

BRIDGE

Number One Hundred and Fifty-Three

September 2015

Bernard Magee's Acol Bidding Quiz

You are West in the auctions below, playing 'Standard Acol' with a weak no-trump (12-14 points) and 4-card majors.

1. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ K 4 3
♥ A 7 6
♦ A 8 3 2
♣ A 4 3



West	North	East	South
?			

2. Dealer East. E/W Game.

♠ J 3
♥ Q J 5 4
♦ Q J 5 4
♣ A K Q



West	North	East	South
?		3♠	Pass

3. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ 7 6
♥ 9 3 2
♦ A K 8 7 5 2
♣ 5 3



West	North	East	South
?	2♣ ¹	2NT	Pass
	16-10pts & 6 spades		

Answers on page 2

4. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ A K 3
♥ 6 3 2
♦ A J 6 5 4 3
♣ 9



West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
?			

5. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ A K 3
♥ 6 3 2
♦ A 6 5 4 3
♣ A K



West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
?			

6. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ A K 4
♥ 8 6 3
♦ A J 5 4
♣ A 7 3



West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
?			

Answers on page 9

7. Dealer South. Love All.

♠ A 8 7 6
♥ A 4 3
♦ A 7 4
♣ A 3 2



West	North	East	South
?			1NT

8. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ 2
♥ K Q 9 7 5
♦ A 9 8 6 2
♣ A K



West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
?			

9. Dealer East. N/S Game.

♠ 9
♥ 7 6 5
♦ Q J 10 6 5 4
♣ K 8 7



West	North	East	South
?		1♣	Dbl

Answers on page 12

10. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ K Q 8 3
♥ K 2
♦ A 7 6
♣ Q J 7 6



West	North	East	South
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
?			18-19

11. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ 8 7 6
♥ K 2
♦ K Q 4 3
♣ K 8 3 2



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

12. Dealer East. Game All.

♠ A K 5 4 3
♥ 8 6
♦ 9 5 2
♣ 7 6 3



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

Answers on page 14



Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 1-3 on the Cover

1. Dealer West. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
?			

1NT. 4-3-3-3 hands are my least favourite hands: in fact, I like to take a full point off when evaluating them. You have no tens and nines, so there is no room to upgrade there and the final element to assess about your hand is how the honours fit together. All of your honours are isolated which is a bad factor – generally, honours work better when they are together. Taking into account all these factors, I would evaluate this hand as a ‘bad’ 14 points.

You are playing a weak no-trump (12-14), therefore you should open 1NT. The playing potential fits in the range and when your partner chooses to pass 1NT, you will finish in the right contract. 25 HCP between the two hands, but very little chance of nine tricks – the usual result will be 3NT going two down.

This kind of answer can cause controversy because you have 15 HCP and that does not fit in the 12-14 range. However,

good bridge players should always use their full hand evaluation techniques – if you do so, your results will improve no end.

If in doubt, you can announce 12-14 including evaluation, or perhaps write on your card that you use hand evaluation. However, this all sounds a little patronising, but you must not change your announcement to 12-15 because that is not accurate at all – you are not opening any hands worth 15 points 1NT – only hands that you value as 12-14.

2. Dealer East. E/W Game.

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



West	North	East	South
?		3♣	Pass

Pass. The general rule opposite a pre-empt is that 16 HCP is enough to go for game. However, that is slightly simplified because queens and jacks are not so valuable opposite a pre-emptive hand. Your partner's hand is likely to be short in the outside suits which means you need aces and kings to try to win tricks. You

are basically looking for about four quick tricks opposite a pre-empt.

Here, you have three tricks in clubs, but the rest of your high cards are likely to be relatively worthless. Placing your partner with six tricks, you have three to add, so you hope to make 9 tricks in spades and therefore should pass.

On this occasion, you may well lose four top tricks and a trump, so 3♣ would go one off, but that is better than two off in 4♣.

3NT will make only if the spades break 2-2, otherwise you will struggle to make more than 6 or 7 tricks.

3. Dealer North. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
?	2♠ ¹	2NT	Pass
			16-10pts, 6 spades

3NT. North has opened with a weak pre-emptive bid of 2♠. Over weak openings, your no-trump bids should be natural: 2NT would show 16-19 HCP and a spade stop. You should play all the normal systems over this natural no-trump bid, so if you play transfers, 3♦ would show five or more hearts.

However, whether you play transfers or not, you should not be contemplating playing in diamonds. When you have a strong and long minor suit headed by the ace, then you should generally favour playing in no-trumps. Your partner has shown all-round strength so he may well have something in diamonds, but even if he hasn't, you still have a good chance of developing the suit.

Furthermore, no-trumps scores a lot more points than a diamond contract. Bid 3NT and cross your fingers. On this hand, you have ten top tricks if the diamonds break normally. ■

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AT LAST



I still have no shelves in my office following my spring clean and redecoration reported in the last issue. However, I have found a few more bits and pieces to sell off at reduced prices as all mail order stocks have now been relocated. The best clearance bargain has to be *Bernard Magee's Acol Bidding* tutorial CD £39, see this month's carrier sheet as new production is held up until the end of October when it will be sold with a compatible AppleMac version.

CHANGES

In the course of the next four months ahead of Christmas, there will be a further series of changes, as new writers are launched. You can see I am still trying to improve BRIDGE, evidence the better quality paper stock that I have introduced with this month's issue.

I do hope you like it.

MORE SPACE

You will receive advice about future promotions in a new newsletter which will replace my column in this publication, as I am determined to further increase the bridge content. My surveys have made clear what you, the reader, wants and I see it as my job for the next few years to deliver it... in spades.

So dear readers, be patient with me these next few months while I work

behind the scenes to put together all the changes to ensure that your magazine has a really bright future.

LITTLE VOICE

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2016 DIARIES

Both versions of the 2016 Bridge Players' Diaries are now in stock. The standard version has navy, red, green or maroon covers, £6.95 each. The luxury version with ball point pen and kidrell cover, comes with ruby red or navy covers at £14.95 each.

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Topics

COUNTING DEFENCE

Defence is the hardest aspect of bridge, but if you can learn to defend in conjunction with your partner, it becomes the most rewarding element at the same time.

EXTRA TRICKS IN NO-TRUMPS

Long suits are an integral part of the bidding and the play – developing extra tricks from them will often be the difference between making or going down in your contract.

SUPPORTING PARTNER

When you hold support for your partner, the two hands can fully evaluate, often allowing the partnership to bid much higher than the high card points might suggest. We will look at a number of conventions that can help you bid to good games and bid to great slams.

FINESSING

Finesses come in all sorts of different varieties and come up on almost every hand you play. Getting the most out of your honour combinations is a crucial part of declarer play. Should you lead high or low, finesse to the right or to the left?

BIDDING DISTRIBUTIONAL HANDS

Distributional hands can be great fun to bid and to play, particularly when you find a fit. And how do you find a fit... by bidding more!

COPING WITH PRE-EMPTS

How do you defend against pre-empts and weak twos; how do you cope with weak overcalls and jump support? When your bidding space is taken away you have to use a few extra techniques, but most of all you have to use your judgement. Improving your understanding will allow you to collect the big penalties and better scores.

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David Stevenson answers your questions on Laws and Ethics



What Happens if Declarer Leads from the Wrong Hand?

Q I was in 5♦ with a 5-5 trump fit. On the third trick, the lead should have come from dummy, but I led the ♦3 from my hand. The others said, 'table.' I left the card on the table and called for the ♦A from dummy. RHO's singleton ♦K dropped.

The contract made, and then the balloon went up. RHO shouted, 'Cheat!' and I was startled to say the least. He said that I should have played from hand as there was a chance that I might have finessed the jack and, therefore, he would have made his bare ♦K. My reply was that I had no intention of finessing as I held ten trumps. On swinging back in his chair, he again said, 'cheat.' I called the director and he was reprimanded. That was the end of it, but the atmosphere in the club was horrid for the rest of the evening as everyone heard him and I was very shaken. This person had been very unpleasant to others over the years, but this time he really excelled himself. How do you view this sort of situation? May I ask what

you would have done in these circumstances?

Name & address supplied.

A It is unfortunate that, in many clubs, when declarer leads from the wrong hand they just tell her to lead from the other hand. Dummy has no right to say anything and should keep quiet, though dummies rarely do. While dummy has the right to warn against leading from the wrong hand, once a card has been led, he can no longer warn and has no rights whatever.

The defenders are also somewhat misguided. They have the right to accept or reject the lead out of turn, as they would have discovered by calling the director. Since they did not and both said, 'table,' it is reasonable to presume that they are both rejecting the lead out of turn. Note that if they said, 'You are in dummy, we'd better call the director,' then they have neither accepted nor rejected the lead out of turn.

Once you were told to lead from dummy you can lead any card you like, picking your own card up, and if you want to cash the ♦A, why not?

What would I have done if I had been directing? I would have given him a disciplinary penalty of 20% of

a top and warned him as to his future behaviour. I would have warned him that if he were to repeat his behaviour I would eject him from the duplicate. Furthermore, I would write an account of the occurrence and submit it to the club committee, suggesting that he should be ejected from the club if there was any repeat. In bad behaviour situations, it is very important that the director issues disciplinary penalties and does not just warn.

In fact, if, as you seem to suggest, his accusation was made loud enough for everyone to hear, then I would increase the penalty to 50% of a top and tell him the penalty and warn him also in a voice loud enough for everyone to hear.

It is worth pointing out that if he had accepted the lead out of turn, as is his right, you might have finessed, and with a singleton king his failure to accept the lead out of turn is very misguided.



Q At a recent evening of duplicate bridge, my partner opened 3♥ with 11 points. When our opponents found that she also had a



singleton, they claimed she had opening points and should have opened 1♥ and, as a consequence, they were misled by the three-level opening. When my partner said she had been taught that 8 to 11 points and a 7-card suit was appropriate for a pre-emptive bid, our opponents indicated that this could be a situation where they might decide to call the tournament director because of a misleading bid. I would be interested to know if such a bid is unacceptable.

On an associated subject, can the director penalise you for failing to open with just three aces?

M Gould by email.

A There seems a growing idea that people must play the same way as their opponents, but it is not true in any way. Much of this game is about making judgements, and many players' judgement differs from other players' judgement.

If a player opens 3♥ with 11 points, that is her decision

and there is no reason why she should justify it. Similarly, some players think three bare aces should not be opened: if they think so, they may pass.

Calling the director because a player has been misled by a player's judgement is just pointless: there is no rule that different players should play the same way and there is no reason to suppose it misleads opponents. I wonder what difference it made? As for what difference having a singleton makes, that suggests merely that the opponents' judgement is fairly poor.

I am very worried about threatening to call the director, but not doing so. That is intimidation and is illegal and unethical. If a player does not like what his opponent is doing, either he accepts it, or he calls the director.



Q Can you explain the dealing rules please?

David and Maureen Ball by email.

A At rubber bridge, when a player is to deal he finds the cards on his left where they were placed after being shuffled, he passes them to

his right for cutting, RHO takes the top off the pack and puts it face down towards him, the dealer completes the cut and then deals the cards one at a time clockwise beginning on his left. While he is doing this, his partner shuffles the other pack, leaving it to his right.

At duplicate, all the boards are dealt before any of them are played. It makes no difference who deals which board. Each player takes the cards out of a board, shuffles them, cuts them and then deals them into four piles in any way such that consecutive cards do not go in the same pile. After that, the piles are put into the pockets of the board: it does not matter which pile goes into which pocket.



Q Recently, I have started playing online on BBO. Please can you tell me how the IMPs are calculated?

Pamela McTrusty, Lakenheath.

A I understand that they use what is called the Butler method. This takes the average of the scores on the board (the datum) probably after discarding a couple of extreme scores, then IMP all the scores against that datum.

Suppose there were only six scores, +1,400, +620, +600, +600, -100, -200. They take the average of the middle four scores, $(620+600+600-100)/4 = 430$, and IMP them against the datum +430, getting +14 IMPs, +5 IMPs, +5 IMPs, +5 IMPs, -11 IMPs, -12 IMPs.

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2 Competitive Auctions

This seminar focuses on competitive auctions from the perspective of the overcalling side and then from the opening side in the second part. (86 mins.)

3 Making the Most of High Cards

This seminar helps declarer to use his high cards more carefully and then looks at how defenders should care for their high cards. (83 mins.)

4 Identifying & Bidding Slams

The first half of this seminar identifies when a slam might be on. The second half covers some slam-bidding techniques. (96 mins.)

5 Play & Defence of 1NT Contracts

This seminar looks at the most common and yet most feared of contracts: 1NT. The first half looks at declaring 1NT and the second part at defending. (88 mins.)

6 Doubling & Defence against Doubled Contracts

The first half of this seminar explores penalty doubles and the second half discusses the defence against doubled contracts. (88 mins.)

7 Leads

Bernard takes you through the basic leads and the importance of your lead choice. If you start to think about your partner's hand, you will get better results. (95 mins.)

8 Losing Trick Count

A way of hand evaluation for when you find a fit. Bernard deals with the basics of the LTC then looks at advanced methods to hone your bidding. (92 mins.)

9 Making a Plan as Declarer

Bernard explains how to make a plan then expands on how to make the most of your long suits, both in no-trumps and suit contracts. (87 mins.)

10 Responding to 1NT

This seminar deals with Transfers and Stayman in detail. The 1NT opening comes up frequently, so having a good, accurate system of responses is paramount. (93 mins.)

11 Signals & Discards

This seminar deals with Count, Attitude and Suit-preference signals: aiming to get you working as a partnership in defence. (92 mins.)

12 Endplay

Bernard takes you through the basics of endplays before showing some hands where you can take extra tricks, then looks at how to avoid being endplayed. (80 mins.)

13 Hand Evaluation

Going beyond just the point-count is important. Reaching & making 3NT on 24 HCP; and avoiding 3NT on 26 HCP when there are only 7 or 8 tricks. (110 mins.)

14 Pre-Emptive Bidding

The art of pre-empting is so important in the modern game. Understanding the right hands to bid up on and realising the importance of position and vulnerability. (96 mins.)

15 Splinter & Cue Bids

Splinter bids are a vital tool to add to your slam bidding armoury & try your hand at Italian style cue bidding. (116 mins.)

16 Avoidance Play

As declarer, an important tactic is to be in control of the defenders: avoiding a particular defender getting the lead. As a defender, you can try to make sure the right player gets the lead. (88 mins.)

17 Play & Defence at Pairs

Duplicate Pairs is the game most of us play and getting used to the tactics will make a lot of difference to your performance. (90 mins.)

18 Thinking Defence

By far the hardest aspect of bridge, but if you can improve your defence your results will quickly improve. Learn how to think through the defence. (87 mins.)

19 Defensive Plan

Looking at your own hand, then at dummy and envisaging how partner's hand will allow you to make a plan for the defence. (112 mins.)

20 Further Into the Auction

The first two bids of an auction are usually easy, but beyond that the complications increase. Learn how to 'talk' to your partner during the bidding. (95 mins.)

21 Weak Twos

It is important to bid more in the modern game and weak twos are an important choice for the competitive player. (104 mins.)

22 Trump Control

Handling the play of the hand when trumps break badly is an important attribute: playing calmly and using a variety of tactics to pave the way to success. (76 mins.)

23 Sacrificing

An exciting aspect of the auction is outbidding your opponents and going down, but gaining by doing so. Learn to bid more aggressively. (105 mins.)

24 Improving Bridge Memory

Remembering every card is a dream for most of us. However, learn ways in which to remember the important things. (90 mins.)

25 Defence as Partner of the Leader

Defence is the hardest aspect of the game, it is where most players can make great progress. (104 mins.)

26 Aggressive Bidding at Duplicate Pairs

Years ago, you needed 13 HCP to open the bidding and rarely competed for a partscore. Now the norm is to open lighter and compete for every hand. (114 mins.)

27 Strong Opening Bids

Managing your strong bids carefully can give you great joy, particularly when you have a neat bidding sequence to a lovely slam. (122 mins.)

28 Take-Out Doubles

Bernard deals with basic take-out doubles and their responses, then progresses to talk about competing for every partscore. (99 mins.)

29 Suit Establishment in Suit Contracts

5-card suits (and longer) are powerful things: Bernard tries to get across his passion for them by showing you how to develop your extra tricks through establishment. (81 mins.)

30 Landy / Defending Against a 1NT Opening

Competing against a 1NT opening allows you to challenge for the partscore and disrupts your opponents' conventions. Bernard talks about competing over 1NT in general and then about Landy. (85 mins.)



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Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 4-6 on the Cover

4. Dealer West. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
?			

3♦.

Your partner makes a weak raise to 2♦: showing four-card diamond support with 6-9 points. You have no chance for game, so passing looks obvious. However, with such a big fit in diamonds, you can be pretty sure your opponents will have a fit too and you should make it difficult for them to come in. If you pass 2♦, North will wonder where all the points are and may borrow a little to make a bid of some sort. Your opponents have a fit in hearts and can make nine tricks comfortably. However, over your raise to 3♦ they are unlikely to come in.

