

ENGLISH

BRIDGE
MATE?

INVITATION
TO GAME

ANYONE
FOR
TENACE?

BRIDGE
ANYONE?



I ♥ VE
BRI ♦ GE

SERIAL
DOUBLER

WORLD'S
BEST
DUMMY

SAY HI
FOR AYE

BRIDGE



Sentido Perissia Side TURKEY Feb 2019



Oulton Hall Hotel



Belton Woods Hotel

OVERSEAS CALENDAR (* 2 CARD ROOMS)

| DATE | RESORT | NTS |
|------------|--|------|
| 09 Jun 18 | Hotel Torretta Montecatini Tuscany ITALY BRIDGE | 10 |
| 29 Aug 18 | Hotel Jezero Lake Bohinj SLOVENIA BRIDGE | 10 |
| 03 Sep 18 | Hotel Torretta Montecatini Tuscany ITALY BRIDGE | 10 |
| 18 Sep 18 | Hotel Laguna Materada Porec CROATIA BRIDGE | 7-14 |
| 22 Sep 18 | Westhill Country Hotel St Helier JERSEY BRIDGE | 5 |
| 25 Sep 18 | Irish Bridge Festival La Manga SPAIN BRIDGE Licensed by CBAI | 7-14 |
| 30 Sep 18 | Labranda Mares Hotel Marmaris TURKEY BRIDGE | 7-21 |
| 01 Oct 18 | Melia Cala Galdana Hotel MENORCA BRIDGE | 7 |
| 05 Oct 18 | Anthemus Sea Beach Hotel GREECE BRIDGE | 10 |
| 08 Oct 18 | Mangalan Hotel & Spa La Manga SPAIN BRIDGE+LEARN * | 7-14 |
| 08 Oct 18 | Royal Andalus Cadiz SPAIN EBU CONGRESS | 7 |
| 10 Oct 18 | Isla Canela Hotel Huelva SPAIN BRIDGE+BOWLS | 7-14 |
| 28 Oct 18 | Athena Beach Hotel Paphos CYPRUS BRIDGE+BOWLS | 7-21 |
| 22 Dec 18 | Athena Beach Hotel Paphos CYPRUS BRIDGE+BOWLS | 7-14 |
| 05 Jan 19 | Playa La Arena Hotel TENERIFE BRIDGE+SM BOWLS | 7-42 |
| 02 Feb 19 | Rubicon Palace Hotel Lanzarote SPAIN BRIDGE | 7-14 |
| 15 Feb 19 | Sentido Perissa Side TURKEY BRIDGE+BOWLS | 7-28 |
| TBC Feb 19 | Marina Playa Hotel Mojacar SPAIN BRIDGE+BOWLS | 7-14 |
| 05 Mar 19 | Occidental Granada Hotel Spain BRIDGE | 7 |
| 16 Mar 19 | Iberostar Founty Beach Hotel Morocco BRIDGE | 7-14 |

UK CALENDAR (* 2 CARD ROOMS)

| DATE | RESORT | NTS |
|--------|---|-----|
| 03 Jun | The Old Swan Hotel Harrogate BRIDGE * | 4 |
| 03 Jun | Collingwood Hotel Bournemouth BRIDGE | 5 |
| 10 Jun | Croyde Bay Resort North Devon BRIDGE | 6 |
| 24 Jun | Toorak Hotel Torquay BRIDGE + BOWLS | 5 |
| 24 Jun | The Links Hotel Cromer Norfolk BRIDGE | 4 |
| 02 Jul | Shrigley hotel golf & Country Club BRIDGE | 4 |
| 13 Jul | The Esplanade Hotel Scarborough BRIDGE | 3 |
| 20 Jul | ST Kilda Hotel Llandudno Wales BRIDGE | 4 |
| 20 Jul | The Esplanade Hotel Scarborough BRIDGE | 3 |
| 22 Jul | Redworth Hall Hotel & Spa Durham BRIDGE | 4 |
| 03 Aug | The Stratford Manor Hotel & SPA BRIDGE | 4 |
| 06 Aug | Belton Woods QHotel Grantham BRIDGE | 4 |
| 12 Aug | Albrighton Hall Hotel Shrewsbury BRIDGE * | 4 |
| 16 Aug | The Royal Hotel Cambridge BRIDGE | 3 |
| 20 Aug | Oxford Belfry QHotel & Spa BRIDGE | 4 |
| 21 Aug | Oulton Hall Hotel & Spa BRIDGE | 4 |
| 24 Aug | Holiday INN Hotel Ironbridge/Telford BRIDGE | 4 |
| 26 Aug | Winchester Royal Hotel BRIDGE | 4 |
| 02 Sep | Croyde Bay North Devon BRIDGE | 6 |
| 07 Sep | Cotswold Water Park Cotswolds BRIDGE | 4 |



English Bridge

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ENGLISH BRIDGE
is published every two months by the

ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

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Aylesbury HP19 8AZ

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Printing: Wyndeham Group

Front cover design by Celia Weber

Captions provided by readers, see p57

*English Bridge is also published online
in the Members' Area at www.ebu.co.uk*

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Steering the EBU

PROMOTION

Starting from July our General Manager, Gordon Rainsford is going to become our Chief Executive. The Board believe it is a better title to reflect his increasing responsibilities and more in line with modern practice.

HERE COMES SUMMER

This year the Summer Festival main weekend events are in London as the venue in Eastbourne is being refurbished (the Summer Seniors Congress will take place at Devonshire Park in Eastbourne). A midweek programme is taking place in selected clubs. The Really Easy Congress (aimed at those Jack or less on the NGS) will take place at the Hilton, Warwick. We intend to return to Eastbourne in 2019 for all events. There is more detail on page 32 and also on the website at: www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/summer-festival-2018.

UPDATED STRATEGY

At the Shareholders Meeting in May our Strategy Document for 2018-2023 was launched. It is designed to guide and measure the EBU in its progress over the next five years. The plan can be seen on page 50.

DATA

We have all become both obsessed with data and concerned with protecting it. A few days ago new laws were introduced and over the last couple of months every member of the EBU should have received an email or notice by post covering the changes. Your county and club may also have made some modifications to comply with the new laws.

Since the introduction of the NGS several years ago there is a growing data showing how people do each week whether playing in a local club or in a county or national tournament. This data has also added to our armoury in helping to catch the very small number of cheats that exist and spoil our game. Of course we are aware that more than 99.9% of all activity at the bridge table is honest. Sadly a very small number try to improve the odds in an

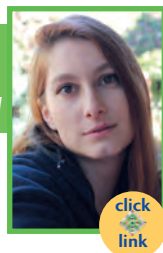
illicit way. If someone makes a contract against us that was hard we like to think he or she has done well. They may, of course, have been lucky. Although we don't much like to think something nefarious is going on, it is possible.

To give an example, Bridgemates can be pin protected to stop someone changing their own score. The director needs to be called to alter this. It can be switched off but that may not be a wise decision. In recent years we have used statisticians to investigate matters which seemed shady or unlikely and the data from the NGS has given food for thought.

Suppose a player bids a lot of successful slams. It may be because he has a good system worked out with his partner. Over a longer period it is unlikely he has just been lucky. If he bids 200 successful slams in one club and only 30 in another, playing about the same number of boards, then the statisticians can do some calculations of likelihood.

When one can say that there is a one in 70,000,000,000 chance of the results being due to chance it gives a useful assist to the determination of likely guilt in a case. It's pretty unlikely to start with that even if one club is stronger than another such a deviation is likely to be just random luck. Of course, just like DNA evidence in court there is always a minute theoretical chance of it being wrong which is why high standards are needed but the claims of innocence can sometimes be substantially discounted by such evidence.

Most players would like to stay clear of all such matters as, of course, would the volunteers that run their committees, but it is helpful to have good practice – are the boards that are dealt in advance kept secure? There are so many good things that have arisen from the computerisation of the game that throwing them away would be sad although I would be spared the hand record that told me the 4♥ I went off in last night not only could be made but should have been made. □



Opener's rebid 3 – Bidding a new suit

Generally, if you open one suit and then bid a second, new, suit, you are showing 5-4 shape (4-4-4-1 hands sometimes have to do this but we won't worry about them just yet). The place where people come unstuck is knowing what sort of high card strength they are showing. The rule is seemingly simple but can take a while to get used to: when you open a suit at the one level, bidding above two of that same suit on your next bid shows a good hand. This only applies in uncontested auctions: the rules can change a bit if your opponents start bidding. We are also only going to think about how it works when partner responds at the one level. Let's look at an example:

You hold ♠Qxxx ♥Kx ♦Jxx ♣Jxxx. Partner opens 1♦ and you respond 1♠. Partner now rebids 2♥. You know that partner has 5♦ and 4♥ so you have a diamond fit: it's clearly best to go back to 3♦. The problem now is that if partner is minimum for their opening bid, you are potentially playing at the three level with less than half the points between you and no especially great shape or fit. You could be in big trouble! It could even be worse than this. If your shape were 5-2-2-4 you'd be even more stuck. If partner had 3 spades and 12-14 points they'd have raised you, so it's not likely that you have a spade fit. What are you supposed to do? It's reasonably likely at this point that you do not have a fit at all and, yet, you must bid up to the three level.

To avoid putting you in this situation, partner is supposed to have some extra points. They have opened 1♦ and gone beyond 2♦ on their second bid. This has forced you to give preference back to diamonds at the three level so they are showing sufficient values that this shouldn't be dangerous. This is called a **reverse** and it usually shows 16+ points. If you open and do not have enough strength to reverse you should usually rebid your first suit (unless you can support partner).

If you held a similar hand, ♠Qxxx ♥Jxxx ♦Jxx ♣Kx, and partner opened 1♦ and rebid 2♣, it's a totally different story. Partner has made a rebid that

is lower than 2♦. This means that you can go back to 2♦, keeping the bidding low, so it doesn't matter as much if your side doesn't have that many points.

WHAT SHOWS A STRONG OPENING HAND?

For each of the following auctions, try to work out whether opener is showing extra strength or not:

1. 1♣-1♥, 2♦
2. 1♥-1NT, 2♦
3. 1♥-1NT, 2♠
4. 1♦-1♠, 2♦
5. 1♣-1♥, 1♠

In auctions 1 and 3, opener has reversed, showing 16+ points. In auctions 2, 4 and 5 their rebid is lower than (or equal to) 2 of the suit that they opened so they are not showing extra strength.

There is one further twist to this, however. In auctions 2, 4 and 5 opener has explicitly denied a super-strong hand and their rebid can be passed – it is non-forcing. In this context **super strong** means enough to force to game even opposite a minimum response: in practice, about 18+ points. If you hold 5-4 in two suits and 18+ points you should open your five card suit and then reverse into your second suit if this is possible.

If it is not possible (your 5- card suit is higher in rank than your 4-card suit) you can jump in your four card suit to show a really good hand and force partner to bid. An example of this would be 1♣-1♥, 2♠. It is not possible for opener to reverse into spades (reverses are not jump bids). Bidding 1♠ is non-forcing. Thus, you can rebid 2♠ to tell partner that you are serious about your hand. Note that you cannot jump like this in auctions where your lowest rebid is a reverse: 1♥:1NT, 2♠ is a reverse, showing 16+ points. You cannot bid 3♠ instead to show 18+ – just start with 2♠ and bid again later.

SUMMARY OF OPENER'S BIDDING OF A NEW SUIT

To summarise, after you open one of a suit and partner responds with a new suit or 1NT:

- ♣ Making a bid of a new suit that is lower than two of your original suit shows 12-17 points and 5-4 shape.
- ♣ Making a bid of a new suit that is higher than two of your original suit but not a jump shows 16+ points. It is forcing for one round and could be very strong. This is called a reverse.
- ♣ Making a bid of a new suit that is higher than two of your original suit and is a jump shows 18+ points. It is game forcing. You should only do this if you cannot make a reverse.

| Hand 1 | Hand 2 | Hand 3 |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| ♠ AK 4 3 | ♠ J 3 | ♠ K |
| ♥ K Q | ♥ K Q 6 5 | ♥ A Q 8 7 3 |
| ♦ A Q J 9 8 | ♦ K 8 | ♦ K J 10 6 |
| ♣ 7 4 | ♣ A J 10 9 7 | ♣ K 8 3 |
| 1♦-1♥,? | 1♣-1♠,? | 1♥-1♠,? |

| Hand 4 | Hand 5 |
|---------------|-------------|
| ♠ A J 9 5 | ♠ K Q J 7 6 |
| ♥ K Q 9 7 6 3 | ♥ Q J 4 |
| ♦ Q 5 | ♦ A J 8 5 |
| ♣ 7 | ♣ 2 |
| 1♥-1NT,? | 1♠-1NT,? |

Bridge for All & ACOlytes

The content of ACOlytes may occasionally differ from Bridge for All teaching materials produced by EBED, and the author may make some changes according to personal teaching style. Bridge for All teaching and practice books can be purchased from www.ebu.co.uk/shop/bridge-books

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Hand 1 – Bid 2♠ showing 18+. You definitely want to play in game as you have 19 points and partner has at least 6. If you bid 1♠, partner might pass.

Hand 2 – Bid 2♣. You are not strong enough to reverse by bidding 2♥ and unsuitable for supporting partner or rebidding NT. Bidding 2♣ does not promise a six card suit.

Hand 3 – Bid 2♦. You have 16 points but rebidding 3♦ is a jump and thus shows 18+, which you do not have.

Hand 4 – Bid 2♥. You are not strong enough to reverse into spades..

Hand 5 – Bid 2♦, showing five spades and four diamonds and 12-17 points. If your small club were the ace you might rebid 3♦, which is forcing to game. □



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Suit combinations - Part 3

This article continues the theme of how to handle common suit combinations. The trump suit in the example deal is the focus of today's discussion. The hand is not difficult, but non-concentrating declarers have sometimes gone wrong. You are in 4♠ and the defenders meanly cash the first three diamond tricks. After choosing to take the subsequent club switch with the ♣A, what next?

Well, your *Count and Plan* tells you that there are

Hand 1. South plays in 4♠. West leads the ♦A.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| ♠ | Q 10 7 |
| ♥ | A K 8 6 3 |
| ♦ | J 9 6 |
| ♣ | K 6 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| ♠ | A K 9 6 3 2 |
| ♥ | Q 7 |
| ♦ | 10 7 3 |
| ♣ | A J |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| ♠ | Q 10 7 |
| ♥ | A K 8 6 3 |
| ♦ | J 9 6 |
| ♣ | K 6 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| ♠ | J 8 5 4 |
| ♥ | 10 2 |
| ♦ | A K Q |
| ♣ | 10 9 8 4 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| ♠ | — |
| ♥ | J 9 5 4 |
| ♦ | 8 5 4 2 |
| ♣ | Q 7 5 3 2 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| ♠ | A K 9 6 3 2 |
| ♥ | Q 7 |
| ♦ | 10 7 3 |
| ♣ | A J |

tricks galore (six spades, at least three hearts and two clubs), so the order of the day appears to be 'draw trumps and claim'. Is there a problem? A blot on the horizon?

After the ♠A forces a discard from East and reveals the trump position, it is a simple matter to lead a spade to the ♠10 (a classic marked finesse), cash the ♠Q, cross to the closed hand with the ♥Q and draw the last trump. Then, with a flourish, you may spread your hand and claim the contract.

There are two points to note. Firstly, you would have failed had you cashed the ♠Q on the first round of spades. Secondly, you would still have made the hand had East started with ♠Jxxx and West been void. The details will be left as an exercise to the reader.

You may feel that this offering is too easy. Well, maybe. So try this hand, which is nearly, but not quite, the same. You are declarer in 4♠, West cashes three top diamonds and then switches to the ♣10. Looks familiar? So how would you play it?

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Hand 2. South
plays in 4♠. West
leads the ♦A.

♠ Q 8 7
♥ A K 8 6 3
♦ J 9 6
♣ K 6

♠ A K 9 6 3 2
♥ Q 7
♦ 10 7 3
♣ A J

You decide to take trick four with the ♠A and then your **Count and Plan** tells you that you should be drawing trumps. The key question is how?

If you cash a top spade in hand at trick five you will fail on a 4-0 split. Whichever opponent has ♠J10xx could not be denied a trump trick. Unlucky, for sure, but you have a way of protecting yourself against misfortune half of the time.

You can pick up a 4-0 break, but only if East is the culprit harbouring all four trumps. If West has them all then you are doomed, and are truly unfortunate. To see your fate you must cash the ♠Q on the first round of trumps. Ninety percent of the time everybody will follow suit (spades will be 3-1 or 2-2) and the hand would be pianola. No problem – draw trumps and claim. If East shows out on the first spade you must concede defeat with as much grace as you can muster. And if West shows out...?

Now you'd have a double marked finesse. At trick six you lead a spade from table and watch East squirm. He'd probably split his honours by inserting the ♠10, so you take the ♠K, cross to table (with the ♣K) and play another spade. That cooks East's goose, so you can draw the remaining trumps and claim your contract. The full deal:

♠ Q 8 7
♥ A K 8 6 3
♦ J 9 6
♣ K 6

♠ J 10 5 4
♥ 10 2
♦ 8 5 4
♣ Q 7 5 4

♠ A K 9 6 3 2
♥ Q 7
♦ 10 7 3
♣ A J

The different layout of the two trump suits in these articles may look subtle but it is important; it pays to know the difference. □

Have you got it?
Paul's challenge is online, page 67

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The matron's observation

It was almost three years ago since Stefan Götel had first partnered the Matron in the school duplicate. For a while he had regarded it almost as an act of charity, smiling bravely as they finished below average week after week. Recently he had been forced to admit that the Matron's game was steadily improving. They had actually finished second in the previous week's game.

Their first opponents were the Headmaster and the school chaplain.

losing spade. Winning with dummy's ♥6, he called for the ♦4.

The Matron was amused to hold such strong diamonds over dummy's best suit. With the air of someone doing something rather clever, she slid the ♦10 onto the table. The Headmaster ruffed with the ♥10, retaining the two lower trumps. He returned to dummy with the ♥7 and called for the ♦9. The Matron covered with the jack and he ruffed high in his hand.

The Headmaster paused to assess the likely lie of the diamond suit. The Matron would not have covered on the second round if her partner could beat the ♦9. Surely she must have started with A-Q-J-10 of the suit. He returned to dummy with a trump to the 9 and called for the ♦8. The Matron, who was beginning to look uneasy about the situation, covered with the queen and the Headmaster ruffed, the ♦7 falling from West.

After a club to the jack the Headmaster led dummy's ♦K, covered by the ace and ruffed. He then crossed to the club king and triumphantly led the ♦6. The Matron followed apologetically with the ♦5, and away went declarer's spade loser. The grand slam had been made.

‘Sorry, partner,’ said the Matron. ‘I should play low on the first diamond.’

Stefan Götel could not believe what he was hearing. Many players in the school game might have made the same mistake but it was a welcome step in the right direction that the Matron had realised it! He smiled sympathetically. 'I probably would have done the same,' he said. 'The Headmaster played it well.'

A few rounds later, Götel and the Matron faced two fourth-formers. 'Well done last week, Matron,' said John Hutson, flopping into the East seat. 'One more good board and you would have won it!'

'Straighten your tie, will you?' she replied. 'Personal appearance will be half the battle when

Game All. Dealer South.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Stefan Götel</i> | <i>Reverend Benson</i> | <i>The Matron</i> | <i>The Headmaster</i> |
| | | | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 7♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Hearts were agreed as trumps and two cue bids followed. When the Headmaster heard of the ♣K opposite, he leapt somewhat optimistically to 7♥. Stefan Götel led the ♥2 and down went the dummy.


The Headmaster was not overjoyed at the cards on display. Still, if diamonds were 4-4 or the \spadesuit A fell in three rounds, he could set up a discard for his

you start taking job interviews.'

Hutson laughed. 'That's a long way off,' he replied. 'Three more years here and then three at university.'

'Aren't you forgetting the gap year, going round the world?' added Neil Phillips, his partner.

The players drew their cards for this deal:

| Game All. Dealer South. | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------|--|
| ♠ A K 8 4 | | | |
| ♥ – | | | |
| ♦ A K 5 4 | | | |
| ♣ A J 8 5 3 | | | |
| ♠ J 10 9 7 |  | ♠ Q 6 5 2 | |
| ♥ K J 6 3 | | ♥ 10 8 | |
| ♦ Q 10 8 | | ♦ J 6 2 | |
| ♣ K 4 | | ♣ Q 10 6 2 | |
| | | | |
| | ♠ 3 | | |
| | ♥ A Q 9 7 5 4 2 | | |
| | ♦ 9 7 3 | | |
| | ♣ 9 7 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Neil Phillips | The Matron | John Hutson | Stefan Götel |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | 3♥ |

Neil Phillips led the ♠J and gasped when the dummy went down. What a great bid by the Matron! If her partner could score five trump tricks with his vulnerable pre-empt, that would bring the total to ten. Not so long ago, the Matron would have responded 3NT without even thinking and gone several down.

