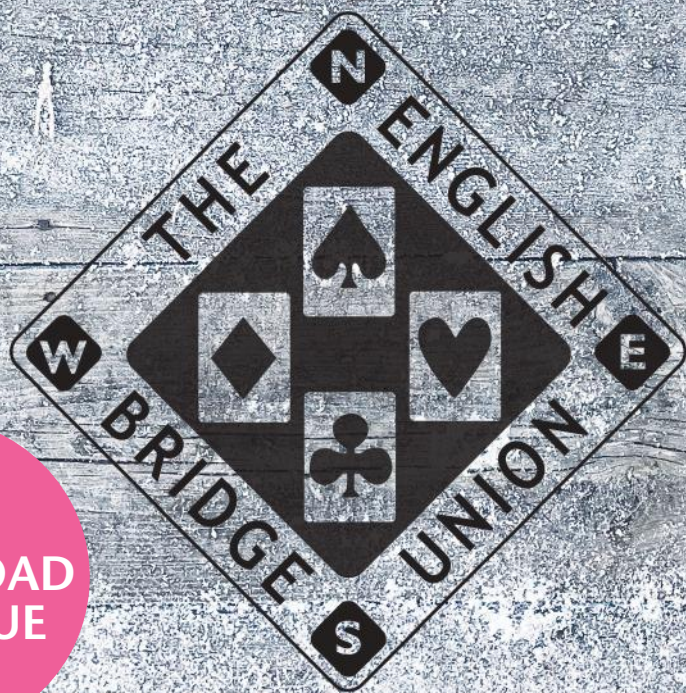


# ENGLISH BRIDGE



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13 Apr	4* Hotel Astoria Stresa Lake Maggiore	Duplicate	7
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06 May	MS Infinity Private Bridge Cruise Split Croatia	Duplicate	7
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20 May	3* Westhill Hotel Jersey Final Visit	Duplicate & Tour	7
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29 Aug	4* Hotel Torretta Montecatini Tuscany Italy	Duplicate & Tour	7 - 10
23 Sep	5* Mediterranean Hotel Rhodes Greece	Duplicate	7 - 21
27 Sep	4* Sol House Hotel Spain Irish Bridge Festival	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7 - 14
07 Oct	MS Ave Maria Bridge Cruise Split Croatia	Duplicate	7
14 Oct	4* Athena Beach Hotel Paphos Cyprus	Duplicate & Bowls	7 - 21
04 Nov	5* Paloma Perissia Hotel Side Southern Turkey	Duplicate	7 - 14
21 Dec	5* Mediterranean Hotel Rhodes Greece	Duplicate	7 - 14

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02 Mar	Wroxton House Banbury	Duplicate	4
13 Mar	Dunston Hall Hotel Norfolk	Duplicate	4
19 Mar	Albrighton Hall Hotel Shrewsbury	Duplicate	4
06 Apr	Metropole Hotel Llandrindod Wells	Duplicate	4
14 Apr	Whitehouse Hotel Worcester	Duplicate & Tour	3
24 Apr	Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth	Duplicate	5
19 May	Holiday Inn Hotel Ironbridge	Duplicate	4
29 May	Belton Woods Hotel Grantham	Duplicate & Golf	4
04 Jun	Croyde Bay Resort Hotel	Duplicate	6
20 Jun	The Queens Hotel Chester	Duplicate	4
26 Jun	The Angel Hotel Chippenham	Duplicate & Tour	4
03 Jul	Old Swan Hotel Harrogate	Duplicate & Tour	4
24 Jul	Charlecote Pheasant Hotel Stratford Upon-Avon	Duplicate	4
25 Aug	Holiday Inn Hotel Ironbridge	Duplicate	4
03 Sep	Croyde Bay Hotel & Resort North Devon	Duplicate	6

# English Bridge

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## A competitive twist

By the time you read this, the National Pairs Championship will be nearly under way. This year we're taking the novel step of selecting participants in the Regional Finals based on club scores between 5th February and 18th February. Just turn up at your club at any time during that period, and score more than 55%, and you'll be invited to play in your closest regional final online, on 26th March. We could not have made it easier for you to enter the National Pairs, because you now don't have to enter at all. Just turn up for your regular game. The Grand Final will also be online this year, on 15th-16th April, and will involve the top fifty participants from the combined scores of the Regional Finals. I hope this new method of entry leads to a strong and vibrant competition.

Starting soon, on March 25th, will be our new series of one-day Green-Pointed events. Over the course of the season there will be a mixture of pairs and teams, on RealBridge and BBO. Something for everyone, then, and all games will be stratified for Master Point Awards.

The recent Year End Congress was judged a success, in relative terms – attendances were up, with a lot of people making their first foray into the tournament world post-Covid.

Success builds upon success, and if people come, and enjoy the atmosphere as much as the game, things will continue to improve. David Burn and I played with each other in the teams, lining up with two former members of the under 26 Womens squad, Daisy Dillon & Hanna Tuus. Not only did Daisy and Hanna play a perfectly respectable game, they also displayed remarkable tolerance when two old fools who should know better got the responses to Blackwood wrong (on the bright side, this was an improvement on an event a few years ago when, on the penultimate board of a two-day session, it became clear that Burn had been playing 2/1 throughout and I hadn't, but that's all water under

the er...well, it's all water). A most pleasant day out, and home in time for dinner.

Attendances are also a problem with clubs, of course. It's no secret that the demographic of most bridge clubs means that new members are always necessary to make up for the losses at the other end. Since the end of the pandemic, some people who might have continued for many years have shown a reluctance to return. The answer to this problem lies in recruitment and teaching and I am always very encouraged to hear and read about the excellent work that is going on in many of our clubs both large and small.

Those clubs that are teaching and attracting new members are thriving and demonstrate what can be achieved by an enthusiastic committee. Now would be a good time for other clubs to ask themselves 'How would we respond to someone who phoned us wanting to learn bridge?' and consider becoming a teaching club in 2023. There is a great deal of help available from the EBU through our Club Development Officer Jonathan Lillycrop, and from our county associations, so I urge clubs to consider the long-term benefits of teaching bridge in 2023 and beyond and to get in touch with Jonathan or their county to find out what support is available.

Our friends and colleagues at EBED provide teacher training, as well as hosting Junior Teach-Ins and TD training. No club that wants to start teaching needs to re-invent the wheel: get in touch with us and we'll see what we, or EBED, can do to help. Naturally, once new members start feeding through, then the problem becomes retaining them in the club. There are lectures to be given and screeds to be written on how to keep them once you've got them. But in the end it just boils down to two words: *be nice*. The main enemy is a hostile environment. If we can get rid of that, everything else will eventually, surely, follow.

Onwards!



# Heffalump Traps

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

Hand 1

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



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

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♦5 and East follows with the ♦K. Plan your play.

Hand 2

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



♠ J 4 3  
♥ A K 10 9 5 3  
♦ A 9 5 2  
♣ –

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

Hand 3

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



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

You are in 6NT. West leads the ♦J and East follows with the ♦3. Plan your play.

Hand 4

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



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

You are in 4♣. West opens 1♣, and North and East both pass. West leads the ♦J. Plan your play.

**David Bakhshi gives the answers on page 42**

# CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

You are sitting West. What should you bid with each hand below on the given auction at matchpoint pairs? Assume love all except where indicated.

Hand 1

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

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	2♦
?			
			<sup>1</sup> Stayman

Hand 2

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

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
?			

Hand 3

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

W	N	E	S
?		1♠	Pass

Hand 4

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

W	N	E	S
?			1NT

Hand 5

♠ K Q 5  
♥ –  
♦ A Q 10 7  
♣ A K J 9 7 5

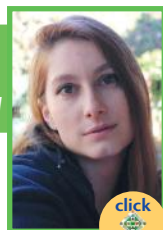
W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

Hand 6

♠ A J 9  
♥ K 6  
♦ K J 10 6 5  
♣ 9 8 6

W	N	E	S
?		1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
			<sup>1</sup> 12-14

**Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 62**



## When is a bid forcing?

Many of you will already know the term ‘*forcing bid*’ – a bid that partner is not supposed to pass. I say ‘not supposed to’ rather than ‘not allowed to’ because, of course, there is no law of the game that prevents passing, but agreeing never to pass forcing bids is a matter of discipline and partnership trust, and you should almost never violate such an agreement. I am reminded of the last competition I played as a junior. Two of my friends, both also graduating juniors, were playing together, and one made a *forcing pass* of opponents’ 5♣ on the last board of the event, asking his partner to either double or bid at the five level. His partner knew that it was best to pass 5♣ out but doubled anyway, on the basis that his partner had made a forcing call, and it was ‘bad for partnership trust’ to ignore a forcing call. No one was able to persuade him that, as this was the last board they would ever play together, it was less important!

I am only going to address natural bids. Most artificial bids are forcing because you aren’t showing the suit bid and, if you play a convention, you will already know what you are supposed to do over it (right?).

I’d like to start by thinking about uncontested auctions, where your opponents aren’t bidding. We will look at competitive auctions later. Also, I am assuming that you are not already in a game force. If your side has set up a game force, such as by opening 2♣, all bids below game are forcing and these rules don’t apply.

Bids can be broadly categorised as *limited* or *unlimited*. These words are not synonymous with *forcing* and *non-forcing*, but they will be helpful to understand the topic.

**Limited bids** are what they sound like: bids that place an upper limit on your high card strength. Examples of limited bids include a 1NT opening (limited to 14 points) and a weak 2 opening (limited to nine points). Opener’s rebids can also

be limited, for instance 1♥–1♠, 2♦. Opener did not jump to 3♦, so can’t have more than 17 or a bad 18 points – it’s limited.

**Rule 1:** Natural limited bids are non-forcing, unless they promise at least enough for game. Note that this means that most natural NT bids are not forcing, unless they promise the strength for game – see Michael Byrne’s article on page 12.

**Unlimited bids** do not show an upper limit on your high card strength. Clearly the mechanics of the game do place such a limit – you can’t be dealt more than 37 points, and you will be lucky to ever get close to that, so we have to view this practically. For example, 1♦–1♠, 2♥. This is a reverse, showing 16+ points. Note that I didn’t write an upper limit, because opener could have 16 points or 21. They aren’t unlimited in the most literal possible sense of the word, but they are unlimited in the bridge sense, where they could have a stonking good hand and we mustn’t pass!

**Rule 2:** Unlimited bids are forcing.

It might feel like this has fully addressed the titular question, but I’m afraid bridge hands don’t always fall so neatly into these boxes. Imagine, sitting West, that you hold this hand, and the auction proceeds:

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

West	East
Pass	2♣
2♦	2♠

Your hand is absurdly good for partner, light years beyond what they could reasonably expect, and you think that your side can very likely make 6♣ or even 7♠. Your initial pass limited your hand. You clearly need to be able to make a forcing bid, though! This leads us to an important point: just because you have previously made a limited, non-forcing bid, it does not mean that you can never force later in the auction. If your partner shows

*Cont/. . . p8*



enough strength that your side can have a game on you still get to tell them about that.

A less extreme example is a hand with a 10 count that initially passes. Partner opens and rebids 1NT to show a balanced hand with 15-17 points. You know that you want to play in game and might want to explore different fit options rather than just jumping to 3NT. You need some forcing bids in your box. It is in situations like these that auctions can become murky, so it's helpful to have some broad rules of thumb.

**Rule 3:** Bidding a suit that was previously bid naturally by your side is usually non-forcing.

**Rule 4:** If your side might sensibly have 25 points, new suits are generally forcing if they are not limited bids, and the person who makes the bid might know their side has 25+ points.

West	East
Pass	1♦
1♥	1NT
2♠	

This is a natural bid, showing four spades and a hand that is interested in game. Responder is limited by their initial pass, but it is not the 2♠ bid that imposes that limit – if responder weren't a passed hand it would definitely be an unlimited bid! The 2♠ bid is forcing and opener cannot pass it. There is logic here – responder must have a good hand, because they have no guarantee of finding a fit when they bid 2♠. Opener might have to bid 2NT when the hands fit badly, so responder must have enough points for that to be a sensible contract. In order for 2NT to be a good spot you probably want about 23 points between you, which puts responder on an invitational hand.

You might feel that this is all a bit complicated, and you are right! Resolving hands that want to force, invite, and sign off is a major reason for playing conventions such as checkback and fourth suit forcing – they can tidy up a lot of auctions that are otherwise very unclear and overloaded with too many possible hands.

Let's have a look at some example auctions. Do you think the last bid in each of these is forcing or non-forcing?

- 1
 

West	East
1♥	1♠
3♥	
- 2
 

West	East
1♣	1♥
1NT	2NT
- 3
 

West	East
1♣	1NT
2♦	
- 4
 

West	East
1♣	1NT
2♦	3♦
- 5
 

West	East
1♠	3♠
4♣	
- 6
 

West	East
1♠	3♠
4♣	
- 7
 

West	East
1♦	1♠
1NT	2♥
- 8
 

West	East
1♦	1♠
1NT	3♥
- 9
 

West	East
Pass	1♥
1♠	
- 10
 

West	East
1♥	2♣
2NT	

**Auction 1:** Non-forcing. 3♥ is a natural and limited bid, showing 6+ hearts and 16-17 points. Responder can pass this if they have a bad hand.

**Auction 2:** Non-forcing. Natural no trump bids are almost never forcing, and this is a simple invite to game.

**Auction 3:** Forcing. This is a reverse, which is an unlimited bid showing 16+ points. Your side doesn't have to get all the way to game when 2♦ is bid but responder does have to bid again, even with a bad hand, in case their partner has 20 rather than 16.

**Auction 4:** Non-forcing. This is a simple raise of partner's suit, limited to nine points so it is non-forcing.

**Auction 5:** Non-forcing. Again, this is a raise of a suit that has been bid naturally, showing 10-12 points (therefore limited). It is strongly invitational but not forcing.

**Auction 6:** Forcing. This is a new suit when spades have been agreed as trumps. Different people will play different meanings for it, but spades are trumps so it must be some sort of slam try in



spades. I would play it as a natural slam try, but you may have other methods. No sensible method involves 4♣ being passable.

**Auction 7:** Non-forcing. This is a sneaky limited bid. It is different to the example I gave below rule 4 because it allows opener to return to spades at the two level rather than forcing opener to bid at the three level if they want to support the first suit bid by responder. With a minimum hand West can choose to play at the two level by either passing 2♥ or bidding 2♠. Since passing is an option, the 2♥ bid is non-forcing. Note the difference in bidding hearts first, as in the hand given in Rule 4. Now opener must bid to the three level to agree hearts so responder should only bid their suits in this way with ten or more points.

**Auction 8:** Forcing. This is what you do instead of auction 7 if you want to make a forcing bid in hearts on the same initial bids.

**Auction 9:** Non-forcing. It's true that one-level responses are generally forcing and that 1♠ is usually an unlimited bid so this appears to violate rule 4. However, as West passed initially, partner knows that the hand is in the range of six to 11 points. East may have opened light with perhaps only 11 or 12 points and will know whether to bid on to explore for game, so they are allowed to pass if there is no prospect of game and 1♠ is a playable contract.

**Auction 10:** Forcing. This is a rare example of a natural, limited bid that is forcing. It is forcing by logic: 2NT shows 15-19 points. 2♣ showed at least 10 points. Your side, therefore, has at least 25 points, so you should play in game! ☐

## IBPA AWARDS 2022



Congratulations to Ben Norton who won the *The Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year* for making 6♥ in the Bermuda Bowl match between England and Switzerland.

The *Yeh Bros Best Bid Deal of the Year* was won by Alex and Paul Gipson for bidding a grand slam at the SBU Winter Foursomes in January.

The hands can be seen here:  
[www.ibpa.com/archive/Awards/](http://www.ibpa.com/archive/Awards/)

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## Blockages 6

We continue with the theme of blockages, here trying to disrupt the defenders' communication in their main suit.

In the first example, shown below, East has opened the bidding with a weak 2♠. You, South, have tried your luck with 2NT and partner has raised that happily to game. A dutiful West has led his partner's suit and you now have to take over the reins in 3NT. How should you play the hand?

**Hand 1**  
South plays in 3NT.  
West leads the ♠6.

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

South plays 3NT. West leads the ♠6

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

Online readers can click here

After you play the ♠K from the dummy at trick one, East has no defence. He cannot afford to duck the king; taking the ♠A and continuing the suit is no better as you can take the ♠Q and set up clubs via the finesse with no worries should West gain the lead.

Now, you may say that you have an alternative play. You might play low from dummy at trick one and allow East's ♠10 to hold. That would disconnect the East-West hands effectively, wouldn't it? Ah, but the defenders have an alternative line of attack now.

East would switch to the ♦J at trick two, through your exposed ♦AQx, and the defenders are now able to set up three diamond tricks. You may take the ♦A at trick two but West, when on lead with the ♣K, will play another spade to East's ♠A and a further diamond lead will prove fatal to your cause.

As is so often the case, having embarked on one line of play, a shot from an unexpected direction may defeat you. 'If the right one don't get you, then the left one will'. (Tennessee Ernie Ford, *Sixteen Tons*).

Let's see how you get on with the next challenge. Consider the bidding. North starts proceedings

Your **Count and Plan** reveals one sure spade trick, four hearts, one diamond and four (slow) clubs. For sure, the club finesse may be right, but it would be unwise to bank on it. Meanwhile, you can place East with ♠AJ10xxx from the bidding, so the defenders are about to set up five spade tricks. How might you prevent East-West from making five spades and a club trick?

The answer is to play the ♠K at trick one, forcing East to take the ♠A at trick one. This disconnects the spade suit for the defenders, and they cannot set up – and reach – enough winners to beat you. Let's look at the full deal:



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with 1♦, a non-vulnerable East sticks his oar in with 1♠ and you try 1NT. North raises to 2NT and you advance to game. West, ever loyal to the cause, leads his partner's suit and the ♠8 hits the table. Well? How do you rate your chances with this one?

**Hand 2**  
South plays in 3NT.  
West leads the ♠8.

♠	J 4
♥	A K J
♦	10 8 7 5 2
♣	A K 5

♠	Q 7 5 2
♥	4 2
♦	K Q 9
♣	Q 10 8 2

Your *Count and Plan* is not so easy here. You have a sure spade trick eventually, two top hearts and (at least) three clubs but the diamond position is not easy to assess. You can see, though, that if East has ♠AK109x and the ♦A you are doomed to defeat as East-West can easily set up four spades and an ace. You must, therefore, hope that the ♦A is on your left.

Right, that's your preliminary analysis. How do you proceed? The answer is that you must try to cut spade communication by playing the ♠J at trick one. Can you see why that is a necessary play? Here's the full deal:

South plays 3NT. West leads the ♠8	
♠ J 4	Online readers can click here
♥ A K J	
♦ 10 8 7 5 2	
♣ A K 5	
♠ 8 3	♠ A K 10 9 6
♥ 9 7 5 3	♥ Q 10 8 6
♦ A J 4 3	♦ 6
♣ 6 4 3	♣ J 9 7
♠ Q 7 5 2	
♥ 4 2	
♦ K Q 9	
♣ Q 10 8 2	

Playing low from dummy at trick one gives you no chance. East will play low (or put the ♠9 on) and

you have no winning play. Ducking will allow the defence to make three spades and two diamonds; taking the ♠Q immediately allows East-West to make at least four spades and the ♦A.

