

ENGLISH



BRIDGE





KIPRIOTIS PANORAMA HOTEL KOS GREECE

OVERSEAS CALENDAR (PRE DEALT BOARDS & HAND RECORDS)

DATE	RESORT	PRICE FROM	NTS
05 Jan	Playa La Arena Hotel TENERIFE	£759pp	7-42
02 Feb	Rubicon Palace Hotel Lanzarote SPAIN	£699pp	7-14
15 Feb	Paloma Oceana Resort Side TURKEY	£459pp	7-28
04 Mar	Barcelo/Occidental Granada Hotel SPAIN	£699pp	7
15 Mar	Iberostar Port El Kantaoui TUNISIA	£449pp	7-14
23 Mar	Hotel Metropole Suisse Lake Como ITALY	£669pp	7
02 May	Kipriotis Panorama Hotel Kos GREECE	£529pp	7-14
19 May	Hotel Laguna Materada Porec CROATIA	£499pp	7
19 May	Westhill Country Hotel St Helier JERSEY	£439pp	5
05 Jun	Hotel Torretta Montecatini Tuscany ITALY	£899pp	10
23 Aug	Hotel Jezero Lake Bohinj SLOVENIA	£899pp	10
02 Sep	Hotel Torretta Montecatini Tuscany ITALY	£899pp	10
21 Sep	Labranda Mares Hotel Marmaris TURKEY	£499pp	7-28
21 Sep	Westhill Country Hotel St Helier JERSEY	£439pp	5
03 Oct	Isla Canela Hotel Huelva SPAIN	£599pp	7-14
08 Oct	Creta Panorama Hotel Crete	£689pp	7
18 Oct	Playas de Guardamar SPAIN	£599pp	10
27 Oct	Athena Beach Hotel Paphos CYPRUS	£699pp	7-14
12 Nov	Founty Beach Hotel Morocco	TBC	10
21 Dec	Sentido Perissa Side TURKEY	£499pp	7-14
21 Dec	Athena Beach Hotel Paphos CYPRUS	£729pp	7-14

UK CALENDAR

DATE	RESORT	PRICE FROM	NTS
31 Jan	Holiday Inn Hotel Maidenhead/Windsor	£199pp	3
18 Feb	ST Kilda Hotel Llandudno Wales	£299pp	5
01 Mar	Holiday Inn London Brentford Lock	£269pp	3
07 Mar	Cheltenham Chase QHotel & Spa	£349pp	4
14 Mar	Whately Hall Hotel Banbury	£437pp	4
17 Mar	Carlton Hotel Torquay	£289pp	5
22 Mar	Mercure Milton Keynes Hotel	£289pp	3
25 Mar	Aldwark Manor QHotel Spa & Golf Nr York	£359pp	4
29 Mar	The Stratford Manor QHotel & Spa	£349pp	4
01 Apr	The Royal Victoria Snowdonia Hotel Inc WALKING	£329pp	4
05 Apr	Whitehouse Hotel & Spa Worcester	£269pp	3
14 Apr	The Queen Hotel Chester City Centre	£349pp	4
19 Apr	Holiday INN Ironbridge/Telford	£299pp	4
21 Apr	The Old Swan Hotel Harrogate	£349pp	4
06 May	Belton Woods QHotel Spa & Golf Grantham	£259pp	3
10 May	Holiday Inn London Brentford Lock	£269pp	3
19 May	Carlton Hotel Bournemouth	£399pp	5
26 May	Fishguard Bay Hotel Wales	£369pp	6
06 Jun	Whately Hall Hotel Banbury	£299pp	4
09 Jun	Croyde Bay North Devon	£449pp	6
23 Jun	Toorak Hotel Torquay	£359pp	5
24 Jun	The Links Hotel Cromer Norfolk	£369pp	4
05 Jul	Esplanade Hotel Scarborough	£269pp	3
07 Jul	Carlton Hotel Bournemouth	£399pp	5
14 Jul	ST Kilda Hotel Llandudno Wales	£379pp	5
21 Jul	Sketchley Grange Hotel & Spa Hinckley	£299pp	4

NEW VENUES FOR 2019 COMING SOON

WWW.BRIDGEOVERSEAS.COM



English Bridge

© All rights reserved

ENGLISH BRIDGE
is published every two months by the

ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

Broadfields, Bicester Road,
Aylesbury HP19 8AZ

☎ 01296 317200 Fax: 01296 317220

postmaster@ebu.co.uk

Web site: www.ebu.co.uk

Editor: Lou Hobhouse

Raggett House, Bowdens, Somerset, TA10 0DD

☎ 0790 5038575

lou@ebu.co.uk

Editorial Board

Jeremy Dhondy (Chairman),
Lou Hobhouse, Gordon Rainsford

Advertising Manager

Chris Danby at Danby Advertising

Fir Trees, Hall Road, Hainford,

Norwich NR10 3LX

☎ / Fax 01603 898678

adsales@ebu.co.uk

Printing: Wyndeham Group

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

COVER COMPETITION

Jane McClements made this beautiful Christmas wreath last year, and submitted it for our December Cover Competition. The design has added poignancy in 2018 with the centenary anniversary of the Armistice. While the events to commemorate the Fallen will be over when you receive this, it will remain in our thoughts.

ARTICLES IN ENGLISH BRIDGE ARE COLOUR CODED

Education:

Tame

Tricky

Taxing

Tough

EBU News Quiz Features Laws & Ethics Reports



INSIDE GUIDE

From the Chairman	5	■
Christmas Quiz – Andrew Robson	6	■
ACOLytes – Sarah Bell	8	●
Heffalump Traps – Bakhshi's questions	10	■
Club Bidding Quiz – Pottage's questions	10	■
Basic Cardplay – Paul Bowyer	12	●
Prize Leads Quiz – Mould's questions	14	■
Traps for the Unwary – Michael Byrne	16	●
Beat Today's Experts – Bird's questions	18	■
Heather's Hints – Heather Dhondy	20	●
Bridge Fiction – David Bird	22	■
Bridge Tips – David Gold	24	●
Sleuth's Quiz – Ron Klinger	26	■
Add one thing . . . – Neil Rosen	28	●
Transition – 5-card majors – Chris Chambers	30	●
Calendar and Competition News	32	■
Final Destination – Harold Schogger	34	●
December Squeeze – Andrew Robson	35	●
Strong 2s – Heather Dhondy	36	●
Ask Robin – Robin Barker	38	■
Beat Today's Experts – Bird's answers	40	■
Great Bridge Disasters – David Burn	44	■
Heffalump Traps – Bakhshi's answers	46	■
Premier League – David Bird	48	■
It's a sport! Asian Games – David Law	50	■
Crossword, Caption Competition	51	■
October's Leads Quiz – Mould's answers	52	■
Overseas Congress – Christine MacFarlane	54	■
EBED News & Junior Bridge	56	■
Letters to the Editor	58	■
Landmark Promotions	60	■
Club Bidding Quiz – Pottage's answers	62	■

ONLINE EXTRA

Bridge Club Live	65	■
Funbridge	66	■
Bowyer's extra quiz	67	■
Byrne's extra quiz	68	■
Rosen's extra quiz	69	■
Blast from the Past – 1947 Quiz	70	■
European Champions Cup	74	■
In Memoriam	75	■

Mr Bridge Masterpointed Events 2019

Full Board – No Single Supplement

Chatsworth Hotel

15-17 March, £223 pp



Chatsworth Hotel is Worthing's oldest hotel and has been family run for four generations. The hotel is a grade II listed building, with beautiful Georgian frontage.

Well known locally for offering impeccable service and a warm welcome, the hotel is backed by a three star award for quality. This venue has a lift.



Denham Grove

28-30 June, £229 pp



Nestled in the heart of Buckinghamshire, Denham Grove has a peaceful countryside setting and 42 acres of parkland which provides an air of traditional tranquillity.

Denham Grove has many on-site leisure facilities, including indoor swimming pool, gym, spa bath and sauna and tennis courts.



Olde Barn Hotel

26-28 July, £229 pp



This charming rustic hotel is set in the beautiful countryside of Grantham in the heart of England.

Comfortably furnished and tastefully decorated rooms, with a traditional bar, contemporary lounge, atmospheric restaurant, and health club altogether make for an idyllic retreat. This venue has a lift.



Prices shown are per person, full board including tea & coffee during breaks, a welcome drinks party and all bridge fees. There is no single supplement and single players will always be found a partner. The Mr Bridge team will make up the numbers in the duplicates, so there should never be a half table. All rooms at The Olde Barn, Chatsworth Hotel and Denham Grove are en-suite, have tea & coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi.

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

Please note there are no seminars, set hands or prizes at these events. All bookings are subject to availability and to our booking terms and conditions, which can be found on our website. For a full list of all our events see www.mrbridge.co.uk





Steering the EBU

ENGLISH BRIDGE: QUO VADIS

I get asked about English Bridge and its future quite often and people have the idea that the magazine will end at any moment or perhaps start being charged for or become available only online.

I thought I would set the record straight.

There is no intention of ending the magazine any time soon. It is seen as a valuable benefit of membership – something for all members. In the last few years publications have disappeared from the newsstands (many local papers for example) and as time goes on this will be true of more. It is our aim that this fate will not befall English Bridge any time soon, and that we can continue to produce a free magazine for the members who want it.

There has been a move to the online world for many publications. National newspapers, for example, all have ‘apps’ to let you see the news on computer, tablet or phone. That is not everyone’s choice although the number is growing – perhaps because it offers things the printed world can’t such as video. *English Bridge* started an online section some time ago and a few thousand members read each issue on their phone, tablet or laptop. We will develop this section but at present the plans are **as well as** not **instead of**. Our primary focus is on the printed magazine, and at present our efforts are targeted there, rather than on digital content. You can, of course, view all the magazine online if that is your choice. It is accessible via the members’ area of the EBU website and there is also an archive of old magazines going back to 1946 which is open to all. If you choose *English Bridge and Diary* from the home page of the website you will be able to view this. There is also an index of the educational articles from 2007 onwards.

Providing the membership with a magazine is costly – over £160,000 in 2016/17 although about a third of that is recouped with advertising. The 3 Ps are the biggest cost of the magazine – paper,

printing and postage – and in recent years these prices have increased far quicker than inflation. We changed the size of the magazine a while ago and not everyone liked it, at least to start with, but there were very real cost savings on the postage of the magazine because of the way Royal Mail prices by size and weight. As you can get the whole magazine online, if you are a member, you may want to mark your membership record so you no longer get the printed copy. If it suits you then ticking the box helps to keep costs down. If you do it and then change your mind it is easy to reverse your decision.

Similarly, we introduced the policy of sending only one copy to each household. This was done to encourage you to share, and therefore save on the 3 Ps – but if you’d rather not then tick the box on My EBU and all eligible members in the house will be sent their own copy.

The revenue brought in by advertising helps to defray the cost of the magazine. However even though there is a modest upturn in advertising this year it won’t take over the magazine. I don’t think readers want to see a wall of advertisements covering more than 50% of the magazine so rest assured this won’t happen. In short then, the free printed magazine continues as a benefit of membership.

PLASTIC FANTASTIC?

As well as concern about the magazine itself some readers have expressed worry about the wrapping: specifically that it is plastic. Is this appropriate in our modern environmentally friendly age? First of all the plastic wrapping is recyclable so put it in your green bin with alacrity. We have investigated other possibilities such as a paper covering but at present this is very much more expensive. We will review this each year in order to check the plastic used is still the most appropriate and cost effective cover for the magazine.

I’d like to wish all members a Happy Christmas and New Year. □



Christmas Quiz 2018

by Andrew Robson

Andrew Robson is this year's master compiler to test your bridge brain. Send in your answers for a chance to **win our most coveted prize:**

The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

has very generously donated a double-pack of the most recent Master's gilt-edged playing cards. This set is a tribute to Lord Lister, and continues an annual tradition of Master's cards dating back to 1882 commemorating historical moments.

The cards are presented in a beautiful blue leather case, and are limited to just 350 sets. They commemorate medical and surgical inventions and developments relating to, or possible because of, Joseph Lister's discovery of antiseptics. The Spades include Plastic Surgery, Gynaecology and Vaccines. The Clubs include surgery to various parts of the head and throat, Nuclear Medicine and Blood Transfusions. The Hearts include Heart and Lung surgery. The Diamonds include Transplantation surgery and related techniques.

The Jokers highlight the four most challenging super-bugs of our time; Necrotizing Fasciitis; MRSA; *c. difficile*; and Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae.

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?

♠ A K 3
♥ A 7
♦ A 7 3 2
♣ A 8 7 6

Game All. Pairs.				
W	N	E	S	
		1♥	Dble	
3♥	Pass	Pass	?	

Q1 Choose from: (a) Pass; (b) Double; (c) 3NT.

♠ 7 3 2
♥ Q 10 2
♦ K J 8 3
♣ Q 7 4

Love All. Teams.				
W	N	E	S	
	1♥	Pass	2♥	
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	?	

¹ Naturalish, asking for help (trial bid)

Q2 Choose from: (a) 3♦; (b) 3♥; (c) 4♥.

♠ K 8 2
♥ A 3
♦ Q J 9 8
♣ K 9 7 2

Love All. Teams.				
W	N	E	S	
			1NT ¹	
Pass	4NT	Pass	?	

¹ 12-14

Q3 Choose from: (a) Pass; (b) 5NT; (c) 6NT.

♠ K 3
♥ 9 8 2
♦ K J 10 8 4 3 2
♣ 2

N/S Game. Teams.				
W	N	E	S	
			3♦	
Pass	3NT	4♣	?	

Q4 Choose from: (a) Pass; (b) 4♦; (c) 4NT.

COME ON! GIVE IT A GO

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.

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 are 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.

Q5

Game All. Pairs.			
W	N	E	S
	1♦	1♥	1NT

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

Q6

Game All. Pairs.			
W	N	E	S
	1NT ¹	Pass	Pass
	¹ 12-14		

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

Q7

Game All. Pairs.			
W	N	E	S
1♥	2NT ¹	4♥	5♣
	¹ Unusual, showing 5-5 in minors		

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

Q8

Game All. Pairs.			
W	N	E	S
			1♥
Dble	3♥	3♠	4♦

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

On the final two questions (playing Pairs) you are again South. You face an all-too familiar Pass, Double or Bid dilemma.

In the auction given, one of the three hands should Pass, one should Double and one should bid on. Ten marks for identifying all three. Three marks for getting one correct and two wrong (two correct and one wrong is, of course, impossible). Again, all in the judgement of Andrew.

Q9

Game All. Pairs.			
W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	2♥	?

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

Q10

Love All. Pairs.			
W	N	E	S
1♠	2♥	4♠	1♥
			?

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





Pre-empting

It's easy enough to know what to open when you have some points, but what about the hands with very long suits but less than opening values? It feels sensible to want to bid something on a hand like:

♠ K Q J 10 5 3
♥ 7
♦ 8 7 3
♣ 5 4 2

but you cannot open at the one level, as this shows a few more points than six! There are various possible meanings that you can assign to your two level openers but I always advise people to play these bids as **weak twos**. This means that opening 2♦, 2♥ or 2♣ (we'll talk about 2♣ another time) shows roughly 5-9 points and a good six card suit. Once you have opened a weak two bid you should not bid again unless partner asks you to – you have described your hand very clearly and partner will have a good idea of what might be making.

It may seem strange to open these hands at the two level: it's initially counter-intuitive to bid higher on the hand above than a hand such as the one below:

♠ K Q J 10 5 3
♥ 7
♦ A 7 3
♣ A 4 2

This hand we would open with just 1♠. The logic here is that, in the first hand, we expect to take a fair number of tricks if our long suit is trumps, so this contract shouldn't be a disaster. Starting the bidding high makes it more difficult for the opponents to have a constructive auction – if we start with 2♣ we've just taken away two levels of bidding space. This does mean that we are also shutting partner out of the auction, which we'll think more about later.

Which of the following hands do you think is suitable for a weak two opening?

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

Both hands 3 and 4 are suitable for weak two openings. Although hand one is in range (5-9) for a weak two, its spade suit is of appalling quality so I would not consider opening this. A weak two bid promises a decent suit.

Hand two is too strong for a weak two, with 12 points, even though it is a very pure hand (it really wants to play in hearts).

Hand five also has poor suit quality but there is another issue: it has a four card major in addition to its six card suit. Lots of people have different ideas and opinions about pre-empting with a four card major on the side. My general rule is that I only do it if my suit is really good and my side major really bad, although plenty of people never do it at all, which is also perfectly reasonable.

Hand six would be a textbook weak two in clubs, except 2♣ is not a weak two! Most people play a 2♣ opening as showing a super-strong hand, which we will look at further in a later issue.

Many people think that having a good suit means having lots of top honours but this is not entirely true. It is important when you open a weak two that you are saying, 'partner, my hand is worth a lot more if this suit is trumps than if it isn't'. This means that KQJ1098 is a far better suit to open a weak two with than AK5432. You expect KQJ1098 to take 5 tricks if it is trumps and potentially no tricks at all if you are defending the hand. AK5432 will be worth

one or two tricks in defence and possibly only three or four if it is trumps. This means that there is more value in making sure that the first suit is trumps than the second suit, because the difference is much bigger. There are two big markers to look for to help you evaluate suits in this way:

- ❖ Look at the spot cards. Do you have the 10, 9 or 8? Holding these cards greatly increases your expected number of tricks in the suit if it is trumps but aren't massively useful if you end up defending. Be more inclined to open weak twos on suits that have good spot cards.
- ❖ Look for lots of honours rather than lots of points in the suit: KQJ432 is more useful as a trump suit than AQ5432, even though they both have six points. Note that in hand 4 earlier you do not have the A or K but that suit is still fine for a weak two.

CHECK POSITION AND VULNERABILITY

Your pre-empting style should also be affected by your position: are you in the first, second or third seat? There is no point in opening a weak two in the fourth seat. This is a return to the idea that, although you are cutting opponents out of the auction you are also cutting partner out. If you are jeopardising partner bidding by opening a weak 2 in the second seat, you need a better hand (in the context of weak twos, a *better hand* really means a *better suit*) than if you are not, as partner might want to bid on. If you are third in hand partner has already passed so you aren't too worried about this and many people have a much looser pre-empting style in third seat for this reason. In first seat you are potentially getting in partner's way but you are blocking two opponents and one partner, so it's also a position where you have a little leeway. It's second in hand that you need to have the most solid pre-empting style, as there is one partner still to act and one opponent, so it is 50:50 whether the 'good hand' at the table belongs to your partner. Vulnerability is also important: you need a better suit to pre-empt vulnerable than not vulnerable because you might be about to go for a large penalty! □

Bridge for All & ACOLytes

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

Holidays with Bridge

in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere

2019 DATES

APRIL 5 - 7 HYDRO HOTEL, EASTBOURNE	£259.00 FB
MAY 10 - 12 NORTH COTSWOLDS	£249.00 HB
JULY 5 - 7-HYDRO HOTEL, EASTBOURNE	£259.00 FB
SEPTEMBER 20 - 22 SOMERSET COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL	£259.00 FB
OCTOBER 18 - 20 HYDRO HOTEL, EASTBOURNE	£259.00 FB
NOVEMBER 15 - 17 CHESTER CITY	£248.00 HB
CHRISTMAS 2019 24 - 28 DECEMBER HERTFORDSHIRE, FESTIVE COUNTRY HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY 4 NIGHTS PACKAGE	£499.00 FB

Extra Nights available at all venues upon request.
All events include welcome reception, full duplicate bridge programme, seminars and prizes. HB Half Board, FB Full Board

Tel: Philip 07962 394242 or 01902 258256
E-mail: rattyd@sky.com
www.holidays-with-bridge.co.uk

BRIDGE LICENSED BY THE EBU – PARTNERS GUARANTEED – PRIZES – MASTER POINTS

3 NIGHT BREAKS FROM £339* PER PERSON

discover

THE WORLD OF BRIDGE



Tactics, techniques and tips for everyone from beginners to the experienced on our Bridge breaks

Complete novices, improvers, regular club players – all can benefit from our expert leaders on these insightful breaks.

Call 020 8732 1250 quote Bridge
Visit hfholidays.co.uk/EBU



*T&Cs apply. Subject to availability. Non-member associate fee £10pp. Prices are per person based on 2 sharing a 'Good' room, Full board. UK accommodation from evening meal on arrival to breakfast on day of departure. Visit hfholidays.co.uk/terms for full T&Cs.

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

♠ J 10 4
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ 9 4 2
♣ Q 9 3

N
W E
S

♠ A K Q 6 2
♥ A 7 3
♦ K 8 7
♣ J 4

You are in 3♠. West leads the ♦3. East plays the ♦A, then continues with the ♦J. Plan your play.

Hand 2

♠ 8 5 2
♥ K 5 4
♦ A Q J 5 2
♣ 10 8

N
W E
S

♠ K 7 4
♥ A J 8 7 3 2
♦ K 7 3
♣ A

You are declarer in 4♥. West leads the ♣Q. Plan your play.

Hand 3

♠ 9 4
♥ A 5 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A 10 9 8 3

N
W E
S

♠ A 6 3
♥ 8 7 6 3
♦ A K Q 5
♣ K Q

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♠2 and East plays the ♠K. Plan your play.

Hand 4

♠ 8 7
♥ Q 10 6
♦ K Q 9 7 3
♣ 10 7 4

N
W E
S

♠ A K 6 2
♥ A J 4
♦ J 10 4
♣ A J 6

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♥5. Plan your play.

David Bakhshi gives the answers on page 46

CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

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

Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 62.

Hand 1

♠ A 9 2
♥ Q J 9 8 7 2
♦ 5 3
♣ A J

W		N		E		S	
	1♥		Pass		1♠		Pass
	?						

Hand 2

♠ Q J 7 5 4 3 2
♥ 8
♦ A 5 4
♣ Q 8

W		N		E		S	
	3♠		Pass		4♥		Pass
	?						

Hand 3

♠ K J
♥ A 8 7 4
♦ A
♣ Q J 10 8 7 6

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

Hand 4

♠ Q 7 5
♥ Q J 10 9 4
♦ K 9 4
♣ 5 4

W		N		E		S	
	2♥		1♠		Dble		Pass
	?		3♦		3♥		Pass

Hand 5

♠ 10 9 8 5 3
♥ A Q 9 8 5 3
♦ 6
♣ 4

W		N		E		S	
	?		1NT ¹		Dble		2♦
							¹ 12-14

Hand 6

♠ K Q J 10 5 2
♥ K 7
♦ 6 5 4
♣ 7 2

W		N		E		S	
	2♥ ²		Dble		1NT ¹		Pass
	?				Pass		Pass
							¹ 12-14, ² Transfer to spades

NO FEAR BRIDGE

FOR LEARNERS



Register **NOW** for 2 weeks **FREE** trial at www.nofearbridge.co.uk

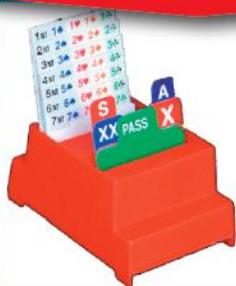
Finding it hard to remember everything?



