQ1032

West	North	East	South
–	1♠*	Double	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
?			

1♠ Five-plus spades or 15+ balanced with four spades

PROBLEM 5

IMPs. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ —
♥ AQ943
♦ AJ4
♣ K10986

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	2♠*
Double	4♠	Double*	Pass
?			

2♠ 9-12 with six spades
Dble Responsive

PROBLEM 6

IMPs. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ AKJ
♥ KQJ4
♦ AQJ52
♣ 7

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	3♣*	Pass
?			

3♣ Natural and invitational

PROBLEM 7

Pairs. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K1062
♥ KQ643
♦ AK8
♣ 8

West	North	East	South
–	1NT*	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Double*	2♦
?			

1NT 11-14

Double

Penalty

PROBLEM 8

IMPs. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ KJ10762
♥ —
♦ AKJ10
♣ J98

West	North	East	South
1♠	4♥	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

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

Send your chosen bid in each of the eight problems, by email to biddingbattle@newbridgemag.com or enter via the website www.newbridgemag.com. Entries must be received before the end of the month. Include your name, email address and number of the set which you are entering.

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
May 2019 The uBid Auction Room

MASTER POINT BIDDING BATTLE



Bid these hands with those on the last 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 South. N/S Vul.

♠ 5
♥ AQ86
♦ AKJ
♣ K9752

Hand 2. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ AQ5432
♥ 82
♦ 42
♣ AK8

South overcalls 3♥ and North raises to 4♥

Hand 3. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AK43
♥ A63
♦ AKJ
♣ A98

South opens 1♦, 1+♦, 10-15

Hand 4. Dealer North. Both Vul

♠ 53
♥ K95
♦ AKJ1087
♣ 74

South overcalls 1♠

Hand 5. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ KJ1092
♥ 954
♦ AQ9
♣ Q3

Hand 6. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ J10
♥ AQ5
♦ AKJ643
♣ A5

Hand 7. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ KQ97
♥ K72
♦ K954
♣ K8

Hand 8. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A74
♥ Q8
♦ A3
♣ AQJ1076

North overcalls 1♥ and South bids 2♦. If E/W bid 3♣ North bids 3♦.

Results – Set 15

For the third set of our second year we have the following winners:

Dominic Connolly was the runaway winner of this month, with a score of 65. **Nigel Guthrie** and **Bazil Caygill** also win a prize, with 62 and 61 respectively.

Herman has usurped the role of Mrs T's hat and he selected **Tony Burt** as the fourth prize-winner.

Other Good Scores

59 *Mark Perkins*

58 *Mark Bartusek*

57 *David Barnes, Janet Barnes, Carles Acero, Brian McDowell, Mike Ralph*

55 *Lars Erik Bergerud*

The Yearly Standings:

After three rounds, Mark Bartusek, with 200 points, continues to lead whilst Bill March (195), Dominic Connolly (192) and David Barnes (190) are in close contention.

Comments on Bidding Battle Set 15

Brian Senior examines the responses of the readers and compares them against those of the panel.

This month we seem to have quite a lot of answers from readers that were not found by any of the panellists, and quite a number of comments to go along with those answers. OK, let's take a look at what the readers had to say.

PROBLEM 1

IMPs. Dealer South. All Vul.

- ♠ A4
- ♥ A6
- ♦ K632
- ♣ J10954

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♦	Double*
?			
Double		Three spades	

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
2♠	16	10	17
3♣	2	7	4
3NT	1	3	4
2NT	0	2	2
3♠	0	2	1
4♦	0	2	3
Pass	0	0	1
Rdbl	0	2	5

We have no fewer than four answers to look at, starting with Pass. I simply don't understand this inaction. We are clearly worth a bid and waiting to see what the opposition do and then judging/guessing what we should do later in the auction just doesn't seem to have anything going for it.

Redouble would show decent values, so I can at least understand that, but it is not generally a good way to launch a hand with primary trump

support for partner. I'll award a couple of points because it at least shows something.

Three Spades and 4♦ are both equally misdescriptive. We all play 4♦ as pre-emptive and this hand is not suitable for such an approach, while also going past 3NT, perhaps the most likely game. And 3♠ might be a splinter bid, or some might play it as some kind of mixed raise, perhaps, but 2♠ is the normal way to cue-bid to show a good hand with good diamond support. I'll award two points to both because they at least show diamond support and decent values, but neither looks right.

PROBLEM 2

IMPs. Dealer North. All Vul.

- ♠ A9
- ♥ J1042
- ♦ 3
- ♣ AJ10865

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♣	2NT*	3♣	3♠*
?			

