

BRIDGE

Number: 192

UK £3.95 Europe €5.00

December 2018

Bernard Magee's Acol Bidding Quiz

This month we are looking at some overcalling and doubling.

You are West in the auctions below, playing 'Standard Acol' with a weak no-trump (12-14 points) and four-card majors. It is your turn to call.

1. Dealer South. Game All.

♠ A 7 6 5
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ A 2
♣ J 8 6



West	North	East	South
?			1♥

2. Dealer South. Game All.

♠ J 7 6 5
♥ 2
♦ A K 4
♣ K Q 10 9 5



West	North	East	South
?			1♥

3. Dealer South. N/S Game.

♠ A K
♥ A K J 7 6 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 6 5



West	North	East	South
?			1♥

Answers on page 43

4. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K 10 7 6
♥ 8 7 6 4
♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ 4



West	North	East	South
?	1♦	1♠	Pass

5. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K 4 2
♥ A J 6 2
♦ 4 3
♣ K Q 7 5



West	North	East	South
?	1♦	1♠	Pass

6. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ 6 5
♥ A 8 7
♦ A Q 4
♣ J 7 6 5 4



West	North	East	South
?	1♦	1♠	Pass

Answers on page 45

7. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K 3 2
♥ J 10 9 6 5
♦ 7
♣ 9 8 3 2



West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Dbl	Pass

8. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K Q 3 2
♥ 9 3 2
♦ A 9 7 6
♣ 9 2



West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Dbl	Pass

9. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ 7 6
♥ 6 5 4
♦ A Q 4 3
♣ A 7 6 5



West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Dbl	2♥

Answers on page 47

10. Dealer South. Love All.

♠ K Q 10 6 3
♥ 5 4
♦ K Q J 3
♣ 6 5



West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
?			

11. Dealer South. Love All.

♠ A K 8 7 6
♥ 4 2
♦ K 2
♣ 10 6 5 4



West	North	East	South
1♠	2♥	Dbl	Pass
?			

12. Dealer South. Game All.

♠ A 8 7 2
♥ 4 3
♦ A 9 8 5
♣ A K 3



West	North	East	South
Dbl	3♥	Dbl	Pass
?			

Answers on page 49

Mr Bridge

The 2019 cruise programme

LIMITED
CABINS REMAINING
ON OUR WINTER
2018/19 CRUISES

PASSAGE TO ANCIENT EGYPT & INDIA

Hosted by Martin and
Judy Holcombe

Athens to Mumbai 29 days

Athens • Suez (Cairo) • Ain Sokhna • Aqaba (Petra)
Safage (Luxor) • Salalah • Muscat • Portbandar
Mumbai

9 December 2018 From £3,995pp

IDYLIC ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

Hosted by John and
Rebecca Ronan

Mumbai to Singapore 22 days

Mumbai • Marmagao • Cochin • Maldives

SOLD OUT - WAITLIST ONLY

5 January 2019 From £3,495pp

BEYOND BURMA & THE MALAY PENINSULA

Hosted by Sandy Bell

Singapore to Colombo 18 days

Singapore • Malacca • Penang
Phuket • Yangon • Port Blair
Colombo

25 January 2019 From £5,095pp

LAST FEW
CABINS
AVAILABLE

SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA & THE SKELETON COAST

Hosted by Will and
Sylvia Parsons

Cape Town to Malaga 33 days

Cape Town • Luderitz • Walvis Bay • Luanda
Born Born Island • Praia • Las Palmas
Agadir (Marrakesh) • Casablanca • Tangier • Malaga

12 March 2019 From £4,550pp

CLASSIC CIVILISATIONS of the S. MEDITERRANEAN

Hosted by
Bernard Magee

Malaga to Athens 12 days

Malaga • Trapani • Palermo • Catania
Valletta • Chania • Heraklion
Santorini • Athens

13 April 2019 From £1,995pp

LIMITED
AVAILABILITY

CLASSICAL GREECE & ISLANDS OF THE AEGEAN

Hosted by Lesley Lewis

Athens to Athens 9 days

Athens • Santorini • Heraklion • Agios Nikolaos
Karthos • Rhodes • Nisyros • Delos • Mykonos
Athens

26 April 2019 From £1,850pp

RENAISSANCE ITALY & HISTORIC ISLANDS

Hosted by Sandy Bell

Rome to Seville 13 days

Rome • Livorno (Florence/Pisa/Lecce) • Elba
Bonifacio • Ajaccio • Mahon • Palma • Malaga
Gibraltar • Cadiz • Seville

25 May 2019 From £2,195pp

EUROPEAN CONNOISSEUR

Hosted by
Bernard Magee

Seville to London 13 days

Seville • Lisbon • Oporto
Vigo (Santiago de Compostela) • Bordeaux
La Rochelle • Guernsey • Honfleur • London

6 June 2019 From £2,095pp

ODYSSEY
CLUB
REUNION
CRUISE

ICELAND, FAROES & SHETLANDS

Hosted by Will and
Sylvia Parsons

London to London 16 days

London • Lerwick • Heimaey
Reykjavik • Isafjordur • Akureyri • Husavik
Torshavn • Kirkwall • Rosyth (Edinburgh) • London

30 July 2019 From £2,750pp

NO FLY
CRUISE

MEDITERRANEAN ODYSSEY

Hosted by
Bernard Magee

Lisbon to Rome 13 days

Lisbon • Cadiz • Malaga • Tarragona • Barcelona
Sete (Carcassonne) • Marseilles • Monte Carlo
Portofino • Livorno (Florence or Pisa/Lucca) • Rome

26 August 2019 From £2,195pp

DALMATIA & ANCIENT GREECE

Hosted by Will and
Sylvia Parsons

Venice to Athens 11 days

Venice • Ancona (Urbino) • Split
Korcula • Dubrovnik • Sarande (Butrint) • Katakolon
(Olympia) • Pylos • Monemvasia • Hydra • Athens

19 September 2019 From £2,295pp

LIMITED
AVAILABILITY

CLASSICAL GREECE & ISLANDS OF THE AEGEAN

Hosted by Sandy Bell

Athens to Athens 9 days

Athens • Santorini • Heraklion • Agios Nikolaos
Karthos • Rhodes • Nisyros • Delos • Mykonos
Athens

7 October 2019 From £1,695pp

Mr Bridge special fares include: Full **Mr Bridge** programme • Flights & transfers • Expertly planned itineraries
Shore excursion in most ports of call • Expert antiquity guest speakers • Open-seating dining
Wine with dinner on board • Gratuities on board • Exclusive Mr Bridge drinks party

Cabins can be held for up to seven days without obligation.

Call **Mr Bridge** on 01483 489961 or visit mrbridge.voyagestoantiquity.com

Terms and conditions apply. Odyssey Club members save a further 5%.



BRIDGE

Ryden Grange, Knaphill,
Surrey GU21 2TH

☎ 01483 489961

bridge@mrbridge.co.uk

www.mrbridge.co.uk

shop: mrbridge.co.uk/shop

**Publisher and
Managing Editor**
Mr Bridge

Associate Editor
Julian Pottage
julian@mrbridge.co.uk

Bridge Consultant
Bernard Magee
bernardmagee
@mrbridge.co.uk

Cartoons & Illustrations
Marguerite Lihou
www.margueritelihou.co.uk

Technical Consultant
Tony Gordon

Typesetting
Jessica Galt
jessica@mrbridge.co.uk

Proof Reading Team
Mike Orriel
Julian Pottage
Catrina Shackleton
Richard Wheen

Customer Services
Catrina Shackleton
catrina@mrbridge.co.uk

Events & Cruises
☎ 01483 489961
Jessica Galt
jessica@mrbridge.co.uk

Megan Riccio
megan@mrbridge.co.uk

Emily Hawkins
emily@mrbridge.co.uk

Sandra Timbury
sandra@mrbridge.co.uk

Clubs & Charities
Maggie Axtell
maggie@mrbridge.co.uk

Printed in the UK by
**The Magazine
Printing Company**
www.magprint.co.uk

Features this month include:

- 1 Bidding Quiz by Bernard Magee
- 4 Mr Bridge
- 7 Bidding Quiz by Bernard Magee
- 9 Defence Quiz by Julian Pottage
- 10 Negative Doubles by Andrew Kambites
- 13 Catching Up with Sally Brock
- 14 The Diaries of Wendy Wensum
- 15 Negative Doubles Quiz by Andrew Kambites
- 17 Declarer Play Quiz by David Huggett
- 18 The Power of Spot Cards: Part 7 by Mike Lawrence
- 19 Julian Pottage Answers your Questions
- 23 Letter from Overseas by John Barr
- 24 Modern Card Backs by Paul Bostock
- 26 Seven Days by Sally Brock
- 30 The Sheriff's Young Admirer by David Bird
- 32 David Stephenson Answers your Questions
- 35 Declarer Play Quiz Answers by David Huggett
- 37 Negative Doubles Quiz Answers
by Andrew Kambites
- 39 More Tips by Bernard Magee
- 41 Defence Quiz Answers by Julian Pottage
- 42 What is Lebensohl and how do you use it?
by Julian Pottage
- 43 Bidding Quiz Answers (1-3) by Bernard Magee
- 45 Bidding Quiz Answers (4-6) by Bernard Magee
- 47 Bidding Quiz Answers (7-9) by Bernard Magee
- 49 Bidding Quiz Answers (10-12) by Bernard Magee
- 50 Readers' Letters

REDUCE THE COST OF YOUR POSTAGE



Postage stamps for sale at 90% of face-value, all mint with full gum.
Quotations for commercial quantities available on request.
Values supplied in 100s, higher values available, as well as 1st and 2nd class.

☎ 020 8422 4906

e-mail: clive.goff@londonrugby.com

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

- 2 2019 Cruises with Voyages to Antiquity
- 3 Clive Goff's Stamps
- 6 South Africa & the Skeleton Coast with Voyages to Antiquity
- 8 Classical Greece & Islands of the Aegean with Voyages to Antiquity
- 9 Mr Bridge UK Events at The Two Bridges
- 12 Acol Bidding with Bernard Magee
- 15 Travel Insurance
- 16 Festive Events 2018
- 17 Mr Bridge UK Events at Blunsdon House
- 21 Mr Bridge UK Events at The Olde Barn Hotel
- 22 Renaissance Italy & Historic Islands with Voyages to Antiquity
- 23 Declarer Play with Bernard Magee
- 25 Re-boot your Acol with Bernard Magee
- 25 QPlus 12
- 28 Mr Bridge UK Events 2019
- 29 Clive Goff's Stamps
- 29 Defence with Bernard Magee
- 33 Bridge Gifts
- 34 Rushmere Beds & Chairs
- 35 Club Insurance
- 36 Tunisia 2019
- 36 Mr Bridge UK Events at The Elstead Hotel
- 38 Portugal 2019
- 39 Bernard Magee's Tutorial Software
- 39 Duplicate Bridge Rules Simplified
- 40 Mr Bridge UK Events at The Chatsworth Hotel
- 40 Mr Bridge UK Events at Denham Grove
- 43 Little Voice
- 44 Islands of the Mediterranean with Fred. Olsen
- 45 Designs for Bridge Table Covers
- 46 Capital Cities of the Baltic with Fred. Olsen
- 47 Bernard Magee DVDs Sets 1-4
- 47 Bridge with Angela
- 48 The Best of the Fjords in Seven Nights with Fred. Olsen
- 49 Bernard Magee DVDs Sets 5-8
- 49 BRIDGE Subscriptions
- 51 2019 Cruises with Fred. Olsen
- 52 Croatia 2019

TRYING TO HELP



Christmas is at the end of the month. If you are still searching for presents and prizes for bridge-playing friends and family the following two columns should be helpful.

DIARY

The 2019 Bridge Player's diary with a ruby-red soft Kidrell cover, contains a resumé of Acol Bidding, written by Bernard Magee. At £14.95 it contains a ballpoint pen in its spine as well as all the diary stuff.

BEGINNER'S BOOK

Bridge with Angela is for beginners. Written by bridge teacher Angela Tompson, it comes with a helpful ring-spine to enable the book to lay open flat. £7.95 each, two for £10. Ideal for grandchildren and even better for adults starting bridge completely from scratch.

PICK AND MIX

Even if your bridge-playing loved-one, partner or club responded to my flash sale of the Bernard Magee DVDs earlier this year, here is a chance to pick any six of the 48 titles in the series for only £65. Please see the full list on the new tear-out order form at the front of the magazine. Offer closes 14 December 2018.

QPLUS 11

At the recent bridge world championships in Orlando, Florida, Johannes Leber announced that QPlus 13 would be on sale in October 2019. I have purchased his remaining QPlus 11 stock to clear for only £49. The current version of QPlus is QPlus 12, still available from stock at £92.

FREE BRIDGE

As a treat for one of your friends, email or post their full address details (UK only) and I will send them a copy of the January issue. Ends 14 December 2018.

GOOD BOOK

In the last issue, Shireen Mohandes reviewed Larry Cohen's latest book, *Tricks of the Trade*. This is not a book for beginners or even improvers but some of his casual observations are truly original, as are some of his tips. £20.

DBRS 2017

Send back a cover of an earlier version of DBRS (as proof of a previous purchase), together with four 2nd class stamps for one copy of the latest version, or six 2nd class stamps for two.

MEMOIRS

Robin Hood's Bridge Memoirs, as faithfully recorded by David Bird, are a fun collection of bridge play problems. Yes, I know bridge was not played back in the time of wicked King John and his Sheriff of Nottingham but it is fun and could make a lovely Christmas present. £11.

POSTAGE & PACKING

All the prices for the above books, discs and services are inclusive of any UK postage, packing and/or delivery charges.

INITIATIVES

For reasons currently completely outside my control I have had to delay the introduction of both my recent proposals. However, a bar-coded version of my premium quality playing cards will not be produced and marketed as part of the scheme. All future card dealing machines will be able to read the face of the card without the help of this most unattractive feature. Bar-code reading machines need to be consigned to the dustbins of bridge history. More sensibly traded-in for those that can (almost miraculously) read playing card faces. The club initiative is on hold for the same reason. Once I am released from my promise of confidentiality, the explanation for both delays will be completely obvious.

GOFFIES STAMPS



It is still not too late to order discounted unused British stamps of different value denominations in order to send your Christmas cards either 1st class (67p) or 2nd class (58p). Perhaps you should give Clive Goff a call on:

☎ 020 8422 4906. Or email him on:
clivegoff@londonrugby.com

PRESS RELEASE

I have received the following press release from the self-styled London Enablers just in time to be included in December issue of BRIDGE.

BRIDGE BASH

Ned Paul, Victor Lesk, Kit Jackson, Mark Dessain and Philip Watson are an informal group of bridge 'enablers', putting on bridge in various parts of London. Between them, they cover the full spectrum of bridge from first steps to club duplicate and all have slightly different strengths. For example, Ned is very good at teaching absolute beginners and Victor has become the de facto Mr Café Bridge, doing the bridge organisation for many different café bridge drives, not only within Greater London but round the country too. Kit writes a popular weekly blog. They use a variety of different venues. Mark, for instance, runs his Wednesday evening Gentle Duplicate in a pub in Notting Hill, just upstairs in the top bar. Kit has a similar arrangement for his Balham operation. Between them, they are probably putting on bridge for well over 200 players a week.

Jointly they are coming together for Ned, Victor, Mark, Kit and Philip's End of Year Bridge Bash. They will be hiring the whole of Young Chelsea Bridge Club for Saturday December 8. There will be bridge, food, drink and good company. Doors open at 6.00pm and informal bridge can start

as soon as four players are in the building. There will be a hot buffet, prepared by YC's star caterer Natalya, around 7.00pm and at 7.30pm a formal duplicate. That will finish by 10.30pm but the bar will stay open and informal bridge can continue to whenever.

Anyone who enjoys the people side of bridge as much as the competition is welcome and there will be bridge for you whatever your standard. YC is located at 54 Goldhawk Road, Shepherd's Bush, London W12 8HA. The Club is right opposite Goldhawk Road tube station on the Hammersmith & City or Circle Lines. You can see full details of the party at Victor's website www.brianbridge.net/party2018 and tickets are £15pp in advance or £16.50 on the door. This covers the bridge and the food. Sadly, you will be on your own for your bar bill.

CHRISTMAS OFFER

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE on any piece of Bernard Magee Tutorial Software – Buy one tutorial software programme for yourself and get the same one for

your bridge partner for free. If you and your bridge partner use the software it can significantly benefit your game and with Christmas coming up Bernard Magee's software is the perfect gift.

With most of my products, word of mouth is a key part of their success. However, with my software programmes people tend to keep their knowledge under their hat. When I asked someone about this they replied "my percentage has been going up steadily since my partner and I have been using Bernard's tutorial software. Why would I want to tell my club friends about it as it would help them too. I want to keep this advantage to myself". I have to say that I find that quite unfair. So instead, take my word for it. These products are really beneficial; they are carefully designed so that whatever your level, you can learn from them. I would always suggest getting the first in the series before the advanced version as there is so much that can be taken from them.

You are able to download a trial of each of the programmes should you

wish to try before you buy. If you would like to discuss which product would suit, just ring ☎ 01483 489961.

This offer relates to purchasing two copies of the same product and is not available through my online shop and must finish 14 December 2018.

CLUB HOLIDAYS

Club holidays are always great fun for the club members, but if you are the organiser it can cause undue stress. If your club is thinking of going away but has never been brave enough to take that step, then I could be able to help. I can put together a private event for your club with your own personalised programme at the location of your choice – be it in the UK or overseas. I currently do this for a number of clubs and U3A groups and it takes away all the stress from the club; no need to collect the money, deal with cancellations, give the seminars or direct the duplicates... the whole group can enjoy themselves. ☎ 01483 489961 and ask for Catrina who will be happy to talk this through with you.

DENHAM GROVE

I am delighted to report that the extensive refurbishment of the Denham Grove Conference Centre is almost complete. All freshly equipped and with new glazing and wardrobes throughout.

WORLD NUMBER 1

Congratulations to our very own World Champion, Sally Brock. And another Brit, Nicola Smith, who has the number 2 spot.

LAST MONTH



Autumn continues and this October Glory has lived up to its name and more for the first time since I had it planted. Until recently I would have been away cruising and missed most of the colour. Not this year.

All good wishes

Mr Bridge





SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA & THE SKELETON COAST CRUISE

Opportunity for supervised play following a selection of seminars. A truly great learning prospect.

CAPE TOWN to MALAGA 33 DAYS from £4,550 12 March 2019

VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights on board in Cape Town • Wine tasting in the Stellenbosch Valley
- Luanda's Palacio de Ferro, designed by Gustav Eiffel

This remarkable journey – the very length of Africa – begins in one of the continent's most charming and beautiful cities, Cape Town. Three nights on board allow for visits to Table Mountain and the Stellenbosch winelands, as well as plenty of time for independent exploration.

Then *Aegean Odyssey* sails north by way of Namibia's forbidding Skeleton Coast, where the cold waters of the Atlantic meet the scorching desert dunes in an atmospheric shroud of fog, the Angolan capital, Luanda, and the three lovely island groups of Sao Tome & Principe, Cape Verde and the Canary Islands.

Last stop en route to Malaga is Morocco and the splendid imperial city of Marrakesh, with its souks, snake charmers and storks nesting in the towers of ancient palaces.



