

ENGLISH



BRIDGE

The EBU members' magazine – December 2020 – Issue 291



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OVERSEAS CALENDAR

DATE	RESORT	HOLIDAY TYPE	NTS
08 Jan	Playa La Arena Hotel Tenerife	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7-28
29 Jan	Rubicon Palace Hotel Lanzarote	Duplicate	7-14
01 Apr	Paloma Oceana Hotel Side Turkey	Duplicate, Boule & Mahjong	7-21
01 May	MS Infinity Bridge Cruise Croatia	Duplicate & Quiz	7
04 May	SBU Albufera Playa Mallorca	Scottish Bridge Congress	7
06 May	Sentido Aegean/Pearl Hotels Crete	Duplicate	7-14
17 May	Westhill Hotel St Helier Jersey	Duplicate	5
06 Jun	Hotel Torretta Montecatini Italy	Duplicate & Walking	10
19 Jun	Royal Park Hotel Stockholm Sweden	Duplicate & Chess	7
27 Jun	Ramsey Park Isle Of Man	Duplicate	6
05 Sep	Hotel Torretta Montecatini Italy	Duplicate & Walking	10
14 Sep	Westhill Hotel St Helier Jersey	Duplicate	5
18 Sep	Turunc Premium Hotel Turkey	Duplicate, Chess & Poker	7-28
18 Sep	Luxury Gulet Cruise Turkey	Social	7
25 Sep	Barcelo Ponent Hotel Mallorca	Duplicate & Social	7-14
28 Sep	IBF Sol House Costa Del Sol	Irish Bridge Festival	7-14
03 Oct	Creta Panorama Hotel Crete	Duplicate	14
17 Oct	Athena Beach Hotel Paphos Cyprus	Duplicate, Chess & Bowls	7-28
23 Oct	Marina Playa Hotel Mojacar	Family Mind Sports	7
15 Nov	Founty Beach Hotel Morocco	Duplicate & Social	7-14
22 Dec	Athena Beach Hotel Paphos Cyprus	Duplicate, Chess & Bowls	7-14
08 Jan	Playa La Arena Hotel Tenerife	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7-28

UK CALENDAR

DATE	RESORT	HOLIDAY TYPE	NTS
24 Dec	St Johns Hotel Solihull CHRISTMAS	Duplicate & Quiz	4
30 Dec	St Johns Hotel Solihull NEW YEAR	Duplicate & Quiz	3
13 Jan	Charingworth Manor Hotel Exclusive Use Hotel	Duplicate & Quiz	4
18 Jan	St Kilda Hotel Llandudno	Duplicate & Quiz	5
07 Feb	Grovefield House Hotel Nr Windsor Exclusive Use Hotel	Duplicate & Quiz	4
21 Feb	The Hickstead Hotel Bolney	Duplicate & Quiz	4
08 Mar	Charingworth Manor Hotel Exclusive Use Hotel	Duplicate, Quiz & Walking	4
11 Mar	The Old Swan Hotel Harrogate	Bridge Club Live Reunion	4/5
26 Mar	Wychwood Park Hotel Cheshire	Duplicate	3
01 Apr	Holiday Inn Hotel Ironbridge	Duplicate	4
16 Apr	Whitehouse Hotel Worcester	Duplicate	4
25 Apr	The Old Ship Hotel Brighton	Duplicate & Quiz	4
09 May	Guyers House Hotel Nr Bath	Duplicate & Croquet	4
27 May	Rose & Crown Hotel Salisbury	Duplicate & Quiz	4
01 Jun	Belton Woods Hotel Grantham	Duplicate, Quiz & Golf	4
06 Jun	Croyde Bay Hotel & Resort	Duplicate & Quiz	6
20 Jun	Chilworth Manor Hotel	Duplicate & Walking	4
27 Jun	Ramsey Park Hotel Isle of Man	Duplicate, Quiz & Trips	6
11 Jul	Grovefield House Nr Windsor	Duplicate & Quiz	4
26 Jul	The Old Swan Hotel Harrogate	Duplicate & Relaxed	4
09 Aug	Holiday Inn Hotel Kenilworth	Duplicate & Quiz	3
15 Aug	Holiday Inn Hotel Kew Gardens	Duplicate & Gardens	4

English Bridge

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Getting the magazine

by the Editor, Lou Hobhouse



Keeping in touch with members

I'm writing this in the first week of Lockdown 2 but hope that, when you receive the magazine, England will be poised to emerge from the latest restrictions. Fingers crossed we'll be a month closer to a vaccine, a month closer to F2F bridge and we might know *for sure* whether Donald Trump is prepared to pack his suitcase . . .

MAGAZINE POINTS

The EBU has taken the unusual step of sending the magazine to everyone who was eligible to receive one back in April. You may know that each time you play in an EBU-licensed tournament (such as regular club nights and virtual club nights) you earn *Magazine Points* - one per event. You can accumulate up to a total of 12 points (but no more) and each paper magazine costs two points. As long as you play once a month or more, you will have enough points for every issue.

Of course all that has changed with the widespread loss of club bridge, and some members who have not taken the plunge to play online have run out of points. However, the EBU is committed to trying to keep in touch with all members during this strange year and the magazine is an excellent way of doing this, but it can't last forever.

If you are not playing regular bridge which is affiliated to the EBU you might like to consider becoming a Direct Member which includes the magazine and all the other benefits of membership, without the need to play regularly. Subscriptions start in April, but if you sign up for next year now you will also receive the February issue of *English Bridge* as a thank you. See page 60.

NEW MEMBERS

We've picked up a fair few new members who were playing in unaffiliated clubs and have joined a local virtual club. That is an unexpected bonus and we welcome you all, and hope you enjoy this

magazine and the other benefits of being a member such as the National Grading Scheme. The NGS is a great way to monitor your bridge performance although, believe me, it can go up and down very fast, particularly at the start before a full 2,000 boards are taken into account. We hope you will want to remain a member when F2F bridge returns. We have a lively Letters page in the magazine and it's a good place to make a point. However, we don't publish personal attacks or 'rants'!

MR BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Mr Bridge is sadly stopping his eponymous publication this month, and I'm sure his subscribers will be very sorry to see the last issue. Here's to wishing Mr Bridge a happy and well-earned retirement.

I feel some responsibility to plug the gap that Mr Bridge will leave. There is not the money to produce this magazine with a glossy cover, and return to a larger size, but I will be looking to include more articles for less-experienced players.

Recent members may be unaware that *English Bridge* used to be a full-sized magazine. The cost was unjustified and a decision was made to reduce its physical size to the largest possible that can still be posted as a 'standard', rather than a 'large' letter. This has meant that articles sometimes look tighter, but the font we use and the size of the text did not change when we downsized.

The move was largely popular – in the old days when people still used public transport it was much easier to carry and read, and the shape and size works better for those who choose to read it online.

SEASONS GREETINGS

I hope there's a chance for all members to enjoy December's festivities, and that there's lots of happy bridge in 2021, in whatever form it comes. □



Christmas Quiz 2020

by Andrew Robson

Andrew Robson is once again our master compiler to test your bridge brain. Send in your answers for a chance to **win our most coveted prizes:**

The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

has again very generously donated a double-pack of the most recent Master's playing cards. This set commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, and continues an annual tradition of Masters' cards dating back to 1882.

Each pack is edged in gilt, and the twin packs of cards are presented in a beautiful blue leather case, and are limited to 350 sets. The cards also come with a booklet about the cards and the Battle of Britain.

The Kings show Winston Churchill and senior RAF officers during the battle; the Queens show the RAF's fighter aircraft and the Jacks show the Air Defence System. The Aces depict some of the actual Battle of Britain Aces, who were so successful in shooting down the Luftwaffe aircraft shown on the Jokers.

First prize



Second prize

£50 EBU credit

You are South in each problem. Which of the three selected bids would you find at the key moment and why?

♠ K Q 10 9 4
♥ 3
♦ K Q J 2
♣ 7 4 2

Q1 Love All. Pairs.				
W	N	E	S	
	1♥	Pass	1♠	
Pass	2♥	Pass	?	

Choose from: (a) Pass; (b) 2♠; (c) 2NT; (d) 3♦.

♠ A 8 6 3 2
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 8 2
♣ A 9 4

Q2 Love All. Teams.				
W	N	E	S	
	1♥	Pass	1♠	
Pass	3♦	Pass	?	

Choose from: (a) 3♥; (b) 3NT; (c) 4♦.

♠ J 8 3 2
♥ Q 10 3
♦ A Q 9
♣ J 6 4

Q3 Love All. Teams.				
W	N	E	S	
	1♠	Pass	3♠	
Pass	4♣	Pass	?	

Choose from: (a) 4♦; (b) 4♠; (c) 4NT.

Here are two opening lead problems. There are five marks for Andrew's chosen lead in each case, and consolation marks for reasonable alternatives. You are playing Teams.

Q4 ♠ K 10 5
♥ J 7 3
♦ 9 5 3
♣ Q 10 5 3

North	South
	1♥
1♠	2♣
3♣	3NT

Q5 ♠ K 9 7 5 3
♥ K 3
♦ 5 3
♣ 8 6 5 3

W	N	E	S
			1♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦ ²	Pass	6♥

Pass Pass Dble All Pass
¹ Jacoby, showing a game-forcing heart raise
² 1 or 4 of the '5 aces'

Cont/...

Which of the following three South hands would bid according to the sequence given? What should the other two do differently? Assume you are playing Duplicate Pairs. In each case neither side is vulnerable. Each question is worth six marks for the correct answer, and a further two marks for giving the correct alternative bidding for the other hands – in Andrew's opinion.

Q6

Love All. Pairs.				
W	N	E	S	
	1NT ¹	Pass	Pass	
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♣	
¹ 12-14				

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

Q7

Love All. Pairs.				
W	N	E	S	
1♥	1♠	3♥	3♠	

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

Q8

Love All. Pairs.				
W	N	E	S	
			1♥	
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♠	
¹ Fourth suit forcing to game				

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

Here are two declarer-play problems. You are playing Teams. Five marks for the correct answer in each case.

Q9

You reach 3NT after opening 1♥. North correctly raises to 2♥ (yes, even in Acol, this three-card raise is better than 1NT), and South jumps to 3NT. West leads the ♠4 and East plays the ♠J. Plan the play.

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

Q10

You reach 6♠ after opening 1♠ and partner jumping to 3♠. You bid 4♣, best played as a natural, length-showing *trial bid* (not merely an ace-showing cue bid); North loves their black-suit holdings and jumps to 5♠, and you go on to 6♠. West leads a passive ♠3 and East follows. Plan the play.

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

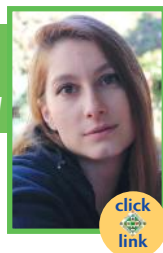
Happy Christmas!



COME ON! GIVE IT A GO

Send your entries by email or post not later than 31st December. By email: lou@ebu.co.uk or

Lou Hobhouse, Raggett House, Bowdens, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0DD.



Transfers over 1NT

When I first introduced the 1NT opening and looked at how you should respond to it, I kept things very simple by suggesting that bidding two of a suit said ‘please pass, I’d like to play here (this is called weak take-out) and bidding three of a suit said ‘I have five of these and a hand that would like to play in game – please choose your game’.

This method has the upside that it is very simple but it comes with significant technical downsides:

- ❖ you can’t find 4-4 major fits;
- ❖ you can’t show a game forcing hand with two suits; and
- ❖ you can’t invite rather than force to game.

In addition, when you have a weak hand facing a stronger hand it is usually better for the strong hand to declare, because that gives less information to the opponents and because it means that the opening lead will come round into the strong hand, not through it. This means that using a weak take-out (1NT:2x) is really unappealing as the weak hand ends up playing the contract.

We have already resolved the issue of finding 4-4 major fits by introducing Stayman. In this issue we will look at using transfers to fix the rest. There are (as always!) lots of different ways to play transfers but I will introduce what I consider to be the simplest form of the method that resolves the problems that I’ve outlined.

A transfer is when you bid the suit below the one that you hold, asking partner to bid that suit for you. The two important transfers to play over 1NT are 1NT:2♦, showing at least five hearts, and 1NT:2♥, showing at least five spades. When you make a transfer bid, partner **must** ‘complete the transfer’ – they must bid your suit, no matter what they hold. You haven’t asked their opinion about the suit, you’ve just said ‘please bid the next suit up – it is my suit’. Note that they have promised at least two cards in every suit by opening 1NT so they can’t really hate it anyway!

SUMMARY

1NT:2♦ = ‘I have at least five hearts. Please bid 2♥ partner’

1NT:2♥ = ‘I have at least five spades. Please bid 2♠ partner’

Once partner has obliged by bidding your suit at the 2-level you can then show the rest of your hand:

- ❖ **Pass** if you would like to play there (you have a weak hand with 5+ cards in the suit. Don’t forget that partner must have at least two cards in each suit to open 1NT).
- ❖ **Bid 2NT** to say ‘I have an invitational hand with five cards in the suit I’ve told you about. Would you like to play in game and, if so, which one?’ Partner can now bid 3NT or four of your major with a maximum or pass or bid three of your major with a minimum, depending on whether or not they have a fit with you.
- ❖ **Bid three of your major** to say ‘I have an invitational hand with **six** cards in the suit I’ve told you about. Would you like to play in game?’ Partner can now pass with a minimum or bid game with a maximum. You must have at least an 8-card fit because partner is balanced.
- ❖ **Bid a new suit** to say ‘I have five cards in the first suit that I showed, and at least four cards in this suit, and a hand that would like to play in game. Please tell me more about your hand.’ Partner will usually support one of your suits or bid 3NT.
- ❖ **Bid 3NT** to say ‘I have five cards in the first suit I showed and a balanced hand. Which game would you like to play in’. This shows a balanced hand because with an unbalanced hand you’d either have six or more cards in your major or a second suit to bid.
- ❖ **Bid 4 of your suit** to say ‘I have a six card suit and I would like to play here’.

This sounds like a lot of options, but don’t be put off! It can be remembered very simply like this: pass with a weak hand, bid 2NT or three of your major

to invite and bid naturally with a game-forcing hand. All of it is pretty natural if you remember that *you have already told partner that you have five of the suit you showed via the transfer* – you don't need to repeat this information.

The reason that transfers to the majors are the most important ones to play is that game in a major is at a lower level than game in a minor. If you have a minor fit you will usually try to play 3NT, not 5♣ or ♦. This means that finding your major fits is important and having the ability to invite in a major is too, so we give up the ability to play in 2♦ – this is always a transfer if you and your partner have agreed to play transfers – in order to gain the ability to invite in a major and to have more flexibility and space in auctions when you are game forcing with a major suit.

Let's have a look at some hands. In all cases, assume that partner opens 1NT (showing 12-14 points and a balanced hand) and that, if you transfer, they will complete the transfer. What is your plan for the auction?

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

Hand 1 Bid 2♥, transfer to 2♠, and then pass. You aren't strong enough to look for game but 2♠ will surely be a better contract than 1NT. Think about how many tricks your hand is worth if spades are trumps – probably five – vs if you play in 1NT,

where if partner has two low spades you might just take one spade trick (opposite will duck the ace of spades to prevent you running the suit).

Hand 2 Bid 2♦, transfer to 2♥, and then bid 3NT to tell partner that you have a balanced, game-forcing hand with exactly five hearts. Bidding 2♦ promises at least five hearts and bidding 3NT says that you have a balanced hand – so not more than five and no second suit worth a mention.

Hand 3 This is a trap! You don't have a five-card major so you can't transfer. This hand should bid 2♣, Stayman, to look for a major fit. You can then bid 4♣ or 3NT depending on partner's response.

Hand 4 You have six spades so start by bidding 2♥ to transfer to spades. I would then raise to 3♠ on this hand, showing six spades (I'd bid 2NT with only five) and inviting partner to bid game with a maximum. I would usually want 11 points to invite with a balanced hand but having a six card major makes the hand worth more than its point count suggests.

Hand 5 Bid 2♦, transfer to 2♥, and then 3♣. This shows a game forcing hand with five hearts and four clubs (although you might turn out to have extra length in either of your suits). Partner will now bid 3♥ if they have three hearts with you, 4♣ if they really love clubs (remember, you'd usually prefer to play 3NT with a minor suit fit) or 3NT. Advanced: If they hold something like ♠KQxxx ♥Ax ♦xxx ♣KQx they might bid 3♠ to tell you that they a) have spades and b) are worried about the diamonds, as this is now the only unbid suit. You could then raise this to 4♠ as you have no help in diamonds but do have as many spades as you possibly could.

Hand 6 Transfer to 2♥ by bidding 2♦ and then pass. Your hand is terrible but it'll be a lot less terrible in 2♥ than in 1NT!

Hand 7 You don't have a five card major and you do have a balanced hand so I would just bid 3NT to play. With 12 points, good spot cards, and a decent five card suit it is clear to bid game rather than inviting.

Hand 8 You have five spades so start by bidding 2♥ to transfer to 2♠. With a balanced 11 count I would invite by bidding 2NT now. If partner bids 3♠, showing a spade fit but declining the invitation, I would pass. If partner wanted to accept the invitation, they would bid 3NT or 4♠. □



Make the Opponents do the Work 2

This article continues the theme of making the opponents do the work. The art is to put them on lead at the precise moment they can do the most damage – to themselves. You want the opposition to open up a frozen suit, maybe, or to lead into a tenace or to offer up a fatal ruff-and-discard.

These plays, *endplays*, need lots of practice, so let's provide you with some. In these examples you have to do some preliminary work by removing the oppositions' *exit cards*. We call such plays *eliminations*.

In this first hand you open 1♠ and are soon propelled into 6♠ by partner. How should you play after West leads the ♦J?

South plays in 6♠.
West leads the ♦J.

♠ A Q 10 7
♥ A J 10
♦ K 4
♣ A K 7 3



♠ K J 8 6 4
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ A Q
♣ Q 8

The duplication in diamonds is irritating – the ♦AKQ are worth only two tricks. Still, the contract is a good one – you could simply draw trumps and rely on West having a heart honour by taking the *double finesse* in hearts. That is, you play a heart to the ten and, after it loses, repeat the process by finessing hearts again. You'd only fail in your slam if East held both king and queen of hearts, so this is effectively a 76% slam.

However ... can you improve your chances? The answer, of course, is **Yes, you can** (unless trumps break 4-0). Win the diamond lead somewhere, draw

trumps cash another diamond, play three rounds of clubs and ruff the last club in hand.

In essence all you have left is hearts and spades; you have **eliminated the minor suits**. Now you play a heart to the ten and watch East squirm. When he takes the trick he has no possible card of exit – anything he leads gives you the contract. He has been well and truly endplayed. Here's the full deal:

South plays 6♠. West leads the ♦J

♠ A Q 10 7
♥ A J 10
♦ K 4
♣ A K 7 3

♠ 5 2
♥ 9 5 3
♦ J 10 9 7
♣ J 9 6 2

♠ 9 3
♥ K Q 8
♦ 8 6 5 3 2
♣ 10 5 4

♠ K J 8 6 4
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ A Q
♣ Q 8

As soon as West led the ♦J, the contract was solid. It takes an unlikely heart lead to defeat your slam. For the record, this is an *elimination-and-endplay*. Satisfying to bring off, don't you think, especially in a slam contract? On the topic of slams, how might you fare here?

South plays in 6♦.
West leads the ♠8.

♠ J 2
♥ A J 3
♦ K Q 8 4 2
♣ 9 5 2



♠ A 4
♥ K 7 2
♦ A J 9 7 6 5
♣ A K

It might be appropriate to mention the bidding here. You open 1♦, North raises to 3♦ and East, rude fellow that he is, jumps to 4♠. You decide to take a pot at 6♦ and West leads an inevitable spade.

Your *Count and Plan* reveals a sure spade loser and a possible heart loser. Should you draw trumps, then, and simply rely on the heart finesse?

Why, though, rely on a 50% shot when you have an almost certain line of play for your contract? You have a clear elimination-and-endplay as East surely has the ♠KQ and can be stuck on lead with one of them to lead hearts. First, though, you have to strip East of his clubs.

You win trick one, draw trumps and start to eliminate clubs by cashing the ♣AK. Then you cross to dummy with a trump and ruff away the last club, eliminating that suit. With the stage set, you exit with a spade and put East on lead. That play can only offer up a ruff-and-discard or lead a heart into your tenace. Heads you win, tails he loses. Here's the full deal:

South plays 6♦. West leads the ♠8

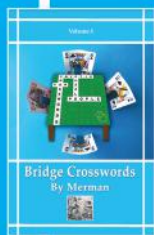
♠ 8	♠ J 2	
♥ 9 6 4	♥ A J 3	
♦ 10 3	♦ K Q 8 4 2	
♣ Q J 8 7 6 4 3	♣ 9 5 2	
		♠ K Q 10 9 7 6 5 3
		♥ Q 10 8 5
		♦ –
		♣ 10
		♠ A 4
		♥ K 7 2
		♦ A J 9 7 6 5
		♣ A K

As the cards lie it was unnecessary to ruff the third club in hand as East was out of the suit anyway. Still, it is the principle we are concerned with here.

