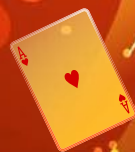


# A NEW BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Madeira Magic  
Pairs Bundesliga ♠  
Look Back In Anger ♣

EDITION 25  
January 2020 ♠



# A NEW BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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## The Great Bridge Explosion

On 12 December the worldwide tournament on Funbridge set a new record for the application. However, such was the demand that it proved to be impossible to cope with the number of players attempting to log in and take part. Although this was a huge disappointment for the Funbridge team that had worked so hard in the weeks leading up to the big day it should be celebrated as a demonstration of the huge potential that exists for the promotion of the game.

We can congratulate Funbridge on their efforts thus far and Olivier Comte, President of Funbridge has already announced that the team is working flat out to bring us an event that will change the course of bridge history.

## Eligibility

During the ACBL Nationals in San Francisco last month, the World Bridge Federation's Management Committee unanimously approved the new WBF Eligibility Code and Bona Fide Residency Criteria which immediately came into effect. You can see them at:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/2019/12/15/eligibility-regulations/>

## Seniors on Parade

David Mossop, Gunnar Hallberg, Paul Hackett, Brian Senior, John Holland and Alan Mould ran away with the EBU's Teltscher Trophy Trials, winning all six matches, and they will represent England in the Senior Camrose in May. The three pairs topped the cross-IMP table with Holland & Mould averaging an amazing 1.68 IMPs per board. They will be strong favourites to win

the trials for the Senior European Championships at the end of this month.

## The Italian Job

The 16th World Bridge Games will be staged in one of the most famous venues for major Championships, Italy's Salsomaggiore Terme, 21 August - 4 September 2020.

## Into the Future

Next month we will reveal exciting plans for 2020. Meanwhile a huge thank you to you all for supporting the magazine. Ron and I wish you all a wonderful 2020.







Let the bidding battle begin !

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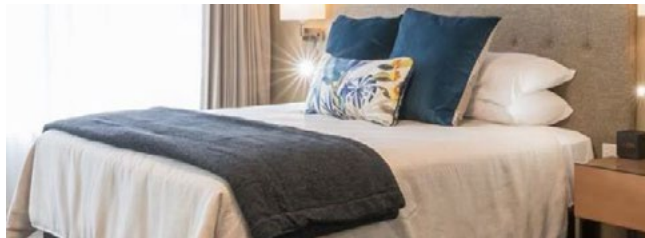
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## Test Your Technique

with Marc Smith see Page 58

This month's hand comes from a match-pointed Funbridge Points tournament. MP Pairs. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 5  
♥ K93  
♦ AJ8753  
♣ Q52

██████████  
♠ AK10973  
♥ A10862  
♦ 6  
♣ A

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥

All Pass

West leads the ♣J against your slam. How would you play to give yourself the best chance of making twelve tricks?



# The Magic of Madeira

*The Editor and Ron Tacchi made their annual pilgrimage to the Atlantic island for the 22nd Festival.*

This year the organisers made some adjustments to the playing schedule, which reduced the number of late night sessions – much appreciated by everyone, especially those who like to discuss the deals over dinner and particularly by the Bulletin team (this year splendidly reinforced by Ceri Pierce) as it meant the Bulletins could be completed in time for delivery to the breakfast tables of the Vidamar.

We had resolved not to compete in the warm up pairs this year, but were delighted to support a new event, the Charity Pairs, which raised more than €1000 for the Centro de Saúde de São João de Deus. By means of a small number of judiciously self inflicted wounds we restricted ourselves to fifth place, well behind the winners, Hans Kreuning and Rob van den Bergh.

## Sad Singleton

The inspiration for the title of a bridge related story can come in many ways. A few days before travelling to Madeira a programme on the BBC's Radio 4 mentioned the use of the term *sad singleton*. Sue Townsend coined it in her novel, *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾*. It's certainly a title worth using – but needs the right deal.

Later on, I toyed with the idea of entitling a piece *The Case of the Sad Singleton*, which might be a tough one for Perry Mason to solve.

On the flight to Madeira, I read in the *Daily Telegraph* the Obituary of Frank Giles, a former Editor of *The Sunday Times*. It mentioned that during the war, he served as aide de camp to the Governor of Bermuda and discovered a card index, which listed all the significant people in the colony and included their strengths and weaknesses. The four mentioned were, 'good bridge player' 'drinks too much', 'too free with the ladies' and what was described as the most damning of all, 'GPO' which contrary to my expectation did not stand for 'General Post Office', but 'Garden Party Only'. That's a story that might come in handy the next time the Bermuda Bowl is staged on the Atlantic island, which is due to happen in 2025, on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

On the lookout for a suitable deal to fit my by-line, let's pay a visit to

the aforementioned Charity Pairs:


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

♠ J973 ♥ J ♦ 109754 ♣ K85		♠ 10 ♥ A763 ♦ Q862 ♣ A763	♠ K85 ♥ 10964 ♦ KJ ♣ Q1042
------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

This deal caught my eye, because no-one managed to take 11 tricks in 4♥. You can't hope to do that on a club lead, but that would be a dangerous choice at any form of scoring. If West leads a diamond (the ♦10/9) declarer plays low from dummy and ducks East's jack. The likely heart switch goes to dummy's ace and declarer plays a spade to the queen, ruffs a spade, comes to hand with a heart, ruffs a spade and now plays a diamond to the ace. In due course the ♦Q will take care of a club so declarer will lose only a trump and a diamond.

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


♠ A763 ♥ A732 ♦ 105 ♣ Q63		♠ 1084 ♥ K95 ♦ K873 ♣ J54	♠ QJ52 ♥ QJ4 ♦ Q64 ♣ 1098
		♠ K9 ♥ 1086 ♦ AJ92 ♣ AK72	

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

West has a nasty hand to lead from – personally I would try the ♦10 which on this deal leaves declarer to guess the play. However, that lead was made at only one table, everyone else preferring to try a major. If you do that a heart works best this time (the Sharples twins expounded the theory that with equal length in the majors a heart was better than a spade).

Suppose West leads a spade and declarer wins with the king. It is natural to play on diamonds and although there is some case for starting with the ♦9 (maybe a fourth round entry to dummy will come in handy at some point) the natural play is the ♦2. When West plays the ♦10 declarer might want to change the ♦2 to the nine, but you win the king and play a diamond to the jack, pleased to see West follow. Now your best move is to cash two diamonds and then exit with a spade. It is usually a good idea to give the defenders a chance to go wrong and at one table West took the ♠A and switched to the ♣3. Now declarer was up to nine tricks, and once even managed a tenth by slipping a heart past the ace.

## Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.


♠ Q43 ♥ AQ ♦ AQ432 ♣ K82		♠ K10 ♥ K753 ♦ J10 ♣ J10973	♠ 872 ♥ 109864 ♦ 76 ♣ Q64
		♠ AJ965 ♥ J2 ♦ K985 ♣ A5	

When South opens 1♠ West has an easy 1NT overcall. It would be a mistake to start with a double, but E/W might survive. At one table East responded 1NT to the double (showing 0-5) and West bid 2♦, which East saw fit to pass rather than bid 2♥. Going four down in 2♦ gave E/W a single match point.

Whilst on the subject of dodgy doubles, suppose you hold ♠AK87 ♥KQJ5 ♦ – ♣A8542 and at game all after two passes the player on your right opens 1♣? Please tell me you don't double. If you do, North bids 1♦ and then goes back to 2♣ when South rebids 1♠. You might be happy about that, but maybe slightly less so when your partner bids 2♦. Looking at your hand you suspect that it is natural, but you play an opening bid of 2♦ as weak. If I had to guess partner's shape, I would opt for 3-3-6-1 and bid 2♥. Partner has ♠532 ♥1083 ♦K108753 ♣9 and you can make 2♥. As the cards lie you can also make 4♠(!). I was left to play in 2♦ but managed nine tricks.

I'll conclude with this deal:

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

♠ K ♥ AK98 ♦ A10752 ♣ 974		♠ AQ109853 ♥ 762 ♦ J ♣ 52	♠ J62 ♥ J3 ♦ 843 ♣ KJ863
	♠ 74 ♥ Q1054 ♦ KQ96 ♣ AQ10		

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♣(!)	2NT
3♣	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

East led the ♣3 and declarer put in dummy's queen. In due course, he lost a spade, two hearts and a diamond. If he makes the unlikely play of the ♣10 at trick one he can then play two rounds of spades, take the club finesse, pitch the ♦J on the ♣A and play the ♦K. West must cover, but declarer ruffs and plays a heart to the ten to endplay West.

West's ♠K has all the appearance of a sad singleton, but it had a role to play, albeit a passive one. If West had overcalled 1♥ (Mike Lawrence fans would approve – and at pairs you should try to get involved if you can) then East would lead the ♥J, ruff the third round of the suit and play a diamond, West winning with the ace and playing a fourth heart. Thanks to the presence of West's ♠K East's ♠J is promoted to give the defenders a fifth trick.


Not such a sad singleton after all.

Opting out of the Warm-Up Pairs to make sure the Bulletin was ready for breakfast meant I could attempt some clairvoyance.

## Fortune Telling

In my experience the chances of accurately forecasting what is likely to happen on any given bridge deal is about as likely as winning Euromillions. Nevertheless, I am happy to keep buying a ticket and so let's see how I did with these three deals from the Welcome Pairs:

### Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ K109 ♦ AQJ1076 ♣ Q98		♠ AKJ108765 ♥ – ♦ 54 ♣ J65	♠ Q42 ♥ AJ8753 ♦ K32 ♣ 4
	♠ 9 ♥ Q642 ♦ 98 ♣ AK10732		

This was my predicted auction:

West	North	East	South
4♠	Double	Redouble	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♠	All Pass


Doubling with the North hand is more flexible than overcalling 5♦.

If N/S bid on to 6♣ someone will double and declarer should be -800.

In the event 5♠ was reached at only 10 of the 45 tables.



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

♠ 9874 ♥ A54 ♦ 109 ♣ K943		♠ KQ62 ♥ K63 ♦ J32 ♣ A52	♠ AJ53 ♥ Q10987 ♦ 5 ♣ J108
♠ 10 ♥ J2 ♦ AKQ8764 ♣ Q76			


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

I was willing to bet that no-one would find the killing lead – the ♣J.

Luckily no-one took me up on this – the partnership of Mike Reuser and Christine Winckel finding the killing defence – well done indeed. This was the auction at their table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Winckel</i>	<i>Hop</i>	<i>Renser</i>	<i>Schoonen</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Double	Redouble
2♣	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

## Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A5 ♥ KJ5 ♦ J4 ♣ 1098742		♠ QJ8 ♥ 872 ♦ 1072 ♣ AQJ3	♠ K743 ♥ AQ96 ♦ AK983 ♣ –
♠ 10962 ♥ 1043 ♦ Q65 ♣ K65			

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass


To prevent declarer from securing 12 tricks South must lead a club. Otherwise, declarer will be able to ruff one diamond and one spade.

4♥ was reached at only two tables!

## Defensive Tests

One of the many great things about the Madeira Festival is the fact that people are happy to tell you about the deals, regardless of the result. These two from the warm-up event were defensive tests that were difficult to pass – indeed one of them proved to be nigh on impossible.


## Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 54 ♥ Q10986 ♦ Q75 ♣ KJ9		♠ AQ9872 ♥ K72 ♦ 432 ♣ A	♠ KJ6 ♥ 3 ♦ AK109 ♣ 87532
	♠ 103 ♥ AJ54 ♦ J86 ♣ Q1064		

West	North	East	South
<i>Ruth</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>Kiste</i>	<i>Winkel</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

East led a top diamond and continued with two more rounds of the suit, West winning and switching to a spade. When declarer played low East won with the jack and returned the ♥3. Declarer put in the jack and took West's queen with the king. Sensing that the ♠K was off-side declarer cashed the ♠A and exited with a spade. Now East had an easy looking exit with the last diamond, but watch what happened:


Declarer ruffed and played off his trumps. When the last one hit the table this was the position:

♠ — ♥ 109 ♦ — ♣ KJ		♠ Q ♥ 72 ♦ — ♣ A	♠ — ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 8753
	♠ — ♥ A ♦ — ♣ Q106		

East and dummy threw clubs, but West was the victim of a criss-cross squeeze. Whichever suit he unguarded would allow declarer to cash the relevant ace and then return to his other ace to cash a winner. East could have broken up the position by switching to a club at the end.

14 pairs recorded +110 – did they all make 2♠ this way?

## Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 54 ♥ 7 ♦ 1098 ♣ A876432		♠ AKJ ♥ J95 ♦ K7532 ♣ 109	
------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Castellani</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>Di Sacco</i>	<i>Winkel</i>
3♣	3NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

East leads the ♣5 and you win with your ace, declarer following with the queen.

What do you do now?

I was given this hand as a problem – this is how I reasoned:


Declarer has two club tricks and at least three spades, because even if he is missing the queen, the finesse is working. It's hard to calculate how many tricks declarer has in diamonds – on a bad day it could be as many as five.

There is not much point in playing a spade, so it's a question of choosing between the red suits. A heart might give us two quick tricks in the suit if partner has the ♥AQ, but otherwise we might only get one in hearts, as partner holding say ♥KQ will be able to win the first round of the suit, but declarer will then have time to set up the diamonds.

If declarer has something like ♠Q983 ♥K1064 ♦AQ ♣KQJ then failing to switch to a heart will allow declarer to take eleven tricks, but on balance it feels better to switch to a diamond, hoping to set up a trick in that suit to go with any heart tricks partner may have.

The bad news is that partner does indeed have the ♥AQ. However,

this was the full deal:

♠ 54 ♥ 7 ♦ 1098 ♣ A876432		♠ Q98 ♥ K10642 ♦ A6 ♣ KQJ	♠ 107632 ♥ AQ83 ♦ QJ4 ♣ 5
		♠ AKJ ♥ J95 ♦ K7532 ♣ 109	

Partner's diamond holding is such that switching to that suit will hold declarer to nine tricks.

22 pairs played in no-trumps. One went down in 3NT, the others all recorded +430.


Before we leave this deal, suppose East ignores partner and leads a spade? Now as long as the defenders are careful (West must take the ♣A and play a second spade) declarer should be held to nine tricks.

## Predict a Board

I think it was at the world Championships in Maastricht in 2000 that I came up with the concept of introducing a predict-a-bid feature into the VuGraph theatre. The idea was that every spectator would be given an electronic gadget on which they could try to predict a player's bid on each deal. There would be daily cash prizes for those with the highest scores.

Looking at the deals for the opening session of the pairs, here are my suggestions as to what might have happened on three of them:

### Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 107 ♥ QJ864 ♦ Q76 ♣ KJ7		♠ QJ93 ♥ A10975 ♦ — ♣ Q1062	♠ 42 ♥ 3 ♦ J1098432 ♣ 985
		♠ AK865 ♥ K2 ♦ AK5 ♣ A43	

Given a free run, N/S should be able to find a route to 6♠. If South opens 2NT and the spade fit is located then the problem might be to stop in time. However, suppose East attempts to throw a spanner into the works (those who suffer from adverse vulnerability syndrome should look away now) by opening 3♦ (I'm assuming North won't open the bidding, but that might not always be the case). Were South to then bid a heavy 3NT North will want to have some methods (using 4♣ as Stayman along with transfers is not a bad idea) but even with no agreements North can bid 4♦ and then go on over South's 4♠.

If South doubles 3♦ North can bid 4♦ (but only if West does not raise).

Although an opening 3♦ will complicate matters I expected more than half the field to reach 6♠. A few might attempt 6NT and at least one pair would go overboard in 7♠.

More than 50% of the 94 tables reached 6♠ with 13 pairs resting in 7♠.



## Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A 1064 ♥ AJ62 ♦ 832 ♣ K8	♠ KQJ985 ♥ 1074 ♦ 64 ♣ 75	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>
♠ 32 ♥ 95 ♦ KJ95 ♣ AQ1096	♠ 7 ♥ KQ83 ♦ AQ107 ♣ J432	

If North opens 1♣/1♦ East has an easy 2♠ overcall (or 1♠ if you are of a nervous disposition). After that N/S should be able to find a route to 4♥. Maybe South will double and then go on to 4♥ when North bids the suit.

If East leads the ♠K (what could be more natural) declarer wins, ruffs a spade and plays a club. Say West wins and returns a trump. Declarer wins in dummy, plays a club to the king, ruffs a spade high, draws trumps and plays a diamond to the ten. West wins, but will be left with ♦K9 ♣Q10 and have no way to prevent ten tricks being scored.

However, West might try (I could say should try) bidding 2♣ over South's double. Now East can lead a club and West wins and returns the suit, removing a vital entry to the North hand.

I expected the field to reach 4♥, with more than half of those who did making it when a spade is led.

74 pairs arrived in 4♥ – but only four declarers recorded ten tricks.

## Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ Q932 ♥ 42 ♦ J7543 ♣ 65	♠ K74 ♥ 5 ♦ Q1096 ♣ AKQ43	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>
♠ AJ8 ♥ Q1097 ♦ AK ♣ J1072	♠ 1065 ♥ AKJ863 ♦ 82 ♣ 98	

E/W can make 6♣, but how many will bid it in these days where a 1♣ opening can be based on almost any number of clubs.

If South overcalls 2♥ (echoing the theme of the previous deal) what should West do? If you double and partner bids 3♣ are you going to go past 3NT? If partner rebids 3♦ does that promise real clubs (and you still have to decide if you should be looking for a slam).

I went for less than half the field reaching 6♣.


That was a sound suggestion – only the Simons, Hult and Ekenberg, found a route to 6♣.

## The Waiting Game

If you are familiar with the works of Shakespeare, you may recall a line from the Scottish play (it's considered bad luck to say Macbeth, and the way the lifts were working I was not going to tempt fate) where Lady Macbeth says '*Stand not upon the order of your going, but go at once*'. Which basically means that you don't need to wait for someone to give you an order before you do something.

English star Justin Hackett, in Madeira with his wife Barbara (adding two more names to the list of World Champions who have attended the Madeira Festival) gave me this *amuse bouche* from the first weekend of England's Premier League. (That's the bridge version, not followed by quite so many spectators as the one where 22 grown men kick something resembling an inflated pigs bladder around).

## Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 109 ♥ 105 ♦ 108542 ♣ 8765		♠ J6 ♥ K7432 ♦ 973 ♣ Q109	♠ 53 ♥ A986 ♦ AKQJ ♣ KJ2
♠ AKQ8742 ♥ QJ ♦ 6 ♣ A43			

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>King</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦*	All Pass
2♦ 18-19 balanced			

You or I might overcall 4♠, but Andrew (Tosh) McIntosh thought there was every chance that E/W might end up in no-trumps, in which case he might have an unpleasant surprise for declarer and decided to play a waiting game. Tosh hails from North of the border and is no doubt familiar with the Scottish play, but as another famous Scotsman once wrote, *'the best laid schemes often go awry'* when West saw no point in doing anything other than passing!

2♦ made on the nose for +90.

In the Open Room Ed Jones and Tom Paske reached the excellent 4♠, which made in comfort for an 11 IMP pick up to Mossop, sealing an excellent win, 68-24 IMPs, 18.55-1.45 VP.

As a consolation, Tosh can now add his name to the list of players who have passed holding a massive spade suit, two of the most famous being John Collings and Brian Senior, who both passed holding a solid ten-card suit, only to discover when the other three players passed that their partner's had seen fit to pass holding just the three missing aces.

*The play's the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king.*

## Defend this Hand with Me

Over the years, I have developed a penchant for writing in the manner of Terence Reese. One of his specialities was to use an 'over my shoulder' style for the presentation of declarer play problems. If he had extended this to defensive play this deal from the first round of the Open Pairs where one of the defenders found a brilliant way to deflect declarer would surely have been included:

### The Illusionist

Playing in one of the best Festivals in the world on the sun-drenched island of Madeira I pickup this modest collection during the first session of the Open Pairs:

## Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K6432
♥ J104
♦ 5
♣ KQ92


An uncomplicated auction sees me on lead against 4♥:

West	North	East	South
<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Di Sacco</i>	<i>Saurer</i>	<i>Castellani</i>
-	-	-	3♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Hoping for a ruff I lead the ♦5 and dummy is revealed:

♠ K6432
♥ J104
♦ 5
♣ KQ92


		♠ AQ97 ♥ AQ98 ♦ A32 ♣ 75
--	---	-----------------------------------

Declarer wins with dummy's ace and plays the ♠7. When my partner follows with the ♠8 she plays the ♠J. Declarer would only play like this with a doubleton jack and looking at my spot cards in the suit it is clear that

winning with the king will leave declarer with three tricks in spades, so hoping to create an illusion I follow in tempo with the ♠4. Declarer crosses to hand with the ♥A and continues with the ♠A followed by the seven. My partner, who has contributed the ♠10 and ♥5 now matches that with the ♥7. Declarer overruffs with the ♥K and goes through the motions, but cannot arrive at more than nine tricks.

This was the full deal:

## Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K6432 ♥ J104 ♦ 5 ♣ KQ92		♠ AQ97 ♥ AQ98 ♦ A32 ♣ 75
♠ J5 ♥ K632 ♦ 987 ♣ A843		
♠ 108 ♥ 75 ♦ KQJ1064 ♣ J106		

### Post Mortem

If North takes the ♠K then declarer will have an easy route to ten tricks, as in due course the spade suit will take care of the losing diamonds.


There were ways in which declarer might have prevailed; one is to draw trumps after the second round of spades. Declarer then plays a third spade expecting the king to appear from South but when South discards, she can pitch a diamond when the defenders take only three tricks.

This brilliant defence netted E/W 175/11.

## Meet Mr Madeira

If you check the results of the previous 21 Festivals in the Hall of Fame section of the brilliant web site <https://www.bridge-madeira.com/hall-of-fame-pdf/> you will notice that several names appear more than once. One of them belongs to the legendary Carlos Luiz. Here is an example of why he does so well from the first session of the Open Pairs:

## Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ AK652 ♥ 3 ♦ J1062 ♣ 1043		♠ J97 ♥ QJ4 ♦ Q5 ♣ KQJ52
♠ 4 ♥ 10875 ♦ K9843 ♣ 987		
♠ Q1083 ♥ AK962 ♦ A7 ♣ A6		

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
-	<i>Leitão</i> Pass	1NT*	<i>Luiz</i> Double
Redouble*	Pass	2♣	2♥
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
1NT	12-15		
Redble five-card suit			

West started with a top spade and then switched to the ♦J. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a spade with the ♥7 and played the ♥5. When East followed with the four, declarer played the ♥6! He then advanced the ♠Q, forcing West to cover and pinning East's jack. That was eleven tricks and 171.00/15.00.

How did declarer find his remarkable play in the trump suit?

With West marked with the ♠AK and ♦J East needs all the missing points to get up to 12.


## The Slamometer

With a General Election rapidly approaching in the UK I remembered the swingometer – it seemed only natural to devise a bridge equivalent.

The last session of the Pairs Championship was one to set the pulse racing, with many deals in the slam zone. I picked four of them:



## Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K84 ♥ 107652 ♦ QJ ♣ Q53		♠ 2 ♥ AKQ843 ♦ AK1093 ♣ 6	♠ AQ765 ♥ 9 ♦ 862 ♣ AJ87
	♠ J1093 ♥ J ♦ 754 ♣ K10942		

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass


That might not be the best sequence, but it is where you would like to play.

Say South leads a spade. You take the ace and now have an opportunity to do something clever by playing a heart to the ace and a heart (it is often a sound strategy to develop the side suit first). When South shows out but cannot ruff high in front of dummy, you have a blueprint for all thirteen tricks.

I predicted this would happen maybe 3 times.

15 of the 25 pairs in 6♦ took all the tricks.

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

♠ 985 ♥ 5 ♦ K10752 ♣ 9543		♠ Q ♥ KQ83 ♦ Q98643 ♣ 102	♠ KJ762 ♥ AJ96 ♦ AJ ♣ 87
	♠ A1043 ♥ 10742 ♦ – ♣ AKQJ6		

West	North	East	South
–	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠/7♠


By no means the only way to go—responding 2NT will get the popular vote.

Those looking for tops might risk bidding 7♠, even though they know the spade queen is missing.

I went for 4 pairs in 7♠, the rest in 6♠.

30 pairs stopped short of slam. But three got to 7♠, worth 184.00/2.00.

## Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 1096 ♥ QJ765 ♦ J7 ♣ K86		♠ J5 ♥ – ♦ KQ8632 ♣ 109753	♠ K432 ♥ A10943 ♦ 10 ♣ AJ4
	♠ AQ87 ♥ K82 ♦ A954 ♣ Q2		

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	2NT*	3♦*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			
2NT	Minors		
3♦	Spades		
3♠	4+♠		
4♦	Cue-bid		
4♥	Cue-bid		
5♣	Cue-bid		

♠ 1096	♠ K432	♠ J5
♥ QJ765	♥ A10943	♥ —
♦ J7	♦ 10	♦ KQ8632
♣ K86	♣ AJ4	♣ 109753
	♠ AQ87	
	♥ K82	
	♦ A954	
	♣ Q2	

If East leads a high diamond declarer must win in dummy and cash the ♠AQ. When East follows he is know to have at best one heart, so declarer continues with the ♥K. When East discards it is necessary to change tack and play the ♣Q. Three rounds of the suit see dummy ruff, and the ♥2 comes next. West has to play an honour and declarer wins and plays a heart to the eight.

Suppose South is in 6♠ doubled and West leads a heart, East ruffing and returning the ♠J. Declarer must win in hand, cash the ♦A, ruff a diamond, play a heart to the king and play another diamond. It won't help West to ruff, so he discards a club and declarer ruffs, cashes the ♠K and the ♥A, ruffs a heart and plays the ♠Q. West has already been squeezed into coming down to two clubs and one heart and now East, looking at ♦K ♣1097 has no good move – a classic non-simultaneous double squeeze.

Anyone who managed that was instructed to report to me in the Bulletin Room!

I was not expecting a rush.

9 pairs bid a slam (one going one down in 7♠) but only two emerged with 12 tricks – one in 6♠, the other in 6♥.

## Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 983	♠ A74	♠ —
♥ 75	♥ Q2	♥ AKJ109843
♦ A874	♦ KQ63	♦ J109
♣ J854	♣ AKQ6	♣ 32
	♠ KQJ10652	
	♥ 6	
	♦ 52	
	♣ 1097	

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

I predicted everyone would bid 6♥.

If South leads the ♠K declarer wins with dummy's ace pitching a diamond and plays eight rounds of hearts, squeezing North in the minors for all the tricks.

I thought that might happen at least 50% of the time.

I also guessed that at least one pair would bid and make 7♥!

Slam was missed 23 times. No-one bid 7♥, but two pairs attempted 7NT once by West, once by East – both doubled. Where East was declarer South led the ♠K – but declarer still went one down!


86 squads lined up for the Open Teams. When my old friend Viorel Micescu and his partner Mihnea Nedelcu mentioned they were looking for team-mates I suggested it might be possible for us to play; meanwhile the partnership desk had discovered that Alan & Jette Bailey were in the same boat and thus an Anglo-Romanian alliance was formed.

## Round 1

### All Quiet on the Madeira Front

If you are one of those players who hope for a quiet start to get yourself played in this might not be the deal you had in mind:

## Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 52 ♥ 953 ♦ A732 ♣ A1097		♠ K1093 ♥ 7 ♦ 8 ♣ KQJ6432	♠ 8764 ♥ KQ864 ♦ KQ4 ♣ 5
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### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zeeberg	Luiz	Lahrmann	Paz
-	1♦	4♣	Double
5♣	5♥	All Pass	

East led the ♣K and West followed with the ten. When East switched to the ♠3 declarer won with the queen, drew trumps and claimed, +450.


West could not be sure his partner held a singleton diamond, but it was highly likely. It seems to me that the indicated defence is to overtake the ♣K and play two rounds of diamonds. Even if partner cannot ruff declarer is still likely to have a spade loser.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Teixeira	Basse	Brenner	Guttorms
-	1♦	2♣	Double*
3♣	3♥	3♠	4♥
Double	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

South led the ♦K and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade. When the ace was onside, he had eleven tricks, +550 and a dream start for Matos to the tune of 15 IMPs.

## Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 2 ♥ K1063 ♦ KQJ1095 ♣ 93		♠ K753 ♥ QJ872 ♦ 6 ♣ AQJ	♠ AQ96 ♥ A95 ♦ 843 ♣ K85
-------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zeeberg	Luiz	Lahrmann	Paz
1♦	1♥	Double	Pass
2♦	Double*	2♥*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♣2 and North took the ace and continued with the queen. Declarer ducked again, won the next club and played a diamond. When South produced the ace he was one down. If declarer had won the second club the suit would have been blocked, but as long as South ducks at least one diamond North can get rid of the ♣J.

### Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Teixeira	Basse	Brenner	Guttorms
Pass	1♥	Double	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

North led the ♥8, so declarer took ten tricks and 5 IMPs – a great start for the team that won in 2017 and came second last year as they won 24-2 IMPs.

## Round 2

Winter faced Queen of Hearts and the match was essentially decided by these two deals:

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

♠ QJ107 ♥ AQ96 ♦ Q7 ♣ J63		♠ 5432 ♥ KJ3 ♦ J5 ♣ A1042	♠ 96 ♥ 1085 ♦ 96432 ♣ K95
		♠ AK8 ♥ 742 ♦ AK108 ♣ Q87	

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Joachim</i>	<i>Jan W</i>	<i>Gabriele</i>	<i>Hans</i>
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♠Q and declarer ducked, took the ♠J with the king and played a club to the ten and king. When East returned the ♦3 declarer let it run and that doomed him to defeat as West won and cleared the spades, -100.


#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hannehe</i>	<i>Elkhard</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Kathryn</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦
Double	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 2♣ Check back
- 2♦ Minimum

West led the ♠Q and declarer won at once and played a club to the ten and king. She ducked the next spade, won the third round and cashed three clubs before exiting with a spade. Having seen East's ♣K she played West for the ♥A and ♦Q and was +600 and 12 IMPs richer.

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

♠ 53 ♥ A432 ♦ J106 ♣ J842		♠ J8642 ♥ K8 ♦ A2 ♣ K753	♠ 1097 ♥ J96 ♦ 97543 ♣ Q9
		♠ AKQ ♥ Q1075 ♦ KQ8 ♣ A106	

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Joachim</i>	<i>Jan W</i>	<i>Gabriele</i>	<i>Hans</i>
-	-	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

- 3♥ Transfer

6NT depended on the location of the ♥J – +990.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hannehe</i>	<i>Elkhard</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Kathryn</i>
-	-	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Stopping short of slam cost 11 IMPs, Q of H winning 15-13.

## Round 3

The last round of the day was jam packed with interesting deals. We are looking at Tolle v BCO:

### Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ AKJ865		♠ 4
♥ J		♥ 972
♦ 65		♦ AJ984
♣ KJ104		♣ Q875
♠ Q1072		♠ 93
♥ A10643		♥ KQ85
♦ Q72		♦ K103
♣ 9		♣ A632

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Snellers</i>	<i>Marvussen</i>	<i>Boer</i>	<i>Asla</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥*
Double	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

♠ J8642		♠ 1097
♥ K8		♥ J96
♦ A2		♦ 97543
♣ K753		♣ Q9
♠ 53		
♥ A432		
♦ J106		
♣ J842		

West led the ♥3 and declarer won with dummy's jack and decided to cash the top spades, East pitching the ♦9. Declarer cashed the ♣K and then played the jack, covered by the queen and king, but when West discarded it was clear the game must fail, -100.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tolle</i>	<i>Kreuming</i>	<i>Hellemann</i>	<i>Bergh</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

After an identical start declarer played the ♣4 to his ace at trick three and then played a spade to the jack and gave up a spade. That made nine tricks a certainty, +600 and 12 IMPs.

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

♠ J6		♠ 1042
♥ Q854		♥ 10763
♦ A62		♦ KJ843
♣ AKQ10		♣ J
♠ Q853		♠ AK97
♥ 92		♥ AKJ
♦ Q95		♦ 107
♣ 9742		♣ 8653



## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Snellers</i>	<i>Marvussen</i>	<i>Boer</i>	<i>Asla</i>
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

♠ J6			
♥ Q854			
♦ A62			
♣ AKQ10			
♠ Q853			♠ 1042
♥ 92			♥ 10763
♦ Q95			♦ KJ843
♣ 9742			♣ J
			♠ AK97
			♥ AKJ
			♦ 107
			♣ 8653

6♣ is an excellent contract, but East led the ♦3 and the 4-1 trump break combined with West holding only two hearts meant declarer had to go down – an unlucky -50.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tolle</i>	<i>Kreuming</i>	<i>Hellemann</i>	<i>Bergh</i>
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♣4 and declarer won in dummy, played a heart to hand and a low spade, +490 but a loss of 11 IMPs.

At several tables N/S reached 6NT – what should West lead? In general one tends to go with passive leads against no-trump slams, but here you have to find a diamond – well done if you did that!

## Board 24. Dealer West. Love Vul.

		♠ AQ3	
		♥ J1086	
		♦ AJ932	
		♣	
♠ 102			♠ K976
♥ 73			♥ K95
♦ Q1054			♦ K86
♣ J8642			♣ A93
			♠ J854
			♥ AQ42
			♦ 7
			♣ KQ107

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Snellers</i>	<i>Marvussen</i>	<i>Boer</i>	<i>Asla</i>
Pass	1♦	Double	Redouble
2♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♠10 and when declarer played dummy's queen East took the king and switched to the ♣3. Declarer won with the queen, played a diamond to the ace and ran the ♥J. After four rounds of hearts on which West pitched the ♠2 declarer could take three spade tricks for +400.

## Closed Room

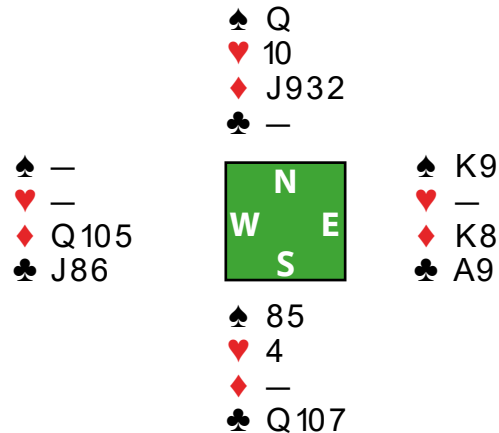
West	North	East	South
<i>Tolle</i>	<i>Kreuming</i>	<i>Hellemann</i>	<i>Bergh</i>
Pass	1♦	Double	Redouble
2♣	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Here too East saw fit to double the opening bid. The Italians used to make a habit of doing this, but facing a passed partner it makes little sense – you are much more likely to help the opponents than achieve anything positive.

East led the ♣A and switched to the ♠7, declarer winning with dummy's queen, cashing his side suit winners and cross-ruffing his way to eleven tricks.

When I was defending this deal, East knew better than to bid anything and West led the ♠10 against 4♥ declarer being allowed to win with the jack. He crossed to dummy with a diamond and played three rounds of hearts and a second spade, going up with dummy's ace when West discarded and playing a club to the queen. When that held he exited with a spade, but East won and played the ♠9. Declarer tried discarding from both hands but East exited with a low diamond. West won with the queen and played a club and declarer had to surrender, -50.

Declarer's line was by no means the strongest, but even in the ending that arose he could have prevailed – although it is very hard to see how:



Declarer must exit with the ♣10! If West plays the jack declarer discards from dummy. Now there is always a winning line. For example if West tries the ♦10 declarer ducks and discards a spade from hand (unless East plays the king when declarer ruffs and exits with a club, West shortly being thrown in to give declarer a tenth trick with the ♣Q). Declarer ruffs the next diamond, ruffs a club and exits with a diamond, again securing a trick with the ♣Q.

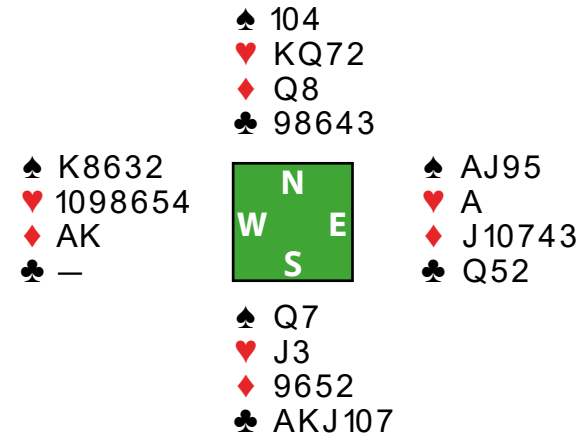
BCO won this match 25-16 to top the table at the end of Day 1.

## The Rule of Thirty

Bridge is full of 'rules', some of them more useful than others. Maybe it's time to introduce a new one.

Look at this deal from Round 6:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



E/W can make a Grand Slam in spades but your objective is to reach 6♠.

Suppose the auction starts like this:

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	2♣
Double	3♣	Pass	Pass
?			

Now West has alternatives, including Double, 4♣ and 4♥. East is going to bid 4♠ over any of these and at a lot of tables that ended the auction.

However, the club void means that you are playing with a thirty-point pack and West should keep on going. Once you start to think about it, assuming nothing wasted in clubs, it is hard to construct a hand for East that will not offer a play for 6♠. Here East has the totally useless ♣Q but you can still take all the tricks.

So next time you encounter this type of situation – bid up!

## Triskaidekaphobia

Frightened of spiders? Bothered by wasps? Afraid of snakes? They are nothing compared to the world-wide fear of the number 13 and a lot of bridge players are wary of playing this deal.

I have lost track of the number of stories I have penned about this fateful board but I was reminded about the phobia by a series of letters that

have appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*, a recent one being from a reader who lives in an apartment which is one of 15. There is a number 16.

This was from Round 5:

## Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ AK8652 ♥ A953 ♦ 5 ♣ 97	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>N</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>W</span> <span>E</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> <span>S</span> </div> </div>	♠ 10943 ♥ KJ1087 ♦ 10 ♣ Q105	♠ Q ♥ Q ♦ AKQJ9864 ♣ AK2
	♠ J7 ♥ 642 ♦ 732 ♣ J8643		

EW can take all the tricks in diamonds or no-trumps and many pairs managed to hit the top spot. One East decided to open 5♦ – that didn't quite cut the mustard. At another table North opened 2♥, promising a weak hand with both majors and East doubled, waiting to see what partner would do. It proved to be a very long wait.

Meanwhile, our team was making steady progress; winning our first eight matches saw us reach the top table. In the glare of the BBO audience we were easily dispatched by our Russian opponents, Evgeny Rudakov, Elena Rudakova, Sergey Orlov and Tatiana Dikhnova who went on to win the tournament with ease. Luckily the record of this match appears to have vanished from the BBO archive! We had to be content with fourth place (for those of a mercenary nature €1200 was our reward). During our unbeaten run this deal was not without interest:

## Board 19. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A1043 ♥ Q532 ♦ AK6 ♣ 102	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>N</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>W</span> <span>E</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> <span>S</span> </div> </div>	♠ KJ8 ♥ 96 ♦ 105 ♣ AK8754	♠ Q975 ♥ 10874 ♦ 42 ♣ J93
	♠ 62 ♥ AKJ ♦ QJ9873 ♣ Q6		

West	North	East	South
<i>Tolle</i>	<i>Tacchi</i>	<i>Helleman</i>	<i>Horton</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♦
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

With trumps 2-2 5♦ was easy enough.

At the other table N/S preferred 4♥. Our teammates though they should have beaten this, but on closer inspection you soon realise it is untouchable. Suppose the defenders start with three rounds of clubs? One winning line is to ruff with the ♥J, unblock the ♥AK, cross to hand with a diamond and cash the ♥Q. When East discards it is safe to exit with a trump and claim the rest.

At the Gala Dinner which (almost) brings the event to a close everyone resolved to return in 2020, and many thought they might come to watch the European Championships in June.

# Letter from Germany : The Open Pairs Bundesliga 2019

Martin Cantor

Before I tell you anything about the Pairs Bundesliga I want to offer my huge and delighted congratulations to the new German Ladies Champions, my regular partner and friend Silvia Klasberg-Brawanski and my occasional partner and also friend Kerstin Sosnowski, whose storming last 73.77% session saw them claim the title by just 0.09% from Kareen Schroeder and Freifrau Petra von Malchus. I choose to offer no congratulations to the winners of the Seniors Pairs Championships, two doctors whose names I will not publicise, and who may be contenders for the least popular winners of any event ever.

The German Pairs Bundesliga (Premier League) was played over a single weekend in October, with 26 pairs in each of the first and second divisions, 28 in the third. Six pairs would be promoted from each of the second and third divisions, and eight pairs relegated from all three. Silvia and Kerstin were hoping to continue their triumphant form in the second division where they would come up against, among others, Franz Röttger (Kerstin's husband) playing with me. Five fifteen board sessions awaited us, three boards against each other pair.

Sometimes the lure of the sacrifice is just that – a lure and a sacrifice, as we discovered to our cost on this hand:

**Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.**

♠ 76	♠ Q9852	♠ AK3
♥ AK762	♥ J94	♥ Q103
♦ 93	♦ J764	♦ A10
♣ AJ104	♣ 6	♣ Q9852

	♠ J104	
	♥ 85	
	♦ KQ852	
	♣ K73	

	N	
W		E
	S	

Franz and I bid as E/W to the normal looking 4♥, and like everyone else in that contract made all the tricks thanks to the trumps breaking and the ♣K onside. Two pairs bid slam, one in each rounded suit, but two N/S pairs got hyperactive in diamonds and were doubled at the five level for telephone numbers (note that on best defence E/W have seven tricks, scoring more than the small slam). So just 8 of 24 matchpoints for us. In the first division four pairs played in 3NT, also making all the tricks, but if you're going to wear those kind of rose-tinted glasses then you might as well bid slam in hearts or clubs, which at least only goes one down if the ♣K is offside. We sometimes describe hands as "five or seven" depending on the lie of the cards, but in no trump this one is actually a two or seven hand.

We all know how important the opening lead is, and so it proved on this hand – but only in the sense that it depends which defender is on lead at trick 1.

**Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.**

♠ A96	♠ K1043
♥ AQ7	♥ 53
♦ KQ9	♦ 532
♣ KQ54	♣ J1092

	♠ QJ82
	♥ KJ9842
	♦ 74
	♣ 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 75
♥ 106
♦ AJ1086
♣ A873


In all three divisions almost everyone played 4♥ on the E/W cards. With North on lead declarer can always make 11 tricks by playing towards his minor suit royals to ditch either spades or the other minor suit. But if East

declares a spade lead – found some of the time – holds it to ten tricks.

On the very next board it was system that mattered. Playing a strong no trump North opened it and generally played there. On a weak no trump East overcalled 1NT and mostly played in 2NT. The par contract is 3♥ by E/W, but only two pairs played in hearts, one in each of the second and third divisions. E/W have eight tricks in no-trump, while N/S only have four. But of the twenty times North declared 1NT four went just one off, sixteen went two off, meaning that no E/W pair managed to beat it by three.


Getting just below average, 10/14, for this next board annoyed me. We found the good club sacrifice but: four opposing pairs didn't find their making game; one opposing pair slipped a trick in defence; no opposing pair took the push to the making five level.

## Board 35. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ Q72 ♥ 7 ♦ 754 ♣ AQ8732		♠ K93 ♥ J1096 ♦ A1092 ♣ 95
♠ AJ1084 ♥ AQ83 ♦ QJ8 ♦ 4	♠ 65 ♥ K542 ♦ K63 ♣ KJ106	

Also from the third set was this hand, which needed us to be both mildly aggressive in the bidding and careful in the play.

## Board 41. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ QJ ♥ KQ752 ♦ AQ ♦ AJ62		♠ 1092 ♥ J ♦ 1054 ♣ Q109854
	♠ K86 ♥ 9843 ♦ KJ983 ♣ 3	♠ A7543 ♥ A106 ♦ 762 ♣ K7


West	East
<i>Martin</i>	<i>Franz</i>
–	Pass
1♥	1♠
3♣	3♥
4♦*	5♥*
6♥	Pass

North led the ♦5 which didn't perturb me, but when the trump king dropped the jack the alarm bells started ringing. Since I would need both of dummy's trumps to draw South's, it was clearly time to play on spades, and with them breaking 3-3 there were no further alarms. In our second division five pairs bid and made the heart slam and one went off in 6♠. One first division pair and two third division pairs went one down in 6♥, outdone by the third division pair who bid the grand in hearts going two down, they in turn further outdone by the third division pair who went three down in the small slam. The slam also makes in no trumps, found by five first division pairs (though one went off) and two third division pairs, who both made.

As dealer with only the opponents vulnerable you hold ♠J ♥A1087 ♦Q5 ♣KJ10642. You open 1♣, LHO bids 3♠, partner 4♦ and RHO 4♠. Do you bid or double? If you bid, do you choose 4NT, 5♣ or 5♦? I chose the last of these options. On paper not the best option since best defence takes 4♠ two down, while best defence beats 5♦. Here is the hand:




## Board 44. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ J ♥ A1087 ♦ Q5 ♣ KJ10642		♠ 4 ♥ Q53 ♦ AJ76432 ♣ A5	♠ AQ109873 ♥ K42 ♦ 8 ♣ 73
♠ K652 ♥ J96 ♦ K109 ♣ Q98			

The defence to 5♦ is tough but not that tough, just needing South to lead the ♠K rather than a small one so that s/he can switch to a heart at trick two. In the second division eight pairs played in diamonds, and three Souths led the ♠K, but one of them failed to find the heart shift. In the first division only one E/W played in diamonds, and that at the six level, one off, while one played 5♣X making, the rest playing in hearts or defending spades at various levels and with various results. Diamonds was the contract at eleven of fourteen third division tables, and no South led the spade king. The defence to 4♠ needs to be accurate to get your five tricks, making sure to set up your second heart and to cash both clubs before the ace of diamonds is knocked out. Not everyone managed it. For the record the par contract is 4♥= by E/W, but that contract was played only in the first division, making twice, going one down twice, and going two down once.

Next question. You are vulnerable and hold ♠— ♥A9765432 ♦J976 ♣A. Your non-vulnerable RHO deals and opens a 14-16 no trump. Your bid? Despite the vulnerability I chose 4♥, reasoning that opponents very likely had a spade fit and our chances of beating game were decent with the bad trump break and my two tricks. As they say, give the opponents the last guess. It didn't turn out well for our side, though less badly than it might (14/10) when I wasn't doubled and got out for two down after the opponents played diamonds for me – but twenty-two other tables made eight tricks, just one was held to seven, and that in 5♥X.


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

♠ — ♥ A9765432 ♦ J976 ♣ A		♠ AQJ10987 ♥ — ♦ 102 ♣ J1094	♠ 42 ♥ K108 ♦ AQ43 ♣ 8762
♠ K653 ♥ QJ ♦ K85 ♣ KQ53			

As you can see N/S can only make 2NT, and while 4♠ by East can go two down, making is a more likely result when South leads a club honour; indeed that is exactly what happened in ten of the eleven spade contracts. As an aside, it's rather unusual to come across a hand where one pair both hold freaks but the other pair both have totally normal balanced holdings.

I've written before about how effective I find a two-level opening bid showing a weak major two suiter. When I play with Silvia we have 2♥ for that, but for our opponents on this next board 2♦ was the tool. Which gave us an opportunity for an excellent score that we passed up. And which the opening bid then allowed the opponents to turn to their advantage with a sharp double.

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


♠ K982 ♥ QJ7 ♦ 2 ♣ J8653		♠ J643 ♥ A9862 ♦ 53 ♣ K7	♠ A5 ♥ 104 ♦ AKQ874 ♣ Q102
		♠ Q107 ♥ K53 ♦ J1096 ♣ A94	

West	North	East	South
<i>Martin</i>		<i>Franz</i>	
–	2♦*	2♠*	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Double
All Pass			

Franz's 2♠ bid was in principle takeout for the minors with emphasis on the diamonds. Had he passed my 3♣ we would, astonishingly, have been the only pair from 40 tables across the three divisions to play in the par contract. As it was, many played 3♦ one off, but no others were doubled.


My last two boards were both played against friends and frequent teammates Eckhard Renken and Omid Karimi, and both were very poor results for us. The first one through no fault of our own, just well done to Ecki and Omid, and badly done by the other N/S pairs.

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

♠ J532 ♥ AQ92 ♦ 86 ♣ A83		♠ 9 ♥ J1065 ♦ J9752 ♣ QJ2	♠ Q87 ♥ K843 ♦ 3 ♣ 109754
		♠ AK1064 ♥ 7 ♦ AKQ104 ♣ K6	

Game is cold for N/S in either diamonds or no-trumps, but you have to bid it. A majority in all three divisions (26 of 40), and disastrously for us 11 of 13 in our division, failed to do so. Against us, after Ecki scraped up a 1NT response to the 1♠ opening, he also raised the 3♦ jump shift to five. Those playing strong club systems had a better chance of getting there, as did those like Ecki following the increasing trend of responding on fewer than six HCP. (*Didn't someone suggest that as a Bols Bridge Tip. Editor*)

## Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ J93 ♥ K103 ♦ Q10943 ♣ Q4		♠ A85 ♥ A7 ♦ AK75 ♣ AKJ6	♠ K1072 ♥ J8642 ♦ – ♣ 10953
		♠ Q64 ♥ Q95 ♦ J862 ♣ 872	

You can make 3NT on any lead, but you have to play it well. Omid did.

After the club lead he found the bad news in diamonds, set up his second spade trick, ducked a spade and then cashed winners before endplaying me in hearts to lead away from the ♦Q. Three others managed to make it in our division while six went one off and two went two off. In both the other divisions the makers and the offers were roughly even.

Congratulations to the winners of the first division Jörg Fritsche and Klaus Reps, followed by the runners-up Helmut Häusler and Andreas Kirmse. Winners of the second division were Ulrich Kratz and Bernhard Sträter, of the third division Bernhard Kaiser and Ferit Tavlan. No congratulations to us, relegated to the third division next year – as were Silvia and Kerstin.

THE 51<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL WACHAUER BRIDGE WEEK WILL BE ORGANIZED AND PROMOTED BY THE AUSTRIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION (ÖBV). THE NÖBV WHICH HOSTED THE FESTIVAL FOR 50 YEARS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE WITH SUPPORT.

**WACHAU, AN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

With its outstanding cultural and natural landscape the Wachau region is a more than worthy destination to visit.

Organization:  
**Austrian Bridge Federation (ÖBV)**

Management:  
**Executive Board of ÖBV**

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

Bild: Roman Zoehlinger

## INTERNATIONAL WACHAUER BRIDGE- WEEK RELOADED

# 2019

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> to  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of August

Venue:  
**Römerhalle  
A-3512 Mautern  
Austria**





## Bridge – a mind sport for all ages

The Sociology of Bridge is a research project and an emerging academic field that explores interactions within the mind sport, well-being, transferable life skills, mental health and social connection. Playing bridge encourages clear thinking, boosts self-esteem, facilitates partnerships, trust and cooperation, and contributes to intergenerational community building.

In summary, Keep Bridge Alive aims to:

- Promote the social benefits of bridge
- Support an intergenerational approach to learning and playing bridge
- Develop bridge in schools, universities, libraries, workplaces and community centres
- Establish resources to support widening access to bridge
- Embed bridge into strategies for combatting social isolation and loneliness

The global Keep Bridge Alive campaign aims to publicise the benefits of bridge beyond the bridge world. Join us in making a difference to the bridge community by showing others the exciting, challenging and life-enhancing nature of bridge. The Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am is the only charity bridge Pro-Am that is giving back to the game itself.

## Programme of work

- **Phase 1:** Publish academic papers (four currently under development) and establish the sociology of mind sports as a new area of teaching and research
- **Phase 2:** Develop a global Keep Bridge Alive network to share best practice and ensure effective use of academic research within the bridge community
- **Phase 3:** Create accessible resources from the research findings for different groups such as teachers, parents, employers, policy-makers and children
- **Phase 4:** Conduct new research within the bridge community to co-develop solutions and roll out practical projects for sustaining bridge

## Our research partners



All profits from the Pro-Am will go directly to pay the part-time researchers who work with Professor Samantha Punch, as UK universities no longer fund research, relying instead on increasingly limited external funding.

The University of Stirling is a registered charity (no SCO 011159) and Keep Bridge Alive is a charitable project that sits within the University.

## The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers

The Stationers' Company originated in 1403 when the text-writers who made copies of books and the 'lymners' who illuminated them, petitioned the Lord Mayor of London to join in a single trading company with a warden from each craft to oversee their affairs. They set up stalls in St Paul's Churchyard - hence the term 'stationer' as opposed to those operating as itinerant vendors.



**Venue address:** Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4M 7DD

## Victoria Coren Mitchell



Victoria Coren Mitchell is the host of *Only Connect* on BBC Two, and *Heresy* and *Women Talking About Cars* on BBC Radio Four. She currently writes a weekly column about television for the *Saturday Telegraph*. She has also written three books, including *For Richer, For Poorer: Confessions Of A Player* which is her poker memoir. Victoria was the first woman to win a championship title on the European Poker Tour, and currently the first and only person of any gender to win two of them. We are delighted she is playing in the Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am Pairs. You will also have the chance to ask questions of Victoria on the evening in a special Q&A.

"Bridge is condensed life. You need to solve a variety of problems, make a huge number of decisions and face emotional ups and downs. The social aspect of bridge - interacting with your partner and opponents - is also challenging and rewarding. It's a wonderful game. Live it."

BOYE BROGELAND  
Norway



Keep Bridge Alive

UNIVERSITY of STIRLING

# BRIDGE

## A mind sport for all ages



BE THE DIFFERENCE

## Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am

20 February 2020, Stationers' Hall, London

The University of Stirling is delighted to offer you the chance to be a part of a unique bridge experience. Featuring a special guest appearance by Victoria Coren Mitchell you will have the chance to play, dine and network with world class bridge players, in the setting of one of London's historic hidden gems, Stationers' Hall, Grade I listed building completed in 1673.



By joining us at this special event you will contribute to the wider recognition of bridge as a fun and meaningful mind sport with positive lifelong impacts on brain fitness and healthy ageing.



The Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am provides an exclusive opportunity to partner a world class player in a world class field. Bid for the chance to play with an International or UK expert from the world of bridge; an exciting opportunity for keen bridge enthusiasts. Furthermore, it is a great opportunity to 'sponsor a junior to play' and help raise the profile of bridge as an intergenerational game for young people and families.

### The auction

Available for auction are experts from USA, Ireland, Germany, Norway, Denmark, Bulgaria, and the UK. The auction will be held online. It opens on 4 November 2019 and ends on 7 February 2020 at noon.

### The Pro-Am dinner and tournament

The Pro-Am on Thursday 20th February starts with a drinks reception at 6pm, followed by a buffet dinner and wine, and then the tournament itself. The event concludes around 11pm with a raffle and prize giving, with prizes for newcomers to tournament bridge. The bar is open for mingling with the experts until midnight.

[Sociologyofbridge.wordpress.com](http://Sociologyofbridge.wordpress.com)

[@soc\\_of\\_bridge](https://twitter.com/soc_of_bridge) [Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am Pairs](https://www.facebook.com/KeepBridgeAliveProAmPairs)

### The experts

Sabine Auken	David Gold	Andrew McIntosh
David Bakhshi	Marusa Gold	Barry Myers
Mike Bell	Irving Gordon	Shahzaad Natt
Sarah Bell	Ben Green	Tom Paske
Dennis Bilde	Barbara Hackett	Steve Root
Sally Brock	Fredrik Helness	Neil Rosen
Boye Brogeland	Thor Erik Hoftaniska	Norman Selway
David Burn	Alex Hydes	Victor Silverstone
Simon Cope	Ed Jones	Stefan Skorchev
Willie Coyle	Gary Jones	Nicola Smith
Peter Crouch	Phil King	Les Steel
Jeremy Dhondy	Glyn Liggins	Simon Stocken
Espen Erichsen	Liz McGowan	James Thrower
Joe Fawcett	Zia Mahmood	Tom Townsend
Tommy Garvey	Artur Malinowski	Roy Welland

### Be part of this fabulous evening

Three ways to bid for a partner:

- Online: visit [bit.ly/2LTRWA6](http://bit.ly/2LTRWA6) and choose from amongst the players who have kindly volunteered their time for this prestigious event. Bids can be made online. [jumblebee.co.uk/keepbridgealiveproam20february2020](http://jumblebee.co.uk/keepbridgealiveproam20february2020)
- Email to [philanthropy@stir.ac.uk](mailto:philanthropy@stir.ac.uk)
- Phone **01786 466 029**

Bidding starts from £275. All successful bids entitle the partnership to the reception drinks, dinner and wine, and taking part in the Pro-Am bridge tournament, eligibility for prizes, and a donation to the KBA project. The auction closes on Friday 7 February 2020 at noon.

