

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.



Editor: Brad Coles (editor@abf.com.au)

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BRIDGE IN THE NEWS – THE STORY OF BARRY CRANE

Barry Crane was a Hollywood producer whose 1985 murder has remained unsolved for over 30 years. This month, a fingerprint match identified a new suspect, Edwin Hiatt, and DNA from his discarded cigarette butts then led to an arrest. Hiatt is being held without bail pending a 7 June court appearance.

For readers who are not familiar with Barry Crane, here is a tribute written by American expert Grant Baze in 1996, on blakjak.org.

Barry Crane was the best matchpoint player of all time. He was also the most flamboyant character I have known in the bridge world. On the minus side, he was a terrible partner; volatile, mean, narcissistic, vindictive, petty... all of these characteristics (except narcissistic) he used when he described himself.

On the plus side, he was good for bridge. He created a lot of action at and away from the bridge table. He was a celebrity in and out of the bridge world (he was a Hollywood producer, best known for the television shows Mission Impossible and Mannix). He had a strong mystique, a strong life force, and he was interesting, the subject of continuous gossip and "war stories" (and he loved it that way). It seems almost inevitable, in a tragic sense, that his brutal murder in 1985 is still an unsolved mystery.

Barry loved a McKenney race (*USA's equivalent of the McCutcheon trophy*). He loved to be a part of it; if he was not going for it himself, he loved to be kingmaker, and usually he was kingmaker. There were three reasons Barry could do this. One, he was a great player. Most years he worked very hard during the week; he finished his productions on or under schedule because he drove his people hard to make sure he was free to play bridge on the weekends. He then would play with whom he had decided should win the McKenney that year.

Two, he had a lot of important connections within the bridge world, and by connections I mean with other good and great players, with many important sponsors, and within the ACBL organization itself.

Third, and probably most importantly, he was quite wealthy. He came from a wealthy family, and he made a lot of money in his own right in Hollywood. Therefore he chose not to play professionally unless a professional team was the best one available; his partners and teammates were invariably good or great players. Because professionals need to pay our bills, we could not really compete over the course of a year under those circumstances. This did not sit well with many of the great players, as you can imagine.

Barry wanted the race to be acrimonious, and did what he could to make sure it would be acrimonious. This made the year more exciting and therefore more fun for Barry, and frankly it made it more fun and exciting for the rest of us, whether we were directly involved or not. It also meant Barry created a lot of ill will amongst his McKenney opponents and their supporters, but he seemed to thrive on that. That worked to my advantage in 1984, the year I was directly involved against Barry, because I received support from many of the other great players in the country, who were basically fed up with him.

For three days I have been trying to think of a Barry story that would put him into a good light. I have not been able to think of a single one. So I will choose some stories that I know firsthand.

Barry was a partner killer. At the Hawaii Nationals in the Spring of 1985 Barry played with Mike Passell in the Open Pairs. They had a fabulous last session and won the event easily, the umpteenth time that Barry won that event (he was particularly good against non-expert competition). Mike is a friend of mine; after the event I congratulated him on the win. Mike said, "Ah, I play with Barry once a year just to remind myself of how much I hate playing with him."

Jeff Meckstroth went one better. He played with Barry in a two session regional event just because he thought he should play at least once with "Mr McKenney." At the end of the event Jeff tore their convention card into ribbons and threw the pieces at Barry, making it very clear that he would never play with Barry again.

At the Sacramento regional in 1983 I was playing with Barry. Barry had several superstitious rules that he followed always, and his partners better follow them or all hell would break loose. One of these was that if you had a two way guess for a queen, you did not have to think about it – the queen was over the jack in the minors, and under the jack in the majors. So if you held Axxx and dummy had the KJ109, you would lay down the ace and lead to the jack if the suit was a major, and lead to the king and finesse coming back if the suit was a minor. Barry and I wind up in 7NT and that was our club holding, with only 12 top tricks; we each had balanced hands so I did not expect to get a count on the hand. No problem, I'm thinking to myself, I will not be able to get a count on the hand so I will just follow Barry's rule; if it does not work at least he will keep his mouth shut.

I cash a few side suit winners; to my annoyance the suits split crazy and I do get an exact count on the hand. LHO has three clubs and RHO two clubs, which makes it a 50% better play to ignore Barry's rule. Meanwhile, at the same time, down-stairs in another section, Mike Smolen is playing this hand at the same moment; he knows he and I are playing this hand simultaneously. Mike also gets a count on the hand, but decides to follow Barry's rule. Sure enough, the queen was doubleton and Mike makes the hand. Mike knows I am going to guess the hand the technically correct way, regardless of Barry's superstitions; Mike tells his partner, "Listen closely, you are about to hear an explosion from upstairs." How right he was. I misguessed the Queen and Barry went ballistic, screaming like a lunatic and then running out of the room. When he came back he deliberately threw the next six boards in a row (we lost the event by one-half of a matchpoint, and of course he blamed me).

Parenthetically, for the rest of the day Barry and I kept track of how often his rule was right; to my shock, in the relevant situations, it was right five of six times. I am telling you, Barry was mystic; there is absolutely no reason it should not be a 50-50 proposition. Nevertheless, to this day, if I have no clues as to which way to finesse in these situations, I just follow Barry's rule. After Barry's death, the McKenney was renamed the Barry Crane Top 500.

Grant Baze, from blakjak.org

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DEADLINE FOR AUGUST EDITION

ADVERTISING: 18 JULY 2019

ARTICLES: 20 JULY 2019



The ABF Annual General Meeting was held in Canberra on the 27th and 28th April 2019. A significant part of the meeting was spent reviewing the strategic activities undertaken in 2018 and discussing the draft of the Strategic Review 2019-2022.

I am pleased to report that the ABF Council unanimously appointed Bruce Neill to the ABF Committee of Honour for his outstanding service to the ABF. His contribution to bridge in Australia has been outstanding and I personally thank Bruce for his service to bridge and wise counsel.

Richard Wallis who joined the Management Committee in January following the resignation of Therese Tully, was officially elected to as a member of the committee until 2020. All Management Committee positions will expire at the Annual General Meeting in 2020 as it is an election year. Christopher Leach has agreed to Chair a Nominations Committee that is charged with identifying candidates for key ABF roles.

The 2019-2022 ABF Strategic Plan was accepted by the ABF Council and a copy has been placed on the website,

www.abf.com.au/abf-strategic-review-2019-2022

Relationship building with members is a key strategy in the plan as satisfied members are more likely to retain their membership and recommend bridge to others. Marketing, teaching, improving director training and development, youth bridge and the performance of international team's continue to be key areas of focus. There will also be a significant level of investment in technology over the next three years as we develop and secure our basic systems that clubs need to operate efficiently. Council agreed to trial a key marketing initiative in NSW that is designed to grow and retain membership in clubs.

Council also agreed to establish an ABF Foundation to provide an avenue for those members who wish to make a donation or leave a bequest to the ABF. More information will be forthcoming once it has been established.

Bridge is an international language, which can be understood everywhere and I have experienced this in my travels. As I write this report, I am in Brazil and played a session at the Rio Bridge Club last night. Roberto Figueira de Mello, the President and Maria Luiza Brazão, the Social Director welcomed me to the club and discussed bridge in Brazil and Australia. Both have fond memories of Australian as Maria started to play bridge when she lived in Canberra and Roberto was a member of the Brazilian team that won the Bermuda Bowl Cup in Perth in 1989. Unfortunately membership numbers in Brazil have dropped dramatically over the last few years and the club now has an average of only four tables a session. I have agreed to share some ABF Marketing and Teaching resources with the Rio Bridge Club as they are keen to increase the number of beginners.

For health reasons, David Morgan will take leave of absence from his position as Chair of the ABF Tournament Committee. Peter Reynolds has accepted the acting position during David's absence. We wish David all the best for a full recovery.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with me or the ABF Management Committee please email

abf_pres@gmail.com.

The best of bridge to you all.

Allison Stralow, ABF President

JEAN LANE

This announcement is in celebration of Jean Lane, who turned 100 years old on 12 May 2019. Jean was born in Balmain, to an Australian born mother and American father.

Jean, in her youth, enjoyed surfing, playing tennis, golf and bowls. She is known as an outstanding pianist. Jean was a committed member of the St Aidan Choir at Longueville, where she sang for 20 years.

Jean completed her primary schooling at Top Ryde Primary School, and in her youth was employed as an usherette and dental assistant. In her later years she married Noel, an AIF hero at Buna PNG. After Noel's death, Jean married John, also a war veteran.

Jean has been blessed with two children, John and Patricia, and continues to be a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to her family, continuing to offer them support and a positive outlook.

Jean currently resides in the Anglican Retirement Village, Castle Hill, and remains active within the community. She is an avid bridge player, playing bridge four days a week, and is listed as a champion on Barton's honour roll, having played for approximately 70 years. Jean is also often seen walking daily with regulars to the Therapy Centre. Over time, Jean has held a number of executive positions within those activities she was involved.



A feature of Jean is that she is always smiling and friendly. Jean at 100 years old continues to be self-disciplined in the care of herself and those around her. Jean is also well known for never being late!

Jean is very appreciative of her enduring friendships over the years, particularly with the Bridge Club members who helped her celebrate a wonderful 100 years of her life with a cake and everyone wearing a touch of red, her favourite colour.

Fiona Russell, ARV Bridge Club

The ARV Bridge Club welcomes players four afternoons a week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 1-4pm. Contact Patricia Ellison, the president of the club on 0415 280 124 if you would like any information.



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EDNA BRAMLEY

Edna Bramley, who is a member of the Commercial Club Albury Bridge Club, recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Edna still plays almost every Friday, and the club arranged a suitable birthday cake for her to enjoy with her regular bridge friends a few days after her actual birthday. The inscription on the cake read, "A Grand Slam. Congratulations on your 100th Birthday".

Edna was born on 31 March 1919 and she spent her childhood in Queensland before moving to Jingellic on the NSW side of the River Murray. She married in 1948 and she and her husband lived and worked on a farm at Walwa on the Victorian side of the river for 40 years, raising two girls and a boy. She enjoyed community life, particularly arts and crafts, cooking, tennis and golf.

Edna has been a keen golfer, who played pennant golf well into her 80s. She celebrated a hole in one at age 84 – a fine achievement. She didn't stop playing golf until she was 96.

Edna said that she enjoys the challenge of bridge because it keeps her brain active. She has put her longevity down to having a good diet including rolled oats every morning topped with honey.

Bruce Cowan, Commercial Club Albury Bridge Club



ABF MARKETING SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS 2019

The ABF Council at the 2019 AGM endorsed the Management Committee decision to take a new approach to national marketing. It will be based on two major components:

Advertising Program to attract new players

- ABF to introduce a Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP)
- Utilise highly targeted Facebook advertising campaigns to attract beginners
- Clubs and the ABF will share the advertising costs to a limit of \$500 for the ABF
- ABF will assist and guide the clubs with marketing and technical support.

Conversion Program to increase the retention rate of beginners

- Provide more beginners intakes a year to compete with other leisure offerings
- Smaller classes to provide better learning experience for students
- Increased Supervised and Novice sessions with short lessons beforehand
- Introduce "Buddy" program to support new players to becoming members
- Provide availability of personal coaching/support at all times.

Details of the ABF Marketing Special Grants 2019 Application Process have been provided to State Bodies to be forwarded to every bridge club in Australia. It includes background information, the online application link together with a Frequently Asked Questions section.

If your club has not received the Application Process then please contact your state body or find it on the ABF Web Site Marketing page. Otherwise contact

marketing@abf.com.au

if you have any questions or if you would like assistance with the application then please ring Peter Cox on 0413 676 326.

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Bridge around the world suffers from having an average conversion rate of 25% - 35% of those attending beginners classes to becoming regular club members. This is obviously a loss of people who had expressed an interest in playing bridge and a waste of marketing funds spent on advertising to attract potential players. Bridge may not be easy to learn for everyone and fall by the wayside during the lessons. However, often up to half drop out or go elsewhere when moving from beginners lessons to supervised sessions. Finally, some fall out when moving into the more aggressive and sometimes unfriendly environment of novice or the more combative open bridge fields.

