

bridge *Canada*

INTRODUCING

ZALINSOHL TRANSFERS

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ROCK SHI YAN

RULE OF 11

MICHAEL ABBEY

KAIZEN

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DEFENSE

AGAINST A SUIT CONTRACT
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EDGAR KAPLAN and Kaplan - *isms*

Edgar Kaplan was one of the all-time, all-round contributors to the World of Bridge. In the 50 years prior to his death in 1997, Mr. Kaplan was a player, bridge writer, teacher, administrator, commentator, coach, journalist and lawmaker.

Besides his stellar playing career and record of winning 20 major Championships and representing the USA in 8 World Events, he was a bidding theorist first. He was a pioneer of the weak notrump system, and the invariable theoretical advantages of this approach. K-S, or Kaplan-Scheinwold is still a preferred system for many high level players (including 2 of the 3 pairs from the reigning Canadian Champs!).

Mr. Kaplan was the publisher and Editor of The Bridge World, the magazine seen as the premier Bridge Publication in the world of bridge. Part of his role was to report on the NABC events such as the Vanderbilt, Spingold and Vanderbilt events, as well as World Championships such as the Bermuda Bowl.

His acidic approach and dry wit in reporting questionable bids and plays from these events are legendary. As such Bridge Canada will share some of these comments, and share the legacy of Edgar Kaplan. One of his quotes will appear in all future issues, beginning with the current one.

Neil Kimelman: Editor, Bridge Canada

EDITOR'S COMMENT

EDITOR: NEIL KIMELMAN



KAPLAN-ism # 1

Commenting on an Eric Murray 1♥ overcall of a strong club on ♥9 x x x x and out:

In the Open Room, Hamman's opening showed 17 points or more; Murray's overcall (...) showed his presence at the table.



by Lorna Macdonald

The 2017 Canadian National Women's Team Championship was held in Winnipeg this year. The venue was great and the hospitality was second to none. We enjoyed a continental breakfast each morning and a nice hospitality suite to unwind each evening. I'd like to thank the members of the Winnipeg unit for all their hard work in making this a truly enjoyable event. This was the first time I had a chance to play this event since 2003, when it was held in Penticton.

There were five teams entered in the event but ours was the only one with members from across Canada. My partner, Rhonda Foster and I have known each other for years, but recently got together in Sun City West, Arizona, where we live across the street from each other. Rhonda spends her summers in Victoria, I'm in Edmonton, Pamela Nisbet is from Thunder Bay and Linda Wynston and Hazel Wolpert are from Toronto. A truly Canadian team from all over Canada. That is, with the exception of Brenda Bryant, the 6th member of our team, who, while Canadian, lives in Detroit.

After two days of round robin competition and another 120 boards played in the final, we emerged victorious, but it was hands like this that made things difficult and challenging:

♠ A K 10 9 ♥ A K ♦ A K J 8 ♣ Q 10 9.

You pick this rock up and are hoping you remember all the agreements you and partner have over 2♣ openers, when you look up and see that it's your bid and the auction has gone:

West	North	East	South
-	2♣	3♣	Pass
4♣	?		

It's been a few months since Winnipeg and I've given this hand to many people whose opinion I respect, and the consensus is that, while not perfect, you start with a double, which I did. Happiness was that partner replied 4♦. I eventually decided that the chance of Partner having two clubs was slim and the possibility of slam was so good that I should just bid 6♦ and hope for the best Lose 13 imps. The opponents cashed the ♣AK and the other team didn't get to slam. I don't know what the moral of the story is but that hand still haunts me.



by Neil Kimelman

SF2: Board: 21; Vul: E-W; dealer: E

In the 2017 CNTCs I picked up, as west,
 ♠K Q 8 3 ♥K 9 8 6 ♦9 4 ♣A 6 4. The bidding went:

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

1. 12-14
2. Single suit runout

What do you lead?

