

bridge *Canada*



KIDS PLAYING BRIDGE

IN MANITOBA AND NOVA SCOTIA

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

NOTE: Membership dues are waived for Canadian players under 25 years of age. Junior players can join the CBF by sending their information to info@cbf.ca.

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Reflections of the Prez

2017 Canadian Bridge Championships Date Change!!

The CBCs will now be held in Winnipeg, April 29- May 7, 2016. Unfortunately, next year's CBCs is still earlier than normal due to the earlier starting date for the World Championships. However we were able to shift the tournament back a week, to allow players to attend the Gatlinburg and Victoria Regionals, as well as attend the Championships.

As it being a Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup year, we had to allow teams sufficient time to arrange to travel and compete in Mexico for the right to represent the WBF Zone II.

Having said that Winnipeg is known for its great hospitality – ask anyone who was there in 2007! Being from Winnipeg I know there are already fundraisers to make the hospitality great, and a championship you don't want to miss. The co-chairs, Dave Brough and Don Pearsons are working hard to this end.

The CBC Hotel and Surrounding area

The venue is downtown, ½ block from the MTS Centre, home to the Winnipeg Jets who will be hot into the playoffs. (Yes, I guarantee it!) The CBCs will be held in the secure and beautiful Winnipeg Radisson. The CBF has negotiated with the Radisson free parking for all Bridge players for the entire Championship! The Radisson is only one kilometer away from the Human Rights Museum and the Forks, and close to many diverse and acclaimed restaurant choices in the rapidly changing Winnipeg downtown area. The Radisson also has one guest shuttle van for free transport to and from the airport, as well as to all downtown venues (subject to availability; must be booked directly with hotel)

Next year's schedule will allow players more time in the evenings for relaxed dinners and other close



by entertainment. The Regional schedule will also be improved and expanded for Winnipeg. With two shopping centres with access by covered walkways, the Sharks Club Casino, and many restaurants within walking distance.

International Participants

Congratulations to our teams participating in the World Youth Championships. Canada was represented in two of the four events, the Juniors and the Youth. See the home page news for their results.

Congratulations are also in order to our teams who recently represented Canada in the World Championships. I thank all captains and coaches for their dedication in supporting these teams. One question I have for you – do you have the same fervor and pride when watching Canadians at the Olympics as you do for Canadians at the bridge equivalent?

Articles on Canada's success and results will be highlighted in the Dec 1st Bridge Canada.

Reflections of the Prez - continued

World Bridge Federation

Currently Canada does not have a direct voice at the WBF table, with its Zone II five representatives all selected by the ACBL. Led by Nader Hanna, the CBF has been trying for a number of years to lobby for the CBF to have a direct voice at the WBF 'table'. With the WBF looking to make some changes, and discussion among all stakeholders, this is closer than ever to becoming a reality. Stay tuned.

CBF - Audrey Grant Partnership

The first couple of two-day events have recently been completed. Look to the next Bridge Canada for coverage of these events.

Neil Kimelman
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Contract: 3NT
Lead: ♥9

♠ 7 5
♥ J 10 3
♦ 8 6
♣ A 10 8 6 3 2

♠ A 10 9 4
♥ A 2
♦ K Q
♣ K Q 9 7 4

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

1. Exactly 5 hearts and a side 4-card minor,
5-8 HCPs

Answer on page 17



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Kids Playing Bridge

Doreen Olson and the Grosvenor School in Winnipeg

Recently we have seen articles and information about kids playing bridge across the country. Now it is Manitoba and Nova Scotia.



Photo: Debbie Holloway

Doreen Olson has been running a bridge class for mostly grade sixers at the Grosvenor School in Winnipeg. Doreen explains how it started:

‘My daughter-in-law, Charlotte Jackson is the resource teacher at the school. She thought that bridge would be the perfect add-on for some of the 10-12 year olds who have superior math skills, and would benefit from additional math challenge. So we tried it in 2012 and got 4 kids. The last two years 8 kids each year participated.’

At the start of the year Charlotte sends out a notice asking any older kids to express their interest in participating in the bridge club, looking especially for those students with high math aptitudes.

The principal of the school, Andrea Powell, and all the teachers are very supportive says Doreen. ‘Every Tuesday at 2:00 the kids are excused from their regular studies, and are taught basic bridge skills. The classes last between 75 and 90 minutes. I have fellow players, Sid and Fern Swedlove, who live near the school, who help me with the classes.’

Doreen says she starts off slow, with a deck of cards and an ace is 4 pts, a king is 3, etc...‘we slowly graduate to bidding, bidding boxes and boards. I think going slow has worked well for me,’ reflected Doreen. ‘The kids just absolutely love it!’

A special part of the Program is ‘Graduation’. The kids go the Manitoba Unit 181 Bridge Club where they are matched with one regular player and play a mini tournament of 8 boards. AT the end medals are awarded, and all kids get framed certificates of participation. ‘The ACBL and has been very supportive, says Doreen. ‘Besides the certificates they have provided Audrey Grant materials to the kids.’

Some of the Unit members who have volunteered include Al Mowat, Bill Treble, Marsha Kimelman and Jacqueline Meyers.

Kids Playing Bridge

Marilyn MacDiarmid and Moncton Riverview Middle School



By Jennifer Henderson

Editor's note: *This article was first published in the 2016 Can At Regional Bulletin*

Marilyn MacDiarmid began teaching bridge to Grade 6 students in the Moncton area of New Brunswick in 1992. The former high school math teacher had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and wasn't expected to live more than a year. She beat the odds: "One of two survivors in Canada," she says, "of an aggressive strain of that disease." At a vigorous 84 years old, the duplicate bridge player and volunteer is still teaching bridge as part of the enriched math program at Riverview Middle School where she began.

"I had to give up teaching fulltime," Marilyn says, "so I volunteered to teach bridge. What I didn't realize then was how learning bridge was going to help so many other people, too."

Marilyn has worked with hundreds of students over the years. Graduating Grade 12 student Bob Feng of Moncton was a member of a Canadian team that recently travelled to Italy for the World Youth Bridge Tournament. "It was really fun learning to play bridge in Grade 6 with Mrs. MacDiarmid," says Feng. Both his father and regular partner, Jason Feng, say Bob would "never have learned to play without her."