Try No Fear Bridge!

NO FEAR BRIDGE IS A UNIQUE AND FUN WEBSITE THAT WILL HELP YOU LEARN AND IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE.

FOR CLUB PLAYERS



IMPROVE YOUR SCORES!

Play over 2000 themed practice hands to test your skill, plus information and quizzes on bidding topics including many popular conventions.

FOR TEACHERS

NO FEAR BRIDGE IS GREAT FOR HOMEWORK!

Contact us for your **FREE** teacher membership at help@nofearbridge.co.uk



We offer free membership for bridge teachers including access to our new 'Teacher Zone' from where you can access printable set hands, quizzes and other teaching resources.

www.nofearbridge.co.uk



Suit combinations - Part 6

As it's the festive season I thought I'd provide something of a brain-teaser for you on the theme of suit combinations. Not too testing, but a deal and a variation upon it to make your brain creak back into action.

Firstly, you are in 6NT. How should you play it? What are your chances?

South plays in 6NT. West leads the ♠7.

♠	K J 10
♥	A Q 9
♦	Q J 10
♣	A 9 4 3

♠	A Q 9
♥	K J 10
♦	A K 9
♣	K J 5 2

Your Count and Plan tells you that you have nine idiot-proof tricks in spades, hearts and diamonds, so require three tricks from clubs. Therefore, the crux of the matter is to play that suit to best advantage to make three tricks against nasty breaks.

You may well have seen this one before (it's a suit combination that finds its way into many a textbook and bridge article) so, perhaps, you won't find this one a difficult test. Well, Part 2 of this seasonal challenge is to make 7NT instead.

Clearly luck must be on your side now – but you still have to play clubs the optimal way. What is it?

Now, you may be full of Christmas spirits or you may have cold turkey – either way it's worth a few moments of your time before you plough on through the article to look at the answers.

By the way, if you haven't seen the theme of playing the following for three tricks, then I'll tell

♣	A 9 4 3
---	---------

♣	K J 5 2
---	---------

you that you can *guarantee* them, regardless of the lie of the cards. Does that help? Maybe . . . maybe not.

ANSWERS

Part 1. The contract is 6NT.

To guarantee three club tricks (and therefore your contract of 6NT) you win the spade lead in either hand and play off the ♣K. Next you lead a low club, intending to insert the nine from table if West follows with a low card. If West shows out you play the ace and lead up to the jack.

If West follows low and East takes the nine, then clubs are 3-2 and three tricks are assured.

If West produces the ten or the queen on the second round it is a simple matter to establish the suit for (at least) three tricks.

Part 2 The contract is 7NT.

Now you have to finesse against East for the ♣Q, it being way against the odds to cash the two top clubs and hope the queen falls doubleton. However, there is a trap.

Many players think it right to cash the ♣A at trick two before taking the club finesse. What good would that do, though? If West has the singleton queen East would have ♣10 8 7 6 and the suit could not be picked up.

It is right to win the spade lead in dummy and lead a low club from table at trick two, intending to finesse the jack. How might that gain?

Well, what if East has the singleton queen? This is the layout you are guarding against:

E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠ K J 10
♥ A Q 9
♦ Q J 10
♣ A 9 4 3

♠ 8 7 6 4 2
♥ 5 3
♦ 6 3
♣ 10 8 7 6

♠ 5 3
♥ 8 7 6 4 2
♦ 8 7 5 4 2
♣ Q

♠ A Q 9
♥ K J 10
♦ A K 9
♣ K J 5 2



After a low club to the queen and king at trick two you cash the ♣J (just to make sure East isn't foolin') and then take the marked finesse against West's remaining ♣10 8. Two finesses in the same suit – how cool is that?

Did you get both problems right? Have another mince pie!

More challenges from Paul, p67

S & SCBA
SHROPSHIRE CONGRESS 2019

Green-pointed Events

Saturday 27 April : Swiss Pairs

Sunday, 28 April : Swiss Teams

at the Park Inn, Telford.

Half-fees for Juniors U21; Session Prizes.

Entry forms on S&SCBA website

Enquiries: Judy Mitchell on

01743 235374 or mitchellmj@btinternet.com



**Bournemouth
Bridge Holidays**

14th-16th June x 2nts Full Board from £104.95pppn

18th-20th Oct x 2nts Full Board from £96.95pppn

Director - June Booty

Perched on Bournemouth's East Cliff with stunning views over the bay, we are ideally situated for your Bridge Holiday.

All our holidays are priced per person and are run by EBU trained directors and include prizes, drinks reception and daily refreshments.

Please contact us on 01202 552111 and quote EBU19
email: reservations@marshamcourthotel.co.uk

www.marshamcourthotel.co.uk



Best of Bridge Year End 2018

Superbly arranged for you by David Jones & Lawrence Gaunt



Your Year End Festivities could start any day from Sunday 23rd December for bridge at 2 pm at the

Doubletree Hotel Newbury

and continue for as long as you wish until after tea on 1st January

Pre-Xmas (1 night)	23rd-24th Dec	£107
Xmas (3 nights)	24th-27th Dec	£397
Mid-Festival (2 nights)	27th-29th Dec	£214
New Year (3 nights)	29th Dec-1st Jan	£397

2018/9 Calendar

Doubletree Newbury	22-24 February	£205
St Annes Manor, Wokingham (3 nts)	03-06 May	£335
Doubletree Newbury (3 nts)	23-26 August	£328
St Annes Manor, Wokingham	01-03 November	£230

Fully Inclusive Prices. Duplicated Hands. Generous Prizes. Scoring by Bridgemates for Instantaneous Results.

Space is Limited. Please Book as Soon as Possible to Avoid Disappointment. Hosts Always Available to Play and Singles Welcome. Never a Half Table.

Further Events for 2019 to be Announced Shortly.

NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENTS



For Details of Our **Loyalty Rewards Scheme**

Visit Our Website www.bridge2000.co.uk

David 02476 461511 Lawrence 01923 670500

**FULLY GREEN POINTED
SWISS PAIRS AND TEAMS**



**64th DEVON
COUNTY
CONGRESS**

29th and 30th March 2019 Swiss Pairs

31st March 2019 Swiss Teams

TLH TOORAK HOTEL

Chestnut Avenue, Torquay

Fri at 7.30 pm, Sat at 1.00 pm, Sun at 11 am

Full weekend £58 per player

Pairs only £37, Teams only £25

D, B & B for 2 nights £144 bookable through the hotel 01803 400500.

Entry form from website

www.devonbridge.co.uk or contact

Alan Foan 01626 865039

email: congress@devonbridge.co.uk

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



A NEW TWIST – BONUS MARKS

Fifteen bonus marks (5 for each question) are available if you also make the correct lead in the Pairs game. Each question should have two answers - one for Teams and one for Pairs. If you don't specify, it will be assumed you have chosen the same lead.

An attractive twin-pack of Piatnik playing cards is the prize on offer. For information on Piatnik cards visit www.gibsonsgames.co.uk/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 December 2018.

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

ANSWERS TO OCTOBER'S QUIZ: Page 52

TWO answers - Teams & Pairs

Hand 1
♠ K J 9 6 5 4
♥ Q J 10
♦ 4
♣ 10 9 4

South	West	North	East
			1♣
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

You have got your wish and are slavering at the prospect of a massive penalty.

Choose from: (a) ♠6; (b) ♥Q; (c) ♦4; (d) ♣10.

★★★★★

Hand 2
♠ Q 8 6 3
♥ 7 6 3
♦ 5
♣ Q 6 4 3 2

South	West	North	East
1NT ¹	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

¹ 12-14, ² Quantitative – asking partner to bid 6NT with a maximum hand

Choose from: (a) ♠3; (b) a heart; (c) ♦5; (d) ♣3.

★★★★★

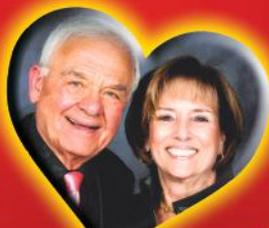
Hand 3
♠ K 7 5 2
♥ 10 7 4
♦ 10 9 5
♣ 10 5 2

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

¹ Multi – partner has either a weak 2 in either major or various strong hands.
² Partner did not bid or double over 3NT so has a weak 2 in either major.

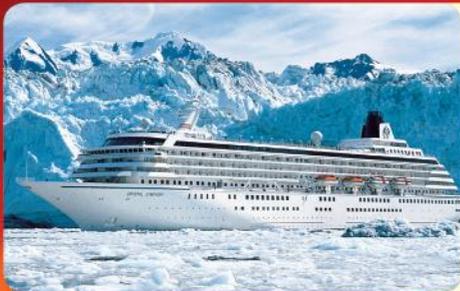
Choose from: (a) ♠2; (b) ♥4 (c) ♦10; (d) ♣2.

The Best Luxury Bridge Cruise. Ever.



Join Roberta and Arnold Salob
on a six-star Crystal Bridge Cruise

A complete bridge program — Daily duplicates
with certified Directors and Roberta's bridge
lectures exclusively for Bridge Holidays' guests,
at no extra charge, on the #1-rated six-star
Crystal Symphony & Serenity!



SPECTACULAR ALASKA

July 12 - 23, 2019

on the Crystal Symphony

Anchorage • Hubbard Glacier • Hoonah
Skagway • Juneau • Sitka • Wrangell
Ketchikan • Victoria • Vancouver

IBERIAN IMAGES

August 12 - 23, 2019

on the Crystal Serenity

Lisbon • Cádiz/Seville • Gibraltar • Ibiza
Barcelona • St-Tropez • Monte Carlo



COSTA RICA & PANAMA CANAL

October 11 - 25, 2019

on the Crystal Symphony

Caldera • Quepos • Golfito • Panama City
Cartagena • Puerto Limón • Cozumel • New Orleans



See our special deals at www.bridgeholidays.com

Contact us:

cruises@bridgeholidays.com



Participation in these fun-filled bridge groups is available only by booking direct with Bridge Holidays, LLC



Finding a bid on the second round

Last issue we looked at whether bids were forcing or limit bids, and how you should attempt to respond to them when you hold an invitational hand.

This time we are going down the ladder of values and looking at what bid you would make on the second round when you hold a poor hand and are considering ‘dropping’ the auction. Let’s look at one of the simple sequences you might start with where you have to decide what to do on the second round:

West	East
1♥	1♠
2♣	?

Last week we saw that a bid of 3♥ by responder was showing 3-card support and the same strength hand as an initial 3♥ bid would show, 10-11 points – *invitational* values.

What about a bid of 2♥ though, is that the same thing? **Absolutely not** – putting partner back to his first suit is an incredibly useful bid to make on mediocre hands, many of which need to find a second bid.

Partner’s rebid of 2♣ is not forcing (as he has a jump to 3♣ available to show a game forcing hand) but his range is quite wide none the less, he could have a shapely hand of 11 points, or a hand up to 18 points, so responder should strain to bid if they can.

Let’s see a few example hands you might have where, having responded 1♠ in the sequence above, you consider your options on the second round:

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

Hand 1. This is a poor hand and game is unlikely. It is tempting to pass and stop at a safe level. This would be wrong of course since partner normally has more hearts than he does clubs, and if he is 5-4 as we expect then the 4-3 club fit might struggle while the 5-3 heart fit coasts home. It could be right to pass if partner is exactly 5-5, but this isn’t that common and we mustn’t count on it.

A return to 2♥ is the right bid – simple preference to let partner know which of his suits we prefer.

Hand 2. We have a grotty hand indeed (and yes, it is right to respond on these few values, there are many advantages) but we mustn’t be panicked into passing. Once again the 5-2 heart fit will play better than the 4-2 club fit and we should return partner to 2♥.

Hand 3. We can finally drop the auction and pass 2♣. This time we don’t have a heart fit of any kind and barely have a 4-3 club fit. The hand will play badly when we hold a singleton heart (shortage in partner’s first bid suit is a huge liability) and partner is short in our long suits.

It is true that if partner holds a maximum hand for his 2♣ bid (17/18 points) then we will be close to game values but 3NT is a long way off when it is a misfit. Remember if partner has nine cards in hearts and clubs he is short in spades and diamonds.

So far so good – simple preference where we tell partner we prefer hearts to clubs. However there is a group of hands where we really struggle to find a bid – have a look at the following ones:



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

All of the first 3 hands are reasonable on values but it is awkward to know what to do with them after the start of 1♥-1♠-2♣-?

Hand 4 This has nine points, all of which appear to be working (an ace as well as two nice honours in partner's long suits) so we want to make another bid. Can we support partner's clubs? Hardly, as a raise of his second suit must show four cards. We can't bid no trumps with no diamond stopper (also we are a bit light on values) so we are left with a return to partner's heart suit.

When we go back to 2♥ we let partner bid again if he is in the upper range (16-18) and a game contract will be reached. (Partner can either support our spades, bid 2NT with a diamond stopper, bid his clubs again if he is 5-5 or stick with hearts if he has six.)

Even though we actually prefer clubs, we should tell partner as a partnership we prefer hearts, so that he gets another go. We call this false preference, since we are putting partner back to a suit we have only two cards in as opposed to the one we have three in.

Hand 5. Likewise we should put partner back to hearts. Holding eight crisp points we should give partner another chance to bid while not taking our side too high. If, of course, partner has a feeble opener (experience has taught me to be slightly cautious) then he can pass 2♥ and the right part-score will be reached.

Hand 6. This may seem like you should support clubs, or at least leave it with clubs as trumps. The problem is that if you pass 2♣ you might miss game, partner could easily hold a hand like this for example:

♠ 2
♥ A J 9 7 4 3
♦ K 3
♣ A Q 8 2

However the flip side of the coin is that if you raise to 3♣, you are suggesting a slightly stronger hand (9-11) and partner will often just bid 3NT with a diamond stop and 14-15 points.

The solution is to bid 2♥, giving partner another chance to speak if he holds a maximum hand whilst also giving him a cheap get out if he is minimum. It is true you will sometimes play in a 5-2 heart fit instead of a 4-4 club fit, but on the plus side you are at least in a major suit, and nine tricks in hearts (+140) will outscore ten in clubs (+130).

Hand 7. The final example should hastily pass 2♣. We have a load of rubbish and while a gentle 1♠ was right to keep the opponents out, if we put partner back to 2♥ he will simply make a try for game and end up too high. Give partner the dummy and wish them luck – hopefully it won't be too painful.

MORE PRACTICE ONLINE, P68

The Dos and Don'ts of giving false preference

- Do** feel free to put partner back to his first suit on only a small doubleton. When he bids two suits he is promising at least five cards in the first suit, and sometimes he has six.
- Do** use false preference when you want to keep the auction alive and give partner another chance to speak when he holds the upper range (16-18) for a rebid of a new suit.
- Don't** be afraid to respond light. Part of the cut and thrust of duplicate is balancing out constructive bidding with making it hard for the opponents to speak.
- Don't** be too optimistic when you hold a singleton in partner's suit, it always slows the play down and stops you making as many tricks as you might expect.



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 2018 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

- N/S Game ♠ K Q J 9 4
Dealer West ♥ J 4
 ♦ 10 7 2
(Miller) ♣ A 4 2
 - N/S Game ♠ A 9 8
Dealer South ♥ K J 10 7 5 4
 ♦ –
(Berkowitz) ♣ K 10 5 3
 - E/W Game ♠ A K 4 3
Dealer North ♥ A 3
 ♦ J 4
(Helgemo) ♣ K 7 4 3 2
 - Game All ♠ K J 10 4 3
Dealer West ♥ 10
 ♦ Q 4
(Gawrys) ♣ A Q 9 5 2
 - Game All ♠ 3 2
Dealer West ♥ 10 7
 ♦ 10 8 5 2
(Birman) ♣ A K Q 9 2
- * South bids 1♠
- Love All ♠ Q 5 3
Dealer North ♥ K 5 2
 ♦ 9 8 6 5
(Zimmerman) ♣ A 9 6

* South bids Unusual 2NT. If West passes, North bids 3♣

Did you beat the experts? – Page 40

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 2018 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

- N/S Game ♠ A 8 6 3 2
Dealer West ♥ 10 5 2
 ♦ A K J 9 4
(Gupta) ♣ –
 - N/S Game ♠ 10 5 4 2
Dealer South ♥ –
 ♦ A J 9
(Migry) ♣ A J 9 8 4 2
 - E/W Game ♠ J 10 2
Dealer North ♥ K Q 10 8 2
 ♦ Q 8
(Helness) ♣ A J 8
 - Game All ♠ 8
Dealer West ♥ K Q J 7
 ♦ A K J 10 8 7 3
(Klukowski) ♣ 10
 - Game All ♠ K 10 8
Dealer West ♥ A K Q J 8 6
 ♦ J 3
(Padon) ♣ 10 3
- * South bids 1♠
- Love All ♠ K 10
Dealer North ♥ A Q J 10 9 7 4 3
 ♦ A
(Multon) ♣ 10 7

* South bids Unusual 2NT. If West passes, North bids 3♣

Did you beat the experts? – Page 40

WizBridge+

IT'S BRIDGE...

...LIKE NEVER BEFORE

How we
sometimes
wish we
could do this
in real life



WizBridge+ is like no other Bridge game. It recognises the fact that Bridge software always suffers from one intrinsic flaw; namely the difficulty of the 'human' player having to communicate with an inanimate, inflexible robot during the bidding. **WizBridge+ eliminates this frustration by ... eliminating partner!**

A true 'solitaire' game of Bridge, WizBridge+ tests the users skill and ability to evaluate hands, and maximise their potential. Concentrating on the final contract and card play only, the app will test the Bridge Master to the limits of his ability, whilst introducing the complete novice to the wonders of Bridge without the complexity of absorbing bidding systems and conventions.

TEST YOURSELF TO THE LIMIT, WHILE COMPETING WITH OTHERS

WizBridge+ is a unique app, which enables players to play on a truly level playing field, where they stand or fall by their own ability to evaluate hands, and play out the cards. They 'compete' with a highly competent AI Robot, who will stretch them to the limit of their ability, while at the same time (in Duplicate mode) they will be tested and compared to their peers, who have been given the same challenge.

It's compelling, it's addictive, and it's great fun!

WizBridge+ for Bridge Teachers

What are your students doing in between your weekly lesson? If they're using Bridge software, are they picking up bad habits, or getting bamboozled by unfamiliar bidding systems? **If they're not engaging in any Bridge activities, isn't that a shame!**

WizBridge+ enables students to hone their hand evaluation and card playing skills without compromising on your hardest task – teaching them the intricacies of bidding.

FREE to download and try

WizBridge+ is available for iOS and Android devices. It's **FREE** to download, and with **over 300 Free hands**, you don't spend a penny until you are fully convinced this is the app for you, or indeed your students.



Download on the
App Store

www.wizbridgeplus.com



GET IT ON
Google Play
Coming Soon



Clever play

Playing pairs, North-South are playing weak twos, so South opens 2♥ showing five to nine points and a six card suit. West doubles for take-out, North passes, and East also passes converting the double to penalties. As South you have to pass, so 2♥ doubled is the final contract.

E/W Game. Dealer South

♠ A K 7
♥ 3
♦ 9 6 5 4
♣ A 9 6 3 2

♠ 8 3 2
♥ A J 10 8 5 2
♦ 8 2
♣ J 7

West	North	East	South
Dble	All Pass		2♥

West leads the ♦A, and the dummy produced by North is not all bad news for declarer. West continues with two more top diamonds, East following, and you ruff the third round. How do you plan the play?

You have four top tricks, and will need to score four further trump tricks for your contract. The good news is that the trumps are sitting with East so that you are in a position to over-ruff if East ruffs in at any stage. The key is to manage your entries so that you are able to take these ruffs, while at the same time ensuring that East is not able to discard too many cards in the suits you need to cash.

The way to achieve this will be to play clubs through East, therefore you should start by ducking a club. East wins with the ten and returns ♣K. It is

very unlikely that West has five spades so you can safely play a club now and even if East discards a spade you will still be able to cash the ace and king of spades. East does discard a spade, so now you must cash the ♠A and ♠K before leading another club. If you do not cash them both, East will discard another spade and your second spade honour will be ruffed. When you play the fourth club from dummy, East ruffs and you over-ruff. This is where you have got to:

E/W Game. Dealer South

♠ 7
♥ 3
♦ 9
♣ 9

♠ 8
♥ A J 10
♦ -
♣ -

You are now in a position to guarantee your contract, wherever the remaining cards are, by exiting with your last spade. Needing two tricks from the AJ10 of trumps, your contract is guaranteed.

E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠ A K 7
♥ 3
♦ 9 6 5 4
♣ A 9 6 3 2

♠ J 10 6 5
♥ 4
♦ A K Q J
♣ Q 8 5 4

♠ Q 9 4
♥ K Q 9 7 6
♦ 10 7 3
♣ K 10

♠ 8 3 2
♥ A J 10 8 5 2
♦ 8 2
♣ J 7

As both heart honours are onside, playing a trump off dummy would also have worked a trick earlier, but the suggested line also guards against West holding a singleton honour in trumps.

Can you see where the defence went wrong? You made your contract because you scored five trump tricks, and they gave you the opportunity to do that. After the initial top diamond it was essential for defence to begin attacking dummy's spade entries. When you had to lose the lead in clubs, a further attack on dummy's entries would have left you short of opportunities to make your low trumps and the contract would have been defeated.

HEATHER'S HINTS

- ❖ It is more risky to pass partner's take-out double for penalties when you are sitting under declarer's long suit. On this hand, it would take very accurate defence to beat it. East does have a problem in the bidding, especially if you are playing Lebensohl, and therefore unable to make a natural 2NT bid (which is your side's last makeable contract). I think your best option is to bid 2♠, which in practice will make most of the time.
- ❖ If your plan for your contract requires you to take ruffs, either by cross-ruffing or scoring your low trumps when they are known to break badly (as here) remember to cash all your outside winners as soon as possible, given your entry requirements. If you don't, the defence may be able to discard enough cards in the suit to prevent you taking those winners. □



♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦

FOR THE BEST

JOHN BEARD BRIDGE HOLIDAYS
49 Oaklands Avenue, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, South Wales, CF314ST
01656 750199 or Mobile 07815 634090
johnbeardholidays@btinternet.com www.jbbndgeholidays.co.uk

Enjoy bridge in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.
An ideal opportunity for those wishing to improve their duplicate game.