5. Dealer West. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
?			

2♠.

Your partner makes a weak raise to 2♦: showing four-card diamond support with 6-9 points. Whenever your partnership agrees a minor suit, they should both be aware of the possibility of a no-trump

contract: new suits are used to show stoppers rather than suggest a different trump contract.

With 18 HCP and a five-card suit, game has got to be on the cards, but without a heart stop, it is a little risky to gamble on no-trumps. Instead, you should start by showing the suits in which you have a stop. Bid 2♠, showing a spade stop, but also denying a heart stop. Your partner can respond 2NT to show he has hearts stopped and you can raise to 3NT. It is important that 3NT is played by East or you might lose the first five heart tricks. Played by East, the ♥K is protected on the lead, so you can collect your nine tricks safely.

6. Dealer West. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
?			

Pass.

Your partner makes a weak raise to 2♦: showing four-card diamond support with 6-9 points.

You have the dreaded 4-3-3-3 shape, with which I like to downgrade my hand by a full point. Evaluating your hand as 15 points suggests game is beyond you and with the balanced shape, there is no reason to bid on.

With your extra strength on this board, you are not so worried about your opponents competing: it is only with weaker distributional hands that you push the bidding upwards. ■


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Should I Pre-empt or Open at a Lower Level?

If you open at the three level or higher, you make life harder for the opposition than you do opening at the one level. You also reduce partner's options and remove the option of playing at a lower level. Which is better depends upon the relative offensive and defensive strength of your hand together with your position at the table and the vulnerability.

Values outside your long suit, other than aces, tend to be defensive in nature. A strong long suit is offensive. Distribution – singletons and voids are generally offensive in nature too. The higher the offensive to defensive strength potential of your hand, the more attractive it is to pre-empt.

The best position to pre-empt is in third seat. If your partner cannot open, the chance that you are making life tough for the opponents rather than your partner increases. First seat, when either opponent might hold a good hand, is the next best position. Second seat, when partner is just as likely to hold a good hand as the other opponent, is the worst position. Even aggressive bidders who take various liberties in first or third seat tend to go by the textbook in second seat. The textbook standard for a 3-level pre-empt is 5-9 HCP and a seven-card suit.

The best vulnerability to pre-empt is when only the other side is vulnerable. Any penalty you concede is likely to be lower than the value of any game or slam their way. The opponents are also least likely to double you when only they are vulnerable and most likely to allow you to push them to a level at which you might defeat them.

Let us begin with some example hands sent in by a reader, Alan Cooke.

Hand 1. First in hand at game all.

♠ K Q J 7 4 3 2
♥ K
♦ Q 8
♣ 7 6 4

Hand 2. First in hand at game all.

♠ Q 8
♥ A Q J 10 6 5 3
♦ 9 5
♣ K Q

Hand 3. Fourth in hand with only your side vulnerable

♠ 10
♥ A K Q 4 3
♦ K Q 4
♣ A 7 5 2

On Hand 1, I recommend opening 1♠. You have 11 high-card points – enough for a one-level opening. The vulnerability – game all – is not particularly conducive to pre-empting. Moreover, almost half your high cards are in your short suits. Remember, values in your short suits, especially secondary values and most of all unguarded honours, are more likely to take tricks defending than as declarer. At the table, the dealer opened 4♠ and lost 800 for a terrible score.

It would be more attractive to pre-empt (with 3♠ rather than 4♠) if the red suit holdings were a small singleton and a small doubleton. I suppose you might still lose 800 if partner has a bust but the opponents might then have a slam available.

On Hand 2, again I recommend opening at the one level: 1♥. As on Hand 1, you have a lot of values – in this case a full half – in your short suits. Moreover, with 14 points in high cards and some fast defensive winners, you have relatively little to fear from allowing the opponents into the auction. The 7222 shape is also a downer for pre-empting. At the table, a 4♥ opening was not success. Give the hand a void in spades rather than the actual Q-x and it would be far more attractive to open at a higher level – you would then have a good reason to try

to keep the opponents out (stopping them from finding a spade fit) while you would have fewer losers in 4♥.

Hand 3 is no misprint. I have included it because, at the table, the winning action would have been to open 4♥. The actual 1♥ opening allowed the opponents to get together to sacrifice in 4♠ doubled (down only 300 against a vulnerable game). While it is true that you might open 4♥ if you had committed an infraction that silenced your partner for the auction (like opening out of turn), all sorts of possible contracts could be right. If you do not have a heart fit, 3NT could be right. Even facing a passed partner, a slam in one of the minor suits remains possible. You really cannot open 4♥ on the off chance that the opponents have – and find – a profitable sacrifice.

Let us conclude with some hands on which pre-empting is sensible:

Hand 4. First in hand at love all.

♠ 6
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 9 5 3
♣ K Q 10 7 3 2

You should open 3♣. You have very little defence against the majors but fair playing strength yourself. Make the opponents start at the three level.

Hand 5. Third in hand at love all.

♠ Void
♥ A Q J 9 6 4 3
♦ K 10 3
♣ Q 7 4

Open 4♥. You have little defence against a spade contract and the chance of missing a slam facing a passed partner is low. You might open this hand 4♥ in first seat or at other vulnerabilities – doing so is clear cut in third seat. ■



Making a Plan as Declarer

This DVD focuses on the fundamentals of declarer play and particularly on trying to make a plan. It needs to start at trick one: when dummy comes down, declarer should think the whole hand through. Do not plan just one suit at a time: try to plan your way through a hand.

My acronym for the plan is: do it with **ATTITWDE**, yes, with a W.

A is for Aim

How many tricks you are hoping for.

TT is for Top Tricks

These are tricks that can be made without any help.

♠ AK732	♠ Q8
♥ KQJ10	♥ 976
♦ 983	♦ AQ2
♣ 4	♣ AK875



You, West, are declarer in 3NT after the ♣Q lead. How many top tricks are there?

Three in spades, none in hearts, ♦A and ♣AK = six top tricks.

Top tricks are tricks you can make without giving up the lead; tricks will certainly come from the heart suit, but those come under the next heading.

IT is for Increasing Tricks

There are three normal ways of establishing extra tricks in no-trump contracts, each on show in the hand above. Length tricks might come from spades; high card tricks can be

established in hearts and then further techniques can be used to make a trick in diamonds (finessing).

The aim is to increase the tricks from your foundation (top tricks) to your aim and thereby make your contract.

WD is for Worrying about the Defence

Counting stops in no-trump contracts and often requiring added techniques such as holding up.

E is for Execution

Finalise your plan, by making sure you can get from hand to hand – can you lead from the right hand and can you reach your winners?

Trump Contracts

In the second part of the DVD, I talk about trump contracts and the extra methods available for making extra tricks. Ruffing is such an important aspect of suit contracts, often providing the extra tricks required.

♠ AK10632	♠ QJ85
♥ A543	♥ 9
♦ 9	♦ A742
♣ 64	♣ AK87



You, West are playing in 7♠ on the lead of the ♦K.

You count your top tricks: 6 spades, ♥A, ♦A and ♣A-K = 10.

You need three more tricks: they will come from ruffing.

I make sure you understand the difference between ruffing in the long

trump hand and the short trump hand. This is fundamental to making the most of your trump suit.

You have counted six trump winners on this hand: if you ruff a diamond in the West hand you will have decreased your trump holding to five, but the ruff would still give you six – nothing gained. However, when you ruff hearts in the short trump hand, things are very different – you still have the six trumps in the West hand and can add a ruff – seven trump tricks.

Every time you ruff in the short trump hand, you gain a trick. This means your plan is simple – you aim to take three ruffs in the East hand, taking your top 10 tricks and adding three will give your grand slam.

You win the ♦A, play ♥A and ruff a heart with the ♠8, diamond ruffed with the ♠Q, a trump to the ace and the fourth heart ruffed with the ♠J. If trumps have split, then you can ruff a diamond with the ♠10 and draw the last trump with the ♠K. Thirteen tricks are yours.

Of course, when you need to ruff, then you will generally have to delay drawing trumps. The timing of drawing trumps is an integral part of the second section of the DVD. As always, declarer is urged to draw trumps as soon as possible, but I also suggest looking out for the common reasons when delaying trumps might work best.

Declarer play is a wonderful part of the game of bridge: if you can get more confident at making plans, you will find this part of the game will grow and grow. From firm foundations, wonderful contracts can be made and great scores be achieved. ■

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Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 7-9 on the Cover

7. Dealer South. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
?			1NT

Pass. South opens 1NT and it is your turn to call. How much strength do you need to double 1NT for penalties? A good 15 points or better.

How would you evaluate your hand? I hate the 4-3-3-3 shape and like to take a full point off for it, which leaves the hand worth 15 points. Are there any redeeming features to the hand? No tens or nines and all of the points isolated leaves my final evaluation as a 'bad 15'. Four aces are wonderful in suit contracts, but are worth just four tricks in no-trumps.

I would pass and hope that I might just defeat 1NT by disguising my strength.

Your partner has 6 HCP but, with the lack of potential in your hand, 1NT is likely to come home even with just 18 HCP – they have all the beef – tens and nines as well as honours working together.

8. Dealer West. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
?			

4♦. You opened 1♥, North overcalled 1♠ and then your respective partners supported, creating a very competitive auction. What are your ambitions on the board?

5-5 hands are wonderful if you find a fit – they offer great potential as the de-

claring side, but are often not so good in defence. If you use the losing trick count, you will be propelled easily to game because you have just 4 losers. Even using the point count system, by evaluating for both length and shortages, you should get towards 20 points which should make bidding game obvious.

4♥ is the natural bid and this does part of the work, but in a competitive auction you need to be aware of what might be around the corner. What are you going to bid over 4♠?

A jump to 4♦ is a slightly better bid: with hearts agreed, it still suggests game, but should suggest a second suit and leave your partner well placed to judge what to do over an opponent's 4♠ bid.

In a competitive auction when a slam is highly unlikely, a jump like this is more usefully played as showing length rather than shortage.

Your partner should go to the 5-level if he thinks you have a double fit, or double 4♠ without. Here, with shortage in diamonds, East does best to double 4♠. There are exactly ten tricks in hearts and probably only nine tricks in spades.

9. Dealer East. N/S Game.

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



West	North	East	South
?		1♠	Dbl

2♦. Your partner opens 1♠ and South doubles for take-out. The double changes most of the meanings of responder's bids. Redouble is used for all the strong hands (9+) so all 2-level changes of suit show weaker hands: 5-8 HCP, 6+-card suit, non-forcing. This is a distinct change from without a double, when the two-level bids would be 10+ and forcing. The key is the use of the redouble to show the stronger hands. Here, you bid 2♦, expecting your partner to pass, as he should. ■

Q Friday afternoon is an assisted and hosted session at our club. It is fairly informal and we have players who have come up from lessons as well as slightly more experienced ones.

Sitting North-South, an experienced player bid 1♣ with seven clubs and four points. His suit was queen high. This resulted in their getting into a contract and scoring a better percentage because at other tables, the board was played by East-West. Am I justified in feeling slightly annoyed?

Carolyn Thompson by email.

A It depends really on how much this counts as a duplicate session and how much it counts as an assisted learning session. Psyches are legal in duplicate bridge and, in a normal duplicate, the player's actions are perfectly reasonable.

However, if this is primarily a learning session, then it does seem slightly tactless. It is unfortunate how few teachers seem to explain to inexperienced players that some people do things differently, so perhaps you might use this case to explain to the inexperienced players that what other players do will often surprise them and will not always follow the rules they have been taught.

Telling the experienced player to refrain from psyching in a learning session seems reasonable.

Q I would be grateful for some guidance as a director over the following issue.

We played the second board in a round and the Bridgmate scored it against the first board in the round. We all examined the other scores and soon realised what had happened due to the oddity of the result. As a consequence, we were all aware of the scores on the unplayed hand in the round and my partner and I were well aware that 1NT could be defeated. I called the director who ruled that, as we were all honourable people, it was permitted to play the board. I was unhappy about this, but allowed the matter to pass without comment as I could not think on the spot which law mentioned this instance.

I have looked through the law book subsequently and it seems to me that Law 16C covers this, although the situation is not referred to specifically in the examples cited in 16C1. Looking at the 2014 white book, the text suggests that overhearing the score may not disqualify the board from being played, but does not offer much help in distinguishing the severity of the problem. If only one person had overheard the score, that is one thing. If the whole table was fully aware of the full

contents of the traveller, that is surely another.

Given its commonality, I would like to draw the attention of my fellow directors at the club to the appropriate solution to this problem. Name and address supplied.

A If you are unhappy with a director's decision because you are worried whether it follows the law you should ask the director to read the law from the law book, which any competent director will do. This is, as you say, a matter of Law 16C, which covers information from sources other than partner, as in this case. In a club, it would be very rare to do anything but allow the board to be played, as Law 16C2C permits, unless the director feels it is impossible, though he should probably take notice of the players' views. Players do not like averages, they have come to play.

Once it has been played, if the director decides the result was affected too much, or alternatively if he does not allow it to be played, then he gives each side Average Minus.

Both sides are fully and equally responsible for making sure the correct score goes into the Bridgmate for the correct board, so any penalties are shared.

If this is a common occurrence in your club, it is time it was stopped and that means procedural penalties as well. An announcement to this effect at the start of play, or on a club notice-board if you have one, and an automatic penalty of 10% of a top to both sides whether the board is played or not and in a few weeks the problem will disappear. ■

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TRAVEL INSURANCE

Last month I told you that I have been planning my personal travel arrangements for the coming year and my travel insurance cover. I am sure you are aware that when we reach a certain age, as I have, insurance premiums start to rise, especially with pre-existing medical conditions. I have had to seek out a new policy provider as my insurer for many years no longer wants my business. I have embarked upon researching this with my usual energy. As Acumen Insurance Services Limited advertise their Genesis brand, there are some points on their Cover Cloud travel insurance product that I am sure will be of particular interest.

Under their trading names, Genesis and Cover Cloud, they are able to cover any age of traveller and most pre-existing medical conditions.

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I am now a Cover Cloud Policy holder, but this is in no way a recommendation as you would have to check the policy to ensure it suits your particular requirements in every way.

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This is as enthusiastic an endorsement as I dare make without getting into trouble.
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Mr Bridge

Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 10-12 on the Cover

10. Dealer East. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
?			18-19

6NT. Your partner rebids 2NT which, in modern Acoll, shows 18-19 points. You have a balanced hand, with no major suit fit, so you aim for a no-trump contract. Adding your 15 to partner's points gives 33-34, which is enough for slam. There is no need for any shilly-shallying: bid 6NT. The number of aces and kings is not important in no-trumps because the queens and jacks are just as important. For 7NT you need closer to 37 points unless you have a strong and long suit, which is not the case here.

11. Dealer East. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
?			

3NT. When a minor is supported, then both members of the partnership should have aspirations towards no-trumps and all their bids will be directed in that direction until they get to the 4-level (above 3NT).

Your partner's 3♣ bid is not an attempt to play in spades, rather it is a try for no-trumps – he is showing strength in

spades. Just as important as his spade strength is his implied heart weakness (he missed that suit out). Have you got a stop in the heart suit?

It may not be very strong, but as long as you are playing 3NT, your ♥K constitutes a stopper. The lead will come towards you and if they lead a heart, you will definitely make a trick. Therefore, you bid 3NT and reach the right contract.

You have nine top tricks with a tenth trick available on a heart lead (unless diamonds break 4-0).

12. Dealer East. Game All.

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



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

2♥. When your partner shows two suits and you have a weak hand, you do not have too many options. Generally, you give preference to one of his suits, favouring the first suit if there is any doubt. You rebid your own suit only if you are sure it will make the best part-score contract, which means you must be willing to play opposite a singleton in your partner's hand (a good six-card suit or better).

Your spades are not good enough to rebid on this hand so it is a choice between diamonds and hearts. You should give false preference to hearts. When the first suit is a major and the second a minor, if you have one fewer card in support for the major with a weak hand, you should generally go back to the major suit. 2♥ is the most comfortable part-score. With two weakish hands, it is your job to find the safest part-score contract.



Catching Up

by Sally Brock

My birthday is June 12th. I keep thinking that this will be my last year in the house and, therefore, I should have a party while I can. This year was no exception. We planned a bridge/dinner party for twenty people on Saturday June 13th.

On my actual birthday, Briony was working but Toby and I met my friend Gilly at the Ferry in Cookham which overlooks the Thames. They do a fabulous baked camembert there which I particularly like. The weather was a bit iffy, though we enjoyed a nice walk along the river, but as we came back it started to rain. In the evening, Briony and Barry joined us and we walked up the road to our local Indian restaurant for a curry.