2NT Constructive three-card spade raise
 3♠ Weaker than pass

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
Dble	7	10	5
4♣	4	6	7
5♣	3	7	9
3NT	2	7	5
4♥	2	7	0
Pass	1	2	2
4♦	0	0	1
4♠	0	3	8

Carles Acero passed and called this a wicked hard problem: anything could be right 3NT, 5♣, 4♣ or double. When there are several possible actions that could be correct, it generally pays not to opt for one of the extremes. Here, I would consider Pass to be an extreme, because there is no guarantee that partner will bid again if we don't, and we would surely prefer to play in 4♣ than defend 3♠ – the opposition are very likely to have done their bidding by now.

Four Spades is another extreme in that it invites partner to consider slam where some are merely competing the partscore, however, while it shows a much more optimistic valuation of the hand, it only commits us to game, so is less committal than passing, so I'll award it three points.

Four Diamonds, however, is a very dangerous bid. Partner opened 1♦ and for us to bid 4♦ now should surely suggest values/length in the suit, not a small singleton. I fear it will lead to partner misevaluating his hand, so no points for this bid.

PROBLEM 4

IMPs. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 9743
♥ 9
♦ KJ87
♣ 9843

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♥	Double	Pass
1♠	2♥	Double	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass

?

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
3NT	12	10	10
3♥	5	7	4
3♦	2	4	15
3♣	0	2	3
2♦	0	0	1
Pass	0	3	4

There were three calls chosen by at least one reader but no panellist. We can dismiss 2♦ as being insufficient, while I had already awarded two points to 3♣. Pass seems to be a perfectly reasonable choice, even if no panellists went for it. The fact that the majority of the panel forced to game shows that they value the hand more highly, but 2NT could be the limit of the hand so three points to passing.

PROBLEM 5

IMPs. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 7543
♥ AK543
♦ 9
♣ K108

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	3♦	3♠	5♦
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
5♥	15	10	13
Pass	1	6	0
5♠	1	3	18
6♦	1	3	0
Dble	1	3	1
6♠	0	2	4
5♦	0	0	1

Carles Acero tried 6♠ but called it very difficult. Yes, it is very difficult. I had already awarded two points to 6♠, and see no reason to change that, while the other reader vote went to 5♦, so for the second successive problem we have an insufficient bid – I wonder if it was the same reader?

PROBLEM 6

IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A64
♥ 1097653
♦ A84
♣ J

West	North	East	South
–	–	2NT*	4♠

?

2NT 20-21

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
Dble	8	10	18
5♥	4	7	10
6♥	4	6	8
4NT	2	7	1
Pass	1	2	0

Carles Acero again called this one really difficult, he chose 6♥. And again Carles is correct – it is really difficult. Four panellists shared his choice of call so nothing to be ashamed of there, even if 6♥ did not earn the top award.

Tony Butt doubled, he was not convinced we can make 6♥ and they should go at least two off. Tony was with the plurality on this one, though the panellists who doubled were not all totally convinced that they were doing the right thing.

PROBLEM 7

IMPs. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ AK3
♥ 875
♦ AJ10964
♣ Q

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♠	3♥	4♠

?

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
Pass	10	10	5
5♥	7	8	9
Dble	2	5	12
4NT	0	3	8
5♠	0	2	1
6♥	0	2	2

Carles Acero and Bazil Caygill added that their passes were forcing. Well done to both for hitting the top spot on this one.

We had three readers' choices that no panellists opted for. 4NT is surely key-card when pass would be forcing and, while it may get to a doomed slam if we are missing a key card and there is a diamond loser, it is far from being a ridiculous approach, so three points. Both 5♠ and 6♥ commit to slam, of course, and it is quite possible that there are two key-cards missing, which would be picked up by using RKCB. As we can always bid 4NT then guess to go on to slam over the response if we are feeling optimistic, 4NT is clearly superior to 5♠ or 6♥. But I will award two points to both.

PROBLEM 8

IMPs. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ KQ1075
♥ AKQ1062
♦ A
♣ K

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass

?

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
4NT	8	10	10
4♥	4	6	2
4♦	3	5	3
4♠	3	5	16
6♣	1	4	3
5♣	0	3	1
5NT	0	2	1
5♠	0	0	1

Bill March was one of the ones who bid 6♣ but found it a shame there's no abstain option. Though this is a very strong hand, he couldn't see the panel enthusing over the 2♣ opener. No. I wouldn't open 2♣ either, but showing how difficult bidding becomes when we do open 2♣ on a hand of this type is educational, and I can promise Bill that plenty of club and congress players would open 2♣.

Mark Bartusek originally wrote in with a reply of 6♣. He then changed this to 5NT. Not sure what Mark intended by 5NT. If GSF, then the missing ace of spades is a serious issue, while if 'pick a slam', the fact that spades have never been bid is also a problem. I'll award two points to 5NT and three to 5♣ – this could be the winner if partner is not quite as good as we hope – ♣AJ10xxxx, for example. The reader who jumps to 5♠, however, gets nothing because I don't understand the bid and fear that neither will partner. If just showing spades, having already stretched to open 2♣, 4♠ is plenty.

