

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | MARCH 2024

bridge *Canada*



THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

The mission of the Canadian Bridge Federation is to promote bridge within Canada and protect and advance the national interests of Canadian bridge, including the selection and support of Canadian bridge teams and players for international bridge competition.

MARCH 2024 • VOL. 54 NO.1
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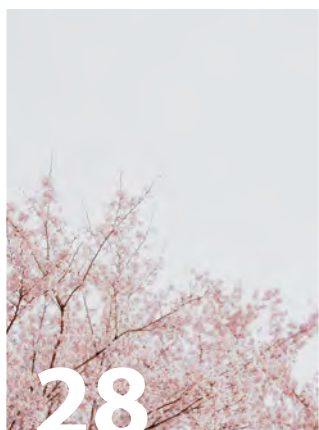
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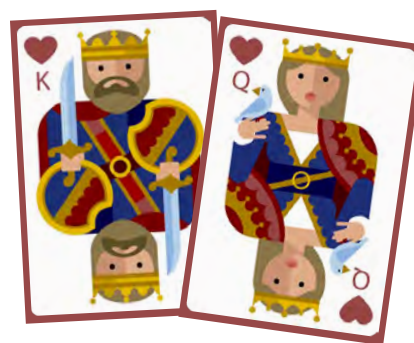


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MEMBERSHIP

Bridge Canada is available to members only.

If you know of anyone who wishes to become a member of the Canadian Bridge Federation please share with them these options:

1. Be sure to include CBF dues with your ACBL dues.
2. Visit cbf.ca and click **Join The CBF**.
3. Email info@cbf.ca for more information.

NOTE: Starting Jan 2021, membership dues for players 25 years of age and under are \$10 per year. When joining or renewing on the CBF website, use promo code JUNIOR to access the discount.

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MAGAZINE AD RATES

Full page \$ 250 | Half page \$ 150

Quarter page \$ 87.50 | Business Card \$ 50

10% DISCOUNT if 3 issues paid in advance.

PUBLISHED 4 TIMES A YEAR



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The Goods

Welcome to the new era of Bridge Canada. We have changed how we deliver this publication to CBF members. Let us know what you think!

Catherine Kinsella, CBF Coordinator

Welcome Catherine, the new CBF Coordinator, replacing the retiring Ina Demme. Get to know more about Catherine in the 'Meet...' article found elsewhere in this issue. You can also contact her at catherine@cbf.ca.

2024 Canadian Bridge Championships

Recently the Round Robin portions of the four major championship events were held online. The playoffs will take place June 10-18 in Penticton, BC, concurrently with the Penticton Regional. Hope to see you all there!

Pics R Us!

We would love to publish photos of Canadian Bridge in Bridge Canada. Please send me pictures of players, duplicate clubs, and anything else that be of interest to your fellow Canadian bridge players!

Women's Bridge

More effort is being made to promote women's bridge across the globe. For more information, click on the below link found in the WBF website.

www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org

Neil Kinelman

Bridge Canada Managing Editor



CBF PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Kathie Macnab

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES AND EFFECT ON BRIDGE CANADA

As many of you have heard, your Canadian Bridge Federation is in financial distress. We would like to accomplish so much, but sadly we do not have the funds to do so. One casualty is our wonderful **Bridge Canada** magazine. We have had to make the difficult decision to reduce our magazine to four (4) issues per year.

CBC changes

Our Canadian Bridge Championships have changed over the last few years. We are now holding the round robins online (using some BBO, but mostly Real Bridge). The cost involved with having an in-person round robin (directors fees, hotels, per diems, room rental), has forced us to go with online qualifying. Everyone misses the days when we held in person round robins. The hospitality and comradery made these events a special time. We are delighted that the **Penticton Regional** has agreed to allow us to work with them this year. All of the playoffs will be held in Penticton. If you have never attended a Canadian Championship, this would be the year to come watch the teams, and play in the largest regional in Canada. This event takes place June 10 – 16, 2024.

The CBF has events for players at all levels.

The Canadian Bridge Federation strives to be all inclusive and have events for the new and up and coming players. Our **Flight "B" Championships** are for players with fewer than 3,500 masterpoints. Our **Flight "C" Championships** are for players with fewer than 1,000 masterpoints. We run an online team league in the winter months. Our online club runs two (2) games on the third Saturday of the month. We have an **under 499er** and an open division. For the past five (5) months these games have been COPC/CNTC qualifiers. If you are away from your home club, these games offer a great opportunity to qualify to play in our Canadian Championships. We organize **two (2) Rookie/Master games** per year. A hand analysis (done by one of Canada's elite players) is sent out to the clubs

in advance of the games. This is a great opportunity for rookies and mentors to have a meaningful discussion regarding the game.

Canadian Identity at the International Bridge Level

Please remember that without the Canadian Bridge Federation we will no longer have a voice with the World Bridge Federation, any charity money raised in Canada will go to the ACBL charity foundation for U.S.A. charities. We will no longer have our Rookie/Master games. We will not be sending any Canadian teams to International events, which includes our Juniors.

On a positive note, we are delighted to have Andy Stark as the head of our Junior Program. Please contact Andy at andystark@cbf.ca if you are aware of any junior that may be interested in playing on the Canadian teams.

CBF Membership has its perks: Great deals for CBF members attending the Toronto NABC this year.

Toronto will be hosting the summer NABC. All CBF members that are resident in Canada will receive **"The Maple Leaf Discount"**. All events are payable at the posted cost in Canadian dollars. If you are a CBF member there is a further discount. CBF members will receive the "Host Hotel" discount wherever you stay PLUS a further \$10.00 discount if you are a CBF member. You must join the CBF prior to the NABC so that you are in the ACBL data base. These discounts are available for online entries only. You will not receive the discount if you try to pay cash for an entry just prior to the start of an event.

The cost of a CBF membership is a **mere \$25.00 per year** with a special of \$65.00 for three years. Please encourage your bridge playing friends to join the CBF.

May all your finesses be onside,

Kathie Macnab

CBF President

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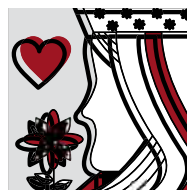
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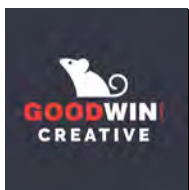
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MEET ...

Catherine Kinsella



Editor's note: Catherine Kinsella has recently joined the CBF as the Executive Assistant, replacing Ina Demme who retired in 2023 after serving the CBF for over 10 years. Catherine has been involved in the Toronto bridge community for the last 10 years. Serving on the Board of Directors of Mobridge, as a club Manager, Directing Club games and more recently as an ACBL tournament Director.

What drew you to start playing bridge and when did that happen?

I began taking bridge lessons in Belleville, On. I had recently moved to the area for work, and I did not know many people so I thought it would be a wonderful way to meet people. I come from a family of card players, so the idea of bridge was very appealing to me. I was hooked from the beginning but unfortunately, I was relocated to Denver after a few years, and I had to put bridge on the back burner. Once I returned to the Toronto area, I decided to return to bridge, and I started playing at Kate Buckman's Bridge Club. They were great at finding me partners until I was able to establish a few regular partnerships. Eventually, I made my way to John Rayner's club in Mississauga as it was much closer to my home. I still love to play but as many bridge Director's will tell you, their bridge game suffers when they start to direct. There is just not enough time! I still manage a "Girls Bridge Weekend" a couple of times a year and I look forward to playing more club games in the future.

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

I was playing at a Sectional Tournament in Hamilton in 2015. During the lunch break we were sitting around the table talking to a group of players from our home club. It had just been announced that John Rayner had decided to retire from running his Bridge Club. What were we going to do? There was a rumour that a group were talking to John about taking over the club and running it as a Non-profit, member owned club. Nancy Strachan turned to me and said, "Cathy you know accounting maybe you could help." Of course, I'll help in any way I can. I joined the new Board of Directors, became a bridge Director, the club manager and I'm still directing and managing the books to this day. That one conversation changed the path of my bridge career and open doors that I didn't even know were there.

What about life away from the bridge table.

I graduated with a Chemical Engineering Degree followed by a MBA from Queen's University. Most of my professional career was with Nortel and then I did a little private consulting before I settled into working for my husband's private company. I have had a lot of flexibility with my work life, so I have been able to become very involved in the bridge community over the last 15 years. I am now working for the CBF and directing bridge games.

What do you like to do besides bridge?

I have a small country property, so gardening and maintaining the property take up a lot of my free time. In the summer, I like to spend time at the family cottage in Quebec.