Marilyn has also taught many junior high students diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, Tourette's, and autism (see article below). She remembers one Grade 8 student "who couldn't talk at all when he came to me. After learning to play bridge, he went on to graduate from the honours math program at Mount Allison University followed by a successful business career in the United States!"

Kids Playing Bridge

Marilyn MacDiarmid and Moncton Riverview Middle School

Marilyn MacDiarmid is a firm believer that learning bridge can help children who are on the autism spectrum. "It helps get students thinking on their own without the help of a computer, which for some is their only real friend. And I always remember what one little fellow in Grade 6 told me about bridge:

'It's hard,' he said. 'You have to make a plan, and when it works you get excited. And when it fails, well, then you start again.'

Marilyn thinks autism support groups in the Maritimes should be pushing for bridge to be taught in school. A few public schools in Moncton appear to be the only place in Canada where bridge is currently offered as part of the enriched math program during the regular school day.

Marilyn is at school two days a week and has three volunteers helping in her bridge classes, including retired resource teacher Molly Legere. She says bridge is part of an enriched math program in the U.K. and some countries in the European Union. Eight years after starting her class — "feeling her way" — Marilyn went back to school. She took a course in Toronto presented by two people from the United Kingdom where "Minibridge" was popular. (Minibridge teaches Grade 5 and 6 students basic bridge concepts without getting into instruction about bidding. The declarer's role is rotated, and the declarer names the contract after looking at dummy.)

Marilyn says she incorporated those lessons into her own teaching tickle trunk and "grew with it" — later offering basic lessons to seniors as well. "I was told that one parent told his son, 'I don't want you spending time in school playing cards.' 'But Dad,' the boy said, 'that's the only time I think!'"

CONNOR HAVENS

Connor Havens was diagnosed at age four as being on the severe end of the autism spectrum. Marilyn taught Connor to play bridge and the taciturn student has



accumulated about 200 masterpoints in the three and a half years since he started learning duplicate bridge. He plays mostly online today but has played in several regional tournaments with his mother Cindy as partner. "Connor is absolutely exceptional at card play," says MacDiarmid. "He never forgets anything you tell him. Cindy and Connor are a good pair; he's very disciplined at the table now that he has matured."

Marilyn uses the same teaching method for everyone. "They must listen and follow directions," she says firmly. "Connor couldn't learn by reading. He doesn't read well or process information that way. My style is more show and tell."

Connor's mother Cindy (shown in the photo above with Connor) had to make an appeal to the school to get Connor into MacDiarmid's class. She was so determined to do so she enrolled in online bridge lessons over the summer, hoping to learn enough to teach him herself. That didn't go well and luckily, the school relented and Connor was accepted into MacDiarmid's class.

"I played afternoon games at the Moncton Bridge Club," says Cindy Havens, "and for the first two years I spent two hours a day, every day, reading everything I could about bridge. I was trying to stay ahead of Connor. Marilyn was teaching him at school but he eventually passed me. He's the better player now. If the cards split badly, he'll re-draft his plan."



MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR

The Abbot, the Parrot and the Bermuda Bowl (Orion Publishing Group)

by David Bird, England

David Bird has written approximately 140 bridge books, and has won six 'Book of the Year' awards from the American Bridge Teachers Association. He has been shortlisted for the Master Point Press IBPA 'Book of the Year' award on four previous occasions. This is his first win.

Bird contributes regularly to Bridge Magazine, English Bridge, The Bridge World, the American Contract Bridge League Bulletin and other magazines around the world.

In The Abbot, the Parrot and the Bermuda Bowl, Bird brilliantly weaves his own redoubtable characters into the narrative of the 2016 Bermuda Bowl in Chennai with real-life players. Following is one such example, that was written before the scandals of 2015 broke, thus is unintendedly ironic.

UPPER BHUMPOPO v MONACO

Board 14. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fulvio Fantoni</i>	<i>Mbozi</i>	<i>Claudio Nunes</i>	<i>The Witchdoctor</i>
—	—	2♥	Double
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	7NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

2016 IBPA AWARDS

The International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) is a worldwide web; IBPA has more than 300 members in all corners of the world. Its main objective is to assist bridge journalists in their bridge related professional activities.

Annually, the IBPC presents awards that give special attention to bridge authors and journalists from around the world. These awards are usually presented at a World Championship. This year, the awards were presented at the World Bridge Games in Poland.

2016 IBPA AWARDS

In the Fantunes system, an opening bid of one heart would promise 14-plus points and be forcing for one round. Nunes opened two hearts, which showed 9-13 points and at least five hearts. This surely marked him with the heart king and the Witchdoctor was happy to take a tilt at seven notrump when his partner jumped to four spades and then showed the two missing aces.

Fantoni led the ten of diamonds and down went the dummy. The Witchdoctor quickly counted his top tricks: five spades, three hearts, four diamonds and one club. Kmahli umbekah! That was thirteen tricks. He won with the ace of diamonds and played the king of spades. He could not believe his bad luck when East showed out on this trick, discarding a diamond.

The Witchdoctor glared at his screen-mate, Fulvio Fantoni. Was it possible that the Monaco team's magic was more powerful than his own? Maybe he could survive in some way.

The Witchdoctor played the queen and jack of spades and continued with the three remaining top diamonds, throwing hearts from dummy. These cards were still in play:

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

The Witchdoctor was determined to prove that his supernatural powers were greater than those of his opponents. What would happen if he crossed to the ace of clubs now and played the ace of spades, throwing the ten of clubs from his hand? East could not afford to discard a heart or declarer would score four heart tricks. If instead he threw a club honour, dummy's club nine would become good.

An unwelcome thought occurred to the Witchdoctor.

Bafaqqasar! When he played the established nine of clubs, this would catch him in a one-suit squeeze. If he threw the three of hearts, he would have to win the first heart trick in his hand and could not then repeat the heart finesse.

A few seconds later the Witchdoctor sat upright in his chair, his eyes ablaze. The magic summoned from African skies had arrived at the very last moment. Feeling as if he were floating on air, he led the ten of clubs to dummy's ace. Discarding his last club on the ace of spades would not work for East now. The Witchdoctor would throw the three of hearts, finesse the jack of hearts and return to dummy with the nine of clubs to finesse the heart queen. If, instead, East threw a heart, the Witchdoctor would discard the four of clubs on the last spade and pick up four heart tricks by leading the ten of hearts.