🤪 **CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA** 🤪
THE HOLIDAY INN READING-SOUTH
SUNDAY 23RD TO FRIDAY 28TH
DECEMBER 2018 £460.00 FB
NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

NEW YEAR SPECTACULAR
4**** NOVOTEL HOTEL BRISTOL
SATURDAY 29TH DEC 2018 TO
TUESDAY 1ST JAN 2019 £475.00 FB
£40 SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

🤪 **EASTER BREAK** 🤪
THURSDAY 18TH TO
TUESDAY 23RD APRIL 2019 £460.00 FB
THE HOLIDAY INN READING-SOUTH
5 NIGHTS FULL BOARD
NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

♠ **EMAIL OR CALL FOR DETAILS** 🤪
Book early, we should hate to disappoint you.
BRIDGE LICENSED BY THE EBU
V.A.L. Reg No. 367 1182 49

♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦





The Bedford Hotel
Lytham St Annes
Tel: 01253 724636

Bridge Breaks - 2019

- Spacious & light Bridge setting
- Refreshments provided during play
- AA Rosette award-winning food
- Hotel coffee shop open daily
- Bridge twice daily at 2pm & 7.30pm

Check out our reviews on TripAdvisor!
Hotel information available at www.bedford-hotel.com

Private Groups and Bridge Clubs also catered for—please contact us for available dates.

307—313 Clifton Drive South, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire. FY8 1HN.
Email: reservations@bedford-hotel.com



2019		
18th Jan 2019	3nts	£200
1st Apr 2019	4nts	£280
26th May 2019	5nts	£355
12th Jul 2019	3nts	£215
25th Aug 2019	5nts	£365
28th Oct 2019	4nts	£285

Prices are Per Person In a classic single, double or twin room



The Headmaster's Prescription

The Headmaster's Thursday afternoons tended to be overfilled with bureaucratic paperwork – necessary, of course, but tiresome in the extreme. For the first time in ages, he reached his study after a very moderate school lunch and found that his desk was clear.

He posted the usual 'Do Not Disturb' notice on the study door, turned the lock and sat back in his rarely used armchair. He packed his pipe with slow-burning Condor ready-rubbed tobacco and enjoyed the process of lighting up. He pulled deeply on the pipe. After all the work he did, no-one could object if he relaxed for three hours or so, just this once. He might then feel refreshed for the evening's bridge game.

'You're looking pleased with yourself, Alfred,' said the Reverend Benson, as the school duplicate was about to begin.

'It's the satisfaction of a full day's work well done,' replied the Headmaster. 'You wouldn't believe the state of my desk when I returned from lunch this afternoon.'

'You should ask your wife to tidy it for you,' Benson suggested. 'I'm sure she'd be quite willing.'

This was the first deal of the session:

West	North	East	South
Stefan Götel	Reverend Benson	The Matron	The Headmaster
	1♦	Pass	1♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Stefan Götel led the ♥K against the spade game. The Matron had recently read an article in the *Childcare Weekly* bridge column, explaining 'ace for attitude, king for count' opening leads. She leaned forward proudly as she laid the ♥6 on the table. 'My partner's king lead asks for a count signal, Headmaster,' she said

The Headmaster would normally have expressed his aggravation at such an inappropriate remark. On this occasion, he gave the Matron a friendly smile. 'A very good method,' he replied. 'I'm glad you've adopted it.'

Götel continued with the ♥A, all following, and then the ♥3. 'Ruff with the 8,' said the Headmaster. The Matron overruffed with the ♠9 and the Headmaster beat this with his ♠10. When he led the ♠J, the German master won with the ace and played a fourth round of hearts. The Matron ruffed with the ♠7 and this dislodged the Headmaster's ♠Q. Stefan Götel was amused by what had happened. His ♠5-3 now sat over the Headmaster's ♠K-4. A few moments later, the game was one down.

The Reverend Benson looked towards the Headmaster with some concern. Encountering such an annoying defence must surely have had a detrimental effect on his blood pressure.

'What a clever defence,' exclaimed the Headmaster. 'Very pretty indeed!'

A couple of rounds later, the Headmaster faced two of the school's youngest boys. They played bridge unexpectedly well, thanks to an enthusiastic master at their prep school in Sussex.

Game All. Dealer North.

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

E/W Game. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
Reverend Benson	Daniel Chalkley	The Headmaster	Ben Smithson
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Reverend Benson led the ♦Q and the young declarer surveyed the dummy with a barely disguised air of disappointment. Dummy's two winners in spades would have provided discards for his two red-suit losers. Sadly, there was no obvious entry to reach them.

Smithson peered more closely at the dummy. He was somewhat short-sighted and wore thick-lensed spectacles. Ah, there was a way to reach the dummy!

After winning the diamond lead with the ♦A, he led the ♣7 to the ♣8. The Headmaster won with the ♣10 and returned a diamond to declarer's king. Smithson crossed to dummy's ♣6 and claimed the contract. 'I can throw my two red losers on the dummy's top spades,' he said.

The Reverend Benson looked anxiously at the Headmaster, uncertain how he would react to a bad

board against such young boys. Could he not, just for once, restrain himself from an adverse comment such as 'you were very lucky to find those trumps in dummy'?

'What an admirable play you found there, Smithson!' exclaimed the Headmaster. 'Well done, indeed.'

Benson almost recoiled in his seat. 'You're in a very amiable mood today,' he observed.

The Headmaster nodded. 'Most people would need a long afternoon nap, or a couple of hours' undisturbed smoking, to feel fully relaxed,' he replied. 'That's not my way, as you know. For some reason, I find nothing can beat a solid afternoon's paperwork when you need to unwind. You should give it a try, Charlie!' □





LICENSED BRIDGE

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

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

All county events advertised have an EBU licence.

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.

2019 SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS – Bonus Blue Points

14 – 17 Jan British Winter Sim Pairs
 4 – 7 Feb Bridge England Sims
 11 – 14 Mar Club Stratified Sims
 1 – 4 Apr British Spring Sim Pairs

13 – 16 May EBED Spring Sim Pairs
 22 – 25 July British Summer Sim Pairs
 2 – 6 Sep EBED Autumn Sim Pairs
 7 – 10 Oct British Autumn Sim Pairs

another ruff. That is four tricks and with the ace of trumps still to come, one off and +200 for a great score.

On the first deal the auction was incredibly informative but sometimes there is just enough information to take a good view.

The next hand actually occurred in the Bermuda Bowl in 2013. East picked up at favourable vulnerability:

♠	A K J 10 6 5 3 2
♥	A J 2
♦	2
♣	A

After dealing and opening 2♣, the next player overcalled 2♥, partner passed (0-5) and RHO jumped to 4♥. Reasoning that vulnerable opponents must have at least nine hearts, marking partner with one heart at most there are two likely ruffs in partner's hand if they have three spades. Even if they have two spades two ruffs are likely if spades are not led. Bravely backing their judgement this hand bid 6♠. Dummy appeared:

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

N
W E
S

THANK YOU PARTNER! An easy 980. Slam was missed in the other room when the opponents did not interfere and it was much harder to diagnose the perfect fit. □

ENGLAND PROMOTED TO SECOND



The European Bridge League has promoted England from third to second place in the final standings of the Open competition at the 2014 European Team Championships.

Positions were reassigned following the disqualification/withdrawal of the Israel and Germany teams in relation to cases of alleged cheating. Both Monaco and Poland have decided not to accept their revised medal positions, leading the EBL Executive to decide that the Gold and Bronze Medal positions will remain vacant. Silver is held jointly by Monaco and England.

Tony Forrester & Andrew Robson, David Bakhshi & David Gold, Jason Hackett & Justin Hackett, NPC Simon Cope, and coach Ben Green are pictured with their now-out-of-date bronze medals.

ADVERTISEMENTS

ALTHOUGH staff of *English Bridge* and the staff of Danby Advertising (Advertising Agent for *English Bridge*) take reasonable precautions to protect the interests of readers by ensuring as far as practicable that advertisements in the pages of *English Bridge* are *bona fide*, the magazine and its publisher, the EBU, cannot accept any undertaking in respect of claims made against advertisers, whether these advertisements are printed as part of the magazine, or are in the form of inserts. Legal remedies are available if redress is sought, and readers who have complaints should address them to the advertiser, should consult a local Trading Standards Office or a Citizens Advice Bureau or their own solicitors. Members should ensure when booking holidays that they take suitable precautions to protect their booking: check the company is part of a relevant organisation (e.g. ABTA); take out suitable travel insurance; pay at least £100 by credit card. Readers should note that prices advertised may not be accurate due to currency exchange rate fluctuations or tax changes.

SUCCESS AT WORLD BRIDGE SERIES

English players excelled themselves at the World Bridge Series held in Orlando, Florida, in October. Fiona Brown & Sally Brock won the McConnell Cup for Women's teams, in combination with four players from the USA. The silver medal went to a team including England's Nicola Smith & Yvonne Wiseman, and Scotland's Paula Leslie.

Sally Brock also claimed silver in the Mixed Teams.

A team of Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey, Tom Paske & Ed Jones won the bronze medal in the Rosenblum Cup for Open teams.



Invaluable switch signal

YOU ARE PLAYING TEAMS

E/W Game. Dealer East.			
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	4♣ ²	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

¹ 12-14, ² Transfer to hearts

What would you lead as West from:

♠ K J 5
♥ 5
♦ A 10 8 5 2
♣ A K 7 4

Most pairs use 1NT-2♦ and 1NT-2♥ as transfers to hearts/spades. There is an advantage to using 1NT-4♣ and 1NT-4♦ as transfers to 4♥/4♠. After a 2-level transfer, opponents might compete and indicate a good lead or a potential sacrifice. It is much harder to do so after a 4-level transfer. If you plan to sign-off in 4-major anyway, the 4-level transfers are useful.

As for the lead, a top club is the obvious choice. You lead the ♣A. Many play ace for attitude, king for count. If not, most people prefer ace rather than king from an A-K suit since it eliminates the ambiguity of king from A-K or K-Q. Dummy appears:

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

Trick one goes ♣A: 6-3-2.

What do you know about the club position?

Partner does not have the ♣Q, else partner would have given an encouraging signal.

How many winners do you have?

Three – two clubs and the ♦A.

You need one more trick to beat 4♥. Where might you find it?

First, count the points: Dummy has 11 HCP, you have 15 and declarer has 12-14. That totals 38-40. That leaves partner with 0-2 points.

Unlikely, but if partner has the ♥K, 4♥ will fail routinely. Partner could have a singleton diamond. Then the ♦A and a second diamond will beat 4♥.

East might have the ♦Q. In that case, you can give declarer a guess by playing a low diamond. Again, there is no rush for that. You can switch to a low diamond later.

Partner might have the ♠Q. In that case you can set up a spade trick with a spade switch.

Is there a danger in continuing clubs?

Definitely. You might be setting up one or more club tricks for declarer. If you set up South's ♣Q, South can discard a spade on that.

Your best hope is a spade switch. Which spade do you choose?

The normal card from three cards headed by an honour or two non-touching honours is a low card. Still, as you are hoping partner has the ♠Q, it cannot hurt to switch to the ♠J or the ♠K.

The deal is from an NEC Cup (Japan):

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

♠ 9 6 3 2
♥ 8 4 3 2
♦ 9 3
♣ J 5 3

♠ A Q 10 8
♥ K 7
♦ Q 7 6
♣ Q 9 8 2

At both tables the contract was 4♥. The other table had the following auction:

E/W Game.		Dealer East.	
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

¹ Artificial game force

East led the ♦9 to the ♦A. West returned the ♦5. Declarer won, drew trumps and set up a club trick for an easy +420. A spade lead would beat 4♥, but why would East choose a spade after this auction? Could West help? If your methods allow the double of 4♥ to ask for dummy's first suit, that is ideal. Of course, there is no guarantee that a spade lead would defeat 4♥, but then there was probably no defence anyway. The cost of the double if unsuccessful would be 5 IMPs and the gain 11 IMPs if successful. Those are decent odds.

At the other table, the auction was the one given in the problem – a much better auction since 4♥ by South is, in theory, unbeatable. West led the ♣A, discouraged, and could tell East had at most three points. If it was the ♥K, 4♥ was doomed. If East had the ♦Q, West could put declarer to a guess later. If East had the ♠Q, a spade switch was needed before South could set up a club winner to discard a spade. West therefore switched to the ♠J!

South won with the ♠Q and drew trumps. Game was 100% safe, but with the ♠K 'marked' with East, an overtrick looked easy via a spade finesse and would eliminate a club loser. Not tuned in to West's thinking, declarer finessed the ♠10 and that was one down, 10 IMPs away. □



AGE DATA IN EBU RECORDS

The EBU is working hard to get more people joining clubs and playing bridge, and to address the issue of an aging bridge-playing demographic. In order to do this effectively, we need accurate data on the current situation, and this is hard because we have the age recorded for under a third of our members, and for some clubs, under 10%. In some cases people want to keep this private, which is fine, but often it is just a matter of not completing this optional field when the member record was created. You can help, either by logging into the *My EBU* section of our website, going to Account and then My Details, and entering your date of birth if empty; or by emailing our membership secretary karend@ebu.co.uk with your EBU number and date of birth.

Don't worry – we won't gate-crash your birthday party, and the information won't be used for external marketing or shared with other organisations other than in aggregated form as part of our overall membership statistics. It is not visible to other EBU members.

Tim Anderson
Membership Development Officer

DISCIPLINARY HEARING HELD

An EBU Disciplinary Committee met recently to consider the charges that Mr Rob Cliffe had engaged in abusive correspondence by text and e-mail to two other EBU members, and that this constituted a breach of the Disciplinary Rules 3.2(v) being conduct or behaviour which falls below the acceptable standards required of Player Members.

The defendant admitted the Charges. The Committee took into account aggravating circumstances, and Mr Cliffe's previous disciplinary record, and imposed a sanction of two years' suspension of membership of the English Bridge Union.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY AFFILIATED CLUB

Upminster & Cranham Bridge Club

Friday evening duplicate, club competitions, lessons, social activities & club holidays
www.bridgewebs.com/upminstercranham



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



Reverses – Continuations

Having spent some time last issue looking at properly defining reverses of all types, we will spend some time looking at how to develop the auction once you hear your partner reverse.

AFTER A SIMPLE REVERSE FOLLOWING A 1-LEVEL RESPONSE

West	East	OR	West	East
1♣	1♥		1♦	1♠
2♦	?		2♥	?

There are two approaches to responder's next bid. The standard/classical (oh alright - old-fashioned) treatment and the more modern approach.

The standard way to play has always been to use most bids as *non-forcing*. Remember that a reverse is forcing for one round, so another bid is expected (sure – if you responded on a 3-count trying to improve the contract, you might now choose to pass a forcing bid). Thus:

West	East
1♣	1♥
2♦	2♥ – non-forcing, typically six heart and pretty weak
	2♠ – 4th suit forcing
	2NT – natural, non-forcing
	3♣ – natural, non-forcing
	3♦ – opinions differ here. I think raising the second suit is best played as forcing.

Similarly:

West	East
1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠ – natural, non-forcing
	2NT – natural, non-forcing
	3♣ – 4th suit forcing
	3♦ – natural, non-forcing

Higher bids are of course natural and forcing.

One of the main problems with this treatment is being able to agree opener's suit in a forcing fashion without either using the cumbersome extra round of bidding via 4th suit forcing, or being compelled to jump to the 4 level (excluding 3NT as a playable contract).

THE MORE MODERN APPROACH

A good player I came across at a recent congress assured me that his mother likes to adopt the methods I suggest in my articles. Well I hope she is reading this next bit – because I feel it is a major advance on standard/classical methods.

- ♣ Repeating responder's suit becomes natural and forcing for one round. Typically 5+ cards and any strength are all that is needed, though if very minimum you might well choose to retreat to opener's suit ahead of this action.
- ♣ Supporting either of opener's suits at the 3-level becomes forcing to game.
- ♣ If weak and intending to support one of opener's suits, use a *Lebensohl* bid of 2NT to indicate that you do not have the strength to insist on game (typically 5-8, with 9 you should insist on game, even a good 8, depending on the degree of fit, may choose to do this).

Here are some example sequences to demonstrate:

West	East
1♦	1♠
2♥	3♦
?	

Natural and forcing to game with 3+ diamonds and 9+ HCPs.

West	East
1♦	1♠
2♥	3♥

Natural and forcing to game (4+ hearts and 9+HCPs) leaving plenty of room for slam exploration. With no possible slam interest you can jump to 4♥ instead.

West	East
1♦	1♠
2♥	2NT ^A
?	

After the Lebensohl 2NT bid (alertable) and with a *normal* reverse, opener simply bids 3♣ and awaits clarification. With a stronger hand they can make a different bid, maybe bidding out their shape or raising to 3NT with 19 or 20.

EVEN MORE MODERN APPROACH (!)

Assuming you can cope with the idea that you can incorporate Lebensohl-type continuations, we can decide to adopt a method whereby...

the lower of 4th suit forcing or 2NT becomes Lebensohl.

Thus:

West	East
1♣	1♥
2♦	2♠ ^A
?	

would be the Lebensohl bid (saving space), whereas 2NT can be played as natural and forcing – forcing since a weaker hand can use Lebensohl (remember). Opener simply bids 2NT to await clarification.

AFTER A REVERSE FOLLOWING A 2-LEVEL RESPONSE

West	East	OR	West	East
1♦	2♣		1♥	2♣
2♥	?		2♠	?

The key point to identify here is that if we expect a 2-level response to be the equivalent of 10+ (including some shape allowances of course) and a reverse shows extra values (16+ normally, though maybe down to 15 after a 2 over 1 response) then ... *the auctions are forcing to game.*

I often need to remind people that the whole essence of Lebensohl is to identify whether a partnership *has games values or not*. Therefore, in these reverse auctions there is *absolutely no need* for any Lebensohl – all bids and continuations should be natural and forcing.

West	East
1♥	2♣
2♠	2NT – natural and forcing
	3♣ – natural, 6+ clubs, forcing
	3♦ – 4th suit forcing
	3♥/3♠ – natural and forcing

CONTINUATIONS AFTER OPENER MAKES A JUMP BID IN A NEW SUIT

West	East	OR	West	East
1♦	1♥		1♥	1♠
2♠	?		3♣	?

Please remember that these are *not*, repeat *not*, reverses. They actually force to game (19+) rather than the 16+ needed for a reverse.

Therefore there is once again absolutely *no need* for any Lebensohl type developments since the values for game are already assured.

SUMMARY

Obviously we need to be able to understand reverses properly before being able to look in depth at how to continue. I strongly recommend taking on some of the ideas described – certainly Lebensohl, maybe even the lower of 4th suit or 2NT being Lebensohl. Happy bidding! □

Check you've got it!
Neil's online quiz is on page 69



CROUCH TEAM WINS GOLD CUP

The prestigious Gold Cup, organised by Bridge Great Britain, was won by, *from left*, Zia Mahmood, Marion Michielsen, Peter Crouch, Glyn Liggins, Simon Cope & Anita Sinclair (*not pictured*). The team received the trophy from BGB's Sandra Claridge.

They defeated Jeremy Dhondy, Ian Pagan, Heather Dhondy & Brian Callaghan in the final. This was Peter's seventh success in the competition, moving him to equal fourth on the list of most victories. Only Tony Forrester (13), Boris Schapiro (11) and Terence Reese (8) have won more often.



Opener's rebid in competition

The approach in this series has been to discuss opener's and responder's actions turn by turn, first in uncontested auctions, then with interference. As the auction progresses the impact of adopting five-card majors lessens and there is increasingly more in common with other opening systems such as 'minors first' weak no trump (where 4♠·4♦·3·2 opens 1♦). So even if you don't (yet) play five-card majors, this is relatively common ground.

With a balanced hand several awkward situations arise: competition may exceed the comfort-level to rebid no trumps; there may be no stop in the opponent's suit; partner's action over interference can lift the auction higher than the opener anticipated.

A downside of the weak no trump is that interference affects our good (15+ HCP) balanced hands. This is not a damning criticism; with a strong no-trump opening, competition exposes the balanced 12-14 range. Responder's low-level forces, simple changes-of-suit for example, cause difficulties for opener who, with fewer values, typically has fewer options. By dint of extra high-cards the 15+ hands are more likely to have a stop in opponent's suit or another option.

This instalment concentrates on the problems surrounding no trumps and balanced hands that have opened one-minor.

RESPONDER DOUBLES ONE-MAJOR

In competitive bidding partner has our back: when second-hand interferes responder ensures major-fits are not lost. I suggested in the previous instalment that double of a major overcall should promise length in the other.

With opener holding the hand below, it's easy to see that, as the double promises four spades, opener can

♠ A J 6 3
♥ A J 6 3
♦ Q 7
♣ K Q 10

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
?			

raise with the given hand. With six losers, 3♠ is appropriate. In effect we imagine partner responded one spade and rebid accordingly. The same applies after:

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♠	Dble	Pass
?			

Responder's double promises four (plus) hearts. Opener rebids as over a one heart response in a non-competitive auction.

BALANCED WITHOUT A STOP

At the one-level, there are arguments for always rebidding 1NT, stop or not: something might turn up in dummy; losing the first five tricks is no bar to making 1NT; it avoids a distorting rebid. But this approach complicates things for responder. Before leaping to 3NT with nothing in the enemy suit, **partner must remember to check that opener does cover it, usually via a cue-bid.** As a practical matter we should bid no trumps without a stopper only as a last resort.

Consider these situations before reading on. In each, we are looking for the opener's rebid with the hand shown. The opponents' actions are in parentheses.

Hand 1	Hand 2	Hand 3
1♣-(1♦)-1♥-(P)	1♣-(P)-1♥-(1♠)	1♣-(1♥)-1♠-(2♥)
♠ A Q 8 2	♠ J 4	♠ K Q 7
♥ A 10 3	♥ A 10 3	♥ 10 6
♦ J 4	♦ A Q 8 4	♦ A 8 6
♣ K Q 7 4	♣ K Q 7 4	♣ A Q 10 8 7

Hand 1. 1♠. This looks uncontroversial but it runs counter to our approach in unopposed auctions. Had second-seat passed, we would rebid 1NT but we can avoid the stop-less no trump with 1♠ even though it implies a fifth club. A mean setter would have given:

♠AQ8 ♥A103 ♦J4 ♣KQ742

What now? Rather than rebid 2♣ which describes six clubs and suggests a minimum hand, 1NT is better. In both cases if there is more bidding, 2♥ is an obvious next step.

Hand 2. Double. Strong no-trump values without a spade stop. As noted by Neil Rosen (*English Bridge, June 2018, p30*) support doubles belong in a **strong** no trump context. Weak-no-trumpers should double fourth-seat's intervention to show problem hands with values. *No stop for no trumps at this level* is typical but at the 2-level or higher, double has to cater for 'missing major' hands too.

Hand 3. 3♠. Though partner has 5+ spades (double would show four) we should have 4-card support to jump. This is a hobbyhorse of mine but even I would jump-raise here. This is a nicely-put-together six-loser hand and 3♠ is the value bid. The alternative would be to double, consistent with a slightly stronger balanced hand and, as it would cater to other hand-types as well, murkier. With a good alternative, prefer the clear action.

THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF NO TRUMPS

Even with a stop, the plan to rebid no trumps with a balanced hand can be upset simply because the auction has got too high. While it is reasonable to accept a push for suit-rebids, where long trumps and shape will help out, it is dangerous to overbid in no trumps.

No trump rebids should be 'safe'. They show combined high cards sufficient for the level, 21-22 HCP for the one-level, 23-24 for the two-level – especially after opponents have identified a good lead. In general you should not bid no trumps in competition higher than the level you would have done without interference.

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

Hand 4. Pass. You have a diamond stop, shouldn't you rebid 2NT? Quite simply you don't have the values (and your diamond stop is single-use). Won't double help you out? Again, you should have level-appropriate values, so here 17-18

opposite partner's minimum of 6 HCP. It hurts to hide in the bushes with a good hand and it is worth taking some risks in these situations. Use right-hand opponent's bid to upgrade positional holdings such as AQx, AJx, KJx; partial fits for partner and 5·3·3·2 shapes are good too. With a low doubleton in overcaller's suit, a double on 16 becomes attractive as your cards work well for other strains.

Hand 5. 2NT. I'm sure you recognise this hand from Heather Dhondy's Discovery Play (*October 2018, p20*). After the discussion about level-appropriate no trump rebids, what's going on? The difference is that so far partner made an undisturbed response, one that allowed you to repeat your first-bid suit at the two-level. Here, under pressure, she took the partnership beyond that. Consider something more ordinary:

♠AQxx ♥xx ♦Kx ♣A10xxx

but the auction develops as above; 2NT is the only sensible action – is this safe? It should be: responder has to have values to support minimum rebids once she elevates the auction. This example is eye-catching but 2NT is undoubtedly best. Bid a simple 2NT with only 11-14, with 15-17 you should rebid 3NT.

Hand 6. 4NT. Partner should have enough values to support the level. A 3NT rebid might be based on

♠K9x ♥x ♦Kxxx ♣AKxxx

so a hand this good dictates a different course. My view is that '4NT is natural when it needs to be' and this is a clear case. I know a bell rings and many partners will expect 4NT to be ace-asking but in competition there are many better uses for 4NT. Perhaps this is evidence of a disconnect between experience levels but I'm sticking to my recommendation. The discussion above stopped at 15-17, but there too, even with responder having bid a suit, 4NT is 18-19 – for me at least.

SUMMARY

- ❖ With no reasonable alternative, you may have to bid 1NT without a stopper;
- ❖ The ranges for no trump rebids vary with the auction: be aware when responder increases the level.
- ❖ Use double to show a no trump bid to the current level (or more) without a stop. □

COMPETITION NEWS

NEW VENUE FOR EASTER

Next year's Easter Festival in London will be held at the ILEC Conference Centre near Earls Court. ILEC is not only better than our usual venue at the Royal National, but also a little cheaper, so we are able to offer a small discount. This is available to those entering before the end of February (as early bookings helps us significantly with our planning).

We have also made some changes to the Championship Pairs, with a better schedule while still offering timings to try to help those with other commitments on Good Friday.

For full information see www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/easter-london.

For those living in the top half of the country, the Northern Easter Festival takes place in Leeds on the same weekend.

SUMMER MEETING BACK IN EASTBOURNE

Renovations to the Devonshire Park complex in Eastbourne are going well, so we are confident that the Summer Meeting will return there in 2019. Exact details for the congress are still being finalised, but we have arranged for it to take place 2nd to 11th August. When available, more details will be posted on

www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/summer-meeting, where you can also link to information about the renovations.

MASTERS PAIRS AT YOUR LOCAL

If you are ranked below Regional Master, then you might be able to play in a national competition, specifically for your ranking, at your local club! We are changing the format of the Master Pairs so the heats will now be organised by host clubs, rather than the EBU. This will make them cheaper to enter, hopefully increase the entry, and as clubs retain part of the entry fee your participation supports them as well as the EBU. We hope to have host clubs in every part of the country, so you can play without needing to travel far. Clubs which are interested in hosting a heat should contact comps@ebu.co.uk – why not suggest your club gets in touch?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

■ DECEMBER 2018

- 8-9 European Mixed Team Trial playoff
- 14-16 Junior Channel Trophy, Lille, France
- 15-16 Seniors' Teltcher Trophy trials, Solihull
- 27-30 Year End Congress, London
- 28-30 Blackpool Year End Congress, Blackpool

■ JANUARY 2019

- 4-6 Midland Counties Congress, Solihull
- 4-6 Camrose Trophy, 1st weekend, Wales
- 11-13 Lady Milne Pre-Trials, Young Chelsea BC
- 14-17 British Winter Sim Pairs
- 19-20 National Point-a-Board Teams, London
- 30-5 Overseas Congress, Athens

■ FEBRUARY 2019

- 1-3 Lady Milne Trial Final, Young Chelsea BC
- 4-7 Bridge England Sim Pairs
- 8-10 Harrogate Spring Congress
- 15-17 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer, N Ireland
- 16-17 Tollemache Cup Final, Coventry
- 22-28 EBL Mixed Teams Championships, Lisbon
- 23-24 Ranked Masters Pairs, Peterborough West
- 24 Masters Pairs, various venues

■ MARCH 2019

- 1-3 Camrose Trophy 2nd weekend, England
- 2-3 East Anglia GP weekend, Elmswell, Suffolk
- 2-3 Wiltshire GP weekend, Bath
- 2 Leicestershire GP Swiss Pairs, Spondon
- 2 Manchester GP Swiss Pairs, Altrincham
- 3 Bedfordshire GP Swiss Teams, Wixams
- 3 Kent GP Swiss Pairs, Tunbridge Wells
- 3 Merseyside & Cheshire GP Swiss Teams, Chester
- 10 National Pairs Regional heats, various venues
- 11-14 EBU Club Stratified Sims, various clubs
- 15-17 Cumbria Congress, Bowness-on-Windermere
- 15-17 Norfolk Congress, Wensum Valley
- 16-17 Hampshire Congress, Otterbourne
- 24 Portland Pairs, various venues
- 29-31 Devon Congress, Torquay

■ APRIL 2019

- 1-4 British Spring Sim Pairs, various clubs
- 5-7 Really Easy Spring Congress, Banbury
- 5-7 Teltcher Trophy, Edinburgh
- 6-7 National Pairs Final, venue tba
- 12-14 Lady Milne Trophy, Ireland
- 13-14 Portland Bowl Finals, Portland Club, London
- 19-22 London Easter Festival, London
- 19-21 Northern Easter Festival, Leeds



EBU CONGRESSES AND COMPETITIONS

All events are Green Pointed unless stated

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

London Year-End Congress

27 – 30 December
Royal National Hotel, London



Stratified Swiss Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Mixed or Open Pairs
Jack High Swiss Pairs

Blackpool Year-End Congress

28 – 30 December
Blackpool Conference Centre & Spa



Stratified Swiss Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Mixed or Open Pairs – BP

National Point-a-Board Teams

19 – 20 January
Young Chelsea Bridge Club



Weekend of Point-a-Board.
Qualifying rounds – Saturday
Finals – Sunday
Enhanced Green Points

Player of
the Year

Overseas Congress

30 January – 5 February
Wyndham Grand, Athens



Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams
Open Pairs – BP
Men's, Ladies', Mixed Pairs – BP
Pivot Teams – BP

Harrogate Spring Congress

8 – 10 February
Cairn Hotel, Harrogate



Mixed & Open Pairs – BP
Improvers Pairs – BP
Swiss Pairs
Swiss Teams

Ranked Masters Pairs

23 – 24 February
Holiday Inn, Peterborough West
(note change of venue)

For 2019, for purposes of movements, Premier Life Masters merge with Life Masters, and National Masters with Regional Masters. All groups have separate ranking lists, trophies and prizes.

Separate competitions for:

Premier Grand Masters
Grand Masters
Premier Life Masters
Life Masters
National Masters
Regional Masters

Masters Pairs

24 February
For players below Regional Master
Regional Venues

New format for 2019 with heats organised by host clubs. Entry fees set by host clubs, so cheaper than previous years. Clubs retain part of entry fees, so you're supporting your local club. List of venues and entry information at www.ebu.co.uk/masters-pairs



The Theory of Final Destination

You can go from North West London to Oxford Circus via Finchley Road, or you can go down the Edgware Road via Kilburn, or even go through Hampstead and go down Fitzjohns Avenue. Whatever route you take you still end up at the same destination.

I think it is so important to know *basic sequences* because if other sequences come up and you arrive at the same final destination the meaning is still the same, except for the nuances of the new sequence. Assuming a 1NT opening is 12-14, here are some examples:

West 1♥	East 2♥	2♥ is 6-9 HCP and, most of the time, 4-card support.
West 1♥ 2♦	East 1♠ 2♥	2♥ is the same final destination – still 6-9 HCP but only 3-card support – could be fewer.

West 1NT	East 2NT	2NT is 11-12 HCP, balanced, and invitational.
West 1NT 2♥ ¹Stayman	East 2♣¹ 2NT	2NT is still balanced but showing a 4-card spade suit on the way and is still invitational.

West 1♥	East 3♥	3♥ is 10-12 HCP, and 4-card support.
West 1♥ 2♦	East 1♠ 3♥	3♥ is still 10-12 HCP, but only 3-card support.

West 1♥	East 3NT	3NT is 13-15 HCP and balanced.
West 1♥ 2♦	East 1♠ 3NT	3NT is still 13-15 HCP and balanced, but note that it is at most a 2-card heart suit.

West 1NT	East 2NT	2NT is 11-12 HCP, balanced and invitational.
West 1NT 2♠	East 2♥¹ 2NT	2NT is still 11-12 HCP, balanced, but has a 5-card spade suit.

¹ transfer to spades

West 1NT	East 3NT	3NT shows 13-17 HCP, balanced.
West 1NT 2♥ ¹transfer to hearts	East 2♦¹ 3NT	3NT is still 13-17 HCP, balanced, but has a 5-card heart suit.

West 1NT	East 2♥	2♥ is a weak take-out when not playing transfers.
West 1NT 2♦	East 2♣ 2♥	Playing Stayman this is still a weak take-out, but usually 5-4 in the majors and looking for a possible fit.

So next time you are not sure what a sequence means, think back to basics as this will help you to work it out. □



An introduction to squeezes

A squeeze is a play which forces an opponent, with an embarrassment of riches, to discard at a time when he would prefer not to. The term was coined by US great Sidney Lenz back in the 1920s.

It is a generally held belief that squeeze-play is the domain of the expert. But this need not be so, as many squeezes simply play themselves. Witness this deal, in which all declarer needs to do is keep his head and watch out for one card.

are far better placed to try a squeeze, especially given that West has advertised the ♦Q and is likely to have four hearts for his double of 1♠.

Play out all your trumps - yes - don't stop playing trumps because your opponents have run out. As you play the last trump, West will find it impossible to discard. Here is the ending as you lead the ♠J:

Love All. Dealer South

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

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

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Dble	2♠ ¹	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠ ²	All Pass	

¹ Close to 3♠, especially after the double (good preemptive tactic to bid half a level higher after a double). ² North catches up. It looks right to play in spades rather than no trumps, with his two weak suits; however, because the opponents cannot run five club tricks, 3NT is a cinch, with nine top tricks.

If West lets go of a heart, dummy's hearts will provide four tricks. West can see that, so in practice will discard the queen of diamonds, hoping his partner can guard the suit with the jack.

No good. The ♦Q was the one card you were looking out for. If you did not see it, you would play out dummy's hearts in the hope of a fourth-round length winner. But with West's ♦Q going, you can table the jack, a promoted winner. 10 tricks and game made.

You pulled off a Simple Automatic Squeeze: Simple, because just one opponent was squeezed; Automatic, because the squeeze would have worked on either opponent, provided they alone guarded both red suits. □

The lead is the ♣A. West naturally cashes three top clubs, then switches to the king of diamonds. Ostensibly, it looks as though you, as declarer, need a 3-3 heart split for your tenth trick. Actually you

The deal is taken from Andrew Robson's *Endplay & Squeeze*, one of his series of invaluable *Bridge Lessons* books. They are available from the EBU's www.bridge-warehouse.co.uk



What constitutes a Strong Two?

Playing a variety of strong bids within a system has largely gone out of fashion, at least at the tournament level. Most partnerships will permit one strong and forcing bid within their system. For natural players that is usually the 2♣ opening, and for Precision players the 1♣ opening. The remainder of the two-level and above are dedicated to at best intermediate strength hands, and are often used solely pre-emptively, with the probable exception of 2NT. Even then some partnerships use 2NT to show a weak hand and use 2♣ to show either a strong opening or some type of weak hand. They will all argue that, on grounds of frequency of hand-types, their bids will get a lot more airing than the traditional Acol 2s or Benjamin strong bids.

Whilst this argument is undeniable, what is perhaps conveniently forgotten is:

- ❖ How much benefit is derived from these weak openings? They hardly come as a surprise to the seasoned player these days and most have agreed a defence that they are comfortable and familiar with and cope reasonably well.
- ❖ How well do these players cope when a really strong hand does come along? Especially playing teams, the big hands take on a huge importance as so many IMPs are at stake.

I am not about to advocate that we all switch back to playing Acol twos; however when the big hands come up, those who have devoted more of their system to defining them should be deriving an advantage.

I say *should* because these bids are often misused and thus lose much of their benefit. The Laws and Ethics Committee has attempted to set some constraints on these opening bids on more than one occasion, however I don't propose to consider these here. The purpose of this article is to assist the understanding of what is required for a strong opening bid from a hand evaluation point of view, and why it is beneficial to stick to these requirements.

You may have been told that an Acol two opening (or Benjamin 2♣ opening when unbalanced) shows eight playing tricks. Which of the following two hands would you, West, open 2♠ on playing Acol twos or 2♣ playing Benjamin?

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

Both hands certainly have eight playing tricks, but they are very different sorts of hands. The other requirement of an Acol two bid which is frequently overlooked by bridge teachers as it is a lot harder to define is that it shows a hand of *defensive power and quality*.

DEFENSIVE POWER AND QUALITY

It means, firstly, that the hand is powerful (has plenty of points), and secondly that if the opponents are cheeky enough to venture into the auction that you have sufficient defence in your hand that you are not concerned about doubling and defeating them if that looks a better option than pressing on. Hand A certainly fails this test and is better opened 4♠, whereas Hand B ticks all the boxes.

On Hand A, at certain vulnerabilities, you would want to pass the opponents out at the five level if you received no co-operation from partner, but with Hand B you would not want to do so. 'What is the problem?' (I hear you say). 'On Hand A I pass them out, and on Hand B I double them!' This is all well and good if you are content to take complete charge of the auction. However, there will be times when you need to consult your partner to assist making the final decision, and if you could equally hold either of these hand types, partner will never be able to judge what to do. Here is partner's hand:

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

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

If the opponents bid to 5♥, as well they might at favourable vulnerability holding ten between them, how would your partnership cope?

Opening a strong 2♠ the bidding proceeds:

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	3♦	3♥
4♠	5♥	?	

or playing Benjamin:

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	3♥
4♠	5♥	?	

What call do you make with the East hand? It is hard to believe that you wouldn't bid at least 5♣ with your two aces facing a strong hand and yet this is probably the wrong thing to do in Hand A. I say probably only because 5♥ might conceivably make on an unfortunate distribution but most times both contracts will fail. On the other hand if partner had opened 4♣ you would not be tempted to bid further if the opponents ventured in at the five level and will probably take your chances doubling them.

If partner holds Hand B, however, you can make a slam unless the opponents can take a ruff.

Now consider these hands *without* any opposing intervention. Do you think that East will be in any position to judge that, facing Hand A, they must stop at 4♠ whereas on Hand B they must bid up to 6♣, if partner opens 2♠ on both?

One final point. On Hand A, as we have already said, the contract could easily belong to the opponents. If you are one such opponent, surely you would prefer to be able to get into the auction over a 2♠ opening bid rather than a 4♠ opening bid?

So, opening Hand A with 4♠ is a much more effective pre-emptive bid if the hand belongs to the opponents. If the hand belongs to your side, it makes life a whole lot easier for partner to judge both in terms of this hand, and also knowing that when you do open 2♠ your hand really is of 'defensive power and quality'.

Footnote by David Burn

While you can open a natural 2♠ on whatever you like, if you would open it with both Hand A and Hand B you should announce it as 'Intermediate to strong, forcing' not merely as 'strong' – your opponents are allowed to know that you may not have much in the way of defensive values. You can't open Hand A with an artificial 2♣ or 2♦; you need at least 16 points or at least 12 points and 5 controls (two for an ace, one for a king) to do that. See sections 4F and 5C3 of the Blue Book for more detail. □

COMMONS ENJOYS LATE VICTORY



There was drama at the Houses of Parliament in early November at the annual Lords v Commons bridge match. After the first set of six boards the Lords led by 31 IMPs, and they were 32 up at halftime. The Commons team rallied in the second half and the match ultimately hinged on the result of board 24 at the final table. Excitement built as word got round the waiting players that the contract was a doubled slam. If it had been defeated the Lords would have won, but when it was made the Commons had completed an unlikely comeback, and retained the trophy.

Congratulations to, (pictured from left), Evan Harris, Michael Mates, Robin Squire, Bob Blackman (capt), Tommy Sheppard, Tony McWalter, David Harris, Robin Lawson and Steve Barnett.

The award for the best play in the competition, judged by Tom Townsend, went to Lord Howard and Baroness Henig.



Trouble at the table

June Williams asked, 'I was dealer and passed. My LHO bid 1♣. My partner and RHO passed. I bid 1♦. At the same time my partner led a faced card. I was told by the other players to put my bid away as the bidding was over. I called the director. She ruled that my bid should stand and my partner should put his card away. Should Law 49 – Exposure of a defender's cards – have been applied?'

'The final contract was 2♣ by my LHO. Should we have been advised that Law 16 -Authorised and unauthorised information - might apply?'

Although the card was led, the auction was not over, so the auction continues and the director should apply Law 24 '*Card exposed or led during the auction*'. Because partner's card was an attempt to lead, you would have to pass at your next turn to call. When your side becomes the defenders, the card led becomes a penalty card: if partner is on lead they must lead it; if you were on lead, there would be lead penalties. (There can be unauthorised information, but this is mainly dealt with by the auction restrictions and penalty cards.)

If partner had led before you bid 1♦, then you would have to pass now, and partner's card would be a penalty card and would have to be led.

A player rang to ask, 'must there be three boards on the table, or can there be only one?'

The answer is that you can have only one board on the table. Some players find it is awkward to have more than one board on the table and they can require that only the board to be played remains on the table.

In the laws, the expectation is that only the board to be played is on the table. Law 7A: 'When a board is to be played it is placed in the centre of the table

where it shall remain, correctly oriented, until play is completed.'

Mary Cadman asked, 'We had a situation at our club last week which I should like a ruling on, please. I was not the director, but I would like to know what I should have said, had I been asked.'

'The bidding went North 1♣, East 1♦, South Pass, West Dble – so West was doubling his partner. When it was suggested that he couldn't do that, he apologised and said he had the other two suits and didn't momentarily realise that it was his partner, not the opposition, that he was doubling.'

'He was told to put the double card back and that information was deemed unauthorised for his partner who then felt unable to bid as he might have done, so they ended in the wrong contract, but felt they had acted fairly and properly so were not unhappy.'

This is not an unauthorised information ruling. Instead there are automatic penalties for an inadmissible double. When West doubles, Law 36B applies: the Double is cancelled, West may bid or pass, but East must pass for the rest of the auction. There can be lead penalties if EW become defenders. There is unauthorised information from West's remarks that he has the other two suits. But East having to pass and being subject to lead penalties means East has no real opportunity to use the unauthorised information until the play period. During the play, East must avoid using the information from West's remark.

Sue Cottrell asked, 'My partner and I are defending a 4♥ contract. He is on lead and leads the ♦A and then the ♦K from five diamonds in his hand. There is one remaining diamond in dummy and I (his partner) have played high-low to the A-K. He now knows that

declarer has one more diamond in his hand, so leads another, expecting me to trump it. However, declarer trumps high. It turns out that the thirteenth diamond is in dummy but covered by a small heart. What would be the ruling? My partner felt that we had been disadvantaged.'

Dummy (the player) is responsible for displaying dummy (the hand) so that all cards are visible and correctly arranged in suits. There is no automatic penalty when dummy is not displayed properly but the opponents are entitled to an adjusted score if they were damaged by not seeing all dummy's cards.

In your case, the director should assess whether you would have made more tricks if your side had defended differently, having seen the other diamond in dummy. If you would make more tricks, the director should adjust the score.

Leon McArdle asked, 'I have a question about what dummy should or should not say during play. Many times, when I have been defending, declarer has turned over a quitted trick in the wrong direction; assigning it to North South when he should have assigned it to East West or vice versa. Often, dummy will point out this error. Is this allowed? It strikes me that dummy should no more alert declarer to the number of tricks he has taken than she should alert him to the number of trumps remaining in defenders' possession.

'As a follow up question. Are defenders permitted to point out each other's mistakes when it comes to the direction in which they turn over their quitted tricks?'

It is allowed and the 2017 laws were much more explicit about when it is allowed.

Law 65B3: *A player may draw attention to a card pointed incorrectly, but this right expires when his side leads or plays to the following trick. If done later Law 16B may apply.*

'A player' includes dummy. So anyone can draw attention to a card pointed incorrectly before their side plays to the next trick. If they draw attention later then their partner has unauthorised information and there can be an adjusted score.



David Fairbairn asked, 'A situation that I have seen before, and it happened again. On partner's lead, defender immediately started putting her hand down, presumably thinking she was dummy. She got as far as putting her 5-card spade suit down (with two honours).

'From Law 50B: *she did not expose these cards unintentionally (minor penalty), nor did she play the cards in deliberate play (major penalty).*

'Would you rule the exposed cards as Major or Minor penalty cards?'

I would rule that she did expose the cards deliberately – she did not intend to play them – but she did not drop them.

But the last part of Law 50B is clear '*...; when one defender has two or more penalty cards, all such cards become major penalty cards.*'

So all the penalty cards are major and Law 51 applies.

Penny Bailey asked, 'Could you please tell me if it is permissible to ask for a review of the bidding during the play period.'

A few days later, Dave Thomas asked, 'After a contested auction North became declarer in 4♣. After four tricks had been played declarer asked for a review of the bidding. Is this permitted? Which laws cover this situation?'

I replied, giving the same answer, but quoting different laws! A review of the bidding is only permitted during the first trick.