Your *elimination and endplay* makes a certainty of your slam and earns you the gratitude of your partner. For a while, anyway. ☐

Have you got it?
Paul's quiz is online p67

Q. What's afoot? (1,8,6)



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

All county events advertised have an EBU licence.

NOTE: Members playing in events licensed by another National Bridge Organisation will not be able to have Master Points credited to their records save for events in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, New Zealand and Australia. The conversion of Green Points to Gold Points will only happen at English events, the BGB Gold Cup and Home Internationals.

Heffalump Traps

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

Hand 1

♠ A Q 5
♥ 7 4
♦ A J 8 3
♣ A 9 7 5



♠ K J 10 8 7
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ 5 2
♣ 8 3

You are in 4♠ after East overcalled 1♥. West leads the ♥9 and East the ♥2. Plan your play.

Hand 2

♠ A Q 7 4 3
♥ 6
♦ 7 6 4 3
♣ 10 6 2



♠ 8 5
♥ A K 5 4
♦ K J 8 2
♣ A K Q

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♥Q. Plan your play.

Hand 3

♠ J 8
♥ A 7
♦ A J 10 4
♣ A K 9 8 5



♠ K 6 4 3
♥ K 8
♦ Q 9 7 5 3
♣ 6 3

You are in 3NT after East makes a 1♠ overcall. West leads the ♠7 and East covers dummy's card. Plan your play.

Hand 4

♠ 8 6 3
♥ A 5
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 8 7 4 3 2



♠ A K Q J 4 2
♥ K 7 3
♦ A 6
♣ 10 5

You are in 4♠. West leads the ♥J. Plan your play.

David Bakhshi gives the answers on page 38

CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

You are sitting West. What should you bid with each hand below on the given auction at matchpoint pairs, N-S Vulnerable?

Hand 1

♠ Q 7 6 3
♥ K J 10 6 5 4
♦ A 6
♣ 4

W	N	E	S
			1NT
?			

Hand 2

♠ K 10 5
♥ A K J 5 3
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ 9

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

Hand 3

♠ 2
♥ K J 8 5
♦ K Q 8 7 3
♣ Q 10 4

W	N	E	S
2♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
?		2♣	Pass

Hand 4

♠ J 7 6
♥ 9 3
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A K J 9 3

W	N	E	S
	1♠	Pass	2NT ^A
?			

^A Game forcing spade raise

Hand 5

♠ J 4
♥ 10 7 3
♦ A K 6
♣ K Q 10 9 8

W	N	E	S
2♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
?		2♣	Pass

Hand 6

♠ Q 10 5 4
♥ A J 9 3
♦ 6 2
♣ 9 3 2

W	N	E	S
		1♥	3♦ ^A
?			

^A Weak jump overcall

Julian Pottage gives the answers on page 62



Finding a way

N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ K 9 8
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ 8 7 4
 ♣ K 8 5 3

♠ Q 4 3
 ♥ J 8
 ♦ A Q 6 3
 ♣ 10 6 4 2

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

West leads the ♣2: 3-J-Q

Declarer plays the ♠5: 4-K-2, then the ♠8: 10-J-Q

How should West continue?

How many hearts has South shown?

South has shown four or more hearts.

How many spades does South have?

Initially, South might have had four spades. The 2♥ bid showed 4+ hearts and 5+ spades. Since East has followed to two spades, you know that South began with exactly five spades (two with partner, three in dummy and three with you).

Partner might have played the ♣J from an ♣A-J holding or partner could have the ♦K? Is there any clue to help you?

When you have idle cards which have no special purpose, they can be harnessed as suit-preference signals. Partner began with the ♠102. One generally plays low-high with an even number of trumps or high-low with an odd number of trumps if you want a ruff. You can use the ♠102 to ask for a diamond (play ♠10, then ♠2) or to deny interest in diamonds (♠2, then ♠10). Playing ♠10, then ♠2, an abnormal order will be a suit-preference signal.

Playing ♠2, then ♠10, does not have any suit preference overtones other than no strong interest in diamonds.

Partner played ♠2, then ♠10. That denied interest in diamonds. Therefore, continue with a low club. Here's the full deal:

South plays 4♣. West leads the ♣2

♠ K 9 8
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ 8 7 4
 ♣ K 8 5 3

♠ Q 4 3
 ♥ J 8
 ♦ A Q 6 3
 ♣ 10 6 4 2

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

♠ A J 7 6 5
 ♥ K 7 5 4
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ Q 9

The deal arose in the semi-finals of a Seniors' Teams and a Women's Teams. After winning the ♠Q, a club or a heart shift can beat 4♣, but a low club is best.

In the Seniors, 4♣ was played three times, but defeated only once via the recommended defence. At each table, the lead was the ♣2 and the play went as described up to West's ♠Q winning.

The importance of playing a low club at trick four can be seen from the result when West switched to the ♠10. It went five – seven – nine. Declarer could win the heart switch, draw the missing trump with the ♠9 and ruff the ♣8. When the ♣A fell, South had a discard for a diamond loser, +620. At the third table, West won the ♠Q and switched to the ♦A, –620. The fourth South was in 3♠ and made 11 tricks, +200.

In the Women's semis, three Souths were in 4♣, all –100, and one played in 4♥, –300. □



Stefan Götel's Discretion

'Are you boys looking forward to Christmas?' asked the Matron.

'It depends what presents I get,' John Hutson replied. 'I was out of luck last year. What use is a World Atlas or, even worse, an orange pullover? I haven't worn it once.'

'I'll have to cut your hair this evening,' continued the Matron. 'We don't want your parents thinking some down-and-out tramp has invaded their home.'

The players drew their cards for this deal:

Game All. Dealer North.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
The Matron	Neil Phillips	Stefan Götel	John Hutson
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
	6♥	All Pass	

The Matron looked disapprovingly to her left. 'Whoever heard of bidding a slam without using Blackwood?' she demanded. 'That's not how Stefan and I bid.'

The ♦K was led and Neil Phillips put down his cards. 'Better just to blast it with a shapely hand like this,' he replied.

John Hutson won with the ♦A. It seemed obvious to play the ♣A for a diamond discard. After such a

start, though, the defenders would know that their only chance was to score two trump tricks. There would be no chance of inducing a crash of the ace and king of trumps.

Hutson could spot a different line – one that might cause the defenders more of a problem. He played dummy's ace and king of spades, all following, and called for the spade queen. Stefan Götel considered the situation. Declarer presumably didn't hold the ♣A or he would have used it to discard dummy's diamond loser. He must have started with two spades and be hoping that one of the defenders would now have to ruff with the bare ace of trumps.

When Götel's ♥4 appeared on the table, Hutson overruffed. He cashed the ♣A, discarding dummy's remaining diamond, and led a low trump. The two top honours appeared and the slam was made.

'Don't ruff the spade, Stefan!' exclaimed the Matron. 'Then we make two trump tricks.'

'Yes, but he played it well,' Götel replied. 'I placed you with the ♣A when he didn't take a diamond discard on it at trick two. In that case, you couldn't hold the ♥K.'

The Matron looked blankly at her partner. That may be a passable excuse where Stefan came from. Over here, small slams were expected to go down when the defenders held two certain trump tricks.

A few rounds later, the Matron and Stefan Götel faced the Headmaster and Reverend Benson.

'I am so much looking forwards to my Christmas in Bad Godesberg,' Götel informed them. 'On Christmas Eve the Immanuelkirche becomes so full, you have to arrive one hour early to find a seat near the front.'


The Headmaster, who had already sorted his cards, pointed at the board to be played.

'It's just the opposite in my classes,' Götel continued. 'The boys prefer to sit at the back of the classroom!'

‘Very interesting, I’m sure’ said the Headmaster heavily. ‘Shall we start this one?’

‘The school chapel will be packed for tomorrow’s last service of term,’ observed the Reverend Benson. ‘Not that the boys have any option, of course.’

This was the next board:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>The Matron</i>	<i>Reverend Benson</i>	<i>Stefan Götel</i>	<i>The Headmaster</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

The Matron could see no future in a spade lead once the Headmaster had shown four cards in the suit. She led the ♠J and down went the dummy. ‘Thirteen points and a dog in every kennel,’ observed the Reverend Benson. ‘You shouldn’t have any problems with this one.’

‘Play the queen,’ said the Headmaster. How tiresome it was when the dummy insisted on making such fatuous comments. His mood did not improve when the ♣K appeared from East. He ducked the first trick and won the club continuation.

With only seven top tricks on view, the Headmaster had little option but to play on hearts. He led the ♥10 and was surprised to see it win the trick. When he tried his luck with a second heart, the Matron paused to consider her discard. Why had the Headmaster won the second round of clubs, rather than the third? Perhaps he had started with only two clubs. In that case Stefan’s suit would be ready to run! Wait a minute. Her ♣10 was the highest club out, wasn’t it? How unlucky. She would

have to win the third round and would then have no club to play.

Stefan Götel knew the club position and was steeling himself to show no reaction if the Matron went wrong on this trick. His worries dissipated when she eventually placed the ♣10 on the table. He won with the ♥A and scored four club tricks to put the game two down. ‘Excellent defence, Matron,’ he said.

The Reverend Benson leaned forward. ‘Is it any better if you win the first round of clubs?’ he queried.

‘Of course not,’ the Headmaster replied. ‘Stefan holds up the ♥A twice, and the Matron can throw both her blocking clubs.’

‘Ah yes,’ said Benson.

Stefan Götel returned his cards to the board. If he held up the ace of hearts twice, the Headmaster would have two heart tricks – enough for the contract. Amazingly, winning the first club trick was the winning line. Should he point it out? No, keeping quiet would be his Christmas present to the Headmaster. □

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Playing at Trick Two

Now that we've finished our diversion into the world of counting, we can continue our trek through the stages of defence. We had previously looked at third hand play, so it is only natural to see what would follow. And what follows is trick two.

The act of playing third hand high is, in essence, an attempt to win the trick, so it only makes sense to investigate what to do should we be so lucky as to remain on lead. The most common and well-respected mantra is to return partner's suit. Partner has presumably put a great deal of thought into the opening lead, deeming it the best course of action, and it might look a bit insulting to switch to something else.

Yes, yes. I know. Partner's leads are often shocking, but it does best in the long run to assume that they aren't. So when in doubt, lead back partner's suit. Seems easy enough.

Partner's ♠5 suggests that he has led from an honour, so there doesn't seem much else to do other than return a spade. But which spade?

If partner started with, say, KJxxx, it doesn't matter what we return. Declarer's ♠Qx will be gobbled up and a plus score will fall into our laps.

But what if partner has only four spades? That's okay as long as partner has a fifth trick up his sleeve and a strong spade suit. And to capitalise when his suit is good enough, we must return the ten of spades.

To score four tricks, partner's suit will need to be at least KJ95, and consider what will happen if you lead low. Declarer will cover your ♠2 and partner will be left on lead with KJ while declarer still has Qx. To pick up the suit, you need to lead through declarer twice, and as we have no other entry, this is the only time we will be on lead. We must keep that chance. The ♠10 is correct. Here's the full hand:

♠ 4
♥ A K 5
♦ K Q 8 6 2
♣ K 10 7 2

N
W E
S

♠ A 10 6 2
♥ 10 7 6 3
♦ 10 7 5
♣ 8 3

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South plays 3NT. West leads the ♠5

♠ K J 9 5
♥ 9 4
♦ A 4 3
♣ 9 6 5 4

N
W E
S

♠ A 10 6 2
♥ 10 7 6 3
♦ 10 7 5
♣ 8 3

♠ Q 8 7 3
♥ Q J 8 2
♦ J 9
♣ A Q J

Partner leads the ♠5 and we accurately play the ace (third hand high). This stunning manoeuvre has scored us a trick, but we still need four more. How will we get them?

The leading of a high card to retain the lead in one hand is a common technique, in both defence and declarer play. If you had this spade suit as declarer, you would run the ten to keep the lead. It isn't always right to lead your high card in defence

because you might need to tell partner that you have length by leading a low one. But when you need to score tricks quickly, leading high is usually right. As on the following hand.

South plays 3NT. West leads the ♥7

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

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

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

W	N	E	S
Pass	3NT	Pass	1NT
		All Pass	

Partner once read an article in *English Bridge* about why leads from AQxx are bad and so places the ♥7 on the table. Even without such a strong suit in dummy, it would be pretty clear that partner has led second highest, denying an honour.

As such, it makes sense to break our mantra and switch to a different suit. And so we will introduce another mantra. Lead through strength and up to weakness.

And what does that mean? It means that you should try to take finesses in defence. Look at the club suit. As East, leading the suit is great because you essentially finesse South's king. And you know it's likely that something like this will happen because dummy (the fourth hand to play) has no honour in clubs. Leading a diamond, even if partner had diamond honours, is unlikely to be a success because you will be leading up to strength.

With little else to go on, we decide that a club switch is best, and we play the ♣J, hoping to retain the lead, just like the last hand. As it is, declarer has no play. If he plays low, we lead another club; if he covers with the king, partner takes the rest. And now for one final hand:

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

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

W	N	E	S
Pass	3NT	Pass	1NT
		All Pass	

Partner starts the defence with the ♠J, giving us a sharp reminder as to what constitutes a shocking lead. With the ♠9 in dummy and the ♠Q marked in declarer's hand, we can see that partner has given declarer two spade tricks when he only had one.

Still, partner's duff lead doesn't give us permission to tune out; there's still a contract to be beaten.

So we rise with the ♠A (playing low would still give away two tricks) and consider our switch. A quick look at dummy confirms that diamonds is the weak suit and so that must be our point of attack. With confidence we pull the ♦Q out of our hand, and then put it back because to do otherwise would be silly. Before committing to the ♦Q, let us do some counting.

We and dummy have 23 points, leaving 17 for partner and declarer. Declarer has 12-14, so partner has 3-5, one of which was the ♠J. The most partner can have in diamonds is the ♦A. And that doesn't help us.

Declarer will score at least one diamond trick on top of the two spades, the five in clubs, and the one in hearts (with the ♥A) and that adds up to nine. Partner holding the ♦A won't help us defeat the contract, but him having the ♥A will.

A heart to the ace and the ♥10 back (top of a remaining doubleton) will score us four tricks in the suit. If we are so lucky, the cards will lie as such. I knew that I wrote an article on counting points for a reason . . . here are the defence hands:

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

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

New Prize Leads Quiz

by Alan Mould

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



SEND IN YOUR ENTRY!

Numbers have fallen. Please take part – you have a good chance of winning! Sending an email is easy peasy – but don't forget two answers – teams and pairs. lou@ebu.co.uk

A twin-pack of Piatnik playing cards is the prize on offer. For information on Piatnik cards visit www.gibsonsgames.co.uk/collections/all-cards

There are TWO categories in our competition: up to and including Master, and those with higher ranking. Please indicate the category for which you are entering with your answers. In the event of a tie, the winner from each category will be randomly selected. The editor's decision is final.

Entries to the Editor, Leads Quiz,
Raggett House, Bowdens, Langport, Somerset,
TA10 0DD

or e-mail lou@ebu.co.uk
by 31 January 2021.

Please make sure you include your full postal address AND rank even if entering by e-mail

ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER'S QUIZ: Page 42

TWO answers - Teams & Pairs

Hand 1

♠ 8 6 4 3
♥ 4
♦ 10 9 6 5 4
♣ K J 3

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥ ²	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

¹ transfer to spades; ² natural & game-forcing

Choose from: (a) a spade; (b) ♥4; (c) ♦10; (d) ♣3

★★★★★

Hand 2

♠ 9 7 3
♥ A K Q 7 3
♦ 8 7
♣ 5 4 3

South	West	North	East
1♠	1♥	Dble	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Choose from: (a) a spade; (b) ♥A/K; (c) ♥7; (d) ♦8

★★★★★

Hand 3

♠ 7 5 4
♥ K J 10 9 8 3 2
♦ 7
♣ A 5

South	West	North	East
1♠	3♥	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Choose from: (a) a spade; (b) ♥J; (c) ♥K; (d) ♦7



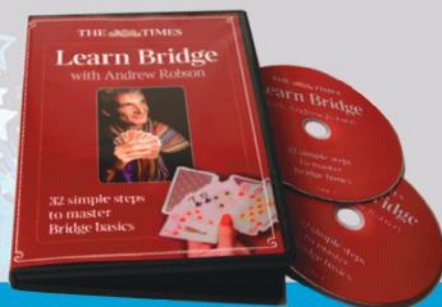
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Beat Today's Experts

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

DECEMBER 2020 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game ♠ 8 5 4 2
Dealer East ♥ Q
 ♦ K J 10
(McGrath) ♣ K Q J 8 2
2. N/S Game ♠ J 8 5 2
Dealer North ♥ 8 5 2
 ♦ K J 6
(Fergani) ♣ K 9 4
3. E/W Game ♠ K 6 5 3 2
Dealer North ♥ 4
 ♦ 8 7 4 2
(Verhees) ♣ A J 6
4. Love All ♠ Q 7
Dealer South ♥ 10 9
 ♦ 9 8 7 5 2
(Pszczola) ♣ J 9 7 5
- * South bids 3♣
5. Game All ♠ A 10 3
Dealer East ♥ A Q 10 4 2
 ♦ 4 3
(Zatorski) ♣ J 9 2
- * South overcalls 1♦ or 2♦ if necessary
6. E/W Game ♠ K 8 4
Dealer West ♥ A K
 ♦ A K 9 8 2
(Jason Hackett) ♣ 10 9 6

Did you beat the experts? – Page 47

Beat Today's Experts

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

DECEMBER 2020 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game ♠ –
Dealer East ♥ A K J 5 3 2
 ♦ A 7 4 2
(Smith) ♣ A 7 3
2. N/S Game ♠ A K 7
Dealer North ♥ A
 ♦ A Q 10 5 2
(Pollack) ♣ A Q 5 3
3. E/W Game ♠ 4
Dealer North ♥ K 9 8 7 6 2
 ♦ A K Q 6 3
(van Prooijen) ♣ 3
4. Love All ♠ K 8 3
Dealer South ♥ A K 8 7
 ♦ A K Q 6 3
(Blass) ♣ 2
- * South bids 3♣
5. Game All ♠ K Q 4
Dealer East ♥ J 8 7 6
 ♦ A Q 6
(Pachtman) ♣ Q 6 5
- * South overcalls 1♦ or 2♦ if necessary
6. E/W Game ♠ A J 7 3 2
Dealer West ♥ 10 8 4 3
 ♦ Q J 6
(Hydes) ♣ A

Did you beat the experts? – Page 47



A well-stocked resource

Quite a lot of years ago I ended up playing a match at EBU HQ in Aylesbury. It was a half-way venue. One room we played in was the 'library'. It had a lot of books in it, on shelves, on the floor and in boxes. The room also had a collection of stands, display boards and other items wholly unconnected with bridge or the library. It barely had space for a table and chairs.

It got me thinking about both the library and the history of our game. I don't think the EBU was then very conscious of its past, of keeping material, of being a useful place to do research. So I started a project to improve the 'archive' – the library and the history of our game, events and news.

The Library not only contained books and magazines casually collected over the years but also collections donated by such people as GCH Fox, Rixi Markus and Terence Reese. A look at <https://tinyurl.com/y22hqkdo> will reveal others who have donated or helped. One volunteer, Gordon Bickley*, did a tremendous job on sorting, cataloguing and repairing the many books held in the Library.

All copies of *English Bridge*, the quarterly before it and the magazines that preceded both all the way back to 1946 are online and available to read. Only the last 12 months are reserved for members. It took until September 1946 for the magazine *Contract Bridge Journal* to appear and there are a couple of issues missing in early 1947, not because they are lost for ever, but because paper rationing at the time did not allow them to be printed at all.

The Library has also benefited from a book of the

history of the game in England from 1925-1945 written by Richard Fleet and it is available to read or download and contains some fascinating information.

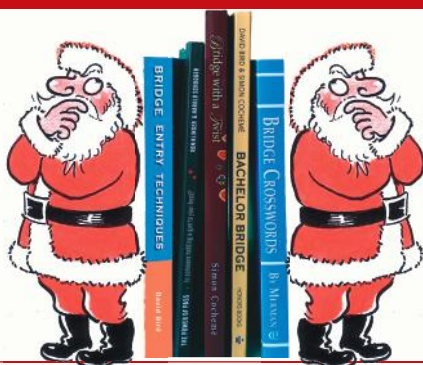
As well as the Library there was the matter of records of who, for example, had won trophies over the years. This was far from well or consistently documented and, of course, these days the web is perfect to host such data. A project began to upload the material to the website. I wondered if anyone ever looked at the data, but there was a small and steady stream of useful emails offering additions or corrections to the lists of winners – mostly from those that came top! Past results of EBU events now goes back to 2004 and details of winners, where available, go back to the inception of the trophy which in some cases is prior to World War II. These lists

will be developed further. Officials who have volunteered over the years, and those who have won EBU awards, as well as our international performance all contribute to the archive and there is more to come. Of course any help with the missing items is always very welcome.