What is your favourite bridge book?

Opening Leads by Mike Lawrence.

Cats or dogs?

Both. Any animal is welcome in my house. Well, I should correct that. No snakes.

Red or white?

Red. Mind you, a nice cold glass of white wine on a hot summer day definitely hits the spot.

What advice would you give to a new player who wants to improve?

- Do not get overwhelmed. Analyse your game and focus on one area at a time. Bidding/Defence/Play of the Hand. Rome wasn't built in a day!
- Keep your Convention Card simple and add new gadgets only when you are comfortable with what you are currently playing.
- Have fun and remember that your partner is your best friend at the table.

Can you share any amusing stories with us?

I'm hard pressed for one amusing story. It seems every time we go away to a tournament the drive home is filled with great stories. That is the great part of bridge. The comradery!

It could be the time that we were down 10 at the half and both my partner and I privately decided that we were going to bid every game and slam that was there. What a disaster, we finished down 60 and had a good laugh. Our partners didn't see the humour until much later and a few glasses of wine.

Another time my partner and I were having dinner and going over the post-game analysis very intently. His wife walked into the restaurant with some of her friends and saw us deep in conversation. Her friends asked her if she was concerned that her husband was having dinner with another women. "Of course not, it's Cathy his bridge partner." She never even came over to our table. I'm sure only bridge players can get away with that one!



Bridge teaches you how to endure misery.
It's not a game that can be played well, just
in varying stages of badness.

Edgar Kaplan



After Partner Doubles a Weak-Two Bid in a Major

By Edward Zaluski



In an article titled “Lebensohl over an opponent’s weak two-bid” that appeared in the 2023 ACBL Bridge Bulletins for September (part 1) and October (part 2), Vic Quiros described advancing methods that can be used when LHO opens a weak-two bid in a major, partner doubles for takeout, and RHO passes.

Although the described methods are playable, I believe that they have serious flaws, four of which are:

1. A bid in new suit at the three level is natural, shows constructive values only, and allows the doubler to pass, which denies advancer the opportunity to make a second bid.
2. Only an *ambiguous cue bid* of the opponent’s major is forcing to game (which means that there is no way for advancer to both identify a long suit at the three level and also force to game when holding game strength).
3. There is no way to transfer contracts to the doubler when advancer hold a long suit with invitational or better values; and
4. No advance is immediately or subsequently recognized as a Stayman bid. Such limitations do not exist in auctions presented in this article, where initial opponent bids appear in parenthesis but, to conserve space, their later passes are not shown.

Also, the methods described in this article, with partnership agreement, can be extended to advancing the bidding after LHO opens a major, partner doubles for takeout, and RHO raises to the two level.

General Methods: If available, a double of RHO's raise shows two playable suits, and 2♠, if available, is natural and not forcing. 2NT is a Lebensohl transfer to 3♣. 3♣ through 3♠ are all Rubensohl transfers to the next higher strain to show at least invitational values, thereby permitting advancer the opportunity to make two bids if desired. And immediate jumps to game in notrump, the other major, and five of a minor are to play. All advances in greater detail are identified and explained in the following sequences.

Basic Sequences:

West North East South

(2M) Dbl (P) ? Or

(M) Dbl (Raise) ? This optional extension is recommended; its format is used to start most of the following sequences.

2NT *An artificial bid, Lebensohl, which is a transfer to 3♣ with at least competitive values. Doubler normally accepts the transfer unless holding a strong hand.*

2NT 3♣ Pass A weak hand, to play. Ex: xx, xx, Jxx, KQxxxx.

2NT 3♣ 3♦ Also a weak hand, to play. Ex: xx, xx, KQJxx, Jxxx.

2NT 3♣ 3♥ When the opponents have bid spades, this is also to play.

2NT 3♣ 4♣ A raise is natural, invitational. To force, jump to 4♣.

2NT 3♣ 4♥/♠. After Lebensohl, a jump in a major shows long clubs, a singleton in the bid major, and a slam try. Ex for 4♥: Ax, x, KQx, AQJxxx.

2NT 3♦/♥/♠. Doubler's rebid in diamonds or the other major is natural (thereby refusing the Lebensohl transfer), shows a strong hand and suit, and is invitational to game, while a cue bid of the opponent's major asks advancer to rebid 3NT with a stopper in the opponent's suit.

3♣ *An artificial bid -- Rubensohl -- which is a transfer to diamonds, with invitational or better values because Lebensohl was not used.*

3♣ 3♦ Ex: xx, J10x, KQxxx, Axx. Doubler's expected response when holding a minimum.

3♣

3♦

Pass

Advancer confirms only invitational values with a long diamond suit.

3♣

3♦

3♥/♠.

A bid of the other major is forcing to game, showing values in that suit but not four cards, and inviting 3NT if the doubler has a stopper in the opponent's suit. Possible hand for 3♣, followed by 3♠: K10X, xx, KQ10xxx, Ax.

3♣

3♦

3N

Denies four cards in the other major, but confirms only one stopper in the opponent's suit. Doubler then has the option to pass, or continue on in diamonds. If holding a double stopper in the opponent's suit, advancer should consider an immediate jump to 3NT, to play.

3♣

3♦

4♣

Natural and forcing, showing length in the minors distributed at least 5-4.

3♣

3♦

4♦

Natural, invitational. To create a force, jump immediately to 4♦.

3♣

3♥/♠

Because responder has shown a diamond suit with at least invitational values, doubler's rebid in the unbid major is natural and forcing to game.

3♦/♥

An artificial bid, Rubensohl which transfers to the next higher suit; their meanings are described later, depending on which major was bid by the opponents.

3♠

An artificial bid, Rubensohl which shows values for 3NT with 5+ clubs. It denies both four cards in the other major and a stopper in the opponent's suit. Ex when opponents are bidding spades: xx, Axx, KQx, AJxxx.

If holding 5+ spades, advancer would transfer to that suit by bidding 3♥. See later auctions.

3♠

3N

Shows a stopper in the opponent's suit. Ex: AKJx, Kx, xxxx, Kxx.

3♠

3N

4♣

Forcing, sets trump, and asks for cue bids in search of slam. This is a strong bid because advancer did not use 2NT as a transfer to 3♣.

3♠

4♣

Denies a stopper in the opponent's suit, and confirms a minimum.

3♠	4♣	Pass	Too weak to raise to game. Ex: Qx, xx, Kxx, KQ10xxx.	2NT	3♣	3♥	3NT.	Denies four cards in spades but shows the other half stopper in hearts.
3NT			12+ to 15 HCP, opponent's suit stopped, and no interest in a major-suit game.					
4♣/♦			Natural, forcing. For invitational hands, transfer to the minor and raise.	2NT	3♣	3♥	4♣/♦.	Natural, denies both four cards in the unbid major and the other half stopper, not forcing.
4♥/♠			After a takeout double, game bids in the other major are natural, to play.					

Stayman Sequences:

West North East South

(1M) Dbl (Raise) ?

2NT 3♣ 3NT An artificial bid that shows a full stopper and four cards in the other major. Ex when the opponent's suit is hearts: AQxx, Kxx, Kxxx, Qx. If wanting to play 3NT, then advancer must bid it immediately.

2NT 3♣ 3NT 4♣/♦. An artificial bid, Zalinsohl, (my own conventional invention) to transfer the contract in the unbid major to advancer, thereby protecting advancer's stopper from being immediately attacked by the opening lead. Pairing up the suits, clubs with hearts and diamonds with spades, 4♣ therefore transfers to 4♥ and 4♦ transfers to 4♠.

West North East South

(1♥) Dbl (2♥) ?

2NT 3♣ 3♥ After a Lebensohl transfer to 3♣, a cue bid of the opponent's major is Stayman with a half stopper (such as QX or JXX), and promises four cards in the unbid major. Ex: KQxx, Qx, Qxxx, Axx. When holding a full stopper, see 3NT in the previous sequence.

2NT 3♣ 3♥ 3/4♠ Natural. 3♠ shows a minimum, not forcing.

3♦

3♦

3♦

3♦

3♦

3♦

3♦

3♦

3♥

3♥

3♥

3/4♠

3/4♠

4♥

4♥

An artificial bid -- Rubinsohl -- that transfers into the opponent's heart suit. The bid acts as Stayman to show four spades with at least invitational values, but no stopper in the opponent's suit.

Ex: Q10xx, xx, KJx, AKxx.