This is Law 20C2 '*Declarer or either defender may, at his first turn to play, require all previous calls to be restated.*' ...

and Law 41B '*..., declarer and defenders can only ask for a review of the bidding at their first turn to play (during the first trick).*'

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

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



Beat Today's Experts

1. N/S Game. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
Miller	Migry	Gupta	Berkowitz
1♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Rosenthal faces Gupta in the semi-finals of the Spingold Trophy, in Atlanta. It is hard to imagine anyone reaching 6♣ at this exalted level of play. Gupta's hand is entirely

unsuitable for a splinter bid. You should bid 4♣ (consuming a vast amount of bidding space) when you have a fairly minimal game raise with at most one club. Your 4♣ should 'tell the whole story'.

West signs off, but Gupta has not told the whole story. He advances with 5♣. West signs off again, and East still bids 6♣! The defenders score two hearts, followed later by a diamond, and the slam is two down. A big swing, surely?

West	North	East	South
Rosenthal	Jansma	Silverstein	Zia
1♠	Pass	2NT	3♣
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West opens 1♠ and East bids a sensible Jacoby 2NT. Over Zia's 3♣ East invites a slam by bidding 4♣. West fails to show a heart control, signing off in 4♣. The wheels have fallen off the wagon and again they reach the hopeless slam.

Awards: 4♠ (10), 5♠ (6), 5♦ (5), slams (0).

2. N/S Game. Dealer South

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Gupta	Migry	Miller
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

What should West rebid? Berkowitz was happy to show his clubs. Migry now re-assessed her hand skywards. She agreed clubs via the fourth suit and the small slam was soon reached. Only a ♠Q lead would beat this and Gupta chose the ♦K, won with the ace for a spade discard. Berkowitz drew trumps, ruffed a heart and landed twelve tricks with a double ruffing finesse in hearts.

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Willenken	Upmark	Ginossar
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		Pass

Much as I usually admire 3-card raises, it doesn't look right on those West cards. A rebid of 2♣ keeps more avenues open. Upmark took only a 140 nibble out of Berkowitz's 920 and that was 13 IMPs away.

Awards: 5♣ (10), 6♣ (8), part-scores (4).

3. E/W Game. Dealer North

♠ A K 4 3	♠ 9 8 7	♠ J 10 2	
♥ A 3	♥ 9 6 4	♥ K Q 10 8 2	
♦ J 4	♦ K 9 5 3	♦ Q 8	
♣ K 7 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 5	♣ A J 8	
	♠ Q 6 5		
	♥ J 7 5		
	♦ A 10 7 6 2		
	♣ Q 6		
West <i>Helgemo</i>	North <i>Birman</i>	East <i>Helness</i>	South <i>Padon</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass	1NT	Pass

Gawrys faced *Tulin* in the other semi-final. Resembling ordinary mortals for a brief moment, the mighty *Helgemo/Helness* bid to 3NT and lost five diamond tricks. Whatever happened to the idea of bidding clubs first when responder is strong enough for two bids? That would expose the diamond weakness.

West <i>Verhees</i>	North <i>Gawrys</i>	East <i>v Prooijen</i>	South <i>Klukowski</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠ ^A	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The Netherlands pair beat par by reaching 4♥ on a 5-2 fit. West's 1♠ was a game-forcing relay and East's subsequent 3♦ showed 3-5-2-3 shape. Verhees knew of the weak spot in no-trumps and bid 4♥. Brilliant! Declarer won the ♠6 lead in dummy, drew trumps and led the ♠10, covered with the queen and king. He ditched a diamond on the 13th spade and took a losing club finesse for +650 and 13 IMPs.

Awards: 4♥/5♣ (10), 4♠ (7), 3NT (5).

4. Game All. Dealer West

♠ K J 10 4 3	♠ 8
♥ 10	♥ K Q J 7
♦ Q 4	♦ A K J 10 8 7 3
♣ A Q 9 5 2	♣ 10
West <i>Gawrys</i>	East <i>Klukowski</i>
1♠	2♦
2♣	3♥
3NT	4♦
6♦	All Pass

A world-class pair, in an uncontested auction, reaches a slam with two aces missing. How can that happen? I can see that the West hand is better than it would have been with the red suits switched, but is it worth 6♦ just because of that? 4NT over 4♦ would have been a sign-off, not Blackwood. Still the West hand had many holes in it and the ruffing value in hearts was not worth much with only two trumps. A bid of 5♦ seemed to be enough.

West <i>Tulin</i>	East <i>Bakhshi</i>
1♠	2♦
3♣	4♦
4♥	5♦
6♦	All Pass

England's David Bakhshi, who has a splendid record in USA events with a variety of partners, responded with a game-forcing 2♦. Since a rebid of 3♦ would be forcing, his jump to 4♦ was RKC for diamonds. West forgot, we were told, and cue-bid his heart control. Since this happily showed one key-card anyway, Bakhshi signed off in 5♦. Tulin's raise to 6♦ resulted in an undistinguished flat board – one down at both tables.

Awards: 4NT/3NT/5♦ (10), slams (2).

Cont/...



5. Game All. Dealer West

♠ 3 2 ♥ 10 7 ♦ 10 8 5 2 ♣ A K Q 9 2		♠ Q 5 ♥ 9 4 3 2 ♦ K 9 4 ♣ J 7 6 5	♠ K 10 8 ♥ A K Q J 8 6 ♦ J 3 ♣ 10 3
	♠ A J 9 7 6 4 ♥ 5 ♦ A Q 7 6 ♣ 8 4		
West <i>Birman</i> Pass 2♣	North <i>Gawrys</i> Pass Pass	East <i>Padon</i> 1♥ 3NT	South <i>Klukowski</i> 1♠ All Pass

Padon's 3NT was a good shot. It would be there on a spade lead but Klukowski made the brilliant start of the ♦A. North's ♦4 was encouraging and a second diamond went to the ♦K. The ♠Q switch then meant one down. A fine defence.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helness</i>	<i>v. Prooijen</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Verhees was not wearing his brilliancy hat and led the ♠7. *Helgemo* scored +630 for a swing of 12 IMPs.

Awards: 3NT (10), 4♥ (7), part-scores (4).

6. Love All. Dealer North

♠ Q 5 3 ♥ K 5 2 ♦ 9 8 6 5 ♣ A 9 6		♠ J 9 8 6 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ 7 3 2 ♣ Q J 2	♠ K 10 ♥ A Q J 10 9 7 4 3 ♦ A ♣ 10 7
	♠ A 7 4 ♥ - ♦ K Q J 10 4 ♣ K 8 5 4 3		
West <i>Zimmerman</i> Dble 5♣ Redble 6♥	North <i>Migry</i> Pass Pass Dble Pass All Pass	East <i>Multon</i> 2♣ 4♥ Pass 5♦	South <i>Berkowitz</i> 2NT Pass Pass Pass

We will take one deal from the final between *Gawrys* and *Rosenthal*. (I wasted a precious hour looking for a worthwhile second deal!). Whether you bid a slam depends mainly on the opening bid. *Multon* opened 2♣ and reached 6♥. *Zimmerman*'s redouble showed that his club control was first-round. What should South lead? North's double of 5♣ suggested a club but South held the ♦K-Q-J. It looks like a 50-50 guess. *Multon* won the unsuccessful ♦K lead, played the ♥A-K and finessed the ♠10 to set up a club discard for +980. It was not a good slam, of course, since it needed a favourable lead and a finesse.

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
3♥	Pass	1♥	2NT
	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Ginossar opened just 1♥ and scored +480 on a diamond lead. It was an unlucky 11 IMPs away and *Gawrys* won the final by 131-98.

Awards: 5♥/4♥ (10), 6♥ (6).

Our experts disappoint with only 31/60. If you beat them, no telegram claims are required. Let's look for some bidding tips.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ❖ The more shapely your hand, the less inclined you should be to raise responder's major on three cards.
- ❖ A splinter response (such as 1♠ – 4♣) suggests only around 10-12 points. With more than that, start with a Jacoby 2NT.
- ❖ Do not raise partner's sign-off in 5♣ or 5♦ to a slam just because your hand is better than it might have been. Partner may have needed to hear of a specific control to justify bidding a slam. □



The Bridge Warehouse

The first and only choice for Bridge Players

Christmas Gift Ideas



Gift Sets and Stationery



Stocking Fillers



Caspari Cards and Scorepads



Buddies and Boxes

All profits from sales in The Bridge Warehouse are reinvested by the EBU in activities and services for its members and affiliated clubs.

Orders and Enquiries



01296 397851/317200



bridge.warehouse@ebu.co.uk



www.ebu.co.uk/bridge-warehouse

Open Monday to Friday
9am - 5pm

*Order online
via our website*

Prices do not include postage



The High Stakes Game

The courage of one's convictions is a noble thing, but there are times when it can be carried too far. The deal below occurred in a tournament with vast cash prizes at stake (well, vast by bridge standards anyway) and most of the world's top players in action. East was of the opinion that five-card majors should be bid in front of longer minors, and put this principle into effect:

an alternative to game in clubs. This, then, had been the bidding:

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

Game All. Dealer North.

♠ A 6 5 2
♥ 6 4
♦ A 9 5 2
♣ J 10 9

♠ K Q 10 9 8 7 3
♥ 5 2
♦ J 6
♣ 4 2

♠ J
♥ A J 9 7 3
♦ K Q 10 8 4 3
♣ K

♠ 4
♥ K Q 10 8
♦ 7
♣ A Q 8 7 6 5 3

South began the defence with ♣A and another, on which declarer threw her singleton ♠J. North switched to a heart, covered by East's ♥9 and South's ♥10. A spade was covered by dummy's ♠K and North's ♠A, declarer ruffing. Declarer led a diamond to the ♦J and North's ♦A, and the defender returned his second trump. Declarer won that with ♥A and had a decision to make in this position:

After North passed East opened 1♥ and South overcalled 2♣. West's methods didn't allow him to introduce his spade suit, so he passed and North bid 2♥ to show a decent club raise. East now bid her diamonds and South bid 3♥, which might or might not have been a try for 3NT. West still didn't mention his spades – there seemed little point, since his partner presumably had a lot of red cards. North didn't bid 3NT, so maybe South's 3♥ was something else – instead he bid 4♣. South would probably have carried that to the five level – though after East's opening bid slam is pretty good, none of the top pairs in the illustrious field actually bid it. But East was not done, and she bid 4♦ which South chose to pass in case North felt like taking a swing at it. West, however, stoically gave preference to partner's first-bid suit and when 4♥ came round to South he chose

♠ 6 5 2
♥ –
♦ 9 5 2
♣ 10

♠ Q 10 9 8 7 3
♥ –
♦ 6
♣ –

♠ –
♥ J 7
♦ K Q 10 8 4
♣ –

♠ –
♥ K Q
♦ –
♣ Q 8 7 6 5

Declarer had lost four tricks and could have settled for losing two more by playing on diamonds. That would have meant a penalty of 800, not bad against a slam and not the end of the world against a vulnerable game – though this was a pairs tournament the scoring was by IMPs against a datum, so -800 would lose a handful of IMPs rather

than being a match-point bottom. Alternatively, East could try to get out for -500 only, which would net a small profit. If she played a trump and the suit divided 3-3 she would have the rest of the tricks. If, however...

As I remarked, East was a player not afraid to back her own judgement. Believing from the bidding that North had a 4-3-3-3 or maybe a 4-3-2-4 shape East led a heart to the seventh trick. She led nothing to any more tricks, because South drew trumps and ran his clubs for eight down and a penalty of 2300. Sometimes, self-doubt is a virtue. □

GREAT NORTHERN SWISS PAIRS



John Holland & Clive Owen have retained the Great Northern Swiss Pairs title in a closely fought contest in Leeds.

John & Clive, who also won the event together in 2005, finished 4 VPs ahead of Robin Jepson & Alan Brosgill – who were runners-up in 2017 too. Third were Joe Fawcett & Alastair Gidman and, continuing the duplication of 2017's results, Tom Dessain & Tugrul Kaban were again fourth – tied with Kath Nelson & Alan Nelson.



The Improvers' Pairs was won by Ralph Thompson & Sheila Dodd (*pictured*). Kathy & Andrew Pearson were second and Neil & Lorraine Macdonald third.

WEST OF ENGLAND CONGRESS



Youth triumphed at the West of England Congress held in late September. The 76-table Swiss Teams competition was won by, *from left*, Helen Holmes,

Jonny Richards, Toby Nonnenmacher & Kyle Lam. The previous day's Swiss Pairs was won by Trevor Thrower & Lawrence Haynes.

GERARD FAULKNER SALVER

For the third time in five years, the winners of the Seniors Knockout competition for the Gerard Faulkner Salver are Derek Oram, Celia Oram, Alan Kay & Jeremy Dhondy.

In a very close final, the 2014 and 2015 champions defeated Brian Senior, Norman Selway, Paul Hackett & Sandra Penfold by just 3 IMPs (Alan Mould also played for the runners-up in an earlier round).

SENIORS CONGRESS



There were two runaway winners, and two nail-biting finishes at the Seniors Congress in Gloucester in early November. The Championship Pairs

was won in style by Glyn Meredith & Jo Copping (*pictured*), who finished over 4% ahead of their rivals. Paul Littlewood & Fiona Littlewood were second, with Pat Dowdeswell & Mike Ribbins in third.



By contrast the 'B Final' was won by just 0.14%, with Simon Stokes & Alison Nichols (*pictured*) pipping David Stimson & Roger Edmonds.

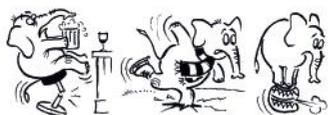
The Swiss Pairs competition – for those eliminated from the Championship Pairs, or joining the congress later – was won by Celia Oram & Derek Oram, a single victory point ahead of Ruth Edmondson & Bridget McElroy.



The finish to the Swiss Teams was less exciting, with the undefeated team of Robert Procter, Michael Robinson, Phil Thornton & Nigel Wolfendale (*pictured*) finishing 29 VPs ahead of David Barnes, Janet Barnes, Barry Wennell & Beth Wennell.

Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Answers from page 10



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

3♠. West leads the ♦3. East plays the ♦A, then continues with the ♦J.

You have ended up in 3♠ after a partscore battle, so it may be that making your contract leads to a small swing for your team.

There are four top losers, so you need to make two extra tricks in hearts without losing to the ♥K. You will need to find East with the ♥K. However, there is a possibility that West could trump a heart

if he started with only one or two hearts. Seeking the safest way to make your contract, you win the ♦K, then play the ♠A followed by the ♠2 to the ♠10. If spades are 3-2 you can draw the last trump with the ♠J and lead the ♥Q, following up with the ♥J when the ♥Q wins the trick. If spades split 4-1 however, you will need to be careful to avoid suffering a potential heart ruff. If you play the ♠J then lead hearts, you will be unable to get back to your hand to draw the last trump after winning the ♥Q and the ♥J.

West can put East on lead with the ♣A and receive a heart ruff. However, South can still succeed as long as West started with at least two hearts by leading the ♥Q at trick five, then continuing with the ♥J. As long as West does not trump this trick, declarer can now lead dummy's ♠J and overtake with the ♠Q.

West's last trump can be drawn giving you five spades, three hearts and one diamond to make your contract.

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

4♥. West leads the ♣Q.

You have seven top tricks, and expect to win an eighth trick through length in diamonds. You will also be able to develop at least two length winners in hearts, but there is a danger that you will lose four tricks if you lose three spade tricks in addition to

losing a trick to the ♥Q. This could happen if West has the ♠A, so it is important to guard against the possibility of East leading a spade through your ♠K before you have a chance to make use of dummy's five diamond winners.

You win the ♣A at trick one, and start drawing trumps. In isolation, missing ♥Qxxx the odds slightly favour playing the ♥A and ♥K, hoping that the ♥Q will fall in two rounds. However, having assessed that it would be risky to allow East to win the lead, you should lead the ♥2 to the ♥K, then play the ♥4. East follows with the ♥10, and you can ensure success by playing the ♥J. If West wins the ♥Q, he will be unable to attack spades without allowing the ♠K to win a trick, and as soon as you regain the lead you can play your diamond winners. If West discards on the second round of hearts, then you can draw East's ♥Q and play your diamond winners.

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

3NT. West leads the ♠2 and East plays the ♠K.

You have alighted in a 3NT contract that is likely to be duplicated at the other table, so you should seek to ensure your contract to avoid the possibility of losing a swing.

You have eight top tricks, and need to find just one extra trick, which could come from diamonds or clubs. Due to the sequential cards, clubs are the best suit to attack, but declarer should note that there is a potentially awkward blockage in the suit.

East plays the ♠K at trick one, and you have to decide whether to win or duck. There are two reasons why South should win the ♠A immediately.

Firstly, you cannot afford for East to switch to hearts (removing dummy's entry), and secondly, West's ♠2 is indicative of a 4-4 split, so the defenders will only be able to win three spade tricks (assuming they play fourth highest leads).

Upon winning the ♠A, South should turn to clubs. If the ♣K and ♣Q are cashed then declarer can cross to the ♥A and play the ♣A. However, if the ♣J has not fallen then declarer would now need the diamonds to split 3-3 to succeed.

South should instead note that the club sequence allows an extra trick to be made by force. To preserve dummy's ♥A entry, you should play the ♣K, then overtake the ♣Q with dummy's ♣A. You can now lead the ♣10 from the dummy. West can win the ♣J and the defenders can cash three spade tricks, but declarer will now be able to win any return and cross to dummy's ♥A to cash the ♣9 and the ♣8. Taking one spade, one heart, three diamonds and four clubs allows you to make game.

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

3NT. West leads the ♥5.

You have reached a normal 3NT contract, so a swing is only likely to occur if the contract is defeated at either table.

You have four top tricks, and can make four more from diamonds by forcing out the ♦A. An extra trick can also be guaranteed in hearts, so it may be important to look out for any potential pitfalls.

Your first decision comes with the question of which heart to play from the dummy at trick one.

You may be tempted to try the ♥10. If you do play the ♥10, and East plays low, then you can win the ♥10 and lead the ♦3 towards your ♦J10. The defence should delay winning the ♦A till the third round (if they can). Say that East wins the ♦A on the third round and leads a second heart, you will now find that reaching dummy has become impossible if West has the ♥K. If you play low on the second heart then West will win the ♥K and if you play the ♥A, then West will save the ♥K to beat dummy's ♥Q. Could this problem be avoided?

An entry to the dummy can be preserved if you can avoid the ♥A blocking the suit later in the play. South does best to play the ♥6 from the dummy at trick one, and win the first trick with the ♥A!

East can again delay winning the ♦A till the third round, but if he plays a second heart then dummy's ♥Q will provide an entry to dummy's remaining diamond winners. If East instead plays a spade, then South can win the ♠K and lead a heart to force an entry, and if East switches to a low club, then South should play low. West can win this trick, but you can win any return and force a dummy entry to make your game. □



Absolute nail-biter

Eight of England's top teams contested the 2018 Premier League over three weekends. Would you have found the winning defence on these North cards?

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ 4
♥ 10 7 4 3 2
♦ 9 7 6 3 2
♣ 10 3

♠ J 9 3
♥ Q 9 8 5
♦ K
♣ Q 8 7 6 5

♠ Q 10
♥ A K 6
♦ A J 10 5
♣ A K 9 2

♠ A K 8 7 6 5 2
♥ J
♦ Q 8 4
♣ J 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Hassett</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Morris</i>
			1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Morris faced *Allfrey* and it was very difficult to bid 3NT on these cards. Some might reach 5♣ but the final contract at both tables was 4♥. *Hassett* led his singleton spade and *Morris* took two tricks in the suit, North discarding a club. When *Morris* led a third round of spades, North ruffed declarer's ♠J with the ♥7 and dummy overruffed with the ♥K. *Bell* played the ace and queen of trumps, continuing with the ♥9 to force out North's ♥10. When he regained the lead, he drew North's last trump with the ♥8 and claimed the contract.

West	North	East	South
<i>Slater</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Smalley</i>	<i>Robson</i>
			1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Again the play began with three rounds of spades. *Allfrey* found a stronger defence by declining to ruff, ditching his second club instead. The game could not then be made. Suppose declarer crosses to the ♥A, dropping South's ♥J, returns to the ♦K and leads the ♥9. North will refuse to cover. The next trump is taken with dummy's king. North ruffs the first round of clubs and locks declarer in the dummy, guaranteeing a further trick for his ♥10. Declarer in fact played trumps from the top, conceding two trump tricks to North for one down.

After two weekends, the scores were: *De Botton* 167.41, *Small* 157.13, *Allfrey* 153.33, *Morris* 140.41, *Hinden* 138.19, *Black* 130.45, *Rosen* 119.81, *Dhondy* 113.27.

In the first match of the final weekend, *Allfrey* beat *Hinden* 72-13 (20-0 in VPs). This was the biggest swing:

Game All. Dealer East.

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ 8
♦ 7 5
♣ A K 7 6 5 2

♠ 9 6
♥ 10 9 4
♦ A Q 10 9 8
♣ Q 9 8

♠ 8
♥ K J 7 6 3 2
♦ 6 4 2
♣ J 10 3

♠ A K 10 5 4 2
♥ A Q 5
♦ K J 3
♣ 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Jagger</i>	<i>Osborne</i>
		2♥	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Forrester showed one key-card, then the ♠Q and the ♣K. The ♥10 lead went to the queen. *Osborne*

drew trumps and established the clubs for an overtrick. If West leads a trump, not giving the free heart finesse, the entries would be there to establish the clubs even against a 5-1 break. Declarer would discard two diamonds and ruff two hearts.

West <i>Allfrey</i>	North <i>Hinden</i>	East <i>Robson</i>	South <i>Dyke</i>
		2♦	Dble
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Dyke had two chances to bid 3♠, thereby playing the slam the right way up. Does an immediate vulnerable 3♠ not show the hand well? Further misfortune struck when Allfrey was able to double the 5♦ RKCB response. With 1460 on the opponents' card, it would not do Hinden any good to stop in 5♠; nor would this be sensible anyway, since South might have held the ♦A. A diamond lead duly dispatched the slam and that was 17 IMPs away.

The two leading teams, *Allfrey* and *De Botton*, met in the penultimate round of the third weekend in early November. This competitive deal provided the biggest swing:

E/W Game. Dealer East.

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

West <i>Allfrey</i>	North <i>Malinowski</i>	East <i>Robson</i>	South <i>Bakhshi</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♦	4♠	5♥	Dble
All Pass			

Allfrey's 2♦ showed 3-card heart support and 8+ points. You can judge if Robson was right to bid 5♥. He ran into a hostile lie of the cards and the

decision proved expensive. Bakhshi doubled and led the ♠Q. Robson ruffed and needed to play diamonds to escape for 800. Hoping for something better, he tried the ♥Q. Bakhshi won and played a club to the jack, queen and ace. A diamond to the king was followed by a second club to dummy's 8. Robson discarded the ♣K on the ♠A and led a diamond to North's ace. Declarer ruffed the third round of clubs with the ♥10, Bakhshi discarding his last diamond. He could not be deprived of three further trump tricks and that was four down for minus 1100.