How can East defend, though, after you block the spade suit with the ♠J at trick one? He can't duck the jack as that gives you both a tempo and an extra spade trick. Playing the ♠K effectively destroys communication in spades; East-West can never make more than two spades and two diamonds. Play it through and see. □

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

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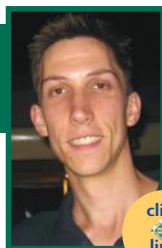
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## Rebidding Balanced Hands 2

In the last issue we looked at rebidding no trumps and discussed the advantages of using a three point range for the lower rebid – so 1NT = 15-17 – and a two point range for the jump rebid of 2NT showing 18-19 points.

This time we are going to look at some of the slightly trickier issues facing no trump rebids, as not every hand falls into a cut and dried box.

Imagine you open the bidding with 1♣ and partner responds with 1♥, what do you rebid on each of these hands?

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

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

**Hand 1** is ideal for 1NT, a balanced hand of 15-17 points. Some people would get distracted by the heart support and raise to 2♥, which is a mistake since (in Acol) it shows an unbalanced hand. The 1NT rebid might occasionally get you to the wrong partscore if partner has a weak hand and feels unable to rebid 2♥, but it will always get you to the right game or slam.

**Hand 2** should also rebid 1NT, the best of the options available. Although you have a singleton heart you lack the strength for a reverse (which should start at a 'good 16') and, with tenaces in three suits, no trumps should immediately appeal to you. Note that it is fine to rebid no trumps with one minor flaw, but two is normally too many. If

you change the ♦7 into the ♥7 then the hand is a text book 1NT bid, so it is the better of the options available. Rebidding 2♣ is clearly too weak, as partner might pass with a hand where 3NT looks comfortable, such as

♠Qxx ♥KJ10xx ♦Kxx ♣xxx

**Hand 3** might look like a no trump hand, since partner has bid your short suit. Not so fast! It is definitely right to bid 1♠ here to show an unbalanced hand with four spades and at least four clubs – a perfect description. Although for some players a bid of 1NT does not deny a spade suit, it should never be an unbalanced hand with spades, since you will sometimes miss a spade fit. If partner is 4-4 in the majors with a poor hand you would play in 1NT if you bid it, and miss your eight-card fit. Facing a hand such as

♠Qxxx ♥Jxxx ♦Kx ♣xxx

1NT has no chance at all while 2♠ is easy.

**Hand 4** should be treated as balanced and rebid 2NT for the simple reason that no other description is better. A six-card club suit and 18 points would often rebid 3♣ but here the suit is too weak for that and, holding so many tenaces, a bid of no trumps is clearly the best description. If instead you bid 3♣ you will often find 3NT is played the wrong way round, as partner has little choice but to bid it on hands where it is best played from your side.

**Hand 5** should rebid 1NT, treating the 14 high card points as 15-17. This was the plan when choosing to open 1♣, and is known as 'upgrading' (or, if you like, overbidding) and is a fine and common tactic among experienced players. The two tens add a little bit of bite to the hand and the strong club suit acts as a source of nourishment to the most anaemic of contracts. Facing a hand such as

♠Qxx ♥QJxx ♦AJx ♣xxx

3NT is a fair contract, perhaps needing the club finesse if the defence is on good form, but will make enough times to justify bidding it.



## AFTER A 2-LEVEL CHANGE OF SUIT

In this series we've looked at a lot of auctions that start with a one-over-one response that gives you lots of options, but what about auctions that start with a two-level response?

What do no trump bids mean after a two-level response? Once again we must review our history textbooks before concluding with the modern approach.

After a start such as 1♥-P-2♣ the no trump rebids used to be grouped into 2NT (15-16) 3NT (17-18) and 4NT (19-20, the 2NT opening not having been invented then). Using 4NT, in particular, didn't last long.

It is not easy to bid accurately with all that leaping around. So much could be missed.

For one thing, your side might have a 5-3 heart fit which will normally play better if one or both of you have a short suit; and for another partner might have another suit he wants to introduce. The scheme you should use is this:

West	East
1♥	2♦
2NT	

Here, 2NT shows 15-19 points (the whole range in one bid), is game-forcing and balanced (can be semi-balanced if appropriate).

Since a two-level response shows a 'good nine' you might occasionally reach 3NT with only 24 points between you, but this is a small price to pay for *always* reaching it when you hold 25 or 26, which are hands on which you might miss it if you upped the requirements for a two-level response.

An unwieldy jump to 3NT should be used very rarely, but if you do want to assign a meaning then 17-19 with four-card support for responder's suit has some merit. This will help you reach the slams where you hold 17 facing 13 and a nine-card fit.

Let's have a look at a few example hands that showcase the system in action:

**A**

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

West	East
1♥	2♣
2NT	3♥
4♥	

West shows 15-19 points and East shows three-card heart support. West has an easy accept of 4♥.

**B**

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

West	East
1♥	2♣
2NT	3♣
3♦	3NT

West's rebid of 2NT shows 15-19 points and East repeats his clubs rather than make a lazy raise to 3NT. West shows strength in diamonds and East is now happy that 3NT is the right spot.

**C**

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

West	East
1♥	2♣
3NT	4♣
4♦	4NT
5♥	6♣

West jumps to 3NT to show a club fit and East bids on with 4♣ to agree the suit and suggest a slam. Cue bidding and Blackwood leads to the easy slam. □

**Do** be prepared to upgrade a hand, by adding a point on for a long suit and strong intermediates.

**Do** rebid no trumps if you have a semi-balanced hand where rebidding your 5-card suit is not helpful and you are not strong enough to introduce a second suit if it means reversing.

**Don't** conceal a major suit in order to rebid no trumps, as sometimes a fit will go missing.

**Don't** forget that a no trump rebid can contain four or five cards in opener's first suit, the 5-3 fit might well play better than a no trump contract.

**TRY MICHAEL'S QUIZ, ONLINE PAGE 68**

# Great Bridge Disasters

by David Burn



## Two poor slams

In the final round of a Dutch tournament some years ago, one team appeared particularly disaster-prone when it came to slam bidding. One of their efforts was a six-level contract with a side suit of three to the jack facing three to the seven. Not to be outdone, their other pair attempted a small slam in diamonds with ♠75 facing ♠Q9832 and a fast loser in another side suit. Did these catastrophes cost them the match and the title? Not exactly. You see:

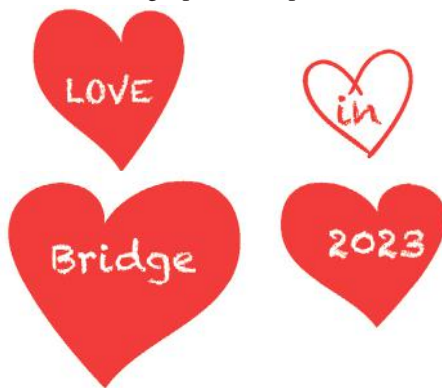
try a club lead imagining that North was seeking a ruff. Reminding himself to bid 3♠ rather than 4♥ next time he held the hand, North decided to take out insurance with a bid of 6♥.

East doubled again, but of course there was no defence – West actually led a diamond, and South make all 13 tricks. A club lead would have saved the overtrick, but the actual score was 1310 to North-South.


At the other table the bidding was:

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

Again North might have tried 3♠ but, unlike his counterpart, he decided not to attempt a recovery shot at his second turn after West's show of confidence in his partner. There was a good case for South leading ♥9, a suit preference signal for spades, but his actual choice was the ♥A. That held the trick, but his side had to wait for the next deal to take any more and East-West at this table outdid their team mates by 60 aggregate points, bringing back 1370. The swing of 21 IMPs is not a record for tournament play, but it is probably the highest ever obtained for bidding a pair of 'hopeless' slams. ◻



**E/W Game. Dealer South.**

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

At one table South opened the bidding with 3♥, raised to four by North. East contested with 5♦, passed round to North who tried 5♥. East might have bid 5♠ over that, which would have come as a mild surprise to the North player, but instead he chose to double. West correctly interpreted that as a good hand for the 5♦ bid, not a pure penalty double, so he took it out into 6♦.

Now North began to regret the whole business – he thought 6♦ would probably go down if South led a spade, but why should South do that? He could double, of course – a Lightner manoeuvre asking for some lead other than a heart, but South rated to have longer clubs than spades and might very well

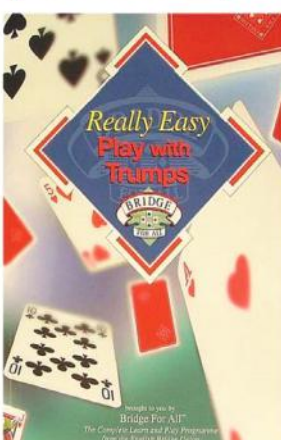
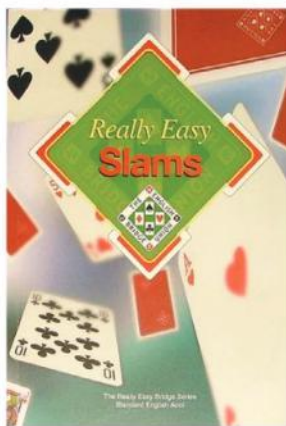




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# Beat Today's Experts

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

## FEBRUARY 2023 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game                    ♠ 8 3  
Dealer West                ♥ A K 10 8 7 3  
                                     ♦ 9  
(Hallberg)                ♣ A K 9 6
2. N/S Game                    ♠ K 8 7  
Dealer West                ♥ A 5  
                                     ♦ A K J 10 8  
(Zia)                        ♣ K Q J
3. E/W Game                    ♠ 6  
Dealer East                ♥ K J 2  
                                     ♦ J 9 7 5 4 2  
(Moss)                    ♣ K 7 3
4. E/W Game                    ♠ A Q J 7 4  
Dealer East                ♥ A K 7 6 2  
                                     ♦ K  
(Jokisch)                ♣ 10 4
5. N/S Game                    ♠ Q J 9 8 7 5 3  
Dealer East                ♥ –  
                                     ♦ A 9 6 5  
(Welland)                ♣ Q 6
6. N/S Game                    ♠ K J 6 5  
Dealer West                ♥ A J 3  
                                     ♦ Q 8 6  
(Berkowitz)            ♣ A 8 5

Did you beat the experts? – Page 46

# 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.

## FEBRUARY 2023 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game                    ♠ A J 10 4  
Dealer West                ♥ J 5  
                                     ♦ A 8  
(Hult)                    ♣ Q J 10 7 2
2. N/S Game                    ♠ A 9 6 4 3  
Dealer West                ♥ Q J 7  
                                     ♦ Q 9 4  
(Gold)                    ♣ 4 2
3. E/W Game                    ♠ K Q J 7 4 2  
Dealer East                ♥ A Q 4  
                                     ♦ A K  
(Delmonte)            ♣ A 5
4. E/W Game                    ♠ K 9 3  
Dealer East                ♥ J 9 3  
                                     ♦ Q J 10 9  
(Kasimir)            ♣ A J 6
5. N/S Game                    ♠ A K  
Dealer East                ♥ Q J 8 5  
                                     ♦ K 2  
(Auken)                ♣ A K J 10 9
6. N/S Game                    ♠ A 8 7 3  
Dealer West                ♥ 10 2  
                                     ♦ A 5 3 2  
(Meckstroth)        ♣ Q 4 2

Did you beat the experts? – Page 46



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## Norma's Masterclass

It had not escaped Reverend Benson's notice that the Headmaster was faring very much better since abandoning him to partner his wife. Maybe on this occasion, the cards would lie unfavourably for them.

'Are you having a good session, Headmaster?' enquired Arnold Palmer, the senior History master.

'I've yet to pick up a good hand,' came the reply. 'I did play one contract, but Norma's played five or six.'

Palmer sorted through his cards. From what he had heard, Norma played the cards way better than the Headmaster. They were probably having an excellent session.

The players drew their cards for this deal:

**Game All. Dealer South.**

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

West	North	East	South
Arnold Palmer	The Headmaster	Rev Benson	Norma Doulton
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

Palmer led ace, king and another heart, Norma Doulton ruffing the third round with the 10. Two

top trumps revealed the 4-1 break. She drew a third round of trumps and cashed the king of diamonds. All would be well if clubs broke 3-2. If not, she had a possible rescue operation in mind.

When the two top clubs were played, the Reverend Benson followed once and then sat back in his chair. If he ruffed with his last trump, the 9, he would have to lead a diamond into dummy's ace-jack. Six trump tricks, three diamonds and a club would then bring declarer's total to ten. When he eventually discarded a diamond, Norma Doulton threw him on lead with the ♠6 to the ♠9. 'My club losers go on the diamonds,' she said, without waiting to see East's return. 'Plus 620.'

'I didn't have very much for you,' the Headmaster observed. 'I expect quite a few would pass 3♠ on my cards.'

His wife smiled resignedly. Yes, and quite a few would have managed to say 'well played' to their partner.

The Headmaster peered at the result sheet. 'That's surprising,' he exclaimed. 'No one else made the game.'

The Reverend Benson looked glumly across the table. 'Another bottom where we could do nothing about it,' he said. 'The story of our lives, partner.'

Norma Doulton made no comment. If Charlie B had kept his lowest trump, just as she had done, he could have avoided the throw-in. He could play the five under her six, leaving her with two club losers.

The session was nearing its end, when two fifth-formers found themselves at the Headmaster's table. They looked respectfully towards Norma Doulton. The HM's results had soared since restoring his partnership with her. Only fourth place last week, it was true, but that was their lowest position since the beginning of term.

The Headmaster glanced at his watch. 'Very slow play this evening,' he grunted. 'Shall we make a start?'

This was the deal before them:

N/S Game. Dealer South.

♠ Q J 2

♥ 7 6 4

♦ Q 10 8

♣ 9 6 5 4

♠ K 10 7 6

♥ 10 9 5 3

♦ 6 4 3 2

♣ 3

♠ 9 8 5 4 3

♥ 2

♦ 9 7 5

♣ A Q J 10

♠ A

♥ A K Q J 8

♦ A K J

♣ K 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
John Hutson	The Headmaster	Neil Phillips	Norma Doulton
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

John Hutson led the ♣3 to partner’s ace and the club queen was returned. Mrs Doulton covered with the king, not too surprised to see this ruffed by West. She won the ♥10 return and drew trumps in two further rounds. Two tricks had been lost already and she had two club losers in her hand. What could be done?

The Headmaster’s wife soon spotted a very reasonable chance of surviving the situation. After cashing the ace of spades and the ace of diamonds, she overtook the diamond jack with the queen. These cards remained in play:

♠ Q J

♥ –

♦ 10

♣ 9 6

♠ K 10 6

♥ –

♦ 6 4

♣ –

♠ 9 8

♥ –

♦ 9

♣ J 10

♠ –

♥ Q 8

♦ K

♣ 8 7

‘Queen of spades, please, Alfred,’ said Norma Doulton.

On this trick she discarded the king of diamonds from her hand. John Hutson won with the spade king and had to return the lead to dummy, either in spades or diamonds. Away went declarer’s two club losers and the game was made.

Hutson and Phillips were open-mouthed at what they had just seen. Even Bertie Bellis would be pleased to find that play.

The Headmaster raised an eyebrow as he studied the result sheet. ‘Once again, no one else has made it,’ he exclaimed. ‘Well done, my dear.’

Norma Doulton smiled happily. ‘It wasn’t one of my worst efforts,’ she replied. ‘You gave me some useful cards in the dummy.’



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# New Prize Leads Quiz

by Alan Mould

Please note that the format of the leads quiz has changed. You must choose which card from which suit to lead.

To help you with your leads, it will be assumed that we play top from a sequence, top from a doubleton, second from three or more small cards and fourth highest from an honour, unless there's a good reason to make a non-standard lead.

## COMPUTER LEADS

Alan Mould has teamed up with Nathan Piper to get computer-generated simulations to provide best lead scenarios. Details on methodology can be seen by [clicking here](#).



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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,  
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TA10 0DD

or e-mail [lou@ebu.co.uk](mailto:lou@ebu.co.uk)  
by 15 March 2023.

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

**ANSWERS TO DECEMBER'S QUIZ: Page 50**

## TWO answers - Teams & Pairs

### Hand 1

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

South	West	North	East
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
<sup>1</sup> 15-17. <sup>2</sup> Stayman			

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

\* \* \* \* \*

### Hand 2

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

South	West	North	East
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	Pass	Pass
<sup>1</sup> 15-17	All Pass		

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

\* \* \* \* \*

### Hand 3

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

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

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?





## Communication with partner

The phrase ‘communication with partner’ may not get across exactly what I mean. To many people, it may mean different things.

To some, it may mean signalling with discards and showing attitude. To others it may mean a swift kick under the table when partner ruffs your winner. And to others it might even mean less than ethical methods. However, when we talk about communication – real communication – what we mean is the ability to move from one hand to another. Bridge is a game of communication, after all. It’s no use having a bunch of winners in your hand if partner has no way to give you the lead.

As defenders, you must always be thinking about communication with partner – how to keep that communication open and how to create communication when it doesn’t exist. Let’s start with a simple hand:

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

South	North
1NT	3NT

A learned article in *English Bridge* once suggested leading 4th highest from your longest and strongest so you diligently place the ♠5 on the table. Things start well when partner takes the ace and returns the eight (declarer following with the nine and then the

jack). And you have already reached the crucial moment.

The only entry to your hand is the ♠K and, since your spade tricks have yet to be established, you cannot afford to give up that entry just yet. You must duck the ♠K to maintain communication with partner. When he comes in with his ♥A, he will still have a spade, and the partnership will have the communication needed to cash the spade suit.

This kind of ducking play happens all the time in declarer play. If you were declarer and had Axx opposite Kxxx, it would be very obvious to duck a round before cashing both the ace and king. Doing so establishes the suit and maintains communication in the suit. It just so happens that this time you are in defence.

This is quite easy with all hands on view, but it is a bit trickier when defending and the other hands are unknown. If declarer started with ♠QJ94 and partner ♠A8, ducking the ♠K would be pointless because you wouldn’t be maintaining communication. Partner would not have another spade to play and you would be giving up a trick in the suit.

As it is, I still think ducking is the right play. Playing partner for three spades is the simplest and easiest way to beat the contract. Most declarers won’t follow with the ♠9 on the first round if they have ♠QJ94.

Partner could have made things easier for us by ducking at trick one. That would have been an equally efficient way to keep communication. But that would have looked pretty silly if you had something like ♠KJxxx and the defence could take the first five tricks in the suit. And partner tries not to look silly when he can avoid it.

Ducking may be the most effective technique to keep communication, but playing low is not the only way to maintain communication with partner.

Cont/. . . p22

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

<sup>1</sup> Stayman.

Once again, the play would be the same if you were declarer. With Kx opposite QJ10xxx, you would begin with the king to unblock the suit. If you don't unblock the king, you won't be able to reach partner when in with one of your red kings.

Unblocking with ♣Kx in this example was relatively easy to find. But sometimes it isn't so obvious. Let's look at a hand that isn't so simple. The contract is 3NT by South after East opened a weak 2♥.

