



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.



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3. Email info@cbf.ca for more information.

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The CBF Works!!

One of the primary missions of the CBF is to develop Canadian bridge players and make it possible for many of these players to represent Canada in international competitions.

As you can see below we are in the middle of World and Canadian Championships. I feel a sense of pride when I see all of the Canadians, whether they still live here or have moved to the U.S. or other countries, competing on an even footing with the best in the world.



2021 World Championships

Congratulations to our teams and players who competed in Italy at the end of March, 2022. We can all be proud as they competed with the best the bridge world has to offer! See article from the Open and Senior captains.

2022 Canadian Bridge Championships Way to go CBF Board!

I would like to also congratulate the CBF Board for the successful migration to RealBridge. It was a pleasure to play on this platform, and have access to all the results from every table for the whole event! Plus, one of my pet peeves was addressed, the Cross-table comparisons available on RealBridge allowed for the display of the relative success rate of all pairs in the event.

By the time this issue is published, all team events will be completed (not COPC and CIPC). The premier CNTC A event was the first event held, and in this issue of Bridge Canada we have an article from a member from the winning team.

Bridge Canada Feedback

Let me know what you think, or if you have any other ideas for other Bridge Canada features. Some of the feedback that I have received is the enjoyment many get from reading and entering The Great Canadian Bidding Contest (TGCBC). I appreciate receiving all comments.

Neil Kimelman
Bridge Canada Managing Editor



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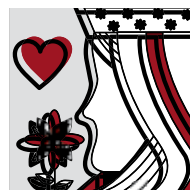
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2021 IBPA Awards

The Justin Lall Declarer Play of the Year Award

Winner: Boye Brogeland (Norway)

Journalist: Christina Lund Madsen (Denmark)

Sponsor: Les Amoils

	♠ 876543	
	♥ 6543	
	♦ K97	
	♣ -	
♠ 92		♠ AKJ
♥ A82		♥ K
♦ A82		♦ 106543
♣ AK765		♣ Q984
	♠ Q10	
	♥ QJ1097	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ J1032	

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>
-	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	3♥ ¹	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥ ²	Pass	5♠ ³	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

1. Pre-emptive
2. Asks for the queen of clubs; grand-slam interest
3. Queen of clubs and king of spades

Hurd led the four of hearts to dummy's king, South playing the queen. At trick two, Brogeland played the three of diamonds to the jack and his ace (a way to make the contract with clubs splitting is to play for two-honours-doubleton or the doubleton-king in either hand and eliminate the other suits for a ruff and sluff, but to prevent the hand with doubleton-king from unblocking, the play must be made early).

Brogeland carefully ruffed a heart with the eight of clubs. He continued with the queen of clubs and saw the bad split. The nine of clubs followed, South playing the ten, won by West's king. Next was a spade to the ace, the four of clubs from dummy, finessing with the seven, the

ace of clubs and then a diamond exit. Had North put up the king, there would have been no second diamond loser, so he ducked it to South's queen. South returned a heart to the ace, and Brogeland played his last club. North had to discard a spade to hold on to the king of diamonds, and now Brogeland played a spade to the king, knowing that the remaining spades were 1-1 and that North had been show-up squeezed. That was 12 well-played tricks and plus 1370 was rewarded by 17 IMPs when declarer went down in five clubs in the other room.

The Gidwani Family Trust Award for Defence of the Year

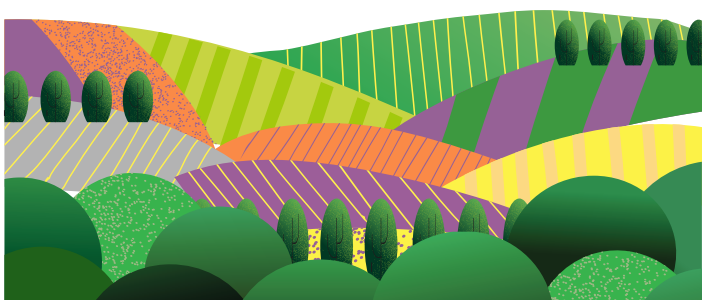
Winner: Kjell Jonsen (Norway)

Journalist: Knut Kjærnsrød (Norway)

Sponsor: Dilip Gidwani

This deal is from a local tournament. The player who performed the following defensive feat was Kjell Jonsen of Oslo:

♠ A10754	♠ 2
♥ 764	♥ J10983
♦ 1083	♦ AJ
♣ 84	♣ AK763
♠ J986	♠ KQ3
♥ Q2	♥ AK5
♦ 97542	♦ KQ6
♣ 95	♣ QJ102

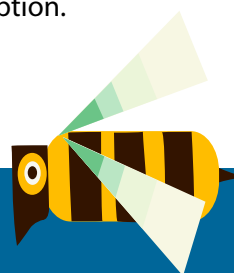


West	North	East	South
-	-	-	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2NT ³
Pass	3♥ ⁴	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT ⁵	All Pass	

1. Multi: either major or big balanced
2. Pass or correct
3. 20-21 balanced
4. Transfer
5. Choice of games

West started with queen of hearts to South's king. Declarer played the king and queen of spades and, on the queen, West followed in tempo with the knave! South suddenly saw that he had two entries to dummy to play diamonds toward his hand and overtook the queen with the ace, soon realizing that he had accepted a losing option.

To be continued...



MOLLO ON PLAY XXII

Contract: 4♠ by South at IMPs. Lead: ♠7, East follows.

♠ KJ85	♠ 942
♥ 6543	♥ 7
♦ QJ7	♦ AK108
♣ K9	♣ J7543
♠ 7	♠ AQ1063
♥ QJ92	♥ AK108
♦ 9532	♦ 64
♣ Q1086	♣ A2

Plan the play. Solution on page 16.



POLAND BECKONS

2022 Flight A Canadian National Team Championships

By Nicholas Gartaganis

After two years of playing the Canadian Bridge championships online as a result of COVID19 there was some hope that face-to-face bridge would return in 2022. Alas that was not the case. In the previous two years all the Championships were played over a span of several months on BBO (one match per weekend). This year, in part based on recommendations from its Advisory Committee, the CBF adopted a new format. Each of the main events would take place over two weekends. The round robin for CNTC-A was on the weekend of April 23rd and the playoffs were held the following weekend. Furthermore the matches were played on the RealBridge platform instead of BBO. RealBridge has built-in video and audio capabilities, and these were mandatory during the competition. The CBF did a marvellous job, not only of organizing the event, but providing multiple practice sessions to allow competitors to familiarize themselves with the new online format.

Once in every 4-year cycle of world championships is an "open year". As long as a player is in good standing with his/her bridge organization it is simply a matter of registering with the World Bridge Federation in order to participate. In 2022 the world championships are scheduled to be played in Wrocław Poland (the same location as the 2016 world championship).

There were 15 teams participating in this year's CNTC A event. It is not clear whether the lower participation (24 and 27 teams entered in the prior two years) was due to

this being an open year for the world championships or due to the different bridge platform or a combination of both. Nevertheless the field boasted many players with previous CNTC wins.

Following a complete round robin the qualifiers for the playoffs were:

VP	TEAM	PLAYERS
207.15	Thurston	Paul Thurston, Neil Kimelman, Bob Todd, Douglas Fisher, Lino D'Souza, Terrence Rego
193.92	Stevens	John Stevens, Motaz Farag, Ron Bishop, Louis Richardson, Doug Andrews, Colin Lafferty
191.68	Cao	Yimei Cao, Kole Meng, Terry Du, Mike Xiao-Fang Xue, Peter Wong
179.04	Kovacevic	Miroslav Kovacevic, Paul Janicki, Andrei Prodan, Adrian Barna, William Koski, Donald Kersey
178.95	Zhou	Kai Zhou, Xinguo Chen, Alex Hong, Lu Gan, Michael Hargreaves, Gordon McOrmond

2022 Flight A Canadian National Team Championships

(continued)



163.73 **Baxter** Doug Baxter, David Lindop, Doug Fraser, Sandra Fraser, Boris Baran, Pierre Daigneault

160.58 **Fourcaudot** Marc-André Fourcaudot, Kamel Fergani, Nicholas Gartaganis, Michel Lorber, Nicolas L'Écuyer, Zygmunt Marciński

158.10 **Turner** David Turner, Roy Hughes, John Rayner, Andy Stark, Eiji Kujirai, Mark Caplan

Fourcaudot struggled during the round robin to even finish in the top eight and so qualify for the playoffs. As a result Fourcaudot had no control over who its opponent would be in the playoffs, never an appealing position. Thurston, having dominated the round robin had first choice of opponent from teams finishing fifth through eighth. For the quarterfinals Thurston picked Turner only to be edged out 135-122. Stevens had second choice and selected Baxter. They were overwhelmed 162-54. Cao chose Fourcaudot and lost 120-77. In the fourth match Kovacevic faced Zhou and was defeated 162-108. This may be the first time in CNTC history that all four top seeds were ousted in the first round of the playoffs.

In the semi-finals Zhou, as the top remaining seed, elected to play Turner which left Fourcaudot to battle Baxter. Zhou built a commanding lead at the midway point (79-13) and, despite a good third quarter by Turner, was able to ride its lead to a 114-63 win. The Fourcaudot - Baxter match was considerably tighter, Fourcaudot holding a narrow 22 IMP lead with one quarter remaining. At the end Fourcaudot prevailed 146-116.

In a repeat of the 2021 CNTC final, albeit with a handful of different players on the two squads, Zhou and Fourcaudot would clash for the championship.