The ABF is advocating a Buddy system where experienced players, but not necessarily expert players, mentor beginners to provide encouragement and moral support to continue to the supervised sessions. The second stage is for the buddies to play a few sessions with the beginners to make them feel more comfortable in the transition to the more competitive club environment.

New Zealand Bridge has been introducing a Buddy System over the last two years led by Jane Stearns who is on the NZB board. Jane believes this program has been fundamental in

growing member numbers after years of decline in New Zealand.

Larry Moses has also introduced a mentor programme in the Toowong Bridge Club in Brisbane with great success to use solid club and congress players to develop the less experienced player's skills.

An edited version of the Jane Stearns Buddy Pack from New Zealand is available on the Marketing page of the ABF web site or from



marketing@abf.com.au

MARKETING WORKSHOP IN GRAFTON

Jenny Russell from the Grafton Bridge Club very generously organised for representatives from Armidale, Ballina, Nambucca, Yamba and New England bridge clubs to attend an ABF Marketing Workshop in early May.

The all-day marketing congress was held in the South Grafton Ex-Servicemen's Club where we discussed ABF presentations on the:

- International and Australian bridge markets, membership trends and competition
- Demographic and socio-economic profiles of Australian bridge players
- Facebook Advertising process to attract new players
- Conversion program to increase retention rate of new beginners
- New Zealand Buddy Pack and presentation
- ABF Marketing Special Project Grants 2019 application process
- How to prepare a Media Release for your local club.

My thanks to all those clubs that attended and for everyone's contribution making it a great day.

If you would like to organise bridge clubs in your area to get together I would be pleased to provide the ABF Marketing Workshop to help try and grow your memberships. Please contact me directly on 0413 676 326.

ABF DAILY BRIDGE COLUMN

The Daily Bridge Column is proving increasingly popular, particularly with club players wanting to increase their skill levels to compete in local weekend congresses and regional and national congresses which are held at least every month around Australia. The columns are provided every day by email to your phone or inbox by seven leading international bridge writers and journalists led by Ron Klinger and can be understood by all levels of bridge players.

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Peter J. Cox
ABF Head of Marketing



All clubs and players seem to agree that defence is by far the hardest area to master. Marty Bergen feels that even experts stumble here and that signalling (correctly) is the biggest help. If experts have trouble (often because they try to make one card mean too many things, when one poor little card can really only convey ONE meaning), how difficult is it to teach regular players? In my teaching tip this month, I have permission from one of the greatest teachers of all time, Eddie Kantar (US), to use one of his amusing moments when teaching defence.

As teachers we are doing our best to present things in the most understandable way, but sometimes, spare a thought for the teacher too...

Teaching Tip:

This month's Teaching Tip is from Eddie Kantar's book, *A Collection of Bridge Humor*, (read with a smile) on defence.

Nor can we overlook a species known the world over, "the mad signaller," and his country cousin, "the random discarder." It is literally 1000 to 1 that if one of these players makes either a signal or a discard, it will cost an average of 1,563 tricks per deal.

In order to help out these poor misguided souls, I have given them a few rules to follow, especially if I ever play with them professionally. I have one particular fellow in mind whose signalling and discarding were what you might term mildly "far out". I told him that I would prefer he didn't signal me at all, as I usually could tell what was going on anyway. (The translation of this is: after the hand is over, I always know what I should have done). And as for discarding:

1. Always keep the same length as dummy.
2. Do not discard down to a void.
3. Do not discard from a suit declarer has bid, or at least try and keep the same number of cards that you think declarer has in the suit.
4. As a general rule, discard from a suit you do not want led, so you can preserve length and strength in the suit or suits you do want led.

With this background, you can imagine the torment he must have been going through during the defence of the following hand:

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

Having bid all suits, South ended up as declarer in 3NT.

My boy decided to lead the ♥10, which was ducked to my ♥Q. Having a perfect picture of the whole hand, I decided to return a heart to kill dummy's entry to the spade suit (on target, as usual). Anyway, I led back a heart, and when declarer played the ♥J, I think I actually saw perspiration on my partner's forehead. You see, he had to make a discard, and every discard would violate a rule!

A spade was out, because he had to keep the same length as dummy. A diamond was out because declarer had bid that suit, and he had to keep as many as declarer! A club was out, because he was not supposed to void himself in any suit.

After much soul-searching, he finally discarded the ♣7. Declarer, who tended to take everything at face value, decided my partner had the ♣K, and that it was fruitless to take the finesse. After all, a seven is a seven, is a seven.

Finally, declarer played the ♣A and ♣Q to my ♣K. Don't ask what torture my partner underwent during these two plays. I finally cashed my ♠A to hold the hand to 4NT for a clear top.

Eddie Kantar, via Joan Butts



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A GAME AT THE CLUB with Barbara Travis

Playing Matchpoint pairs, the opponents have bid to 4♥, likely a 4-4 fit, and you lead the ♣A, seeing this dummy:

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

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2♦	pass	1NT
pass	3♦ ²	pass	2NT ¹
pass	4♥	all pass	3♥

1. Four hearts, minimum hand.
2. Re-transfer to hearts.

I was playing with Candice Ginsberg in the ANC Butler Pairs. Candice led the ♠3, a fantastic lead. I won the ♠A and stopped to think, but not clearly. I knew partner did not have many points, so I hoped she held the ♦K and led the ♦4 back. Declarer made in comfort.

However, if I had been thinking clearly, I would have deciphered partner's lead. If it had been fourth highest, that gave opener five spades together with four hearts, hardly likely given the 1NT opening bid. Also, declarer dropped the ♠J under my ♠A, so was likely to be short in the suit. I should have been able to work out that partner held at least six spades, if not seven. If that was the case, why was she leading the ♠3? If it isn't fourth highest, it must be suit preference, and therefore she is asking for a club to be led. In all likelihood, she has a club void. I should have returned the ♣4 – my lowest club – asking for a diamond lead when she trumped. Then we could take the first four tricks: ♠A, club ruff, ♦A, club ruff.

Trick 1 proceeds: ♣A - five - two - jack.
 What will you lead at trick two?

Given that the ♣K and ♣Q are in dummy, partner's card cannot be an attitude signal (like or hate). In this scenario, it should be suit preference. Suit preference signals are used to refer to the remaining two suits that are not trumps. One suit is recognised as the 'high' suit, the other the 'low' suit, and the card played relates to these suits – high equating to the high suit, low to the low suit. In this case, spades is the higher suit and diamonds is the lower suit (hearts being the trump suit and clubs the 'signalling' suit). Your partner should be using the club suit to signal what suit they want you to lead at the next trick. This is particularly relevant should your ♣A be a singleton and you are looking to ruff the next club.

The ♣2 should be asking for the low suit, since the low club equates to the lower suit. Partner is asking you to lead diamonds. Your diamond switch runs to the two, five, and declarer's king. Now declarer leads a small heart. Rise with the ♥A to continue a second diamond. Partner trumps. Well done – you held the contract to ten tricks rather than eleven, getting the best score you could hope for.

If you had held a singleton ♣A, it is important to signal with the diamond cards you lead. Your small diamond cards are telling your partner to lead the lower remaining suit, so that you can establish the cross-ruff.

Here's another example:

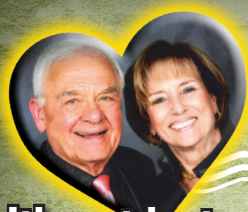
E/W ♠ 2 ♥ A J 7 6 2 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ K Q 6 2 ♠ Q 9 8 7 6 5 3 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ 10 6 3 ♣ —	♠ A 10 4 ♥ 5 ♦ A J 8 4 ♣ 9 8 7 5 4 ♠ K J ♥ K 9 8 4 ♦ K 9 7 ♣ A J 10 3
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Here's a hand where you can make use of information from the auction:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	pass	pass
2♦	2♠	all pass	dbl

East led the ♥10 to the queen. West cashed the ♥A then led a small heart which East trumped and dummy overruffed. There were two finesses available in the black suits. At trick two, you should try the club finesse – for two reasons. You already know West has at least nine cards in the red suits, so they may have ♣K doubleton, giving you three tricks in clubs. However, if the club finesse failed, then the ♠K was marked in West's hand, given the auction (East's pass of West's opening bid).



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East won the ♣K and led a small trump. Now West had to hold the ♠K, so it was easy to play the ♠A and (seemingly magically) drop the singleton king offside. This play led to an overtrick which, at Pairs, is so important to your score.

Look at the following hand:

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

This was the auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	2♣	pass
2♦ ¹	pass	2♥ ²	pass
2♠ ³	pass	2NT ⁴	pass
3♣ ⁵	pass	3♦ ⁶	pass
3♠ ⁷	pass	3NT	all pass

1. A waiting bid
2. "Kokish", either hearts in some game force, or big balanced.
3. A waiting bid.
4. 22-23 HCP.
5. Five-card Stayman.
6. No five-card major.
7. Showing four hearts.
8. Denying four hearts.

2NT was the first 'real' bid of the auction. South led a small heart and I could claim 10 tricks. After the hand, North wished that she had had a way to ask for a club lead. I mentioned that she could have doubled 3♣ (doubling an artificial bid shows that suit, it is not takeout). I didn't elaborate that, if she had doubled 3♣, we would not have played in 3NT. We have a structure for when Stayman is doubled. We only make our 'normal' response to Stayman if we have some control of the club suit, so on this hand I would have passed 3♣ doubled. Partner would then use a redouble to restart Stayman. On this hand partner would know that we have no control of the club suit, so we would play in 4♥ or 4♠ instead.

At another table, 3♣ was doubled for the lead, and I guess East-West had no such structure, ending in 3NT on a club lead — going down two tricks. I recommend that any serious players should consider adopting a suitable structure when Stayman (2♣ or 3♣) is doubled, and also when your transfer is doubled. You should discuss what immediate bids mean, what a redouble means, and what pass means.

Barbara Travis

24 BIDDING TIPS by EDDIE KANTAR

1. When partner bids two suits and you have an equal number of cards in each suit, take partner back to the first suit even if it means increasing the level. Just do it!

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

PARTNER	YOU
1♦	1♠
2♥	?

Bid 3♦. Raising hearts (see next tip) or passing partner's reverse, a one round force, is not to be discussed in polite company.

2. A direct raise of a second suit promises four-card support (in blood).

You hold: ♠ 5 4 ♥ A 10 2 ♦ A 10 5 ♣ K 10 7 6 5

PARTNER	YOU
1♠	2♣
2♥	?

Rebid 2NT with 11-12 HCP. Don't even think of raising hearts with only three pieces.

3. With two five-card suits, open the higher ranking suit, respond in the higher ranking suit, and overcall in the higher ranking suit. Do not worry about which suit is stronger.

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

Open 1♥, not 1♦. Respond 1♥ to an opening bid of 1♣, and overcall 1♥ if the opening bid to your right is 1♣.

4. When the bid to your right is strong, a jump by you is weak. When the bid to your right is weak, a jump by you is strong.

EAST	SOUTH (YOU)
(2♥)	3♠

3♠ is strong because 2♥ is weak.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH (YOU)
1♦	(dbl)	2♥

2♥ is weak because double is strong.

5. After you open 1♥ or 1♠ and partner responds 1NT, denying support for your major, don't repeat your major unless you have a six-card suit.

6. When holding three four-card suits and a singleton, open the bidding 1♦. When your singleton is in diamonds, open 1♣. You need 12+ HCP to open with this distribution.

You hold: ♠ A K 5 4 ♥ K J 5 4 ♦ J 10 5 4 ♣ 5

Open 1♦.

7. A takeout double by a passed hand shows 9-11 HCP with shortness in the opener's suit. If the opponents have bid two suits, the double promises at least four-card support in the other two suits.

You hold: ♠ A J 5 4 ♥ 5 4 ♦ K J 10 5 4 ♣ 5 4

SOUTH (YOU)	WEST	NORTH	EAST
pass	1♣	pass	1♥
dbl			

Your double shows diamonds and spades. A 2♦ bid might lose a spade fit.

8. After a major suit opening bid, a takeout double, and a raise of opener's major, a double by fourth hand is also a takeout double! It is called a responsive double. At the two-level it shows at least 8 working HCP with 4-4, possibly 5-4 or 4-5 in the minors. After a minor suit opening bid, a takeout double,

and a raise of opener's minor, a double by fourth hand, also responsive, shows 4-4, possibly 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors.