Nunes eventually threw a heart and the Witchdoctor soon had thirteen tricks before him. "You see that, Mbozi?" he said, peering through the gap in the screen, "Only mos' powerful magic mekkin' such play possible."

"It's better if I lead a club," said Fantoni with a rueful smile. "Sorry, partner. My magic powers weren't up to it!"

David Bird has written approximately 140 bridge books, has won six 'Book of the Year' awards from the American Bridge Teachers Association and been shortlisted for the Master Point Press IBPA 'Book of the Year' award on four previous occasions.



Other MPP Book of the Year Shortlisted Candidates

Kaban, Tugrul: A Complete System for the Tournament Bridge Player (Master Point Press)
 Kauder, James: Bridge Philosopher 4 (KD Publishing)
 Kimelman, Neil: The Right Bid at the Right Time (Master Point Press)
 Parrish, Adam: When to Draw Trumps (Bridge Winners Press)
 Zines, Dennis: Everyday Bridge Adventures (Austin Macauley Publishing)

KERI KLINGER MEMORIAL DECLARER PLAY OF THE YEAR

Winner: Richard Jedrychowski (Australia)

Article: Oz Bridge: The Force of the Jedi

Journalist: Ron Klinger (Australia)

Event: Rubber Bridge, Grand Slam Bridge Centre, Sydney

Source: IBPA Bulletin 616, May, 2016, p. 2

OZ BRIDGE

Ron Klinger. Northbridge, NSW. ronklingerbridge.com

THE FORCE OF THE JEDI

by Ron Klinger

Take a look at one of Australia's top players, Richard Jedrychowski, affectionately known as Jedi, in action in a rubber bridge game at the Grand Slam Bridge Centre, Double Bay, in Sydney on April 8.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Callin</i>	<i>Raj</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Richard</i>
<i>Gruia</i>	<i>Limaye</i>	<i>Conway</i>	<i>Jedrychowski</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♠	Double	Pass
3♦	3♠	All Pass	

West led the two of hearts: five, king, three. East shifted to the diamond three: six, king, two. West continued with the five of diamonds, taken by the ace. To defeat three spades, East needed to play another diamond, but he chose the three of clubs. The queen of clubs won and South shifted his attention to trumps: six of spades, two, seven, three; then the eight of spades, diamond seven, ten, four.

South could almost certainly tell West's shape: four spades (known) and four diamonds (indicated by the play so far). As West had led the two of hearts, that would have been from three or four hearts. However, if West had had four hearts, he'd have bid three hearts, not three diamonds. South gave West three hearts, and hence a 4=3=4=2 pattern. West had also shown up with the ace of spades and the king of diamonds. As East had won trick one with the king of hearts, South also placed the heart queen with West. East might have been deceptive with both the queen and king of hearts, but that was unlikely. There was no reason to fool partner here. These cards remained:

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

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2016 IBPA AWARDS

South has lost three tricks already and will lose to the ace of spades at some point. How can South come to nine tricks? It would not work to cross to the ace of hearts, discard a heart on the jack of diamonds and ruff a heart. If you continue with a spade, West wins and a diamond gives the defence the fifth trick one way or another. A heart to the ace, jack of diamonds to discard your heart loser and then another club finesse will not work either.

Because it was hopeless if West had started with the queen-ten-two of hearts, declarer, of necessity, placed the heart ten with East. In that case, he could transfer the heart menace to East by leading the jack of hearts at a convenient time. At trick seven, Jedi therefore played the nine of spades. West took the ace, and declarer unblocked the king from dummy as East discarded a heart. If West had played another spade, East throwing the nine of diamonds, South would have won and led the jack of hearts, letting it run if West had played low. If West had covered, the heart ace would have won and the jack of diamonds would have squeezed East in hearts and clubs.

In practice, after taking the ace of spades, West was not so kind as to play another spade. He returned a diamond to dummy's jack. This foiled South's initial plan, since the squeeze position had been destroyed, whether South discards a heart or a club.

a good idea, but here it was essential. Next came the jack of hearts: queen-ace-six. East was down to the ten of hearts and king-to-three clubs while South had the nine of hearts and the ace-jack-four of clubs. The jack of spades simultaneously drew West's last trump and squeezed East. Whichever suit East discarded, South would discard from the other suit and repeat the club finesse. Making three spades.

Other Shortlisted Candidates

Reporter	"Star"	Bulletin Page
Knut Kjærnsrød	Erik Dahl	609.12
Brent Manley	Jeff Meckstroth	610.9
Jan van Cleeff	Yaniv Zack	618.7
Mark Horton	Benedicte Cronier	618.13
John Carruthers	Joel Wooldridge	617.15

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Press outing Sept, 7th, 2016 - WBG, Wroclaw, Poland
Photo: World Bridge Federation



Winner: Dennis Bilde (Denmark)

Article: Glittering Bridge Stars

Journalist: Måns Berg (Sweden)

Event: The Swedish Bridgefestival 2015

Source: IBPA Bulletin 608, September, 2015, p. 3

GLITTERING BRIDGE STARS

by Måns Berg, Stockholm

Translated by Micke Melander

Since the Swedish Bridge Festival 2015 didn't collide, as it usually does, with the Summer Nationals in the USA, a big number of the Nordic star players were seen in play very early in the 2015 edition of the Chairman's Cup in Örebro, Sweden. Normally, they fly in to Sweden in the middle of the competition for the last days of the KOs. This year, 166 teams participated, with players from 13 NBOs. Young Danish player Dennis Bilde's star was really glittering when he made a brilliant play in the Qualifying Swiss on the following board:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Andersson	Bilde	Probert
—	—	1♣	1♠
2♥	Double	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

Two hearts from Nyström was forcing for one round and North's double was for takeout. Nyström confessed afterwards that his double that ended the auction was a little bit aggressive, but he liked his singleton diamond and the trump holding with which to defend.

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Nyström led the four of diamonds, declarer followed low from dummy, and Bilde in East followed suit with the nine! That went to the declarer's king. Bilde foresaw what would happen if he had jumped up with the ace of diamonds to give his partner a diamond ruff: declarer would then have won the heart or club return, drawn trumps and been able to run the established diamonds to score eleven tricks.