Accepting the transfer into the opponent's suit denies both four cards in spades and a stopper in the opponent's suit. Shows a strong four-card suit, forcing, and asks for a raise if partner has reasonable three-card support.

Ex: KJ10x, xx, K10xx, AKxx.

4/5♣/♦. Natural, shows a long suit, and denies a stopper in the opponent's suit. 4♣ or 4♦ would be invitational.

Ex for 4♣:

Kxxx, xx, Kx, AK10xx.

With 4+ spades, doubler bids 3♠ to show a non-forcing minimum, or 4♠ to show values sufficient for game opposite invitational values.

Pass Advancer may pass when also holding a minimum. Stopping in 3♠ is possible only when the opponents are bidding hearts. Cue bidding the opponent's suit shows game values with four or more cards in both minors -- likely 31(54) distribution -- and offers a choice of minor-suit games. Ex: Kxx, x, KJxx, AK10xx.

4♠ Shows a strong four-card suit, willing to play a 4-3 fit.

West (1♠)	North Dbl	East (2♠)	South ?	Dbl	3♦		Doubler shows diamonds and at least three hearts.
3♥	An artificial bid -- Rubensohl -- that transfers into the opponent's spade suit. It acts as Stayman to show four hearts with game values. Ex: 10x, KQ10x, QJxx, AQx.			Dbl	3♦	Pass	Advancer shows 4+ cards in both minors but not 4 hearts.
				Dbl	3♦	3/4♥	Advancer shows four hearts. 3♥ shows a minimum and is intended to play.
Non-Stayman Sequences:				3♦			<i>An artificial bid</i> -- Rubensohl -- that transfers to hearts, showing 4+ hearts with at least invitational values.
West (1♥)	North Dbl	East (2♥)	South ?				
Dbl	Shows competitive values with both minors of equal length, and denies four spades. This bid is not available if partner doubles an opponent's weak 2♥ or 2♠ bid and RHO passes.			3♦	3♥		Confirms 3+ hearts and a minimum, which advancer can pass when also holding a minimum. Lacking 3+ hearts, doubler should make a different bid.
2♠	Natural, not forcing.						
3♥	An artificial bid -- Rubensohl -- which transfers to spades, to show 5+ spades with at least invitational values. If the doubler bids only three of that major to show a minimum, that bid may be passed.			3♦	3♥	3♠	An artificial bid that confirms game values but only four hearts. This bid does not show a stopper in spades. Ex: xx, AQxx, Jxx, KQxx.
3♠	An artificial bid that shows game values with a long club suit, or a hand containing length in both minors. It does not show a spade suit because, if long spades were held, advancer would have transferred to spades by bidding 3♥ instead.			3♦	3♥	3N	Confirms only four hearts, and does show a stopper in spades, which is likely to contain the Ace because the lead will be through advancer's hand if the final contract is 4♥.
4♠	Natural, 5+ spades, to play. The hand may contain a tenace in the opponent's suit that needs protection from the opening heart lead being made through advancer's holding in hearts.			3♦	3♥	4♥	Natural, confirms game values with 5+ hearts.
				3♦	4♥		Shows 4+ hearts and values sufficient for game opposite invitational values.
West (1♠)	North Dbl	East (2♠)	South ?	4♥			Natural, usually showing 5+ hearts, to play. The hand may contain a tenace in the opponent's suit that needs protection from the opening heart lead being made through that holding.
Dbl	Shows competitive values with four or more cards in two unbid suits, including hearts.						
Dbl	3♣			Doubler shows 4+ clubs, not forcing.			
Dbl	3♣	Pass		Advancer also shows 4+ clubs with less than game values.			
Dbl	3♣	3♦		Advancer shows four cards in both diamonds and hearts, not forcing.			
Dbl	3♣	3♦	Pass	Doubler shows 4+ diamonds and denies 4+ hearts, to play			
Dbl	3♣	3♦	3♥	Doubler shows 4+ hearts, to play.			
Dbl	3♣	3♥		Natural, forcing to game, with four or more hearts and likely four cards in one of the minors.			

Two examples.

1♠	Dbl	2♠	2NT ¹						
P	3♣	P	3♥			1♠	Dbl	2♠	3♦ ³
P	P ²	P				P	4♥	All Pass	
KX, AKXX, Q10X, AJ10X				– Doubler –		KX, AKXX, Q10X, AJ10X			
Q10X, QXXXXX, XX, XX				– Advancer –		Q10X, QXXXXX, XX, KX			

1. Expresses a desire to bid but warns partner of values not worth an invitational bid.
2. 3♥ succeeds. Despite the strong hand, doubler passes, knowing that partner is weak. With invitational values, advancer would have bid a Rubensohl 3♦ as an invitational transfer to 3♥.
3. Advancer's hand is worth a transfer to hearts to show invitational or better values.

QUIZ

INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

ANSWER ON PAGE 29

Contract: 6♠, IMPs. Lead: ♦3. West has all four trumps. Plan the play.

♠ 872
♥ AK82
♦ Q765
♣ AK

♠ KQJ1083
♥ 1075
♦ AK4
♣ 2



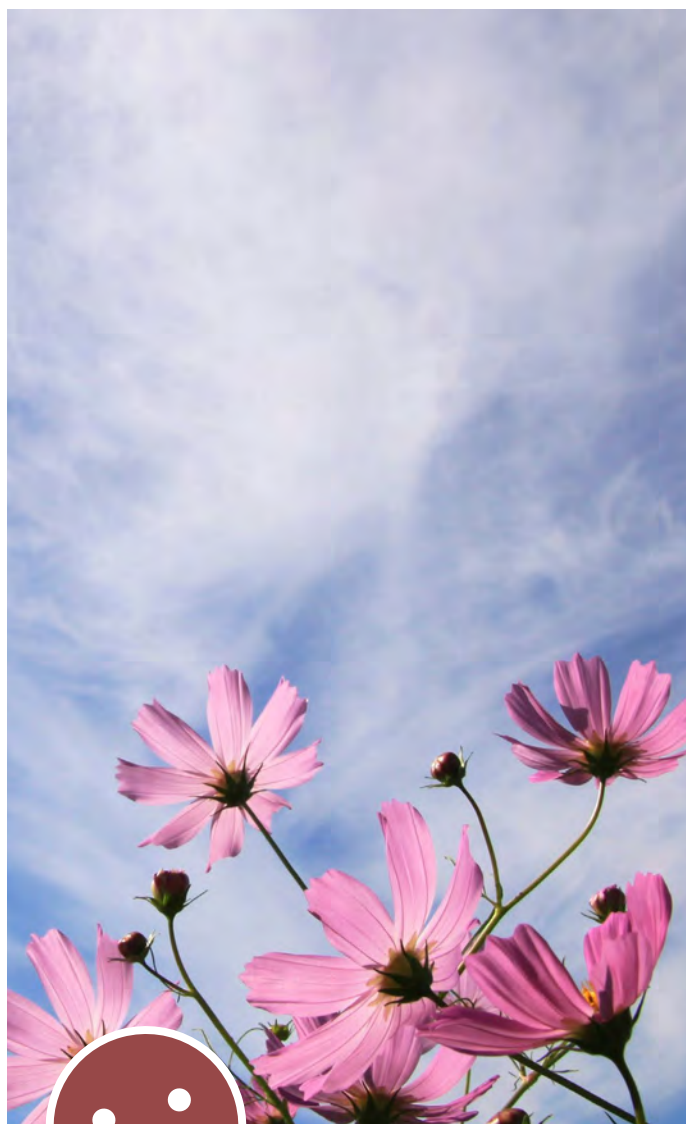
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When I take a 50-50 chance, I expect it to come off 8 or 9 times out of 10.

*Victor Mollo's character
'Hideous Flog'*

BRIDGE BASICS



SLAM CONVENTIONS V

This is the 31st article in a New Player Bridge Canada series. Some of these concepts may be a review for you, but this series will also cover more advanced techniques and ideas.

COPING WITH INTERFERENCE

In this, the last issue of Bridge Basics, we will look at overcoming interference when bidding slams – conventions and treatments to assist in dealing with interference.

1. CUE BIDDING

When a cue bid is doubled:

Example 1

1♠ Pass 3♠¹ Pass
4♣ Dbl
1.Limit raise.

The recommended treatment:

- Rdbl = 1st round control, and does not deny any other controls
- Pass = denies 1st round club control, and an inability to make a convenient cue bid, but at least some slam interest.
- New suit = cue bid denies 1st round club control.
- 4♠ = not interested in slam, maybe a minimum, maybe poor values.