We welcome donations of bridge books that are not in the catalogue but postage can be expensive. We are able to collect items left at an EBU congress when F2F bridge resumes or ones delivered to Aylesbury when the office is open. We already have a complete collection of *English Bridge*, *English Bridge Quarterly* and *Bridge Magazine*. You can see the catalogue at <https://tinyurl.com/y24996jn>.

*Gordon Bickley has a collection of bridge books and ephemera for sale at <https://tinyurl.com/ydb878po>

2020 BOOKS BY OUR CONTRIBUTORS



Bridge Entry Techniques - David Bird
The Power of Pass - Ron Klingner & Harold Schogger
Bridge with a Twist - Simon Cochemé
Bachelor Bridge - David Bird & Simon Cochemé
Bridge Crosswords - Merman



Doubling for One Off

An essential part of the competitive auction at any form of the game is knowing when to double for penalties. Generally, at the safer forms of the game (teams or rubber bridge) you 'take a shot' at a contract if you think it will definitely go down, and is more likely to go two down than to make. You also follow the general technique that it is safer to double games than part-scores, and there isn't much point doubling slams for penalties.

At duplicate pairs, of course, all this goes out the window. You often double contracts for one down (especially when the opponents are vulnerable, to get the magic +200) and it is perfectly acceptable to double the odd contract that makes.

This is often called a *match-point double*. However the phrase has now become a by-word for a poorly judged action where, if it makes, you declare (loudly) 'I wouldn't have doubled at teams, of course' (the *of course* being added so partner knows you are actually very clever and unlucky having just doubled a contract that made an overtrick).

In order to work out which contracts you should double you need to work out why you are doubling them.

You will often double to increase your score on a hand where you were expecting to go plus if you had declared the hand yourself. This is known as *protecting your plus score*.

If, for example, you had bid to a sensible contract of 1NT and you expect partner to score +90 or +120, as your side has 22-24 points between you, then you simply can't afford to pass out the opponents' 2♠ contract. Ironically you will be keener to double when the opponents are non-vulnerable than you will when they are vulnerable! How can this be?

If you pass out 2♠ vulnerable, you still have a chance of a good score if you can't beat them by two tricks, or a fair score if you beat them by one trick

and the cards lie badly for your side, meaning you might only have made +90.

Meanwhile if they are non vulnerable you sit there and struggle for +50, no good since everyone makes +90 your way, or you get +100 when the cards lie well for your side, also a bad score with everyone chalking up +120 or +150.

If the final contract that you double makes, it will invariably be a bottom (and it drives me bananas when the opponents ask what the percentage was when they chalk up +870, I always say 50/50). In reality you haven't normally lost that many of the matchpoints. If your opponents have done well to outbid your side and you think perhaps their action was marginal (a passed hand overcalls or they take a long time to make their bid) then you will often find that passing and conceding -110 was just as bad as -470, since everyone else is making +90 your way.

However, that is not to say you can double on a whim and then claim 'you were getting a bad score anyway' when it makes. I remember clearly playing in a simultaneous pairs when I was a student and doubling a beginner pair in 2♠ on a hand where it wasn't obvious the hand 'belonged' to our side. We defended well and declarer dropped a trick, so he only made his contract exactly, everyone else had scored +140 or +170 (with one or two even bidding game) so my over enthusiastic trigger finger had converted an excellent score into a bottom.

My double was simply poorly judged, as it was a hand on which we were not due a plus score, and would have done well by passing out 2♠ even if we had let a trick go in defence.

Let's see a few hands where you might consider a close double. We will imagine the situation where partner (West) has opened 2♥ and the next hand has overcalled 2♠, your 3♥ raise is greeted with a 3♠ bid on your left, back to you. We shall assume the vulnerability is love all, and partner is a traditional reliable plodder when it comes to opening weak twos. Try these hands:

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

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

West	North	East	South
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
Pass	Pass	?	

Hand 1 should double, since the spade holding will be worth two tricks. Even if (by some chance) dummy has ♠Q9x, declarer will not normally finesse. The 4-1 or 4-0 trump break will normally be too much for him to cope with.

Even if partner has ♥KJxxxx and nothing outside there is a good chance of beating the contract. If partner has an outside high card (the ♠Q, or ♣QJ) then you will need to beat it by two to get +300 and beat the +140 you are owed.

Hand 2 should pass – you weren't expecting to make 3♥ as surely the opponents have five or six cashers in the minor suits. The last thing they would have done in defence is lead a spade and let partner throw all of their losers away, so you have no plus score to protect. It's not obvious on this hand you can even beat 4♠.

Hand 3 should have bid 4♥ last time, but your timidity has worked very well. If you bid 4♥ now the opponents will surely double, but that should be fine. Partner is likely to have a singleton spade and six hearts to the king, even if he has no other high cards he should make a club ruff in dummy for nine tricks and -100. The opponents are surely making 3♠ (they might make four but they won't bid it here) so a small minus will be fine.

If you do push the opponents into 4♠ there is a temptation to double them in a fit of pique, but that is a bad idea. If they go off in 4♠ you will get a good score whether you double or not, and if they make it you are not booked for disaster, other tables might bid 4♠ instead of 3♠.

Hand 4 is difficult to judge, because the right thing to do will invariably depend on partner's

diamond length. If he has short diamonds then you will surely beat 3♠ (most of the high cards are to your right remember), but in that case you probably weren't making 3♥. If partner has diamond length then you were probably making 3♥, but the hand surely still belongs to your opponents. They probably have more points than your side, and they certainly seem to have a fair fit, plus their spades are breaking well.

Even if you did double and beat 3♠ you are still not getting enough to beat the score you'd have gained from making 3♥, but were you ever likely to be left to play there? It doesn't seem like the opponents bidding 3♠ was at all a surprise and I would expect it to happen at most tables, just pass and try and defend accurately.

Hand 5 should double. I would be worried that we are missing 4♥ to be honest, since partner surely has a singleton spade (he should not open a weak 2♥ with a void spade, since that is too powerful a holding; if you are ever dealt a weak 2♥ with a spade void, then open at the 3-level instead).

However the fact we have control of both minors and four trumps mean we should try for +300 by doubling. A heart lead is correct to try and force declarer, we need partner to have little more than AJxxxx and out to beat it. (If partner wants to switch to his doubleton diamond and get a ruff by all means he can do that). □

DOUBLING FOR ONE-OFF

Do:

- ♣ double more aggressively at pairs than teams, every hand is important and you must strive to get as many match-points as possible;
- ♣ double if you were expecting to get a plus score from the contract you were in, and the opponents have stolen the auction from you, especially if they are non vulnerable when +50 or +100 will be of little compensation for the part-score you could have made.

DON'T:

- ♣ double simply because you are annoyed they have outbid you. If the hand belongs to your opponents there is nothing you can do;
- ♣ lose heart if the odd doubled contract makes. You will show a good profit in the long run and that is the only thing that matters.

Try the online quiz, page 68



Senior Moments

Being Non-Playing Captain of the England Seniors has been a source of great pleasure and pride for me. My first outing was the 2012 European Championships in Dublin (a late substitute for financially-unstable Greece). There is a heavy stress on the word *Non*, but I did prepare some advice on bidding, defence, diet and declarer play for the team, with mixed results. I clearly remember how shocked I was by this board.


Game All. Dealer East.

♠ A Q J 10 3
♥ Q 10 8 6
♦ 9
♣ J 9 4

♠ K 9 8 6 5
♥ 5
♦ K J 8 3
♣ 10 3 2

♠ —
♥ A K 9 7 4 3
♦ A 7 6 4
♣ A K 6

♠ 7 4 2
♥ J 2
♦ Q 10 5 2
♣ Q 8 7 5



West	North <i>Holland</i>	East	South <i>Hallberg</i>
1♠	4♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	4NT
All Pass			7♥

Senior World Champions John Holland and Gunnar Hallberg were North-South against Estonia. *Only Estonia*, I hear you cry. Yes, but Estonia had beaten us in the previous two European Championships.

Back to the bidding. John's 4♦ was a splinter, agreeing hearts. So far, so good. Then Gunnar bid 4NT. I was horrified; the list of bidding tips I had given the team had this one at number four: *Never use Blackwood with a void*. John's 5♣ response

showed one key card. (Well, at least they had benefitted from one of my other tips: *Make sure you have agreed your 5♣ and 5♦ responses to Blackwood.*) Gunnar then leapt to 7♥, without even checking for kings. That's bidding more like a Junior than a Senior.

The lead was the ♦8. Gunnar played it well, I'll give him that. He didn't take the obvious line of drawing trumps and then wondering if he should think about making a plan. He threw his losing ♣6 on the ace of spades – so John's ace did come in useful, after all – and ruffed three diamonds in dummy. Estonia only bid to 6♥, and that was 13 IMPs to England, who won the revenge encounter 20-10.

Gunnar explained to me afterwards that he knew what he was doing and that, if John hadn't held the ♠A, 6♥ would still be a very good contract. 'You were lucky this time, Gunnar', I told him, 'but don't do it again.'

Dublin saw the emergence of Monaco as a world power in bridge. The team of mercenaries, put together by Pierre Zimmerman, won the Open event at the first time of asking. Towards the end of the event, the hotel received grumbles about excessive noise on the second floor, but explained to the complainants that it was two Italians and two Norwegians rehearsing the Monegasque national anthem.

Dublin was also the first time I came across the German senior pair, now known as the ‘coughing doctors’. One of the England players was so incensed after the England-Germany match that he complained to a tournament director. ‘We’re sure they’re up to something,’ the director said sadly, “but we don’t know what.’

Germany finished in 5th place and qualified for the 2013 World Championships in Bali. There they beat the USA in the final to win the d'Orsi Bowl. But the doctors were being monitored on video and audio during their last few matches, and their code

was cracked (one cough to show short clubs, two for diamonds, three for hearts and four for spades; sophisticated or what!). Germany were later stripped of the title and the doctors were banned.

Our next European outing was in 2014 in Opatija, Croatia. This was a memorable board from the qualifying match against Ireland.

Game All. Dealer West.

♠ 9

♥ 10 6 5 4 2

♦ K 5

♣ 10 8 6 5 3

♠ K Q 8 6 5 3

♥ K 8 3

♦ Q 10 6

♣ 9

♠ A J

♥ A Q

♦ A 8 7 4

♣ A K J 4 2

♠ 10 7 4 2

♥ J 9 7

♦ J 9 3 2

♣ Q 7

West Price	North	East Simpson	South
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	7♠	All Pass

David Price opened on a 10 count and, two rounds of bidding later, he was in a grand slam. Incorrigible, these seniors. Mind you, Colin Simpson did have quite a good hand.


North led the ♦5. David rose with the ♦A, cashed dummy's trumps, played the ♣A and ruffed a club. With the ♣Q falling, the contract was now cold.

Did you notice that lead? ♦5 from K5 doubleton! What is even more impressive is that across the Open, Women's and Senior events, the same lead was found 12 times against 7♠ contracts! For the record, both the England Open Pair (Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson) and the England Women's Pair (Fiona Brown and Catherine Draper) bid and made the grand slam in spades.

John Holland led the ♣5 against 6♠ at the other table in the Seniors match, so England gained 11 IMPs. If John had led a diamond, he would, of course, have chosen the king; number three on my list of defensive tips: *Lead high-low from a doubleton.*

England were lying last of the 10 teams half-way through their first match in the Round Robin final. I don't remember my motivational talk, but it must have been spectacular. The team went on to win their remaining eight matches and claim the Gold medal. Now, as NPC, I had a really important decision to make. 'What song would we like at the closing ceremony?' I was asked. They didn't have Three Lions or Teddy Bears' Picnic, so I opted for God Save the Queen. The organisers tried to confuse us by playing the second verse, but we went for the safety play of singing the words from the first verse again. A team in perfect harmony – happy and glorious. □

HIGH JINX FOR CENTENARIAN



Congratulations to Drayton BC's Don Keiller who celebrated his 100th birthday with an online bridge game, together with champagne, a card and bridge goodies.

Hailed by a fellow member as 'an all round contributor with gentlemanly conduct', a game of bridge was not enough. Don also marked the occasion with a parachute jump (an indoor skydiving experience) to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

Don and his late wife, Vicky, were both bridge enthusiasts. Don was President of Barrow in Furness BC and is now an active member of three Cambridge area clubs.



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Clever play

Playing teams, North opened 1♦, and East overcalled 2♣. South responded with a negative double and North's double of 3♣ showed extra values (often used to show a strong NT-type hand without a stopper in the opposing suit). South now knew there were sufficient points for game but was unsure of which game. He used 4♣ to ask for more, and then 4♥ over partner's 4♦. Following this complex auction where no club stopper was discovered, South ended in 4♥ in the four-three fit.

N/S Game. Dealer West.

♠ A K Q
♥ Q 4 3
♦ A 10 9 8 3
♣ 8 4

♠ 8 6 3
♥ 8 7 5 2
♦ J 4
♣ 9 6 5 3

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

As West, you lead a club to your partner's king. He then cashes the ace of clubs and leads a spade to dummy. Declarer plays a trump to the ten in hand, and leads a low diamond towards dummy. How do you defend? What is declarer's plan? This is where you have got to:

N/S Game. Dealer West.

♠ A K Q
♥ Q 4 3
♦ A 10 9 8 3
♣ 8 4

♠ 8 6 3
♥ 8 7 5 2
♦ J 4
♣ 9 6 5 3

It appears as though diamonds are being set up while attempting to retain trump control. The danger is that declarer is establishing the diamond suit for the loss of one trick, which he will need to do before trumps are drawn since otherwise you will be able to cash the clubs.

If declarer has the ♦K, you will not be able to defeat the contract, because he will just duck this trick. However suppose he holds the queen?

If you play low to this trick, he will play the ten and your partner cannot prevent the contract from making. However if you play the jack now, declarer



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

must win the ace, and when he continues diamonds, your partner can give you a ruff. Here's the full deal:

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

Could declarer have done better? Given your partner's overcall, declarer might have figured that East would be more likely to hold the king of diamonds than West. That being the case it would seem better to simply lead a low diamond from dummy at trick four. This is better than leading the queen from hand as it caters for East holding both the king and jack.

HEATHER'S HINTS

- ♣ If you have a bidding problem in a competitive auction, bear in mind the double. At a low level it is rarely used for penalties, and typically says 'I have a hand too good to pass, with no other clear-cut action', and asks partner to make a descriptive call. Playing a weak no trump, it includes strong balanced hands without a stopper in the opponent's suit, but might also be used with extra values in a more classically take-out double shape.
- ♣ If you find yourself playing in a four-three fit, you often need to establish your side suit before tackling trumps, so that you still have trumps in both hands and can ruff in either if the defence force you. This is because drawing trumps will more frequently require all your trumps to do so, and you will therefore need to be able to run your tricks once they are drawn. □



ELENA JERONIMIDIS
1946 – 2020

As a former editor of *English Bridge*, Elena's name is probably familiar to you. Elena took over the role following Brian Cook's retirement and her first issue was in August 2007. During her time as editor she managed both to expand the content of the magazine while adjusting the size and paper weight so that it would stay just within the cheapest postage rate. Elena gave clear instructions to contributors and she was just as quick to express gratitude to those who delivered the right length of article at the right time as she sometimes was to moan and groan about those who ran over. Elena retired with the December 2015 issue.

Prior to working on *English Bridge*, Elena was the Associate Editor of *BRIDGE*, the magazine published by Mr Bridge. This was usually a bi-monthly publication but if Mr Bridge wanted an extra issue Elena always seemed to find a way to accommodate him and persuade contributors to come up with articles in double quick time. Elena also edited *Bridge Plus* and the very popular *Bridge Plus Practice* series of mini books.

Elena learnt bridge from her husband Giorgio and the couple moved from their native Rome to Reading in the early 1970s. Keen to improve her English skills, Elena volunteered to translate Tolkien's *The Hobbit* into Italian. For a few years Elena taught Italian theatre at Lancaster University but she returned to Reading to start a family. Elena's first foray into bridge publications was with the Berks & Bucks newsletter – a role she could combine with being a stay at home mother.

Away from bridge, Elena was a keen armchair rugby fan and also enjoyed watching good movies. Elena liked to travel, with one of her favourite trips accompanying Giorgio to Japan. In recent years Elena liked spending time with her grandsons, and crocheting.

Julian Pottage



1NT Responses

Chris Jagger continues his series on playing Acól at the very highest level and lays bare his system card.

When partner opens one of a suit, we generally respond 1NT when we do not have a higher suit to bid at the one level, and not enough points to want to be in game opposite a balanced 15-16 points.

When partner opens one of a major, we will usually raise with three card support. For example, with:

♠K64 ♥A53 ♦853 ♣7642

we would raise 1♠ to 2♠, safe in the knowledge of an eight card fit, though we are slightly less likely to raise 1♥ to 2♥, as 1♥ could be 4-4 in the majors. Over a minor suit we may well not raise even with four-card support, as we play inverted minors (where a raise to the two level is forcing with at least invitational values). For example, consider our reply to partner's 1♠ opening:

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

The first four hands are all 1NT responses. You haven't enough to bid at the two-level so you content yourself with 1NT.

The fifth hand would raise to 2♠ (if you reverse the majors and give partner a 1♥ opening, it would raise to 2♥).

The last two hands would respond 2♣, the first because it wants to raise spades but is too good for a simple raise, and the second simply because you want to be in game opposite 15-16 balanced. Bear in mind that with a balanced 16-count partner will simply pass 1NT. This will occasionally lead to being in 1NT with 16 points opposite nine points, but if you do the maths, this is not just the close percentage shot with a 16 count, but is massively the right long term action.

There are then a wide range of hands that partner can have for responding 1NT, so it is worth playing some methods to assist in finding the right game or part score.

THE AUCTION STARTS 1♠-1NT

Those people who don't like artificial methods, or, like me, simply cannot remember them, will be delighted to know that every rebid from 2♦ to 3NT is natural and non-forcing. To add a bit more detail on some of the bids:

1♠-1NT-2♥ = Limited to about 16 points, so mostly you will not need to invite over this.

1♠-1NT-2NT-3♠ = Shows five hearts and forcing to game. If you wanted to show spades you would have raised 1♠ straight away. Having not done so, you could bid a non forcing 3♥ with six of them, or with a good hand that might want to play in a 5-3 heart fit, use this unusual 3♠ bid.

1♠-1NT-3♦/♥ = These bids are showing 5-5 invitational hands.

1♠-1NT-3♣ = This is as you would expect, except it is on the strong side of invitational, and will be based on a good, usually seven card suit. Hands

with less good suits can invite at the two level, which is great since an invitational hand may play terribly opposite one spade.

1♠-1NT-2♣

The excitement comes in the 2♣ bid, which could be any strength hand with clubs, any game force, invitational hands with six spades and strong hands with 5-4 majors. A major weakness of our style is the inability to play in 2♣. However, it opens up many possibilities.

Mostly, over 2♣, responder will simply relay with 2♦, though he should show a six card heart suit, or can show a long minor suit at the three level, or both minors with 2NT. He can also bid 2♠, but only with a bad hand with two spades and at most three hearts.

1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦

2♥ = 5-4 majors, 17-18 points, or at least invitational with at least six spades. There is some complexity over this, but responder denies interest opposite the hand with six spades by bidding 2♠ (which is converted to 2NT with the 5-4 majors hand), or accepts by bidding 2NT to find out what opener has.

2♠ = 5-4 with clubs, weak hand.

2NT = Game force with 5·2·4·2, 5·1·3·4, 5·1·4·3, 5·3·1·4 or 5·3·4·1. It might also show 5·0·4·4 shapes (and always denies four hearts).

3♣ = 5-5 majors or 5-4 majors with a singleton, gf.

3♦ = 5-5 or 6-4 with diamonds, game-forcing.

3♥ = 5-5 in the black suits, game-forcing.

3♠ = 6-4 in the black suits, game-forcing.

3NT = 5·4·2·2 with hearts, offering a choice.

It is worth seeing an example of the 2♣ rebid in action:

♠ A Q J 8 6 4
♥ K 7 5
♦ A K 4
♣ 2

N
W E
S

♠ 3
♥ 8 6 4 3
♦ Q J 5
♣ K 10 8 7 3

West	East
1♠	1NT
2♣	2♦
2♥	2♠
Pass	

After the 1♠-1NT start, opener would in normal methods jump to 3♠, and play there, uncomfortably

high, probably going one off, though it could be more off, or it could make on a good day. Under these methods opener starts with 2♣ and rebids 2♥. Responder definitely has no interest, so bids 2♠. He doesn't need to fear opener might have 5-4 majors, as this hand would bid 2NT over 2♠, and the heart fit could then be found.