### Special premium sponsor package

To reward the generosity of our premium sponsors, we can offer them a package which includes publicity surrounding the event. The sponsors of the event have the right to a partner of their choice, thus precluding that player from the auction. Please contact [hazel.mcilwrath@stir.ac.uk](mailto:hazel.mcilwrath@stir.ac.uk) for details.

### Play with a junior

We are delighted to offer the opportunity to play with up and coming junior players, who have made an impact at national and international level, for their age and category. If you'd like to do this, then the fee is fixed at £300. This includes the same benefits as described in the "Pro-Am dinner and tournament". Please get in touch by email or phone.

#### Cannot play on the day, but would like to be a patron?

- Support the KBA work by sponsoring a junior to play at the event with one of our invitees (e.g. from EBL and WBF): £200. This is a great opportunity to help raise the profile of bridge as a mind sport for all ages.
- Consider bidding for a player and gifting the entry.
- If you are unable to join us, you can always make a donation to the campaign [bit.ly/35dqvsC](http://bit.ly/35dqvsC) (or search for 'Keep Bridge Alive Campaign'). The University also accepts charitable donations via cheque or bank transfer by emailing [philanthropy@stir.ac.uk](mailto:philanthropy@stir.ac.uk) or phone **01786 466 029**.

For Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am Auction Terms and Conditions visit [bit.ly/2LTRWA6](http://bit.ly/2LTRWA6)



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## NEW BOOKS FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

NEW EDITION REVISED AND UPDATED  
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INTRO  
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INTRODUCTION TO  
DEFENSE

EDD

EDDIE KANTAR

### INTRODUCTION TO DECLARER PLAY and

### INTRODUCTION TO DEFENSE

*Second Editions*

Eddie Kantar

These classics on defense and declarer play cover the topics with clarity, skill and humor. More than fifty years after their first publications, these books have been revised and updated by Barbara Seagram to bring them into line with modern methods of play and bridge education.

### PLANNING THE DEFENSE

Barbara Seagram and David Bird

Ten years after their award-winning *Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand*, Seagram & Bird tackle the hardest part of the game: defense. Using the same step-by-step approach, they guide the reader through the minefield of signaling, making a defensive plan and, above all, counting – points, tricks and distribution.



AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE RETAILER NEAR YOU



'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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:malahidebridgecongress@mrbc.ie)

Brochure will be found on

...when ready....

<http://malahideregionalbridgeclub.com/>

The Grand Hotel Malahide

email: [info@the.grand.ie](mailto:info@the.grand.ie)

Quote Bridge Congress

Phone: +353 1 845 0000

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

**MALAHIDE BRIDGE CONGRESS March 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 GRAND HOTEL MALAHIDE**

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

## 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.

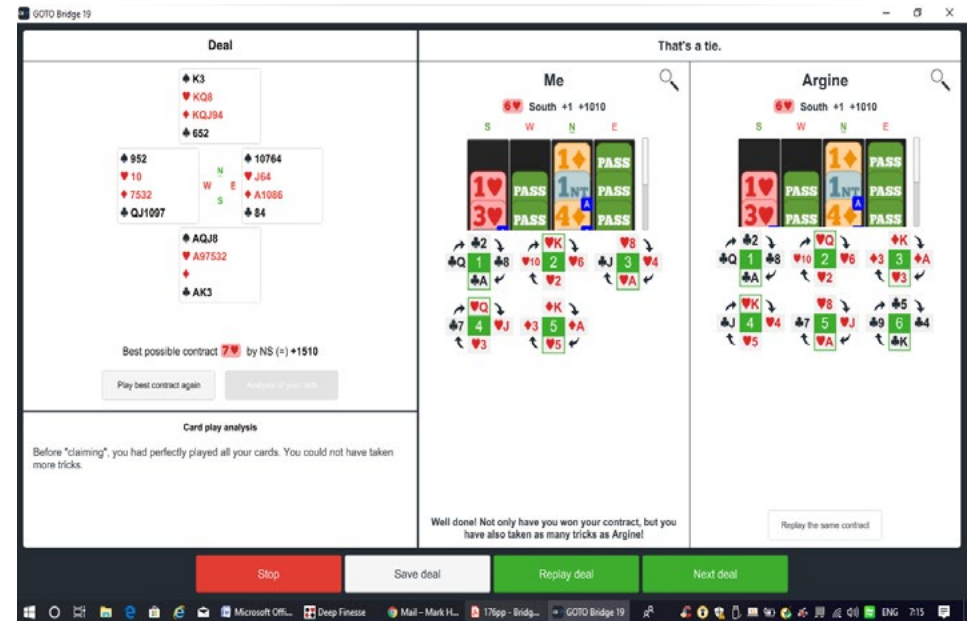
## Tournaments

- 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 2,000 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

## Premature Celebration

In a charity event, where my partner is a well-known figure on both the big and small screen, I pick up my best hand of the night:

- ♠ AK752
- ♥ AKQ
- ♦ AK
- ♣ J74

With no one vulnerable I deal and open 2♣. When West passes partner responds 2♦ which we play as promising any positive response. I rebid 2♥, which my partner alerts, explaining it as ‘Kokish’ promising either a heart suit or a balanced 25+. He bids 2♠ which I explain as being a forced response. When I continue with 2NT there is no need for any further clarification. After a brief pause partner removes the remaining cards from his bidding box, his 7NT leaving us with this auction:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

When West leads the jack of diamonds I see that the contract is not a laydown:

- ♠ 1064
  - ♥ 64
  - ♦ Q863
  - ♣ AKQ3
- 
- ♠ AK752
  - ♥ AKQ
  - ♦ AK
  - ♣ J74

I cannot fault partner, as our theoretical minimum is 36 points (it would be unlucky for that to be one of the aces) so if I go down it is obvious where the blame will lie.

With only twelve tricks on top it is clear that I will need something good to happen in spades, so after winning the diamond lead I lay down the ace of spades which draws the eight from West and the jack from East. Offering up a silent prayer, I continue with the king of spades and await East’s card. It proves to be the three, not the hoped for queen.

I go through the motions but there is no way to generate the extra trick I need.

This was the full deal:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♠ Q98</li> <li>♥ 107</li> <li>♦ J1092</li> <li>♣ 8652</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #008000; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>N</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>W</span> <span>E</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> <span>S</span> </div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♠ 1064</li> <li>♥ 64</li> <li>♦ Q863</li> <li>♣ AKQ3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♠ J3</li> <li>♥ J98532</li> <li>♦ 754</li> <li>♣ 109</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♠ AK752</li> <li>♥ AKQ</li> <li>♦ AK</li> <li>♣ J74</li> </ul>			

### Post mortem

East did well to drop the jack of spades, but there was no rush to play off the other top spade. If declarer unblocks the diamonds, cashes three hearts, pitching a spade from dummy, and then plays four rounds of clubs West will be squeezed in spades and diamonds.

## Find the Lady

Towards the latter stages of a knock out event I pick up this modest collection:


♠ J98764  
♥ 9  
♦ K87  
♣ J102

Only our side is vulnerable and when West deals and passes my partner opens 1♥. When I respond 1♠ he rebids 2♣ which we play as an artificial bid, promising 17+ and asking me to continue describing my hand. With 8 or more points I would have to bid 2♦, so when I rebid my suit partner knows I have a modest hand with no support for hearts. His next bid is 4♠ which leaves us with this auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West leads the eight of clubs and partner delivers a good-looking collection:

♠ AK  
♥ AKJ73  
♦ 10653  
♣ AQ




♠ J98764  
♥ 9  
♦ K87  
♣ J102

Suppose I take the club finesse?

If East wins a diamond switch will be awkward. Perhaps I can do something with dummy's hearts? I go up with the ace of clubs, cash a top spade and then play off the top hearts, discarding a diamond from my hand. I ruff a heart, hoping the queen will appear, but when her majesty refuses to co-operate I return to dummy with a spade. For the second time the queen is absent and when I play a diamond to the king West produces

the ace and I have to admit defeat.

This was the layout:

	♠ AK		
	♥ AKJ73		
	♦ 10653		
	♣ AQ		
♠ 52			♠ Q103
♥ Q652			♥ 1084
♦ AJ2			♦ Q94
♣ 9864			♣ K753
	♠ J98764		
	♥ 9		
	♦ K87		
	♣ J102		

### Post mortem

Declarer's mistake was to play a round of trumps. At the other table, after taking the ace of clubs declarer played three rounds of hearts immediately. He was able to cross to the ♠K, ruff another heart, and return to dummy with the ♠A. A second diamond was pitched on the thirteenth heart and the game was made for a swing of 12 IMPs.



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# Deals that Caught My Eye

David Bird looks at a new event, the Soloway Trophy

There was a small but glittering field for the first holding of the Soloway Trophy in the USA. We will take a look at one of the semi-finals, where ROSENTHAL faces NICKELL. As always, I will be looking for big swing boards, hoping that we can learn something from them.

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

♠ — ♥ QJ10532 ♦ AKJ875 ♣ 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ A108732 ♥ 74 ♦ 10963 ♣ 9	♠ KQ5 ♥ 96 ♦ — ♣ AKQ87643
	♠ J964 ♥ AK8 ♦ Q4 ♣ J102		

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
—	—	—	1♣
2♣	2♥	Pass	3♥
4♣	4♠*	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

North's 4♠ was announced as Exclusion RKCB, but South's 4th-step response would then normally indicate two key cards plus the trump queen. Anyway, the excellent small slam was reached and Nickell ventured a Lightner Double. What should East lead?

North's Exclusion bid, if such it was, had announced a spade void.

Leading the ♠A was therefore unattractive. Does it seem too difficult to lead a diamond? Katz found it so, and pushed out the ♣9. Rosenthal, the declarer, now faced an oft-publicised situation. I simply could not believe it when he called for dummy's ♣2! It should have been sparkingly clear that West's Lightner Double was based on a diamond void.

Nickell contributed the ♣3 to the first trick, and Katz was not then too embarrassed to switch to a diamond for one down.

I recently reported a similar Lightner Double deal, where one of England's medal-laden ladies team failed to cover the opening lead. The only appropriate diagnosis is that declarer was very careless in both cases.


**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	2NT*	Pass	4♥
5♣	5♥	All Pass	
2NT	Red suits		

A slam would have been cold, played by South. All thirteen tricks were made when the king of spades was led against 5♥. It was 12 IMPs to NICKELL, when declarer at the other table might have picked up 13 IMPs the other way. So, that's one lesson we can all remember!



## Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 1086 ♥ 8 ♦ K98754 ♣ Q85		♠ A3 ♥ KJ109742 ♦ 3 ♣ 964	♠ Q5 ♥ Q3 ♦ AQJ102 ♣ AK72
♠ KJ9742 ♥ A65 ♦ 6 ♣ J103			

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
-	-	-	2♠
3♦	4♠	All Pass	

The Netherlands/USA pair made life difficult for East-West, in fact too difficult. It was a good moment to be playing natural weak-twos instead of the multi. The spade game went two down, undoubled, and East/West added a meagre +100 to their card.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
-	-	-	2♠
3♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		


Rodwell spurned the opportunity to raise the pre-emptive bar. Brogeland's cue-bid of 5♣ denied a spade control, so his partner's 5♦ showed both a spade and a diamond control. Brogeland thought he had done enough and the partnership stopped in 5♥.

To make this contract, Bakke might need to avoid a spade loser.

Meckstroth's ♠9 lead eased this task. A ruffing finesse on the third round of diamonds allowed the club loser to be pitched and an overtrick was made.

On a minor-suit lead, declarer can succeed either by taking a ruffing finesse in diamonds or by ducking a club. ROSENTHAL gained 11 IMPs.

## Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ K65 ♥ Q108763 ♦ QJ4 ♣ 10		♠ J982 ♥ K ♦ AK762 ♣ K32	♠ AQ1073 ♥ A ♦ 1085 ♣ AQ96
		♠ 4 ♥ J9542 ♦ 93 ♣ J8754	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
2♥	Double	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Jansma had his take-out double, but it was the wrong moment to choose it. He was lucky indeed that the contract of 3♣, via South's Lebensohl 2NT, was left undoubled.

Nickell led the ♥A and switched to ace and another trump. Jansma won with dummy's ♣7 and continued with the ♦9, covered by the jack and ace. When the king of diamonds was played, Katz dropped a trick by failing to unblock the diamond queen. Jansma led a third round of diamonds, discarding dummy's ♠4, and Katz had to win the trick.

West's spade return was ruffed with dummy's ♣5. Jansma then led the ♥4 to West's ♥8, discarding a diamond. After ruffing the next spade with dummy's ♣8, he ruffed a heart with the master ♣K and led a diamond to promote the ♣J. He was only two down for -100.

At the other table Brogeland and Bakke did hugely better, both in the bidding and the subsequent defence.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
2♥	Double	Redouble	3♣
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

The doubled contract was played the other way up and Brogeland found the best lead, his singleton trump. Meckstroth rose with dummy's king, East winning with the ace and returning the ♣6. Declarer won with the jack and needed to play diamonds to 'escape' for four down. When he preferred a heart, Bakke won with the ace and drew two more rounds of trumps with the ♣Q9. The defenders then played spades, leaving Meckstroth with only four tricks. He was 1100 down for a loss of 14 IMPs.

On the very next board the ROSENTHAL team added an even bigger swing to their account.

## Board 25. Dealer North. East/West Vul.

♠ —	♠ AQ1087	♠ K9543
♥ KJ984	♥ 2	♥ 653
♦ KJ53	♦ 1092	♦ Q4
♣ K732	♣ A1098	♣ Q65

	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ J62											
♥ AQ107											
♦ A876											
♣ J4											

♠ J982		♠ AQ1073
♥ K		♥ A
♦ AK762		♦ 1085
♣ K32		♣ AQ96

♠ 4		
♥ J9542		
♦ 93		
♣ J8754		

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
–	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Double	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Willenken's 2NT showed 3-card spade support, game-invitational or minimum game-forcing. What do you make of West's decision to enter this auction?

It proved very expensive. No-one likes to judge by results, so let's think of some reasons why West's take-out double might be unwise. The first is that the vulnerability is against you. Another is that partner may well have some spade length and no good fit for any of your suits. A further reason is that the opponents are not even guaranteed to reach game. Finally, wherever they stop, the impending bad spade break may put their contract down.

Nickell ended in 3♣, doubled by North. As on the previous board, the best opening lead was found. Willenken led the jack of trumps. Jansma followed with the ♣10 and declarer won with the queen. As the cards lie, he does best to play a heart, but he preferred to lead the ♦Q. Willenken won with the ace and played a second trump. Jansma won and drew a third round of trumps. Declarer won the ♠7 switch with the king and led a heart, South rising with the ace. The ♠J continuation then took the contract four down. It was the second consecutive 1100 penalty for ROSENTHAL.

## Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
–	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The spade game went two down after a lead of the ♦Q and it was 15 IMPs more to ROSENTHAL. At half-time, the scores were tied at 57-57.

The third session of 15 boards was a drab affair, with a total score-line of 8-5 in ROSENTHAL's favour.

Heart rates were doubtless raised as the players took their seats for the final session.

## Board 49. Dealer South. East/West Vul.

♠ A42 ♥ AQJ ♦ J1052 ♣ K54		♠ 10975 ♥ K1094 ♦ A864 ♣ A	♠ Q83 ♥ 8753 ♦ 93 ♣ 8732
♠ KJ6 ♥ 62 ♦ KQ7 ♣ QJ1096			

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Double	Pass	1♥	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

In this exalted standard of play, there was no disagreement about the meaning of Jansma's second-round double. North had not found a bid or a negative double on the first round, so his second double was for penalties.

(I have never made, nor dreamt of making, such a penalty double at the one-level. Have you?)


Once again, Willenken led a trump. Jansma allowed dummy's jack to win. A diamond was led, South winning with the queen and playing a second trump. Jansma won with the king and returned a third round of trumps. The jack of diamonds went to the king, and South switched to the ♣Q. Meckstroth declined to play dummy's king and North's bare ace won the trick. Jansma drew declarer's last trump and switched to spades. The penalty was 800 for three down, which seemed to have every chance of being a good board for North/South.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Levin</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
1♦	Double	1♥	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

As you see, both North/South pairs did splendidly in the bidding! The play was similar, except that Bakke elected to cover the ♣Q with dummy's king on the first round. This elevated the penalty to 1100 and NICKELL gained 7 IMPs.

## Board 57. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ J83 ♥ K1084 ♦ 9843 ♣ A9		♠ K7542 ♥ 9632 ♦ 10 ♣ 753	♠ 106 ♥ AQJ ♦ KJ5 ♣ KQJ102
♠ AQ9 ♥ 75 ♦ AQ762 ♣ 864			

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥*	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North's 1♥ response showed spades. Meckstroth ended in 3NT, and Willenken (South) had to choose a lead. A lead of partner's spade suit would have hit the jackpot, beating the game by three tricks. Expecting declarer to hold the ♠K for his 1NT bid, South reached for the ♦6 instead. 'Just the ten,' Meckstroth may have said, proceeding to enter +430 in his scorecard.



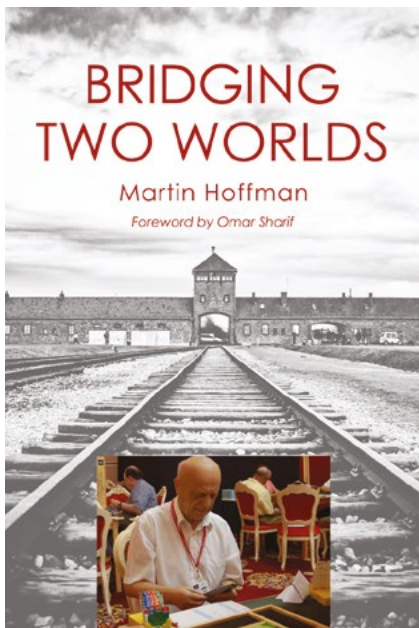
## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Weinstein	Bakke	Levin
-	-	-	1♦
Pass	2♥*	3♣	3♠
All Pass			

Weinstein's 2♥ showed a non-invitational (he judged it well) hand with five spades and four hearts. Brogeland led ace and another club against South's 3♠, Bakke scoring three tricks in the suit. West discarded the ♦9. When East switched to the ace and queen of hearts, West overtook with the king and continued with the ♥8, declarer ruffing with the ♠9. Levin could not avoid losing the 13th trick to West's ♥10 and that was two down.

ROSENTHAL lost 8 IMPs, where a spade lead in the Open Room would have given them 6 IMPs. NICKELL eventually took the semi-final by 93-75.

♠ K7542	♠ 106
♥ 9632	♥ AQJ
♦ 10	♦ KJ5
♣ 753	♣ KQJ102
♠ J83	♠ 106
♥ K1084	♥ AQJ
♦ 9843	♦ KJ5
♣ A9	♣ KQJ102
♠ AQ9	
♥ 75	
♦ AQ762	
♣ 864	



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## BRIDGING TWO WORLDS

Martin Hoffman  
*Foreword by Omar Sharif*

Czech-born bridge player and writer, Martin Hoffman, recounts the horrors of the WW2 death camps and how he managed to survive Auschwitz. He shares his struggles to establish a normal life after relocation to post-war England, and the important part the game of bridge played in his recovery.

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World Online Championship.

# WORLD ONLINE CHAMPIONSHIP

♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ 1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION 2020



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**WORLD ONLINE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
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# CHAMPIONNAT DU MONDE EN LIGNE: première!

LE MONDE ENTIER DU BRIDGE S'APPRÊTE À VIBRER GRÂCE À LA TOUTE PREMIÈRE ÉDITION DU WOC (WORLD ONLINE CHAMPIONSHIP). MODE D'EMPLOI À L'USAGE DES FUTURS CONCURRENTS.

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La Fédération mondiale de bridge (WBF) a donc décidé d'organiser, en coopération avec les plus grandes plateformes de jeu en ligne BBO, Funbridge, CBO, le 1<sup>er</sup> Championnat du monde en ligne (1<sup>st</sup> World online championship, WOC).

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- ✓ Quelques qualifiés aux meilleurs du mois.
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(\*) Le nombre de ces qualifications et le montant des prix sont garantis dans la limite de 10 000 participants ayant joué 120 tournois. Ils seront éventuellement proportionnels au cas où ces minima ne seraient pas atteints et revus à la hausse en cas de dépassement.

Actus & Reportages.



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October 2019



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This competition will be an official one.  
The winner or winners will be awarded the title of

**World Online Champion**



**WHEN:** From March 2020 to November 2020

**WHO:** Every bridge player in the world





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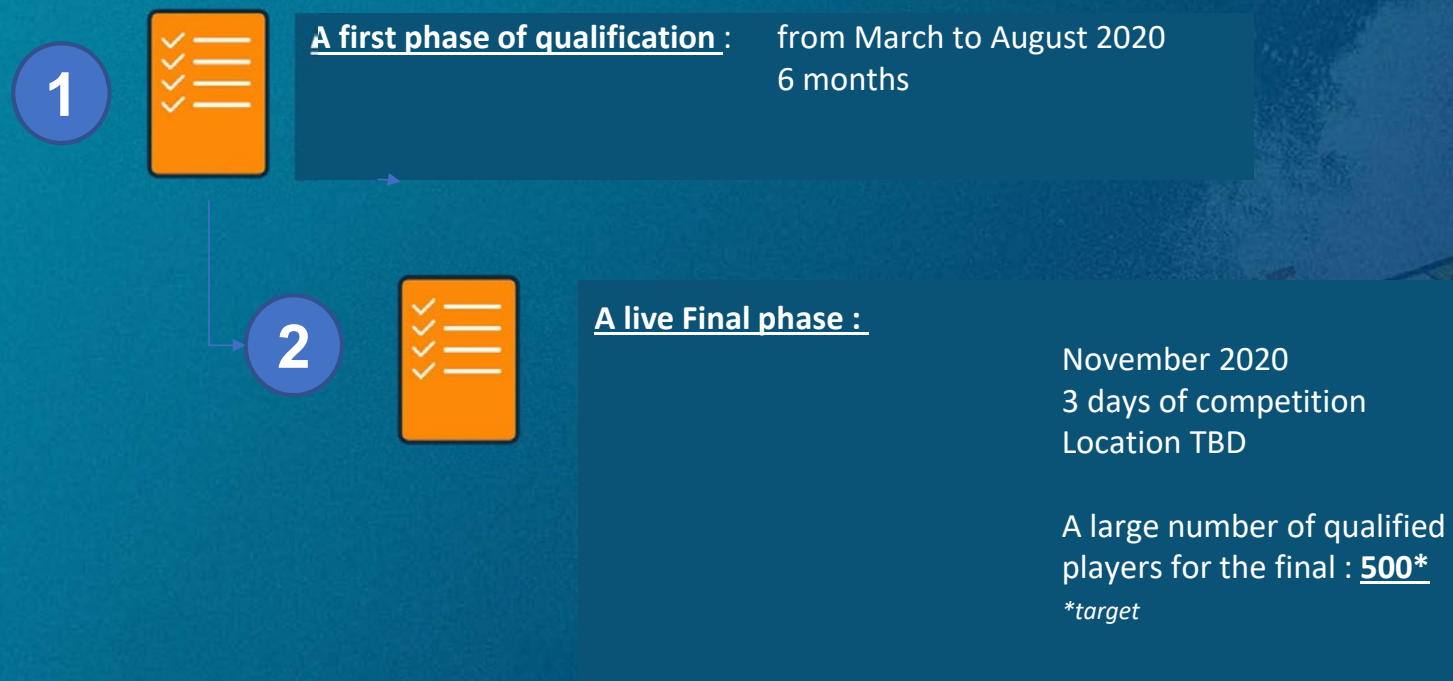


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## 2 phases – from March to November





## Qualification: How will this work ?

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### The rule:

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To enter, the qualification phase will be online only on :

- FunBridge
- BBO (Bridge Base Online)
- CBO (China Bridge Online)

The player can chose which platform they prefer to use, ensuring that it's easy for every player to find a place to play.

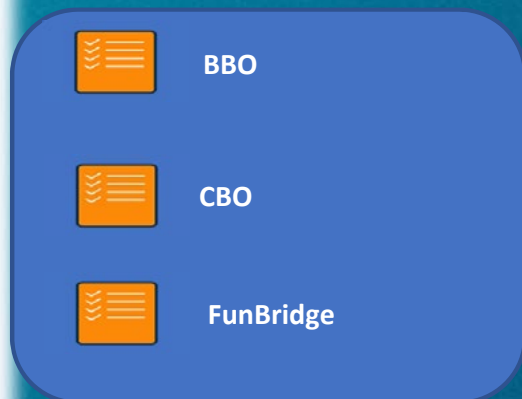


## Qualification: How will this work ? Up to 500 qualify !

Players will have to purchase WOC entry packs to participate

- Each WOC pack contains 20 tournaments per month
- A player can buy as many packs as they want

*\* See all rules on the next page*



[PER MONTH]

A number of players, depending on the number of participants will qualify based on their best 20 tournaments

[DURING THE 6 MONTHS]

A number of players, depending on the total number of participants will qualify based on their best 60 tournaments



Qualification for an exciting 3 day Final at a venue to be determined, with all expenses (travel and accommodation) paid

Up to 500 players qualify for the Finals





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## How will this work ?



### Basic Rules:

- Rules are the same on each platform.
- A WOC entry pack contains 20 tournaments.
- Price for a WOC entry pack will be €50 or \$55(US).
- All players can buy several packs every month if they want.
- Each OWC pack bought during the month must be played during the same calendar month



## How will this work ?



### Basic Rules :

- All tournaments will be 12 boards.
- All tournaments can be played at any time in the month.
- All tournaments will be closed at the end of each calendar month.
- The number of qualified players will be announced
- The number of qualified players on each platform will be proportional to the number of participants by platform.
- Every month, some players will qualify based on their best 20 tournaments, and at the end of the 6 months others will qualify based on their best 60 tournaments to give a maximum of 500 players in the Final \*.

\*Based on minimum 10,000 participants purchasing a minimum of 120 packs in total

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## How will this work ?



### Additional Information:

- Consideration is being given to offering a reduced rate to Junior players upon proof of age being provided
- Definitive rules regarding this and other matters will be published on the website in due course

## Final: How will this work ? Up to 500 qualified !



The qualifiers will be invited to the venue of the final with their travel and accommodation provided.



1



**DAY 1 : 2 times 5 x 12 boards**  
500 Players [*Playing on Funbridge*]

2



**DAY 2 : 2 times 5 x 12 boards**  
Number to be decided before the cut  
[*Playing on Funbridge*]

3



**DAY 3 :**

- Final : 52 players playing on BBO  
"Generali" system & individual format

(This format is subject to modifications)

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**CBO**







## Cash prize Breakdown : \$500,000 (US)

- \$100,000 (US) to the winner
- Minimum award of \$1000 (US) to 50<sup>th</sup> place \*\*
- Additional prizes (non cumulative) may be offered to different categories of players, non registered in any NBOs, juniors, or special prizes for best women and first of their Zone.

\*\* based on a field of 500 in the Final

**CBO**

**BBO**

  
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## Bridge Educational Software

### Your Bid Please

This series is offered by bid72, educational bridge software – bidding on an app. Check our [SPECIAL OFFER](#) for readers of A New Bridge Magazine.

