

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | FEBRUARY 2016

bridge *Canada*



SAMANTHA NYSTROM
1984-2015

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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REFLECTIONS OF THE EDITOR

by Neil Kimelman

SAMANTHA NYSTROM

It was with great sadness that I learned the tragic news of Samantha's passing. Isabelle Brisebois shares memories of her good friend and bridge partner in this Issue.

2016 CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS (CBCS) REGIONAL, MAY 21-29

Time to start thinking of travel plans to attend the Toronto CBCs. For the 1st time we will have a full blown Regional running simultaneous with the various Canadian Championship events. It is an opportunity to meet and mingle with Canadian players from across the country. A schedule for all events can be found on the CBF website.

NEW YEAR – BUT OLD MESSAGE

Please send in your stories, humorous or otherwise. They can be published anonymously, but an honorarium will be paid to you!

NEW MEMBERS

Thank you for becoming a CBF member. Please send me your feedback on Bridge Canada, or anything in the CBF World. I will commit to getting you a timely reply, and that the CBF will seriously consider all suggestions and comments.

Neil Kimelman

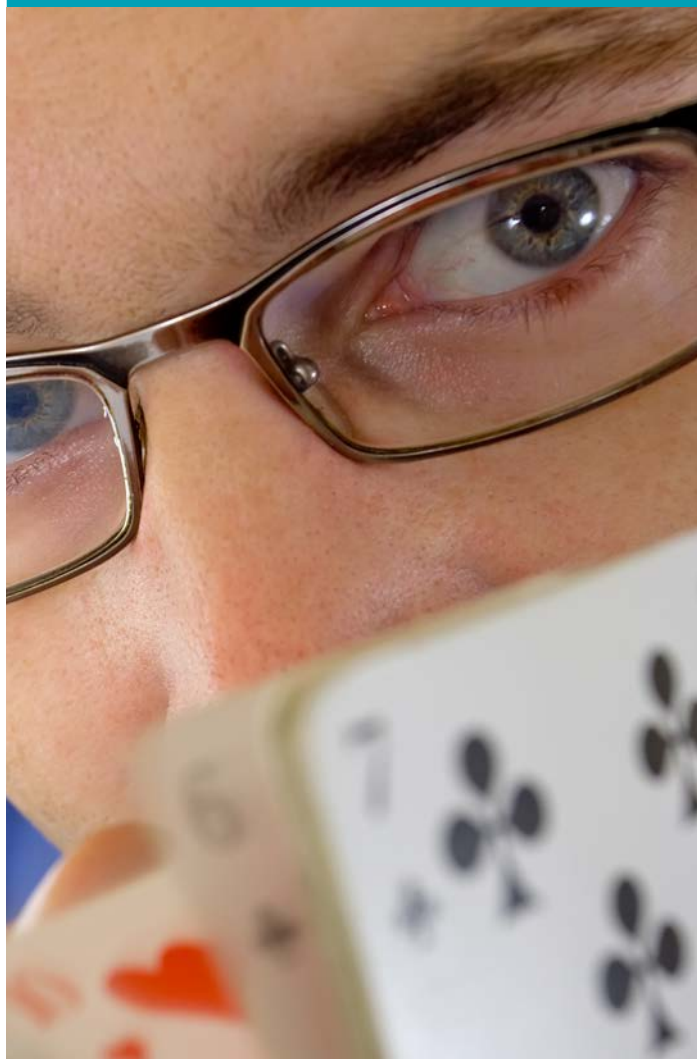
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TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

IMPs Vul: Both
Contract: 5 ♣
Lead: ♦A

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

Plan the play.
Answer on page 26



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SAMANTHA NYSTROM

The Canadian bridge community was very saddened to hear about the tragic and sudden departure of one of its own stars, Samantha Nystrom. Sam left us too early at the age of 31.

By Isabelle Brisebois

Samantha had been my bridge partner in the Canadian Women's Trials in 2012 and 2013 and in the World Championship this past fall in India. We have been to many Nationals and also spent a lot of time together outside of bridge, especially now that Sam had moved to Ontario.

SAM THE BRIDGE PLAYER

Her bridge resume was already spectacular. Sam's younger days were spent in BC where she became the youngest LM in her province. She was part of the Junior team in 2008 and 2010, playing with her best friend and ex-roommate Daniel Lavee. She went on to win the Canadian Open Team Championship in 2014, becoming one of a very few women to accomplish this feat. She and I went to India in 2015 to represent Canada in the Women's World Team Championships. Samantha was a professional bridge player. She played at every Nationals and traveled the world furthering her craft.

SAM THE PERSON

Sam was very competitive and hated to lose, but she always found a way to have fun at the table. During the World Championship, while playing against the Denmark ladies, we were told multiple times to keep it down because we were having too much fun.

That is how Sam was: full of energy and always laughing. She couldn't stand still, even at the bridge table! Sam was an amazing person, a true friend, beautiful inside and out.

Her home was now in St. Catharine's, Ontario where she lived with her love, Andrew and his kids, Taylor and Justin. Many friends gathered at their home on



December 23rd to celebrate her life. Her mother, Cathy, her father, Brian and her brother, Cameron were with us as we shared tears and stories remembering the good times spent with Sam.

To some, she was a bridge player. To others, she was a bridge partner. To many, she was a friend. To her close friends and family members, she was a very special young lady much beloved. My deepest sympathies to all who knew her and loved her. To me, she wasn't only my bridge partner, she was one of my best friends. She will be deeply missed by me and everyone. I would like to share something that someone told me during this difficult time:

If you love somebody enough, you can still hear the laughter after they're gone.

Dear friends, let your ears ring with Sam's laughter.

Au revoir mon amie.

Oops!

WHAT WENT WRONG?

by Paul Thurston



For this instalment of your favourite (I Hope!) focus-on-foibles, let's take a look at two common types of errors and see what we can do to limit their future recurrence by our partners!

First up: one of everybody's least favourite chores as you'll have to pick an opening lead after a competitive auction.

Hand 1

As West, You hold: ♠Q 4 ♥A J 10 9 7 4 2 ♦J 6 5 ♣2 and the auction proceeds:

West	North	East	South
3♥	Pass	4♥	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

And it's your lead?