YOUR ITINERARY		AEG190313BR
12-13 MAR	Fly overnight to CAPE TOWN South Africa Embark <i>Aegean Odyssey</i> O	
14 MAR	CAPE TOWN South Africa O	
15 MAR	CAPE TOWN South Africa O	
16 MAR	CAPE TOWN South Africa	
17 MAR	AT SEA	
18 MAR	LUDERITZ (Kolmanskop) Namibia	
19 MAR	AT SEA	
20 MAR	WALVIS BAY Namibia	
21 MAR	WALVIS BAY Namibia	
22-23 MAR	AT SEA	
24 MAR	LUANDA Angola	
25-26 MAR	AT SEA	
27 MAR	BOM BOM ISLAND Sao Tome & Principe	
28 MAR - 3 APR	AT SEA	
4 APR	PRAIA Cape Verde Islands	
5-7 APR	AT SEA	
8 APR	LAS PALMAS Canary Islands, Spain	
9 APR	AT SEA	
10 APR	AGADIR/MARRAKESH Morocco H	
11 APR	MARRAKESH/CASABLANCA Morocco	
12 APR	TANGIER Morocco	
	MALAGA Spain	
13 APR	Disembark <i>Aegean Odyssey</i> and transfer to Malaga Airport for flight home	

H Hotel stay ashore **O** Overnight stay in port
No bridge at overnight hotels

"FREE DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSFERS"

Enjoy the convenience of a free door-to-door service within a 100-mile radius of London Heathrow. Additional mileage charged as a supplement. Please call for details.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT no more than 10% on dedicated solo cabins

Mr Bridge special fares include: • Full Mr Bridge programme • Morning seminars • Afternoon bridge on days at sea
Duplicate bridge every evening • Flights & transfers • Expertly planned itineraries • Shore excursions in most ports of call
Expert antiquity guest speakers • Open-seating dining • Wine with dinner on board • Gratuities on board • Exclusive Mr Bridge drinks party

Cabins can be held for up to seven days without obligation.

Call **Mr Bridge** on 01483 489961 or visit www.mrbridge.voyagestoantiquity.com

Odyssey Club members save a further 5%. Terms and conditions apply.



Bernard Magee's Acol Bidding Quiz

This month we are looking at some overcalling and doubling.

You are West in the auctions below, playing 'Standard Acol' with a weak no-trump (12-14 points) and four-card majors. It is your turn to call.

1. Dealer South. Game All.

♠ A 7 6 5
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ A 2
♣ J 8 6



West	North	East	South
?			1♥

4. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K 10 7 6
♥ 8 7 6 4
♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ 4



West	North	East	South
?	1♦	1♠	Pass

7. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K 3 2
♥ J 10 9 6 5
♦ 7
♣ 9 8 3 2



West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Dbl	Pass

10. Dealer South. Love All.

♠ K Q 10 6 3
♥ 5 4
♦ K Q J 3
♣ 6 5



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

2. Dealer South. Game All.

♠ J 7 6 5
♥ 2
♦ A K 4
♣ K Q 10 9 5



West	North	East	South
?			1♥

5. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K 4 2
♥ A J 6 2
♦ 4 3
♣ K Q 7 5



West	North	East	South
?	1♦	1♠	Pass

8. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K Q 3 2
♥ 9 3 2
♦ A 9 7 6
♣ 9 2



West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Dbl	Pass

11. Dealer South. Love All.

♠ A K 8 7 6
♥ 4 2
♦ K 2
♣ 10 6 5 4



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

3. Dealer South. N/S Game.

♠ A K
♥ A K J 7 6 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 6 5



West	North	East	South
?			1♥

6. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ 6 5
♥ A 8 7
♦ A Q 4
♣ J 7 6 5 4



West	North	East	South
?	1♦	1♠	Pass

9. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ 7 6
♥ 6 5 4
♦ A Q 4 3
♣ A 7 6 5



West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Dbl	2♥

12. Dealer South. Game All.

♠ A 8 7 2
♥ 4 3
♦ A 9 8 5
♣ A K 3



West	North	East	South
Dbl	3♥	Dbl	1♥
?			Pass

My Answers:

1.....
2.....
3.....

My Answers:

4.....
5.....
6.....

My Answers:

7.....
8.....
9.....

My Answers:

10.....
11.....
12.....

Answers on page 43

Answers on page 45

Answers on page 47

Answers on page 49

CLASSICAL GREECE & ISLANDS OF THE AEGEAN

10% SINGLE SUPPLEMENT on dedicated solo cabins

ATHENS to ATHENS 9 DAYS from £1,695 26 April 2019

Join us for a Greek adventure *par excellence* in Spring 2019.

Boarding *Aegean Odyssey*, we set sail for some of the country's most glorious and fascinating islands. Discover more about the remarkably sophisticated Bronze Age Minoan civilisation in postcard-perfect Santorini and Crete, by legend home to the Minotaur and labyrinth. Appreciate the dramatic natural beauty of volcanic Nisyros and the traditional villages of Karpathos little changed in centuries. Relax on the unspoilt shores of Mykonos; explore the ancient sacred site of Delos and the glorious Old Town of Rhodes, both recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Mr Bridge special fares include: Full **Mr Bridge** programme • Flights & transfers • Expertly planned itineraries
Shore excursion in most ports of call • Expert antiquity guest speakers • Open-seating dining • Gratuities on board
Wine with dinner on board • Exclusive **Mr Bridge** drinks party

VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Postcard-perfect Greece in Santorini
- The captivating traditional villages of Karpathos
- The spectacular volcanic scenery of Nisyros

YOUR ITINERARY

AEG190426BR

26 APR	Fly to ATHENS Greece Embark <i>Aegean Odyssey</i> in Piraeus
27 APR	SANTORINI Greek Islands
28 APR	HERAKLION Crete ⚓ Greek Islands
29 APR	AGIOS NIKOLAOS Crete Greek Islands
30 APR	KARPATOS Greek Islands ⚓
1 MAY	RHODES Greek Islands
2 MAY	NISYROS Greek Islands ⚓
3 MAY	DELOS Greek Islands ⚓ MYKONOS Greek Islands ⚓
	ATHENS Greece
4 MAY	Disembark <i>Aegean Odyssey</i> and transfer to Athens Airport for flight home

⚓ Ship at anchor

Cabin/stateroom	Category	Fares from
Standard Inside	M	£1,695
Standard Outside	J	£2,095
Deluxe Outside	F	£2,650
Deluxe Balcony	D	£2,950
Single Cabin	MM	£1,850

Cabins can be held for up to seven days without obligation.

Call **Mr Bridge** on 01483 489961 or visit mrbridge.voyagestoantiquity.com

Terms and conditions apply. *Odyssey Club* members save a further 5%.



Gourmet food at The Two Bridges

The second evening meal consists of a five course tasting menu.

Executive Chef Mike Palmer's creative flair comes into its own with firm emphasis on the very best seasonal ingredients from local farmers, fishermen and producers. Wine is supplied by a local specialist and ales from their own Dartmoor Brewery.

2019

3-5 April **£349**
Better Finessing
with Bernard Magee

Seminar one deals with leading up to your high cards to give them power. Seminar two deals with all types of finesse - once again leading low to high, to gain power.

21-23 October **£349**
Better Leads and Switches
with Will Parsons

Seminar one goes beyond basic leading, aiming for safer leads and thinking about partner. Seminar two thinks about partner's lead and using dummy to make better switches.



The Two Bridges Hotel is in the heart of Dartmoor National Park, perched on the banks of the beautiful West Dart River. Step inside and discover a warm Devon welcome, comfortable hotel rooms, fine restaurant dining, characterful lounges and a bustling bar in beautiful historic surroundings.

Prices shown are per person sharing a twin or double bedroom, full board including tea & coffee during breaks and a welcome drinks party.

There is a single supplement at Two Bridges of £70, subject to availability. Single players will always be found a partner. The Mr Bridge Team will offer support during the set hand sessions and make up the numbers in the duplicates, so there should never be a half table. Room upgrades may be available at a supplement.

All rooms are ensuite, have tea & coffee making facilities and have free Wi-Fi. The venue has a lift.

For details and bookings call

Mr Bridge Holidays ☎ 01483 489961

DEFENCE QUIZ

by Julian Pottage

(Answers on page 41)

You are East in the defensive positions below playing Matchpoints with both sides vulnerable.

1. ♠ Q 8 2
♥ K 9
♦ Q J 10 9 2
♣ K Q 6

♠ A K 6
♥ J 7 6 3 2
♦ 5
♣ 8 5 3 2

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT ¹
12-14			

Partner leads the ♠5 and dummy plays low. What is your plan?

3. ♠ K 7 2
♥ 10 7 6 4
♦ K 9 4 2
♣ K 6

♠ 10
♥ K 8 5 3
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ Q J 8 3

N
W E
S

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

Partner leads the ♦8 and dummy plays low. What is your plan?

2. ♠ Q 9 2
♥ K 9 6
♦ Q 9
♣ Q J 10 6 5

♠ A K 7 5
♥ 7 3
♦ J 10 5 3 2
♣ 8 3

N
W E
S

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

Partner leads the ♠3 and dummy plays low. What is your plan?

4. ♠ 10 7 2
♥ K Q 7 4
♦ Q 8 2
♣ 10 6 4

♠ Q 9 8 4
♥ 8
♦ A K 7 5
♣ K 9 8 3

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Dbl	1♥
All Pass			4♥

Partner leads the ♦4: ♦2, ♦K and ♦10. What is your plan for the early play?



Negative Doubles

Fifty years ago a double of an overcalled suit was for penalty.

You will see that this is no longer the case, nevertheless I will start by looking for the requirements for a penalty double. In my last article I considered the possibilities of doubling opponents after a redouble and I stated some vital criteria, which it is appropriate to repeat.

Playing for penalties against a low level suit contract by your opponents is unlikely to be your best option if they have a fit. It is when they have a misfit, with the likely consequence that you also have a misfit, that penalties might prove profitable.

Points alone will not necessarily defeat a low level suit contract. To play for penalties against a low level suit contract you need good trumps. Good trumps means good intermediates.

So what would East need for a penalty double in Auction A?

Auction A			
West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	?	

Hand B	Hand C	Hand D
♠ A Q 9 7 6	♠ A Q 9 7 6	♠ A Q 5 3
♥ K J 6	♥ 7 4	♥ K J 6 2
♦ 7	♦ K J 7 6	♦ 7
♣ 6 4 3 2	♣ 6 2	♣ 6 4 3 2

Hand B is perfect. Excellent spade intermediates and a misfit with partner's diamonds.

With Hand C the spades are good enough but the hand is not suitable for a penalty double because you have four-card support for partner's diamonds. There is too great a danger that you lead a diamond and declarer

ruffs at trick 1. **Show your fit with partner before making a low level penalty double.**

The spades in Hand D are not good enough. Of course you will make tricks with the ♠A-Q but declarer might be able to draw the rest of your spades with his intermediates.

You will see that there are relatively few hands that are suitable for a one level penalty double. Top American experts realised that if the auction starts as in Auction A there are other problems to address. What do you do with Hands E, F and G? You cannot bid 1NT with no spade stopper. You cannot support diamonds with a doubleton and neither clubs nor hearts are suitable for a change of suit at the two level. (Note that 2♥ would promise five hearts.) Superficially you might think pass is reasonable because partner will get another chance, but this is really not satisfactory. The bidding may then continue with another pass and partner re-opening with a take-out double. You would be forced to bid with no points at all, so a minimum reply would seem inadequate, but a jump bid could easily take you beyond safety if partner has a minimum reopening double. Alternatively South could pre-empt to 3♠ (bidding to the level of their fit) and you would never get a chance to show your assets.

Hand E	Hand F	Hand G
♠ 9 5 2	♠ 9 5 3 2	♠ 9 5 3 2
♥ A 8 4 3	♥ A 8 4 3	♥ J 6 5
♦ K 8	♦ K 8	♦ K 8
♣ J 6 5 3	♣ J 6 5	♣ A 8 4 3

The idea formed that double of an overcalled suit was better used for take-out and in the original version double was used to show the other two suits. Such a double was called a

'Sputnik double' because its rise in popularity corresponded with the first Russian spacecraft. A Sputnik double, showing responding values with hearts and clubs was perfect with Hand E, but how about Hands F and G where you don't have both the unbid suits? This was clearly more serious with Hand F than with Hand G because losing a major suit fit is more damaging than losing a minor suit fit. Hence Sputnik doubles evolved into negative doubles as described below, where the emphasis is put on unbid major suits.

Negative doubles of one level overcalls

A negative double of a one level suit overcall promises four cards in any unbid major.

In my examples below I concentrate on the minimum values for the recommended double, though I would stress that a negative double has no upper limit. If East is stronger he will show West in subsequent bidding.

Auction H			
West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	Dbl	

Auction J			
West	North	East	South
1♣/♦	1♥	Dbl	

Auction K			
West	North	East	South
1♣/♦	1♠	Dbl	

Auction L			
West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	Dbl	

Auction M			
West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	1♠	

Auction N			
West	North	East	South
1♣/♦	1♥	1♠	

In Auction H, North is showing both majors. Hand P is quite strong enough.

In Auction J, East is showing four spades, the only unbid major.

In Auction K, East promises four hearts. Hand Q would be a minimum, slightly stronger than Hand P as opener is likely to have to rebid at the two level. In Auction L there is no unbid major. East has enough to compete, maybe with three-card support for West and four cards in the other minor.

Auctions M and N are worth comparing. In Auction M double would show both majors, so 1♠ might be necessary with four spades but not four hearts. However in Auction N East could double with four spades so 1♠ shows five spades.

East has a choice of calls with Hand R in Auction H. Double would show four cards in each major, but it would be difficult subsequently to show his fifth spade and thereby uncover an all too likely 5-3 spade fit. You would have responded 1♠ to 1♣ if there had been no 1♦ overcall and I prefer 1♠ now.

Hand P	Hand Q	Hand R
♠ J 8 6 5	♠ 10 8 6	♠ J 7 6 5 4
♥ Q 9 7 6	♥ K Q 7 6	♥ Q 9 7 6
♦ 9 5	♦ 9 5 4	♦ 9 5
♣ K 6 2	♣ K 6 2	♣ K 6

Quite frequently responder seems to have a choice of possible actions. Consider East's response with Hands T to X in Auction S.

Auction S			
West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	?	

Hand T	Hand U	Hand V
♠ 8 5	♠ 9 7	♠ 9 7
♥ A Q 6 2	♥ J 9 7 6	♥ A Q 10 6
♦ J 10 7 6	♦ 9 4	♦ 9 4
♣ 9 5 4	♣ A Q 8 7 6	♣ A Q 8 7 6

Hand W	Hand X
♠ 7 5	♠ 7 5
♥ A Q 8 7 6	♥ A Q 8 7 6
♦ K 8 5	♦ 9 8 5
♣ Q 7 2	♣ Q 7 2

With Hand T, East would have shown his major suit without the 1♠ overcall, preferring 1♥ to 2♦. Therefore the normal action now is a negative double, showing four hearts. However it is worth commenting that an immediate diamond raise might turn out best. Spades is higher ranking than either red suit and can outbid either. If East doubles and South strongly raises spades, East might regret not showing his diamond support while he had the chance at a lower level.

With Hand U, East is not strong enough for 2♣, so he shows his hearts with a double. Again you would get a good clue by asking what you would have responded to 1♦ without the 1♠ overcall. The answer is 1♥.

Hand V is considerably stronger, well worth 2♣ over 1♠. It would be an unnecessary distortion of the hand to double just because it contains four hearts. If partner rebids 2♦ then follow up with 2♥, which is a responder's reverse.

Hand W is strong enough for 2♥ over 1♠, forcing and guaranteeing five hearts but Hand X is not good enough for 2♥. The practical choice is double even though this shows only four hearts. A negative double of 1♠ overcall shows *at least* four hearts.

Negative doubles of two level overcalls

Many partnerships play negative doubles up to quite high levels. Typically all doubles of a suit overcall or jump overcall below 3NT are not for penalties. The higher the level of the overcall the less precise it is possible to be about requirements.

Auction Y			
West	North	East	South
1♦	2♣	Dbl	

It would be nice to say that East's double in Auction Y guarantees both majors but that would leave too many hands unbidable. We need to balance the desirability of precision against the pragmatism of frequency of use. It is best to play that you can double a two-level overcall if you are prepared for any rebid from partner, bearing in mind that partner will assume that you hold any unbid major.

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

With Hand Z East can happily double 2♣ despite holding just six points. He has both majors and good support for partner's diamonds. He intends to pass West's rebid unless it is forcing.

Hand A is also suitable for a double. If West rebids diamonds or spades East will be delighted. If West bids hearts East can retreat to diamonds.

With Hand B, East's best choice is to pass. He has only six points and while his major suit holdings are perfect he hardly wants to encourage a 2♦ rebid from West. With two or three more points East might risk a double.

Responding to a negative double

In Auction C East's double shows four hearts. West tries to make the same rebid as he would have chosen if North had passed and East had responded 1♥.

Auction C			
West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass

Hand D	Hand E	Hand F
♠ Q 5	♠ J 5	♠ K 5
♥ Q 8 6 2	♥ K Q 6 2	♥ K 9
♦ A J 10 6 5	♦ A J 10 6 5	♦ A J 10 6 5
♣ K 9	♣ A 9	♣ K Q 6 2

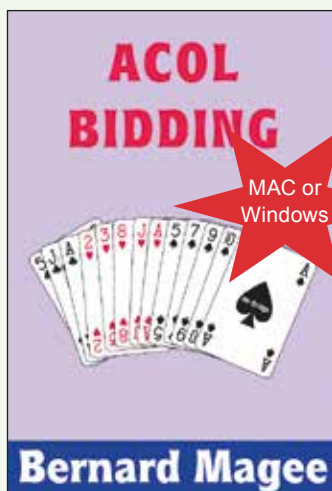
With Hands D and E West supports hearts. With D he raises to 2♥, with E he jumps to 3♥. Hand F is different in that West is going to rebid a suit not promised by the negative double. With no suit agreed East cannot make a limit bid: 2♣ is correct.

Playing for penalties

At the start of this article I looked at the sort of hand that might be suitable for East to want to make a penalty double of a 1♠ overcall. I then seemed to pour cold water over the prospect by describing how it was best to play

BERNARD MAGEE'S INTERACTIVE TUTORIAL CD

ACOL BIDDING



Throughout 200 deals split into ten chapters, Bernard evaluates your bids, praising the correct ones and discussing the wrong ones.

- Opening Bids and Responses
- Slams and Strong Openings
- Support for Partner
- Pre-empting
- Overcalls
- No-trump Openings and Responses
- Opener's and Responder's Rebids
- Minors and Misfits
- Doubles
- Competitive Auctions

£66

Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange,
Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2TH

☎ 01483 489961

www.mrbridge.co.uk/mrbridge-shop

double for take-out: a negative double. So have you lost the chance to make a penalty double? Not quite. With a hand suitable for a penalty double East passes. He is waiting for West to reopen with a take-out double. East intends to pass this. But I hear you ask, what if West passes? What sort of hand could East have for Auction G?

Auction G			
West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Pass	Pass
?			

Either East is weak, or he might have a penalty double. Usually West can have a good idea which just by looking at his own hand, and particularly if his spade holding is short.

West should re-open, even with minimum opening values, if he is short in spades.

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

With Hand H, West's spades make it clear that East doesn't have a penalty double of spades. West knows East is weak, so what should he do? He has 16 points but he must pass. A 1NT rebid by West would show 18-19 points or sometimes a good 17. Many players are surprised by this, quoting that a 1NT rebid shows 15-16 or 15-17 points. Yes, but that is assuming that East was able to respond. Just try playing 1NT (doubled) with 16 points facing nothing, no entries to dummy to take finesses.

With Hand J, West's singleton spade makes it pretty likely that East has a penalty double of spades. West doesn't need to decide.

If it is at all possible that East has a penalty double, then West must do something even though they may have a minimum opening bid.

If East does indeed have a penalty double West has a very suitable hand for defending 1♠ doubled, so West re-opens with a take-out double. East passes and look at the whole hand.

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

1♠ doubled is carnage and moreover East/West have no game contract.

With Hand K West can be pretty sure that East is hoping to pass a re-opening double. However that doesn't suit West who has a hand totally unsuited to defend a low level spade contract.

West's hand has lots of offence, but no certain defensive trick and no spade to lead through declarer to help East avoid getting endplayed. West might fear a misfit but he cannot pass because East could be very strong. West rebids 2♣.

Showing weaker hands

Which of Hands M and N might East hold for his 2♠ bid in Auction L?