You are West with:

IMPs. Dealer North. All Vul.

- ♠ KQ109
- ♥ KQJ4
- ♦ 109
- ♣ KQ6

West	North	East	South
You			
–	Pass	1♠	3♦
?			

**Sally Brock** (European and World Champion)

4♦. For me this is just a decent high-card raise to 4♠ and says nothing about diamond control.

**Tim Verbeek** (European and Junior World Champion)

4♦. Doesn't promise a diamond control, just shows a good hand with a fit. I play myself that 4♣ shows this hand and 4♦ is spade fit with shortness in diamonds. The advantage of this agreement is that you have more space to figure out if it is slam; after 3♦ not really necessary, but after 1♠ - (3♥) a must.

**David Bakhshi** (multiple Gold Cup winner and US Bridge Championships)

4♦. South's 3♦ interference is awkward since it prevents us making a lower level game forcing raise, but we are now too strong to just bid 4♠. We could start with a negative double and try to learn more about partner's hand, but showing primary support is usually more important. With standard agreements, 4♦ is the only way to show a game forcing raise, so it cannot also promise a control in diamonds.

**Simon de Wijs** (European and World Champion, Bermuda Bowl Winner)

4♣. For us this shows a slam invitational hand with spade fit, so this bid stands out. (4♦ would show a splinter and with clubs we double or bid 5♣).

**Marshall Lewis** (Croatian international, as a player and as a coach)

Double. It is extremely rare that I would ever (temporarily) conceal primary support for a Major opening (don't let my juniors see this), and yes a 4♦ cue-showing fit and establishing a 5-level force (if it comes to that) – is the bid under one's nose. Nevertheless I have decided on Double here:

(a) My three marriages cause concern that this partner may be nervous about slam, holding "aces and spaces".

(b) If so, it may be our hand that needs to take any such initiative, and slam might be best in hearts, e.g. facing: ♠AJxxx ♥Axxx ♦A♣xxx.

(c) Meanwhile at these colours Left Hand Opponent is rarely going to have enough to save at 5♦ – however, once in a while slowing the auction down (via Double) may help diagnose diamond shortage opposite, since Left Hand Opponent might have just enough to propose a save by bidding 4♦ himself.

(d) Without discussion, a random partner might think (erroneously) that a 4♦ cue promises a diamond control, with dire consequences.

(e) Unanimous panels are so boring.

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

4♣. In my book this shows spade fit with a slam going hand; 4♦ would have shown a good club suit. So I reversed the meaning of 4♣ and 4♦ just to gain bidding space. By the [www.bid72.com/topics/](http://www.bid72.com/topics/) will soon publish a Topics sheet on SOP (Switch over Preempts). This goes with a special set of approximately one hundred practice boards which can be bid in the app bid72 dedicated to SOP.

These were East and West hands (yes, South had only QJ-sixth of diamonds):

- ♠ KQ109
- ♥ KQJ4
- ♦ 109
- ♣ KQ6



- ♠ A7654
- ♥ 2
- ♦ AK532
- ♣ 98



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## Highlights and New Features

### Funbridge January News

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# DEFEND WITH JULIAN POTTAGE

## The Questions

**1**

♠ A53  
 ♥ A103  
 ♦ 109764  
 ♣ Q10

♠ KJ82  
 ♥ 72  
 ♦ AKJ3  
 ♣ K92

N			
W			E
	S		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	Pass	Pass	1♥*
Double	Redouble	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1♥ Four-card majors and weak NT

You lead the king of diamonds, requesting a standard count signal. When partner plays the eight, you continue with the ace, dropping South's queen on the second round. How do you continue?

**2**

♠ K53  
 ♥ AJ  
 ♦ QJ84  
 ♣ QJ86

♠ AQ8  
 ♥ K1042  
 ♦ K73  
 ♣ K103

N			
W			E
	S		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT*	Pass	2♦*	2♠
3♥	4♠	All Pass	

1NT 15-17  
2♦ Transfer to hearts

You lead a low heart, won by the ace, all following. Declarer ruffs a heart and now leads the ten of spades. What is your plan?



This month's hand comes from a matchpointed Funbridge Points tournament.

Dealer South. Both Vul. MP Pairs

♠ QJ62 ♥ J5 ♦ 104 ♣ J10973		♠ 5 ♥ K93 ♦ AJ8753 ♣ Q52	♠ 84 ♥ Q74 ♦ KQ92 ♣ K864
♠ AK10973 ♥ A10862 ♦ 6 ♣ A			

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West leads the ♣J against your slam. How would you play to give yourself the best chance of making twelve tricks?

## Solution

Let's start with the bidding. Argine's jump to 3♥ is described as '15-20 points, forcing', which is not particularly useful, as many would play this as a splinter bid agreeing diamonds. Experience playing with Argine tells you that it is natural, though, so you raise. Blackwood then quickly installs you in slam and you move around the table to take over as declarer. Now, on to the play. You will clearly need the trumps to split 3-2. All will be well if the spades split evenly, but can you also give yourself a chance if that suit divides 4-2?

You have just enough entries: win the ♣A, cash one high spade, and ruff a spade in dummy. You can now cash the ♥K, return to hand with a club ruff, and play another low spade. West follows with the ♠J and when you ruff in dummy East overruffs with the ♥Q. You ruff the club continuation and lay down the ♥A. When both defenders follow suit you can claim your twelve tricks.

If both majors break you will always be okay as long as you take one spade ruff. Ruffing two low spades in dummy also allows you to make the contract as long as the defender with the short spades also has the three-card trump holding (or a doubleton with no honour).

Your careful play is rewarded as bidding and making 6♥ is worth 88% of the matchpoints. Going down in slam would score less than 10%.



# Look Back In Anger

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

Cissie clutched her handbag tightly to her chest. Ada sat opposite her, her face pale and drawn. She did not feel well and wondered why she had even come to the club. That morning, she had felt that it was best to show her face and get the inevitable comments out of the way. It was too late now to change her mind. The evening's bridge was due to start in five minutes. Cissie leaned over the table. 'It's all right, Ada, I don't think he's playing tonight.'

Ada nodded, then her facial muscles relaxed slightly as she saw the Lion take the East seat at her table. The smile was short-lived as she realised that he was signalling to the Scarecrow, standing in the middle of the room looking lost, to take the remaining seat at the table. His presence would bring back that terrible memory.

It had only been twelve boards. She had played many thousands of bridge hands, against all sorts of opposition, and with varying degrees of success. How could these twelve affect her so badly? But that wasn't the worst of it. To be known as the people who had lost, even in a hand-capped event, to a team containing both the Scarecrow and Hank! She couldn't bring herself to look her fellow club members in the eye for fear of what she might see there. The Scarecrow's luck was legendary. She could have coped with that. But against Hank and that poor lad he had played with, she had seen things that could not be unseen.

'Thank you for an enjoyable game played in such good spirit,' the Scarecrow announced as he took his seat. 'I think you were probably a bit unlucky, but our team was on top form.' Cissie stared straight ahead. Ada could feel her throat choking. 'We're looking forward to the next round against the witches,' the Scarecrow blithely continued, unaware of the effect he was having.

The Lion shifted uncomfortably in his seat. He hadn't been told any of the details of the match, but knew the result, and could see that the memory of it was painful to these two ladies who were ardent members of his fan club. 'That's a very nice outfit you're wearing today,' he smiled to Cissie, even though it was barely visible behind the large bag. 'And I must compliment your hairdresser.' It was Ada's turn for a bit of smooth

talking. Anything to change the subject.

'I suppose we were quite lucky that Shy made that slam,' the Scarecrow continued, 'and it was such a narrow margin in the end.'

'I think that's enough about that. Time to think about tonight's hands.' The Lion's voice was firm. The Scarecrow jumped. He realised that perhaps he hadn't been tactful. He could even be accused of gloating. The director arrived with the boards for the first round, cutting short any further chat. They all withdrew their cards from the board, the Scarecrow's face a deep crimson.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ J764		♠ AK									
♥ KQJ8		♥ A10									
♦ AQ94		♦ J86532									
♣ 3		♣ 1086									
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q10983
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♥ 976432									
		♦ —									
		♣ 74									
		♠ 52									
		♥ 5									
		♦ K107									
		♣ AKQJ952									

Ada, sitting South, surveyed her hand and muttered something about pulling herself together. She opened the auction with a bid of One Club. The Scarecrow hadn't yet sorted his hand. He hadn't actually looked at his cards. He was beyond embarrassed. He hadn't meant anything bad. Indeed, he prided himself on his courtesy. He realised he was holding a lot of face cards, and after a bit of sorting decided to double. Unfortunately, this meant attempting to hold his cards in his left hand while his right hand operated the bidding box. This proved to be too difficult a task and as his double card hit the table, so did the nine of diamonds.

For the first time since the match, Cissie smiled. She could see the state the Scarecrow was in. It was some little revenge for what his team had done to them. ‘I’m afraid we’ll have to call the director,’ she announced.

‘Well, well, this is unusual, most unusual,’ the Chairman of the Lollipop Guild pronounced after hearing what had happened. ‘I think this constitutes a major penalty card. Finish the auction, and, if the Scarecrow is defending, the usual lead penalties will apply. Yes, the usual ones, which I presume you know as experienced players. I am sure that you, Lion, are well versed in them. However, ladies, if you feel that East has taken any advantage in the auction from this exposed card, then I will need to consider adjusting, yes indeed adjusting, the score.’

‘I’m sure his partner would do no such thing, not a gentleman like the Lion,’ Cissie looked shocked. The Lion felt a warm glow inside. ‘I’m going to bid the suit he’s decided to show us.’ She placed the One Diamond card on the table.

The Lion surveyed his shapely hand. Things could only get confused if he entered the auction, he decided, and he did have only two high cards points. He passed and Ada continued the auction with Three Clubs. Cissie thought for a moment after the Scarecrow passed. It was tempting to bid Three Notrumps but there might be advantages in her partner playing the hand, especially on a diamond lead away from the honours that the Scarecrow was likely to have for his double. It would be in Ada’s hands to demand or forbid a diamond lead. She finished the auction with a bid of Five Clubs.

The full auction had been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Scarecrow</i>	<i>Cissie</i>	<i>Lion</i>	<i>Ada</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Double	1♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

As Cissie had expected, Ada decided to instruct the Scarecrow to lead the ♦9. She laid down her dummy with a smile on her face. Ada called for a small diamond, and Cissie’s face fell as the Lion ruffed. Thereafter, even with the advantage of having the Scarecrow in defence, there was no way Ada could avoid losing two more diamond tricks.

Ada was trembling. This was like the match all over again. ‘Any other lead, and all I could lose would be either two diamonds or a diamond

and a ruff. All I had to do was bar him from leading a diamond! It feels like every time I have a choice against him I get it wrong, and end up with a disastrous score!’

Cissie tried to calm her partner. ‘No, no, it’s my fault. ‘Once I bid Five Clubs we were always going to be on a bad score. Everyone else will be in Three No-trump, and not even he,’ she added, pointing dismissively to her right, ‘not even he could find a lead to stop ten tricks being made.’ The Scarecrow felt a warm glow, delighted to hear that Cissie thought so highly of his ability to find good leads.

On the next board the Lion played in Four Hearts, to the disappointment of the Scarecrow who would not be able to use his opening lead skills on this hand. Ada cashed her top three spades and the contract was made. ‘That looks like the flattest board we’ll see this evening,’ the Lion attempted unsuccessfully to console Ada. The move was called, and Cissie carefully moved Ada to the West seat at table seven.

‘Good evening ladies,’ announced Professor Marvel taking the South seat. ‘Goodness me, are you alright?’ He had seen Ada’s pale and drawn face.

‘She’s suffering from a severe dose of Scarecrowitis, I fear,’ Cissie attempted a smile. ‘And that’s on top of a drastic attack of Hankophobia.’

‘Some team you must have!’ Almira Gulch had joined them, sitting opposite the Professor. ‘Even with any handicap, competent players would never let themselves suffer such a defeat.’ Ada sank lower in her chair.

‘I quite understand how your nerves must be sorely frayed,’ the Professor had put on his most emollient voice. ‘Please try one of my camomile and ginger capsules.’ He had retrieved something from one of the many capacious pockets in his jacket. There’s no known cure for dealing with players like that but these pills at least will help you achieve a state of calm acceptance.’ He smiled kindly at Ada and placed a small bottle in front of her. The look Cissie was directing at Almira Gulch would have made Medusa wince.

The first board was put on the table:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ AK764 ♥ AQ974 ♦ Q ♣ J2		♠ Q983 ♥ KJ85 ♦ 963 ♣ 65	♠ J1052 ♥ — ♦ AK10852 ♣ AQ3 ♠ — ♥ 10632 ♦ J74 ♣ K109874
-----------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	--

The Professor looked at his hand and opened Three Clubs. It took Ada a few minutes to persuade her eyes to focus on her cards. She didn't want to force to game, so bid Three Spades.

Miss Gulch surveyed the assets in her hand. Missing two of the top three honours in his own suit, partner's vulnerable opening must, she reckoned, be based on some outside values, and, surely, shortage in spades. If he had less than that then the fault was his, not hers. She was about to bid the small slam in Clubs, but hesitated. A straight jump to Six Clubs wouldn't really describe her hand. And then the light dawned; she would tell partner about her void in Hearts. She bid Five Hearts.

As Almira Gulch had hoped, the Professor saw this bid as improving his hand immensely, but not in the way she expected. He raised her to Six Hearts. With a glare, the meaning of which could not be mistaken, Almira Gulch bid Seven Clubs. Ada's face brightened, as she took out her double card and slowly placed it on the table.

The full auction had been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ada</i>	<i>Miss Gulch</i>	<i>Cissie</i>	<i>Professor</i>
–	–	–	3♣
3♠	5♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

The play was even briefer than the auction. The Professor ruffed the spade

lead, ruffed a heart in dummy, and then pulled trumps in two rounds. When the ♦Q fell under the ace, he spread his hand. 'It's all right, Ada,' Cissie attempted to comfort her partner. 'Once they bid the grand slam, we had a bottom. The double didn't matter.' Ada put her hand back in the board and pulled the Professors bottle from her pocket. 'How many of these can I take a day?'

'Oh, as many as you like, though one should last four hours.'

She poured twenty pills into her hand and gulped them down. The Professor looked shocked. 'Eh, yes, that shouldn't be a problem. I hope.' Ada turned to Almira and spat out, 'Not a word out of you!'

Even Almira Gulch was stunned into silence as Ada sat there, staring fixedly ahead, her whole body rigid.

The move for the next round was delayed, as Cissie helped Ada to the cloakroom. Eventually the Chairman of the Lollipop Guild called for silence. 'I am sorry, very sorry indeed, to say that one of our members cannot continue.' He paused. 'You can now move for the next round but pair number five is now a phantom. The scores for their opposition on the three boards they have played will be changed to averages, yes averages.'

\*\*\*\*\*

At the end of play Dorothy phoned Cissie. She was glad to be able to report that Ada was safely tucked up in bed, the doctor was coming in the morning, but there was no cause for serious concern. The club had mostly emptied. Dorothy and Aunty Em decided to have a coffee before going home. The only other player left was Professor Marvel. 'Most upsetting to see someone so badly affected,' Professor Marvel told them as he brought his cup of green tea to their table. He shook his head. 'We had a minor accident in our bidding, and I ended up playing board seven in the club grand slam on a combined eighteen-count. As you'll see from the hand record, it can't be stopped, but neither can any sane pair bid it intentionally.' He paused. 'However, she was clearly unwell before she came to our table. I think that match a few days ago had affected her, and if the Scarecrow's play on that evening was anything like his performance tonight then I can see why. His voice had taken on a very serious note. 'Look at board ten,' he continued.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ AK ♥ KJ1087 ♦ 43 ♣ AQ97		♠ Q32 ♥ Q3 ♦ QJ8652 ♣ 104
♠ 984 ♥ A965 ♦ 107 ♣ KJ62	♠ J10765 ♥ 42 ♦ AK9 ♣ 853	

‘As it happens,’ Aunty Em announced, ‘we played this very hand against Dorothy.’ She thought for a moment. ‘Yes, the Tin Man opened a pretty grotesque weak Two Diamonds and I ended up playing in Three Notrump.’

‘This looks like a good contract,’ Em observed, ‘but, as you would expect from Dorothy and her partner, I received good defence, and the contract failed by one trick. A normal result I thought.’

Dorothy was staring at the hand record. ‘Deep Finesse says it should make. I thought we might gain against misdefences at some tables, but I thought you played it sensibly.’

‘I thought so too,’ Em continued, concealing her affront at the idea that her play might not have qualified for that accolade. ‘After the diamond lead I can see five top tricks and need either four from the heart suit, or three from it plus the club finesse. I played a heart to the jack, which lost to the Tin Man’s queen. I won the diamond return; it’s clearly safe to do so as West must surely have a six-card suit. I now need the club finesse, and then have to hope for a three-three heart split or the nine of hearts being a doubleton. I successfully took the club finesse, but the hand fell apart when the heart suit failed to cooperate. Now each time I put Dorothy in with a heart she played spades, and I was held to eight tricks, two in each suit.’

‘A routine line, I would say,’ muttered the Professor. ‘It was on this hand, however, that I began to realise what Ada had been through. The Scarecrow seemed to find extra values in his hand as he bid Two Spades over my Two Diamonds – I wouldn’t argue with either bid being described as

grotesque vulnerable. Only the Lion’s cautious approach to life stopped them being propelled far too high.’

The full auction had been:

West	North	East	South
<i>Miss Gulch</i>	<i>Lion</i>	<i>Professor</i>	<i>Scarecrow</i>
–	–	2♦	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

‘My partner also led the ten of diamonds, but there the similarity to your table ended,’ the Professor continued. ‘That Scarecrow led a club for the second trick and successfully finessed the queen. If this is a good line, which I doubt, I can assure you he found it with no malice aforethought. His three of clubs was played instantly with no time wasted doing anything meaningless like counting tricks. It was only after he won the trick that he realised he had a problem. He had no way back to his hand without losing control of diamonds.’

The Professor shook his head. ‘For no better reason than it was his longest suit he played the seven of hearts which Miss Gulch won with her nine to play a second diamond. Now he tried a second heart, and probably not even realising he had an option, put up the king. With the nine and queen out of the way all he had to do was knock out the ace of hearts and he had two spades, three hearts and two in each minor. I did wonder if I could have beaten it by going up with the queen of hearts at trick three but it does no good, His king, jack and ten are intact to drive out the ace for only one more loser in the suit.’

Dorothy nodded sympathetically. ‘And that was just the Scarecrow! The Mayor was telling me some of the things Hank did, which just took luck into a new realm.’

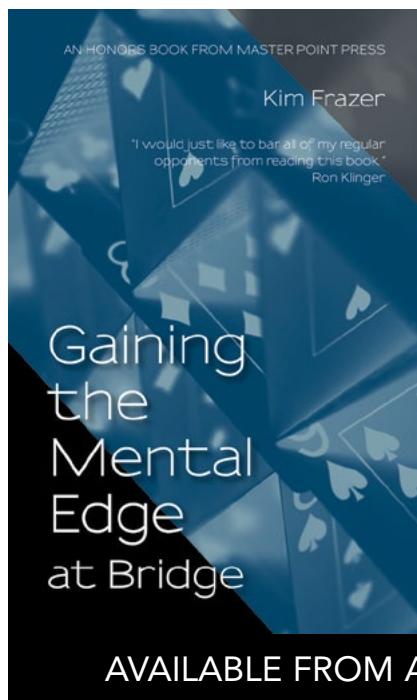
‘The Chairman of the Lollipop Guild gave me some of the gory details,’ Aunty Em grimaced. ‘I can see why Ada reacted so badly, but it could have happened to any of us. Can you imagine how your partner, the Tin Man, would react?’

‘I think he would want points deducted for style,’ Dorothy laughed. ‘It’s an idea he has proposed in the past. There are events like gymnastics or figure skating where style makes up part of the scoring; he fails to see why the same shouldn’t apply in bridge.’

As they stood up to leave, the Professor assured them that he would



visit Ada in the morning and let them know how she was. ‘While there is no known cure for Scarecrowitis or Hankophobia, I have a few ideas that will definitely help her through this. I might need some help myself if the Tin Man’s idea ever comes to fruition.’



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# Book Reviews

*Martin Cantor*

## Five-card Majors - the Scanian Way

Mats Nilstrand

AB Svenska Bridgeförlaget

152pp. SK170 US\$19.95

This is the fifth in a series of book(let)s on Swedish Expert Methods, and where the others described just one element of a system, such as no trump bidding, this one has the whole system. Given the successes over many years of Swedish players - very much including the author - this has to be worth a serious look.

The basic system of a 15-17 no trump, five card majors and three card minors won't be inordinately strange to most players. Two level majors are good weak twos, and 2cx and 2dx are both multi-purpose. For many the 2cx 18-21 balanced option will need most getting used to, because of its knock-on effects on one of a suit openings. The opening bid structure may be relatively familiar, but the responses and sequels are rather less so, with many special treatments. These are comprehensively covered, and it is good to note that there is extensive coverage too of dealing with opponents' interference.

The author puts heavy emphasis on trying to explain the logic behind these various "modules", as he terms them, and he is right to do so, since this allows players to cope with new and unexplored situations. Reinforcing this is the section at the end of the book setting out the general principles that underpin the system.

I haven't tried to assess just how effective the Scanian Way would be, and while I have my doubts about some aspects, on a superficial appraisal it looks perfectly workable. On the other hand, I have to wonder how many advanced pairs (this is no book for beginners) have any desire to junk their current arrangements for a whole new system. That said, there are certainly elements and treatments that can be adopted into existing systems, so you would not be wasting your time or money by reading it.

For me the biggest drawback was the layout and the structure of the presentation. I often found it hard to follow, not helped by the fact that I only discovered the contents page, located at the back, when I reached the end of the book.

Bridge and bridge systems are constantly evolving beasts, and Nilstrand has responded to this by setting up a Facebook group under the title 5 Card Majors The Scanian Way, where players can ask questions, offer suggestions, discuss problems. As a final comment I have to praise Mats for his generous offer to donate a free and post-free copy to the first 100 juniors requesting one.

## Bridging Two Worlds

Martin Hoffman, with a Foreword by Omar Sharif

Master Point Press

208pp. Each £16.95 US\$21.95 CD\$26.95

Holocaust survivor, charmer, chancer, lover, serial migrant, compulsive gambler, author, husband, world champion bridge player. Meet Martin Hoffman as he tells his life story in his own words. And it has to be said he has more life to recount than any five or six normal people.

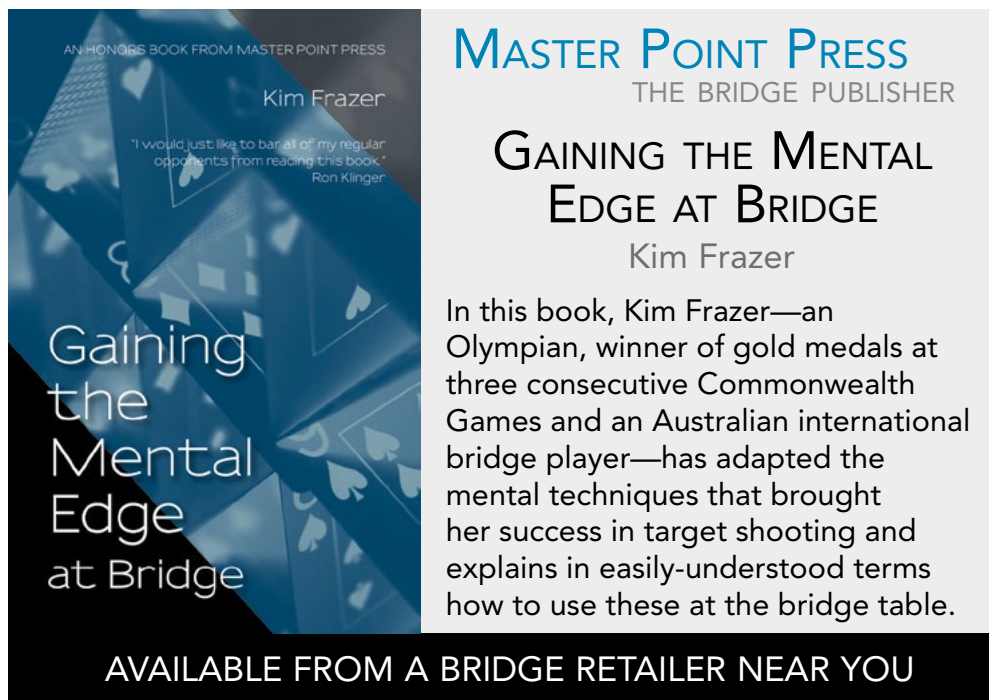
And for the most part he tells it well. He writes simply and honestly, although it has to be said that his descriptions of his erotic encounters would be strong contenders for a 'bad sex in writing' award. They are also rather more prevalent than is perhaps necessary or desirable. Those scenes apart, Hoffman refreshingly avoids the self-serving nature of most autobiographies; his openness about his gambling addiction and his long-lasting failure to acknowledge that he was addicted is particularly welcome.

The tale of his Holocaust experiences alone is worth the price of the book. As with most survivors' stories, it is harrowing and uplifting in equal measure. Harrowing for the obvious reasons, not least the detail of the grinding degradation and fear. Uplifting not just because of the

fact of survival, and the courage and determination it took, but also for the incidents of kindness, generosity and humanity that are scattered along the way.

Of course those of you reading this will know of Martin primarily as a world class bridge player. And those of you who played with or against him will probably remember him as the fastest you ever encountered. He had a rare ability to get the best out of his partners, especially his clients, producing outstanding results with players of moderate ability. Later he added to his repertoire with his writing - a couple of his books are on my regular re-read list.

Thanks and congratulations are due to Master Point Press for bringing the original small and privately published 2011 edition to the public at large. The heading for the back cover reads “One man’s journey from darkness into light”. That sums it up beautifully.



AN HONORS BOOK FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

Kim Frazer

"I would just like to ban all of my regular opponents from reading this book."  
Ron Klinger

## Gaining the Mental Edge at Bridge

Kim Frazer

In this book, Kim Frazer—an Olympian, winner of gold medals at three consecutive Commonwealth Games and an Australian international bridge player—has adapted the mental techniques that brought her success in target shooting and explains in easily-understood terms how to use these at the bridge table.

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## The Mosso Bidding System

268pp. £18.95 US\$24.95 CD\$29.95

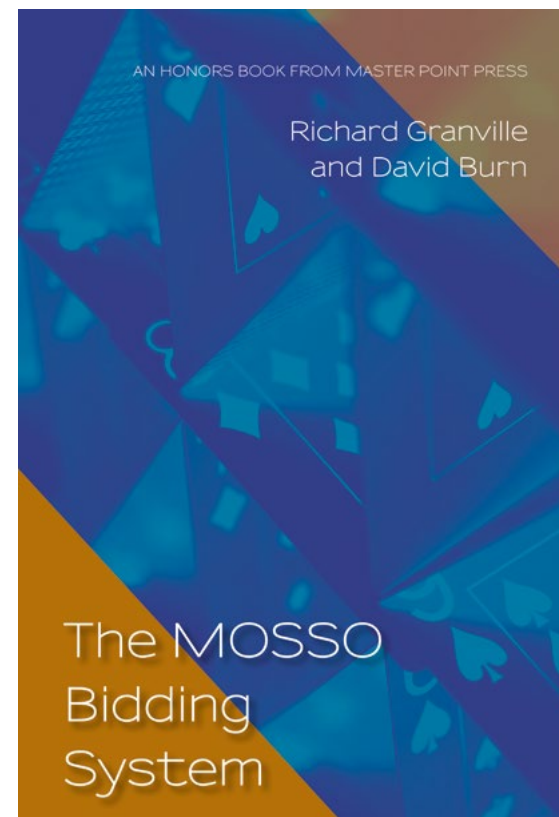
## Mosso: Example Auctions and Quizzes

246pp. £16.95 US\$19.95 CD\$24.95

Richard Granville and David Burn

Bidding has developed out of all recognition over the last fifty or sixty years - I promise you this is true because I'm currently re-reading a 1979 book by Rixi Markus in which she dismisses five card majors and weak twos. And with the increasing professionalisation of the game we are seeing the development of whole new systems. What these two British authors have attempted to do with the MOSSO bidding system is to merge elements of Polish Club and Fantunes onto a 2 over 1 base to get the best of all worlds. And I think they have made a pretty good job of it.