At the table, a self-styled expert chose the ♥A based on the following planning: "I'll take a trick and be able to see dummy and have a better idea of what to do next".

Since the layout was as follows (top right), West didn't have to do any deciding about "next" as his only responsibility for several tricks was to follow suit or find discards after running out of clubs!

♠ J 8 7 5
♥ K 8 6
♦ Q 7 4 2
♣ Q 6

♠ Q 4
♥ A J 10 9 7 4 2
♦ J 6 5
♣ 2

♠ A K 10 9 3
♥ Q 5 3
♦ A 8
♣ J 7 5

♠ 6 2
♥ -
♦ K 10 9 3
♣ A K 10 9 8 4 3

Of course declarer ruffed the ♥A, crossed to the ♣Q (just in case trumps were 4-0) and discarded a spade loser on the ♥K. At this stage, declarer might have played a diamond and tried to guess the suit (maybe ♦AJx on his right?) but not this South who reverted to trumps and even played a few extra rounds in search of helpful discards.

None were forthcoming as West had lots of hearts to spare and East had extra spades to contribute. Finally, declarer tabled the ten of diamonds and West was right there to do all he could to help out by covering with the ♦J to end all mystery.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

East-West who surely would have made 620 in 4♥, maybe even 650 in 5♥, and were entitled to +200 versus 5♣ doubled, instead recorded the truly ugly -750 they had to put on their scorecards.

As for the bidding, it seems both East and West did what they should have, as a venture to 5♥ would not

WHAT WENT WRONG? ... Continued

have been sensible – the “five level belongs to the opponents” is one of those bridge clichés that seems to have a lot of merit!

As is so often the case, the eventual result was all about the opening lead with West’s choice of the ♥A doing the damage.

Why? Mainly because it was an “unsupported” ace (= no King with it). While West might have hoped, maybe even expected, that his partner would hold the ♥K, it was far from a guarantee. Further, if South did have a heart loser in his hand (a remote possibility but still a possibility), where would it go if the ♥A wasn’t cashed at trick one?

East’s final double meant he had been expecting 4♥ would be made and that he had some high-cards outside the two suits that had been bid so that a spade or diamond lead would likely find East with something good to support the lead.

Truly hating the opening lead of unsupported aces, I would opt for the ♠Q as the suit in which I have the most strength to help out with the establishment or cashing of tricks.

Nothing is ever guaranteed with any opening lead theory but removing the option of unsupported aces from long suits from your repertoire will reduce your opportunities to ask “What Went Wrong” at the end of play!

Hand 2

Our second exhibit for this instalment focuses on constructive bidding and comes from a CBF online league match:

♠	A Q 4
♥	Q J 7 6 4 3
♦	J
♣	A 8 4

♠	K 9 7 5 2
♥	K
♦	K Q 10 9 4
♣	7 3

West

1♥
2♥
3♠
6♥

East

1♠
3♦
4♥
All Pass

After the dust cleared, declarer was down four! A club lead forced the ace and trumps were 4-2 so declarer lost two clubs, two hearts and the diamond ace. East suggested his partner may have lost his mind by leaping to the six-level when even a game in hearts couldn’t be made (and against the particularly nasty lie of the cards, duly went down two at the other table to soften the blow of the IMP loss).

WHAT WENT WRONG?

So playing in hearts wasn’t really a bad idea and reaching game, especially at IMP scoring, seems nearly automatic so WHAT WENT WRONG? Did West really lose his mind?

Not at all! If we were doing an ATB (ASSESS THE BLAME) post mortem, I’d give the lion’s share of the blame to East for one particular call that created the foundation that the ugly result was built on: 3♦!

WHAT WENT WRONG? ... Continued

In natural systems (like the 2-Over-1 East-West were playing), when an unpassed hand responder bids a new suit, that call is forcing and when the new suit is introduced at the three-level, the auction is game-forcing. Yes, East has long and decent diamonds but his hand simply isn't strong enough to create a game-force and so he should look elsewhere for a second call.

By the way, this is an error that is commonplace with players unduly focused on "my hand" as in "I have to tell partner I have diamonds", etc. Here is another prime example from a recent club game (bonus – a 3rd hand!!):

Responder held ♠QJ9xx ♥Kxxxx ♦xx ♣x and responded 1♠ to partner's 1♦ opening bid. Opener rebid 2♣ and this responder trotted out 2♥: "I have hearts and really have to tell partner about them". Except, as a new suit, 2♥ is forcing and, even worse, for this partnership as the fourth suit, it was forcing to game!*

The possession of some suits – hearts in this example and diamonds in our other case, simply has to be kept a secret from partner lest the imparting of the news carries with it a statement about strength that the bidder simply doesn't have!

With the actual responder's holding on Hand 2, 3♥ as an invitation to game seems like an adequate (and accurate) statement of the hand's strength even though the trump support is a bit slim (Terrence Reese once wrote: "Stiff King equals three small when considering supporting partner"). Opener would likely carry on to game but at least the totally undignified slam would have been avoided.

As for opener having "lost his mind", if you consider what he was expecting for his partner's bidding, you might realize his slam punt was actually quite sensible. West thought East's bidding represented a hand like ♠Kxxxx ♥Kxx ♦AKQx ♣x. Wouldn't 6♥ be a good spot opposite that?

East had gone out of his way to create a game force and then show heart support so it was reasonable to expect he was showing his hand's pattern and extra strength. Further, once he brushed aside opener's spade preference to show heart support, he could be counted on for real support (otherwise he could have opted for 4♠ over 3♥).

I'm quite sure that if you gave the auction to a panel and asked them to construct an East hand that fit the bidding, the example I've given would be contributed by many - just not the actual bidder's and that's WHAT WENT WRONG!

***Editor's note:** Some partnerships employ a convention for responder to use when holding the difficult to show 5-4 or 5-5 in the majors: In response to a minor opening, 2♥ shows 5-4 or 5-5 with 5-8 HCPs, and 2♠ show 5-4 or 5-5 with 9-11 HCPs.