South	West	North	East
2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3NT	2♥ <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Weak (6+ hearts, 5-10 pts). <sup>2</sup> 15-18

Back in the West seat, you obediently lead a heart against the opponent's 3NT. Declarer is an expert on communication plays, so ducks the first heart and takes the second. This cunning play cuts communication between the two defenders and removes the entry needed to reach partner's winning hearts. Now all declarer needs is two extra tricks from diamonds, and begins by placing the  $\spadesuit A$  on the table.

## Are you up to the task?

Believe it or not, the correct play from West is to throw away the ♦Q under the ace. If you play low, you will be forced to play the ♦Q on the next round. Declarer will duck – safe in the knowledge that East won't be the one to take the lead. The only way to force an entry to partner's hand is to abandon the ♦Q immediately.

This may look like a spectacular play that could only be found with all hands exposed but, in reality, abandoning the ♦Q can't really cost. If declarer has the ♦J, your ♦Q will still show up on the next round and ultimately fall to the ♦K.

If declarer was a true expert in communication, he would have led a low diamond at trick three. Now you can't play the  $\spadesuit Q$  because declarer can duck. Still. Give him his due. Declarer played well on the first two tricks.

How about one last exciting hand? East opens a weak 2♦ before the opposition find 4♠ by South.

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

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

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

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

Once again partner opens a weak two and you obediently lead his suit, this time with hopes of scoring a ruff. Partner obliges by taking the ♦A and returning the ♦Q. Declarer plays the ♦K and you ruff. Now what?

The defence has scored two tricks, but you still need two more. Partner's ♦J should be a trick, but you need to find an entry to partner's hand to cash that. Where might it lie? It can't possibly be with the ace of clubs or hearts. Partner's weak two promised a maximum of 10 points and the ♦AQJ already adds up to seven. The only entry partner can have is in spades.

You did make sure to ruff with the ♠K, didn't you?

Let's see what will happen if you carelessly ruffed low. Declarer wins the club exit with the ♣A and plays the ♠J. When your ♠K appears, declarer plays low. He knows that East has a winning diamond to cash. And he knows that East will never get on lead if he concedes the lead to the ♠K.

But if you ruff with the ♠K, there's no problem. When you follow low, your partner will score a trick with the ♠Q, whether declarer ducks or not. And more importantly, he will score the entry needed to cash the ♦J.

Once again, this appears to be quite the spectacular play, but ruffing with the king can never really cost a trick. If you ruff low, your ♠K will always fall to the ♠A if that's what declarer wants.

I realise that this was a tougher article than usual. But I couldn't help myself – these plays are just such fun, and I wanted to open up your minds to such ideas. I hope that in sessions to come, you make a habit of throwing away your high cards (especially against me). And at the end of the bridge session, when partner asks why you keep throwing away your winners, just show him this article.

He'll never question you again. □



# MONTENEGRO FIRST FOR BRIDGE CONGRESS



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## Sally & Harry and the beautiful game

Proper bridge has gradually been returning, post-pandemic, and the county league has switched back to face-to-face, after being on-line for a couple of years.

When we are the home team, we play our matches at the club. You have to pay for your food, of course, as well as table money, but you get pre-dealt boards and hand records, and you don't have strangers looking round your house.

Our opponents for the first round of this year's competition were the home team and they opted for the alternative strategy. Their house was spotless when we arrived, and there were some nice smells coming from the kitchen. They must have been exhausted by the time we got there, and that can only be a good thing, right?

The only problem was that the match had been arranged – not by me, I hasten to add – on the same evening as England and Scotland were playing a European qualifying match.


'You can record it and watch it when we get home,' my wife said. 'You can fast forward through all that passing backwards, and the falling-over bits, and that VAR stuff.' Sally is not a fan of the beautiful game.

We started against our hosts, Debbie and Ian, recently retired teachers who are now regular bridge players. Ian had taken lock-down as an opportunity to grow a ponytail. Debbie frequently glanced at her watch, and popped to the kitchen a couple of times when she was dummy. It was clear that we were not getting supermarket sandwiches.

The match must have been fairly close going into the last board of the first half.

West <i>Debbie</i>	North <i>Sally</i>	East <i>Ian</i>	South <i>Harry</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

N/S Game. Dealer West

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

We haven't really discussed how to bid over a 25-27 3NT rebid by a 2♣ opener, so Sally made a practical and unambiguous jump to a slam. Debbie led the ♠J and Sally laid out the dummy in her usual fashion, neatly and slowly, with the suit led going down last, all to encourage me to make a plan.

It seemed pretty straightforward to me. If the ♠K was offside, I was going to need the diamond finesse, but luckily I had entries in clubs to take it more than once. If the finesse was wrong, I was going to go four or five down.

I played an optimistic ♠Q from dummy, but Ian covered and I won with the ace. Just to please Sally, I checked my sums. Debbie was fidgeting a bit, but I didn't let that put me off. One spade, three hearts, four diamonds and four clubs – that was 12 tricks. I cashed the ♣K and led the ♣3 to dummy's jack, on which Ian discarded a spade. The diamond finesse worked but it occurred to me that, if Ian held four diamonds, I would need two more finesses.

I led the ♣5, and when Debbie followed low, I put in the nine. I repeated the diamond finesse and Debbie did indeed show out. I was safe now: ♣Q, overtake with the ace, another diamond finesse, and the slam was home.

Our hosts leapt to their feet and took us through to the kitchen where we feasted on an excellent home-made quiche and salad, followed by some fine cheeses and strawberries. We scored up with Mark and Lucy and found we were 17 IMPs ahead, mainly because their declarer had played in 6♣ on the last board, on the same lead. He had taken the first two club tricks with the king and ace, and now only had enough entries to take the diamond finesse twice. It seemed I was lucky to have chosen to win the second club trick with the jack.


As Lucy explained what had happened I realised that I had mishandled the club suit; if Debbie had gone in with the ten on the third round – called a nutmeg, I seem to remember – I would have been an entry short. What I should have done was start with the king and the queen. When West follows to the second club I can afford to overtake with dummy's ace. If East had discarded on the second round, I would still have a finesse position, with dummy's ♣J9 sitting over West's ♣10x.

I didn't think Sally had noticed, and I certainly wasn't going to confess to her before the match was over.

We played the second half against a pair of thin earnest men. I wondered if South realised how badly he had played the slam.

The boards were as flat as they had been in the first half. Once again, the last board was critical.

**Love All. Dealer West**

♠ 4 3 ♥ Q J 9 8 5 3 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A 3 2	♠ K 10 8 2 ♥ 10 2 ♦ A K 8 ♣ Q J 7 6	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	♠ Q J 9 ♥ K 6 ♦ J 6 4 3 2 ♣ 10 9 5
--	--	--	---

♠ A 7 6 5 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ K 8 4	♠ A 7 6 5 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ K 8 4	♠ A 7 6 5 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ K 8 4	♠ A 7 6 5 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ K 8 4
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<b>West</b> <i>Harry</i> 2♥ All Pass	<b>North</b> <i>Tom</i> Dble	<b>East</b> <i>Sally</i> Pass	<b>South</b> <i>Dick</i> 4♠
---	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

I led the ♥Q against the 4♠ contract and Sally played the king. Declarer ducked, and won the heart return. He then played the ♠A, on which Sally contributed the queen. With a knowledgeable expression and a confident air, Dick played a spade to the 10. Sally won with the jack and switched to a club. I took the ace and led a third round of hearts. There was nothing declarer could do – Sally's nine of trumps was promoted and the contract was beaten.

I gave Sally a little nod of the head. It wouldn't have been polite to comment, but North was under no such constraints to be silent.

'What were you thinking? Just play two top trumps!'

South mumbled something, but North wasn't having it. 'He,' – a thumb was pointed in my direction – 'opened two hearts. He won't have four spades as well.'

'The experts say it's OK to open a weak two in a major, even with four cards in the other major.' South replied. 'I read about it in *Ask Simon* in *English Bridge*. I was going to play for trumps to be three-two, but when she played the ♠Q, I changed my mind and went for Restricted Choice. If she started with queen-jack doubleton, I still make it, because she doesn't get a ruff as well.'

This was the only significant swing in the second half of the match, and we finished with a 16-4 win in Victory Points. We thanked our hosts for their hospitality and generosity and went on our way.

'Great result in the football,' Ian called after us.

I was not a happy bunny when I crawled into bed well after midnight. 'I thought Ian said it was a good result,' I complained to Sally, who was half-asleep. 'I watched the whole thing. Scotland scored in extra time and we lost one-nil.'

'It *was* a good result – for him,' she replied. 'He spells it Iain, and he's Scottish.'

'Well, at least we won the bridge,' I said. 'Sleep tight.'

'Good night. And we can talk about your play in that six no trumps at breakfast.'





## Clever play

Playing pairs, East opens 1♣, South overcalls 1♥, West passes and North raises to 2♥. East now bids 2NT, showing six clubs and four diamonds. As South, you compete to three hearts and this ends the auction.

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

Love All. Dealer East.			
W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♥
Pass	2♥	2NT <sup>1</sup>	3♥
All Pass			
<sup>1</sup> Shows six clubs & four diamonds			

West leads the ♣2, you insert the ♣10 from dummy, and East wins the jack. East now cashes the ace and king of spades, on which you unblock the queen and jack from hand (West following high-low), and East gets off lead with the king of trumps. You draw West's remaining two trumps, on which East discards two clubs. How do you plan the play? This is where you have got to:

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

Your contract is safe, however this is pairs so you need to be looking for an overtrick. Your choices are to take a diamond finesse or to squeeze East in the minors. Where do you think the king of diamonds is? There are three clues which suggest it will be with East. Firstly, it appears as though West holds three clubs and, playing standard leads, a low card suggests it was from an honour which must be the queen. Despite this, West didn't raise one club to two over your 1♥ so probably doesn't have anything outside. Also East has shown diamonds in the bidding and has been reluctant to discard one. Therefore the squeeze represents the better option. Can you see how to execute it?

Cash all your trumps bar one, discarding diamonds from dummy. Now two rounds of spades will see East trump-squeezed, having to bare the diamond king or the club ace. If the ♣A is bared, you can ruff the low club and return to dummy with the ♦A. If the ♦K is bared you must cash the ace first and ruff a club to hand. The full deal follows.





South plays 3♥. West leads the ♠2

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

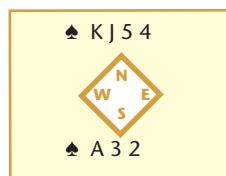
  

♠ Q J 2	♠ Q J 2
♥ A Q J 10 7 5	♥ A Q J 10 7 5
♦ Q J 6	♦ Q J 6
♣ 3	♣ 3



## SUIT COMBINATIONS

by Paul Bowyer



**Q** How should you play this suit combination for three tricks in no trumps assuming plenty of entries to both hands in outside suits?

**A.** Most players will cash the ♠A and finesse the jack. Should it lose, then there is still the chance of a 3-3 break to fall back on.

What, though, is the best way to play for three tricks, even if it gives up on the chance of making all four?

The recommended play is to cash the king, then come back to the ace and lead up to the jack. This way, you make three tricks in all combinations except where East started life with ♠Q10xx (in which case there was nothing you could have done about it).

If the spade finesse was working initially, then this play still establishes a third trick for the jack.

The advantage of this line is that you pick up the holding of ♠Qx on your right, a combination that would have proved fatal had you taken an early finesse.

Playing match-point pairs gives you more of a problem. The line for three tricks, as outlined above, gives you no chance of making all four tricks should West have been dealt ♠Qxx.

The recommended line of play is really for teams matches (where success of the contract is paramount, and overtricks are a distraction) or if you are in an unusual contract in match-point pairs (such as a slam) and you judge that making it will score well.

### HEATHER'S HINTS

- When you have opened the bidding or overcalled, your partner has remained silent, and the opponents have agreed a suit at the two level you will not want to bid 2NT naturally. Use 2NT to show six of your suit and four of a suit you are unable to bid at the two level. These are the sorts of hands that you should be looking to compete with.
- If you believe a finesse will fail, think hard about ways to avoid taking it. Many players would not have stopped to work out if the overtrick was available on this hand when East held the ♦K and would have taken the finesse with an air of resignation. □



# Christmas Quiz Answers

by Tony Forrester



**Y**ou are South in each problem. Playing Teams what would you bid at the key moment and why? Up to 10 marks each.

♠ 9
♥ 10 8
♦ Q 10 8 7 4
♣ A J 9 7 6

**Q1 N/S Game. Dealer North.**

W	N	E	S
	1♥	Pass	?

**Choose from:** (a) 1NT; (b) 2♦; (c) 2♣

Traditionally we are expected to have eight or more points for a two-level response, so 1NT is forced upon us. Or is it? Do we really want to declare no trumps from our side on a probable spade lead? Certainly not.

Thus I prefer to borrow a point and introduce a minor. But which? To bid 2♦ would often shut out clubs, while to bid 2♣ allows partner to cheaply introduce diamonds. If North has a 3·5(4·1) shape with a fair hand, 2♣ is the best of both worlds.

- (a) 1NT – 4 marks;  
(b) 2♦ – 7 marks;  
(c) 2♣ – 10 marks.

♠ 9
♥ A Q 10 9
♦ Q 10 8 7
♣ A K J 7

**Q2 Game All. Dealer East.**

W	N	E	S
		1♦	?

**Choose from:** (a) Pass; (b) 1♥; (c) Dble; (d) 1NT

We have a very attractive collection, but South's opener is a disappointment. Do we dive in, or sit quietly and await developments?

For the former, I am not often a fan of vulnerable four-card overcalls, however 1♥ has a lot going for it

here. 1NT is not ideal with a singleton spade and a likely removal to 2♠ (or via a transfer) by partner. Double suffers from the same problem as 1NT – how would we handle a spade response? To continue with 1NT over 1♠ would suggest 18-20 points.

My vote is for pass anticipating a comeback with a double if the auction proceeds 1♠–pass–2♠. Remember at Game All the penalty for going down is heightened for both sides, so we might watch this one from the sidelines.

- (a) Pass – 10 marks;  
(b) 1♥ – 8 marks;  
(c) Dble – 3 marks  
(d) 1NT – 4 marks.

♠ Q
♥ K 9 7 6 5
♦ Q 10 8 6 5 2
♣ 3

**Q3 N/S Game. Dealer West.**

W	N	E	S
1♠	Dble	4♠	?

**Choose from:** (a) 5♥; (b) 5♦; (c) Pass; (d) 4NT.

Let us dismiss the outlier quickly. With such an exciting distribution facing a take-out double, to pass is feeble in the extreme. The gamblers could double and lead their singleton club if the auction ends there, I suppose, but we rarely get rich in the long run taking shots in the dark.

I would be surprised if many went for 5♦ as partner could easily hold a 2·4·2·5 shape. However to simply assume four hearts opposite is also a bit risky, for example the double would be fine with 1·3·4·5 and an opening bid.

No need to guess though as we can have the best of both worlds. Bid 4NT and remove 5♣ to 5♦, thereby showing a red two-suiter. A clear winner.

- (a) 5♥ – 7 marks;  
 (b) 5♦ – 5 marks;  
 (c) Pass – 1 mark;  
 (d) 4NT – 10 marks.

Opening leads. This time you are sitting West, playing Teams. Choose which suit to lead. Up to 10 points each.

♠ 7
♥ K 10 8 7 6 3
♦ Q J 7
♣ 6 3 2

Q4 E/W Game. Dealer South				
W	N	E	S	
				1♠
Pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass		5♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	7♣	Dble	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup> Blackwood - aces only;  
<sup>2</sup> one ace

Choose your lead:

- (a) spade; (b) heart; (c) diamond; (d) club

We can expect that partner has made a Lightner double looking for a ruff. Further, given North's robust bidding, it is safe to assume a long strong suit coming down in dummy. That is surely clubs.

The question is therefore whether East has a club void, or the opponents have seven hearts between them. I will give you a peek at an average dummy:

♠AKQ6 ♥A5 ♦10 ♣AKQ1098

In truth we still don't know for sure. Does declarer have five hearts or four clubs?

All in all I opt for a club, as North could have seven of them ♠AKQx ♥A ♦x ♣AKxxxx which tilts the odds slightly in its favour. Close though.

- (a) spade – 0 marks;  
 (b) heart – 9 marks;  
 (c) diamond – 3 marks;  
 (d) club – 10 marks.



♠ K 8 5
♥ J 9
♦ K 10 3
♣ Q 10 8 7 2

Q5 Love All. Dealer South.				
W	N	E	S	
				1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass		2♣
Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass		2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass		

<sup>1</sup> Fourth suit forcing;

Choose your lead:

- (a) spade; (b) heart; (c) diamond; (d) club

When the opponents carry out an investigation and alight in no trumps, they rarely have an unannounced eight card fit. So the combined suit lengths for the declaring side are either 7·7·7·5 or 7·7·6·6 with the latter more probable. Here we can place South with a 1·5·3·4 shape, dummy 5·2·3·3.

Based on that prediction, East has only one club, so that choice is fraught with danger. And to lead a heart round to South's primary suit is poor tactics at best.

As a rule I like to lead declarer's short suit in no trump contracts as it combines attack with a modicum of safety. So, a spade, with the traditional fourth suit as our second choice.

- (a) spade – 10 marks;  
 (b) heart – 3 marks;  
 (c) diamond – 8 marks;  
 (d) club – 2 marks.

♠ 10 8 7
♥ 10 9 8
♦ K 7 2
♣ Q 9 6 2

Q6 Love All. Dealer South.				
W	N	E	S	
				1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass		3♣
Pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass		5♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	6♣	All Pass		

<sup>1</sup> Keycard Blackwood;  
<sup>2</sup> one of five

Choose your lead:

- (a) spade; (b) heart; (c) diamond; (d) club

Given our lack of surprises for declarer, it is hard to see this slam going down unless we can quickly locate a weak spot. Thus there is no point leading a trump, or indeed dummy's suit. Too passive.

Which minor do we prefer? Normally leading



from a king is verboten in my partnerships but, as always, an exception can prove the rule. Here a diamond just requires East to hold the queen and a necessary outside entry. Further we might survive if he has ♦J through a misguess.

And of course if there are two quick tricks to take, this is by far our best chance.

- (a) spade – **1 mark**;
- (b) heart – **3 marks**;
- (c) diamond – **10 marks**;
- (d) club – **6 marks**.

**D**efence. You are sitting East, playing Teams. 10 points each.

**Q7**

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

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

**Game All. Dealer South.**

W	N	E	S
			2♠ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup> Weak

West leads the ♥A, 7, 2 and 10, and switches to the ♣7. How do you defend?

We will start by winning the ♣A of course, and declarer follows with the nine. We can safely give South the ♦A for a vulnerable weak two bid, what about the rest?

If South holds both the ♣Q and ♥Q there are ten winners, so we will work on the basis that partner has ♥AQxxxx, leaving South with

$$\spadesuit J10xxxx \heartsuit x \diamondsuit Axx(x) \clubsuit Qx(x)$$

What will happen if we return a ‘safe’ club?

South will try a top trump and note the bad break. Needing a bit of good fortune now, he calls for ♥K and ruffs a heart before collecting ♠K and ♣K. Then he throws us in to lead from ♦K. Bravo.

Can we prevent that? Why not switch to ♦J now.