We had spent a fair time during the week on preparing the food, and some time on Saturday morning too. I was very grateful to Chris Dixon who had volunteered to take care of the bridge organisation. What I like to do is have an individual competition but to have four more guests than the number of tables permit so that there are always four people sitting out who can chat with different people and there's always someone free to pour drinks, organise food etc.

We had planned an eastern European menu, so when people arrived they got some champagne and could help themselves to starters: tsatziki, taramasalata and aubergine caponata with crudités and flat bread, along with some chicken and coriander meatballs. Then we played a dozen boards or so before having the main course: Jamie's lamb chops spread with hummus and chopped nuts, along with spicy chicken shawarma, vegetable tagine and jewelled couscous. Then, there was more bridge alongside baklava and

fresh fruit, as well as a good cheese board (brought back from France).

This was one of the more talked-about hands:

Dealer North. E/W Game.

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

♠ J 9
 ♥ A 10 9 8 3 2
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ Q J 9

At my table (I was East), the bidding went:

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

The spotlight then fell on West who had to make the opening lead. Unfortunately (for me), she chose a diamond and declarer now always had eleven tricks (and in fact made twelve). Barry (South) had better luck. Over 4♠, his partner, the eventual winner, bid 4NT as a general slam try. Barry bid 5♣ and North bid 5♥. Barry pressed on to slam with his usual irrepressible optimism and also got lucky after West led a diamond. He felt afterwards that perhaps he ought to have bid 6♣ rather than 6♥ in order to protect his partner's potential king of spades. From the East/West bidding at adverse vulnerability, both North and South believed that their partner had a singleton spade. Of course, 6♣ might

have gone down on a heart lead, but if West doubled to try to get a heart lead, North/South could always have run to 6♥, or even 6NT. Some declarers managed to lose a heart trick, arguing that East had the longer spades so would have the shorter hearts. Not so. For West to bid 4♠ at the unfavourable vulnerability, he was the one who was going to have a shortage.

I was pleased with how the whole evening went and at the end we presented the gold medal to Colin Simpson.

The following week, I had several catch-up lunches in a row. On the Friday, I went to Michele Barker's birthday lunch. Her birthday is on the same day as mine, so we often do things together. She lives in a lovely house in Gerrards Cross, but has recently had it gutted and completely rebuilt inside. The whole family had been living in the guesthouse in the garden for eighteen months and had only just moved back into the house. There is still work to be done but it is going to be fabulous.

Then I drove on to London for a Crockfords match against the strong Allfrey team. We got quite close to beating them but lost by 9 IMPs in the end.

In amongst all this, I did my usual online work (anyone interested either in having private lessons online or joining the ProBridge online club can contact me on sally@sallybrock.com). I tried hard to go to the gym as often as possible but it is difficult to fit it in. There is no news on the house front – still a trickle of viewers but no real interest.

The big news on the family front is that Toby got a first in his medical engineering degree at Bradford. I am absolutely delighted about that and ►

so proud of him. Briony is enjoying her new job at Stoke Mandeville Spinal Research. After two weeks, they changed her from three days a week to five, so they must like her too.

Then, there are the European Open Championships. On June 26th, we flew to Tromsø, on the edge of the Arctic Circle. First, there was the Mixed Teams and we were playing with Janet de Botton, Artur Malinowski, Apolinary Kowalski and Ewa Miszewska. There were two days of Swiss qualifying. I thought we played pretty well the first day but the second day started badly with two losses, then something of a recovery, so we needed to win our final match by about 7 IMPs to qualify. In the end, there was a bit of nail-biting as we won by only 5 IMPs (I did something really silly on the final board to lose 1 IMP instead of gaining 1 IMP). When the results were finally posted, we had qualified by a margin of 0.01 victory points. Phew!

However, our winning streak did not last long as we lost the first knock-out match to a fairly average Norwegian team. Barry and I had a poor first set and the others could not do enough to recover.

Then, it was the Mixed Pairs where we trundled along in fairly mediocre fashion, qualifying in the middle of the field for the semi-final and then the final.

We were lying fairly respectably in the middle of the field but had a terrible last ten boards to plummet into obscurity. ■

How do you bid a 10-card suit?

by John Barr

Attendance at the Kitzbühel bridge club varies widely depending on the time of year. During the height of the summer or winter seasons, we have the locals, long term visitors (those who perhaps live in Vienna, but spend a few months during the summer and winter seasons in Kitzbühel), plus a few holidaymakers. However, between the seasons, the numbers can drop significantly as the Viennese are in Vienna, there are no holidaymakers and many locals enjoy a holiday somewhere warmer.

Until recently, the club had a problem finding somewhere to play out of season, as the hotel where we usually played closed during the quiet periods and we had to take refuge in a local old folks home. A couple of years ago, the Kitzbühel Country Club opened in the nearby village of Reith bei Kitzbühel. That has become our new home and is open throughout the year.

During a recent club session, between seasons, we had only two tables, so we played a teams competition (three 8 board matches with each of the other teammates as your part-

ner). Instead of using the usual pre-dealt boards, we dealt the hands ourselves, which resulted in the first 10 card suit I've ever seen. So much for people complaining about the wild distributions seen in computer-dealt hands.

Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

At one table, West opened with a gambling 3NT and East, who neither had stops in the other suits nor an entry to the long diamond suit, retreated to 4♣ which was converted to 4♦ – a contract which made exactly.

At the other table, West opened 5♦ and, after two passes, South doubled. I was sitting North and I was confident that South would have few, if any diamonds,

so I leapt to 6♠ which East felt obliged to double. After the lead of ace and another heart the contract was already one off, but I ruffed the ♦A in dummy, cashed the ♠K and could ruff a club back to hand to draw trumps. Finally, reaching dummy with the ♥Q, I could throw my diamonds on the top clubs to restrict myself to one off, a score of -200 and an 8 IMP loss.

The deal was remarkable in that as well as West's headline 10 card suit, each of the other three hands held a six-card suit and every hand had a void.

Although the 3NT opening resulted in a positive score (due to a rather docile performance from North/South), I don't think this is the right opening for such a hand. If, for example, the opponents bid a major suit game over your 3NT, are you going to pass or bid 5♦? If you would bid again (and who would choose to defend with this hand?), then why not open 5♦ in the first place? After all, it is difficult to concoct a hand for your partner where 3NT makes but 5♦ fails, while it is easy to think of hands where 6♦ would make but 3NT would fail. ■



Sorry Partner! Choose Your Favourite of Partner's Suits by Liz Dale

It was Mary's turn to bring the cake and biscuits. Walking to Joan's, she couldn't help wondering who the fourth player would be. Sheila had cancelled last night. Probably Jim, she thought. Everyone liked Jim. He was so laid back and he managed to fill in at short notice very easily and without making any fuss.

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

When East's hand (dummy) went on the table West said brightly, 'Thank you partner.'

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

Mary couldn't help thinking what a gentleman Jim is. East said, 'Sorry I couldn't help you Jim – not

enough points.' 'Not to worry,' Jim said, kindly.

The Moral of the Story

If partner shows two suits, it costs nothing to tell him which you prefer. When West opened 1♠ showing 12-19 points, East quite rightly passed with only 5 points. However, when West rebid 2♥, he was showing the shape of his hand to partner – probably five spades and four hearts. East, with four spades and only two hearts, should have put West back into his first suit, by bidding 2♠. Only if East had two or more cards in the second suit bid by West, should East have passed.

West already knows that East hasn't got 6 points because East had not made an initial response. Therefore, West would have passed 2♠, grateful to East for putting him back to his first choice, and especially with four cards in the suit. What a bonus!

At least West would have had an easy time in 2♠, whereas there was no hope in 2♥. West would have been pleased with his partner's supportive bid and would have been delighted to say with relief, 'Thank you partner.'

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DEFENCE QUIZ

by Julian Pottage

(Answers on page 18)

You are East in the defensive positions below playing teams or rubber bridge. It is Love All. Both sides are using Acol with a 12-14 1NT and 2♣ Stayman.

1. ♠ K Q 9 4
♥ 7
♦ A K J 9 5
♣ K 8 4

♠ J 10 3 2
♥ A 5 3 2
♦ Q 6 3
♣ 9 5

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Partner leads the ♣2, your ♣9 losing to the ♣Q. Declarer leads the ♦4 to the ♦2, ♦J and your ♦Q. What do you return?

3. ♠ 10 3
♥ Q 2
♦ Q 8 2
♣ A Q J 9 4 2

♠ Q 8 4 2
♥ A 10 6
♦ A 6
♣ 10 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
			1♦
2♦	3♣	4♠	5♦
All Pass			

Both majors, at least 5-5

Partner leads the ♠6, your ♠Q losing to the ♠A. Declarer leads the ♦J, to which West follows. What do you do?

2. ♠ K Q J 7 4
♥ J 9 2
♦ J 10
♣ K Q 9

♠ 10 9 3 2
♥ 6 5
♦ A 6 4 3
♣ A 5 3

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

Partner leads the ♠J, covered by the ♠K and ♠A. What do you return?

4. ♠ K J 3
♥ K 8 2
♦ K 2
♣ J 8 4 3 2

♠ A 7 4 2
♥ A Q 6
♦ Q J 10
♣ 10 9 5

West	North	East	South
			1♦
2♦	2NT	4♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Both majors, at least 5-5

Partner leads the ♠10. You capture the ♠J with the ♠A. What do you return?



Answers to Julian Pottage's Defence Quiz on page 17

1.

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

♠ 7 6 5	
♥ Q 10 8 6	
♦ 7 4	
♣ A Q 6 3	

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Partner leads the ♠2, your ♣9 losing to the ♣Q. Declarer leads the ♦4 to the ♦2, ♦J and your ♦Q. What do you return?

Even if partner holds the ♠A, you are not going to get far with a club return because the ♠2 lead means only a four-card suit. Given the extreme weakness in dummy, a heart switch is better. Should you lead the ace or low? Since you might need to regain the lead to allow your side to take two finesses against declarer's holding of Q-x-x-x or J-10-x-x, you should lead low: the ♥2. Your low card says that you want the suit back, not that there is much else for partner to try anyway.

2.

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

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

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

Partner leads the ♠J, covered by the ♠K and ♠A. What do you return?

This is a situation in which you do not have too much time to think. Given the strong black suits in dummy, a diamond switch looks obvious, so a long pause might tell declarer about your holding. Should you lead high or low? If partner holds the ♦K, it will probably make no difference. However, if declarer holds the ♦K and partner the ♦Q, a low diamond will give declarer a nasty guess whether to play you for the ♦A or ♦Q. You will need two diamond tricks unless partner has two trump tricks. The chance of letting the contract through by underleading the ♦A is slight – often declarer will be unable to take enough discards on the spades without drawing trumps.

3.

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

♠ A K	
♥ 9 3	
♦ K J 10 9 5 4 3	
♣ K 7	

West	North	East	South
			1♦
2♦ ¹	3♣	4♣	5♦
All Pass			

¹Both majors, at least 5-5

Partner leads the ♠6, your ♠Q losing to the ♠A. Declarer leads the ♦J, to which West follows. What do you do?

You need three tricks to defeat the game. Two of these will be your aces. The

third will be a king in partner's hand. If you had to guess, you would try for the ♠K because the odds are declarer does not hold ♠A-K doubleton. You might think of holding up the ♦A to get a signal. This would be a mistake as declarer may well hold seven trumps and have no reason to play a second round.

The safe way to find out which king partner holds is to take the ♦A and then lead the ♥A. If partner plays a discouraging low heart, you try a spade. On the actual layout, you will see the ♥8 or ♥J and know to continue hearts.

4.

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

♠ 6	
♥ 3	
♦ A 9 8 7 6 5 4 3	
♣ A K 7	

West	North	East	South
			1♦
2♦ ¹	2NT	4♣	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbf	All Pass

¹Both majors, at least 5-5

Partner leads the ♠10. You capture the ♠J with the ♠A. What do you return?

Having doubled, you have thoughts of taking the contract more than one down. You would have preferred a heart lead for sure – but you must not let this cloud your judgement. As on the previous deal, partner has bid with few high-card points and could easily have a 6-5 shape. If you do not cash the ♥A at trick two, declarer's heart could well go away on the ♠K. Even if partner is 5-5, declarer might get one heart away on the ♠K and another on the fourth club. You can try a club after you have made sure of your ♥A. ■



The Diaries of Wendy Wensum

Episode 41: A Tuscan Jaunt

Part 1: DIY Duplicate

A flight from Norwich carried us to Genoa, the famous Italian port. Heading inland by coach, the modern motorway soon took us into Tuscany and we reached our destination in the attractive town of Lucca around lunchtime. The modern hotel in a newer suburb was our base for the following fortnight. Millie and Justin settled for rubber bridge in the well-furnished card room, while Spouse and I set out to explore the old town. For centuries, the massive earth ramparts and stone walls, which still enclose it, provided its main defence to warring neighbours during Italy's turbulent past. Today, the walls provide a wonderful, continuous walk around Lucca, ideal for admiring the cathedral, its other ancient buildings and the panoramic views of the Tuscan countryside, with the Apuan Alps as a backdrop.

On our return to the hotel for dinner, we were met by an irate Millie. 'There's no duplicate bridge here; there's no-one to organise it,' she complained bitterly. 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do,' announced Spouse philosophically. 'How does speaking Latin help?' retorted Millie impatiently. 'We can always play Scrabble,' I remarked. 'No way,' responded Millie, 'I can never get rid of the Q.' 'Just wait long enough and the queue will disperse on its own,' I quipped innocently, but Millie was not amused. Spouse was looking thoughtfully round the card room. 'The facilities are all here, boards, stationery; we'll run it ourselves,' he announced unabashed. Thus it was. After dinner and plenty of wine, Spouse and Justin rounded up eight other guests easily to play duplicate bridge. Some of the other players in the room looked bemused; the rest looked positively aghast at such bad taste. Nevertheless, under the joint TD leadership of Spouse and Justin, competition bridge was inaugurated formally at the hotel, with a three-table

five-round 15-board movement. The session was well underway when this deal occurred.

Dealer East. North-South Game.

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

East was dealer and passed. Playing our five-card major style, Millie opened 1♥ and West passed. I thought my hand was slightly weak but bid 3♣. This is Millie's latest gadget: 3♣ agrees the major, shows three-card trump support and is a game invitation. (3♦ is similar, but game forcing.) Of course, she accepted the invitation and bid game. She always does.

West	North	East	South
	<i>Wendy</i>		<i>Millie</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West led the king of clubs and as dummy was faced, Millie had a puzzled expression on her face. She won with the ace and took the diamond ace intending to ditch the two losing clubs on the king and queen. When the queen was ruffed, Millie overruffed and led a spade. West switched to a trump, but Millie won, ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond and ruffed a second spade. Finally, Millie led the fifth diamond and because of the lucky trump layout she could make both her king and five of trumps, making the contract on

the nose for +620. 'Why ever did you bid those weak clubs and at the three level too?' complained Millie adding, 'I nearly bid a slam.' I sighed as I realised that she had forgotten the system again. 'Never mind, I think we had a little misunderstanding,' I said. 'Like Galileo and the Pope,' was her apt riposte. At Spouse's table, Justin as East opened a rather weaker than usual weak two in spades. With a four-card spade suit, South had a difficult choice but eventually came up with three hearts. Spouse bid 3♠. North, with a singleton spade, found 4♥ and with some bravado Justin sacrificed in 4♠ which was promptly doubled.

West	North	East	South
<i>Spouse</i>		<i>Justin</i>	
3♠	4♥	2♠	3♥
All Pass		4♠	Dbl

The defence began with three rounds of top hearts. At this stage, Justin could see five certain losers outside the trump suit. On the third round, Justin ruffed in dummy and subsequently the opposition took two more spade tricks. The contract went four down for a score of -800, an expensive, ineffective sacrifice. At the third table, the traveller showed that South played in 2NT making nine tricks for 150, enabling Millie and me to gain a middle on the board.

At the end of the session, with such a small field, Justin and Spouse produced the results fairly swiftly. Perhaps because of the burden of their roles, it was not a great surprise they finished in bottom spot. Even so, their efforts were much appreciated by all the players. It was a friendly and enjoyable evening. Duplicate bridge was clearly to become a feature for the ensuing week. Millie tested a few brandies; Justin, Spouse and I tasted the regional Chianti and, once again, all was well with the world. ■

No Great Shakes – or The Play's the Thing

It was already well past the midnight hour when Will was accosted by the street's night watchman on his rounds of the town. The lantern held aloft by the immensely powerful guardian had illuminated a soft, but tired looking bearded man of middling height, who had not posed a threat to the peace, but was obviously better placed a-bed than a-foot at this hour. 'Fare thee well,' rasped Osbert tapping the cudgel on the kerb, 'tis time you was tucked up and leave the streets to cut purses and meself. Get along Master Will – you be in no fit state to be abroad.'