2.JUMP TO THE FIVE LEVEL

Example 2

1♠ 2♣ 3♠¹ Pass
5♠
1. 3 card limit raise or better.

5♠ says, 'Bid 6♠ if you have 2nd round club control. Without a club control, pass. However, responder may have a first round club control, the ace or void. In this situation they can either bid 6♣, or cue bid another control.

3. FORCING PASS

This is probably the most important tool in combatting enemy interference. It again allows you to delineate among different hand types, in situations where there is very little bidding space. Here is one good way of using:

I. FORCING PASS DEFINITION

When your partnership has made a bid that has created a game forcing auction, the opponents cannot play a contract undoubled. This is a simple definition and I will start with a simple hand.

Example 3:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	5♦	

Assuming that 2♥ is game forcing then this becomes a forcing pass situation. If South passes 5♦, North cannot.

II. WHEN ELSE DOES A FORCING PASS SITUATION OCCUR?

i) Besides hands where the partnership are in a game forcing auction, forcing pass also applies when one hand opens and the other hand shows at least invitational values.

ii) When your partnership bids game, and you are vulnerable versus non-vulnerable opponents.

iii) When the opponents preempt and your partnership bids game.

III. WHAT DO BIDS MEAN IN A FORCING PASS SITUATION?

Each bid has a specific meaning. Let's look at Example 3 again:

Example 3:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	5♦	

1. Double – This means, 'Based on the information I have available I think we should double 5♦'. It implies one or more of the following:

1. A doubleton diamond.
2. No fit for hearts.
3. Minimum values.

A typical hand for the double: ♠KQ543 ♥105 ♦105 ♣AKJ9

2. 5♥ - This means, 'I have an offensive type hand and think we have a good chance to make 5♥, and I do not want to defend against 5♦. It often shows good distribution and short diamonds. A possible holding: ♠AQ10872 ♥A853 ♦2 ♣32.

3. Pass – Pass has two possible meanings:

- a) The most common meaning is, 'I will leave the decision up to you – I can go either way.' Whatever

partner does you would pass. Something like:

♠AJ10862 ♥Q3 ♦2 ♣AJ42.

b) The other meaning is: 'I have a very good hand for my last bid, definitely want to bid on, and have some slam interest.' If you have this type of hand you will pull partner's double and raise if partner bids. For example: ♠AK1082 ♥Q53 ♦2 ♣KQ42. With this hand you would bid 5♥ if partner doubles 5♦, and bid 6♥ if partner bids 5♥.

Pass usually denies exactly a doubleton diamond; otherwise a double would be the expected bid.

Although, if you have a good hand such as ♠AKJ82 ♥AJ2 ♦54 ♣KQ4 a pass would be a very reasonable exception to this guideline.

4. Partner's suit – The normal meaning of such a bid is: 'I want to bid on and suggest your first suit as trump. I don't promise any extra values.' Here is an example auction:

5. New suit.

Example 4; N-S Vulnerable:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	5♣

There are three reasonable ways to play this bid:

1. 'I am trying for slam and have a club control.'
2. 'I am trying for slam and have a club suit.'
3. 'I have a club suit and am trying to help you decide what to do if the opponents bid 5♠.'

I have a strong preference for the 3rd option, as it has the highest frequency of occurrence. If I have one of the first two hands I can pass and then bid 5♣ if partner doubles 4♠.

IV. WHEN YOU BID A SMALL SLAM, AND THE OPPONENTS SACRIFICE.

This one is fairly straightforward: Double with no first round control, or pass with one. The only exception is if

you feel you do not want to invite a grand slam, double even though you have a first control of the enemy's suit.

V. WHEN THE OPPONENTS INTERFERE WHEN YOU ARE ASKING FOR KEY CARDS.

Most partnerships play D0P1 and DEPO. The first one is an acronym for double with zero key cards, and pass with one. DEPO is played at the 6 level, meaning Double with an even number of key cards and Pass with an odd number. Finally if the opponents double your keycard, whether it is 4NT or otherwise, play R0P1, with redouble being the first step.

what

...does this bid mean?

1. E-W vul, matchpoints:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT ¹	Dbl ²	3NT	4♠

1. 15-17

2. Two suiter with 5-6 card minor and a 4 card major.

What does 4♠ mean?

2. E-W vul, matchpoints:

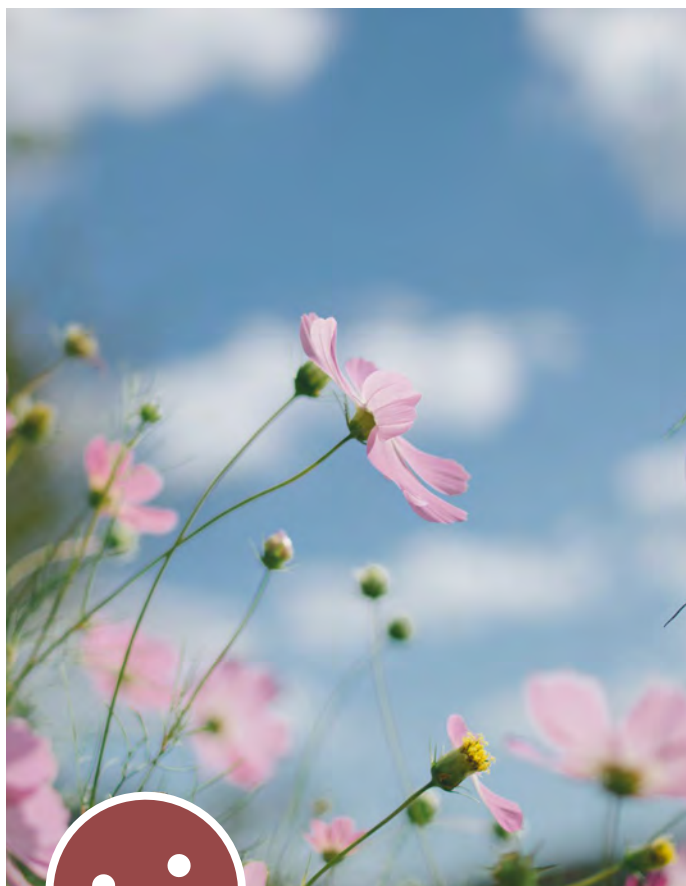
West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT ¹	Dbl ²	3NT	4♦

1. 15-17

2. Two suiter with 5-6 card minor and a 4 card major.

What does 4♦ mean?

Answers on page 30.



The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.

Author unknown

the GREAT CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST



MARCH 2024

TGCBC

Host: David Willis

For panelists, and their bids, see page 25

Congrats to Paul Thurston for having the top panelist score of 47, followed closely by 2023 CNTC champion Jason Feldman with a total of 45 on his first panel. Way to go gents! Top readers were Ashot Harutyunyan, followed by Richard Bickley.

1. Matchpoints. Dealer: West, both Vul, as South you hold: ♠A8 ♥1073 ♦A104 ♣KQJ96.

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♠	3♠	?

When we had this hand at the table (Easter Pairs – London 2023) it occurred that this might be a problem with more possible bidding contest answers than previously encountered. The panel did not disappoint with 7 possible answers across 20 panelists (and that's only the first round).

The majority (initially) eschewed slam thoughts and settled for 4♥:

Turner: 4♥. ... Given that partner may be lighter at MPs than IMPs, there's no guarantee the 5-level will be safe. RHO has a blizzard, so I'm assuming short hearts and potentially 5 spades for the 3♠ bid. Couldn't partner have xx, KQJ9x, KQJxx, x? Or x, QJ9xxx, KQJxx, x? If I were sure they would save in 4♠ (as implied by part (b) question) I might bid 4♠ right now, intending to subside in 5♥ regardless of what partner bids, and hope for the best.

Cooper: 4♥. ... Partner could have something like xx, KQxxx, KQxxx, x. I may not make four.

Note the careful constructions so that 5♥ goes down. Although you can construct hands like these most are on for of a minor or hearts and many for 6. Interestingly several people who were willing to subside in 4♥ are willing to go beyond 4♠ (making that a majority) even if nothing significant would have changed.

Todd: I stay consistent and double if they bid.

The readiness of much of the panel to go beyond 4♥ has resulted in top scoring for those who were ready to take the plunge immediately to the 5-level and make it clear to partner that they had slam interest.

Kimelman: 4♠ Torn between two options. i) 4♥, and then double 4♠ to show it's (probably) our hand; or ii) 4♠. I bid 4♠, as I think it has a lot of upside that bidding 4♥ does not.