'Well bid, Matron,' said an impressed Stefan Götel. 'Ace, please.'

The German master reached his hand with a spade ruff and played the ace of trumps, the 3 and the 10 appearing from the defenders. Ah, East plays the 10. The trump suit . . . how was it most likely to lie?

To score the necessary five trump tricks, it seemed he would have to guess whether East had started with ♥K-10 or ♥J-10. Götel nodded to himself. *Das Prinzip der Eingeschränkte Wahl*, Restricted Choice. With the ♥J-10 East might have played the jack instead. This made ♥K-10 a 2-to-1 favourite.

Stefan Götel continued with the ♥7 from his hand, West producing the ♥6, and turned to watch East's card appear. Come on, play the king please! He blinked when a disappointing ♥8 won the trick. Two further trump tricks had to be lost and the game was one down.

'I was hoping for better hearts,' exclaimed the Matron, peering over her glasses. 'Did you realise we were vulnerable?'

Götel turned towards John Hutson. 'Clever card, that ♥10,' he said. 'If you play the ♥8, I would lead the queen next and make the contract. That collects J-8 and 10-8, while a low card is good only against K-8.'

'Yes,' Hutson replied. 'I was hoping you'd have some combination like that.'

The Matron entered the score, noting that several pairs had managed to make 4♥. 'What happens if you take several ruffs in your hand? Is that good enough? I had a lot of entries.'

Stefan Götel blinked, wondering if he was in the middle of some strange dream. The Matron could be right! Since when had she been an expert on cardplay? He would have to check the deal later. □

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Heffalump Traps

In each of the following hands you are sitting South. You are playing in a teams match with IMPs scoring. You should make a plan to give yourself the best chance of making your contract, even if that means giving up on the possibility of making overtricks.

Hand 1

♠ 8 6 4
♥ A 5
♦ K 8
♣ A J 10 9 5 3



♠ K J 3
♥ Q J 4
♦ A 9 6 2
♣ Q 6 2

You are in 3NT and West leads the ♠5 and East plays the ♠Q. Plan your play.

Hand 2

♠ K 8 6 5
♥ A 10 4
♦ K 6
♣ Q J 10 2



♠ A Q J 4 3
♥ 8 5 2
♦ A Q 3 2
♣ A

You are in 6♣. West leads the ♦J. On playing a spade you discover East has all four trumps. Plan your play.

Hand 3

♠ Q 10 4
♥ K J 8 3
♦ 9 6 4
♣ A Q 6



♠ K 7 2
♥ Q 6
♦ A K J 10 7
♣ K 9 3

You are in 3NT after East made a 1♠ overcall. West leads the ♠8. Plan your play.

Hand 4

♠ 9 5 3
♥ K 10 4
♦ J 8 7 3
♣ A K Q



♠ Q 6
♥ A Q J 7 2
♦ Q
♣ J 10 9 3 2

You are in 4♥. West leads the ♠J, East wins the ♠K, cashes the ♠A then plays the ♠2. Plan your play.

CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

ON EACH of the following problems, you are West. **What should you bid with each hand on the given auction at pairs, Game All?**

Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 62.

Hand 1

♠ Q 6 2
♥ A K 10 4
♦ Q 8 7 6
♣ A 6

| | | | |
|---|---|----|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| ? | | | |

Hand 2

♠ A 10 3 2
♥ 7
♦ 4 3 2
♣ A K J 7 4

| | | | |
|---|------|------|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | Pass | Pass | 4♥ |
| ? | | | |

Hand 3

♠ A K Q 8 5 4
♥ 3
♦ J 9
♣ J 9 8 2

| | | | |
|----|------|----|------|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

Hand 4

♠ K 10 9 6
♥ 3
♦ A 10
♣ A K J 8 7 3

| | | | |
|----|------|-----|------|
| W | N | E | S |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| ? | | | |

Hand 5

♠ A Q 9 8 2
♥ 9
♦ A K 5 3
♣ A Q 9

| | | | |
|---|----|------|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT |
| ? | | | |

Hand 6

♠ A Q J 6 3
♥ 8
♦ 8 6 4
♣ K 10 5 2

| | | | |
|----|------|----|------|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

David Bakhshi gives the answers on page 36

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Can I give you a hand?

N/S Game. Dealer West.

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

Diagram: A diamond shape with 'W' on the left, 'E' on the right, 'N' at the top, and 'S' at the bottom.

West dealt and opened, and the unopposed bidding went: 1NT-2♣, 2♠-3NT.

North led the ♥3 which declarer won in hand with the ♥J. He counted his tricks: 'Looks like at least one spade, at least one heart, four diamonds and four clubs,' he thought. 'That's at least ten tricks; more than enough.' Because he considered himself something of an expert, he also counted the defence's tricks: 'One spade, two hearts and one diamond. Four. Ten plus four is fourteen; puzzling, but never mind, the contract isn't in danger.'

And so declarer cashed the ♦A at trick two (Microsoft Word helpfully suggests that this should be changed to 'hat trick two'), and played the ♦9, losing to the king. South returned the ♥10, which North ducked to dummy's queen. Declarer played off dummy's winners: two clubs and three diamonds. He had made eight of the first nine tricks and the end position was as follows.

| | | |
|-------|--|-------|
| ♠ K Q | | ♠ 7 5 |
| ♥ - | | ♥ 9 6 |
| ♦ - | | ♦ - |
| ♣ Q J | | ♣ - |

Diagram: A diamond shape with 'W' on the left and 'E' on the right.

He came off dummy with a spade to his king and North's ace. North now cashed the ♥A-K. 'Oh, dear,'

thought declarer, looking at the ♠Q and ♣Q left in his hand. 'I wonder which black card he's got left?' After consulting the ceiling, declarer threw the ♠Q, and North's ♣10 won the last trick. One down. Where did it all go wrong?

Complacency at the bridge table is a terrible disease and, as in this instance, it can be fatal. Dummy's last diamond winner, the ♦10, on which the ♥5 had been discarded, was superfluous to requirements. Declarer had enough winners and stoppers in his own hand and could just as well have made the ♣Q later, throwing dummy's ♦10 on it. He had allowed dummy to squeeze declarer – the so-called *Suicide Squeeze*. It is also possible that I, I mean he, was looking at the wrong place on the ceiling.

Dorothy Parker wrote a poem about suicide called *Résumé*:

*Razors pain you;
Rivers are damp;
Acids stain you;
And drugs cause cramp.
Guns aren't lawful;
Nooses give;
Gas smells awful;
You might as well live.*

I understand that the first draft of the poem had another two couplets, written with bridge players in mind:

*Cashing a trick
that you don't need,
Can make you very sick
indeed.*

but they were dropped before the poem's publication in 1926. □

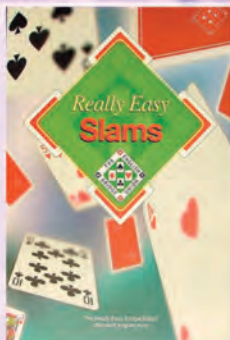
Simon is interested in amusing pair names. Do we have any Marks out there, playing with a Spencer? What about Singleton-King, Hyde-Park or French-Onions? Email lou@ebu.co.uk



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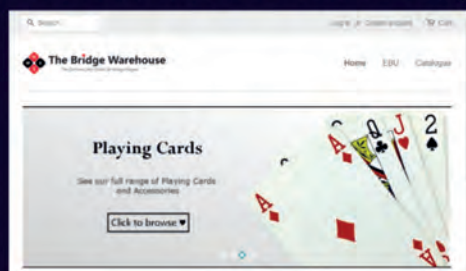


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Beat Today's Experts

These hands are all from modern events and David Bird points to some useful lessons to be learned from them. Bid them with your partner and then see how your efforts compare with the experts' bidding.

JUNE 2018 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

- E/W Game ♠ A K 10 9
 Dealer North ♥ 9 2
 ♦ –
(Beauchamp) ♣ A K J 9 7 6 3
*** North opens 2♠, South bids 3♠**
- E/W Game ♠ Q 10
 Dealer West ♥ J 7 5 3
 ♦ A 7 6 5
(Gumby) ♣ A Q 4
*** North bids 3♣, South bids 5♣**
- E/W Game ♠ K Q 7
 Dealer West ♥ A 3 2
 ♦ K 9 6 4 2
(Lazer) ♣ 7 6
*** North bids 2♥, South bids 4♥**
- Love All ♠ J 5
 Dealer South ♥ A K Q 10 6 2
 ♦ 6 2
(Kanetkar) ♣ J 10 9
*** South Gambling 3NT, North bids 4♦ to play**
- N/S Game ♠ A K Q 10 7
 Dealer North ♥ 9 6
 ♦ Q 9
(Kanetkar) ♣ K J 8 7
*** North opens 1♣**
- Game All ♠ J 7 6
 Dealer East ♥ A
 ♦ 10 9 4
(Cornell) ♣ A J 6 4 3 2
*** South bids 3♥, North bids 4♥**

Did you beat the experts? – Page 54

Beat Today's Experts

These hands are all from modern events and David Bird points to some useful lessons to be learned from them. Bid them with your partner and then see how your efforts compare with the experts' bidding.

JUNE 2018 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

- E/W Game ♠ 7
 Dealer North ♥ A 10 7 6 3
 ♦ A Q 4 2
(Leibowitz) ♣ 10 8 2
*** North opens 2♠, South bids 3♠**
- E/W Game ♠ A 9 8 4 2
 Dealer West ♥ K Q 10 8 6 4
 ♦ Q 9
(Lazer) ♣ –
*** North bids 3♣, South bids 5♣**
- E/W Game ♠ J 9 6 5 2
 Dealer West ♥ –
 ♦ A Q 10 3
(Gumby) ♣ 8 5 3 2
*** North bids 2♥, South bids 4♥**
- Love All ♠ A K 7 4
 Dealer South ♥ 9 7
 ♦ J 7 4 3
(Neill) ♣ A 7 3
*** South Gambling 3NT, North bids 4♦ to play**
- N/S Game ♠ 9 8 4
 Dealer North ♥ Q 8 7 4
 ♦ K J 10 8 4
(Neill) ♣ Q
*** North opens 1♣**
- Game All ♠ Q 10 2
 Dealer East ♥ 8
 ♦ A K 5 3 2
(Bach) ♣ K Q 9 7
*** South bids 3♥, North bids 4♥**

Did you beat the experts? – Page 54

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A wide-ranging, 4th seat, 1NT overcall

The opponents open one of a suit. What should 1NT mean after it goes Pass – Pass?

There are various ways to play it, but I propose 1NT as wide-ranging, 11-16. This means that doubling then bidding no trumps at the minimum level is around 17-18. It is best to use 2NT in the pass-out seat as 19-21 balanced. Holding 5/5 in the lowest two suits is very infrequent in this position and using 2NT in a natural sense covers a tricky handtype. You can respond to it in the same way you would respond to your 2NT opening, although personally I would prefer 4-card Stayman here.

So, if 1NT is so wide-ranging we need a way to find out what opener has ... Here is what I suggest:

2♣ = staymanic range ask, responses as follows:

2♦ = 11-12, no major

2♥/2♠ = 11-12 natural

2NT = 13-14 any hand, then 3♣ is a Stayman re-enquiry

3X = natural with 15-16 points.

(Bidding the opened suit can sometimes be redundant so you can think of a good use for it if you like.)

There is actually little need for transfers opposite a 4th seat 1NT, particularly to the majors so I suggest the other bids are natural and to play, with 3-level bids as natural and invitational if that is possible, perhaps a splinter if not.

Let's look at some examples. North opens 1♠:

| Hand 1. North opens 1♠ | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------|--|
| ♠ K 9 8 | | ♠ J 7 2 | |
| ♥ Q J 7 6 | | ♥ K 10 3 2 | |
| ♦ A 8 7 | | ♦ K 2 | |
| ♣ Q 3 2 | | ♣ A 7 6 4 | |

After two passes, West bids 1NT. East enquires with 2♣ and South bids 2♥ showing 11-12 points with four hearts. Now North can pass in some comfort. Even 2♥ is not 100% to make.

This time LHO, North, opens 1♣ – Pass – Pass:

| Hand 2. North opens 1♣ | | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| ♠ A 9 6 | | ♠ 3 2 | |
| ♥ K 9 2 | | ♥ Q 10 8 7 6 | |
| ♦ K 3 2 | | ♦ Q 7 6 5 | |
| ♣ A Q 7 6 | | ♣ 3 2 | |

West bids 1NT and East bids 2♥ to play. Note 2♦ by East would also be to play.

In the next example North opens 1♥ – Pass – Pass:

| Hand 3. North opens 1♥ | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|--|
| ♠ K Q 10 4 | | ♠ A 9 3 2 | |
| ♥ K Q 10 3 | | ♥ J 4 | |
| ♦ A 2 | | ♦ 7 6 5 | |
| ♣ 7 6 5 | | ♣ K Q J 3 | |

After two passes West bids 1NT. East bids 2♣, and West bids 2NT (any 13-14). Now East bids 3♣ as a re-ask and West bids 3♠ which East raises to 4♠.

In the next example E/W are vulnerable and North opens 1♦ – Pass – Pass:

| Hand 4. North opens 1♦ | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------|--|
| ♠ Q 10 5 | | ♠ 5 3 2 | |
| ♥ A 6 2 | | ♥ Q 7 | |
| ♦ A K 5 4 | | ♦ 3 2 | |
| ♣ K 9 2 | | ♣ A Q 8 7 6 5 | |

After two passes West bids 1NT. East, who didn't fancy bidding vulnerable on the first round, can bid 3♣ to show an invitational hand, allowing West an easy 3NT bid.

Last, North opens 1♦ – Pass – Pass:

| Hand 5. North opens 1♦ | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| ♠ K 4 | | ♠ A 5 3 2 | |
| ♥ 7 6 5 3 | | ♥ 2 | |
| ♦ A 10 8 | | ♦ K 3 2 | |
| ♣ K Q 10 8 | | ♣ A J 5 3 2 | |

East passed over 1♦ planning to double hearts for take-out and West bid 1NT. Now East bids 3♥ – this cannot be natural and invitational after not making a 1♥ overcall so is defined as a splinter. With nothing in hearts, West bids 4♣ and East might even make a slam try of 4♥ on the way to 5♣. Swop West's clubs and hearts, and West will bid 3NT after the splinter.

STICKING TO 'SYSTEM-ON'

If you want to keep the rest of your 1NT system – transfers etc – by all means do; but I strongly recommend you use this modified 2♣ bid. Having it available means that bidding opposite such a wide-ranging NT will be a whole lot easier. □

Try David Gold's quiz, online p68

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| | | |
|---------------|------|------|
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Oly ruffs home

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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

Diagram of the dummy hand (North) layout:

A diamond-shaped diagram representing the dummy hand's layout. The letters N, S, W, and E are positioned at the top, bottom, left, and right vertices of the diamond, respectively.

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Carefree</i> | <i>Technical</i> | <i>Solid</i> | <i>Ollie</i> |
| <i>Chris</i> | <i>Tim</i> | <i>Stan</i> | <i>Our hero</i> |
| | | | 1♥ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

Once Olly, sitting South, had decided her hand was a one level opening it was inevitable that her side would finish too high. Yes the hand only has nine points, but the 6-4 shape, two aces and the strong internal sequence in hearts made the hand too strong for a weak two as far as Olly was concerned. Additionally a weak two opening would make finding a spade fit difficult. Olly kept rebidding her hearts as her partner, Technical Tim, bid both minor suits. In the end the raise to four hearts was well judged by Tim. He hoped that his quick tricks would be useful in the suit contract and reasoned that it would be difficult to set up the diamond suit in no trumps.

For his lead Carefree Chris looked no further than his strong diamond sequence. Olly won the ace and assessed the situation. Prospects looked bleak.

Firstly she considered playing a heart to the jack hoping either her RHO had an honour doubleton heart or both honours and then playing on the club suit relying on LHO having the ♣QJ doubleton. The chances of this were pretty low and Olly decided it was best to try and score as many of her small trumps in hand as possible. To that end she ruffed a diamond at trick two, a club to dummy another diamond ruff as RHO discarded a spade. Another club to dummy and a third diamond ruff and then the spade ace and a spade ruff.

Olly had taken the first eight tricks and she had reached this end position.

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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


Diagram illustrating a card game layout (N/S Game, Dealer South) with a central diamond-shaped card layout and surrounding cards.

Central Card Layout (Diamond Shape):

- Top: N
- Bottom: S
- Left: W
- Right: E

Surrounding Cards:

- Top Left: ♠ –, ♥ –, ♦ 9 8, ♣ 10 3 2
- Top Right: ♠ K, ♥ 6 4, ♦ –, ♣ Q 9
- Bottom Left: ♠ 6 5, ♥ A J 10, ♦ –, ♣ –

She led a diamond off dummy and discarded a spade after East ruffed! Chris, sitting West, had no good play. If he discarded a spade then Olly could finesse when a heart was played through and Chris would have to play a heart back into Olly's AJ, if he ruffed the club winner to try and shorten his trumps, then after a spade across to partner and a heart through the same position is reached. Making four. Have you spotted the lead that defeats 4♥? Yes, a low trump lead stops the spade ruff in dummy and declarer, whatever she tries, cannot manage more than nine tricks. 



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Opener's rebid

By the time we reach the opener's rebid, the repercussions of 5-card major openers are mostly behind us and the territory is familiar. Lacking five of a major, balanced hands which are too strong for a 1NT opening, start with 1♣ or 1♦ and auctions which begin

1♣/♦–1♥/♠

will be common and merit more detailed consideration.

UNBALANCED HANDS

After one-major opener and a new suit or NT response we should try to have six to rebid our suit. Certainly 1♥/♠–1NT; 2♥/♠ is six as should be 1♥–1♠; 2♥ and 1♠–2♣; 2♠. I say 'should' because opener hasn't bid a second suit when it was easy to introduce one. However, those who select one-major with 5M-3-3-2 and weak NT values have to compromise after a suit response.

Try to rebid a second suit with 5-4, 5-5 and 6-4: there may be a fit and responder will better evaluate his high-cards. It is not always possible. For example, after 1♥–2♦; if opener has a secondary club suit, 3♣ is uncomfortably high. The two-level response promises only about 9 HCP, if opener is 10-15, arriving at the three-level without fit or high cards is unwise. The same applies if opener has secondary spades; 1♥–2♦; 2♠ obliges responder into a reluctant preference at the 3-level. Bidding a new suit above two-original-suit is a *reverse* (not the best word but we're stuck with it) and, like jump rebids and 2NT, shows extra strength.

With six spades and four hearts rebid 2♥. With six hearts and four spades without extras (less than 15 HCP) rebid 2♥, leave it to partner to introduce spades. When the side-suit is a minor, current practice is to rebid a 6-card major when minimum (10-13) and 2 of the minor with extras. The idea is that if responder gives preference to 2-major, opener may progress. Suit quality has an impact; responder seldom passes 2-minor but with 1-3 in opener's suits he just might. Opener must evaluate how the 4-3 fit would play.

A responder should always be mindful that opener's same-suit rebid shows a minimum hand and may be done on a 5-card suit and that a 4-card awkward suit is possible. The same concept applies after 1-minor and was a consideration when we looked at responding 2♣ to 1♦ in an earlier article in the series.

BALANCED REBIDS

A word on ranges: after 1♣/♦–1♥/♠ and 1♥–1♠ two schemes are common:

| Three tiers | Two tiers |
|-------------|---|
| 1NT = 15-16 | 1NT = 15-17 |
| 2NT = 17-18 | 2NT = 18-19 |
| 3NT = 19 | 3NT = A different hand entirely, usually a long strong minor with stops outside |

Some might expect me to advocate the second and there are factors in its favour:

- ❖ It stays lower with both 17 and 19 HCP opposite a weak hand.
- ❖ Extra precision in slam auctions and when exploring strain by avoiding jumps to two and (especially) 3NT.
- ❖ The 'new 3NT' caters for an otherwise hard-to-bid hand type.

But the case is not overwhelming: if you are unsure what the 'new 3NT' looks like and how to bid subsequently that can be crossed off, and you may want to use new conventions after a 3-point 1NT rebid which can otherwise cause uncertainties.

If you're used to 3-tiers and happy with it, I would mark the alternative as 'for future development'. Likewise after a two-over-one; many exponents of the weak no-trump treat sequences like

1♥–2♦; 2NT

as 15+ and forcing to game. This gains some

precision but the auctions are nuanced. Also, responder has to be that little bit stronger, a notional 10 HCP minimum. Something else for the future.