Will nodded, then stumbled the final hundred paces to Anne's house. He lifted the heavy, black, iron latch and crept into the room. She was awake, to his surprise and, as he slipped cautiously below the coverlet, she breathed seductively into his ear saying, 'How now you varlet? Your breath stinks of beer but did you meet Francis as proposed? Tell me now, Will, before I surrender to my need for slumber.'

'It all went as I had hoped, darling one,' he responded. 'He gave me the names and plots of five more suggested play titles, which I set down and have in my pouch. I had to pay dearly for his inspiration as he demanded a guinea a name but then ideas are worth a lot more. Let me recall – *Three Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Merchants of Ravenna*, *The Princesses of Denmark*, *Lear an Island King*, and a farce, as I recall, *A Midsummer Idyll*, all stage-worthy at the Globe, my dear – but you are already in the arms of Orpheo,' for Anne was fast asleep before the final title, each with a convoluted tale, could be reached.

So he slipped out of bed, put on a heavy woollen shift and began to write. 'If I change the titles slightly, and what is in a name anyway,' he mused, 'I cannot be accused of plagiarising.' Pleased with the pun, he opened a small, black, leather covered notebook and wrote carefully, 'play and plagiarise,' before re-sharpening a quill and writing furiously the script for the first play. Hours later, staring through the leaded window, he



William Shakespeare

pondered as the dawn came up, 'What light through yonder window breaks?'

Not surprisingly, after his sleepless night, breaking the fast was a somewhat silent and grumpy affair with the servant girl afraid to speak, bar a response to, 'more lamb chops, hot and quick.' After some pulls at the small beer, Will began to recover his spirits and remarked casually, 'I have completed the first of those scenarios my dear, by writing through the night. It will earn us twenty-five guineas which will pay our dues for the next six weeks. In the meantime, to refresh

my inspiration, I will spend a day or two polishing my ideas for enhancing this new game of whist which they are playing at The Tabard. I have decided to name it 'The Bridge' as it crosses over rivers of games such as Piquet, Bezique and The Crib, but mine will involve four players, not just two, which will appeal to those who like to wager high. I am fed up with low stakes and cautious men!'

'What does 'fed up' mean?' asked Anne, who was always curious to find where Will had found his novel expressions. 'It's related to geese my darling,' explained Will, 'when the goose is truly stuffed, the level of corn reaches high in the gooseneck. The farmer holds the neck until the goose relaxes and all is well.'

'Well I wouldn't feel well if I were that goose,' laughed Anne and she ran from the room to the delight of the maid before Will's hand could strike her bottom.

He pulled out the notebook thoughtfully and started to write down the laws of his new game. Later, he presented them at the Tabard.

'This is quite brilliant,' remarked Francis, leaning back from the table he was sharing with the playwright and returning the small, leather book to Will, 'but what are the advantages over the pastime of whist, whose merits are verily its simplicity?'

'Here's the thing,' responded Will. 'Because the play is in two parts – 'the bid' and 'the joust', one player



Francis Bacon

displays his all in act two, like an unashamed harlot, on the table. It means that he or she can slip away for a few moments to order some more sustenance or relieve themselves in private rather than at the table-pot, whilst his partner, who makes the 'bid', can play the hand. The opposing force may double, or hazard to buy the contract but the penalties for failure, as our dear Queen puts it, are severe! To buy is risky! But men at some time are masters of their fates.'

'Here, let us show you,' he laughed with an impulsive show of enthusiasm and he encircled the waist of a passing serving wench and, with the aid of a penny, persuaded her and young Toby of Stratford to join the table. Will swept the table top clear with a grubby cloth and produced a pack of playing cards, promptly removing the two jesters. 'That makes fifty-two to share,' he explained, 'thirteen a piece.'

This is the first deal that ever was played in Will's game and it was not lost to posterity, as he wrote it down carefully in the leather book.

♠ A 10 6
♥ A 9 7 5 3
♦ Q 10 6
♣ Q 8

♠ Void
♥ K Q 6 2
♦ K 9
♣ K 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ J 5 2
♥ 10
♦ A J 8 7 4 3 2
♣ J 9

♠ K Q 9 8 7 4 3
♥ J 8 4
♦ 5
♣ A 10

W E
N S

West	North	East	South
Toby	Wench	Francis	Will
1♣	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♦	4♣
5♣	Dbl	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Toby had hesitated a long time about buying the contract before passing finally.

Will, of course, noticed and

thought he might be able to use that contemplation, perhaps in the play or later. Toby led ♦K and continued with the ♦9. Will, the expert play maker, ruffed, drew trumps, exclaiming when Toby showed out, 'Something wicked this way comes!' and finished in hand. Toby must have seven clubs for his bidding and, to justify his opening, the top heart honours. The only hope Will foresaw was to find the ♥10 as a singleton spot-card with Francis, so he could establish dummy's long hearts. Expecting it to drop, he uttered, 'Out damned spot,' and led the ♥J. Toby was helpless: if he covered, the hearts could be set up (or he would be obliged to lead to the ♣Q); if he ducked, Will would play a small heart with the same result.



Samuel Pepys

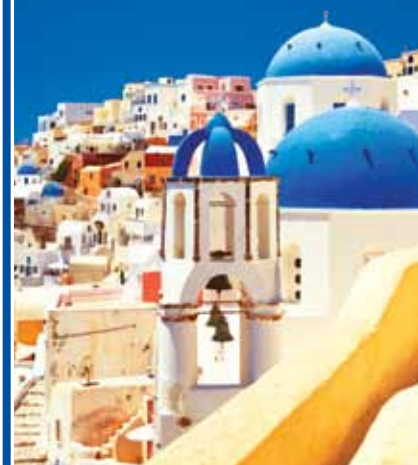
Years later, Samuel Pepys had Will's leather book in his possession after it had been rescued from the Great Fire in Will's old lodgings in Pudding Lane, London. Pepys' mistress never explained how she came into the ownership of this small monument to Shakespeare's genius (although a lost wager seems likely), but as Pepys' diary was not decoded until the 1820s and even then was thought too risqué for general viewing, it was not until the late turn of that century that the artefact was published and the rudiments of the game established. By then, by a strange osmosis, it had been in vogue for many years in many countries, but it is rumoured that the first inkling of the Acol system arose in North London when the Professor of Antiquities at The Bodleian, who was a member of that famous bridge club, first examined the contents.

Will loved a joke and a pun. On the fly page before the scribbled play, mentioned above, was an inscription, obviously in Will's writing, when he was musing over the first name of his eponymous hero for his Henry series, he recalled his opponent's hesitation in the bidding, 'To buy or not, Toby, that is the question!'

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Maxims from Ned Paul



Think 3-4-5!

When you open 2NT in standard Acrol, you promise partner 20-22 high card points (HCP). Here is a typical example of a 2NT bid:

♠ K 10 7 6 5
♥ A K 6
♦ A Q
♣ K Q 5



a superior hand for the 2NT bid. This is because you hold many more 20 HCP hands than 21 HCP hands and many more 21 HCP hands than 22 HCP hands. The reference tables tell us that the proportions are 64 to 38 to 21. So whenever there is a 2NT opener, there is a better than 52% chance that the bidder has only 20 HCP. This should influence responder's thought processes and responder's action.

Opposite a 2NT opening bid, the



This looks pretty middle-of-the-road: 21 HCP, a standard shape for a 2NT opener and the points are well-distributed. A 2NT opener should be reasonably balanced, although it need not be quite as balanced as a 1NT opener. A 5-card major is acceptable, even normal, and many pairs play a variation of Stayman called '5-card Stayman' to find any available 8-card major-suit fit.

This example hand may appear middle-of-the-road, but actually, with just a mid-range 21 HCP, this is already

normal guidelines for partnership bidding apply. You would always like to be in game with 26 HCP between the two hands, be in game most of the time with a combined 25 HCP and stop out of game with fewer than this. The hands that are marginal for game contain 3, 4, or 5 HCP. Fewer than this and it is obvious not to advance; more and game becomes clear cut. So a good basic guideline is to stay out of game when you have 3 HCP, advance with 4 HCP only if the hand has some plus features and always advance to

game with 5 HCP. Let's see why and, particularly, why it is usually wrong to advance with 3 HCP, even though there is a chance that partner has 22 HCP.

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

East has a very good 3 HCP hand, full of 10s and 9s and so on. Try this in harness with the 2NT hand given above (West) and see if your partner can garner nine tricks. Unlikely. The opponent on lead leads ♦J, covered by ♦2, ♦K and ♦A. Declarer is now on lead with a variety of unappealing suits to try and develop. He might start by clearing the clubs, but when the opponents take their ♣A, they will knock out the remaining diamond stopper. The ♠A remains to give them an entry to cash the remaining diamonds.

So much for a 3 HCP hand. Let's try 4 HCP. Exchange the ♠9 for the ♠J in the above hand. This is what you hold now as East:

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

Now, the spade suit can be brought in for four tricks without the risk of a finesse or the need for a 3-3 break. The main legitimate chance is that the opponents' diamonds are 4-4, but when our partner, who is declaring the hand wins the diamond at Trick 1, he might try and sneak a club trick at Trick 2. If declarer is able to get the club through, he will switch to spades and claim nine tricks.

The importance of the 10s in this hand should not be under-rated. Let's take the two 10s away and make your hand a 'bad' 4 HCP. The East hand looks like this now:

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

This looks distinctly unappealing and, although it is possible that the play might go as before, the presence of the ♠10 in one of the opponents' hands raises significantly the chance of them grabbing the ♠A at Trick 2. Then a diamond continuation will defeat 3NT.

Finally, let's give you a 5 HCP hand and see what effect this has:

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

Now on a diamond lead, declarer can clear the spades immediately. Four spades, three hearts and two diamonds give an easy nine tricks.

The full deal:

Dealer West. E/W Game.			
♠ A 4 3	♠ Q J		
♥ 10 4	♥ Q 9 3 2		
♦ J 10 9 7 4	♦ 6 3 2		
♣ J 9 7	♣ 10 8 6 3		
♠ K 10 7 6 5	♠ Q J		
♥ A K 6	♥ Q 9 3 2		
♦ A Q	♦ 6 3 2		
♣ K Q 5	♣ 10 8 6 3		
♠ 9 8 2			
♥ J 8 7 5			
♦ K 8 5			
♣ A 4 2			

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

It was Mr Bridge himself who asked me to write this article. He was much taken with the 3-4-5 mantra for raising partner's 2NT bid. 'Three never, four whatever, five ever,' he confided in me. The idea has merit, not least for its simplicity and I recommend you follow his advice. ■

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Domestic Conflict

From reading old bridge magazines, one gets a clear impression that people of yesteryear were sporting, adventurous types and often dangerous in their bidding. The reportage of the 1940s makes frequent references to psyches, but usually only those that work well. There's a suspicious lack of any mention of disasters. The hand below, perhaps an exception, is from the Spring Congress in Eastbourne, 1949.

Dealer South. North/South Game.

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

Hand 2:

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

The 1949 auction at one table:

West	North	East	South
			1NT ¹
2♥ ²	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Db1 ³	Pass
Pass	Redbl ⁴	All Pass	

¹Playing strong no-trump and 4-card majors.

²A little aggressive, but East/West are not vulnerable.

³'Very sporting' is a generous and polite description. Relying on the diamonds breaking favourably for the defence. Feeling

confident about the doubleton heart holding bolstering partner's suit. The call could also be described as ludicrous.

⁴Downright cheeky. The point count for the no-trump game is there, but there is nothing to spare, and the diamond intermediates are not good enough. Perhaps bravado?

Playing a weak no-trump and four-card majors, in 2015, the auction might well proceed as follows:

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

All Pass

¹Open 1♥ intending to rebid NT.

²This shows 15-17 HCP and is game forcing after partner's 2-level response.

³Some players may simply bid 3NT here. But many would prefer to show their second suit, stressing their shape and location of high cards.

The original report tells us that Howard Franklin declared 3NT redoubled. The ♥6 was led (the lead suggested by East's double). Declarer won the lead with the ♥Q and took stock. In top tricks there are three clubs, two hearts, and one diamond. If diamonds break there will be three more there, but the double is a warning that suits may not be breaking.

Declarer carefully played a diamond to the ace and one back to the queen. If West happens to have the king, this play may cost an overtrick, but nine tricks will still be assured. On the actual layout, if East had taken the second diamond he would have been beating air, and declarer would have

got his four diamond tricks. Hence, East ducked and South won the queen. Now South switched tack and played spades. West took the ace on the third round (the first trick for the defence).

Hand 1:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ J
♦ J 9 6	♦ K 10
♣ A 10 7 3	♣ J 9 6 5

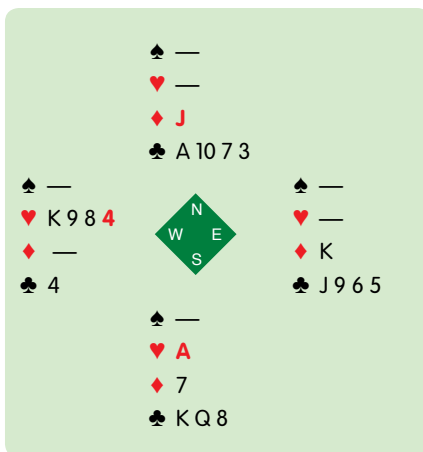
Hand 2:

♠ 10 8	♠ —
♥ K 9 8 4	♥ A 5 3
♦ —	♦ 7
♣ 4	♣ K Q 8

Now see what happened. West persisted with a spade. East had to discard a heart (discarding from either minor will forfeit a trick).

Then when the ♠8 was played, a diamond was shed from dummy and East was forced to discard a diamond too.

Looking at the next diagram, having taken three spade tricks for the defence, West played a heart. North discarded the ♦J and East was squeezed. Discarding the ♦K would promote the ♦7 in declarer's hand and a club would allow the clubs to come in for four tricks. This type of squeeze is sometimes called a 'suicide squeeze', but in reality it should be called something like a 'fratricide squeeze', because as a defender, you are murdering, if not your brother, then at least your bridge partner's hand. ▶



Notable Fratricides

Bible: Cain and Abel

Roman Mythology:

Romulus and Remus

Shakespeare:

Claudius and King Hamlet

Film: The Godfather Part 2,
Michael Corleone and Fredo

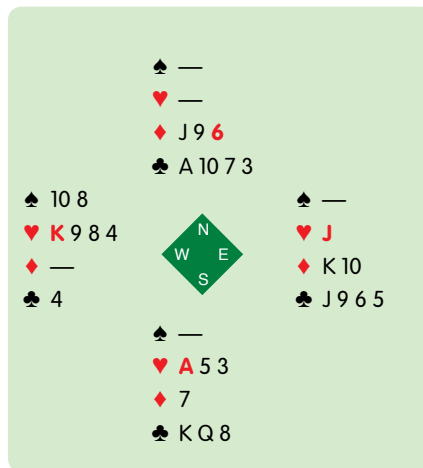
Metaphorical, modern politics:

Ed Miliband's manoeuvre on David

That is how 3NT redoubled was made with an overtrick.

You may wonder what would happen if, defending in the West seat after taking your spades, you exit with a club. Well, that only delays the agony, because declarer wins and plays the ♥A, achieving the equivalent discomfort on East.

How about rewinding a little – let's say that West recognises the possibility of fratricide and decides not to take the ♠10-8 tricks, but instead gets off lead with the ♥K. This is what happens:



Declarer wins the ♥A and plays four rounds of clubs, putting East on lead, and endplaying him to give dummy the ♦J. So again, the defence make just three tricks (♠A, ♦K and ♣J).

At this point, you might be wondering what happens if West cashes just his ♠10 (East discarding a diamond) and gets off lead with a heart or club. Try first to work it out and then see the end of this article for the answer.

So was it madness for East to double? If West's heart suit had been headed by the K-Q, then the contract wouldn't have made.

How about North's bidding? North can't possibly know about the heart honours. I have heard that the redouble is now the most underused and abused call. Back in 1949, it seemed to have been in frequent use.



Answer: Declarer still makes 3NT redoubled +1. Since East has a singleton ♦K left (and declarer knows this because West discarded on the ♦Q), then he can be thrown in with that card to concede a club trick – so endplayed but in a different way. ■

Captain Ewart Kempson (1895-1966) was very prominent in the bridge world, both as a player and an excellent writer and editor.

He was quite a character, 'About him there clings an unmistakable trace of the pukka: a certain arrogance which his bonhomie saves from offence ...' (<http://snipurl.com/29xs7ne>). *Contract Bridge Journal* for EK's 'Personality Page', November 1946

He had a dry wit, for instance when commenting on the selection process for the European Championships in 1952, 'the members of the committee did not escape charges of incompetence, partisanship, favouritism, arson and insanity.'

Canine Obituaries, Bridge Magazine, April 1949

One of Ewart Kempson's dogs, Hammer, a Chow-Chow, was featured in photo and words. He had recently died, aged 12. This is part of his write-up:

'...Hammer attended numerous congresses and matches in England and Scotland. He was admired by everyone, not only for his handsome appearance but his dignified manners. If you stayed with the Kempsons, Hammer would come to your bedroom for a few moments every morning to enquire as to your health and comfort. Every taxi driver in Newcastle knew Captain Kempson's home as 'The house of the chows'.'