If you trust the bidding It appears that partner has a bust with a diamond suit. Is there any hope?
 I held this hand playing against Ian Findlay and Irving Litvack, who was South. After a some thought I decided that it was best to defend passively and tracked the ♦9. I was quite happy when I saw dummy, but not the final result. Here was the full deal:

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

After some thought, Irving simply went up with the ace, cashed the diamond king, pitching a heart, and played on clubs. I won the 2nd club, played the spade king and gave up when Irving ducked this.

Post Mortem

Kaizan is a Japanese term that translates as 'continuous improvement'. Successful leaders use Kaizan as a foundation when trying to grow the organizations they lead. One of the reasons we love this game is the opportunity to improve. It is continuous and it is endless. No one ever gets there. There are always things to learn and ways to improve.

I wanted to call this article The 2nd best lead. But that would have spoiled some of the fun. This hand gnawed at me, as I wondered if I could have done better. The answer was yes - I should have led the ♦4. Look at it from Irivng's perspective. The opponents are playing 3rd and 5th leads. What is your plan?

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

There are definitely transportation issues. West can make it very difficult for you to get to your hand. Let's say you win the first diamond with the ace, and lead the ♣K. This will hold and West will win the 2nd club and exit with a diamond. You will basically have no play. So what about ducking the first diamond? Yes that is better. You are only missing 14 HCPs. If the ♦J wins you are home easy. But surprise! it loses!

If west has ♠KQ108 you are down with a spade shift, but east shifts to a heart. Win the heart with the ten? and then??? I guess play on clubs. You can't cash the diamonds, because if west started with four, you are setting up the opponents fifth trick, before you can get nine.



KAIZEN by Neil Kimelman (continued)

So you play two rounds of clubs. West wins the second one, and plays a heart. Now you are in dummy looking at:

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

You have won only three tricks and don't know how to proceed. I don't even think you can make it double dummy from here, as south has to play before west. In retrospect it might have been better winning the first heart with the ace, and playing a 2nd one, overtaking in your hand. Not easy!!

Post Mortem...continued

Yes, the ♦4 was the best lead!! I will try to file it away hoping to be able to apply the two principles I learned, for a future hand:

1. Consider the ability of your opponent when choosing a lead. Here a high diamond painted a picture of the full deal, and
2. Once you find a good choice, look for a better one. Had I taken one more minute ...

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

IMPs Contract: 7NT

Lead: ♠Q

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

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
1♦	Db1 ¹	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	7NT!!

1. Penalties
2. One Ace

Plan the play. Answer on page 10.



Meet ...

Rock Shi Yan



Q: How did you start playing bridge?

A: As a kid, I had always loved playing all sorts of card games. I kibitzed my very first bridge game when I was in high school about 30 years ago, and got hooked right away. Back then in China, there weren't very many forms of entertainment, so bridge has become my main hobby ever since.

Q: What happened after that?

A: I represented the Chinese Youth Team and won the Asia & Pacific Bridge Championships twice. I also played in the 1997 World Youth Bridge Championship in Hamilton, ON. By then, bridge had become professional in China, and I played in the prime league there until I relocated to Canada in 2003.

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

A: Bridge society was quite limited for newcomers back then. Nowadays, it is much easier to play with and against stronger players from all over the world, both online and in real life.

Q: What is your most memorable moment in bridge?

A: Winning the 2014 Canadian National Team Championships in Calgary is definitely my most memorable moment in bridge. All of my teammates, including Samantha Nystrom, were amazing and the best I ever had.

Q: What about your life away from the bridge table?

A: I worked for an international real estate firm for 6 years and earned my CGA designation there. Starting just this year, I got invited by my bridge sponsor in China to work for his company as a CFO.

Q: Tell us something about your family.

A: My lovely wife, Kerry, and I were high school sweethearts. We have been together for almost 30 years, and since then have had two adorable daughters. Jane studies kinesiology in UBC, and has been playing table tennis since she was 9. Jane will represent Canada to play in this year's Summer Universiade in Taipei. Phoebe is a competitive figure skater and trains 7 days a week. Her goal is to represent Canada in Winter Olympics.