Paul Thurston (Photo: Michael Yuen)

JUREK CZYZOWICZ

Jurek Czyzowicz, has been on the winning CNTC team in 2003 and 2009 (both times in partnership with Darren Wolpert), the CSTC competition in 2008, 2011, 2013 (partnership with Steve Brown and Dan Jacob) and COPC, 2004 (with Darren Wolpert) and 2015 (with Dan Jacob). He has also won the bronze medal in the Senior World Championship in Sanya, 2014 (partnering Dan Jacob).

How did you start playing competitive bridge?

It was in the late sixties during my university years. In the cafeteria of the Math Department of Warsaw University, bridge and chess players always occupied some tables. Soon I became hooked and I started traveling to major matchpoint tournaments in Europe. The communist Poland had just started allowing people to travel to the West, as the country needed hard currency.



The average Polish salary equalled 20 US\$ and a bunch of young Poles had a good living, bringing home money prizes awarded at matchpoint games in France, Italy and other bridge-oriented countries.

I believe that you are still professionally active. Do you have enough time to play bridge?

I am computer science professor at University of Québec. I devote a lot of time to research, often travelling to Europe. Because of conflicting schedules sometimes I cannot participate at the NABCs. I played much more often in the past, especially in the late seventies before immigrating to Canada.

What are your favourite books?

“Martin Eden” by Jack London and all books by Hemingway.

And bridge books?

Adventures in Card Play by Kelsey and Ottlik, and most books by Terence Reese.

What are your most memorable bridge moments?

Unfortunately, they are mostly related to defeats. During the last year World Championship in Sanya Dan Jacob and I played in the Senior Pairs. We finished 4th, though with one round to go (3 boards) we were leading. In the 7th NEC Cup 2002, playing with Darren Wolpert and Nick L’Ecuyer – Kamel Fergani, we comfortably beat strong teams from Sweden and Norway in quarter and semi-finals. We led England by 50 imps at some point eventually losing by 6.

MEET JUREK CZYZOWICZ

Are you now a senior player or you will still be playing in the open competition?

I know that I am still competitive enough to play in the open events. Obviously the open competition is more challenging and there is more fun. However being professionally active and having a large family (5 kids) I can't devote myself to bridge to the extent that I would like. Despite that, I think that playing in the world senior events I have a reasonable chance to do well, while that would be much harder in the case of open competition. I would definitely try my chances in the CNTC if this event were to be held at a different time than the CSTC. I hope that this may happen one day, for example CSTC and CWTC taking place together.

Why you think that it is harder to play in the open competitions?

Playing in the open events you are facing tough competition, involving many talented, professional players, who often play bridge full time. I do not think that they would have a significant edge over me concerning declarer play or defence. However, I might perhaps make more judgement and system-related mistakes. But most importantly, in many situations professional players will behave instinctively (defending, declaring or bidding) while I will take time to reach the same decisions. This way I might give them a useful, table-presence related clues.

You say that you take more time to reach some decisions. Are you a slow player?

Indeed, I am considered a slow player. This is perhaps related to my professional activities. In almost all my research papers I propose algorithms and formal proofs of their correctness in all circumstances. This requires an analysis covering all cases of possible developments. Consequently, I have an aversion to performing an incomplete analysis - it is somewhat in my blood. I am aware that incomplete investigation is typical to bridge, especially in early stages of bidding and play of the hand, when full analysis is replaced by a probabilistic



TOP: Jurek Czyzowicz, Dan Jacob, Michael Schoenborn, Boris Baran, Fred Hoffer, Don Piafsky, CSTC Gold Medalists 2011. BOTTOM: Robert Lebi, Dan Jacob, Daive Lindop, Jurek Czyzowicz and Boris Baran. CSTC Silver Medalists 2012

approach. On the other hand, I am not bad at playing fast. I played three times with Dan Jacob in NABC tournament, every time arriving among the first five. I believe that my fast thinking is quite good, compared to other competitors.

Do you agree that slow plays are responsible for many ethics related problems in bridge?

Indeed. That is why I try not to put partner in difficult position when my hesitation may involve some unauthorized information (trying not to take time when bidding or discarding). However there are numerous situations when a hesitation may require a visit by the tournament director. One of the most evident and damaging is a slow signal, which usually suggests more than one defensive option to partner. Slow penalty oriented doubles show doubt while slow sign-off bids (or passes in competitive auction) clearly show extras. However there are sometimes much more subtle situations, when a hesitation in defence permits to place some important cards in the huddler's hand by his partner.

There are some tempo-related issues for which my opinion may differ from those of other people. For

MEET JUREK CZYZOWICZ

example, I tend to disagree with the importance that is attached to directors and appeal committees in analysed cases concerning the length of a hesitation which took place. Both parties involved usually disagree whether it took 45, 60 or 90 seconds, when in most cases this is completely immaterial. Also, I consider it unethical to impose very fast tempo of play by declarer. I have seen some good players playing their cards very fast against weaker players, intending to force the tempo and use their mistakes and hesitations to their advantage.

How about an interesting or humorous hand?

Here is one from the 2013 World Championship held in Bali. The hand is mostly of interest as it was against the team who won the title, but was later stripped of their gold medal because of cheating.

Board 8: None Vul:

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

Lead: ♠A

West	North	East	South
Strater	Czyzowicz	Kratz	Jacob
2♠	3♠	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

I ruffed and cashed all trumps but one. At this stage East needs to keep exactly three clubs to the King, but he made a mistake keeping all four clubs. The six-card ending was (see top right):

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

I played the ♣Q and East was helpless. He covered the club Queen with the King which ended the defense. But even if he ducks I would play Ace and a small club. I ruff his return of the ♠K with the ♥3, and exit with the ♦8. The defence has to give me either the ♦K or the ♣10 for my eleventh trick. To beat me East needed to keep exactly ♠K ♥- ♦QJ ♣K x x in the six-card ending.

At the other table EW (Baran-Mittelman) were not in the auction and the pair of German doctors (Elinescu-Wlawow) were allowed to play 4♥. Declarer mis-guessed the club position to go down one.

How about away from the bridge table?

I am married with five children. My wife has an electrical engineering degree, but has instead devoted herself to raising our family. Two kids are still students (Francis - doing her PhD at Harvard in political sciences, and Agata is in medicine at Laval University in Quebec City. Of the other three, Anna (42) lives in London (Ont.) working for a tax company, Piotr (37) is an UBS Investment Advisor (Montreal) and Martin (31) works for the Federal Government.