West <i>Erichsen</i>	North <i>Osborne</i>	East <i>Liggins</i>	South <i>Forrester</i>
		2♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Forrester's 4♥ did not deny a club control (look back at the previous deal), but Osborne's 6♠ seems exuberant. There would have been North/South celebrations after a heart lead, but Liggins cashed the ♠AK and the slam went two down. De Botton gained 15 IMPs and won the match by 45 IMPs to 4. In fact, they beat Allfrey in all three matches, outscoring them by 44.29 VPs to 15.71.

De Botton nudged into the lead by 3.5 VPs. They were then outscored in the final match to finish second by the narrowest of margins:

- 1 *Allfrey*, 250.10 VPs
Robson, Forrester, Osborne, M Bell, Gold
- 2 *De Botton*, 248.98 VPs
Bakhshi, Erichsen, Liggins, Malinowski, Townsend
- 3 *Small*, 222.05 VPs
Cooke, Cox, Green, Khandelwal, Taylor
- 4 *Black*, 221.73 VPs
Hallberg, King, McIntosh, Patterson, G Tredinnick
- 5 *Hinden*, 197.42 VPs
Allerton, Byrne, Dyke, Jagger
- 6 *H Dhondy*, 191.14 VPs
Brock, Callaghan, Myers
- 7 *Morris*, 180.38 VPs
C Draper, Hassett, Slater, Smalley, Woodcock
- 8 *Rosen*, 168.20 VPs
I Draper, Jones, Preddy, Selway, Willans

Ben Green and Ankush Khandelwal headed the cross-IMP ranking with a splendid 0.71 IMPs per board. □

Something historic happened this year. Bridge was included as a sport at the Asian Games – the largest multi-sport event after the Olympics. Held every four years, the 2018 event took place in two cities in Indonesia – Jakarta and Palembang – with 11,720 athletes from 45 countries participating in 40 sports.

Intense lobbying by the host nation succeeded in bridge making its debut and six events were approved – Men's Pairs, Women's Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Men's Teams, Mixed Teams and Supermixed Teams. The last category is a new event having made its first appearance only very recently – a team comprises a Men's Pair playing against a Women's Pair. Fourteen countries took part in the bridge programme, each limited to one team per category and up to three pairs for the pairs events, with an overall maximum of 24 players – known as athletes (*obviously*).

China topped the medal tally with three golds, one silver and two bronze, followed by Chinese Taipei (1-2-1) and India (1-0-2).



Playing in a multi-sport event is very different from the usual bridge championships. First, there were multiple regulatory bodies to report to. Besides the National Bridge Organisation there was the local Olympic Council, Sports Ministry and various departments within it.

Second, as the World Bridge Federation is part of the International Olympic Committee, and the Asian Games are organised by the Olympic Council of Asia, the anti-doping regulations are more precise. Athletes undergo medical examination and have to ensure they do not unwittingly consume any medication or health supplements which contain any of the prohibited substances (an extensive list). Athletes may be tested up to a month before and after the games. Testing can be done by a number of related agencies both locally and internationally.

Third, one of the main differences is sponsorship. The main games sponsors have exclusive rights, so athletes were reminded that logos of other brands must not exceed a certain size – on apparel, sporting

equipment, and even worn accessories, such as scarves, headbands, shoulder bags.

Finally, for both privacy and security reasons, athletes were not permitted to post group photos on social media without the written consent of others in the photos. Selfies and pictures of buildings were allowed provided the exact location was not identified. Exclusive broadcasting rights restricted competition pictures to still images only, so BBO could broadcast only at the venue but not worldwide. Many athletes were disappointed as their friends, or even regular BBO users, could not follow the matches live.

Staying at the athletes' village (compulsory for most) was surprisingly relaxing, although we travelled to the venue under escort ('village' pictured). Bridge was lucky as the playing venue was just 1.5km away. Some had to travel more than 50km. Athletes were housed three to an apartment, which was comfortable. The food was nourishing (each item had the calories, fat content and ingredients displayed for those interested in keeping count). The dining hall could seat 4,000 at any one time but one could pre-plan meals to avoid the rush hour. There were plenty of social events organised in the evenings.

Staying at the village also provided a unique opportunity to meet athletes from other sports and other countries and the exchange of sporting pins was a useful ice-breaker. We were also given the opportunity to watch other sports.

Opinion among other athletes was somewhat ambivalent about the inclusion of bridge – most were not familiar with it, although chess has been included for a while. In Malaysia we garnered some publicity in newsprint and on television. After all, the oldest Malaysian athlete in the contingent, at 81 years old, was from bridge. Let us hope that the success of bridge at the Asian Games might translate into inclusion into an Olympic programme soon.

David Law was the Malaysian Bridge Team Manager at the Asian Games, and one of its athletes.

CAPTION COMPETITION

CROSSWORD NO 17

Compiled by MERMEN Answers online, p73

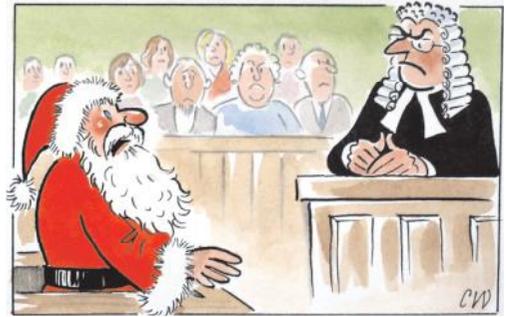
1	2	3		4		5	6	7	
8				9					
10									11
12					13				
			14					15	
16			17						
	18				19				
20									
21						22			
23									

ACROSS

- 3 Engage two pairs playing and what can be made (8)
 8 The picture has an heroic interlude (4)
 9 Pits one took to be saintly places (6)
 10 Capital card game seen on American TV (10)
 12 Feeling of dread at being provided with English Bridge rating (5)
 14 It's inventive of East to filter out (7)
 16 Ground that's flooded by the winter rains (7)
 19 Sound reasoning of soldier in places one's forgotten (5)
 20 Len's lost a bra and, abracadabra, it becomes something illuminating (10)
 21 It's madness — East's followed Diamond lead looking for a satisfying drop (6)
 22 Characteristically lucky people will start with one diamond but be found in two spades (4)
 23 Program's index arranged as a supplement (8)

DOWN

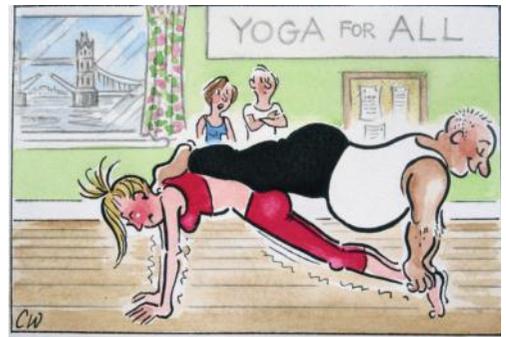
- 1 Concerning words, it means constant adaptation (8)
 2 Freeloader's cake (6)
 3 Rogers' card game takes the biscuit (10, two words)
 4 What two pairs playing together made them when taking tea (7, two words)
 5 One last reappraisal of top celebrities (5, hyphenated)
 6 It facilitates silent auctions, the very last thing a referee will be doing before the bout starts? (10, two words)
 7 Capsize cryptically and one's likely to end up in the soup (4)
 11 Balls thrown in cloudy conditions (8)
 13 Girl led uncertainly, then was cross-examined (7)
 15 Landowners' den being pursued by two suits (6)
 17 Card game you don't want to start on edge (5)
 18 Hear raps occasionally plucked from this? (4)



Oops! What has Santa done now?

Congratulations to Steve Pearce for my favourite shown under October's cartoon below. Other close contenders were June Booty's *Oh look, they are doing those inverted raises again*, Phil Battye's *Janet's lesson on support doubles didn't start out quite as she had imagined* and Jack Morris's *The Yoga Club - that's a new convention to me!* Send your new entries for the cartoon above to lou@ebu.co.uk by 31st December, or post to Editor, Raggett House, Bowdens, Langport, TA10 0DD.

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



It's like his bridge – his partner has to shoulder a terrible burden

PRESTAT





Answers to October's Problems

Team scoring on all hands (IMPs)

All the hands this month are from actual play. The first was sent to me by reader Dave Simmons, the second by reader Tim Prior, and the third comes from a NICKO match.

Hand 1
 ♠ 5 4
 ♥ A 3 2
 ♦ K 5 4 2
 ♣ K 10 5 4

South	West	North	East
2NT ¹	All Pass		
1 20-22			

Choose from: (a) ♠5; (b) ♥2; (c) ♦2; (d) ♣4.

A highly unattractive collection to lead from on this auction (and even more so if it were pairs). What is the best of a bad job?

- (a) ♠5: 6 marks. An attempt to give nothing away and quite a sensible idea. The problem with it is that it may well finesse partner's honour(s), something declarer was probably unable to do with dummy more or less entryless.
- (b) ♥2: 2 marks. I cannot see why you would want to lead away from an ace in a three card suit in this auction.
- (c) ♦2: 5 marks. Well it is a four card suit, but if you are going to lead a four card suit why not lead the one where you need least from partner for it to be right? To wit:

(d) ♣4: 10 marks. For the reasons above.

Hand 2
 ♠ 7 5 3 2
 ♥ 8 6 5 4
 ♦ –
 ♣ Q 6 5 4 2

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

¹ Game forcing with diamonds, ² Keycard, ³ 2 keycards + the trump queen

Choose from: (a) a spade; (b) a heart; (c) ♣4; (d) ♣Q.

- (a) a spade: 2 marks. This hand is an excellent counterpoint to hand 1 last time, when we were on lead against 6NT after a quantitative auction by the opponents. Then I advocated passivity – looking for the safest lead. Here I advocate aggression – looking for a lead which will set up a trick. It is almost always right to lead passively against NT slams and aggressively against suit slams. Which is why both a heart and a spade are the wrong lead and score more or less equal marks. I have knocked a point off for the spade lead as it is slightly more likely to give a trick away leading round into declarer's (potential) second suit.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Master: Frank Townsend
Stafford



Open: Barry Ransley
Chatteris

Sponsored by **Piatnik**



- (b) **a heart: 3 marks.** It gets the extra mark as partner did not double 5♠, so a spade lead is even less likely to be right than a heart.
- (c) **♣4: 10 marks.** For the reasons above. It was the killing lead at the table as partner had the ♣K and J10xx trumps (is that so unlikely when we have a void?). If you do not lead a club then dummy's clubs get discarded on declarer's spades, but partner can ruff in time and cash the club winner if you do lead one. Note that in any other suit partner would need the ace or a KQ combination to beat the slam, whereas here all he needed was the king. That is the point of leading aggressively against suit slams – play the suit that you need least from partner to break the contract.
- (d) **♠Q: 8 marks.** I actually quite like this lead. Certainly, declarer is likely to go wrong if she is missing the jack, but since it is non-standard I had better not give it too many marks or the editor will be complaining I am teaching the readers bad habits. 🐾 *Too true, Ed*

Hand 3

♠ J 5 4 2
♥ K 3
♦ 4
♣ A Q 7 5 3 2

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

¹ weak

Choose from: (a) ♠2; (b) ♥3; (c) ♦4; (d) ♣A.

- (a) **♠2: 3 marks.** Well, yes, it is partner's suit, but come on – look at your hand! At the table dummy hit with ♠AKx and declarer was void, so both clubs went away.
- (b) **♥3: 1 mark.** Err.. do I really have to say how much is wrong with this lead?
- (c) **♦4: 4 marks.** Well I suppose it is *just* possible that you need to get partner to give you a ruff as neither your ♥K nor your ♣A are tricks. But really, sometimes the obvious leads are the correct ones which is....
- (d) **♣A: 10 marks.** This must be close to 100% to be standing up (which it was) and it must be well over 90% that declarer has the ♥A (which he did), so cash that ace before the mice get at it (as they did!)

SEND IN YOUR LEAD CONUNDRUMS

Why not take advantage of Alan's expertise and send in hands where the lead has foxed you? Email the editor, lou@ebu.co.uk and, if suitable, Alan would be delighted to use them.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP



England's *Black* team achieved a bronze medal in the Champions Cup which took place in Israel in early November. The team, *from left*, comprised Andrew McIntosh, David Gold, Phil King, Andrew Black, Derek Patterson and Gunnar Hallberg.

Twelve teams from Europe competed in the event. Holland's *BC't Onstein 1* took gold for the second consecutive year, with Poland's *Connector* achieving silver. *Match report online, p74.*



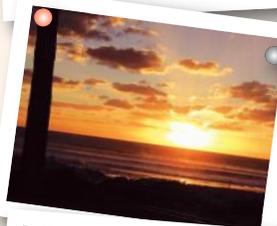
Lord Skelmersdale 1945 – 2018

Lord Skelmersdale was a key member of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Bridge. He was a keen advocate of junior bridge, visiting a number of schools during his time with the APPG, and was part of the group of Peers which hosted visits by young players to the House of Lords twice each year. He is pictured below welcoming junior players to the House of Lords in September this year.



Overseas Congress – Andaluca

by Christine MacFarlane



This was my first overseas congress so everything was new and exciting. We were greeted by the Bridge Overseas reps, Lindsey and Hannah, and our first impressions of the 4* Iberostar hotel/resort were wonderful. The main reception/bar area and the bridge playing room were spacious, air-conditioned and well lit. First timers were made to feel very welcome, but perhaps the nicest part was seeing the number of old friends who come to these congresses to meet up and socialise. The food was buffet style and it was delicious, varied and beautifully presented. I am not sure we all knew what a lot of the dishes were but we agreed the complimentary breakfast Cava was a nice touch. For the non-bridge players there was evening entertainment in the bar; what we thought was a fancy dress party was the Abba team promoting their act.

To say we were in Cadiz was a little misleading; but the local buses went to the town of Chiclana on a regular basis and the little red trolley train came to our hotel and made a daily excursion to somewhere new and interesting. The biggest attraction had to be the beachfront location and the beautiful Barossa Beach with its golden sand, dunes and pine forests stretching for 7km. We saw horses cantering along the beach and a game of pétanque (played by some of our bridge players) was spotted. For golfers there were many courses to be enjoyed nearby as well as tennis and other sports.

Apart from the comprehensive bridge programme, three excursions were on offer just for our group. This included a day trip to Seville (with the beautiful cathedral and Plaza de España), a morning trip to Cadiz (an ancient port city and home to the Spanish Navy) and another to Jerez (renowned for horse dancing and sherry). We opted for a trip on the local bus to Chiclana and the red trolley bus trip to Sancti Petri, an old fishing village. There were few tourist attractions (or tourists) at Chiclana, but it was very pleasant just enjoying the local scenery, visiting the local market and enjoying some tapas and beer.

This was the first time Peter Jordan was not Congress Manager. Unfortunately, due to ill health, he and Barbara were unable to attend. We all wish him a speedy recovery. □





The Bridge Warehouse

The first and only choice for Bridge Players

Last posting dates for Christmas delivery

Tuesday 18th December - 2nd Class / 48 hr Courier

Wednesday 19th December - 1st Class / 24 hr Courier

All profits from sales in The Bridge Warehouse are reinvested by the EBU in activities and services for its members and affiliated clubs

Support bridge in England - shop at The Bridge Warehouse

Orders and Enquiries



01296 397851/317200



bridge.warehouse@ebu.co.uk



www.ebu.co.uk/bridge-warehouse

Open Monday to Friday
9am - 5pm

Order online via our
website

JUNIOR TEACH-IN ENJOYED BY ALL



At the end of the summer, EBED's annual 3-day youth bridge residential weekend – the Junior Teach-In – was attended by beginners through to junior internationals. A total of 49 children and 17 accompanying adults joined us at Phasels Wood Scout Activity Centre, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire. Phasels Wood is a place where young people find inspiration, adventure, challenges and friendship, all within a safe, supportive and positive environment. It proved a perfect new venue and location for EBED's youth event in picturesque woodland for our young aspiring bridge players.

This was a hectic weekend of activities and of course a lot of teaching, learning and playing bridge. Particular highlights included the competitive games of Human Table Football and

the new *Seeded* Teams Event, where pairs with good results from the first bridge sessions were teamed up to allow everyone a chance to win.

Prizes and medals were given to all who attended as a memento of a great weekend.

The main competition, the Arnott-Davidson Trophy, was won by Oscar Selby and Henry Rose, who had both recently arrived back from their adventures at the Youth World Team Championships in China.

We would like to say a very special thank you to all our teachers and helpers behind the scenes, that made this year's Junior Teach-In another great success. Our extended appreciation goes to Alan Shillitoe, Jonny Richards, Kyle Lam, Alex Roberts, Alison Nicolson, Giorgio Provenza, Dave Armstrong, Jill Armstrong and Joan Bennett.

NEW EBTA BENEFITS

At EBED, we are always seeking to improve our English Bridge Teachers Association benefits, and are delighted to announce two new features which are now available to our members.

HANDPLAY - Great thanks to the renowned Bridge Teacher and Tournament Director, Mike Rothwell for donating his new piece of software, HandPlay, to EBED. HandPlay allows teachers to create hands for their students to play and provides the ability to click

through the play of each card. An exciting feature in HandPlay allows the change of play to show the effects a single card can make to the final result of a hand. This is a fantastic donation which will benefit all our teachers.

TEACHER FORUM - We have now created an online forum for EBTA Teachers. It is a networking opportunity that allows our teachers to discuss ideas, ask questions and share best practice. The forum is accessible at www.ebedcio.org.uk/forum. To sign up, enter a username and provide your e-mail address. Once approved by our team of moderators, you too can enjoy the benefits.

STAMFORD'S SUNDAY CLUB



Hats off to Stamford Bridge Club which has introduced a Youth Session on a Sunday. The first, in September, was attended by Alan Shillitoe, England player who helps with the U16 Youth Squad. Nine youngsters attended. They are looking forward to bringing on the club's first international champion!

WORCESTER WELCOMES FRENCH



From left, Marie Couppé, Mike Vetch, Alain Gillier & Steve Garry

Worcester Bridge Club has forged a partnership with Romorantin BC in the Loire Valley.

The partnership was the brainchild of Steve Garry, a former Worcestershire resident who now lives in the pretty French town. He contacted the Worcs County Chairman Mike Willoughby, who passed the idea on to Mike Vetch, Chairman of Worcester Bridge Club, who happens to have thirty years' experience of running French Exchanges for school pupils at RGS Worcester.

The two clubs envisage stays of four to five nights, in families, with opportunities to play bridge, visit the region and sample some of the culinary delights! Monsieur Gillier, president of Romorantin BC spoke of the history of the area and of the exciting prospects for visits to chateaux and vineyards which await Worcester's first travellers!

MORPETH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Congratulations to Castle Morpeth Bridge Club which is celebrating 50 years. The club held a buffet lunch with guests including some players who had played at the club right at the beginning in 1968.

The club was started by Bill Skelton, an enthusiastic teacher who is credited with popularising the game in the area. The initial subs for the year were 30/-, which went towards the necessary equipment, and the club launched in September 1968 with 26 members.

The club prides itself on keeping up to date with the times and providing a friendly venue. The members enjoy bridge weekends away and trips to Amsterdam, Bruges, Barcelona and Dublin, playing bridge with the locals and enjoying their hospitality.



SPOOKY BIRTHDAY BRIDGE



No one was more surprised than birthday girl Joan O'Sullivan when seven bridge players from Kettering Bridge Club turned up to play on her big day. Yes - you guessed it - 31st October.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters to the editor, Lou Hobhouse
Raggett House, Bowdens, TA10 0DD, or e-mail louhobhouse@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.

BASIC BIDDING

Although there is a disclaimer that *The content of ACOlytes may differ from Bridge for All teaching materials....* I am surprised that Sarah Bell's articles on basic ACOL advocate opening 1NT on balanced hands including a good 5-card major. Many bridge teachers would agree with this, but in my view it is not suitable for inexperienced players. It now requires Puppet Stayman to find a 5·3 fit, and it is no longer possible to make a weak take-out holding 4·5 or 5·4 in the majors or a 4·4·4·1 shape if weak. I teach inexperienced players that whether you open 1♥/♠ or 1NT depends on the quality of the major suit. As a rule of thumb, I suggest opening 1M if the suit is good enough to play opposite three small, or honour doubleton – Q10₉xx as an absolute minimum. Otherwise pretend it is a 4-card suit and open 1NT.

Phillip Wraight

A BOLD CHANGE

At the end of his article Paul Bowyer says that in most forms of the game overtricks are for the birds and success of the contract is paramount. If only that were true, but many if not most club players get an unremitting diet of matchpoint pairs. On the board he describes, the excellent play recommended to land the contract on any 4-1 split is just as likely to earn a bottom as a top, when everybody else just cashes the second top diamond and the queen obligingly falls on

the second round. I have two suggestions for remedying this. The first is for clubs, with the active encouragement of the EBU, to use cross-IMP scoring for their duplicate sessions instead of matchpoints.

The second is much more radical: a change to bridge scoring which abolishes any score at all for overtricks, except when the contract is doubled. Could the bridge world ever be persuaded to be that bold?

Dick Heasman

THE BANNED FORCING PASS

Why has the EBU banned the Forcing Pass? The *Bridgeguys* website has details of 20 such systems, mostly being played by top pairs in European countries. I selected the SWAN system for its simplicity and have tried it out with my partner at an unaffiliated club. The Swan opening bids are:

Pass – 13+ HCP

1♣ – 0-7

All bids from 1♦ to 2NT show 8-12 HCP:

1♦ – 4·4·4·1

1♥, 1♠, 3- or 4-card suit

1NT, 4·4 majors and 3·2

All 2 suit bids show 5+ cards
2NT, 5·5 minors.

The responses to a forcing pass are the same as the opening bids, except 1♦, which shows 13+ HCP. Not too difficult to understand, is it?

SWAN is a much better system than others I have played over the last 60 years. Our first attempt had a few hiccoughs, second time it went smoothly for

a good result. I know that it sounds outrageous but so does the Polish Club. Also, I understand that the EBU permits Forcing Pass and other weird systems in major events that attract overseas competitors, to the disadvantage to English players who are not allowed to play them.

Harry Fox

Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) which include Forcing Pass systems, have not been allowed in most EBU or county events for several decades, because of the difficulty of defending against them. Even in European and World championships, they are not allowed in all events and when they are, their proponents sacrifice seating rights in order to do so, and their opponents are allowed to use written defences.

It's also not correct to say that the 20 systems listed in the document mentioned are being played by top pairs in European countries. Several of them were created by the same pair and almost none of them are much in use any more. Nor is the presence of overseas visitors a factor in their being allowed in EBU events: the main events where they are allowed are the Premier League and other trials events, where no overseas visitors play.