There were many notable deals during the round robin and the playoffs. In the last match of the round robin Nic L'Écuyer threaded the needle in this 4♥ contract:

♠ A		
♥ A7653		
♦ J104		
♣ KJ76		
♠ 9872		♠ Q6
♥ J2		♥ KQ10984
♦ KQ875		♦ A9
♣ Q10		♣ A53
	♠ KJ10543	
	♥ -	
	♦ 632	
	♣ 9842	

After L'Écuyer as East opened a strong club and South pre-empted 2♠, L'Écuyer played in 4♥ on the lead of the ♠J. North won his Ace and switched to the ♦J, L'Écuyer winning with his ace. He now led the ♥10 and found out about the bad break. North ducked and won the second round of hearts with the ace. However, North failed to see the impending endplay and had followed with the ♥3 on the first round. At this juncture he returned a low diamond to L'Écuyer's nine. Declarer played two more rounds of trumps and exited the ♥4 to the ♥5. North found himself with no good exit! Even if North had earlier continued with the ♦10 rather than the ♦4 putting declarer in dummy, diamonds could be continued until North ruffed and then he would then suffer the same endplay with that pesky ♥5. How many players would have the foresight to jettison the ♥5, keeping the ♥3 instead?

In our semi-finals match, after a competitive auction where East had started with 1NT (11-14), Fergani-Fourcaudot propelled themselves to 3NT. Fourcaudot was tasked with making nine tricks on a low club lead:

♠ QJ74
♥ AKJ
♦ KJ85
♣ A3

♠ A109
♥ 10872
♦ 10743
♣ K10

He made the key play of winning the ♣A and running the ♠Q. When that held he played a spade to the ten and cashed the ♠A (spades were 3-3). He now played hearts from the top and conceded a trick to the ♥Q. He was in position to take nine tricks regardless of how the opponents continued. At the other table the contract and the lead were the same after a similar auction, but there Fourcaudot's counterpart won the ♣K and played a low heart to the Jack and the Queen. The opponents cleared clubs and nine tricks were no longer available.

The Finals

In the opening quarter Zhou drew first blood scoring 5 IMPs for beating a doubled contract which was undoubled at the other table. But Fourcaudot poured it on, outscoring Zhou 48-1 over the next 13 boards to lead 48-6 at the end of the stanza.

In the second quarter Zhou stormed back with a vengeance holding Fourcaudot to just 4 IMPs while scoring 62 IMPs to take the lead by 12. The third stanza saw Zhou add another 13 IMPs over the first five boards, stretching its lead to 25. But then momentum shifted and Fourcaudot struck with 41 unanswered IMPs, retaking a slim lead.

Entering the last quarter Fourcaudot led by 13, but 11 of that went poof on the first deal. However, fortune favoured the Fourcaudot team when an odds-against slam was bid and made, while on another deal the

opponents, after a 1NT-3NT auction, attacked declarer's hidden 8-card major fit, giving declarer the timing to make nine tricks. Their counterparts were failing in the major suit game contract.

In the end Fourcaudot outscored Zhou 71-16 in the last quarter to take the match 165-97. Over the course of the 56 board final, almost 4.7 IMPs per board were exchanged -- a very swingy match indeed. Had several of the boards in the last quarter gone in Zhou's favour the outcome could easily have been different. Here are a few hands from the finals:

First, Fergani had to decide how to proceed in the auction with the following hand: ♠J85 ♥Q ♦QJ54 ♣95432. Fergani's partner showed 25 - 27 in a balanced hand. Rather than raising to 3NT, Fergani chose an aggressive route, showing five clubs and four diamonds. The good club slam was reached from there. At the other table after a similar start, Fergani's counterpart settled for 3NT. Partner's hand was ♠AK92 ♥K76 ♦AK2 ♣AKQ. The clubs broke 3-2 so team Fourcaudot picked up 12 IMPs.

Then Marciński faced this defensive puzzle. With the opponents vulnerable LHO passed, partner opened 4♥, RHO bid 5♦, and Marciński doubled holding ♠AKJ875 ♥52 ♦J7 ♣Q85. He led the ♠A and an unexpectedly good dummy was tabled:

North
♠ Q943
♥ J
♦ 10963
♣ AK74

West
♠ AKJ875
♥ 52
♦ J7
♣ Q85

Partner contributed the ♠10 and declarer followed with the ♠6. What now? Regardless of your defensive agreements there is no way to know who has the remaining spade. Furthermore you can envision the ending where you have to hold onto the ♠K and

2022 Flight A Canadian National Team Championships

(continued)



unguard the ♣Q. Marciński looked deeper and realized that if declarer had the other spade, no squeeze would develop. The last four cards would be ♠2 ♣Jxx in declarer's hand and ♠K ♣Q85 in West's hand. Without the ♠2, declarer will have ♦x ♣Jxx. The last trump will indeed squeeze West, who would have no choice but to unguard clubs, hoping partner has the ♣J. Marciński therefore played a heart to partner's ♥A. Partner returned a spade but luckily held the ♣J, so the squeeze failed. At the other table defending the same contract the defender tried to cash two spade tricks, thus allowing 5♦ to make. This excellent defense put 13 IMPs in Fourcaudot's column.

In another hand from the finals, Lorber had to navigate a delicate 3NT contract when his partner decided nine tricks might be easier than ten. Declarer at the other table had landed 4♥ without breathing hard.

♠ K98753	♠ A10	♠ Q
♥ J10	♥ K98643	♥ Q72
♦ 963	♦ A42	♦ 875
♣ AJ	♣ 86	♣ Q109532
	♠ J642	
	♥ A5	
	♦ KQJ10	
	♣ K74	

LHO overcalled 1♠ over Lorber's 1♦ opening and led the ♠7 against 3NT. Lorber rose with the Ace and RHO played the Queen. He now led the ♥3 from dummy and when RHO followed with the ♥2 Lorber played the ♥5! The contract was now bullet proof since hearts split 3-2. It would have been fatal to play the ♠10 on the opening lead, since a club through the ♣K would allow West to clear spades before hearts were established.

Lastly, Gartaganis (South) landed in 5♦ after West had opened 3♥. The lead was the ♠9:

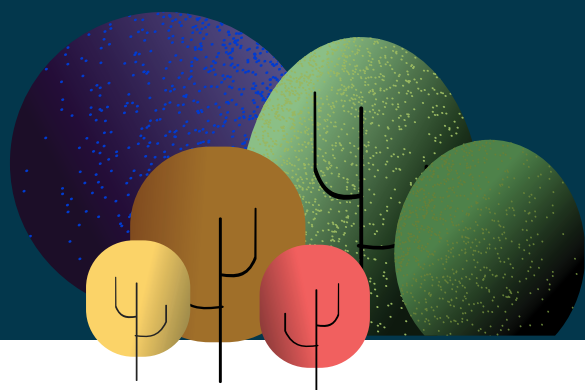
♠ AQ	♠ K10763
♥ 2	♥ K97
♦ AKJ32	♦ 1094
♣ KJ1076	♣ 95

The outlook was bleak. Gartaganis won the ♠A and cashed ♦AK dropping West's Queen. Now he could cash the ♠Q (West had a singleton), travel to hand with the ♦10 and discard the ♥2 on the ♠K. The ♣AQ were offside, so 11 tricks were the limit of the hand. At the other table North declared 5♦ and a heart lead torpedoed the contract immediately. Suppose West had dropped the ♦Q on the first round of trumps. If trumps are breaking 4-1, declarer must find the ♣Q onside (otherwise, dummy will be tapped out after conceding the first club trick) and will need two hand entries to take and then repeat the club finesse. Undoubtedly Gartaganis would have tried to cash a second spade before continuing trumps, planning to discard dummy's heart and take the first club finesse. He would still be banging his head against the wall having been victimized by a clever swindle.

Fergani and L'Écuyer were winning for an unprecedented 9th time. Lorber, who gave up bridge for a couple of decades to focus on family and his career, was winning his first CNTC. This was Marciński's 5th win while Fourcaudot notched his 4th win and Gartaganis his 7th.

The 2021 World Championship Report

After being postponed for a year because of the pandemic, the 45th World Teams Championships were held in Salsomaggiore, Italy, from March 27 to April 9 2022. Here is a report from the Open and Senior Captains.



2021 Bermuda Bowl

By Jeff Blond

Representing Canada in the Bermuda Bowl were Nicolas L'Écuyer, Zygmunt Marcinski, Marc-André Fourcaudot, Kamel Fergani, Daniel Lavee and Jacob Freeman, with myself as the non-playing captain.

Almost a third of the way through the seven-day round-robin, Canada was in fifth place in the overall standings. Alas, that proved to be the high-water mark. Two disastrous days in the middle of the competition scuttled all hopes of qualifying for a playoff position and after seven days of play Canada finished a disappointing 19th out of 24 teams. While not the result we were hoping for, the tournament featured plenty of good bidding judgment, strong defence and fine declarer play. Here are a couple of highlights from the Canadian side.

The first hand comes from a match against Guadeloupe and shows excellent judgment from both Canadian pairs. East-West Vulnerable:

		♠ Q843	
		♥ J108	
		♦ J10753	
		♣ 4	
♠ AJ5			♠ 106
♥ 542			♥ AKQ93
♦ A96			♦ -
♣ J985			♣ AQ10632
		♠ K972	
		♥ 76	
		♦ KQ842	
		♣ K7	

West	North	East	South
	Nic		Zyg
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
Dbl ¹	4♦	4♥	5♦
6♣	Dbl ²	Pass	6♦
Dbl	All Pass		

1. No four-card major
2. No defensive tricks

At favourable vulnerability, Marcinski introduced his diamonds, and after West denied a four-card major, L'Écuyer bounced to 4♦. East showed his heart suit and Marciński continued to 5♦. West took the push to slam and L'Écuyer doubled. By partnership agreement, in a hand at favourable vulnerability where a pre-emptive raise has been made, L'Écuyer's double announced his belief that his hand was taking zero defensive tricks, so when the auction passed around to Marcinski, he had to decide whether his two black kings would pull their weight. With East suggesting at least 11 cards in the round suits, Marcinski judged that 6♣ was an odds-on favourite for 12 trick and took the plunge by bidding 6♦, doubled by West.