Q: What advice would you give to a new player?

A: Read many books, share any thoughts you have with your partner, and watch a good player's game.



THE RULE OF 11

By Michael Abbey

This month we will have a look at an interesting way to assist determining what's in the other players' hands. It's called *The Rule of Eleven* and, if you have been playing the game for a while, you may have run into other rules whose names contain a number. A very standard lead is fourth highest in a suit, and that is where the theory lies in this rule. Once the lead is faced, we use the rule of eleven to give us some valuable information about opponent's holding in the suit led.

by Michael Abbey
THE NEW PLAYER
Spot

NEW PLAYER SPOT: Michael Abbey ... continued

Assuming the opening lead is fourth highest spot card, a card whose value is between two and ten, subtract the value of that card from eleven. The result of that calculation tells us how many cards in the suit led exist in the three hands other than the one where the lead came from.

In our first example, West is the declarer, and we are on defense against 4♠. North (our partner) leads the ♦8, assumed to be his fourth highest in diamonds. When the dummy goes down, this is what we know and what we don't know in diamonds.

Example 1

♦ ? ♦ 8 ♦ 7 2
 ♦ A Q 10 6

We can deduce the following in diamonds, once we see the dummy:

1. Using the rule of eleven, we subtract the value of North's spot card from eleven; $11-8=3$.
2. We now know that, between East, South (us), and West, there are three diamonds whose value is greater than eight.
 - a. East, the dummy, shows no cards greater than eight
 - b. Sitting South, we have three cards whose value is greater than eight
 - c. West, the declarer, has no cards greater than eight

Not only that, but we have also learned from the rule of eleven that if we get in after all the trumps are exhausted, we have at least three diamond winners to cash.

Let's look at a second example. This time we are declaring in North, with East on opening lead. East leads ♣3, and we assume it to be his fourth highest. We do the math ... $11-3=8$, meaning in the other three hands, being South, West, and us (North), there

are eight clubs whose value is greater than three. The dummy goes down, and we now see the clubs for North (us) and South. The clubs in East and West are still unknown, except for East's lead of the ♣3.

Example 2

♣ ? ♣ K Q 7 ♣ 3
 ♣ 6 5 4

1. Sitting North, we have three cards whose value is greater than three.
2. South, the dummy, shows three cards greater than three.
3. West must have the other two cards whose value is greater than the three.

Before closing this discussion, let's look at an example where we ascertain that an opening lead cannot possibly be the fourth highest. Maybe it's a singleton, maybe top of a doubleton; we'll see as the hand plays out. This time, South (us) is the declarer, with West on opening lead.

Suppose West leads the ♠6, the dummy goes down, and we apply the rule of eleven ... $11-6=5$. This means that, between North/South (us) and East, there are five spades whose value is greater than six. This is what we know about spades, and what we can deduce from West's lead of the ♠6:

Example 3

♠ 6 ♠ A K 5 4 ♠ ?
 ♠ Q J 10

1. North (dummy) has two cards whose value is greater than six
2. Sitting South, we have three cards greater than six
3. West has no cards whose value is greater than six, since we have all five of them

Suppose the first trick plays out as follows:

West	North	East	South
♠6	♠4	♠9	♠10

This provides us with additional valuable information. Since East played the nine (obviously greater than six), our assumption that West led fourth highest is wrong. We determined that there are five spades between North/South/East whose value is greater than six. Wait a minute, we have five cards greater than six. When East plays the ♠9 (value greater than six), we can figure out West did not lead fourth highest. That extra tidbit may prove useful to us later in the hand.

The Rule of Eleven is not going to propel you into another level of play. Like anything else in your arsenal, it can be used as an assistant to enhance your play whether declaring or playing defense.

Visit Michael's website for beginners at beginnerbridge.net



Puzzle on page 6

7NT looks impossible. To take liberties with an old song, the impossible takes a little while.