If you're wondering about the name it's a compound of (Carlo) Mosca and Standard Spade Openings, though if I'd been them I couldn't have resisted combining their own names to call it Grab-U (sorry guys). It also comes in three different grades, meno, standard and più (simple, standard and with extras). Even meno isn't that simple, so if you decide to go for it you might as well choose standard. The elements of più are optional add-ons that you can incorporate or not over time. I won't try to give even the simplest of outlines here, but if you want to get a feel for the system you can take a look at the discussions on the Bridgewinners website.



AN HONORS BOOK FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

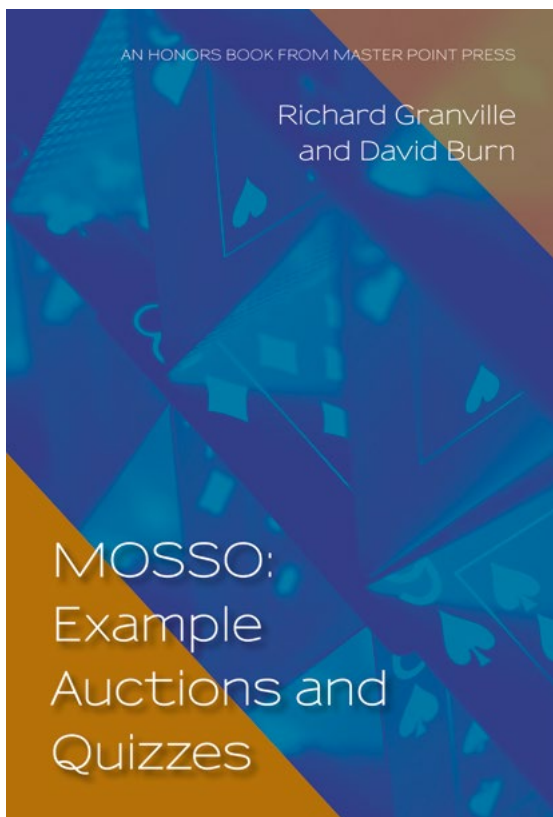
Richard Granville and David Burn

## The MOSSO Bidding System



The authors have put an impressive amount of work into developing the system, and from reading it I reckon it would be a very effective one. Of course the proof of a bidding system is in the results, and while the authors have tried it out in real life, real validation of its superiority can only come from a full statistical comparison against other systems.

If you want to adopt MOSSO then you too will need to put in a lot of work to fully learn and understand it so, as the authors would readily admit, it's something for serious partnerships only. To be fair, the authors have done their best - and put a lot more work in - to try to make that easy for you. The presentation is logical, comprehensive and clear, although the constant cross-referencing to and fro across the book is sometimes a tiresome (if necessary) distraction. They have also put a lot of effort into aiding the learning experience by producing the companion volume, that contains hundreds of example hands (presented as quizzes) and example auctions.



The uncontested auction is covered in substantial detail and depth, and there is some coverage of dealing with intervention, but mostly at the level of basic principles and approaches. So, as with most systems, partnerships will need to work this up together, mostly from their experiences at the table.

Will I be adopting MOSSO? I could be tempted, but while I've had partners in the past who I think would have been up for it, probably none of my current ones would. Still, there are some interesting ideas and treatments in here that could be transplanted into my or your systems, so most partnerships could get something out of these books whether they want to go full MOSSO or not.



## The South African Bridge Federation 68th National Congress Cape Town 2020



- National Teams: Monday 9th March - Friday 13th March  
Registration: Monday 9th March @ 12h30 - 13h30  
Playing Times: Starts Monday 9th @ 14h00 - Ends Friday 13th @ 12h30  
Entry Fee: R4000.00 per Team
- National Pairs: Friday 13th March - Monday 16th March  
Playing Times: Starts Friday 13th @ 14h00 - Ends Monday 16th @ 14h00  
Entry Fee: R1200.00 per Pair
- Venue: The Italian Club, Milnerton, Cape Town

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For more information visit [www.sabf.co.za](http://www.sabf.co.za) or contact [sabf.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:sabf.secretary@gmail.com)



# Answers to “Defend With Julian Pottage”

1

♠ A53  
♥ A103  
♦ 109764  
♣ Q10

♠ KJ82  
♥ 72  
♦ AKJ3  
♣ K92

N	E
W	S

♠ 1076  
♥ 865  
♦ 85  
♣ 87653

♠ Q94  
♥ KQJ94  
♦ Q2  
♣ AJ4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	Pass	Pass	1♥*
Double	Redouble	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1♥ Four-card majors and weak NT

You lead the king of diamonds, requesting a standard count signal. When partner plays the eight, you continue with the ace, dropping South’s queen on the second round. How do you continue?

For now you could exit safely with a trump. Can you see what disaster befalls you if you do that? Declarer draws trumps ending in dummy and leads a diamond to knock out your jack. Still reluctant to lead from one of your kings, you exit with diamond. This is not good enough because declarer takes dummy’s two diamond winners, discarding down to a singleton club, comes to hand with the ace of clubs and finishes the trumps to squeeze you in the black suits.

The way to stop the diamond suit establishment is to lead a low diamond at trick three. Partner will be able to ruff, killing one of dummy’s diamond winners. While declarer can still draw trumps ending in dummy and give up a diamond, you will have a way to ensure you make one more trick. Declarer will do best to discard a spade, in which case only a spade exit from you will then do. If declarer prefers to ruff the fourth diamond, both your black-suit kings score.

2

♠ K53  
♥ AJ  
♦ QJ84  
♣ QJ86

♠ AQ8  
♥ K1042  
♦ K73  
♣ K103

N	E
W	S

♠ 9  
♥ Q97653  
♦ 965  
♣ 954

♠ J107642  
♥ 8  
♦ A102  
♣ A72

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT*	Pass	2♦*	2♠
3♥	4♠	All Pass	
1NT	15-17		
2♦	Transfer to hearts		

You lead a low heart, won by the ace, all following. Declarer ruffs a heart and now leads the ten of spades. What is your plan?

On the bidding declarer surely has both minor-suit aces. If you are going to defeat the contract, you are going to need to make two trump tricks and both of your kings in the minor suits.

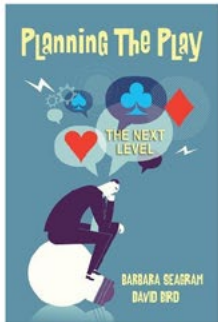
On another day, you might duck the spade smoothly, hoping that declarer intends to play dummy’s king. Going up with the king could work if you had the ace of spades but not the queen. Here, however, your strong 1NT opening has told declarer that you have the ace and queen of spades. You have to hope that partner has the jack or nine of spades. The latter seems more likely, in which case you cannot afford to duck the spade. Nor you can afford to capture the ten with the ace. What could you possibly lead next without giving away a trick? The solution is to cover the ten of spades with the queen. If declarer tries a second round of trumps, you can draw dummy’s last trump and exit safely in hearts.



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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](mailto: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

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## 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)

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MASTER POINT PRESS  
THE BRIDGE PUBLISHER

## SANTA FE PRECISION

Dennis Dawson

This book on Precision describes a very simplified version, based on the system played by Rodwell and Meckstroth so successfully, but aimed at club players. It includes many examples from Dawson's thirteen years of teaching the system.

Eric Rodwell has endorsed the system and the book.

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## 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.

### Get the Promotion

In a round-robin match in the Senior Trials, you face a common competitive decision.

As East, you hold

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A65  
♥ QJ976  
♦ Q  
♣ A643

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	?	

Your call?

You have support for all the unbid suits, However, the two-card differential in the majors makes overcalling 1♥ more attractive than a takeout double. If you double, it may be difficult to show your 5-card heart suit later. If you overcall 1♥, you can bring the other suits into the picture with a later takeout double of diamonds if you so choose.

You bid 1♥. The bidding continues

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♦	?	

Your call?

Normally it is wrong to sell out at the two-level with a singleton in the enemy suit if you have anything resembling a decent hand. Here, however, the warning signs are up. Partner didn't raise, so either he has at most 2 hearts or you are completely outgunned. South has spades, so you don't want to be playing there. You might catch your partner with some

clubs, but he needs 5 clubs for competing to 3♣ to be really attractive. The vulnerability is the worst for part-score competition, since if either your contract or their contract goes down you will have done basically as well by defending. All things considered, it looks right to go quietly.

You pass. The auction concludes:

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

Partner leads the ♥8.

♠ 2  
♥ 1054  
♦ AK10852  
♣ KQ7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A65  
♥ QJ976  
♦ Q  
♣ A643

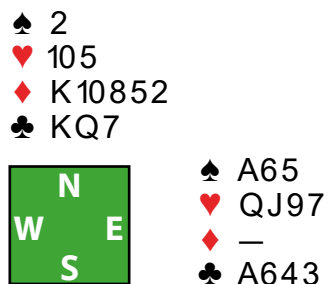
Declarer plays small from dummy.

You play suit-preference at trick 1. 10, 9, 8 are, by priority, suit-preference high. 2, 3, 4 are, by priority, suit-preference low. 6, 5, 7 are, by priority, encouraging. After trick 1, UDCA.

What do you play?

You certainly like hearts, and the ♥6 is your most encouraging card. No reason not to play it.

You play the ♥6. Declarer wins the ace, and leads a diamond to the ace, partner following with the ♦7. Declarer continues with the king of diamonds off dummy. What do you do?

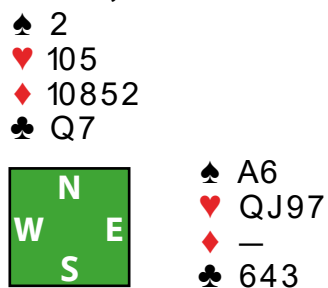


It appears that declarer is hoping to discard a loser. Clearly you should ruff small.

You ruff small. Declarer overruffs with the ♠8, partner playing the ♦3. Declarer now leads the ♣8. Partner plays the ♣5, and dummy the king. Do you win or duck?

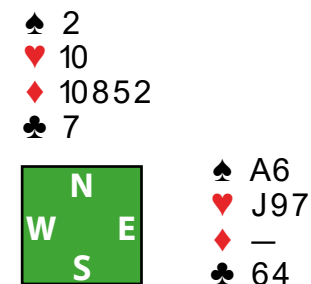
There is no reason to duck, since declarer will then be leading a spade through you which you won't like. You must win this trick.

You win the ace of clubs. What do you lead?



All the indications are that declarer started with 3 hearts. Partner led the ♥8. Also, declarer was rushing to take a discard on the diamond, and he would have no reason to rush to discard a club. You want to establish your heart trick as soon as possible.

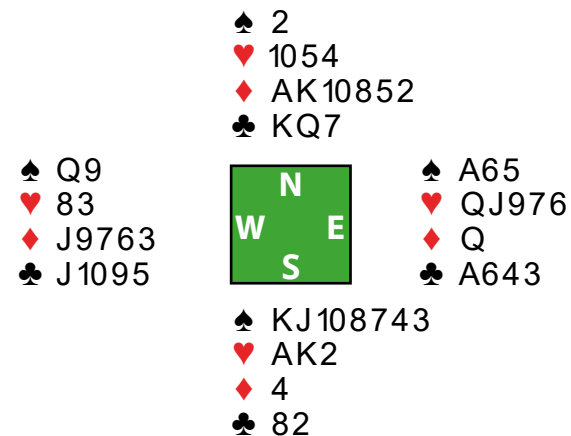
You lead the queen of hearts. Declarer wins the king, partner playing the ♥3. Declarer leads the ♣2 to dummy's queen, partner playing the ♣9. Now declarer leads a spade off dummy. Are you ready to play smoothly? Do you win or duck?



If partner has a singleton king or queen of spades, you must duck. A count of the hand indicates that declarer doesn't have 8 spades. He is known to have 1 diamond and two clubs, and from his line of play and the opening lead he clearly has 3 hearts. You don't have to worry about crashing partner's honour.

If partner has ♠Qx, you would give declarer a guess by ducking. There is no need for that. By going up ace and playing hearts, you will get the promotion and have a sure thing. This is clearly what you should play for.

You win the ace of spades and play hearts. As expected, the jack of hearts cashes. On the fourth round of hearts declarer ruffs with the jack, and partner overruffs with the queen for down 1. The full hand is:



Could declarer have done better?

Not realistically. If he takes a trump finesse first, he won't get back to dummy in time to take the needed heart pitch on the diamond. His line was virtually cold on a 4-2 diamond split. He was very unlucky to go down.

Do you agree with West's opening lead?

East did overcall 1♥. That doesn't make a heart lead mandatory. East

was overcalling because hearts is his longest suit, not because it is his strongest suit. If East had ♥Jxxxx and ♣AQxx, he would still have overcalled 1♥.

Both the heart lead and the club lead are attractive. West may be in only once, so he needs to take his best shot. While the club sequence could be the winner, the heart lead is probably percentage. The key is that West has a doubleton heart, along with a trump holding which might be promoted. In fact, that is exactly what happened.

If East were going to duck the spade off dummy, it might be important for him to do so in tempo so as to not give away the location of the ace. However, if East decides to go up ace of spades, he can take his time about it. There won't be any gain from playing the ace quickly, since declarer will know East has it whether East plays quickly or not. Thus, if East is not prepared but his instinct is to play the ace, he might as well stop and think about it. He will lose the deceptive value of playing small quickly, but it might be that playing small is correct even with the deceptive value lost.

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# Bridge with Larry Cohen

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## Bridge with Larry Cohen

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

### General Approach; 2♣ Opening (Part 2)

Previously, we discussed our general system approach and the parameters for a strong 2♣ opening. This month, we explore the follow-ups after the 2♣ opening.

I frequently get asked about this. I give my usual answer: “There are many methods – all with good and bad attributes. Just pick one and live with it. It is not too important which method – as long as your partner knows it and is playing the same way!” I do, however, have a strong preference for one method over the other.

Some people use control (or “step”) responses. I’ve never been a big fan. Others use 2♦ as “negative.” This strikes me as a poor approach. I prefer to use 2♦ as “waiting.” It could be a zero-count, but it also could be quite a good hand. More on this in a moment. Another method is to use 2♥ as negative (0-3) and 2♦ as an artificial positive game-force. This is okay, but not what I recommend.

Let’s examine the most common (by far) method (and the one I do recommend):

2♣ – 2♦ Waiting

Using 2♣-2♦ waiting, you will find that on almost all hands the response is 2♦. When would you not respond 2♦? With a good hand and a good 5 card suit, you can respond in the suit. What is “good?” At least 8 HCP and usually 2 of the top 4 honours. I would not respond in a suit of Axxxx or K10xxx. I would not make a positive response with only 6 HCP even if the suit were good enough. If I don’t have a good 5+ card suit and 8 HCP, I respond 2♦ – waiting. (I would never respond 2NT even with no-trump shape/stoppers/points – risking playing no-trump from the wrong side and also taking away opener’s room).

So, a 2♦ response shows “any hand that lacks 8 HCP and a good 5+ card suit.” It can be a balanced 14-count! It can be a 0-count.

Examples of 2♦ responses to 2♣ (using 2♦ as “waiting:)

♠AQ42 ♥KQ3 ♦J32 ♣543 Bid 2♦ – no 5-card suit

♠A5432 ♥654 ♦7642 ♣3 Bid 2♦ – no good 5-card suit and not 8HCP

♠5432 ♥432 ♦432 ♣432 Bid 2♦ – no person should ever hold this hand

Example of non 2♦ responses to 2♣:

♠AQJ87 ♥K432 ♦2 ♣542 Bid 2♠

♠32 ♥32 ♦A2 ♣KJ109873 Bid 3♣

### Opener’s Rebid

With a balanced hand, this is easy. 2♣-2♦-2NT shows 22-24 balanced (assuming a 2NT opener would have 20-21). With 25-27, rebid 3NT. (After these no-trump rebids, Stayman and transfers are on.)

With an unbalanced hand, opener names his long suit. This is Forcing, but not Game Forcing.

It is important to study that last sentence. A 2♣ opener is not a game force. For one, 2♣-2♦-2NT can end the auction. Also, 2♣-2♦-any suit ... will usually lead to game, but not 100% of the time. More on this later.

If the auction begins 2♣-not 2♦ (in other words, any response other than 2♦), then all bids are natural and at least game must be reached.

If the auction begins 2♣-2♦ – and opener names a suit, what happens next?

### Responder’s Rebid

If responder’s first bid was something other than 2♦, then all bidding is natural. The partnership must reach at least a game.

If responder’s first bid was 2♦, he can pass a 2NT rebid by opener. What if opener bids a suit?

2♣-2♦

2♥:

After opener bids a suit, the most popular approach is to use “cheaper minor second negative.” The terminology is a little dated since there was never a “first” negative. Anyway, here are the auctions we are discussing:



Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
2♥	3♣
Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
2♠	3♣
Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
3♣	3♦
Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
3♦	3♥

In each case, responder has bid the cheaper minor (but note the exception is the use of 3♥ over 3♦ so as to not zoom past 3NT).

When responder bids the cheaper minor, he is typically showing a very bad hand. He is saying: “Partner, if you repeat your suit, you might not hear from me again – we can stop short of game.”

So, any of these auctions could occur:

Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
2♥	3♣
3♥	Pass
Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
2♠	3♣
3♠	Pass
Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
3♣	3♦
4♣	Pass
Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
3♦	3♥
4♦	Pass

None of this is very likely. Usually when opener rebids something other than 2NT, game is reached. After the “double negative,” if opener bids a new suit, that is forcing.

What if responder doesn’t use a double negative?

## Fast Arrival

Let’s say the auction begins:

2♣-2♦  
2♥-2♠

Once responder eschews a double negative, all bids are natural and game-forcing.

What if responder raises the opener:

2♣-2♦  
2♥-3♥  
or  
2♣-2♦  
2♥-4♥

Both of these are game-forcing (especially since one of the bids is game!). But, which shows more?

Have you heard of “fast arrival?” This principle says: “Once you are forced to game, jumping to the game is actually weaker.” The “fast arrival” into game (4♥) says: “Partner, I am dead minimum, interested only in game. If you bid again, do so because you have extras.” Accordingly, the slower bid of raising to 3♥ shows extras and slam interest. The logic is that with slam interest you should leave the most room for exploration.

## Summary

Know what you play after a 2♣ opener. I recommend 2♦ waiting. Remember that 2♣ is not 100% forcing to game. The approach listed here is not complete, but more than sufficient for any players not competing in National Championships. If you want to load up your brain with tons of additional agreements, be my guest, but I believe that “less is more.”

## North Of The Master Solvers' Club - The Bridge Writings of Frank Vine

this month's Master Point Press Bidding Battle book prize

### THOSE WERE THE DAYS, MY FRIEND

*In the Introduction to his book The Hands of Time, BRIDGE Magazine editor Mark Horton addresses this same question: is the play of today's experts better than that of the players who have participated in the great Championships down the years? He quoted Edgar Kaplan, who said, "I doubt that today's best players are the equal of the best of the past. Today's partnerships are clearly better. Today's youth are interested in bidding, not card play... [but] the card players of old were usually a trick or two too high. The best then were more creative than today." Horton agrees, concluding that while there are more strong players now than in 1950, and many of them are perhaps more technically proficient, the individual expert may not in the final analysis have attained a clearly higher level.*

*But you don't have to take his word for it. Read on, and try Frank's quiz...*

In a most provocative article ("Challenge Yesterday's Champs," *The Bridge World*, February 1983), the authors, Maurice LaRochelle and Eric Kokish, make the blunt submission that modern bridge experts clearly rank a cut over those of the past. Newer is better. That's the gospel of today, and everyone (everyone who is anyone) is asked to agree. Well, not me. I think that's a bunch of hogwash.

Oh, we do improve, I'll concede that much. Better food, better training, better steroids have seen to that. Men run faster, and teenage girls swim like fish. But in matters of the mind, and bridge is a matter of the mind, the trend is in the other direction.

Consider this. When did you last whistle a tune that would make George Gershwin sit up and take notice? And what new play have you been to that belongs in the same world as Eugene O'Neill? And when did you last read a book that lives in the heart, or thrill to the beauty of music, or cry at a movie? Not unless they were written a long time ago. I'll bet you on that.

It's the same with bridge. Bidding may be more useful, but in play, defense or sleight of hand, I can't see that today's player has any kind of edge. That's only opinion, of course. LaRochelle and Kokish seem to have other ideas. So, I, too, have designed a quiz. In each case you have only one

major question to answer. Are we talking old (pre-1965) or are we talking new (post-1970)? I have skipped the intervening five years to create a clearer division.

To make it easier, I have slipped in a few clues. Some of those, however, are designed to lead you astray, just as in a good mystery novel (and when did you last read one of those?). Okay. Let's start!

1. You are South, holding:

♠ A K 9 6 ♥ 8 6 ♦ 10 8 4 ♣ A 4 3 2

The bidding goes like this:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	pass	1♠
dbl	4♠	pass	pass
5♥	5♠	pass	pass
6♥	pass	pass	6♠
7♥	pass	pass	7♠
dbl	all pass		

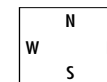
Well! Has everyone at the table gone berserk, or is there method in this madness? And, what do you think, are we talking old or are we talking new? This may help. Why didn't South open the bidding one club? Is he an old-fashioned four-card-majorite? Or is he perhaps playing a strong-club system like Neapolitan?

2.

South dealer  
East-West vulnerable

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

♠ J 9 8 3  
♥ J 3  
♦ K J 3  
♣ A 6 5 4



There are two passes to North, who opens one heart; East passes; one notrump by South; double by West; all pass. You, West, lead a small spade: king from dummy, small from the others. Declarer now plays two rounds of clubs. Your partner follows, showing a doubleton, and you duck. Now declarer plays the third club, overtaking it in his hand. Defend!

Oh, yes, your clue. If you do well in this event, you will win the McKenney Trophy for the year. That's not too surprising. If they had a vote for the best matchpoint player of all time, you would win in a breeze.

3.

♠ 10 7 4 3	♥ 9 5 2	♦ Q 10 5	♣ K 9 5	N W     E S
------------	---------	----------	---------	-------------------

*Dummy*

♠ 8 6

♥ 7 4

♦ A K 9 7 6 4

♣ 10 7 6

Once again you are West, on opening lead, this time against six notrump. It's matchpoints, and South has described a powerful balanced hand, 23 or 24 points. You lead a heart. Declarer wins partner's ten with the jack, travels to the king of diamonds in dummy (partner follows with the deuce), leads a small spade from dummy, and puts in the queen. On the reasonable assumption that you may be getting in with a diamond, how do you plan your defense? Just one hint here: the contract went down two!

4.

♠ 9 4 3	♥ A K 4	♦ A 4	♣ A 10 9 8 6	N W     E S
---------	---------	-------	--------------	-------------------

♠ A K Q J 8 7 6

♥ 8 3

♦ 5

♣ J 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	1♥	4♠
pass	6♠	all pass	

The lead is the two of hearts; you win in dummy with the king. It looks like a classic strip, so you lead a trump — but East shows out. Well, there goes that dream. What now? Will you try the best technical line, or is this perhaps the time for a deceptive move? One word of caution: your opponents are not Americans; notwithstanding that, they are both good players. One, in fact, has a claim to the title “best in the world”. So how do you play?

## Answers

1.

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

♥ 3 2

♦ —

♣ K Q J 10 9 8

♠ A K 9 6

♥ 8 6

♦ 10 8 4

♣ A 4 3 2

The bidding on this deal was both inspired and delicate. It was perhaps one of the best-bid deals in the history of bridge. West, certain of a grand slam in two suits, certain, too, that his opponents must have a cheap sacrifice, with nerves of steel went just one level higher at every turn. Unluckily for him, South was Mr. “You have to be at the table,” Oswald Jacoby himself. And he diagnosed the maneuver. When seven hearts came round to him he decided it was being bid to make. That could mean only one thing. Thirteen red cards. How do I know what he thought? Just look at how he played the hand.

The opening lead was the ace of diamonds. Jacoby ruffed with the eight of spades, led the four of trumps from dummy, and, when East played low, put in the six! Now, a ruff of a diamond with the jack of spades, a

Comment [ 111 ]

trump to his nine, and a diamond ruffed by the queen. Finally, a club to the ace — and claim. When did all this happen? More than thirty years ago.

2.

♠ J 9 8 3 ♥ J 3 ♦ K J 3 ♣ A 6 4 3	♠ A K 7 ♥ K 8 5 4 ♦ Q 10 2 ♣ J 10 9 ♠ Q 10 2 ♥ 9 7 ♦ 9 7 5 4 ♣ K Q 7 5	<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		♠ 6 5 4 ♥ A Q 10 6 2 ♦ A 8 6 ♣ 8 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Did you win the third club, and switch? Good! You score 100, and earn your usual average.

The real West was Barry Crane (I'll bet you guessed that). And Crane was not one to play for average. When the declarer led the third club from dummy and overtook in his hand, Crane ducked again! With four tricks home, and two more guaranteed, the declarer decided to go for it; he led a small diamond to the ten and ace. Another spade came back. This time, declarer fell from grace. He won in his hand, to lead a second diamond.

Crane drove home the bayonet. He rose with the king, and now, at last, played his ace of clubs. Dummy was squeezed. Eventually, declarer threw a heart; Crane's lead of the jack of hearts sealed his doom. Plus 300 meant all the marbles, and Barry Crane had won his first McKenney trophy. The year? 1952.

3.

♠ 10 7 4 3 ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ K 9 5	♠ 8 6 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A K 9 7 6 4 ♣ 10 7 6 ♠ A Q J ♥ A K Q J ♦ J 8 2 ♣ A Q 4	<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		♠ K 9 5 2 ♥ 10 8 6 3 ♦ 3 ♣ J 8 3 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Did you ever hear of Harry Merkle? Not unless you've seen this deal before. Yet Harry was one of the fine players who traveled the California Circuit around 1947, when this deal arose. The declarer, in six notrump, convinced Merkle by the early play that the contract was on ice. So Harry decided to make him an offer he couldn't refuse. When declarer, after winning the spade finesse, impeccably led the jack of diamonds, Merkle played the ten!

Now, there are a few players around (from Mars, all of them) who would still play low from dummy. But, being human, and playing match-points, this declarer went up with the ace, cashed the king — and lost the whole diamond suit. Down two! As Merkle put it, the par result.

4.

♠ 10 5 2 ♥ J 5 2 ♦ Q 10 9 8 2 ♣ 7 5	♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A K 4 ♦ A 4 ♣ A 10 9 8 6 ♠ A K Q J 8 7 6 ♥ 8 3 ♦ 5 ♣ J 4 3	<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		♠ — ♥ Q 10 9 7 6 ♦ K J 7 6 3 ♣ K Q 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											



The game was rubber bridge. The place, London. Sitting West, Leslie Dodds. Sitting East, Terence Reese. Not the kind of opponents you would search out, unless you had a lot of money to spend.

South was a pretty fair country player himself. His name, John Crawford. In those days, around 1950, there were a lot of people who considered him the toughest man who ever sat down at the table.

Crawford won the heart lead, and tested the spades. When Reese showed out, it looked as though declarer must fall back on the double finesse in clubs, a reasonable chance. But Crawford felt that Reese might well hold both club honors, in view of his overcall. He decided to play on the assumption that Reese held exactly five hearts (because of the lead), and at least three clubs. On that basis, he led out four more rounds of trumps, a total of five. Reese could not afford to throw a club; he had to come down to four red cards, as did dummy.

Crawford watched the discards closely. When Reese bared down to three hearts and a diamond, Crawford played the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Reese was forced to disgorge another heart; now came ace of hearts, heart ruff. Then jack of clubs. Endplay!