Declarer lost the six obvious tricks and recorded a score of -1100. Would this be a good result? Hands at the World Championships were duplicated across all four events and only three other pairs found the 6♦ sacrifice on this hand. All three lost 9 or 10 IMPs for their efforts when their teammates did not reach slam. Now it was up to Lavee and Freeman.

West	North	East	South
Jacob		Daniel	
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠ ¹	3♦	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass.

1. Denies a four-card major,

At the other table, the auction started the same way, with East opening 1♣, South overcalling in diamonds and West denying a four-card major. At this table, though, North only pre-empted to 3♦, leaving the Canadians a bit more room to explore. Lavee showed his heart suit and Freeman cuebid 3♠. When Lavee continued with 4♥, guaranteeing 11 cards in clubs and hearts, Freeman realized his two pointed-suit aces were golden as was his four-card support for clubs. While three small hearts is never a great holding, he judged to cuebid 5♦ and the good slam was reached when Daniel signed off in 6♣. There was nothing to the play and Canadians earned a well-deserved seven IMPs for their efforts.



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The second hand came up in the match against Israel. While Canada lost the match, they won the battle on this hand:

♠ AK95
♥ 6
♦ KQ64
♣ KJ72

♠ Q2
♥ 97532
♦ AJ32
♣ A10

Against Fergani and Fourcaudot, Ilan and Ophir Herbst quickly bid these cards to 5♦. Fergani made a good trump lead from the West hand and declarer pulled trump and lost a heart and a club to take 11 tricks. L'Écuyer and Marcinski saw things differently. With the opponents passing throughout, they bid:

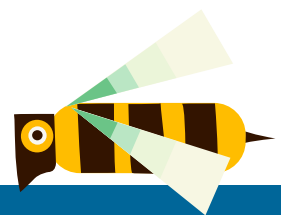
North	South
1♣ ¹	1♠ ²
1NT ³	2♥ ⁴
2♠ ³	3♣ ⁵
3♦ ³	3NT ⁶
4♣ ⁷	4♠ ⁸
6♦	Pass

1. Strong
2. GF, either 5+ hearts or Balanced
3. Relay
4. Five or six hearts, no shortness, not 8-10 or 14+ 5332
5. 25(42) with four cards in one of the minors
6. Exactly 2542 with 11 to 13 HCP
7. Asks for controls
8. Four controls, none or both ♥AK

L'Écuyer and Marcinski used a complicated strong club auction to reach the optimal spot. Once L'Écuyer found out partner's shape and range with the 3NT bid, he faced a decision as to whether he should move on. Once he decided to check for controls, he found out that partner had no wastage in hearts (if partner had the ♥AK, he would need another king to have four controls. Since L'Écuyer had the three other kings, he knew his partner held both black-suit aces) so bid the slam.

East leads the ♠6 (third and fifth leads). How would you play the hand? It looks right to win the spade in hand to preserve a dummy entry (West played the ♠10) and play a heart, which L'Écuyer did. East won the ♥J and returned the ♠3. You win in dummy perforce, West following with the ♠7. Now what? Your goal should be to win four or five honour tricks and 7 or 8 trump tricks as needed, with a possible additional chance of setting up a heart trick or a squeeze later if needed. As it turns out, all reasonable plans work, as spades are 4-3 (with West having J107), hearts are 4-3 and trumps are 3-2. L'Écuyer ruffed three hearts in hand and scored three spades, two clubs and seven trump tricks to bring home his slam, the only pair in the Bermuda Bowl to bid and make the slam. The full deal:

♠ AK95		♠ 8643
♥ 6		♥ QJ
♦ KQ64		♦ 975
♣ KJ72		♣ 543
♠ J107		
♥ K1084		
♦ 108		
♣ Q986		
	♠ Q2	
	♥ 97532	
	♦ AJ32	
	♣ A10	



I fill in at a table when one lady has to leave. The lesson is on signaling and I emphasize signaling encouragement with the higher or highest of equals. The lady I am playing with has the A10986 and correctly signals me with the ten. I compliment her. She says: "I just read in my Goren book that when you are playing with a weak player that you should make your signals as clear as possible."

Edwin Kantar

Skillful Seniors in Salsomaggiore

By Andy Stark

Who has the nerve to run a world championship of bridge in the middle of a pandemic? The World Bridge Federation, that's who. I wondered what the odds would be—on whether folks would get through the two week affair without picking up the latest variant, the so-called "Omicron" strain that was sweeping through Italy and other European countries, just weeks before the March-April event was to take place. Ah, but no matter, we'll just learn to live with it.

The Canadian Senior team consisted of two Ontario partnerships and one from the Left Coast. Toronto's Nader Hanna and John Rayner, along with Doug Baxter and David Lindop, teamed up with the Victoria pair of Mike Hargreaves and Gord McOrmond. They asked your faithful scribe to be their non-playing captain, a great honour which was quickly accepted. After a team dinner on the Sunday evening, we were all set to do battle for the next seven days. 24 countries were represented and there was to be a complete round robin of 16-board matches, followed by the playoffs. At the end of the first day, we were in the final qualifying position; however, over the next few days, we were outplayed for the most part and it seemed the opponents were luckier—a deadly combination.

The 15th board of the 17th round features one of my favourite hands of the round robin. Here it is as a declarer play problem:

♠ -
♥ K65
♦ AKQJ1043
♣ A98

♠ K8743
♥ 97
♦ 92
♣ KQJ4

North deals and opens 1♦. East overcalls 1♠ and South bids 1NT. West bids 2♠ and North ends the auction with the practical call of 3NT. North can count 8 tricks in his own hand and relies on partner (South) for the spade stopper. West leads the ♥Q. How do you plan the play?

The first order of business is to decide whether to play the ♥K or not. If you do and it is won by East's ace, the defenders will probably take the first five heart tricks. To counter East having the ♥A, you must duck in the dummy. Your plan is for East to win the second or third heart and be fresh out of hearts. (This is called 'blocking the suit.') On the spade switch, you hope East has the spade ace as well. All quite reasonable. Say you duck the first heart as it costs you nothing. East plays the ♥4. Now comes the ♥J from West. Do you duck or cover this one?

When David Lindop and Doug Baxter defended this hand, the Italian declarer ducked the first two heart plays. David, West, then cashed three more hearts! The full deal:

♠	-	♠	AQ1092
♥	K65	♥	432
♦	AKQJ1043	♦	765
♣	A98	♣	102
♠	J65	♠	K8743
♥	AQJ108	♥	97
♦	8	♦	92
♣	7653	♣	KQJ4

Beating 3NT two tricks at this table, combined with 3NT making twelve tricks at the other table, gave us Canadians 13imps. Hargreaves and McOrmond 'right-sided' the contract by having North declarer. East's ♥2 lead at their table did not bruise declarer.

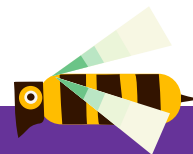
If you are wondering why declarer refused to cover the heart plays, it is because he was catering to East holding the ♥A in this potential layout:

♠	J65	♠	AQ1092
♥	QJ1083	♥	A42
♦	8	♦	765
♣	7653	♣	102

By ducking hearts twice, West will be cut off from enjoying the long hearts.

Although the Canadian seniors had a chance to qualify for the 8-team quarterfinals, it just was not in the cards the last day—we needed a miracle, and one was not forthcoming. The team decided to play in a subsidiary event, but three positive Covid test results derailed that plan, so three of us stayed in Italy to quarantine while the others got out of Dodge. Pro tip: if you must quarantine, and you enjoy golf, be sure to quarantine when the Masters is on. The whole fiasco was actually quite tolerable.

If the same team were to represent Canada again sometime there is no question they could go further and even medal. The 2022 Canadian Open Team trials wrapped up just a week before this article was written. Fun fact: five of the six members of this team, now playing on three different CNTC A teams, advanced to the semi-finals.

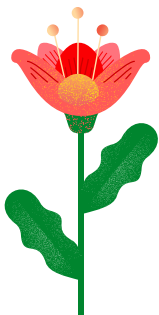


When dummy comes down weaker than expected, tell your partner that your name is Simpson, not Sampson.

Another thing to tell your partner after dummy comes down weaker than expected: "Where is the hand you held during the bidding?"

Canadian Online Youth Bridge Camp

Presented by the ACBL Education Foundation - a variety of 2022 summer camps taught by seasoned BridgeWhiz coaches. Each camp experience is spread over the course of one week. The weekly tuition for each camp is \$125 per child. You may enroll in more than one camp. Camps offer different levels of instruction. Financial aid is available for eligible students. There is one in particular offered to Canadian Youth:



Dates: July 4 through 8, 2022

Camp Hours: 10am to 12noon and 1pm to 3pm EDT

Coaches: Denise Donovan, Michael Yang, and Douglas Jordan

www.acbleducationalfoundation.org/page/online-bridge-camps-57.html

What ...does this bid mean?

Editor's note: Here is a new feature of Bridge Canada – understanding less than familiar auctions. See how you do!