You, South, hold: ♠ A 3 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ Q 9 8 5 ♣ Q J 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	dbl	2♥	dbl

Your double promises support for both minors. Why guess?

You, South, hold: ♠ A J 7 2 ♥ K 10 7 5 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ 8 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	dbl	3♣	dbl

Your double promises support for both majors. Why guess?

And then, the inevitable exception: 1♦ on your left, double by partner, 2♦ on your right?

You hold: ♠ A 6 5 ♥ A 9 2 ♦ 7 4 3 2 ♣ Q 9 5

You can't sit there and pass with 10 HCP, but you have no suit to bid. Not to worry, the responsive double will save you. Use it!

9. When responding to a takeout double in a suit, jump with 9-11 'revalued' points. A five-card suit is worth one extra, a six-card suit, three extra. A side unbid four-card suit is worth one extra. Jacks and queens in suits the opponents are bidding are not counted.

You hold: ♠ A Q 10 x ♥ K x x ♦ x x ♣ 10 x x x

If partner doubles a 1♦ opening bid and next hand passes, jump to 2♠. You have 10 points including 1 point for the four-card club suit. Your jump is not forcing. A 1♠ response shows 0-8 revalued points and is a decided underbid. Partner usually plays you for 4-5 points and a game could easily be missed.

10. When responding to a takeout double with 12+ HCP, cuebid the opponent's suit to show a strong hand, and then bid your suit(s) later. After the cuebid, any new suit bid by you is forcing. Your cuebid is forcing to suit agreement or to game whichever comes first.

You hold: ♠ K Q 5 4 ♥ A J 5 4 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH (YOU)
1♣	dbl	pass	?

Respond 2♣ to show a big hand (12+ HCP). You and partner can now bid four-card suits up the line, hoping to connect in a 4-4 major suit fit. If partner bids 2♦, bid 2♥. If partner bids 2♥ or 2♠, raise to game. The one who knows goes!

11. A 1NT response to a takeout double shows 6-10 HCP. A 2NT response to a takeout double shows 10-12. Some 10-point hands are better than others because of strong intermediates. You cannot be a slave to point count. Intermediates count!

12. Notrump responses to a takeout double guarantee at least one stopper, hopefully two, in the opponent's suit.

You hold:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH (YOU)
1♠	dbl	pass	?

With Jxxx of clubs, respond 1NT. With AJxx of clubs, respond 2NT. You don't need stoppers in the unbid suits to bid notrump. A good partner will have them.

13. After partner opens and second hand overcalls 1NT (natural), double for penalty with 9+ HCP. Bidding a new suit is not forcing and a jump is preemptive. With 9+ points, double first.

You hold: ♠ 10 2 ♥ K J 6 5 ♦ A J 7 6 5 ♣ J 10

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH (YOU)	WEST
1♠	1NT	?	

Double. You have them outgunned. You should be able to defeat 1NT easily. If you bid 2♦, you are showing fewer than 9 HCP typically with six diamonds. It is very misleading to bid your suit directly with a strong hand in this sequence. Double first.

14. It is dangerous to count extra points for short suits or long suits before the bidding starts. (Don't stop reading!)

If partner bids your short suit, that reduces, not increases, the value of your hand. If one of your opponents bids your long suit, that also decreases the value of your hand. If you let the bidding develop, you will see whether your long or short suits are working for or against you.

You hold: ♠ A 7 6 5 ♥ 6 ♦ Q 7 6 5 4 ♣ 7 6 5

What is this hand worth? If partner opens 1♥, it is a poor 6-point hand. If partner opens 1♠, it has blossomed to a 9-point hand (three points for the singleton with four-card support). If LHO opens 1♦ and partner overcalls 1♥, the ♦Q has lost its value, not to mention the fifth diamond, or the singleton heart! You are now looking at a bad 4-point hand!

Hands that have eight-card fits or longer add extra distributional points; however, until a fit has been uncovered, distributional points should not be added. It doesn't make sense. Hands that are misfitted should be subtracting points, not adding them!

15. It is dangerous to use Blackwood holding two aces and a void. If partner shows one ace, you won't know which it is. Better to start with a cuebid after suit agreement.

15a. When responding to Blackwood with a void, do not count the void as an ace. With one or three aces, jump to the six-level of the void suit. If the void suit is higher ranking than the trump suit, jump to the six level of the trump suit. With two aces and a void, respond 5NT. Disregard the void if you do not have an ace.

16. When responding to an opening bid with two four-card majors, respond 1♥, giving partner a chance to bid 1♠. If partner doesn't bid 1♠, assume partner does not have four spades and bid accordingly.

You hold: ♠ A J 7 6 ♥ K Q 7 6 ♦ J 6 ♣ 7 6 5

PARTNER	YOU
1♦	1♥
2♣	?

Bid 2NT and limit your hand to 11-12 HCP. Do not bid 2♠. Partner does not have four spades, and bidding the "fourth suit" has a special meaning. It is frequently used as an artificial force when no other rebid describes the hand.

17. When the opponents bid and support each other, and you have the jack or queen of their suit and are considering bidding, don't count points for those honours. They are usually worthless.

18. When all your honour cards are in your two long suits, add one extra 'purity' point. Concentrated honour strength is more valuable than divided honour strength.

You hold: ♠ A K J x x ♥ K Q x x ♦ x x ♣ x x

All of your honour cards are in your two long suits, so give yourself an extra point. Think of having 14 points. If partner supports either suit, your hand increases in value. If partner does not support either suit, your hand stays at 14 points.

19. When RHO uses Stayman and you have five or six clubs headed by three of the top five honours, double to alert

partner you want a club lead against any eventual contract. Think of a double of an artificial bid as a length and strength showing lead directing penalty double.

You hold: ♠ 7 6 5 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ A K J 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	pass	2♣	?

Double. Caution! Do not double with club length (Qxxxxx) unless you have the necessary honour strength to go with it.

20. You can also use a lead-directing double when the opponents use Blackwood. If the response to 4NT (or 5NT) is in a suit you want led, double! These doubles can be made with a strong three or four card suit. If you don't double, partner will think you want another lead.

You hold: ♠ 7 6 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ K Q 10 ♣ 7 6 5 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH (YOU)
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
3♠	pass	4♠	pass
4NT	pass	5♦	?

Double 5♦ to ask partner for a diamond lead against an eventual spade contract.

21. After partner has limited his hand and you know what the final contract should be, bid it! The one who knows, goes!

Say partner opens 1NT (15-17) and you have 18, balanced. With at least 33 combined points, bid 6NT. If this scares you, find a mirror and practice saying 6NT aloud.

22. After partner's preempts, a subsequent double by you is a penalty double.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH (YOU)	EAST
2♥ ^{weak}	3♦	dbl	
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH (YOU)	EAST
3♥	pass	pass	4♣
pass	pass	dbl	

Both doubles are penalty doubles.

23. Once a player limits his hand, the partner is the captain and is supposed to make the final decision. Captaincy can be reversed however, if the captain turns the tables and makes an invitational bid. There is no captain until someone is limited.

SOUTH	NORTH
pass	1♥
1NT	3♥

South is a limited hand, so North is the captain. When North jumps to 3♥, invitational, South is now the captain.

SOUTH	NORTH
1NT	4NT

South is a limited hand so North is the captain. When North raises to 4NT, invitational, South is once again the captain.

SOUTH	NORTH
1♥	1♠
2♦	3♣

Both hands are still unlimited so no captain... yet. Bidding is much easier once someone is limited.

24. Only play conventions you are both comfortable with!

EARLY BIDDING TECHNIQUES

This month's Workshop at Sydney Bridge Centre was focussed on Responding and Rebidding. Often on your second bid you have a choice of available bids, and choosing the best one isn't always easy.

Here is a problem that happens quite regularly. Your partner opens 1♣ and this is your hand. What do you bid:

♠ 5 4 3 ♥ A 10 4 2 ♦ K J 10 9 3 ♣ 9

You could either respond 1♦ or 1♥.

The normal, textbook, "follow the rules" bid would be to respond 1♦, which is what many players did. Diamonds is your longer and stronger suit, and also a lower bid than hearts.

However, when responder only has 6-9 points, they often only get to make one bid. So make it a good one!

If you respond 1♦, there is a chance that the heart fit might be lost. The opponents might overcall spades, pushing the bidding up, or partner might rebid notrumps, and you aren't strong enough to bid again.

On this hand, I would respond 1♥. If I never get a chance to bid again, no worries, I don't mind missing a diamond fit.



If responder has 6-9 points, consider overlooking a minor to show a major.

If you are already in the habit of overlooking a minor to show a major suit, then you might run into trouble on a hand like this one: your partner opens 1♦ and this is your hand. What do you bid:

♠ A J 9 2 ♥ 9 6 ♦ 7 ♣ A K Q 6 5 3

You could respond 1♠ or 2♣, and both are fine.

If you bid the spades first, you might run into a problem if your partner rebids diamonds or notrumps. You could now bid the clubs, but partner will mistakenly think that you have longer spades than clubs, and you run the risk of ending in the wrong suit.

Since you are strong enough to bid again, you should bid your clubs first. You can always bid the spades the next time around if you need to. Bidding clubs and then spades will show your partner your hand accurately, and you can find the best contract.

On the actual hand, if you bid the clubs first, and then the spades, you will find your club fit, and could perhaps bid and make 6♣, the only making slam.

If responder has 13+ points, you are strong enough to bid twice, so bid the suits the 'right' way around.

William Jenner-O'Shea

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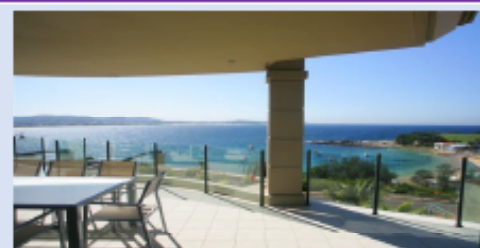
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ACTION WHEN PARTNER MAKES A TWO-LEVEL NEGATIVE DOUBLE

What would you call on the following hands, nil vulnerable:

paul@bridgegear.com



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	(2♦)	dbl	(pass)
?			

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

1. 3♠. What does the double show? It is best to play it as showing the two unbid suits, no exceptions, here at least 4-4 in spades and clubs. That way opener knows what is going on and has the confidence to compete at the four- or five-level if the bidding escalates.

Knowing for certain the negative doubler has 4+ spades, don't fall into the trap of bidding just 2♠ with this excellent hand. Even though the doubler may have as few as 6 HCP, you would expect to make 4♠ opposite something like

♠ A Q 7 4 ♥ 2 ♦ 8 7 3 ♣ Q J 8 6 5 .

If you bid only 2♠ partner should pass with this hand, but he has enough to bid 4♠ if you show extras by jumping to 3♠.

2. 2♠. No reason to bid anything else with this unappealing minimum. If your opponents compete further, the doubler can and should bid 3♠ with five of them.

3. 2♠. The negative double promises the other two suits and also denies primary heart support (3+). In fact the doubler will often have one heart and sometimes zero. If you rebid 2♥ you may have only a 5-1 or 5-0 fit, and at best a 5-2 fit, but there must be at least a 4-3 spade fit. The doubler should keep this in mind and not get too excited when opener bids 2♠ over their double.

4. 2♠. You might be tempted to bid 2NT here, but remember the doubler may have only 6 HCP, in which case with 18 HCP between the partnership you will be well and truly outgunned in 2NT. Tricks in notrumps are much more difficult than with a trump fit.

5. 4♠. If partner had responded 1♠ to your 1♥ opening you would have driven to game (via a 4♦ splinter) so you should make sure you get to game here. The best way to do that is to jump to 4♠ without further ado.

6. 4♣. With only 11 HCP you might bid 3♣ at a cursory glance. However your hand has an awful lot going for it. The singleton in the opponent's suit is a major plus, and the doubler has 0-2 hearts so you have no wasted heart values opposite a possible singleton. Lastly, ace-doubleton in partner's other suit is a strong asset. Game is pretty cold opposite as little as

♠ K 7 6 4 2 ♥ 4 ♦ 7 5 ♣ K 8 5 3 2

so you are worth at least an invitation.