Over 4♠ partner can now bid their minor, at the five level with a weak hand, and at the six level with sufficient playing strength/values to make slam (x AKQxx KQJxx xx). This way we can find out partner's minor, get to clubs if that is partner's minor, or more likely, the opponents will misjudge based on our strong bidding, and take a sac when we might be going minus.

Balcombe: 4NT I presume that the opponents will bid 4♠ and I will bid 4NT for the minor right away.

Thurston: 4NT some (admittedly slender chance my guy has clubs so 4NT to find out) and will convert the likely 5♦ to 5♥ as a "mild" slam try. Over 5♣? 6♣ and watch everyone squirm!

Balcombe did not indicate if he would raise to slam but presumably would take the same action as Thurston.

Unfortunately, the difference between 4♠ and 4NT was not discussed by any of the panelists. 4NT might just be pick a minor for game and leaves you guessing to bid a slam. 4♠, as Kimelman bid, is a clear slam signal and should push partner to bid six of his minor on any suitable hand. Top marks to 4♠ and a slight deduction for 4NT.

An interesting part of this problem is the meaning of dbl, 3NT, 4♣ and 4♦. Let's now hear from the proponents for those bids:

Treble and Kuz: 4♣. Toughest hand of the lot. This should be pass or correct at this level, unlike a three-level action. (Kuz: I will take my chance that is forcing by an unpassed hand) Even if 3NT asks for the minor, I don't think it accomplishes a whole lot.

Lindop: 3NT. I want to know which minor partner holds so I can make a reasonable decision if the opponents compete to 4♠.

Another panelist highlights the challenge with these bids:

Hargreaves: I'd like to involve clubs while setting up a force but I can't see how to do that, even if 4♣ is P/C. I once had a similar auction where Soloway made the Michael's bid and his partner bid 3NT, intending it to be 'show your minor'. 3NT was not a success!

Now on to the modernists:

Feldman: 4♦ (good 4H bid).

Jason is in good company here as wide adoption of this in a number of pass or correct auctions is becoming standard allowing you to differentiate 2 very important hands (a solid and gambling 4♥) and set a force if the opponents bid 4♠. However might want to be careful who you risk it with as no other panelist proposed it.

Jacob: Double - it should show a good hand with at least tolerance for both minors; essentially asking for more information (like what minor do you have? or do you have 6 hearts etc.)

Hornby: Double, should be a good hand that can handle whatever partner does...

Another contemporary trend to treat this as a good directionless hand – with the alternative of 3NT or passing and awaiting the takeout double from partner with hands that previously would have tried doubling 3♠. Based on frequency both at IMPs and MPs should be a winner. There is some risk that a partner who is 2-5-1-5 will pass at MPs but even then, you may take 1 or 2 diamond ruffs and score +200 which may be enough if partner's hearts are bad.

As a concession to the majority you really need to know what your partner's Michael's bids can look like to make a choice on round 1 but as many panelists highlighted staying low at matchpoints is often a good strategy.

Miles: 3NT asking for partner's minor is wishful thinking; it should suggest a contract. Double also risks partner interpreting as penalty. I see no intelligent road to suggest a higher ambition than game. I'll settle for 4♥, with plenty in reserve. My clubs may not be worth the paper they're printed on.

Hargreaves: 4♥ ... Glad it's not imps...hate missing vulnerable slams but it doesn't hurt as much at matchpoints.

Turner: 4♥. Terrific problem (and even "worse" at IMPs, maybe).

Since the problem arose at MPs I left it that way but yes many of these considerations would be worse at IMPs. Another bid that did not get considered by the panel is an immediate 5♦ which should likely be a slam invite for hearts or clubs (what is the likelihood you hold a hand that just has diamonds). This would be a logical extension of the 4♦ bid espoused by Feldman.

Although there were two questions for this problem the scoring focuses on the first portion as the opponents will not give you a second chance. They will happily allow you to play 4♥ if you bid it. Top scores to those who made slam intentions clear. Low scores to those who risked a poor contract. The real hand:

♠ Q	
♥ AQJ95	
♦ 8	
♣ A108753	
♠ KJ97543	♠ 1062
♥ K842	♥ 6
♦ K6	♦ QJ97532
♣ -	♣ 42
♠ A8	
♥ 1073	
♦ A104	
♣ KQJ96	

Top spot at MPs is 7NT with the known heart hook through opener... The good news for Lindop's 3NT is that the 13 tricks available in notrump will beat everyone not in slam at MPs. Last comment to a prescient 4♥ bidder:

Miles: Opposite Jeff Smith (a regular partner for Danny), I'd be more worried about missing 7 than failing in 5 or 6.

2. Matchpoints. Dealer: West, N-S Vul, as South you hold:

♠ AKQ
♥ 9863
♦ AK8
♣ AKJ.

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	Pass	?

You play Lebensohl.

The note on the problem was intended as a guide for the panel but did not ring the alarm bell for many. At the table you would have to remember you are playing Lebensohl which partner is likely to bid over double with any hand without four spades likely dooming any future opportunity to make 3NT (let alone maximize your tricks). For the first time I would like to assign a negative score to a majority panel call but am sure the moderator would disallow.

Speaking for the majority doublers:

Lebi: Double, just like the rest of the planet.

Lindop: Double. We'll start there. We could have a slam if partner has a singleton heart and a good five-card or longer suit.

Grainger: Double, then 3♥ over 2♠, 2NT or a surprising 3m.

Feldman: Double followed by a cuebid and pass 3NT, I will let partner out in 4 of a minor if needed after a Lebensohl bid. Driving to slam if partner shows values and has a heart control.

Miles: Double. Can't think of anything else brilliant to do right now.

One of the doublers lays out the case for the winning call as well as the risks:

Treble: Double. I'm tempted to bid 3NT since this is MPs and I only have a partner rather than three people to explain this to. However, it could fail spectacularly while we can make game or even slam in any of the other three suits.

Most of doublers cuebid on the second round heading further into trouble unless partner shows with a (slam) suitable hand. Highlighting the potential risk:

Turner: Intending to pass 2NT and hope for +150 on blocked hearts rather than +100 on defence or +110 in a minor, and cuebid 3♥ over 2♠ hoping for J10xx, x, xxxx, xxxx (+140 on the dummy reversal?) or Jxxx, Kx, xxx, Qxxx (belated 3N). If we end up in 3♠ on a 3-3 fit I'll have my winning case examples ready.

***The 3NT bidders are mostly confident in their call.
Making the case solidly:***

Cooper: 3NT planning to win 9 tricks with no suit as trump... I'd rather play notrump from my side to avoid a lead from Hx by RHO if partner has a stiff (of 10 or lower). LHO may not lead one or it may block. If I double partner is very likely to bid 2NT (Leb) with such as Qxxxx of a minor. If RHO had 3 hearts, he'd raise, so partner can't be void. If partner has a stiff, and it's the J or 10, and is playing 3NT RHO may lead an H from Hx and they run the suit. But what would LHO lead? If he has KQJxxx or AQJxxx or AKJxxx, he's probably not leading low. If partner has any two hearts, we have a stopper unless West has a very solid suit.

Accompanied by:

Hargreaves: 3NT. Who says 9xxx isn't a stopper? At this heat, LHO doesn't have what he thinks is a running suit, plus they'll probably not lead one, plus maybe partner has a stop, plus maybe the suit blocks. I'm not forgetting that 3NT requires we take tricks, but I'll worry about that once I see dummy. I suspect I'm going to wish I'd passed.

Jacob: 3NT, 24 HCP, balanced, what else? I don't expect west to have ♥ AKQ10xx; it is a good chance that the suit is blocked.

Hornby has an interesting thought on why doubling might be right but there are lots of other holdings where RHO has one or two hearts that you are going to wish opener had been on lead.

Hornby: 3NT. Doubling and raising to 2NT to 3NT has some appeal in case RHO is void.

Some other things to note. Your green (NV vs V) opponents did not raise to 3♥ slightly increasing the likelihood that it is partner not RHO that has Hx in Hearts and lowering the stiff heart chances. Playing 4♠ if partner only has 4 spades and a doubleton heart is not going to go well.

As a counterpoint to this view:

L'Ecuyer: Double. If I had to hope that 98xx was a stopper facing Jx or something than too bad, bridge is a tough game sometimes.

A bid not considered by the panel for which I have sneaking admiration and considered at the table is 2NT. This allows you to find partner's 5 card spades and play in a solid 4♠.