However, clubs are allowed to use whatever system regulations they wish, so Harry just needs to find a club where anything is allowed in order to be able to play this if he wishes!

Gordon Rainsford, EBU CEO

KIND PARTNER

I recently played duplicate with a lady who I had not met before. When I successfully made a contract she said 'Well done partner'. When I went down she said 'Nicely played – you were unlucky'. When she failed to make a contract because I had over-bid she said 'Sorry partner but your bidding was correct'. When, defending, I made the only lead that could give opponents the contract she said 'Unlucky lead partner but perfectly logical'. I cannot wait to play with her again. I suspect she can!

Michael Cohen

MAKING OR SHUFFLING?

I have searched high and low to discover why so often in the UK we refer to 'making' rather than 'shuffling' the cards. Apart from making the cards ready for the next dealer, which seems too pedantic to be the reason, can anyone enlighten me?

Jeff Robinson

LOVELY CORNWALL

On a recent, extended and lonely babysitting holiday in the Bude area, I phoned and asked if it was possible to play at the local bridge club. The response was immediate and very welcoming: partners were organised at short notice and I can recommend Deb Delvalle and Ann Bennett (who organised partners) and all the members for their friendliness and warmth towards a 'bridging stranger'. Their kindness changed the time spent there to a lovely memory.

Tertia Salt

WEIRD MATHS

Taking a quick peek at *My EBU* the other day, I found that my NGS rating (61.78, since you ask) is exactly the same – to two

decimal places – as my age on the day. Is this a record?

On another point, with reference to Alan Bailey's letter in *English Bridge, Oct 2018, p60*, my experience is that nonagenarians tend to be extremely brisk in their bidding and play – the phrase 'no nonsense' springs to mind. They can be erratic at times, but so can sexagenarian striplings such as myself.

Mike Leach

PINNED UP ON SHEFFIELD'S NOTICE BOARD

I am mother of Alfie who attends Sheffield Bridge Club each Friday. Alfie started coming about a year ago. He was quickly joined by several friends. It was a surprise to find how much Alfie enjoyed the club. He has really taken to playing cards. As a family we have now started playing cards together several times a week – with my 82-year-

old father joining in frequently. It has been a real pleasure.

The bridge club is different to the usual clubs that our children go to which are more physical. It is a great learning experience and provides them with a skill that they can use throughout life and in a variety of social settings.

SINGLES CLUB

I wondered whether the EBU magazine would consider setting up a friendship directory? Maybe giving a County location and a box number if folks were dubious about giving too much initial information. I was widowed three years ago and there must be plenty of other people in a single situation and our common interest, bridge, is a good starting point!

Name withheld

No promises, but what are the views of other EBU members? Ed

AUTUMN CONGRESS



The Two Star Pairs, the main competition at the Autumn Congress, was won by Clive Owen & Brian Senior (*left*), with Richard Creamer & Trevor Mathews second. The Two Star Pairs was the second competition in the 2018/19 Player of the Year Championship. The Satellite Pairs (the 'B' final) was narrowly won by Gill Stock & Shahzaad Natt, ahead of Andrew McIntosh & Alex Hydes.

The Swiss Pairs – for non-qualifiers, and those joining the congress after the qualifying rounds – was won by Michael Rawlins & Naomi Gibbs (*centre*), with Roman Gembicki & Bogdan Drobny second.

The Congress continued with a multiple teams event. The 'A final', for the Eastbourne Bowl, was won by Rob Lawy, Andrew Thompson, Warner Solomon & Lorne Anderson (*right*), with Filip Kurbalija, Diane Kurbalija, David Kendrick & Jeremy Dhondy second.

The Burlington Cup (the secondary final) was won by Celia Oram, Derek Oram, Dee Lindon & Peter Lindon.



Landmark Promotions

July 2018 – October 2018

Congratulations to the newly promoted

Premier Grand Masters:
Gunnar Hallberg, London
Phil Thornton, Berks & Bucks

Grand Masters:
Dennis Loynes, Worcestershire
Roger Mallinson, Derbyshire

Avon

Regional Master

Bridget Johnson

Keith Radmall

Master

Jean Butler

Pamela Carwardine

James Conlan

Malcolm Gray

Stuart King

Stuart King

Alan Treadway

Bedfordshire

Regional Master

Colin O'Hara

Paul Wiltshire

Master

Richard Jones

ChiHing Luk

Berks & Bucks

Premier Grand Master

Phil Thornton

Life Master

Evelyn Crossley

Regional Master

Clive Cubitt

Master

Marion Baker

Brenda Bateman

Nils Blythe

John Clay

Dominic Cooke

Stephen Delooze

Oliver Dillon

Paul Fanning

David Genders

Chris Hopkins

Neil Horley

John Ives

Ken Rowe

Christopher Whitby

Franky Whitby

Jean Woodman

Camb & Hunts

Regional Master

Peter Jackson

Master

Jamie Fegarty

Liam Fegarty

John Nowell

Channel Islands

Regional Master

Susan Jones

Michael Roberts

Master

Wyn Coleman

Cornwall

Master

Barbara Rogers

Cumbria

Regional Master

Phil Young

Master

Peter Rooke

Phil Rowland

Nicholas Rushton

Derbyshire

Grand Master

Roger Mallinson

Regional Master

Alastair McCance

Devon

Life Master

William Hamilton

Regional Master

John Dick

Master

Eleanor Batten

Alan Cooke

Jim Dunn

Rosemary Mackay

Judy Wilkinson

Direct

Regional Master

Derek Spoons

Master

Mick Rogers

Alan Steer

Essex

Regional Master

Cathryn Fox

Master

Andy Billinge

Sue Bowman

Pat Elliott

Chris Hart

Margaret Kleyn

R Major

Steven Munt

Janet Starkey

Gloucestershire

Regional Master

Jon Nicholls

Master

Simon Halliday

Sheila Houston

Paul Tempest

John Wells

Rosemary Wheeler

Anna Wilson

Hants and I.O.W.

Master

Georgina Boase

Sam Golding

Phillip Lovegrove

Stephen Martin

Margaret Maxfield

Jenny Wiberg

Herefordshire

Regional Master

Janet Miles

Hertfordshire

Life Master

John Leake

Master

Angela Chatterton

Denver Gorman

Paul King

Joan May

Peter McRobert

Alison Minns

Susan Elizabeth Sheppard

Stuart Tarrant

Kay Vowles

Isle of Man

Master

Anne Keen

Kent

Regional Master

Howard Jennings

Anton Mauve

David Stern

Master

Odetta Bibb

Jackie Bowler

David Davies

Joan Holdom

Lorna Jones

Mary Langham

Ronald Newman

Anona Twist

Jonathan Wittmann

Lancashire

Regional Master

Pauline Holden

Master

Keith Bates

Kathleen Bray

Nancy Chadwick

Tom Daniels

Pearl Epstein

Dorcas Gow

Jack Harris

Myra Lazarus

Gerard Melling

Helen Nightingale

Bill Oldbury

Olwen Radcliffe

Ian Robson

Leicestershire

Master

Linda Lord

Christine McCarthy

Hilary Willars

Lincolnshire

Master

Edmund Callaghan

Harold Martin

London

Premier Grand Master

Gunnar Hallberg

Life Master

Richard Creamer

Susanna Gross

Rosie White

Regional Master

John Bolgar

Master

Louise Anderson

Reiko Sei

Louise Selway

Olivia Staple

Manchester

Life Master

Patricia Burrows

Regional Master

Barbara Eastabrook

David Tattersall

Master

Jennifer Birchall

Wendy Burton

David Jones

Tomi Komoly

Avril Samuels

Phillip Taylor

Phillip Taylor

Ross Worthington

Merseyside & Cheshire

Master

Bill Hollyhead

Rita MacCrimmon

Lorna Sheckleston

Mike Voisey

Middlesex

Life Master

Keith Bush

Regional Master

David Horan

Dror Padon

Kripa Panchagnula

Anouk Riviere

Trupti Shah

Master

Christine Bates

Sue Johnson

Norfolk

Master

Joyce Aitchison

Pam Barnes

David Carter

Jean Green

John Higginson

Sue Howes

Graham Morton

North East

Life Master

David Gold

Regional Master

Brian Myers

Master

Charles Bucknell

George Farnan

Jean Hattersley

Marie Lydon

Margaret Sewell

Stella Styles

Jim Turnbull

Northamptonshire

Life Master

Keith Nash

Master

Pam Callaghan

Sue Hichisson

India Leeming

Mike Warrington

Nottinghamshire

Master

Maurice King

Brian Stein

Oxford

Life Master

Christopher Whitehouse

Regional Master

Irene Holland

Lynda Riecken

Henry Rose

Master

Jon Hughes

Davina Lord

David Pilgrim

Paul Smith

Colin Wels

Somerset

Master

Sandra Cavaciuti

Ron Hancock

Ian Norris

Staffs & Shrops

Regional Master

Marcus Eassom

Dominic Wilson

Master

Sarah Currie

Barrie Jones

Pat Martin

John Sheard

Suffolk

Master

David Decourcy
Gerry Ford
Alan Godbold
Paddy Lockwood
Hilary Russell

Surrey

Life Master

Margaret Bradshaw
Nick Browne
Wendy Lancaster

Regional Master

Steve Mai
June Middleton
Sally Young

Master

Jerry Broers
Sue Chinn
Anna Collett
Sam Das
Eileen Davies
Colin Gardner
Chris Gidden
Nicky Gill
John Granville
Sandy Hackett
Irina Hallett
Linda Holt
Mukho Hussein
Andrew Male
Shelagh Mitchell
Margaret Muncer
Keith Oatway
Sheila Price
Anneke Prior
Simon Riddett

Sylvia Skiba
Polly Youngs

Sussex

Regional Master

Ann Hone

Master

David Ball
Pauline Burfoot
Brian Cook
Sheila Felstead
Meic Goodyear
John Kitchener

Peter Preedy
Malcolm Robinson
Jo Waddingham
Roger Waddingham

Warwickshire

Life Master

Barbara Roberts
Master
Terry Bradbury
Roselyn Commander
Janet Cox
Philip Gray
Tzvetomira Haigh
Geoff Hanson
Philip Hodgson
Marion Kolodotschko
Jennifer Lim
Christine Pollard
Chris Quarmby
Sharon Smitten
Selvam Sothy
Michael Ward
Paul Woodcock

Westmorland

Master

Robert Boyd

Wiltshire

Life Master

Taf Anthias
James Dunlop
Andrew Parkes

Master

Stan Christie
Alastair Spence
Hilary Swan
Patricia Ussher
Anita Williams

Worcestershire

Grand Master

Dennis Loynes
Regional Master
Martin Gill

Master

Richard Booth
Sheila Short

Yorkshire

Regional Master

Stephen Berson

Master

Anne Bailey
Mike Barber
Cheryl Brown
Jeanne Castle
Judith Cherry
Mike Cluett
Ian Cowe
David Elliot
Constance Hayes
David Hughes
Barbara Richardson
Philip Stoker
Pat Tankard

Excessive hesitation should be avoided...



Many thanks to Audrey Quinton who sent us this wonderful illustration

COUNTY NEWS

Please check your county website regularly for up-to-date news and results.



COUNTY WEBSITES

Avon	www.avoncba.org.uk
Bedfordshire	www.bedsbridge.co.uk
Berks & Bucks	www.bridgewebs.com/bbcb
Cambs & Hunts	www.cambsbridge.org
Channel Islands	www.bridgewebs.com/cicba
Cornwall	www.bridgewebs.com/cornwall
Cumbria	www.bridgewebs.com/cumbria/
Derbyshire	www.bridgewebs.com/derbyshire
Devon	www.devonbridge.co.uk
Dorset	www.bridgewebs.com/dorset
Essex	www.essexbridge.co.uk
Gloucestershire	www.gcba.org.uk
Guernsey	www.bridgewebs.com/cicbaguernsey
Hants & Isle of Wight	www.bridgewebs.com/hiwcba/
Herefordshire	www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk
Hertfordshire	www.hertsbridge.co.uk

Isle of Man	www.manxbridgeunion.org
Jersey	www.bridgewebs.com/cicba
Kent	www.kcba.org.uk
Lancashire	www.bridgewebs.com/lancs
Leicestershire	www.bridgewebs.com/leicestershire/
Lincolnshire	www.lincsbridge.org.uk
London	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Manchester	www.manchesterbridge.org.uk
Merseyside/Cheshire	www.mcba.org.uk
Middlesex	www.middlesexbridge.co.uk
Norfolk	www.bridgewebs.com/norfolk/
North East	www.neba.co.uk
Northamptonshire	www.bridgewebs.com/northants/
Nottinghamshire	www.bridgewebs.com/nottinghamshire
Oxfordshire	www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk
Somerset	www.bridgewebs.com/somerset
Staffs & Shrops	www.staffsandshrops.org.uk
Suffolk	www.suffolkbridge.co.uk
Surrey	www.bridgewebs.com/surrey
Sussex	www.scba.co.uk
Warwickshire	www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk
Westmorland	www.bridgewebs.com/westmorland
Wiltshire	www.wcba.co.uk
Worcestershire	www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire
Yorkshire	www.ycba.co.uk/



Answers to Questions on Page 10

Hand 1	W	N	E	S
♠ A 9 2	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
♥ Q J 9 8 7 2	?			
♦ 5 3				
♣ A J				

2♥. With a decent six-card suit it is sensible to rebid the suit. While this might get you to your second best fit if partner has 5-1 in the majors and is too weak to continue, raising spades seriously risks playing in a 4-3 fit. You will show the spades on the next round if partner rebids 3♣ or 3♦.

Hand 2	W	N	E	S
♠ Q J 7 5 4 3 2	3♠	Pass	4♥	1♣
♥ 8	?			Pass
♦ A 5 4				
♣ Q 8				

Pass. When you made the double jump to 3♠ you showed a long spade suit and a fairly weak hand. Partner has heard this and decided that hearts is a better trump suit. You have no reason to think otherwise. Even if North doubles, you will not bid 4♠.

Hand 3	W	N	E	S
♠ K J	2♣	Pass	Pass	1♦
♥ A 8 7 4	?			Dble
♦ A				
♣ Q J 10 8 7 6				

2♥. You should take the easy chance to show your second suit. If North was about to bid diamonds, this will now have to be at the three level (if at all). If North was about to bid spades, at least you have managed to describe your hand first.

Hand 4	W	N	E	S
♠ Q 7 5	2♥	1♠	Dble	Pass
♥ Q J 10 9 4	?	3♦	3♥	Pass
♦ K 9 4				
♣ 5 4				

4♥. While you would not normally wish to risk punishing partner for competing, your hand is such that you very nearly bid 3♥ over the double. With a fifth heart and a maximum and knowing where the opposing strength lies, you take a shot at game.

Hand 5	W	N	E	S
♠ 10 9 8 5 3	?	1NT ¹	Dble	2♦
♥ A Q 9 8 5 3	?			
♦ 6	¹ 12-14			
♣ 4				

3♦. You would like to try to show both major suits. While I suppose you could jump in one suit planning to bid the other if partner rebids 3NT, the cue bid seems a more economical way of doing so. You plan to pull 3NT to 4♥.

Hand 6	W	N	E	S
♠ K Q J 10 5 2	2♥ ²	Dble	1NT ¹	Pass
♥ K 7	?		Pass	Pass
♦ 6 5 4	¹ 12-14, ² Transfer to spades			
♣ 7 2				

2♠. Partner's pass ought to show a doubleton spade. This, combined with news of either a good hand or good hearts, maybe both on your left, should temper any thoughts of game. By bidding 2♠ yourself (rather than redoubling to ask partner to do so), you protect the ♥K from immediate attack. □



Winter Sun Bridge Holidays

FIRST FOR
BRIDGE



PLAYA BLANCA, LANZAROTE

H10 Rubicon Palace

8 Jan 2019 - 7 OR 14 nights half board from £769†



FUERTEVENTURA

Barcelo Thalasso Spa Hotel

23 Jan 2019 - 7 OR 14 nights half board from £769†

Twin centre option

Why not extend your winter sun holiday and join us in both Lanzarote and Fuerteventura next winter? FREE hotel transfer and additional night package worth £150 when you book all 4 weeks!



NO SINGLE SUP!

MALTA, MELLIEHA BAY

db Seabank Resort + Spa

21 Jan 2019 - 7 & 14 nights all inclusive from £549†



PAPHOS, CYPRUS

Athena Royal Beach

13 Feb 2019 - 7 & 14 nights half board from £629†



NO SINGLE SUP!

MAJORCA, CALA RATJADA

Hotel Bella Playa & Spa

15 Mar 2019 - 7 & 14 nights half board from £585†

Bridge Getaways in the Springtime



KAISER FRANZ JOSEPH HOTEL, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

1 Apr 2019 - 7 nights half board from £995pp†



BELLAVISTA RELAX HOTEL, LAKE LEVICO, ITALY

27 Apr 2019 - 10 nights half board from £1199pp incl. flights



AEGEAN PEARL & PEARL BEACH HOTELS, CRETE

7 May 2019 - 7 & 14 nights half board from £649pp†



VALAMAR SANFIOR HOTEL & CASA, RABAC, CROATIA

11 May 2019 - 7 & 14 nights half board from £649pp†

Advisory...

Our full summer 2019 bridge holiday programme, including our new 'Bridge & Rail' UK holiday, is now on sale! Please visit our website to view full details.

For details of all our holidays go to www.firstforbridge.co.uk
or call us on **01473 917297**

† Prices do not include flights on holidays with this symbol. Bridge licensed by the EBU. Information correct at the time of writing. All offers subject to availability and restrictions.





PALOMA OCEANA RESORT SIDE TURKEY - 15 FEB
WWW.BRIDGEOVERSEAS.COM

MAR



Barcelo/Occidental Granada Hotel SPAIN

04 March 2019 - 7 Nights From £669pp

The hotel Occidental Granada (part of Barcelo Hotel Group) is located in one of the best areas of the city, at easy reach from Recogidas Street which links the hotel with Granada city centre.

MAR



Iberostar Port El Kantaoui TUNISIA

15 March 2019 - 7 / 14 Nights From £449pp

The Tunisians are masters of the art of flavour. That's why, at the Iberostar Diar El Andalous hotel you'll find that secret ingredient to make your stay one to truly savour.

MAR



Hotel Metropole Suisse Lake Como ITALY

23 March 2019 - 7 Nights From £669pp

You deserve the best that the beautiful city of Como has to offer. Positioned in the main square, a stone's throw from the quaint old town, the ideal place to take a stroll through the shops and historical features.

MAY



Kipriotis Panorama Hotel Kos GREECE

02 May 2019 - 7 / 14 Nights From £559pp

Prepare yourself for an experience like no other. The perfect holiday spot for our fun and friendly bridge holidays. Kos brings together a laidback life with all the ingredients for having a great time.





300,000 boards in 15 years

Online bridge started in the mid-1990s. Towards the end of 1999, Sue Maxwell at EBU HQ got together with Bridge Player Live, who had a small international community playing in their online club, to provide a parallel online club for the EBU. The EBU Online Bridge Club was thus born at the start of 2000, and I changed career from supervising bridge construction to supervising bridge play.

In April 2002, the international club was merged into the EBU club to create Bridge Club Live and we suddenly had members playing right round the clock providing a game for players whatever time they logged in. A year and a half later, BCL went independent from the EBU and my direct role with the EBU finished, but the club has maintained close links and today enjoys the status of being an EBU online affiliated bridge club, issuing Master Points, and it remains the only online club based in the UK.

Now, at the end of 2018, we have about 100 members who have played more than 100,000 boards in BCL, and a lady from Surrey at the top of our chart is expected to have crossed over 300,000 played boards by the time you read this, having joined in 2003. Yes, that works out to playing an average of more than 52 boards per day!

Holding a Yarborough at unfavourable vulnerability at IMPs when partner's opening weak

1NT gets doubled on your right is never a good moment, but this deal from a recent Tourney worked out remarkably well.

N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ 5 4 3 2
♥ 9 7 2
♦ 9 8 5 4 2
♣ 4

♠ 8 7
♥ K Q 5 4
♦ K J
♣ A K Q 10 8

♠ A 10 6
♥ J 10 8
♦ Q 7
♣ J 9 7 5 3

♠ K Q J 9
♥ A 6 3
♦ A 10 6 3
♣ 6 2

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

I was North. On a diamond lead, 3NT went one off. A spade lead would also have taken it off. One North played in 2♦ doubled which made, as would 2♠. The other two EW pairs managed to stop in a club part-score. With 26 HCP, there is no game available for EW, not even 4♥ after a club lead. On a later board in the same event, EW had 28 HCP and no makeable game! □

Bridge Club Live, the only UK based online bridge club, offers:

- Fast, fun and friendly bridge in a format that suits you.
- Drop-in Drop-out Match Point Pairs and social games
- Individual, Improvers and IMP Pairs Tournaments, and Teams events
- Full bidding and play records of every deal played.
- System cards for new and regular partnerships
- Discussion forums and members' reunions
- EBU Master Points



Learn how to play bridge with Funbridge!

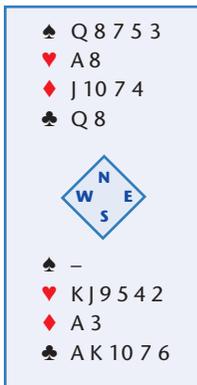
The latest update of the Funbridge bridge game now makes it possible to learn bridge through the app with our brand new *introductory module to bridge*.

Thanks to lessons and exercises developed by our experts, learning the basics of bridge has never been so easy. And it's FREE! You can:

- ♣ Take fun and interactive lessons
- ♣ Play deals step by step and get advice
- ♣ Play deals on your own at the end of each chapter

This introductory module is designed for beginners who want to start playing easily as well as any players willing to review the basics of the game quickly. To access the module, open the Funbridge app and click Get started/Practise > Get started with bridge. If you don't have the Funbridge app yet, go to www.funbridge.com, the App Store or the Google Play Store to download it for free.

Today's board is about making mistakes ... and giving the opponents the chance to make errors too!



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

Starting with the bidding. After a straightforward 1♠ bid over partner's 1♥ opening, North has to decide between 3♥, 3NT and 4♥ over 3♣. Having the ♣Q and the ♥A probably makes 4♥ the better bet, but North decided to bid 3NT and dummy will prove that this was indeed a mistake.

The lead was the ♠4 (second from a bad suit, 4th from an honour).

Clearly, 4♥ was a better contract, losing at most one diamond and two hearts (you could go down on some very bad breaks of clubs and hearts). Fortunately, you are playing a teams match, where scoring nine tricks in no trumps will reduce your loss to 1 or 2 IMPs at most, so this is not the time to think about what you should have done. What are your thoughts regarding 3NT?