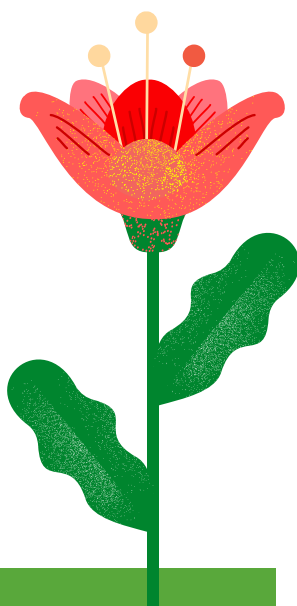
1. North South
1♣ 1♥
3NT

What is the meaning of 3NT?

2. North South
1♣ 1♥
3NT 4♣

What is the meaning of 4♣?

Solutions on page 20.



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ONLINE SINCE 1995

Mollo ON PLAY XXII

Contract: 4♠ by South at IMPs.

Lead: ♠7, East follows.

♠ KJ85
♥ 6543
♦ QJ7
♣ K9

♠ 7
♥ QJ92
♦ 9532
♣ Q1086

♠ 942
♥ 7
♦ AK108
♣ J7543

♠ AQ1063
♥ AK108
♦ 64
♣ A2

When this deal was played, declarer took a line that was almost sure to succeed. He drew trumps in three rounds, cashed the ♣AK, and led a diamond to the jack. East won and led a heart to the eight and nine. Later, the ♦Q failed to establish and hearts failed to split. To go down, declarer needed to find both diamond honours offside and a very unlucky heart division (singleton seven or two with East, or singleton nine with West). Declarer had about a 98% chance of success for their play.

Still, it was not the best line. By drawing trumps, eliminating clubs, and cashing one high heart before leading diamonds, declarer can guarantee the contract. There is no danger if West has four hearts, since East in end-played after winning the first diamond. If East leads a heart after winning the first diamond, declarer finesses (or ducks and honour) and picks up the suit with one loser.



THE NEW PLAYER *Spot*



by Andy Stark

The ABCs of Counting

The ABCs of counting are Always Be Counting. Count your cards, count your high card points, count your distribution, count your tricks, count partner's cards, count your opponent's cards, count your score, count your top boards, count your bottom boards, count the number of times you just read the word 'count.' In short, if you want to improve your bridge game you must always be counting.

Here are two hands that do not require anything extraordinary, just an effort as declarer to do some number crunching at the table.

3NT by South

♠ AJ64
♥ Q8
♦ Q72
♣ K762

♠ K102
♥ J1093
♦ 65
♣ Q1095

♠ 963
♥ A6542
♦ J984
♣ 3

♠ Q87
♥ K7
♦ AK103
♣ AJ84

After a Stayman auction reveals no eight card major fit, West leads the ♥J versus 3NT. You cover with the queen in dummy and East wins the ace. East returns the ♥4 and you win the king as West makes the astute play of dropping the ♥9 to avoid blocking the suit. West knows from your Stayman response that you hold at most three hearts, so West's ♥10 will gobble up your last heart if you have one. If you do not have one, West will have a small heart to play for East to win the 4th and 5th heart.

Clearly you need a finesse or two to work on this hand, so you guess to start on clubs. You play a low club from hand and win the king in dummy. When you next play a low club from dummy, East pitches a spade. You win your club ace because you cannot afford to let the opponents in.

The spade king must be favourably placed for you to make nine tricks, so you try a low spade from hand and stick in dummy's jack. It wins! But when you go to cash the space ace, the king does not drop. Time now to reassess and count your winners: two spades, one heart, and two clubs. You need four diamond tricks.

Many declarers would now hope that diamonds are divided three-three and play diamonds from the top. But let's do some more counting: what is East's distribution? Let's see, East started life with three spades as East followed to two spades and discarded one on the clubs. East is known to hold exactly one club and at least four hearts, possibly five. That means East must have four or five diamonds.

Knowing all of this you have a sure thing: Cash the diamond ace in hand, then play over to dummy's queen. When you play dummy's last diamond and East plays the 9, you can finesse for the diamond jack by inserting your 10. As we calculated, West shows out and nine tricks are made.

7NT by South

♠	J10986	♠	KQ5	♠	2
♥	Q6	♥	K8	♥	J95432
♦	98652	♦	AQJ3	♦	104
♣	3	♣	A1072	♣	J964
		♠	A743		
		♥	A107		
		♦	K7		
		♣	KQ85		

As South you reach 7NT with your combined 35 HCPs. (Even if you only reach 6NT—you still have to try for an overtrick in a pairs game.) The opening lead is the spade jack. Count your winners: three spades, two hearts, four diamonds, and three clubs. You can easily make four club tricks if they split 3-2 or if West has four to the jack—a similar position to the previous hand.

However, also similar to the last hand, just cash your cards in an order that leaves the most flexibility, do some counting, and the way to play the clubs will become apparent. To wit, win the ♠J in hand with the ace and cash four diamonds. On dummy's diamonds, pitch one spade and one heart. Then travel over to the dummy with a spade to the king. After these five tricks you learn that East started life with one spade and two diamonds. This means that West started with five spades and five diamonds. Empirical evidence never fails!

For the coup de grace, cash two hearts ending in dummy. When West follows to both hearts you know with certainty that West holds at most one club. Therefore, cash the club ace, and then play the ♣10 from dummy. If East ducks, let the 10 ride with certainty. If East covers the ♣10 with the ♣J, win in hand with the ♣K and travel back to dummy with a spade to the queen. Now, at trick 12 you have the ♣Q8 sitting over East's ♣96. Take the known finesse and take a bow.

Now you know your ABCs.

BRIDGE BASICS



TWO DIAMOND CONVENTIONS

This is the 23rd 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.

Over the years there has been a slow migration from a two diamond opener with a game forcing hand, to a weak two, to other meanings that describe otherwise difficult-to-show hand types.

FLANNERY

This is a popular choice, as hands with 4-5 in the majors with minimum values are hard to describe. Some partnerships play an 11-15 HCP range, others 11-16. Another less frequent treatment is that opener can open Flannery with 4-6 shape.

The responses to Flannery are mostly straightforward:

- Two of a major is to play.
- Three clubs is a non-invitational hand with long clubs, while 3♦ is constructive with long diamonds (with a weaker diamond hand, responder can simply pass).
- Three of the major is game forcing and slammish.
- 2NT is at least invitational, asking for partner to describe their hand further. The responses:
 - Bid three of your three card minor.
 - Bid four of your four card minor.
 - Bid 2♥ with 2-2 in the minors and a minimum.
 - Bid 2♠ with 2-2 in the minors and a maximum.
 - Bid 2NT with 2-2 in the minors, a maximum, and a high honour in both minors.

THREE SUITER HANDS

Showing a three suiter, usually with minimum strength is another option for a two diamond opener. Mini-Roman, as it is often called, originated in the Roman Club system. The shape is some 4-4-4-1 hand, but could also be 5-4-4-0. The shortness is always a minor, with some partnerships this bid shows specifically short diamonds.

The continuations are few, and easily remembered: A bid of a suit is to play. If this is opener's shortness, they will bid the next higher suit.

2NT is either a forcing or invitational raise, asking for opener's shortness.

MULTI

A multi two diamond shows a weak two in an unspecified major. It also often has a strong component. Multi has proven to be an effective defensive bidding tool, making it hard for the opponents to enter the auction safely and accurately. This effectiveness has resulted in this bid not being legal in many sanctioned games. When it is allowed, the defenders are allowed to have their defences available, and to access them when the opponents open multi (The ACBL has two approved defences on their website).

Despite the disruptive benefit multi, great accuracy is available when the other hand is strong. Here is a sample effective, but not overly complex, structure:

- Two (or three) of a major – pass or correct. When responder bids 2♠, this implies good support for hearts.
- 2NT – invitational plus, asking opener to describe their hand. Opener's rebids:
 - 3♣ – maximum in unspecified major.
 - 3♦ – asking.
 - 3♥ – spades
 - 3♠ hearts, no shortness.
 - 3NT, hearts, short clubs.
 - 4♣, hearts short diamonds.
 - 4♦ – hearts, short spades.
 - 4♥ sign off, and cheapest other bid, Key Card.
 - New suit – natural and game forcing.
- 3♦ – minimum with hearts.
 - 3♥ now is to play.
- 3♥ – minimum with spades.
 - 3♠ is now to play.
- Three of a minor – to play.
- 4♣ – this is a transfer bid, to allow responder to declarer four of partner's major. Opener is required to bid 4♦ with hearts, and 4♥ with spades, and responder will complete the transfer.
- Four of a major – to play, natural.

MEXICAN

This bid was part of the Romex bidding system structure, and can be fit into most structures. In the original version, this bid showed 18-19 (later 17-18) high card points in a balanced hand.

The big plus of this convention was the transfer/relay structure to accurately arrive at the best contract. One particular such continuation was called CONFI (or CONFIT), an effective way to investigate slam. If interested, I encourage readers to learn more about this and other Romex conventions, developed by George Rosencrantz..

Next issue: Opening two of a major.

what ...does this bid mean?

Solution from page 16.

1.	North	South
	1♣	1♥
	3NT	

What is the meaning of 3NT?

Answer: The mainstream view of the meaning of 3NT is a very good hand, stoppers in the unbid suits, and a long strong club suit, usually solid. A typical holding:
♠Kx ♥x ♦AJx ♣AKQ109xx.

2.	North	South
	1♣	1♥
	3NT	4♣

What is the meaning of 4♣?