Dudley Leigh commented that he managed to make two RKCB bids this set, which he thought usually guarantees nil points. (one of them scored 10) He also made two doubles in competitive auctions with an obvious singleton lead and ruffing value. He again thought this would deliver a poor score, but both were right on the nose. Dudley is quite right – 4NT RKCB rarely gets top marks, the panel tending to look for other ways to explore slam possibilities.

And finally, a general Comment from Nelson Pearson: Dear Sir, let me congratulate you for the wonderful magazine you are producing. And thanks for letting me participate in this Bidding Battle.

You are very welcome and thank you too – it's nice to receive praise every now and then.



Final Peebles SBU Congress 6th to 8th December 2019



The last SBU Congress after 46 years at the Peebles Hotel Hydro, and the only one in 2019, will take place in December this year. The format is shown below, but we aim to have a truly special event with some additional features:

- ‘Play through the ages’ with Liz McGowan. We have a special set of boards for you with a booklet providing analysis and entertaining stories from the history of the SBU congress
- A ‘nightcap with the experts’ late on Friday evening, hosted in the hotel’s brand new gin lounge. This will give you a chance to ask the experts about the hands played that day in a seminar format
- A celebratory Gala Dinner on Saturday, followed by a speedball pairs event.

To mark this final congress, participants will be encouraged to follow the evening dress code which was once the standard at Peebles congresses – strictly black tie, lounge suit or equivalents.

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
14:00	Play through the ages	10:45	Swiss Pairs session 1	13:40	Swiss Teams session 2
19:45	Swiss Teams session 1	15:00	Swiss Pairs session 2		
23:00	Nightcap with the experts	18:45	Gala Dinner	19:45	Swiss Teams session 3
		22:00	Speedball pairs		

**Join us in marking the end of an era
and saying goodbye in style.**

See over for costs and entry details.

Congress fees:

Full congress (includes Friday afternoon and the speedball)	£75
Congress Swiss Teams only (three sessions)	£45
Congress Swiss Pairs only (two sessions)	£30

Hotel prices:

We have worked hard to agree value-for-money rates with the hotel.
Resident prices cover all meals including buffet lunches and the Gala Dinner.

Accommodation	Three nights (Friday lunch to Monday breakfast)
Single room	£340 pp
Double room used as a single	£395 pp
Double room	£315 pp

The Gala Dinner is available to non-residents for £45 pp.

Note that spaces are limited and there is much enthusiasm for the event. Residency for the whole weekend will secure a space – after that non-resident places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Entries:

Visit www.sbu.org.uk or contact Hasan or Julie
at sbucongressdesk@gmail.com or on 0131 343 3838.

25th RED SEA INTERNATIONAL
Bridge
FESTIVAL
EILAT - ISRAEL
NOVEMBER 7-17, 2019



EAST

Hands for the
May 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 South. N/S Vul.

♠ AK73
♥ 1097
♦ 6
♣ AQJ43

Hand 2. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ K106
♥ A
♦ AK985
♣ 9654

South overcalls 3♥ and North raises to 4♥

Hand 3. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 98
♥ J84
♦ Q2
♣ QJ7654

South opens 1♦, 1+♦, 10-15

Hand 4. Dealer North. Both Vul

♠ KQ87
♥ A84
♦ 952
♣ K52

South overcalls 1♠

Hand 5. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ AQ75
♥ AJ2
♦ J8
♣ AK92

Hand 6. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ K95
♥ K1063
♦ —
♣ KQJ1064

Hand 7. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A42
♥ AJ94
♦ AJ3
♣ A102

Hand 8. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ 1065
♥ 10962
♦ J10
♣ K543

North overcalls 1♥ and South bids 2♦. If EW bid 3♣ North bids 3♦

Running Costs

In order to meet our production costs we are relying on sponsorship, advertising revenue and donations.

Sponsorship can come in many forms – one that is proving popular is the sponsorship of a particular column – as you will see from the association of FunBridge with Mis-play these Hands with Me and Master Point Press with The Bidding Battle.

We have set ourselves a target of 50,000+ readers, which should be enough to attract a significant level of advertising. As that number increases we will be able to approach more famous companies who might wish to associate themselves with the bridge playing community.

You can help us to achieve our aims in several ways.

Firstly – and by far the most important – by telling all your bridge playing friends that we exist and making sure they register at our web site, www.newbridgemag.com

Secondly by becoming a sponsor. That could take many forms – I have already mentioned the possibility of being linked to a column within the magazine and you will see from this issue that is already popular. There is also the possibility of linking directly to the title.

Thirdly by becoming a Friend of the magazine. That would involve a donation. Anyone donating £500 would become a Golden Friend.

It is possible to make a donation by credit card – just go to the appropriate page on the web site. A number of readers are making regular donations by bank transfer.

If you would like to discuss any of the above contact me at: editor@newbridgemag.com

Ask not what A New Bridge Magazine can do for you – ask what you can do for A New Bridge Magazine.