Another solid but lonely shot at matchpoints:

Kuz: Pass. The most extreme position. Going for +50 or more. We could have a slam with no real way to explore, or (very frequently) have nothing. A plus is a plus.

Bob will almost always go plus – the question is whether the doublers will go plus the majority of the time? The real hand:

♠ J10872	
♥ K	
♦ Q52	
♣ 7543	
♠ 943	♠ 65
♥ AQJ1074	♥ 52
♦ 1094	♦ J763
♣ 6	♣ Q10982
♠ AKQ	
♥ 9863	
♦ AK8	
♣ AKJ	

After a direct leap to 3NT there is no reason not to lead the ♥Q and there are 12 tricks readily available to be collected beating everything but slams. There is no confident way to bid 4♠ and even if you do there are only 12 tricks available.

3. Matchpoints. Dealer: North, N-S Vul, as South you hold:

♠ KJ10842
♥ 8
♦ AJ3
♣ A84

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

- What do you bid now?
- Would you have done something different at your second (previous) turn to bid?

Some good discussions available on this problem: what is minimum opening strength with minor hands, what is forcing or invitational on the second round of the auction and allowable shapes playing support doubles.

The majority choose to go high on the hand and continue to force at this point and would not change their bidding on the prior rounds. Let's hear from those who suggest we should stay low first.

Grainger: 3♦. Partner has no big heart stack, at most 1 spade (denied 3 over 2♥) and it's MP, so go low on the misfit.

With strong support double agreements (leading to the singleton spade expectation) and partners that open aggressively in minors this seems a reasonable action. As many of the 3♥ bidders argue we have a fit in one of the minors while the lack of a 2NT bid suggests we are playing on a 30-point deck and their partners are not as sure to have a stiff. Hands with spade voids may be problematic for those that force (needing to stop in 4 of a minor). David is expecting a 5-5 minor hand that could not bid 3♣ the first time around or could 0=4=5=4 be possible (- Jxxx KQxxx KQJx).

Julie Smith would have gone lower on Round 1.

Smith: I would have bid 3♠ (invitational) instead of Double at my second turn.

Now for those who might be in a bit of a grey zone but mostly confident they are not.

Cimon with Feldman, Treble, Thurston and Hargreaves: 3♠. Forcing, as we could have invited at our second turn with 3♠.

L'Ecuyer: 3♠ (should be forcing) maybe 3♥ or 4♥ is the right way to continue after 3♣ but partner passing 2♥ (originally) suggests to go low here.

Highlighting why bidding spades over cue bidding is relevant:

Hargreaves: 3♠. ... Minors aren't very attractive at MPs. I'll try 4♥ over 4♣ and 4♣ over 3NT which may lead to slam opposite very short spades; but I'll pass 4♠.

Bidding spades brings everything into the picture – opposite most singleton spades 4♠ will be the right game (the spade 8 is a big card) and alternatively you will get to 5♦ or 5♣ (see Miles comment below). I tried constructing some hands that fit the bidding and if you get to the right strain you will usually have a reasonable play including in 5 of a minor. The key is that opposite any spades you probably need to play in spaces. Opposite a spade void without a wasted heart card you can usually make five of a minor even on a trump lead. Finally, opposite a wasted heart card you likely need to come to a stop in 4 of a minor. If the 3♠ bidders can get out in 4 of a minor they will get the best of all approaches – but that may be not possible for many.

The spade bidders may not want to partner:

Turner: 3♥. No firm idea if 3♠ should best be played as forcing in this auction (probably sensible), but my default bidding rule is "an old suit is not forcing in competition if a convenient cuebid is available."

Lebi: 3♥, can't see any other option, as I don't have an agreement that 3♠ is forcing now.

The majority force with a cuebid which may make finding spades challenging as partner is likely to prioritize showing a partial heart stop.

Miles with Kimelman, Hornby: 3♥ tough problem, especially if partner is from the school of opening 1♦ on 1-3-4-5 shape, which I [Ed note: with apologies to Kokish] dislike immensely; this is exhibit A why. Would love to hear 3♠ on a singleton honour from partner. Even singleton 9 may make 4♠ the best game. I won't pass 3NT as they didn't bid 2NT last turn. Will bid 4♦ over 3NT or 4♣.

Balcombe with Jacob, Turner, Kuz: 3♥ looking for a ♥ stopper or ♠ preference.

Lindop: 3♥. Have to commit the partnership to game after partner opened the bidding and I have a fit for both of partner's suits... I don't think I'll pass 3NT if partner bids it. I'll continue with 4♦.

Although not part of the scoring there was strong majority support for the double at the second turn.

Hargreaves: No. Assuming support doubles, I'm ok with my reopening double, since partner presumably has short(ish) spades and could well have a heart stack at that point.

Cimon: No. The only other forcing bid I can make is 3♥, and that tends to ask for a stopper.

For the minority who disliked doubling:

Cooper: I prefer 3♥ the previous round. I don't really want to defend 2♥ doubled. I prefer a hand with at least two hearts to double... We're vulnerable, and I would bid game absent interference and ... 2Hx is not going down four when they have 8 hearts.

Miles: Yes, I would have bid 3♥. I believe the hand's offence to defence ratio and the "paint" (vulnerability) make 2-level defending risky when both sides have an 8-card fit and we have values for game.

Danny's partners must all be solid citizens however Stephen Cooper captures the risk of doubling with long spades. The real hand:

♠ -	
♥ J53	
♦ KQ987	
♣ KQJ65	
♠ A6	♠ Q9753
♥ AKQ1094	♥ 762
♦ 1043	♦ 54
♣ 72	♣ 1093
	♠ KJ10842
	♥ 8
	♦ AJ3
	♣ A84

4. IMPs. Dealer North, both Vul, as South you hold:
♠KQ64 ♥Q9542 ♦Q4 ♣K7

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	3♣ ²	Pass	?

- Shows five, one round force.
- Solid reverse, Game Forcing.

a) What do you bid now?

This problem seemed more interesting when I gave it to the moderator but still raises some interesting points. The vast majority of the panel is prepared to more towards slam but sees the risk of two missing aces for slam. The minor suit cards and KQ of ♠ are golden on this auction but there are still hands where two aces may be missing.

With most moving to slam, let's hear from the 3NT bidders first:

Hornby: 3NT seems obvious, some of my major suit cards likely aren't pulling their weight.

Balcombe: (3♠) 3NT; likely what I should have bid on the previous round (I assume it shows stoppers & extras).

What about the ambiguous 3♠ bid (they all appear to be closet 4♣ bidders):

Cooper: Feels like a 3♠ call. Straightforward call would be 4♣.

Jacob with Feldman: 3♠; slam in clubs is a good possibility.

Treble: 3♠. There is some murkiness about whether this is showing or asking. Depends on what the fourth suit a round earlier would have been.

Stating the case for the majority.

Turner: 4♣. Assuming we play RKC1430 Blackwood. We could be off two aces (x, KJ, AKJ, AQJ10xxx) in which case my 4♣ will simplify the auction considerably, either immediately or after my 4♠ cuebid. It's easy to assume partner has excellent clubs on this auction, but I wouldn't open 2NT or 2♣ with Ax, A, AKJx, Axxxxx so I think 6NT might be a poorer contract than 6♣ in some cases.

Kimelman with Lebi, Cimon and Thurston: 4♣. Let's set the trump suit, and give partner a chance to express their slam interest.

Lindop: 4♣. While I might settle for 3NT at MPs, there's too much chance for slam at IMPs.

The panel did touch on some of the issues I had hoped for when the problem was raised – were there better bids on Round 1, how solid is partner's reverse, what would 2♠, 2NT or 3♠ have been on the third round by reverser:

Miles: 4♣. Not sure why I was so excited to repeat those ratty hearts - we'd almost always find out if partner has three and we still may not want to play in our 5-3 fit (J Axx AKx AQJxxx makes clubs or notrump better). I'll raise to 4♣ now. 4NT without suit agreement is quantitative but I don't think I want to play in notrump especially opposite short hearts.

Kimelman: 4♣. Partner's inability to bid 3♠ makes it more likely that their fragment is in spades, thus our hand being better.

Grainger: 4♣. Assuming 3♣ is still natural, the alerts are weird. If it's not, this is unplayable. For what it's worth, I recommend 2♥ = GF and 2♠ the only bid assumed to be weak (and artificial) in order to have reasonable auctions when you have something as opposed to having multiple ways of signing off to improve the partscore.