The most likely chance to make your game is running hearts for six tricks, alongside one diamond and three clubs for plus one. Another option would be scoring five clubs, one diamond and either three hearts or two hearts and one spade. Ideally, you would like to combine these chances, but the run of spades should make this impossible.

Your opponents might make a mistake, or just have a very hard decision and make the wrong choice. For instance they may switch after two rounds of spades, with East being afraid of giving declarer any extra tricks. Over to the play: you discard a diamond on the first spade which West wins with the ace and returns the ♠J. You cover but East takes the ♠K and you discard ... a heart ! Yes, we saw earlier that by establishing hearts you would make six hearts, three clubs and one diamond, that's 10 tricks and you need only nine. By discarding a heart, you don't put your contract in danger if hearts behave nicely but you do give yourself the extra chance of going for five clubs, one diamond and three hearts if, say, East has the stiff ♥Q (not so unlikely when he has five or six diamonds and four spades).

East is now down to ♠96 ♥Q ♦KQ952 ♣952. Will he decide to continue spades forcing dummy to discard a club or switch to diamonds letting declarer try for the additional chance of scoring five clubs, three hearts and one diamond? Sometimes he'll do one, sometimes he'll do the other, but only the declarers who kept all of their clubs will have the chance to make the contract when the defenders get it wrong □

Bowyer's Suit Combination Challenge from p12

Hand 1: South
plays in 6NT
West leads the ♠Q

♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ A J 4
♣ Q J 9

♠ A K
♥ K J 10
♦ K 9 6 5 2
♣ A K 6

Hand 2: South
plays in 7NT
West leads the ♠Q

♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ A J 4
♣ Q J 9

♠ A K
♥ K J 10
♦ K 9 6 5 2
♣ A K 6

How would you play 6NT on this deal?

Preliminary Analysis:

You have ten top tricks (to wit: two spades, three hearts, two diamonds and three clubs). If you could make four diamond tricks then the slam would be yours.

If diamonds were 3-2 the hand would be easy.

If diamonds were 5-0 then you'd be sunk.

Can you ensure your contract against all 4-1 breaks?

How would you play 6NT on this deal?

Preliminary Analysis:

It's the same hand as before, but this time someone has overbid. You have the same ten top tricks.

You need to make five diamond tricks to swell the coffers to thirteen.

The problem is in how to handle the diamond suit to take advantage of any luck that may be going.

ANSWERS

Hand 1: To make 6NT you need four diamond tricks. This can be guaranteed against a 4-1 break in either of the opponents' hands by taking the spade lead, cashing the ♦A, coming to hand and leading a low diamond towards the jack.

If West has four diamonds to the queen he can make only one trick whether he takes the queen now or later. If East has four diamonds to the queen he can take the jack but there is a later marked finesse against the ten.

Playing diamonds by leading low to the jack would fail if East started with the singleton queen. This is one of the layouts you are catering for:

♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ A J 4
♣ Q J 9

♠ A K
♥ K J 10
♦ K 9 6 5 2
♣ A K 6

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

Hand 2: To make 7NT you need five diamond tricks. This cannot, of course, be guaranteed – you need West to have the queen. Playing the ♦K would be a mistake as the singleton queen with East is of no use to you. You should start with a low diamond towards the dummy, intending to finesse the jack on the first round.

This way you make your contract when West has the singleton queen, ♦Qx or ♦Qxx. This is one of the layouts you are catering for:

♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ A J 4
♣ Q J 9

♠ A K
♥ K J 10
♦ K 9 6 5 2
♣ A K 6

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

Michael's practice – 2nd round bidding from p16

Partner opens 1♥ and you respond a dustbin 1NT, what do you say when partner now rebids 2♦?

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

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

ANSWERS

Hand 1) 2♥ – false preference. The hand has some promise and should not feel ashamed of going back to the major suit. Don't be tempted to bid 3♣ as partner almost certainly has a singleton (if he has as many as two clubs then the opponents have failed to compete in their 9-card spade fit, pretty unlikely)

Hand 2) Pass – the singleton heart is a real liability and game is almost impossible. 2♦ will play reasonably. You would expect a trump lead but hope for a couple of ruffs in dummy.

Hand 3) 3♣ – again partner is likely to be short in clubs which means your hand will be useless in both 2♦ or 2♥. Facing a typical 3·5·4·1 shape with 13 count, 3♣ will be your best part-score. (Note that this is one of the exceptions to the rule 'a new suit at the three level is forcing to game' since you have prefaced your bid with a dustbin 1NT)

Hand 4) 3♦ – since you limited your hand to a poor nine points you are towards the upper end and can raise to 3♦ with a clear conscience.

Hand 5) 3♥ – you are super maximum for your 1NT response and should show this by bidding 3♥. When you have a choice between raising diamonds or hearts generally prefer to raise hearts since that is the suit in which you are most likely to have game.

Rosen's quiz on reverses from page 28

QUESTIONS

Assuming the latest uber-modern methods as per the article on p28, make the next bid in the following auctions below:

♠ Q 7 2 ♥ K Q 9 3 2 ♦ 7 4 ♣ Q 5 4	1. W E 1♣ 1♥ 2♦ ?	2. W E 1♣ 1♥ 2♠ ?
--	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

♠ K 9 7 6 5 ♥ Q J 8 2 ♦ J 7 ♣ 4 3	3. W E 1♦ 1♠ 2♥ ?
--	-------------------------------------

♠ K 9 7 6 5 ♥ K Q 8 2 ♦ A 7 ♣ 4 3	4. W E 1♦ 1♠ 2♥ ?
--	-------------------------------------

♠ K 8 7 2 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ J 7 4 ♣ 9 5 4	5. W E 1♣ 1♠ 2♥ ?	6. W E 1♣ 1♠ 2♦ ?
--	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

♠ Q 7 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ K Q J 8 7 5 ♣ 9 5	7. W E 1♠ 2♦ 3♣ ?	8. W E 1♥ 2♦ 2♠ ?
--	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

♠ K J 7 6 5 ♥ 8 2 ♦ Q 9 7 ♣ 4 3 2	9. W E 1♣ 1♠ 2♥ ?
--	-------------------------------------

ANSWERS

- 1 A choice of bids available here. My choice would be 2♥. 3♣ is also an option as it is forcing. Please note that in classical methods you would simply have to employ 4th suit forcing, without really being able to describe any further aspect of your hand at this stage.
- 2 Partner has forced to game here – did you spot that? I would suggest a quiet 3♣ as the best bid at this juncture – safe in the knowledge that partner *cannot* pass it.
- 3 Several options once again. You could bid 3♥ as a game force, 4♥ or 2NT^A (Lebensohl) then 3♥. I would bid 4♥ here – I want to be in game whilst simultaneously dousing partner's possible slam ambitions. If I were weaker still I would bid Lebensohl then 3♥, which partner would be able to pass.
- 4 Now we are playing Lebensohl this is trivial since I can bid a *forcing* 3♥. It is so clean and easy – I expect to co-operate with a 4♦ cue bid if partner makes any sort of try towards slam.
- 5 2NT^A – Lebensohl, intending to pass 3♣ if partner bids that now (they do this about 80% of the time in practice).
- 6 2♥^A – also Lebensohl to be followed by 3♣ (non-forcing) if able to do so. Remember it is the lower of 4th suit and 2NT which acts as Lebensohl (assuming you and your partner have agreed it of course!). A direct 3♣ over the diamond reverse would have been forcing to game.
- 7 3♦ is easily the best bid – partner's reverse facing a 2-level response creates a game force. Another way you may recognise that here is that *a new suit at the 3-level is forcing to game* – this applies to uncontested auctions only needless to say.
- 8 3♥. Again, you might stress the diamonds I suppose, but it is so convenient to be able to agree hearts in a forcing manner.
- 9 2NT^A. You might rebid the spades but with only a grotty 6-count I would Lebensohl into 3♣ (fingers crossed). It is sometimes necessary to do this even with a doubleton in opener's suit when no other bid really appeals.



BLAST FROM THE PAST – March 1947

by J H C Marx in 1947 & Richard Fleet in 2018

This quiz was again set by Jack Marx. As mentioned in the previous issue of *English Bridge*, although *Contract Bridge Journal* was scheduled to be published every month, there was a hiatus due to infringement of the stringent regulations relating to the use of paper and the March 1947 issue was the first since December 1946.

The introduction refers to the Culbertson Four-Five No-trump convention. This was the convention favoured by most Acol experts at the time, though Kenneth Konstam (who claimed to have forgotten it) was a notable exception. It was common for writers to disparage Blackwood, sometimes referring to it as a child's toy compared with the Culbertson adult weapon.

A Culbertson bid of 4NT showed either three aces or two aces and the king of a suit bid by the partnership. In response, it was open to the responding hand to jump to slam should his hand merit it. Otherwise a bid of the lowest suit bid by the partnership was weak whilst 5NT showed either two aces or one ace and the kings in all the suits bid by the partnership (ie 5NT guaranteed that all the aces were held). Other five-level bids were feature-showing, normally first round control. The value of the 4NT bid is that it both gave and requested information and there were delicate inferences available from the failure to use it.

The problem with the Culbertson 4NT bid is that it was a convention suitable for experts and liable to backfire in the hands of others. Indeed, experts could have problems with it: a famous pre-war example was when 4NT was bid without the requisite number of aces but with a void in the opponents' suit by way of compensation. The partnership duly reached their making grand slam but, when the opponents sacrificed, 7NT was bid on the basis that all the aces were held. Six doubled undertricks proved that this was a slight miscalculation – and it wasn't until the middle of the night that declarer realized that the wrong hand had led and that he could have made the contract by barring the lead!

As before, I have only included my own comments (in blue) where I thought that this would be useful. Silence therefore indicates that I have nothing to add to Marx's view.

When a 4NT/5NT convention, whether Blackwood or Culbertson, is employed by a partnership, there are situations where a bid of 4NT, either from force of logic or from common usage amongst sensible players, should be interpreted, not as conventional, but in its strictly natural sense of inviting a slam in no trumps.

In each of the following auctions, in which the opponents take no part, state whether the 4NT bid is a) conventional and forcing or b) natural and non-forcing:

Q1

North	South
1NT	3♠
3NT	4NT

Q2

North	South
1♥	1♠
3NT	4NT

Q3

North	South
1♥	3NT
4NT	

Q4

North	South
1♥	2NT
3♦	3NT
4NT	

Q5

North	South
1♥	1♠
2♣	3NT
4NT	

Q6

North	South
1♥	1♠
2♣	4NT

Q7

North	South
1♥	3♣
3NT	4NT

Q8

North	South
1♥	2♠
2NT	4NT

Q9

North	South
1♥	2♠
2NT	3♥
3NT	4NT

Questions continue after Answers 1-9

Answers from 1947 and from today's expert Richard Fleet

Q1-9. It is not easy to formulate comprehensive rules to cover every case in this rather difficult subject, but the following statement may be helpful: A bid of 4NT is always conventional unless *all three* of the conditions mentioned below are operative, when it must be considered natural:

First, the partner's last bid was in no trumps.

Second, the partners have not expressly agreed a suit, although the 4NT bidder had the opportunity of doing so, without fear either of the bidding being dropped or of depriving himself of the chance to bid 4NT, and did not take it. The factor of opportunity is important, as its absence often means that a suit must be considered agreed by implication (eg Q6&7).

Third, no forcing to game situation has been in existence in that neither partner has used the jump shift in a new suit nor has the 4NT bidder opened with a forcing to game bid.

Here are the answers to the individual cases, with comment as necessary:

Q1 Conventional – a forcing to game situation has existed.

I regard this as debatable. In pre-transfer days, responder could easily have a balanced hand with a five-card spade suit with the values for a slam try. Alternatively, he could have such a strong hand that he is merely interested in finding out about aces and the king of spades (ie he may have bid 4NT with three aces, hoping that opener will respond 5NT showing the missing ace and the king of spades). I can see arguments both ways but the clincher for me is that, with the hand that wishes to ask for aces, responder could bid 4♣ or 4♦ (4♥ might be regarded as non-forcing) and then bid 4NT.

Q2 Natural – If South holds a balanced hand with, say, 12 to 14 points, he is faced with an impossible problem without the use of a natural 4NT.

Q3 Natural.

Q4 Conventional – North, having bid two suits, presumably has an unbalanced hand and therefore may well be interested in controls. South, who has rebid to 2NT, must have support for one suit or the other, and there is accordingly implied agreement on a suit.

I don't think it particularly likely that the opener in this question could have a strong two-suiter which was interested in controls since such a hand would very likely have the values for an Acol 2♥ opening; in any case, opener could bid 4♦ to show this hand type. I think that the natural interpretation (maybe a hand with five hearts, four diamonds and around 20 points) is more probable.

Q5 Natural.

Q6 Conventional - The sole explanation of South's sudden liveliness is a phenomenal fit in clubs.

Q7 Conventional.

A similar point arises here as in Q4. 4NT sounds natural since a forcing 4♣ bid was available to responder. Note that, in his comment on A8 below, Marx accepts the logic of this, albeit as an exception to his general rules.

Q8 Natural – This, I feel, is an exceptional case. Although South has forced, he had the opportunity to confirm either hearts or spades at the level of three and did not do so. He is evidently testing whether North's opening was an absolute minimum or not.

Q9 Conventional – In contrast to Q8, South has specifically confirmed hearts.



North, having dealt at the score Game All, holds:

North	
♠	K J 8 6
♥	A 10 6
♦	A J 8 3
♣	A J

What should North bid in each of the following cases, East and West being silent throughout?

Q10

North	South
1♠	2♠
2NT	3♠

Q11

North	South
1♠	2♣
2NT	3♠

Q12

North	South
1♠	2♠
2NT	3♥

Q10 Pass - 6 points, 4♣ - 2 points. His first response having been a weak limiting bid, South's rebid can only be regarded as a confirmation of weakness, but of a peculiar kind. If he had anything to spare, he might have bid 4♠ or 3NT; if he had not, he could have passed or signed off at 3♠. His 3♣ must mean an unbalanced hand unsuitable for no trumps, insufficient spades to justify 3♠ and, or course, such high card weakness as to rule out a first response of 2♣. The very best he could hold would be something like:

♠Q 10 x ♥x ♦Q x x ♣Q 10 x x x x

and its possibility makes a raise by North to 4♣ not completely unreasonable.

Q11 3NT - 6 points. 3♠ is an 'inferential force'. As South appears to have support for spades, but took the trouble to respond first with 2♣, he must be credited with a fair hand, and is asking North to choose between no trumps, spades or possibly clubs as the final game contract.

Q12 4♥ - 6 points. South is showing the same type of hand as in Q10, but North's normal support for hearts and his holding of aces justifies an attempt at a ten trick contract.



South deals at the score Love All. North holds

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

What should North bid in each of the following cases, East and West being silent throughout?

Q13

North	South
1♠	1♦
4♥	3♠
?	4♠

Q14

North	South
1♠	1♣
4♥	3♠
?	4♠

Q13 Pass - 8 points. When South refuses his slam invitation of 4♥, North should be dissuaded by the poor quality of his spades and the misfit in diamonds from taking any further action.

Q14 5♦ - 8 points, 5♣ - 4 points, Pass - 2 points. Here there is only one damping factor, the poor spades, and North can afford just one more attempt. To reassure South about the diamond control is a better move than telling him about the ♣K.

I find it interesting that, in Q13 and Q14, Marx advocates the use of the 4♥ bid as a natural slam try, unrelated to minor-suit controls. More recently, Andrew Robson has been an advocate of this approach.



Q15

South
 ♠ A 6
 ♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A 7 6

W	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	2♣	2♥
2♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	?

What should South say now? Why?

Q15 Double – It looks as if East and West have somehow got their wires crossed and may have become confused by the complexity of their own bidding. In any case, whether or not one of his aces is going to be ruffed, South must warn his partner against leading hearts, which will almost certainly be fatal. This *Lightner* slam double is now almost universally accepted as forbidding the lead of any suit bid by the *defending* side.

The *Lightner* slam double, referred to here and devised by Theodore Lightner in 1929, is one of the very few pre-1930 bidding conventions still in common use (the most popular such convention is the take-out double).



West deals at the score Game All. South holds:

South	
♠	8 6
♥	9 5 4
♦	A J 7
♣	A Q J 8 5

What should South bid in the following cases?

Q16

W	N	E	S
1♠	2♥	Pass	?

Q17

W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	Pass	?

For my part, I prefer simple Blackwood for use on the rare occasions when an enquiry for aces is useful, the rationale being that players can generally manage to identify with a tolerable degree of accuracy the number of aces that they hold in their hand and convey this information via a straightforward unambiguous scale. In my view it is when complications such as classifying the king of trumps as an ace (do we have an agreed trump suit?) and using the same bid to show either no aces or three aces (or very possibly one ace or four aces depending upon which version of the convention is in use, and maybe the partners are not on the same wavelength in this respect) that the potential for catastrophe is multiplied so as to render the convention unacceptably risky. □

Q16 4♥ - 8 points. If North is strong enough to bid, vulnerable, at the level of two, South's hand is strong enough to justify a game bid. There is no point in showing the clubs, when three small trumps should be adequate support for a suit bid by partner, who knows that he is exposing himself to a devastating double if the hearts are massed against him.

A 2♠ cue-bid would now be popular here (in 1947 it would have indicated first-round control in spades), to differentiate a value raise from a pre-emptive one. An alternative would be a fit jump of 4♣, though responder would prefer his red suits to be reversed.

Q17 2♣ - 8 points. North, having bid only at the level of one, may have a hand weaker in playing tricks than in Q16. South, who has no support for spades, does not know at this point whether the combined holdings are sufficient for game. He can only explore.



Later in life, Marx came to the view that the Culbertson convention could be improved upon. As he remarked in a *Bridge Magazine* article published in April 1972, 'players in diminishing numbers were using it with diminishing efficiency'. He developed a version of Roman Blackwood and christened it Byzantine Blackwood. At one time, this convention had a significant following amongst top players in this country but it has now been superseded almost entirely by RKCB.



Answers to crossword on page 51

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



More European medals

The top ten countries in the European Championships are invited to send a team to participate in the European Champions Cup. This year it was played in Israel's Eilat resort on the Red Sea. England was represented by *Black* (Andrew Black, David Gold, Gunnar Hallberg, Phil King, Andrew McIntosh, Derek Patterson). Second teams from Israel and the Netherlands bumped the total to twelve and they began with a round-robin. The top four teams after 11 rounds would enter the semi-finals to determine the medallists.

In round 11, Black faced *Baraket* from Israel. Scores were tied when the last board was placed on the table:

After a lead of the ♥J, Levin discarded a spade on the second heart. Black won the trump continuation, cashed the ♠K and played the ♥Q, ruffed by declarer. A club to the king was followed by a second trump and another club. Gold rose with the ace and played a spade to the queen and ace. Declarer ruffed, promoting a trump trick for North, but was then able to claim the contract.

West	North	East	South
<i>Patterson</i>	<i>Baraket</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Lengy</i>
2♦ ¹	Pass	3NT	All Pass
¹ Weak, natural			

Game All. Dealer West.

♠ 9 8 2
♥ J 7 4
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ A 9 3

♠ 7 6
♥ 2
♦ K Q J 10 9
♣ 10 7 6 5 2

♠ Q J 4 3
♥ A K 10
♦ 7 6 2
♣ K Q 8

♠ A K 10 5
♥ Q 9 8 6 5 3
♦ A
♣ J 4

South led the ♥6 to the jack and ace. Hallberg played a diamond and was pleased to see the ace appear. Even so, prospects were not good. From the cards that had appeared at trick one, South knew that East held the ♥K10. He switched to the ♠K, drawing the ♠2 from his partner. What should he do next?

To beat the game, South must continue with the ♠5, drawing the 8 and jack. When North subsequently wins with the ♣A, the defenders will collect two more spade tricks for one down. Lengy switched instead to the ♣J. North won with the ace and returned a spade to the queen and ace. Hallberg then had nine tricks, for a 10-IMP gain instead of a 5-IMP loss. South may have hoped for ♠Jxx with his partner, but in that case a low spade at trick four would also be good enough.

The Black team qualified in third place. They lost their semi-final to *Connector* (Poland) by 95-70, but then beat *Sunndalsøra* (Norway) by 81-78 to claim the bronze medals. Our congratulations go to them. King and McIntosh finished 2nd out of 38 pairs in the Butler Rankings with a fabulous +1.50 IMPs per board. Hallberg and Patterson were a splendid 4th with +0.54 IMPs per board. □

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Black</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣ ¹
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass
¹ Both majors			

The contract can be defeated by a spade lead to the queen and king, followed by a club switch to the ace and a second spade to the 10. Declarer has to ruff the spade ace continuation and a fourth spade will deliver a trump promotion when South takes the diamond ace.

IN MEMORIAM



John Sarjeant
1924 – 2018

John Sarjeant (*centre*) was NPC of The England Junior Camrose Team three times in the early 1970s and NPC of the England Camrose twice. He was a member of the Kent team which won The Pachabo Cup in 1966 and the same team won The Eastbourne Bowl at The EBU Autumn Congress in 1963 and 1966.



Geoffrey Breskal
1925 – 2018

Geoffrey Breskal twice represented England in the Camrose Trophy, and won many national competitions, including the Gold Cup, Crockfords Cup and Spring Foursomes – each on two occasions.

On hearing of his death, Kitty Teltscher wrote this anecdote: *Geoffrey and I were partners in a high-stake game at The Wood and I complained about my team's performance in the TGR league. Very unusually Geoffrey played a wrong card and let a contract through. 'Just auditioning for your team dear'. His good humour and quick wit will be very much missed.*



Chris Owen
1986 – 2018

Chris Owen represented England at junior level and continued to play in top competitions such as the Gold Cup where his team beat Scotland's first team. Perhaps his greatest achievement was helping the North East come first one year, then second in the Tollemache – a feat never achieved before or since. A full obituary can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/y9qdeatm>



Susan Bowyer
1956 – 2018

Sue was a lively and lovely person, well known on the Leicestershire bridge scene.

She learned to play the game at night school in Marjorie Hathaway's classes and then played regularly at the County Club, starting in the late 1970s.

Following a disastrous and short-lived marriage Sue married Paul Bowyer, with whom she formed a strong and very loving relationship. Away from the bridge table they were inseparable, going on many holidays and working on cruise liners where they were popular bridge teachers.

Sue put in much valuable time for the Leicestershire CBA. She spent a year as the Minutes Secretary, three years as the Tournament Secretary and five years as an LCBA committee member.

Sue was an accomplished player in her own right, rising to the rank of Life Master. The list of her achievements in local events is impressive, winning many trophies, often as captain.

She played with varied partners and at different locations, but focussed her time at the County Bridge Club and at Bradgate where everybody praised her approach, her attitude and her bravery. She was always fair and stood up for the underdog, not allowing aggressive players to intimidate or bully weaker players. She will be sorely missed, not least by her husband of 34 years, Paul.