Auction L			
West	North	East	South
1♥	2♣	2♠	

Hand M	Hand N
♠ A Q 9 8 6 5	♠ A Q 9 8 6 5
♥ 8 4	♥ 8 4
♦ K Q 8	♦ J 10 8
♣ 6 3	♣ 6 3

2♠ is usually played as forcing, making it ideal for Hand M, but Hand N is too weak.

However it seems a shame not to be able to show your excellent spades with Hand N. You can if you play negative doubles. With Hand N start with a negative double, then bid spades at the lowest legal level. Partner can work it out by asking himself why you didn't bid spades immediately, which is not forcing. ■



Catching Up

with Sally Brock

Although it is probably of little interest to the readers of this magazine, one of my major issues currently is my teeth! I have known for at least 20 years that at some stage I was going to need all my teeth out and implants fitted. And finally the day came. Unfortunately they found that my bones were softer than they had thought so that they were only prepared to do my upper jaw now, with the lower to come later. The process was not as bad as I had feared, the worst feature being the necessity to eat only soft food for eight weeks. And the prospect of doing the same again in a few months time.

My first weekend of soft food – I went to Cardiff to play with Gilly Clench in a Welsh women's event. It was pairs on the Saturday and teams on the Sunday. She had made a magnificent effort and provided lunch for everyone as well as organising the bridge.

We did not do particularly well in the pairs, but managed to win the teams playing with a junior pair, Hanna Tuus and India Leeming, who played extremely well. It was a really fun weekend – on the Saturday evening, after the bridge, we went to Maggie & David's house for an excellent Indian takeaway banquet ... and plenty of wine and beer.

The following weekend was the first stage of the English mixed pairs teams trial.

My team (Barry & me, Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne, Fiona Brown & Michael Byrne) headed the table at the end of the weekend and so won the right to pick our opponents for the first knock-out match from the remaining three qualifiers. As I write, we have yet to decide... We now need to win two knock-out matches in December if we are to earn the right to represent England in the European

Championships next February.

Then it was the start of the new Premier League season. Barry and I play with Heather Dhondy & Brian Callaghan in that.

This was a rather exciting deal from an early match:

Dealer North. Love All.

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

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

At our table the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
	1♥	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
3♦	Dbl	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

At equal vulnerability South decided to go for the penalty, expecting his partner to reopen with a double with short clubs. Barry decided to rescue me from 3♣ doubled and now South had to catch up, ending up in the excellent slam. In practice, Barry switched to a club after cashing a diamond at trick one, but even if he had switched to a trump, say, declarer will succeed on a double squeeze. He wins the trump switch, ruffs a club, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a club, ruffs another diamond back to hand and runs his trumps. The position as he cashes the last one is:

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

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

Since West has had to keep the ♦A and East the ♣K, he knows that both opponents have only two hearts left so the queen must drop. Superficially it looks better defence to break up the squeeze by switching to a heart at trick two, but declarer just cashes his outside winners (two hearts and a club) and cross-ruffs for twelve tricks.

After a dodgy start we mostly did OK for the rest of the weekend and finish the first weekend in third place. As always, the first goal is to avoid relegation, and then to finish in the top two and so get a Camrose match.

In the meantime life trudges on – Toby and Briony are both still living with me. Toby has yet to find a job, while Briony is working as a nanny for more than one family, while waiting for her Open University degree course to start in October. Until she gets started she won't know how much of her time it takes up, and therefore how much nannying she will then be able to do.

It was her birthday in mid-September, and the three of us went to the Boat Show in Southampton which was good fun. In the evening Barry came over for a game of Monopoly, but we were all in the doghouse as we didn't let Briony win! ■



The Diaries of Wendy Wensum

Episode 80:

Corfe Castle Capers

Avoiding the M25, Spouse and I were making our way by car to Dorset via Milton Keynes, a city I assumed was the roundabout capital of Britain. We stopped for lunch at Stowe near Buckingham and took the opportunity to walk round the wonderful grounds set out by Capability Brown some three centuries ago. Passing the statues of Great British Worthies on the Path of Virtue, we discussed whether in hindsight they would be the choices of our modern era. Ploughing on towards our destination we discovered that Bournemouth and Poole could well challenge Milton Keynes in the roundabout stakes. Reaching Corfe Castle in the early evening, we soon found our delightful thatched holiday cottage nestling by the stream with the castle towering elegantly above. Vine Cottage was an instant hit with everything provided for a short break.

Our friends, Sally and Dave joined us later in the week. The four of us decided on a circular walk along the Purbeck Ridge heading westward where we had magnificent views of Poole harbour and its many islands. We then attempted to return by the Purbeck Way in the valley. Spouse and Dave, who so far had no difficulty in locating every pub on route, somehow managed at this point to misread the map and the journey became somewhat longer than anticipated. Needless to say they blamed inadequate signage rather than their inebriated state and poor compass skills.

After supper in a local pub we went back to the cottage for our latest version of imp-scored rubber bridge. It was gorgeous on the terrace with the

castle bathed in evening sunlight. We played twelve hands in total using the dealer and vulnerability of standard duplicate bridge. After four deals and again after eight deals, we switched partnerships. After completing twelve hands we scored according to the three 'Rs'. No, not 'Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic', but RRR, the Russian Ready-Reckoner (as described by David Stevenson in August 2016 in BRIDGE 164). Dave and Spouse were ready as soon as two of the many bottled beers brought back from the pub had been opened. This deal by Spouse produced some competitive bidding.

finally intervening with a speculative five diamonds. With only five losers himself and with support from Dave, Spouse was not giving in that easily and competed with five spades. Now I had a tricky bid. I had a massive fit for diamonds, but I was also convinced the spade contract would not make. I foolishly decided to double and the auction was complete.

West	North	East	South
Wendy	Dave	Sally	Spouse
3♥	4♠	5♦	1♠
Dbl	End		5♠

I now had to find a lead. In the end I led the heart ace. Dummy's void in diamonds did not improve my confidence of defeating the contract. The ace held and with some trepidation I now played the king and Sally discarded a small diamond. What now? Did Sally hold the ace of clubs? I doubted it, but played a club anyway. Spouse won in hand with the ace and removed trumps in two rounds. The contract was home and dry as there were multiple ways of disposing of the two small diamonds in his hand. A declaration at this point would have been accepted. But Spouse had other ideas. He ruffed a diamond in dummy and inexplicably returned to hand with a spade to check that there was not a trump lurking in his opponents' hands. Big error, he was locked in hand. He now had a diamond to lose for a score of minus 100 instead of plus 650. The men seemed totally unfazed by this lapse, but more importantly their glasses required immediate refills.

Dealer South. Love All.

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

Spouse might have opened a pre-emptive four spades, but he settled for a simple one spade. I was undecided as to the level of my overcall, but in the end went for three hearts as opposed to two. With four-card support for Spouse's suggested trump suit and a heart void to boot, Dave was in no doubt about reaching game in spades. Sally thought for quite a while before

In their absence, Sally and I checked the par scores on the Russian Ready-Reckoner.

With a combined count of 21 HCP in the North-South hands and an 11 card major-suit fit non-vulnerable, the RRR par value is listed as plus 160 so Spouse's adjusted score was -260 converting to -6 IMPs. By concentrating better he could have scored +490 converting to +10 IMPs. Sally pointed out that six diamonds would be an excellent save against a making five spades. On the men's return from the kitchen with two more full glasses, it seemed diplomatic not to mention that between them they had managed to put down several contracts earlier that evening as well as losing the way on the walk. Men seem to be experts at mangling things. As Sally put it succinctly, 'It's a recognised male art form.' Incidentally I seem to remember that at Stowe only one of the sixteen statues of the Worthies was a woman (Queen Elizabeth the First). Now that can't be right, can it? ■



For those with Pre-existing health conditions
(No Age Limit)

- Travel Insurance with online Medical Screening
- Cover for medical conditions, up to a high level of severity, even a terminal prognosis
- No age limits
- Instant online cover

We fully understand that you may wish to speak to us direct about cover and your medical conditions and assure you of the best attention by senior staff on a direct phone line that does not require you to hold or press buttons for departments.

☎ 0344 249 1701

sales@genesischoice.co.uk
www.genesischoice.co.uk

Genesis Choice Ltd are an appointed representative of NDI Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No.446914

Negative Doubles Quiz

by Andrew Kambites

(Answers on page 37)

- 1 At game all how should East bid with these hands?

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	?	

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

Hand D	Hand E	Hand F
♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 10 6 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ Q 7 5 3 2	♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 10 6 2 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 7 5 3 2	♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 6 2 ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ A K 4 2

Hand G	Hand H	Hand J
♠ Q 3 2 ♥ A 6 4 3 2 ♦ 6 ♣ K 6 5 2	♠ Q 3 2 ♥ A Q 9 8 5 ♦ K 6 5 2 ♣ 6	♠ Q 3 2 ♥ A Q 9 8 5 ♦ 6 ♣ K 6 5 2

- 2 With North/South vulnerable how should East continue with these hands?

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♦	?	

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

- 3 With East/West vulnerable how should East continue with these hands? See top of next column.

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	?	

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

- 4 At game all how should West rebid with these hands?

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass
?			

Hand A	Hand B	Hand C
♠ 7 3 ♥ A J 6 2 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ A 3	♠ 7 3 ♥ A 2 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ A Q 6 2	♠ K 8 ♥ A 2 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ A Q 6 2

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

- 5 At game all how should West rebid with these hands?

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Pass	Pass
?			

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

Mr Bridge Festive Season 2018-19

Full board. No single supplement*.

Christmas 2018

23 December

- 1500 Mr Bridge Welcome Desk open
Tea or coffee with mince pies
- 1745 Welcome Reception followed by
Dinner and then BRIDGE

Christmas Eve

- 1000 SEMINAR followed by set hands
- 1230 Lunch followed by BRIDGE
- 1745 Mulled Wine Reception
- 1830 Dinner then BRIDGE

Christmas Day

- 1000 BIDDING QUIZ
- 1230 Christmas Lunch
- 1500 Queen's speech displayed
- 1530 BRIDGE
- 1830 Buffet Dinner followed by BRIDGE

Boxing Day

- 1000 SEMINAR followed by set hands
- 1230 Lunch followed by BRIDGE
- 1830 Dinner followed by BRIDGE

27 December

- 1000 SEMINAR followed by set hands
- 1230 Lunch
Denham Grove - all depart
- 1400 Afternoon BRIDGE at Olde Barn only

Twixmas 2018

27 December

- 1500 Mr Bridge Welcome Desk open
Tea or coffee with mince pies
- 1745 Welcome Reception followed by
Dinner and then BRIDGE

28 December

- 1000 SEMINAR followed by set hands
- 1230 Lunch followed by BRIDGE
- 1745 Mulled Wine Reception
- 1830 Dinner followed by BRIDGE

29 December

- 1000 SEMINAR followed by set hands
- 1230 Lunch followed by Duplicate Bridge

Denham Grove

Near Uxbridge UB9 5DG



23-27 December £495

Hand Evaluation and Transfers
hosted by Sandy Bell

27-29 December £258

Defence as Partner of the Leader
hosted by Bernard Magee

29 December - 2 January £499

Waiting List Only
Drawing Trumps
hosted by Bernard Magee

The Olde Barn

Marston, Lincs NG32 2HT



23-27 December £425

Waiting List Only
Just Duplicate
hosted by Sheila Rogers

27-29 December £215

Limited Availability
Losing Trick Count
hosted by Elaine Duff

29 December - 1 January £345

Waiting List Only
Suit Establishment
hosted by Ray Hutchinson

Blunsdon House

Swindon SN26 7AS



27-29 December from £228*

Just Duplicate
hosted by Val Heath

New Year 2018-19

29 December

- 1500 Mr Bridge Welcome Desk open
Tea or coffee with mince pies
- 1745 Welcome Reception followed by
Dinner and then BRIDGE

30 December

- 1000 SEMINAR followed by set hands
- 1230 Lunch followed by BRIDGE
- 1830 Dinner followed by BRIDGE

New Year's Eve

- 1000 SEMINAR followed by set hands
- 1230 Lunch followed by BRIDGE
- 1745 Gala Reception
- 1830 Gala Dinner followed by BRIDGE
- 2345 See in the New Year drinks
- 0030 Optional Speedball pairs at Denham Grove only

New Year's Day

- 1100 BIDDING QUIZ
- 1230 Lunch followed by BRIDGE
Olde Barn - all depart
- 1830 Dinner followed by BRIDGE at
Denham Grove only

2 January 2019

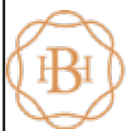
- Denham Grove only
- 0800 Brunch Style Breakfast

The example programmes shown are to give an idea of what is included in the full itinerary.

Please note there are slight differences between programmes at each venue.

* Subject to availability. Single supplement applies to all rooms at Blunsdon House.

Details & Bookings ☎ 01483 489961



BLUNSDON
HOUSE HOTEL ★★☆☆



2019

25-27 January £228 Just Duplicate	6-8 September £228 Just Duplicate
8-10 February £258 Ruffing for Extra Tricks Hosted by Bernard Magee	18-20 October £238 Signals & Discards Hosted by Will Parsons
15-17 March £228 Just Duplicate	1-3 November £228 Just Duplicate
5-7 April £238 Defence to Weak Twos Hosted by John Ronan	8-10 November £264 Game Tries Hosted by Bernard Magee
28-30 June £264 4-4-4-1 Hands Hosted by Bernard Magee	22-24 November £228 Just Duplicate

Blunsdon House Hotel is a unique four star family owned hotel in Wiltshire situated on the edge of the Cotswolds, set in 30 acres of grounds. It has a beauty salon, gym, pool and 9 hole golf course.



Prices shown are per person sharing a twin or double bedroom, full board including tea & coffee during breaks and a welcome drinks party. There is a single supplement at Blunsdon House of £40, subject to availability. Single players will always be found a partner. The Mr Bridge Team will offer support during the set hand sessions, on the seminar events, and make up the numbers in the duplicates, so there should never be a half table. All rooms are ensuite, have tea & coffee making facilities and have free Wi-Fi. The venue has a lift.

For details and bookings call
Mr Bridge Holidays ☎ 01483 489961

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ



by **David Huggett**

(Answers on page 35)

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

1.

♠ A 5 4
♥ 6 4 2
♦ Q J 10 7 4
♣ K 7



♠ Q J 9
♥ K 7
♦ A 9 6 3
♣ A Q J 2

3.

♠ 6 5 4
♥ 9 7
♦ A J 8 6 5
♣ K J 2



♠ K J 2
♥ A Q 2
♦ K 10 9 2
♣ A 10 3

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

You are declarer in 3NT. West leads the ♠7. East plays the ♠9. How do you plan the play?

2.

♠ Q J 8 5
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ A 7
♣ K 3 2



♠ A K 10 7 6 4
♥ J
♦ K 8 2
♣ A J 7

4.

♠ 7
♥ Q J 10 7
♦ J 7 6 4
♣ Q 10 7 5



♠ Q 8 5 4
♥ A K 9 8 6
♦ A K
♣ 6 4

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

You are declarer in 4♥. West leads the ♦2. How do you plan the play?



The Power of Spot Cards

Part Seven

Spot cards are seldom noted much during the bidding, a shame in some cases. There are times, however, where no one could reasonably predict their value. Take this hand.

Dealer West. N/S Game.

♠ Q
♥ A 7 6 3
♦ Q 8 7 3
♣ K Q 5 3

♠ 9 4 3 2
♥ J 9 8 2
♦ 4
♣ J 9 8 2

♠ A
♥ Q 10 5 4
♦ A K 9 6 5
♣ A 7 4

♠ K J 10 8 7 6 5
♥ K
♦ J 10 2
♣ 10 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
Pass	1NT ⁽¹²⁻¹⁴⁾	Dbl	2♠
All Pass			

If this hand was played a number of times, the final contract would range from 2♠ to 3♠ to an occasional 4♠. East and West might be allowed to play in a heart part-score but South's spade holding makes it unlikely that East-West can buy the contract for anything less than 4♥.

The bidding comes with no guarantees. North started with 1♣. Many would open 1♦. There are a few hundred pages in bridge literature that tout one choice or another. Depends on what you have read lately. Given the 1♣ bid, East found it convenient to overcall 1♦. He wanted to do more but the singleton spade was a big worry.

South bid 1♠ and West had an easy pass. He had less to think about

than anyone else. North, more or less, had to bid 1NT. Rebidding 1NT with a singleton in partner's suit is not generally recommended but here, given he opened 1♣ and heard the 1♦ bid from East, 1NT is the only choice.

East is lucky. He now has a way to show his hearts with a take-out double. South has choices and chooses a sane, conservative bid of 2♠. He has tricks but the singleton ♥K is not a good card and the ♦J-10-2 are a genuine worry.

This ends the bidding and West leads ♦4.

Will South make 2♠? The key to the defence is no surprise given the topic of this hand. It is West's ♠9. But turning it into a winner requires a gentle touch.

East takes two diamond tricks (South was right to worry about his three diamonds) and continues with the ♦5 for West to ruff. *(See footnote)

Three tricks to the defence.

Wake up. If West paid attention to the diamond suit, he will remember that South had the ♦2 and dummy the ♦3, West, himself, the ♦4. That ♦5 is East's lowest diamond, which means that East wishes a club return (low asks for the lower ranking suit), not a heart return. This suit preference is crucial. West knows to lead a club, which is won by East's ace. Back comes the fourth round of diamonds. At this point the spade suit looks like this:

♠ Q

♠ 9 4 3

♠ A

♠ K J 10 8 7 6 5

West, remember, ruffed a diamond already with his ♠2. Wishing to stop a second diamond ruff, South trumps

with the ♠10 and leads a spade to East's ace.

Now the spade position is this:

♠ —

♠ 9 4

♠ —

♠ K J 8 7 6

East has one last diamond and he leads it. South cannot stop West from taking a trick with the ♠9. Down one. 'My ♥K was worthless,' noted South.

Now note the importance of West's club return instead of a heart. With a club switch East had two more chances to lead diamonds, threatening South with an overruff. If West ruffs the third diamond and returns a heart, declarer will win the trick and lead a spade to East's ace. South is able to ruff the next diamond lead with a high trump and can draw the remaining spades.

If you are not comfortable with suit preference signals, this hand should be a good example of why they are important.

*When West led the ♦4, East took his king and ace and gave West a diamond ruff. How did East know that South did not have a singleton diamond?

If South played the two, it would mean that West had led the four from ♦J-10-4. Not possible.

If South played the ten, it would mean that West had led the four from the ♦J-4-2. Not possible.

If South played the jack, it would mean that West had led the four from the ♦10-4-2. Not possible for those who play Standard Leads.

Sometimes spot cards reveal little secrets if one looks for them. ■



What Do I Do With Five Cards In The Suit Overcalled?

Q Please can you help with the bidding on this deal? I was West.

Dealer North. Love All.

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

Partner East opened 1♦.
South intervened 1♥?
Dilemma – I can't double.
Do I bid 2♣ or pass,
hoping that partner will
reopen with a double?
Reluctantly, I passed.
Partner then bid 2♦.
Again, and reluctantly,
I passed.
We missed 3NT!
Margaret Bleakley,
Belfast.

A Firstly, although you have asked mainly about the East-West bidding, I agree that South's overcall with such a poor suit and a flat hand is dubious.

As West, I would not pass over 1♥. With a decent 5-card suit and nine points, you could reasonably bid 2♣. You certainly have a heart stopper if you prefer 1NT. Since you are unlikely

to get rich defending at the one level, I would not pass.

East's reopening 2♦ would definitely not be my choice either. The 2♦ rebid denies four spades and does not promise a good hand. I do not have a strong view between double (planning to convert 2♣ to 2♦) and 1♠. 2♦, however, is a misbid.

Once you have decided to pass over 1♥, passing 2♦ does not seem so unreasonable. You are not expecting partner to have such a good hand. You would get to game if partner reopened with a double because then you would jump to 3♣, after which partner bids 3♦ and you 3NT.