I devote almost all of my time and energy to my three loves: my family, my work and bridge.

TEST YOUR DOUBLE DUMMY PLAY

IT'S ALL ABOUT TIMING

Lead: ♠10

♠ Q
♥ 9 3
♦ J 10 9 8 5 3
♣ A K 4 3

♠ 10 9 8 7 3
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ 7 4
♣ 8 7

♠ J 6 4 2
♥ A 5
♦ A K
♣ Q J 10 9 6

♠ A K 5
♥ K Q J 10 8
♦ Q 6 2
♣ 5 2

Make 3NT against best defense.
Answer on page 22

THE IBPA FILES 1

14TH EUROPEAN *Championships Cup*

Milton Keynes, England 12-14 Nov 2015
Brian Senior, Nottingham

Round 9 – EBU (ENG) v Allegra (ITA)

On the following deal both Norths took a look at the vulnerability and saved in five hearts over four spades. After all, how bad could it be at this vulnerability? While it's true that North has no defence, it's also true that he has no offence – take a look at those pips:

♠ -
♥ K 10 9 3
♦ Q J 8 5 3
♣ K Q 5 3

♠ A K 8 5
♥ Q 8 5 2
♦ A 7
♣ 9 7 2

♠ J 10 7 6 3
♥ 6
♦ K 10 9 4
♣ A J 6

♠ Q 9 4 2
♥ A J 7 4
♦ 6 2
♣ 10 8 4

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Bilde	Hanlon	Duboin
Madala	Lindqvist	Bocchi	Brogeland
-	1♦	1♠	DbI
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
DbI	All Pass		

Continued next page

TABLE 1

Hanlon led the jack of spades against Bilde. Declarer played low from dummy and ruffed in hand. This play was to have ramifications just two tricks later. Bilde played the queen of diamonds round to Zia's ace. Back came a low spade, as Zia thought to retain his winners for later while forcing declarer to ruff fresh air. Bilde did very well here, discarding a club, so winning the trick with dummy's nine. He led a club to the king and Hanlon's ace. Hanlon returned a heart to the seven, eight and ten, and Bilde played a low diamond, Hanlon winning with the nine. This time Hanlon returned a spade, so Bilde could ruff in hand and ruff a diamond with the ace. Zia under-ruffed on this trick, as otherwise he would have been end played later if he had had more trumps than dummy. As a result, however, Bilde could make only the king of hearts and the club queen, but was still out for only three down and minus 500, a small gain if four spades was making at the other table.

TABLE 2

As we see, the other table was not playing four spades – it too was in five hearts doubled on an identical auction. Lindqvist too ruffed the jack-of-spades lead and led the queen of diamonds out of his hand. Madala also won with the ace and, rather than play spades, led the nine of clubs through. That went to the king and ace and Bocchi returned the seven of spades to the nine, king and another ruff. Lindqvist played the eight of diamonds, Bocchi winning the ten and leading his trump round to declarer's ten. Lindqvist played another low diamond, discarding a spade from dummy as Bocchi won the nine and Madala discarded a club. Now came the king of diamonds and both dummy and Madala threw low clubs. Bocchi led a club, Madala ruffing and returning a heart, and he still had to come to the queen of hearts one way or another; down five for minus 1100 and 12 IMPs to Allegra.



The International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) is a world-wide bridge organization of more than 300 members in all corners of the world. Its main objective is to assist bridge journalists in their bridge related professional activities. The IBPA publishes a monthly online Bulletin, which consists of interesting deals involving some of the best players of the world, competing in key international tournaments.

As part of its service to members, the IBPA Bulletins have hands and stories that are available for reproduction. In this regular feature of Bridge Canada we reproduce some of those hands.



The following deal from the 2015 Canadian Open Team Championships (CNTC) quarter final match presented a defensive problem that, sadly, I did not solve. Let's see if you can do better.

THE TRAIN *Has left the station ...*

By Nader Hanna

Board: 17 Dealer: N
Vulnerability: Neither

Sitting South with no one vulnerable, the opponents bid to 3NT on the following auction:

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

Expecting a spade lead, you are mildly surprised when partner leads the ♦2 (attitude, promising a suit headed by at least Q10, length unknown). You soon guess the reason when the following dummy is tabled.

Dummy

♠ 8 7 6 5 4
♥ A K Q 7 6
♦ 7
♣ 7 3

You

♠ A Q J 9 3 2
♥ 10 8
♦ A J 8
♣ J 2

What is your plan to defeat the contract?

by Nader Hanna
THE EXPERT
Spot

I won the ♦A and continued with the ♦J, declarer winning the 3rd round with the ♦K, discarding two small spades from dummy. He now crossed to dummy with a heart (partner showing an even number) and played a spade which I won with the ace (partner discarding a diamond).

With no more entries, establishing spades was pointless. It would have also squeezed partner for this was the full deal:

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

As you can see, if you continue with a spade partner would have to relinquish his guard in one of the three other suits. Whichever suit partner un-guards, he'd then be squeezed again on the run of that suit. Similarly, if you return a club, declarer wins and plays the ♠K with similar effect. So, I played a heart to break the squeeze. Having done so, you better not be congratulating yourself on this thoughtful play because the job is not done yet.

Here is the position (see right). Declarer now plays dummy's ♥Q, what do you discard?

It seems automatic to discard one of your useless spades, but let's see what happens if you do that.

Having an exact count on the hand (you showed up with 6 spades, 2 hearts and 3 diamonds) declarer knows that the clubs are 4-2 and cannot make the hand unless he can safely duck a club to you to establish an extra club trick.



Nader Hanna shown here with Joey Silver (left) and John Carruthers at the 2015 Hall of Fame Ceremonies during the 2015 Canadian Bridge Championships. PHOTO: Jonathan Steinberg

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

Accordingly, declarer discards his remaining diamond on the ♥Q, crosses to his hand in clubs, and exits with a low club which you are forced to win with the ♣J and return a spade conceding the rest of the tricks. It does not help if you play your ♣J when declarer plays a club from dummy as he would just simply duck it to reach the same ending.