Answer: It agrees clubs as trumps, showing a hand that has at least some slam interest. Cue bidding and/or key card ask are the normal continuations. As partner has shown a hand that holds a solid suit, or very close to one, the type of hand held by the 4♣ bidder are of a wide range. Some examples:

♠xxxx ♥AKQxx ♦Kxx ♣x.
♠AQx ♥Axxxx ♦xx ♣xxx.
♠x ♥AKxxxxx ♦Kxxx ♣xx.



THE INTERMEDIATE Spot



BIDDING STRATEGIES 9

When to Pre-empt

By Neil Kimelman

In the last instalment I listed the pluses and minuses of preempting. It comes down to risk versus reward. But I also stated that, when judgement is used, and partnership agreements are followed, the odds of being on more positive outcomes is greatly improved.

Rules to help guide your decision to preempt.

1. When preempting, stick to your partnership agreements. This is critical. Not only will you mislead partner otherwise, but the erosion to partnership confidence is devastating. Partner needs to have confidence that you will 'have your bid'.

So if you play light preempts do not open 3♣ with ♠x ♥xx ♦xxx ♣AKQ109xx. By the same token if you play depending on seat and vulnerability, with ♠x ♥xx ♦xxx ♣KQ1098xx is not strong enough to open 3♣, vul vs not, in 1st or 2nd seat.

TIP: Sit down with partner and discuss specific hands, and under what conditions you would open, and at what level. This is the best way to ensure you and partner are on the same page.

2. Don't preempt with defensive values. Taking a good five level sacrifice will not score well if the opponents cannot make a game contract! A common trap hand is ♠Q ♥Jx ♦Kxx ♣KJ9xxxx. This is a hand with a weak suit and a bunch of potential defensive values. Unless you are willing to gamble, don't preempt with this holding.

Here is a hand my partner held from a recent online match. Playing IMPs, white vs. red, he held ♠KQ10 ♥xx ♦xxxx ♣xxxx. I opened 1♦ and his RHO overcalled 1♠. He bid 3♦, weak. I sacrificed, not realizing partner had two defensive tricks for his weak bid, not 0-1 as is the norm! Not a success.

3. Often it makes no sense to preempt vul vs not. First, you might get doubled and go down -500 when the opponents can only make +400 or +450. And even if you are not doubled, the colours make it unlikely a high level sacrifice will pay. In the meantime you have given the eventual declarer a lot of information to help guide their play, finding the winning line when there is more than one reasonable line available.

4. Consider not preempting when the opponents have exchanged a lot of information. Similar to #3 above, your bid will give info while not likely impeding the opponents' decision making. An example might be, neither vul, LHO opens 1♦, partner passes, and RHO bids 3♥ showing 5+ diamonds, singleton heart and game going values. You hold with ♠x ♥AQ109xxx ♦x ♣109xx. You have great shape and otherwise a good hand to preempt in hearts. But if you bid 4♥ LHO will have a fielder's choice: If they have ♠Axx ♥x ♦AQxxx ♣KJ10x they will cuebid 4♠. However, holding ♠KQx ♥KJx ♦Jxxx ♣A10x they have an easy double.

5. A possible exception to the above guidelines is if your bid takes away the opponents ability to ask for keycards.

6. Suit length. I personally do not think a weak two should be opened with a seven card suit, but it is up to the partnership to decide. Opening at the three level with a six card suit is risky, especially at neutral or

unfavourable vulnerabilities. But on the other hand, do not underestimate the value of forcing the opponents to make their first bids at the three level or higher.

7. Higher level preempts. Along the same vein, preempting at the four or five level will cause the opponents big heartaches. Often though, they will double with values, and usually defend. So you need to consider this before bidding. A partnership will also have to decide on the meaning of four level bids, specifically whether they want to play Namyats, which is a way to differentiate strengths of major suit preempts. By employing this convention, the partnership will lose the ability to open a natural 4♣ or 4♦.

8. 2nd seat preempts. After one opponent passes and you are weak, it is equally likely that partner or LHO have a good hand. For this reason I am careful not to preempt when there is a good reason not to do so. Two such reasons that come to mind:

- A side four or five card major.
- A hand that is also good for other denominations, such as J10x – xxx AJ10xxxx.

Next issue: Preempt quiz.

QUIZ

INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

SOLUTION ON PAGE 35

Contract: 6NT West leads: ♠Q. Plan the play.

♠ K 7 6
♥ K Q 5
♦ Q 7
♣ K J 10 4 2

♠ A 5 3
♥ A J 6
♦ A K
♣ A 9 8 7 5

Plan the play.



What Went Wrong?

by Paul Thurston

For this edition of WWW, we'll revisit three deals from the recently completed CNTC Open division. All three generated double-digit IMP swings in at least one match, swings that might easily have been avoided. Of note: two of the swings resulted from bidding mishaps while the third came from the same bit of careless play seen at several tables, the kind of error you surely don't expect from competitors at this level of play.

HAND 1

One trait usually exhibited by players at a high-level of team competition: an almost rabid hunger for game bonuses, especially the vulnerable sort so that missing game on this N-S combination, vulnerable, would seem to be highly unlikely:

North

♠ AJ76
♥ J3
♦ QJ107
♣ 1085

South

♠ K4
♥ AQ97
♦ 82
♣ KQJ73

A common auction had South show 15-17 in a balanced hand either after opening with a 15-17 1NT or by rebidding 1NT after North's 1♠ response to 1♣ in a

THE
EXPERT
Spot

weak notrump partnership. No spade fit so North planted the partnership in the nine-trick game and it was onto the play. Note that North was well aware that the partnership might be a tad short of the 25-26 combined high-card points usually thought of as necessary for three notrump with two balanced hands but he did have two tens to add to his hand's playing strength, both cards contribution to the search for nine tricks. North's assessment was easily vindicated when his partner brought home ten tricks with relative ease. So What Went Wrong for one pair of quality competitors to miss this game?

Believing his hand wasn't exactly a charter member of the Notrump Family of distributional patterns, South opened 1♣. And, of course, North made a response that created an awkward rebid situation for South when he bid 1♠. (Remember, making bids that are tough to deal with are what partners were created to do!). Okay, South: what now?

Two clubs? With only a five-card suit and good points for an opening bid? Two hearts? A reverse with only fifteen high-card points and a semi-balanced hand rather than the unbalanced type that showing two suits in a reversing hand would usually deliver? South rejected both of those options in favour of a one notrump rebid and that's exactly What Went Wrong as North expected no more than 14 high-card points for his partner's sequence so had no reason whatsoever to believe anything other than one notrump should be the final contract.

Back in the good old days when Goren's wisdom dominated bridge literature on the subject, there were only three distributional patterns that qualified for inclusion as members of the Notrump Family: 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2 and 5-3-3-2. Moderns have rejected those restrictions in favour of extending the notrump family to include the semi-balanced types of 5-4-2-2 (as long as the five isn't a major) and 6-3-2-2 (the six being a minor) to avoid rebid problems exactly like South faced here after opening one club. What could seem more appropriate than opening one notrump with the likes of ♠Kx ♥Axxx ♦KJxxx ♣Ax or even ♠Kx ♥Q10x ♦AQxxxx ♣AJ, examples I saw making that opening

(successfully!) during the CNTC? For this edition we won't venture into the ultra-modern territory of opening or rebidding notrump with hands containing singletons!

HAND 2

Next up: a constructive bidding problem that you and your favourite partner might have a systemic answer for but one that at least one pair of expert competitors didn't solve satisfactorily.

♠ Q93
♥ A4
♦ 842
♣ AQJ105

♠ A84
♥ Q109632
♦ A5
♣ 63

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

After the not unexpected diamond lead, 3NT really had no practical chance while 4♥ was makeable with the Kings of clubs and hearts being right where a declarer in hearts would want them to be so, as usual, our operative question is WHAT WENT WRONG?

Once you get past the idea of South opening with a one-bid despite holding "only" ten high-card points, the auction seemed to flow right along. By the way, in the eyes of most (especially South and even his partner) that collection isn't "only" ten hcps but has the two defensive tricks usually associated with a one bid and a six-card suit filled out nicely with some staunch intermediates. After the game-forcing response, Opener's rebid may seem to have shown a six-card suit but it really didn't! In line with most Two-over-One partnerships (and many using Standard American as well, that two heart rebid could be a "default rebid" with only five cards in the rebid suit in a hand where nothing else fit.

For example, South might have held ♠Jx ♥KQxxx ♦AQx ♣xxx where he didn't hold something resembling a stopper in both unbid suits and didn't have a club holding (three to an honour at a minimum) that warranted a raise of his partner's suit. So that when North probed further with a value-showing rebid of two spades, South really owed a further heart bid to confirm the six-card suit that had been his main reason for opening his hand type in the first place.

A further consideration: with North's bidding very likely to be based on no diamond help, South could be very wary of suggesting play in notrump with only one stopper in the suit the defenders are most likely to attack. Three hearts by South at his third turn raised to four and we'd have to look for a different deal to analyze WHAT WENT WRONG!

As an aside: in past partnerships with Keith Balcombe and Jeff Smith, we had an efficient solution to the problem faced by this North-South: we abandoned opening weak two-bids in hearts and spades in favour of Intermediate Two's in the majors that showed at least a six-card suit and 10-14 high-card points! (Yes, the conversion did come with other issues but that's for another edition of WWW!).

HAND 3

Last but not least, a deal where several competitors in the CNTC dropped the ball as declarers in this four heart game. Dealer was West, with both vulnerable.

♠	AJ7653	♠	K8
♥	A	♥	KQ103
♦	764	♦	AJ109
♣	875	♣	KQ10
		♠	Q4
		♥	98652
		♦	83
		♣	A962
		♠	1092
		♥	J74
		♦	KQ52
		♣	J43

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
2♠	Dbl	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Opening Lead: ???