♣♦♥♠

Q Please can you help with two queries on this deal? I was West.

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

The bidding was 1♥, 2♦, 2NT, 3NT. The rebid of 2NT after the 2 level response

shows 15-19 points. I made 11 tricks. However, 3 pairs bid 6NT and made 12 tricks. Some pairs were in hearts but being quite flat with a lot of points, my partner thought no-trumps would score better.

Firstly, should East have tried a quantitative raise of 4NT even though he knows the maximum possible number of points is 32?

Secondly, how should I have played the West hand to make 12 tricks? The lead from North was the ♠4, South played the ♠J, which I covered with the ♠K. Jane Karfoot by email.

A 1. When playing a wide-ranging 2NT rebid, I play a 3♣ rebid by responder as asking for opener's range. Opener then bids 3♦ with any good 17-19 and otherwise continuations are natural. If you do not play that, it seems reasonable for East not to look for a slam. The shape is 4-3-3-3 and the maximum combined point count is 32.

2. You should make 12 tricks even without the helpful club lead. You can set up a long diamond to make two spades, five hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

After the club lead, you have a more or less marked finesse position in the suit giving you twelve tricks without losing the lead – if the opponents use standard second and fourth leads, the only way South could

really have the ♠Q is if the lead is from two or three small cards – and surely North would have led a spade in that case. You will discard two diamonds from dummy on the long hearts, squeezing anyone who has the ♠Q and either four diamonds or Q-J-x. As the cards lie, South can keep ♦J-x-x allowing North to discard one diamond and hold you to 12 tricks.

♣♦♥♠

Q Can you suggest the best bidding sequence by West on the following:

♠ A Q 10 7 6
♥ 7 6
♦ 9 8
♣ A Q 8 7

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

At the table, West passed. I later suggested that West should not pass on this sequence as East is unlimited for his 2♥ bid.

West disagreed.

Can you explain what West should bid?

Huw Jones,
Swansea.

A Passing a forcing bid represents a breach of partnership trust and not something

you want to do if you wish to keep your partner. With the 2♥ response unlimited, West could miss a game or even a slam by passing it.

Some people play a change of suit as non-forcing after the overcall, in which case West would be at liberty to pass – but that is a matter of partnership agreement. Unless you have agreed to play 2♥ as non-forcing or you are playing rubber bridge and a previous partscore means that 60 is all you need for game, West needs to find a rebid. Since a high reverse (3♣) would show extra values and this hand is minimum, the correct rebid is 2♠.

♣♦♥♠

Q When LHO opens a weak 1NT, followed by two passes, is it best to keep to 15-18 points for a double, or is there an argument for making a protective double with maybe a good 12, 13 or 14 points and no biddable suit? Would your strategy be different between pairs and teams? And if opponents play a strong NT, would a double still be showing points in fourth position, or do some pairs use it for a weak minor two-suiter or something else?

Chris Bickerdike,
Cornwall.

A In fourth seat your high cards lie under the opening bidder, so I do not think there is much of a case for shading the double. This is the same at pairs or teams.

If the 1NT opening is strong, although plenty of people do still play a penalty double, it is also quite common to play a double as conventional, one minor

or both minors for example – but I do not think I know anyone who plays double as penalty in second seat but conventional in fourth seat.

If you are a passed hand, a double should be conventional regardless of the strength of the 1NT opening – you cannot logically want to make a penalty double when your hand is weaker than the opener's.

♣♦♥♠

Q Defending a 1NT contract, the club suit I could see was as follows:

♠ 9 6
♣ Q 8 4 3

Partner led the ♠2. Declarer called for the ♠9. I followed with the ♣Q taken by the ♠K. The next trick was won by me with ♥A. I returned ♠3. Declarer played the ♠5 and partner's ♠10 won. Partner then switched to another suit.

At the end of the play and a bad result for us, partner admonished me for not returning my ♠8 instead of ♠3, saying that my return card was misleading.

I was perplexed as I thought my return of the ♠3 indicated a holding of two or four cards. A Lady Milne player I asked said that it was a matter of partnership agreement. Name and address supplied.

A If partner leads a suit and you start with four cards in the suit, it is customary to return your lowest card. This way a low card usually signifies an original doubleton or four-card holding. Although

sometimes partner cannot tell which, this is more helpful than returning your highest card no matter your length.

Occasionally you would return a higher card to avoid a blockage or to pin a high card in dummy – but if you are just trying to tell partner about your holding you lead low – so you did the right thing in returning the three from Q-8-4-3.

While in a way all things are dependent upon partnership agreement, what I have described is so standard that any other carding method would require agreement.

♣♦♥♠

Q Playing MP duplicate (at love all), LHO opened 1♥, partner doubled and RHO jumped to 4♥ (pre-emptive). So the bidding started:

Me	LHO	Partner	RHO
	1♥	Dbl	4♥
?			

What should my partner and I have bid? This was my hand:

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

I bid 4♠ which was passed out, and partner put down dummy.

To my dismay, he had a singleton spade and five diamonds:

♠ 6
♥ A Q J
♦ K J 8 3 2
♣ A K 10 4

Needless to say, 4♠ was

not a great success and we'd been mugged by the opposition. The raise to 4♥ had been made on a hand with just one HCP but great shape:

♠ J 9 8 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 7 5 2
♦ 7 4
♣ Void

Well bid by the opposition, but how could we have avoided that disaster?

Dave Simmons,
Buntingford, Hertfordshire.

A If you play a 1NT overcall as 15-17 or 15-18, doubling and then bidding no-trumps at the lowest level shows a hand fractionally better than that. I do not play a 2NT overcall in second seat as natural – but if I did it would show a better hand than your partner has – there would be a gap between the strength required for 1NT and for 2NT.

Rather than make a take-out double with a singleton spade, your partner might make a heavy 1NT overcall. Missing a thin game is no disaster at matchpoints. The concern is that you will transfer into spades and the partnership finish in a 5-1 fit.

With your hand you could double 4♥, although partner is likely to think you have a more balanced hand than you actually do and possibly without four spades.

Neither the initial double nor your 4♠ bid were obviously wrong.

After you bid 4♠, your partner, who had been planning to correct a spade bid to no-trumps, wants to bid a natural 4NT. Alas, 4NT sounds like a key card enquiry, not natural. This

being the case, 5♦ seems the only realistic alternative.

Often you will have bid 4♠ on a 4- or 5-card suit, in which case it will not be a good place to play. Even if you hold six spades, there could be a better spot given that you are very likely to be void in hearts from the opposing bidding. Perhaps partner was hoping that someone would double 4♠, in which case a natural retreat to 4NT would be available – but opponents are unlikely to double with so few values between them.

♣♦♥♠

Q I played in a 6♣ contract and went 1 down.

When dummy came down I could instantly see there was one certain loser outside of the trump suit. A successful result depended on how I played the trump suit:

♠ 4
♠ A Q J 10 9 5 3 2

With the lead in dummy, I played the low spade and finessed the queen, losing to a singleton king, and therefore going down in the contract.

Was this play correct? Should I have done anything else?

Bruce Paul by email.

A The two relevant holdings to consider are a singleton king offside and a doubleton king onside – you cannot go wrong if the king is singleton onside.

A 2-2 break occurs 40% of the time, half with the king onside and half

with the king offside.

A 3-1 break occurs 50%. A quarter of the time that the suit splits 3-1 the king will be the singleton and a half of that time the king will be offside.

The chance of a doubleton king onside is thus half of 40%, ie 20%.

The chance of a singleton king offside is thus an eighth of 50% ie 6.25%.

Taking the finesse was almost certainly correct. I say 'almost certainly' because sometimes the opposing bidding or lack of it might tell you where the king is – although that is unlikely to be the case in a slam contract when your opponents probably did not have much to say.

♣♦♥♠

Q Can you make a game try in the following sequences?

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

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

Name and address supplied.

A Yes, once the partnership agrees a major suit at the two level, suit bids at the three level are game tries, normally looking for game in the major. Since the above sequences more or less guarantee that a 4-4 fit is present, I would say that even bids in a previously bid suit (3♦ in both examples as well as 3♣ in the first sequence and 3♥ in the second sequence) are forcing. The only non-forcing game try would be 2NT. ■



2019

18-20 January	£208	26-28 July	£229
Just Duplicate		Masterpointed Duplicate	
8-10 February	£218	20-22 September	£238
Finding Slams		Further into the Auction	
Hosted by Gary Conrad		Hosted by Ray Hutchinson	
8-10 March	£208	11-13 October	£218
Just Duplicate		Just Duplicate	
17-19 May	£238	25-27 October	£238
Drawing Trumps		Play & Defence of 1NT	
Hosted by John Ronan		Hosted by Michael Haytack	
14-16 June	£218	1-3 November	£264
Just Duplicate		Defence as Partner of the Leader	
5-7 July	£264	Hosted by Bernard Magee	
Supporting Minors			
Hosted by Bernard Magee		15-17 November	£218
		Just Duplicate	

This charming rustic hotel is set in the beautiful countryside of Grantham in the heart of England. Comfortably furnished and tastefully decorated rooms, with a traditional bar, contemporary lounge, atmospheric restaurant, and health club altogether make for an idyllic retreat.



Prices shown are per person, full board including tea & coffee during breaks and a welcome drinks party. There is no single supplement and single players will always be found a partner. The Mr Bridge team will offer support during the set hands sessions, on the seminar events, and make up the numbers in the duplicates, so there should never be a half table.

All rooms are ensuite, have tea & coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi. The venue has a lift.

For details and bookings call
Mr Bridge Holidays ☎ 01483 489961



RENAISSANCE ITALY & HISTORIC ISLANDS

10% SINGLE SUPPLEMENT on dedicated solo cabins

ROME to SEVILLE 13 DAYS from £2,195 25 May 2019

This richly varied cruise, westbound from Rome to Seville, is packed with Mediterranean highlights. Marvel at the artistic and architectural treasures of Florence, Pisa and Lucca, then set sail for enchanting Elba, Napoleon Bonaparte's place of exile for 300 days in 1814-15. The 'little corporal' who built an empire was born on Corsica, and two stops are made on that wildly beautiful island – in the dramatic fortified city of Bonifacio and Napoleon's birthplace, Ajaccio.

Following an appreciation of the stunningly scenic Balearic Islands of Menorca and Majorca (the latter with a glorious Gothic cathedral to explore in Palma), *Aegean Odyssey* reaches the shores of mainland Spain, taking in Picasso's Malaga, the splendid historic port of Cadiz, our own Gibraltar and a cruise along the Guadalquivir River to Seville.



Mr Bridge special fares include: Full **Mr Bridge** programme • Flights & transfers • Expertly planned itineraries
Shore excursion in most ports of call • Expert antiquity guest speakers • Open-seating dining • Gratuities on board
Wine with dinner on board • Exclusive **Mr Bridge** drinks party

VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Renaissance treasures in Florence, Pisa and Lucca
- The awe-inspiring cathedral of Palma
- Cruise the Guadalquivir River to the heart of Seville

YOUR ITINERARY

AEG190525BR

25 MAY	Fly to ROME Italy Embark <i>Aegean Odyssey</i> in Civitavecchia
26 MAY	LIVORNO Italy (Florence) O
27 MAY	LIVORNO Italy (Pisa/Lucca)
28 MAY	ELBA Italy
29 MAY	BONIFACIO Corsica, France ↓
30 MAY	AJACCIO Corsica, France
31 MAY	MAHON Menorca
1 JUN	PALMA Majorca
2 JUN	AT SEA
3 JUN	MALAGA Spain
4 JUN	GIBRALTAR
5 JUN	CADIZ Spain (Cruise the Guadalquivir River) SEVILLE Spain O
6 JUN	SEVILLE Spain Disembark <i>Aegean Odyssey</i> and transfer to Seville Airport for flight home

O Overnight stay in port ↓ Ship at anchor

Cabin/stateroom	Category	Fares from
Standard Inside	M	£2,195
Standard Outside	J	£2,650
Deluxe Outside	F	£3,450
Deluxe Balcony	D	£3,850
Single Cabin	MM	£2,350

Cabins can be held for up to seven days without obligation.

Call **Mr Bridge** on 01483 489961 or visit mrbridge.voyagestoantiquity.com

Terms and conditions apply. *Odyssey Club* members save a further 5%.

Page 23



Modern Card Backs

An earlier article told the story of printed card backs beginning in England in 1840 – see BRIDGE 191. We now look at modern back designs. Special card backs have become the most common way of customising cards, and as a result different categories of backs have become collectable in their own right.

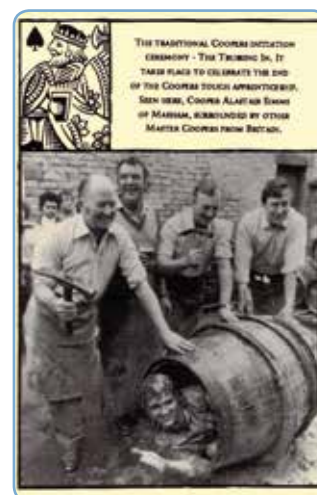
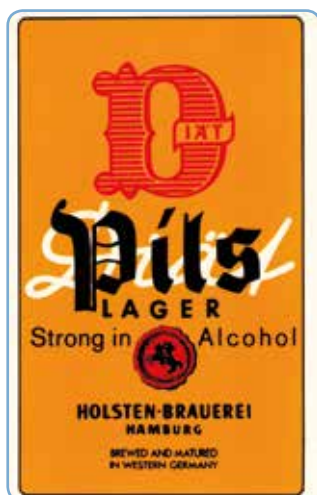
The Worshipful Company of Makers of playing cards recently acquired an interesting set of playing card sample backs – a set that would have belonged to a sales representative for Goodall playing-cards in the early 1920s. Samples like these were taken to department stores, stationers and toy shops all around the UK. The image to the right shows designs in their ‘Salon’ range, clearly one of the most luxurious. At this time Goodall were offering over 200 different back designs and 23 different ranges. This was a golden era for card games, and Goodall alone were selling some six million packs a year.

For the serious card player, the card back of preference is a simple coloured pattern that will not mark easily. For the more casual card player there are now all sorts of variations. Many of these are intended to be promotional: direct product advertisements, souvenirs of somewhere visited, commemorative cards for a royal anniversary or perhaps merchandising items associated with a popular film or TV series.

Advertisements have appeared on cards almost as long as card backs have been printed. They are popular with advertisers because cards tend to be kept and the potential advertising themes are now so plentiful that collectors often restrict themselves to a specific area of interest. Popular subjects are transport (airlines or railways), drinks (beer, whisky), fashion and so on. A particularly well-made example is a pack by Theakston (image below). As well as an advertising back, the fronts recall the style of ‘illustrated’ cards from the 18th century, quietly conveying the brand’s long standing, its specialist workforce and, overall, their attention to detail.



Goodall sample cards, 1920s



Advertising Cards – various drinks brands including Theakston (see text above).

Many charitable organisations also produce cards. For charities, these raise money at the point of sale as well as having the advertising. The Lifeboats (RNLI), WWF, Oxfam and NSPCC have regularly made cards, and Friends of the Earth made an artistic 'transformation' set – see BRIDGE 175.

Two more back types go together – 'Commemorative' and 'Souvenir': Commemorative cards relate to a particular event, often a specific date. Examples include memorable events like Olympic Games, royal weddings, births or jubilees. Mr Bridge's Jubilee card back is shown to the right. Souvenir cards are often produced by places like museums and galleries, or a city, a state, a country and so on. A selection of travel souvenir card backs is shown below.



Playing cards associated with film or TV series form another popular area for collectors. Obvious possibilities here include Star Wars, Harry Potter, James Bond and Dr Who. The Harry Potter series of cards from Carta Mundi was particularly well done as the makers took the opportunity to include some special cards and boxes designed for performing magic tricks.

In recent years, 'cardistry' has gained a following. Dexterity with cards was once associated with magicians, and the modern cardists have developed this as a skill in its own right. Cardists tend to like cards with backs that look good when the deck is fanned out in various ways. This is illustrated to the left.



One final controversy: if you collect backs, you really only want one card. The practice therefore exists for splitting packs into 52 (plus extras). This is of course a little upsetting for those who view the entire pack as the item of interest, and there is some friction between the groups. Fortunately, collectable backs generally appear only on modern cards, and the practice of collecting singles allows many more people to participate. ■

Q PLUS 12

Really user-friendly bridge-playing software.

TRADE IN – Send in **ANY** bridge software, together with a cheque for £50 and receive QPlus 12.

£99

including p&p

**Re-boot your
Acol with
Bernard Magee**
Denham Grove, Uxbridge,
Bucks UB9 5DG

**10-14 January
2019**

**£454pp Thursday –
Monday**

**Four Nights
Full Board – No Single
Supplement¹**



Topics

OPENER
RESPONDER
RESPONDING TO INT
OVERCALLS
LAWS & ETHICS
**IMPROVING
BRIDGE MEMORY**

**Sessions of
supervised play
follow each
lecture.**

**Optional
duplicate session
every evening².**

**Contact Mr Bridge to
book your place
or for further
details.**

☎ 01483 489961

¹Subject to availability. ²Not directed by Bernard Magee.



Seven Days

by Sally Brock

FRIDAY

Up at the crack of dawn to get to Gatwick for my 10.45 flight to Orlando for this year's World Championships. Ten or so hours later I land, and after an interminable queue to get through US immigration I am finally in America. However, I have agreed to wait for Fiona, so that is another 45 minutes or so, but then things speed up and we get an Uber to the Orlando World Marriott, our home for the next couple of weeks. Our room is splendid with a great view, everything you would expect from a US five-star hotel. We just have time to unpack and each have a shower before meeting with our team for dinner in the hotel's Italian restaurant. It's good to hook up with them again. Then an early night.

SATURDAY

I sleep pretty well and we both get up and go to the supermarket with Lynn, our team captain. The shop is huge and seems to sell virtually everything, including a card table which Lynn wants to buy so that we can practise in her suite, and an electric kettle – American hotels these days seem to have coffee-making facilities, but these just drip feed hot water and don't really work for tea. We also buy lots of groceries – breakfast is not included in our room rate, so the idea is to have non-dinner meals in Lynn's suite. After a late breakfast we sit down for 16 boards of bridge against Lynn and Karen. Then we go back to our room for a rest and a talk about system, before going back for another 16 boards. For dinner we go

to the Japanese restaurant in the hotel – a grill where they cook your food in front of you. I am a bit worried about not being able to eat anything, but they do salmon and vegetables which are delicious.

SUNDAY

Time for the bridge, Women's teams for the McConnell Cup, to start. The format is contentious because the original schedule was a round robin to reduce to 32 teams. The only problem is that there are just 17 teams entered! So, it is decided that there will be a Swiss teams over two days to reduce to eight for the quarter-finals. It seems a bit strange that for the rather huge \$1,500 dollars entry fee nine of the teams will get only two days of bridge. We start badly by losing by 24 IMPs to Baroni, but then things improve somewhat and at the end of the first day we are lying a respectable fourth. In the evening Lynn has booked a table at a restaurant that turns out to be in the Disney complex – absolutely teeming with people. When we get there (after quite a long walk from the car park) dead on time for our reservation, we still have to wait a while. The place is loud but not unpleasant and the food excellent. At least I will be able to go home saying I went to Disney Springs!

MONDAY

The day progresses satisfactorily enough. Our third match is against Aperol, a French/Russian/Polish combo. Fee and I play against the solid French pair, Sylvie Willard & Catherine d'Ovidio.