So, it appears that I had to discard the ♣J on the ♥Q. Surely this farsighted discard, which I missed, would do the job! It turns out not.

Declarer can discard a club on the ♥Q and cross to his hand in clubs reaching this position:

Partner	
♠	-
♥	J
♦	Q
♣	10 8 5
Declarer	
♠	K
♥	
♦	6
♣	K Q 9

Declarer now plays the ♠K, forcing partner to discard the ♥J, and exists with a diamond to endplay partner. It appears then that the contract could not be defeated. and there was nothing I could do. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Did you find where I went wrong? It turns out that the train had left the station after my play at trick one. Had I played the ♦J at trick one

declarer could never make the contract. If he ducked, I could then play the ♠A and a low spade to establish the suit with the ♦A as my entry (partner could safely discard diamonds maintaining his guards in hearts and clubs). If declarer won the ♦K at trick one, he could only come to 8 tricks (3 hearts, 3 clubs, one diamond and one spade) while the defence had 5 tricks to cash (four diamonds and ♠A).

Editor's note: As it happens, I was south at the other table in this match. My partner's lead was a 3rd and 5th ♦2. I played the ♦J in tempo. This was not 100%, but I knew partner didn't have much, and it seemed a better chance that he had the ♦Q (not the ♦K) with the hoped for ♥J or ♣Q. Also, I considered that the ♦A doesn't help if declarer has Q 9 x x, as partner is marked with a spade void on the bidding, and can't get me in again. ♦A loses if declarer has ♦Q 9 x x.



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Neil's three bidding judgement books (3rd to be out at the end of February 2016) target advanced and expert issues. In this series, Neil shifts his to intermediate level bidding issues, hoping to facilitate learning for more players.

THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES

LESSON 2

WHEN PARTNER HAS TWO SUITS

By Neil Kimelman

There are many times that partner will show two suits. The two most common:

- 1** Opening the bidding in one suit and rebidding in another
- 2** Showing two suits after the opponents have opened the bidding.

I will look at number 1 in this article.

by Neil Kimelman THE INTERMEDIATE Spot

Opening the bidding in one suit and rebidding in another

Here is a common auction:

Partner	You
1♥	1♠
2♦	?

Partner has shown five hearts and four diamonds, 12-18 HCPs. If he had more points he would make a game forcing jump to 3♦.

RESPONDER'S REBIDS

Responder has a double obligation:

- Pick a denomination
- Show their point count

Point count can be split up into three different levels:

- A. Game forcing
- B. Game Invitational
- C. Non-forcing

A: Game Forcing

With a game forcing hand 9 times out of 10 you should bid the fourth suit. This is artificial and means the partnership cannot stop below game. Your third bid will tell partner the nature of your hand.

Two other possibilities are to bid to game or bid 4NT to ask for key cards.

B: Game invitational

The range to invite is approximately 10-12 points. The invitational choices are:

- Rebid 2NT
- Raise one of partner's suits to the three level
- Jump rebid in your suit

C: Non-invitational

- Pass
- Take a preference to partner's first suit
- Make a minimum bid in one of the other two suits. This ONLY APPLIES after partner rebids 1NT. Some players play this as a one round force.

Picking a denomination can be anywhere from simple to extremely tricky. Let's look at examples in the context of the above rules:

Partner	You
1♥	1♠
2♦	?

Game forcing hands:

1. ♠A K x x ♥x x x ♦Q x ♣K Q x x – Easy. Bid 3♣ (4th suit) and then raise hearts at your next turn.
2. ♠A x x x ♥x ♦K Q x x x ♣A K x – Bid 3♣, and then show diamond support. You have a lively chance for slam so it is worth bidding past 3NT.
3. ♠A x x x ♥x x ♦K J x x ♣K Q x – You could bid 3NT directly. But I would bid 3♣ and see what partner rebids. Over any rebid at the three level I would hide my diamond support and bid 3NT because I have a minimum game forcing hand.

Game invitational hands:

4. ♠Q x x x ♥x x ♦K Q x x x ♣K x – Bid 3♦.
5. ♠A x x x ♥x x ♦K J x x ♣K x – Bid 2NT. This shows about 11-12 HCPs, and denies an eight card fit for hearts and diamonds.
6. ♠A K J x x x ♥x x ♦K x x ♣x x – Bid 3♠.

WARNING! When inviting with no fit with partner be conservative. Remember, he may have as little as 10-11 HCPs, if he used distributional points to have an opening bid. An example light opener might be ♠x ♥KJxxxx ♦AQxxx ♣x. So even though you may have 13 HCPs, be cautious with a singleton or void in partner's first suit.

Non-invitational hands

These are the hardest:

7. ♠K J x x x ♥x ♦Q x x ♣x x x x – Pass. You have a minimum response and no fit. Remember, the chance that partner has a fit for you, when he has at most four black cards, is unlikely.

8. ♠K J 10 9 x ♥x ♦x x x ♣Q x x x – Here it is close, but I would bid 2♠ with a good suit.

9. ♠K J x x x ♥x ♦K Q x ♣x x x x – Bid 2♠. Why here and not #7? The difference is the point count. Here you may have game if partner has 16-18 HCPs. You want to keep the bidding open just in case.

After a 1NT Response

Things change somewhat when your response to a major is a one-round force 1NT, the most frequent occurrence.

Examples:

1♠ 1NT
2♣ ?

10. ♠x x ♥x x ♦K Q 10 x x x ♣x x x – Bid 2♦.

11. ♠x x ♥A Q ♦K Q 10 x x x ♣x x x – 3♦ is good, 2NT is better, as you want to show the heart stopper and play from your side to prevent a lead through the ♥Q at trick one. 3NT is even acceptable, but only because of the ♦10.

12. ♠x x ♥K Q x x x ♦K x x ♣A x x – Even though you would open 1♥, this hand is not good enough to force to game. The reason is partner may have only 11 HCPs if you used distributional points to get up enough to open. However change the hand slightly, ♠A x ♥K Q x x x ♦K x x ♣x x x, I would have bid a game forcing two hearts the first time.

13. ♠x x ♥Q x x ♦Q x x x ♣Q x x x – Bid 2♠. The reason is that partner might have 5-3-2-3 and be bidding a three card suit.