Declarer is unaware of the trump loser at this stage and may well hop up with the ♦A to prevent a ruff when we have a singleton diamond. That limits his losers to two aces and ♦K, or so it seems.

**Q8**

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

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

**Game All. Dealer South.**

W	N	E	S
		1♥	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

West leads the ♥2. How do you defend?

Holding the vulnerable black queens plus an awkward diamond holding, we must adopt a thoughtful strategy. We want declarer to think that partner has at least one of them, how can we best create that illusion? Let’s start by winning the ♥Q, thereby advertising the top three heart honours. The next step is to avoid being stuck at trick three, so we underlead our remaining heart honours allowing West to win the jack (♥2 is from an honour).

Hopefully he will exit passively with a club and leave declarer to find his way from there. Of course there are no guarantees here, but the art of defence is to pose as many problems for declarer as possible and to hide the location of our assets.



Declarer plays. You are sitting South, playing Teams. 10 points each.

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



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

### Q9

North raises your 2NT opening to 3NT and West leads the ♦K, East following with the ♦9. Plan the play.

For once there is an almost 100% line for the contract. We begin by ducking the opening lead and West continues with the queen, East discarding a low spade. Time to collect the ace and lay down ♣A. Regardless of how the club suit divides we cash enough winners to strip West of his cards in the suit. Then we exit with a diamond.

West will collect his suit, but be forced to exit in a major, thereby providing our ninth trick. We can then cash the remaining clubs and live happily ever after.

So why is this line 'almost' 100% and not guaranteed? What if West has four clubs? Now we need to run the entire suit to remove his exit cards and the combination of five clubs (it is no good to leave a winner in dummy as there is no sure entry) and five diamonds means we have to guess a three card ending.

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



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

### Q10

You arrive in 6♥ after a 2NT opening and transfer sequence. West leads the ♠K. How do you plan to virtually ensure your contract?

Another near certainty. At the table, we must fight our instincts sometimes and follow them on other occasions. How tough is that? Here we might look at dummy and be annoyed that a 'cold' grand slam has been missed. Surely 6♥ requires no thought. Untrue.

If you took the ♠A and led to the ♥Q at trick two, a grizzly fate awaits. To see why, consider the club situation. Unless East has four of them, we cannot lose a trick. Let's work on the basis he holds the outstanding ♣J986 then.

Thus West has a club void. Barring an extraordinary hand, he will not hold a trump void as well. So, lay down the ♥A at trick two. If East discards, we continue with a low heart to the nine and queen. Next comes a diamond to the ace and another trump, picking up West's holding. We draw the last round, cross to the ♣Q and finally take the ♦K and pitch the spade from dummy.

Should West discard on the ♥A, he is extremely unlikely to have a club void. □

## CONGRATULATIONS!

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### Second place

**Ian Pagan – 91%**

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[www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/easter-london](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/easter-london).

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### SCHAPIRO SPRING FOURSOMES

The Mercure Bristol Holland House will host this year's Schapiro Spring Foursomes.

We are excited about this year's event, taking place in Bristol city centre at the Mercure Bristol Holland House. The venue is situated in the heart of Bristol city centre and within walking distance of the train station, shops and restaurants. Bristol also has its own airport if you are travelling from further afield.

The event takes place 28th April to 2nd May and is one of the most prestigious and toughest events in the EBU calendar and is part of the Championship Series, in which points can be earned towards the Player of the Year Championship. The Schapiro Trophy is played on a double-elimination lines basis over nine sessions consisting of 32 boards each, with a secondary event, the Punchbowl, open to teams eliminated before Saturday evening. For a more relaxed event teams can participate in the Hamilton Cup on the Monday. For more details, please see

[www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/schapiro-spring-fours](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/schapiro-spring-fours)

### NATIONAL PAIRS

The National Pairs will be played in an exciting new three stage format in 2023. To qualify for the regional finals on 26th March, play in any of your regular club games and achieve a score of over 55% between 5th and 18th Feb. We will contact all qualifying members via email with an invite to play in the regional finals.

There will be five regional finals, run by counties on both BBO and RealBridge, with trophies awarded for each region. Combined scores will determine the top 50 pairs who will be entitled to play in the National Pairs Final, 15th-16th April on RealBridge.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Red – Anticipated F2F Events

#### ■ FEBRUARY 2023

- 6-9 Junior Squad Sim Pairs, various clubs
- 10-12 Harrogate Spring Congress, Harrogate
- 17-19 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer, Altrincham
- 18-19 Tollemache Finals, Stratford upon Avon
- 18-19 East Wales Congress, Newport
- 24-26 North Devon Congress, Barnstaple
- 25-26 Ranked Masters Pairs, RealBridge
- 26 Masters Pairs, various clubs

#### ■ MARCH 2023

- 3-5 Camrose Trophy, 2nd weekend, Ireland
- 4 Manchester Swiss Pairs, Altrincham
- 4 Leicestershire GP Swiss Pairs, Leicester
- 4-5 Wiltshire GP Congress, Bath
- 5 Merseyside & Cheshire GP Swiss Teams, RealBridge
- 6-9 Club Stratified Sims, various clubs
- 11 Guernsey GP Event, St Peters Port
- 11 Hants & IOW GP Pairs, Otterbourne
- 12 Hants & IOW GP Teams, RealBridge
- 18-19 Cumbria GP Congress, Windermere
- 25 EBU One-Day GP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge
- 26 National Pairs Regional Heats, RealBridge & BBO

NEW

#### ■ APRIL 2023

- 1-2 Norfolk GP Congress, Norwich
- 2 Portland Pairs, RealBridge
- 7-10 Easter Festival, London, tbc
- 8-9 Northern Easter Festival
- 11-14 British Spring Sim Pairs, various clubs
- 14-16 Devon GP Congress, Torquay
- 15-16 National Pairs Final, RealBridge
- 15-22 Montenegro Overseas Congress
- 21-23 Lady Milne Trophy, Scotland
- 22-23 Portland Bowl Finals, London
- 28-2 Schapiro Spring Foursomes, Bristol
- 29-30 Cheltenham Congress, Cheltenham

#### ■ MAY 2023

- 2-7 Lambourne Jersey Festival of Bridge
- 8-11 EBED Spring Sim Pairs, various clubs
- 8 EBU One-Day GP Swiss Teams, online
- 13 Garden Cities Regional Final
- 19-21 Teltscher Trophy, Wales
- 20 Northamptonshire GP Swiss Pairs, tba
- 19-21 Merseyside & Cheshire GP Swiss Pairs
- 27-29 Spring Bank Holiday Congress, Reading

#### ■ JUNE 2023

- 3-4 Corwen Trophy, RealBridge
- 10-11 Pachabo Cup, RealBridge
- 17 Garden Cities Final, Coventry
- 17 EBU One-Day GP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge
- 24-25 Berks & Bucks GP Weekend, Windsor





# EBU CONGRESSES AND COMPETITIONS

All events are Green Pointed (GP) unless stated. BP – Blue Points, LP – Local Points

Enter via 01296 317203, [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk) or at [www.ebu.co.uk/members](http://www.ebu.co.uk/members)

## Harrogate Spring Congress

10 – 12 February  
Crowne Plaza, Harrogate



**Really Easy Pairs – BP**  
**Swiss Pairs**  
**Swiss Teams**

## Ranked Masters Pairs

25 – 26 February  
RealBridge

For 2023, 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

26 February  
For players below Regional Master  
Regional clubs

In 2023 the Masters Pairs will be held at host clubs. Entry fees will be set by the clubs which retain part of the entry fees, so you're supporting your local club. List of venues and entry information at [www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/masters-pairs#clubs](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/masters-pairs#clubs)

### NEW FORMAT

## EBU National Pairs

Regional Finals 26 March  
National Pairs Final 15 – 16 April

Any pair that gets over 55% in a club game between 5th Feb and 18th Feb is entitled to play in the Regional Finals on 26th March. Five regional finals will be run by counties and trophies awarded. Combined scores will determine the top 50 pairs who will be entitled to play in the National Pairs Final on RealBridge.

## Portland Pairs

2 April  
RealBridge



The EBU Mixed Pairs Championships.  
Scored over the entire field.  
Starting time 11.30 am.

## Easter Festivals – London & Northern

7 – 10 April – London, tbc  
8 – 9 April – Ilkley, tbc



**Championship Pairs**  
**Stratified Swiss Teams**  
**Swiss Pairs**

9-High – F2F & online – BP

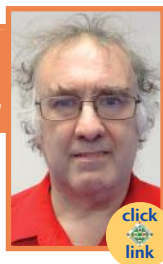
Player of the Year

## Montenegro Overseas Congress

15-22 April



**Swiss Pairs**  
**Swiss Teams**  
**IMPs Pairs – BP**  
**Round Robins – BP**



## Trouble at the table

**R**ichard Gwyer asks: I would like advice on the procedure following a player's failure to use the STOP card. Can the LHO ask whether it was the Jump bid, or the failure to use the STOP card that was erroneous? Can the 'offender's' partner enquire? There is also the corollary - using the STOP card unnecessarily - but this seems to be dealt with more easily, as all our members are aware that they might have unauthorised information.

There are some issues with enquiring about missing STOP cards but, for various reasons, I would encourage players to enquire and not expect this to cause a problem.

Failure to use the STOP card is an error in procedure, so it is permitted for any player to draw attention. Of course, the TD can be called but this is not always necessary.

When the players attempt to sort out what has gone wrong, they should be aware that:

- ❖ The 'offender' might have intended a different (non-jump) bid
- ❖ The 'offender' may have misread the auction
- ❖ The 'offender' may have misunderstood when to use the STOP card

It may be the 'offender' says something which reveals a genuine problem and then the TD will be needed. If offender's partner draws attention to it and the offender has in fact not made their intended call, the offender can correct their call to the intended call. Law 25A3 effectively authorises the information from partner's actions.

**T**ony Morgan asked: At our small club, there is a pair who use Stayman as a route to a weak take-out in diamonds (they use Red Suit Transfers, so a simple 2♦ by responder is not available for this purpose). Is this permissible? The difficulty that it recently gave rise to was that the

bidding went 1NT-2♣, 2♦-Pass, and an opponent protested that, if he'd known that the 2♦ rebid could be passed, he would have competed in the majors. Responder held six diamonds, three each in the majors, a singleton club, and very few points. The fact that he might have been expected to hold at least one four-card major for his Stayman bid was what dissuaded the opponent from competing. If this use of the 2♣ response is legitimate, should it simply be announced as 'Stayman' or should some further explanation be given?

Playing Stayman with a weak take-out in a minor is permitted, and passing 1NT-2♣-2♦ is permitted. For readers, I should explain how this method works. Responder with long diamonds, bids 2♣ Stayman: if opener rebids 2♦ (denying a 4-card major), responder passes to play; if opener shows a 4-card major with 2♥/2♠, responder bids 3♦ to play.

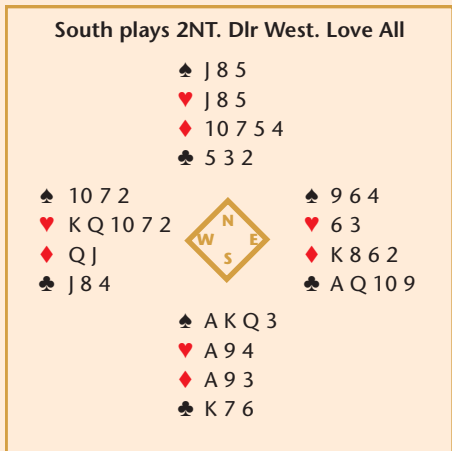
Responder, with long clubs, can also bid 2♣ Stayman and respond 3♣ to play over any response.

2♣ is announced as 'Stayman' regardless of what it shows, as long as it asks for four-card majors.

2♦ is not alerted or announced, as long as it denies a 4-card major, regardless of whether it may be passed. After Stayman 2♣, responder's rebid of 3♣/3♦ should be alerted if opponents would not expect it might be weak/to play.

Playing 2♣ to include a weak take-out in diamonds is not the only time that 1NT-2♣, 2♦-Pass will occur. It is possible to use 2♣ to rescue your side from 1NT with a weak hand: responder, holding something like 4-4-5-0, 4-3-5-1, 3-4-5-1, 4-4-4-1 (with diamonds and short clubs), can bid 2♣ and pass any response. This is known as 'Garbage' Stayman, not a different convention – just an additional hand type that would use Stayman.

John Wilson asks: As the law has changed on major penalty cards, I would appreciate a ruling on the following situation:



The contract was 2NT by South. Lead by me (West) was the ♥K. Declarer took the ace and played another heart on which I played the 10. Declarer then played three rounds of spades ending in dummy with the jack.

At that stage, my partner led the ♣10 out of turn. North (dummy) immediately declared this to be a major penalty card although it was not his place to intervene. East accepted this. The director was not called. Neither at this stage nor subsequently, did declarer specify any lead restrictions.

Declarer then ran a diamond, won by me with the jack and I immediately played the ♥Q intending to cash three tricks. North, as dummy, asserted that he was a county-level qualified director. He then said that he had warned me not to lead – which he had not – and immediately declared my ♥Q as a major penalty card thereby establish dummy's ♥8 as a winner. I called the director who ruled against me.

I thought that dummy was bound to remain silent during the play and only permitted to remind declarer on who was next to lead. Do lead restrictions apply if declarer has not specified any?

card, the director should be called so that declarer can have his options explained.

If dummy was the tournament director, he should have made a proper ruling when the lead out of turn occurred, including informing declarer and defenders not to play on when on lead. If dummy was not the tournament director, he should say nothing unless asked to by the tournament director.

Declarer has the option to accept the lead out of turn – if not the ♣10 becomes a major penalty card. When on lead, declarer can require that you lead the suit of the penalty card, so declarer can prevent you from leading the ♥Q.

Both sides are at fault for not calling the tournament director and dummy is in breach of several laws by making rulings at the table. The director should consider awarding N/S the score for 2NT going off because of North's actions.

It is not clear how the ♥8 would ever make a trick, even if both defenders had major penalty cards. If the director was called at the appropriate time but nevertheless the play reaches the point where West has ♥Q as a major penalty card and East has ♣10, the correct ruling is difficult – budding TDs should read the White Book 8.50.3. With West on lead:

- ❖ If South forbids a club lead, the ♣10 is returned to East's hand, and West must lead his penalty card (♥Q). The ♥Q wins the trick, and West cannot lead a club while he remains on lead.
- ❖ If South requires a club lead, the ♣10 is returned to East's hand, and West must lead a club. West still has the ♥Q as a major penalty card, and there will be play/lead restrictions later in the play.
- ❖ If South does not make any restrictions on West with respect to East's penalty card, West must lead his penalty card (♥Q). East's ♣10 is still a major penalty card and, when the ♥Q wins, South can forbid or require a club lead. □

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](mailto:robin@ebu.co.uk).

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

There have been some changes to the status of information from penalty cards. But the fundamental aspects of the laws have not changed:

- ❖ If a defender has a major penalty card, the other defender will be subject to lead restrictions
- ❖ When there is an infraction leading to a penalty





# EBU Awards 2022

These awards were announced at the 2022 AGM. The Gold Award is given in recognition of sustained and exceptional contribution to the development, administration and management of all aspects of the game of bridge. The Silver Award is given in recognition of long service and an outstanding contribution to the administration of the game of bridge. The Bronze Award acknowledges a specific and significant service to English bridge at national level. The Tony Friday award is given for outstanding contribution to bridge and enhancing the game in all its aspects. The Dimmie Fleming Awards are given in recognition of hard work for bridge as volunteers in administration at county level, typically giving 10 or more years of service.

## **JERRY COPE**

Gold Award



Jerry has been involved in service to bridge for more than a decade. He was an EBU Board member for ten years and treasurer for six of those years. As an Officer of the Board he gave much valuable advice and was willing to take on jobs from which others might have shied away. He was the second Chairman of EBED leading it to significant success. After his retirement from these posts he continued to serve as a valuable member of the EBU Disciplinary Committee. In light of this, the Board is delighted in awarding Jerry its Gold Award, the highest honour it can bestow.

## **HEATHER DHONDY**

Gold Award



Heather received a Diamond Award in 2018 in recognition of her playing skills. She has also been very active behind the scenes and an EBU Board member for more than a decade. She has chaired both the Selection Committee and the Laws & Ethics Committee, the latter coinciding with the onset of Covid, the take-up of online bridge and the avalanche of cheating allegations that ensued. She has served as Chair of the Tournament Director's Development Group. In view of her incredibly wide-ranging contribution to bridge she has been given the Gold Award.

## **ANTHONY GOLDING**

Silver Award



Anthony served on the Board of the EBU for six years, and on the Section Committee as a Board representative. These bland facts do not do justice to his contribution during his tenure. Not only did he offer valuable legal advice when sought, but also he provided a calm and rational presence at meetings, and his clarity of thought often steered discussions back into the waters of sanity and practicality. In the light of this, the Board decided to give him a Silver Award to note his contribution.



# EBU Awards 2022

## **RON MILLET** Silver Award



For ten years Ron provided a valuable service to the membership of the EBU by his presence on the board. Always concerned with membership and development, Ron was ever ready to contribute to lively debate and, like most people who feel passionately about a subject, was happy to listen to the other side of an argument, and win or lose, there were no hard feelings. The longevity of Ron's tenure alone would deserve recognition, but his lively interest added to the imperative to bestow a Silver Award on him.

## **FRANCES HINDEN** Bronze Award



Frances Hinden not only leads a busy professional life and spends a lot of time at the bridge table, but also she has served on the Laws & Ethics Committee for 24 years, 11 of those as Vice-Chair – always the power behind the throne. In that role she combined an interest with the minutiae of the laws and a commitment to keeping the game straight. In the light of this singular contribution, we are making her one of the first two recipients of the new Bronze Award.

## **SARAH BELL** Bronze Award



When Covid arrived and bridge went online, the EBU was deluged with allegations of cheating, and was ill-equipped to deal with so many at one time. Evidence-gathering was crucial, and Sarah Bell stepped forward, and with a group of analysts formed the Online Ethics Investigation Group. The amount of work this group put in was phenomenal, literally thousands of hours, and Sarah was in the vanguard, bearing the brunt of it. Her massive contribution is recognised by the Bronze Award.



## **THE EBU MEMBERSHIP** Tony Friday Award

Around 55,000 members of the EBU were jointly bestowed the Tony Friday Award in recognition of their support for the game, for the EBU and each other during the Covid pandemic.

**MORE AWARDS OVERLEAF**



# EBU Awards 2022



## **SATI MCKENZIE (LONDON)**

**Dimmie Fleming**

Sati joined the London committee in the mid-1990s and helped in a variety of roles for many years, including a stint on the Tournament Sub-Committee. For eight years she was the county Treasurer. She took a break in 2013 to focus on her passion for 19th century literature before rejoining the committee in 2019.

On her return, Sati immediately took on the role of Webmaster and successfully migrated the LMBA website to the Bridgewebs platform. She continues to maintain the site and is very efficient in responding to all requests for changes.

She is a dedicated committee member and her patience and good humour make her a very



## **BERNARD KAYE (MERSEYSIDE & CHESHIRE)**

**Dimmie Fleming**

Bernard has been a member of the County Executive Committee for the last eight years including a period of four years as Treasurer. Prior to joining Merseyside & Cheshire, he worked in bridge administration for over forty years.