One last topic before some practice; 'hand-type first'. With a no trump shape you bid no trumps – even if it is possible to rebid a major at the one-level. In the strong NT world it might be acceptable to bid $1\heartsuit-1\heartsuit$; $1\spadesuit$ but employing the weak NT with a strong-NT rebid, the message of extra values is too important to cloud. One of the reasons 'majors first' when playing Acol is hard is because of auctions like $1\spadesuit-1NT$; opener has a problem with decent hands. $1\heartsuit-1\heartsuit$; $1\spadesuit-1NT$ enters the same zone of uncertainty. Let's practise some hands:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Hand 1 $1\heartsuit-2\diamondsuit$; ? \spadesuit A Q J 4 \heartsuit J 9 7 6 4 \diamondsuit 8 \clubsuit K Q 3 | Hand 2 $1\heartsuit-2\diamondsuit$; ? \spadesuit A K J 7 4 \heartsuit 7 \diamondsuit 8 2 \clubsuit A K 10 9 5 | Hand 3 $1\diamondsuit-1\heartsuit$; ? \spadesuit Q \heartsuit A Q 5 4 \diamondsuit K 10 7 6 3 \clubsuit A 9 4 |
| Hand 4 $1\clubsuit-1\heartsuit$; ? \spadesuit K Q J 10 \heartsuit Q 5 4 \diamondsuit A Q 3 \clubsuit J 8 6 | Hand 5 $1\clubsuit-1\diamondsuit$; ? \spadesuit K Q J 10 \heartsuit A J 6 5 \diamondsuit 10 2 \clubsuit K J 3 | Hand 6 $1\clubsuit-1\heartsuit$; ? \spadesuit K Q J 10 \heartsuit A J 6 5 \diamondsuit 10 2 \clubsuit K J 3 |

1. $2\heartsuit$. We will be in these situations often enough – especially with 5-4 in *touching suits the wrong way around* – not to squirm. Responder should be careful to respond $1\spadesuit$ with four spades if holding 'only just' (9-10) values rather than $2\diamondsuit$. With stronger hands a second bid can be made and spades won't be missed.

2. $3\clubsuit$. OK, it's not 16 HCP but these are great suits and for a stray jack, we can bid to the 3-level. Responder's $2\diamondsuit$ promises 9+ and opener has shown 16+ (or equivalent) so this is game forcing; both partners expect a combined 25 HCP or more. By requiring extra values (16+) to bid *new* suits above two of the original suit we will see benefits in auctions where slam and alternative strains are possible.

3. 1NT. If partner leaps to $4\spadesuit$ I don't think dummy will be a disappointment – a singleton queen in support works about as well as two low. The alternatives are a light reverse of $2\heartsuit$ or $2\diamondsuit$

without six cards or even a decent suit. With the same pattern but a small spade and \clubsuit AQ4? That's harder but I think I'll go with the values and keep with 1NT; partner needn't insist on spades with a ragged suit and, when he has hearts, will cater for a 4-4 heart fit.

4. 1NT. Retain $1\spadesuit$ here for 5+ clubs and shorter spades. To use $1\spadesuit$ on these shapes will leave partner unable to prefer clubs (even with four) when she has no support and no stop in the fourth suit. And when partner does bid 1NT that is dangerously wide-ranging, catering as it does to an 11+ shapely hand and 15+ balanced. Can we miss 4-4 spades? Yes, but only when responder does not have the strength to act again and, because we are 15-16(17) that's little more than a minimum. If responder has 9-10 HCP and 4-4 the continuation is $2\spadesuit$. Without extra conventions (or even with for that matter) there is only one way to bid the 4-4 shapes. So

$1\clubsuit/\diamondsuit-1\heartsuit$; $2NT-3\spadesuit$

could be just 4-4 in the majors as well.

5. 1NT. Hand-type first again. Responses to $1\clubsuit$ are *up the majors* without *extra* strength. If responder bids diamonds then a major, it is forcing. There is a case for game-forcing, but if that is counter-intuitive, responder's 2-major should have the values for 2NT, say 9-10 HCP.

6. $2\spadesuit$. Many strong no trump hands with 4-card support will raise to three and this is close. The Losing Trick Count works less well with 4-4 fits and balanced hands and this is a 7-loser hand, albeit with useful trumps. A thorny topic is whether to raise responder with 3-card support. That's mostly system independent but the increased frequency of *1minor-1Major* provides more examples. A topic for future review . . .

CHRIS' SUMMARY

- ❖ Bid no-trumps on balanced hands, even with a 4-card major to show at the one-level: hand-type first.
- ❖ Same-suit rebids show six – most of the time. There's even less reason to show five after a major opening.
- ❖ Responder's diamond-then-major actions show at least invitational strength.
- ❖ Responder's $1\heartsuit$ response followed by minimum spades shows 4-4 ☐



Invaluable switch signal

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ Q J 10 3
♥ K Q 8 7 3
♦ J
♣ K J 9

♠ 6 4
♥ J 10 2
♦ A K 10 9 8 4 3
♣ 10

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------------------|------|------------------|
| | | | 1NT ¹ |
| 3♦ | Dble ² | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |
| ¹ 12-14 points, ² Take-out | | | |

You are West and lead the ♦A – J – 7 – 5.

What do you play at trick 2?

Before you make that decision, there are some other questions to answer.

How many points are in dummy?

13.

Why is that important?

Because it lets you know how many points partner can have. You have 8 HCP, North has 13 and South has 12-14. That totals 33-35 and so partner has 5-7 points.

What does South have in diamonds?

Given your 3♦ bid and North's double for take-out, you can place South with a diamond stopper unless South has a death wish.

What will that stopper be?

Either Q-x-x or Q-x-x-x.

What follows if South has ♦Q-x-x-x?

Partner has no more diamonds and you will collect two diamond tricks at most. As partner has only 5-7 points, there is no way that you will come to more than four tricks if partner began with a singleton diamond.

As your only real hope is that partner began with two diamonds, what do you need to know?

If South began with ♦Q-x-x, then you need to put partner on lead to play a diamond through declarer's remaining ♦Q-x. Where is partner's entry?

You and partner both know South has a diamond stopper. Even if your normal signaling methods are count or attitude on partner's lead, that should not apply here. What you need to know is East's entry. A suit-preference signal by East is appropriate. East played the ♦7, highest card, at trick one and so West should switch to a spade (high suit) at trick two. If it had been the ♥A, East would probably gain the lead anyway. Here is the full deal:

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ Q J 10 3
♥ K Q 8 7 3
♦ J
♣ K J 9

♠ 6 4
♥ J 10 2
♦ A K 10 9 8 4 3
♣ 10

♠ A K 7 5
♥ 9 6 5
♦ 7 2
♣ 7 5 4 2

♠ 9 8 2
♥ A 4
♦ Q 6 5
♣ A Q 8 6 3

If West switches to a spade at trick two, the defence can collect nine tricks. On any other switch, South has ten tricks. If West cashes the ♦K at trick 2, South will make at least nine tricks – with a spade switch at trick three or eleven tricks on any other play by West at trick three. □

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New Prize Leads Quiz

by Alan Mould

Opening leads are often subjective and virtually any opening lead can be successful some of the time. However, bridge is in many ways a game of percentages and therefore certain leads will gain more often than others. In each issue you will be given three hands and the bidding on each, and you are asked to *choose your opening leads from those proposed by our Quizmaster*. Answers will be in the next issue. In each problem you are on lead as West.

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ANSWERS TO APRIL'S QUIZ: Page 48

QUIZ

Note that, in a variation from my usual style, all hands this issue are Pairs (matchpoint) scoring.

Hand 1

♠ 10 4
♥ A 9 6 4
♦ Q J 9 6 4 3
♣ Q

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

Choose from: (a) ♠10; (b) ♥A; (c) ♦Q; (d) ♣Q.

★★★★★

Hand 2

♠ K 10 4
♥ K J 10 9 8 5 2
♦ J 4
♣ 9

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

Choose from: (a) ♠4; (b) ♥K; (c) ♥J; (d) ♣9.

★★★★★

Hand 3

♠ K 6 5
♥ 9 3
♦ J 5
♣ A Q 9 7 4 3

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

Choose from: (a) ♠5; (b) ♥9; (c) ♣A; (d) ♣7.



Discovery play

Playing teams, the auction is passed round to South who opens 1♠ and North responds 2♦. What rebid should South make?

Game All. Dealer West

♠ J 9 8
♥ A 8 6
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ A 6 5

♠ A K Q 7 5 4
♥ 4 3 2
♦ A 6 5
♣ Q

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

Your choices are 2♠ or 3♠, and your hand is borderline. The queen of clubs may well be a wasted value, however you have excellent trumps and a useful holding in partner's suit. I would rebid 3♠. On the actual deal either route will lead to 4♠.

West leads the ♥K. How do you plan the play?

If trumps are 2-2, you can eliminate clubs and exit with a heart which will force the defence to

open up the diamonds, so you might as well win this trick. As you eliminate the clubs, you notice the king appear on the third round from West. The trumps divide as you hoped, and West wins the second heart (East following low) and cashes a third, East discarding a club. West now leads a low diamond. This is where you have got to:

Game All. Dealer West

♠ 9
♥ –
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ –

♠ K Q
♥ –
♦ A 6 5
♣ –

The key is to locate the king of diamonds. If West holds the king, you need to put up the queen. If East holds it you need to think again. To work out where it is you need to go back to the bidding. West has shown up with the ♣K and five hearts, including the king, queen and jack and yet passed as dealer, therefore the position of the ♦K is confirmed with East. You know that if you try the queen now, it will be covered and you will fail in your contract, so you must find another play.

Instead you should insert the nine. There is a chance that West holds the jack and ten. It wouldn't have helped to lead the jack in this situation as you would have covered and picked up the suit for one loser. On this deal, however, East covers with the jack. What now?

You must leave East on lead with this trick. Now he will be endplayed to lead away from the king, or concede a ruff and discard. Either way he gives you the 10th trick. This was the full deal:

PORTLAND PAIRS

Jon Thoresen & Helen Erichsen have won the Portland Pairs, playing at Tunbridge Wells. The Mixed Pairs competition was played at twelve venues around the country, and scored across all 284 participating pairs. Nathalie Shashou & Nick Sandqvist, who played at Richmond, were second.

Game All. Dealer West.

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

HEATHER'S HINTS

- ❖ When choosing a line of play, you should always examine all the clues the opponents have given you. Before you play to trick one you already have two sources of information: the bidding and the opening lead. Other clues may come later on in the play from signalling, discovering more about shape and location of high cards. On this hand you will remember that the opponents did no bidding and you opened 1♠. You might be tempted to think that the bidding hasn't given you much of a clue, but you shouldn't be so hasty! Those opening passes may give you many negative inferences about both shape and points. On this hand, West's failure to open the bidding was the crucial piece of information you needed to process.
- ❖ If you think you need a card to be in a particular hand but are certain it isn't, stop and think again! The most likely alternative is to get off lead. With a tricky suit such as the diamonds in this example, it is always going to be easier to have the opponents opening it up for you. □

SUCCESS IN PHILADELPHIA

Two English pairs won competitions at the Spring North American Bridge Championships held in Philadelphia in mid-March. Simon Cope & Peter Crouch won the Silodor Open Pairs. Sally Brock & Fiona Brown won the Smith Women's Pairs.



COLIN SIMPSON
1948 – 2018

Colin Simpson was a giant of a man, physically and mentally. He played in every tough high stake bridge game available and inevitably emerged a winner. Colin was born in England and his family moved to Scotland where he was educated. As a student at St Andrews he developed an interest in bridge and quickly became top class. He came to London in the '60s and started playing at Stefan's Bridge Circle against some of the top players of his era – Sam Lev, Alan Manch and Zia Mahmood. His optimistic outlook and affable manner made him highly popular wherever he played. Irving Rose, who was manager of St James' Bridge Club, said that Colin, in his opinion, was the best card-player of his day.

In addition to his prowess at bridge, Colin had an impressive career in the police force, special branch. In 1982 he came to the world's attention when he was guarding the Israeli Ambassador to the UK who was attacked by a terrorist and shot in the head. Colin gave chase and shot the assailant at considerable personal risk, before going back to headquarters and handing in his gun. Typically, he was back on duty the next day. He said with amusement that there was no counselling on offer in those days. Colin went on to be the bodyguard to Willie Whitelaw, with whom he developed a firm and long lasting friendship.

Colin enjoyed over 40 years of marriage to Juliana, a sophisticated and very attractive French woman. They both enjoyed bridge and golf as well as skiing and travel.

After retiring from the police force, Colin switched to duplicate bridge where he proved his enormous talent coming fourth in the Olympiad at Maastricht in 2000. He was the mainstay of the British Senior Team, which qualified to play in the World Championship in Sao Paulo in 2009. Colin's teammate Ross Harper said he was the nicest man he'd ever met. The team won the gold medal, so Colin finally earned the well-deserved title of World Champion. *by Kitty Teltscher*



Roman key-card Blackwood, Part 2

Last issue we started looking at Roman key-card Blackwood (RKCB) – an essential tool for slam bidding which will help you stay out of slams that have fair values and playing strength but a somewhat tenuous trump suit.

A REMINDER

Bidding 4NT asks for keycards and the responses are:

5♣ – 1 or 4 key-cards, (trump queen unknown)

5♦ – 0 or 3 key-cards, (trump queen unknown)

5♥ – 2 key-cards, denying the queen of trumps

5♠ – 2 key-cards, promising the queen of trumps

30-41 OR 41-30?

For some of you who already play RKCB you may be playing the 5♣ and 5♦ responses the other way round, which is the old fashioned version. It is not essential that you play it the way I do, but it is ever so slightly superior in situations where you ask for the queen of trumps. The important thing is to play the version you and partner are happy with and more importantly that you won't forget!

AAARGH - IS IT 1 OR 4?

For the purposes of this article, we are going to assume that you play the suggested version above. Is there a danger that the Blackwood user can get confused as to whether his partner has 1 or 4 key-cards? Or 0 or 3? Take this example below – who would you blame for this disaster?

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

| E/W Game. Dealer South | | | | |
|------------------------|------|----------|------|----|
| W | N | E | S | |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4NT | Pass | 3♦ |
| 5♦ | Pass | 7♠ | Pass | |
| Pass | Dble | All Pass | | |

East responds RKCB and then blasts a grand slam knowing that partner 'must' have three key-cards for his vulnerable overcall at the 3-level. The good news is the trump finesse is right so they only go for 500 in their doubled grand slam.

Where did we go wrong? Notwithstanding the fact that East gambled on missing the queen of trumps (and more on that later) East was guilty of assuming that the situation he wanted to be true was actually true.

East's correct bid after 5♦ is 5♠ which is called *pass or correct*. It says to partner:

'Please pass if you have the lower number of key-cards as we won't have enough. If you have the higher number of key-cards, carry on bidding, showing a feature if you have the queen of trumps along the way.

On the hand above EW would be able to stop in 5♠, and while this would need the spade finesse it is odds on to be right.

This scheme of *pass or correct* means you can sign off even when you are 99.99% sure partner has the higher number knowing he will bid again. Let's see a hand where it works well:

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

| E/W Game. Dealer West | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|----------|--|
| W | N | E | S | |
| 1♥ | Pass | 4NT | Pass | |
| 5♦ | Pass | 5♥ | Pass | |
| 5NT | Pass | 7NT | All Pass | |

When West opens 1♥ East bids 4NT, (a little hasty perhaps but keeping things simple is a winning policy in the long run) and West responds 5♦ showing 0 or 3.

East is pretty sure that West has three – his only other possible hand would be something like:

♠KQ83 ♥Q7632 ♦4 ♣KQ8,

but it costs him nothing to bid 5♥ as *pass or correct*.

When West bids on he would bid 6♥ to say ‘I have three key-cards and no queen of trumps’, so his bid of 5NT says ‘I have three key-cards and yes I do have the queen of trumps as well’.

After counting on his fingers and toes East bids a grand slam and chooses no trumps just to make sure that the opponents can’t get a pesky first round ruff.

ASKING FOR THE QUEEN OF TRUMPS

We saw above how you can find out about the queen of trumps simultaneously to finding out whether partner has 0 or 3 or 1 or 4 but, most of the time, don’t you know which partner has anyway? How do you just ask about the queen of trumps? This sort of auction is typical:

♠ A Q 8 5 4
♥ Q J 6 5
♦ 4
♣ K 8 4

W

E

♠ K 10 9 3
♥ A K
♦ A J 9 6 5 3
♣ Q

West

East

1♠

4NT

5♣

?

West opens 1♠ and East responds 4NT (again, a little lazy when there are so many exploratory bids that could be used but let’s play along for purposes of highlighting the queen ask).

East now needs to know about the queen of trumps, since if West has ♠A854 then slam will have almost no play, and even if he has a five card suit (and the jack) slam will not be worth bidding.

The way to find out about it is to bid the next suit up, which is the *queen ask*. After a 5♣ or 5♦ response, the next suit up says to partner ‘Do you have the queen of trumps?’

If partner doesn’t have the queen of trumps then he returns to the trump suit at the lowest level, if he does have it then he responds 5NT or cue bids a king below the level of slam. In the auction above West would reply 6♣ to a 5♦ *queen ask*. This would show the trump queen and the club king and East would bid the good 6♠ slam. Without the trump

queen, West would bow out at 5♠, securing the game without risking the highly unlikely slam.

What would each of the hands below say with an agreed spade suit after a 5♦ *queen ask*?

| | |
|---|--|
| Hand 1 ♠ A J 8 5 ♥ Q 9 2 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ K 9 3 | Hand 2 ♠ A Q 9 4 ♥ K J 6 ♦ Q J 7 6 ♣ Q 3 |
| Hand 3 ♠ A Q J 9 5 ♥ Q 4 3 2 ♦ J 7 ♣ K 3 | Hand 4 ♠ Q 6 4 3 2 ♥ A Q J 7 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ J |

Hand 1 has no problem – it doesn’t have the queen of trumps – it simply stops by bidding 5♠. (Partner is likely to pass this but can bid a small slam if he has the rest of the key-cards).

Hand 2 bids 5♥, saying to partner he does have the queen of trumps and also has the ♥K.

Hand 3 bids 6♣, saying he does have the trump and the ♣K and denying the ♥K.

Hand 4 bids 6♠ saying he has the queen of trumps but doesn’t have a king to show.

In each case the 5NT bidder should know what to do with the answers he has been given, otherwise he shouldn’t have bid RKCB in the first place!

The Dos and Don’ts of using the *pass or correct* bids and *queen ask* with RKCB

Do

be careful that you can cope with whatever response partner gives you before you launch into RKCB. You must have at least one key-card to bid RKCB yourself.

Do

remember that using the *pass or correct* bid of 5 of the trump suit is a good way to find out more information about partner’s hand even if you are confident he has the higher number of key-cards.

Don’t

bid a slam if you are missing two key-cards, or one key-card and the queen of trumps. (At best it will be on a finesse, often there will be no play at all).

Don’t

assume partner has the higher number of key-cards just because you want him to, stopping out of a bad slam is just as important as bidding the good ones.



Low-level doubles

It will come as no shock to any regular readers (both of you . . .) that I favour many take-out doubles at low levels. I defined low level as up to 2♠ some years ago – it certainly helps to have a virtually blanket agreement that ‘all doubles are for take-out’.

We are all familiar with negative doubles, I won’t re-explain them here other than to say that they have sometimes been called ‘Sputnik doubles’ or my preference ‘responder’s double’. After an opening bid followed by an overcall then a double by responder is **for take-out** (with emphasis where possible on any unbid major suits), rather than for penalties as we teach our beginners.

OPENER’S TAKE-OUT DOUBLE

Here are some examples of an opener’s take-out double:

A

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|----|----|
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♠ | 2♣ |
| Dble | | | |

B

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|----|----|
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| Dble | | | |

Opinions differ here. Firstly it rather depends on your system as to what actually works best. If playing a strong no trump system you will often hold a weak no trump on these sequences, so playing **support doubles** is probably best. I will look in more depth at these in my next article.

Playing weak no trump as your base (Acol-type) you have two main choices:

- 1 Double is **take-out**.
- 2 Double is a strong no trump hand, flawed in some way, (otherwise you could simply bid no trumps of course). The flaw is usually, but not always, the lack of a stopper in the opponent’s suit.

You can of course choose in your regular partnerships. The important thing – as always – is

for you and your partner to agree as to which it is!!

Playing take-out doubles (my choice) – let’s look at auction A):

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|----|----|
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♠ | 2♣ |
| Dble | | | |

This double can essentially be used as showing hearts – **without reversing values**. Perhaps a hand such as:

♠ 4 2
♥ A K 6 4
♦ A Q 8 7 6
♣ 9 5

whereas with an ace or king more – simply bid 2♥ as a full reverse.