14. ♠x x ♥K x ♦x x x ♣A J 10 x x x – Bid 3♣.

NEXT COLUMN – LESSON 3:

What to do when partner overcalls showing two suits.

Thank You ...

Many thanks to all our national and international bridge families for the love and support shown to us during this time of sorrow. Samantha's celebrations of life, both here in Vancouver and in St. Catharines, were truly amazing. Attendance was overwhelming and the stories were plentiful with lots of laughter and a few tears.

Speaking as a parent, it is wonderful to know that Samantha was so well loved by all those who knew her. These memories will be of great comfort to her family as we try to move on. Life will never be the same without you my sweet Sam. You will live forever in our hearts.

Cathy Nystrom-Miller





by Michael Abbey THE NEW PLAYER *Spot*

DOS & DON'TS

By Michael Abbey

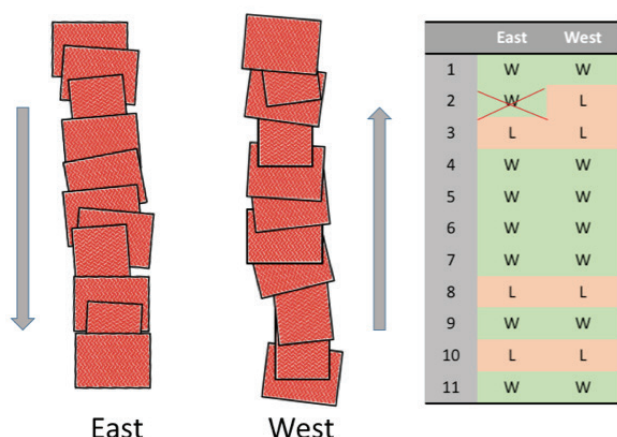
As was obvious from my inaugural Bridge Canada article in December, I am new at this game. A few things have happened at the table recently that have allowed me to learn more about playing this wonderful game. As I see it, there are two separate components to bridge:

1. How to play—all the way from bidding through playing the hand.
2. Playing the game—the way one behaves at the table and what is allowed and what is not. This article is about the second component. Let's look at three different circumstances at the bridge table, and find out what is allowed and what isn't.

COMMUNICATING WITH PARTNER DURING THE PLAY

Its half way through a 27 board game and the opponents are declaring a 3NT contract.

Their order of tricks records are as follows, with East as the declarer (see next page):



In the above diagram, on the left is the order of played cards for East and West. Notice how East's layout shows the partnership winning tricks 1 and 2. West's record shows them winning trick 1 but not trick 2. The order of played cards for North and South reflect the same status of trick #2, having been lost to North/South. Thus, the trick record by East for trick #2 is wrong.

The table on the right shows the Win/Lose status for tricks 1-11. In a 3NT contract, the partnership needs nine tricks. Just before the 12th trick starts, East fingers his tricks and counts to eight. West knows that they lost trick #2, so he points it out to East. East then turns the card record for trick #2 to reflect the loss, thereby realizing he has to win two more tricks not just one.

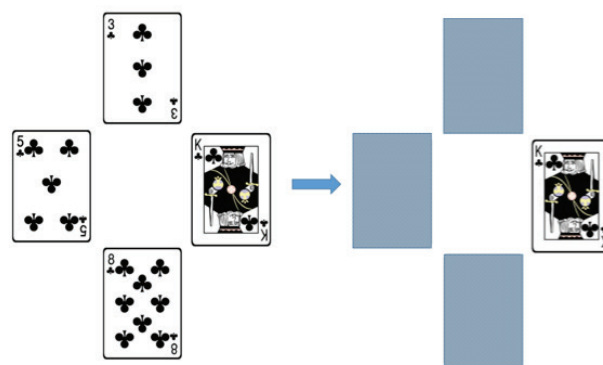
My partner points out that what West just did is not legal. After the game, I discussed this with my partner and, lo and behold, she was right. West offered some information to East to which he was not entitled.

The only time your partner is allowed to tell you one of your trick records is oriented the wrong way is immediately after a trick finishes and before the first card is played to the next trick. This is covered in Law 65 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

Let's look at another situation.

TURNING OVER YOUR CARD TO A TRICK

Trick #5 finishes and East wins it. The cards each person played to the trick are sitting on the table as shown in the diagram below on the left. Then South, West, and North turn their cards over to change to what is shown



on the right.

Before East leads the next trick, she asks the other three players to face their cards. South says, "I already turned my card down, sorry." East reminds South that since she has not yet turned her own card (the ♣K) over, she can ask the other players to expose what they played to the trick. East is correct. On the other hand, suppose South had been the one who asked the other players to face their cards. Since she has turned her card (the ♣8) over, she is not allowed to ask. This is covered in Law 66 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

One more position is enough for this brief journey into a corner of duplicate land (see next page).

Visit Michael's website
for beginners at
beginnerbridge.net.



NEW PLAYER SPOT: Michael Abbey ... continued

WHEN TO REACH FOR THE BIDDING BOX

This one involves fishing in the bidding box, as I call it. Players are not allowed to go to the bidding box without having made a decision about the bid they are about to make. The process is as follows:

- STEP 1** Ponder the options for bidding based on what has been bid so far and what convention may or may not be used
- STEP 2** Select the bid in one's mind, and only then
- STEP 3** Go to the bidding box and extract the proper card(s) ensuring the desired bid is on the top of whatever is extracted from the box.

The key here is to think, decide, and then go to the box. Any other process could be deemed to be giving unauthorized information to your partner and lead to the summoning the Director, and a possible score adjustment.

You may wonder what all the above means to you? First, knowing these rules may avoid any score adjustments. At least as important, as you play, the way you behave at the table and how you carry yourself throughout the auction and subsequent play makes a statement about your integrity, as well as your mastery of the game.

Solutions

IT'S ALL ABOUT TIMING

Lead: ♠10

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

Make 3NT against best defence.

TEST YOUR DOUBLE DUMMY PLAY

Puzzle on page 06

Win the spade queen and play a diamond. East wins and returns the ♣Q*. You win and play a heart.

a) If East wins and continues clubs, you have nine tricks three spades, four hearts and two clubs.

b) If East ducks win the heart, cash one high spade, and then revert to diamonds. East wins (you unblock the queen) and knocks out the ♣K, but you have nine tricks: two spades, one heart, four diamonds and three clubs.