In London, he was Secretary of



## **DEREK & JANET MARSH (BEDS)**

**Dimmie Fleming**

Derek & Janet have been stalwarts of Bedfordshire County bridge for many years. In his main role as Competitions Secretary, Derek developed and organised a challenging and enjoyable calendar each year.

Janet has served as County Secretary on a number of occasions in the last 15 years.

The pair ran the annual Charity Pairs Day, donating all the food and wine, collecting prizes, and running the events which each raised over £2,000. Many new players were introduced to county bridge through this fun day. The pair were also active in building up online games for Bedfordshire players when Covid struck.

the London Banks Bridge Association and both the Chairman and Treasurer of the Tottenham League. After moving to the North West, Bernard was the Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the Manchester County Association.

He is currently Chairman/Co-ordinator of the Northern Bridge League, and was an EBU



## **CAROL RITZEN (DEVON)**

**Dimmie Fleming**

Carol Ritzen has been an advocate for bridge in Devon for over 25 years. Soon after she learnt to play the game herself, she started giving back. She has chaired both the North Section and the Central Devon Committee of the Devon Bridge Association. The former included leading the organisation of the section's charity events.

A teacher by profession, she joined the Education Sub-Committee of central Devon and became an EBU-trained bridge teacher. She also contributed in many other areas, including committee work and the organisation of a huge number of successful Devon bridge events.

She took over the helm of the North Devon Congress in 2010, and proved a driving force for this hugely successful event, leading the organisational team and TD'ing the entire weekend until her retirement in 2022 – only taking a year out when the competition was held online.

Carol was at the forefront of introducing technology into North Devon bridge clubs and was on the committee of Barnstaple BC for more than 20 years.

Shareholder for several years.

Bernard is an accredited EBTA teacher who has brought many beginners into the game.





# EBU/EBED Awards 2022



## **TREVOR HOBSON (SURREY)**

**Dimmie Fleming**

Trevor has been an indispensable member of the Surrey Committee for 15 years. In recent times, he has been Chairman and President after other roles, such as Leagues Organiser.

As Chairman he oversaw significant change in the way Surrey operated, improving the marketing of events, and leading a complete redesign of the website. He has also used his IT skills to provide management information and to automate a number of previously time-consuming manual processes. Though he stood down as President in 2022, he remains a committed member of the team. Indeed, his experience leads him to be consulted by other committee members on a variety of bridge topics.

He is an enthusiastic supporter of Surrey events – always the first to arrive and the last to leave, in order to assist with putting out the tables and chairs.



## **DUNCAN HAPPER**

**Alec Salisbury  
Award**

Duncan has been involved in schools and junior bridge for over 25 years. He played in the Schools Cup and in numerous internationals. Since returning to Loughborough Grammar School in 2004 as a member of staff he has been the driving force behind the bridge club and has hosted the Youth Bridge Challenge throughout that time. He runs tournaments every lunchtime – five days a week.

Since the pandemic he has quickly got the bridge club thriving again, actively using the Junior Award Scheme and running multiple teams in the newly created Inter-Schools League and Schools Cup, as well as encouraging players to attend the Junior Teach-In and join the Junior Squads. The numbers playing bridge at lunchtime is usually over five tables, except on Thursdays when Duncan has persuaded local international, Ben Norton, to come in and coach the team players.

Duncan has grabbed every opportunity to widen the scope of bridge within the endowed schools – it has become a sixth form option in extension programmes – whist and minibrige are taught to year 6s and to the feeder school year 5s in curriculum time.



## **WILLIAM BOURNE**

**Tom Bradley  
Award**

William has always recognised the importance of using every means to stimulate young minds in order to realise their full potential.

William's involvement in junior bridge grew as a supporting parent in Sussex and EBU junior events from 2015. He saw that a closer co-operation between the South East county bridge associations and a more concerted strategy to promote a programme of events would lead to more players in junior bridge.

He became closely involved in the planning of Sussex junior events, particularly the JBC in 2018. His infectious enthusiasm and unfailing drive and determination gave the project momentum, achieving much higher levels of attendance than previous similar events.

William has worked hard to establish closer relationships with his counterparts in Kent and Surrey in pursuit of a programme of junior bridge events throughout the year, supported by an integrated approach to publicity and communications. The three county programme was set back by the pandemic but the foundations laid proved significant to the national youth bridge initiatives now being pursued by EBED, with whom he works closely.

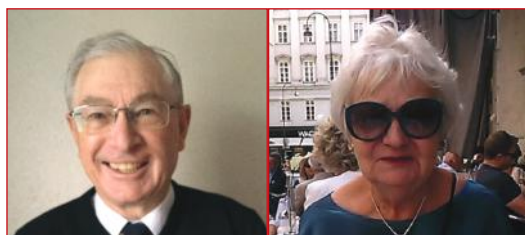


# HIGHS, LOWS AND STATISTICS



The EBU's terrific tech team has pulled together great facts and figures showing the amazing feats some players achieved in 2022.

The top scoring pair at sessions with three or more tables was achieved by Michael Clydesdale & Bettie Sweet who scored a whopping 89.58% at Dry Drayton Duplicate Club on a 12-board session in mid-June. Even more incredible – the pair had never played together before.



Pos	Pair	Players	Match Points	Score %
1	2	Michael Clydesdale & Bettie Sweet	43/ 48	89.58

While almost touching 90% is a remarkable feat, it is easier to score highly on fewer boards so our congratulations also go to Carol Brocklehurst & Sharon Bayne who achieved a heroic 85% in a 24-board session played at Broadstairs Bridge Club on 24th August.



Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Tops	Score %
1	8	Carol Brocklehurst & Sharon Bayne	68	80	85.00

In all, 98 pairs managed to score 80%+ in sessions with 12+ boards, and this fell to just 44 pairs in sessions with 20+ boards, so if you were one of the pairs that managed this – you're in rare company!

How about the biggest gain on a pair's expected grade, based on their NGS? Neil Chisman & Graham Cheetham scored 38 over par in an online EBU Fast Game on 21st July.

And if there has to be a biggest gain, there has to be a biggest drop ... We won't name and shame, but the biggest NGS drop of the year by a mature



Neil Chisman & Graham Cheetham scored 38 over par

partnership was -37.08 against par on a 12-board session. (*Eek! I wonder if that was me ... Ed*)

The strongest sessions of the year by Strength of Field (SOF) were:

1	Premier League Division 1	65.17
2	Crockfords Cup	64.54
3	Senior European Trials	63.87
4	European Mixed Teams Trials	63.80
5	Teltscher Trophy 2023 Trials	63.79

Outside of national events, by far the strongest bridge was played in the Super League, organised by the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London. The strength of field was 62.85.

The strongest club session was a five-table Monday Pairs session, also played at the Young Chelsea with a strength of field of 61.00. In fact the Young Chelsea achieved the top seven slots for club pairs. The strongest club session that wasn't played at the Young Chelsea was enjoyed by Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club on a Tuesday evening pairs with a strength of field of 59.96.

Spare a thought for BBO's robots who played in 27,613 sessions – a total of 423,148 graded boards. Robots have been in the winning partnership in 2,522 distinct games. In reality they have won more as some clubs scrub the robot scores. The robots earned 294,467 local points, 191 blue points and 449 green points. *Advanced BBO Bot A*, who plays far more than its friends, is now a 96 Star Premier Tournament Master. It needs to focus on getting more Green Points to move through the Master Point ranks. Their NGS grades fluctuate quite a bit, but are most commonly a queen. Rohan Bagshawe achieved the highest score with a robot: 85.42% in a 12-board game. □

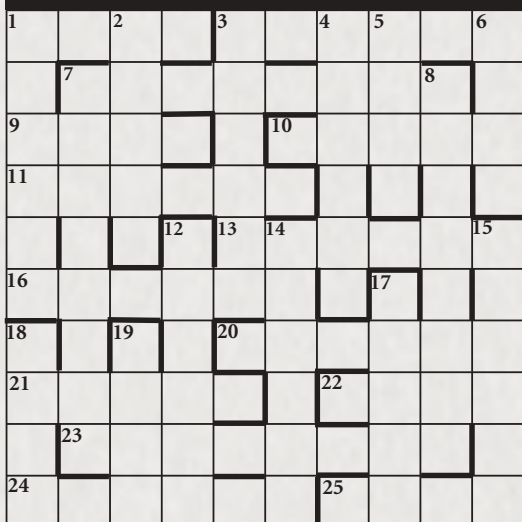


# CAPTION COMPETITION

## CROSSWORD NO 38

Compiled by MERMAN

Answers online, p71



### ACROSS

- 1 Loud sort of board game (4)
- 3 Tournament director getting a lot of bother about permit (6)
- 7 Put a call out with time that was left to launch (8)
- 9 Luxury apartment was shut up (4)
- 10, 11 Mysteriously interact with kit to see traveller on board with this (11, two words)
- 13 Gets top on board and declares (6)
- 16 Quietly annoyed with plagiarist (6)
- 20 Left party and became insignificant (6)
- 21 Pale and wan touring the West Indies? (5)
- 22 Don't start with what a rugby scrum may or may not do to help the hooker do this (4)
- 23 Like a lot of very old texts when viewed on computer (8)
- 24 Romantic team leader missing in dull setting (6)
- 25 See 5d.

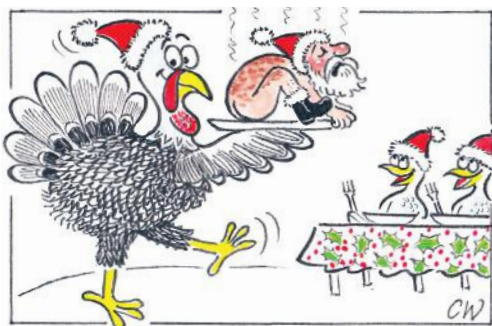
### DOWN

- 1 Drug friend looked up on computer (6)
- 2 Essential activity in 7d and being organised by the church (5)
- 3 Most protected St Peter first (6)
- 4 Chips anyone can see being eaten — they're divine (6)
- 5, 25 Grow tired of having Apple's helpmate turn up with flower (4,4)
- 6 Foul position (4)
- 7 Set down clues for Spooner's social events (8)
- 8 Ken tried to make repairs (8)
- 12 Little time invested in surrealist's incomplete aid to meditation (6)
- 14 Started play too soon for kings and queens, perhaps (6)
- 15 One of the points in diamonds (6)
- 17 Use trees as a guide (5)
- 18 No day to have been in debt (4)
- 19 Lovely French city (4)



WHEEL! Send your entries for the cartoon above to [lou@ebu.co.uk](mailto:lou@ebu.co.uk) or Editor, Raggett House, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0DD by 15th March.

Thank you for all the captions I received for the one below. Congratulations to Philip Goldenberg for my favourite, shown beneath the picture. Other close contenders were Pam Robinson's 'Hmm ... those Imps don't look right ...'; James Andrews' 'Looks somewhat paltry I'm afraid, but it was raised humanely on basic Acol'; and Brian Gladman's 'Something Unusual for the minors'.



**An interesting reverse — turkeys voting for Christmas**

Our sponsor Fortnum & Mason will be rewarding the winner with some wonderful Handmade English Chocolates. Created entirely by hand by Fortnum's master confectioners, these chocolates are made to a unique recipe, unchanged since the 1920s.

## FORTNUM & MASON

EST 1707





## Answers from page 6



click  
link

Hand 1		
	♠ A K Q J	
	♥ Q 10 9 4	
	♦ 4 3	
	♣ J 9 3	
♠ 8 5 4 2		♠ 10 3
♥ 7 6 2		♥ A 8 5 3
♦ Q 10 8 5		♦ K J 9 6
♣ K 6		♣ 7 5 2
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>E</div> <div>W</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
	♠ 9 7 6	
	♥ K J	
	♦ A 7 2	
	♣ A Q 10 8 4	

### 3NT. West leads the ♦5 and East plays the ♦K.

3NT is a normal contract, so any swings are likely to arise from variations in the play. You have six top tricks, and you hope to win three extra tricks in hearts or clubs. How should you decide which suit to try first, and does it matter when you win the ♦A? If you play on hearts, you can guarantee three winners once you have forced out the ♥A. If you play on clubs, you should start from the dummy, planning to finesse East for the ♣K. If it turns out that West has the ♣K, you will still make three extra tricks, but you will have lost a club trick in the process.

Assuming that West has led his fourth highest diamond, the suit should divide 4-4, since you can see the ♦2, ♦3 and ♦4 between your hand and the dummy. You should therefore expect to lose three diamond tricks, and can afford to lose a trick to the ♥A, but you cannot afford to lose a trick to the ♣K in addition to the ♥A. So, rather than taking the 50% chance of a winning finesse, you can guarantee your contract by winning the ♦A (on any round), and leading the ♥K. If East ducks the ♥A, then you can continue with the ♥J, and overtake with dummy's ♥Q. As long as you create three heart winners, you will be able to win nine tricks as soon as you regain the lead.



# Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Hand 2		
		♠ A 8 6 2
		♥ Q 8
		♦ K 8
		♣ Q 9 8 6 3
♠ Q 5		♠ K 10 9 7
♥ 6 2		♥ J 7 4
♦ Q 10 6 4 3		♦ J 7
♣ J 10 7 2		♣ A K 5 4
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     N W   E S                 </div>	
		♠ J 4 3
		♥ A K 10 9 5 3
		♦ A 9 5 2
		♣ –

## 4♥. West leads the ♣J.

4♥ rates to be the contract at the other table too, so making your game could be crucial to avoid losing a swing.

You have six top tricks, and could potentially win three extra tricks in hearts, as well as making extra tricks by trumping diamonds in the dummy.

If you play low from the dummy, then you can win the first trick by trumping with the ♥3. Trumping diamonds will need to be your first task, so you can lead the ♦2 to the ♦K, then play the ♦8, winning with the ♦A. You continue with the ♦5, and when West follows, you have to decide whether to trump with dummy's ♥Q or ♥8.

If you trump with the ♥8, then East might be able to trump with the ♥J and return a trump. You would then be left with a diamond and two spade losers in addition to the ♥J. However, you can ensure that both of your diamonds can be trumped if you trump with the ♥Q. East will discard, and you can return to hand by trumping a club. You now trump the ♦9 with dummy's ♥8. If East was unable to overtrump then you would potentially make an overtrick, but here East can win with dummy's ♥J.

However, you can now win six hearts in your hand, dummy's ♥Q, the ♦AK, and the ♠A to bring your trick total to 10.

# Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Hand 3

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

## 6NT. West leads the ♦J and East follows with the ♦3.

Your partner has taken a punt at a slam that might not be duplicated, and you have escaped a major suit lead, so making your contract could be very profitable.

You have eight top tricks, and could make three or four extra tricks from clubs as well as one or two extra tricks from diamonds. Which suit should you try first and does it matter how you tackle each suit?

The lack of an entry to dummy (outside of clubs) could be problematic if clubs split 4-0, but the number of tricks you need from clubs will depend on the number of winners you have in diamonds. If diamonds split 3-2, then you will only need five winners from clubs, but if diamonds are not 3-2, then you will need to win all seven rounds of clubs.

You should therefore win the first trick with the ♦Q, then cash the ♦K. If diamonds split 4-1, then you will have to cash dummy's clubs from the top, and just assume that they do not split 4-0, since you will need to win seven club tricks.

However, when both opponents follow to the second diamond, you can now guard against a 4-0 club split. Can you see how?

You lead the ♣3, and irrespective of West's play, you play the ♣2 from the dummy.

If clubs were not 4-0, then you would have given up the chance of making an overtrick, but in this case, West wins the trick as East discards.

Having lost the first round of clubs, you can now win any return, then lead the ♣6 to dummy's ♣Q. Dummy's remaining clubs can be cashed from the top, and you have enough tricks to make your slam.

# Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



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

## 4♣. West opens 1♣, and North and East both pass. West leads the ♦J.

You have reached game with minimal partnership values, so making your contract could lead to a healthy swing for your team.

You only have four top tricks, but can make five extra tricks from spades, and an extra trick or two from hearts if you can avoid losing to both the ♠Q and the ♥Q. You also have to lose two diamond tricks and one club trick so cannot afford another loser in the process.

In isolation it does not gain to cover the ♦J with the ♦Q, but it is likely that West will win the first trick, then continue with the ♦K, followed by the ♦10 to East's ♦A, which you trump with the ♠2. How should you play hearts and spades?

In both suits, you could either play the AK, or you could plan to finesse, and you have a finesse

position in both hands, so figuring out which opponent has the missing queens would be very useful. Are there any clues?

West opened the bidding so is likely to have more points, but you are missing a total of 18 points, so East could easily have several of those missing points.

However, it is crucial to notice that East passed after West opened 1♣. Given that he has already shown up with the ♦A, you can assume that he does not also hold the ♠Q or the ♥Q. You therefore lead the ♠3, and when West plays low, play dummy's ♠9 (in case West started with ♠Qxx). When the ♠9 wins the trick, you cash the ♠K.

In this case, both opponents follow, so you now cross to the ♥K, and lead the ♥4 towards the dummy. West's ♥Q appears, and you have your 10th winner. If West played low then you would finesse dummy's ♥J to make your game. □



# Beat Today's Experts

## 1. N/S Game. Dealer West

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

West	East
Hallberg	Hult
1♥	2♣
3♦ <sup>A</sup>	3♠
4NT	5♠
7♣	All Pass

Five of our six deals come from the world championship in Wroclaw, Poland. Here *Team Black* face Bermuda Bowl champions, *Zimmerman*. Simon Hult correctly responds in clubs rather than spades, because he is strong enough to bid twice. A 2♦ rebid by

West would be natural and forcing, so Hallberg's 3♦ is a splinter bid, agreeing clubs. Over East's 3♠ cue-bid, Hallberg bids RKCB, hearing of two aces and the ♣Q. His jump to 7♣ completes an efficient and elegant auction to the top spot. Hearts broke 3-2, so all three spade losers could be discarded.

West	East
Brink	Drijver
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♠
3♦ (Dble)	4♥
All Pass	

An amazing lapse by the Bermuda Bowl champions! A 2♣ response would have been a game-forcing relay, so Drijver responds 1♠. Their convention card does not explain 2♠ and 3♦, which may both have been transfers. It was a well-deserved 14 IMPs to *Black*.

**Awards:** 7♣ (10), 6♣ (8), 6♥ (5), 7♥ (4), games (1).

## 2. N/S Game. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	van Prooijen	Gold	Verhees
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥ <sup>A</sup>	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	All Pass

*Robinson* face *Wolfson*. Zia (playing for *Robinson*) upgraded his hand to 22-23 HCP and David Gold's 3♥ showed spades. What did his subsequent 4NT mean? After Stayman or a transfer response, a 4NT continuation is a non-forcing natural slam try. Zia's hand was bristling with top cards, but he had already shown a powerful hand. He judged well to pass and made +460 after a ♦6 lead.

West	North	East	South
Wolfson	Robinson	Garner	Korbel
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥ <sup>A</sup>	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Wolfson understood 4NT, but his judgement did not match Zia's. With trumps breaking poorly, the spade slam went three down for a loss of 12 IMPs.

**Awards:**

5NT (10), 4♠ (9), 5♠ by W (7), 5♠ by E (5), slams (1).