A fairly routine competitive auction as North showed extras with his second double over the barricade raise of three spades and South was happy to trot out his five-card heart suit as the strain for play. Back to the opening lead(s) in a bit but when dummy hit, South could count one sure loser in spades, hearts and diamonds with the possibility of a second heart loser.

Some defenders started with ace and a second spade and several careless declarers didn't avail themselves of the opportunity they had been gifted: they followed low from dummy, won the King on the continuation and next clicked on the King of hearts. WHAT WENT WRONG was the lack of caution that created a second heart loser.

With a hand entry guaranteed after that lead, South could dump dummy's spade King under the ace, win the Queen on the second round of the suit and play the first round of trumps towards the King and Queen. Up pops the ace and the rest would be mopping up.

An opening lead of a top-of-nothing club or diamond would add an extra layer of possible trouble as declarer might fear a looming ruff in whichever minor West attacked at trick one. Still, the one potential loser that declarer can possibly do something about is the hypothetical second heart so getting to the closed hand asap (the club ace?) for the first round of trumps towards the dummy does seem to be the one play South might make to help determine first contract's fate. And if two heart losers can't be avoided, bad luck and on to the next adventure!

Declarer Play Excellence

By Neil Kimelman



In late March two high level teams, one representing Pakistan and one Canada, met for a series of friendly online matches. During one of these sessions I had a front row seat to a well-played hand by Khaled Mohiuddin of Pakistan.

Contract 4♠. Lead ♣5.

Dummy
 ♠ 752
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ AKJ109
 ♣ 532

Mohiuddin
 ♠ AQ1064
 ♥ A1043
 ♦ 8732
 ♣ -

West	North	East	South
Kimelman		Thurston	Mohiuddin
-	1♦	3♣	DbI
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Khaled ruffed out East's ace of clubs, and led a heart to dummy's king for a spade play to the 2,3,10 and J. After some thought, I returned the ♣K (nothing else is better), ruffed by declarer with the ♠6. Now declarer played a diamond to dummy's ace (all following small) and a 2nd spade, finding out the bad news, as East shed a club. Declarer won the ace. That left him with a stiff queen of spades, and West remained with ♠K9. No matter. Declarer crossed to the heart queen, ruff his 3rd club, all following, and now led a 2nd diamond.

This was the end position:

Dummy
 ♠ 5
 ♥ -
 ♦ KJ109
 ♣ -

West (me)
 ♠ K9
 ♥ J97
 ♦ -
 ♣ -

Mohiuddin
 ♠ -
 ♥ A10
 ♦ 873
 ♣ -

Declarer had scored seven tricks and the defence one. There was nothing I could do to prevent from declarer making his contract. At the table I pitched a heart. Declarer simply won the diamond king, and led his spade. At trick 12 I had to lead away from the heart J9 into declarer's A10! The full deal:

♠ 752		♠ 3
♥ KQ		♥ 85
♦ AKJ109		♦ Q64
♣ 532		♣ AQJ9874
♠ KJ98	♠ AQ1064	
♥ J9762	♥ A1043	
♦ 5	♦ 8732	
♣ K106	♣ -	

the GREAT CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST



JUNE 2022 TGCBC Host: Ray Hornby

For Panelists, see page 35

Editor: I would like to give a warm welcome to our newest TGCBC panelist, Mike Hargreaves.

Top expert for June was Zyg Marcinski, with a score of 49 out of 50, followed by Ron Bishop with 48. Richard Bickley led all readers with 47 this month. Way to go Richard! Also congrats to Fred Lerner for having the 2nd best June score, with 44.

The August TGCBC problems can be found after this article. Join in the fun and enter your bids by July 12th.

1) IMPs, E-W vulnerable, you hold as South:

♠ A10
♥ KQ1093
♦ J942
♣ Q4

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

1. 3♦ promises shape and/or some extra strength.

a) What call do you make?

Action	Votes	Score
4♦	12	5
3♠	6	4
3NT	0	0

b) If you bid 4♦, partner bids 4♥. And now?

Action	Votes	Score
5♦	2	5
4♠	9	4
Pass	7	4

To me, this hand/auction illustrates some inherent problems when making a space consuming 2/1 call on marginal values. We've found a fit, but have little room left to figure out if we can play in 3NT, four of a major, or opener's minor. To the first part:

L'Ecuyer: 4♦. I am not a big fan of 2♥. I would have bid 1NT forcing. Still 2♥ is OK I guess. Over 3♦, I have no way to stall in 3M without lying so it seems I can only raise diamonds, rightly or wrongly. Over 4♥, I would pass. I think partner is 5-2-4-2 with extra strength and no club card (otherwise I would have expected 2NT). My diamonds are terrible so let's try for the 5-2 fit.

Miles: Uggghhh. 4♦. Four possible strains and we're sorting them out at the four level. I almost always return to opener's major over a jump shift unless clear, maybe I should be using that strategy here. I will pass four of either major. My round honours may be near useless if partner has a true two suiter.

One problem with 4M bids in this auction is that they can easily be interpreted as "offers to play". More from our panellists on this in part 2.

Jacob: 4♦. While with this semi-balanced, minimum, I would prefer to bid 3♠ that should show 3-card spade support.

Grainger: 3♠. This is quite a hole, and with a good chance partner will be 5-5, preferencing to spades on two honors seems like the best I can do, as my hand is not very suitable for a high level diamond contract.

Kimelman: 3♠. On this auction 3♠ should not promise three spades, but looking for best contract.

To the 2nd part:

Turner: Pass. This is a horrible situation since partner may have one of 4 different ideas of what his 4♥ shows: (i) "last chance support", (ii) "cuebid for diamonds" (iii) "strong raise of hearts with no club control" (iv) "good 'pattern' raise of hearts", i.e. 5-3-4-1. In 3 of the 4 cases Pass is a reasonable result, and slam is unlikely to be cold with type (iv), e.g. KQJxx Axx AQxx x, and he might have bid 5♥ with the ♦K instead of the queen. I'm thinking my partner will vote for (i) ... I'll ask him. :-)

I think in the case of the (iv) hand, an immediate 3♥ raise would be appropriate as there's already a game force.

Lindop: 4♠. Partner hasn't denied a club control. Hopefully partner can take charge after this. With no club control, partner can sign off in 5♦ ... or perhaps pass 4♠.

Grainger: 5♦. Had I bid 4♦ and partner bid 4♥, I would have bid 5♦. I have a very slam unsuitable minimum with bad trumps and Qx of the unbid suit, so I need to not encourage partner any more than I have.

Summing up:

Marcinski: 5♦. Is opener's 4♥ a non-forcing offer to play or a forcing cue bid trying for a diamond slam? The answer depends on how opener would have interpreted my 3♠ rather than 4♦ rebid. As it is my view that opener is entitled to consider 4♦ as both a directional commitment to diamonds and some slam interest, therefore I must regard his 4♥ rebid as a forcing cue bid. Since I've already misbid my hand and grossly overstated its values, it behoves me to forthwith run for the "shelter" of 5♦ and hope that opener passes. Sure, we may well belong in 4♥ or 4♠ but that ship has sailed, and in the interest of partnership trust and harmony I'm happy to invest in this possibly inferior result.

What happened at the table?

♠	K5432	♠	QJ6
♥	87	♥	A5
♦	AKQ87	♦	1065
♣	5	♣	A7632
♠	987	♠	A10
♥	J642	♥	KQ1093
♦	3	♦	J952
♣	KJ1098	♣	Q4

This deal is from a weekly online expert team game that was by no means "the first rodeo" for any of the participants. At one table, South raised to 4♦, North tried 4♥ and got to play there, down on either red suit lead. At the other table South preferenced 3♠ over 3♦ and also got to play in 4♥ after North made that their next bid. As Turner mentioned, 4♥ here is an impossible situation (let's not get into a Kickback/Redwood segue) without some specific partnership agreement. The 4♥ passers deserved a better fate. 5♦ on the 9-card fit is child's play.

A number of panellists had reservations about the 2/1 with this minimum but the spots in the red suits and opener's 1st bid suit would sway most of us. This is one of the trickier sequences in 2/1 as you quickly run out of bidding space without some agreements for slowing down the auction. A lot of pairs use a no extra length 2♠ rebid for that purpose. Here 3♦ seems to satisfy the extra strength and/or length requirement and South should be happy to raise given North may have rebid 2NT with a 51(43) hand. North should probably content themselves with 5♦ or a 5♣ cue over 4♦, the latter doing nothing for South's hand, with the solid 5♦ being reached.

2) IMPs, all vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ A2
♥ KQ862
♦ K8
♣ KJ109

North	East	South	West
Pass	2♠	?	

What call do you make?

Action	Votes	Score
Double	8	10
2NT	5	9
3♥	5	7

This is the first of several “bidding opposite a passed hand partner” problems. Here there look to be three options, all flawed to some extent (some panellists also mentioned pass, an action most wouldn’t entertain): Sticking with the general texture of the hand:

Jacob: 2NT, the heart suit length and quality is not good enough for a three level overcall.

L’Ecuyer: 2NT. I don’t like much of any bid here. Pass might be the winner since partner is a passed hand but this is 16 points and decent spot cards in one of my suits. I think 3♥ is too unilateral and risks a pass when other strains including notrump might be much, much better. Double risks partner not being comfortable bidding notrump. So, I will opt for 2NT - a small lie (the 5th heart) - being a more accurate size and shape description than other bids. Anything between Pass, 2NT, double and 3♥ might be right. In such cases, opting for the easiest action to get to 3NT is usually not a bad idea. I can duck one spade in 3NT. This might be enough to isolate the two hands.