7. 3♦. You want to go to game but you're not sure where, so cue the opponent's suit. If the doubler bids 3NT showing a stopper, I would guess to pass. If the doubler bids 3♠, I would bid 4♣, hopefully forcing. You will make slam opposite as little as

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

8. Pass. With the doubler holding 0-2 hearts you can see your side taking lots of tricks against 2♦ doubled. You might also score a ruff or two yourself, or better still, make declarer ruff and then draw two rounds of trumps, and make declarer ruff another heart, so that now you have two trumps and declarer just one. This is called the "forcing game" and has been an integral part of bridge and its forerunners Auction Bridge and Whist since the 1700s.

9. 3NT. This time your diamonds are poorly placed for defence; imagine the 2♦ overcaller has AQ109xx sitting over your diamonds. However, you probably have two stoppers in notrumps, and with 18 HCP you want to go to game.

10. 4♥. You can bid 4♥ on power. You can even cope with a heart void in partner's hand, and you expect to make 4♥ when partner has two useful cards, maybe ♠AK or ♠A and ♣Q for example.

For those bridge players who care about the environment, the ABF's sponsor, PENLINE, makes Reusable Coffee cups and Water Bottles, as part of its "War on Waste". If you are interested in more information, please contact Maryo Derofe by email: maryo@penline.com.au

AUSTRALIAN SUCCESS OVERSEAS

Congratulations to Peter Gill, Sartaj Hans and Tony Leibowitz, who have recently returned from successful trips overseas.

Tony Leibowitz, along with Norwegians Christian Bakke, Tor Eivind Grude and Espen Erichsen (pictured below), won the Jacoby Swiss Teams at the NABC Spring Nationals in Memphis.

Meanwhile, the Australian Open Team (Peter Gill, Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung, Nabil Edgtton) was in Shanghai competing at the Yeh Bros Cup. This is an annual invitational bridge tournament sponsored by Chen Yeh, a Taiwanese businessman and keen bridge enthusiast. The total prize money is well over \$US300,000 with \$US180,000 allocated to the winner of the Teams.

The team qualified for the round of 16, where they had a narrow loss to Pepsi (Jacek Pszczola, Michal Kwiecien, Geoff Hampson, Brad Moss). This gave them the chance to turn their attention to the Open Pairs event, where Peter and Sartaj finished second to claim a \$10,000 prize.

Sartaj has written up the event for *Australian Bridge Magazine*. Here is a hand from the article, where Sartaj found a thoughtful defence to generate a second doubled undertrick. You are East, partner leads the ♣2, and your ♣J wins. Your play?

♠ K Q 4
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ Q 9 4
♣ 10 9 7

Lead ♣2



♠ 2
♥ 10 4
♦ A J 6 2
♣ K Q J 8 5 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gill	Kwecien	Hans	Pepsi
1♥	dbl	2♣	4♠
pass	pass	dbl values	pass
5♣	pass	pass	5♦
pass	5♠	dbl	all pass

It is clear that partner has underled the ♣A. He must hold a diamond void and wishes to get a ruff. That would lead to an easy down one, but Sartaj spotted the stronger play of returning a club. The bidding marks declarer with a 5-1-6-1 shape. After a club return, declarer cannot handle all the demands of the hand – draw trumps, build diamonds and retain control. Declarer had to play well just to escape for 300 instead of 800.

Board 11 ♠ K Q 4
S/Nil ♥ A Q 6 2
PLAY ♦ Q 9 4
♣ 10 9 7

♠ 10 9 6 3
♥ K J 9 8 7 5
♦ —
♣ A 6 2

♠ 2
♥ 10 4
♦ A J 6 2
♣ K Q J 8 5 3

♠ A J 8 7 5
♥ 3
♦ K 10 8 7 5 3
♣ 4

You can read Sartaj's full report on the Yeh Cup in the June issue of *Australian Bridge Magazine*. There is also an article about Tony Leibowitz's win in the Jacoby Swiss Teams in Memphis.

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

WHICH SWITCH?

Pairs ♠ K Q 7 6 5 2
W/Nil ♥ 5 4 2
♦ 8 4
♣ 8 3

♠ 8 3
♥ A Q 10 7 6
♦ K J 10
♣ 9 7 4



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	pass	1♠
2♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
all pass			

You lead the ♥A - two - eight - king. What do you play next?

♠ K Q 7 6 5 2
♥ 5 4 2
♦ 8 4
♣ 8 3

♠ 8 3
♥ A Q 10 7 6
♦ K J 10
♣ 9 7 4

♠ —
♥ J 9 8 3
♦ A 9 6 5 3
♣ K J 6 5

♠ A J 10 9 4
♥ K
♦ Q 7 2
♣ A Q 10 2

Contract: 5♠. Lead: ♠3.

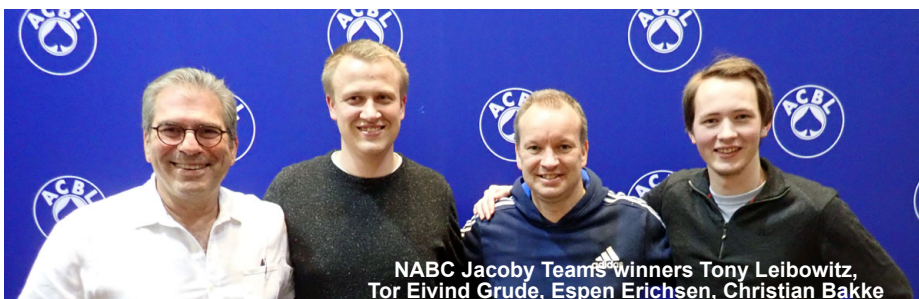
West did well to lead the ♥A. On a spade lead, South can make 5♠ by finessing the ♣10 and later the ♣Q. Similarly, 5♠ makes if West leads a club.

South also did well to save in 5♠. It is unusual to bid five-over-five when the opponents, who have bid to 5♥, are both passed hands, but 5♥ will make unless North leads a club.

On seeing dummy, West knows East is void in spades. When South follows with the ♥K, West knows that East began with ♥J-9-8-3. Since East knows that South began with a singleton heart, it is pointless here to give an attitude signal or a count signal. The situation calls for a suit-preference signal.

The ♥J asks for a diamond switch. The ♥3 would ask for a club switch. What did East intend when playing the ♥8 at trick one? West might take the ♥9 as a high card, requesting a diamond, but the ♥8 should mean useful holdings in both minors. East cannot tell which minor is best for West's switch and the ♥8 suggests strong holdings in both. West should switch to the suit where honours are held, i.e., a diamond. On any switch but a diamond, 5♠ can be made by finessing twice in clubs.

Ron Klinger



NABC Jacoby Teams winners Tony Leibowitz, Tor Eivind Grude, Espen Erichsen, Christian Bakke

TASMANIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE by Jodi Tutty

The TBIB Australian Swiss Pairs were played in Hobart during March. David Beauchamp and I entered this fun and very well organised event. As David remarked, the venue must have the most impressive view from any playing area, right on the Derwent River looking out over the boats.

The hands you always remember are the spectacular ones. The following three all involve long diamond suits and voids.

The first two hands were played against Avi Kanetkar and Bruce Neill.

Board 1 ♠ K Q 2
 N/Nil ♥ K 9 8 6 4
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ A Q 2

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

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

WEST Bruce	NORTH David	EAST Avi	SOUTH Jodi
	1♥	2♦	5♦
6♦	6♥	7♦	pass
pass	dbl	all pass	

The bidding escalated very quickly. After a sedate 1♥ opening and 2♦ overall, 5♦ was exclusion keycard asking for the number of keycards excluding diamonds. Three bids later the auction was at 7♦ which was doubled. The play was equally quick, with 7♦ down four for -800. It was a good sacrifice as 6♥ makes scoring 980. While 20 pairs found either a 6♥ or 6♣ slam, Bruce and Avi did well as they were the only pair to find the 7♦ sacrifice.

The next diamond slam was also against Avi and Bruce.

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

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

 ♠ K
 ♥ K Q 8 2
 ♦ A J 8 7 3
 ♣ Q 8 3

After an opening 1♠ and natural, game forcing 2♦ response, David's 3♦ bid promised both support and some extras. My 3♥ bid showed a heart feature, and the next two bids 4♣ and 4♠ were cues promising first or second round control. At that point David had heard enough, and after 4NT keycard placed the contract in 6♦. Once in 6♦, the play was straightforward.

WEST Bruce	NORTH David	EAST Avi	SOUTH Jodi
	1♠	pass	2♦
pass	3♦	pass	3♥
pass	4♣	pass	4♠
pass	4NT	pass	5♣
pass	6♦	all pass	

This next hand suited our system well. With all systems you make choices and they work well on some hands and not so well on others.

Board 14 ♠ K J 8 4
 E/Nil ♥ 8 6 3
 ♦ 5
 ♣ Q J 10 8 7

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	1♦
1♥	dbl	4♥	4NT
pass	5♣	all pass	

North's double promised exactly four spades, as with five spades we will bid 1♠. Thus South knew that there was only a seven-card spade fit, and so looked for a minor game. The 4NT bid shows six of the opening suit and four cards in other minor, while bidding 5♣ would have shown 6-5 or 5-5 shape. North has an easy 5♣ bid. In the play, David set up the diamond suit to make a comfortable 5♣.

Many thanks to the organisers for a great weekend. If you are after an enjoyable bridge event next year, I can highly recommend this event.

Jodi Tutty



Autumn Nationals

2019 ANOT OPEN PAIRS

- 1 Philip Markey & Bruce Neill 113.84
- 2 Elizabeth Adams & Andrew Peake 109.65
- 3 Brad Coles & George Kozakos 109.05
- 4 Bill Nash & James Wallis 105.05
- 5 Mike Doecke & Will Jenner-O'shea 104.3
- 6 Ron Klinger & Ian Thomson 104.25
- 7 Christy Geromboux & Sebastian Yuen 99.69
- 8 Eva Caplan & Martin Doran 97.84
- 9 Liam Milne & Tony Nunn 96.21
- 10 Pauline Gumby & Warren Lazer 95.95

2019 ANOT SENIORS PAIRS

- 1 Terry Brown & Peter Buchen 102.46
- 2 George Bilski & Martin Bloom 102.39
- 3 Roger Januszke & John Zollo 93.9
- 4 Richard Douglas & Bob Sebesfi 91.35
- 5 Stephen Mendick & Bernard Waters 90.71
- 6 Paul Hudson & Chris Lorimer 86.09
- 7 David Cherry & Joff Middleton 85.97
- 8 Garry Clarke & Carmel Thompson 84.54
- 9 Henry Dyall & Robin Pellen 84.43
- 10 David Parrott & Alan Watson 84.13

2019 ANOT WOMENS PAIRS

- 1 Sue Lusk & Viv Wood 108.22
- 2 Liz Sylvester & Greer Tucker 104.05
- 3 Cathryn Herden & Judy Mott 97.18
- 4 Liz Fanos & Julianne Rocks 96.48
- 5 Therese Demarco & Lori Smith 92.84
- 6 Vanessa Brown & Lauren Travis 92.11
- 7 Felicity Smyth & Judith Tobin 91.38
- 8 Bronwyn Macleod & Connie Schoutrop 89.42
- 9 Sheila Bird & Karen Creet 85.38
- 10 Cynthia Belonogoff & Jessica Chew 85.27

ANOT CONSOLATION BUTLER – A GRADE

- 1 Richard & Sue Grenside 93.37
- 2 Terry Healey & Maureen Wilson 74.12
- 3 George Wagner & Nick Walsh 73.71
- 4 Ella Lupul & Hans van Weeren 72.33
- 5 Julie Boyce & Christine Thomas 71.66
- 6 Milton Hart & Sharmini Hoole 67.94
- 7 Garry & Sally Clarke 64.21
- 8 Joanne Bakas & Tassi Georgiadis 61.04
- 9 Val Churchill & Delsi Pozza 60.64
- 10 John & Terry Pearson 60.28