They aren't so solid on this deal:

Dealer East. E/W Game.			
♠	J 9 8 6 2	♠	Void
♥	A K 10	♥	Q 8 7 6 4 3 2
♦	10 9 3	♦	K 7 5 4
♣	Q 10	♣	9 3
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; margin-right: 10px;"> <div>♠ K Q 7 5 4</div> <div>♥ 5</div> <div>♦ Q 8 2</div> <div>♣ K J 5 2</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; margin-right: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS </div> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div>♠ A 10 3</div> <div>♥ J 9</div> <div>♦ A J 6</div> <div>♣ A 8 7 6 4</div> </div> </div>			

As South I stretch a little to open 1NT (15-17) after East passed. West, rather aggressively I think, facing a passed partner, bids 2♠, showing five spades and a four-card or longer minor. Fiona hopes that I will reopen with a double (which I wouldn't have done as I have too many spades), and so passes. East, inexplicably, bids 3♥, and West, perhaps thinking that by a passed hand this must be some sort of fit showing bid, rebids 3♠. Fiona knows what to do with that, and her double ends the auction. Our defence is not perfect, but +1100 is enough for a good swing.

With just one round to go we are mathematically certain of qualifying – a good job really, as we lose our last match heavily and only qualify in eighth place. Perhaps that is a good omen as four years ago we qualified in eighth place and went on to win. As far as our draw for the quarter-finals goes, it doesn't really matter. The top two teams get to choose their opponents, but then the others are paired according to the original

seeding, not by where they finish in the round robin. As we were originally seeded second, and the Chinese, who were the original number one, did not qualify, we are destined to play the lowest seed – Quinn. Tonight we go to an excellent fish restaurant. This is a pretty good life.

TUESDAY

The quarter-finals: Fee and I start with Karen and Lynn. We have not played well in the round robin, so today it is good to start by doing ourselves justice. We have a pretty good card in the first set, at the end of which we are 52 IMPs up. Fee and I then get to rest and the team put on another 23. Things continue to go well in the third and fourth sets – this is one of our better boards:

Dealer East. N/S Game.

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

This is the bidding at our table:

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

My 2♣ bid shows both majors (as partner usually has a weak no-trump hand-type for a 1♣ opening). The opponents are very unsure of what their bids mean – East thinks 2♥ is a transfer, and West has no idea. We are quite happy when West doubles 3♣ for penalties. On the ♠Q lead, Fiona ruffs two diamonds in the dummy and ends up making two overtricks!

In the other room a more exuberant auction leads to South being declarer

in 5♣ doubled, and declarer takes a diamond finesse and goes down 500 for 17 IMPs to our side.

We end the day with a lead of 120 IMPs. Very graciously, our opponents concede, giving us the next day off. We have dinner at another superb restaurant and later have a drink back in the hotel with a couple of other English players.

WEDNESDAY

Time for some shopping. Fiona gets up early and goes to the gym while I laze about finishing my book. Then we get a shuttle bus to the outlet store and do some shopping. I buy a pair of trousers for \$12, and a whole lot of half-price Elizabeth Arden cosmetics for Briony. While we are doing this we have our phones on and are keeping an eye on the other quarter-final matches. Our next opponents are the winners of the match between Westheimer and Baroni. Westheimer had a big lead, but Baroni are clawing it back ... and we would prefer to play Baroni. We are also interested in the match between Nicola and Yvonne's team and Poland. In the interest of patriotism we would like Nicola's team to win – again they were a lot down but have been steadily reducing the deficit. The third quarter-final is between Aperol and Koda (US/Netherlands/Sweden) – Koda had a big lead but Aperol are pulling it back, and for better or worse we think that Koda is tougher. Fiona and I watch the scores as we are having some lunch and then go up to Lynn's suite to watch the rest. Rather amazingly, all three matches go in the direction we like, so that is some cause for celebration. We have an early dinner at an amazing slightly old-fashioned Italian restaurant – probably the best meal we have had so far. At the end they give us all a single red rose – OK, a bit of a cliché, but still rather nice.

THURSDAY

Our first set doesn't go too well, but teammates are heroic and we are 3 IMPs up. Our turn to sit out – steady gains in the next three sets leave us 32

up overnight. Nicola's team are only 21 down against Aperol, so it looks as if there are chances that we will play her team in the final. For dinner we go out to a burger joint – Fuddruckers! My teeth aren't really up to burgers or anything else they sell, so I go next door to an Indian and get myself a vegetable and cottage cheese curry. We are all quite exhausted, so it is time for an early night..

FRIDAY

We play both sets with Kerri and Irina, gaining a single IMP on the first set, but 26 on the next to win comfortably. I like our last set – for a change the cards go our way. We bid and make one grand slam and two small slams. We also make an unmakeable 3NT, and our opponents have a bidding misunderstanding to play a cold 4♥ in 3NT. So we feel we could not lose. This is our grand slam, admittedly a little lucky:

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

We bid:

West	East
2♣	2♦
2♥	2♠
3♦	3♥
3♠	4♣
4NT	5♦
6♦	7♥

The first two bids are standard, then 2♥ shows either 22-24 balanced or hearts. 2♠ is more or less forced and 3♦ natural, showing both red suits. 3♠ and 4♣ are cue-bids, and I then ask for aces. When partner (not surprisingly) shows none, my 6♦ asks about third-round diamond control.

With the ♦Q (and even better, the ♦J) it is clear for Fiona to bid the grand slam. Had her third-round control been a doubleton, then she would look at how good her trumps are and, with just 7-6-3, would sign off. ►

Mr Bridge UK Events 2019

Full Board – No Single Supplement*



Elstead Hotel
Bournemouth BH1 3QP



Denham Grove
Near Uxbridge, UB9 5DG



Olde Barn Hotel, Grantham
Marston, Lincs NG32 2HT



Chatsworth Hotel
Worthing BN11 3DU



Blunsdon House Hotel
Swindon SN26 7AS

Just Duplicate

Blunsdon House

- 25-27 January from £228*
15-17 March from £228*
6-8 September from £228*
1-3 November from £228*
22-24 November from £228*

Chatsworth Hotel

- 15-17 March £223
Masterpointed Duplicate
26-28 April £218
7-9 June £218
5-7 July £218
27-29 September £218
1-3 November £218
15-17 November £218

Denham Grove

- 28-30 June £229
Masterpointed Duplicate
19-21 July £218
13-15 September £218
25-27 October £218

Elstead Hotel

- 22-24 February £218
31 May - 2 June £218
4-6 October £218
8-10 November £218

Olde Barn Hotel

- 18-20 January £208
8-10 March £208
14-16 June £218
26-28 July £229
Masterpointed Duplicate
11-13 October £218
15-17 November £218

Please note there are no seminars, set hands or prizes at these events.

Tutorial Events

Blunsdon House

- 5-7 April from £238*
Defence to Weak Twos
Hosted by John Ronan

Chatsworth Hotel

- 1-3 February £228
Hand Evaluation
Hosted by Will Parsons
10-12 May £238
Doubling
Hosted by Sandy Bell

- 16-18 August £238
Leads and Fundamental Defence
Hosted by Martin Holcombe

Denham Grove

- 1-3 March £228
Endplay and Avoidance
Hosted by Sandy Bell

- 9-11 August £238
Responding to 1NT
Hosted by Elaine Duff

Elstead Hotel

- 8-10 March £228
Overcalls
Hosted by Hilary Levett

- 26-28 April £238
Suit Establishment
Hosted by Will Parsons

- 21-23 June £238
Hand Evaluation
Hosted by Will Parsons

Olde Barn Hotel

- 8-10 February £218
Finding Slams
Hosted by Gary Conrad

- 17-19 May £238
Drawing Trumps
Hosted by John Ronan

- 20-22 September £238
Further into the Auction
Hosted by Ray Hutchinson

For tutorial events in October onwards, call the Mr Bridge office or see individual adverts.

Tutorial Events with Bernard Magee

Blunsdon House

- 8-10 February from £258*
Ruffing for Extra Tricks

- 28-30 June from £264*
4-4-4-1 Hands

- 8-10 November from £264*
Game Tries

Chatsworth Hotel

- 29-31 March £258
Drawing Trumps

- 4-6 October £264

Denham Grove

- 10-14 January £454
Re-Boot Your Acol

Elstead Hotel

- 15-17 November £264
Key Card Blackwood and Slams

Inn on the Prom

- 1-3 February £258
Counting Defence

- 28-30 May £264
Pre-Emptive Bidding

Olde Barn Hotel

- 5-7 July £264
Supporting Minors

- 1-3 November £264
Defence as Partner of the Leader

Two Bridges Hotel

- 3-5 April from £349*
Better Finessing

Trouville Hotel

- 15-19 February from £399**
Competitive Bidding

**Price includes ferry fare for two adults in one car

Details & Bookings ☎ 01483 489961
www.mrbridge.co.uk

*Subject to availability. Single supplement applies to all rooms at Two Bridges & Blunsdon House

Continued from page 27...


Nicola's team rather excitingly wins by 2 IMPs, so there is plenty of British interest in the final.

Fiona and I go off to a different shopping outlet (no more interesting than the first, in truth, I just bought another pair of trousers), and meet the others at Moonfish, yet another very nice restaurant. After an early meal we have a quick drink back at the hotel before retiring for the night.

SATURDAY

For the first set the cards are very much against us but we manage to be 15 IMPs up which is a decent start. Fee and I are out for the second set, but watch nervously on BBO. We gain another 9, and then the third set starts very badly, but we improve at the end so the set is level and we have an overnight lead of 24 IMPs. This is a nice slam hand on the penultimate board:

Dealer South. N/S Game.

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

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

In the other room, the North hand starts with 2♦ rather than double so it is harder for them to find their heart fit. Fiona does well to make a slam try over my 4♥ and there we are, with no problems in the play after a top club lead and a trump switch. +13 IMPs.

In the evening there is a WBF reception to celebrate 60 years of existence. All the World Grand Masters (which includes everyone on our team) receive a personalised plaque to mark the event. Because of this we order takeaway pizza instead of going out to eat – a welcome change really, after so many excellent restaurants.

SUNDAY

We gain 35 IMPs on the first set, to put the match firmly in our hands. Although the second set doesn't go so well (we gain only 7) my argument with Fiona about our terrible last board is interrupted by our opponents conceding! So it is all over and we have retained our world championship title.

We invite our opponents to come up to Lynn's suite while she goes out to buy champagne (she didn't want to jinx things, and was not prepared to buy the champagne until we had a lead of at least 85 IMPs), so to start with it is yesterday's pizza (warmed up in the microwave) and excellent red wine.

Later we move on to champagne and other snacks Lynn bought. At eight o'clock we go downstairs for the medal ceremony – which is significantly shorter than usual.

Then I have a drink with Fiona's mixed team before going to bed early, in anticipation of the start of tomorrow's mixed teams, but you will have to wait till next month to find out about that ...

BERNARD MAGEE'S INTERACTIVE TUTORIAL CD

DEFENCE



Bernard develops your defence in the course of ten introductory exercises and 120 complete deals.

- Lead vs No-trump Contracts
- Lead vs Suit Contracts
- Partner of Leader vs No-trump Contracts
- Partner of Leader vs Suit Contracts
- Count Signals
- Attitude Signals
- Discarding
- Defensive Plan
- Stopping Declarer
- Counting the Hand

£76

Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange,
Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2TH

☎ 01483 489961

www.mrbridge.co.uk/mrbridge-shop

REDUCE THE COST OF YOUR POSTAGE

Postage stamps for sale at 90% of face-value, all mint with full gum.

Quotations for commercial quantities available on request.



Values supplied in 100s, higher values available, as well as 1st and 2nd class.

☎ 020 8422 4906 e-mail: clive.goff@londonrugby.com



The Sheriff's Young Admirer

The Sheriff looked up from his oak desk, 'Do you realise what month it is?' he asked.

'December, my Lord?' Gisborne replied.

'Indeed,' continued the Sheriff. 'I take it you recall what will happen if you don't have Robin Hood under lock and key by the end of the month?'

'Er... not exactly, my Lord,' stuttered Gisborne. 'I remember you expressed some preference that he should be captured as soon as possible.'

'Our agreement was that your prolonged failure to apprehend Hood would be marked by your demotion to castle guard (second class). Sergeant Barker would become captain of the guard.'

Gisborne winced. 'I have made every possible effort, my Lord. Only last week I was inches away from Hood and the Arab cut-throat, playing cards in a local tavern.'

The Sheriff's eyes blackened. 'You had him in your grasp and failed to make an arrest?'

'My only assistant at the time was my bridge partner, an infirm old woman,' Gisborne continued. 'The outlaws were armed to the teeth.'

'Your excuses grow feebler by the month,' declared the Sheriff. 'Let's hope that your bridge is not equally pathetic in tonight's game.'

The evening began with a succession of good scores dropping onto the Sheriff's card. They gave him little satisfaction. No-one in the field approached his level of play. Scoring tops was like plucking ripe apples from a tree.

'Good evening, my Lord,' said Wilfrid Baynes, well-known at the Nottingham horse fair. 'You are doing well?'

'Tolerably,' the Sheriff replied. 'The standard is appalling, as always.'

'Not all are as gifted as you, my Lord,' said Baynes.

The Sheriff waved this gratuitous flattery aside. The pungent odour of horses was evident. Did the man never wash?

Dealer South. E/W Game.

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

West	North	East	South
Wilfrid Baynes	Guy of Gisborne	Arthur Crabbe	The Sheriff
Pass	7NT	All Pass	2NT

Wilfrid Baynes led the ♦9, and the Sheriff had no great liking for the dummy that appeared. Despite the 38 points between the hands, there were only 11 top tricks.

If clubs broke 3-2, the odds favoured playing East for the ♠Q. Could he deal with any of the 4-1 breaks? If he began with the ♣A, it seemed he would lose a club trick even if one of the defenders held a singleton queen.

The Sheriff soon spotted the best play in the club suit. He won the diamond lead and crossed to dummy with a spade. He then led a low club towards

his hand. When the ♣Q appeared on his right, he could not hide his delight. He won with the ♣K, cashed the ♣J and finessed the ♣9 to make the slam.


'Well played, my Lord!' exclaimed Wilfred Baynes, quick to register the first words of praise.

'No-one else will make it, you can be sure,' replied the Sheriff.

'Quite so, my Lord,' said Gisborne, as he entered the score. 'Most pairs made 12 tricks in 6NT.'

The Sheriff's next opponents were two somewhat overweight men from the castle kitchens. They drew their cards for this deal:

Dealer South. Love All.

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

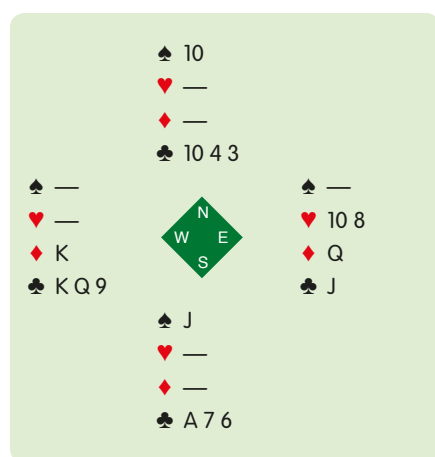
West	North	East	South
Jonas Woade	Guy of Gisborne	Jeb Gryce	The Sheriff
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Jonas Woade surveyed his hand carefully. If he happened to find an opening lead that beat the slam, his job in the kitchens would be in jeopardy.

Not only would he wave goodbye to his modest pay packet, his unlimited supply of free food would be lost.

A diamond lead looked the most promising. There was an excellent chance that the Sheriff and Gisborne would have the ace and the queen between them.

Jonas Woade led the ♦J, disappointed to see this force declarer's ace. The Sheriff drew trumps and played the ace and queen of hearts, overtaking in the dummy. He discarded a diamond on the ♥J and ruffed a diamond in his hand. He returned to dummy with a trump and ruffed the last diamond. This was the end position:



When the Sheriff led the ♣6 from his hand, Jonas Woade considered his play carefully. The cost of choosing a card that would beat the slam did not bear thinking about.

Eventually Woade played the ♣Q and was delighted to see his partner follow with the ♣J. A low club then gave a trick to dummy's ♠10 and the slam was successfully conceded.

'Sorry, Jeb,' said Jonas Woade. 'If I play low, you can win with your jack.'

'You lamb-brained buffoon!' exclaimed the Sheriff. 'If he wins with the jack, he will have to give a ruff-and-discard. There was no defence, the way that I played it.'

'Perhaps the man can avoid the endplay by leading the ♣K at trick 1,' suggested Gisborne.

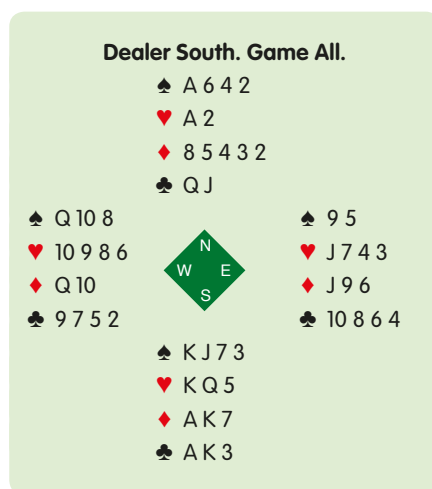
'I'm surrounded by fools,' declared the Sheriff. 'If he leads the club king, dropping his partner's jack, I can lead towards dummy's 10.'

'I was about to say that, my Lord,' said Gisborne. 'You beat me to it.'

'Perhaps you were also about to point out that only an unlikely low club would beat the slam,' continued the Sheriff. 'With East's ♣J out of the way, even I wouldn't be able to make it!'

A few rounds later, the Sheriff was entranced by the arrival of Lady Heloise Ansel and her exquisite young daughter, Rhoslyn. 'Good to see you, Heloise,' gushed the Sheriff. 'In very good health, as always.'

Noting that Gisborne could not take his eyes of the fair-haired Rhoslyn, the Sheriff tapped his finger on the board they were about to play.



West	North	East	South
Rhoslyn	Guy of Gisborne	Lady Ansel	The Sheriff
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Rhoslyn led the ♥10 and the Sheriff paused to plan the play. Perhaps he could produce some sparkling line of play to impress the gorgeous creature

on his left. There seemed to be a certain diamond loser. In that case he would need to pick up the trumps. Was there anything more to the deal? Ah, maybe there was!

The Sheriff won with the ♥A, played the trump ace and led a second trump to his king. He had taken the second-best line in trumps, yes, but a substantial second chance remained.

The Sheriff played two more top hearts, followed by three rounds of clubs. Both defenders followed to the two top diamonds and he then exited with a trump.

Rhoslyn won with the ♠Q and was uncertain what to play next. 'Nothing you can do, my dear,' announced the Sheriff, facing his cards. 'Your mother has the ♦J and you will have to play a heart or a club, giving me a ruff-and-discard.'

'You know where all the cards lie?' queried Rhoslyn. 'I have never seen such masterful play.'

The Sheriff sucked in his cheeks. How delightful to arouse such wonderment in a young girl!

Gisborne reached for the scoresheet. 'Not particularly good for us, my Lord,' he reported. 'Several pairs made 6NT for a better score. The diamonds can be set up.'

The Sheriff glared across the table. 'That was my fault, was it?' he exclaimed. 'Did you somehow forget that we're playing matchpoints?'

'Maybe you can correct to 6NT with your 4-3-3-3 shape?' suggested Gisborne.

The Sheriff turned to his left. 'Take no notice of Gisborne's witterings, my dear,' he said. 'I'm sure a promising player like you would have bid 6NT on his cards.'





How Long Does A Lead Penalty Last?

Q The law reads:
"To require the defender to lead the suit of the penalty card, or prohibit him from leading that suit for so long as he retains the lead..."

Does that comma matter? Specifically, if declarer requires the defender to lead the suit of the penalty card, does the requirement to play that suit continue to apply so long as the defender remains on lead or just apply for one trick? Sean Haffey by email.

A If the defender is required to lead that suit then that only applies to that one trick, in other words the comma is crucial.



Q Please could you advise us as to what was the correct thing to do?

N/S were bidding strongly in diamonds and E/W bidding hearts.

It got up to 5♦ bid by South.

West then bid 5♥, North passed, East passed and South wrote what I thought was the contract down on her card.

As we prepared to play I said jokingly as West, I'm

glad I wasn't doubled.

South then woke up and said she hadn't noticed the 5♥ bid and was now going to double.

She had written 5♦ on her card.