Thurston: 2NT. any possible action is fraught with peril but at least this one defines my range quite accurately. Would need an emetic to overcall 3♥.

The plurality view (catching a 10 instead of a 9):

Bishop: Double. As I am the sort that would like to overcall with KQ109xx of hearts and a stray AJx of some suit, then I can’t just overcall here as they are hugely different hands.

Todd: Double. The hearts are not good enough to commit to. If partner shows values, I can still try hearts or notrump. If partner bids 2NT Lebensohl, I have an easy 3♣ bid. If they bids 3♦ over 3♣, I still have the option of trying 3♥.

I’m not sure South has another call should partner Lebensohl into 3♦, the main shortcoming of doubling. Putting all their eggs in one basket:

Lindop: 3♥. Close between this and double, but I don’t think I’m strong enough to double and correct 3♦ to 3♥. I don’t want to miss a 5-3 heart fit ... although I may end up playing in a 5-2 fit. I have enough extra strength to make up for my so-so five-card heart suit.

Cooper: 3♥. 2NT lacks a 3rd spade for a double-holdup. Double has too many hearts, too few diamonds, and too few points to ignore normal shape protocols.

Stark: 3♥. No, I don’t love it. Yes, we have to get in now because it’s now or never. Cannot double with only two diamonds.

Turner: 3♥. If we find partner with the hoped-for 9 or 10 points our best chances for game are 3NT from partner’s side or 4♥ from mine ... I don’t think we can make 3NT from my side most days. If they raise spades perhaps a responsive double will get us to 5♣ opposite xx Jx Axxx Axxxx instead of 3NT.

What happened at the table?

♠ QJ3	♠ K1087654
♥ J93	♥ 54
♦ A9742	♦ QJ3
♣ 63	♣ 2
♠ 9	♠ A2
♥ A107	♥ KQ862
♦ 1065	♦ K8
♣ AQ8754	♣ KJ109

This deal was from a weekly advanced/expert on-line team game. After a 3♥ overcall, N-S landed in 4♥, down on a spade lead and black suit crossruff after West grabbed the first round of trump. To me, double is the most flexible call, while 2NT accurately conveys hand strength and general texture. Move a club spot to spades and I think 2NT would be close to unanimous. Here, it's somewhat of a tossup, with a slight edge to double for right siding 3NT if you can get there. Unfortunately the 5-3♥ fit gets in the way after a positive 3♦ Lebensohl response to the double. A direct 3♥ is pretty unilateral especially with partner being a passed hand.

Had East pre-empted with a more "standard" 3♠ South likely would have been endplayed into the making 3NT, so long as they work on diamonds first.

3) IMPs, NS vulnerable. As South you hold:

♠ Q876
♥ K1097
♦ K9
♣ AK7

South	West	North	West
1♣ ¹	3♦	4♦ ²	5♦
?			

1. Your 1NT range is 12-14.
2. Game forcing club raise.

What call do you make?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	3	10
6♣	1	10
Double	14	8

A voice in the wilderness (but difficult to ignore):

Bishop: 6♣. Well, in most cases responder's hand is quite well-defined; no four card major (since he would then be prepared to 'pull' to 5♣); lots of clubs (since he is commanding those to be the trump suit and isn't in possession of the A or K of the suit); and no more than a singleton diamond. Example hands might resemble either of these, AJx Ax x Q10xxxxx or AKx QJx - J10xxxxx. I can't believe that he would have less than something of that order. Since his 4♦ cuebid is forcing us to game in my "suit", I can make a forcing pass here and invite SEVEN if I would like to do so. But, is that a reasonable approach?? We rate to have some play for 6♣ opposite almost anything he has, and since he won't be sure what we need for a grand (although would expect him to raise with AKx Ax - Q10xxxxxx), so let's just bid 6♣ and be done with it!

Observations from the other minority viewpoint:

Marcinski: Pass. Isn't a "forcing pass" supposed to be a cure-all for uncertainty such as here where responder's conceivable range of hands can yield anywhere from 10-13 tricks? Incidentally, through gritted teeth one must give kudos to the opponents for foisting this nasty problem on us.

Kimelman: Pass. Double would be discouraging implying two losing diamonds. Pass doesn't force to slam, but doesn't discourage it either. I will pass double or 6♣, and bid 5NT, natural, over five of a major.

Treble: Pass, although I can live with double. I have only three clubs and the ♦K might be wasted, but I still have a 12-count outside the enemy suit.

With the majority:

Todd: Double! I can't imagine any bid other than double – but I may not be happy with it. A forcing pass here is wrong in many ways and bidding is crazy.

Hargreaves: Double. Trying to slow partner down. He needs a monster hand for us to make slam. I have another sneaking suspicion that the key is to play notrump from my side. It's possible, still, but unlikely.

Mike's notrump remark dovetails with one of Neil's suggested continuations and would definitely be in the mix at matchpoints for an alternative slam possibility.

Balcombe: Double. What else can you do with wasted HCP in diamonds and shortish clubs?

Stark: Double. There are two options: Pass or Double. With only three clubs I don't want to make a forcing pass and invite partner to compete to 6♣.

A number of those that doubled remarked that double just shows the balanced hand here. While that often applies, the double at this point in the auction is less about generalities and more about an opinion as to whether to go on. There's a big difference between opener holding something like ♦KQ with ♣Axx and their actual quite prime minor suit holdings. The former is more what I'd expect for a direct double here. Bishop's enthusiastic 6♣ notwithstanding, to me a forcing pass lets partner contribute to that opinion.

What happened at the table?

♠ AK2	
♥ AQ5	
♦ 6	
♣ Q98632	
♠ 9	♠ J10543
♥ J864	♥ 32
♦ AQJ1083	♦ 7542
♣ 54	♣ J10
	♠ Q876
	♥ K1097
	♦ K9
	♣ AK7

Another deal from the weekly online advanced/expert team game. As pointed out by his eminence, it was very difficult for North to pull the double staring at ♣Qxxxxx and likely diamond wastage. South is taking the easy way out on a deal where slam is quite possible opposite many North hands. Most panellists concur that North has a stiff diamond, so why not elicit their opinion as to what to do over 5♦. North did after all commit to at least game in the face of what could have been a minimum 1♣ opener. Despite the likely wasted ♦K, South will be declaring and their ♣AKx is as good as it usually gets for a three card holding. As North can't have much in the minors, I think at the very least North should make a forcing pass and see what partner wants to do, happy to sit a double, also happy if partner bids on.

4) IMPs, E-W vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ KQ1043
♥ KQ6
♦ K54
♣ 42

North	East	South	West
Pass	3♣	?	

What call do you make?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	12	10
3♠	2	6
Double	4	5

The Great Dealer has dangled the bait. Are there any takers?

Bishop: Pass. Clearly from the available choices (3♠, double and pass) this problem was put in to see if we liked going for -500 non-vulnerable upon occasion. Obviously if partner wasn't a passed hand we would try 3♠; but his status changes a lot. Any intermediate club cards opposite us will be of little value; and partner will raise to game with Axxx xxx A10x xxx; and we know that gives us no play. Sometimes we have to believe the vulnerable pre-emptors and give up on the search for a white game.

Willis: Pass, bad shape, passed hand partner, low likelihood of game, defensive values. Too likely to turn a plus into a minus by bidding opposite a passed hand. Partner is still there to balance and we will get to our game if they double.

L'Ecuyer: Pass. I like to bid but why do so here and risk a raise by partner? We most likely don't have 4♠, I am not sure what suit is best to be led against 3NT and I know what to lead versus 5♣. If I had xx in hearts, I would stretch to bid but here, with decent holdings in all suits, I see no reason to bid. If we miss a good dive in 4♠ versus 3NT, so be it. Life is not perfect and that is why we pre-empt.

Todd: Pass. Was this a bet?

Sticking their necks out:

Miles: 3♠. A guess, where we judge the upside vs downside, and frequency of the two possible actions. The ♠10, and having spades (with longer hearts, double is slightly more attractive as partner usually bids hearts with equal majors), sway me to the overcall.

Kimelman: 3♠. Expect to be in the minority as this bid is risky, but I like 3♠ for the simple reason is if LHO bids 3NT partner will now know what to lead. Partner should only raise with a good nine count or better.

LHO will also now have a good idea as to what to do holding any number of hands. A few others go looking for trouble in more than one strain:

Thurston: Double, would hate having to put all my eggs in the 3♠ overcall basket even though we might miss a 5-3 fit. 5-3 fits in either red suit are possible too.

Treble: Double. Will get us to a playable spot, if not the best one. Any of double, 3♠, or pass could be the winning action.

Doubling could also breathe life into Bishop's observation as to the problem's purpose.

What happened at the table?

♠ A76	
♥ 10984	
♦ Q72	
♣ 1096	
♠852	♠J9
♥J32	♥A75
♦AJ1086	♦93
♣AJ	♣KQ8753
♠ KQ1043	
♥ KQ6	
♦ K54	
♣ 42	

This hand arose in a mentorship team game at the intermediate level, where newer fads in pre-empting seem to have been adopted, but not necessarily a well-reasoned, situational approach to dealing with pre-empts in general.

South failed to appreciate that partner's passed hand status offered little play for game and that they were facing a vulnerable 2nd seat 3-level pre-empt. They have no Aces, two fast losers in clubs, and are as

likely as not to offer West a fielder's choice if they enter this auction. They almost for sure aren't missing a game with 4th hand's Aces sitting over them and will be happy with most any lead partner might choose should 4th hand bid 3NT or some other game. As the auction actually went, North made a conservative pass of 3♠ down on two rounds of clubs and a diamond switch, declarer failing to give themselves a chance by putting up the King for a 2nd dummy entry to lead hearts to their hand, a line that just wriggles home, but relies on East holding the ♥A.