An important corollary to this is that if you, as opener, hold:

♠ 4 2
♥ K 8
♦ A J 8 7 6
♣ K Q 10 9

or something equally nice for defence on the auction given you **cannot** now double 2♣ for penalties as partner will interpret (correctly) that it is for take-out. This is in practice a small price to pay, since you just pass and partner will often re-open with a take-out double of their own anyway. Again the key point is to remember is that *all low-level doubles are for take-out*.

TAKE-OUT DOUBLES AFTER WE DOUBLE 1NT

| W | N | E | S |
|------|-----|------|----|
| | 1NT | Dble | 2♦ |
| Dble | | | |

Here, once we have doubled 1NT for penalties, it is important to discuss what the next double should be (it is usually the same from either side in practice, though again you may choose to vary in your own partnership).

| W | N | E | S |
|------|-----|------|----|
| | 1NT | Dble | 2♥ |
| Dble | | | |

Needless to say I recommend, of course, to play the next double as take-out rather than penalties (primarily on frequency grounds). A side-note here is that most regular top-line partnerships (most but not all!) choose to play that if the opponents

remove to 2♣/♦ then a pass is *forcing* – we cannot let them play in 2♣/♦ undoubled. This does *not apply* if they run to 2♥/♠. The real idea is that the occasional 2♣/♦ doubled making is a very small price to pay for greatly increased bidding accuracy, whereas we cannot afford any mishaps with 2♥/♠ as we might end up doubling them into game....! Yuk!

TAKE-OUT DOUBLES BY OPENER AFTER THE OPPOSITION JUMP

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|----|----|
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | 2♠ |
| Dble | | | |

sides (or a flawed strong no trump by opener if that is your choice).

Please note the following:

So few partnerships discuss these types of auction.

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|----|----|
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | 2♠ |
| Pass | Pass | ? | |

Firstly double is once again for take-out, not penalties. It also allows for much greater accuracy in other

auctions. So bidding 3♦ for example should be *non-forcing* (typically 5-5 around 9-11 hcps), whereas with a stronger hand start with a take-out double then see how the auction develops, possibly introducing the diamonds as a *forcing bid*. For example:

| |
|--------------|
| ♠ Q 2 |
| ♥ K Q 10 7 4 |
| ♦ A Q J 9 8 |
| ♣ 7 |

This hand is too strong to bid 3♦ if agreed as non-forcing. Simply double first. This will really start to improve your *competitive bidding*.

HIGH-LEVEL DOUBLES (COMPETITIVE)

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|----|----|
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | 3♦ |
| Dble | | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|------|----|
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | 3♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | |

Even at the 3-level these are best still played as take-out. The term I grew up with was *competitive doubles* – showing the values to compete at the 3-level, so better than a minimum is clearly required.

HIGH-LEVEL (RESPONSIVE)

| W | N | E | S |
|------|----|------|----|
| | 1♦ | Dble | 3♦ |
| Dble | | | |

This is referred to as a responsive double, and is pretty similar. They usually apply after we double a suit

for take-out at the one or two level and they raise in the *same suit*.

| |
|-----------|
| ♠ A J 7 5 |
| ♥ K 8 7 4 |
| ♦ 9 8 |
| ♣ J 7 6 |

This hand might bid this way. It takes away the guesswork, since if you just plump for bidding a major you might find yourself in a sticky 4-3 fit! Typically 4-4 in majors and about 8+ as a normal expectation.

HIGH-LEVEL BY OPENER - WHEN OPPONENTS DO NOT JUMP

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|----|----|
| 1♥ | Pass | 2♦ | 3♣ |
| Dble | | | |

You can choose how to play this – but there is certainly a case for using it as a penalty double since it

is no longer a low-level double. I play it as take-out with extra values (essentially competitive).

ONE EXCEPTION TO LOW-LEVEL DOUBLES

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|------|----|
| 1♦ | 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | |

This one surprised me recently when a talented Junior International made this double for take-out

(without hearts as he earnestly explained to me at the end of the hand!) – since he didn't make a take-out double on the previous round. My fervent belief is that this auction is *for penalties*. The only hand that would be 'stuck' on the first round that would now wish to enter the auction an uncomfortable round higher, would be a penalty pass. Otherwise there would simply be no way of extracting a possibly excellent penalty.

Once again though – it is an auction I would like you to discuss with your regular partner.

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH DOUBLES

Hopefully we have radically tightened up many areas where, with better ground-rules, we are better-placed to describe more hand types in competitive auctions as well as having fewer misunderstandings! I simply want to build up your agreements. Many of the principles discussed can and should be applied to higher level auctions as well – once again there is scope for you to decide. Next time I will look at the exciting world of Support Doubles and Redoubles. □

Check you've got it!
Neil's online quiz is on page 70

COMPETITION NEWS

MORE MIDWEEK VENUES ADDED FOR THE SUMMER FESTIVAL

More clubs have been added to the list of those holding heats of the midweek competitions during the Summer Festival. At the time of writing 12 clubs are involved, so hopefully there will be a heat of one of the competitions near you. More details, including the venues, times and entry information, can be seen at www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/summer-festival.

OUR ONLINE GAMES WITH FUNBRIDGE HAVE EXPANDED

Our popular online games with Funbridge now take place four days a week! Great news for the large group of devoted players who play every week, and it gives others a chance to give them a try.

You can now play on Tuesdays, Thursday, Saturdays and Sundays, and there are extra games every Bank Holiday. As the other players are all robots you can play whenever you like during the day, stopping and starting as often as necessary to complete the 20 boards. There's lots of time to fit it in around the rest of your day. It costs just €2 per game and you can win Master Points and cash prizes. See www.ebu.co.uk/funbridge for more details.

We have also more than doubled the budget for our monthly prizes. The player with the best four results in the month now wins £30, with prizes for the top five. The most recent winner was Matthew Covill in April – other prize winners can be seen at www.ebu.co.uk/funbridge-winners.

ENTER THE EUROPEAN MIXED TEAMS TRIALS AND PREMIER LEAGUE

The EBU is intending to hold trials to represent England in a new EBL event, the European Mixed Teams Championship which takes place 22-28 February 2019 (venue tbc). The EBL event is the qualifying competition for the WBF's Mixed Teams Championship. See www.ebu.co.uk/internationals/mixed-trials for more information on the trials. Entries close 29th June.

Entries for the 2018 Premier League – a great competition in its own right, and a trial for 2019's Camrose and European Champions Cup competitions – close on 31st May: www.ebu.co.uk/internationals/open-trials for details.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

■ JUNE 2018

- 6-16 European Team Championships, Ostend
- 9-10 Pachabo Cup, Bedford
- 9-10 Oxfordshire Congress, Woodstock
- 16-17 Berks & Bucks GP weekend, Windsor
- 16 Leicester GP Swiss Pairs, Spondon
- 17 Bedford GP Swiss Pairs, Wixams
- 17 Dorset GP Swiss Teams, Wimborne
- 23 Garden Cities Trophy Final, Solihull
- 24 Inter-County Leagues Final, Coventry
- 29-1 English Riviera Congress, Torquay
- 30 Presidents Cup (Inter-County)

■ JULY 2018

- 6-8 Summer Seniors Congress, Eastbourne
- 11-20 European Youth Pairs Championships & bridge camp, Croatia
- 14-15 London Congress, Young Chelsea BC
- 21-22 Essex/Herts GP Weekend, Ware
- 21-22 Glos/Hereford GP Weekend, Ross-on-Wye
- 21-22 Notts GP Weekend, Spondon
- 22 Dorset GP Swiss Pairs, Wimborne
- 22 Manchester GP Swiss Teams, Altrincham
- 22 Sussex GP Swiss Teams, Patcham
- 23-26 British Summer Sims - Various clubs
- 25-29 Scarborough Summer Congress

■ AUGUST 2018

- 3-7 EBU Summer Festival, London
- 9-18 World Youth Team Championships, China
- 10-12 Really Easy Congress, Stratford-upon-Avon
- 15-19 EBU Summer Festival, London
- 21-23 Northern Midweek Congress, Harrogate
- 31-2 Junior Teach-in, Loughborough

■ SEPTEMBER 2018

- 1-2 Crockford Finals
- 3-7 EBED Autumn sims, various clubs
- 7-9 European Mixed Team Trial
- 7-16 Guernsey Congress, St Peter Port
- 8-9 Bedford Congress
- 8-10 Isle of Man Congress, Douglas
- 14-16 Cornwall Congress, Bude
- 15-16 Cumbria & Westmorland GP Weekend, Kendal
- 15-16 Essex & Hertfordshire GP Weekend, Ware
- 15-16 Premier League, 1st w-e, mixed venues
- 18-21 Oxford Bridge Festival
- 22-6 World Championships, Orlando, Florida
- 22-23 Derbyshire GP Weekend, Spondon
- 22-23 Surrey GP Weekend, Guildford
- 28-30 West of England Congress, Weston-s-Mare
- 30-1 Great Northern Swiss Pairs, Leeds



EBU CONGRESSES AND COMPETITIONS

All events are Green Pointed unless stated

Enter via 01296 317203, comps@ebu.co.uk or at www.ebu.co.uk/members

Riviera Congress

29 June – 1 July
Torquay



Swiss Teams

(Fri – 2 sessions)

Swiss Pairs

(Sat & Sun – 3 sessions)



Summer Seniors Congress

6 – 8 July
Eastbourne

Championship Pairs

(Fri & Sat)

Swiss Pairs (Sat)

Swiss Teams (Sun)

Scarborough Summer Congress

25 – 29 July
Scarborough Spa Complex



Northern Senior Pairs

(Weds & Thurs)

Open Pairs (Thurs) – BP

Multiple Teams (Fri)

Swiss Pairs (Sat & Sun)



Summer Festival

3 – 7 & 15 – 19 August
London & other venues

W/E Stratified Swiss Pairs

Four Stars Swiss Teams

One-day Swiss Pairs

Midweek Events – BP

Open Pairs & PAB – BP

Player of the Year

Northern Midweek Congress

21 – 23 August
Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate



Stratified Championship Pairs

(Tues & Weds)

Stratified Swiss Teams

(Thurs)



Guernsey Congress

7-16 September
Les Cotils, St Peter Port

Weekend Swiss Pairs & Teams

Weekday Pairs – BP

Midweek Senior events

Pivot Teams – BP

Overseas Congress

8 – 15 October
Chiclana, Cadiz, Andalucia
4* Iberostar Royal Andaluz



Open Pairs – BP

Men's, Ladies', Mixed Pairs – BP

Pivot Teams – BP

Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams

BP – Blue Pointed



Trouble at the table

A club TD asked, 'East led the ♠4 which was taken in dummy by the ace. Subsequently declarer (N) asked for the ♥A from dummy on which she incorrectly discarded the ♦3. She then called for the ♥K and correctly discarded the ♥6. The revoke was noticed by the opposition but they played on before calling the TD. North made 11 tricks losing the last 2.'

'I was TD that night and was called to the table. I ruled that the revoke was an established revoke and as the revoke card did not win the trick but subsequent tricks were won by N/S that one trick should be transferred.

'Neither side understood the ruling. N/S felt that the phrase 'The non-offending side should be aware of the fact that, although it can never be worse off after a revoke, it does not, in every case, have to end up better off' applied. E/W also felt that North's revoke had not disadvantaged them because as the cards lay they could not have prevented N/S from making 11 tricks.

'Please can you let me know firstly if I was right in the ruling and secondly how I should explain the justification of the ruling.

You have the ruling right. The sentence N/S quote is not from the law book. As justification for the ruling, I suggest: Following suit is fundamental to the play of the cards at bridge and failure to follow suit has always attracted an automatic penalty. The offending side can never gain by revoking: sometimes the penalty will deprive them of tricks that they could have made, and other times the penalty just gives back tricks they should not have made.

Shangara Singh asked, 'We play 2♣ as (some strong unbalanced hands) or 19-20 balanced. After opener rebids 2NT, should partner announce it as 19-20, or only do so when asked?'

Announcing only applies to 2NT when it is an opening bid. So the 2♣ opening is alerted, and the 2NT rebid is not alerted or announced.

Len Macauley writes, 'My query arises from a hand described in David Burn's article (*English Bridge*, February 2018, p44).

When the opening lead is made and dummy is tabled, is the next player entitled to take a short time to scrutinise dummy or would this be unethical if he had no significant decision to make. Holding a singleton would be the prime example?'

What Mr Burn wrote is completely consistent with the EBU position, as stated in the White Book. It is not considered deceptive for third hand to think with a singleton in the circumstances described.

EBU White Book, §8.73.2.2 Pause by third hand:
If declarer plays quickly from dummy at trick one, a pause by third hand should not be considered to transmit any unauthorised information to partner, nor to convey potentially misleading information to declarer. In such circumstances, no disclaimer is necessary.

The freedom for third hand to think about the deal generally at trick one if declarer has not paused before playing from dummy applies irrespective of their holding. Thus, for example, it is perfectly legitimate to think about the deal generally at trick one even if third hand holds a singleton in the suit led. As a consequence, TDs should not entertain claims that declarer has been misled by a pause from third hand at trick one if declarer did not himself pause before playing from dummy.

David Welsh asks, 'At the end of a board it was agreed by three players that 8 tricks had been made and their cards were withdrawn. The fourth player had not agreed and his cards were left on the table. The director was called and he said it was 3 to 1 and the result should stand.'

The relevant laws are Law 65D and Law 66D. As a practical method, the TD should ask the player who has not picked up his cards to turn them face up on the table preserving the order and the orientation (which way they were pointing to indicate win/loss). All other players should face their hands and the players, with the TD's assistance, should recreate the play of the hand, the un-picked-up hand should suffice to resolve any dispute. The recreated play should determine the number of tricks made.

Law 65D. Agreement on Results of Play

A player should not disturb the order of his played cards until agreement has been reached on the number of tricks won. A player who fails to comply with the provisions of this Law jeopardizes his right to claim ownership of doubtful tricks or to claim (or deny) a revoke.

Law 66D. After the Conclusion of Play

After play ceases, the played and unplayed cards may be inspected to settle a claim of a revoke, or of the number of tricks won or lost; but no player should handle cards other than his own. If the Director can no longer ascertain the facts after such a claim has been made, and only one side has mixed its cards, the Director shall rule in favour of the other side.

Brian Lawless asked, 'I have been sent a note by a fellow member from Stratford upon Avon regarding the use of the Stop card.

'Both on his cruise down to Cape Town and at the Cape Town club, the Stop card has been removed from the bidding boxes on the grounds that "its use has been banned world-wide". I find this difficult to believe and can find no reference to such a ban on the WBF site. I hope that you can confirm that the relevant Law remains unchanged.'

The use of the stop card is regulation not law, and the regulations are different in different countries. The EBU bidding box regulations remain unchanged, including the requirement to use the stop card. But the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) has stopped using stop cards in its competitions; and many people (outside America) think that what America does is what the world does.

In America, they were concerned that the stop card was being used to help partner – for example,

only using the stop card before weak jump bids. So the stop card (and any 'stop' announcement) have been removed from ACBL-sanctioned events. However the 'stop' procedure still exists – after a jump bid the next player is required to wait before making a call. To quote the *ACBL/NABC Daily Bulletin from Toronto, Volume 89, Number 6*:

Players, meanwhile, are reminded of the obligation to pause in the direct seat after a skip bid so as to avoid making unauthorized information available to their partners. Fast action – any call or bid – is also covered in this admonition. Players should strive to maintain an even tempo during the auction.

Robin Barker is the EBU's Deputy Chief Tournament Director. He is editor of the White Book and looks forward to answering your questions. Please email him – robin@ebu.co.uk.

The author, English Bridge and the EBU are not responsible if the information provided is incorrect or incomplete.

TOP TEN CLUBS IN ENGLAND 2017-18

CONGRATULATIONS TO **Richmond Bridge Club** for coming top in the list of most popular clubs in England for the eighth consecutive year. The list is in order of player sessions over the year April 2017 – March 2018. Well done to Oxford which has entered the top ten, and to Kenilworth, Stamford and Tunbridge Wells which have all climbed two places.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Richmond | 6. Tunbridge Wells |
| 2. Wimbledon | 7. Cheltenham |
| 3. West Midlands | 8. Bristol |
| 4. Stamford | 9. South Bucks |
| 5. Kenilworth | 10. Oxford |

A more extensive list can be found on the EBU website, www.ebu.co.uk/node/3114



**Please recycle
this magazine when you
have finished with it**

Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Answers from page 12



| | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------|
| Hand 1 | ♠ 8 6 4 | |
| | ♥ A 5 | |
| | ♦ K 8 | |
| | ♣ A J 10 9 5 3 | |
| ♠ A 10 7 5 2 | | ♠ Q 9 |
| ♥ 9 7 3 2 | | ♥ K 10 8 6 |
| ♦ J 7 4 | | ♦ Q 10 5 3 |
| ♣ 4 | | ♣ K 8 7 |
| | ♠ K J 3 | |
| | ♥ Q J 4 | |
| | ♦ A 9 6 2 | |
| | ♣ Q 6 2 | |

You are in 3NT and West leads the ♠5 and East plays the ♠Q.

You appear to have arrived in a normal 3NT contract, so whilst you may not expect a big swing either way, careful play can still be rewarded.

You start with just four top tricks, but five extra tricks will be available in clubs if West has the ♣K. In practice, only four more club tricks are needed

given that West's spade lead ensures a winner with the ♠K at some point.

After you play the ♠4 from dummy, East follows with the ♠Q. Should you win the first trick with the ♠K? Upon gaining the lead, you will play on clubs, and will be unable to avoid losing the lead to East if he holds ♣Kx or longer. Could this place your contract in danger?

If you win the ♠K immediately and lead the ♣Q, East can return a spade if he wins the trick with the ♠K. This will defeat the contract if West can win four spade tricks. Your contract is only in danger if East has the ♠K *and* West has five spades headed by the ♠A. South can ensure success by playing low at trick one. The ♠KJ will still serve as a stopper now the ♠Q has been played. East returns a spade, and it will not matter whether West wins the trick or not. Upon gaining the lead you lead the ♣Q. If East wins he will be unable to return a spade unless spades split 4-3, in which case you will only lose three spades and one club before regaining the lead.

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

You are in 6♠. West leads the ♦J. On playing a spade you discover East has all four trumps.

You have reached a decent slam contract that has much better chances of succeeding given that West has not led a heart. There are 10 top tricks, and if spades split 2-2, you could simply plan to trump a heart and a diamond in the dummy (having thrown a heart on your third diamond winner).

However, if spades are not 2-2, then this line of play would risk a diamond winner being trumped, or East being in a position to overtrump if he has the spade length. There is a safer way to make the two extra tricks that are required. Can you see how this can be achieved?

Dummy's ♣QJ10 provides a certain way to make extra tricks irrespective of which opponent holds the ♣K. To make use of dummy's clubs, you can win the ♦K and lead the ♠5 to the ♠J. When West discards, you should play (unblock) the ♣A, then play three more rounds of spades ending in the dummy with the ♠K.

You now lead the ♣Q. If East played the ♣K, then you would trump and return to the ♥A and cash the ♣J10. When East plays low, you simply throw the ♥2. West can win the ♣K and continue diamonds, but you win the ♦Q, then cross to the ♥A to cash the ♣J and the ♣10 to make your contract.

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

You are in 3NT after East made a 1♠ overcall. West leads the ♠8.

Despite the fact that you have plenty of points, 3NT would have been easier to play from North. West has led either a singleton or top of a doubleton, so East can be placed with the ♠AJ9 and two or three low spades. To reach your target, you will need to make use of the diamonds, and you need to win two major suit tricks if West has the guarded ♦Q.

It looks natural to try the ♠10 from the dummy, which East will cover with the ♠J. If you win this trick with the ♠K, you can cross to the ♣Q and lead the ♦9. If the diamond finesse wins, you can repeat

the finesse and easily win nine tricks if East also holds the ♥A as West will never be able to lead a second spade through dummy's ♠Q4. It will not work if West wins the ♦Q or holds the ♥A.

You could instead duck the first trick, but East can now play the ♠A and a third spade. You will have won just one spade trick, and you will still be defeated if West can win the ♦Q and get to East's hand with the ♥A.