Could she double at this stage?

We, E/W, thought it was too late but North argued that they could still double.

In the end we left it as 5♥ not doubled.

Was this right?

Jane Davies, Hampshire.

A Certainly she can double. The auction had not finished: she is allowed her call.

The fact she had written 5♦ on her card is clear evidence she had got the auction wrong.



Q Can you please help me with the ruling on the following hand?

West	North	East	South
	1NT ⁽¹²⁻¹⁴⁾	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	1♠	

¹Transfer

East's partner said 'you have to bid 2♠ partner.'

South said they would rather accept East's bid as 1♠

and then bid 2♥ themselves.

The bidding continued:

West	North	East	South
	1NT ⁽¹²⁻¹⁴⁾	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	All Pass	

¹Transfer

I was director playing at the table and had no one else that evening to call upon.

If East hadn't bid 1♠, West wouldn't have known he had five spades, and there would have been no subsequent bid from West.

Looking at the rules, I could only find that if East had made his bid good to 2♠ then his partner could no longer join in the bidding, but it doesn't seem to say that if the bid is accepted, then no further bids from his partner are allowed.

How should I have ruled please?

Rita Ware by email.

A The ruling is correct. The next player may accept an insufficient bid and if so it becomes legal. South decided to accept it and that is that. Of course South should have the actual rules read out to her before she accepted it and she might have decided it was better not to.

I would also point out to West that his take on the

rules was wrong: even if 1♠ is not accepted, East can bid what he likes subject to different penalties.

Also, if 1♠ had not been accepted but East corrected to 2♠, West would have been allowed to continue bidding.



Q The bidding ends. My right hand opponent leads.

I put down dummy at which point my left hand opponent says something wrong here and then realises he still has his cards from the previous board.

What should the director have done?

Ian Blackburn by email.

A This is a matter of just reading the correct law, Law 15A, from the law book. The board is cancelled and the offending pair gets average minus, their opponents average plus.



Q Not really a new question for you, but I would like to expand your reply to Elaine Slinn (Issue 190) regarding a reminder of the contract.

Surely Law 41C makes it clear that declarer or

defender may ask only “at their turn to play” and not “at any time”. A defender who is last to play might thus give a hint to partner as to a possible line of play.

The second part of your answer also begs a slightly wider question. You can't prevent a player from asking, but the rule presumably is you can't have an answer. What sanctions are there for a question when it is not your turn to play?

We too have players who adjust their bidding box to show the contract and you answered this in issue 186. I don't have a big problem with this as that information is readily available.

Where in the rules does it say you can't have aides-mémoires generally – by writing down the cards as they are played – and then consulting this? Fanciful situation? How might a director react? Name supplied.

A It is true that you may only ask what the contract is at your turn to play (from either hand if you are declarer) which is what I meant by my reply, having not gone into detail. Any question, whether about the contract or about the meaning of a call, can pass unauthorised information to partner and will be dealt with suitably by the director.

As far as sanctions are concerned this is similar to so many things in bridge where players do not follow the rules, very common in clubs. If it seems to make no difference the director never hears about it. If someone does call the director and it has had no effect the director

normally issues a warning, though he may penalise 25% of a top for a player who has been warned before.

But if the director feels the play may have been affected then he adjusts the score.

Law 40B2D bans aides memoire and the like unless permitted by the Regulating Authority.



Q In the little town of Beaumaris, Stayman is played in several different ways.

In our local variation this involves bidding 3♣/♦ after 1NT or 1NT 2♣ (being Stayman). The 3♣/♦ may be strong or weak irrespective of the rest of the system. Stayman always asks the question “do you have a four card major?”*

After that some of the variations are:

- 1) 1NT- 2♣ just asks the question*
- 2) 1NT-2♣ promises both majors and 11-12 points
- 3) 1NT-2♣ promises one four card major and 11-12 points
- 4) 1NT-2♣ promises one four card major
- 5) 1NT-2♣-2NT by opener = both majors.

As you can see, this can cause a lot of confusion and some bad feelings. Such is bridge.

Alun Williams,
Llanfairpwll.

A I cannot imagine why any of this should cause confusion or bad feelings. Stayman is a 2♣ bid asking partner whether he has a four card major and he bids 2♦ if he does not. That is all Stayman is.

Different partnerships have different arrangements over Stayman: that is normal bridge. The opponents rarely need to know and if they do then they ask.

However if a pair have an agreement that they can rebid 2NT after a 2♣ response then the 2♣ response is not Stayman. It must be alerted and may not be described as Stayman.



Q We have a rather persistent problem in our club which despite several warnings seems to continue; that is players managing to put cards back into the wrong part of the carrier, ie reversing N/S and E/W.

Is there a penalty that should be applied to North who is responsible for the proper conduct of the carriers?

Tim Burrell by email.

A Pretty certainly the only way this can happen is because of people taking the board or wallet off the table during the play which is illegal. I strongly suggest you just penalise both pairs every time it happens until it stops happening. Each side should have 25% of a top penalty applied.

It is the responsibility of both sides to keep the board on the table.

There may be times with small tables when the board needs to be moved to accommodate dummy. But the board must stay on the table and never be twisted. That way the cards will always go back into the correct part of the board. ■

A world of bridge gift ideas



Beautiful leather zippered cases in burgundy red or deep blue containing two packs of cards and a set of our bridge design ballpoint pens. Fantastic value at just **£29.00**

A set of four scorepad holders - two burgundy and two blue made from top quality leather.

(Scorepads not included)

Offered at this special price of **£29.00**



Despatched by first class post or DPD courier for just **£3.25**

CARDS, CLOTHS, JIGSAWS AND LOTS MORE GIFT IDEAS ON OUR WEBSITE

www.bridge-tables.co.uk

PHONE

01483 270100

or order online at

www.bridge-tables.co.uk

SR Designs for Bridge
Unit A1, Send Business Park,

E-mail your questions for David to: davidstevenson@mrbridge.co.uk

FAMILY BUSINESS - ESTABLISHED 2005

RUSHMERE



Chairs

- High leg lift footstool to help circulation
- Made to measure
- Hand made in Great Britain
- Specialised chair available
- Lifting up to 70 stone
- 5 year warranty
- Wide range of fabrics and leather
- Existing furniture removed free of charge



MADE IN GREAT BRITAIN

**FREE HOME
DEMONSTRATION**

FREE BROCHURE

**FREEPHONE
0800 195 1338**

**or visit
www.RushmereMobility.co.uk**

Beds

- Any height, length or width available
- Pressure relieving orthopaedic mattress
- Choice of fabric or leather surrounds and headboards
- Specialised beds available lifting up to 35 stone
- Hand made in Great Britain
- 5 year warranty
- Existing furniture removed free of charge



Stairlifts



- Specialised stairlifts available for narrow stairs

FREEPHONE 0800 195 1338



Answers to David Huggett's Play Quiz on page 17

1.

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

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

You can tell that if the lead is fourth best then East only has one card higher than the six and as a consequence it might seem right to play low from dummy. But imagine East wins with the king and switches to a heart. Now you will be defeated almost whenever West holds the ace. Instead play the ace of spades at trick one and take a diamond finesse. If it wins you will have ten tricks easily available; while if it loses you still might be defeated, but only if the king of diamonds is wrong as well as the king of spades and the ace of hearts, giving you much better odds of success.

2.

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

You are declarer in 6♣ and West leads

the ♦Q. How do you plan the play?

There is no guarantee of success here but you can make things very difficult for the defenders. Instead of just guessing whether to finesse clubs or do something with the heart suit, win the opening lead and draw trumps. Now eliminate diamonds and lead a low heart off the table. Unless East is awake enough to play a heart honour you are sure of success, because if West has to win the heart he will be endplayed in three suits. If East does go in with a heart honour and exits with a low heart, you can ruff a couple of rounds of hearts to see whether the remaining honour comes down and still have the club finesse in reserve.

Always remember that what is easy for you may not be so easy for the defenders.

3.

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

You are declarer in 3NT. West leads the ♠7. East plays the ♠9. How do you plan the play?

The odds of not losing a diamond trick favour bashing out the ace and king, but as always you have to look at the bigger picture because you have tenace positions in all the other suits.

After winning the first trick with the ♠J you cannot afford to let East win a spade through your K-2 holding and you will likely lose four spades and a diamond. Instead play the ace of

diamonds and lead a low one next. If East follows with a small card, play the nine knowing that even if it loses West will have no safe exit. If East shows out on the second diamond, play the king and then endplay West with a third round.

4.

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

You are declarer in 4♥. West leads the ♦2. How do you plan the play?

As always it is a good idea to count your tricks because if you do not do so there may be a temptation to attack trumps. But a count of the tricks available would show that it is necessary to obtain three spade ruffs in dummy, so it is imperative that you lead a spade at trick two, paving the way for those ruffs in dummy. If you draw just one round of trumps then a vigilant defender will play a second round when in with a spade and you will find yourself a trick short. ■

CLUB INSURANCE

Every club should be covered and my inclusive package, to suit clubs of up to 300 members for less than £75 per year, is the right package at the right price.

Contact FIDENTIA for a quote

☎ 020 3150 0080
clubs@fidentiains.com

Mr Bridge

Hotel Royal Kenz Tunisia 2019

Seven Day All-inclusive
Duplicate Bridge Holidays



**5-12 March 2019
with Bernard Magee
from £749**



*Prices shown are per person on an all-inclusive basis sharing a twin or double-bedded room and are inclusive of bridge fees. Standard rooms all come with a private bath, toilet, balcony and tea and coffee making facilities. Sole occupancy supplement is £5 per night. The supplement for a pool view room is £3 per person, per night. To upgrade to a superior room with bath robe, bottle of wine and bowl of fruit on arrival is £3 per person per night. For details of what is included in the all-inclusive package, please call for an information pack and booking form.

These prices are based on scheduled flights from Heathrow to Tunis. Flights from Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow can be arranged at a supplement.

All prices are firm until 31 January 2019.

Terms and conditions apply. Packaged with and bookings by Tunisia First ATOL 5933.

For details or an information pack call
Mr Bridge Holidays ☎ 01483 489961

Elstead Hotel BOURNEMOUTH



2019

22-24 February Just Duplicate	£218	21-23 June Hand Evaluation Hosted by Will Parsons	£238
8-10 March Overcalls Hosted by Hilary Levett	£228	4-6 October Just Duplicate	£218
26-28 April Suit Establishment Hosted by Will Parsons	£238	8-10 November Just Duplicate	£218
31 May-2 June Just Duplicate	£218	15-17 November Key Card Blackwood & Slams Hosted by Bernard Magee	£264

Close to the heart of Bournemouth, the Elstead Hotel is situated in a quiet, tree-lined avenue. The attractive and spacious air-conditioned restaurant has an excellent reputation for traditional, home-cooked food. The Nordic Leisure Club offers the very best of leisure facilities for a Hotel in Dorset - including a 46' heated pool and fitness suite.



Prices shown are per person, full board including tea & coffee during breaks and a welcome drinks party. There is no single supplement and single players will always be found a partner.

The Mr Bridge Team will offer support during the set hand sessions, on the seminar events, and make up the numbers in the duplicates, so there should never be a half table.

All rooms are ensuite, have tea & coffee making facilities. The venue has a lift, pool, gym and free wi-fi in the lounges.

For details and bookings call
Mr Bridge Holidays ☎ 01483 489961

Answers to Negative Doubles Quiz on page 15

- 1 At game all how should East bid with these hands?

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	?	

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

Hand D	Hand E	Hand F
♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 10 6 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ Q 7 5 3 2	♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 10 6 2 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 7 5 3 2	♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 6 2 ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ A K 4 2

Hand G	Hand H	Hand J
♠ Q 3 2 ♥ A 6 4 3 2 ♦ 6 ♣ K 6 5 2	♠ Q 3 2 ♥ A Q 9 8 5 ♦ K 6 5 2 ♣ 6	♠ Q 3 2 ♥ A Q 9 8 5 ♦ 6 ♣ K 6 5 2

- Hand A Dbl. Promising four spades.
 Hand B 1♠. Promising five spades.
 Hand C 1NT. 6-9 points and a heart stopper.
 Hand D Pass. Nothing sensible to bid.
 Hand E 2♦. Better than passing.
 Hand F 2♥. A good raise to 3♦ or better.
 Hand G 1NT. Hearts certainly not good enough to aim for penalties.
 Hand H 2♥. A good raise to 3♦ or better. Show your support before looking for a penalty double.
 Hand J Pass. Hopefully partner will re-open with a double, which you will pass.

- 2 With North/South vulnerable how should East continue with these hands? See top of the next column.

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♦	?	

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

- Hand A Dbl. Prepared for any bid partner might make.
 Hand B 2♥. Don't double as that shows four spades.
 Hand C Dbl. Then 2♠ over a 2♥ rebid.

- 3 With East/West vulnerable how should East continue with these hands?

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	?	

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

- Hand A 1♠. Double would show 4-4 in the majors.
 Hand B Dbl. Ideal.
 Hand C 1♥. If partner has four spades he can rebid 1♠.

- 4 At game all how should West rebid with these hands?

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass
?			

Hand A	Hand B	Hand C
♠ 7 3 ♥ A J 6 2 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ A 3	♠ 7 3 ♥ A 2 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ A Q 6 2	♠ K 8 ♥ A 2 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ A Q 6 2

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

East's negative double has promised hearts. So if you support hearts you should make a limit bid.

- Hand A 3♥. What would you have rebid after 1♦-Pass-1♥-Pass?
 Hand B 2♣. East has not shown clubs. 3♣ would be game forcing: 19 points.
 Hand C 3♣. Game forcing.
 Hand D Pass. Let them play in 1♠ doubled.
 Hand E 1NT. 15-17 points and a spade stopper.
 Hand F 2♥. No attractive bid available. At least this will be a 4-3 fit.

- 5 At game all how should West rebid with these hands?

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Pass	Pass
?			

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

- Hand A Dbl. This brings both unbid suits into play and allows for a penalty pass.
 Hand B 1NT. 17/18-19 points. You can tell from your spade holding that partner doesn't have a penalty double of 1♠, so he must be weak.
 Hand C 2♣. You have a shapely hand but no interest in hearts or in defending at a low level

NEW

VidaMar Resort (5*) Algarve, Portugal



1-8 April 2019

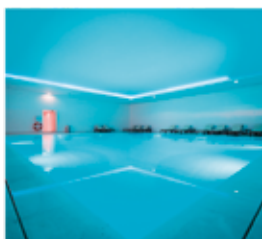
Hosted by Sandy Bell

Enjoy a memorable bridge holiday in the glorious spring sunshine of the Algarve, the breathtakingly scenic southern coastal region of Portugal famed for its endless beaches, bustling towns and charming fishing villages – a favourite for generations of British travellers.

Set beside a tranquil nature reserve, a glorious soft white-sand beach and the infinite blue of the Atlantic Ocean is the splendid 5* VidaMar Resort Hotel Algarve. The rooms are superb – contemporary, hugely spacious (measuring 42m²) and complete with air-conditioning, en-suite bathroom, complimentary wi-fi and tea/coffee-making facilities.

Four restaurants take you on a culinary journey. Our half-board arrangement is based on meals at the Ocean buffet (international cuisine), but you may 'dine around' with €15 per person credit at Mamma Mia (Italian), Aji (Oriental) or Sunset (Mediterranean) restaurants. Other resort amenities include three saltwater pools, exotic gardens, walkways across the beautiful natural dunes and the SEA SPA, offering a range of indulgent treatments and therapies.

With two included drinks parties, the group will soon get to know each other. Bridge, played in large, air-conditioned rooms with sea views, fits around the excursions to maximise your enjoyment. Sandy Bell will present two seminars, followed by supervised play of set hands, with valuable support offered by the Mr Bridge team. Singles will always be accommodated.



Optional Excursions

Highlights of Faro

The rich history of Faro, now the administrative centre of the Algarve region, includes occupation by the Romans and the Moors, ransacking by the Earl of Essex (during which time the great book collection of the Bishop of Faro was 'relocated' to Oxford's Bodleian Library) and two city-wide architectural transformations following earthquakes in 1532 and 1755. Most of the grand buildings we see today date back to the 18th century, though echoes of earlier centuries remain. On this half day excursion, which includes a guided walking tour, the stones of Faro tell their fascinating story.

Half day • £39 per person

Silves and Monchique tour

The ancient city of Silves was the former capital of the Algarve, reaching the height of its prominence and strategic importance during the Moorish occupation, but referred to as the 'Kingdom of the Algarve' as late as the 19th century. This half day excursion takes in the Moorish Castle and 13th century Cathedral of Silves, then the typical village of Monchique, set high in the hills, where there will be time at leisure to shop for traditional local handicrafts.

Half day • £39 per person

Wine tasting at Sir Cliff Richard's house

Adega do Cantor is Sir Cliff Richard's spectacular property in Guia – he has loved the Algarve for 40 years and is very hands-on in producing his own range of wine, from grapes grown in the vineyard grounds. Our half day excursion includes a guided walking tour around the vineyards with an explanation of the wine-making process and a tour of the temperature-controlled adega where the grapes and the young wine matures in barrels. No visit would be complete without a tasting, of course, and we sample the (literally) house wine with local cheese, smoked ham and sausage. There will also be an opportunity to shop for Algarve souvenirs near Adega do Cantor as part of this excursion.

Half day • £52 per person

Please note, these excursions are specially arranged for Mr Bridge customers and are subject to a minimum number of 10 participants.

£995 per person | £210 single supplement

This price includes international flights from London Gatwick, taxes, transfers, half-board accommodation in a resort-view room and all bridge activities. Regional departures available on request (extra cost may apply). Terms and conditions apply.

Room upgrades (per stay)

Nature-view | £159 per room
Pool-view | £238 per room
Ocean-view | £357 per room

**Authentic
ADVENTURES**

SPECIAL INTEREST HOLIDAYS



For more information or to book, call 01483 489961

Authentic Adventures is part of Specialist Journeys, the UK's leading special interest travel company.

Count Only The Missing Cards In A Suit

Counting up to thirteen should be easy, but when you have to do it in four different suits it will start to test your brainpower. Particularly in the trump suit, try the effect of only counting the missing cards, which should be a much smaller figure. This tactic is particularly effective when there is a lot of ruffing going on. So, before you play to dummy at trick one: tot up your trumps and work out how many the opponents have. From then on, only count the times when your opponents play a trump:

♠ K 10 9
♥ 8 7 6
♦ K J 10 4 3 2
♣ 9

W **E**
N **S**

♠ A Q J 5 2
♥ Void
♦ Q 9 8
♣ A J 8 3 2

You are declarer in 5♠ after a rather competitive auction and West leads the ♦7.

You have eight spades between your two hands, so are missing just five.