**Under Life Master Teams winners
Rob Holgate and Neil Williams**



ANOT GRADED SWISS PAIRS – B GRADE

- 1 Herb & Marg Neumeister 81.04
- 2 John & Pat Elliott 74.28
- 3 Antony Kimber & Susan Roberts 74.11
- 4 Ann Axelby & Jill Braithwaite 74.01
- 5 Ann Darwin & Heather Smith 73.1
- 6 Bob & Jane Pearce 70.82
- 7 Elaine Kenny & Heather Young 69.99
- 8 Susan Currie & Bronwyn Vale 66.29
- 9 John & Patricia Sharpe 64.41
- 10 Monique Haan & William Herkes 61.5

2019 ANOT UNDER LIFE PAIRS

- 1 George Wagner & Nick Walsh 115.81
- 2 Rob Holgate & Neil Williams 113.41
- 3 Joanne Bakas & Tassi Georgiadis 101.49
- 4 Brian Craig & Jenny Mendick 98.04
- 5 Maggie & Nick Truscott 97.51
- 6 Jim Burke & Colin Twelftree 95.77
- 7 Jim & Wendy Smith 95.66
- 8 Mary & Steve Colling 92.13
- 9 Derek Poulton & Karen Thompson 90.6
- 10 Colin Clifford & John Rogers 89
- 11 Sally Fraser & Helene Maddern 87.61
- 12 Suzanne King & Judy Stafford 87.15
- 13 Sue Falkingham & Sue Martin 86.28
- 14 Petter Carlmark & Kari Heikkonen 85.07
- 15 John Lokan & Martin Tucker 84.26
- 16 Terry Driver & Sue Longstaff 83.71
- 17 Catherine Ellice-Flint & Robert Martin 83.05
- 18 Stephanie McQueen & Helen Schapper 81.87
- 19 Chris Brady & Zhihong Miao 81.87
- 20 Mary Jarrett & Samantha Rowe 80.98

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ANOT UNDER LIFE TEAMS

- 1 Heidi Colenbrander, Rob Holgate, Ray Hurst, Neil Williams
- 2 Colin Clifford, Terry Healey, Patricia McGaffin, John Rogers
- 3 Mary Colling, Steve Colling, Derek Poulton, Karen Thompson
- 4 Sue Falkingham, Sue Martin, Julie Savage, Margaret Softley
- 5 Wardie Adamson, Helen McBride, Margaret Rex, Cherry Trengove
- 6 Bevin Brooks, John Lokan, Rodney Macey, Ceda Nikolic
- 7 George Bartley, Jessica Curtis, Lincoln Davey, David Gue, Bertie Morgan
- 8 Penny Bowen, Catherine Ellice-Flint, Rosie Johnston, Robert Martin
- 9 Steve Briggs, Kerry Mills, George Wagner, Nick Walsh
- 10 Melinda Andrews, Alison Bullock, Caprice Davey, Monika Vnuk

2019 ANOT CONSOLATION TEAMS

- 1 Martin Doran, Stephen Fischer, Paul Hooykaas, Pele Rankin
- 2 Terry Brown, Peter Buchen, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer
- 3 Bronwyn Macleod, Terry O'Dempsey, Connie Schoutrop, John Smith

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Western Seniors' Pairs

- 1 Don Allen & Trevor Fuller
- 2 Margaret Bourke & Peter Reynolds
- 3 Ron Cooper & Fiske Warren
- 4 Jonathan Free & Michael Smart
- 5 Cynthia Belonogoff & Anton Pol
- 6 Val Biltoft & Phil Tearne
- 7 Nigel Dutton & Marie-Fran Merven
- 8 Ian Bailey & Dave Parham
- 9 Susanne Gammon & Noelene Law
- 10 Wendy Driscoll & Shizue Futaesaku

Barrier Reef Congress

BARRIER REEF NOVICE PAIRS

- 1 Simon Jones - Audrey Ledbrook 113.36
- 2 Ming Ting - David Ting 99.27
- 3 Jonathan Jones - Sharon Poole 95.47
- 4 Diana McAuliffe - Maeve Doyle 92.52
- 5 Patricia Alderton - John Sainsbury 88.4
- 6 Heather Colbert - Coleen Evanson 86.2
- 7 Carol Dennis - Kay Mukai 85.99
- 8 Eugene Pereira - Rex Meadowcroft 85.06
- 9 Jane Gryg - Liz Agius 83.89
- 10 Julianne Knobel - Camilla Nicholson 82.24

BARRIER REEF OPEN PAIRS

- 1 Justin Mill - Ken Anderson 119.3
- 2 Ken Dawson - Verna Brookes 107.95
- 3 Diana Mcalister - Hugh Mcalister 106.66
- 4 Andrew Hooper - Pippa Hooper 105.08
- 5 Tony Lusk - Alexander Long 103.56
- 6 Peter Hollands - Marina Darling 102.25
- 7 Dee Harley - Anna St Clair 101.88
- 8 Laura Ginnan - Simon Hinge 99.89
- 9 Bas Bolt - John Kelly 99.64
- 10 John Luck - David Appleton 99.26
- 11 John Gough - Michael Pemberton 96.74
- 11= Tony Fallet - Patricia Grigson 96.74
- 13 Helen Chamberlin - Trevor Dwerryhouse 95.97
- 14 Gwendolyn Gray Jamieson - Janet Kahler 95.82
- 15 Ivy Luck - Ralph Parker 95.07
- 16 Chris Stead - Richard Hills 93.07
- 17 Jenny Date - Matthew Roberts 92.44
- 18 Peter Kahler - Jeannette Collins 91.8
- 19 Leigh Owens - Jan Smith 91.05
- 20 Peter George - Trevor Haley 90.55

BARRIER REEF RESTRICTED TEAMS

- 1 Ming Shu Yang, Gill Phillippo, Eugene Pereira, Rex Meadowcroft
- 2 Nick Edginton, Christine Newbery, Annette Scott, Rhonda Graham
- 3 Charlie Georgees, Jennifer Mullen, Audrey Ledbrook, Kay Mukai
- 4 Di Garside, Donna Fitch, Sam Bishop, Kay Lehmann
- 5 Dusk Care, Jeanette McKenzie, Helen Sharwood, Stephen Bartos

Barrier Reef Open Teams winners
Yolanda Carter, Therese Tully, Toni Bardon, Richard Ward



BARRIER REEF RESTRICTED PAIRS

- 1 Debra Goodchild - Eric Goodchild 127.4
- 2 Valerie Robbins - Peter Robbins 100.38
- 3 Christine Newbery - Annette Scott 99.26
- 4 Lorna Shuttlewood - Faye Wright 98.93
- 5 Lynne Layton - George Gibson 98.64
- 6 Josephina Burrie - Andrea Mathieson 95.66
- 7 Barry Koster - Kiku Mukai 93.08
- 8 Di Garside - Donna Fitch 91.38
- 9 Dorothy Hertelendy - Adam Hertelendy 88.21
- 10 Nick Edginton - Rhonda Graham 86.92
- 11 Lyn Tracey - Sue Ziegenfuss 85.11
- 12 Joan Adair - Margo Chapman 85.03
- 13 Daria Williams - Sameer Pandya 84.33
- 14 Charlie Georgees - Jennifer Mullen 84.24
- 15 Glenys Tipler - Judy Hapeta 82.45
- 16 Peter Gruythuysen - Margaret Jennings 79.12
- 17 Debbie Gibbards - Gary Gibbards 78.75
- 18 Ming Shu Yang - Gill Phillippo 78.2
- 19 Sue Rohrig - Lesley Halliday 77.43
- 20 Geoff Saxby - Jennifer Vickers 77.07

BARRIER REEF OPEN TEAMS

- 1 Richard Ward, Therese Tully, Toni Bardon, Yolanda Carter
- 2 Chris Stead, John Brockwell, Richard Hills, Michael Cullen
- 3 Ashley Bach, Simon Andrew, Gwen King, Kim Del'monte
- 4 Annette Maluish, Andrew Mill, Marina Darling, Justin Mill
- 5 Greg Lewin, Geoff Chettle, Simon Hinge, Peter Hollands, Laura Ginnan

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SUIT COMBINATIONS with Brad Coles

The Australia-Wide Novice Pairs is being played in clubs around Australia as we go to print. This is Board 14 from the event:

Board 14	♠ A 10 8 4		
W/Nil	♥ 10 6 4 2		
	♦ 9		
	♣ K J 7 4		
♠ Q 9 7 2		♠ J 5	
♥ Q 7		♥ K 9 5	
♦ 10 5 3 2		♦ A Q J 8 6 4	
♣ 9 8 2		♣ 5 3	
	♠ K 6 3		
	♥ A J 8 3		
	♦ K 7		
	♣ A Q 10 6		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	1♦	1NT
pass	2♣	2♦	2♥
pass	4♥	all pass	

East wins the lead with ♦A and continues with ♦Q. Declarer has to play trumps for the loss of only one trump trick.

There are three reasonable ways to play the heart suit.

Option One

Cross to dummy and lead the ♥10.

This is the solution that appears in the Official Encyclopedia of Bridge. If the ♥10 loses to West's queen, you can go back to dummy later and play a heart to the jack, picking up East's king. Alternatively, if East covers the ten, you win with the ace and go back to dummy to play a heart to the ♥8, losing just one trick.

This line succeeds whenever West has a doubleton honour. It fails when West has ♥K9x or ♥Q9x, as East will cover the ten to promote West's nine.

Option Two

Play low from hand towards dummy's ♥10.

This line also succeeds whenever West has a doubleton honour. If West plays low, dummy's ten will force East's king, and West's queen will drop on the next round. Alternatively, if West goes up with his honour in second position, you can cross to dummy later and finesse against East's honour.

While both lines will work when West has a doubleton honour, this line is not as good as Option One. It loses to any three-card holding with West (except ♥975) and forces you to guess whether to drop West's doubleton honour on the second round. However, it gains when a weak West player goes up with ♥Q from ♥Qxx.

Option Three

Play low from dummy and finesse the ♥J.

This is the opposite of Option One. This one works when East has a doubleton honour. The ♥J will lose to West's honour, but hopefully East's honour will fall under the ace on the next round.

The question is, how can you know all of this? Few players will have the patience to work out this level of detail at the table, and even fewer will have the information committed to memory. You could go through and list all of the possible layouts, and make a list of which play works with which layout, but at the end of the day the answer will be that all of these plays have a fairly similar chance of success. Option One is slightly superior to Option Three when we have the ♥8, but slightly inferior when we don't.

The only truly important question is, "Who has the doubleton heart?"

Many complicated suit combinations boil down to a simple rule: lead through their doubleton honour. If East has the doubleton, leading towards the jack is best. If West has the doubleton, even the inferior play of low towards the ten becomes a better play than low towards the jack (but leading the ten from dummy is still better).

So who has the doubleton heart?

At the start of the play, the only thing we know is that East has six diamonds, and West has at most four diamonds. For that reason, East is the favourite to hold the doubleton heart. Therefore the correct play, on the given auction, is to lead through what we hope is East's doubleton honour. Lead low towards the jack, losing to the queen, and then on the next round cash the ace, hoping that the king drops.

Unfortunately, that doesn't work this time. East turns out to have three hearts, the ♥K does not drop, and we lose two trump tricks. My apologies to the more than 200 pairs who failed in 4♥ for a 19% score on the board. Sometimes playing with the odds doesn't work – hopefully you made up the points by playing well on the other boards!

If you didn't play in the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs, you can view this board and other results as a visitor, by clicking here:

www.australianbridge.com/2019AWNPN_results.php

If you did play in the event, you can generate a personalised results booklet by selecting your name from this page:

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NEVER SAY NEVER?

Dear Uncle Oracle,

Once again, I seek your counsel. A few weeks ago, I was on lead against 4♠ with this hand:

♠ A 5 4 ♥ J 3 ♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ Q 10 6 5

The bidding (Acol, I think) was:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	pass	1♠	pass
3♠	pass	4♠	all pass

I didn't like leading diamonds or clubs, so it seemed that it had to be a trump or a heart. Because it was an unbid suit, I tried the ♥J. The whole hand was:

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

Knowing that we lead top of a sequence, declarer managed to avoid a heart loser but lost one trick in each other suit. Some made 4♠ but a few went down, so this was a bad board for us. Was the ♥J such a bad lead?