By keeping the ace of diamonds and making sure of being in control of the diamond suit, Bilde made a really good defensive move. Declarer played a trump to the ace and a second round of trumps which went to Nyström's king. Nyström then shifted to a club, ducked to Bilde's queen. Bilde returned a low diamond, ruffed by Nyström with his last trump. Declarer could do nothing when Nyström returned his last club—South still had to lose to the ace of diamonds and a second club for two down!

At the other table, they played in four spades, which was easily made after a diamond lead to the ace and a diamond ruff. Of 72 declarers, 62 of them managed to make four spades.

Note that declarer could always have made his contract on a diamond lead, by finessing in spades. The only killing lead was a club. Probert stood no chance to make his contract when he didn't finesse in trumps due to the brilliant defence set up by Dennis Bilde!

Other Shortlisted Candidates

Reporter	"Star"	Bulletin Page
Jan van Cleeff	Thomas Bessis	610.4
Knut Kjærnsrød	Brogeland/Lindqvist	612.3
Michael Kamil	Geir Helgemo	612.13
Knut Kjærnsrød	Kristoffer Hegge	614.19
Oren Kriegel	Brad Moss	615.7

YEH BROS. BEST BID DEAL OF THE YEAR

Winner: Michael Rosenberg / Zia Mahmood (USA)

Article: Changing Horses in Mid-Stream

Journalist: John Carruthers (Canada)

Event: 2015 World Senior Teams Championship

Source: IBPA Bulletin 608, January 2016, p. 6

CHANGING HORSES IN MID-STREAM

by John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

One of the most difficult tasks to accomplish in bidding is to agree one suit, especially a major, then bid a slam in another suit. Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood, playing in the USA1 team, did just that in their round-robin match against England, and it wasn't just a small slam, but a grand:

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Price	Rosenberg	Simpson
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2NT ²	Pass	3♦ ³	Pass
4♦ ⁴	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT ⁵	Pass	5♣ ⁶	Pass
5♥ ⁷	Pass	6♦ ⁸	Pass
7♣ ⁹	Pass	7♦	All Pass

1. Drury with a spade fit
2. (i) Slam try, usually with a second suit, or (ii) Choice of games with 4M or 3NT, to be clarified with a 3NT bid next time.
3. I have a good diamond suit (two of the top three honours)
4. In order to set up double key card

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5. Six Key Card Blackwood
6. One or four key cards
7. Queen ask
8. Both the queen of spades and the queen of diamonds
9. Please pick a grand slam (in case East has only ♦KQ109)

Mahmood took a bit of a chance: a spade grand slam would likely have been on the heart finesse if Rosenberg had only four diamonds, unlikely as that was (Rosenberg had denied a heart control by bidding four spades over four diamonds). Colin Simpson led a heart. Rosenberg won with the ace, led a diamond to the king, ruffed a club, cashed the ace of diamonds, came to the queen of spades, drew the last trump and claimed, plus 1440. A brilliant effort. At the other table...


West	North	East	South
Holland	Hamman	Hallberg	Lair
—	1♣	Pass	3♣ ¹
Double	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	All Pass

1. Pre-emptive

Bob Hamman and Mark Lair really got in John Holland's face, forcing him to start at the three level. Having received only a three-diamond bid from Gunnar Hallberg in response to his takeout double and having holes everywhere, despite his jump to four spades, Holland subsided at the five level, taking the obvious 12 tricks to lose 14 IMPs.

Other Shortlisted Candidates

Reporter	"Star"	Bulletin Page
Wang et al	Liu-Lu	613.15
Peter Gill	Boyd-Robinson	615.7
Bob Pitts	Price-Simpson	615.12
Bob Pitts	Hacketts	615.13
John Carruthers	Tolliver-Zwerling	612.7

A photograph of several pumpkins on a wooden table. One pumpkin is in the foreground, slightly to the left, with a blue and white striped cloth underneath it. Other pumpkins are in the background, some out of focus. The lighting is warm, suggesting an indoor setting.

The scoop on finding your 4-4 major suit fit after a 1NT opening

STAYMAN

By Michael Abbey

This article is a part one of a primer on Stayman, a **Standard American Yellow Card** technique to discover an 8-card fit in a major after a one notrump opening.

As a review, a notrump opening hand must be balanced, where balanced refers to:

No void
No singleton*
No more than 1 doubleton

***Editor's note:** Recently the ACBL changed the 1NT rules to allow opening 1NT with a singleton, but it must be an honour.

by Michael Abbey
THE NEW PLAYER
Spot

Picture the following holdings in North/South:

♠ A Q 10
♥ K J 7 2
♦ Q J 9
♣ Q 6

♠ K 9 2
♥ Q 10 9 6
♦ K 6 3 2
♣ K 4

Since the primary goal of a suit contract is game (or better) in a major, finding a way to play in hearts with four in each hand (as shown above) is what Stayman is all about. It involves a bidding dialogue by the partnership, providing one another with information conducive to uncovering that 4-4 golden fit. When a partnership plays Stayman, and opens 1NT, the responder asks himself "Do I have one or both four card majors?" The options are shown next:

OPENER	RESPONDER HAS 1 OR 2 4-CARD MAJORS	HCP	BID
1NT	Y OR N	0-7	PASS
	N	8-9	2NT
	N	10+	3NT
	Y	8-9	2♣
	Y	10+	2♣
2NT	Y OR N	0-4	PASS
	N	5-6	3NT
	Y	5+	2♣

What would you bid with the following hands after the responder opened 1NT (15-17 HCPs) or 2NT (20-21 HCPs):

♠ A Q 7
♥ J 9
♦ 9 7 3 2
♣ Q 9 4 3

Opener bid 1NT. This hand has nine HCPs. Bid 2NT saying to partner, "I have eight to nine HCPs and no four card major."

♠ Q 4
♥ 9 8 4 3
♦ J 3 2
♣ 10 8 4 2

Opener bid 2NT. This hand has three HCPs. Pass, saying to partner "I have zero to four HCPs; since we do not have game values, this is as high as we should be."