3. E/W Game. Dealer East

♠ A 10 9 8 3

♥ 9 8

♦ Q 6 3

♣ 10 9 4

♠ 6

♥ K J 2

♦ J 9 7 5 4 2

♣ K 7 3

♠ K Q J 7 4 2

♥ A Q 4

♦ A K

♣ A 5

♠ 5

♥ 10 7 6 5 3

♦ 10 8

♣ Q J 8 6 2

N

W

E

S

West	North	East	South
Moss	Ma	Delmonte	M Shi
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5NT <sup>A</sup>	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

A brief interlude now, from the 2014 world championship. *Pan-China* face *Fleisher*, and 5NT was ‘pick a slam’. West’s 6♣ passed the buck. 6♦ is a poor slam and went one down.

It required the queen of diamonds to fall doubleton. This will happen on two fifths of the 3-2 breaks, a 23% chance.

In another match, East did well by passing 3NT. West’s 3NT suggested fewer than two spades. Even if the diamonds were running, a club (or a heart) lead might establish a second defensive trick. This was the second auction in our chosen match:

West	North	East	South
X Zhang	Rosenberg	H Liu	Willenken
2♦	3♣	1♣ <sup>A</sup>	2♣
3NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
		6NT	All Pass

East’s 1♣ showed only 16+ points, so he could hardly pass 3NT. When West bid only 5♦, declining to cuebid, he might have passed then. 6NT was the best of the poor slams, since you may make when either diamonds or spades provide five tricks. It went three down. (Today’s homework: looking only at the E/W hands, how should you play 6NT on a heart lead? Answer at end of Deal 6.)

**Awards:**  
3NT (10), 5♦/4NT/4♠ (8), 5♠ (7), 6NT (6), 6♠ (5), 6♦ (3).

4. E/W Game. Dealer East

♠ 6 5

♥ Q 8 5

♦ A 8 7 6 4

♣ K 8 2

♠ A Q J 7 4

♥ A K 7 6 2

♦ K

♣ 10 4

♠ K 9 3

♥ J 9 3

♦ Q J 10 9

♣ A J 6

♠ 10 8 2

♥ 10 4

♦ 5 3 2

♣ Q 9 7 5 3

N

W

E

S

West	North	East	South
Jokisch	Winkler	Kasimir	Dumbovich
2♥ <sup>A</sup>	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass	5♥	Pass

It’s not a good slam, as you see. South led a club to the king and ace. Kasimir then cashed the ♥AK, hoping to find a doubleton ♥Q. No such luck and he went two down.

In the old days, textbooks would advise against opening the East hand, with its nine losers. West’s 3♥, a new suit after a transfer bid, was forcing to game. Kasimir’s 4♣ (fast arrival) therefore showed a minimum hand. Still, it is hard to fault West for moving towards a slam.

West	North	East	South
Bach	Saurer	Pellegrini	D. Fischer
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦ <sup>A</sup>	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

West’s 2♦ showed any game-forcing hand. East quite rightly declined to cue-bid over 3♠ (with his truly awful minimum) and they stopped safely, gaining 13 IMPs.

**Awards:** 5NT/4♠ (10), 5♠ (8), 4♥ (7), 6NT/6♠/6♥ (4).

## 5. N/S Game. Dealer East

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

West	East
Welland	Auken
3♥ <sup>A</sup>	2NT
5♥ <sup>A</sup>	3♣
5NT <sup>A</sup>	5♣
6♥	6♦
All Pass	7♣

Apres Bridge Champs faced *The Mavericks*. Roy Welland (playing for the former) bid 5♥ as Exclusion RKCB, asking for keycards outside the heart suit. 5NT then asked for side-suit kings (again outside the heart suit).

Finally, 6♥ was a grand slam try, which Sabine Auken accepted in the blink of an eye. Wonderful bidding!

West	East
Wildavsky	Zur-Campanile
2♦	2♣
3♥ <sup>A</sup>	2NT
6♣	3♣
	All Pass

West was missing the ♠AK and had a bundle of minor-suit losers. I have every sympathy for his view that it was ‘just too difficult’ to investigate a grand slam. Indeed, with some 10 HCP missing, even 6♣ might go down. 11 IMPs were lost.

The spade grand slam was reached at only 18 tables out of 78; the majority played in a small slam, with 11 pairs stopping in game.

**Awards:** 7♠ (10), 6♠ (7), games (3).

## 6. N/S Game. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Wolfson	Meckstroth	Garner
Padon	Robinson	Birman	Korbel
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	4♣	All Pass

This is a very poor non-vulnerable game. The cards lay badly and it was flat in 4♠-3. Why was game reached? Many players eagerly upgrade their hands time and again, buoyed by their masterful card play. They hardly ever downgrade! Where’s the logic in that? The West hand has eight losers and 4-3-3-3 shape; it should be treated as a 12-14 1NT. Opposite a 15-17 1NT, East is bound to head for game.

Seven of the eight quarter-final tables bid 4♣, one tried 3NT (two down). Did you value the E/W hands more accurately?

**Awards:** 1NT (10), 2♠ (9), 3♣/2NT (7), games (4).

**Answer to Deal 3 play conundrum:** Play spades first. If the ace is taken early, test for a 3-3 break. If the ace is held up twice, test the diamonds. If the ♦Q does not fall, revert to spades, making when they are 3-3 and the ♠A and ♦Q are in different hands.

Our world stars score 41/60. Even if you are still fuming over my Problem 6, perhaps you beat (or came close to) the experts’ score.

### TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ❖ Suppose you have slam values, with a 6-card suit each and no fit. 6NT may give you the best chance. You might need only one of the long suits to come in.
- ❖ With 4-3-3-3 shape, or a bundle of queens and jacks, consider downgrading your hand by one HCP. Frequent upgrading, by those who never downgrade, costs a bundle of IMPs and matchpoints. □



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## Answers to December's Problems

**P**roblem 1 this month comes from friend and partner Gary Hyett, the second is my own and the third is from the world championships held earlier this year in Salsomaggiore and was reported by Tom Townsend.

### Hand 1

♠ 9  
♥ 6 3  
♦ J 10 8 7 6 3  
♣ J 8 7 6

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♣	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>	5♣	Dble <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Could be just two clubs. <sup>2</sup> Good hand (obviously) but essentially for take-out, so ...

<sup>3</sup> We took it out. 4NT shows two suits

(a) ♠9: **1 mark.** Is this really going to be of any use? It sounds like the opposition have trumps coming out of their ears.

(b) ♥6: **5 marks.** Superficially, this seems very attractive and was attractive to me when I was given the problem. Partner must have some hearts so why not get at those tricks and maybe even get a ruff. But think about the auction – North either has many, many spades (at least six) or is two-suited. If the latter, looking at your hand, the only possible second suit is hearts. At the table North was 5-5 in the majors and a heart was not good enough to beat it. If you are going to lead a heart you should of course lead the ♥6 – no reason to mislead partner as to your length.

(c) ♦J: **8 marks.** It may just be necessary (and was at the table) to lead or switch to diamonds to beat the contract (dummy was 5-5-2-1 with ♦Qx and partner had ♦Kxx). A bit unlikely but there it was. As ever, no reason to mislead partner with any card other than the jack.

(d) ♣J: **10 marks, ♣6: 8 marks.** There are worse things than leading partner's suit! But North is likely to be very short so this could be wrong. A theme we developed in the last article is that there are occasions where you want to lead an unsupported high card in case you need to retain the lead and will know what to switch to. The jack is unusually low to do this with, but it is necessary here. Dummy hits with a singleton and partner lets your jack hold! With ♦Qx on the dummy, the switch is obvious.

**Pairs Bonus: ♣J: 5 marks.** The same lead for the same reasons.

### Computer simulations:

♣J: **68.8% chance of defeating the contract (teams) and an average of 3.02 tricks (pairs).** Other clubs score 68.3% and 3.0 tricks.

### Hand 2

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

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	6♥	Dble
All Pass			

<sup>1</sup> RKCB. <sup>2</sup> 2 keycards + trump queen

This is also a theme we have seen before.

(a) ♠A: **6 marks.** Partner thinks he can beat this so why not take a trick as well? The question you need to ask is why has partner doubled this? Unless the opponents have gone nuts partner has no keycards so why do they think they can beat this? The answer is of course that it is Lightner and that tells you all you need to know and why this is the wrong lead. Underleading this ace by the way is just bizarre.



(b) ♥8: 1 mark. Why? It is almost never right to lead trumps against small slams.

(c) a diamond: 3 marks. If partner had not doubled, I suppose I might have led this, but by now it is clear that the right lead is ...

(d) ♣10: 10 marks, any other club: 7 marks. You *know* partner is ruffing this – that is what their double told you. So your lead is also suit-preference. Thus you should lead the ♣10 to make sure partner switches to spades after ruffing and you can give partner a second ruff for a very satisfying two off. 🤔

**Pairs Bonus:** ♣10: 5 marks. The same lead for the same reasons.

### Computer simulations:

All club leads produce a 96.3% chance of beating the contract, and 2.84 tricks, but without double dummy, the ♣10 shows partner the necessary switch for mere humans.

#### Hand 3

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

South	West	North	East
Pass	4♣	4NT <sup>1</sup>	3♠
5♣	Dble	All Pass	Pass

<sup>1</sup> See comment from last article – better to play this as any two suits.

(a) a spade: 5 marks. How can this be wrong? Errr...

Well it was terribly wrong at the table. Pre-empt these days show little more than 13 cards. Dummy was void in spades and declarer had the AQ. Two diamonds went away from the table and that was 5♣ made. Oops!

(b) ♥2: 2 marks. You did notice I said this could be any two suits didn't you? This could be dummy's other suit and it was. You are very lucky that you still get a trick in the suit and beat the contract.

(c) ♦A: 4 marks. You did notice I said this could be any two suits didn't you? I don't like this lead much either. At least if it holds the trick you should know what to do. But what if dummy has

diamonds and declarer ruffs it ... You can probably kiss goodbye to beating the contract now.

(d) ♠A: 10 marks. Surely this is the right lead? You get to see dummy, and can judge what to switch to. Dummy hits with a 0-6-2-5 shape so you know a spade is useless now and know that sooner or later you will have to play a diamond. Doing it now generates two diamond tricks as partner has the king.

**Pairs Bonus:** ♠A: 5 marks. The same lead for all the same reasons.

### Computer simulations:

♦A: 75.8% chance of defeating the contract (teams) with a heart scoring second with a 72% chance. The club suit has the lowest chance, 68%. All the other suits also score more average tricks – ♦A: 3.37 tricks, ♥2: 3.27 tricks, ♠4: 3.26 tricks and the ♣A: 3.11 tricks.

You will see above that for the first time Nathan's computer analysis gets a very different answer from my views. I thought the club ace was a clear lead, but the computer puts it last, a long way behind either red suit (like Nathan – a heart was my last choice as reflected in the marking). The only thing we are agreed on is that a spade is a poor lead. All I can say is that I am astonished. □

**Full details of the computer simulations can be found online, p69**

**If you have a lead problem please email the editor, [lou@ebu.co.uk](mailto:lou@ebu.co.uk). Alan will be delighted to use it if suitable.**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO SEPTEMBER'S WINNERS:

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## Gold and silver triumphs

**T**he three English teams in the Channel Trophy – the annual junior competition between England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, played in Lille, France, in mid-December – all brought back medals. The U21 team retained their top place from last year, while the U26 team and the U26 Women's team both took second place. Imogen La Chapelle, a member of the U26W, wrote up this fun defence:

After a full weekend of bridge we went into the final match against Belgium on the Sunday morning with all to play for. We knew that we had to have a decent win against Belgium to have a chance at the gold medal and we also needed the Netherlands to beat France. This was Board 6:

**E/W Game. Dealer East.**

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

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

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

With England sitting N/S, the auction began rather tamely until a double came from East.

West, feeling stuck for a good option, opted to bid 3♣ and hoped for the best. Out to gain every imp, and sitting South, I promptly doubled for penalties, knowing that my partner, Lottie Bedford, could protect the red suits and I had the black suits covered.

Lottie got off to a brilliant start with the lead of the ♠Q. Declarer covered with the king and I won, cashed the ♠J and played back the ♠2 giving partner a ruff. Lottie saw my suit preference for diamonds with the ♠2 and underled her ♦A to my king so I could win and play my ♠9. Declarer attempted to ruff with the ♣J but got overruffed by Lottie's ♣Q. Partner cashed the ♦A, then exited with the ♣K to draw declarer's last trump in hand. With not much left to try, declarer took the losing heart finesse and after the heart continuation, tried to play a heart to hand which I ruffed. I then exited with my 5th spade and dummy was forced to ruff and was endplayed, having to lead their ♣97 into my ♣108.

In total, declarer made just one heart trick and two club tricks, producing a result of +1700 to the English. At the other table, there was less excitement and our teammates defended 2♥+1 for a total of 17 IMPs in. Although our team did very well to beat Belgium by 36 IMPs in this final match, France managed to beat the Netherlands by 13 IMPs so there was no possibility of gold. However, we were happy with our silver medals – one place better than last year. We are all determined to continue the trajectory and achieve the gold next year. Congratulations to all the English teams, especially the U21s for coming first after a nail biting finish. □

**TEAM PHOTOS OVERLEAF**

## CHANNEL TROPHY TEAMS 2022

### FIRST PLACE



**U21 Team:** Henry Rose, Jamie Fegarty, Andy Cope, Ewa Wiczorek (NPC), Liam Fegarty, Oscar Selby, Thomas Gardner

### SECOND PLACE



**U26 Womens Team:** Lily Kearney, Lucy Norman, Imogen La Chapelle, Claire Robinson (NPC), Venetia Anoyrkatis, Charlotte Bedford, Beth Madden

### SECOND PLACE



**U26 Team:** Harry Madden, Michael Byrne (NPC), Kripa Panchagnula, Aaron Hutton, Daniel Winter, Sam Anoyrkatis, Joseph Clark

## FAMILY DAYS



Two bridge teachers in Bedford are working hard to get the generations playing cards together. Pippa Green and Karen Israel came up with a novel idea to run a family bridge day for children and adults learning together. Their first session welcomed children aged from 8-12 who each brought a mum, dad or grandparent and was held in a local adult education centre.

Most of the group had never played bridge before so they started with MiniBridge basic rules of trick taking and counting points using the EBED MiniBridge cribsheet (available on the website). One thing that surprised the teachers was that the youngsters were the ones who were keen to make extra notes. Pen and paper skills are alive and well in the digital age!

Pippa Green said, 'The session went even better than we expected. The children were so enthusiastic and loved having their maths skills tested and using logic to work out where specific cards might be.' Asked if she had any tips she said, 'Card holders were useful as some children with small hands found holding thirteen cards difficult. Some adults used it too.'

Pippa and Karen hope to restart some junior bridge in schools in their area by getting a 'champion' in the school to promote a school bridge club either as a lunchtime or after-school activity.

After a morning of learning and practice, the session after lunch involved a mini competition playing all other classmates. Everyone who attended received a pack of cards, with the junior winner being given a trophy. The adult winner received a twinset of bridge playing cards and more importantly everyone got some chocolate! ❑

# FUN FOR THE YOUNG

## Spring Bridge Camp

15 – 16 April 2023

Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8JG



All levels – beginners to junior experts.  
Come and enjoy a packed weekend of bridge entertainment, tuition, coaching & play for young people from 8-21 years old.

♥  
Parents can come too – £125

♥  
♠ Fun competitions, tournaments & prizes ♠

♥  
Info and application forms: [joan@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:joan@ebedcio.org.uk)

For registration go to  
[www.bridgewebs.com/bridge4schools](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridge4schools)



## Young Bridge Challenge

4 March 2023

A FREE-ENTRY, one-day bridge event for school-age players of all experience levels played at Loughborough Grammar School



♦ **Schools Cup** for teams of four players all from the same school. ♦ **Harry Scully Trophy** for teams of four players from bridge clubs or mixed teams from more than one school. Organisers will help put teams together. ♦ **Short matches.** Want to play fewer hands and play more slowly? We have a new competition for you this year, whether you are from a bridge playing school or not.. ♦ **Great lunch!**

Contact Joan Bennett: [joan@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:joan@ebedcio.org.uk)

EBED are planning a re-run of last year's fun, live, social bridge for youth players. Three events are booked in, which will include plenty of bridge, laughter, competition and other activities.

There are prizes to be won, glory to be gained and an opportunity to learn or improve your bridge and make new friends from across the country.

Book in early to guarantee a place. Visit [www.bridgewebs.com/bridge4schools](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridge4schools) to keep up with the programme. There's lots of info on youth bridge and you don't have to live in the area to take part.

## Summer Bridge Camp



1 – 3 September 2023

King's Park Conference Centre

Northampton

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

**All levels catered for – beginner to junior international**

A fantastic location, in picturesque woodland but with great transport links

Lots of competitions and lots of prizes!

A range of other activities alongside the bridge

**For more information, including how to book, please contact EBED:**

**Joan Bennett: [joan@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:joan@ebedcio.org.uk)**





Your game needs you!



For our wonderful game to survive and thrive we need a dynamic and diverse cohort of bridge teachers. There's probably never been a more critical time as clubs struggle in the wake of Covid and social media swamps more traditional pastimes. We need people to teach bridge to the young and the old, to those in prisons and to those on cruise ships, in schools and universities, both online and in clubs.

But what does it take to be a bridge teacher? How good a player do you need to be? Do you need teaching experience? The perfect teacher is a mythical creature as illusive as a phoenix or a unicorn. They are expert players with an extensive professional teaching career, dynamic personality and the time, patience and inclination to teach beginners. Clearly we need to broaden our criteria.

Defining the minimum level of bridge knowledge, experience and skill is complex. It can be underplayed by those seeking to be inclusive and overplayed by those whose priority is to breed champions. We all know excellent players who would be hopeless teachers. I would suggest that if you are increasingly able to answer the question 'why' as well as 'what' you are in a strong position. Why lead from an internal sequence? Why 37 for a grand slam? Why ruff in the short hand? It matters not a jot that you haven't knowingly mastered a squeeze or can't remember puppet Stayman responses but it does matter if you can only repeat and not explain. It is also worth considering that, loosely speaking, bridge classes spend a third of time on bidding, a third on card play and a third on defence. The last is much harder than the first – it's a more abstract topic with fewer simple lists of numbers and rules and there is a tendency for teachers to neglect it in favour of another new bidding gadget. Being able to get students excited about defending is essential.

Teaching experience is invaluable but not essential as long as you recognise that you need to take steps to learn some simple classroom strategies. EBED run an excellent teacher training course (I would say that – I've been one of the teachers...) and affiliated clubs qualify for a free place, paid for by the EBU, every two years. It is most useful to sit in on others' lessons watching *how* others teach – rather than *what* – the topic doesn't even have to be bridge. When you get going, invite others to observe your lessons and give guidance. Get feedback from your students. Above everything beware the unhelpful assumption that teaching is somehow not a skill in itself – it just happens magically by you standing up and talking. It isn't and it doesn't.

Not everyone feels they have the personality to stand up in front of others but it's a fallacy that teachers are a certain type. True – many of us are extroverts who love the adrenaline but we are no better teachers than the quieter souls who exude a calm authority.