More recently, I was on lead against a 4♥ contract with:

♠ Q 8 ♥ K 3 ♦ J 6 5 2 ♣ 10 8 5 3 2

The auction was simple:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♥	pass	3♥
pass	4♥	all pass	

In the end, I led a club. Apparently, the only lead to take the contract down was the ♠Q!

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

You can see what happens if I find the ♠Q. We get the first three tricks and my king of trumps when partner leads her last spade. Would you have found this lead?

Is there any rule of thumb about leading a doubleton honour?

Your Dreary Dearie, Cathy

Dear Dreary,

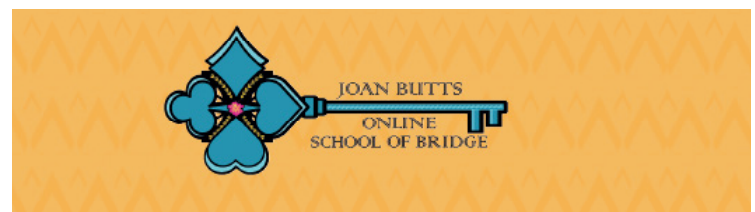
I had a partner who once led the ♣K against a 6♥ contract from king-doubleton. I was quite pleased with that because I had the ace and we took the first two tricks. He later berated me for not giving him a ruff! The reality was that the opponents' bidding flagged the weakness in clubs during a very revealing auction. My partner's reasoning for this off-the-wall lead was that he would have had no hesitation in leading a low club if he had started with K-x-x or similar.

Please don't take this as authority to lead doubleton (or even singleton) kings at every opportunity. The reverse principle should prevail. Whether you are looking at doubleton ten, jack, queen or king, the higher the card, the greater risk associated with leading it. I am usually quite miffed when an opponent gets a good result by leading a doubleton jack. After a lead such as doubleton queen or king (which are quite rare), I usually look forward to the next encounter, figuring to get that result back with interest. I guess that one reason why these leads are rare is that they are an easy way to make yourself look foolish when the result is not a success.

Obviously, I am not advising about the lead of a suit overcalled or preempted by partner. In these situations, you are frequently committed to leading partner's suit.

So, for a rule of thumb: if you are convinced that the bidding screams for a lead of a particular suit, lead it anyway. If you are leading speculatively, you are courting disaster because these leads are devastating when they come off but the result for you is usually disastrous when they don't.

Your Lovin' Uncle, David



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Invitational sequences which take you to 2NT (10-12 balanced), or to three of a major lacking a nine-card or better fit, are incompatible with modern standard. Whatever your system, these actions offend against the Law of Total Tricks. This article sets out to show how to handle these and similar situations more effectively.

When you make one of these invitations, you squander a great tactical position. You prevent your opponents from making a potentially disastrous balancing action. You have blurted out the valuable secret that you have something to spare. Your opponents gloat when they push you to the three-level. Don't do it to yourself. Let them try, with the attendant risk.

When you invite based on points, you are doing it on the very hands where you would welcome a balance. If you can catch your opponents in a poor fit with 18 HCP, or fewer, combined, they are in serious trouble. Hands with only an eight-card fit are relatively defensive. Your system should be geared to look for penalty double opportunities over a balance, while other pairs are inviting at the three-level on the basis of brute strength alone.

For an invitation to be "right" you must make your marginal game. If your invitation is not accepted, you must make the partscore you reach. By telling your opponents that you are stretching, you leave yourself open to a lead directing double, or a double based upon an unfavourable lie of the cards. When they know you have nothing to spare, they sit up and take extra notice. An opportunity to nail that compulsive balancer is wasted. Balancers succeed because they count on the fact that you would have pushed for game with extra strength. They are not so safe if you hold surprise extra values.

When you decide to bid game, just bid it. Let the opponents guess if you are marginal for game or marginal for a slam try. They cannot know.

In a nutshell, the only upside to bidding an invited game, is to succeed in making what will self-evidently be a marginal game. Everything else is downside.

Consider the most fundamental of all invitational sequences, 1NT-2NT. Traditionally this 2NT bid is based upon 8 or 9 HCP in a balanced hand, with no interest in a major suit contract. Yet we all know that it is not uncommon for a notrump game to be stone cold with a combined 21 or 22 HCP; nor is it uncommon for game to be defeated holding a combined 26 or even 27 HCP. Invitational sequences such as this one are no help whatsoever in establishing what category your particular pair of hands belongs to. Take the plus on the marginal hands, with all the accruing benefits, and never play in 2NT. With a flat dull 9 HCP, opposite a 15-17 notrump, game is odds against. Pass.

By playing marginal game contracts in 1NT, or two of a suit, you get a virtually certain plus score. This alone will compensate you for the invited games that might have made. Add all the other advantages, and it is no contest.

Once you abandon the use of 2NT as an invitation, it becomes available as the most valuable bidding tool of all: 2NT always forcing. It will solve a multitude of everyday bidding problems, and it does not displace a natural bid. New minor forcing and 2♣ checkback can go back to their valuable natural function: forcing or not forcing, according to the context. A plus score is a good score. In short, the three-level, like the five-level, belongs to the opponents. To play at either of these levels often means a poor result unless you make on the button. You should aim to do your game investigation below 2NT, and your slam investigation below game.

In forty years playing rubber with Tim Seres, I did not hear him invite game even once. Yet he never advocated taking the next logical step, playing "invitational" bids as below-game slam tries. In some partnerships he played 2NT as forcing. Successful players, inherently, follow the logic set out here without necessarily ever stopping to put its rationale into words. It is not, but should be, part of any basic bridge course.

When a nine-card fit exists, it is not nearly so important to stay low. If your three-level contract fails, it is very likely that you have shut your opponents out of a making contract of their own. To fail in an eight-card fit at the three-level, or in 2NT, has no such compensation. Your only compensation comes from others in the same boat, and this is a boat you are better out of.

MAJOR-SUIT OPENINGS

Over a first or second position 1♥/1♠ opening, a simple raise shows 6-9 points with three-card support. Responder's 2♣ can be used as range-ask. Opener rebids 2♦ on all minimums, say 10-14 points. Over 2♦, responder's two of the bid major shows the 10-12 point three-card raise, which can be passed:

1♥	2♣ clubs, or a range ask
2♦ minimum	2♥ 10-12 three-card raise

Other continuations from responder are natural, forcing, and show long clubs as well as four cards in any new suit introduced. A bid in the other major may, optionally, be used to ask opener to further describe. This method gives opener maximum room to continue with the description of his hand. (In this sequence, you can use responder's second round 2NT to replace the natural bid in the other major.)




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MINOR-SUIT OPENINGS

If you choose to use 1♣ as the opening bid for the all the 4432 and 4333 shapes outside the 1NT range, abandoning Better Minor, this treatment can be used over 1♦ as well.

To be able to bid 2♣ natural and non-forcing over a third or fourth position opener is far too valuable to sacrifice for any other purpose.

Over all your opening one-bids and simple overcalls, and whether or not there is an intervening bid, use 2NT to show a raise to the three-level or better with an extra trump.

Over 1♣, 1NT is the 6-9 point raise, and 2♣ is the 10-12 point raise. Holding a lot of clubs, you choose between 2NT and 3♣.

The following arrangement, regarding jump preference, is simple, space-efficient and effective:

Whenever opener bids two suits, it shows 5+ cards in the first. Jump preference to a major is forcing, and opener should treat it as a slam try, signing off in game only when minimum.

This is not the place to discuss the merits of transfer responses to 1NT bids, but remember that Jacoby himself said that he only invented the scheme so he could play the hand. The

transfer sequence with invitational hands opposite a 1NT opener (1NT-2♦-2♥-2NT) is best described as ugly. This would be a good spot to begin a single-suited slam investigation, when 2NT is played as always forcing.

Consistent with the proposition that you avoid playing near-game hands in 2NT or 3M in an eight-card fit, the old-fashioned Gladiator convention works perfectly. To play Gladiator, you must abandon transfers:

GLADIATOR (modified)

Over a 1NT opening, responder bids as follows:

- 2♣ = Stayman (could be single-suited minor with slam interest).
2♦ = asks opener to bid 2♥, paving the way to a weak takeout in any suit. Responder's 2NT over the forced 2♥ shows weak (or very strong) with both minors.

2♥/2♠ show a five-card suit with some game interest, generally in the 6-9 range. Opener can pass or bid the game of his choice.

Weak major-minor two-suiters can be played in two of the major. Game-interest two-suiters, typically about 6-9 points, are bid with 3♣ (clubs and a major) or 2NT (two suits without clubs).

CONCLUSION

Simulations show that a flat 9 HCP opposite a 15-17 1NT bid will offer a play for game considerably less than half the time, and quite often 2NT is too high. Unless the hand is particularly promising, pass and take the money. You may get a little extra if someone tries a balance.

AUTUMN NATIONALS

The following articles appeared in the event bulletins at the recent ANOT in Adelaide. The first is by Liam Milne and the second is from Barbara Travis.

TOO MUCH KNOWLEDGE CAN BE DANGEROUS

In the last round of the first day of Open Pairs (match 4), I had the opportunity to put some of my bridge education into action. If you played the Autumn Nationals last year, you may have seen a young, lanky American wandering around – that was Kevin Rosenberg, son of the famous Michael, and a fine player in his own right. He was over in Australia for a few months, and during his stay in Sydney I had a game with him at the local duplicate. 24 boards were more than enough to pick something up from him. We had this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kevin	RHO	Liam	LHO
1♠	pass	2♦ ^{GF}	2♥
3♥	pass	?	

I had a reasonably good hand and I had to work out on the fly what Kevin meant with his 3♥ bid. I knew Kevin was regarded as a solid partner – not one to put his partner under any unnecessary pressure – and that I was supposed to know (or be able to work out) what 3♥ meant.

Could he have a balanced hand and be asking for a stopper? No, he would simply have passed (we are in a game force) and wait for me to bid 2NT. How about a good hand with long spades? Nope, he would have bid 2♠. Same goes for hands with clubs – he would have just bid them. Eventually I worked it out. He must have diamond support and be wanting to describe his hand more than a 3♦ bid would. That's it! He's got heart shortage and diamond support – in fact, he was about to jump to 3♥ (splinter) before the opps got in the way. Message received in time, 6♦ reached, and a new bid added to the toolkit.

Back to the 2019 Open Pairs. I picked up

♠ K 10 3 ♥ A 8 5 3 2 ♦ 6 ♣ A 10 9 6

and opened 1♥. My partner, Tony Nunn, responded 2♣: game-forcing, either with clubs or a balanced hand. RHO overcalled 2♦. Eager to show off my knowledge, and keen to see if Tony was on the same wavelength, I took the opportunity to bid 3♦ which "could only be" club support with diamond shortage. If Tony didn't have clubs, no big deal – he would have heart support instead and nothing would be lost.

Over 3♦, Tony jumped to 4♥ which ended the auction. My bid was revealed not to be the roaring success I had envisaged, when dummy came down:

Board 25	♠ K 10 3
N/EW	♥ A 8 5 3 2
	♦ 6
	♣ A 10 9 6
♠ Q J 8	♠ 9 6 5 4 2
♥ Q 10 4	♥ J 7
♦ A K 9 8 4	♦ 10 7
♣ 7 2	♣ Q J 4 3
	♠ A 7
	♥ K 9 6
	♦ Q J 5 3 2
	♣ K 8 5

I made ten tricks and might have gone down on some lines of defence (three tables made only nine tricks). If I had simply passed over 2♦ instead, Tony would not have found it too difficult to double (for penalties after they interfere in a game-forcing auction). My +420 compared unfavourably with the possible +800 that went missing. Too much knowledge can be a dangerous thing!

Liam Milne

LIVE & LEARN (OR I'LL GET IT RIGHT NEXT TIME)

It's Match 1 of the Autumn Nationals Open Teams, rather early in the match (and morning!). You pick up the following hand:

♠ K Q 6 4 2 ♥ A 7 6 5 3 ♦ 4 ♣ K 6

and find partner has opened 1♠.

How should you bid this hand? I've heard a couple of versions, including 4NT Blackwood and 4♦ splinter, neither of which I like.