* A spade is no better. Declarer wins, and plays a diamond, unblocking the queen. East wins and has only losing options. A spade, setting up the suit also gives declarer nine tricks: three spades, four diamonds and two clubs. Any other return allows declarer to make an overtrick.

Meet ... **DOUG BAXTER**

INTERNATIONAL AND CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPION

With his current partner, David Lindop, Doug has won the Canadian National Team Championships in 2011 and the silver medal in 2015.

Doug has three CNTC bronze medals to his credit and won the over 10,000 GNT in 2006.

Doug has also had a few high placings in NABCs, and his international highlight was being undefeated in the round robin in the 2010 World Bridge Series held in Philadelphia.

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

I've been playing Bridge since 1977 when I started university. I've always enjoyed logic puzzles and played other card games through high school. I was introduced to bridge during my last year of high school, with some encouragement from my mother, Marilyn Chapman who continues to play. I really got hooked when I started university and formed my first serious partnership with Ron Bishop.

What do you think the biggest differences are between then and now?

For me the biggest change is how tough NABC events are now – with the top players from many countries, it's like being at a world championship. But that's great because you get to play against the best in the world and it can really help you become a better player.



What is your most memorable bridge moment?

For sure winning the CNTC's and playing in the Bermuda Bowl in 2011. However, I still remember my first regional win – the Open Pairs at the Toronto Regional in the late 70's.

What about life away from the bridge table.

I'm very fortunate – I have a wonderful family, including my life partner Anne Molloy and her three adult children, who are all amazing in their own way, and our 1 year-old granddaughter who is a delight. I also love the work I do as a Financial Planner, helping my clients enjoy the retirement they want to have and providing for their family in the best possible way after they are gone. What could be more rewarding than that?

What do you like to do besides bridge?

I enjoy time with friends at our summer place "the Farm" near Picton, ON, where we have an annual bridge event known as the "Udder Blue Ribbons". I've been playing competitive Scrabble for a couple of years, and still enjoy puzzles, like Sudoku, KenKen and the Cryptic crossword. I also enjoy walking/hiking, reading and playing golf.

What is your favourite bridge book?

There are many great books and I used to read a lot. I think the books that had the greatest impact on my game are:

“How to Locate Your Opponents Missing High Cards” by Mike Lawrence – after reading that book, a hand came up at the club where upon seeing the opening lead and dummy, I knew the exact distribution of the opponents’ hands and where every high card was.

Bridge Squeezes Complete by Clyde Love is the classic on squeeze play.

Secrets of Winning Bridge by Jeff Reubens really helped my hand evaluation and improved my judgement in competitive situations.

I expect my current partners and teammates are thinking I should go back and re-read those books. 😊

Cats or dogs?

Dogs - we have two and our cat thinks she’s a dog – so she’s an exception.

Red or white?

Yes!

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

Don’t learn a whole bunch of conventions. Focus on learning the basics well and improve your judgement by asking the best players at your club for their advice.

Read anything by Kantar.

Be active when learning to play the hand. There are great interactive bridge programs and Audrey Grant’s Better Bridge On-Line is a great resource to improve your bidding and play.

Can you share any amusing stories with us?

There are many I can’t 😊 But there have been many hilarious moments over the years. Those of my vintage from Ontario will remember the “Beacon” tournament. One funny moment from that tournament occurred during the midnight Swiss which, back then, was really an excuse to party. I was playing against some of the stars of the day, including my RHO, “J”. “J” and his partner bid to a vulnerable 3N with just 24 points, no fit, no spot cards and no long suit. After dummy came down, I could see that every card was lying favourably for declarer and all suits were splitting 3-3.

However, declarer was looking at only four sure tricks and was wondering where the other five were coming from! I gave him a minute to think and then offered: “down 1?” Envisioning down 3 or 4, he said “SOLD!” His team mates didn’t find that “defense” at the other table so our declarer made the very lucky 3NT and we won the match on that board.

Both teams shared a huge laugh after the comparison. That’s another big difference between bridge now and then – midnight speedballs used to be all about having fun, not to earn a few more Masterpoints.



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Final, Segment 2 – Allegra (ITA) v Onstein BC't (NED)

After 15 boards of the 32-board final, Onstein had led 38-29. Allegra outsourced them 31 to nil over the next five boards to lead by 22. Onstein had a chance to pull back 13 of that lead here:

♠ A J 2
♥ Q 10 7
♦ A K 10 4 3
♣ 8 3

♠ K 10 6
♥ K 4 2
♦ Q J 9 8
♣ 6 5 2

♠ Q 5 4 3
♥ A
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ A K Q 7

♠ 9 8 7
♥ J 9 8 6 4 3
♦ -
♣ J 10 9 4

Lead: ♥7

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Bilde	Van Prooijen	Duboin
-	1NT	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	Pass	Pass	Dbl ³
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1. Single-suited in a major
2. Pass or correct
3. Takeout

Bilde won the heart lead with the bare ace and led the seven of diamonds to the eight and ten, an avoidance play to keep the dangerous hand off lead. When the diamond position came to light Bilde crossed to dummy with a club to lead a spade to the jack and, when that too held, could cash out for nine tricks and plus 600.

THE IBPA FILES 2

West	North	East	South
Madala	Van den Bos	Bocchi	Van Lankveld
-	1NT	Pass	3♥ ¹
Pass	4♦ ²	Pass	4♥ ³
Pass	4♠ ³	Pass	4NT ⁴
Pass	5♦ ⁵	Pass	5♥ ⁶
Pass	6♦ ⁷	All Pass	

1. 4-1-4-4 Game force
2. Sets diamonds as trumps
3. Cue bids
4. Roman Key-card Blackwood
5. 0 or 3 key cards
6. Queen ask
7. No queen of diamonds

Bocchi led the jack of clubs. Van den Bos won with the ace and led a diamond to his ace, getting the bad news. He continued with a heart to the ace and second diamond, ducking Madala's jack. Madala returned the nine of diamonds so declarer put in the ten, ruffed a heart and led a spade to the jack.