Reese later called it one of the best hands he had ever seen played at the table. Personally I never argue with Terence Reese.

As you can see, the whole thing has been a fraud. There are no deals from the present. However, can you look at these hands and swallow the LaRochelle-Kokish dictum about today's stars? If you're still not convinced, read the report on the last world championship, and take a hard look at all the idiocies. If that doesn't convince you, you're hopeless.



## 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](mailto: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 Mother Superior's Advice

by David Bird

The Mother Superior of St Hilda's Convent had maintained a regular correspondence with the Abbot over several decades. For many years, this had involved hand-written letters. Indeed, the Abbot had taken great pleasure from the Reverend Mother's writing, elegant in both its appearance and her well-educated turn of phrase.

Nowadays, with some reticence, they resorted to the new fashion of email. It was almost three years since they had met in person, and the Abbot had invited her for a brief stay at the St Titus Monastery. It was unthinkable for her to spend any nights on the premises, but the Abbot had negotiated a deal with the owner of King's Head in Hursley Village. Their normal price was £140 a night for B&B, absurd as the Abbot saw it. A small attic room had been offered for £65 a night, provided the Mother Superior took breakfast at the monastery.

The Abbot had agreed to these terms. The Mother Superior's hip replacement was reported to be well on the mend. Four flights of stairs shouldn't cause her any serious problem.

On the day of her arrival, the Abbot partnered his guest in the monastery's weekly duplicate.

'Wonderful to see you again, Reverend Mother,' said Brother Lucius, arriving at the table. 'Has the Abbot been behaving himself?'

'Admirably, so far,' the Mother Superior replied. 'It's only the second round, of course.'

This was the deal they were about to play:

Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J32 ♥ 8 ♦ QJ103 ♣ 109543	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 106 ♥ KQJ73 ♦ A86 ♣ KJ8  ♠ AK875 ♥ 95 ♦ K54 ♣ AQ2
	N										
W		E									
	S										

West	North	East	South
<i>Brother Lucius</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>	<i>Brother Paulo</i>	<i>Mother Superior</i>
-	-	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Brother Lucius led the ♥8 and down went the dummy.

'Thank you, Hugo,' said the Mother Superior. She surveyed the assets at her disposal. If the opening bidder held the ♦A and the ♣K, she might manage four tricks in the side suits. Five trumps and a club ruff would bring the total to ten.

How would the play develop? Suppose she won with the ♥A and finessed the ♣Q successfully. She could draw two rounds of trumps with the queen and ace, continuing with the ace of clubs and a club ruff. She would then have to lead towards the king of diamonds while there was still a trump out. Brother Paulo might be able to rise with the diamond ace, cash a heart winner and then promote West's last trump with a third round of hearts.

Perhaps her raise to game had been an overbid. What could be done? Spotting a possible solution to her problems, the Mother Superior pointed a finger at the dummy. ‘Play low, please,’ she said.

Brother Paulo won with the jack of hearts and returned a low heart for partner to ruff. The Abbot winced at this turn of events. Had the Mother Superior not recalled the opening bid of One Heart? Did that not promise five hearts in the Convent game?

Brother Paulo won the queen of diamonds switch with the ace and returned the king of hearts. The Mother Superior ruffed with the ♠A and drew trumps in two further rounds, ending in the dummy. A club finesse succeeded, and she spread her remaining cards. ‘I can ruff the club loser with dummy’s last trump,’ she said.

The Abbot did not feel confident to comment on how the deal had been played. Still, at least she had managed to make it.

‘You took an interesting line,’ observed Brother Lucius. ‘I think you go down if you win the first heart. No way to avoid a trump promotion, is there?’

‘I don’t believe so,’ the Mother Superior replied.

‘Is it better if I return the ♥K at trick two?’ queried Brother Paulo.

‘No, no,’ came the reply. ‘I win with the ace and play a diamond. When you win with the jack, you can’t play the queen or a low heart without helping me.’

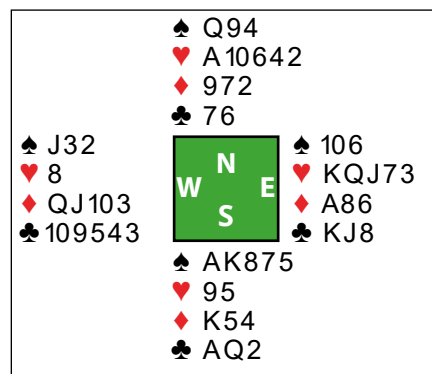
The Abbot nodded learnedly. ‘That’s how I read the situation,’ he said.

A few rounds later, The Abbot and his new partner faced the two youngest novices in the monastery. Indeed, this was their debut in the monastery pairs.

‘No need for you boys to look so nervous,’ said the Mother Superior. ‘I can’t speak for the Abbot, but I’m not going to eat you!’

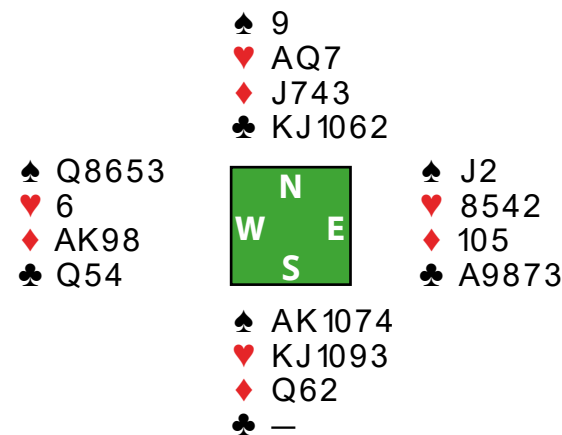
‘We’re not doing very well, I’m afraid,’ replied Brother Judah, taking his seat. ‘Everyone seems to play so fast.’

‘It doesn’t matter if you boys play slowly, provided you use the time sensibly,’ replied the Mother Superior. ‘Planning the play is the most



important thing. That’s what I teach the novices at St Hilda’s.’  
This was first board of the round:

Dealer South. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Brother Silas</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>	<i>Brother Judah</i>	<i>Mother Superior</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Brother Silas, who had no wish to arouse criticism from the Abbot or his partner, was relieved to have an obvious opening lead. When the ♦A appeared, his partner smiled encouragingly, following with the ♦10. Only when he was sure that Brother Silas had noted the big card, did he turn it over.

West continued with the king of diamonds, and Brother Judah followed with the ♦5. ‘We play that as a come-on signal,’ he informed the Mother Superior. ‘It’s on our convention card. Would you like to take a look?’

‘Not for the moment,’ the Mother Superior replied.

Brother Judah ruffed the third round of diamonds and lost no time in playing the ace of clubs. His visions of completing a perfect four-trick defence were smashed when the Mother Superior ruffed. She played her top spades and ruffed a spade with the trump queen. After discarding a

spade on the ♣K, she made the remaining tricks on a high crossruff. The game was hers.

The Mother Superior turned to her right. ‘I should have gone down, there,’ she said. ‘How many hearts did you think I held?’

Brother Judah thought back to the bidding. She had bid hearts twice, hadn’t she? ‘Er... five?’ he replied.

‘Yes, and how many spades?’

‘Well, you only bid those once. At least four, anyway.’

The Mother Superior sighed heavily. ‘You boys have such a lot to learn,’ she declared. ‘When I open one suit and then bid another suit twice, I show five cards in both suits. I’d already followed three times in diamonds, so my shape was 5=5=3=0. You can count to thirteen, can’t you? You should have known that I had no clubs. Switch to a trump at trick four and you stop me ruffing three spades. You beat the contract.’

Brother Judah’s head was spinning. Why on earth had they agreed to try the main duplicate just when this strange woman was playing?

The Abbot and the Mother Superior continued to do well. The trend showed no sign of imminent reversal when they faced Brother Aelred and Brother Michael.

‘You’ll probably do well against us,’ observed Brother Aelred, taking his seat. ‘We’ve been very unlucky so far.’

Brother Michael nodded his agreement. ‘Every single small mistake we’ve made has cost us,’ he said. ‘Some evenings, you can make mistake after mistake and it doesn’t cost at all!’

The Mother Superior surveyed the pair unsympathetically. ‘It’s best not to make mistakes, really,’ she said.

This was the deal before them:

♠ Q8653	♠ 9	♠ J2
♥ 6	♥ AQ7	♥ 8542
♦ AK98	♦ J743	♦ 105
♣ Q54	♣ KJ1062	♣ A9873
		♠ AK1074
		♥ KJ1093
		♦ Q62
		♣ —

Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 104	♠ K952	♠ QJ8
♥ 65	♥ Q1084	♥ J972
♦ KJ94	♦ 83	♦ 1075
♣ QJ965	♣ 1042	♣ K73
		♠ A763
		♥ AK3
		♦ AQ62
		♣ A8

West	North	East	South
<i>The Abbot</i>	<i>Brother Michael</i>	<i>Mother Superior</i>	<i>Brother Aelred</i>
–	–	–	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Abbot led the queen of clubs and down went the dummy. ‘I didn’t mind which major you showed,’ observed Brother Michael. ‘I had four cards in both of them.’

The Abbot looked apologetically towards the Mother Superior. She must have similarly clueless performers at St Hilda’s. She would make allowance for the present company.

Brother Aelred won with the club ace and lost no time in drawing two rounds of trumps with the ace and king. With this important formality behind him, he turned to the main business of the hand. Surely, after all the bad luck they had encountered on the previous rounds, the diamond finesse would work. Did the Law of Averages mean nothing?

The Abbot won the queen of diamonds with the king. Recalling his partner’s encouraging ♣7 at trick one, he returned a low club. The Mother Superior won with the king and drew a third round of trumps with the queen.

Brother Aelred ruffed the club return and paused to assess his prospects. If the ♦Q had won, he could have ruffed both diamond losers in



dummy, scoring an overtrick. He would have lost just a trump and a club. As it was, it seemed that he would need four heart tricks, just to make the contract. He played the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in dummy. All followed to the ace and king of hearts, but West showed out on the third round. Declarer had no way to avoid a diamond loser and was one down.

		♠ K952	
		♥ Q1084	
		♦ 83	
		♣ 1042	
♠ 104			♠ QJ8
♥ 65			♥ J972
♦ KJ94			♦ 1075
♣ QJ965			♣ K73
		♠ A763	
		♥ AK3	
		♦ AQ62	
		♣ A8	

‘If the Abbot had followed low on the third round of hearts, I would have had an awkward guess,’ said Brother Aelred. ‘As the cards lay, the contract couldn’t be made.’

‘Of course it could be made,’ said the Mother Superior scornfully. ‘Your mistake was to draw two rounds of trumps at the start. You should cross to the king of trumps and finesse in diamonds. When that loses, you win the return, play a second top trump and ruff two diamonds in dummy. Is that too difficult?’

Brother Aelred was taken aback by the visitor’s harsh tone of voice. Was that appropriate for a woman of her persuasion? Whether her analysis made any sense, he had no idea. It was easy to be clever, once you knew how the cards lay.

Brother Michael sighed as he inspected the scoresheet. ‘It’s another unlucky one for us,’ he announced. ‘Someone Up There must be in a bad mood.’

The evening’s bridge was drawing to a close when the Abbot faced his nemesis, the disrespectful Brother Cameron.

The novice landed heavily on the East chair. ‘I see you made Four Spades on Board 15,’ he said ‘How did the play go?’

‘It’s simple enough, once you duck the first heart,’ the Mother Superior replied. ‘West is more likely to have three trumps than East.’

Brother Cameron’s eyes lit up. ‘Exactly right,’ he replied. ‘I don’t think anyone else found it, though.’

The Mother Superior sorted through her cards for the next board. ‘Most people don’t start thinking until trick five,’ she said. ‘Not a winning approach, as I see it.’

This was the deal before them:

Dealer East. N/S Vul.

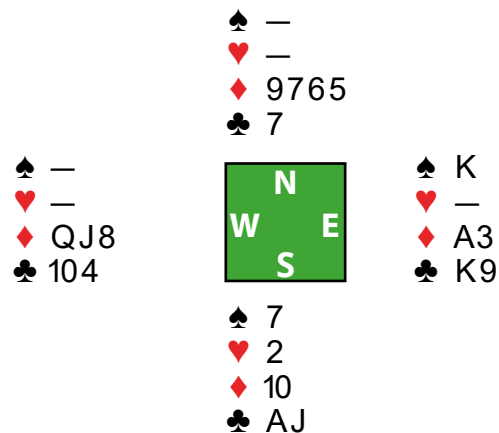
		♠ 64	
		♥ 643	
		♦ 976542	
		♣ 72	
♠ Q109			♠ KJ85
♥ 9875			♥ 10
♦ QJ8			♦ AK3
♣ 1043			♣ K9865
		♠ A732	
		♥ AKQJ2	
		♦ 10	
		♣ AQJ	

West	North	East	South
<i>Brother Damien</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>	<i>Brother Cameron</i>	<i>Mother Superior</i>
-	-	1♣	1♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Brother Cameron declined to pass out One Heart and soon found himself defending Four Hearts. Brother Damien led the ♥9 and the Abbot displayed his dummy with no great affection.

The Mother Superior won the trump lead and led a low spade, West winning with the ♠9 and returning the ♥8. Winning in her hand, declarer cashed the spade ace and ruffed a spade in dummy. A finesse of the club queen proved successful and she drew West’s two remaining trumps.

Brother Cameron, sitting East, was wary of eventually reducing himself to the ♠K, a master diamond and ♣K9. This might result in a throw-in if declarer had started with the ♣AQJ. He kept his options open by discarding the ♦K, and these cards remained in play:



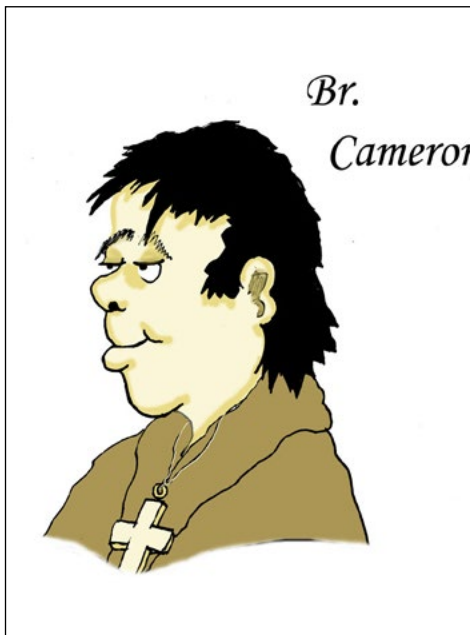
The Mother Superior's slender, white fingers reached for her last trump. West disposed of a club and a diamond was thrown from dummy. Not looking too happy, Brother Cameron eventually decided to ditch the ace of diamonds.

The Mother Superior exited with the ♦10 and the defence was at an end. Brother Damien scored tricks with the queen and jack of the suit, declarer throwing her spade loser. He then had to play a club to avoid giving a trick to the dummy's ♦9. Declarer faced her ♣AJ and the game was made.

Brother Cameron reconstructed declarer's hand. It was unbelievable. Had an elderly nun really overcalled at the one-level, holding 21 points?

The Abbot looked across the table in wonderment. What an exquisite performance! He would have been happy to make such a play himself.

'That was absolutely brilliant, Reverend Mother,' he exclaimed. 'The one good card in my hand, the ♦9, was exactly what you needed!'



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Open Event

APRIL 15-22 2020

Perth Convention Centre  
Western Australia



### Proposed Timetable and Categories

Open, Women's, Senior's, Mixed and Youth.  
(<26, <21 and <16 all subject to entries)

### Bridgefest daily side events

Date	Event
Wed 15 April	Swiss Pairs
Thurs 16 April	Swiss Pairs
Fri 17 April	APBF Teams Q1
Sat 18 April	APBF Teams Q2
Sun 19 April	APBF Teams Q3
Mon 20 April	APBF Teams Q4
Tue 21 April	APBF Teams SF APBF Pairs Q
Wed 22 April	APBF Teams F APBF Pairs F Presentation and close

### To enter follow this link

[www.abfevents.com.au/events/apbf/2020/](http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/apbf/2020/)

### ACCOMMODATION

Many hotels are offering special rates to APBF 2020 participants. For example: The Ritz-Carlton Perth, situated in the heart of Elizabeth Quay, will have 40 of its 204 rooms/suites available for the APBF, and the Melbourne hotel will hold 20 rooms for APBF participants.



### Convenor

Robina McConnell [Bina360@hotmail.com](mailto:Bina360@hotmail.com)

# The uBid Auction Room

Marc Smith

## Marc Smith follows the English Premier League winners

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

The lead changed hands repeatedly over the course of the three weekends of the 2019 English Premier League. DHONDY, DE BOTTON and MOSSOP all showed as early contenders. HINDEN and SMALL surged during the second weekend, until BLACK came through to head the table with seven matches left.

It eventually all came down to the final match. DE BOTTON defeated SMALL 43-42 (10.31-9.69 VPs), giving them a total of 246.53 VPs over the three weekends.. In the other key match, BLACK lost 13-25 to MOSSOP, collecting just 6.72 VPs to give them a total of 244.19. Over 21 matches, a total of 336 boards, the final margin between the top two teams was about 5 IMPs.

Congratulations to the DE BOTTON team, Janet De Botton, Artur Malinowski, Espen Ericsson, Glyn Liggins, David Bahkshi and Tom Townsend. Congratulations also to Andrew Black, who topped the Butler with an average of 0.88 IMPs/board, just ahead of David Gold (0.81) and Espen Ericsson/Glyn Liggins (0.78). No one else averaged higher than 0.47 IMPs/board over the three weekends.

Readers can bid my selection of the deals with their regular partner (using the bidding slips provided elsewhere in the magazine) and then compare their contracts with those reached at the table by the winners. We begin with a deal on which timing is everything:

## The Hands

Hand 1. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 752  
♥ 9  
♦ J106532  
♣ A53



♠ AQJ43  
♥ A10  
♦ 9  
♣ KJ984

West	North	East	South
Ericsson	Dhondy	Liggins	Callaghan
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Evidence from the recent World Championships in Wuhan suggests that we have entered the era of the pre-empt, with a large proportion of players opening weak twos on five-card suits and bidding obstructively at any opportunity. The way the game is going, I would therefore expect most players these days to open something in first seat non-vulnerable with this West hand.

Espen Ericsson's timing was perfect, as he chose exactly the right moment to buck the trend. Having passed as dealer, the DE BOTTON partnership had a straightforward auction to game. E/W +450.

West	North	East	South
Myers	Townsend	Brock	Bahkshi
3♦	All Pass		

Barry Myers did open, albeit one level higher than some might. Should Sally Brock move with that East hand? Switch her partner's majors (statistically far more likely than his actual hand) and you can see why the clear answer to that question is "no". E/W -50 and 11 IMPs to DE BOTTON.

*Recommended auction:* The alternative on this West hand is a weak Two Diamond opening. If you play a two-level change of suit is strong but invitational (rather than forcing), this is the type of East hand that might make a try. As it happens, doing so hits gold, and you probably get to game whether opener jumps directly to it or just makes a courtesy raise.

MARKS: **Four Spades 10**, Three Spades 6, Two Diamonds 3

*Running Score:* 2019 Premier League Winners 10

## Hand 2. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 10952		♠ AKQ76
♥ A1074		♥ K532
♦ 4		♦ 76
♣ AKJ7		♣ 82

North opens 3♦. South raises to 4♦ if able

West	North	East	South
Ericsson	Dhondy	Liggins	Callaghan
-	3♦	3♠	4♦
4♠	All Pass		

There is no benefit to playing the 4-4 fit here, so the objective is simply to stop safely in game in one of your major suits. Glyn Liggins was certainly minimum for his overcall at adverse vulnerability, but passing would be equally dangerous. Ericsson cut his partner plenty of slack by just raising to game in competition. There was a trick in each red suit to be lost. It's an easy game, isn't it? E/W +650.

Hand 1 notwithstanding, a theme that seemed to run through this whole Premier League was that the more you pre-empted, the better your result. That certainly proved to be the case on this deal.

West	North	East	South
Myers	Townsend	Brock	Bahkshi
-	4♦	Pass	5♦
Double	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Tom Townsend's decision to open at the four-level on his 1-1-6-5 shape made life much more difficult for East/West. Should West not double Five Diamonds? Failing to do so probably leaves you collecting just a couple of 50s against your opponents' +650 from the other table. Should East pass the double for penalties or just bid her longer major at the minimum level? Either would have produced a plus score on this deal, but might partner not have just a bit more for his five-level double too? There is no right or wrong answer, of course, which is why people pre-empt. E/W -200 and 13 IMPs to DE BOTTON.

*Recommended auction:* I cannot improve on the Ericsson/Liggins auction. Just be glad you picked the right opponents, as it was much more

difficult at the other table.

MARKS: **Four Spades 10**, Five Spades/Four Hearts 8, Five Hearts 5, Four Diamonds-Doubled (by N) 2

*Running Score:* 2019 Premier League winners 20

## Hand 3. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ KQ10		♠ AJ9542
♥ A10		♥ -
♦ A5		♦ 10943
♣ AKQ965		♣ J73

North opens 3♥

West	North	East	South
Myers	Townsend	Brock	Bahkshi
-	3♥	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Myers settled for an overweight 3NT when North's pre-empt was passed around to him. Brock showed spades with a two-up transfer and Myers cue-bid hearts to show interest. Wasted heart values certainly did not improve Brock's hand, so she understandably just bid game. Myers is surely worth at least one more try, even though it is not obvious where his diamond loser is going if the ♠A is missing. 4NT would, presumably, have been Blackwood, though, and it would be unlucky to find that the five-level was too high. E/W +510.

West	North	East	South
Ericsson	Dhondy	Liggins	Callaghan
-	3♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

Espen Ericsson decided he was too strong for 3NT at his first turn, so he started with a double. Liggins' jump to game was music to the Swede's ears. Blackwood found the ♠A and Liggins then showed a heart control when Ericsson asked again with 5NT. I'm not sure what hand partner



can hold where clubs is better than no-trump, but reaching any making grand slam rarely scores poorly. E/W +1440 and 14 IMPs to DE BOTTON.

*Recommended auction:* Something along the lines of the Ericsson/Liggins auction, perhaps with 7NT rather than 7♣ at the end. Stopping in Seven Clubs may cost you a couple of IMPs, and a club ruff might defeat Seven Spades with the non-pre-emptive bidder on lead, hence the scoring.

**MARKS: 7NT/Seven Spades (W) 10**, Seven Spades (E)/Seven Clubs 9, 6NT/Six Spades/Six Clubs 5, Games 1

*Running Score:* 2019 Premier League winners 29

### Hand 4. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ AQ943		♠ 102
♥ A105		♥ J987
♦ KQ64		♦ A832
♣ A		♣ J42

South opens a natural 4♣

West	North	East	South
Ericsson	Hallberg	Liggins	Patterson
-	-	-	4♣
Double	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Four Spades is far too committal, so a takeout double seems normal on this West hand. How should East respond? When the four-level opening is in a major, the commonly accepted practise is to remove at the five-level only if you expect to make your contract. It is far easier to make four tricks than eleven, after all. Things are much less clear when the opening is in a minor suit and you can respond in a major. I would guess that about half of an expert panel would bid Four Hearts here, as Glyn Liggins did. The only good news is that North does not double on his ♥KQxxx. E/W -200.

West	North	East	South
McIntosh	Townsend	King	Bahkshi
-	-	-	4♣
Double	All Pass		

Phil King's decision certainly worked out well here. The defenders began by cashing two diamonds, then played a spade through declarer's king

to collect two tricks in that suit. Declarer ruffed the third round of diamonds and exited with his heart, but he had to ruff the second round of hearts. When he then started trumps by leading the ♣K, he later had also to lose a trick to the ♣J. Four down: E/W +800 and 14 IMPs to BLACK.

*Recommended auction:* You pay your money, you take your chance. I have a slight preference for passing, but it is certainly close.

**MARKS: Four Clubs Doubled (S) 10**, Four Hearts/Four Spades 4

*Running Score:* 2019 Premier League winners 33

Trends come and go in bidding: remember how popular the Precision Club system once was, and yet notice how few top pairs (with a couple of notable exceptions) still play it today. One modern trend is to employ two ranges of weak two opening, with 3-7 usually going via a Multi whilst 8-11 is opened naturally. (On a purely technical point, my view is that this structure is better reversed, as you want to give the opponents the fewest chances to bid when you are weakest.) That aside, another downside to this method is that pre-empts, by definition, make the player with the good hand guess. When that happens to be partner, less damage is likely to be done when opener has a poor hand. A hidden disadvantage of opening with a pre-emptive bid on what might be quite a good hand is illustrated on our next deal.

### Hand 5. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ J87		♠ AQ
♥ -		♥ AJ9742
♦ AK932		♦ 1065
♣ KQJ82		♣ 93

West	North	East	South
Townsend	King	Bahkshi	McIntosh
-	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Tom Townsend's decision to Pass seems eminently sensible. Unfortunately, partner has just enough outside the heart suit to make game a good proposition. Yes, this East hand meets all the stated criteria (six-card suit, 8-11 HCP), but I do question the wisdom of a method that pre-empts on a perfectly respectable one-level opening bid. Perhaps the answer is that Bahkshi should have upgraded this hand? Perhaps Townsend has to take a more positive view? I have no answers, only questions.

Declarer managed to scramble nine tricks in his inelegant Two Heart contract: E/W +140.

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Liggins	Patterson	Ericsson
–	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Once Derek Patterson opened One Heart, the auction was fairly inevitable. South had no winning lead and declarer scored a relatively painless nine tricks: E/W +600 and 10 IMPs to BLACK.

*Recommended auction:* The Patterson/Hallberg one seems very sensible.

MARKS: **3NT 10**, Five Diamonds 5, Three Hearts 4

*Running Score:* 2019 Premier League winners 37

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

♠ AJ98652	<table border="0" 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		♠ Q4
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ AQ4		♥ K7653									
♦ A8	♦ J107										
♣ 4	♣ AK5										

West	North	East	South
Osborne	Bahkshi	Hinden	Townsend
–	–	1♣	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Frances Hinden opened One Club, showing either clubs or any weak no-trump hand, and Graham Osborne's Two Heart response was invitational or better with at least six spades. Two Spades was non-forcing and Three Diamonds an artificial game force. Hinden now showed at least four hearts, Osborne showed a seventh spade, and Hinden raised to game.

Spades is actually the right suit to play, since you just need spades to play for one loser to make twelve tricks, whereas a 4-1 heart split and a losing spade finesse will defeat slam in hearts. Playing in game, it matter little which major is trumps. E/W +710.

West	North	East	South
Malinowski	Allerton	De Botton	Jagger
–	–	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Janet de Botton opened a natural One Heart, and confirmed a five-card suit in response to her partner's Checkback inquiry. Malinowski now splintered in support of hearts and soon thereafter Blackwooded to slam. There was no nasty distribution to cope with: E/W +1460 and 13 IMPs to DE BOTTON.

*Recommended auction:* The Malinowski/de Botton auction looks okay (depending on methods), although it seems to me that the East hand is worth at most a 'last train' Four Diamonds after partner's splinter bid. How to find your way to slam in spades rather than hearts is more difficult. Well done if you hit the top spot.

MARKS: **Six Spades 10**, Six Hearts 8, Five Spades/Five Hearts 4

*Running Score:* 2019 Premier League winners 41

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

♠ Q754	<table border="0" 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		♠ A82
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ Q102		♥ J4									
♦ 1082	♦ KQJ9643										
♣ AK9	♣ 3										

*If West passes, North opens a 12-14 1NT. North/South run to clubs if doubled in 1NT*

Perhaps surprisingly, in this age when everyone bids with any excuse, both of our West players passed in first seat. The DE BOTTON North opened One Club, which might perhaps make things easier for East/West to reach their game...

West	North	East	South
Osborne	Bahkshi	Hinden	Townsend
Pass	1♣	2♦	All Pass

Apparently not. Hinden decided that a jump overcall described her values accurately at adverse vulnerability. Osborne, presumably, did not expect quite as much playing strength. E/W +110.