But – oh my goodness – if you're thinking of taking this on you will need some energy. Teaching is properly tiring – the time spent in lesson preparation, the highs and lows of the classroom, the notes to be written and questions to be answered. If teaching is not for you then could you take on a support role such as setting up tables, making the coffee, or dealing the boards? It's good for students to meet as many club members as possible and not learn in isolation – it aids their transition to the club room.

Teachers use the phrase CPD – Continuing Professional Development – for their training. That mindset is key – becoming a good bridge player is a lifelong journey and so is being a good teacher. If you are prepared to admit how much you still have to learn then you are well on your way. □

If you have any tips or guidance about teaching contact [marysharp@btinternet.com](mailto:marysharp@btinternet.com)

A year on from beginning to learn bridge and students are looking for more direction on card play. Instead of just playing any card, it's time to embed some good practice, which they may have skipped first time around. When they are beginning to question whether they made the best lead or should have held up their ace, then **Continuing Bridge Book 2** can help. Take this example on defence. How should East defend if:

## N/S Game. Dealer East.

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



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

W	N	E	S
			1NT
All Pass			

### BRIDGE FOR ALL TEXTBOOKS

The **Bridge for All** textbooks have exercises and practice hands, and you can see preview pages on our website. Books can be purchased directly from EBED with discounts available for all members of English Bridge Teachers Association.

**Contact Lisa Miller:**

**Tel: 01296 317217**

**Email: [lisa@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:lisa@ebedcio.org.uk)**

1. West leads the ♠3 and dummy plays the ♠6?
2. West leads the ♠3 and dummy plays the ♠Q?
3. West leads the ♥Q and dummy plays the ♥4?
4. West leads the ♦3 and dummy plays the ♦6?

As any teacher will know, a few seemingly simple questions can invoke a lot of discussion, explore students' understanding and enable learning. Should you keep your honour to hold over dummy's. What if you have two touching honours? Why do you play high when partner led low? How can you interpret your partner's likely holding and how do you know when to unblock a suit?

**Continuing Bridge Book 2** introduces new techniques and some further bidding to build up your students' bridge confidence.

### ANSWERS:

1. If West leads the ♥3 and dummy plays the ♠6. East plays the ♥10, keeping the ♥K for dummy's ♥Q.
2. If West leads the ♥3 and dummy plays the ♥Q. East covers with the ♥K.
3. If West leads the ♥Q and dummy plays the ♥4. East must play the ♥K to unblock the suit.
4. If West leads the ♦3 and dummy plays the ♦6. East should play the ♦J – the lower of touching honours.

# EASTER CONGRESS LONDON

7th - 10th April 2023

London



## EBU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The current elected Board of Directors is as follows: Ian Payn (Chairman), Kay Preddy (Treasurer), Adrian Darnell (Vice-Chair), Rob Lawy, Patrick Shields, Tony Russ, Abbey Smith and Gayle Webb. Cathryn Fox stepped down in November.

In addition to those elected the Board of Directors may also appoint three directors for one year terms. Appointments for 2023 were due to be considered at the Board meeting in January.

## EBU SPRING BANK HOLIDAY CONGRESS

27-29 May – Crowne Plaza, Reading

Organised by Oliver Cowan for the EBU

*Fantastic congresses – friendly, great value, well organised (not just in terms of bridge but the social aspect). A template of how F2F bridge should be.*  
Croz Crozwell

*Oliver is at the forefront of F2F bridge in the UK. These events embody all the aspects we were missing during lockdown, great social and a decent game of bridge.*  
James Thrower

[www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/  
spring-bank-holiday-congress](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/spring-bank-holiday-congress)



## 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.

## 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, are online, 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.



# All about Master Points ...



## ... and why they are better than ever ...

By Tim Anderson

Everyone likes to be rewarded, and the EBU's Master Point scheme means that members who score well in almost any EBU session, whether at a local club or a top congress, receive Master Points. These accumulate to enable players to ascend the ranks from Local Master to (for a very few top players) Premier Grand Master.

When the National Grading Scheme (NGS) was introduced a little over 10 years ago, some may have been concerned that Master Points would become unimportant, but that is not the case. 'They are doing two entirely different things,' said Gordon Rainsford, EBU chief executive. 'One of the great things about Master Points is that you can only move forward, and it encourages people as there's always something to achieve.'

Master Points were introduced in September 1956. A sub-committee of the EBU Board recommended their introduction saying that they would achieve 'two desirable objects,' these being to encourage 'greater participation in officially sponsored events' and 'much needed revenue for the development of the game.'

Since the introduction of the EBU's universal membership scheme in April 2010, Master Points are no longer directly to do with revenue but remain of great value for recognising and celebrating a player's bridge achievements at every level of the game.

The scheme has evolved since its first introduction, with four different types of points and many different ranks. Local points are the basic unit awarded by clubs, while Green Points worth 100 points each are for events of national standing

– they were originally called National Points. In addition, there are Blue Points which are won in certain EBU and county events, also worth 100 points each and counting for one third of a Green Point up to a maximum of 50.

Gold Points are a special case. They are a separate category awarded at the rate of one Gold Point for every five Green Points a player wins in a single event, expressed as a decimal fraction. The critical feature of Gold Points is that every year, Gold Points are reduced according to how long they have been held, disappearing completely after five years. Gold Points measure current performance at a very high level.

Members sometimes wonder why, after winning some points, their record on the EBU website is not instantly updated. The reason is that the EBU allows for a correction period as well as validating that correct session codes are used. Master Points are therefore credited to a member's account once a month, after these checks have taken place.

The EBU is currently increasing its focus on Master Points. 'We're bringing them more centre stage because they've been overshadowed a bit by the NGS,' said Gordon. 'We've introduced monthly emails with certificates to all people who have gone up a grade.' These emails also include information about events a player might be interested in, based on their rank. 'It's trying to encourage people on their progression through the game,' he said.

Another innovation is that the EBU now publishes a wider range of Master Point reports and leaderboards. These are updated every month, rather than annually, and most can be sorted by type of point (other than Gold). This means, for

**POINTS  
MEAN  
PRIZES!**



example, that if someone is only interested in club bridge they can see the ranking just for local points, without including Blue or Green. These reports are published for each county association as well as for the whole country.

There are also new year-to-date reports. These add interest for players who might feel they have already achieved all the ranks that matter to them. Now they can look at their awards just for the current year and compare them with how their friends and other club members are doing.

### COUNTY CHAMPIONS WIN PRIZES

The EBU is backing the year-to-date Master Points leaderboards with new prizes. 'Anyone who is top in their county on any of the four measures – local, Blue, Green, or overall, will be given a free entry to one of the new Online One-Day Green-Pointed events,' Gordon said, 'this year and probably in future years.'

It is also a great idea for clubs to mark Master Point achievements – such as on the club noticeboard, or by an announcement before the game starts, or on the club website.

### EARNING POINTS FAST

What about tips for people who would like to win more Master Points and ascend the ranks quickly? The formula for how many points are awarded is somewhat complex, but in essence reflects the number of tables and the number of boards played. Simultaneous Pairs events are great for winning points: there are a large number of participants.

Gordon also recommends Swiss Green-Pointed events. Such events are divided into several short matches, and are designed so that the players face stronger or weaker opposition in each match according to how well they did in the previous one. 'Swiss events are a good way because you get points for winning a match, so it's nearly always the case that everyone gets something,' he said.

EBU robot games on Funbridge and BBO also offer Master Points and are particularly easy to play in since no partner is needed and you can play in your own time.

The bottom line is that Master Points are here to stay and you will be hearing more about them in the future. 'The more measures you have, the more opportunities you have to do well in one of them, and that's what encourages people to play,' added Gordon. □

## SIMS PRIZE DRAW ~ Cash prizes!

Each club hosting a Sim Pairs event is entered into a prize draw, with the opportunity to win £200. The winners at the draw, which took place in November at the Annual General Meeting, were:

### Prizes from the Sims

Pulborough BC, Sussex  
Leverstock Green BC, Hertfordshire  
Barrow BC, Cumbria  
Duns BC, Scottish Borders  
Bishop Auckland BC, North East  
Clare BC, Suffolk  
Harpenden BC, Hertfordshire  
Goring & Streatley BC, Berks & Bucks.

Make sure your club enters the 2023 Sims to be eligible for the Club Draw

[www.ebu.co.uk/sim-pairs](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sim-pairs)

## SUMMARY OF DISCIPLINARY CASES

The Laws and Ethics Committee has provided a summary of disciplinary cases that have taken place since March 2020. Some 73 cases involving 111 members were started. Forty of them involved accusations of collusive cheating, 17 of self-kibitzing, eight of online rudeness and eight of other misconduct.

Of the 40 collusion cases, 17 reached a disciplinary hearing, 14 sanctions were imposed on 28 members, one was found not guilty, one was overturned following a re-hearing ordered after an appeal and one was dismissed on appeal.

Of the 17 self-kibitzing cases, 11 reached a disciplinary hearing, nine had sanctions imposed, one was found not guilty and one was overturned after appeal.

Arising from these cases there has been one claim made against the EBU in the High Court which the court dismissed, describing part of the argument as 'hopeless'. Costs, which were modest, were awarded against the claimant. A further claim was brought against the EBU in the county court but withdrawn by the member after nearly two years when it was clear there was no chance of success. Costs are also being sought against the claimant. Two further threats of lawsuits by members for defamation were withdrawn.



Photo: Peter Hasenson

## PETER LESTER 1944 – 2022

Peter won the Tollemache in 1968, the Four Stars in 1969, the Spring Foursomes in 1974 & 1975 and the Two Stars in 1976 & 1977 partnering Ian Panto. He played three times for England in the Camrose, winning twice and losing once.

Peter gave up bridge in the late 1970s but returned in the early 2010s and had one last hurrah, winning the Crockfords Cup in 2013 when his team won the split tie. His team members were Paul Hackett, Tom Hanlon, Peter Lester, Hugh McGann & Ian Panto.

## PIZZA NIGHT



Inspired by the EBU's video about getting F2F sessions going again, Whitley Bay & Tynemouth BC organised a very popular Pizza & Play session. Eighteen boards were preceded by pizza, salad and wine!

## NAILSEA'S 50 YEARS



Nailsea BC celebrated 50 years in November. Two of its original 1972 members, Barbara Parker and Marion Blackhall, still play regularly at the club. Marion won the anniversary event played over two sessions on a Saturday, partnering chairman Tom Gibbard.

## VENETIAN MASK



Eileen Chapman, who plays at Leverstock Green BC, spotted this beautiful Venetian mask in a shop window last year.

## KEIGHLEY'S CHARITY DRIVE



Keighley Bridge Club held a fundraising event at the end of November, for Manorlands – a local Sue Ryder hospice. The event, which raised £800, was well attended by both Keighley members and members of other local clubs. There was a bridge drive followed by tea and cakes and a raffle.

## RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

### Camrose 1st weekend

Andrew Black &  
David Gold

Andrew McIntosh &  
Tom Paske

Simon Cope &  
Peter Crouch

PC Simon Cope

### Camrose 2nd weekend

Dame Janet de Botton  
& Artur Malinowski

Thor Erik Hoftaniska  
& Espen Erichsen

David Bakhshi &  
Tom Townsend

NPC Peter Hasenson

### Teltscher Trophy

Stephen Green &  
Roger Bryant

Sally Brock &  
Barry Myers

Dave Robinson &  
Tony Sowter

### Lady Milne

Kath Stynes &  
Debbie Sandford

Anne Rosen &  
Nevena Senior

Sally Anoyrkatis &  
Venetia Anoyrkatis

## SENIORS CONGRESS



The Seniors Congress took place on RealBridge in early December. The Championship Pairs was won by Jeremy Dhondy & Roger Gibbons (pictured), who finished ahead of Andrew Morris & Chris Phillips.

The Swiss Pairs competition – for those eliminated from the Championship Pairs, or joining the congress later – was won by Joanna Lord & Michael Lord, ahead of second-placed Tony Harris & Graeme Pearce..

The Swiss Teams event was won by the team of Miles Cowling, Malcolm Pryor, Trevor Ward & Rob Cliffe finishing just one VP ahead of Colin Wilson, Gerald Soper, Diane Rogers & Frances Connell.

## OVER THE POND



Congratulations to Simon Cope (Middlesex) who along with Kevin Rosenberg, Ishmael Del'Monte and Finn Kolesnik (pictured, from left to right) won the Soloway Knockout teams.

Simon has previously won the Silodor Open Pairs in 2018.

## 4th European Winter Games



The European Bridge League have confirmed that the 4th European Winter Games will take place in Tignes – Le Lac, France, on 21-27 April 2023.

The Championships include Les Etincelles Cup (Transnational Teams) and the GCK Trophy (BAM Teams). All events are transnational. Registration is through the EBL website, [www.eurobridge.org](http://www.eurobridge.org)

## PREMIER LEAGUE & CAMROSE



Janet de Botton's team won the Premier League title for 2022, and will represent England in the second weekend of the Camrose Trophy in March. The team included, from left, David Bakhshi, Espen Erichsen, Thor Erik Hoftaniska & Tom Townsend. Artur Malinowski & Janet de Botton also played but are not pictured.

In second place were the *Black* team comprising Andrew Black, David Gold, Andrew McIntosh, Tom Paske, Simon Cope & Peter Crouch. This team represented England in the first Camrose Trophy weekend in early January, and their success ensured England go into the second weekend in the lead.

## YEAR END CONGRESS



The winner of the Swiss Teams was the *Fegarty* team, comprising, from left, Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis, Richard Fedrick & Andrew Southwell.



The Swiss Pairs was won by were Luc Tijssen & Stefano Tommasini, left.

Jon Cooke & Sarah Bell won the Mixed Pairs

while William Clennell & Dominic Cooke won the Open Pairs.

The Jack High Swiss Pairs was won by Gillian Cavell & Jackie Taylor. Congratulations to all.

# Club Bidding Quiz

by Julian Pottage



## Julian's answers to questions from page 6



**Hand 1**  
 ♠ A Q 6 2  
 ♥ A 8 5  
 ♦ 3 2  
 ♣ Q 10 8 2

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	2♦
?			
<sup>1</sup> Stayman			

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

W	N	E	S
?			1NT

**2♣.** Partner has asked you for a four-card major. As you have one to show and can do so without raising the level, you duly show it. Partner must be prepared for this bid.

**Dble.** The double of 1NT says you have at least 15 HCP and says nothing about your shape. If you bid 3♣, that would not (for most pairs) show a strong hand since 2♣ would be conventional – and you might miss a heart fit doing that anyway.

**Hand 2**  
 ♠ A 7 6 5  
 ♥ J 7  
 ♦ 10 8 4  
 ♣ Q 8 5 2

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

**Pass.** A non-jump, non-reverse, new suit rebid by opener after a one-level response is not forcing. With only seven points, which is pretty much minimum, you can pass. You would bid if you thought playing in partner's first suit was better. Here, however, with four cards in the second suit and two in the first, you should not think that.

**Hand 5**  
 ♠ K Q 5  
 ♥ –  
 ♦ A Q 10 7  
 ♣ A K J 9 7 5

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

**2♦.** Even after a one-level response, a reverse is forcing. There is absolutely no need to jump. You will probably show the three-card spade support on the next round, though if partner shows a liking for one of your suits you will be thinking of a slam.

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

W	N	E	S
		1♠	Pass
?			

**1NT.** With only seven points you are too weak to make a two-over-one response. 1NT does not promise stoppers or a balanced hand. It merely says that you are strong enough to keep the bidding alive, that you cannot support spades and are too weak to show a suit. If you get the chance, you will bid 2♥ on the next round.

**Hand 6**  
 ♠ A J 9  
 ♥ K 6  
 ♦ K J 10 6 5  
 ♣ 9 8 6

W	N	E	S
		1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
?			
<sup>1</sup> 12-14			

**3NT.** The good five-card suit is worth at least one point, which means you easily have the values to bid game rather than merely inviting it. ☐



# Landmark Promotions November – December 2022

## Congratulations to the newly-promoted Grand Masters:

Chris Mooney, Berks & Bucks  
Joseph Patrick, Somerset  
Iain Roberts, Bedfordshire  
Judith Sanis, Gloucestershire

### Avon

#### Master

Ralph Freer

### Bedfordshire

#### Grand Master

Iain Roberts

#### Master

Elizabeth McCaw

Lesley Perkins

### Berks. & Bucks.

#### Grand Master

Chris Mooney

#### Master

Dirk Flower

Heather Green

Barbara Pooley

Mavis Reid

### Cambs & Hunts

#### Master

Susan Smyth

### Cornwall

#### Master

Sue Endsley

### Cumbria

#### Master

Pamela Wilson

### Devon

#### Master

Marie Dawson

Christine Piper

Kim Wells

### Direct Overseas

#### Master

Caroline La Spada

### Direct UK

#### Master

Rumen Trendafilov

### Essex

#### Master

Russell Nicklin

### Gloucestershire

#### Grand Master

Judith Sanis

#### Life Master

Arun Nanda

#### Master

Terry Britton

Sheila Johnson

Michael Lytheer

Carol Simpson

### Hants & I.O.W.

#### Master

Georgina Bovill

David Crosby

Margaret Webb

### Herefordshire

#### Master

Christine Jones

### Hertfordshire

#### Master

Gill Humby

Tom Hume

David Woods

### Kent

#### Regional Master

David Dodd

Odin Svendsen

#### Master

Tina Cuminetti

Jennifer Hunt

Charles Scott

### Lancashire

#### Master

Linda Bamford

Sheila Casson

Sheila Cornwell

Ann Eastwood

Barbara Nicholas

Alf Sloan

### Leicestershire

#### Regional Master

Paul Anderson

### Lincolnshire

#### Master

David Minnis

### London

#### Regional Master

Geoff Ellis

Denise Grimston

Tim Leslie

#### Master

Louise Boyle

Nicolas Leprovost

Rob Lowe

George Meyer

### Manchester

#### Master

Frank Eade

Angela Fontes

Vera Lowson

Richard Zoltie

### Merseyside & Cheshire

#### Master

Ron Coulter

Duncan Cowan

### Middlesex

#### Master

Chris Burridge

Susan Casey

Sue Kabra

### Norfolk

#### Master

Len Bird

Sue Davey

Tony Graham

### North East

#### Master

Steve Black

Sylvia Capron

William Cowan

Martin Mays

### Northamptonshire

#### Master

Graham Camp

Margaret Lack

### Notts

#### Master

Robert Bernard

Ivan Brajkovic

Catherine Goundry

Kevin Oxley

### Oxfordshire

#### Regional Master

Lawrence Wang

Yining Yang

#### Master

Ronald Gould

Mark Greaves

Helen Hannay

Ginnie Johnston

Anne Laming

Diane Mitchell

Muriel Seale

Patricia Veitch

Nick Wedd

### Somerset

#### Grand Master

Joseph Patrick

#### Master

Norman Eve

Liz Hale

Charlie Sutton

Ueli Zellweger

### Staffs & Shrops

#### Master

Jane Ball

### Suffolk

#### Master

Christina Ballinger

Maureen O'Shaughnessy

### Surrey

#### Master

Barbara Benemar

Marilyn Clarke

Bob Cruthers

Mike Elliot

Derek Facer

Paul Hildersley

Margaret Lawson

Mireille Levy

Anthony Mitchell

Tilsley Peck

Anne Pickard

Brian Pickles

Jonathan Prizeman

Jugraj Pugalía

Katy Woodman

### Sussex

#### Regional Master

John Deszberg

#### Master

Anthony Andrews

Ann Button

Patricia Cronin

Debbie Doran

Debbie Dunstall

Sue Finch

Duncan MacFarlane

Keith Morgan

Sam Randall

Paul Wilson

### Warwickshire

#### Master

Melanie Clarkson

Ken Franklin

Susan Hundleby

Terry Leary

Philippa Robinson

Hilary Sargeant

Richard Simmons

### Wiltshire

#### Regional Master

Joseph Clark

Andrew Clarke

#### Master

Chris Oakhill

### Yorkshire

#### Master

Susan Bromley

Christine Child

William Hawkyard

Diane Lasseter

Gerald Newsome

Dagmar Reynolds

Greg Reynolds

Nicky Wheatley

Alex Wood

# Great-Value Bridge Holidays in the UK and Europe

Enjoy varied bridge sessions in the company of like-minded others whilst soaking up time in your chosen holiday destination. From Ireland to Italy, these expertly planned breaks ensure you get the most out of your time away!