♠ K 7 3
♥ A 9 2
♦ K Q 8 4
♣ J 3 2

Opener bid 1NT. This hand has 13 HCPs. Bid 3NT, saying to partner "I have 10+ HCPs and no four card major. I believe game in NT is as high as we should be."

♠ A K 8 2
♥ K J 7 2
♦ 9 3 2
♣ Q 8

Opener bid 1NT. This hand has 13 HCPs. Bid 2♣, saying to partner "I have 10+ HCPs and one or both four card majors."

♠ A Q 3 2
♥ J 9 5
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ 10 4

Opener bid 2NT. This hand has nine HCPs. Bid 2♣, saying to partner "I have five plus and one or both four card majors."

♠ K Q
♥ A 4 2
♦ K 10 7 3
♣ Q 8 7 3

This hand has 14 HCPs. Bid 3NT, saying to partner "I have 10+ HCPs and no four card major. I believe game in NT is as high as we should be."

If the responder did not pass, it's back to the opener for his second bid. With that bid, the partnership's holdings start to shape where the contract may go. For example:

♠ K 9 8 2
♥ Q J 10
♦ A 8
♣ K Q 8 7

♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ A 4
♦ Q 9 3 2
♣ A 9 6

NEW PLAYER SPOT: Michael Abbey ... continued

The bidding has proceeded as follows:

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	?		

Now for the magic ... it's time for the opener to divulge some very useful information that will prove instrumental in the placement of the contract. Here are the bids available to the opener when using Stayman:

Bid	Meaning
2♦	I have no 4-card major
2♥	I have 4 hearts and may have 4 spades
2♠	I have 4 spades but do not have 4 hearts

That's it for part one of this primer on Stayman. In the next issue of this magazine, we will show some sample hands for the opener's second bid, then present some theory on the responder's second bid. There's so much out there about Stayman on the internet, as well as some variations on the basic theory we have discussed this month. If you are hungry for more and crawl the web on Stayman, watch out for some hybrids like Garbage or Puppet Stayman. Stick to the good old-fashioned out-of-the-box version for now. Don't forget the announcement you need to make as your partner opens one notrump ... "15-17" (in most partnership agreements).

Visit Michael's website
for beginners at
beginnerbridge.net



SOLUTION - TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY (P.4)

You have eight tricks. The normal play at trick one is for declarer to play a heart honour from dummy, and win East's ♥Q win the ♥A. The danger is that when you go to set up a diamond trick, West will win and play a 2nd heart through dummy, guaranteeing defeat. Is there anything you can do besides running your club suit, hoping for a defensive error?

Yes, there is an illusion you can create. Cover the heart at trick one but play the ♥2 from your hand. East will assume you have the third heart for this duck, not partner. He will probably shift to diamonds, hoping partner can run his suit. After this shift declarer has nine tricks.

Editor's note: The moral of this story is to lead a count card in partner's suit.

The full deal:

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

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

- Exactly 5 hearts and a side 4-card minor, 5-8 HCPs



THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES

OPENER'S 3RD BID

By Neil Kimelman

This seems an odd topic, but one in which many players are not aware!

As a review, Opener's 2nd bid showed his hand which is one of these 4 types.

1. Balanced minimum
2. Balanced maximum
3. Unbalanced minimum
4. Unbalanced game forcing

by Neil Kimelman
THE INTERMEDIATE
Spot

OPENER HAS SHOWN A

Balanced Minimum

This one is pretty easy. Partner will either:

1 Place the contract

You	Partner
1♣	1♥
1NT	2♥
Pass	

Or

1♣	1♥
1NT	3NT

2 Show invitational (plus) values by bidding new minor forcing (NMF). If you don't play NMF (or a form thereof) you should. It shows invitational values and asks opener to continue to describe their hand:

1♣	1♥
1NT	2♦

Meaning of responses:

2♥	Three hearts
2♠	Four spades, denies three hearts
2NT	Minimum denying three hearts and four spades.
3NT	Maximum, denying three hearts and four spades.

3 Show invitational values by bidding 2NT.

Pass with a minimum and bid as over NMF with a game accepting hand.

4 Show invitational values by jumping in a suit.

Accept invitation using the below indicators as a basis for your decision:

- Intermediates in partner's or the agreed suit
- Aces and Kings
- Maximum

Example 1:

You	Partner
1♣	1♥
1NT	3♥
?	

Pass with ♠ A K x ♥ x x ♦ Q x x ♣ Q J x x x, but bid 4♥ with ♠ K x x ♥ Q10 ♦ K J x x ♣ A x x x.

Generally speaking, 3NT is usually not a viable choice on this auction.

OPENER HAS SHOWN A

Balanced Maximum

Partner	You
1♣	1♥
2NT	?

A worthwhile convention to learn for this auction is Woolf. If you don't play Woolf, a new suit is natural and forcing to game. It is looking for the best contract and may or may not be slammish.

OPENER HAS SHOWN AN

Unbalanced Minimum

This is the one that is often the hardest to master. Why? The actual minimum range is 11-18 HCPs – a huge span. So opener must have a way to show an upper-range minimum, 15-18 points.

As an example you hold ♠ K Q x x ♥ x ♦ Q J x ♣ A K J x x. The bidding starts:

You	Partner
1♣	1♥
1♠	1NT
?	

Partner could have as much as a bad 10 point hand, so game is still possible. I would bid 2♦. Bidding the third suit shows 15-18 and at least three cards in the third suit, thus showing shortness in the fourth.

However change the auction slightly:

You	Partner
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♥
?	

Now if you bid the 4th suit it is at the three level. If your best fit is in clubs, now you have to contract for 10 tricks. You don't have a good enough hand to commit this high. 2NT would be a slight overbid on this auction, while pass is the odds on choice of most experts.

If instead you held ♠ K Q x x ♥ – ♦ Q J x ♣ A K J 10 x x, in my view, 3♦ is clearly the best choice.

OPENER HAS SHOWN AN Unbalanced Maximum

This one isn't too bad. Your range is normally 19-21, thus forcing to game. Partner will try to describe his holding, while waiting for you to finished describing yours. Let's say the bidding starts:

You	Partner
1♥	1NT
3♣	

You are in a game forcing auction so any non-game bid is forcing, and any unnecessary jump to game is discouraging. So you might jump to 5♣ with

♠ K x x ♥ x ♦ Q x x x ♣ J x x x. If partner bids 3NT he could be very weak, so pass with any quasi-balanced hand.