Defending 3♣, N-S can go plus with 2 rounds of spades followed by a heart switch and trump exit, so long as South rises with the ♦K on the 1st round of that suit, a somewhat interesting mirror image 2nd hand high play by South, either declaring or defending.

Editor's note: Actually 3♣ should make. Declarer can duck the ♥K, switch, win the black suit continuation in hand and play on diamonds before pulling trump.

5) IMPs, nobody vulnerable. As South you hold:

♠ Q1063
♥ 52
♦ AJ75
♣ A92

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass ¹
Pass	Rdbl ²	Pass	3♦ ³
Pass	3♠ ⁴	Pass	4♠
Pass	?		

1. 15-17 denies a club stopper.
2. Promises a club stopper.
3. Promises 1 or both 4-card majors.
4. Natural, protecting a potentially vulnerable King.

Do you take another call, If so, what?

Action	Votes	Score
5♣	8	10
4NT	4	10
5♦	2	10
6♦	1	9
Pass	3	6

Marcinski: 5♣. Emphatically YES! How could I conceivably have a better hand when to date I have shown partner perhaps only 4 + HCP's? b) It behoves me to at least investigate slam ... it is most unlikely, though not inconceivable, that we're in any danger at the five level.

Jacob: 5♣; Partner should not make any further noise without seven controls, something like AKxx AKJx KQx xx. On a good day you may make seven.

Hargreaves: 5♣. Partner has no club stopper then the odds are that what he has fits well. AKxx AKxx KQx Jx is not unreasonable. AKxx AQJ KQx Jxx is, unfortunately, also not unreasonable. Slam is not hopeless but against the odds. And, of course, he could hold Qx in clubs, making his other suits a little weaker. I'll bid 5♣ then 5♠, giving him a chance to evaluate. 5♣ is the perfect blame transfer bid.

Lindop: 4NT. I intend to bid a slam if partner shows three controls – ♠AK and ♥A. About the only hand partner could hold where we don't have a play for slam is something like: ♠AKJx ♥KQJx ♦KQx ♣Jx. I don't think bidding 5♦, which implies a club control, will help partner decide what to do. I'll take charge ... and take the blame if we get overboard.

Thurston: 5♦. So we have a club loser (maybe even 2?) but partner's 20 HCPs (please, don't have 19 – AGAIN! - partner) have to fit my hand even better than OJ's glove but just to check him out, I'll now bid 5♦ and bid 6♠ over 5♥ and pass 5♠ if he declines to show more interest. Funny how who holds the ♣J is critical and if it's partner, my carefully engineered scheme is going to crash and burn.

5♦ looks like the best try for slam as it shows partner where responder's values are, while implying a club control, likely the ♣A. Opener can easily cooperate opposite the minor suit controls.

Kuz: 6♦. A unique offering from Bob made without comment (either that or I lost his answer email). It places cards in opener's hands but emphasizes the minor suit controls opener needs to cooperate. Of course if opener has the wrong hand ... On the pessimistic side:

Cooper: Pass. Partner could have control bid 4♥ or bid a Last Train 4♣. This is the kind of bid that can be safely invented at the table, even with no prior discussion, as a club control was previously denied. I respect the signoff, expecting a club lead to expose at least one loser. Slam would be at best on a finesse and might need some good breaks, too.

Balcombe and Stark echo Cooper's concerns. Marcinski's rationale for a slam try is hard to argue with; I don't think it's up to opener to try without a truly special hand, something they don't really have here. To be fair, slam is on a finesse, but an odds-on finesse, and 50%+ slams are often the difference between winning and losing at teams. What happened at the table?

Another deal from the online Monday night "Out West" advanced/expert team game. At the other table there was an uninterrupted Puppet Stayman auction to 6♠ with South bidding slam directly over North's 3♠ bid. Here, South bailed immediately by passing 4♠, coughing up the usual 13 IMPs that go with these results:

♠ AK95
♥ AKQ
♦ K92
♣ J43

♠ 72
♥ J983
♦ 86
♣ K10865

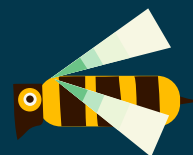
♠ J84
♥ 10764
♦ Q1043
♣ Q7

♠ Q1063
♥ 52
♦ AJ75
♣ A92

Actions other than pass should get you to the reasonable 6♠. North has nice controls, but with sterile distribution and is facing a passed partner. Nothing about their hand suggests making a slam try on this auction; responder needs to be the one to try with their near opener.

Declarer will get a fairly complete count on the hand after a the ♣Q lead, 2 rounds of trump, clearing hearts pitching a diamond, 3rd trump to dummy and exiting a club toward the Jack, finding the likely count to favour East holding the ♦Q. Oddly, should North somehow decide to pass Kuz's esoteric 6♦ bid and run the ♦9 at trick 3, they will be also be rewarded with a making slam, PLUS a good story, and at a cost of only 2 IMPs!

Patrick Jourdain, a famous bridge player-teacher from Wales, is called over to a table and a lady tells him that she has opened 1♥ and there have been three passes back to her so this time she bid 2♥. Again there were three passes back to her, but this time she wants to know if she was worth 3♥?



PANEL'S ANSWERS

	HAND 1		HAND 2		HAND 3		HAND 4		HAND 5		TTL
	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	
Keith Balcombe	3♠/Pass	8	Dbl	10	Dbl	8	Pass	10	Pass	6	42
Ron Bishop	3♠/Pass	8	Dbl	10	6♣	10	Pass	10	4NT	10	48
Stephen Cooper	4♦/Pass	9	3♥	7	Dbl	8	Pass	10	Pass	6	40
David Grainger	3♠/5♦	9	Dbl	10	Dbl	8	Pass	10	5♣	10	47
Mike Hargreaves	4♦/4♠	9	Dbl	10	Dbl	8	Pass	10	5♣	10	47
Dan Jacob	4♦/4♠	9	2NT	9	Dbl	8	Pass	10	5♣	10	46
Neil Kimelman	3♠/Pass	8	Dbl	10	Pass	10	3♠	6	5♣	10	44
Bob Kuz	4♦/4♠	9	2NT	9	Dbl	8	Dbl	5	6♦	9	40
Nick L'Ecuier	4♦/Pass	9	2NT	9	Dbl	8	Pass	10	4NT	10	46
David Lindop	4♦/4♠	9	3♥	7	Dbl	8	Pass	10	4NT	10	44
Zyg Marcinski	3♠/5♦	9	Dbl	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	49
Danny Miles	4♦/Pass	9	2NT	9	Dbl	8	3♠	6	5♣	10	42
Andy Stark	4♦/4♠	9	3♥	7	Dbl	8	Pass	10	Pass	6	40
Paul Thurston	4♦/4♠	9	2NT	9	Dbl	8	Dbl	5	5♦	10	41
Bob Todd	4♦/4♠	9	Dbl	10	Dbl	8	Pass	10	4NT	10	47
Bill Treble	4♦/4♠	9	3♥	7	Pass	10	Dbl	5	5♣	10	41
David Turner	3♠/Pass	8	3♥	7	Dbl	8	Dbl	5	5♦	10	38
David Willis	4♦/4♠	9	Dbl	10	Dbl	8	Pass	10	5♣	10	47



QUIZ

INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

FROM PAGE 22

There are 12 tricks if you can score five club tricks. The best approach is to cash off your other winners before committing as how to play the club suit. Since you only need 12 tricks (and cannot make an overtrick) you should duck the first trick. Win the spade and cash your non-club tricks. You will find out that West started with 5 spades, 5 hearts and 2 diamonds. Therefore cash the club king on the first round of the suit with complete assurance.

Contract: 6NT West leads: ♠Q. Plan the play.

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

AUGUST PROBLEMS

Host: Neil Kimelman

1. As South, you hold ♠AQ1062 ♥6 ♦AKJ5 ♣AKJ.
E-W vul, teams.

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

1. Waiting, denies a complete bust.

What do you bid, assuming North is an expert, and you have no agreements?

How does your favourite partnership handle interference over a 2♣ opener?

2. IMPs. N-S Vul., you hold as South: ♠K2 ♥K72 ♦KJ3 ♣KJ643.

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	?

What do you bid?

3. As South, you hold ♠AKQ5 ♥K9765 ♦AJ62 ♣-.
Neither vul, Matchpoints.

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	?

What do you bid?

4. As South you hold ♠873 ♥AKJ3 ♦A94 ♣864.
Neither vul, IMPs.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dbl ¹	Pass	?

1. Support double, promising exactly three hearts.
What do you bid?

5. As South, you hold ♠J642 ♥A9 ♦J10742 ♣95. N-S vul, IMPs.

West	North	East	South
4♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	?

a) What do you bid?

b) Do you agree with 4♠?

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BRIDGE WITH ANOTHER PERFECT PARTNER

John Carruthers



Bridge with a Perfect Partner, by P. F. Saunders, was published in 1976. Many readers delighted in Saunders' articles in *Bridge Magazine* (U.K.), and the character Wilson, according to the flyleaf of the book, is "... an austere character, whose scholarly discourses are enlivened by frequent flashes of mordant wit." The anonymous narrator comments, "He is very kind in explaining, when I go down in a contract, just how I could have made it and, when he goes down, just how my bidding misled him." We've all played with partners like that, though few have had Wilson's devastating, articulate wit.

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