I found a different option, which was to use the Jacoby 2NT bid. I was hoping that this would help me, perhaps by having partner show a heart splinter. However, it didn't help me, and in the end, having found a non-minimum hand with no splinter, I bid 7♠. This was not scientific, nor did it prove successful when partner held:

♠ A J 10 8 7 ♥ K J 4 ♦ A 9 5 ♣ A 9

To make she had to guess to drop the doubleton ♥Q offside! I realised how I should bid the hand, and will do so 'next time'. Over 1♠ it is much better to respond 2♥, especially when playing two-over-one game forcing. If partner raises hearts, you can now use RKCB to find any or all of the key cards. When you find the ♥Q is missing, you can jump to 6♠. On the other hand, if partner doesn't support hearts, you can set spades as trumps, and start using RKCB. For example:

1♠	2♥
2NT	3♠ ^{GF}
4♣ cue	4NT
5♦ three key cards	5NT all the key cards
6♥ heart king	7♠

That is the ideal auction if partner does not support hearts, but has the ♥K – because you know there are no losers.

Now I just have to wait for such a hand to reappear.

Barbara Travis

See page 14 for all the results from the Autumn Festival. This month's issue of Australian Bridge Magazine contains a full report on the ANOT Teams Final, and an interview with winning team captain Sophie Ashton.



BALLARAT FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

The annual Ballarat Festival of Bridge ran from Wednesday 3 April through to Saturday, with an event every day. A good number of players from surrounding towns attended, plus ten members from the Canberra Bridge Club. Canberra was the most represented club apart from Ballarat home members.

Apart from the bridge each day, we checked out:

- the Begonias (Begonia Festival had just finished so still plenty to see),
- the Botanic Gardens to see the Prime Ministers' Walk (busts of our past prime ministers),
- the lovely Lake Wendouree, coffee shops, and some retail therapy amongst other tourist attractions.

On the Wednesday night the Canberra delegation enjoyed dinner together at the famous Craig's Hotel. I suspect it is some time since Craig's has enjoyed such a happy group.

Most of our Canberra players combined the Ballarat element with other opportunities: visiting family, walking old rail trails,



visiting the Great Ocean Road. It is ideal to explore and combine with other tourist activities.

It was a very enjoyable few days. Dates will be available for next year shortly. Already the Ballarat club is planning a visit to Canberra in October for the Canberra in Bloom congress and a session at the Canberra Bridge Club.

Peter Giles, Canberra Bridge Club

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Australia was represented at the White House International Junior event by Matthew Smith - Jamie Thompson and Nico Ranson - John McMahon. In a strong field of 24 teams they qualified for the quarter finals, where they were beaten by Poland. Details are available at

www.abfevents.com.au/events/whj/2019/

For the APBF under 26, the above was supplemented with a third pair Andrew Spooner - Tomer Libman. Australia finished 5th, 8 VP short of making the final. Details are available at

www.abfevents.com.au/events/yapbf/2019/

The following hand from the APBF required considerable thought. You arrive in 6♥ and receive the lead of the ♦2, noting this discussion would not be occurring if you'd received a spade lead.

♠ 9 4
♥ A J 5 2
♦ 3
♣ A 10 9 7 4 2

♠ A 7 3
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ A 8
♣ K Q J 6

At favourable vulnerability, partner dealt and opened 1♣, and the next hand bid 1♦. You show 4+ hearts by doubling 1♦ (transfers in competition), partner splinters, and you drive to 6♥.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	1♦	dbl ^{hearts}
pass	4♦	pass	4NT
pass	5♥	pass	6♥
all pass			

After the ♦2 lead, the hand can make if you can manage to lose only one heart and are able to ruff a diamond. You make a spade, three hearts, a diamond, six clubs and a ruff for 12 tricks.

How should you play hearts if they break 4-1, without compromising any of the 3-2 breaks?

There are ten combinations of the 4-1 split: five singletons on your left, and five singletons on your right.

Summary of the success rate of logical plays:

Logical Plays	RHO singleton	LHO singleton	Total
Small to the ♥A:	1 from 5 *	1 from 5 *	2 from 10
♥Q from hand:	2 from 5	2 from 5	4 from 10
Small to the ♥J:	2 from 5	4 from 5	6 from 10

Summary of comparative success rates of the logical plays (eliminating the two combinations that always fail, and the one combination that always succeeds):

Logical Plays	RHO singleton	LHO singleton	Total
Small to the ♥A:	1 from 3	0 from 4	1 from 7
♥Q from hand:	2 from 3	1 from 4	3 from 7
Small to the ♥J:	1 from 3	4 from 4	5 from 7

* If you take the recommended expert play for three winners in the suit (in isolation), which is small to the ace, followed by the jack, you go down when either opponent holds Kxxx in trumps. They duck the second trump; if you play a third trump, they win and play a fourth trump, and that leaves you with only 11 tricks. Instead, if after the jack of trumps holds, you cross to a club and ruff a diamond, they will win the third trump and force the other hand with another diamond, and make their long trump and at least two more tricks for down three or more.

What do we know about the hand?

- RHO has overcalled 1♦, and LHO did not bid to 2♦ or higher, or mention spades. Therefore left hand opponent is unlikely to have extreme shape, such as four diamonds and a club void.
- RHO did not make a takeout double of 1♣, but is likely to be short in clubs.
- RHO did not make a Lightner double, therefore probably has one or two of three missing clubs. LHO did not lead a club.
- We have 25 HCP and they have 15 HCP.
- LHO has led a small diamond, not a spade.
- Opponents are vulnerable, we are not vulnerable.
- It is unlikely that this slam has been bid at the other table. Therefore, you are playing for a 22-imp swing (plus or minus 11).

Constructing the opponents shape and high cards:

- Probable club distribution: LHO two, RHO one.
- We are missing ten diamonds, and they were not raised by LHO. Likely distribution is 4-6 or 3-7 (with a hand not good enough to preempt at adverse vulnerability).
- Spades are 5-3 or 4-4, possibly 6-2, but LHO did not bid 1♠.
- Hearts are unknown, except RHO probably has 3+ spades, 6+ diamonds and one club, making it unlikely that he holds four hearts.
- Honour card distribution is more difficult to assess, but when you play a small diamond from dummy the ten is played on your right, which could be from ♦QJ10 or ♦KJ10 (attempting to find the location of the queen). Spade honours are probably split, as LHO may have led ♠KQ.

Conclusion from the above:

- Likely, only your LHO can hold four trumps.
- The location of ♥K is unknown.
- If trumps break 3-2, the play in trumps is unlikely to matter.

This reduces the choices to playing queen from hand, making when RHO has the stiff ♥10 or ♥8, or playing small to the ace and making when RHO has the stiff ♥K.

OK, we have completed our thinking, noting we have about 8.5 minutes per board. Your play!

Ian Thomson

For the record, the winning play was ♥Q, with RHO holding the singleton ♥8. – Ed.

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Youth Bridge is a growing area of interest across Australia, as it is literally the sport's future. Not just for Australian representation, but a way to increase intellect and participation, starting at a younger age than we first thought possible.

As we work with schools to have bridge included into curriculums, we have been advised that 8 years of age is too late to get children interested in an extracurricular activity. Chess as a sport worked with curriculum advisors and soared in attendance.

We have been working with a curriculum expert and teacher Rosemary Hare to develop a program to enable us to start the introduction to bridge at a younger age and deliver age appropriate material.

Recently we worked with Rosemary and Jamie Thompson to run a "Bring your grandchild to bridge day" at Waverley Bridge Club. The group was split into age and experience, enabling us to host a range of children from six to early 20s.

The younger group enjoyed some games around getting to know the suits, games with their grandparents, a basic trick taking game, and making a card holder from foil boxes to break up the day. By the end of the day the kids knew about the basics of bridge and were ready for more formal lessons.

The Senior group already had an understanding of basic cards and/or were older. They learned Two-Player Bridge, and the basics of bidding and following suit.

This successful initiative will now be rolled out over Australia. If you or your club would like more information on Youth Bridge and how to run a Youth day or night, please make contact with your State Coordinator or email us at

youth@abf.com.au

The upcoming Victor Champion Cup (VCC) and the Australian National Championships (ANC) are two prominent events on the ABF calendar... please join us for some fundraisers throughout these events, to not only help our teams competing overseas, but to assist new players wanting to attend the 2020 Youth Week.

The VCC will have a Youth Stall where you will be able to talk to youth players and coordinators, and find out more about Youth Bridge. How to support the players and information about their Quiz Night to be held during the VCC.

Andrew Mill, an experienced Quiz Master, will be hosting the night. Find the Youth Stall at the VCC to book in. If you are inviting non bridge family or friends, contact Bianca throughout the VCC for more information.

Merchandise will be available to order from the stall, with pick up at the ANC.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH TEAM

The Australian Youth Team competed in the White House Junior Internationals in Amsterdam and the APBF Junior Teams Championship in Thailand over a three week period in late March and early April. The team representing Australia was Jamie Thompson - Matt Smith, Nico Ranson - John McMahon, and (for the APBF only) Andrew Spooner - Tomer Libman.



The team won the bronze medal in the warm-up before losing the quarter final to Poland in the White House. A great effort, considering the strength of the field. Unfortunately the team didn't replicate that form in Thailand, finishing 5th out of nine teams.

Visit www.abf.com.au/youth-bridge for more

The following is a hand played by Matt & Jamie in Amsterdam.

Board 21	♠ A K 7	
N/NS	♥ A J 10 9	
	♦ A Q 9	
	♣ A J 10	
♠ Q 4 3		♠ 9 8 6
♥ 8 3		♥ K 7 5 4
♦ 8 7 4		♦ K 5 3
♣ Q 8 6 5 3		♣ K 9 2
	♠ J 10 5 2	
	♥ Q 6 2	
	♦ J 10 6 2	
	♣ 7 4	

NS had an uncontested auction to 4♥ after a Puppet Stayman misunderstanding. On lead as East, Matt was afraid any suit would help declarer, so he decided to lead a trump from Kxxx as the passive option – it looks counter-intuitive to lead a trump from this holding, but it will never give up a trick.

Declarer rose ♥Q and immediately ran the ♠J which held. He then tried to finesse in hearts. Matt won and then returned another heart. Declarer's options are pretty limited now. After drawing the remaining trumps, he tried the ♦Q, hoping that one of the defenders would take the king right away. Matt ducked, and now all declarer could do was come out with the ♣J.

Jamie won with the ♣Q and immediately returned a club to give declarer a losing option. He can make if he rises with ace and endplays East, but he decided to play Jamie for ♣KQ so he finessed. Matt won the ♣K and then returned another club endplaying the declarer into giving Matt the ♦K in the end.

This was a really cute hand with lots of defensive counterplays. NS had a pretty bad misunderstanding in the bidding, but it's so important to capitalise on the opponent's mistakes.

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Under the Table by Avon Wilsmore (Hamman Associates, Dallas, 2018, soft cover, 382 pages) \$44.95 postfree

Throughout the victorious run of the Italian Blue Team, USA players have been crying foul.

I recall that Australia's top players were sympathetic to the Blue Team and thought the Americans were simply bad sports.

The latest spate of cheaters in bridge's top ranks prompts us to re-examine the past. Avon Wilsmore has analysed hundreds of World Championship deals in an attempt to demonstrate that many of the Blue Team's actions were suspect.

The author points out that their unusual calls almost always seemed to match their partner's hand. What would you do on this hand for instance (nil vulnerable):

♠ Q 9 5 ♥ Q 7 5 4 2 ♦ A K 7 ♣ 10 8

WEST Garozzo	NORTH Robinson	EAST Forquet	SOUTH Jordan
	pass	pass	1♣
1♠	pass	?	

You are clearly too strong to raise to 2♠, so in those days you might bid 3♠, or even 2♥ if it is forcing. On board 56 of the 1964 Olympiad Final, Forquet found the pass. Garozzo, for his 1♠ overcall, held

♠ K J 10 4 ♥ A 3 ♦ 10 6 3 2 ♣ 9 7 3 .

Not only is pass extreme, but it matches partner's hand to a tee.