The Chow Chow is a dog breed originally from China. Referred to as Songshi Quan, which means 'puffy-lion dog'.



Black Angel at Puzzle Chinois, breeder : M Stocco, owner : N Marchetti



Sigmund Freud had a Chow Chow named Jo-Fi who attended all of his therapy sessions. He felt that dogs had a special sense that allows them to judge a person's character accurately and he admitted that he depended on Jo-Fi for an assessment of a patient's mental state. (source: Wikipedia)

Next time you want to gain ground debating the merits of psychobabble, you might like to mention this handy factoid.



Bridge Scoring: Let's Get Back to Basics

Newcomers to duplicate bridge find the scoring difficult, even off-putting. Many who have played the game for years still make mistakes in basic scoring, struggle with slams and are lost when it comes to doubles. It can be a nightmare for the club scorer afterwards.

However, help is at hand as, on the back of the cards in the bidding box, you will find every possible score, as long as you choose the right one. If you have a Smartphone you can get an app which will work out any score easily. Indeed, if your club has Bridgmates, scoring errors are a thing of the past – all you need do is enter declarer/contract/tricks and the score is worked out for you.

So technology has solved the problem. Or has it? Just as pocket calculators did away with the need for mental or manual arithmetic, are we creating a generation of bridge players who can't score manually?

Does this matter? It certainly does. How can you bid correctly if you don't know the score you are trying to achieve? How can you sacrifice if you

can't compare mentally opponents' game score with what you might lose in a penalty double? Have you any idea what a doubled contract making will score and do you understand doubling into game? I suspect most bridge teachers never get round to teaching doubled scoring and even if they do, it is soon forgotten unless it's regularly practised at the table.

Many years ago, I designed a table

My table numbers go from 1 to 20 and all are different colours (Table 1 front and back is shown). On the front is the table number, NSEW and basic scoring. On the back is double, redouble and slam scores. Anyone wishing a digital copy (at no charge) of the full set (PDF only) or just a scorer should email ildalziel@talktalk.net – then, you can print your own cards and laminate them if desired.

Bridge must be the only game or sport where so many of the players don't have a good grasp of the scoring. Can you imagine a snooker or tennis player not knowing the scoring perfectly? Their whole game depends upon it. Any football supporter

WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1	
	SOUTH	

CONTRACT MADE	
For tricks made over six	♠♦.....20 per trick ♥♣.....30 per trick NT.....30 per trick + 10
Bonuses { Part Score.....50 ■ Non Vul Game.....300 (Game is 3NT) ■ Vul Game.....500 (4H, 4S, 5C, 5D)	

CONTRACT DEFEATED	
■ Not Vul 50 per trick.	■ Vulnerable 100 per trick

Designed by ildalziel@gmail.com	
---------------------------------	--

DOUBLED CONTRACT MADE (TIBO)	
Tricks bid score twice normal value.	
Insult.....50 pts.	
Bonuses are not doubled. If points for tricks bid after being doubled or redoubled (T) equal 100 or more add game bonus otherwise add 50 for part score. If you bid slam add slam bonus. (You can be doubled into game but not into slam).	
Overtricks {	■ Non Vul.....100 each ■ Vulnerable.....200 each

DOUBLED CONTRACT DEFEATED	
■ <u>Not Vulnerable</u>	■ <u>Vulnerable</u>
First trick 100	First trick 200
2nd & 3rd tricks 200 each	Subseq.tricks 300 each
Subseq.tricks 300 each.	

REDOUBLED CONTRACT.	
Tricks bid and made, insult, overtricks and undertricks score twice doubled value. Calculate bonuses as above.	

SLAM CONTRACT	
Small Slam bonus (Bid of 6)	■ Not Vul 500 ■ Vulnerable 750
Grand Slam bonus (Bid of 7)	■ Not Vul 1000 ■ Vulnerable 1500
Trick points and game bonus count in addition.	

number/scorer which shows you how to work out any bridge score clearly and logically in easy steps. I use the mnemonic TIBO for doubled contracts made (Tricks, Insult, Bonus, Overtricks). These cards have been used successfully at my bridge classes and clubs. We still have ready reckoners for a final check of a difficult score or if time is short at the club, but everyone is encouraged to try and work out their scores manually.

will tell you exactly how many wins, draws, points or goal difference their team needs to qualify, get promoted or avoid relegation. Yet a complete knowledge of the scoring is just as vital in bridge as in other games – perhaps even more so. No-one can ever play bridge perfectly, but everyone is capable of working out any bridge score if they would just take the time to learn it.

Let's get back to basics. ■



Michaels Cue Bids

Last time I looked at the Unusual 2NT. There are other two suited overcalls that can be played. Although Ghestem is popular amongst some players, it wins an award as the most frequently forgotten convention known to man. In a world championship in 1990, a player forgot Ghestem. You might think that is not worth remarking upon until you learn that it was Pierre Ghestem, the inventor of said method! So, skipping over that, we come to Michaels cue bids, invented by Michael Michaels, an American. With a name like that, what else could the convention be called?

If the opponents open 1♣ or 1♦, then a cue bid shows both majors. If they open 1♥ or 1♠, then a cue bid shows the other major and a minor. You will always, always be at least 5-5 for this bid. A typical overcall after a 1♣ opening might be:

	♠ K Q J 5 3
	♥ Q J 10 7 3
	♦ 5 4
	♣ 6

All the rules for strength and suit quality are very much the same as when you play the unusual no trump (See BRIDGE 152).

You will always, always be at least 5-5 (have I said that already? It bears repeating). It is best to have high cards in your suits. You are often quite weak (less than an opening bid) but you can include hands which are stronger also.

The advantage of this method is that you have told partner both your suits straight away. Were you to overcall 1♠

and the next hand bids 5♣, your heart fit, if you have one, might be hard to discover.

A typical overcall of 2♠ over 1♣ might be:

	♠ 5
	♥ K Q 10 9 5
	♦ K Q 10 9 8
	♣ 7 4

Before you go any further, it is wise to agree that if your opponents open a short minor, promising at least two or three cards, then a cue bid is still Michaels.

I've seen sad examples, usually unwound at the five level, when one member of the partnership thinks 2♣ over 1♣ is Michaels and the other player thinks it is natural. If you agree it is always Michaels, then that removes a possible misunderstanding.

If partner makes a Michaels Cue Bid then you might want to:

1. Try to come to rest at the lowest level possible because you have no fit.
2. Bounce around to make the opponents life difficult because you have a fit and the vulnerability is suitable.
3. Bid game because it may well make.

You can cater for all of these. In the first example where you have no fit, you simply bid your better (perhaps less bad) major. If the auction starts:

West	North	East	South
	1♣	2♣	Pass
?			

♠ 4 3	
♥ 7	
♦ A Q 5 4 3	
♣ Q 10 6 4 3	



you bid 2♠ and hope! If they double 2♣ to show values, then you will have a sinking feeling, but it is right to bid 2♠ still. After the same auction, but with a slightly different hand:

♠ 4 3	
♥ 7 5	
♦ A Q 5 4 3	
♣ Q 10 6 4	



you bid your better major (usually the cheaper if equal length). If the responder doubles instead of passing, then you can get partner to select his better major by passing.

Warning: you need to agree what pass, 2♦ and redouble mean over a double. I suggest pass as, 'please choose,' 2♦ as natural and redouble as best avoided, although some play redouble as, 'I have suit of my own so bid the cheapest thing and then shut up!'

Let's suppose you have a hand where you have a fit. The auction starts:

West	North	East	South
	1♣	2♣	Dbf
?			

♠ K J 7 5	
♥ Q 6	
♦ A 5 4 3 2	
♣ 8 6	



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Michaels Cue Bids continued

You should bid 4♠ directly at any vulnerability. Four-card trump support, a useful card in partner's other suit and an ace. It has a good chance of making and will put the opponents to a guess as to whether they can make something or they should be saving. You would also have bid 4♠ with a weaker hand such as:

♠ K J 7 5	
♥ Q 6 5	
♦ 6 5 4 3 2	
♣ 7	



which makes it hard for the opponents to know what to do.

If you want to investigate a bit, then you can either ask partner what his minor is or what his minor is and strength is. The auction starts:

West	North	East	South
	1♥	2♥	Pass
?			

♠ Q 5	
♥ 5 3 2	
♦ K J 8 6	
♣ 9 8 3 2	



You haven't got much but you do know you want to play in partner's minor, so bid 3♣ which is a pass or correct bid. That is to say partner will pass with clubs and bid 3♦ with diamonds.

If you have a stronger hand with the same shape, you can show some values and ask partner to define his hand.

♠ A 5	
♥ 5 3 2	
♦ K Q 9 4	
♣ K J 8 5	



You bid 2NT and if partner has a minimum hand with five spades and a five card minor, he simply bids his minor and you will think 11 tricks is

not a realistic possibility and pass.

If, on the other hand, he has a good hand he can bid 3♥ with spades and clubs and 3♠ with spades and diamonds. A 3♠ bid would look something like:



♠ K Q 10 7 4
♥ 4
♦ A J 10 9 8
♣ A 4

Now 5♦ looks likely to be a good contract and 6♦ even better!

Whether you seek simply to find partner's suit or make a try for game depends on what you expect. Some people play Michaels as any strength, which has the advantage of getting into the auction and showing both suits the most number of times, but it does have the disadvantage that partner does not know quite what to expect. Others play a Michaels bid as 'good or bad', which means you are either quite weak or have a 15+ hand and you won't have a hand in between.

Can Michaels appear elsewhere?

If the auction were to go:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	?	1♦

2♦ would still be Michaels. You will have a reasonable hand because there is no point in bouncing around with a weak hand when you could overcall at the one level or simply pass the hand out, so 2♦ shows 5-5 in the majors and perhaps the values for an opening bid. A typical hand might be:



♠ K J 10 5 3
♥ A Q 7 5 4
♦ 5
♣ K 6

If the opponents open and respond, there is again some chance for misunderstanding.

West	North	East	South
?	1♦	Pass	1♥

What is 1NT? What is 2♦? What is 2♥?

1NT ought to be a strong balanced hand, not the other two suits. 2♥ ought to be natural, so that leaves 2♦ which is 5-5 in the other two suits. A double of 1♥ would be the other two suits with less distribution, perhaps only 4-4.

Caveats with Michaels Cue bids are that you give away a lot about the distribution if you don't buy the contract, and occasionally you risk a penalty if you don't have a fit, so it pays to restrain yourself when you have an unsuitable hand. An example is:

	♠ Q 6 4 3 2
	♥ 10 9 4 3 2
	♦ K
	♣ Q 5

With a weak hand, poor suits and stray minor honours, wild horses would not persuade me to make a Michaels cue bid on the hand. If you do, then -800 is the least you deserve! Partner will deserve a new partner.

People like developing conventions so, given that Michaels cue bids are more than 60 years old, it is not surprising that some extras have been suggested. If your opponent opens a

weak two bid of 2♥ or 2♠, then you won't want to bid on a weak hand because a cardinal rule is never to pre-empt if your opponent has pre-empted. However, if you have a good hand after, say, your opponent has opened 2♠, then you have limited ways to show it, especially if it is a two suiter. Some play that after a weak 2♥ or 2♠ opening bid, an overcall of 4♣ or 4♦ shows a strong hand with that suit. This is a) rare and b) a hand where the best contract will often be 3NT. Therefore, some players have taken to using a convention called Leaping Michaels instead:

After a weak 2♥ opener:

- 4♣ is clubs and spades
- 4♦ is diamonds and spades

After a weak 2♠ opening:

- 4♣ is clubs and hearts
- 4♦ is diamonds and hearts

You will always be at least 5-5 for this.

It's a good method, but it doesn't happen often, so I suggest you don't take it up until you are happy with playing ordinary Michaels. Even if you don't use it, it is still useful to know if the opponents do.

If your opponents play Michaels and eventually buy the contract, then typically, they will not have a lot of strength but plenty of distribution, so a trump should feature very highly on your list of opening leads. ■

Summary

- You should be at least 5-5 in your two chosen suits
- If the opponents open a short minor then a cue bid is still Michaels
- Bidding game directly opposite a Michaels Cue Bid can force the opponents to guess at a high level
- If you want to know more about partner's hand, you can respond 2NT to ask.
- Decide on the strength for a Michaels Cue Bid. Weak or Strong is a popular agreement but as long as you both know, it is up to you.
- If you defend a contract where Michaels has been used by your opponents consider a trump lead.

Better Hand Evaluation

Bernard Magee

Introduction

Better Hand Evaluation is aimed at helping readers to add greater accuracy to their bidding. It deals with auctions in which you and your partner, against silent opponents, can describe your hands fully to each other and, by evaluating them accurately, find the best final contract. The emphasis of all good, accurate bidding is on hand evaluation.

There are two general types of auction: a) a fit is found and b) no fit is found.

When you do not have a fit, you are aiming to describe the strength of your hand as soon as possible, most often using no-trump bids. This book begins by discussing balanced hand bidding in Acol, as it is very important that both members of a partnership have an accurate knowledge of how to show hands of different strengths.

When a fit is found, there is much re-evaluation of the hand to be done; point count, though still important, needs to be evaluated together with distribution. The best way of reaching an accurate assessment is to use the Losing Trick Count; this is an important method of hand evaluation and takes up a number of chapters.

Finally, we move on to different forms of evaluation including game tries and splinter bids. You can never know enough methods of hand evaluation; the more you learn, the better you get at judging your hand.

Although the Losing Trick Count is used more easily in tandem with your partner, a large proportion of the ideas in this book can be used by an individual. For example, evaluating your hand to be worth an extra point is going to help anyone you partner – as long as you get it right.

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Julian Pottage answers your bridge questions



Was My Final Double Foolhardy?

Q At a local club, I
(West) was second
in hand with
neither side vulnerable.

♠ A x
♥ A Q J x
♦ A Q x x
♣ A Q 10

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Dbl	2♠	Pass	3♠
Dbl	All Pass		

**3♠ made. 3NT and 4♥
were makeable our way.
My partner and I play
all doubles up to and
including 3♠ for take-out.**

**Was my final double
foolhardy? Actually, my
instinct was to bid 3NT.**
Margaret Bleakley by email.

A Your second double
seems fine. You have
considerably more
values than you showed
initially. You are right that it
is not a penalty double – you
cannot have a penalty double
of spades when you had a
take-out double of spades
on the previous round. It

sounds as if partner should
have taken out the double.

You were right not to
try 3NT. How would you
expect to make 3NT after an
initial spade lead removes
your only stopper?

♠♥♦♣

Q Playing
matchpoint
pairs, we were
North-South on the
following deal:

♠ Void
♥ A 3
♦ A 10 9 8 7 6
♣ A K Q 8 2

West	North	East	South
♠ Q 8 5	♠ 10 9 6 3 2		
♥ K 10 9 8 7	♥ J 6 5 4		
♦ K Q 5 2	♦ J 4		
♣ 6	♣ J 10		

♠ A K J 7 4
♥ Q 2
♦ 3
♣ 9 7 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♦	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

We made 13 tricks.

**Could we have reached
a slam despite the
opposing bidding?**

Janet Anstis, Bray, Berkshire.

A Competing part-
scores is very impor-
tant at matchpoint
pairs. The problem is that
sometimes you have a good
hand and are not just trying
to compete. Here, South had
little idea that North had
such a good hand. While
most people would take some
action with the South hand
after 2♥ (choosing 2♠ rather
than a competitive double
because the spades are so
good), North really needs to
do something differently.

The powerful North hand
is good enough to show both
minors (at least 5-5) via a
2NT overcall and then bid
again after a minimum action
from South. On the losing
trick count, the hand has only
three losers. North also has
very good controls, with first-
round control in every suit.

If North starts with 2NT,
South would actually give
jump preference to 4♣. North
might fiddle around looking
for a grand slam, but could
simply raise to 6♣. ▶

As it was, North could have cue bid 4♥ over 4♣. This would not only have shown the ♥A but also made it clear that the hand was strong. South could then have cue bid 4♠ to show the ♠A. North would then bid 6♣, expecting to lose a diamond but nothing else, because the ♠A would take care of the heart loser.

♣♦♥♠

Q Doubling a pre-empt has cropped up once or twice recently and has raised two queries.

First of all, how strong is this? At the back of my mind I seem to remember being taught that this suggests 16 points. However, your column and others have said that one should only treat this as an opening hand.

Then, is it definitely a take-out double? Most people say, 'yes,' but I believe the responder has the option to leave it in as a penalty if a) the pre-empting side is vulnerable and b) the responder has a suitable hand. Recently, in these circumstances, I left the double in. My partner was somewhat shocked but they went off 3 tricks and we scored 800.