THE AUCTION STARTS 1♥-1NT

This is an easier auction for exploring game, but harder to stop in 2♥ with the invitational hands. There simply is not the room to be able to do it, so we play methods that allow you some chance of stopping low on the misfitting hands.

Once again all bids are natural apart from 2♣, but here the reverse into 2♠ is also used in a special way, as a game force with at least three spades, at least five hearts, and an unbalanced hand. Responder normally relays with 2NT, and it works like this:

1♥-1NT-2♠-2NT:

3♣ = singleton diamond, could be 3·5·1·4, 4·5·1·3 or 3·6·1·3, with 3♦ asking which.

3♦ = singleton club, 3·5·4·1, 4·5·3·1 or 3·6·3·1, with 3♥ showing a doubleton heart, 3♠ asking for four diamonds or six good hearts.

3♥ = 4-6 majors, game forcing.

3♠ = 5-6 majors game forcing.

3NT = 4·5·2·2 prime suits (points in the long suits).

For example:

♠ A K J
♥ K Q 7 5 3
♦ K Q J 4
♣ 3

N
W E
S

♠ Q 10 4
♥ 4 2
♦ A 10 5 2
♣ J 6 4 2

West	East
1♥	1NT
2♣	2NT
3♦	3♥
3NT	4♦
5♦	Pass

West starts by showing three or more spades, and East simply bids 2NT to allow partner to show their hand further. 3♦ identifies the club shortage (singleton or void), 3♥ shows a doubleton heart, and 3NT denies a fourth spade or sixth heart – hence it must have a fourth diamond. East bids 4♦

Cont/p36



The Greatest Disaster of All

South on today's deal scored a notable triumph.

Game All. Dealer South.

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

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

♠ A K 10 9 4 3
♥ K 9 5
♦ A 2
♣ Q J

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	3♣
All Pass		Pass	7♣

After a finely judged sequence South won the opening lead of ♥Q with dummy's ace. He led a low spade and, when East followed with ♠8 he put in the ten. All that remained was to draw trumps, cash ♦A, finesse ♦J, ruff a diamond and claim the grand slam, since the heart and club losers would go on the long diamonds.

When the pandemic forced us all into lockdown, we had bridge to console us. Bridge Base Online and other platforms had to make some major adjustments to cope with vastly increased demand, bridge organisers from national foundations to local clubs had to move their games online, players had to adapt to new ways of enjoying their favourite game. Hardware thrashed, software creaked and people groaned, but with vast ingenuity and great goodwill on all sides we could play bridge again.

Or could we? It didn't take long before deals like this started appearing with some frequency – bizarre bidding followed by ridiculously low percentage plays produced not the disasters that would usually arise but results that rapidly propelled some players to unscaled heights in local and even national rankings. Of course, these results were not being obtained by honest means; the ability to watch your friends or your favourite experts was being usurped to allow players in effect to watch themselves, thus allowing double-dummy bidding and play on every deal.

As a result, the ability to watch your friends or your favourite experts was removed. Apart from being a considerable nuisance, because the next best thing to playing yourself is watching other interesting games, this just meant that other dishonest behaviours increased. Communication between partners is supposed to occur only through legal calls and plays, not through conversations and messaging services, but while standards of dummy play remained at roughly pre-Covid levels a generation of wonderful defenders appeared suddenly to have arisen.

All over the world, bridge organisations have had to put in vast amounts of tedious effort to keep the game honest. I say tedious rather than difficult, because it isn't difficult. When every bid and every play is recorded, it is simple enough to analyse results and determine whether rapid and significant improvements in performance are due to increased skill, runs of luck, or violations of law. But it involves wading through an awful lot of deals, and although many of them would provide enough disasters to keep this column in business for a century, frankly we'd rather be doing something else.

I should say that the deal above was not actually played on BBO or anywhere else. It combines features of more than one of several dozen exhibits in the ever-expanding *House of Horrors*, but it is not

as blatant as some. Cheating really is a Great Bridge Disaster, and the message I want to send to the people who have furnished those exhibits is a simple one: we know who you are, so make an early resolution for 2021 to be somebody else.

The message I want to send to the rest of you – the huge, huge majority who don't deserve to have your game spoiled – is the usual one. Enjoy this time of year (yes, I know, but make the best of it) and play better next year. But not so much better that I run out of material. □

PENALTIES FOR CHEATING

The Laws and Ethics Committee has created an Online Ethics Investigation Group to examine cases of suspected cheating and provide the EBU's Prosecution Panel with information to help them when cases arise from this. The group is headed by Sarah Bell and currently comprises David Burn, Joe Fawcett, Ben Norton, Peter Clinch, Stephen Kennedy, Neeraj Tanna and Michael Byrne.

The EBU Disciplinary Panel has also been developing sentencing guidance for national use, which may be helpful for other bodies involved in any disciplinary cases of this sort.

It established the standard sanction for cheating as an individual to be three years membership suspension and, for any pair that colludes, the standard sanction will be 10 years suspension from membership. Names and sanctions will be published on the front page of the website, and in *English Bridge*.

MEMBER SUSPENDED

An EBU Disciplinary Committee recently considered the following charges against Mr Salvatore (otherwise known as Tony) Zaffiro:

- ❖ That in a number of EBU-sponsored games played online via the Bridgebase Online (BBO) platform in March and April 2020, he was aware of the contents of his partner's hand when playing.
- ❖ This was achieved by playing under one BBO username, in partnership with other BBO identities controlled by him or to which he had access.
- ❖ In those sessions he took unusual bridge actions which suggested knowledge of his partner's hand.

The defendant denied the charges and declined to engage with the disciplinary process. A disciplinary hearing was therefore held in his absence.

The Disciplinary Committee found the charges proved, and that the defendant's conduct constituted an offence under paragraph 3.2(iv) of the EBU Disciplinary Rules, being unfair or dishonest play.

The Committee imposed a sanction of suspension of EBU membership for a period of four years.



EBED ADVENT CALENDAR

6 A 6-card suit – perfect for a weak two

2 cards – lead high-low

Online Congress

12 You need 12 points to open the bidding

9 You need just nine tricks to make game in 3NT

4 Use Stayman to find a 4-card major

8 Always look for an 8-card fit to play in a suit

1 Aces are high, beating kings

10 -You need 10 tricks to make game in 4♥ or 4♠

5 You can open 1NT with a 5-card suit – even a major

11 You need 11 tricks to make game in 5♣ or 5♦

3 Lead the middle card of three with no honour

7 -card suits – pre-empt if your hand is weak

Audrey Q.

HAPPY BRIDGE IN 2021

EBED ADVENT CALENDAR



13

Thirteen tricks is a Grand Slam

17 points

If you are balanced bid 2NT 2nd time around

25 points

Yippee
Enough to bid 3NT or 4♥ or 4♠

18 points.

Double first if the other side opens

21 Bridge keeps you young!

14 points

After opening 1NT go to 3NT if invited

23 Open

2♣ to show 23+ points

15 points

Open 1 of a suit and rebid 1NT if balanced

20

Use the Rule of 20 to value your opening hand

19 points.

You can rebid 3NT with a balanced hand

22 Open

2NT with 20-22 points and a balanced hand

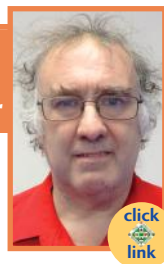
16 A

strong hand. Show strength on second bid

24 Not

enough combined points for game – stop!

HAPPY BRIDGE IN 2021



Trouble at the table

This issue I have included some general questions applying to any form of the game, and some specific questions about online bridge regulations.

Roy France asked if there are rules (playing online) regarding an alert which is proved inaccurate by the partner's action.

We had a situation where West bid 3♣ and self-alerted as forcing, North passed, and East passed. From the alert, North would confidently expect another chance to bid but after a pass by South that chance is lost.

Does North have the right to call for an UNDO (UNDOS were not allowed)? East has not seen the alert so how would they know to allow the UNDO if they were allowed?

An explanation made by the player making the call can be a mis-explanation even if it describes the player's hand – the player may have got the system wrong, or it may be there is no agreement.

Such mis-explanations do not often cause damage because the opponents have had an accurate explanation of the player's intent, even if it is not the agreement.

In your case, there are (at least) two possibilities:

- 1 West thought 3♣ was forcing, East did not. There is no agreement and North was entitled to be told 'no agreement', and after the event it would be possible to award an adjusted score on the basis that 'no agreement' was the correct explanation.
- 2 East knew (in principle) that 3♣ was forcing but deliberately or accidentally passed. In this case the explanation is correct and there would be no adjustment.

This position is best resolved by the TD rather than UNDOs in the auction – even if allowed.

Richard (from Dorset) asked how far off an expected bid does a bid have to be before it should be alerted or announced differently?

For instance, if a 1NT bid is announced as 12-14, and someone might evaluate a good 11 or a poor 15 as an opening 12-14 1NT, presumably it would not need to be alerted as '12-14 but could be 11 or 15'? But presumably there is a limit?

Also, if a 3♦ opening is expected to show a seven card suit, but you might open it as a six card suit, does it need to be announced as 'pre-emptive but could be a six card suit', or is that just something people should expect these days? Due to the current Covid situation, I am thinking specifically about an online game where an opponent is unlikely to look at your convention card, although in an evening duplicate, since no one ever looks at your card to see if it 'might be a six card suit', it would probably apply then too.

I have tried to answer the question about 1NT ranges before, but this answer will doubtless be slightly different!

If you open a very few 11 HCP and pass some 12 HCP then '12-to-whatever' is appropriate.

If you open some 11 HCP and all 12 HCP then 'good 11' to whatever' is appropriate.

If you open most 11 HCP then '11-to-whatever' is appropriate.

For distribution of 1NT openings: Announce/explain 'may contain a singleton' but leave anything else to the system card.

For pre-empts, I don't think seven is expected for a non-vulnerable 3-level bid, but I would encourage players online to explain the minimum length of all opening suit bids.

As an opponent you can always request a fuller explanation by clicking on the bid or asking the player who made the bid.

Ian Dalziel was amazed to discover that players can look at their own system card (and hence any notes) during bidding or play! This could really slow up the game if the weaker players look up their 'bridge manual' before making a bid or opening lead. It was felt that a ban on looking at notes would be unenforceable except at high level where cameras watch each player.

One area where the rules of F2F (face-to-face) and online bridge differ is the review of the bidding. This change is not mentioned in the Sky-Blue book. In F2F the 'right to review' expires after you have played to the first trick but on BBO the review is available all through the game by simply hitting the 'contract box'. Perhaps this change is because the 'click review' doesn't disturb the other players but if 'anytime reviews' were allowed in F2F it would disrupt the game.

My attitude in the Sky-Blue Book (governing online bridge) has been that information that BBO makes available to players is authorised – because players will expect to be allowed to access this information if the platform makes it available. This includes:

- ♣ loaded online system card;
- ♣ the auction (during the play); and
- ♣ the previous trick (before you play to the next).

The most contentious – looking at convention cards – was considered by the Laws & Ethics committee in September. The Sky-Blue Book was updated later in September, with no change to the regulation on looking at convention cards. The other two items (reviewing the auction and reviewing the play) were included in the update – as modifications to Law 20 and Law 66.

Harry Gersen had a query about time – how much time do you have to bid? Say I am dealer and open the bidding. My left hand opponent overcalls and partner takes a few moments to think, and bids or passes; right hand opponent says that my partner hesitated and wants to call the director.

Also, during the play of the hand (say I am declarer), my right hand opponent wins the trick, and takes ages to play his next card, elbows on table, staring at dummy etc; when I say he is taking too long to play he says he can take as long as he likes – Is this true? Is it common?

There is a number of problems which can arise from issues of timing – all these problems can occur if the delay by one player is noticeable by the other players. If you bid too slowly (or too quickly) this can communicate that you have a problem to partner; your partner cannot use this information.

If you bid (or play) slowly and the opponents assume you have something to think about; they may be deceived if it turns out you had nothing to think about.

If the opponents take a long time to play a hand, and you are disconcerted by the time they are taking, the director should make sure that the opponents are not deliberately trying to disconcert you.

If the opponents take a long time to bid or play a hand, so that you run out of time to play the boards, this is the opponents' fault and the director will take this in to account when assessing what to do about the slow play.

In conclusion,

- ♣ try not to take too long over your bids, and do not take advantage of partner's slow bidding;
- ♣ do not think when you have nothing to think about;
- ♣ the opponents can take a long time but it is not without consequences.

Nigel Durie played in an EBU online game: 'This hand was opened against us with a bid of 2♦ in third position; they were not vulnerable, we were vulnerable. It was alerted as:

♠ 6 3
♥ J 9 7 5 4
♦ 10 9 7 4
♣ 8 7

diamond + Major 4/4+
0-13 HCP

Is this a legal bid at level 4? We got to 4♠ +1 which was a near bottom but only because we misplayed a cold 12 tricks. Even if it is legal I question it being used in such a tourney.'

Any 2-level bid showing 4+ cards in the suit bid is permitted at level 2 and level 4, see Blue Book sections 6D1 (level 2) and 7C1 (level 4).

6D1 Any opening that shows 4+ cards in the suit opened is allowed ...

Given that 2♦ is permitted at level 2, it is certainly appropriate to play it in any open EBU tournament. □

Acol unveiled, cont' from p29

and West raises. If instead, East had:

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

West	East
1♥	1NT
2♣	3♣
Pass	

Here responder shows a long weak club suit over the 2♣ bid, and West decides that perhaps no game is going to make. In principle 2♣ was game forcing – but there are sequences where you identify the misfit and stop below game.

Aside from 2♣, the main interest is in the 2♣ bid, which shows the other game forcing hands, weak hands with clubs, as well as invitational hands with hearts. This helps on the game forcing hands, and allows some invitational hands to play at the two level. It is far from perfect – it sometimes allows you to stop in 2♥, but not all the time. Responder bids 2♦ on most hands, or 2♥ on a misfit wanting to play in clubs if opener has hearts and clubs. For example:

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

West	East
1♥	1NT
2♣	2♥
Pass	

East shows a misfit wanting to play low opposite an invite with hearts, and in 3♣ opposite a weak hand with hearts and clubs. West has an easy pass and avoids getting too high. It is true that 3♥ may make, but it may not do either. More usually East will relay with 2♦, and then the continuations are as follows:

West	East
1♥	1NT
2♣	2♦
?	

2♥ = hearts and clubs, weak.

2♠ = hearts and clubs stronger (responder bids 2NT as a relay, and then 3♣ is 6-4 non-forcing, 3♦ 1·5·3·4 in principle game forcing, 3♥ 6-4 game forcing, 3NT 2·5·2·4).

2NT = hearts and diamonds (similar continuations).

3♣ / 3♦ = 5-5 game forcing.

3♥ = invitational.

MINOR SUIT OPENINGS

Over minor suit openings it is easier. Much easier. In fact so easy that I am not sure we have actually got anything written down in the system file. Therefore a reverse is natural and forcing (but not game forcing), and a jump reverse is a splinter bid agreeing the suit.

Of course the simple truth is that the 1NT response is that much more likely after the major suit, and there are fewer hand types to show over a 1NT response to a minor. With infinite time we would no doubt do some work on these sequences, but, though you may feel we clearly do have infinite time from the rest of the online article, we don't! □

More detail from Chris online, p69

NEW CLASSIFIED LISTINGS

A new EBU Forum has been created specifically for Classified Listings, to be used for bridge-related non-commercial listings.

The new site is a place where people can advertise bridge books and other bridge paraphernalia, either free or low cost. It can also be used for those looking for bridge partners, looking to share accommodation (when we get back to running face-to-face tournaments) or any other bridge-related matters. It is not for use by commercial organisations. Here is the link:

www.ebu.co.uk/forum/categories/classified-listings



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

3NT after East overcalled 1♠. West leads the ♠7 and East beats dummy's card.

3NT is likely to be the contract at the other table, so making it could help avoid a loss or even lead to a positive swing if the declarer fails at the other table.

You have five top tricks, but can expect to win one with the ♠K, so you need a further three tricks.

When East cheaply covers dummy's card at trick one, your first decision is when to win the ♠K. Since East is expected to have at least five spades for her overcall, ducking the first trick may cut the

defensive communications. East can now play the ♠A and a third high spade, at which point you win the ♠K, and throw the ♣5 from the dummy.

Diamonds can certainly provide three extra tricks and, missing four cards, you should normally plan to finesse West for the ♦K. However, if you lead the ♦9, and East wins the ♦K, she will then cash two more spade tricks to defeat your game. Is there a safer way to play?

If West has the ♦K, you can always make at least three extra tricks in diamonds. If you try finessing, you will make four extra tricks, and if you play the ♦A then force out the ♦K you will make three extra tricks, so your contract is only at risk if East has the ♦K.

If East has two or more diamonds there will be no way to prevent East winning the lead, but if East has only one diamond then you can make your contract by playing the ♦A on the first round. It is therefore safer to win the ♠K at trick three, then lead to the ♦A. When East follows with the ♦K, you will make an overtrick, but this is simply an unexpected bonus.

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

4♠. West leads the ♥J

You have reached a game with limited values, so it might be that the other table alight in a partscore, in which case winning 10 tricks could result in a decent gain for your team.

You start with nine top tricks, and appear to have three losers in the minors. Trying to establish clubs is a possibility, but you are not likely to have sufficient entries to dummy to achieve this.

However, there is a strong alternative if you plan to trump your third heart in the short trump hand. You can therefore win the ♥A and cross back to the ♥K to lead the ♥7. Assuming that West follows to the third heart, you will now have to decide how high to trump in the dummy. Trumping with the ♠8 will give you your tenth trick as long as East has another heart, or cannot overtrump. However, if she overtrumps, you will now have three inescapable minor suit losers.

Whilst it would be unlucky to be defeated in this way, is there a way to ensure success even if East started with just two hearts?

There is a neat solution – when you lead the ♥7 and West plays a higher heart, you can try the effect of throwing the ♦4 from the dummy.

If West now leads a diamond you can win the ♦A and trump the ♦6 in the dummy knowing that this will only fail if one of the defenders started with a singleton.

If West leads a spade, you can win in hand and trump a diamond in the dummy, and if the defenders try playing three rounds of clubs, you can trump high, then play the ♦A and trump the ♦6. □

Lady Milne Trophy 2020

Victory for England



The first Lady Milne Trophy to be played online will, we hope, be the last. But in saying this I mean no disrespect whatever to the tremendous performance by the people behind the *RealBridge* platform that hosted the tournament. Graham Hazel, Shireen Mohandes and their colleagues spared no effort in ensuring that the players could practise on the system beforehand and enjoy a more or less trouble-free event over the weekend of Halloween. Directors Gordon Rainsford, Robin Barker and Jonathan Lillycrop coped superbly with the demands of the new format, and when it was all over even the sceptics agreed that though it wasn't the real thing, it was easily the next best thing.

England won by miles. Nicola Smith, representing her country for the Heaven-knows-how-manyth time, played with England debutante Sarah Bell. Catherine Jagger and Sarah Teshome, Anne Rosen and Nevena Senior brought plenty of international experience. As host nation England had two teams in the competition (the other called EBU) and started against their compatriots. An early indication that fortune was to favour England in both the Lady Milne and the Teltscher Trophy (running at the same time over the same deals) came here.

The EBU North-South were content with 4♠. The England pair were not:

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

¹ Acol style, not forcing to game; ² Not forcing; ³ Not Acol style, forcing to game; ⁴ Control bids; ⁵ Keycard Blackwood; ⁶ 0 or 3 keycards

6♠ on a heart lead is no great shakes, but the actual lead was a diamond and when trumps proved to have only one loser there were twelve tricks and 11 IMPs to England. The England seniors arrived in 7♠, which you would have thought was no shakes at all, but West led a trump. (*see Teltscher report, p44*)

After a narrow win over Wales and more comfortable victories over Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, England faced Scotland needing not to lose by a lot in order to retain the trophy. A good hand for reverse signals, and for a brave opening lead, saw a large swing.

Love All. Dealer South.

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

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

Love All. Dealer South.

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

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

6♦ cannot be beaten, since even on a heart lead declarer can draw two trumps, unblock ♠K, cross to ♦7, dispose of the losing heart on ♠A, and clear the clubs. But the English East/West arrived in 6♣ after North had opened 1♠ in third position and South had raised the suit. On a spade lead there were no entry problems and England had 920.

When England were North/South this was the bidding:

West	North <i>Senior</i>	East	South <i>Rosen</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Dble	3♠ ¹	Pass
4♥ ²	Pass	6♣	All Pass

¹ Short spades, club support; ² Heart control

Leading away from kings is frowned on in the best circles, and leading away from kings against slams doubly so. But, reasoning correctly that on this bidding there wasn't likely to be much for the defence in spades or diamonds, Nevena Senior put ♥J on the virtual table.