## ALL OUR BRIDGE TOURS INCLUDE:

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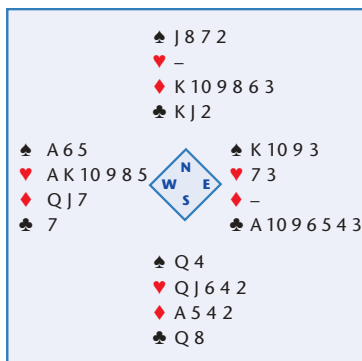


## A bit of a disaster!

**O**ur congratulations to 90-year-old Margaret Jessop in Surrey for being the first member to have played 400,000 boards in Bridge Club Live. This has been achieved in just under 20 years and represents an average of more than 54 boards per day.

I was South on the deal below in the Bridge Club Live main competition room, the daily Drop-in-drop-out, where you can play up to 96 boards each day. I opened 1♥ as dealer, sitting South, with E/W vulnerable. West doubled, which is not ideal when you don't actually want partner to take out. My partner ended up making 4♦.

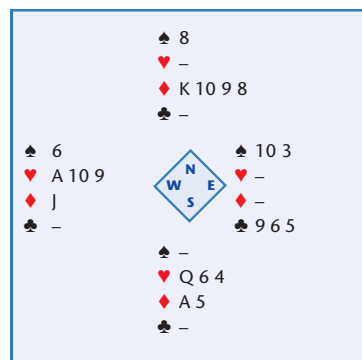
As we were chatting afterwards on the BCL Audio/Video facility about the boards that we had played, I noticed an unusual score at another table and we had a look to see what had happened.



South had opened 1♥ and West sensibly kept quiet. North responded 1♠ and East provided a

weak jump overcall of 3♣. South elected to bid 3♥, perhaps more than a little aggressively(!), and this was doubled by West and passed out.

West led the ♣7, taken by East, who returned his smallest club for West to ruff. West duly led ♦Q and East ruffed. East led ♣4 and South threw ♣4 while West ruffed. Another diamond was ruffed by East with his last trump and East led ♣10, ruffed this time with ♥J and overruffed. West led ♠A and another to North's ♠J and East's ♠K and South ruffed, taking his first trick. We were here:



It was at this point that declarer erred by trying to take out the remaining trumps before enjoying the diamonds, and unfortunately led the ♥Q rather than small. West took out South's trumps and crossed over to East's boss black cards for the last two tricks. The score of -2000 for 3♥X-8 did stand out a bit on the traveller. At least at Match Points, you can't get a worse score than a bottom! □

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# Funbridge Competitions

by Marc Smith

## Trust the Robot

When the opening lead is made, it is too late to worry about what should have been done in the auction. On this deal, declarer in a Funbridge MP game ended in 4♠, when a game, or even a slam, in diamonds would have been easier. The allure of playing in a major is often irresistible at match-points, though, so see if you can spot the winning route to an excellent MP score on this deal.

N/S Game. Dealer North. MPs

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

Diagram showing a diamond cross (W, N, E, S) with a blue diamond in the center.

♠ A K J 8 4 2
♥ -
♦ J 7
♣ A Q 4 3 2

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

South was reluctant to risk his robot partner passing a takeout double of 3♥, but a natural 4♣ bid would have allowed him to raise 4♦ to 5♦. When, instead, South tried to show the two-suited nature of his hand via a 4♥ cuebid, his robot partner decided that 4♠ would be a good place to play at matchpoints. You might think it unlikely that spades is the right game if partner could not bid 4♠ over East's 3♥. It turns out, though, that the robot was right... if declarer was up to the task!

West leads the ♥A and you ruff. Your first decision is how to tackle trumps. The problem with crossing to dummy in diamonds to play a spade to the jack is that, if the finesse loses, West will be able to cut you off from dummy by playing a second round of diamonds. You therefore decide to play trumps from the top. Both defenders follow to the ♠A-K but, when you play a third round, West discards a diamond and East wins with the ♠10. East now plays the ♥K, forcing you to ruff with your penultimate trump. How should you continue?

You cannot afford to play your last trump, as a flurry of hearts is sure to follow. Nor is a club to the jack any good: East may be able to win, draw your last trump with his ♠Q and, again, play a heart for his partner to cash plenty of winners.

At the table, declarer crossed to dummy in diamonds and advanced the ♣J. When East covered with the ♣K, though, declarer's goose was just about cooked. He won with the ♣A and played on diamonds, but East ruffed the third round with his master trump and forced declarer's last trump with another heart. Declarer could cash the ♣Q, but he then had to concede the last two tricks to East's higher club pips.

Did you spot the winning line of play? Declarer was quite right to cross to dummy with a diamond after ruffing the second round of hearts. What he then needed to do, though, was to ruff a third round of hearts with his last trump, removing East's last card in that suit. Declarer can then overtake the ♦J and run diamond winners. East can ruff whenever he likes but, when he does so, he will have only clubs left. With East forced to lead away from the ♣K, declarer is assured of a re-entry to dummy with the ♣J, enabling him to pitch his remaining club losers on dummy's diamonds.

This line of play brings in eleven tricks, losing just two trumps. It seems that the robot was right after all: +650 would, indeed, have been an excellent match-point score. □



# Paul Bowyer's Quiz from page 10

## Hand 1

South plays in 1NT.  
West leads the ♥8.

W	N	E	S
1♣	Dble	1♥	1NT
All Pass			

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



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

## Hand 2

South plays in 3NT.  
West leads the ♠8,

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

♠ Q 10 6  
♥ Q J 6 5  
♦ Q 10 9  
♣ J 10 5



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

Your *Count and Plan* shows three (slow) spades, one heart, one diamond and one club. That totals six tricks. East appears to have ♥AJ109x and West probably the rest of the points. How might you go about setting up your tricks while not allowing East-West to run off a lot of hearts?

Your *Count and Plan* appears to show enough tricks (one spade, at least three hearts, three diamonds and three slow clubs). However, East-West may set up enough spade winners to defeat you. Note that East is a passed hand, so cannot have all of ♠AJ9xx, the ♥K and the ♣A.

## ANSWERS

West has done well to lead his partner's suit rather than the ♦K. To break communications between the East-West hands you must play the ♥K at trick one. East may take the ♥A and switch to a club, but you are in control by putting in the ♠10. East-West can take no more than one heart, one or two clubs, two diamonds and one spade. You will, eventually, establish a second diamond trick or oblige West to lead into your ♣AJ.

Playing low from dummy at trick one (where East would overtake the eight with the nine) and taking the queen allows East-West to make four heart tricks. Alternatively, were you to duck trick one, East would lead a club at trick two and again when in with the ♥A to fatal effect. Here's the full deal:

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

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

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

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

[click to play online](#)

This is a tricky deal. Firstly, you must **block** the spade suit by playing the queen from the table at trick one. This gives East a problem he cannot solve. If he ducks, he gives away a spade trick. If he takes the ♠A he cannot lead a second round of spades without giving you a cheap spade trick with the ♠10.

His best defence is to switch to the ♥9, but you can counter that by taking the ♥A and switching to clubs, driving out the ♣A. Here's the full deal:

♠ Q 10 6  
♥ Q J 6 5  
♦ Q 10 9  
♣ J 10 5

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

♠ A J 9 7 4  
♥ 9 8 7 4  
♦ J 6  
♣ A 7

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

[click to play online](#)

You'd be defeated if you took the heart finesse at trick two; West would take the king and revert to spades, setting up four spades, a heart and a club for the defence. This way, you have the tempo to set up both hearts and clubs without letting East on lead to cash his spades. □

# Michael Byrne's Quiz from page 12

**Y**ou are sitting East. On each of these hands partner opens 1♠ and rebids 2NT (15-19) over your 2♦ response. What do you say now?

West	East
1♠	2♦
2NT	?

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

## ANSWERS

**Hand 1** should rebid 3♦. This isn't so much because a slam is likely to be on (although that is possible), but searching for the best game, checking whether 3NT or 5♦ is right. If partner holds

♠KQJx ♥AQx ♦Kxx ♣Jxx

then 3NT has no play at all and a slam is on a finesse.

**Hand 2** should bid 3♠ checking for a 5-3 spade fit. Ultimately it should be partner's choice, all you can do is give them as much information as possible.

**Hand 3** should raise to 4NT, a quantitative bid inviting a slam in no trumps. With a minimum hand (15-16) partner will pass, with a maximum hand (18-19) they bid a slam. If they are in the middle (17) then they will take a view based on

their fit, honour structure and presence (or not) of a five-card suit.

**Hand 4** should bid 3♣ and explore the possibility of a minor suit contract. Since 2NT is game forcing we can have a nice leisurely auction, whether it will end in a minor suit or the more usual 3NT.

**Hand 5** should raise to 3NT. A good rule of thumb is not to investigate five of a minor if you hold no singleton facing a balanced hand. If you can't make 3NT you're not very likely to have a better contract elsewhere. You might ask what if partner has ♠AKxxx ♥Jx ♦AJx ♣Kxx, but the answer is you'll get a minus score no matter what contract you play in. □

# COMPUTER SIMULATION OF MAY LEADS QUIZ RESULTS

By Nathan Piper

## Hand 1

♠ 9  
♥ 6 3  
♦ J 10 8 7 6 3  
♣ J 8 7 6

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♣	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>	5♣	Dble <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Could be just two clubs. <sup>2</sup> Good hand (obviously) but essentially for take-out, so ...

<sup>3</sup> We took it out. 4NT shows two suits

## ASSUMPTIONS

**South** has 5+ spades, at most 4 hearts, 8+ HCP.

**North** has 6+ spades, or at least 5-5.

**East** has 17+ HCP, 4+ clubs, at most 2 spades, at most four in either red suit.

### Best lead in each suit:

♣J 68.8%, 3.02 tricks \*

♣6 68.3%, 3.00 tricks

♦J 67.4%, 2.96 tricks

♥6 66.1%, 2.96 tricks

♠9 63.2%, 2.80 tricks

### Other leads:

♣8 68.3%, 3.00 tricks

♣7 68.3%, 3.00 tricks

♦10 67.4%, 2.96 tricks

♦3 67.0%, 2.95 tricks

♦8 67.0%, 2.95 tricks

♦7 67.0%, 2.95 tricks

♦6 67.0%, 2.95 tricks

♥3 66.1%, 2.96 tricks

### Comments:

Leading partner's suit isn't such a tough defence to find, but why is the jack better than the six? There were surprisingly many hands in the simulation output where partner had AKQ and could allow the

jack to hold so we could make a killing switch through dummy. Can the jack ever cost over the six? This is surprisingly common too, just not as common. The most likely failure case is that it ships a club trick (eg dummy has Ax and declarer KTx). Retaining the J occasionally prevents partner from being squeezed or from being endplayed on a club exit.

## Hand 2

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

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	6♥	Dble

All Pass

<sup>1</sup> RKCB. <sup>2</sup> 2 keycards + trump queen

## ASSUMPTIONS

**South** has 6+ hearts to at least two of the top three, exactly two keycards plus the ♥Q, no 4-card side-suit and 15+ HCP.

**North** has 14+ HCP, at least 4 clubs, at least 2 diamonds, at least 2 hearts, at most 4 diamonds (or would respond 2♦), is not 4-4 in the black suits (would respond 1♠) and at least second round control of both spades and diamonds (or would cue bid).

**East** has a void club, at least one heart, fewer than 8 spades or 7 spades to at least three of the top five, and does not have 5-5 in spades and diamonds with at least three of the top five in each.

### Best lead in each suit:

♣7 96.3%, 2.84 tricks \*

♠A 96.2%, 1.93 tricks

♦5 7.0%, 0.32 tricks

♥8 3.9%, 0.26 tricks

## Other leads:

- ♣2 96.3%, 2.84 tricks \*
- ♣5 96.3%, 2.84 tricks \*
- ♣4 96.3%, 2.84 tricks \*
- ♣10 96.3%, 2.84 tricks
- ♦3 7.0%, 0.32 tricks
- ♦2 7.0%, 0.32 tricks
- ♦9 7.0%, 0.32 tricks
- ♠5 2.6%, 0.18 tricks
- ♠3 2.6%, 0.18 tricks

## Comments:

In real life we might have some small doubt about why partner doubled, so we might lead the ♠A to check dummy and assess our options. This also wins if our human partner has a senior moment and for some reason doesn't send a spade back at trick two (he'll later attempt to win the post-mortem by claiming that we can't have this card or we'd have cashed it first to prevent any error). In computer-land there is no doubt why partner doubled – because we've told it that partner has a void club! This makes the club a clear winner in case the ♠A doesn't stand up. If leading a club, a human would surely lead the 10 to try to ensure a spade return, but the computer doesn't have to worry about giving suit preference. It prefers any of the small pips, which are the merest smidgen better because one of the deals was this:

**South plays 6♥ Doubled.**

<p>♠ A 5 3</p> <p>♥ 8</p> <p>♦ 9 5 3 2</p> <p>♣ 10 7 5 4 2</p>	<p>♠ –</p> <p>♥ K J 6</p> <p>♦ A Q 7 4</p> <p>♣ K J 9 8 6 3</p> <div style="margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="display: inline-block; transform: rotate(45deg); border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</div> <div style="display: inline-block; transform: rotate(-45deg); border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</div> </div> <p>♠ Q J 10</p> <p>♥ A Q 10 9 3 2</p> <p>♦ J 6</p> <p>♣ A Q</p>	<p>♠ K 9 8 7 6 4 2</p> <p>♥ 7 5 4</p> <p>♦ K 10 8</p> <p>♣ –</p>
--	---	--

After a low club is ruffed, a spade return shortens dummy's trumps leaving declarer without the entries to set up the clubs. A losing diamond finesse awaits.

Ah you say - but North can't have a spade void because he used Blackwood. Maybe. Depends who the opponents are. Adding that constraint gave the following results:

## Best lead in each suit:

- ♣2 94.5%, 2.78 tricks \*
- ♠A 94.0%, 1.89 tricks
- ♦5 7.8%, 0.39 tricks
- ♥8 3.4%, 0.32 tricks

## Other leads:

- ♣5 94.5%, 2.78 tricks \*
- ♣7 94.5%, 2.78 tricks \*
- ♣4 94.5%, 2.78 tricks \*
- ♣10 94.4%, 2.78 tricks
- ♦3 7.8%, 0.39 tricks
- ♦2 7.8%, 0.39 tricks
- ♦9 7.7%, 0.38 tricks
- ♠5 2.1%, 0.23 tricks
- ♠3 2.1%, 0.23 tricks

## Comments:

The chances are better now all round but the rank and difference between leads is preserved.

### Hand 3

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

South	West	North	East
Pass	4♠	4NT <sup>1</sup>	3♠
5♣	Dble	All Pass	Pass

<sup>1</sup> See comment from last article – better to play this as any two suits.

## ASSUMPTIONS

**South** has at most 15 HCP. The clubs are not shorter than both diamonds and hearts. Not 12+ points with short spades (or would have doubled).

**North** has at least 10 HCP, at least 5-5 in clubs and a red suit, to at least three of the top five in each.

**East** has at most 9 HCP, seven spades (or six with a



singleton) to at least two of the three top five and fewer than five hearts.

**Best lead in each suit:**

♦A 75.8%, 3.37 tricks \*

♥2 72.0%, 3.27 tricks

♠4 68.2%, 3.26 tricks

♣A 68.0%, 3.11 tricks

**Other leads:**

♥3 72.0%, 3.27 tricks

♥K 69.1%, 3.19 tricks

♠5 68.2%, 3.26 tricks

♠K 68.2%, 3.25 tricks

♣2 61.2%, 2.93 tricks

♦J 52.8%, 2.72 tricks

♦10 52.8%, 2.72 tricks

♦7 52.7%, 2.71 tricks

♦5 52.7%, 2.71 tricks

**Comments:**

I was initially amazed that a heart is second – that would have been my 4th choice of suit. It does make sense though. Partner very often has a singleton (when the opponents have a double-fit) in which case we can deliver a ruff. On the times when partner doesn't have a singleton heart the lead probably hasn't cost anything, either in the heart suit (the ace is usually in dummy) or in terms of tempo (we will get in with the ♣A to cash winners and have no slow tricks to establish). We will shortly have to guess whether to try to cash a spade, try to deliver a heart ruff to deliver a diamond ruff – but all these are still in the game after the ♥2 lead. □

CROSSWORD NO 38												
Compiled by MERMAN						Answers from p41						
1	L	U	D	O	S	U	F	F	E	R		
	A	7	C	A	T	A	P	U	L	8	T	A
9	P	E	N	T	F	10	T	R	A	I	N	
11	T	I	C	K	E	T	I	G	N	K		
	O	L	E	12	M	13	S	P	E	A	K	15
16	P	I	R	A	T	E	S	17	S	E	T	
18	A	D	19	N	N	20	P	A	L	T	R	Y
21	W	H	I	T	E	R	22	H	E	E	L	
	E	23	S	C	R	O	L	L	E	D	U	
24	D	R	E	A	M	Y	25	I	R	I	S	



**BOBBY DINSDALE, NORFOLK  
DIED 2022**

The wonderful Bobby Dinsdale has died. So many of us owe decades of fun, frustration, friendship and intellectual challenge to the indefatigable teaching team of Bobby and her husband Dave.

I'd always fancied learning bridge. One day I was ushered into The Presence where Bobby was already holding forth, as only she could do, on the hierarchy of suits and my life changed forever. Bridge was fascinating and we were expected to give it our all. Woe betide the hapless student who claimed that the metaphorical dog had eaten her homework.

We took classes with Bobby and Dave for years – and later also formal play sessions where we could seek advice about the right bid. It was all preparing us for the great day when we would be pronounced fit to set foot in Nirvana. A proper bridge club!

Dave and Bobby retired some years ago, to all of our huge regret, but their legacy lives on in the hundreds – maybe more – of bridge players in Norfolk and beyond who owe this wonderful hobby and the friends they made to the Dinsdales.

Farewell Bobby and thank you. Every time I consider whether to lead a suit my partner didn't bid I can still hear her voice echoing down the decades declaiming: 'What part of *always* do you not understand?'

*Jane Scarfe*