Stephen Valdez by email.

A With a sound opening bid and a shortage in their suit, you should compete. Usually, you do so with a take-out double unless you have a good suit to show. You do not need 16 HCP.

The onus is on the player with the shortage in the pre-emptor's suit to act.

If partner doubles and you have some length/strength in their trump suit, you may leave in the double. You place the doubler with a small singleton trump and decide whether to defend on that basis. Most of the time, of course, you take out a take-out double.

♣♦♥♠

Q Please could you explain my (West) rebid options of Pass, 2♥ and Rdbl in the following auction?

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

West	North	East	South
1NT ¹	Pass	2♦	Dbl
?			¹ 15-17

By opening 1NT instead of 1♠, we missed the opportunity to find the spade slam, making 3NT+3 instead.

I now have a free bid, and my current practice is to complete the transfer if I have 3+ hearts, Pass with only two hearts, and Rdbl with a good diamond holding, in that order.

Geoff Simpson by email.

A I used to do the same as you after the opponents double a transfer. Now, I play that a redouble shows a maximum with 3-card support; completing the transfer shows 3-card support but minimum.

You might get to 6♥ after opening 1NT. I agree you

are not going to to reach 6♠. Possibly 6NT is the best contract because a 4-1 split in whatever major you have as trumps in a suit slam is likely to prove fatal. At matchpoints you would get a reasonable score for 3NT+3 because many pairs will be playing a suit game.

♣♦♥♠

Q What is correct play with this suit for one loser with no entry issues?

♠ A Q 9 8 7
♠ N E W S
♠ 6 5 4 3

Simon Gottschalk, Pendoylan.

A Without any useful spot cards (ie A-Q-8-7-2 facing 6-5-4-3), you would cash the ace and then make the next lead from the other hand. You make four tricks any time the suit breaks 2-2 or the king is singleton or the king is in a 3-card holding with West.

Your spot cards give you the option to start by finessing the nine. If you do so, you will lose two tricks either to K-10 or K-J doubleton offside (if you finesse the queen next time) or to a singleton 10 or J offside (if you do not). You will gain only against K-J-10-x onside. Either way, you are losing to two holdings but gaining against one.

Unless you have good reason to suspect a 4-0 break or that the king is onside, the correct play is still to cash the ace before leading up to the queen.

p35 ►

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Pam Main ☎ 01905 381395

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Heather's Private Bridge Lessons



Signalling

How do you plan the defence in 4♠
on the following hand? The lead
is the ♦7 to your ace.

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

West	North	East	South
3♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Prospects for beating the contract
don't look all that good unless partner
holds a singleton diamond, so you
decide to win this trick and play back
a diamond for him to ruff, hoping he
will play back a heart and you will be
able to give him a second ruff. The only
problem is, how does he know that you
hold the ace of hearts rather than the
ace of clubs, in which case it would
be necessary for him to play back a club.

The answer comes from the signal
you give him when you give your
first ruff. A high card (ie, the nine
in the above example), asks for the
higher ranking of the two remaining
suits (trumps are excluded) and
a low diamond would ask for the
lower ranking. If you return the nine
of diamonds, your partner should
interpret your card as a suit preference
signal for hearts and lead a heart back
to your ace.

Signals are given when you have
a choice of small cards to play. This
occurs frequently when partner leads
a suit and either he or dummy are
winning the trick.

The card you play will depend upon:

- Whether your partner has led a high card.
- What cards are in dummy.
- Whether you are in a trump or no-trump contract.
- The agreed signalling methods you have with your partner.

You should have an agreed method of signalling.

1. Attitude

A high card to encourage and a low card to discourage continuation of the suit (or, by agreement, reverse attitude where a low card encourages and high discourages).

2. Count

Here, you play your cards from lowest upwards to denote holding an odd number of cards and from high to low to show an even number. (Count may also be reversed by agreement).

For example, your partner leads the king. You hold 7-5-3-2. You should play the two if playing attitude and the five if playing count.

Your partner leads the queen in a no-trump contract and you hold 9-2. Play the two, discouraging; however, if it were a suit contract, you would play the nine to show a doubleton (count). Sometimes, you need to decide which signal is going to be more useful to partner.

3. Suit preference

A suit preference signal is where a high card indicates a liking for the higher-ranked suit and a low card indicates a liking for the lower-ranked suit (discounting both the suit played and trumps). Suit preference signals occur only in obvious situations. For ▶

example, partner leads an ace against a suit contract and dummy has a singleton. Tell partner which suit you would like them to switch to. Also, as above, you are leading a suit for partner to ruff. Play a high one if you want them to return the high suit. You may be able to get back in to give them another ruff.

N.B. As far as possible, you should try and be flexible about attitude or count, but one should take first priority by agreement.

4. Subsequent cards played in responding to partner's lead

The second card you play in a suit can give a signal, especially if you were forced to play a certain card at trick one.

- You win the trick with the ace from A-7-5. With two cards remaining, play the top of your doubleton – showing your count. You play the seven.
- You win the trick with the ace from A-7-5-2. From four cards, play the original fourth highest, ie, the two.
- Your partner leads and you hold A-K doubleton. With other cards in the suit, you take the trick with the king; but in order to show a doubleton, play the ace followed by the king. Partner will give you a suit preference signal on the king to show you how to get into their hand. In a trump contract, you may now get a ruff in the suit.

5. Unblocking a suit

- Supposing your partner leads the queen against a no-trump contract and you hold K-10-3. You know your partner must have led from Q-J-9-x (or more cards) or A-Q-J-x (or more cards). Overtake the queen with the king and then play the ten so as not to block the suit.
- You might hold A-x and partner leads the king. Play the ace in order not to block the suit.

6. Contributing an honour on partner's honour

In a suit contract, it is useful to agree that the play of the queen under the ace promises the jack (unless of course it is a singleton). Partner can now underlead the king to get into your hand which can be very helpful if he wants to get you on lead.

How do you defend the following hand as East? (The contract is 4♥ and your partner leads the ♠A.)

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

Play the queen under his ace, which promises the jack. Your partner plays ♠8 to your jack. You should understand that partner needed to get into your hand for a reason and interpret the ♠8 as a suit preference signal asking for a diamond.

This was the full deal:

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

7. Vary your signal according to dummy

When there is a singleton in dummy in the suit partner has led against a suit contract, it is of little value to give an attitude or count signal. Instead, you should give a suit preference signal. Play a high card to indicate the higher ranking of the remaining two suits ▶

We Are Survivors

(For those born Before 1940 . . .)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dish-washers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes . . . and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker bus to the terminus. In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coalhouse, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock Music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice-cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today . . . BUT

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Signalling continued

(excluding trumps) and a low card to ask for the lower ranking.
 e.g. You hold:



The contract is 4♥. Your partner leads the ♦A and dummy has a singleton ♦5. You should play the nine to ask partner to switch to a spade.

8. Vary your play according to the lead

Suppose the contract is 3NT. You are East, your partner leads the ♦4 and declarer plays the ten from dummy:



Put up the queen. Partner's lead must be from the king. However suppose partner led the eight? Now, you know that he doesn't hold the king so there is no point in playing the queen. Depending on the bidding, it may be possible that declarer began with a singleton king.

9. Vary your cards according to the bidding

Consider the following as East:

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



On the lead of the ♦4 what should you play?

Without the bidding to guide you, you may consider playing the nine, however, it is clear from the bidding that your partner is leading a singleton, therefore, play the ace and give partner a ruff, remembering to give a suit preference signal to tell them how to get back into your hand.

10. The rule of eleven

Against no-trumps, if you are playing standard leads, your partner may well be leading the fourth highest card of his longest and strongest suit.

It is likely to be the fourth highest if the card is a low one or appears to be low in relation to the other cards which can be seen. The formula is as follows:

- Subtract the value of the card led from eleven.
- The number obtained will indicate the number of cards in the other three hands higher than the value of the card led.
- You, as partner of the player on lead, can see the number of cards higher in value in your hand and in dummy's and are able therefore to calculate the number held by declarer.

You are sitting East on the lead of the five.



Using the rule of eleven, you take five away from eleven. The figure of six that you have arrived at tells you how many cards above the five will be present in dummy's hand, declarer's hand and your own hand.

In the example given, you can see six cards higher than the five in your hand and dummy's already. Therefore, declarer has none. This means that you can take the trick with the nine of hearts if a low card is played by dummy. You can unblock the suit by playing the ace and then lead the ten in the knowledge that the queen will fall under partner's king. ■

Q Non-vulnerable, after two passes, what should I call on this hand?

♠ K
♥ A 8 5 3
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ A 10 8 6

I opened 1NT and got told off.

John Anderson by email.

A When the singleton is the king, 1NT is not so unreasonable. If you open 1♦, it is quite likely that you will end up defending a spade contract and that partner will lead a diamond.

Vulnerable, I would pass. I would be reluctant to go against the field and pass non-vulnerable at match-points, though that might be the textbook action!

♣♦♥♠

Q In the hand below, West has 15 HCP with one biddable suit and, in my book, three non-biddable suits.

Dealer West. E/W Vul.
West East
♠ 9 7 5 4 3 ♠ 2
♥ A K 2 ♥ 8
♦ A K J 10 ♦ 9 7 6 5 4
♣ 3 ♣ A K Q 10 8 7

Should West open 1♦ and hope for the best, or bide his time and pass, hoping to respond to partner's opening bid?
Peter Fitch by email.

A While I have known people pass a 4441 12 count in the hope that the bidding will be easier on the next round, passing with this shape and 15 HCP is unthinkable. Despite the poor suit quality, a 1♠ opening seems normal. If you open 1♦, presumably with the intention of rebidding 2NT over a 2♣ response, you are really not painting an accurate picture of your hand. By opening 1♠, you leave yourself an easy 2♦ rebid over a 2♣ response. Here, East will then raise diamonds and you will finish in 5♦. You should manage to stay out of a slam missing the trump queen and a side ace.

Yes, Culbertson stressed the importance of suit quality – but that was over 60 years ago – modern thinking pays less attention to it. Having the right number of trumps usually counts for more than how strong they are.

♣♦♥♠

Q My partner and I held the following hands at our club:

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

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	All pass		

The contract went one off.

My questions are:
1. What are the

criteria to make a jump rebid in a minor suit?

2. Is the jump bid in diamonds correct?
My partner has 15 points and 6 losers.

3. Is my Roman Key Card bid of 4NT justified?

4. Do the criteria differ if the jump rebid is in a major suit?

David Cree by email.

A 1. An opener's jump rebid in the suit opened shows about 7 playing tricks, 15-17 HCP with a six-card suit or 13-15 HCP with a 7-card suit.

2. No: a simple 2♦ rebid suffices. A hand with a six-card suit will automatically be worth at least two points for distribution so you do not count those points in testing whether the hand has 15 points. While East's diamonds are good enough for a jump rebid, the overall hand is not.

3. No: the 4NT bid is not reasonable. Suppose you make East's ♠7 the king, which then gives East a textbook 3♦ rebid. A slam would still need two finesses, which is against the odds.

4. The requirements for a jump rebid are broadly the same whether the suit is a major or a minor. The slight difference is that on a hand that feels a bit too good to rebid three of major, opener might rebid four of the major (eg 1♥-1♠-4♥). Rebidding four of a minor, thereby going past 3NT, is less attractive. Indeed, some people attach a special meaning to the rebid of four of a minor (eg 1♣-1♥-4♣), such as showing considerable length in the minor as well as three-card support for responder.

E-mail your questions to Julian to:
julianpottage@mrbridge.co.uk


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The Cathedral Raid

Robin Hood and Nazir had joined forces with local players, Percy Gallowes and Hal Cossett, to enter a charity event in aid of Peterborough Cathedral. The entry fee was one pound a team, a not inconsiderable sum. Some forty teams were expected to enter and half the prize money would go to the winners, the other half to cathedral maintenance.

The event was to take place in the nave of the great Norman cathedral and Robin Hood surveyed the gathered throng. He recognised the portly figure of the Bishop of Peterborough, a strong player whose team had won a similar event the previous year.

'Take your places, as indicated on the notice-board by the West portal,' called a deep voice. 'Play will start at half-past midday.'

The outlaws' first opponents were a middle-aged married couple. This was the opening board of the tournament:

Dealer South. Game All.

♠ 8 5 4

♥ 4

♦ A 10 8 5 2

♣ A K 6 3

♠ K 9

♥ A J

♦ J 9 7 4 3

♣ Q J 10 8



♠ A Q 6 2

♥ 7 5

♦ K Q 6

♣ 9 7 4 2

♠ J 10 7 3

♥ K Q 10 9 8 6 3 2

♦ Void

♣ 5

West

Robin

Hood

North

Alwyn

Gloope

East

Nazir

South

Cedric

Gloope

4♥

All Pass

Robin Hood led the ♠Q and the pale-faced Cedric Gloope inspected the cards that his wife had laid out. 'A very lucky lead for us, my dear!' he exclaimed. 'Very lucky indeed. Mind you, I had my bid.'

Gloope won the club lead with dummy's ace and discarded two spade

Gloope declared. 'The man makes the wrong lead and then the lie of the spades permits a trump promotion.'

Robin Hood and Nazir shared a glance. They had indeed been lucky. If declarer had discarded one of his two remaining spades on a low diamond (swapping one loser for another), no



losers on the ♠K and the ♦A. This important business behind him, he played a trump to the king. Robin Hood won with the trump ace and switched to king and another spade. Winning with the ace, Nazir continued with the spade queen. Gloope ruffed with the ♥10 and Hood overruffed with the ♥J. The game was one down.

'They have the luck of the Devil!'

trump promotion would have been possible. Declarer could then ruff the second round of spades in his hand and draw the remaining trumps, losing just one spade, one trump and one diamond.

A round or two later, facing two well-dressed ladies who had entered a team with their husbands, Robin Hood picked up a good hand: ▶

Dealer South. N/S Game.

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

West	North	East	South
Bathilda Soukes	Nazir	Rhoswen Pike	Robin Hood
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Nazir was relieved when the auction came to a halt at the game-level. May Allah protect him from such awful hands! Robin Hood won the ♠K lead and paused to assess his prospects. To stand any real chance of escaping for just two club losers, he needed to lead the suit from dummy. What hope was there of that?

At Trick 2, Robin Hood led the ♦K from his hand. The plump-cheeked Rhoswen Pike won with the ♦A and returned a spade. Hood ruffed low and drew trumps in three rounds. Hoping for the best, he then played the ♦Q. Heavens be praised! The ♦10 fell from West.

Hood crossed to dummy with the ♦9 and led a club towards his hand. Rhoswen Pike could see that her side needed three club tricks to beat the contract. She played low smoothly in the hope that declarer held ♣Q-J-9 and would finesse the nine. It was not to be. Robin Hood played the queen and claimed ten tricks when this card held.

'I had to play low on the first round of clubs,' Rhoswen Pike explained. 'It was our only chance.'

The two outlaws shared a glance. East had missed an earlier chance. Had she held up her ♦A for a couple of rounds, declarer would have been unable to reach dummy with the ♦9. He would have had to lead clubs from his hand, going one down.

'Just our bad luck that the ♦10 fell,' replied Bathilda Soukes. 'My Algernon is South at the other table. I'm sure he'll make it too.'

Hood and Nazir collected several good scores on the next few rounds. If their teammates had enjoyed a reasonable game, there would be every chance of leading the field at the half-time interval.

Their next opponents were two black-clad friars.

'It's very kind of you to support our cathedral fund-raising event,' declared Friar Rollocks, whose girth was close to matching that of the outlaws' Friar Tuck. 'Some people begrudge the high entrance fee but it's all in a good cause.'

'Indeed,' Robin Hood replied. 'I'm hoping that the Bishop wins again. No doubt he would donate his prize money to the cathedral repair fund.'

'I'm not sure that he did last year,' observed Friar Gizzard. 'Shall we play this one?'

Dealer West. Love All.

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

West	North	East	South
Friar Rollocks	Nazir	Friar Gizzard	Robin Hood
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West led the ♣A and the defenders claimed the first three tricks in the suit. Robin Hood won the ♠8 switch

with the ace and drew trumps, ending on the table. It seemed that the game depended on a successful finesse of the ♦J. However, West had failed to open the bidding and was known to hold ♠Q-J-x-x-x alongside the ♣A-K. Surely if he held the ♦Q in addition he would have opened 1♠.

'Jack of diamonds, please,' said Robin Hood.

East covered with the queen, won with the ace. When Hood led the ♦7, he was delighted to see the ♦9 appear from West. He won with dummy's ♦K and could then use the ♦8-6 for a ruffing finesse against East's ♦10-5.

Realizing the position, Friar Gizzard declined to cover the ♦8. No guess was involved for declarer, since West was counted for 5-3-2-3 shape. Robin Hood discarded a spade and claimed the contract when West showed out.