Declarer won with the ♥A and led a trump to the ace in dummy. No one had the singleton king, so she had to fall back on her last chance, which was that the defenders were dedicated users of standard count signals. She cashed dummy's ♦A, but neither North nor South felt inclined to start an echo to show a doubleton. Unable to reach her hand, declarer had to concede one down for 14 IMPs to England.

England's largest swing of the weekend raised a technical question that partnerships should discuss. You have an unprepossessing hand as North and this is the bidding:







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

West <i>Jagger</i>	North	East <i>Teshome</i>	South
1♠	Pass	2♣	Dble
2♠	Pass	4♣	5♦
Dble	?		

Do you think your partner has a massive one-suited hand with diamonds, or a two-suited hand with four hearts and six or seven diamonds? If you bid and she has the former, or pass and she has the latter, you could easily find yourself in next issue's Great Disasters column, so you'd better be right.

Game All. Dealer West.			
♠ 10 6 4 2			
♥ Q 10 9 5 2			
♦ 10			
♣ 5 4 3			
♠ AK9873	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ Q 5	
♥ 83		♥ J7	
♦ Q984		♦ 53	
♣ 7		♣ AKQJ982	
♠ J			
♥ AK64			
♦ AKJ762			
♣ 106			

At the table North passed 5♦ doubled and watched her partner go for 800. Not that it would have mattered much if she had bid, for at the other table her team-mates had sold out to 4♥ and conceded 620. So a conversion to 5♥ would have lost 13 IMPs as opposed to the 16 that found their way into the English coffers. But it's the idea that's the important thing. □

FINAL RESULTS			Total
	1st	ENGLAND	82.07 VPs
	2nd	WALES	58.72 VPs
	3rd	EBU	58.65 VPs
	4th	SCOTLAND	54.84 VPs
	5th	IRELAND	34.48 VPs
	6th	N. IRELAND	11.24 VPs





Answers to September's Problems

As I write this in May we are still well into lockdown, unless apparently you are a senior government advisor. By the time you read this in December who knows where the world will be. Anyway, it has not been easy to source hands as you might expect, but the first two were sent to me by Manchester player and friend Alan Jones and the second I held myself in one of my rare sojourns into online bridge.

Hand 1

♠ 6 5 2
♥ 6 2
♦ 9 8 5 4 3
♣ Q 8 3

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

¹ 12-14, ² Stayman

Choose from: (a) a spade; (b) ♥6; (c) a diamond; (d) ♣3

What do we know? Opener has four spades, responder has four hearts and we have a bad hand. What does that suggest?

- (a) **a spade: 1 mark.** Round into declarer's suit, picking up partner's holding? No thanks.
- (b) **♥6: 7 marks.** I quite like this lead. At least it is going through the suit rather than round into it. Partner has four hearts and maybe even five, so trying to set up partner's heart suit is not a bad idea.
- (c) **a diamond: 4 marks.** Your longest suit eh? But even if partner can set it up (let's face it, you cannot) how are you going to get in to cash it? Just about the only way this will work is if partner has four diamonds. That is long odds against.
- (d) **♣3: 10 marks.** Following the principle of the least you need from partner to beat the contract I

think this is a stand-out. It is true that partner has not doubled 2♣, but here a club will be right if partner has some quite modest holdings. At the table partner had K10xx, but with the ♣J on the dummy this was the only lead to beat the hand. You need less in clubs from partner for it to be right simply because that is where your only value is. Hence, I would lead a club.

Pairs Bonus: ♣3: 5 marks. It is closer at pairs, but I would still lead a club as it is just so likely to be the best lead. When it is wrong you will get a bottom unless you are playing in a strong field.

Hand 2

♠ 5 3 2
♥ Q 7 2
♦ Q J 7 5 2
♣ 7 5

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

Choose from: (a) ♥2; (b) ♥Q; (c) ♦Q; (d) ♣7

- (a) **♥2: 7 marks.** The 'book' lead. Low from Hxx in partner's suit. Usually it is the right thing to do. Is it here? It could be, but I think there are better leads...
- (b) **♥Q: 8 marks.** It is quite a common expert practice to lead unsupported honours in bid suits from weak hands. The idea is that you may be able to hold the lead and know what to switch to. Here partner lets your lead hold and there is ♦Kxx on the dummy...
- (c) **♦Q: 10 marks.** But only with a sympathetic partner ... At most there are two heart tricks. Where are the other two coming from? No club

tricks will run away, but diamonds might. So, a diamond just has it for me. If it is wrong of course you might get comments like ‘I suppose if I had overcalled 1♦ you would have led a heart’.

- (d) ♣7: 2 marks. Well I suppose it *could* be right, but more or less partner will have to take two clubs tricks and give you a ruff for it to be right. That just seems so unlikely.

Pairs Bonus: ♦Q: 5 marks. Again, much closer at pairs, and again you will get a bottom if it is wrong, but I still just lean to the ♦Q.

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

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

Choose from: (a) ♠2; (b) a heart; (c) ♦7; (d) ♣9

Dummy has hearts and clubs, declarer diamonds, a spade stop and seemingly no interest in hearts. We have diamonds sewn up. What does all this suggest?

- (a) ♠2: 4 marks. Fourth highest of the unbid suit. My regular reader will know I am a big fan of fourth highest leads, but can it really be correct here? Partner will certainly need the queen or the ace for it to be right, and is there such a great rush with our diamond holding? I don't think so. At the table this was straight round to ♠AQ. Is that such a surprise?
- (b) a heart: 6 marks. Leading through dummy's suit. OK, but why lead through the longer one?

- (c) ♦7: 1 mark. Do I really need to explain why leading round into declarer's six card suit (at least) is a bad idea?
- (d) ♣9: 10 marks. My reader will also know I have said before that people do not lead dummy's second suit nearly enough on auctions like these. This is clear, I think, and what I led at the table. For once I was right as dummy had Qxxx, partner AJ107 and was charmed by the lead.

Pairs Bonus: ♣9: 5 marks. The same lead for the same reasons. □

SEND IN YOUR LEAD CONUNDRUMS

Email the editor, lou@ebu.co.uk and if suitable, Alan would be delighted to use them.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Master: Howard Rosemarine
Gatley, Cheshire



Open: Barry Ransley
Chatteris, Cambridgeshire



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Teltscher Trophy 2020




Nail-biting finish for England

The Teltcher Trophy (the Senior Camrose) was successfully played online, on a brand new platform called *RealBridge*. This was a bold move on such recently developed software, but proved a wonderful success. The program aims to replicate playing conditions in a club, or top-level tournament, with video-cam and live sound for each of the players.

England faced Scotland in the first match. An amazing pair of boards arose where England bid and made 7♠, while Scotland stopped in 4♠. This was the first of them:

Love All. Dealer South.

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

West <i>Ferrari</i>	North <i>Hallberg</i>	East <i>Ash</i>	South <i>Mossop</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2NT ^A	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5NT
Pass	7 ♠	All Pass	

^A Jacoby 2NT

Gunnar Hallberg's Jacoby 2NT showed at least a game-raise in spades. In the traditional version of this convention, the opener rebids a shortage at the three level or a second five-card suit at the four level. David Mossop showed his club suit and two red-suit cue bids followed. The 5NT response to

RKCB showed two key-cards and a void. Hallberg hoped that the void would be in diamonds, or that a diamond would not be led. The grand slam was reached on a combined total of only 24 points.

Mossop won the heart lead with his king, drew trumps with the ace and king, and ruffed the $\spadesuit 9$ in his hand. Which club honour should he play first?

Correctly, Mossop led a low club from his hand, keeping his ♣A10 tenace intact. He was rewarded when the ♣J fell from West. He won with dummy's ♣K and followed Restricted Choice by finessing the ♣10 next, making the grand slam.

Declarer's play in the club suit would succeed when West held a singleton ♣Q or ♣J. It would lose only to ♣QJ. So, he had odds of 2-to-1 in his favour. Some players do not believe in Restricted Choice. Don't waste your time trying to explain it to them – they will never change their minds. Just be happy that, unlike you, they will have odds of 2-to-1 against them throughout their bridge careers.

West <i>Mould</i>	North <i>Short</i>	East <i>Holland</i>	South <i>Goodman</i>
			1♠
3♦ ^A	4♦	Pass	4♣
All Pass			
^A Weak jump overcall			

At the other table Alan Mould's weak jump overall made life more difficult for the Scotland North/South, and England gained 14 IMPs. Mossop and Hallberg were the only pair to reach 7♠ in either the Teltscher Trophy or the Lady Milne.

England were extremely lucky on the other 7♠ board. After a bidding misunderstanding involving the Serious 3NT convention, Brian Senior and Paul Hackett bid the grand slam with this trump suit:

♠ K 9 8 ♠ A 10 5 ♠ J
 ♠ Q 7 6 4 3 2

If West's trumps were ♠K87 against South's ♠Q96432, declarer could succeed by leading the ♠Q to pin East's jack. Such a play would not work here, because West would cover with the king and subsequently make a trick with his ♠98.

You may wonder, in that case, how the grand slam was made. The Scotland West, Derek Pedden, led the ♠8! This ran to the jack and queen, allowing Senior to finesse the ♠10 and land the contract. West must have thought that a trump lead might deter declarer from finessing if East were void. It was a poor lead, though, since it would also have given away the grand if North held ♠AJ5 and East a singleton ♠10. England gained 17 IMPs on the board, where they would have lost 11 IMPs after any other lead. Scotland still won the match by 11.86 VP to 8.14.

We will look next at a curious board from the England-Ireland match. An off-shape 1NT opening by Alan Mould caused both the defenders to miss a chance of beating 3NT.

Game All. Dealer North.

♠ K Q 10 8 3

♥ 5 4 2

♦ 7 5

♣ K 3 2

♠ 2

♥ A J 3

♦ Q 9 6 4

♣ A Q J 6 4

♠ A 9 7 4

♥ Q 10 9 8

♦ K 8 2

♣ 7 5

♠ J 6 5

♥ K 7 6

♦ A J 10 3

♣ 10 9 8

W

N

E

S

West	North	East	South
Mould	P O'Briain	Holland	M O'Briain
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1NT was correctly alerted as showing 14-17 points and a hand that might contain a singleton. When North led the ♠K, few would have bet on declarer's chances.

Mould won immediately with dummy's ♠A. For many players the opening lead of a king against no trumps requests partner to unblock any honour, otherwise to show count. Micheal O'Briain could see that an unblock of his ♠J would promote

dummy's ♠9 into a stopper. He therefore followed with the ♠5.







Mould led dummy's ♥Q, not covered, and dropped the ♥J from his hand. He then finessed the ♣Q, losing to the king. Pdraig O'Briain (North) now had the chance to lead a low spade to the jack, which would have given the defenders four spade tricks, with the ♦A to come. From his point of view, however, South's ♠J (even if he held that card) was likely to be bare now. A low spade could work only if declarer had opened 1NT with a singleton ♠2.

North returned the ♥5, won in the dummy after the previous unblock of the ♥J. With the heart suit blocked, declarer had only eight tricks even if clubs were 3-3. He led the ♦2 from dummy and South now had another chance to put 3NT two down. Even if North had led from just ♠KQ10x, rising with the ♦A and returning the ♠J would still beat the contract. No, South played low. Mould won with the ♦Q and added four club tricks for an unexpected +600.

West	North	East	South
Goodman	Hallberg	Walsh	Mossop
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	Dble	2♠
Dble ^a	Pass	3♥	All Pass

West's double showed 3-card support for East's indicated hearts, and Terry Walsh made 11 tricks in 3♥. England won the match by 15.50 VPs to 4.50. England were some 7 VPs behind Scotland with one match to play. They ended with a storming win against Northern Ireland, while Scotland lost heavily to CBAI, the second Ireland team.

Many congratulations to David Mossop & Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland & Alan Mould and Paul Hackett & Brian Senior for retaining the trophy. Their non-playing captain, Simon Cochemé, played a full role. He held several training sessions to familiarise the players with the online software. The final results are below. ❏

FINAL RESULTS			Total
	1st	ENGLAND	68.29 VPs
	2nd	SCOTLAND	63.30 VPs
	3rd	CBAI	54.30 VPs
	4th	IRELAND	50.12 VPs
	5th	N. IRELAND	30.77 VPs
	6th	WALES	26.72 VPs

CROSSWORD NO 29

Compiled by MERMAN

Answers online, p72

1	2		3	4	5		6	7	8
9	10								
11						12			
13		14							
15				16					
17	18			19			20		
					21			22	
23				24					
	25								
26									

ACROSS

- 1 Opponents fancy it's a trap — one wants out (10)
- 10 Guide requiring change in leadership — let's get stuck in this season (8)
- 11 A big dent in credit score (6)
- 12 Notes heart discard — that's a bind (4)
- 13 Picked up four of hearts and then a diamond (5)
- 15 Pieces of staff (3)
- 16 Reward to keep cleaner calm (6)
- 17 Dress to keep dry when in river (6)
- 20 Fund a form of snack (3)
- 21 Starts to make a move by offering to dance (5)
- 23 Gather up and pour down (4)
- 24 Authorised official has no need to wait around — that's heartless (6)
- 25 Volunteers to arrange for indoor cuisine (8)
- 26 Man about town unlikely to make much of a contribution (10)

DOWN

- 2 Nest one's flown without a given name — that's novel (4)
- 3 Generosity of spirit is embraced — leadership is key (8)
- 4 Oliver, who played in three diamonds... (4)
- 5 ... courts au pair, taken aback somewhat (5)
- 6 An act of worship Lord Mayor assumes is to follow prospective partner's final answer (7)
- 7 Puts sacks round little foot (5)
- 8 In Toby's dance, get to go round and round like the original rock 'n' rollers, maybe (9. two words)
- 9 Getting sentimental in school dance? Not with my holds (9)
- 12 Bird-dog has time for a pee (8)
- 14 Withstand a no trump to start with — it's a beast (7)
- 18 Character might thank you to get agitated (5)
- 19 Excerpt from Jagger on Dobro, it's some piece of music (5)
- 21 Looking for Othello, among others, in playroom (4)
- 22 Half a Southern township (4)

Book of Merman Crosswords, see p11

CAPTION COMPETITION



Send your entries for the cartoon above to lou@ebu.co.uk or by post to Editor, Raggett House, Bowdens, Langport, TA10 0DD by Dec 31.

This cartoon produced a great set of captions. Congratulations to Fraser McLeod for my favourite, shown below. Other close contenders were Mike Wood's 'ACOL - Absolute Confusion On Line'; Mike George's 'Tick all the pictures with robots'; John Dearing's 'But I told the robot not to play transfers' and Jean Leach's 'Trust your partner? You must be joking'.

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



Ah, the Sputnik double! Named after my great, great, grandfather

PRESTAT





Beat Today's Experts

1. N/S Game. Dealer East

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

West	East
McGrath	Smith
2♣	1♥
4♥	3♥
4NT	4♠
6♣	5♣
All Pass	6♥

The first deal is from the South African championship. Smith liked his hand after two rounds. It would have been useless to bid Blackwood, with his spade void. Correctly, he

preferred to invite a slam with a control-bid in spades. McGrath now bid RKC from the other side of the table, hearing of four (or one) keycards. He offered 6♣ as an alternative slam and his partner went back to hearts. There were no hostile breaks and an overtrick was made.

Would they find the excellent grand slam at the other table? Let's see.

West	East
D Minwalla	N Minwalla
1♠	1♥
4♥	3♥
	All Pass

What a truly awful response 1♠ is! Apart from the fact that the suit is eight-high, you should bid the 5-card suit first when you are strong enough for two bids. East knew he was facing a useful hand at the other table. Here he had no clue.

Awards: 7♥ (10), 7♣ (9), 6♥/6♣ (7), games (3).

2. N/S Game. Dealer North

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

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

West	North	East	South
Fergani	Nowosadzki	Pollack	Kalita
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣ ^A	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥ ^A	Pass	3♦ ^A	Pass
		3NT	All Pass

The remaining deals come from the ALT online series, featuring many of the world's top players. Fred Pollack's 2NT rebid showed 22-24 balanced. This may have been the best available description in the system being

played, but it ran the risk of missing a slam in a minor suit. Kamel Fergani's 3♣ was Puppet Stayman and East's 3♦ meant 'no major or five spades'. 3♥ enquired and 3NT denied five spades. There was no further bidding and a terrific diamond slam was missed. Jacek Kalita led the ♥K and later discarded three spades, allowing all 13 tricks to be made.

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	L'Ecuyer	Blass	Street
1♠	Pass	1♣ ^A	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♦ ^A	Pass
4♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
Pass ^A	Pass	5♥	Dble
		6♦	All Pass

Josef Blass opened a Polish Club, his 2♦ rebid showing 18+ HCP and three spades. Jacek Pszczola's 2♠ showed 7-9 points and only four spades. East's 3♦ was natural. He might have cue-bid 4♠ to find out about the ♠K, but preferred RKC, discovering the ♦K. When the 5♥ grand slam try was doubled, West's pass denied the ♦Q and the ♠Q. Twelve tricks were easy with the ♠Q onside.

Awards: 6♦ (10), 6NT (7), games (4), grands (2).

Cont/...

3. E/W Game. Dealer North

<div> <div> ♠ A 10 9 7 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ 10 9 ♣ K 9 5 4 </div> <div> ♠ K 6 5 3 2 ♥ 4 ♦ 8 7 4 2 ♣ A J 6 </div> <div> ♠ 4 ♥ K 9 8 7 6 2 ♦ A K Q 6 3 ♣ 3 </div> </div> <div> <div> ♠ Q J 8 ♥ A J 3 ♦ J 5 ♣ Q 10 8 7 2 </div> <div> <div> N W S E </div> </div> </div>			
West	North	East	South
Verhees	Nowosadzki	van Prooijen	Kalita
1NT ^A	Pass	1♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass	3♦	Pass

Some pairs see advantage in swapping the 1♠ and 1NT responses. It's true that the stronger hand can sometimes then play a no trump contract, but I have never seen much advantage in that method. Here Louk Verhees's 1NT showed four or five spades and was non-forcing.

The Netherlands pair play a strong 1♣ system, so Ricco van Prooijen could rebid 3♦ on a shapely hand with not many points. West raised to the diamond game. Declarer won the club lead in dummy and played a heart to the king and ace. He ruffed the next club, ruffed a heart and returned to the ♦K for a further heart ruff. The suit broke 3-3 and +600 was his.

Making a minor-suit game on 20 points is no mean feat. Could they match it at the other table?

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	de Wijs	Blass	Muller
3♣ ^A	1NT ^A	2♥ ^A	Pass
4NT	Pass	3♥ ^A	Pass
Pass	Pass	5♥	Dble
All Pass		6♦	Dble

They sailed right past it! North opened a 9-12 1NT and 2♥ showed hearts and a minor. 3♣ was pass-or-correct and 3♥ indicated a good hand with diamonds. At this stage East had passed roughly the same information as his counterpart at the other table. West's 4NT was way too much, particularly with the ♠K likely to be a dud card. The doubled slam was one down.

Awards: 5♦ (10), 4♥ (7), part-scores (7), slams (0).

4. Love All. Dealer South

<div> <div> ♠ A J 10 9 6 5 ♥ Q 6 4 3 2 ♦ 4 ♣ K </div> <div> ♠ Q 7 ♥ 10 9 ♦ 9 8 7 5 2 ♣ J 9 7 5 </div> <div> ♠ K 8 3 ♥ A K 8 7 ♦ A K Q 6 3 ♣ 2 </div> </div> <div> <div> ♠ 4 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ J 10 ♣ A Q 10 8 6 4 3 </div> <div> <div> N W S E </div> </div> </div>			
West	North	East	South
Pszczola	de Wijs	Blass	Muller
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♣
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		Pass

The first seven calls were the same at both tables. What should East rebid?

Blass chose 4♣ to show a good hand with diamonds. Pszczola had no inclination to retreat into his shell, after the failure of his previous 4NT bid. He leapt to game. The

defenders scored the black aces and +400 was entered on the E/W scorecard.

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Nowosadzki	van Prooijen	Kalita
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♣
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

It is commonplace to venture 3NT with only a partial stopper in the opponents' suit. How shall we rate van Prooijen's club stopper here? Is 'minuscule' still a bit generous?

We will have to admit that 3NT was a great contract. Only a spade lead could trouble it, and Jacek Kalita did indeed reach for the ♠4! North won dummy's queen with the ace and returned the ♠J. Declarer won with the king, cashed the ♦AK and crossed to the ♦7. He then ran the ♥10 to South's jack. Kalita then worked a second miracle, returning the ♣8. North won with the king and scored four spade tricks for three down.

3NT by West, almost impossible to bid, would have been cold.

Awards: 5♦ (10), 3NT/W (8), 3NT/E (7), part-scores (3).