Meanwhile, forced to hang on to his club holding, Bocchi had come down to two hearts and one spade. Van den Bos cashed the king of diamonds, Bocchi throwing a heart and dummy a spade, then cashed the ace of spades, followed by the last diamond. Had East held the king of hearts with his club stopper, he would now have been squeezed, but with West holding the two kings it was not to be; down one for minus 100 and another 12 IMPs to Allegra. The lead was up to 72-38, very ominous from Onstein's point of view.

There was a winning line at the end. Declarer must cash the last diamond without cashing the ace of spades. Seeing one more discard from East should help as he will have to throw his last spade or come down to a singleton heart. Cashing the two remaining club

winners now operates a positional squeeze against West and brings home the slam. Furthermore, Madala should have returned a club when in with the jack of diamonds. If West returns a club to break up the squeeze instead of a diamond to prevent a ruff, that allows declarer to ruff his last heart in the dummy if he so wishes but he cannot shorten his own trump holding down to the same length as West and end up in dummy, so there is no trump coup and he has to lose a diamond at the end.

All that being as it may, after the first diamond, discovering the evil break, it looks as if declarer could (should?) continue with a heart to the ace, spade finesse and the spade ace (to cater for West's king-doubleton), then high clubs discarding the spade, spade ruff, heart ruff, high spade, successfully dealing with West's losing options. There was no joy to Onstein the rest of the way. Allegra outscored them 42-3 over the last 11 boards to run out easy winners, 114-41.

Results:

1. Allegra (ITA) Alejandro Bianchedi, Norbert Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Massimiliano di Franco, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa

2. BC't Onstein (NED) Berend van den Bos, Joris van Lankveld, Ricco van Prooijen, Richard Ritmeijer, Magdaléna Ticha, Louk Verhees

3. England (EBU) Boye Brogeland, Espen Lindqvist, Simon Gillis, Tom Hanlon, Zia Mahmood, Erik Sælensminde

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Puzzle on page 3

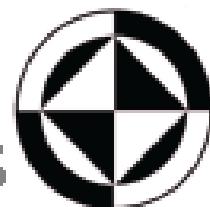
Things do not look good, to say the least. You have four likely losers. There are two viable deceptive plays:

1. Lead either the ♠J or ♠5, and overtake in dummy. This wins when West ducks his hoped for ♠K. Now you can pitch your two heart losers on the good diamonds, and hope the ♣Q falls in two rounds.
2. Pitch the ♠J at trick one. It will look to West that you are throwing away a spade loser, either from an original holding of ♠J or ♠AJ. If West is afraid to lead from a heart honour, and plays a spade or a diamond instead, you are home.

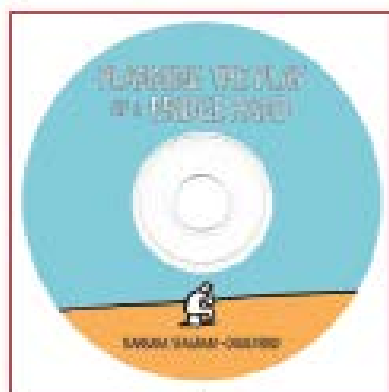
Plan 2 is a much better shot. The full deal:

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

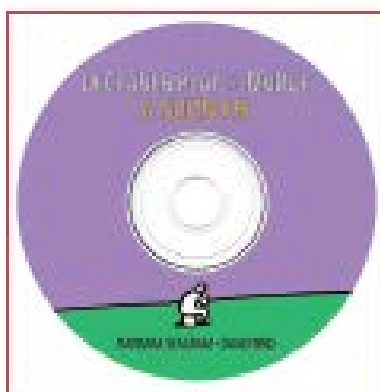
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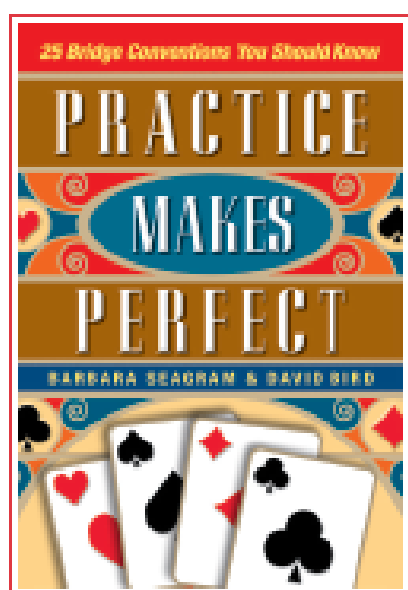


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David Bird

JUST RELEASED



25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know: Practice Makes Perfect

Barbara Seagram and David Bird

25 Conventions You Should Know has sold more than 250,000 copies since it was first published, and continues to top the bridge bestseller lists. Readers have suggested it would be an even better book if it offered some way to practice what they had learned. Well, here it is: a brief summary of each of these 25 conventions, together with example hands that can be dealt out and used to apply your new knowledge.

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Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of January 2016. For more information see our website www.cbf.ca

2016

JANUARY

Junior Fund Month

Club Qualifying games for CNTC until January 18th

FEBRUARY

ACBL Wide International Fund Game Sat Afternoon, Feb 6

CBF Canada Wide STAC February 15-21

MARCH

Registration Deadline for CNTC A,B & C, CWTC, CSTC
March 21st

APRIL

Charity Month

ACBL wide Charity Game
Thursday Morning, April 14

Helen Shields Rookie Master Game
Thursday April 21

CBF Regional
April 6-10 Montreal Sheraton Dorval

MAY

Grass Roots FUNd Games

Canadian Bridge Championships
May 21-29 - Toronto

JUNE

Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Game
Tuesday afternoon June 14

Trump Alzheimers
June 20th (more details to be announced soon)

JULY

ACBL Wide International Fund Game #2
Thursday afternoon July 14



Important Dates

2016 STaC Canada Wide | 15-21 Feb

2016 CBF International Fund Regional | Montreal Sheraton Dorval | 6-10 April

2016 CBF Canadian Bridge Championships | Toronto ON | 21-29 May

2016 The 16th World Youth Teams Championship | Salsomaggiore Terme | 3 - 13 August

2016 World Bridge Games | Wroclaw, Poland | 3 - 17 September