Is there an alternative approach? South should play the ♠Q from dummy on the first trick. If East ducks, then the diamond finesse can be taken. If West wins the ♦Q, he can play a second spade to East's ♠A, but declarer will now have nine winners upon regaining the lead. If East wins the ♠A and plays a second spade, then South can let this ride to dummy's ♠10 then lead the ♦9. If East wins the ♠A and switches to diamonds, South can win the ♦K and lead the ♥Q. If the defenders win this trick and successfully establish spades, then declarer can still lead the ♦9 from the dummy, and finesse into the (safe) West hand. East will not be able to regain the lead to cash any spade winners. Finally, if the defenders duck the ♥Q, then declarer can cross to the ♣Q and run the ♦9 to establish the diamonds before the defence have established their spade winners.

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

You are in 4♥. West leads the ♠J, East wins the ♠K, cashes the ♠A then plays the ♠2.

It looks like you have reached another flat game, but it pays to be aware of any potential pitfalls.

East wins the first trick with the ♠K, then cashes the ♠A and leads a third spade. It will not gain to discard the ♦Q on this trick since the defenders can then switch to diamonds, so you trump with the ♥2.

Assuming that hearts are not 5-0, then it looks

like you have 10 top tricks – five hearts and five clubs, so you may be tempted to draw trumps, then cash the ♣AKQ before crossing back to your hand to play your last two club winners. This will be the safest way to play if hearts divide 3-2, but it is worth considering what will happen if they split 4-1. Drawing four rounds of trumps will leave you with no entry back to your clubs after you have played dummy's ♣AKQ. This is due to the fact that your clubs are blocked.

You should therefore lead the ♥7 to the ♥K then lead a heart to the ♥J. When West discards, it is necessary to unblock the clubs before drawing the last two trumps, so you cross to the ♣Q and follow up with the ♣K. You need East to have two clubs, but it is now too risky (and not necessary) to cash the ♠A. Can you see why the ♠A does not need to be cashed at this point?

South should now draw the last two trumps. On the final trump, dummy has to make a discard. Throwing the ♠A completes the process of unblocking the suit, and South can now bring her trick total to 10 by playing the ♣J and the ♣10. □



The unenlightening Lightner double

One of the most reliable disaster generators since its invention some time in the 1930s has been the Lightner double, named after its inventor Theodore “Teddy” Lightner. Despite being hailed by Skid Simon “one of the most brilliant contributions to the game of bridge ever made”, the double of a slam to request an unusual lead has been responsible for as many slams making that should not have done as the converse.

Part of the problem is that one cannot always determine what unusual lead is being requested. You’re not supposed to lead a suit partner has bid, and you’re not supposed to lead a trump. If the slam is in a suit, the idea is that partner has a side-suit void and wants you to lead this suit so that he can ruff it. The first time my partner produced such a double I had seven cards in one of the side suits and three in the other. I triumphantly led my seven-card suit, and declarer claimed when partner followed. I should have led the three-card suit, of course.

When the contract is six or seven no trumps it is, of course, not likely that partner will ruff the opening lead – although I have witnessed someone make a Lightner double of 6NT with a side-suit void, as well as a Lightner double of six diamonds by a player with a heart void who was on lead himself. Belatedly realising his error, he boldly underled his ace to put his partner in, but that conceded a doubled overtrick.

Some partnerships, having experienced at first or second hand the disastrous effects of an unguided Lightner double, play that partner is requested to lead a specific suit (usually a spade). Others continue to rely, all evidence to the contrary notwithstanding, on the opening leader’s ability to deduce what is required. You, South, hold:

♠ 10 6 2
♥ Q 6 2
♦ 10 2
♣ 10 9 8 5 2

and this is the bidding at love all in a Camrose match:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1♦ | 1♠ | 3NT | Pass |
| 6NT | Dble | All Pass | |

What is your opening lead? What would you have led if partner had not doubled?

You may assume that partner, who has played with great distinction for his country over many years, is not doubling because he has a void. No, he has some reason to expect to defeat the contract provided you don’t lead a spade (which you might or might not have led if he hadn’t doubled – the opponents do seem prepared for a spade lead, but the wrath of partner when you let a contract through by not leading his suit is a terrible thing).

Some early proponents of the Lightner double held that you should lead the first suit bid by dummy. But what kind of a hand will West have to raise 3NT to six? One with a lot of diamond tricks, would be my guess, so it appears unlikely that you need to strike in that particular quarter.

Well, you can’t sit there all night. At the table the lead chosen was a diamond, and the full deal was:

Love All. Dealer West.

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

As you can see, you needed to lead a heart to beat the contract by two tricks – in theory you could beat it by three, but partner would understandably block the suit unless you chose the queen, and even then... The actual selection conceded the statutory doubled overtrick, for 1330 to East-West. How big a disaster was this?

The contract at the other table was 5♦ defeated in short order when North had no semblance of a lead problem. If you had made a happier choice your team would have won 6 IMPs; as it was you lost 16. Not all of this could be attributed to the double, of course – although I can't help thinking that South might have found the right choice unhindered. After all, the best chance might very well be to lead a heart and play partner for ♥K and a side trick. □

NATIONAL PAIRS WINNERS



The National Pairs competition was won by Paul Barden & David Kendrick. Fifty pairs qualified for the National Final from the Regional Finals, and David & Paul finished top of the rankings with 59.04% after two days of play. Ankush Khandelwal & Ben Green were second and Sandy Riach & Jacek Lapszys were third.

DORSET'S 'TRY A TOURNAMENT'



Congratulations to Dorset's Andy Kittridge who organised the county's first Nine High competition in mid-April. The

Swiss Pairs event was a great success with 15 full tables. Jeremy Dhondy opened the event. The winners of the ensuing Gee Trophy were Derek Orchard and Terry Carpenter, seen above flanking director Mark Hooper. No player was higher than a Nine on the NGS nor had more than 10,000 MPs.

SPRING FOURSOMES TRIPLE

The *Allfrey* team has won the Schapiro Spring Foursomes for the third consecutive year. In a repeat of the 2017 final, the Allfrey team (this year Alexander Allfrey, Mike Bell, Tony Forrester, David Gold, Graham Osborne & Andrew Robson) beat the *Barton* team (this year Rory Boland, John Carroll, Tommy Garvey, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann & Mark Moran).

The defeated semi-finalists were the *Gillis* and *Oldfield* teams.

PORTLAND BOWL



Cambridge B team, from left: Freddie Illingworth, Ryan Chan (capt), Neil Mendoza (from Portland Club), Kripa Panchagnula & Jonathan Clark

Cambridge's B team defeated Oxford A in the final of the Portland Bowl – the inter-university cup, hosted by London's Portland Club. Warwick A came third. Cambridge leads with 15 victories to Oxford's nine. Freddie joins a group of players with four victories in the competition. Kripa and Jonathan were part of last year's winning team; this was Ryan's first victory.

REALLY EASY WEEKEND



The latest Really Easy Weekend – aimed at less experienced players – had an emphasis on socialising as well as bridge. It took place near Banbury in early April. Congratulations to all the winners – see www.ebu.co.uk/results/682

The next similar event is the Really Easy Congress, held near Warwick, 10th – 12th August 2018.

2018 Camrose Trophy

by David Bird



England triumphant after final weekend

The proposed date for the second Camrose weekend coincided with heavy unseasonal snow, affecting air travel to Ireland, and had to be cancelled. The original England team (*Allfrey*, the Premiership winners) was not available for the rearranged date. A new team was swiftly put together: Janet de Botton, Tom Townsend, David Bakhshi, Artur Malinowski, Espen Erichsen and Glyn Liggins. They would carry over 64.03 VPs from the first week-end, 4 VPs ahead of CBAI (the 2nd Irish team).

David Bakhshi sneaked through an apparently doomed 3NT on this deal against Scotland. Would you have found the right defence on the South cards?

duck once more to break the defenders' communications. Suppose you had been South. How would you have continued the defence?

A switch to a low diamond is required. You will then score two diamonds and the ♠A for one down. Arend Bayer continued hearts and Bakhshi was home when the ♠A lay in the safe hand. He scored five clubs, two spades and the red aces.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Goodman</i> | <i>Liggins</i> | <i>Short</i> | <i>Erichsen</i> |
| | 2♦ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Game All. Dealer North.

♠ 9 3
♥ Q J 10 8 6 5
♦ J 6
♣ 10 6 2

♠ K 10 8
♥ A 9 2
♦ 10 8
♣ Q J 9 8 3

♠ Q J 4
♥ 3
♦ A 9 7 3 2
♣ A K 5 4

♠ A 7 6 5 2
♥ K 7 4
♦ K Q 5 4
♣ 7

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <i>Bakhshi</i> | <i>Ash</i> | <i>Malinowski</i> | <i>Bayer</i> |
| | 2♦ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

North opened with a multi 2♦ and South's 3♥ was pass-or-correct, not invitational. Bakhshi ended in 3NT and the ♥J was led. South played an encouraging ♥4 (reverse attitude) and North continued with the ♥6 to the king. Declarer had to

To damage this contract, the defenders have to remove the trumps from the South hand. Goodman led the ♣Q, which was not fatal, but he then needed to switch to ace and another trump. When he continued with a second round of clubs, Erichsen ruffed in his hand. A diamond to the jack was allowed to hold and he ruffed dummy's last club. He lost one trick in each suit and made +140 for a swing to England of 12 IMPs.

David Bakhshi and Tom Townsend conjured a good result on this deal against Northern Ireland:

N/S Game. Dealer North.

♠ 10 2
♥ A 8 4
♦ Q 8 4 2
♣ A 10 3 2

♠ K 8 5 3
♥ Q J 10 7 2
♦ J 9 5
♣ J

♠ Q 9 7
♥ K 3
♦ A K 10 7 6 3
♣ 8 5

♠ A J 6 4
♥ 9 6 5
♦ -
♣ K Q 9 7 6 4

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Townsend | Hamilton | Bakhshi | Hall |
| | Pass | 1NT | Dble |
| 2♣ | Dble | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3♦ | Dble | All Pass | |







Bakhshi opened a 15-17 point 1NT, allowing a generous 10 points for his diamond suit. Sam Hall's double showed a minor suit of at least five cards and a 4-card major. When Ian Hamilton doubled West's Stayman bid, East could pass merely to deny a 4-card major. His actual 2♦ bid indicated diamond length. Bakhshi's correction of 2♥ to 2♠ showed 3-2 shape in the majors and Townsend made a further adjustment to 3♦.


If North's double was an out-and-out penalty double, I think it was poorly judged. West had shown length in three suits, so North-South would score at most one club trick. They would need four more tricks for just one down. South passed the double when ten tricks would have been easy in 4♣.

Hall led the ♣K, North overtaking with the ♣A to return a trump. Bakhshi ran this to dummy's ♦5 and played a heart to the king, followed by another heart. North won with the ♥A and returned a club, ruffed in the dummy. Bakhshi discarded a spade on the ♥J and led another good heart, ruffed with the ♦4 and overruffed. After drawing North's remaining trumps with the ace and king, he gave up a spade trick for a doubled overtrick. That was his expectation, but South declined to take his ♠A and Bakhshi could then win with the ♠K and discard his last spade on the ♥10. Two doubled overtricks bumped his score to +670.

Malinowski and de Botton went one down in 5♣ at the other table and that was 11 IMPs to England.

Match 4 saw England facing Ireland. This would normally be the crunch match of the weekend, but Ireland had not been playing well and occupied an unfamiliar 4th position.

| FINAL RESULTS | | | 1st weekend | 2nd weekend | Total |
|--|-----|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
|  | 1st | ENGLAND | 64.03 VPs | 66.28 VPs | 130.31 VPs |
|  | 2nd | IRELAND | 53.47 VPs | 63.91 VPs | 117.38 VPs |
|  | 3rd | CBAI | 59.10 VPs | 41.04 VPs | 100.14 VPs |
|  | 4th | WALES | 48.01 VPs | 48.69 VPs | 96.70 VPs |
|  | 5th | SCOTLAND | 35.05 VPs | 60.22 VPs | 95.27 VPs |
|  | 6th | N. IRELAND | 40.34 VPs | 19.86 VPs | 60.20 VPs |

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Erichsen | Hanlon | Liggins | McGann |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Liggins led the ♦K, won in the dummy, with Erichsen playing the ♦6 to indicate his count. If declarer plays trumps from the top now, he will make an overtrick. There was no reason to do this and Hanlon quite reasonably ran the ♠10.

Liggins won with the ♠Q and switched to the ♣6, receiving a club ruff by return. He judged correctly that the ♦Q would not stand up and switched to the ♥K. This broke up a potential red-suit squeeze and declarer had to lose a heart for one down.

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|------------|----------|---------|
| Carroll | Malinowski | Moran | Bakhshi |
| Pass | 1♠ | 3♣ | Dble |
| 3♦ | 4♠ | All Pass | |

East's 3♣ showed the red suits. West's 3♦, rather than Pass, looks odd to me. Perhaps a pass would have suggested playing in clubs. Bakhshi would have liked to double 3♦ for 800 but Malinowski's hand did not look suitable for defending.

Again the ♦K was led against 4♠. Malinowski won with the ♦A and ran the ♠10, as at the other table. It seemed to the kibitzers on Bridge Base Online that it would now be a flat board. Needing three more tricks to defeat 4♠, surely East would switch to his singleton club. No, his next card was the ♥K, allowing Malinowski to win and draw trumps. +420 gave England a swing of 10 IMPs.

England had big wins against Wales and Northern Ireland, narrow wins against Scotland and the CBAI and a narrow loss to Ireland. □

Training the U26 squad

by Paul Barden



click
link

Reining in the enthusiasm of youth

Several times a year, the Under-26 squad meets for a training weekend. Usually we are given free use of suitable premises (often by the Young Chelsea Bridge Club), free accommodation by players living near the premises, and free lectures by experts. Thank you to all these generous people.

Having recently been appointed manager of the U26 Open team, it fell to me to arrange the latest weekend, and naturally I chose my home town of Cambridge. The river Cam winds through the centre of the town, carrying punters beneath its bridges. I rejected Magdalene Bridge as too maudlin, and the Bridge of Sighs as conveying unauthorised information. The perfect choice was the Mathematical Bridge in Queens' College (two queens – Margaret of Anjou & Elizabeth Woodville).

One of the squad members is a student at Queens' – he justified his place in the squad by persuading them to accommodate us, with a few parking spaces thrown in. I assigned one to Olivia Bailey who said she needed it because she was driving down with her guide dog – something I did my best not to worry about (it turns out she doesn't need one to drive – she trains them).

One of the hazards of captaining juniors is that they enjoy bidding slams almost as much as they enjoy making them, but they do much more of the former. I wanted to focus on better slam bidding and recruited local expert Jonathan Cooke to lecture us on hand evaluation opposite a splinter. And very instructive he was, but still everyone enjoys playing slams more than learning not to overbid to them, so here are a couple of slam play problems from the recent Channel Trophy:

2NT, showing 18-19 points which he's nearly got, so you drive the auction to 6♦. North improves the contract by leading a trump. You take the ace and cross to the king, the suit breaking 2-2. Now what?

| | | |
|-----------|-----|--------------|
| ♠ A 8 6 2 | | ♠ J |
| ♥ A 6 5 2 | | ♥ K 10 9 |
| ♦ Q J 5 2 | W E | ♦ A 10 9 8 3 |
| ♣ 6 | | ♣ A 10 8 2 |

You open 1♦ in second position at favourable vulnerability (juniors need five cards to open a major), left-hand opponent overcalls 1♠, and your partner bids 3♠, a splinter raise. You've got only 11 points, only four diamonds, and no intermediates. But you've got two aces and a singleton, your diamond honours are working, and you're under 25. So you cue bid your way to 6♦. North leads a trump. You seem to need trumps to be 2-2 to have any chance, but North wouldn't lead a trump from king doubleton, so you rise with ♦A and cross-ruff clubs and spades. Both follow to three club ruffs and two spade ruffs, and South discards a heart on the third spade ruff. Now you exit in trumps, reducing yourself to three hearts in each hand. South wins, with North following suit. Now South, whose shape you've counted as 3424, looks knowing and exits with the ♥Q. How do you play?

After listening to Jonathan's interesting and instructive lecture, we turned to play sixteen random boards. The dealing computer offered us a couple of chances to practise slam bidding. You might want to try bidding this one, love all:

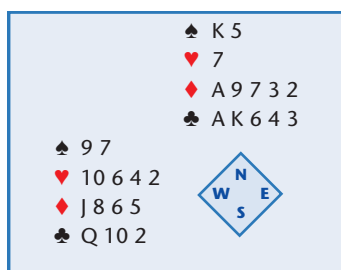
| | | |
|---------------|-----|-------------|
| ♠ 8 7 4 | | ♠ A K 10 |
| ♥ A 2 | | ♥ 8 4 |
| ♦ K Q J 7 5 2 | W E | ♦ A 8 6 |
| ♣ J 6 | | ♣ A Q 8 4 2 |

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-----------------|
| ♠ A K J 9 | | ♠ – |
| ♥ K Q 9 8 6 | | ♥ 7 5 |
| ♦ 9 8 5 | W E | ♦ A K J 7 |
| ♣ Q | | ♣ A K 9 5 4 3 2 |

Sitting West your partner opens 1♣ in second position at favourable vulnerability, and rebids

We split for dinner between the spice boys in the curry house, and the pizza lovers at mine.

Back on Sunday, Sally Brock gave us twelve ingenious defensive problems to try in the form of full deals – no commentary to wake you up at the critical moment. This might be the pick of them:



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

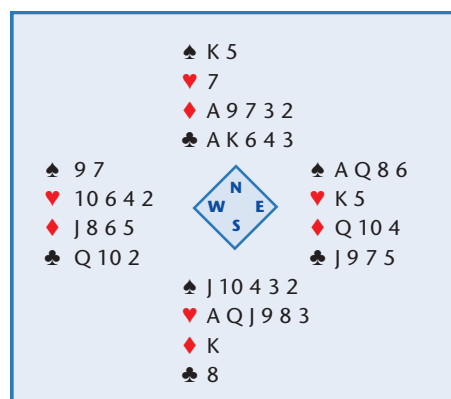
You lead the ♠9. Partner beats dummy's king with the ace, cashes the queen, then returns the eight, declarer playing the ten. And you?

The key to good defence, Sally told us, is to picture the unseen hands. Here, partner can't have six quite good spades, having passed over 1♦. So South has at least four spades, and must have at least six hearts. So we won't make a trick in the minors. If partner had the ♥A, he would have cashed it then given us a spade ruff. With only one or two small hearts, partner would have led a heart before playing a second spade, hoping we could win a heart trick and put him back in with the ♠Q to give us a ruff. So, most likely partner has the doubleton ♥K. Declarer's heart suit is therefore rather weak for his jump to game: most likely he has five spades, which would be consistent with partner's first-round pass. And declarer, not partner, has the ♠J, or partner would have cashed the jack rather than the queen. So we can envisage the whole hand – opposite.

Now what? Ruffing with the ♥10 won't help, declarer will win our minor-suit lead in dummy, finesse in hearts, drop partner's king, and claim ten tricks. And it's the same if we discard – declarer plays the same way, eventually losing a trick to our ten of hearts, but again making ten.

So all that's left is to ruff low. Declarer naturally overruffs in dummy, but now partner will get in with the king of hearts to give us a spade ruff.

Stephen Kennedy, dressed as always in yellow, listened attentively to an exposition along these



lines, and asked 'what if declarer doesn't overruff?' That's a good question; without the overruff declarer can draw trumps, and neither the king nor the ten makes a trick. So should declarer see through our ruse and discard from dummy? Perhaps, or perhaps not. We might play the same way with three small trumps, partner having K 10 x.

Back to those 6♦ play problems: on the first one, you need to play the club suit for three tricks and at most one loser. This will be easy unless the suit breaks 5-1 or 6-0. There are esoteric possibilities which risk the contract on normal breaks, but the simple high-percentage lines are to either cash the ace, catering for a singleton king in either hand, or run the jack, catering for a singleton ten or nine on your right – if the first round goes jack, king, ace, nine you cross back to hand in trumps and finesse against the ten: you still make the contract if you lose to a 10 9 doubleton.

Kyle Lam, a junior doctor and *English Bridge* contributor, ran the ♣J at trick three. His right-hand opponent had the singleton king, and the patient died.

The second problem looks easy – you win the king and finesse against the ♥J. But things are not so simple in an expert game. Suppose RHO had been dealt queen to four hearts. He knows you've got the ace, so he needs his partner to have the jack. If he leads low, you'll beat the jack with the king and finesse against his queen. So his only chance is to lead the unsupported queen. There are four combinations in which South has the unsupported queen, and six in which he has the queen and jack, but he might have led the jack from queen and jack – restricted choice applies. So if South is a strong enough player, the odds favour playing for the queen and jack to be divided. *Cont p45.*

2018 Lady Milne Trophy

by Heather Dhondy



England second after close contest

The home for the Lady Milne this year was the Holiday Inn in Edinburgh. Located next to Edinburgh Zoo, several players took the opportunity to visit the pandas, and watch the penguins courting whilst taking a break from the bridge. We were warned about the noise of the howler monkeys which might have distracted play, but this didn't prove to be a problem.