5. Game All. Dealer East

<div> <div> ♠ J 8 7 ♥ K 9 3 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 10 8 7 4 3 </div> <div> ♠ K Q 4 ♥ J 8 7 6 ♦ A Q 6 ♣ Q 6 5 </div> </div>			
<div> <div> ♠ A 10 3 ♥ A Q 10 4 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ J 9 2 </div> <div> ♠ 9 6 5 2 ♥ 5 ♦ K J 10 9 5 2 ♣ A K </div> </div>			
West Zatorski	North Drijver	East Pachtman	South Brink
Dble ^A 3♣	Pass Pass	1♣ ^A 2♥ 3NT	1♦ Dble All Pass

Piotr Zatorski's double showed hearts, and Sjoert Brink's double was for take-out. It was a great effort to end in the unbeatable 3NT, instead of playing in the doomed 5-4 trump fit. South led a diamond, so it was easy to set up the hearts for +600. On a passive spade lead, declarer would set up the hearts, win the diamond return with the ace and play clubs.

West	North	East	South
Kalita	L'Ecuyer	Nowosadski	Street
		1♣	2♦
Dble 4♥	Pass All Pass	2♥	Pass

Paul Street cashed the ♣AK. No club ruff was possible, but Michal Nowosadski still had to lose two more tricks in the red suits. One down and 12 IMPs away.

Awards: 3NT/E (10), 4♥ (6), part-scores (4).

6. E/W Game. Dealer West

<div> <div> ♠ 6 5 ♥ Q 6 2 ♦ 10 7 4 3 ♣ J 5 4 3 </div> <div> ♠ A J 7 3 2 ♥ 10 8 4 3 ♦ Q J 6 ♣ A </div> </div>			
<div> <div> ♠ K 8 4 ♥ A K ♦ A K 9 8 2 ♣ 10 9 6 </div> <div> ♠ Q 10 9 ♥ J 9 7 5 ♦ 5 ♣ K Q 8 7 2 </div> </div>			
West Jason Hackett	North Bareket	East Hydes	South Lengy
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dble
2♦	Pass	3♥ ^A	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Jason Hackett opened a 15-17 1NT and Asaf Lengy doubled Alex Hydes' Stayman bid to suggest a good lead. West's 2♦ was natural and 3♥ was Smolen showing five spades and four hearts. East's 4♦ was natural, not a control bid. What a great hand West now had! Five big cards where they were needed, and zero points wasted opposite the singleton club. The slam was easily made.

West	North	East	South
Barel	Charlsen	Zack	Hoftaniska
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣ ^A	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥ ^A	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Yaniv Zack's 4♣ was a Serious control-bid. The 4♥ follow-up was Last Train, saying nothing about any heart control but continued interest in a slam. Michael Barel did not have Hackett's information about the shape opposite, but he might have done more with all those top cards.

Awards: 6♣ (10), 6♦ (9), 7♠/♦ (6), 6/7NT/games (4).

After a disappointing start, our international stars climb to a respectable 51/60. If you came close to that total, you can sleep well tonight. Perhaps we can find some worthwhile bidding tips.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ♣ When you are worth two bids and have a 4-card major with a longer minor, make your first response in the minor. Apart from being the logical way to bid, a start such as 1♥ – 2♣ – 2♥ – 2♠ is very economical.
- ♣ With 5-4-3-1 shape, it is not ideal to open 2NT (or 2♣ – 2♦ – 2NT). You can easily miss a slam with this extra distribution. Particularly with 20 points, prefer to open one of your long minor.
- ♣ With 4-3-3-3 shape, it can work well to play in 3NT even when there is an eight-card or nine-card fit in a major. Consider it when your points are in the unbid suits. ☐

Your country needs you!

This event was held over a weekend in August. The contestants were teams of EBU members who had a non-British passport, or who were born outside England.

There were whole teams from Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Scotland, as well as players from Kenya, South Africa, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania and Turkey. In addition, a guest England team, made up of two parliamentarians, and representatives of the EBU and EBTA, was invited to compete. Many of the pairs had never met each other and came from opposite ends of the country. One of the Malaysian team lives in Kuala Lumpur, and was playing in quite a different time-zone. Overall, a perfect on-line event!

The round robin qualifier on the Saturday was handsomely won by Malaysia, ahead of Europe B, Scotland and Southern Africa. The latter (Kenya & South Africa) toppled Malaysia in one semi-final, and Scotland overcame Europe B (Italy, Norway, Turkey) in the other. The winners (Roger Pratt, Paul Mendelson, Julia Davies & Sekhar Pillai) beat Scotland (Bob Marchbank, Maureen Bradford, Jim Grant & Maxine Julius) by 79-56 IMPs in the final.

This slam deal from the first day created swings in many of the encounters.

This was a sequence that didn't get the job done:

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦ ^A	Pass
6♥	All Pass		
^A 0 or 3 keycards			

Uncertain about the whereabouts of the ♦KQ, West settled for the small slam.

Europe's Gabija Poskaite & Hanna Tuus and Malaysia's Wei Che Tham & David Law had more successful auctions when East supported hearts with a 3♠ splinter.

West	North	East	South
<i>Poskaite/ Tham</i>		<i>Tuus/ Law</i>	
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣ ^A	Pass	7♥	All Pass
^A Tham replied 5NT, showing two keycards & a void			

Now the value of the ♦KQ was self-evident and the excellent grand slam was reached.

Paul Mendelson, part of the winning Africa team, tells his tales:

Opposed to being downhearted, the English Bridge Union decided to take advantage of lockdown to launch a new teams event for players who are members of the English Bridge Union, but who have some kind of affiliation to another country.

One of my advanced students asked if I would play for the Southern Africa team and on a Saturday in August we settled down to a long all-play-all qualifier, the top four places making it through to the semi final.

E/W Game. Dealer East.

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

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

The hands were random, but there were many slams, very tight games, horrible trump splits and opportunities for good defence.

The following deal helped my team scrape into fourth place, just qualifying for the semi-finals:

To say that Roger bid every inch of his hand would not be an understatement, but he fully

E/W Game. Dealer West.

<p>♠ K Q 6</p> <p>♥ 10 2</p> <p>♦ A K 10 9 4 3</p> <p>♣ 10 2</p>	<p>♠ A J</p> <p>♥ A K 9 5</p> <p>♦ 7 6</p> <p>♣ A Q J 8 7</p>	<p>♠ 9 3</p> <p>♥ Q J 6 4</p> <p>♦ J 8 5 2</p> <p>♣ K 9 4</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 7 5 4 2</p> <p>♥ 8 7 3</p> <p>♦ Q</p> <p>♣ 6 5 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
	<i>Mendelson</i>		<i>Pratt</i>
1♦	Dble	1♥	1♠
2♦	3♣	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

justified his optimism by playing the hand perfectly and scoring 10 tricks.

We also enjoyed the slam hand shown previously by Simon. We were lucky to have a system to cope. Here's our bidding:

West	North	East	South
<i>Pratt</i>		<i>Mendelson</i>	
		2♦ ^A	Pass
2♥ ^A	Pass	2NT ^A	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	7♥	All Pass

Starting with 2♦ and rebidding 2NT shows a 4-4-4-1 hand with 19 points or more in our system. When West made a natural 3♥ bid, East's 3♠ showed a non-minimum hand with a singleton spade, justified because all of East's values are aces, kings and a connected queen – a very pure hand. Once West cuebid 4♦, showing the ace, East used

RKCB and, upon hearing that partner held two aces, plus the trump queen, East bid the grand slam.

At the other table, E/W only managed to reach 6♥, and this swing, together with good work by our teammates, led us to win the semi-final match.

At the end of what had already been a long weekend, at 6pm on Sunday evening, just two hours after the close semi-final, we settled down to the 24-board final, versus a team of fine Scottish players. By this time, the bridge was not all it might have been. On one hand, our team failed to bid a relatively simple slam, on another the opponents went off against us when, at the other table, our teammates successfully negotiated it.

Usually at teams, it is the thin games which make all the difference: whether you bid and make them, or whether you find the best defence. For us, it was all about slams.

Ultimately, it came down to the most vertiginous of endings. Roger and I bid two small slams with nine trumps missing the queen. With an ace out against us, we needed to guess what to do in trumps. We were lucky. At the other table, our opponents misguessed on one slam and, probably correctly, settled for 5♠ on the other. Somehow, amazingly, we had won.

Simon Cochemé adds, 'It was fun for me to represent Malaysia, the country of my birth. In my retelling of the event, I carried the flag at the opening ceremony. The excellent organisation was by Elisabeth Bingham.'

JOIN EBU INTER-NATIONAL 2021

The 2021 version is planned for March or April. The only restrictions are: a maximum of two teams per country, and just one NGS ace per team. If you would like to take part, please email : internationalbridge2021@fastmail.com. You will be put in touch with potential partners and teammates. Come on Wales, Ireland, France, Poland, India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Norway, USA and beyond – your country needs you! □

England's mind sport legend

Ankush Khandelwal was in the English Junior bridge squad for many years and has a mind dedicated to chance, probabilities, shows, tells, tics, timing and all things mind-sporty. Following an integrated masters in MMORSE (Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics, Economics) from Warwick University he spent a few years in Amsterdam, trading derivatives before deciding to earn a living through poker, although he assures us that bridge is his favourite card game. He plays anything and everything card- and board-based, many of which are now available on computers, and loves watching and playing football. He is under 30 with an enthusiasm for games that keeps him winning.

Tell us about some achievements that have made you a super-hero.

My best achievement in mind sports is winning the Pentamind World Championships at the Mind Sports Olympiad four times – this is effectively the board games world championships where one has to compete at a high level across a spectrum of different games. I'd consider myself to be a master at a variety of different games but world class in only a few. Poker and bridge are the games I dedicate most of my time to as they have the biggest competitive scenes.

Desert island, one computer with one game . . .

A relatively unknown hybrid strategy game called *Prismata*. It is the best game I've ever played in terms of tactics, strategy, low randomness/luck, complexity, balance and replayability – it has everything I look for in terms of game mechanics.

Four people – cards or a chess board?

Easy choice because there's a lot of card games I like;

I used to enjoy playing *hearts* and *spades* when I was younger but they're not really played competitively to my knowledge. Poker only works if there's something at stake so on a desert island it would hold limited appeal. Bridge is of course the game I'd play the most..

Playing games for money or for glory?

Poker has been my primary source of income for the past 6.5 years. I don't play bridge for money, but

I wouldn't say glory either. I like the challenge of mastering games to satisfy both my competitive drive and my intellectual curiosity. The game has to be deep and fascinating enough to be worth playing, and have an active competitive scene in order to track one's progression.

Bridge offers me all that, but what makes it special is that it has a great community of players that you meet and play against – the social side is one of the best aspects of bridge. I enjoy the post mortem dinners after playing almost as much as the game itself.

Most mind games are played solo – bridge relies on a partner – fun or infuriating?

I'm fortunate that most of the bridge I play is with partners who are either better than me or of a similar skill level. Even though most games are played solo, it's far more enjoyable to study, analyse and train for games with friends. I prefer to bounce my ideas off others too – I work a lot better collaboratively.

When starting bridge I found the partnership aspect aggravating – but it never made me want to give up the game as a whole, maybe give up certain partnerships . . .

Tell us about the social side of your games.

I enjoy the various different gaming communities. My closest friends are fellow professional poker



players as we share a lifestyle, philosophy and spend so much time together. It takes a lot of study, dedication and discipline to be competitive in the high stakes arena of poker in 2020. It's important to surround yourself with like-minded people with whom you can share your success and it makes the process far more rewarding.

Your nom de jeu is Gameking51 – why 51?

A lot of people pick their birth years for online poker screennames so I thought I'd be a bit mischievous. In Indian culture it's customary when gifting money, like making donations at a temple, to gift either 21, 51 or 101 rupees so part of it was paying homage to my roots.

Do you have a bridge goal – are you still improving?

My goal in every game I take seriously is to constantly improve and to eventually compete at the highest level possible. My current primary goal in bridge is to play at a high enough standard to be consistently selected for the England Open team with my partner, Ben Green. I've definitely improved a lot over the past few years and hope to continue to do so.

How did you learn bridge?

I was fortunate that we had a bridge club at my school. When I was 13 a friend suggested I should learn to play as he thought I might like the game – he was right!

A few years later I was invited to join the England junior squad brilliantly run by Michael Byrne and Alan Shillitoe at the time, which really helped to

progress my game, and I enjoyed the junior tournaments I played with the England team.

I played a lot of bridge at university and I've learnt a lot from mentors over the years. I'm very grateful for everyone's support.

How can we inspire more young to take up bridge?

Not easy. The biggest objection I come across is that it's too complicated to learn which is a major obstacle. If there was a way to distil the captivating aspects of bridge in a simplified manner – to create enough intrigue for young people to want to invest time to learn the game that would be a major step – but easier said than done.



Ankush plays Diving Chess. The time limit to assess the board and make your move is driven by how long you can hold your breath

Do you enjoy playing or watching physical sports?

I like playing anything whether it be games or sports. In particular I really enjoy playing football and badminton. I like to watch a lot of football on the side while playing poker or other games on other screens.

How is the thinking different in your top three games – say chess, bridge and poker. Is there an overlap?

The skills required to win at all games are quite transferable. Ultimately it takes a lot of passion, dedication and reflection to really want to improve your game by analysing mistakes made and eradicating them in the future. A lot of games-playing is about performance: focus, discipline and a desire to win takes you quite far. □



CLUBBING TOGETHER IN LOCKDOWN

Stretford Bridge Club, near Manchester, is a long-established club with its own premises near Victoria Park. It's a great location and the club, in normal times, runs sessions most days, though numbers have declined in recent years and the club has been working on teaching and supervised play to bring in more members. Then in March lockdown happened and the club had to close its doors temporarily. What next?

Dave Tilley, club secretary, also plays at Warrington and Brierfield. 'I knew it was going to be some time before we ever got back to playing face-to-face,' he said. 'So I set about getting the three clubs together, to work as a virtual bridge club.' He took advantage of the EBU virtual club scheme on Bridge Base Online (BBO) and invited people to play.

'Anybody who comes along and wants to play at the club, we welcome them,' says Dave, as he starts reeling off all the sessions he now runs (*see below*).

Even bridge students have not missed out. 'We had a whole lot of students whose course ended halfway through lockdown. We've got them all back together, with some from Stretford and a couple from Brierfield. We run a weekly Zoom lesson followed by a 12-board session with hands often related to the lesson,' said Dave.

'It's been a lot of hard work,' Dave says, which is easy to believe. 'But lots of people have helped me, Jim Steele at Warrington does the lessons with me.

There is Chris Collison and Richard Aubery at Stretford. And then there's Linda Banks, Norman Cope and Alan Crabtree up at Brierfield, all of whom are supporting me.'

What will happen when face-to-face bridge is again possible? 'I actually think that clubs will probably function better still having some sort of virtual bridge in their lives,' Dave says. 'We've proven that, for example, on a Friday night.' Pre-lockdown, the only bridge in the area on a Friday night was a small session at Trafford in Manchester, with three to five tables. 'Now we're getting 15 tables,' Dave said. Especially on dark winter evenings, online bridge is likely to remain popular, and can be played by people for whom travel is difficult.



Getting people to play online is not just a matter of putting on sessions. Stretford's experience is that you can foster a friendly atmosphere online as well as at a face-to-face session, by the way you direct and look after people. Some members have needed encouragement and help to get online. Some did not even have a suitable device. 'One player went out and bought himself a laptop, another got herself an iPad,' Dave said. The goal has been 'to ensure that all three clubs survive,' though it's achieved more than that, with some members playing more bridge than they were able to before. Considering how hopeless the situation looked back in March, it is a remarkable turnaround. □

A Joint Virtual Club - numbers that speak for themselves

Monday afternoon - 10-high session - 9-10 tables

Monday evening - club duplicate - 18 tables

Thursday morning - TEACHING on Zoom followed by 12 boards

Friday evening - club duplicate - 12-15 tables

Sunday morning - club duplicate - 11-15 tables

HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CLUB

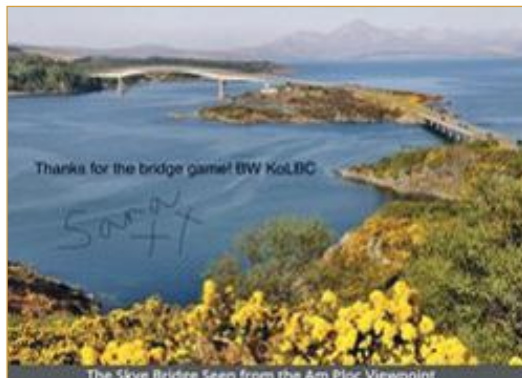
Halifax in West Yorkshire has a small bridge club with about 200 members. The club made the move to online bridge very quickly – some readers might remember its online 70th birthday party back in April. From a standing start some 70% of the members subscribed to BBO.

The club started by playing teams matches. Club member Andrew Hardy explained, 'At that time not many clubs were playing online so I started looking further afield. Following a contact I had made through the club's Twitter account @HalifaxBridge, we ended up challenging another small club based in Kyle of Lochalsh in the West of Scotland. We thought it would be fun to play an 'International'. We offered a signed photo of our President if we lost, but we won! KoL were kind enough to reward us with a signed picture of a local beauty spot!'

The first event proved very popular – there were more people wanting to play than could easily be accommodated in a teams format. Inspired by the interest in the event Andrew started looking further afield and made contact with Halifax's twin town of Aachen in Germany, and its namesake club in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which is 2,762 miles away, or just under a million packs of cards laid end to end! Running the events as pairs allowed more people to participate and proved popular with the members. There were 12 tables playing against Aachen and 14 with Halifax NS. Most of the opponents played 5-card majors and a strong NT which led some

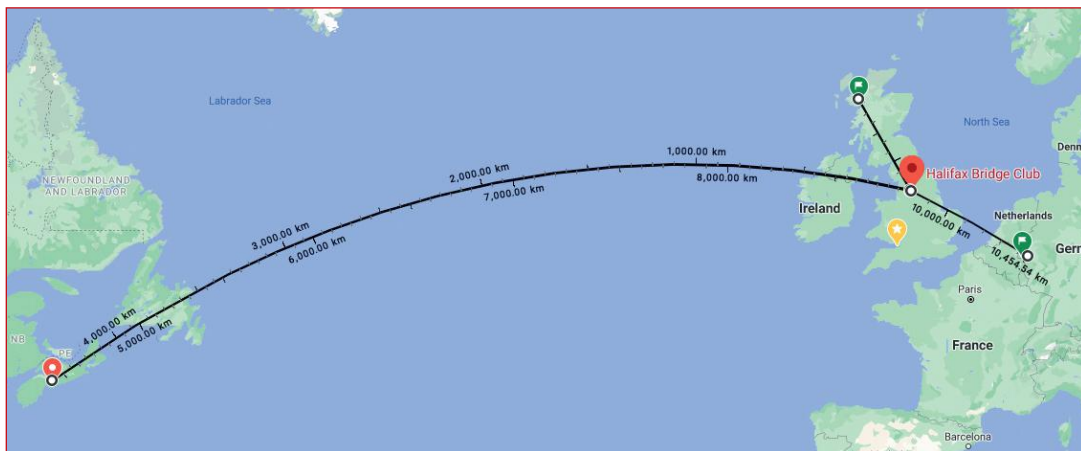
members to struggle a little to adapt but the matches were played in a very friendly atmosphere.

The club has organised follow up matches due to take place before Christmas, and it is hoping to strengthen its links with these clubs going forward. It is also looking into the use of *RealBridge* and its integrated video function which would allow the players to see their opponents!



As Andrew points out, lockdown is proving very restrictive, but opportunities are there if you look in the right places. He feels lucky that the committee and members have all been very supportive and notes that special credit is due to Stephen Cordingley who was instrumental in getting the games up and running. □

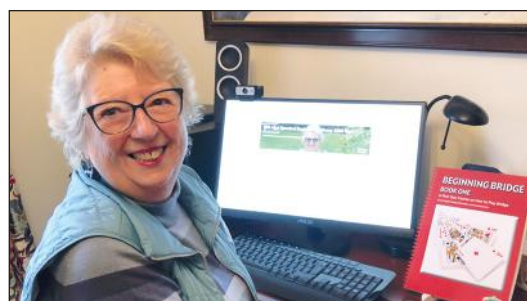
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/halifax/>
http://www.halifaxaachensociety.co.uk/about_us



This is a difficult time given the challenges posed by Covid 19. Bridge clubs need constant replenishment to ensure success. The EBU and its offshoot charity English Bridge Education and Development recognised the need to find creative alternatives to face-to-face teaching once lockdown was imposed. In response EBED fast-tracked the development of a new, online bridge teaching programme, christened *English Bridge School* or *ebs*. The development team had just a few months to be ready for the new intake of beginners.