Perhaps a One Diamond overcall is better. When partner then responds 1NT (that seems a more accurate description than a Two Club cue-bid), is East then too good for a jump to Three Diamonds? Would that sequence be strong enough to encourage West to bid game? We shall never know, but it is a sequence worth discussing with your regular partner.

West	North	East	South
Malinowski	Allerton	De Botton	Jagger
Pass	1NT	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Janet de Botton had a natural Two Diamond overcall available, a rarity indeed these days. Artur Malinowski's judgement was spot on when he decided that his passed hand had all the right stuff. E/W +600 and 10 IMPs to DE BOTTON.

*Recommended auction:* Most of us probably have systems in which the only way to describe this hand over a weak no-trump opening is with a via a jump to Three Diamonds. Although this is a pre-emptive bid in theory, West should realize that partner is vulnerable against not, and is therefore likely to have one high card outside his long suit. Taking a stab at 3NT is, therefore, a reasonable shot on this West hand.

MARKS: **3NT 10**, Three Diamonds 6

*Running Score:* 2019 Premier League winners 51

## Hand 8. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J64		♠ Q73
♥ AKQ52		♥ 7
♦ KQ32		♦ 108
♣ 2		♣ AKQJ743

*South overcalls* 3♦

West	North	East	South
Ericsson	Taylor	Liggins	Cox
-	-	1♣	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

What West should bid over South's pre-emptive Three Diamonds is an interesting question. It may look automatic to advance with Three Hearts, but what do you expect partner to bid if he cannot raise your suit? Is Liggins supposed to bid something other than Four Clubs here? Having reached that point, can you suggest a way of reaching the only making contract left, 4NT? Neither can I.

Of course, North did not dare double Four Hearts on his 5-6-1-1 shape, presumably for fear that clubs would be better for the opponents. He was right, but for the wrong reason. Against clubs, the defenders can take three top tricks and a ruff in each of the pointed suits. If Four Hearts is doubled, though, might West not think of retreating to 4NT (assuming East does not run first)? Declarer managed six tricks in Four Hearts: E/W -400.

West	North	East	South
Cooke	Malinowski	Small	Bahkshi
-	-	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The Precision-style, natural Two Club opener might have made things easier for West had Bahkshi bid Three Diamonds on the South cards. After his uncharacteristically timid pass, Cooke/Small sailed into the top spot. Declarer won the low diamond lead in dummy and claimed ten more tricks: E/W +660 and 14 IMPs to SMALL.

*Recommended auction:* I think you just have to shut your eyes and bid 3NT after 1♣-(3♦)-? If you attempt to play for penalties by passing, I think you are asking way too much of partner. On this hand, he is much more likely to reopen with Four Clubs than with the hoped-for double. Even if you do get to defend Three Diamonds-Doubled, you probably get only +500 and lose 4 IMPs.

MARKS: **3NT 10**, Three Diamonds-Doubled (S) 8, Three Diamonds (by S) 5, Four Clubs 2, Four Hearts/Five Clubs 1

*Final Score:* 2019 Premier League winners 52

*The hands that I chose this month represented the most interesting bidding deals from the De Botton matches that were screened on BBO VuGraph. That they finished on the wrong end of a couple of them gives readers a chance to outscore our featured team's 52/80 total. I will be back in this chair next month with another selection of bidding problems faced by a top pair or team at a major event somewhere in the world.*



# The Master Point Press Bidding Battle Set 24

Moderated by Brian Senior

Welcome one and all to the final Bidding Battle of 2019. As I write this Britain is going to the polls in a general election in which the two main parties have two of the least attractive leaders I can ever remember. Politics is rather depressing at the moment.

Oh well, I suppose I'd better get on with the job in hand – perhaps a few well-directed insults at the panel will cheer me up?

## PROBLEM 1

IMPs. Dealer West. None Vul.

- ♠ A
- ♥ 62
- ♦ AQ863
- ♣ AQJ32

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
3♣	12	10
Dble	6	7
4♣	0	2

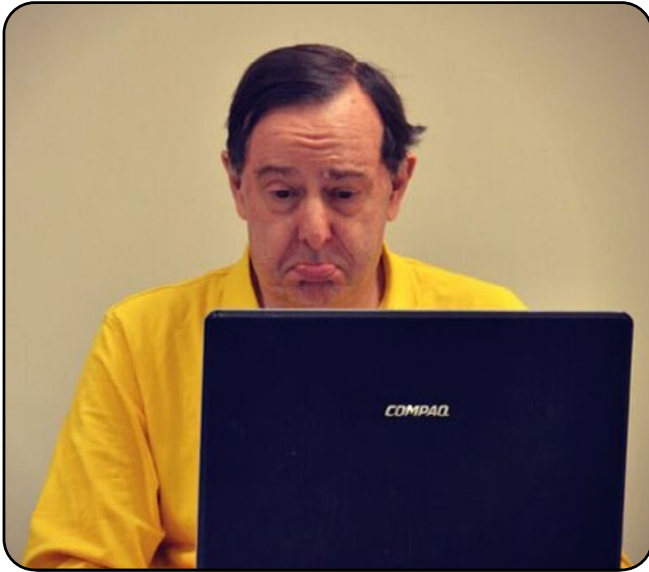
A pretty straightforward problem with which to begin. Everyone would like to reopen with a double in case partner is lying in wait and hoping for a juicy penalty, but can we afford to do so? Yes say:

**Stabell:** Double. Just in case partner has a penalty pass of 2♥. Will have to bid clubs over partner's spades, but I will rarely get 3♠ from partner

## THE BIDS & MARKS

	Bid	No. of Votes	Marks		Bid	No. of Votes	Marks
1.	3♣	12	10	5.	4♥	9	10
	Double	6	7		3♦	4	7
	4♣	0	2		4♠	3	5
2.	4♠	11	10	2NT	1	3	
	4♦	4	7	3♣	1	3	
	5♠	3	6	6.	4NT	15	10
3.	3♠	11	10	5♥	2	4	
	4♠	5	6	6♥	1	3	
	2♠	2	4	7.	3♣	8	10
4.	2NT	14	10	2NT	7	9	
	Double	2	5	2♠	2	6	
	Pass	2	5	Double	1	3	
	2♠	0	2	8.	2♦	16	10
				2NT	2	4	
				3NT	0	2	





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

since he would normally have come up with a negative double with a reasonable hand including spades.

**Leufkens:** Double. Deciding between double and 3♣. Double seems weird with only one spade. But partner can't have spades, or he's either very weak or he's got a penalty pass. If he bids 2♠, I can bid 3♣.

**Sime:** Double. Yes, somebody will probably bid spades. However, my hand is just about strong enough to handle that. Bidding 3♣ could turn 1100 into 110 when the hand is a misfit.

**Carruthers:** Double. Ugh. I first thought of 3♣, taking into account the two heart losers. However, the non-action by South indicates that partner may well have something good in hearts. Basically, the rounded-suit kings will give us a

play for 3NT, so I think I have to do something other than a minimum-sounding 3♣ balance. Over Double, we'll get to 3NT if he has a decent hand. The main worry, of course, is that he'll insist on spades. Nevertheless, I'll disabuse him of that notion by bidding clubs over any spade bid, hoping for the best.

**Apteker:** Double. Still keeps 2♥ doubled in the picture, and shows more (defensive) values on the way to 3♣ after a 2♠ advance than bidding 3♣ directly. The biggest risk is a 3♠ advance, which could really only occur if partner has some length with limited values. Given that partner has not doubled, that risk seems low and worth taking to keep the penalty in play.

**Rigal:** Double. Hoping partner has a penalty double plus a spade stack...will pull spade bids to clubs but what will I do when RHO escapes to 2♠...maybe a good follow up cue?

*Barry has answered this next panellist's worry:*

**Lambardi:** 3♣. Am I supposed to double in case partner has a penalty pass? And when and if RHO runs to 2♠, what shall I do?

*And Ben sees no safety in a double:*

**Green:** 3♣. I can't double in case partner insists on spades. Even if I did double and then bid 3♣ partner would never imagine a singleton spade. So I'll make a heavy 3♣ bid. 2NT here should be natural not the minors so that's out.

**Smith:** 3♣. Perhaps partner is waiting for my re-opening double with a stack, but if not then he will surely be disappointed with my spade support. Surely, double and removing 2♠ to 3♣ should show 3-1-5-4 shape or at least Ax/Kx spade, so with Jxxxx and not much else he'll convert back to spades.

**Alder:** 3♣. Occasionally, I find a great bid that does not occur to the other panellists or the web master.

*You will let us know when that happens, please?*

**Sandsmark:** 3♣. New suit at the three level is forcing in most countries. I think that partner may pass with a very feeble hand and at least ♣xx and max ♦x. I think it is important to flag your second suit now, so that your partner will not be surprised later.

*Not forcing in this situation, Tommy, but the bid is in line with the popular vote. Did I say vote? There is another man with his eyes on the election:*

**Bird:** 3♣. My reason for bidding 3♣ here is the same as that for placing my recent cross in the General Election. There is no sensible or safe alternative whatsoever.



**Marc Smith**



**Sally Brock**

*I'd love to know which candidate David finds sensible and safe, as I didn't manage to find one.*  
**Sver:** 3♣. I prefer failing to catch them in a trap and showing a weaker hand to my partner misjudging his hand with spades if I double.

*Welcome back to Niki after too long an absence.*

**Cannell:** 3♣. Doubling may cause problems in the later auction if partner introduces the spade suit.

**Kokish:** 3♣. Plenty. Double wins big facing a real penalty pass, but with two heart losers, I'd rather not crusade for the Holy Grail, Monty.

**Robson:** 3♣ I'm sorry if I've missed a big penalty, I think I have to bid out my two-suiter.

**Brock:** 3♣. Seems clear, but could be wrong I guess.

**Zia:** 3♣. Just, ahead of double.

*Zia sums up the mood of the panel. It is closer to a double, but 3♣ seems just the wiser course.*

*In real life, partner has a 4-3-3-3 five-count and you make three of a minor while N/S have eight tricks in either major.*

## PROBLEM 2

**IMPs. Dealer North. None Vul.**

♠ K87632  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ 1093  
 ♣ J7

West	North	East	South
–	3♦	Double	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
4♠	11	10
4♦	4	7
5♠	3	6

*Aren't pre-empts annoying – well, except when we are the ones doing the pre-empting, of course? Here, we would have jumped to 4♠ without both one of the kings and the sixth spade, so are we too good to make the same call with our actual hand? Yes says this first group, who therefore jump a little further:*

**Bird:** 5♠. To drive on the left of the road (4♠) is too cautious. To drive on the right (6♠) is too dangerous. As usual in such circumstances, my wheels will straddle the white line in the middle (5♠). I will ignore any hoots from the Director

or fellow panellists,

**Alder:** 5♠. I hope I do not go down one.

**Sim:** 5♠. Risks being in a no-play slam, but ♠Axxx ♥Qxxx ♦x ♣Axxx isn't even enough to double 3♦.

*As you say, and that example makes slam require only a two-one trump split. However, the majority were more cautious, concerned that the five level would be far from secure.*

**Zia:** 4♠. JUST, rather than 5♠.

**Smith:** 4♠. This doesn't feel like enough, but ♠QJxx ♥QJxx ♦x ♣KQxx is surely a double. The trouble is that so is ♠Axxx ♥Qxxx ♦x ♣Axxx and now slam just needs a 2-1 trump break. The problem is, if we do bid more, what? 5♠? He'll surely think that ♠AQxx ♥QJxx ♦x ♣KQxx is enough, won't he? Tricky.

**Green:** 4♠. Yes, I'm a bit heavy, but I can't guarantee a contract at the five level (even 4♠ could be going down on a bad day) and so 4♠ is the only alternative. If I were to start with a 4♦ cue-bid then partner will think I have a two-suiter so I can't do that.

**Lambardi:** 4♠.

**Leufkens:** 4♠. I've got a great hand but not enough to go to the five-level on my own. And if partner is strong without spades, he'll tell me pretty soon.

**Robson:** 4♠. Could miss a slam but going 4♦ then (over 4♥) 4♠ implies 4♠ and longer clubs, choice of games.

**Brock:** 4♠. A bit on the heavy side but not worth driving the five level.

**Apteker:** 4♠. Feels somewhere between 4♠ and bidding 5♠ but, given that the jump already shows extras and that even if partner has a



singleton diamond slam doesn't always make, I'll take the low road.

**Sandsmark:** 4♠. Maybe a little too high too soon. However, partner has not shown anything gigantic yet, and if you only bid 3♠, you risk a pass. If you cue-bid 4♦, partner will believe you to have a two-suiter. No, I think I will satisfy with my 4♠ bid.

**Rigal:** 4♠. Cue-bid then spade bid suggests spades and clubs, I think, and must have the courage of my convictions not to follow a popular sequence that doesn't describe my hand. I'd make the same call with a trump less, I admit, but my losing diamonds argue that maybe partner can bid on with short diamonds and extras.

*I think that the hope that partner will bid on over 4♠ is rather optimistic given the high cards we know him to be missing, but you never know. Eric has the answer to Barry's worry about the meaning of 4♦ but still settles for the safe 4♠:*

**Kokish:** 4♠. Looks soft, feels soft, but is not actually so soft. 4♦ suggests two-plus places to play, so correcting 4♥ to 4♠ will not infrequently get us 5♣ and then our 5♠ will properly be interpreted as a slam try. East will not be pleased with that information if we are a trick too high.

*And Leif-Erik clearly intends to follow through with 5♠ to show the spade slam try:*

**Stabell:** 4♦. We would have bid 4♠ without the ace of hearts, and only need ♠Axxx ♥Qxxx ♦x ♣Axxx opposite for slam to be good. I take my chances by showing a hand with more than one place to play and hope that partner understands that this might be 4♠ and 6♠, not necessarily 4♠ and 5♣.



**Eric 'The Koach' Kokish**

**Sver:** 4♦. Over 4♥ I bid 4♠, which I hope will be enough if my partner has something like ♣AK, ♠A and a singleton diamond.

**Cannell:** 4♦. I fear I have too much for a 4♠ jump, and not enough for a 5♠ jump asking partner to go on with a diamond control. This is somewhere in the middle. I will likely bid spades next depending on the continuation.

*Only likely? I wonder what continuation will discourage you from bidding spades?*

**Carruthers:** 4♦. Then 4♠ over the expected 4♥. Any classic, minimum take-out double with a singleton diamond makes a spade contract a certainty, level to be determined. The issue will be, can he bid on with a hand that will make a

slam, such as, ♠AQxx ♥Qxxx ♦x ♣AKxx? This hand is way too good for a direct 4♠.

*If we are to commit to the five-level, then what exactly is the difference between a jump to 5♠ and the slow route of 4♦ cue-bid followed by 5♠? The immediate jump asks partner to bid slam with a diamond control, while 4♦ then 5♠ asks him to look at his all-round hand? That seems to be the mood of those who opt for one of these actions, with nobody suggesting that the slow route shows a diamond control while the immediate 5♠ denies one.*

*At the table, I bid 4♦ followed by 5♠. Partner is 4-3-2-4 with 14 HCP and diamonds are six-two. Three rounds of diamonds promotes a trump trick for the defence to beat 5♠.*

## PROBLEM 3

**IMPs. Dealer West. All Vul.**

♠ 98642  
♥ K9852  
♦ A3  
♣ 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Double*	Pass
?			
Double	Take-out of hearts		

Bid	Votes	Marks
3♠	11	10
4♠	5	6
2♠	2	4

*Pass in search of a penalty, or bid spades and, if the latter, how many?*

**Brock:** 2♠. I don't think partner needs the earth, and I'm prepared to be cautious.

**Apteker:** 2♠. The advantage to this is that the opponents may compete to 3♥ which I will double for penalties. If my spades and one of the minors were switched around, I would pass. I think 3♠ is too much given the wasted K♥.

*Fair enough, though they are only likely to compete to 3♥ when our partner is void in hearts, which makes defending a little less attractive.*

*The rest were more optimistic:*

**Alder:** 3♠. I suppose the distribution justifies a move toward game. As this is in a bidding panel, game must be laydown.

**Lambardi:** 3♠. Not enough for 4♠ as partner may be 4-1-4-4 with not that much in terms of high cards. ♥K, although it will eventually score a trick, will not help in establishing dummy's side suits.

**Rigal:** 3♠. Assuming oppo opened a weak NT I'll bid 3♠. Fifth trump cancels out the uninviting heart holding. Yes, partner didn't double for penalty but the right shape and an opener may be enough.

*I'm not sure why Barry assumed a weak no-trump – with no footnote it is assumed that both sides are playing the NBM system, which is of course 15-17 no trump. Anyway, I've left his vote unchanged.*

**Smith:** 3♠. Perhaps I am getting old. Sure I would have bid 4♠ in my youth. Perhaps it's time I learned some new scores: +140, for example.

**Bird:** 3♠. Please see my previous answer to discover my opinion of those who bid 2♠ or 4♠. Since I did not bid 2♠ on the previous round, 3♠ cannot be forcing even if playing Lebensohl.

**Cannell:** 3♠. I do not think we will get rich defending 2♥ doubled. Certainly may not even beat that contract. My hand appears to fit well with partner. I will show some oomph in attempt to score the game bonus.

*I agree, though we would have done quite well on defence as it turns out.*

**Leufkens:** 3♠. Why can't partner have ♠AQxx ♥x ♦Kxxx ♣AKxx? But I'm not going to punish him with a pre-balance double.

*Yes, there is just room for him to have all of that.*

**Sandsmark:** 3♠. A wonderful pre-emptive invitation, which partner may raise to 4♠ if he feels for it. If the opponents should want to sacrifice in 4♥, I will only be more than happy to chop their little heads off!

*I'm not sure about the pre-emptive bit, but an invitation, certainly.*

**Zia:** 3♠. I like my hand and maybe he will like to raise.

**Kokish:** 3♠. Will rarely miss a good game when East has the good hand his live-auction double indicates, but when he's traded a bit on his lovely shape, I'd rather not bury him. While it is true that if partner passes 3♠ we would likely have done better to pass the double and also true that I might bid 4♠ at the table on that basis, I seem to be bidding less more often as I slip past my best-before date.

*Not at all, Eric – you are like a fine wine, improving with age.*

*This last group were more optimistic still:*

**Green:** 4♠. I'm torn between 3♠ and 4♠ and since partner may pass on hands where game is completely cold ♠AQxx ♥x ♦KQJx ♣xxxx I think it's worth a go when vulnerable at teams.



**Drew Cannell**

**Sver:** 4♠.

**Stabell:** 4♠. Partner is entering the bidding in a potentially dangerous position, where South might be about to bid game for all he knows. Thus, he should have ideal distribution as well as decent suits. Something like: ♠KQxx ♥ – ♦KQxx ♣QJxxx would be a minimum hand. Here, 4♠ has excellent chances (and so has 2♥ for N/S).

**Sime:** 4♠. Partner should have a decent hand to butt in to their live auction. He is quite likely to pass 3♠ when game is a favourite. The defenders cards should be well placed for us.

**Carruthers:** 3♠. The problem is that East's



double here is very wide-range. He could have as little as ♠Kxxx ♥x ♦KJxx ♣KQxx, or a hand with an ace or so in addition. I would not object to a partner who bid 4♠ with these West cards. Certainly, if the king of hearts had been the king of spades, I'd have perpetrated that call.

**Robson:** 4♠. Should have a good play as long as partner has four spades, which is surely almost certain.

*Partner held: ♠AJ105 ♥10 ♦K109 ♣QJ742*

*Four Spades could be made but we can see that it was far from being a sure thing. Meanwhile, that lovely ten of hearts made sure that 2♥ doubled would only have been a matter of how many undertricks.*

*You can put me with the 3♠ bidders on this one. Where three different levels attract votes, the middle ground is usually the place to be.*

## PROBLEM 4

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

♠ AKJ9  
♥ QJ83  
♦ KQ93  
♣ 9

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
–	–	–	2♥*
?			

2♥ Weak Two

<b>Bid</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Marks</b>
2NT	14	10
Dble	2	5
Pass	2	5
2♠	0	2

*The one thing on which we can all agree is that there is no ideal action on this one. However, there was a big majority for one choice.*

**Alder:** 2NT. Vieux chapeau.

**Lambardi:** 2NT. Wrong shape as the hand will play better in spades or diamonds should partner hold them, but cannot handle a more likely Lebensohl 2NT response by partner. Will not dare to bid 3♣.

*No, I can understand not wishing to declare 3♣ if partner is weak (or if he is strong, of course, but then we won't have to).*

**Green:** 2NT. I think it's close between pass and 2NT. Some of the time 2♥ will get passed out when 3NT is good. Most of the time partner will be short in hearts so passing in the hope that partner can re-open with a double is not so silly. Is it clear what to do if partner does re-open?

**Smith:** 2NT. Pass/2♠/Dbl/2NT. All are flawed, but 2NT seems the least bad option. Two Spades is all too likely to lead to game in a 4-3 fit with trumps breaking 5-1. Double is always followed by Lebensohl and partner putting down Jxxxx trumps in dummy in 3♣. Maybe in another 20 years I'll be old enough to consider pass a realistic option.

**Bird:** 2NT. The alternatives of 2♠, double and pass could all work better, I concede. Not easy to decide.

**Cannell:** 2NT. Yuck! In for a penny – in for a pound.

**Leufkens:** 2NT. Easy, nobody cares about a singleton in a minor. Alternatives are worse, much worse.

**Sime:** 2NT. Soft cards and slow stoppers favour no-trump. I have too much to pass, but not

enough to break a Lebensohl 2NT if I double.

**Apteker:** 2NT. Short only one club for this to be unanimous. Passing is losing bridge. If I double, I would be guessing whether to pass the likely 2NT advance.

**Carruthers:** 2NT. I can see votes for Pass, 2♠, 2NT and Double. I'd not object to any of those except Pass.

**Robson:** 2NT. A little ugly but will make for easy further bidding – Stayman etc

**Sandsmark:** 2NT. True enough, I've got a singleton club, but is my hand so much weaker than if you place a small diamond among the clubs? I think not. When partner finds out that I have a strong NT, we are probably closer to get to the platform where we should be after the bidding.

**Brock:** 2NT. At the vulnerability. Otherwise they can just steal from us.

**Kokish:** 2NT. Why lie? I'm curious whether TGZ will go for the throat with a hopeful pass. This sort of problem always reveals the true colours of the "what, me worry?" take-out doublers.

*Well, everything is a bit of a lie, it's just a matter of which is the least dangerous lie to make. The majority agree with Eric that the answer to that question is 2NT. And to his question about TGZ?*

**Zia:** Pass. May get another chance to make a bid that turns me on as opposed to off if I bid now.

*And Zia has one supporter:*

**Stabell:** Pass. 2NT is an alternative, but it puts a strain on the partnership if East should have to worry about finding a small singleton club opposite. Hope I didn't take too long.....

*Two panellists are so unenthused by 2NT that they are willing to risk a double:*

**Rigal:** Double. I hate it but do not like 2NT



**Nikica Sver**

either and pass may simply miss a game. If partner bids 2NT Lebensohl I bid 3♣ and run if doubled for penalty.

**Sver:** Double. Since it is not probable they would continue pre-empting I don't expect my partner to be forced to bid on the fifth level, and 3NT might be a more probable choice than clubs and by doubling I find a spade fit more easily, than by 2NT, especially if partner is weak.

*As it happens, Niki would have been wrong, as North is about to raise hearts as he has ace to three in a 5-3-1-4 hand with ♥A and ♣K. Partner has: ♠42 ♥5 ♦AJ764 ♣AQJ75. So we can make 6♦ and also game in no trump or, obscurely, in the four-two spade fit. As you can work out, the 2♥*

*opening was not a thing of beauty.*

*While agreeing that it is flawed, I'm with the majority in thinking that 2NT is less flawed than the alternatives.*

## PROBLEM 5

**IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.**

♠ AKJ102  
♥ 8  
♦ AQ32  
♣ 865

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
4♥	9	10
3♦	4	7
4♠	3	5
2NT	1	3
3♣	1	3

*We missed a good slam when partner bid 4♠ on this hand. I was convinced that he should have gone more slowly and, though there is a minority in support of 4♠, the majority agree with me. First the wimps:*

**Smith:** 4♠. I originally started with a 3♣ 'help-wanted' game try, but when I started writing down average hands for partner slam prospects were not great even opposite hands with little wasted in hearts (eg ♠Qxxx ♥Jxx ♦Kxx ♣AKx). Factor in that he will often only hold three trumps and that's even less encouraging. Two low clubs would be a much better holding

too. At least AKxxx opposite would offer some prospects then.

**Brock:** 4♠. It really needs to be a perfect opposite. Second choice 4♥, but I don't like the xxx in clubs.

**Apteker:** 4♠. Some near perfect fitting hands could make slam very good but hard to diagnose with available methods without potentially getting too high. Splintering with 4♥ puts too much pressure on and making a long suit try with 3♣ won't necessarily help if partner then jumps to 4♠.

*But surely one try is harmless? If partner has the perfect we get to slam, otherwise we play in game, maybe missing some not quite perfect slams, but we are unlikely to tip them off to a killing defence.*

*The rest were willing to give it a go. Some went slowly, hoping to preserve bidding space and have a proper exploration:*

**Alder:** 3♣. Slam might be available, but it needs partner to have strong clubs. Perhaps: ♠Q984 ♥752 ♦K65 ♣AKQ

*Or how about:*

**Sime:** 3♦. I like 2NT as an enquiry, and 3♣ as any slam try. Missing these toys, 3♦ is the best I can do. A no-space splinter without describing most of my hand is unhelpful, except to the defence.

**Sandsmark:** 3♦. May be taken as a Trial Bid, but who cares? We are probably very close to a spade slam on this hand, and partner needs to know that. If partner says 3♠, I will make a new slam try with 4♦ (cue). If he accepts the trial bid and cue-bids, I will when the time is ripe apply good old 'Blackie' and, dependent upon the reply, I

will hopefully find a wonderful spade contract at the six level. If partner only says 4♠, all the air leaves my balloon, and I will pass.

**Carruthers:** 3♦. Could we have a 4-4 diamond fit, in which case a diamond slam might be the only making six-level contract? It does no harm to try to find out. If Partner has no wasted heart values, there is certainly room for him to have all the needed cards; 6♠ is not out of the question in any case. A 4♥ splinter might work as well. Over 3♦, if he bids 3♥, 3♠ or 3NT, you'll know slam is unlikely, veering toward impossible. On the other hand, if you bid 4♥, he will also be able to evaluate his cards very well.

**Kokish:** 3♦. Approach would vary if we were playing weak no trump so that the 2♠ raise would have a higher maximum. 4♥ would imply a one-suited slam try. The case for 3♣ (tentatively a game try) is that East will like strong clubs, although she won't know the nature of my ambitions. In real life I would start with 3♥, a short-suit game try, so that East could appreciate the ♦K, good clubs, Qxxx of trumps, and weak heart length. Without that arrow in my quiver, proceeding naturally is as practical as any other plan.

*The short-suit try would indeed be ideal on this one, allowing us to show heart shortage a level lower than a splinter. But without that option 3♦ looks very sensible to me.*

*Ben ploughs a lonely furrow:*

**Green:** 2NT. I think I should make a try as slam could be good opposite some hands; take ♠xxxx ♥Ax ♦xx ♣AKQxx, and now slam is broadly speaking on the spades coming in or the diamond finesse. Over my 2NT asking bid partner

will bid 4♣ and that is music to my ears. Showing the singleton heart (via 4♥) is possible but it doesn't leave partner any room to manoeuvre (and sometimes we might get too high) so I would rather take the slow route.

*2NT would be OK, but I don't think it is part of NBM Standard – though I play it as asking myself. I prefer 3♦ though, as I think partner's diamond fit/lack of fit may be important, and 2NT is more about hand pattern and general strength.*

*Half the panel went for the obvious splinter:*

**Lambardi:** 4♥ if it is a splinter. 3♦ otherwise.

*It's a splinter.*

**Rigal:** 4♥. Splinter, but one that requires



**Barry Rigal**

partner to have the right max to move. Can I sensibly expect partner to have ♠Qxxx ♥xxx ♦Kx ♣AKQx? No I can't but might as well try. With more, 2NT forcing then splinter. In the US 2NT gets responses to define range and degree of trump support. (3/4 cards).