As Scotland were the hosts, they had two teams in the event, 'Scotland' and 'SBU'. As is the norm, they played each other on the first round, and this board got Scotland off to a good start.

Both pairs reached the pushy 4♠ contract, Kane and Symons for SBU following a natural auction. Sheila Adamson led the ♦J, won by debutant Abi Wilson, who switched to a trump. Kane won in dummy and played three rounds of hearts, ruffing low. She now led a diamond which was won by East, and a trump continuation left declarer with a losing heart for one down. Well defended.

Meanwhile at the other table, Punch and Leslie's system of transfers over a 1♣ opening meant that the contract was played by South. Barrett had little to go on and led the ♣8. Leslie was able to read the club layout and ruffed one in dummy. Now when the queen fell there was little problem on the hand and a vulnerable game swing to Scotland who went on to win the match 15.76-4.24.

Going into the last match, it was tight at the top between England and Scotland, with Scotland holding a narrow lead. England were also fielding two debutants – Qian Li and Alex Birchall. They were in action on the following deal:

Game All. Dealer North.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|----------|--------|
| Wilson | Kane | Adamson | Symons |
| | Pass | Pass | 1♣ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|--------|
| Barrett | Punch | Guy | Leslie |
| | Pass | Pass | 1♣ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|----------|----------|-------|
| McLaughlan | Birchall | Boyd | Li |
| | | | 1♦ |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 5♦ | All Pass | |

At the other table, East-West had bought the contract in 4♥ doubled. This relied on a good guess in spades. Declarer played for split honours and failed by a trick. The spotlight was now on North-South in their vulnerable game . . . A heart was led and East switched to her singleton club, won in dummy with the jack. Declarer played a trump to hand and could have made the contract by ruffing a heart, cashing the ♦K, playing a spade up, drawing trumps, discarding a spade on the ♣K and playing a second spade towards the remaining honour, but she continued drawing trumps hoping for a decent club break to discard her heart. When clubs failed to break she was in difficulty. A spade was led off dummy and East, who had discarded one spade, should duck this trick. When she took her ace, that was 11 IMPs to England.

We also welcomed back Sally Anoyrkatis after an 18-year gap. She had lost none of her skill in the intervening time as shown on the following board:

N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ Q 7 5
♥ A Q 5
♦ A K 8
♣ A K 8 3

♠ K 3
♥ K J 10
♦ J 2
♣ J 9 6 5 4 2

♠ J 6 4 2
♥ 9 8 6 4 3 2
♦ 10
♣ Q 10

♠ A 10 9 8
♥ 7
♦ Q 9 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 7

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------|----------|------------|
| Hill | Dhondy | Watson | Anoyrkatis |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 4♦ |
| Pass | 4♥ | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | 6♦ | All Pass | |

The opening 2NT was 20-22 and 4♦ was a natural slam try. A couple of cue bids later she found herself in 6♦. She received a trump lead which she won in hand. She cashed two top clubs, discarding a spade, and trumped a club. The last trump was drawn, and another club ruffed. She crossed to the ace of hearts and ran the queen of spades which left West endplayed. As it happens the second spade finesse was working, however the

careful elimination of clubs gave Sally the extra chance of guaranteeing the contract whenever West held the ♥K. At the other table the contract was played by North and had no difficulty in flattening the board on an unfortunate heart lead.

Both teams won their last matches comfortably, but Scotland did just enough to retain their lead. Congratulations to Liz McGowan, Fiona McQuaker, Abi Wilson, Sheila Adamson, Paula Leslie and Sam Punch. □

Training the U26 squad

Cont from p43. Shahzaad Natt – Shahzaad means ‘son of the king’ – considered all this and played North for the jack . . . and went off.

England is sending four teams to the World Championships in China. Money is tight – if you’re interested in making a donation, however modest, please see our fund-raising page at www.ebu.co.uk/node/2965 □

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRIEDA!



From left: Michael Shine, Frieda Elfick and Adrienne Tinn

Sawbridgeworth resident Frieda Elfick celebrated her 100th birthday with more than seventy members from the Herts & Essex Bridge club. Frieda has enjoyed playing bridge at Hatfield Heath for many years. She considers it to be the best way of meeting friends and keeping her mind active. It certainly seems to have worked!

PRESTON'S LOTTERY FUNDING

Preston Bridge Club has celebrated the official opening of its new facilities. The project was helped by funding from The Big Lottery to purchase new equipment, including BridgeMates, dealing machines, computers and kitchen equipment. They were aided in the application by Third Sector Consultancy (TSC), who have also helped Somerset CBA's application, and are currently working with EBED.



Thumbs up for online bridge

This March saw the launch of the inaugural World Online Junior Bridge Championships. There are two series, Juniors (U26) and Kids (U16), and England entered a team in both. Both series involve a seven-round qualification stage with the leading eight teams qualifying for a knock-out stage. Matches consist of 14 boards and are played on BridgeBase Online.

It is undoubtedly a fantastic idea and it is surprising it has taken this long to establish. For our Junior teams there are limited opportunities to face rival teams in the lead up to major contests such as the European or World Championships. England are due to send four teams this summer to Suzhou, China for the World Championships and the experience gained from these online matches is invaluable.

The issues of security and misclicks are far outweighed by the ability to play against opponents from the likes of New Zealand and Egypt (to name but a couple of examples) in the comfort of your own home. No kibitzers apart from NPCs (who I'm sure cannot bear to watch most of the time) are allowed during the matches for security issues. Players must be in different rooms (most will be in different houses) and, for obvious reasons, are not allowed mobile phones with them.

The competition, at the time of writing, is still in its early stages with each team having played two rounds. The U26 team has had mixed fortunes with an opening win against Egypt followed by a heavy defeat to a dangerous Czech Republic side.

On the other hand, the U16 team have been showing up their senior counterparts kicking off round one with a 78 IMP thumping of Italy. In round two the team of Andy Cope, Oscar Selby, Dido Coley and Jasmine Bakhshi faced the Israel U16s. The following is the final board of the match with England 6 IMPs behind.

Love All. Dealer North.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9 7 3 ♥ A 4 ♦ K J 10 4 3 ♣ J 6 | <div style="border: 1px solid blue; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto; position: relative;"><div style="position: absolute; top: -10px; left: 50%; transform: translate(-50%, -10%);">N</div><div style="position: absolute; bottom: -10px; left: 50%; transform: translate(-50%, -10%);">S</div><div style="position: absolute; right: -10px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%) rotate(90deg);">E</div><div style="position: absolute; left: -10px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%) rotate(-90deg);">W</div></div> | ♠ 4 2 ♥ K Q J 8 2 ♦ 5 ♣ K 10 9 8 5 ♠ J 10 5 ♥ 10 9 7 3 ♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ Q 4 ♠ K Q 8 6 ♥ 6 5 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ A 7 3 2 |
|---|---|---|

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Andy Cope | | Oscar Selby | |
| 2♦ | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ |
| All Pass | Pass | 3♦ | 3NT |

In the Open Room, Andy Cope, led the ♦J, continued a diamond to the queen and declarer took the third diamond with the ace. Declarer cashed five rounds of clubs but once he played a heart from the dummy, Andy rose and cashed his diamonds and ♠A for two down.

In the closed room, proceedings were not as straightforward:

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------------|------|--------------|
| | <i>Jasmine</i> | | <i>Dido</i> |
| | <i>Bakhshi</i> | | <i>Coley</i> |
| | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

The Israeli defender chose to lead a spade and declarer's prospects looked rosy. The spade lead ran round to the king and Dido knocked out the ace of

Cont p49



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Prize Leads Quiz Answers

by Alan Mould



click
link

Answers to April's Problems

**IMP scoring
on all hands
(teams)**

Hand 1

♠ K Q J 5 3
♥ J 6 3
♦ K 9 8 7
♣ 7

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-----------------|------|
| 1♣ | 1♠ | 2♠ ¹ | 4♠ |
| 5♣ | Pass | 6♣ | Dble |

All Pass

¹ Good raise in clubs

Choose from: (a) ♠K; (b) a heart; (c) a diamond; (d) ♣7.

Without the double we would doubtless have led a spade (what else?) but the double changes everything. Doubles of slams bid to make are always primarily Lightner and partner is primarily asking you to find an unusual lead. So, what is it in this case? It is certainly NOT this:

(a) ♠K: **3 marks.** This is just an insult to partner. Partner asks you to find an unusual lead and you lead the suit you have bid and supported to the four level. This would be my third choice.

(b) a heart: **7 marks.** Well this could be right as it may be the lead that partner wants. But partner almost always has a void for this double. Ask yourself which is more likely – that the opponents have nine diamonds between them and have not bid them, or that the opponents have 10 hearts between them and have not bid them. Which is why the right lead is this:

(c) a diamond: **10 marks.** For the reasons given above, this is the right lead in theory and certainly

was at the table. The hand comes from this year's Tollemache qualifier. Partner, who held

♠ x x x x x, ♥ A x x x x, ♦ –, ♣ x x

ruffs the diamond, cashes the heart ace and writes +200 on her scorecard. Technically, you should have led the ♦9 to indicate that you want a spade back for the second ruff if one is forthcoming, but here declarer had a stiff ace.

(d) ♣7: **1 mark.** I cannot see any scenario where this is the right lead.

Hand 2

♠ K 9 5 4 3
♥ K 6
♦ 8 7
♣ K J 4 3

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

Choose from: (a) ♠4; (b) ♥K; (c) ♦8; (d) ♣3.

(a) ♠4: **5 marks.** One of the advantages of overcalling is that it helps with your lead. To beat this contract partner has to have some values. Yet partner had the opportunity to bid 2♠ and did not. Therefore, partner has two spades at most, which makes this a very unattractive lead with such a poor suit.

(b) ♥K: **3 marks.** Now this is a wild lead! To be right declarer must have short hearts (possible) and partner good enough hearts that this lead will put

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Master: Robin Squire
London



Open: Joe Angseesing
Cheltenham

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a smile on their face (also possible, but altogether unlikely).

- (c) **♦8: 1 mark.** I cannot see any reason why we would want to lead from two small round into declarer's suit.
- (d) **♣3: 10 marks.** This would be my choice. It could be disastrous, but is far and away your best chance of beating the contract. At the table partner, who held ♣Q 10 x x x, was charmed by the lead. Nothing else beats it.

Hand 3

♠ Q 8 7 3
♥ 7 5 4
♦ 8 5
♣ A K J 5

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|----------|-----------------|------|
| 1♥ | Pass | 4♣ ¹ | Pass |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

¹ Splitter

Choose from: (a) ♠3; (b) a heart; (c) ♦8; (d) ♣A/K.

Splinters are a great advance to bidding hands constructively, but nothing comes without a price – provided you are listening...

- (a) **♠3: 3 marks.** I do not like this lead. The opponents have bid game and have very little in clubs, so will have high cards in the other suits, therefore this is dangerous. And it is unlikely any spade tricks are running away.
- (b) **a heart: 10 marks.** A stand out for me. North has told you dummy will have a singleton or void club and you have A K J in the suit. Get those trumps out to stop your honours being ruffed.
- (c) **♦8: 4 marks.** This again is dangerous as it may well carve up partner's holding in the suit. Again, any tricks in that suit are not going anywhere.
- (d) **♣A/K: 6 marks.** I suppose I would lead a top club if I was not going to lead a trump, but a trump is so much better for the reasons given above. Imagine North having a 4-4-4-1 shape and South a 2-5-2-4 to see how much you want to play trumps on this hand. ☐

Send in your lead conundrums to lou@ebu.co.uk and if suitable, Alan would be delighted to use them.

WORLD ONLINE JUNIOR BRIDGE

Cont from p46

Love All. Dealer North.

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

hearts. When defender returned a club, he cashed five rounds of clubs, the ♥K and crossed to the ♦A. When West had kept the ♠A9 and the ♦K, Dido could exit a diamond forcing West to give him the overtrick with the ♠Q. Scoring +430 meant 11 IMPs to England and England stealing a last minute win by 5 IMPs. Well done to the young but experienced U16 team.

Meanwhile, away from the computers, an U26 team and U26 Women's team were sent to the annual White House competition held in Amsterdam. The U26 team of Ben Norton, Shahzaad Natt, Stephen Kennedy and Michael Alishaw got off to an electric start topping their group in the first round-robin phase and then comfortably progressing to the quarter-finals stage.

Unfortunately, the team met their match against an experienced Dutch side playing on home soil (I'm sure that must be worth a few IMPs) and despite leading by 45 IMPs at half time lost by an agonising 1 IMP.

The U26 Women's team of Olivia Bailey, Ewa Wiczorek, Laura Covill and Siyu Ren finished 7th out of 12 in its group, narrowly missing out on a qualification place by 2 VPs (top six qualified). Congratulations to Belgium U26 who won the event. ☐

RAISING OUR GAME

Strategic Aims 2018-2023

The English Bridge Union has a continuing commitment to improve and expand the range and quality of services that we provide for all our members. To fulfil this commitment your Board of Directors aims to:

- ❖ **Promote the teaching and playing of duplicate bridge in order to attract potential players of all ages and at all levels of ability, thereby increasing the size of the EBU Membership**
- ❖ **Provide a valued range of services to Members, so they enjoy playing duplicate bridge and play more often**
- ❖ **Increase the number of affiliated clubs, and the number of people playing under the auspices of the EBU**
- ❖ **Ensure that the EBU is financially resilient and sustainable**

Several Key Strategic Strands will be applied to implement this approach by:-

Sustaining and increasing Membership levels

- ❖ Investing in proven marketing and publicity campaigns to raise the profile of the game of bridge to players and potential players alike
- ❖ Enhancing our relationship with, and providing assistance to, affiliated clubs, and our Counties
- ❖ Developing and introducing strategies to convert students to becoming affiliated club members
- ❖ Interacting constructively with, and promoting the benefits of EBU Membership to, non-affiliated clubs
- ❖ Prioritising investment in teaching and training through EBED
- ❖ Communicating with, and listening to, our Membership

Governance and relationships

- ❖ Continuing to modernise and streamline our governance processes, based on best practice, whilst maintaining the strong ethos of being a membership organisation
- ❖ Strengthening our ties with, and listening to, Members, Clubs and Counties
- ❖ Working with Counties to improve the experience of our Members - existing and prospective - in playing duplicate bridge

Financial sustainability

- ❖ Investing in initiatives to increase effectiveness and value for our Members
- ❖ Keeping price increases at a reasonable level
- ❖ Improving the Bridge Warehouse's market share and contribution
- ❖ Maintaining adequate reserves

EBED

- ❖ Ensuring the EBU membership gets value-for-money from its investment in EBED
- ❖ Prioritising our investment in specific initiatives through EBED in education and teaching, and building awareness of the value of duplicate bridge
- ❖ Promoting junior bridge

Tournaments and Regulations

- ❖ Continuing to adapt our tournament programme, prices and services to meet the changing needs of players, including introducing innovative new options into our schedule
- ❖ Introducing more online options, sometimes with partner organisations
- ❖ Evolving our rules and regulations, keeping the general enjoyment of players in mind, and promoting Best Behaviour at Bridge

International teams

- ❖ Providing affordable support to our range of teams, whilst expecting players in those teams to help promote the EBU and bridge generally to all generations
- ❖ Securing greater publicity and awareness of the success of our teams, with an aim of improving sponsorship and donations
- ❖ Working constructively with the EBL and WBF, including a focus on their value to the total Membership

Technology

- ❖ Taking advantage of technology to improve services to Members
- ❖ Improving the utility of the website to our members and other visitors
- ❖ Making English Bridge more attractive online and hence reduce costs

Employees

- ❖ Ensuring and providing competitive and attractive employment
- ❖ Recognising the great work done by our employees
- ❖ Communicating openly and transparently
- ❖ Investing in employee development and engagement

Volunteers

- ❖ Giving greater recognition to the work done by volunteers
- ❖ Creating a climate where more people are willing to volunteer to help in Clubs, Counties and nationally, and hence harnessing the talents and experience of our Membership
- ❖ Introducing training for administrators at every level

Archives

- ❖ Commissioning a further volume of the history of English Bridge
- ❖ Improving the online information in the EBU archive
- ❖ Encouraging Counties to start and/or improve their own archives

Implementation

Regular shorter-term plans, with clear and stated objectives will be created to move forward these strands. This will ensure our policy of improvement and expansion is maintained.

CAPTION COMPETITION

CROSSWORD NO 14

Compiled by MERMAN

Answers online, p71

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|----|----|----|---|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 8 | | | | 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | 13 | | | | |
| | | | | 14 | | | | | 15 |
| 16 | | | | 17 | | | | | |
| | | 18 | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | 22 | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | | |

ACROSS

3. Strategies to finish what 100 below the line will do (8)
8. Revenue one's taken for transport that's often 10 (4)
9. A point North's conceded to East in a roundabout way — it could well knock him out (6)
10. Table of a sort is in nearly two 18s — give one up (10)
12. Customs demanding a raise in spades? (5)
14. Yes, partnership's getting 5 in a muddle (7)
16. Messy way devising overall strategies (7)
19. Hospital's black arts (5)
20. There's some doubt about leading pairs in teams scoring 101 IMPs (10)
21. I often notice I am normally leading and at sea — it's mostly Greek... (6)
22. Keeper's guts turned over — it might have given him a stabbing pain (4)
23. Decent and kindly sort? Key is to get stuck into boring routine (8)

DOWN

1. Ace opponents getting dreadfully moist in sprays (8)
2. Conventional agreement in Europe given by following company (6)
3. Growing out of former partner's standard (which was Byzantine) (10)
4. Papers filed or sides organised (7)
5. Oil that's used in first class dressing (5)
6. What's produced by writer's cramp — it's unreconstructed (10)
7. Greek characters won't be cooks, by the sound of it (4)
11. Three players in green first noted by flag-wavers of old (8)
13. Florence's babies mine? Don't see how they would be (7)
15. Start (but don't finish) South and move round table outside (6)
17. Traipse about after home counties' opponents finally deserted animal (5)
18. London street, one of the favourite 16 (4)



Oooh. I fear our cartoonist Celia was being auto-biographical. I know she likes going on barge holidays . . . Send me your captions — the more the merrier.

Congratulations to Tim Prior for my favourite shown under the cartoon. Other close contenders were David Harris's *Whatever you open here could easily be wrong*, Martin Osborn's *Watch out for revolving discards!* and Jo Heydon's *One more round and we can earn Master Points*. Send your new entries to lou@ebu.co.uk by 28th June, or post to Editor, Raggett House, Bowdens, Langport, TA10 0DD.

Prestat donates a box of its very superior chocolates as a prize. The brightly coloured boxes, and the scrumptious contents, are the epitome of good taste — in all the best ways!



No, Peter, I don't think restricted choice applies

PRESTAT



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters to the editor,

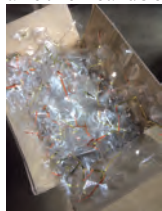
Lou Hobhouse, Raggett House, Bowdens, TA10 0DD, or e-mail lou@ebu.co.uk

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The editor reserves the right to condense letters. Publication does not mean the EBU agrees with the views expressed or that the comments are factually correct.

PLASTIC WASTE

As a regular purchaser of playing cards from the EBU warehouse, I am dismayed by the quantity of unnecessary packaging around each pack of cards. Each pack is enclosed in a plastic wrapper within a cardboard box. Twelve boxed packs are placed into another cardboard box which is



wrapped in yet more plastic before being packed in a larger cardboard shipping box.

Rose Windler

Our major suppliers tell us that all their products are recyclable. Nevertheless we recognise that it is better to reduce the amount of packaging rather than to have to recycle it, so we will be making this point to our current and future suppliers and hoping to work with them to eliminate excess packaging.

Gordon Rainsford
EBU General Manager

AFFILIATION

I recently came across the website of a successful Buckinghamshire bridge club and I was astonished to see that while the club looked extremely well run and well supported (some 60 players twice a week) it was not affiliated to the EBU. It did however contain on its website numerous references to EBU best practice and rules. It even contained a link to relevant bits from the EBU website.

The club is in one of the most affluent areas of England. Surely

they should be trying to give something back to English Bridge not patting themselves on the back because they've saved their members 50p a game.

We all need to support the running of this game of bridge which we love and get so much enjoyment from.

There must be a number of similar clubs in the country which get a free ride from the rest of us. Is it not time something was done to try to win over their hearts and minds?

And if we can't persuade them to join us should we not stop them using EBU material? Or is this being as mean-minded as they are?