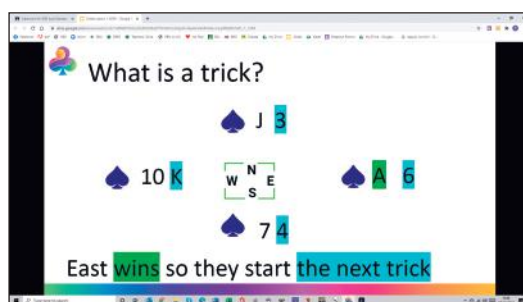
ebs was launched in September 2020 as a Website Learning Platform. Teachers lead the path for the students. It is a complete online course with a library of learning materials for teachers and their students. As a professional bridge teacher, I thought this was an exciting new development and I was delighted to be asked to help trial *ebs*.

ebs has been set up using the Google Suite platform in Google Chrome. Google suite was chosen because it is very flexible, allowing considerable interaction between students and teacher, other students, and providing quizzes and assignments for assessment. In addition, other popular bridge platforms such as No Fear Bridge and BBO, BCL, & Shark can be screen shared. This is available through Google Classroom after the students have arrived via Google Meet (similar to Zoom). The teaching programme is Standard English Acol.

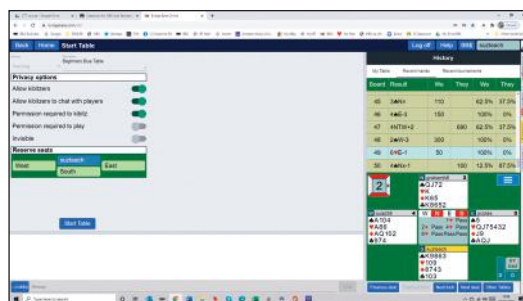


Within Google Classroom, *ebs* has set up weekly lessons for Beginners Term 1. It provides all the material a teacher might need. There is a series of

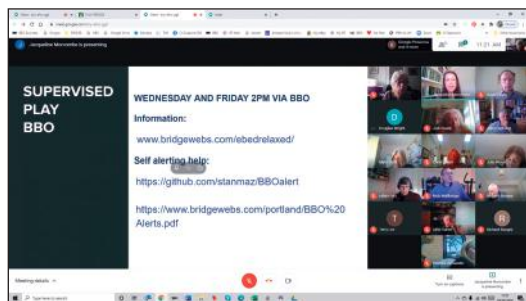
slides for presenting each topic. There are interactive quizzes which can be done in class or set for homework and then presented for assessment. The teacher can grade or comment and return the material to the student. The students and teacher can post comments to individuals or the whole class. Using the Classroom setting, *ebs* has produced complete lessons but teachers are also able to use their own supplementary material, such as handouts and YouTube clips. In addition, *ebs* has a student and teacher library which offers extra resources. Learner teachers can also invite another teacher into their classroom for support.



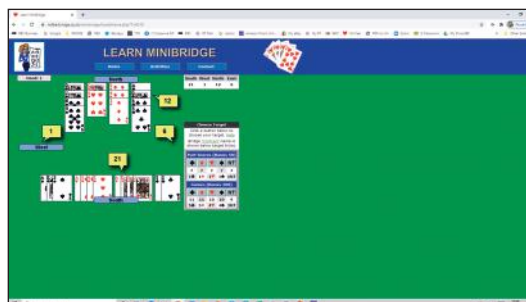
Within Google Meet you can also screenshare BBO or BCL or any other play platform for practice play by setting up a teaching table.



It is also possible to run supervised play sessions which are offered by EBED on a twice weekly basis, and run by Jacks Morcombe.




Within Google Meet you can demonstrate No Fear Bridge. I have found it helpful in getting the students to start playing Mini Bridge. The teacher can demonstrate and then the students can play a large variety of hands in their own time. The levels go from beginner to advanced in bidding and play.



There is no doubt that the tech side of things can be as challenging as the bridge. One of my students posted this on my classroom page:

1 class comment



Nicola Talbot Sep 22
Morning Suzanne, thanks for last night. Just taking a look through the various tech bits. Trying to get to grips with submitting the assignments - perhaps showing us how to do that next week would be useful"

Taking a little time to make sure everyone is familiar with the nuts and bolts of how to interact with the software helps to build student confidence and keep the class motivated. I am finding that most new students are enjoying learning how to play bridge online, and if the material is presented in a quiet and efficient way the students get on board. I tell them that I am learning the tech stuff too and if it does not always quite go to plan, we are able to laugh together and keep going.

The *English Bridge School* is a work in progress

and the team at EBED are working hard to produce more material and refinements, as well as completing the *Beginners* and *Improvers* courses. The material is produced in tandem with the *Beginning Bridge Book 1* (the red book) and *Continuing Bridge Book 2* (the green book), plus all the other materials in *Bridge for All*.

Would you like to join the online teaching bridge programme? Take a look at the EBED website:

<http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/teach>

I do hope some of you follow this up. Teaching is personally rewarding and socially engaging as well as an intellectually stimulating activity. I would encourage you to consider joining the bridge teaching and learning community through the *English Bridge School*.

Suzanne Gill
EBED Teacher Educator
suzanne.gill@englishbridgeschool.org

THANKS FROM SOME PUPILS!

Having started as complete novices in evening classes one term before Coronavirus lockdown we were caught by the bridge bug. Helped by your enthusiasm we wanted to continue learning. The only option was online. It was a shaky start with pupils suffering differing broadband speeds and levels of IT skills! We have all persevered and now the lessons work well and the teaching zone you have created helps reinforce lessons targeted to the weekly topics we are learning or revising. The combination of discussion over Zoom, and the ability to play set hands and rotate the declarer speeds up the learning process.

You have also shown and encouraged us to set up our games with friends or robots which we have thoroughly enjoyed. In a perverse way Coronavirus has given us the opportunity to really get our teeth into this wonderful game. With your encouragement we have even entered competitions and haven't always felt out of our depth. This is thanks to your teaching and introducing us to online bridge. Overall we think online bridge is a brilliant way to learn but wouldn't be the same or as easy without your teaching alongside.

James & Den
Definitely now improving!

Suzanne is a wonderfully patient teacher who does a brilliant good job of breaking down the complex game of bridge so we can start to understand how to play. Lessons are fun and gradually I'm starting to understand the basics of bridge!

Lucy

Are you loving online teaching but missing some of those classroom essentials like a whiteboard or flip chart? Online teaching can miss out on some of the regular interaction which happens in a face-to-face situation. We can never truly replace that, but why not try some new tools for bringing more two-way interaction into your lessons. The G suite apps in our *English Bridge School* can help.

Have you tried JamBoard yet? This is the digital whiteboard and it offers an alternative to talking through slide presentations making it ideal for discussions or question and answer sessions. It is perfect for tablet and touchscreen users but if you are using a PC or laptop pen drawing devices are now fairly cheap to buy.

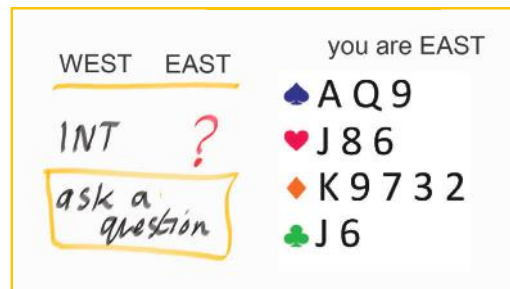
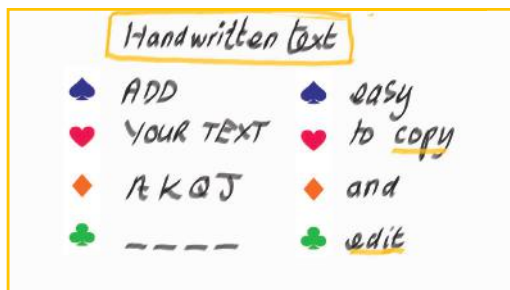
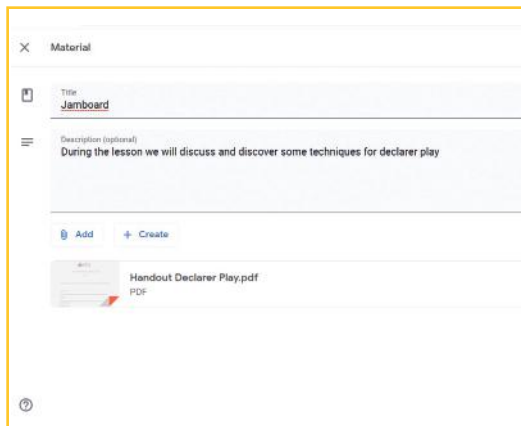


Step 1: Log in to your *English Bridge School* account

Step 2: click on this symbol to find the jamboard icon



Start a new Jam and give it a title. You can use a new screen for each question and flip through the sheets during your Question and Answer sessions. The great thing about using a digital whiteboard is that it brings back the ability to get answers from your learners, to record their responses and discuss. You can prepare material in advance with a quick handwritten version and add images. If you have a slide presentation ready you can export any slide as an image to use in your Jamboard. (In Google slides, this is done by choosing, `file> download>` then chose an image type such as jpg or png).



The Jamboard menu is simple with a choice of pens, a few colours and icons for 'add an image', 'Add a shape', 'add a post it' or 'add text'.

A final feature of Jamboard is that it works seamlessly with your EBS Classroom so you can share it before, during or after the lesson.

JUNIOR BRIDGE RETURNS TO OXFORDSHIRE

Holly Kilpatrick has been running the Sunday bridge club for Oxfordshire for six years. Here she explains how it has regrouped in the autumn.

We had planned to return in September: flyers and posters had been distributed, the parents informed, the juniors ready and the boards duly dealt and stacked and then – the goalposts were moved and it was all off!



However, those metaphoric goalposts had swung backwards, forwards and sideways before we blinked and absorbed the previous set of instructions. Indeed, no sooner had we cancelled the sessions than this clause appeared on the government website:

There are exceptions where groups can be larger than six people. These include:

- ❖ for work, or the provision of voluntary or charitable services;
- ❖ registered childcare, education or training;
- ❖ supervised activities provided for children, including wraparound care, youth groups and activities, and children's playgroups.

OPT Trustee, Julie Anderson, decided emphatically that the Oxford Junior Bridge Club (OJBC) fell into these categories and so, it was all on again and in early October we opened the doors to eleven juniors, including a new family eager to learn.

The layout looks a little different, with four bridge tables pushed together to create one huge table, but Oxford Bridge Club is the ideal design to have one

large table in each of the small rooms and two large ones in their main playing area at the back of the building.

We, the volunteers, were all ready to be strict about hand washing, sanitising and social distancing but, of course, the juniors are accustomed to all this from school and nobody needed reminding. We took our tea breaks table by table and, again, this was second nature to the children; it was the adults who were in danger of too much socialising.

Our first learn and play session went as happily and smoothly as ever and we fervently hope to continue for the remainder of term. At the end of the afternoon, almost every junior and parent expressed their pleasure at being back playing face to face bridge. One junior even said, 'Today was more fun than online learning – you have a funny face and voice on Zoom, Holly!'

The Oxford Junior Bridge Club has been running every Sunday afternoon during term time since September 2014. We are modest about our successes, but Henry Rose was our first pupil and many of our other pupils have represented England in the youth teams.

However, equally importantly, a large number of juniors have come to us, over the years, and learned the basics of bidding, play and defence and have hugely enjoyed the game and our friendly sessions, which are run entirely by volunteers. Many of our pupils and former pupils now play regularly in adult club sessions. □



Anyone thinking of following Oxford's example should check the current Covid guidelines.

STEP BY STEP HELP FOR NEW VIRTUAL CLUBS

When Lockdown started back in March most people assumed we'd be back playing face-to-face bridge by now. Sadly not. If you are involved with one of the clubs who decided to wait and see rather than plunge into a virtual world the EBU can provide masses of help if you want to start now.

So far we've assisted 260 clubs to set up and play online. Their sessions are restricted to club members and invited guests. Most are playing on BBO, but there is now a number of online platforms where clubs can run games including *Bridge Club Live*, *StepBridge* and *RealBridge*. The latter includes audio and video so you can see and speak with the other players at the table making it feel much more like a face-to-face game. What should you do if your club is interested in starting to play online?

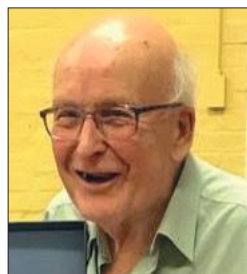
Jonathan Lillycrop, the EBU's Club Liaison Officer, is on hand to help. He will advise on the best platform and answer any questions. He will support you every step of the way and ensure the following questions are answered:

- ❖ Is there someone in the club who is willing to be trained to direct the online sessions? Alternatively a director can be provided for a fee.
- ❖ How to collect table money from players – through BBO or offline? And how much to charge players?
- ❖ When to play and how many boards?

Do ask Jonathan to give your club advice on all these questions (and more) and guide you through the process of setting up a Virtual Club and starting to play duplicates. If your club has not yet started playing online why not give it a go as we head into the dark winter months?

For individuals whose local club is not playing Jonathan can also help with information about alternative clubs who are playing online and information on the daily EBU games which are open to all.

Contact Jonathan Lillycrop on 01296 317206 or jonathan@ebu.co.uk



DON SMEDLEY
1933 – 2020

Don Smedley was given the Dimmie Fleming Award in 2004 for his enormous contribution to bridge administration in Derbyshire. For many years Don served as vice chairman and Chief TD while also being a member of the Derbyshire Law & Ethics and Selection committees.

Don was a winner of every significant club and county level event. In the County Pairs his first win was with Bill Murday in 1966, his most recent was in 2019 with me. His successes at national level were: The National Swiss Teams in 1978; The Pachabo Cup in 2003; The Corwen Trophy in 2005; The Silver Plate in 2008; and the Premier Life Masters Pairs. He reached the Crockfords final three times, on one occasion finishing in joint second place.

However, he will be remembered at least as much for his personal qualities as his bridge achievements. At the table he always displayed an easy friendliness and humour, he was pleasant to play against even if you were losing. One player described it as 'like being licked by a labrador even while you are being duffed up'. **John Griffin**

DIRECT MEMBERSHIP OF THE EBU

Direct membership of the EBU costs just £32 a year. You get all the benefits such as the magazine, Master Points and the NGS without having to play regularly. It's ideal for members who haven't taken to online bridge but want to support the game, and for players in unaffiliated clubs.

SPECIAL OFFER

If you subscribe now for the April 2021-March 2022 year we are offering the February issue of *English Bridge*, Master Points and NGS grading up to April at no extra cost. See the website for details: www.ebu.co.uk/universal-membership or phone 01296 317200.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters to the editor, Lou Hobhouse
Raggett House, Bowdens, TA10 0DD, or e-mail lou@ebu.co.uk
The editor reserves the right to condense letters. Publication does not mean the EBU agrees with the views expressed or that the comments are factually correct.

GRADING ROBOTS

I have wondered whether playing with robots online is causing grade inflation or deflation. I play on BBO and the robots on that platform play five card major systems like SAYC and 2 over 1. I have not myself made use of the robots to satisfy my thirst for bridge. I would be interested to know if the NGS process is the same as for two humans. Does the robot have a grade for purposes of the grade calculation. Any information would be welcome.

Greg Varnom

The robots are graded like everyone else. They can be found by going to NGS on the EBU website and selecting Direct UK as the county. I've just looked - there are four robots, two billed as Advanced, and two as Basic. One of the Advanced is a queen and the other three are jacks on the NGS. This goes up and down every time they play.

Ed

COUNTING

I much enjoyed the return of the hard copy magazine. All items very interesting - most useful for this bridge foot soldier was *Crocs on Defence*. Counting exercises. Yes please! - let's see as many features as possible on this aspect of the game. Is not bettering one's skills in this area of the game the most surefire way to improve one's results?

Tim Greenhill

RANDOM ADD-ONS

I learnt to play bridge by playing for money in the early 1970s. Computer dealt hands are almost goulashes in comparison to the old shuffled deals. This has lead to the demise of old-fashioned bidding methods and the rise of ever more conventions. We could enliven the computer game with random part scores and occasional honours options. Each hand would show something like: *Board 7, N/S 40, E/W 60, No Honours*. We already assign vulnerability, which is a legacy from rubber.

I read a few years ago that modern professional golfers complained that St Andrews was too rough and windy - they had got used to modern carefully manicured golf courses. Likewise modern bridge specialists - wimps!

R T Lewis

JITSI MEET

I was really impressed to read that Oxford Bridge Club has risen to the challenge to provide video conferencing at their BBO pairs events. There may be a free, possibly simpler, way of doing it.

There are many alternatives to Zoom and one is an open source option called *Jitsi Meet*. It is always free with no 40-minute paywall. The main advantage is that you can join a 'meeting' just by typing in the name of the 'meeting room' when you open the app. For example, I regularly play with friends on BBO using the room name 'GBC' (Guy's

Bridge Club). Most of us use a smartphone or tablet for *Jitsi* while playing bridge on a desktop or laptop computer, but it is possible to do both things on the same computer.

In a pairs setting you could have a general meeting area called, for example, GBC, which all members join at the beginning of the session, then a different room name for each table - GBC1, GBC2 etc. Providing each player knows which table they are playing at they can leave and enter new meetings whenever they have to move throughout the session. If you have a Mitchell movement then NS stay in the same room throughout the whole session.

Guy Malcolm

Inspired by this suggestion I gave it a go. I couldn't find any reference to 'sub-rooms' on Jitsi Meet, so I used Zoom. I am a paid-up member, but my players are not. With the latest version of Zoom they were able to do exactly as you suggest. I created Break-out Rooms 1, 2, 3 etc and the participants were able to self-select the break-out room to match their BBO table number. The only obstacle was 'player panic'. So many people thought it sounded difficult, but those that overcame this all emailed to say it had been simple. We reckoned it added about 20 seconds to a round. I believe Trickster already offers this, but not for a duplicate tournament, while RealBridge is gaining traction fast. It automatically adds player audio-visual to a table.

Ed

Club Bidding Quiz

by Julian Pottage



Answers to Questions on Page 12

Hand 1

♠ Q 7 6 3
♥ K J 10 6 5 4
♦ A 6
♣ 4

W	N	E	S
			1NT
?			

2♥. Even if you play a conventional defence to 1NT (such as 2♣ Landy to show both majors), this is really a single-suited hand. You have two more hearts than you do spades and the suit quality is better.

Hand 2

♠ K 10 5
♥ A K J 5 3
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ 9

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

2♠. You have a minimum opening bid, three-card support for partner, a singleton on the side and a poor second suit. Raising limits your hand and better describes it than a 2♦ rebid. Partner, if holding four spades, might still be able to explore other contracts, for example by rebidding in no trumps or showing delayed heart support.

Hand 3

♠ 2
♥ K J 8 5
♦ K Q 8 7 3
♣ Q 10 4

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

2NT. Since partner has bid spades, a singleton spade is no barrier to bidding no trumps. A 3♥ reverse would be an overbid and, in any case, partner would surely have rebid 2♥ rather 2♠ if holding four hearts.

Hand 4

♠ J 7 6
♥ 9 3
♦ 9 6 3
♣ AKJ93

W	N	E	S
	1♠	Pass	2NT ^A
?			

^A Game forcing spade raise

3♣. You expect partner to end up on lead against a spade contract. If so, you would strongly prefer a club lead to one of the red suits. If partner thinks you are suggesting a sacrifice, that might work out too. If you can score five club tricks and two spade ruffs, you would need just one more trick for 5♣ doubled to be down less than 620.

Hand 5

♠ J 4
♥ 10 7 3
♦ A K 6
♣ K Q 10 9 8

W	N	E	S
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
?			

3♦. With no heart stopper, it would be rash to pot 3NT – even if 3NT is right, it may play better with the lead coming up to partner's holding. Nor do you want to bid 4♠ on a possible seven-card fit. The solution is to bid your chunky three-card diamond suit. Partner, who had the chance to bid 2♦ over 2♣ is unlikely to raise.

Hand 6

♠ Q 10 5 4
♥ A J 9 3
♦ 6 2
♣ 9 3 2

W	N	E	S
		1♥	3♦ ^A
?			

^A Weak jump overcall

3♥. When the opponents force the bidding higher before you have been able to support partner, the usual rule is to bid one level higher than you were planning to. Here you would have bid 2♥ without the overcall and should now bid 3♥. Partner should allow for this in deciding whether to advance to 4♥. □

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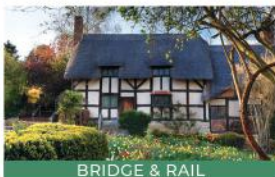
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New Teaching Rooms

Bridge Club Live's new annexe for teachers was up and running at the beginning of July with many of our time slots already taken. We have four rooms available for teaching sessions and teachers can upload their own deals for play. There is more on this facility in the Information pages on the BCL web site.

Meanwhile this year's huge increase in membership has given us record numbers of 92 pairs playing 11 matches of 18 boards in our IMPs League and 142 pairs playing six matches of 18 boards in our Swiss Pairs series.

Bridge Club Live is also hosting club Match Pointed duplicate sessions for about 50 bridge clubs in England.