What if you are more unbalanced? It depends. With a minimum it is best to pass unless you are at least 6-5, or 5-5 with a void. With the latter hand bid your three card suit, not your second suit. The reason is partner will 'know' you are most likely 5-5-3-0 shape otherwise you would have passed 3NT with some 5-4-3-1 distribution.

With most 5-5-2-1 hands I would pass 3NT (and pray!) unless all my cards were in my two suits such as ♠ x ♥ A K Q x x ♦ x x ♣ A K J 10 x.* If you are 6-5 or 6-6. Rebid your second suit. This says to partner, 'One of my suits is trump, pick one.'

Partner will pick a suit at the game or slam level, or cue-bid an ace, agreeing the 2nd suit.

*The thinking player might ask: 'Why force to game when you only have 17 HCPs. Because this hand is much better than its points. Another way to look at it, which hand do you like better the above one or ♠ K J ♥ K Q x x x ♦ K Q ♣ K Q x x?



CANADA WINS SILVER AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Congratulations to Joey Silver and John Carruthers for winning a Silver Medal in the Seniors Pairs event at the 2016 World Bridge Games held this September in Poland.



by Paul Thurston

THE EXPERT Spot

What. WENT. WRONG?

by Paul Thurston

UPGRADING AND DOWNGRADING

With the modern craze for upgrading many seemingly undeserving hands to notrump openings and/or overcalls, the unthinking refusal to downgrade certain other hands doesn't seem to get the attention I believe it so richly warrants.

UPGRADES FIRST

Consider the following hands:

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

Common features:

1. All three have an abundance of potentially valuable spot cards.
2. All three fall short of the traditionally mandated quota of 15-17 HCPs required for a 1NT opening.
3. In first seat, neither vulnerable, all three were opened 1NT by players who had considerable experience and good records of success.
4. All these notrump openings resulted in getting overboard (maybe partner couldn't take a joke) and recording unnecessary minus scores when opening one of the longest suit would have preserved a plus. (Yes I know, scattered results may not prove a lot but stick with me.)
5. Had any one of the three been opened one of a suit, they would have had no rebid problem whatsoever.

Philosophically, if your partnership gets in the habit of upgrading hands like these, in practical terms, the upper limit of auctions that show hands in the 12-14 HCP range will be lowered by experience if not by disclosed agreement.

In other words, there is no good bidding guideline that mandates you should never have a maximum hand for your agreed range!

In the same match that number one above occurred, a responder held:

♠ A J 5 4 3 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ 8 5 ♣ K 10 4

in an auction that started:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
1NT	?

Now I would think it virtually automatic to show my five card spade suit while inviting game as long as there were systemic agreements in place to be able to do so. The actual responder passed, apparently fearing

that his partner would already have opened 1NT if he held the 14 HCP he might need to underwrite a game! That's called "Seeing Ghosts", and it's bred out of the upgrading mania.

Oh yes, Opener held ♠ K 6 5 ♥ A 10 6 5 ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ A Q 6 and 4♠ made after one of the two necessary finesses worked and there were no terrible splits lurking. Bottom Line: the maximum two-point ranges for various notrump openings do work (15-17, 12-14, 18-19 and so on) – but be very careful about abusing those ranges.

DOWNGRADE ANYONE?

In a practise match between two top Polish teams, South held: ♠ K 7 3 ♥ Q 6 ♦ K J 5 4 ♣ K Q J 8 and with only his side vulnerable, the dealer on his right opened 2♠. By the way, 2♠ showed a limited hand with five spades with a five card minor suit on the side.

If you use the balance sheet approach as an aid to making bidding decisions, your appraisal might look like this:

Reasons to bid

1. 15 HCPs in a balanced hand.
2. A spade stopper.
3. We may get pre-empted.
4. A vul game might be missed.

Reasons not to bid

1. No aces.
2. Only one spade stopper.
3. The auction may end with a double if I bid.
4. Vulnerable penalties can be expensive.

With some reasons for and some against bidding, there are two overriding factors that I believe favour the downgrade to a pass as opposed to a 2NT overcall:

1. Partner will still have a turn if I pass and he has something worth bidding.
2. Finally and foremost: this really is a lousy hand for all of its 15 HCPs.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE TABLE

South fell from grace (IMHO) and overcalled 2NT. To solve a possibly vexing problem for West who held ♠ 4 ♥ A K J 8 3 ♦ A Q ♣ A 9 7 5 4 – what was he going to bid over his partner's 2♠? In this case, he had no trouble fishing out a penalty double and the final tally was 1100 to East-West!

SLAM WOES

Maybe it's the pressure associated with the possible win or loss of huge gobs of IMPs, but some recent slam declarations by supposedly expert declarers in high-level matches were woefully inadequate. Let's have a look at WHAT WENT WRONG?

Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

A short but sweet auction with South taking a very practical approach to bidding his hand: he showed clubs and hearts and an extra-strength opener with his first two calls, and then over his partner's value-showing second call, bid what he hoped he could make.

Interestingly, the bidding avoided playing in the 5-3 spade fit that would not have been a happy contract

on the existing layout! Also ironic: the prevailing vulnerability conditions kept this West out of the bidding when a diamond preempt might have tipped declarer off to the possibility of bad breaks and would certainly have helped in the play.

THE PLAY

West led a small trump and soon thereafter South was recording down one in a slam that seems fated to come home via either of two possible lines of play.

Line One: finish drawing the trumps, pitch South's two small spades on the high diamonds and play hearts from the top. The twelfth trick could arrive via a 3-3 heart split with the slight extra vigorish of a doubleton ♥ QJ with either defender. (Or for fans of Restricted Choice, maybe taking a second round finesse of the ♥ 10 if East produces an honour when the suit is started with a low card from the dummy).

Line Two: finish drawing trumps ending in dummy with that valuable ♣ 9, pitch two small ♥'s on the high clubs and advance the ♠ J. If uncovered, let it ride with the plan to re-enter dummy for a second spade finesse. This would produce a twelfth trick whenever at least one of the missing spade honours resided with East.