East takes the ♦A and leads a diamond back for his partner to ruff. Then comes the ♥Q which you can ruff. At this point you decide to take your ♣A and ruff a club in dummy, whilst East discards. Then you take the ♠K and West shows out. These cards are left:

♠ K 10 9
♥ 8 7 6
♦ K J 10 4 3 2
♣ 9

♠ 8
♥ Q J 10 9 2
♦ 7
♣ Q 10 7 6 5 4

W **E**
N **S**

♠ 7 6 4 3
♥ A K 5 4 3
♦ A 6 5
♣ K

♠ A Q J 5 2
♥ Void
♦ Q 9 8
♣ A J 8 3 2

Keeping count of trumps is very important – in fact counting any suit is going to be useful. Counting up to five is much easier than counting up to thirteen. By getting into the habit of only counting the cards left out, you make your life easier. ■

BERNARD MAGEE'S TUTORIAL CDs

ADVANCED DECLARER PLAY

MAC compatible

- Overtricks in No-trumps
- Overtricks in Suit Contracts
- Endplays
- Avoidance
- Wrong Contract
- Simple Squeezes
- Counting the Hand
- Trump Reductions & Coups
- Playing Doubled Contracts
- Safety Plays

£81

ADVANCED ACOL BIDDING

- Basics
- Advanced Basics
- Weak Twos
- Strong Hands
- Defence to Weak Twos
- Defence to 1NT
- Doubles
- Two-suited Overcalls
- Defences to Other Systems
- Misfits and Distributional Hands

£96

FIVE-CARD MAJORS & Strong No-Trump

- Opening Bids & Responses
- No-Trump Openings
- Support for Partner
- Slams & Strong Openings
- Rebids
- Minors & Misfits
- Pre-empting
- Doubles
- Overcalls
- Competitive Auctions

£89

ALSO

- Defence (see p29)
- Declarer Play (see p23)
- Acol Bidding (see p12)

01483 489961
www.mrbridge.co.uk/mrbridge-shop

DUPLICATE BRIDGE RULES SIMPLIFIED

(otherwise known as the Yellow Book)

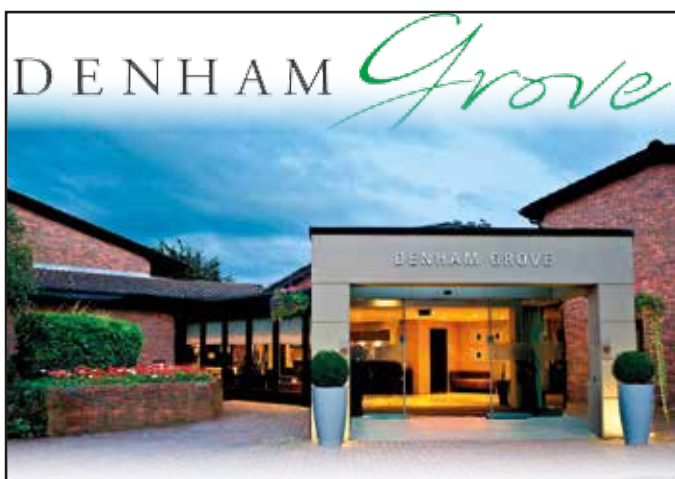
by David Stevenson

FULLY REVISED
IN 2017

only
£5⁹⁵

Available from Mr Bridge

01483 489961
www.mrbridge.co.uk



2019

10-14 January £454 Re-Boot Your Acol Hosted by Bernard Magee	9-11 August £238 Responding to 1NT Hosted by Elaine Duff
1-3 March £228 Endplay and Avoidance Hosted by Sandy Bell	13-15 September £218 Just Duplicate
28-30 June £229 Masterpointed Duplicate	25-27 October £218 Just Duplicate
19-21 July £218 Just Duplicate	22-24 November £238 Dealing with 1NT Hosted by Sandy Bell

Nestled in the heart of Buckinghamshire, Denham Grove has a peaceful countryside setting and 42 acres of pristine parkland which provides an air of traditional tranquillity. Denham Grove has free Wi-Fi throughout plus many on-site leisure facilities, including indoor swimming pool, gym, spa bath and sauna, and tennis courts.



Prices shown are per person, full board including tea & coffee during breaks and a welcome drinks party. There is no single supplement and single players will always be found a partner. The Mr Bridge Team will offer support during the set hands sessions, on the seminar events, and make up the numbers in the duplicates, so there should never be a half table. All rooms are ensuite, have tea & coffee making facilities and have free internet. The venue does not have a lift, but many rooms are on the ground floor.

For details and bookings call
Mr Bridge Holidays ☎ 01483 489961



2019

1-3 February £228 Hand Evaluation Hosted by Will Parsons	16-18 August £238 Leads and Fundamental Defence Hosted by Martin Holcombe
15-17 March £223 Masterpointed Duplicate	27-29 September £218 Just Duplicate
29-31 March £258 Drawing Trumps Hosted by Bernard Magee	4-6 October £264 Hosted by Bernard Magee
26-28 April £218 Just Duplicate	18-20 October £238 Declarer Play Hosted by Lesley Lewis
10-12 May £238 Doubling Hosted by Sandy Bell	1-3 November £218 Just Duplicate
7-9 June £218 Just Duplicate	15-17 November £218 Just Duplicate
5-7 July £218 Just Duplicate	



Prices shown are per person, full board including tea & coffee during breaks and a welcome drinks party. There is no single supplement and single players will always be found a partner. The Mr Bridge team will offer support during the set hands sessions, on the seminar events, and make up the numbers in the duplicates, so there should never be a half table. All rooms are ensuite, have tea & coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi. The venue has a lift and is located in lovely Steyne Gardens, close to the sea front. Garden view or sea view rooms may be available (sea view at a supplement).

For details and bookings call
Mr Bridge Holidays ☎ 01483 489961



Answers to Julian Pottage's Defence Quiz on page 9

1.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT ¹
12-14			

Partner leads the ♠5 and dummy plays low. What is your plan?

With the ♠4 and ♠3 missing, there is a good chance that the lead is from a five-card suit.

Moreover, holding a maximum of 14 points, declarer cannot have three aces and the ♦K, which means that your partner should have an entry. Even though doing so means conceding a trick to the ♠Q, you should take the ♠K, cash the ♠A and play a third round of spades. This way, assuming the lead is from five, you defeat the contract if partner has either the ♦K or ♦A or both the ♣A and the ♥Q.

2.

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

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

Partner leads the ♠3 and dummy plays low. What is your plan?

This time, with no lower spades missing, you can guess that the lead is from a four-card suit. If you cash the two top spades, you will set up the ♠Q for no benefit – you will not make a long spade in a suit contract when declarer has long trumps. Instead you should take the ♠K only and switch to the ♦J. You hope to set up the ♦K in partner's hand before declarer can develop dummy's winners. It is unlikely that you will lose the ♠K (and so concede what could be a costly overtrick at matchpoints) because declarer would need all of the ♦A, ♣A and ♣K for it to run away.

Yes, if partner had the ♣K and ♦A, a club switch might work better – but that layout is less likely – and you could lose the ♠A if partner had the ♦A and nothing in clubs.

3.

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

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

Partner leads the ♦8 and dummy plays low. What is your plan?

You read the ♦8 as top of a shortage.

For sure, you want to take the ♦Q, cash the ♦A and play a third round. What is more, you want to regain the lead to play a fourth round of diamonds. If partner has the ♥A, a good chance on the bidding, your ♥K can be that entry. As a suit preference signal for the higher-ranking heart suit, you lead the ♦10 at trick three.

If your partner gets the message and underleads the ♥A, a trump promotion on the fourth diamond defeats the contract.

4.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Dbl	1♥
All Pass			4♥

Partner leads the ♦4: ♦2, ♦K and ♦10. What is your plan for the early play?

Although there is a possibility that the lead is from 4-3 doubleton, the bidding makes it more likely that declarer is the one who is short. If you lead the ♦A, you will set up the ♦Q and often the discard coming on the ♦Q will cost your side a trick – if declarer has ♣A-J-x, ♣A-Q-x, ♣A-J-x or ♣A-K-x for example. Since dummy's black tens could make a switch to either of those suits risky, you should exit with your trump at trick two. While the contract might still make if you discard from the wrong black suit on the third round of trumps, at least this way you have given yourself a chance. ■



What is Lebensohl and how do you use it?

Lebensohl is a conventional way to differentiate competitive hands from strong hands, most often employed after partner opens 1NT and an opponent overcalls at the two level.

Let us say you are playing a weak no-trump and have one of these two hands (if you play a strong no-trump, change the king of diamonds to the two):

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

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
		1NT	2♣
?			

With Hand 1 you wish to compete to 3♥ – your side has a fit and the opponents probably do too – you do not want to let the opponents buy the contract at the two level.

With Hand 2 you want to play in game but are unsure whether that should be 4♥ or 3NT.

If your only way of showing the heart suit is a 3♥ bid, you cannot show both hands – you and your partner have to decide whether 3♥ is forcing and decide which of the two hands is suitable on that basis.

The Lebensohl convention enables you to have the best of both worlds, being able to bid on both hands. What you do with the weaker hand is start

with an artificial 2NT. Obviously you and your partner need to agree that this is what the bid means because a no-trump bid, especially facing a no-trump bid from partner, sounds natural.

After you bid the conventional 2NT, partner must (unless the next hand competes), bid 3♣. Being a forced bid, partner's 3♣ does not show clubs. It simply keeps the bidding open to enable you to describe your hand. With Hand 1, you do so by bidding 3♥. Bidding the conventional 2NT and then a lower ranking suit at the three level shows a hand that simply wishes to compete.

With Hand 2, you bid 3♥ directly over 2♠ (without going through 2NT). This shows a strong hand, just like a jump to 3♥ in response to a 1NT opening has traditionally shown.

Suppose instead that the overcall is in some suit other than spades:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
		1NT	2♥
?			

If you have a hand that wishes to compete in a higher-ranking suit, you simply bid at the two level. There is no need to go via Lebensohl to show a relatively weak hand. You can, however, use (or not use) the artificial 2NT bid to differentiate game-forcing hands from invitational hands.

Let us say you are playing a weak no-trump and have one of these next two hands (if you play a strong no-trump, change the king of diamonds to the two):

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

With Hand 3 you wish to invite game whereas with Hand 4 you wish to create a game force.

With Hand 3, bid the conventional 2NT and then after partner's forced 3♣ you rebid 3♠. Bidding a higher-ranking suit after the Lebensohl 2NT shows a game-invitational hand. Partner can pass 3♠ (with a minimum), raise to 4♠ (with a maximum and at least three spades or perhaps no heart stopper) or convert to 3NT (with a maximum, a doubleton spade and a heart stopper).

With Hand 4, bid 3♠ directly.

In its simplest form, responder's rebids after opener's forced 3♣ are thus as follows:

Pass:

Competitive with long clubs

3 Lower suit than overcaller's:

Competitive with suit bid

3 Higher suit than overcaller's:

Game invitational with suit bid

If the fourth player bids, opener passes instead of bidding 3♣. If the bidding is then not too high for you to show your suit, you show it. Sometimes you will not get to show your suit but at least you have pushed the opponents to a level higher and since you are on lead it is rarely a problem that you have not shown your suit.

What do you do with a hand that wished to make an invitational 2NT raise after an opponent overcalls? If you have agreed to play Lebensohl, you cannot bid 2NT and expect partner to read it as natural. In the original version of Lebensohl, double showed specifically a hand that wished to raise to 2NT. These days most people do not want to give up a double for such a limited range of hands. If you play double as take-out, you might be able to double and then bid 2NT to show the hand. If you play double as penalties, the traditional treatment, you can double with a bit of length and strength in the opposing suit (say three to an honour), the known balance of power making up for the lack of a strong trump holding. Sometimes, if your holding in the opposing suit is such that a double does not feel right, you will need to stretch to bid 3NT or take a pessimistic view and pass.

If you have not played Lebensohl before, I suggest you start by playing just what I have described so far, which is fairly standard. Those familiar with the convention will attach a meaning to cue bids and 3NT either directly or via 2NT to show or deny a stopper in the opposing suit and to show or deny four cards in an unbid major – unfortunately, not everyone does this the same way.

Finally, I should mention that although Lebensohl started out as a convention only used after a 1NT opening and an overcall, it is quite common to play it after an opposing weak two and a take-out double:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
	2♠*	Dbl	Pass
?			

If you wish to play the convention in this situation, the principles are the same – bidding a suit via 2NT shows say 0-7 points while bidding a suit at the three level immediately shows about 8-10. Again, there will be some hands where you wished you could make a natural 2NT. You might then have to choose between jumping to 3NT or leaving in the double for penalties. ■

Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 1-3 on the Cover and page 7

1. Dealer South. Game All.

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



West	North	East	South
?			1♥

Pass. Counting 13 high card points, a lot of players feel the need to take some positive action. However, there is no bid that can describe your hand. After the 1♥ opening a double is for take-out: showing shortage in hearts and support for the other suits. None of your suits are suitable for an overcall, so pass is the only sensible option. Remember that a 1NT overcall shows 15-18 points.

If you do choose to bid on this hand you will end up in trouble. A 1NT overcall gets doubled, a double would get redoubled...

2. Dealer South. Game All.

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



West	North	East	South
?			1♥

Dbl. This time you have two options for your bid: you are short in hearts, so you can double for take-out or you could

overcall in your five-card suit. The choice depends on whether your long suit is a major or minor: it is generally preferable to show a five-card major if you have one, by overcalling. However, with a five-card minor you should prefer to make a double to give your partnership the chance to find a 4-4 fit in spades.

Over your double, your partner will respond in spades and your fit is found.

3. Dealer South. N/S Game.

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



West	North	East	South
?			1♥

Pass. An unusual situation, but it does come up from time to time: when your opponents open in your very strong suit. Generally, you do best to start with a pass: after all, you are happy to play in their suit. Any other choice of bid will misrepresent your hand, particularly a double. A 1NT overcall does not look right because of your weakness and shortage in the minors.

You pass and North might pass too, leaving your partner to 'borrow a king' and reopen the auction with a double for take-out. You would choose to pass this and then North would have to decide whether to come to his partner's rescue. 1♥ doubled minus two will be enough for a very good score – outscoring a game contract. ■

To support Little Voice, send your used stamps to:
Malcolm Finebaum
Flat 8, Mountford House, 8 Crescent Road, Enfield EN2 7BL



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

Islands of the Mediterranean

La Seu Cathedral, Mallorca

17 nights from only

£2,049

per person



On this island-hopping adventure you'll get to soak up *Balmoral's* warm, friendly atmosphere as you spend 17 rewarding nights exploring a string of gorgeous Mediterranean islands and cities.

Calls into Spain kick off your adventure perfectly with Málaga and Cartagena offering up tours to grand palaces, an ancient Roman amphitheatre and a choice of tapas bars. Then Ibiza will show you there's a whole lot more to this 'party island' than clubs and bars; outside the tourist areas it is quiet, unspoilt and truly beautiful. The UNESCO-listed Dalt Vila (Old Quarter) is a fine example of this.

Scattered in the Mediterranean Sea, Corsica, Sardinia and Mallorca each bask in a lifestyle that reflects – and residents would say improves upon – that of their respective mother countries, with attractions by the tonne. Soak up the rugged coastline and paradise beaches of Ajaccio, on the sun-splashed island of Corsica; seek out the 4,000-year-old fortress-like nuraghes of Sardinia, while on a day out in Olbia; and encounter Palma's striking, gothic cathedral.

Enjoy all this, and there are still more Spanish and Portuguese highlights with Cádiz and Lisbon punctuating your relaxed sailing home.

The city of Cádiz will beckon you. The thousands of years of history embedded here will be on show at every turn – at the Torre Tavira, the Plaza de España and the ancient centre. Before heading home Lisbon allows time to explore the quaint Alfama district or perhaps venture into picturesque towns of Sintra or Obidos.



2nd April 2019 • 17 nights
Sails from Southampton
Balmoral • L1904

Prices per person

Interior Room	£2,049
Ocean View Room	£2,439
Superior Ocean View Room	£3,319
Superior Balcony	£5,369
Suite	£5,849
Single Room	£3,369

Prices are correct at time of going to print, but may change at any time, call for latest prices.

Contact **Mr Bridge** to book on **01483 489 961**
or visit **www.mrbridge.co.uk**

*Bringing the
world closer*

These terms and conditions are in addition to Fred. Olsen's standard Terms and Conditions, which are available on Fred. Olsen's website and on request. Both must be read before booking. Fares are per person, based on standard occupancy of the lead in room of named category, subject to availability. 'PP' is per person. Information shown is correct at time of going to press (September 2018) but fares are capacity controlled and may change at any time. Call for latest prices. All offers may be withdrawn or amended at any time without prior notice, cannot be combined, are subject to availability and cannot be applied retrospectively. Cruise descriptions include optional, chargeable experiences that may be enjoyed independently and/or with optional Fred. Olsen Shore Tours. Some ports may be at anchor; intermediate days are at sea. We reserve the right to amend itineraries for operational reasons. E&OE



Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 4-6 on the Cover and page 7

4. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K 10 7 6
♥ 8 7 6 4
♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ 4



♠ A Q J 9 4
♥ 9 3
♦ A 3 2
♣ 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♠	Pass
?			

3♠. When responding to an overcall, if you have support for your partner's suit with a weak and distributional hand, then consider jumping to the level of your trump fit (contracting for the same number of tricks as you have trumps).

These supporting bids do not promise points, but simply show distribution and support.

They are based on the premise that when you hold a big trump fit and distributional hands, you will make a reasonable number of tricks irrespective of your strength. Furthermore, if you have a fit, then your opponents will have a fit and you should try to stop them finding theirs by bidding high and fast.

You have four spades and partner's 1♠ overcall promised five, so with nine spades you jump to 3♠. This bid makes it very difficult for North-South to locate their club fit.

3♠ is likely to go one down, but that scores a lot better than 4♣ or even 5♣ making their way.

5. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ K 4 2
♥ A J 6 2
♦ 4 3
♣ K Q 7 5



♠ A Q J 7 6
♥ 9 3
♦ 7 6 2
♣ 9 3 2

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♠	Pass
?			

2♦. With 13 HCP and spade support you

should be hoping that there might be a game on. It depends how strong your partner is. It is important to understand that a 1-level overcall does not promise anywhere near an opening hand. Take a look at East's hand – his 1♠ overcall is a good bid; it does not promise huge playing strength.

Your job as his partner is to show your strength and support and give East the chance to go towards game if he has a decent overcall or to stay low if he is weak.

The way to show your strength is to make a bid in the opponents' suit: 2♦.

3♠ is not correct because all that shows is four-card support, which you do not have anyway; it shows none of your strength. On this occasion East would rebid 2♠ and you would pass.

Had East held a better hand, then he would make a more positive bid and you could bid towards game.

6. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ 6 5
♥ A 8 7
♦ A Q 4
♣ J 7 6 5 4



♠ A K 7 4 3
♥ 9 4 2
♦ K 8 7
♣ 9 2

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♠	Pass
?			

1NT. You have a decent hand in response to your partner's overcall, but no spade support. A lot of players might be tempted to bid 2NT 'to show 11 points', but that only applies opposite an opening bid. An overcall can be a lot weaker than an opening bid so your responding no-trump bids have to be stronger. With 6-8 points opposite an overcall without support you should usually pass, so you can use a 1NT response to show about 9-12 points. Your partner will only try for game with an opening hand or better.

On this hand East will pass your 1NT and you stay at a relatively safe level. ■

BRIDGE MAT SPECIAL



The perfect playing surface.

Used by the professional clubs in Europe. So much better than a tablecloth.

Approximately 78 cms square, it fits the normal 80cms tables. Woven design with a luxury pile. Very hard wearing and rolls up easily for storage.

Going on holiday? No bridge table there? Don't worry. Just unroll your bridge mat on any table and you'll have a perfect playing surface. We have just taken delivery of 200 of these and are offering them at this special pre-Brexit price. Running a bridge club? We can offer quantity discounts for clubs.



SPECIAL OFFER

JUST £24.99

PLUS £4.99 POST AND PACKING.

SR DESIGNS FOR BRIDGE

01483 270100

www.bridge-tables.co.uk



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

Capital Cities of the Baltic

St Petersburg

14 nights from only
£1,619
per person



Visiting five capital cities – with two days in St Petersburg and two sailings of the Stockholm Archipelago to boot – means there will be a wide array of highlights to savour. Grandiose palaces, royal castles, fairytale medieval spires and iconic museums await.

Copenhagen is the first of five attraction-packed capital cities waiting for your visit; the welcoming atmosphere of one of the world's happiest countries is sure to tempt you into a day of exploration. There are highlights aplenty, such as the enchanting Tivoli Gardens and the Nyhavn waterfront district, though a tour to see the city's Danish royal residences would surely be the crowning moment of your stay.

The delights continue in vibrant Stockholm. You could opt to delve into authentic Swedish pop culture at ABBA The Museum; glide peacefully along the city's impressive waterways aboard a sightseeing boat; or bear witness to the changing of the guard at the Royal Palace within the Old Town, Gamla Stan.