'It's witchcraft, no less!' cried Friar Rollocks, turning towards Robin Hood. 'How, in the name of all that's holy, can you play the diamonds in such a fashion?'

'Normal play, wasn't it?' Hood replied. 'With the ♦Q in your hand, you would have opened the bidding.'

The priest blinked furiously. Good gracious, the ill-dressed fellow was right. If Father Mendez failed in 4♥ at the other table, he would have some explaining to do.

The half-time interval arrived soon and the recently formed team came together. 'Two or three boards that may be useful,' reported Percy Gallowes.

Robin Hood patted him on the back. 'Excellent!' he declared. 'We have been fortunate too. We should be in the lead or close to it.'

Hal Cossett was not so sure. 'The field is a strong one this year,' he said. 'The Sheriff of Nottingham has brought a team.'

Robin Hood froze in his seat.

'Is something the matter?' Cossett enquired.

'Nazir and I cannot face the Sheriff in the second half,' Hood replied. 'I er... owe him money that I cannot pay.'

'We will note the direction in which he sits and take the same direction,' suggested Nazir.

'Indeed,' agreed Hood. 'It shall be that way.'

To be continued



More Good and Bad Leads

When Leading through strength

In this series, I have already dealt with passive leads in suits, but so far I have concentrated on leading weak suits that nobody has bid, after auctions such as 1NT-3NT.

Consider your choice of lead, with this hand, after the sequence below.

♠ 9 8 5 2
♥ J 7 2
♦ 9 8 5
♣ A J 2



Dealer North. Game all

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

Clubs are the only unbid suit and later in this article I will look more closely at the merits of leading the unbid suit. However, in this case leading from the ♣A-J-2 is not very attractive, particularly when declarer is very likely to hold club values. You would certainly prefer your partner to lead clubs through declarer. If you decide not to lead a club, which of the other alternatives do you prefer?

I would certainly rule out a heart for two reasons. First, North almost certainly has five hearts and second, leading away from a jack is far from passive as I show below.

That leaves the choice between

spades and diamonds, both holdings where you have no honours. Your spades are longer, but there is a very good guideline that you should try to lead through strength. If you lead diamonds (dummy's suit) and you find partner with a good holding, the finesses are likely to work for you. If you lead spades (declarer's suit) and find partner with a similarly good holding, the finesses are likely to be right for declarer. So I recommend a diamond lead, the ♦8 (second from suits without a picture card). You will probably be reasonably satisfied if your lead is neutral, ie, doesn't give away a trick. However, if you are really lucky, you might find Layout A.

Layout A

♠ A 4
♥ A 10 9 6 5
♦ K J 4 3
♣ 10 7

♠ 9 8 5 2
♥ J 7 2
♦ 9 8 5
♣ A J 2

♠ 10 6
♥ Q 4 3
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ 6 5 4 3

♠ K Q J 7 3
♥ K 8
♦ 6 2
♣ K Q 9 8

Partner will work out easily that the ♦8 cannot be fourth highest. It is possible that you have led from a doubleton, but leading against no-trumps, it is far more likely that you would lead from a longer suit, so partner will place you

with the ♦9. If declarer plays low from dummy, partner will let the ♦8 win the trick and you will continue diamonds. If declarer plays a diamond honour from dummy, the ♦J, partner will take his ♦Q and switch to a club. On taking the ♣A, you will return the ♦9. Whatever declarer does, you should take the first five tricks.

There are two layouts that are worth demonstrating. First, suppose you lead a spade and find partner with a similar holding to the diamonds in Layout A, for example:

♠ 6
♠ 9 8 5 2
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ K J 4 3

Partner will take the ♠A. You have already set up a trick for declarer's ♠K and partner will need to switch suits to avoid conceding a second trick to the ♠J.

You need also to look at the consequences of leading the ♥2. Declarer follows with dummy's ♥5 and partner has to play the ♥Q to prevent declarer winning the ♥8. Declarer takes the ♥Q with his ♥K and successfully finesses your ♥J, allowing him to take five heart tricks. We need to be precise in advocating 'leading through strength'. It would be more accurate to say that it can be profitable to lead from your own weakness through strength. If you ▶

lead from your own isolated honour through strength you are likely to mangle an honour in partner's hand, as shown above.

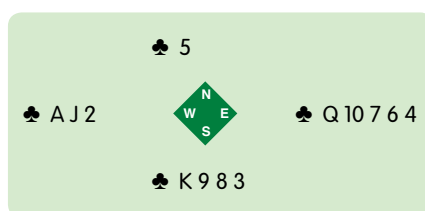
The unbid suit

Another lead much loved by teachers is the unbid suit (or the fourth suit if it has been used as 'Fourth Suit Forcing'). If three suits have been bid by your opponents, it is certainly the case that the fourth suit is the only suit where one or other of your opponents hasn't guaranteed length. That certainly means that the fourth suit may well be the one where you can establish length tricks if there are no trumps. Equally, if you are defending a suit contract, for example after the bidding in Layout B (below), there is a very real danger that declarer can either discard heart losers in his hand on dummy's spades, or discard heart losers in dummy on his clubs, unless the defenders take their heart winners quickly. That might make leading the unbid suit sound vital, however, inevitably sometimes you are dealt holdings in the unbid suit that are very dangerous to lead. I am afraid I don't have all the answers to this difficult subject and you can only decide each case on its merits, knowing that it is inevitable that you will get some wrong. However if you try to interpret the bidding you can classify auctions as follows:

- 1) *Auctions where your opponents have promised some strength in the unbid suit.*

Layout A demonstrated this. By jumping to 3NT, declarer has shown strength in clubs, the unbid suit. In these cases, it can be very dangerous to lead the suit. Note, that while I rejected a club lead from ♣A-J-2 in this example, a club lead isn't totally stupid. I think if you lead a club, you must decide exactly what you are hoping for. In this case, you would be hoping that partner has five healthy clubs and an outside entry. If you are

hoping the clubs are as shown below, you must avoid blocking the suit by leading the ♣A or ♣J, not the ♣2.



My experience is that most players who look for this sort of specific holding in partner's hand fall flat on their face more often than hit the jackpot, so my advice is don't try to be too clever.

- 2) *Auctions where your opponents seem to lack any strength in the unbid suit.*

What should you lead from this hand after the bidding in Layout B?



Layout B			
West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦

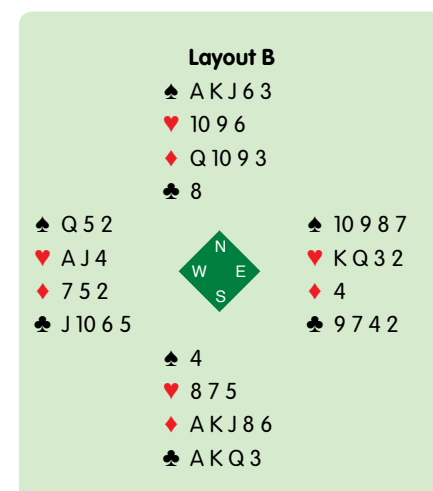
All Pass

¹Fourth suit forcing. It suggests that South cannot bid 3NT because he doesn't have the required stopper in hearts, the unbid suit.

A trump certainly has plenty to commend it. It will give nothing away and might help you prevent declarer cross ruffing. How about a heart lead, the unbid suit?

A heart is certainly highly dangerous: however, if you don't take your heart tricks quickly you might never make them. The bidding implies that your partner has values in hearts. If South had heart values, he might well have bid 3NT rather than 3♥. If North had a heart stopper, even ♥K-x, he would almost certainly have bid 3NT rather than 4♦. When opponents investigate 3NT but reject it after

fourth suit forcing in favour of five-of-a-minor, they are highly likely to have weakness in the fourth suit. As you can see, a heart lead is necessary here.



- 3) *Auctions where your opponents have neither promised nor denied strength in the unbid suit.*

I am afraid here you can only do your best. Make a decision and stick with it.

Leading from hands where every lead seems awful

Textbooks seem to imply such hands don't exist. I can assure you they do and are common. For example, the bidding was 1NT-2♣-2♠-3NT and everybody passed. You must lead from:



Yuk! South has four spades and North has implied four hearts. Partner has virtually no points. I don't particularly want to lead anything, so I tackle it from the opposite angle: What do I dislike most? That doesn't help much. I rule out the minors on the grounds that if I am going to lead from a horrid holding, I should at least pick something that I might be able to lead a second time if I strike lucky. My choice is the ♥3, hoping partner has the ♥J or even better ♥J-10. Sorry partner if I am wrong.

READERS' LETTERS

CLASS PHOTOS

Class Photos, in the July issue of BRIDGE, is more of a photography lesson and doesn't have much to do with bridge, in my opinion. I also found it a bit patronising – I'm perfectly capable of operating a camera and sentences like, 'Do make sure everyone is smiling when the camera is about to shoot,' are a bit self-evident, to say the least.

I am also worried by the suggestion that people could stand on chairs if the class is very large. The insurance company won't be pleased and I have no idea what the Health and Safety implications are. Getting the front row sitting on the floor presents a separate challenge, unless there are several younger people in the group. I hope that future Teachers' Corner articles will contain some bridge tuition.

Name & address supplied.

Teachers' Corner is a new column, aimed primarily at helping bridge teachers.

IT TAKES ALL SORTS

I wonder if you'd mind taking a look at my posting on the Bridge Forum 'passing an opening hand'.

The replies by Terence come across as so angry, scornful and patronising that it was very off-putting (or am I being over-sensitive?). He seems to have wound himself up into a five-paragraph rant, including marital advice at the end, of the very sort that puts people off bridge.

My husband joked with me that I had been trolled.

On the other hand, Tramtickets sent a helpful, kind and friendly response which is much more the Mr Bridge way of doing things.

Name & email supplied.

BOOT HER OUT

I would like advice on a bridge colleague who seems set to upset as many people as she can with bad moods, sharp and rude comments and – wait for it – using a mobile telephone at the table. At one session, her phone rang and she took the call, then just as a game was about to commence she started texting at the table.

I objected and she put the phone away. This member has EBU membership and has undergone training as a director. One would expect better from her. Are there set rules or is it a matter of ethics and respect? She spoils sessions for so many.

Name & email supplied.

Surely your club has a committee to deal with these problems. Too much of this club member's antics could very soon kill the club.

EBU REPLY

Mr Wilson wrote a letter printed in the August 2015 magazine in which he was critical of his perception that the EBU was not open in its decision making. In the spirit of openness I would like to answer the points he made.

He refers to the role that Sandra Landy played in devising and writing about

Standard English. This was considerable and she wrote many articles for the magazine whilst employed by the EBU up to and including 2006. Mr Wilson refers to them ending in 2006 and the cause for this being an article she wrote in 2008 decrying Universal Membership. As you might imagine from the dates given, this is not accurate.

The EBU announced a change to the conditions under which masterpoints were awarded in August 2014, but delayed implementing it for a year. Essentially, the change is that if masterpoints are to be awarded, then competitors must play 75% or more of the boards. This already happens in most duplicate sessions. The reason for the change is to ensure a greater degree of fairness. For example, with a large duplicate of 20 or more tables playing in one section, competitors would have few boards in common. It's a bit like comparing golf scores over a round when only playing about 13 of the 18 holes and not the same 13 as most of the other competitors. A few questions were raised at the time about different movements needed and an article was published in our Club Newsletter to explain them. A small number of clubs have expressed some concerns. We have delayed the implementation until January 2016 to look at these concerns. Actually, most clubs won't be affected by these changes but a few may need to consider alternative movements.

Mr Wilson goes on to criticise the matter of regulation of bids. The EBU does regulate some bids, especially opening ones, in order that most competitors are not upset or

disadvantaged by them. Mr Wilson believes the he should be free to open very light hands, opening anything that you would overcall with. The Laws and Ethics committee believe that there should be a minimum standard for opening bids, especially when inexperienced players are involved. Clubs are, of course, free to disagree as they are with all matters of regulation. It is only the law book that they cannot ignore.

I agree with the point that the game should not become over complex and there has been a danger of this. Some matters appropriate at higher levels of the game are not appropriate for a Thursday evening at the club. Screens come to mind as one example. I was pleased when as chairman of the Laws and Ethics committee, I cut the length of our regulations book by more than 50%. Just as screens are not appropriate, neither are complex systems unless, perhaps, the club wishes to allow them.

Whilst it is true that some clubs choose not to affiliate to the EBU, typically it is not because of matters of system regulation. Clubs may affiliate because they perceive an advantage, but many affiliate because they believe that an excellent activity such as bridge should have a regulatory body as any sport has. One can look at cricket, football, tennis or rugby and think some of the rules are complicated and, indeed, it is known for top players not to know them, but pretty much all clubs that participate belong to the national body to help promote the game they love and play. Bridge is no different in this respect.

Jeremy Dhondy,
Chairman of the EBU.

READERS' LETTERS continued

BOOK SHOPS

Having read the Readers' Letters in BRIDGE 151, I was wondering whether you had shares in Amazon. That mega company is the scourge of many businesses, so perhaps to redress the balance you might like to publish the following comments please.

Mr Bridge is certainly correct in saying that books which were mentioned in the Readers' Letters pages of the July issue of BRIDGE could be bought from Amazon. However, as one of the country's very few specialist dealers in bridge books, I can also supply most of your requirements at quite a competitive price, Amazon being but one of the bookselling websites I use to set my prices. Should you be seeking any copies which he or other columnists mention, spare a thought for the small, independent book dealer. My new catalogue will be out at the end of October.

Gordon Bickley, Card Game Books, Stockport.
☎ 07530 553594

No shares in Amazon but they do provide a really wonderful service.

GOOD NEWS

Thank you for suggesting that I try Bernard Magee's *Begin Bridge* software. It is exactly what I need.

As I was a returner to bridge, I had not considered the program, thinking I knew the basics. How wrong I was. I am greatly enjoying working through the chapters and finding out how much I don't know about bidding, play and

defence. Here's hoping that I can retain the information.

Beryl Houghton,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

You may not be thinking about your Christmas issue yet, but just in case...

Martin A Gienke.

DIRECTOR'S COMING TONIGHT

Sing to the tune of *Santa Claus is Coming Tonight*.

Chorus:

You better watch out,
you better not cry
You better not pout,
I'm telling you why
Director's coming
over tonight.
He's making a list
Checking it twice
Going to find out
Who's naughty and nice.
Director's coming
over tonight.

You may have a false bid,
Played cards that
won the loot
Or quickly played
them out of turn
But didn't follow suit

Chorus

You turned a card
while dealing,
Or signalled with a frown,
Or added up the
score all wrong.
He'll really go to town.

Chorus

Without alert you
transferred,
Jump bid without a stop
No thank you for
the dummy
He caught you on the hop.

Chorus

Write to Mr Bridge at: Ryden Grange, Knaphill,
Surrey GU21 2TH or e-mail: letters@mrbridge.co.uk

BRIDGE EVENTS with Bernard Magee

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19-21 February 2016
Suit Establishment

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House Hotel**
Swindon SN26 7AS

9-11 October 2015
Better Defence

16-18 October 2015
Doubles

29-31 January 2016
Endplay & Avoidance

26-28 February 2016
Game Tries

Elstead Hotel
Bournemouth, BH1 3QP

6-8 November 2015
Suit Establishment

Chatsworth Hotel
Worthing BN11 3DU

30 Oct - 1 Nov 2015
Sacrificing

4-6 March 2016
Thinking Defence

22-24 April 2016
Suit Establishment

Ardington Hotel
Worthing BN11 3DZ

22-24 January 2016
Pre-Emptive Bidding

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of SET HANDS
(tea & coffee at 1100)

1230 **to 1330**
Cold Buffet Lunch

1400 **to 1645**
BRIDGE 2
TEAMS of FOUR

1815 **to 2000**
Dinner

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DUPLICATE PAIRS

SUNDAY

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Breakfast

1000 **to 1230**
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ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

A letter from Ruth Major of Oldham to complete the story of the travels of her luggage around the Med earlier this year – see Readers' Letters in BRIDGE 151, the July issue.

Four days after the end of my recent Jordanian cruise with Voyages to Antiquity, my wayward, globetrotting luggage arrived home eventually with all my possessions intact. It had, ultimately, been misdirected to Erbil in Iraq. As a consequence, it had travelled more air miles than I had. British Airways refunded the full amount of my incidental expenses and Voyages to Antiquity very kindly offered me an ex-gratia refund as a gesture of goodwill. This was particularly generous of them as their staff, especially Matthew Swire, the on board Hotel Manager, had all been extremely diligent, caring and helpful in dealing with my unexpected circumstances.