L'Ecuyer: If I am facing a solid reverse, I am raising clubs to 4♣ (what would 2NT have been?) – I expect a minimum of Ax x AKxx AQ9xxx – now this is a difficult problem to address without knowing more on the "solid" reverse style.

The real hand:

♠ J2	
♥ A	
♦ AK53	
♣ AQJ962	
♠ A75	♠ 10983
♥ K1086	♥ J73
♦ J1072	♦ 986
♣ 85	♣ 1043
♠ KQ64	
♥ Q9542	
♦ Q4	
♣ K7	

5. Matchpoints. Dealer N-S Vul, as South you hold: ♠KJ7 ♥AQ843 ♦KJ7 ♣A5.

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♠	?

What now? Key decisions here – Is this too good for 1NT, do we need to get hearts in the picture? Let's hear what the panel has to say. A solid minority thinks this is too good for 1NT but they all eschew hearts on the second round (well done).

Hargreaves: Double. Then 2NT, not 2♥! I think this hand evaluates just a tad too much for 1NT, even at MPs where conservatism with good hands is often best. I'll bid hearts only if partner shows them.

Kuz: Double. I will bid 2NT over 2♣ or 2♦. I will raise 2♥ to only 3.

Kimelman: Double, and then rebid 2NT. 1NT is a significant underbid imho. I think this hand values at 20 points easily. All values are on my right and I have a 5 card suit with a good 18 HCPs. 1NT, which could be 14 or 15, is way too large a range to bid with this moose. Plus RHO might be taking advantage of the vulnerability to open light. 1NT will miss many vulnerable games.

Grainger: Double. Too good for 1NT, but treat as balanced if partner bids something other than hearts

Smith: Double. I'm a bit too strong to bid 1NT, but 2♥ also seems wrong. I'll double and bid 2NT over partners expected 2♣ or 2♦ bid.

All of these will get to the right game over the light non-vul opening of their RHO. What do the 1NT bidders have to say?

Miles: 1NT. Full values vulnerable. A bit uncomfortable to double then bid hearts or notrump. Missing a 5-3 heart fit may not be a disaster. Yes, partner will pass with eg xxx J10x Axx xxxx and we'll take a billion tricks on a spade lead. But opposite short hearts and a poor hand we want to stay low.

Turner: 1NT. A pretty big position, both in terms of high cards and hearts that I wouldn't risk at IMPs. I think that 1NT will score better if both partner and lefty have poorish hands, even if we have a heart fit.

Treble: 1NT. This six-loser hand is not good enough for double followed by a heart bid. Even a 2♥ overcall could be dangerous if LHO has length in that suit. Whatever the par contract is, 1NT is just as likely to get us there as anything else.

Stark: 1NT. This bid shows 15-18 HCPs. If I bid 2♥, (showing, say, 12-17 HCPs), partner might not take action with a 7-, 8- or 9-count and fewer than three hearts. But with that holding, over my 1NT overcall, partner should bid.

Lindop with Lebi: 1NT. A bit of an underbid since the hand is worth 19 points – 18 high-card points plus 1 length point – but partner is a passed hand and we are vulnerable. I don't think I'm quite strong enough to double and bid 2NT over partner's two-level advance.

What about 2♥?

Thurston: 1NT... Would want better hearts for double and heart follow-up or notrump rebid after double. An immediate heart overcall seems misguided with only average hearts and extra values. This is a hand type that eludes a perfect answer!

Cimon: 1NT... 2♥ doesn't describe the hand well.

For the scoring given the solid majority of the panel behind 1NT, the desirability of being plus at matchpoints, and the risk of -200 opposite the wrong hand; the top score goes to the 1NT bidders but solid scores for 2NT and double which have their upsides including on the real hand:

the GREAT CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST



♠ Q52

♥ 2

♦ Q10642

♣ K643

♠ 4

♥ JT976

♦ A953

♣ 972

♠ A109863

♥ K5

♦ 8

♣ QJ108

♠ KJ7

♥ AQ843

♦ KJ7

♣ A5

Having been burned by not showing 5 card majors a couple of times right before this hand came up I chose 2♥ at the table against all my normal principles. This was the worst of all alternatives – happily for the panel none of them made that choice. Thus not so good scores to those, including me, that felt ♥ were important to mention.

Some of the 1NT bidders may get to the optimum 3NT by inviting aggressively (see Turner) but I did not let the actual hand full sway over the result giving more weight to the experience of our panelists.



The real test of a bridge player isn't staying out of trouble, but in escaping once you're in it.

Alfred Sheinwold

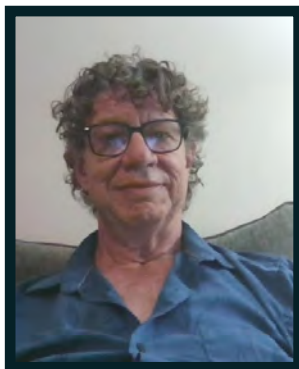
PANELIST ANSWERS

March 2024 Bidding Contest

Name	Prob 1	Score 1	Prob 2	Score 2	Prob 3	Score 3	Prob 4	Score 4	Prob 5	Score 5	Total
Paul Thurston	4NT/5♥	9	Dbl	8	3♠	10	4♣	10	1NT	10	47
Jason Feldman	4♦/Dbl	10	Dbl	8	3♠/no	10	3♠	7	1NT	10	45
Dan Jacob	Dbl	9	3NT	10	3♥/no	8	3♠	7	1NT	10	44
Neil Kimelman	4♠	10	Dbl	8	3♥/no	8	4♣	10	Dbl/2NT	8	44
Mike Hargreaves	4♥/P	5	3NT	10	3♠/no	10	4♣	10	Dbl/2NT	8	43
Nic L'Ecuyer	4♥	5	Dbl	8	3♠/no	10	4♣	10	1NT	10	43
Francine Cimon	4♥/5♣	5	Dbl	8	3♠/no	10	4♣	10	1NT	10	43
Robert Lebi	4♥	5	Dbl	8	3♥/no	8	4♣	10	1NT	10	41
Danny Miles	4♥/4NT	5	Dbl	8	3♥/3♥	8	4♣	10	1NT	10	41
Andy Stark	4♥/5♣	5	Dbl	8	3♥/no	8	4♣	10	1NT	10	41
David Turner	4♥/Dbl	5	Dbl	8	3♥/no	8	4♣	10	1NT	10	41
Stephen Cooper	4♥/P	5	3NT	10	3♥/3♥	8	3♠	7	1NT	10	40
David Lindop	3NT/4♥	4	Dbl	8	3♥/no	8	4♣	10	1NT	10	40
Keith Balcombe	4NT	9	Dbl	8	3♥/no	8	3NT	5	1NT	10	40
Julie Smith	4♥/5♣	5	Dbl	8	3♥/3♠	8	4♣	10	Dbl	8	39
David Grainger	4♥/5♣	5	Dbl	8	3♦/no	7	4♣	10	Dbl	8	38
Ray Hornby	3NT/4NT	4	3NT	10	3♥/no	8	3NT	5	1NT	10	37
Bill Treble	4♣/	2	Dbl	8	3♠/no	10	3♠	7	1NT	10	37
Bob Todd	4♥/Dbl	5	Dbl	8	3♥/no	8	3♠/6♣	7	Dbl	8	36
Bob Kuz	4♣	2	Pass	7	3♥/no	8	4♣	10	Dbl/2NT	8	35

Scoring Tables

Problem 1		Problem 2		Problem 3		Problem 4		Problem 5					
4♦	10	3NT	10	3♠	10	4♣	10	1NT	10				
4♠	10	Dbl	8	3♥	8	3♠	7	Dbl/2NT	8				
4NT	9	Pass	7	3♦	7	3NT	5	Dbl/2♥	5				
Dbl	8	2NT	5					2♥	2				
4♥	5												
3NT	4												
4♣	2												



JUNE 2024 PROBLEMS

Host: Stephen Cooper

Readers: Answers due May 11st.

1. Board-a-match. Dealer: South, both Vul, as South you hold: ♠96 ♥K84 ♦76542 ♣K92.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	?

- a) What do you bid now?
b) Would you have passed over 1♦? If not, what would you have bid then?

2. IMPs. Dealer: North, E-W Vul, as South you hold: ♠KQ ♥A98 ♦AQ ♣AQ9876.

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	?

- a) What do you open?
b) If you open 1♣, what do you rebid over a 1♦, 1♥ or 1♠ response?
c) If you open 2♣, what do you rebid over a waiting 2♦ response?