In St Petersburg you'll have the chance to uncover a collection of grandiose architectural treasures: Catherine Palace, the Hermitage Museum and St Isaac's Cathedral, to name just a few. An overnight stay here affords the opportunity to spend the evening at the Russian ballet too.

The ever-fascinating city of Oslo provides one last chance for discovery before you return home with many unforgettable memories. In the capital of Fred. Olsen's homeland you won't want to miss the astonishing exhibits at the Vigeland Sculpture Park, or the panoramic fjord views on offer from Oslo Opera House.



9th May 2019 • 14 nights
Sails from Newcastle
Balmoral • L1907

Prices per person

Interior Room	£1,619
Ocean View Room	£1,899
Superior Ocean View Room	£2,279
Superior Balcony	£3,289
Suite	£3,519
Single Room	£2,709

Prices are correct at time of going to print, but may change at any time, call for latest prices.

Contact **Mr Bridge** to book on **01483 489 961**
or visit **www.mrbridge.co.uk**

*Bringing the
world closer*

These terms and conditions are in addition to Fred. Olsen's standard Terms and Conditions, which are available on Fred. Olsen's website and on request. Both must be read before booking. Fares are per person, based on standard occupancy of the lead-in room of named category, subject to availability. *PP is per person. Information shown is correct at time of going to press (April 2018) but fares are capacity controlled and may change at any time. Call for latest prices. All offers may be withdrawn or amended at any time without prior notice, cannot be combined, are subject to availability and cannot be applied retrospectively. Cruise descriptions include optional chargeable experiences that may be enjoyed independently and/or with optional Free Olsen Shore Tours. Some ports may be at anchor, intermediate days are at sea. We reserve the right to amend itineraries for operational reasons. *For full terms and conditions of the Free parking at the port, or Free door-to-door travel please contact Mr Bridge, or view Fred. Olsen's website: E&OE



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

7. Dealer North. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Dbl	Pass

2♣. Your partner has made a take-out double and you have to respond. You should only pass if you expect to defeat 1♥ – that would seem an optimistic view of your four points. You might contemplate bidding 1NT, but no-trump bids promise strength otherwise you may end up doubled.

That leaves the choice of bidding a suit – it must be an unbid suit, so that leaves an easy choice – bid your longest suit excluding hearts: 2♣.

Do not be tempted to bid 1♠ – your partner might well have four spades, but your best fit will be seven cards and on a bad day (like this) you will end up in a six-card fit.

8. Dealer North Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Dbl	Pass

2♠. When responding to a double

remember that you do not simply have to choose your best suit, but you should also express your strength. Since a simple response promises nothing (zero points), it is important to show your partner when you have a decent responding hand. With nine points and four cards in the unbid major you should jump to 2♠. That should be enough to encourage your partner to bid towards game.

9. Dealer North. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Dbl	2♥

Dbl. Your partner has made a take-out double showing near opening strength and you have ten points; so you want to compete for the contract over South's 2♥, but how do you do that?

You could just pick one of your minor suits, but with the same length in the two suits you would prefer your partner to choose just in case he is longer in one of them.

Your best call is a responsive double – a second double 'in response' to your partner's double – inviting him to pick his best minor. The reason why it asks about the minors is because if you had four spades you would bid 2♠ in response to the double.

As your responsive double denies four spades, East will respond 3♣ allowing you to find your side's best fit. ■

Bridge with Angela - A beginners guide to Acol.

An easy to read guide to Standard Bidding, Play, Defence & Conventions

£7.95 ☎ 01483 489961

BERNARD MAGEE TUTORIAL DVDs

SET 1

- 1 Ruffing for Extra Tricks
- 2 Competitive Auctions
- 3 Making the Most of High Cards
- 4 Identifying & Bidding Slams
- 5 Play & Defence of 1NT Contracts
- 6 Doubling & Defence against Doubled Contracts

£25
per DVD

SET 2

- 7 Leads
- 8 Losing Trick Count
- 9 Making a Plan as Declarer
- 10 Responding to 1NT
- 11 Signals & Discards
- 12 Endplay

SET 3

- 13 Hand Evaluation
- 14 Pre-Emptive Bidding
- 15 Splinter & Cue Bids
- 16 Avoidance Play
- 17 Play & Defence at Pairs
- 18 Thinking Defence

SET 4

- 19 Defensive Plan
- 20 Further into the Auction
- 21 Weak Twos
- 22 Trump Control
- 23 Sacrificing
- 24 Improving Bridge Memory

£105
set of 6

Mr Bridge Mail Order

☎ 01483 489961

www.mrbridge.co.uk/shop



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

The Best of the Fjords in Seven Nights



Hosted by
Bernard Magee

7 nights from only

£999

per person



Bergen

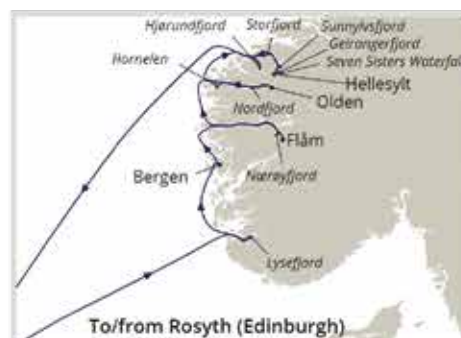
Norway's dramatic natural landscape is within easy reach from Edinburgh's Rosyth. Experience the contrast of the vibrant, historic city of Bergen before venturing up close to the soaring mountain peaks, arresting glaciers, and jaw-dropping waterfalls of several UNESCO-listed World Heritage sites.

The rugged backdrop of the Lysefjord is the spectacular setting for the start of your fjord adventure. This beautiful waterway is out of reach of larger ships too, making for a rare cruising experience. The first destination to discover is Hanseatic Bergen. A day here allows plenty of time to get under the skin of such a historic city. Marvel at the UNESCO-listed ancient Bryggen Wharf, take in the authentic, vibrant atmosphere of the famous fish market perhaps, or scale Mount Fløyen via the funicular railway for simply breathtaking views of the city.

The quaint village of Flåm will be next to welcome you. The surrounding landscapes of the Aurlandsfjord beg to be explored, and the unforgettable Flåm Railway will transport you across this inspirational landscape, offering fabulous views of mountains, waterfalls and more.

Olden is your gateway to capturing all the majesty of the Briksdal Glacier, dramatically set between roaring waterfalls and high peaks. You'll depart this quaint village via the majestic Nordfjord, passing Europe's highest sea cliff, Hornelen, en route.

Hellesylt is a UNESCO World Heritage site and is renowned for both its stunning waterfall – which nestles between two bridges.



25th July 2019 • 7 nights

Sails from Rosyth

Balmoral • L1916

Prices per person

Interior Room	£999
Ocean View Room	£1,199
Superior Ocean View Room	£1,399
Superior Balcony	£2,099
Suite	£2,199
Single Room	£1,699

Prices are correct at time of going to print, but may change at any time; call for latest prices.

Contact **Mr Bridge** to book on **01483 489 961**
or visit **www.mrbridge.co.uk**

*Bringing the
world closer*

These terms and conditions are in addition to Fred. Olsen's standard Terms and Conditions, which are available on Fred. Olsen's website and on request. Both must be read before booking. Fares are per person, based on standard occupancy of the lead in room of named category, subject to availability. (PP) is per person. Information shown is correct at time of going to press (April 2019) but fares are capacity controlled and may change at any time. Call for latest prices. All offers may be withdrawn or amended at any time without prior notice, cannot be combined and are subject to availability and cannot be applied retrospectively. Cruise descriptions include optional, changeable experiences that may be enjoyed independently and/or with optional Fred. Olsen Shore Tours. Some ports may be at anchor, intermediate days are at sea. We reserve the right to amend itineraries for operational reasons. E&OE



Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 10-12 on the Cover and page 7

10. Dealer South. Love All.

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



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

Pass. You made a 1♠ overcall and your partner has raised you to 3♠. Your hand is sound for a 1-level overcall so you might feel justified on bidding to game. However, direct raises of overcalls are not invitational, they are pre-emptive and so you should simply pass.

As you can see, your partner is not particularly strong – he bid to the level of your fit. 3♠ is likely to go one off, which will be better than letting your opponents make 3♥.

11. Dealer South. Love All.

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



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

3♣. You overcalled 1♠ and then your partner doubled 2♥. When your opponents find a fit in an auction at a low-level it pays to play your doubles for take-out.

Your partner is suggesting a hand that does not fit with spades, but has reasonable strength and would like to compete in a minor suit.

You should bid 3♣, trusting your partner: your clubs are not strong, but there should be a good fit.

3♣ is an excellent contract and with a reasonable trump break it should make.

12. Dealer South. Game All.

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



West	North	East	South
Dbl	3♥	Dbl	1♥
?			Pass

Pass. You started with a take-out double asking partner to bid, but North jumped to 3♥. Your partner then doubled at his turn – this is a responsive double and should be based on a decent hand that feels that your side should be competing. Your partner will not have four spades, because then he would have bid 3♠.

You have two choices: bid 4♦ – your best fit – or pass and aim for a penalty. The clue to the right answer is the vulnerability: with your opponents vulnerable, taking them one off will be worth 200 points and be better than any partscore. With four tricks in your own hand, it is not unreasonable to hope for at least one from your partner.

North has perhaps bid a little too much over your double, despite his side's nine-card fit and you should get them one or two off depending on their distribution. ■

Subscriptions to BRIDGE - An ideal gift

1 year £49, 2 years £79, 3 years £109

☎ 01483 489961

BERNARD MAGEE TUTORIAL DVDs

SET 5

- 25 Defence as Partner of the Leader
- 26 Aggressive Bidding at Duplicate Pairs
- 27 Strong Opening Bids
- 28 Take-Out Doubles
- 29 Suit Establishment in Suit Contracts
- 30 Landy / Defending Against a 1NT Opening

SET 6

- 31 Counting Defence
- 32 Extra Tricks in No-Trumps
- 33 Supporting Partner
- 34 Finessing
- 35 Bidding Distributional Hands
- 36 Coping with Pre-Empts

£25
per DVD

SET 7

- 37 More Signalling
- 38 4-4-4-1 Hands
- 39 Drawing Trumps
- 40 Five-Card Majors
- 41 Fundamentals of Defence
- 42 Supporting Minors

SET 8

- 43 Teams of Four
- 44 Game Tries
- 45 Disrupting Declarer
- 46 Defending Slams
- 47 Overcalling
- 48 Pressing the Defence

£105
set of 6

Mr Bridge Mail Order

☎ 01483 489961

www.mrbridge.co.uk/shop

READERS' LETTERS

BRIDGEMATE: TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Before going on holiday recently I lent my set of Bridgemate devices to my relief Tournament Director, Gitte, so she could run the Putney BC duplicate in my absence. Gitte had a little practice at home and all went well and then on the night the Bridgemates wouldn't launch. Panic and bits of paper. Fortunately, Gitte is an experienced scorer and was easily able to run the duplicate with old-style travelling score slips. I wonder how many club directors are losing this skill.

The following week I collected the Bridgemates from the bridge cupboard where Gitte had left them and again created the game. The BM server launched perfectly but once more the BM devices would not co-operate. I had a brainwave – Putney is in South West London in the heart of an area where Café Bridge is really popular. Café Bridge events are usually scored using the BriAn app ("Bridge on iPhone & Android") that scores duplicates using players' phones and tablets as score entry devices. I asked the players at Putney how many had the BriAn app on their phones and a surprising number did. So I relaunched the game on BriAn. All went well and we finished on time.

I took the Bridgemates home and fiddled about with

them but still no joy. Finally I rang up Martin Lee of Bridgemate UK. Martin is a friend and sometime bridge partner, but this scarcely mattered, because where Bridgemates are concerned Martin is always prepared to go the extra mile to help. Over the phone Martin was quickly able to diagnose what had happened. In testing the Bridgemate server Gitte had actually downloaded the latest firmware for the server but the table devices were still looking for the old version. The update procedure is slightly involved but Martin was easily able to talk me through it and soon all was well. This week's Putney duplicate ran on Bridgemates without a hitch. Gitte was very relieved.

I would publicly like to thank Martin for his friendly and efficient support, without which I might have been struggling to get my Bridgemates back into use. Thanks Martin, and I hope to see you at the table soon.

**Ned Paul,
Twickenham.**

DUPLICATE TIMEKEEPING

When you first play duplicate, it is hard to reconcile the time factor. Each round has a set period for boards to be finished. The normal time is about seven minutes per board. Of course, I allow more than that as we are learning, but do not waste time. Because if you

do waste time - it is your time you are wasting. You get behind and pressurise yourself. Here's some advice:

1. Arrive ahead of the start by 15 minutes - time to chat or find a partner. Sit down. Begin to focus.

2. Fill in the table names slip. Find out your pair number. Write it down. Remember it - you will need it later.

3. When you get boards, take out your cards and, face down, count them.

4. Bid the hand.

5. When you are the opening leader, if you want to ask about opponents' bids, do it now.

6. Next, choose your card and, holding it face down, ask your partner "any questions?" This is not just a courtesy. It means:

a) That if you are mistaken about being the opening leader no harm is done as you have yet to show your cards.

b) It also means your partner can now ask any questions – as they cannot prior to this. Nor should they ask after the opening lead and dummy is down.

7. Once you have led, you then and only then note down the contract on your scorecard (or 'phone) while dummy is going down.

8. At the end of play confirm the tricks taken. Do not discuss the hand.

9. Return the cards to the board. Confirm the score. Do not discuss the hand.

10. Note down the score. Do not discuss the hand.

11. Play the next hand. Confirm the tricks and score and return the cards to the board.

12. When you have finished the round – if you have time – discuss the hands. If you discuss

before you finish the round you waste time, putting yourself under pressure to play too quickly.

13. At the end of the round: if you are N/S, work out which table the boards go to and where the next come from. If you are E/W: note which pair you will be following for the rest of the session. Now you will be ready ASAP to start the next rounds without wasting your own time. The less time you waste the more you have for actual play.

Bridge trains your ability to focus and concentrate: do not be distracted by the basic movement of pairs and boards. Get used to it. Remember - the same thing happens every round, every week.

**Kit Jackson,
Bridge in Balham.**

ARCHETYPAL

I'm a frustrated teacher with a backlog of novice players. Clubs in the area are either very expensive, by invitation only, already full up or too advanced.

I am trying to piggyback onto one of the full-up clubs by starting supervised bridge next week at their premises with a view to seeing if they might take on a 2nd night per week in due course.

I have decided not to start a new beginners class this year due to this problem. In fact there are no new beginners classes starting the new bridge season (2018 – 2019) for the very same reason.

Name and address supplied.

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

**Letters may be edited for
length and clarity.**



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

2019 Mr Bridge Cruises

Canaries Christmas & Madeira Winter Warmth



5th Jan 2019 • Sail from Southampton
14 nights • *Balmoral* • L1901

From **£1,239^{pp}**

Lisbon: Portugal • Funchal: Madeira
Santa Cruz: La Palma • Santa Cruz:
Tenerife • Las Palmas: Gran Canaria • Gran
Tarajal: Fuerteventura • La Coruña: Spain

Islands of the Mediterranean



2nd Apr 2019 • Sail from Southampton
17 nights • *Balmoral* • L1904

From **£2,049^{pp}**

Malaga, Cartagena, Ibiza, Mahon,
Menorca: All Spain • Ajaccio: Corsica,
France • Olbia: Sardinia • Palma, Mallorca,
Cádiz: All Spain • Lisbon: Portugal

Capital Cities of the Baltic



9th May 2019 • Sail from Newcastle
14 nights • *Balmoral* • L1907

From **£1,619^{pp}**

Copenhagen: Denmark Stockholm:
Sweden (overnight) • Helsinki: Finland
St. Petersburg: Russia (overnight)
Tallinn: Estonia • Oslo: Norway

The Best of the Fjords in Seven Nights



25th Jul 2019 • Sail from Rosyth
7 nights • *Balmoral* • L1916

From **£999^{pp}**

Rosyth • Bergen, Flam, Olden, Hellesylt:
All Norway

Cruising European Rivers & Canals



7th Aug 2019 • Sail from Newcastle
9 nights • *Balmoral* • L1919

From **£1,149^{pp}**

Amsterdam: Netherlands • Antwerp:
Belgium • Rouen & Honfleur: Both France

Cruising German Waterways



27th Sep 2019 • Sail from Newcastle
9 nights • *Balmoral* • L1925

From **£1,049^{pp}**

Warnemünde, Hamburg, Bremen: All
Germany

Spanish City Discovery



24th Oct 2019 • Sail from Southampton
15 nights • *Balmoral* • L1928

From **£1,709^{pp}**

Cádiz, Malaga, Cartagena, Palma
Mallorca, Barcelona, Valencia, Vigo,
La Coruña: All Spain

Christmas Markets



29th Nov 2019 • Sail from Southampton
9 nights • *Balmoral* • L1931

From **£999^{pp}**

Bruges (from Zeebrugge): Belgium
Oslo: Norway • Copenhagen: Denmark
Warnemünde & Hamburg: Both Germany

Canaries Christmas & Funchal Fireworks



22nd Dec 2019 • Sail from Southampton
15 nights • *Balmoral* • L1933

From **£2,099^{pp}**

Casablanca: Morocco • Santa Cruz:
Tenerife • Las Palmas: Gran Canaria
Santa Cruz: La Palma • Funchal: Madeira
Lisbon: Portugal

Contact **Mr Bridge** to book now on **01483 489 961**
or visit **www.mrbridge.co.uk**

*Bringing the
world closer*

These Terms and Conditions are in addition to Fred. Olsen's standard Terms and Conditions which are available on Fred. Olsen's website, www.fredolsencruises.com and / on request. Both must be read before booking. Information shown is correct at time of going to press (October 2018). Prices are per person, based on standard occupancy of the lead-in room, subject to availability. Prices are capacity controlled and may change at any time. Call for latest prices. Cruise descriptions include optional, chargeable experiences that may be enjoyed independently and/or with optional Fred. Olsen Shore Tours. Shore Tours are subject to availability and service operation. Some ports may be at anchor; intermediate days are at sea. We reserve the right to amend itineraries for operational reasons. E&OE



Mr Bridge Holidays - Croatia 2019

Hotel Eden, Rovinj

4-18 May 2019

from £1499 per person sharing

**or one week from £1139 per person sharing
4-11 May or 11-18 May**

Hosted by Will & Sylvia Parsons

Rovinj is situated on the western coast of Istria in Croatia, the largest peninsula on the Adriatic coastline, a one hour drive from Trieste, 2 ½ hours from Zagreb. Boasting a rich natural and cultural heritage with beautiful landmarks such as the old town, the Golden Cape Park Forest, protected islands and coastal area, Rovinj has many loyal visitors from all parts of the globe and has developed into a popular tourist destination. The climate is warm and semi-dry, there are 134 sunny days in a year, which makes Rovinj the third sunniest spot in the Adriatic.

Hotel Eden is wedged right between a peninsula covered by a one hundred year old park forest and a quiet cove. The old city centre of Rovinj is just a 20 minute walk away.



Will & Sylvia Parsons

Bridge:

Land based holidays

allow time for a full bridge programme, which gives you the opportunity to enhance your bridge skills, but there is also time to both visit the local area and just sit back and relax. Over the fortnight the bridge programme includes four seminar & set hand sessions, duplicate bridge every evening, a teams event and the ever popular bidding quiz. You can play as much or as little as you wish and the excursions* are fitted around the bridge programme to maximise your enjoyment.

Singles: There is a sole occupancy supplement of £12 per room per night. If you are a single bridge player please do not worry about being on your own. We will always be able to find you a partner and you can always have a game. As well as there being other singles in the same situation as yourself, there is the Mr Bridge team who will be happy to partner you if required.



Call Mr Bridge on 01483 489961 or visit www.mrbridge.co.uk

Half board only, including flights from Gatwick. Flights from Birmingham, Manchester & Edinburgh may be available at a supplement. Terms and conditions apply. These holidays have been organised for Mr Bridge by Great Little Escapes LLP, ATOL 5933.

*Excursions are not included in the price of the holiday.