What about this one (NS vulnerable):

♠ 9 7 5 ♥ J ♦ A 5 4 2 ♣ A K 10 4 2

WEST Siniscalco	NORTH Stone	EAST Forquet	SOUTH Roth
	1♥	pass	1♠
?			

At green this looks an automatic takeout double, or even 2♣. At less favourable vulnerabilities you would still want to take some action. Siniscalco passed to find his partner with a most unsuitable hand for him:

♠ J 10 6 2 ♥ Q 10 6 4 3 ♦ J 10 ♣ 6 3 .

And this one:

♠ A 6 ♥ A K 10 9 6 3 ♦ K ♣ A Q 6 3

Belladonna held this hand on Board 21 of the 1966 Bermuda Bowl Final. In the Roman Club System a 2♥ opening showed 12-16 with long hearts and a secondary club suit. Of course this hand is far, far too strong for that; nevertheless, Belladonna opened 2♥ to find Avarelli with a blizzard:

♠ J 10 7 3 ♥ 8 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ 10 8 7 5 4 .

The author claims that governing bodies such as the WBF and ACBL have hushed up cheating scandals in the past and tried to minimize the fallout, and are thus a major part of the problem.

Under the Table is a history of cheating past and present and an amazing read. Indeed it is on IBPA shortlist of six books for 2019 Bridge Book of the Year.

Paul Lavings

SEE PAGE 27 FOR ANSWERS

HAND 1

♠ A K Q 7 6 5
♥ K 10 6
♦ 9 8
♣ 8 7

♠ J 10 9
♥ A Q J
♦ A Q 10 3
♣ A Q 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2NT
pass	4♥ ^{transfer}	pass	4♠
pass	4NT ^{RKCB}	pass	5♣ ^{0 or 3}
pass	6♠	all pass	

West leads a small trump, the ♠4. What is your plan?

HAND 2

♠ 6 3 2
♥ Q J 10 4
♦ K 5 2
♣ A Q J

♠ K 5 4
♥ A K 9 7 5 2
♦ A 6
♣ 9 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	pass	1♥
pass	2♥	pass	4♥
all pass			

West leads the ♦Q. What is your plan?

HAND 3

♠ 9 4 2
♥ 7 4
♦ 8 4 3
♣ Q J 8 5 2

♠ A K Q J 7 6 3
♥ 10 8 5
♦ A K 6
♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	1NT	4♠
all pass			

West leads the ♥A, ♥K, then ♥Q. What is your plan?

MY FAVOURITE HAND with Warren Lazer

This hand is from the 1998 Australian Open Pairs, which was won by Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer. The hand won the Brilliancy Prize at the 1998 Summer Festival.

This hand is from the Australian Open Pairs at the Summer Festival, back in the days before the Swiss Pairs came in and wrecked one of the two good Matchpoint Pairs event on the Australian calendar.

PLAY

♠ A K 7
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ K J 8
♣ Q 8 2

♠ 10 4 3
♥ Q 10 9 7
♦ 6 5 2
♣ A K 4

♠ Q J 9 6 2
♥ A
♦ 10 7 3
♣ 10 9 7 5

♠ 8 5
♥ J 8 5 2
♦ A Q 9 4
♣ J 6 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Gumby		Lazer
pass	1NT	pass	pass
pass	2♦ ^{min} , no 5M	pass	2♣ ^{NF}
pass	3♥	all pass	

We were playing the Lavings structure over 1NT in those days, hence the auction.

After a 15-18 notrump opening by Pauline, I became declarer in the precarious contract of 3♥. West led the ♣A, followed by the ♣K and a third round won by the queen. As West had passed as opener, it seemed highly likely that East had the ace of trumps. Accordingly, I started trumps by playing a small trump towards the jack, playing for East to have started with AQx or Ax. When East flew with the ace, it seemed likely West had all the missing trumps. Dummy won the ♠Q return with the ace. ♦A, ♦K and the ♠K were played, followed by a spade ruff. Now the ♦Q was cashed and the last diamond was led in this position:



Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer
in the early 21st century

♠ —
♥ K 6 3
♦ —
♣ —

♠ —
♥ Q 10 9
♦ —
♣ —

♠ J 9
♥ —
♦ —
♣ 10

♠ —
♥ J 8
♦ 4
♣ —

West ruffed with the nine and dummy underruffed. Endplayed in the trump suit, West had to concede the last two tricks. Making +140 was worth all the matchpoints.

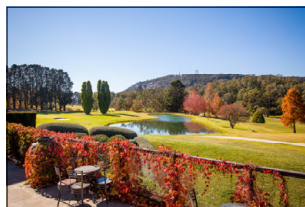
It occurred to me later that this hand (with the ♣10 and ♥Q switched) would be perfect for the *Bridge in the Menagerie* series. Rueful Rabbit is East and Hideous Hog South, and Rueful Rabbit plays most of the hand with only 12 cards, the ♥Q being hidden. Now the defence scores ♣A, ♣K, ♥A, ♥9 and ♥Q for one off.

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RE: CONTEMPORARY MASTERPOINTS (APRIL 2019 ISSUE, PAGE 18)

I am 85 years old and have many points that no longer reflect my standard of play. I know that my ability has deteriorated over the past several years.

I enjoy attending congresses, particularly meeting up with bridge acquaintances, but often feel out of my depth playing against much better players.

I attended the Gold Coast Congress this year and really enjoyed the social time, but after three days of play I decided I would not want to go again to endure the humiliation I felt [competing in the Open field].

Name supplied but withheld

RE: IS ONLINE BRIDGE DESTROYING OUR CLUBS (APRIL 2019 ISSUE, PAGE 26)

Dear Patrick,

I read your article in the ABF newsletter about online bridge destroying our clubs (April 2019 issue, page 26).

Could it be that the club management has failed to ask its members what they would like?

I have been a member of my current club for about ten years. I haven't attended this year at all because I have found a different club. My original club has not bothered to contact me about my absence.

The new club is less accessible for me but the session times suit me better, the director will check that the air conditioning is set to suit as many as possible, and management is not only welcoming, but they remember our names.

I can't believe my luck.

G G Scott

Dear Editor,

Excellent. I am just reading the latest ABF magazine, and have tested out the PLAY option on the "Card Play Problem".

I will be encouraging our new beginners to have a look at this option along with all the other great articles in this magazine. I have always appreciated Barbara Travis's contribution, and the way the ABF Magazine and its ideas have been moving along of late. Paul Lavings has always been a favourite of mine too.

Excellent all around.

Janet Loosmore, Sunnybank

We also received an email from Ian Thomson about our Suit Preference column (April issue, page 14). This was the hand:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	pass	1♠	2♥
all pass			

We were declaring 2♥ on the ♠J lead, and our recommended line was to cash the ♥A, winning against a singleton king as well as all 3-2 breaks.

While this is the correct way to play the heart suit in isolation, Ian pointed out that on the given auction, we should have made 2♥ regardless of the heart layout. His assumptions:

- 1) West has a doubleton spade, as he did not show support and East did not rebid them.
- 2) West has at least five diamonds, probably six, as East did not support them.
- 3) West is likely to have at least two clubs, as he might have led a singleton.

The correct line is to not touch trumps at all. We win the spade lead in hand and lead a diamond. West will win and lead another spade, which we win in dummy to ruff a diamond. Then we cash the ♣A and get off lead with a club. West can cash two club tricks, and the worst-case end position that we can deal with will look like this:

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

If West plays a club or a diamond, we will ruff and exit with a spade, leaving East to play trumps for us. If West leads a trump, we can cover with the jack-king-ace and again exit with a spade:

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

East will continue with spades, and we ruff with the five. Now we play a diamond to dummy's six and East's nine, and take the last two tricks with our ♥Q7 over East's ♥104. If West happens to have a second trump instead of the long club, he will overruff the five, and be forced to play a diamond. Dummy will ruff with the six, executing a trump coup on East. (Click the PLAY button to see all the different variations of this ending in practice.)

Ian's line works just as often as our proposed line, and additionally works when West has a singleton eight, nine or ten.

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY? – SOLUTIONS by Barbara Travis

HAND 1

♠ A K Q 7 6 5
♥ K 10 6
♦ 9 8
♣ 8 7

♠ 8 4 2
♥ 8 7 2
♦ K J 6 2
♣ K J 6

♠ 3
♥ 9 5 4 3
♦ 7 5 4
♣ 10 9 4 3 2

♠ J 10 9
♥ A Q J
♦ A Q 10 3
♣ A Q 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	4♥ ^{transfer}	pass	2NT
pass	4NT ^{RKCB}	pass	4♠
pass	6♠	all pass	5♣ ^{0 or 3}

You can count 11 top tricks. If trumps were 2-2, you can ensure 12 tricks by an elimination play: draw trumps, cash the hearts and play a diamond to the queen – if that loses, then West will be endplayed, having to lead either a club or diamond towards your hand.

You win the first trick with the ♠9 and cash a second trump. Sadly, the trumps are 3-1, so a “traditional” elimination play won’t work (requiring a trump in each hand). However, it cannot hurt to cash the hearts first, in case the diamond finesse fails but West has only three hearts. Then he will be endplayed anyway.

Therefore, you draw the last trump, then cash the hearts – ♥A, ♥Q then the ♥K, ending in dummy. No you can lead the ♦9 from dummy, finessing the queen. West wins the ♦K but, as hoped, he has only minor cards left. So your endplay has succeeded. He has to lead a diamond or club into declarer’s tenaces (♦A-10, ♣A-Q), and the potential minor loser disappears.

If you don’t cash the hearts first, the contract will fail because West still has a safe exit card in hearts.

HAND 2

PLAY

♠ 6 3 2
♥ Q J 10 4
♦ K 5 2
♣ A Q J

♠ A 10 8 7
♥ —
♦ Q J 9 7
♣ 10 8 7 3 2

♠ Q J 9
♥ 8 6 3
♦ 10 8 4 3
♣ K 6 4

♠ K 5 4
♥ A K 9 7 5 2
♦ A 6
♣ 9 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	pass	1♥
pass	2♥	pass	4♥
all pass			

West leads the ♦Q.

There are nine top tricks, and chances for more tricks if the club finesse works or if the ♠K is onside. Is there a safer line of play?

The problem with taking the club finesse is that, if it fails, East will be on lead. East is a danger hand for you, because they can lead a spade through your king.

A seemingly obscure play can ensure the contract, but you have to be far-sighted at trick 1. You duck West’s ♦Q! You can win any continuation (most likely the ♦J, but win a club with the ace), then draw two trumps. Cash the ♦A if it hasn’t been removed at trick two. Cross to dummy with a trump, drawing the third round, and lead the ♦K, discarding your small club. Now you lead the ♣Q – if East covers, you trump and can return to dummy’s last trump and discard a spade on the ♣J, then try the spade suit; if East ducks, discard a small spade, because you don’t mind West winning the ♣K and being on lead.

The hand hinges on recognising that East is your ‘danger’ hand.

HAND 3

♠ 9 4 2
♥ 7 4
♦ 8 4 3
♣ Q J 8 5 2

♠ 8
♥ A K Q J 9 2
♦ 10 7 5
♣ K 9 4

♠ 10 5
♥ 6 3
♦ Q J 9 2
♣ A 10 7 6 3

♠ A K Q J 7 6 3
♥ 10 8 5
♦ A K 6
♣ —

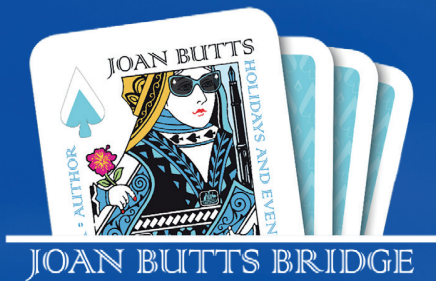
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	1NT	4♠
all pass			

West led ♥A, ♥K, then ♥Q.

If you trump the third heart with the ♠9, you will go down if East has the ♠10 because you still have a diamond loser.

You are better served to discard your diamond loser on the third heart, basically just shifting your loser around. Now, no continuation can hurt you. You can win any lead at trick four, then draw trumps. Now you can cash the top two diamonds, then trump your third diamond in dummy.

You only ever have ten tricks, so make sure you end up with ten tricks rather than nine!



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