I came across an unusual squeeze position in a recent daily IMP Pairs Tourney.

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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

South opened in spades and partner replied in clubs, with South ending in 3NT. West led the ♥J. This was taken with the ♥Q and declarer played two top clubs and led a third from dummy. This was ducked by West. Declarer returned to hand with the ♦K and led a spade to the ♠Q and ♠K. East returned the ♠J taken with the ♠A while West discarded a heart. East would surely have led a heart back if he had one. After a very generous defence so far, declarer could picture the actual layout (*shown in next column*).

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

Declarer easily has four of the last six tricks (one spade, one heart and two diamonds) but now found the lead of the ♠6, throwing a heart from dummy, taken by East, who returned a spade, but a diamond would not have made any difference. This exercise may have looked like passing time, but it was a very convenient way to rectify the count in order for the squeeze to follow. Having won trick nine with the ♠10 while throwing another heart from dummy, declarer cashed the ♦Q and, at trick 11, crossed to the ♦A in dummy to leave the ♥9 and ♣9 in dummy and the ♥A2 in hand. Before dummy was reached, West had to part with one of ♥K10 and ♣Q. To prevent the ♣9 becoming a winner, West threw the ♥10, but that was no better as declarer crossed back to hand with the ♥A to enjoy the ♥2 as an extra trick for a fabulous reward of **ONE** IMP. □

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Funbridge Competitions

by Marc Smith

Protection is a Racket

Balancing or, as it is also known, protective bidding, can be a tricky thing to judge. Exactly what some bids show in the balancing positions can be shrouded in mystery. A good guide is to mentally transfer a king from your partner's hand to yours, and then make the same bid as you would make in second seat. Of course, partner then has to remember to deduct a king from his hand. Failure to adhere to this principle meant that things didn't work out well for East/West on this deal:

E/W Game. Dealer South. IMPs (teams)

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

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

Should East just pass out 1♠? If not, should he balance with a takeout double or with 2♦? Let's apply the concept discussed above and reassess. If you add, say, the ♥K, then would this East hand not be a takeout double (albeit a minimum one) of a 1♠ opening on your right? I think so – so balancing with a double seems like a reasonable action.

West might have overcalled 1NT at his first turn which, although not ideal, at least gets the hand off his chest. Having passed, he must then take away a king when responding to his partner's fourth-seat double, which leaves him with a moderate 12-count. Facing a second-seat takeout double (which could be a 1·4·4·4 10-count), committing to game would be too much, and so it is here. Bidding 2♠ is not forcing to game, but whether the hand is really good enough for 3NT is questionable.

For his part, North did well to double the 2♠ cuebid. When South then makes a lead-directing heart bid on his way to 3♠, West should realise that the hand probably does not belong to them. Yes, North/South may be able to make 3♠ (they lose just a trump, a diamond and two clubs), but there is nothing to suggest that East/West has a good enough fit to compete in a minor at the four-level, and certainly not that you can make game in no trumps. Sometimes you have to accept that the opponents can outbid you.

Not that East is completely blameless either. He should realise that his partner has only one spade stopper. There is also a strong implication that West is 4-4 in the minors, so removing 3NT to 4♦ would be the pragmatic action. It also produces a plus score as declarer should manage ten tricks, losing just one trump and two hearts.

The only good thing about West's 3NT contract is that neither defender could find a double. On a spade lead, the best that declarer can do if he is doubled is to cash his six top tricks for -800. With no double, East took his only real chance of making the contract (finding a doubleton ♦K onside). He won the opening spade lead, crossed to the ♣A and took a diamond finesse.

North won with the ♦K and I think South is still cashing winners today. East/West -500 was not a great advert for protective bidding. The balancing action itself is okay here, though. You just need to be wary when your partner acts in the protective position. Your hand may not be as good as it first appears. □

Make the opponents do the work. Quiz from p10

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

W	N	E	S
1♠	2♠	Pass	4♥ ²
All Pass			

1 A sound raise in hearts. N/S are playing that a jump to 3♥ would be pre-emptive rather than invitational.

2 A little pushy with so many losers and two useless jacks

♠ A 9
♥ Q J 9 7
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ K 10 4



♠ J 5
♥ A K 10 8 6 3
♦ J 5
♣ A 9 3

Hand 2: South
plays in 6♣.
West leads the ♠K

W	N	E	S
Pass	6♣	All Pass	3♣

♠ A 8 5 2
♥ A Q 9
♦ A K
♣ Q J 7 4



♠ 10
♥ 7 5 2
♦ Q 8
♣ A K 10 9 8 5 3

You reach a thin 4♥ after West has bid spades. West starts off with the ♦A and, after East has played an encouraging ♦10, continues with two more rounds of the suit.

You appear to have a sure spade loser and a sure club loser as well as the two diamond losers. Is there anything you can do about this?

ANSWER

Hand 1: The defenders start off with three rounds of diamonds against 4♥ – a mistake! You ruff and can now play for an *elimination and endplay*.

You draw trumps, ending on the table and ruff the last diamond in hand to eliminate the suit. Now you exit with the ♠A and another spade, putting the opponents on lead. If they play another spade it would be a ruff-and-discard where you pitch a losing club from one hand and ruff in the other.

The clubs are probably *frozen* – and will be if the queen and jack are in different hands. If either defender leads the suit, you can pick up all three tricks (or avoid a loser in the suit – same thing).

To beat the hand the defence has to switch to spades at trick two so you cannot strip them of diamonds and remove their exit cards. That's a tough defence.

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

You are a little startled when your pre-emptive 3♣ opening bid is raised directly to a slam but dummy displays with a good hand.

It is irritating to see the duplication of values in diamonds, but that's life.

Is there anything better than drawing trumps and trying the heart finesse?

ANSWER

Hand 2: West leads the ♠K and now you have a sure play for the contract. You take the ♠A and ruff a spade (high). Now a club to dummy, ruff a spade. Cash two top diamonds, eliminating that suit, and ruff the last spade.

By this time, both dummy and your hand only have hearts and clubs left, with spades and diamonds having been stripped.

Now comes the *coup de grâce*; you lead a heart and insert dummy's ♥9. East takes that but is endplayed, forced to lead a heart into the jaws of dummy's ♥AQ or provide a ruff-and-discard.

Note that West cannot defend the hand. Putting in the ♥J would do no good. Here's the full deal:

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

Michael's Interference Quiz from page 22

Have a look at the auction below and see if you would pass, bid on, or double with each hand. This time we shall imagine you are vulnerable, and the opponents are not.

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

W	N	E	S
		1♥	1NT
2♥	2♠	3♥	?

ANSWERS

Hand 1 – Just pass. You are minimum with no extra playing strength and poor intermediates. (I wouldn't have overcalled 1NT personally, preferring a double, but I know most people would have bid 1NT in real life so it's fair to include this as a problem)

Partner's 2♠ call pushed them up to the three level – now try and get them one off. It's not obvious you were due a plus score in 2♠ so there is no need to start being bullish now.

Hand 2 – Bid 3♠, try for +140. You have fair trump support and a ruffing value in diamonds, and although the ♥K is probably wasted facing partner's likely singleton, it is still a trick and the hand should play fine. If partner has something like ♠AJxxx ♥x ♦xxx ♣xxxx then 3♠ will be fine and you are unlikely to beat 3♥. If he has any less then you might have to settle for one down, but the strong trumps will protect you from a double.

Hand 3 – Double and lead the ♠Q. The ♥108 are almost certainly worth an extra trump trick and you have a lot of defence in the minors. There is a good chance of +300 and, while +100 might be a fair score, it is possible some will make 2♠ so you need to go for all the marbles. Even if partner's

hand is ♠J10xxx ♥x ♦xxxx ♣xxx you still rate to beat 3♥ by at least one if not two, so I would have every confidence.

Hand 4 – Double and lead a trump. There is time to get a spade ruff later, if partner does have the ♠K he can signal it on the second round of trumps. The fact you can draw dummy's trumps is a huge advantage, as the ♦A is surely to your right, giving you five tricks whatever happens. Again, you are not sure what you were making in spades and perhaps you didn't have a plus score to protect but I guarantee the 3♥ bidder is about to be found out.

Hand 5 – 4♣ – why not? Partner's 2♠ bid is in no way invitational but if the opponents are kind enough to tell you game is cold then you should bid it! Your 1NT overcall was not a thing of beauty but the auction has worked out wonderfully for you, as you now know partner is short in hearts, indeed a void is very likely.

Facing as little as ♠Qxxxx, ♥– ♦xxxx ♣xxxx you will notice 4♣ is closer to making 11 tricks than nine, assuming the missing honours are where you expect. □

MORE DETAIL AFTER 1NT RESPONSES

by Chris Jagger

GF – Game forcing	5·4(3·1) – Five spades, four hearts	three clubs.
NF – Non forcing	and 3-1 in minors either way	5·4·3·1 may be specific suits, or
Inv+ – Invitational or GF	around. 5·4·4·0 starts this way.	may simply be talking about any
M – Major		
m – minor	5·4·1·3 – Specifically five spades,	5·4·3·1 distribution (it could be
Prime – points in suits – more likely to play in suit than NT	four hearts, one diamond and	specifically 5·3·1·4 or 5·1·4·3 etc)

Rebids after 1♠-1NT:

- 2♣ = (i) 4+ clubs any strength; (ii) 6+ spades at least invitational, (iii) 4 hearts, 17+, (iv) any GF
- 2♦ = Natural, NF
- 2♥ = Natural, NF max 16HCP
- 2♠ = To play
- 2NT = Natural invite
- 3m/♥ = Natural invite, at least 5-5. Then 4m over 3♥ = cue, everything else is NF.
- 3♣ = Strong distributional invitation with good suit (usually 7 spades)

Continuations after 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦ (relay):

- 2♥ = 6 spades inv+ or 17-18 with 4 hearts (denies 5 hearts)
- 2♠ = 5 spades and 4+ clubs up to 16, then 2NT/3♦ = good raise in clubs/long diamonds
- 2NT = GF 5·2·4·2, 5·3·1·4, 5·3·4·1, 5·1·3·4, 5·1·4·3, 5·0·4·4
- 3♣ = GF with hearts, 5-5+ or 5-4(31)
3♣-3♦ asks then 3♥/♠/NT = 5-5 (then 3♠ = doubt with doubleton)/5·4·1·3/5·4·3·1.
3♣-3♥ = 4♥ then 3♠/3NT/4m = ♣ fragment/♦ fragment/void
- 3♣-3♠ = doubt with doubleton
- 3♦ = 5-5 or 6-4 GF, 3♥ asks then 3♠/3NT = 6-4/5-5. 3♦-3♠ = doubt with doubleton
- 3♥ = 5-5 with clubs GF then 3♠ = doubt with doubleton
- 3♠ = 6-4 with clubs GF
- 3NT = 5-4 majors, usually 5422, then 4m = cue with heart fit, max

Continuations after 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥-2♠ (NF):

- 2NT = 5-4MM 17-18 then:
3m/3♥ = to play
4m = heart fit values in minor bid
- 3♣ = club shortage 6♠ Inv+ or 6(322) GF then 3♦ = 5 hearts, then 3♥/♠/3NT/4-level =

short club GF/short club NF/62(32)/agrees hearts

3♥ = asks then 3♠/4♠ = club shortage NF/max

3♠/3NT/4♠ = NF

3♦ = diamond shortage, 6♠ Inv+ then 3♥ = 5♥ forcing

3♥ = 6 spades, 4 hearts, forcing to 3♠

3♠/NT = 6 spades, heart shortage NF

Continuations after 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥-2NT (GF enquiry):

- 3♣ = 6 spades, then 3♦ asks, 3♥/3♠/3NT = short clubs or no shortage, relay asks/short diamonds/short hearts
3♥ = 5 hearts
- 3♦ = 5-4MM with shortage, 3♥ asks fragment (3♠ = 5413, 3NT = 5431)
- 3♥/♠ = 6 spades, 4 hearts, with a club/diamond shortage respectively
- 3NT = 5422 (or 5431 singleton K/A)

Other continuations after 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥

- 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥-3m = long minor (less good suit than direct 3m over 2♣, denies 4 hearts or 2 spades)
- 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥-3♣-3♦ = 6 spades, 4 diamonds NF
- 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥-3♣-3♥ = asks responder to bid 3NT if expect to make it opposite Ax/Kx
- 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥-3♣-3♠/NT = to play

Continuations after 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2NT-3♣ (enquiry):

- 3♦ = 5143 or 5341, 3♥ asks then 3♠/3NT = club fragment (5143)/heart fragment (5314)
- 3♥/♠ = Clubs 5314/5134
- 3NT = 5242 prime (so may wish to play a 5-2 4♠ contract or 5♦).

Note two things about remembering the system:

1. 3♦ above is natural, ie showing 4. 3♥ is natural but cannot be 4 hearts as that would go a different route, and cannot have 4 diamonds since that would bid 3♦, so it is 5-3-1-4. Then 3♠ is the remaining hand.
2. When a fit has not been shown, we show fragments as naturally as possible, of failing that, the lowest bid shows the lowest fragment. When a fit has been found we show singletons naturally (ie by bidding the singleton), if that is possible, or otherwise up the line. Hence in the sequence 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2NT-3♣-3♦-3♥-3♠ this is showing a club fragment as a fit has not been found and neither ♠ or NT are possible fragments, so the lowest one shows clubs.

Continuations after 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2NT

- 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2NT-3♦ = 6+ decent diamonds, club or heart shortage, 3♥ asks (3♠ = short clubs)
- 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-2NT-3♥/3♠ = 6+decent clubs, heart/diamond shortage respectively

Other 1♠-1NT-2♣ continuations

- 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♥ = 6 hearts then:
2♠/NT = 6 spades strong NF (then 3m = 6-5 NF)
3m/3♥/3♠/4m = 5-5 GF/Invite/GF/Cue
- 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♠ = 2+ spades, at most 3 hearts, no interest. Continuations as to 2♦ except that we don't show 6-4 hands (can still show 5431 with hearts), we pass on 5-4 17-18, and 3♠ becomes a normal GF allowing partner to pass below game if really bad.
- 1♠-1NT-2♣-2NT = at least 5-5mm, constructive, then:
3♥ = 5-5MM GF
3♠ = 6 spades NF
4m = natural GF
4♥ = splinter agreeing one of the minors then '6 Ace Blackwood'. (Responder doesn't know which minor suit opener is agreed, therefore the ace-asking bid asks about the four actual aces and king/queen of both minor suits)
4NT = '6 Ace Blackwood'

- 1♠-1NT-2♣-3m = long minor, good suit, typically two of the top three honours, then
3♦/♥ = 5-5 GF
3♠ = NF
4m = Invite
4♣ over 3♦ = natural 6-5 forcing in principle
4♦/♥ over 3♣ = splinter

Continuations after Opener's other rebids

- 1♥/♠-1NT-2♦-2NT = good raise to 3♦ (a direct raise is semi constructive - many hands pass 2♦)
- 1♠-1NT-2♥-2NT = minors or big raise in hearts
1M-1NT-2Y-jump to 4 of new minor = splinter
1M-1NT-2m-2NT/3m-3M/4M = NF/Pass or correct
1♠-1NT-2♠-2NT = any 2 suits
1♠-1NT-2NT-3♠ = GF with 5 hearts
1♠-1NT-2NT-3♥ (or 3♣/♦) = NF

Intervention after 1♠-1NT-2♣

- 1♠-1NT-2♣-(dbl)-P/XX/2♦ = to play opposite clubs/both red suits/system ON

After 1♠-1NT-2♣-(dbl)-P-(P):

- P = clubs
XX = very strong with 6 spades and club stop
2♦ = very strong with 6 spades, no club stop
2♥ = 5/4 majors, 17-18, NF
2♠ = INV with 6 spades
2NT+ = as after 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦ uncontested

1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦-(dbl):

- Pass = 5-4 blacks (so we get to play in a 5-2 or 5-3 heart fit)
XX = 6 spades, INV+ (now essentially system ON if Responder bids 2♠ or 2NT)
2♥ = 5/4 majors 17-18 NF
2♠ = 5-5 blacks, NF
2NT+ = as after 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♦ uncontested

General principles in other competitive sequences:

- Doubles TO by opener, penalties by responder.
Pass is happy to play there. XX takeout, setting up GF by opener.
If they do anything below 2♥ then system on.
If they double showing that suit later bids in that suit are cues, a raise (not GF) being shortage with 6 spades.
If they bid 2♥ then 2♠/NT invites.
If competing at 3-level then new suits are forcing, 3♠ is invitational

Rebids after 1♥-1NT

1♥-1NT-2♠ = Strong with at least 3 spades, game forcing on most sequences. Most hands relay, forcing to 3NT (can play 4m).

1♥-1NT-2♠-2NT-3♣ = fragment, then 3♦ asks, 3♥/♠/NT = 3·5·1·4 or 4·5·0·4/4·5·1·3/3·6·1·3

1♥-1NT-2♠-2NT-3♦ = fragment, then 3♥/♠ = nat/asks, 3♠ expects partner to bid 3NT unless four diamonds or 6 good hearts. 3♥ asks for 3♠/NT with 4·5·3·1/3·5·4·1.

1♥-1NT-2♠-2NT-3♥/♠/NT = 4-6/5-6 Forcing/4·5·2·2 prime hand

1♥-1NT-2♠-other responses = weak, NF, but rare – 99% of time bid 2NT.

1♥-1NT-2♠-3♥/4♥ NF, not wanting to reveal partner's shape

1♥-1NT-2NT-3♥/♠ = 3-3(4-3) forcing / 5-5 minors

1♥-1NT-3♥-3♠ = Doubt about contract, normally hearts, but could be 5-5 minors. If opener doesn't choose 3NT he bids 4m if he is interested in play in 5m, or 4♥ if he wants to insist on hearts even opposite the minor hand

1♥-1NT-3♠/4m = Autosplinter (slam interest, shape unspecific)

1♥-1NT-2♣ = Weak with clubs, invite with hearts, or various GF

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/2♥ = Either values or doesn't want to play in clubs/misfit raise to 3♣

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♥-3♣ = To play (other continuations over 2♥ are as below)

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥/3♥ = 5-4 weak/invite

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-3m = 55 GF (except 3♣ is weak over 2♥ response)

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-3♠ = 1633 specific, can play 4m

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-3NT = 6322 offering (probably never use this in practice!)

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-2♠(clubs)-2NT(relay)-3♣ = 6-4NF

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-2♠(clubs)-2NT(relay)-3♦ = 1·5·3·4 or 0·5·4·4 in principle GF with 3♥ asking

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-2♠(clubs)-2NT(relay)-3♥ = 6-4 GF

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-2♠(clubs)-2NT(relay)-3♠ = 5-5 (two ways to show over 2♦)

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-2♠(clubs)-2NT(relay)-3NT = 5·2·2·4 prime

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-2NT(diamonds)-3♣(relay)-3♦ = 6-4 NF

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-2NT(diamonds)-3♣(relay)-3♥ = 6-4GF

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-2NT(diamonds)-3♣(relay)-3♠ = 1·5·4·3

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦/♥-2NT(diamonds)-3♣(relay)-3NT = 5·2·4·2 prime

Intervention after 1♥-1NT-2♣

1♥-1NT-2♣-(dbl)-P/XX/2♦+ = to play opposite clubs/5+ diamonds/system ON

After 1♥-1NT-2♣-(dbl)-P-(P):

P = clubs

XX = very strong with 6 hearts and club stop

2♦ = very strong with 6 hearts, no club stop

2♥ = INV with 6 hearts

2♠+ = as after 1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦ uncontested

1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦-(dbl):

Pass = 5-4 hearts and clubs, (so we get to play in a 5-2 or 5-3 heart fit)

XX = 6 hearts INV+

2♥ = 5-5 hearts and clubs, no game interest

2♠+ system ON as after 1♥-1NT-2♣-2♦ uncontested

OBITUARIES

MARGARET WORT 1936 – 2020

Margaret Wort was the President and Chairman of West Midlands Bridge Club, having served on the club's board for 17 years from 2003, and becoming chairman in 2008. She was made president by a unanimous board vote in 2015. Margaret was a popular and regular player in EBU and Warwickshire events.

Q. What's afoot? (1,8,6)



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Answers from p46

1	S	2	E	P	3	A	4	R	5	A	6	T	I	7	S	8	T
9	S	10	Y	U	L	E	T	I	D	E	E						
11	C	R	A	T	E	R	12	C	O	R	D						
13	H	E	14	A	R	D	I	O	L	I	D						
15	M	E	N	U	16	P	A	C	I	F	Y						
17	A	18	T	T	I	19	E	K	20	S	U	B					
	L	H	B	S	O	21	M	A	M	22	B	O					
23	T	E	E	M	24	N	O	T	A	R	Y						
	Z	25	T	A	N	D	O	O	R	I	S						
26	Y	A	R	B	O	R	O	U	G	H							