3. IMPs. Dealer: North, N-S Vul, as South you hold: ♠AQ654 ♥K987 ♦- ♣Q1098.

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	?

What do you bid?

4. 4. IMPs. Dealer South, both Vul, as South you hold: ♠AQ64 ♥J108532 ♦8 ♣A9.

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	?

- a) What's your rebid, with 2/1 style? 2♥ would not show extra hearts, and 2♠ would not show extra strength.
b) If you rebid 2♥, partner continues 3♣. Now what? What would 3♠ show at this point?

5. Matchpoints. Dealer North, neither Vul. As South you hold: ♠K108 ♥A92 ♦QJ1052 ♣Q9.

West	North	East	South
			1♦
3♥	4♣	Pass	?

What do you bid?



Ethan: How was my game tonight?

Samantha: Your play was better tonight, and so were your excuses.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2024

March	March 16	CBF Online Game on BBO - Open 1:15 EST
	March 26	ACBL-wide Charity Game (1 of 2)
April	All Month	In person Clubs - Charity Games
	April 2	Helen Shields Rookie Master Game - F2F Clubs
	April 20	CBF Online Game on BBO - Open 1:15 EST
	April 24	ACBL-wide Charity Game (2 of 2)
May	May 18	CBF Online Game on BBO - Open 1:15 EST
June	All Month	North American Pairs Flight A, B and C
	June 5	Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Games - Match #1
	June 10 - 18	Canadian Bridge Championships in Penticton CNTC A-B-C /CWTC/CSTC/CMTC/COPC/ CIPC
	June 16 -23 (1 day)	Day of Bridge / Alzheimer Societies
July	All Month	North American Pairs Flight A, B and C
August	All Month	North American Pairs Flight A, B and C
	TBD	World Youth Team Championships
	August 19	ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game 2nd of 2
September	All Month	Qualifying games in clubs for the 2025 CBC - CNTC: Sept. to Jan.15 & COPC Sept. to Dec.
	Sept 1 - 30	Registration for CBF Online Team League
	September 11	ACBL-wide International Fund Game - 2nd of 3
	September 21	CBF Online Game on BBO - Open 1:15 EST COPC Qualifier
October	All Month	Qualifying games in clubs for the 2025 CBC - CNTC: Sept. to Jan.15 & COPC Sept. to Dec.
	All Month	CBF Online Team League - Oct through Feb.
	October 3	Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Games - Match #2
	October 16	Erin Berry Rookie Master Game at in person Clubs
	October 19	CBF Online Game on BBO - Open 1:15 EST COPC Qualifier
	October 21	CBC Round Robin Registration Opens
	Oct. 19 - Nov. 3	World Bridge Games - Buenos Aires
November	All Month	Qualifying games in clubs for the 2025 CBC - CNTC: Sept. to Jan.15 & COPC Sept. to Dec.
	November 16	CBF Online Game on BBO - Open 1:15 EST COPC Qualifier
December	All Month	Qualifying games in clubs for the 2025 CBC - CNTC: Sept. to Jan.15 & COPC Sept. to Dec.
	December 10	ACBL-wide International Fund Game 3rd of 3
	December 21	CBF Online Game on BBO - Open 1:15 EST COPC Qualifier

QUIZ

INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

PUZZLE ON PAGE 12

Contract: 6♠, IMPs. Lead: ♦3. West has all four trumps.
Plan the play.

♠ 872
♥ AK82
♦ Q765
♣ AK

♠ KQJ1083
♥ 1075
♦ AK4
♣ 2

This seems to be a straightforward contract. You have 5 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and 2 clubs. You win the diamond in hand and lead two rounds of trump, your king and queen winning as East discards two clubs. One of the habits of experts is to envision what can go wrong. Here is what will you do if West winds the third round of spades, and returns a heart?

You can win, and now need to get back to your hand to pull the last trump. The diamond lead is ominous, and could easily be a singleton. What can you do? If you only realized the danger until this point, it is too late. The full deal:

♠ 872
♥ AK82
♦ Q765
♣ AK

♠ A964
♥ J6
♦ 3
♣ Q106543

♠ -
♥ Q943
♦ J10982
♣ J987

♠ KQJ1083
♥ 1075
♦ AK4
♣ 2

When you see the lead and spade split is the time to think. The solution is to temporarily abandon trumps. At trick three cash the ♣AK, discarding a heart. Then cash the ♥AK, hoping West has at least two of them. Now lead a 2nd trump. Once West wins they have to put you back in your hand, to pull the remaining trump. Either ruffing a heart or club, or winning a spade or diamond.

This technique is known as the dentist coup, extracting cards from the opponents that could cause you problems.



Bridge writer: What is it like to partner a real expert?

Helen: Why don't you asked Charlie?

Helen Sobel, long-time partner of Charles Goren.



André Laliberté

1937-2023

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of André Laliberté on December 30, 2023. André was well known to long-time bridge players. He began playing bridge at 18 years of age, following in the footsteps of his father, Henri-Paul, who was a renowned bridge player in Quebec at the time.

His rise to Canada's bridge elite was rapid. Indeed, bridge players in the Quebec City area who knew him well nicknamed him "The King". Here are a few highlights from André's bridge career:

- In 1970, he represented Canada in the World Pairs Championship, held in Sweden.
- In 1988, his team of Maurice Larochelle, Jacques Laliberté (his brother), Raymond Fortin, Kamel Fergani, Jean Bernier and himself won the CNTCs. This same team went on to beat Bermuda and Mexico, enabling them to represent Canada at the world championship in Perth, Australia.
- He represented Canada three times at the World Senior's Championships.
- In 2020, André, at the age of 83, he became an ACBL Grand Life Master.

what

...does this bid mean?

1. E-W vul, matchpoints:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT ¹	Dbl ²	3NT	4♣

1. 15-17

2. Two suiter with 5-6 card minor and a 4 card major

What does 4♣ mean?

4♣ says 'we have a fit. Pass if this is your minor, otherwise bid 4♦. I will either pass 4♦, or correct to 4♥ with a major suit fit. South is likely 4-4-1-4 shape for this bidding, and thinks the opponents can likely make 3NT, and is looking for a cheap sacrifice.

2. E-W vul, matchpoints:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1NT ¹	Dbl ²	3NT	4♦

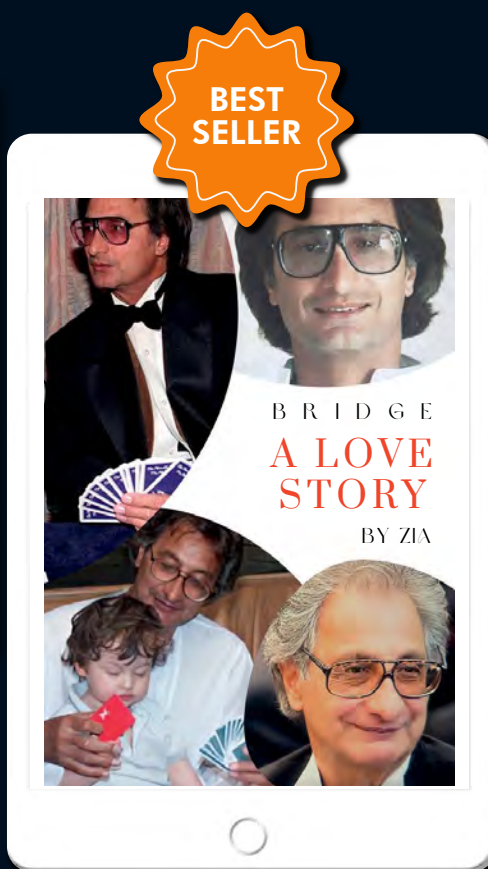
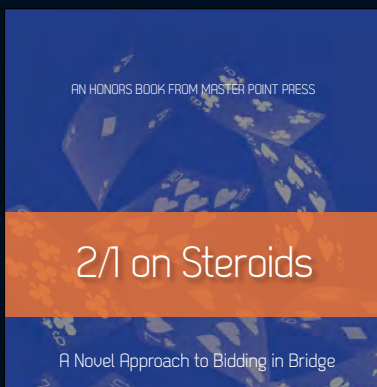
3. 15-17

4. Two suiter with 5-6 card minor and a 4 card major.

What does 4♦ mean?

4♦ says 'we have a fit. Pass if this is your minor, otherwise bid 4♥. I will either pass 4♥, or correct to 4♠ with a major suit fit. South is likely 4-4-4-1 shape for this bidding, and thinks the opponents can likely make 3NT, and is looking for a cheap sacrifice.

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