**Sver:** 4♥.

**Bird:** 4♥. Partner may have three spades, but my splinter bid will quell his worries in that case. The alternative of 3♦ will be less effective in this respect, less helpful too.

**Stabell:** 4♥. Splinter. Would have preferred to start slam investigations a level lower, since this puts it to partner, who might feel obliged to bypass 4♠ with a less-than-ideal hand (like ♠Qxxx ♥xx ♦Kx ♣AKxxx). Will we be able to find out that there are two inescapable losers here? Maybe – 5♣ – 5♦ – 5♥ (last train) – 5♠ is possible? But I have to do something that can get us to slam opposite ♠Qxxx ♥xxx ♦x ♣AKQxx and 3♦ (natural, presumably) wouldn't get the job done here.

**Cannell:** 4♥. Self splinter in support of spades. Paint a picture for partner and see if this catches a 5♣ cue-bid, or RKCB when no wasted heart values in partner's hand.

**Leufkens:** 4♥. Get my hand off my chest with one bid; would be nice opposite ♠Qxxx ♥xxx ♦x ♣AKQxx.

**Robson:** 4♥. Splinter bid. I don't like to splinter and give partner no room but feel the hand warrants the slam try.

**Zia:** 4♥. Should get the message across.

*Four Hearts leaves little room for exploration, so it is important to have a partnership style regarding what partner is supposed to do over it.*



*Does he need the perfect to go past game, or can a decent but less than perfect hand do so? I would expect that only the perfect hands would go past 4♠ so that we get to the easy slams but miss the difficult ones. That makes 4♥ safe on this example.*

*Partner held: ♠9853 ♥A104 ♦K94 ♣AK3.*

*Slam is good and I would expect partner to like his hand facing the splinter so that we would get there. He will also like his hand facing a 3♦ try, but may not do enough with his 4-3-3-3 pattern for us to get beyond game. Remember, unless we play Ben's 2NT as the only game try so that 3♦ is known to be a slam try, he will not have slam in mind, but only whether or not to bid game.*

## PROBLEM 6

**IMPs. Dealer West. All Vul.**

♠ 9  
♥ A643  
♦ AK108  
♣ AJ102

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♦	1♠	2♥	4♠
?			

<b>Bid</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Marks</b>
4NT	15	10
5♥	2	4
6♥	1	3

*There is a big majority in favour of 4NT on this one, but we'll start by looking at the minority responses.*

**Smith:** 5♥. 2♥ is not FG in competition so Pass is not-forcing here, which is unfortunate as I'd really like to show slam interest. Unclear how to do so here other than rolling out the Old Black,

and I don't really see how the response to that helps particularly.

**Bird:** 5♥. I assume that 2♥ was not forcing to game, in which case a forcing pass is not available to me. It's close between 5♥ and 6♥, it seems. I will let my reputation for being over-cautious decide the matter.

*I agree that pass is not forcing when the bidding to date has not set up a game-force. Five Hearts is all very well, but we have a lot of control cards and that may make it difficult for partner, who cannot therefore have very many, to go on to slam when he should be doing so. Hence:*

**Sver:** 6♥.

*Niki is on her own but I suspect that a fair few others will end up in the same contract, albeit by different routes.*

*For some, it was all very simple:*

**Sandsmark:** 4NT. Blackout. We must be just millimeters away from 6♥ here, and maybe I shouldn't have asked, only bid it?

**Cannell:** 4NT. RKCB for hearts. We are not in a forcing pass situation as Two Hearts is merely a one-round force. I will go with the aggressive move.

**Sime:** 4NT. I am hoping that partner's black king is not wielding a shovel.

**Apteker:** 4NT. RKCB for last bid suit, being hearts.

**Carruthers:** 4NT. This is not an uncommon situation, and one ought to have the agreement that it is RKCB for partner's major. If partner had bid a minor, it's less clear what 4NT should mean – that's a matter for partnership agreement. Here, 4NT, and the possible follow-up of 5NT, will allow him to bid a cold grand with

♠Axx ♥KQJxx ♦xx ♣KQx or the like. Thanks for giving me that fourth heart.

**Robson:** 4NT. Assuming I'm bidding on, I may as well wield the ol' Black. Pass would not have been forcing chez moi.

**Lambardi:** 4NT. Even if he has ♠K (the worst possible card he could have) he would still need another good card to bid 2♥. Could Pass 4♠ (if clearly defined as forcing) and raise to 5♥ after partner's double as an invitational move, but it is doubtful he would accept with as little as ♥Kxxxxx and a couple of honours in either minor. As little as ♠xxx ♥Kxxxxx ♦Qx ♣Kx gives excellent chances in slam.

**Green:** 4NT. I think this should be Keycard for Hearts. Considering I might make slam opposite Kxxxxx hearts and the king of clubs I don't think I can do less than drive to slam. There doesn't seem to be an easy way to invite in hearts so I'm going to go for it.

*Not everyone is sure as to the meaning of 4NT:*

**Rigal:** 4NT. What is this? Choice of games or a good 5♥ bid... or is it keycard? I suspect views will be split amongst those making the call, and the next time you offer us a hand with diamonds and clubs the responses may change?

**Alder:** 4NT. Let's hope partner thinks this is RKCB for hearts.

**Zia:** 4NT. Is 4 NT key-card? If yes I bid it, if no I bid 6♥.

*I doubt that it is defined in the system, so I was hoping the panel could tell me.*

*There is a significant minority who do not believe that 4NT is RKCB:*

**Stabell:** 4NT. Two places to play - when I follow up with 5♥ over 5♣/♦, partner should realise



that I mean 5♥ and 6♥. If we are in a forcing pass situation, I would have had lots of other options. But I don't think we are since two over one is game-forcing in uncontested auctions only and partner might have stretched to 2♥.

**Brock:** 4NT. For me would not be ace-asking. I will bid 5♥ over whatever partner bids to show a good hand for hearts.

**Leufkens:** 4NT. Too strong for 5♥. So first 4NT, then 5♥ after 5♣ or 5♦ from partner.

**Kokish:** 4NT. Although 2♥ suggests we have the balance of power, it was not forcing to game and we are no longer forced over 4♠. 4NT suggests 6/4 minors or a slam try in hearts, which I should be able to clarify later. If we're stuck with 4NT=KC for hearts in this feature, I'd go that way and almost surely reach 6♥ or 7♥.

*Partner held:* ♠65 ♥KQ9872 ♦QJ72 ♣7

*Six Hearts was, of course, cold, while 4♠ would have been down only two.*

*My own preference is to play 4NT as two places to play, usually six-four in the minors, but to follow through with 5♥ over 5♣/♦ to show a heart slam try.*

## PROBLEM 7

**IMPs. Dealer South. All Vul.**

♠ AK102  
♥ 4  
♦ K92  
♣ AQ765

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	2♦*
?			
2♦	Weak Two		

Bid	Votes	Marks
3♣	8	10
2NT	7	9
2♠	2	6
Dble	1	3

*This one is very nasty, in my opinion, and there was no majority vote from the panel.*

**Sandsmark:** Double. If partner bids hearts, I will bid 3♣ and show a strong hand with long clubs. If partner bids spades, I will be euphorically happy. We may well end up in 3NT here, so it matters what partner can bring to the table.

*OK, but I'd like a touch more strength to go down that route – and what if partner jumps in hearts?*

**Robson:** 2♠. Tricky – and close between 2♠ and 2NT, the latter a better description of my values, the former less of a distortion. The two calls I do not like one bit are double and 3♣.

**Brock:** 2♠. Maybe I'll live to regret this! Don't like double – would be OK if I was stronger, but with this partner may well bid 4♥ which will fix me completely. Don't like 2NT or 3♣ either.

*Yes, you might, but I think this bid has more going for it than some might think.*

*The majority, however, were split between 2NT and 3♣.*

**Alder:** 2NT. Seems normal. Double with the heart singleton is out.

**Green:** 3♣. My alternative is 2NT which I hate with a singleton in a major. Yes, I am heavy for 3♣ and we might miss game some of the time that partner would raise 2NT. I will have another decision to make if partner bids 3♥.

**Lambardi:** 2NT. With all our heart stoppers lying over the opening leader! Same as in the

earlier problem, cannot really double with a singleton heart. Will be wrong when partner has a weak hand with spades but right in the more likely case of his holding hearts.

**Leufkens:** 3♣. I don't like 2NT with a singleton major, which partner doesn't expect. 3♣ is not ideal, also because follow-ups are not easy as well. But at least I don't lie and can see how things develop.

**Sver:** 2NT.

**Rigal:** 3♣. Not by any means perfect but my best shot.

**Sime:** 2NT. Some similarities to number four, but only one stopper. However, double is even more likely to receive an unwelcome response, e.g. 4♥ (what now?). Briefly we flirted with 2♠ on these, but not knowing the combined spade length was too big a drawback.

**Smith:** 3♣. Another one with a choice of bad alternative. 3♣/Dble/2NT/2♠/Pass are all possible and again we have to choose what we think is the least worst of flawed options. Of course we'd like a better suit, but I'd also like a new Mercedes and a month in the Cayman Islands.

**Carruthers:** 2NT. This is similar to Problem 4, where I have to decide whether to bid an inadequate suit, pass, double or venture an unsightly 2NT. I am consistent (at least here.)

**Bird:** 3♣. This is the toughest problem of the set. I have noticed that the big stars on BBO are willing to bid moderate suits when they judge it right to enter the auction.

**Cannell:** 2NT. Once again – yuck! Live by the sword – die by the sword.

**Stabell:** 3♣. Hoping is won't die there. Double or NT will just attract heart bids from partner.

**Kokish:** 2NT. I am nothing if not consistent with flaw hands in this family. Tough to say anything nice about 2NT other than it's not as disgusting imperfect as 3♣, double, or a fancy 2♠.

**Apteker:** 3♣. Similar to problem four, but here the shortness is in a major, which makes 2NT much less desirable as partner could drive us to game in hearts with six. Again, pass is not for me so that leaves 2♠ or 3♣, and I would not consider bidding vulnerable at the two level with a four-card suit.

**Zia:** 3♣. Bidding the longest suit is often a good idea (I would Bid 3♠ over 3♦).

*And I wonder if you would get support for*



**Alon Apteker**

*overcalling in the four-card suit a level higher. Perhaps we'll have to test that out some time.*

*I don't like anything here. Both double and 2NT risk ugly heart contracts, while 2♠ risks playing 4♠ on an inadequate fit. With neither 2NT nor 3♣ being great bargains either, you pays your money and you takes your choice. Partner held: ♠863 ♥K832 ♦J10 ♣K832*

*3NT and 5♣ were both making, while there were nine tricks in a spade contract.*

## PROBLEM 8

**IMPs. Dealer West. All Vul.**

♠ A7  
♥ J6  
♦ AK7  
♣ AK9873

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks
2♦	16	10
2NT	2	4
3NT	0	2

*The biggest vote of the set goes to 2♦. That looks to be the standard approach to this type of problem, so let's just check on those who opt for something else then see why the panel is so strongly in favour of 2♦.*

**Robson:** 2NT. So much easier than reversing, with all its troublesome continuations.

**Zia:** 2NT. In my system 3♦ shows this!!!!  
*Interesting. Most people would play the jump reverse as agreeing spades. Your agreement*

*certainly sorts this problem out nicely though, in truth, 2♦ is such an economical bid, that I don't see the same serious problems with the reverse that Andy alludes to.*

*Let's move on to the majority.*

**Alder:** 2♦. Vieux chapeau.

*It seems that Phillip has learned a new phrase this month.*

**Lambardi:** 2♦. The only forcing bid with long clubs. Partner should be alert to the dubiousness of the diamond suit.

**Rigal:** 2♦. Reversing with this pattern (especially on this economical sequence) is just fine by me. In fact I can't see a choice – but no doubt others will enlighten me.

**Leufkens:** 2♦. Nice start with a reverse. No rush, alternatives have downsides.

**Sver:** 2♦.

**Brock:** 2♦. Too strong for 3♣.

**Smith:** 2♦. Too strong for 3♣ and I don't particularly like 2NT with J-x of the unbid major when I am suitable for play in other denominations. We could yet end up in spades, clubs or no-trumps.

**Stabell:** 2♦. Too much for 2NT or 3♣, and I don't want to grab the NT in case partner is strong (♠KQ ♥K ♦Q ♣Q). I have to drive this hand to game, and 2♦ will keep spades, NT, clubs (and perhaps also diamonds?) in the picture.

**Sandsmark:** 2♦. There is no way to describe this hand fully, for I have aversions against bidding 2NT without a heart stopper. However, I only lie on one card (should have had 4♦), whilst other bids would lie more (or at least not tell the full truth). I think Leif-Erik is likely to bid 2♦ too, but I don't anticipate any other support in the

body of experts. This is the story of my life: I have the most brilliant bids, but my partner doesn't understand me!

**Carruthers:** 2♦. At first I thought, perhaps influenced by my previous 2NT adventures, that I ought to bid 2NT here as well. And I might have done with, for example, ♠Ax ♥Qx ♦AJx ♣AKxxxx. But here, bidding 2♦ leads to pretty easy continuations: 3♣ over 2♥ or 2NT (if it's Ingberman); 3♥ over 2♠, 3♣ or 3♦, 4♠ over 3♠. With all those lovely aces and king, plus the six-card club suit, it's just too good for 2NT.

**Cannell:** 2♦. I expect a plurality for this bid on this panel. Way too much for 3♣ and not a great idea for a 2NT rebid either.

*No plurality, but a big majority!*

**Kokish:** 2♦. Traditional solution to a recurring problem. Those who vote for 2NT or 3♣ may outnumber the reversers, but they won't convince us to join their ranks.

*And no, this time the reversers win the day by a large margin.*

**Green:** 2♦. For me this is a choice between 3NT (showing a source of tricks in clubs) and faking a reverse. Jumping to 3NT makes it very difficult to get to 4♠ as partner won't know when to correct with a six bagger. 4♠ might also be the right spot opposite a good five-card suit so I think 2♦ is more flexible.

*Some play 3NT as a better suit than this, while others would argue that the texture of this hand is wrong for the bid, and there is of course the risk of being wide open in hearts. I think you chose wisely (a novelty) in opting for the reverse. There is plenty of time to get to 3NT if that is where we belong.*

**Sime:** 2♦. It looks like I forgot to open 2NT. Now

I am a trick too strong for 2NT or 3♣. And 3NT is a mis-statement of the club suit. Two Diamonds isn't ideal, but leaves more room than any of these.

**Apteker:** 2♦. I would have opened 2NT with this hand. Bidding 2NT or 3♣ now is a gross underbid. Bidding 3NT is not an unreasonable description of the hand but it is too unilateral and one I would choose if partner's first bid was 1♥. But with spades having been bid by partner, it is possible he is short in hearts and if not, then some level of spades may be the superior contract. 2♦ allows for best strain investigation.

*Well, I can live with a 2NT opening, but that is at most a matter of personal style and hardly an error to fail to make the bid. As you say, 2♦ now leaves room to explore.*

**Bird:** 2♦. I can imagine that the Director had only seven worthwhile problems this month. "I'll have to use that club 19-count. No doubt the usual suspects will moan about the answer being too obvious."

*Because an illustrious personage such as yourself finds this situation easy does not necessarily mean that the readers will also do so and we must attempt to educate as well as entertain. Anyway, it is no bad thing for the bulk of the panel to end the year with an 'easy' 10 points. Happy New Year to you all and may you also begin 2020 with another 10 points.*

*Partner held: ♠KQ1043 ♥K983 ♦Q83 ♣2*

*And we could make 4♠ or 4NT despite a five-one spade split.*

*This month's winner is Pablo Lambardi, with 79 points, with Enri Leufkens second with 77.*



## SET 24 – THE PANEL’S BIDS & MARKS

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Lambardi	Argentina	3♣	4♠	3♠	2NT	4♥	4NT	2NT	2♦	79
Leufkens	Netherlands	Dble	4♠	3♠	2NT	4♥	4NT	3♣	2♦	77
Kokish	Canada	3♣	4♠	3♠	2NT	3♦	4NT	2NT	2♦	76
Cannell	Canada	3♣	4♦	3♠	2NT	4♥	4NT	2NT	2♦	76
Rigal	USA	Dble	4♠	3♠	Dble	4♥	4NT	3♣	2♦	72
Carruthers	Canada	Dble	4♦	3♠	2NT	3♦	4NT	2NT	2♦	70
Sandsmark	Norway	3♣	4♠	3♠	2NT	3♦	4NT	Dble	2♦	70
Bird	England	3♣	5♠	3♠	2NT	4♥	5♥	3♣	2♦	70
Robson	England	3♣	4♠	4♠	2NT	4♥	4NT	2♠	2NT	70
Green	England	3♣	4♠	4♠	2NT	2NT	4NT	3♣	2♦	69
Smith	England	3♣	4♠	3♠	2NT	4♠	5♥	3♣	2♦	69
Zia	USA	3♣	4♠	3♠	Pass	4♥	4NT	3♣	2NT	69
Alder	USA	3♣	5♠	3♠	2NT	3♣	4NT	2NT	2♦	68
Apteker	South Africa	Dble	4♠	2♠	2NT	4♠	4NT	3♣	2♦	66
Stabell	Zimbabwe	Dble	4♦	4♠	Pass	4♥	4NT	3♣	2♦	65
Sime	Scotland	Dble	5♠	4♠	2NT	3♦	4NT	2NT	2♦	65
Brock	England	3♣	4♠	2♠	2NT	4♠	4NT	2♠	2♦	65
Sver	Croatia	3♣	4♦	4♠	Dble	4♥	6♥	2NT	2♦	60





## Master Point Bidding Battle Competition – Set 25

Open to All – Free Entry

### PROBLEM 1

IMPs. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ Q5  
♥ 6  
♦ AQ3  
♣ AKJ9653

West	North	East	South
–	2♦*	2♥	2♠*
?			
2♦ Weak			
2♠ F1			

### PROBLEM 2

IMPs. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ AK54  
♥ K8  
♦ AKQ64  
♣ 76

West	North	East	South
–	1♠	Pass	2♠
?			

### PROBLEM 3

IMPs. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A5432  
♥ 2  
♦ AK876  
♣ J6

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♥	3♣
?			

### PROBLEM 4

IMPs. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 85  
♥ A  
♦ AJ1076  
♣ A10754

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	2♥*
?			
2♥ Weak			

### PROBLEM 5

IMPs. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A8753  
♥ K4  
♦ AQ  
♣ AQ106

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	3♥
?			

### PROBLEM 6

IMPs. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q  
♥ 98643  
♦ AQJ74  
♣ K3

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♣
?			

### PROBLEM 7

IMPs. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 9  
♥ A97  
♦ AQ84  
♣ AK753

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♠	Pass
?			

### PROBLEM 8

Pairs. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ AQ  
♥ 853  
♦ AK10864  
♣ 86

West	North	East	South
–	3♠	4♣*	4♠
?			
4♣	Just clubs		

Send entry to [biddingbattle@newbridgemag.com](mailto:biddingbattle@newbridgemag.com) or enter via the website [www.newbridgemag.com](http://www.newbridgemag.com).

Entries to arrive before the end of the month.

# A New Bridge Magazine Bidding System

## Attention!!!

*The Bidding System will be modified – It will be updated next month as per Brian’s comments in his recent moderations.*

### 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](mailto:biddingbattle@newbridgemag.com) or enter via the website [www.newbridgemag.com](http://www.newbridgemag.com). Entries must be received before the end of the month. Include your name, email address and number of the set which you are entering.

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  
January 2020 The uBid Auction Room

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 West. N/S Vul.

♠ 752  
♥ 9  
♦ J106532  
♣ A53

### Hand 2. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 10952  
♥ A1074  
♦ 4  
♣ AKJ7

North opens 3♦. South raises to 4♦ if able

### Hand 3. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ KQ10  
♥ A10  
♦ A5  
♣ AKQ965

North opens 3♥

### Hand 4. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ AQ943  
♥ A105  
♦ KQ64  
♣ A

South opens a natural 4♣

### Hand 5. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ J87  
♥ —  
♦ AK932  
♣ KQJ82

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

♠ AJ98652  
♥ AQ4  
♦ A8  
♣ 4

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

♠ Q754  
♥ Q102  
♦ 1082  
♣ AK9

If West passes, North opens a 12-14 1NT.  
North/South run to clubs if doubled in 1NT

### Hand 8. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J64  
♥ AKQ52  
♦ KQ32  
♣ 2

South overcalls 3dx

## MASTER POINT BIDDING BATTLE



### Results – Set 23

**Bill March** (74) and **Dudley Leigh** (73) were the runaway toppers this month, with **Steve Handley** (67) winning the sprint of the peloton. They get a prize from Master Point Press.

Regular entrant **George Willett** saw his perseverance rewarded by being drawn out of the hat and getting the fourth prize.

### Other Good Scores

66 *Dean Pokorny*

65 *Meic Goodyear, Mark Bartusek*

64 *David Barnes, Giovanni Macchia*

63 *Alex Athanasiadis, Cynthia Handley, Todd Holes*

62 *Dominic Connolly*

61 *Nigel Guthrie, Andy Poole, Peter Barker*

### The Yearly Standings:

In the year's standings, the following readers share the first 22 places. **Bill March** jumps to the top of the leader board as well.

<i>Bill March</i>	362
<i>Dean Pokorny</i>	358
<i>Mike Perkins</i>	344
<i>Dominic Connolly</i>	342
<i>Mark Bartusek</i>	341
<i>Alex Athanasiadis</i>	333
<i>Todd Holes</i>	332
<i>Dudley Leigh</i>	331
<i>Rodney Lighton</i>	328
<i>Mike Ralph</i>	327
<i>Bazil Caygill</i>	324

<i>Steve Handley</i>	323
<i>Colin Brown</i>	320
<i>David Barnes</i>	318
<i>Bill Linton</i>	313
<i>Carles Acero</i>	313
<i>Nelson Pearson</i>	310
<i>Peter Barker</i>	310
<i>Nigel Guthrie</i>	309
<i>George Willett</i>	307
<i>Peter Becker</i>	304
<i>Martin Turner</i>	303

By the time you read this, it is too late to do anything about the 2019 final ranking, which shall appear in next month's instalment. But make certain you don't miss this month's set of problems, to get a good start on the 2020 series.

# Comments on Bidding Battle Set 23

Brian Senior examines the responses of the readers and compares them against those of the panel.

## PROBLEM 2

IMPs. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ –  
♥ AQ109543  
♦ AKJ87  
♣ 3

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	3♠	3NT	4♠
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
5NT	8	10	0
6♦	5	8	10
5♠	4	9	7
4NT	1	4	0
6♥	1	3	1
5♦	0	2	13

Not a single reader opted for the action chosen by the plurality of the panel – 5NT. Meanwhile, roughly 40% of the readers were happy to stop in game, while only one panellist was prepared to do so. For this feature to mean anything, we have to score it by what the panel thinks, and not by what would have worked at the table. In practice, even 5♦ was too high so there was no way to go plus other than by defending 4♠, doubled or otherwise – and nobody, panellist or reader, thought that was a good idea. I'll award a consolation 2 points to the readers who bid 5♦, as they would have gained points in real life against the panel, but I am confident that the panel made the right long-term decision when they voted strongly for a commitment to slam.

## PROBLEM 4

IMPs. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J  
♥ Q1043  
♦ 1098632  
♣ K5

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	Pass
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
3♦	8	10	5
Pass	8	9	22
2♦	3	7	4
1♥	0	2	0
1NT	0	2	0
2NT	0	2	0

Dudley Leigh asked if this was a joke – he certainly doesn't want a diamond lead.

No, we don't want a diamond lead, but we do want to make life more difficult for our vulnerable opponents, and there was a majority for action of some kind from the panel. None of the three bids to which I had already made a modest award attracted any interest from the readers, and neither did any reader come up with something else to show off their imagination. Where nearly 60% of the panel made an opening bid, it was only roughly half that number of readers who did so. I doubt that the passers will be changing their approach to this kind of situation any time soon.

## PROBLEM 5

*IMPs. Dealer East. All Vul.*

♠ J2  
♥ AKQ1094  
♦ 96  
♣ 865

West	North	East	South
–	–	2♥	Double
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
4♥	10	10	19
5♥	2	6	7
Pass	1	5	2
Redouble	1	5	0
2♠	1	5	1
NT	1	5	1
NT	1	5	0
♦	1	5	0
♠	1	5	0
♥	0	5	1

The top reader vote matched the top panel vote, so both groups were on much the same wavelength. There were fewer imaginative efforts from the readership, which is as we would expect. The only action selected by a reader that was not chosen by any of the panel was the quiet raise to 3♥. This leaves a little more bidding space than a jump to 4♥, but I cannot say definitively that it is worse than the various psychic efforts, so I'm happy to award the same 5 points to 3♥ as to the other minority efforts.

## PROBLEM 6

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

♠ –  
♥ 92  
♦ A1082  
♣ AJ98753

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♠
2♣	4♠	5♥	5♠
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
5NT	12	10	8
6♥	3	7	7
Pass	2	6	8
Double	1	2	5
NT	1	0	0
6♣	0	2	3

For the second time in the set, the top panel vote was for a 'clever' 5NT bid, intended to imply more than one place to play. That action was also chosen by around a quarter of the readers – well done to that happy band, I think, for finding the expert bid. The panel as a whole expected partner to have a strong heart suit and three of them even supported hearts directly on the nine-doubleton, while none repeated the clubs. However, the general mood of the panel was to bid on, so the three readers who went for a 6♣ bid get a consolation award of 2 points.

## PROBLEM 7

*IMPs. Dealer North. All Vul.*

♠ A4  
♥ KQJ72  
♦ 842  
♣ AKJ

West	North	East	South
–	1♦	Pass	1♠
Double ?	Pass	1NT	Pass

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
2♥	6	10	15
2♦	4	8	1
2NT	4	7	5
3NT	3	6	9
2♠	2	6	0
Pass	0	0	1

All 19 panellists bid on with the West cards, with some committing to game. While 1NT may have to be bid on limited values on occasions, in principle it is a constructive response, and the one reader who voted to pass was at odds with both the panel and his fellows, so no award this time I'm afraid.

## PROBLEM 8

*IMPs. Dealer East. None Vul.*

♠ AQJ106  
♥ 108  
♦ AJ6  
♣ 1054

West	North	East	South
–	–	3♦	3NT
?			

Bid	Votes	Marks	Readers
4♦	14	10	17
4♠	2	6	1
Pass	2	4	7
Double	1	2	5
5♦	0	2	1

While the reader vote for 4♦ was not as high as the panel vote, it was still a majority. There was one reader who opted for a jump to 5♦ – which has the merit of cutting out a possible heart contract by N/S. I'm reasonably happy with the majority choice on this one, but I'll award a couple of points to 5♦, as it could work out well.



## EAST

Hands for the  
January 2020 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 West. N/S Vul.

♠ AQJ43  
♥ A10  
♦ 9  
♣ KJ984

### Hand 2. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AKQ76  
♥ K532  
♦ 76  
♣ 82

*North opens 3♦. South raises to 4♦ if able*

### Hand 3. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ AJ9542  
♥ —  
♦ 10943  
♣ J73

*North opens 3♥*

### Hand 4. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 102  
♥ J987  
♦ A832  
♣ J42

*South opens a natural 4♣*

### Hand 5. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AQ  
♥ AJ9742  
♦ 1065  
♣ 93

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

♠ Q4  
♥ K7653  
♦ J107  
♣ AK5

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

♠ A82  
♥ J4  
♦ KQJ9643  
♣ 3

*If West passes, North opens a 12-14 1NT.  
North/South run to clubs if doubled in 1NT*

### Hand 8. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ Q73  
♥ 7  
♦ 108  
♣ AKQJ743

*South overcalls 3♦*

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