Michael Fairclough

PORTLAND PAIRS

After recently paying an eye-watering £31 for a 4 table Howell in the Sheffield heat of the Portland Pairs, I think it is time for a root and branch, independent and objective review of the future of tournament bridge in this country.

Gary Hyett

Like you, we were disappointed in the turnout at the Sheffield heat. We also recognise the issue with competition entry fees, though they do need to help fund other aspects of the organisation aside from just the running of the event itself.

We have a Tournaments Panel who are currently considering what we might do to improve this situation for next year, and the Board will also be involved in such considerations. We'll keep all

members informed as and when there might be changes to report.

Gordon Rainsford



LICENSED BRIDGE

WHEN you see the 'LB' sign in an advertisement in the magazine, it means that:

- The organisers of the holiday have applied for, and received, a licence from the EBU.
- They may choose to give Master Points in accordance with EBU scales.
- These Master Points will be accepted and added to player records.
- The bridge will be played in line with EBU regulations and bye-laws, thus affording all players the protection of playing within the jurisdiction of the EBU.

All county events advertised have an EBU licence.

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Beat Today's Experts

1. E/W Game. Dealer North

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>♠ A K 10 9</p> <p>♥ 9 2</p> <p>♦ –</p> <p>♣ A K J 9 7 6 3</p> | <p>♠ Q J 8 5 4 3</p> <p>♥ J 8 4</p> <p>♦ J 10 5</p> <p>♣ Q</p> | <p>♠ 7</p> <p>♥ A 10 7 6 3</p> <p>♦ A Q 4 2</p> <p>♣ 10 8 2</p> |
| <p>West <i>Beauchamp</i> North <i>Neill</i> East <i>Leibowitz</i> South <i>Kanetkar</i></p> <p>5♣ 2♠ Pass 3♠</p> <p>All Pass</p> | | |

All our deals will come from the final of the National Open Teams in Canberra. What sort of hand does West show with his leap to 5♣, vulnerable against not?

It is not a contentious question. He shows a very strong hand! After the pre-emption it may be difficult to reach the grand slam, but East's failure to raise to 6♣ was . . . (I must restrain myself) a poor effort. Can you believe that recording just +640 was rewarded with a gain of 4 IMPs?

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Braithwaite</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>De Livera</i> | <i>Whibley</i> |
| | 3♠ | Dble | All Pass |

East found a borderline take-out double of 3♠ where his counterpart had not bid over 2♠. West passed for penalties and collected the maximum, a painfully inadequate +500 for three down. The chance of making 6♣ on that West hand must be well in excess of 90%, with the chance of 7♣ at least 70%.

Awards: 7♣ (10), 6♣ (7), games (3), 3♠ dbled by N (2), 6NT (1).

2. E/W Game. Dealer West

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>♠ Q 10</p> <p>♥ J 7 5 3</p> <p>♦ A 7 6 5</p> <p>♣ A Q 4</p> | <p>♠ 7 6 5 3</p> <p>♥ A</p> <p>♦ J 4</p> <p>♣ J 9 7 6 5 2</p> | <p>♠ A 9 8 4 2</p> <p>♥ K Q 10 8 6 4</p> <p>♦ Q 9</p> <p>♣ —</p> |
| <p>West North East South</p> <p><i>Gumby</i> <i>Brown</i> <i>Lazer</i> <i>Whibley</i></p> <p>1♦ 3♣ 3♥ 5♣</p> <p>5♥ Pass 6♥ All Pass</p> | | |

E/W can take only 300 from 5♣ doubled and can make 5♥ their way. Who do you blame for reaching 6♥? As I see it, Pauline Gumby did not have her 5♥ bid. She had a minimum opener and the ♣A-Q-x might have been worth very little. Some players would double 5♣ on the West cards, despite the 4-card support for partner. A better alternative is to make a Forcing Pass. East's 3♥ was forcing to game and E/W were vulnerable. This sets up a Forcing Pass situation – you must either continue bidding or double the opponents. If West passes, East should bid 5♥. Over West's actual 5♥ bid, East was entitled to raise to 6♥. He could hardly expect West to hold only 7 HCP outside clubs.

At the other table N/S did not enter the bidding. Cornell and Bach bid 1♣ – 1♦ (transfer) – 2♥ (min, 4 hearts) – 4♣ (splinter) – 4♥. They recorded +650 and a swing of 13 IMPs.

Awards: 5♥ (10), 5♣ dbled by N (6), 6♥ (1).

3. E/W Game. Dealer West

| | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <div> <div> ♠ 8 3 ♥ K J 8 7 5 4 ♦ 7 5 ♣ J 10 9 </div> <div> ♠ K Q 7 ♥ A 3 2 ♦ K 9 6 4 2 ♣ 7 6 </div> <div> ♠ J 9 6 5 2 ♥ – ♦ A Q 10 3 ♣ 8 5 3 2 </div> <div> ♠ A 10 4 ♥ Q 10 9 6 ♦ J 8 ♣ A K Q 4 </div> </div> | | | |
| West <i>Lazer</i> 1♦ 4♣ | North <i>Brown</i> 2♥ All Pass | East <i>Gumby</i> 2♣ | South <i>Whibley</i> 4♥ |

Here 4♥ would be only one down and there is a good chance of making 4♣. East's 2♣ shows at least five spades and it is clear-cut for West to bid 4♣.

South led the ace and king of clubs,

continuing with the ♣4. Gumby ruffed with dummy's ♠7, North following suit. What next?

If declarer plays the ♠K, South will win and lead a fourth club. This will force dummy to ruff with the ♠Q and the ♠10 will be promoted. Gumby played the ♥A, ditching her last club, before playing the ♠K. She could then ruff the fourth club in her hand and the contract was made.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bach</i> | <i>Kanetkar</i> | <i>Cornell</i> | <i>Neill</i> |
| 1♦ | 2♥ | 2♣ | 4♥ |
| 4♣ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

At the other table Neill saw some reason to double 4♣. The play followed the same path, Cornell throwing a club on the ♥A. When the fourth club was led, however, declarer ruffed with dummy's ♠Q and went one down! He must have feared a 4-1 trump break but in that case the contract could not be made.

Awards: 4♣ (10), 4♥ dbled by N (4), 5♦ (1).

4. Love All. Dealer South

| | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <div> <div> ♠ Q 9 8 6 3 ♥ 8 3 ♦ – ♣ K Q 6 5 4 2 </div> <div> ♠ J 5 ♥ A K Q 10 6 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ J 10 9 </div> <div> ♠ A K 7 4 ♥ 9 7 ♦ J 7 4 3 ♣ A 7 3 </div> <div> ♠ 10 2 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ A K Q 10 9 8 5 ♣ 8 </div> </div> | | | |
| West <i>Kanetkar</i> Pass 4♥ | North <i>Cornell</i> 4♦ All Pass | East <i>Neill</i> Pass | South <i>Bach</i> 3NT Pass |

South opened a Gambling 3NT at both tables. It is reasonable to do this without the jack of the long suit, otherwise the opening arises too infrequently. West correctly decided to pass. One reason was that she expected to score six heart tricks in defence. The other was that if East held some good cards, he might be tempted to look for a slam opposite a 4♥ bid.

When responder pulls a Gambling 3NT it is customary to bid 4♣, even if you know which minor partner must hold. This allows you to use 4♦ as a singleton enquiry. N/S were not playing this method and the 4♦ bid ran to West. Now it was fine to bid 4♥, which was easily made after the ♣K lead.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Whibley</i> | <i>Gumby</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Lazer</i> |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | 4♦ |

West did not venture 4♥ at either turn, nor did East double the final contract of 4♦. When it went four down, he must have regretted his decision.

Awards: 4♦ dbled by N (10), 4♥ (9), 4♦ by N (5).

Cont/...

5. N/S Game. Dealer North

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>♠ A K Q 10 7 ♥ 9 6 ♦ Q 9 ♣ K J 8 7</p> | | <p>♠ 9 8 4 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ K J 10 8 4 ♣ Q</p> | |
| <p>West <i>Kanetkar</i></p> | | <p>North <i>Beauchamp</i></p> | |
| <p>1♠ 2NT</p> | | <p>1♣ Pass</p> | |
| | | <p>East <i>Neill</i></p> | |
| | | <p>Pass 2♣ 3♣</p> | |
| | | <p>South <i>Leibowitz</i></p> | |
| | | <p>Pass Pass All Pass</p> | |

What should West rebid when her 1♠ protective overcall attracts a single raise? 'I couldn't be much better than this,' some players would say, reaching for the 4♣ card. Janet Kanetkar noted that her partner had not bid 2♣ to show a sound raise to 2♠. She therefore bid only 2NT, a game-try. E/W stopped in 3♣ (well done) and picked up +140.

At the other table East overcalled 1♦. Since this takes away no bidding space, a 1♦ overcaller normally has a reasonably strong hand. West bid 1♠ (forcing) and raised the 2♠ rebid to 4♠, going one down for a loss of 5 IMPs.

Awards: 2♠ (10), 3♠/1NT (9), 2NT (5), 4♠ (3).

6. Game All. Dealer East

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>♠ J 7 6 ♥ A ♦ 10 9 4 ♣ A J 6 4 3 2</p> | | <p>♠ A 9 5 3 ♥ K 10 7 6 ♦ J 8 7 6 ♣ 5</p> | |
| <p>West <i>Cornell</i></p> | | <p>North <i>Neill</i></p> | |
| <p>Dble 5♣</p> | | <p>4♥ All Pass</p> | |
| | | <p>East <i>Bach</i></p> | |
| | | <p>1♦ Dble</p> | |
| | | <p>South <i>Kanetkar</i></p> | |
| | | <p>3♥ Pass</p> | |

The two doubles by E/W were both for take-out. It is not certain that 4♥ would be beaten since a black suit lead is required. At the other table 5♥ doubled went only one down after a ♦10 lead, declarer setting up a spade discard on dummy's diamonds.

5♣ is the best spot for E/W. Declarer won the heart lead, drew trumps and played the ♦A, dropping the queen. She then conceded two spade tricks, eventually finessing against the ♦J to make the contract for a gain of 9 IMPs. *Cornell* won the final by 119-89.

Awards: 5♣ (10), 4♥ dbled by S (4), 5♦ (3).

Our Australian experts scored 42/60 after a nervous start. If you beat them, you did well. Surely we can find some worthwhile tips from these eventful boards.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ❖ When the opponents pre-empt and partner jumps to game, he will have a strong hand (particularly when vulnerable). If you have two or three good cards opposite, think carefully before reaching for the Pass card.
- ❖ When you are vulnerable and embark on a game-forcing auction, any Pass over intervention is forcing. This allows you to leave the final decision to your partner when you cannot tell what will be best, looking at your own hand.
- ❖ Facing a Gambling 3NT opening, a 4♦ response asks for a side-suit singleton. The opener's 4♥ or 4♠ then shows that major-suit singleton; 4NT denies a side-suit singleton; five of the trump suit shows a singleton in the other minor.





RESULTS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



I am happy to be a member of the EBU

Average score - 4.2



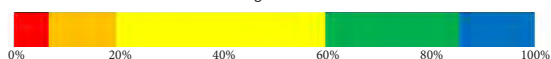
Membership of the EBU represents good value for money

Average score - 3.8



The EBU as an organisation is becoming more responsive to the needs of its members

Average score - 3.3



The EBU is acting in the best interests of the future of bridge in England

Average score - 3.7



Level of agreement: 1 - Red 2 - Orange 3 - Yellow 4 - Green 5 - Blue

Thank you to those members who completed the short survey we recently published. We have received nearly 1,500 responses, and although we have summarised the results above, the survey will remain open if you wish to add your responses.

The intention of the survey was to get a snapshot of the feelings of the membership, and provide a baseline against which our efforts to improve the service provided to the members could be judged. We will repeat the same survey in a few years' time to compare and see if we have made progress.

I am delighted that so many of you are happy members of the English Bridge Union, but I take note of the number of you who are not. One of my aspirations when taking the role of General Manager was to make all members feel part of the EBU and I will keep this survey in mind as we move forward, in particular noting that we need to be more responsive.

Some members expressed disappointment that this survey did not give the opportunity to give specific feedback. That was not the intention of the survey, but I hope that all members know they can always contact me about any specific areas of concern they may have.

Gordon Rainsford, General Manager

WINNER OF OUR SUMMER T-SHIRT COMPETITION



Congratulations to our winning slogan writer, John Rayment from Hornchurch, Essex

The winner, entering the pictured T-shirt, is the aptly-named John Rayment. He will receive a printed T-shirt. The rest of you will have to sort your own out (loads of options on the internet) and June's front cover may provide inspiration. The suggestions (clockwise from centre top) were submitted by Tim Fell, Karen Lemm, Francis Kelly, Bill Norman, David Law, Arnaud Lelorrain and Andy Theofanous.



Thank you to everyone who submitted suggestions for a T-shirt slogan to help find fellow bridge players. Our front cover shows several of the best, most succinct and witty entries, although it was hard to choose.

Please let us know if you successfully find fellow bridge players through an item of clothing!

JUNIOR TEACH-IN 2018



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Join us for a weekend of bridge teaching, competition and, most importantly, fun!

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A range of other activities alongside the bridge

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Meeting other young players from around the country, and making great new friends

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Special Early Bird booking price of £95 if you book before 29th June

Camping space for accompanying adults

For more information, including how to book, please contact David Emerson

david@ebedcio.org.uk or call 01296 317228

COUNTY & CLUB DIRECTOR TRAINING COURSES

The 2018 County Director 2-day event run by EBED will be held on 15th & 16th September at the Coventry Hilton Hotel. The course fee for 2018 is £220.

EBED's Club Director Training course is designed for any player who wants to develop their knowledge of the laws or who want to become a qualified director to support their club.

We run these courses at clubs all over the country. All courses are open to members of affiliated and non-affiliated clubs. Participants do not need to be members of the English Bridge Union.

To see EBED's County & Club Director Course Calendar and availability, please email Richard Banbury at richard@ebedcio.org.uk or visit www.ebedcio.org.uk/td-course-calendar

CLUB TEACHER TRAINING COURSES

Is your club interested in hosting a Club Teacher Training course? To book or find out more, please visit www.ebedcio.org.uk/club-teacher-training or call Lisa Miller on 01296 317217.

COURSE CALENDAR

West Midlands BC Solihull, Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July 2018

South Bucks Bridge Club, Burnham, Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th July 2018

Brierfield Bridge Club, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th August 2018

Faversham, Thursday 13th and Friday 14th September 2018

Aylesbury (EBU), Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th November 2018

South Bucks Bridge Club, Burnham, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th December 2018

WARWICKSHIRE'S 5TH JUNIOR CHALLENGE

Warwickshire CBA welcomed over 50 pupils from two local schools to West Midlands Bridge Club to take part in their annual Junior Challenge in mid-March.

Year 5 and 6 pupils, some having received less than 10 hours tuition, played up to 12 boards from the EBED Schools Simultaneous Minibridge Pairs.

Congratulations to 15 Year 6 pupils who were awarded the Minibridge Junior Award which grants them Junior Membership of the EBU.

The success of this event is down to local members who run the schools' weekly clubs during term time and the numerous members who joined in for the afternoon to assist. In addition, sponsorship was received from WCBA, West Midlands Bridge Club and EBED.



WESSEX WEEKEND



Over 50 young bridge players attended the Wessex Youth Bridge Weekend at Cheltenham Bridge Club and Cheltenham Ladies' College. It was a fantastic weekend, with the main prize, the Kwatra Cup, being awarded to Jacob and Thomas Potter.

Many of the children completed various levels of the EBED Junior Award Scheme, and were presented with their certificates in the prize-giving at the end of the course.

The juniors enjoyed a mixture of teaching and competition, including joining in with Cheltenham Bridge Club's Saturday Evening session, where they received a warm welcome despite beating the members. The N/S axis was won by Jack Ronayne & Kavinthan Vickneswaran from the U20 squad, while the E/W top spot was won by Andy Cope & Oscar Selby from the U16 squad.

The prize for the most intriguing result of the weekend came (unsurprisingly) in the late night Speedball bridge on Saturday, where one North-South's 4♠ redoubled + 1 (scoring 1080) was denied being a top board by one East-West playing in 4♣ doubled going off 7 (scoring 2000).

Many congratulations to everyone at Wessex Youth Bridge for their third successful weekend like this, and we're already looking forward to next year!



Gold Award winners

EBED Young Bridge Challenge

The Young Bridge Challenge, organised by EBED, took place at Loughborough Grammar School in mid-March with young players from schools around the country taking part in bridge and minibridge competitions. Loughborough Grammar School continues to be an excellent venue providing a good environment and furnishing the burgers for fuel to keep us all going! Coaches from two of England's international squads were there on the day to spot new talent and they helped prepare the hand commentaries in advance.

Twenty-four teams started in the Swiss Teams (up four on 2017). The top four teams representing a single school went on to a knock-out phase to contest the Schools Cup, which was first organised in 1966. In a close fought final which went down to the final board, Haberdashers' Aske's (pictured below) won out over Westminster, the existing Cup Holders, to reclaim the title. Previously 'Habs' had held the cup from 2010 to 2016. Congratulations not only to the players but also to Stuart Haring as their bridge mentor for his role in achieving such consistency!



Haberdashers' Aske's wins Schools Cup

Similarly well done to Reading B as winners of the Schools Plate for the best-placed school team remaining in the Swiss Teams event (Reading A had lost out in the Knock-Out stages) and to the team of England squad players who won the Harry Scully Trophy. We hope it bodes well for our Junior teams in China this summer. The Minibridge was well supported this year with Oscar and Savva as overall winners.



Schools Plate – Reading B



Harry Scully Trophy – England squad



Schools Cup Runners-Up – Westminster

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William Bourne:

reg@sccba.co.uk, 07876 350650

EBED YOUNG BRIDGE CHALLENGE



EBED recruiting for research projects

EBED is part-funding a PhD Studentship in the Sociology of Bridge. If you might be a suitable student for the project, or know someone looking for this type of study, please get in touch. More details at www.ebedcio.org.uk/bridge-phd.

Female right-handed volunteers, aged 60-80, are required for research into the brain activity of bridge players. Both bridge players and non-players are required. See tinyurl.com/y7gkwyj4 for details.



Answers to Questions on Page 12

Hand 1

♠ Q 6 2
♥ A K 10 4
♦ Q 8 7 6
♣ A 6

| W | N | E | S |
|---|---|----|----|
| | | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| ? | | | |

2♠. A direct raise to 4♥ would not do the hand justice, just as it would not have done without the overcall. This cue bid should promise heart support because you could double or bid one of the unbid suits without it. The cue bid is forcing to 3♥.

Hand 4

♠ K 10 9 6
♥ 3
♦ A 10
♣ AKJ873

| W | N | E | S |
|----|------|-----|------|
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| ? | | | |

3♣. You have three choices: 2NT, 3♣ and 3NT. Jumping in clubs shows that you are not quite worth bidding game while stressing the good clubs. This action would be clear cut at IMPs but is less so at matchpoints. The main thing is to realise that partner's 1NT rebid could include as many as 10 points and so do not pass or bid 2♣.

Hand 2

♠ A 10 3 2
♥ 7
♦ 4 3 2
♣ AKJ74

| W | N | E | S |
|---|------|------|----|
| | Pass | Pass | 4♥ |
| ? | | | |

Pass. A double here should be more take-out than penalty. Facing a passed hand, you cannot expect to make game, while with fast winners in your hand you can hope to defeat 4♥. It would be a rather closer decision facing an unpassed hand.

Hand 5

♠ A Q 9 8 2
♥ 9
♦ AK53
♣ AQ9

| W | N | E | S |
|---|----|------|-----|
| | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT |
| ? | | | |

Dble. With 19 points you are too strong for a simple 2♠ overcall. You should double first, planning to bid 2♠ on the next round. Your double is takeout of hearts, so you expect partner to bid, although you might not mind defending 1NT doubled.

Hand 3

♠ AKQ854
♥ 3
♦ J9
♣ J982

| W | N | E | S |
|----|------|----|------|
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

3♠. With the misfit, it would be a slight overbid to use fourth suit forcing (3♣). The invitational jump in spades shows interest in game while stressing the good spades; this describes your hand quite well.

Hand 6

♠ AQJ63
♥ 8
♦ 864
♣ K1052

| W | N | E | S |
|----|------|----|------|
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

3♣. With a 7-loser hand, you are too good to pass, yet with only 10 HCP it would be rash to jump to 4♠, particularly at matchpoints, which does not reward pushing for game. This long suit trial bid should help partner to judge between 3♠ and 4♠. □



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**EXTRA
DATE**



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and restrictions.