It is often when we are faced with adversity that we learn some salutary lessons. I would like to share some of these with you:

- 1 Write your email address and mobile phone number on a luggage label on the outside of your suitcase. This ensures you can be contacted, anywhere in the world, to receive updates regarding the location of your luggage.
- 2 Write your name and address on a label on the inside of your suitcase. As a last resort, the case could be opened to verify that it belongs to you.
- 3 With your mobile phone, take a photograph of your packed suitcase so that you can provide a description of your luggage easily, should the airport authorities require one.
- 4 If you are travelling as a couple, share your items between two suitcases, so that if there is a delay or loss of your luggage, you have some clothing and personal belongings for both of you to access.
- 5 If you are travelling alone, pack a cabin bag with enough items for two or three days.
- 6 If everything does go missing, **do not** spend excessively on new items. Check the amount of money your insurance company is prepared to reimburse before you go on a shopping spree.
- 7 Should the worst case scenario occur, inform the offending airline and your insurance company and keep a running record of events on a daily basis – times and dates of contacts with airlines, insurance companies, travel agents, tour organisers etc, so that you can provide a detailed chronology to any relevant department on your return.
- 8 Keep all original receipts for purchases made.
- 9 Last but not least, don't let the problem spoil your much-anticipated and well-earned holiday. Make the most of it and enjoy yourself. Everything else can be dealt with on your return home.

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- Save match function
- Closed room – button to view other table
- System: 8mb RAM, CD-ROM, Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8 or 10

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Seven Days by Sally Brock

Saturday

We have a brief cup of coffee in our hotel and then Barry disappears in a taxi to the airport and his journey home. I am playing in the women's events with Debbie, but she had a family commitment last night and couldn't quite get to Tromso in time for the start, so I have arranged to play the first match with Marilyn. This is against the German national team and we lose fairly heavily, though this was mostly not in our room. Marilyn plays well and we are very grateful for her contribution. As arranged, Debbie turns up for the second match and we are pitted against a Norwegian team. Neither of our pairs shine and, after two matches, we are propping up the field. Time for lunch. In the afternoon, we play another Norwegian team and we have a very big win and then a good win against the Irish women I coach online. This was one of our good boards:

Dealer South. Game All.

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

West	North	East	South
Dbl	Pass	4♠	1♣
			?

What would you bid with this South hand? The Irish South doubles and North thinks she is too balanced to bid, so 4♠ doubled becomes the final contract, going one down. At our table, Debbie is sure she wants us to

declare the hand and so she bids 4NT. I bid 5♣ and there matters rest. She makes an overtrick so that is a good swing for our side.

The last match does not go so well and we end the day in 13th position – we need to be in the top eight by the end of tomorrow to reach the knock-out stages.

After play, we are invited out to dinner by Richard (of Richard and Gerry fame). They are lying second in the main open teams – let's hope they keep that up tomorrow. We have an excellent meal at the same fish restaurant I have been going to for the last couple of days.

Sunday

We start with a reasonable win and then a huge one. Of course, we are then playing better teams, so we lose by 14 to a Norwegian team called www.guts.com who were all wearing bright pink hoodies. Then, we play the Dutch national team and lose by 7. This is a good board for us:

Dealer West. N/S Game.

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

At our table the bidding is very strange:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

This might seem odd (indeed, it is) but: North's 2♣ is either Acoll or a weak two in diamonds, so South's first bid assumes a weak two in diamonds opposite – hence the rather strange-looking 3♦. North bids her suit to show a good hand and South is a bit stuck. I'm not sure what she intends her 4♦ bid to show – in truth, it is a strange bid because, with long diamonds, South would never jump to 3♦ as she would have a pretty shrewd idea that her partner had the strong hand and would not want to pre-empt her own strong auction. Anyway, 6NT goes down a couple and we are pleased enough with our result.

In the other room, Lizzie and Pauline are more practical:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

It is far from clear what the best line is in 6♠. After an eternity of indecision, Lizzie wins the diamond lead in hand and runs the jack of hearts. East returns a heart and it is all over for 17 IMPs to us.

With one match to go, we are lying 12th (needing to be in the top eight) with 95 point something VPs, but the good news is that all the teams between us and 6th are also on 95 point something. However, we are playing the top Chinese team, China Red and we win, by 6 IMPs. The bad news is that it isn't quite enough and we finish in 9th place. Still, I reckon it is a pretty good performance from my team – two of us (Debbie and Pauline) have never played at this level before.

However, the really exciting English news is that Richard and his team manage to keep going all through the day, lying mostly in second place. In the end, they drop a little but finish fifth, so make the knock-out stage in some comfort. I'll certainly be ▶

rooting for them tomorrow.

After the bridge, we go back to the apartment Lizzie and Pauline are staying in. The bad news is that it is a long uphill walk, but the good news is the views from their balcony. The deal is that we bring the booze and they do the food. We have a delicious meal: salad to start with, then salmon with roast potatoes (all the fish we have eaten here is especially wonderful), finished off with cheese and biscuits and a fruit dessert.

When we get back to our hotel, Debbie and I have a nightcap and go through some of the boards. A good day, if a little disappointing.

Monday

This is our day off. A lie-in is given top priority by general consensus. Debbie and I get going finally about 10.45am. First stop is brunch at the little place opposite. Then, we meet Lizzie and Pauline who have a plan: we get a number 26 bus to the cable-car station and then take the cable-car to the look-out point high over the city. We have a coffee with a view and then walk up a bit further before heading back to the station for the downward ride.

I decide to check on the bridge on my phone. I notice that, rather strangely, there is only one match going on and it is between my friends the Baker team and a team captained by Heskje. While I am trying to follow the deal on BBO, Pauline is looking at the tournament results' site where she notices that the match is tied. The tournament rules are that in the event of a tie in a knock-out match, there is a one-board sudden death play-off. This is the second time my friend Karen is involved in this (the other was in the mixed teams). I watch excitedly as her team plays in 4♣ doubled – and breathe a sigh of relief when they make it. It won't make any difference how many tricks are made in 1♠ in the other room!

The next stage of the plan is a boat trip. Before this, we have time for a coffee while Lizzie and Pauline go to

buy their dinner.

The boat trip doesn't quite work out. We go on board but it is really a ferry and you can't go out on deck. The windows are fairly cloudy and it is clearly meant for you to go to wherever it was going rather than any scenic trip – and it costs £60 each for the round trip. So we get straight back off again. Instead, we go round the aquarium, which is in this amazing building that looks as if it is all falling over (anyone who knows the telephone box sculpture in Kingston-upon-Thames will know what I mean). We watch the seals being fed and see lots of interesting underwater pastiches before watching a couple of short films, one on the Northern Lights and one on Svalbard.

In the evening, Debbie and I join Chris and Binkie, and Peter and Jane for an Indian dinner. A good evening but it would have been better if we'd asked for our curries to be spicy – all a bit mild.

Tuesday

This is the Pairs qualifying round. We need to be in the top 20 or so out of 50 to get through to the semi-final. The first 10 boards go quite well, but it is downhill after that and we are lying 30th with 10 boards to go. However, our luck is in and we have a terrific 73% session to qualify with a couple of places to spare.

We are a bit lucky on several hands. Look at this one:

Dealer South. N/S Game.

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

This is our bidding (don't worry, I will explain it in a moment):

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

Partner's 1♣ opening was our normal opening with a balanced hand. My 2♦ was a transfer, showing about 8 points or so with at least five hearts. South's 3♦ meant she had forgotten the system. My 3♥ seemed normal, and South's 3NT meant she had still forgotten the system. West leads the ten of hearts which declarer wins and returns a heart. East wins and switches to a spade to the queen and king and a spade comes back! Now, declarer rattles off all her hearts. This is the ending:

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

It's pretty straightforward to play ace and another club now to set up her ninth trick.

My friends, Karen and Lynn, win the Women's teams along with Marion and Meike, our team-mates from Sanya last October. Later, we find out that this is in spite of an adverse ruling of 7.5 IMPs and a compulsory 8 IMP fine when Karen's phone goes off. For dinner, we go out with my Irish students and have a great evening. We go back to our hotel for a nightcap, first with Lynn and then with Karen, so we hear both sides of their last session.

Wednesday

We start well enough in the pairs semi-final, but things go downhill thereafter and we finish 20th with only the top 11 qualifying. After bridge, we go out with Karen, Lynn, Simon and Tom. ►

It is a good Italian restaurant and not quite as expensive as some we have been to.

Afterwards, we go back with Tom and Simon to their hotel, the Edge, which seems to be where the world goes after dinner. Even when we leave at 1am, the place is packed with bridge players paying exorbitant Norwegian prices for drinks.

Thursday

We get up late to find that it is a gloriously sunny day, and, after a good brunch, decide to go and see a ship in a glass house near the bridge. It is an ex-sealing ship and we spent an enjoyable hour or so wandering around it and reading all the information about the life of the sealers.

Then, we went to the venue to play in a Norwegian duplicate. They do things a bit differently here. To start with, everyone plays the boards at the same time. The director puts several of the boards for the first (three-board) round on a table in the middle and you go up and help yourself. When you've finished a board you go and swap it for one of the others. Then, we tried to work out the form of scoring. It was all barometer and our first three boards scored: 12, 7 and -16. Very strange. It turned out that it was normal matchpoints but instead of 36 being a top and 0 a bottom, +18 was a top and -18 a bottom. We acquitted ourselves respectably, finishing ninth out of 38. Then, we went to sit in the sunshine and have a drink while going

through the boards. For dinner, we treated ourselves to the fish restaurant we had been to earlier. It really is an excellent place and I was pleased that Pauline and Lizzie enjoyed it as much as we did.

Then, we go back to our hotel and decide to pack for a while before having a nightcap. We order a taxi for 9.30am – the airport is only 10 minutes away so that is plenty of time for our 10.40am flight. I check our flight details and discover that we are actually not leaving until 14.00. Better change that taxi, and no need to pack this evening so we can have our nightcap that bit earlier.

Friday

We sleep late again and then pack. We wander over the road for brunch, as yesterday. We browse a few shops before returning to the hotel to meet our taxi. The journey home goes smoothly enough and includes an hour and a half or so in Oslo. Debbie has booked a minicab to take us home and the driver is waiting for us when we come through. The journey back into London is a bit slow – there is a flaming black cab on the opposite hard shoulder at one stage, with the fire beginning to set fire to the hedge-row, then lots of fire engines etc. I arrive at Barry's flat just after 8pm. He is a bit exhausted after being in court in Aylesbury all day. We put some food together and collapse in front of the TV. Outside it is dark – quite a novelty. ■

If you'd like to play in the ProBridge online club, visit www.pro-bridge.co.uk or email Sally at sally@sallybrock.com.

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ



by David Huggett

(Answers on page 47)

You are South as declarer playing teams or rubber bridge. In each case, what is your play strategy?

1.

♠ K 4 2
♥ 7 6 5
♦ 8 7 5 4 3
♣ K 2

♠ A 7 5
♥ K 8
♦ A K 9 2
♣ A Q J 5

3.

♠ Q J 8 6
♥ A K Q
♦ 5 3 2
♣ J 10 6

♠ A K
♥ Void
♦ A K Q J 9
♣ K 9 8 7 5 4

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠6. How do you plan the play?

You are declarer in 6♣ and West leads the ♠4. How do you plan the play?

2.

♠ K Q 9 2
♥ A Q 7
♦ A 6
♣ 8 7 6 4

♠ A 7 6 5 4
♥ K 9 3
♦ K Q 7
♣ K Q

4.

♠ 7 6 4
♥ A Q 6
♦ A Q 9 4
♣ Q 8 3

♠ A K Q
♥ 5 4 3 2
♦ 7 6 3
♣ A K 5

You are declarer in 6♠ and West leads the ♣J. East wins with the ace and returns the ♣5 with West following. How do you plan the play?

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠J. How do you plan the play?



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Sally's Slam of the Month



Slams Bid after Pre-Empts

The idea behind this series of articles was that readers should send in their slam hands and I could judge the 'slam of the month'. Over the last couple of months you have stopped sending them in, so this month, I am going to present a couple of my own.

Most of the slams we have seen so far have been bid after a reasonably accurate, uninterrupted sequence. However, these days, the blasted opponents just will not shut up and sometimes they take all your space away and you just have to guess. Then, it is good judgement that is needed. This is an example. I was North (see hand in next column).

You should never pre-empt against a pre-empt, so South's 4♠ overcall showed a good hand. I decided I was worth a move with three trumps, controls in both outside suits, the ace of their suit and a ruffing value. As I had passed over 3♦, any bid I made would have been a slam try in spades. When I bid 5♦, I clearly did not have first-round club control, so partner made the assumption that I had a heart control so went for the slam.

There were no problems in the play.

Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 6 3 2
♥ K
♦ A 2
♣ K J 9 6 5 4 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

♠♥♦♣

My second example saw us get to a rather delicate slam but partner excelled himself in the play:

Dealer East. Love All.

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

♠ 10 7 5 4
♥ J 5 4
♦ 2
♣ K 9 7 5 4

♠ 3
♥ K 9 8 6 2
♦ K 10 8 6 4
♣ 10 2

♠ A Q 9 2
♥ 7 3
♦ J
♣ A Q J 8 6 3

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

Of course, when opponents do get in your way, they also give away information about their hands. I probably should not have been so enthusiastic with a void in partner's suit but I didn't feel I had begun to express my hand.

West led a diamond. My partner, Barry Myers, played low at trick one. East won with the king and returned a diamond. Declarer ruffed with the ace and played the ♣J which held, throwing a heart from dummy. (Note that if West had covered the ♣J, declarer would have gone down.) Then, he ran the ♠9, crossed to the ♥A, ruffed another diamond high, cashed the ♣A pitching dummy's last heart, played a spade to the eight, drew the last two trumps and claimed. ■

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best few and choose
a winner each month.**



Answers to David Huggett's Play Quiz on page 45

1.

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

♠ A 7 5	
♥ K 8	
♦ A K 9 2	
♣ A Q J 5	

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠6. How do you plan the play?

With eight immediate tricks available, the contract looks pretty secure but you still have to be careful and think ahead. The diamond suit will surely furnish more than enough tricks for the contract, but if you cash the ace and the king and find that East holds the third – and winning – diamond, then a heart switch might prove fatal. Instead, win the lead in dummy and play a diamond to the nine. You do not care that it may lose because West can do you no harm. Of course, if East plays a high diamond, you win, return to dummy with a club and repeat the process. You will fail only if East has a sure diamond trick and West has the ace of hearts.

2.

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

♠ A 7 6 5 4	
♥ K 9 3	
♦ K Q 7	
♣ K Q	

You are declarer in 6♠ and West leads the ♠J. East wins with the ace and returns the ♠5 with West following. How do you plan the play?

This looks easy and it certainly is if trumps are no worse than 3-1 because all you have to do is draw trumps, when there are twelve easy tricks.

What if trumps are 4-0? There is nothing you can do if East has all four, but you can overcome a trump loser if West has all four by simply playing the ace first and then leading towards the table. If West splits his honours, then you return to hand with a heart and repeat the process.

3.

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

♠ A K	
♥ Void	
♦ A K Q J 9	
♣ K 9 8 7 5 4	

You are declarer in 6♣ and West leads the ♠4. How do you plan the play?

How incredibly annoying. All those winners in dummy and no way to get there, but even if you could, you would have to find the correct way of playing the club suit. As it is, your options are very limited and it seems you have to find a singleton honour in the trump suit in one of the defender's hands, but the singleton ace is only good if it is West who holds it. Even then, you would have to guess how many diamonds to cash first as well as the other top spade before exiting with a low club to make West put you back in dummy with his enforced major-suit return. Then, of course, you could

finesse against the queen. However, the singleton queen keeps your trump losers to one whichever hand holds it and you need nothing else. So, you have to be brave and play the king of clubs at trick two.

4.

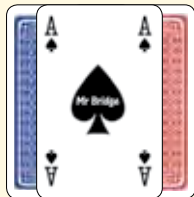
♠ 7 6 4		
♥ A Q 6		
♦ A Q 9 4		
♣ Q 8 3		
♠ J 10 9 8 2		♠ 5 3
♥ 9 8		♥ K J 10 7
♦ J 5		♦ K 10 8 2
♣ 9 7 4 2		♣ J 10 6

♠ A K Q	
♥ 5 4 3 2	
♦ 7 6 3	
♣ A K 5	

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠J. How do you plan the play?

Again, this contract looks to be fairly secure, although I suppose you might run into some bad luck in the red suits. However, it looks as though East can be endplayed easily, so simply cash all the black suit winners and play a diamond to the nine – or the queen if West plays either the jack or ten. If East wins, he might have a couple of black tricks to cash, but then he will have to lead up to one of the red suit tenaces in dummy. ■

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MAR 9	PORBANDAR (Kirti Mandir) India
MAR 10	At Sea
MAR 11/12	MUSCAT (Sultan's Palace) Oman
MAR 13	At Sea
MAR 14	SALALAH (Sumharam/Tomb of Job) Oman
MAR 15-20	Cruising Arabian Sea and Red Sea
MAR 21	SAFAGA/LUXOR Egypt Drive to Luxor. Afternoon sightseeing hotel
MAR 22	LUXOR/SAFAGA Egypt Morning sightseeing. Rejoin ship
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