For the mathematicians out there, Line Two has about a 75% chance of succeeding while Line One has about a 40% chance to make. Line 2 is the prohibitive favourite and the line you'd expect a top expert to choose (although on the actual layout, both approaches would have worked). So WHAT WENT WRONG?

The actual declarer won the first club and cashed a second round to notice East showing out. Declarer then embarked on a line of play that tried to exploit East having been dealt only one club. He cashed the ♥ A and played a second round to dummy's ten.

The plan: lose the ♥ to East, win whatever is returned and cash the ♥ K intending if West still had a high heart to ruff the fourth round of the suit with dummy's last trump.

While ignoring the very real possibility of West being able to ruff the third round of hearts, this line of play also totally ignored the possibility afforded by the spade suit and dummy's great intermediate cards in that suit. This line was very much anti-percentage, and was immediately punished when East returned the ♠K to the ace and West's – SURPRISE! - ruff!

SLAM WOES – PART 2

Some contracts do seem ridiculously easy to play as long as you notice all that is available to be noticed. Oh yes, and do some basic counting of actual and possible tricks!

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

West	North	East	South
	2♣ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3♣ ³	Pass	3♥ ⁴
Pass	4♥ ⁵	Pass	4NT ⁶
Pass	5♥ ⁷	Pass	6♥ ⁸
All Pass			

Identical auctions at the tables of a practise match pitting the Polish National Team against a team of Polish Seniors led to the decent small slam.

1. Multi 2♣ opening usually showing a weak two in a major .
2. A game forcing inquiry.
3. Maximum weak two in hearts.
4. Still game forcing – anything to cuebid?
5. No shortness, no outside control.
6. Blackwood.
7. Two Keycards.
8. Conclusion.

With no really attractive options, both West players tabled the ♣Q for their opening attack. The Polish Senior made short work of the play as he won the ♣A to cash dummy's high trumps. ♣10 ducked round to West's Jack and a fast claim with one spade winner, 6 hearts, two diamonds and, thanks to the combining power of the club ten and nine, three clubs.

But after the same lead, South for the Polish Nationals went down one! WHAT WENT WRONG?

Declarer also won the ♣A to play to the ♥K but then crossed back to the ♦A to play a second round of hearts. The appearance of the ♥Q did away with the possibility of any deep study as to whether a second -round finesse would be in order but maybe all that to-ing and fro-ing clouded South's thinking. Because he continued by wasting dummy's ♣10 by leading it to the ♣K for a third-round ruff. When the ♣J didn't fall, he sought a twelfth trick in ♣'s by cashing the King and playing a third round: no 3-3 split and no doubleton honour fell, so no slam bonus for this Polish pair.

HOW'S YOUR PARTNERSHIP DEFENCE?

Dealer: South. Neither Vul

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

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

In the partnership style, North's negative double showed at least four spades and he confirmed five by bidding the suit after establishing a force (maybe an overbid?) with his second-round cuebid.

Presumably South's rebid showed three spades and his later bid promised a heart stopper. Had 3NT failed, we might have had to use WWW to explain why the partnership hadn't ended in 4♠, found both minor-suit Queens and chalked up their game bonus that way. But 3NT it was and it didn't fail even though it could have – let's see if we can figure out WHAT WENT WRONG?

West got the defence off to its best start by leading his fourth-best heart to the 8, 6 and 9. Playing Upside Down Carding, East's first heart was an attempt to show three cards in the suit. Having no realistic chance without broaching ♠'s, at trick two South led a low ♠ towards dummy, the ace, 5 and 6 completing the trick.

With the hearts ready to cash, West couldn't believe his good fortune and shifted to the ♣7 in an attempt to get his partner in for a heart return through South's known Queen – West was assuming ♥Q953 with South and ♥76 with East – could he have known otherwise?

Well, not on his own but East might have been able to tell him if the partnership had a certain expert signalling tactic in their arsenal.

Smith signals are used by defenders to tell partner how much they like or dislike the opening lead in the context of the bidding, dummy's holding and what happened at trick one. The usual procedure is for the partner of the leader to play high in the first suit declarer attacks to say "I Like what you led as much as I can".

Card play theorists then modified this approach to become what is known as "Reverse Smith" so that a low card in the first suit attacked by declarer would signal "I like your led suit".

For many years, I resisted the blandishments of several partners to adopt this Smith thing, reverse or otherwise, until I played with Ottawa's Jeff Smith (no relation).

In a CNTC match we encountered this suit:

Dummy
♥ x x

Jeff
♥ A J 9 x x

Paul
♥ 10 x x x

Declarer
♥ K Q

Against 3NT, Jeff led his fourth-best ♥ to the 10 and Queen. Declarer crossed to dummy to take a losing finesse into Jeff's hand and partner was at the crossroads – cash the ♥A or exit safely and hope I could get in to play a second round of ♥'s through the closed hand. No problem! Jeff cashed the ♥A and we had a game swing when the "safe" exit route was taken at the other table. How did he know?

When declarer crossed to dummy, I had played my lowest card in the suit declarer led. Reverse Smith = "I really like what you led?" Since I was already known not to have an honour in the heart suit (THIRD HAND PLAYS HIGH!), my reason for liking the lead had to be unexpected length.

So back to the Polish match problem: whatever, if anything, East's ♠6 was meant to show on the first round, it was definitely not the right card for a Smith signaller to play. True, East doesn't have a ♥ honour but given South's insistence on notrump and his partner's overcall, East does have possibly useful and decidedly unexpected length. News he might have imparted by playing either the ♠10 (Standard Smith) or ♠2 (Reverse Smith) on the first round of the suit.

Note: as with most signals, you have to get your priorities straight as you wouldn't want to throw away a potential trick by signalling with an unnecessarily high card and you would usually want to give count in the suit broached declarer if that was going to be useful to partner.

Neither of those considerations would apply here so signal away!

Just Another FLAT BOARD

Herman De Wael, Wilrijk, Belgium



Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	4NT
4♠ ¹	4NT ¹	4♠ ¹	5♠
6♥	Dbl	All Pass	

1. All insufficient bids accepted

In the early rounds of the teams' tournament in Mautern, Austria, boards were dealt at the table so only eight players saw the following 'flat board'

At one table, South decided to try to show his hand immediately and opened four notrump. West also wanted to show his two suits, and he started at what 'seemed' the lowest level: four spades. Then North also decided to keep the level low, so he accepted and bid four notrump. East decided to join in the fun and he contributed another four spades.