AUG



Hotel Jezero Lake Bohinj SLOVENIA

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SEP



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18 Sept 2018 - 7 / 14 Nights From £479pp

You will feel comfortable in every single corner of the newly renovated Hotel Laguna Materada, with superb amenities, and terraces offering spectacular views of the historic centre of Poreč and unforgettable sunsets.

OCT



Anthemus Beach Hotel Halkidiki GREECE

05 Oct 2018 - 10 Nights From £799pp

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OCT



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Athena Beach Paphos Cyprus 22 Dec 7-14 Nights

DEC



Bridge, Bowls & Dancing Holiday






Playing for a slam

While there is bridge available in many formats in Bridge Club Live, most of the play that takes place is in our main competition room where players can play any number of rounds of four boards of Match Pointed Pairs with any number of partners. You can drop in and drop out during the day as you wish. Each board is played around 30 times. The limit of 96 boards is only reached by a handful of players each day! Master Points are available if you play at least 16 boards between 7am one day and 7am the next day, when the deals are changed and a new event begins. This was Board 2 one day recently.

be only very marginally below 50 percent with careful play.

Careful play was duly delivered. West led the ♠K and declarer won with the ♠A. The ♦K revealed the diamond split and now declarer cashed the ♣A and led to the ♣J in dummy. He ruffed a small diamond with the ♣10 and led another small club to the ♣Q. Enemy trumps were all out and the diamonds were all good for one spade and four heart discards. 6♣ made with five trump tricks, six diamond tricks and the ♠A. Neatly done, Paul!

Do come and join us in Bridge Club Live, the only online bridge club based in the UK and with real players! 

N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

Diagram illustrating a card game layout (N/S Game, Dealer East) showing the distribution of cards between North and South players. The cards are arranged in a grid, with a central diamond shape indicating the suit distribution (N, S, E, W).

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| | | Pass | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | Dble | Pass | 6♣ |
| All pass | | | |

Only one out of seven pairs in 5♣ made their contract, but Paul Hale of Bucks was in 6♣ and showed how it should be played!

The auction was refreshingly simple. Paul, in the South seat, needs little more than for partner to have one of the two red aces (and it's difficult to see North not having either), though the short club support leaves South needing a 3-2 club break, as well as a reasonable diamond break. I make slam to

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- ❖ System cards for new and regular partnerships
- ❖ Discussion forums and members' reunions
- ❖ EBU Master Points



Funbridge Competitions

by Christophe Grosset

Improve your rankings

Funbridge recently introduced some new rankings as well as tournaments. Funbridge points can be earned playing any federation tournament including EBU ones but also by playing in our new Funbridge tournaments. There are five new types of ranking:

- ❖ Ranking with Funbridge Points
- ❖ Ranking in series tournaments
- ❖ Ranking based on average performance
- ❖ Ranking based on wins in challenges
- ❖ Ranking of countries with the best average.

These rankings are a good way to quickly see how you compare to the whole community of Funbridge players.

Careful play on boards that look routine at first will drastically improve your record in the long term. Here is an example. You are declarer sitting South:



| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | 2NT |

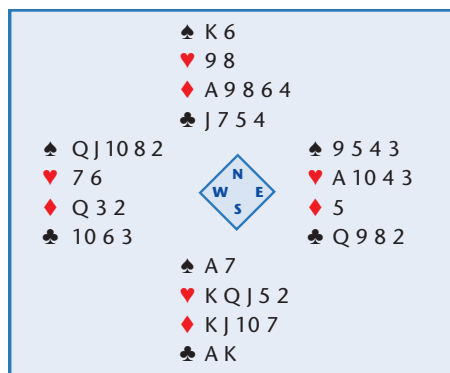
You are in 3NT after a very simple bidding sequence and receive the ♠Q lead.

It's too easy to relax and lose concentration when partner provides such a strong dummy. Eight points and ♦A9864 opposite your ♦KJ107. It all looks easy peasy. Well, on this one, if you are not careful, you might go down.

You have six top tricks with two spades, two diamonds and two clubs, and you can easily establish at least two heart tricks by giving up the ace, as well as two or three diamonds depending on whether you find the queen. The issue is that you only have two spade stoppers and one is gone after the lead, so you can only afford to lose the lead once before taking your nine tricks ... and establishing two hearts or two diamonds will not be enough. How can you maximise your chances?

If diamonds were to provide the extra three tricks you need, it would mean not losing any tricks in the suit. Because of that, playing diamonds can certainly wait for the second spade stopper to be gone. Establishing the hearts means the opponents will take the ♥A immediately which is why you must play on the heart suit first.

You should take the lead with the ♠K in dummy and lead a heart. If your right hand opponent has the ♥A, he will be left with only bad options – taking it and letting you make at least three hearts later, or ducking it, in which case you will make your king and can now safely switch to diamonds where you can establish two sure tricks while you still have the ♠A as a stop in case you lose the ♦Q.




The difficulty of this type of play comes mostly from concentration. Detecting that there is an issue is sometimes harder than solving the problem. If you spot these positions, you will certainly be well placed in all of the Funbridge rankings! □

Bowyer's Suit Combination Challenge from p8


1 How would you play 3NT on this deal? You open 1NT and partner confidently raises you to game. West leads the ♠Q.

Hand 1: South
plays in 3NT
West leads the ♠Q

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

2 How would you play 3NT on this deal? You open 1NT and partner confidently raises you to game. West leads the ♠Q.

Hand 2: South
plays in 3NT
West leads the ♠Q

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

Preliminary Analysis:

You have five top tricks (to wit: two spades, one heart, and two clubs). Four diamond tricks would swell the coffers to nine.

You decide to take the first club. How do you intend to play the diamond suit?


Preliminary Analysis:

You have five top tricks (to wit: two spades, one heart, and two clubs). Four diamond tricks would swell the coffers to nine.

You decide to take the first club. How do you intend to play the diamond suit?


ANSWERS

1 You can cater for any diamond distribution by starting off with a diamond to the queen. If all follow then diamonds are breaking 3-1 or 2-2, and all is sweetness and light. If, though, diamonds are 4-0 you have a marked finesse against either opponent's ♦A10xx. This is one of the layouts you are catering for:

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

After a diamond to the queen East can please himself whether he takes the ace or not. Subsequently you are able to lead a diamond to the ♦9 and pull the suit in for four tricks.

2 Here, with diamonds weakened by the absence of the ♦9, you are going to be defeated if East has all four of them. Your best play is to start off by leading the ♦J, picking up the suit for one loser whenever they break 3-1 or 2-2 (when any sensible play works) and also when West has all four diamonds. This is a layout you are catering for:

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

If West takes the ♦J with the ♦A (best defence) then you have a double marked finesse against the ♦10 9. You take the next club lead and play a diamond towards table. West splits his honours, so you take the ♦Q, cross to the ♥A and play another diamond, finessing the eight. Now you have the requisite number of tricks.

David Gold's quiz from page 18

Practise these hands with your partner and see if you get the answers right!

West hands

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. North opens 1♠ ♠ A J 2 ♥ K Q 10 3 ♦ K 10 3 2 ♣ J 3 | 4. South opens 1♠ ♠ 5 4 ♥ Q J 9 4 2 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ K J 3 |
| 2. South opens 1♠ ♠ 5 4 ♥ A 9 4 2 ♦ K J 3 ♣ Q 10 9 3 | 5. North opens 1♥ ♠ K 2 ♥ A 7 6 5 ♦ K Q 7 6 2 ♣ Q 2 |
| 3. North opens 1♦ ♠ K Q J ♥ K J 3 ♦ K Q 7 6 ♣ 3 2 | 6. South opens 1♣ ♠ K Q 5 4 ♥ Q 2 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ A 7 6 2 |

East hands

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. North opens 1♠ ♠ 5 4 ♥ A 9 4 2 ♦ A 9 ♣ Q 10 7 6 2 | 4. South opens 1♠ ♠ A K 2 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ 3 2 ♣ A Q 8 7 2 |
| 2. South opens 1♠ ♠ A Q 3 ♥ K 10 3 ♦ A 8 7 6 ♣ K 7 2 | 5. North opens 1♥ ♠ A J 3 ♥ 2 ♦ J 10 5 4 ♣ K J 10 5 4 |
| 3. North opens 1♦ ♠ 10 7 2 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ 2 ♣ K Q 9 7 5 4 | 6. South opens 1♣ ♠ A 10 3 2 ♥ K J 9 4 ♦ Q 2 ♣ K Q J |

ANSWERS

1. North opens 1♠

| West | East |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1NT ¹ | 2♣ ² |
| 2NT ³ | 3♣ ⁴ |
| 3♥ ⁵ | 4♥ |

¹ 11-16, ² Staymanic range ask,
³ 13-14, ⁴ re-ask, ⁵ 4 hearts.

2. South opens 1♠

| West | East |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 2♣ ² | 3♦ ² |
| 3NT ³ | |

¹ 11-16, ² Staymanic range ask,
³ 15-16, natural – could choose to bid 3NT but 3♦ allows partner to bid 3♥ with five hearts.

3. North opens 1♦

| West | East |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1NT ¹ | 3♣ ² |
| Pass ³ | |

¹ 11-16, ² Invitational & natural,
³ Although maximum the hand has only two small clubs lacks quick tricks.

4. South opens 1♠

| West | East |
|-----------------|------------------|
| | 1NT ¹ |
| 2♣ ² | 3♣ ³ |
| 3♥ ⁴ | 4♥ |

¹ 11-16, ² Planning to bid 2♥ over 2♦, or pass 2♥, or bid 3♥ (invitational) over 2NT, ³ 15-16, natural and denying a 4-card major, ⁴ showing five hearts and forcing.

5. North opens 1♥

| West | East |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1NT ¹ | 3♥ ² |
| 5♦ ³ | |

¹ 11-16, ² Splinter, a stretch but worth it to get the hand across and the hand is limited having not acted over 1♥, so this is not game forcing, ³ worth it with a medium hand and a fifth diamond with little wasted in hearts.

6. South opens 1♣

| West | East |
|-----------------|------------------|
| | 1NT ¹ |
| 2♣ ² | 3♥ ³ |
| 3♣ ⁴ | 4♠ |

¹ 11-16, ² Staymanic range ask,
³ 15-16 with four hearts, ⁴ Natural with four spades.
NB You could consider playing 3♣ over 2♣ as showing 4-4 in the majors and 15-16.

Competition

It can sometimes be said of an auction between weak or uninstructed partners that 'there is no such bidding,' in the sense that two or more bids by the same player, who is presumed to have confidence in the correctness of this partner's bidding, are mutually inconsistent. In other words, if one bid is right, at least one other bid must be wrong.

Classify the following auctions as (A) consistent or (B) inconsistent. If the answer is (B), explain briefly wherein lies the inconsistency. All bidding is complete on the diagrams below (all pass,) except on hand c:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) North 1♥ 2NT 4♥ | South 2♥ 3♥ | b) North 1♥ 2♠ 4♥ | South 2♥ 3♥ |
| c) North 1♥ 3♣ 4NT | South 1♠ 4♠ ? | d) North 1♥ 2♦ 5♦ | South 1♠ 4♦ 6♦ |
| e) North 1♥ 2♦ 5♣ | South 1♠ 4♦ 6♦ | f) North 1♥ 2NT 4♥ | South 2♦ 3♥ |
| g) North 1♠ 4♠ | South 3NT 5♠ | h) North 1♦ 2♠ 5♦ | South 2♦ 3♦ |
| i) North 1♦ 2♥ 3NT | South 1♠ 2♠ | j) North 1♦ 2♥ 4♠ | South 1♠ 2♠ |

Answers from 1946

a) Inconsistent. South's rebid of 3♥ shows that his raise was a minimum and that his hand is unsuitable for play at No-Trumps. If North intended to bid game in any case, he should have bid 3NT over 2♥. South is quite entitled to pass 2NT, if his raise is weak and his hand is balanced.

b) Consistent. In contrast to (a), 2♠ is a bid which cannot be passed by South. North must be presumed to hold a very powerful hand, on which he would have made a slam try if South's rebid had been more encouraging than 3♥.

c) Inconsistent. If there is a slam in this hand, it is up to South to attempt it after he has heard North's strong rebid of 3♠. South may have stretched his values to the utmost in bidding 4♠, and North should not imperil the game.

d) Inconsistent. South's 4♦, though encouraging, is not forcing, and it is ridiculous to bid a slam thereafter when North may well have taken a risk in bidding even game. The effect of South's bidding is that the hand can be played in 4♦ or 6♦, but never in 5♦.

e) Consistent. North's 5♣ is a slam invitation, accepted by South.

f) Consistent. South, who evidently has some support for hearts, did not give the discouraging raise to 2♥. He must therefore be presumed to hold fair values, which, together with the strongish hand disclosed by North's 2NT, should be enough for game.

g) Inconsistent. South's 3NT denotes a strong balanced hand, with at least neutral support for spades. North, in bidding 4♠, announces himself as quite content with the contract. In bidding further South is merely repeating himself.

h) Consistent. Identical in principle with (b).

i) Inconsistent. South's 2♠ is a weak rebid, and his hand may contain no more than a long broken spade suit. If in spite of this North intended to play the hand in game, he should have bid it directly over 1♠ or forced with 3♥. This type of bidding is frequently heard at the card table, however, because so few Souths can be trusted to realise, not how bad their hand is, but how much worse it might have been, and that a little scattered strength outside spades is sufficient to raise 2NT to 3NT.

j) Consistent. It is perfectly possible for North's hand to have become vastly improved once South can rebid the spades. He might, for instance, hold ♠J 3 2 ♥A K 8 7 ♦A K 9 7 5 ♣2.

Rosen's quiz on doubles from page 30

You are West. Make the next bid with the following hands in the auctions detailed below:

| Hand 1 | |
|--------|-----------|
| ♠ | A J 7 5 |
| ♥ | K 8 4 |
| ♦ | K 8 7 6 5 |
| ♣ | 3 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|------|----|----|
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | 2♣ |
| ? | | | |

| Hand 2 | |
|--------|-----------|
| ♠ | A 8 7 5 |
| ♥ | K 8 |
| ♦ | A K 7 6 5 |
| ♣ | 3 2 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|------|----|----|
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | 2♣ |
| ? | | | |

| Hand 3 | |
|--------|-----------|
| ♠ | K 8 7 5 |
| ♥ | K Q 9 8 4 |
| ♦ | Q 5 |
| ♣ | 3 2 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|----|------|------|
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♥ | 2♣ | Pass | Pass |
| ? | | | |

| Hand 4 | |
|--------|---------|
| ♠ | K Q 7 5 |
| ♥ | A K 8 4 |
| ♦ | J 5 |
| ♣ | K 7 3 |

| W | N | E | S |
|------|----|------|------|
| | | | 1NT |
| Dble | 2♦ | Pass | Pass |
| ? | | | |

| Hand 5 | |
|--------|---------|
| ♠ | K Q 7 5 |
| ♥ | A K 8 4 |
| ♦ | J 5 |
| ♣ | K 7 3 |

| W | N | E | S |
|------|----|------|------|
| | | | 1NT |
| Dble | 2♣ | Pass | Pass |
| ? | | | |

| Hand 6 | |
|--------|-----------|
| ♠ | A J 7 |
| ♥ | K 8 4 3 2 |
| ♦ | K Q 6 5 |
| ♣ | 3 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|------|----|----|
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | 2♣ |
| ? | | | |

| Hand 7 | |
|--------|---------|
| ♠ | Q 4 |
| ♥ | A Q 9 8 |
| ♦ | K 8 5 4 |
| ♣ | K J 7 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|------|----|----|
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | 2♣ |
| ? | | | |

| Hand 8 | |
|--------|---------|
| ♠ | K J 4 |
| ♥ | A Q 9 8 |
| ♦ | K 8 5 |
| ♣ | K J 7 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|------|----|----|
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | 2♣ |
| ? | | | |

| Hand 9 | |
|--------|-----------|
| ♠ | A 4 |
| ♥ | 6 |
| ♦ | K Q 8 5 4 |
| ♣ | K J 7 4 3 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|----|------|------|
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2♦ | 2♠ | Pass | Pass |
| ? | | | |

ANSWERS

Hand 1 2♥. You have a choice here, both double and 2♥ being possible. I much prefer a simple 2♥ with such minimum values. Double may lead you into trouble unnecessarily.

Hand 2 Dble. An ideal hand for a take-out double. You get the opportunity to express the spade suit and a tolerance for hearts without raising the level of the auction to uncomfortable heights.

Hand 3 Dble. Here we can see the responder also often gets the opportunity to make a take-out double as well. Who knows – partner may occasionally be able to pass with a club stack converting your double into penalties. One side note here – just because partner is able to pass for penalties if they desire does not alter the meaning of your double – it is **take-out, not optional**. I cannot stand the term optional.

Hand 4 Dble. We have doubled 1NT and the auction has come back round to us (forcing when two of a minor remember) – here we have an easy take-out double.

Hand 5 Dble. Whilst not perfect shape I would still strongly recommend doubling here. Remember that you have to do something – so surely double is far and away the closest representation of this hand.

Hand 6 2♠. I like 2♠ rather than double here – indeed if there was no 2♣ overcall I would still prefer 2♠ to 2♦ – though again a matter of partnership style.

Cont/...

Hand 7 Pass. Yes you read it correctly! Pass.... 15-16 point hands have no safety net in bidding on these auctions (you can sometimes sell me supporting with 3-card support I suppose – but that is not the case here).

Hand 8 2NT. This shows a full 17 or 18 not 15-16 as per the previous example. Remember that even though we are 'keeping it low' by only bidding at the minimum level – partner has only responded at the 1-level showing 5/6 + in the modern style. This is definitely an area where inexperienced players err very frequently.

Hand 9 Dble. You have to double. Should you make the obvious looking 3♣ bid partner is entitled to pass as you are simply showing 'competing values'. □

POET'S CORNER

It's bridge tonight
Ho! It's bridge tonight
I wonder if I will be lucky,
Well I might!
It would be nice to see my partner smile
because it would be good
for my bile.
On the other hand
If I am busted out of my head
what is the good of coming
to hear him hamming
'Why did you play this and not that'
I feel like getting my hat
and go
and never, never come back.
He is looking at me with his lovely eyes
'Ho, come on' he says
'it's only a game after all'
'Ho, no no' said Winston Churchill
'It's not a game at all, but it's a strategy'
Which bring often ... calamity
Well, as far as I am concerned
It is a night out
And nights are long no doubt
Yes, I will be back,
I will be back, I promise you that.

Mariella Hayward-Cook

Answers to crossword on page 52

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A | 2 | J | 3 | E | N | 4 | D | 5 | G | 6 | A | 7 | M | 8 | E | S |
| 8 | T | A | X | I | 9 | O | P | I | A | T | E | | | | | | |
| 10 | O | C | C | A | S | I | O | N | A | 11 | L | | | | | | |
| 12 | M | O | R | E | S | 13 | B | L | U | S | I | | | | | | |
| | I | B | E | 14 | L | I | A | I | S | 15 | O | N | | | | | |
| 16 | S | Y | S | 17 | T | E | M | S | C | U | E | | | | | | |
| | E | 18 | A | C | A | R | 19 | B | A | R | T | S | | | | | |
| 20 | S | C | E | P | T | I | C | I | S | M | | | | | | | |
| 21 | I | O | N | I | A | N | 22 | E | P | E | E | | | | | | |
| 23 | A | L | T | R | U | I | S | T | T | N | | | | | | | |

Jeremy Dhondy's views on the 1946 auctions from page 69

- 2NT is a balanced try so to bid 4♥ when partner has signed off is inconsistent.
- 2♠ is a game try and 3♥ rejects it. 4♥ is possible if opener has a slam try. Consistent.
- North has made a limit bid so to bid on with 4NT suggests he has found an ace. Inconsistent.
- 4♦ is non-forcing so bidding on when partner has declined to cue bid is odd. Inconsistent.
- 5♣ is a cue bid so 6♦ is reasonable. Consistent.
- Depends on the system but in modern Acoll a 2NT rebid is forcing to game. Even if it could be passed because it is 15-16 a fit when partner has bid 2 over 1 should be forcing to game. Consistent.
- 3NT is very unlikely to be to played this way in 2018. It often shows a flat raise to 4♠. If partner signs off then to bid 5♠ is odd. Inconsistent.
- North has a slam try so after South has signed off is still worth more so fine. Consistent.
- Of course some play 1♦-2♠ these days as a Weak Jump shift so if you bid spades and spades it is constructive but if you are playing traditional methods it can be a very weak hand i.e. you only dredged up 1S in the first place. Any game is more likely to be 4♠ than 3NT. Inconsistent
- Quite a normal auction but with that hand I would think 3♠ more normal by opener. If partner has got a 6 count with values in clubs you won't make game. ♠Q10xxx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣KJx. 3♠ allows responder to judge.