At that point, as Tournament Director, I was called. Once we stopped laughing, I asked if they wanted a real ruling.

They did. So I told South that he could accept East's bid. If he did not, East would be allowed to bid five spades without penalty. I neglected to ask whether four spades or five spades would have been natural – who has a system covering three insufficient bids? South decided the level was low enough to warrant yet another acceptance, and bid five spades. Now I suggested that someone might try one club next, but they all had had enough fun, and the bidding then proceeded rather sedately.

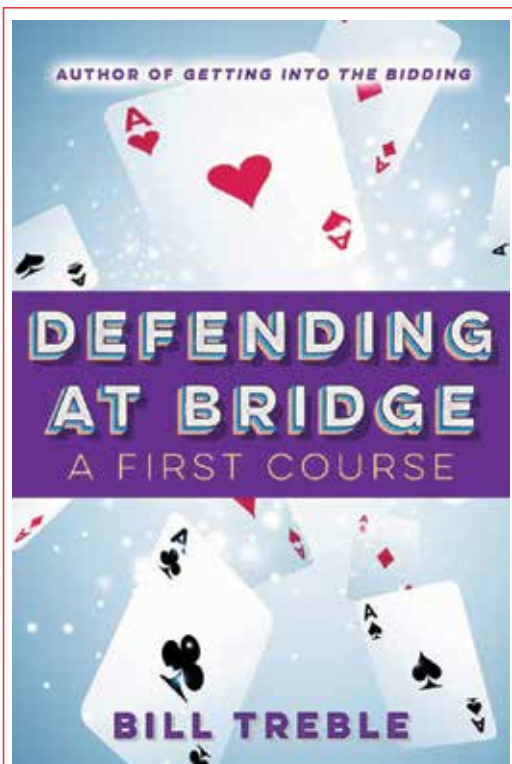
One down, plus 100 to North/South; a seemingly par result. At the other table, South felt that showing one suit was enough, and so opened five clubs. West, however, did show two suits with six clubs. North doubled and East bid six diamonds. He understood that partner's correction to six hearts showed the spade suit as well, but was happy with hearts. South went all in with seven clubs, still not showing his extreme distribution, and when East went to seven hearts, North did not feel confident enough to rate his majors worth a trick, and the contract remained seven hearts undoubled.

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	5♣
6♣	Dbl	6♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	7♥	All Pass

Two down, plus 100 to North/South, flat board!



New Books from Master Point Press

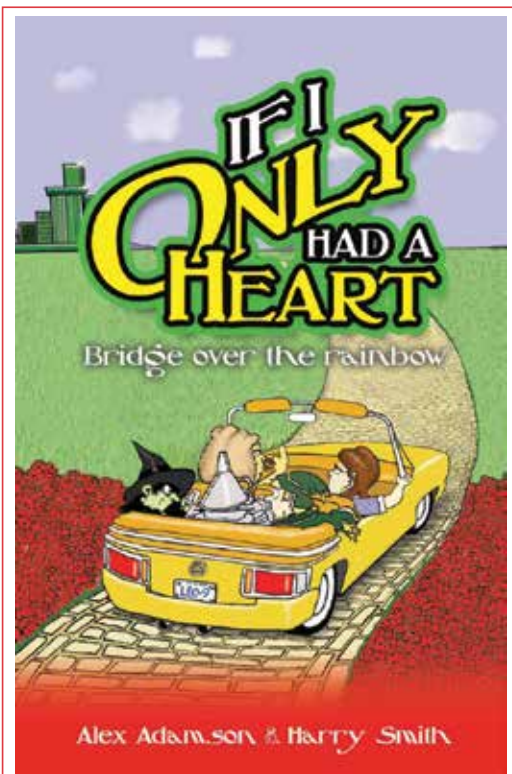


Defending at Bridge: A First Course

Bill Treble

Just the facts, ma'am. The basics of defense at bridge in eight short, clearly explained lessons, with lots of practical examples. Topics include opening leads, signaling, second- and third-hand play, and discards.

Bill Treble of Winnipeg, Canada is an expert bridge player and former bronze medalist in the Canadian Teams Championship. His wife Sue, a bridge teacher, wishes Bill would listen to the advice in this book.



If I Only Had a Heart

Bridge Over the Rainbow

Alex Adamson and Harry Smith

Illustrated by Bill Buttle

Somehow it's no surprise to find that everyone in the Land of Oz is a keen bridge player, even the Scarecrow and the Tin Man. The Lion, of course, is a congenital underbidder, and all four Witches (whether East, West, North or South) are deliciously subversive. Auntie Em likes to get her own way most of the time, and the Wizard is a visiting expert from Down Under...

Delightfully witty, with entertaining hands, these stories began appearing in 2015 in BRIDGE Magazine (UK) and Australian Bridge.

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EVENTS & DEADLINES

Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of September 15 2016. For more information see our website www.cbf.ca

2016

OCTOBER

Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC
Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month

Canadian Online Team Championships
Starts October 2

Canada-wide Olympiad Fund Game
October 3 (Monday evening)

ACBL-Wide Instant Matchpoint Game
October 14 (Friday afternoon)

Better Bridge Tour Featuring Audrey Grant
October 17 & 18 - Vancouver, BC

Erin Berry Rookie Master Game
October 18

Better Bridge Tour Featuring Audrey Grant
October 20 & 21 - Calgary AB

NOVEMBER

Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC

Better Bridge Tour Featuring Audrey Grant
November 3-4 - Charlottetown, PEI

Better Bridge Tour Featuring Audrey Grant
November 6-7 - Halifax, NS

Better Bridge Tour Featuring Audrey Grant
November 9-10 - Moncton, NB

ACBL-wide Charity Game
November 22 (Tuesday evening)

Orlando Fall NABC
November 24 - December 4

DECEMBER

Club Qualifying games for CNTC and COPC

ACBL-wide INTERNATIONAL FUND GAME
December 21 (Wednesday Evening)



Important Dates

- 2016 Erin Berry Rookie Master Game | 18 October
- 2017 Canadian Bridge Championships, Winnipeg | 29 April - 7 May
- 2017 Toronto NABC | 20-30 July