Well...IF the clubs come in for five tricks, and IF the hearts for four tricks, you are up to 12 tricks. And where there are 12... Actually you would have a simple squeeze against West, who undoubtedly from his lead and bidding has the ♠Q J 10 (x...) and ♦K Q x x x (x...), if you had a singleton diamond. You know that, but West doesn't! What hand can you have that would cause West to misdefend?

♠ A K 8 ♥ A K 10 6 ♦ 6 ♣ A K Q 10 6.

Now the play is becoming clear: Win the spade, ♥A, heart to the queen, finesse the 10 on the way back and cash all your clubs and hearts to come down to this position

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

Here is the full deal:

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

Many years ago, M. Tout-banc played exactly this way to land an impossible contract. We know that East can thwart the plan by either discarding all of his diamonds or his spades, but it is still worth a try against not-so-skilled defenders.



THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES **DEFENSIVE PLAY 6**

Defending Against a Suit Contract

Defending against a suit contract can be divided in five general strategies:

- 1** Reduce declarer's ability to ruff out losers.
- 2** Weaken declarer's trump length
- 3** Defend passively
- 4** 4th best
- 5** Try for a ruff

Let's look at each strategy in turn.

Continued next page

by Neil Kimelman
THE INTERMEDIATE
Spot



1 Reduce declarer's ability to ruff out losers

The opponents choose to declare in a suit contract usually when they have an eight card fit. History shows us that it is consistently better to opt for suit play under these conditions. A trump lead will often reduce their ability to ruff losers. And there is a side benefit, you don't risk giving up valuable information when leading a suit.

This is especially when the opponents are in a partscore, as the defensive assets will be greater. Another way to look at it: You don't want declarer to ruff your aces and kings!

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

EXAMPLE 1

As west you hold: ♠ Q 10 3 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ J 9 7 2 ♣ A Q 3.
Lead a trump.

2 Weaken declarer's trump length

This strategy is implemented when you know the trump suit is breaking badly. The idea is to lead the suit where you and partner have length in, and force declarer to lose control and give you additional trump tricks as a result. If there is a choice, the suit attacked should be the one that the defender with length in trumps, also has length in.

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

EXAMPLE 2

As west you hold:
♠ Q 10 3 ♥ A 9 7 2 ♦ K J 9 7 2 ♣ 3. Lead a diamond.

EXAMPLE 3

As west you hold: ♠ K 10 6 5 3 ♥ 2
♦ Q 2 ♣ 10 8 5 4 3. Lead the ♦ Q.
Partner may have four hearts and likely has diamond length. A spade lead is dangerous. Even if you can force dummy to ruff, there is a reasonable chance that partner will have three spades or less, and can't continue the attack on declarer's trumps in this suit.

3 Defend passively

This is a strategy often used playing matchpoints, as the cost of giving up a trick with the lead can be very high. This often means a trump lead. Another good choice if you decide on this strategy is leading from length. A final good option is to lead from a suit where you have no high honours, but usually at least three cards in. Assuming the opponents bid to 4♥ examples of passive leads is EX 1, and the following:

EXAMPLE 4

♠ Q 10 3 ♥ J 7 2 ♦ K 9 7 2 ♣ 10 8 3 - lead the ♣ 3.

EXAMPLE 5

As west you hold: ♠ 10 8 7 5 3 ♥ 7 2 ♦ Q 9 7 2 ♣ 8 3 -
lead a low spade.

4 4th best

Leading from length with an honour is moderately aggressive. It risks kicking a trick but if right can be the difference between setting up and cashing tricks, before declarer can discard these losers on his own winners.

If the opponents stop at the one or two level, there is less of a need to lead aggressively, as you will often have more than one chance to find a right shift.

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

EXAMPLE 6

As west you hold: ♠ Q1083 ♥ 972 ♦ 972 ♣ A103. Lead the ♠3.

EXAMPLE 7

As west you hold: ♠ 103 ♥ 72 ♦ KJ972 ♣ AQ73. Lead a small diamond.

EXAMPLE 8

As west you hold: ♠ 10763 ♥ 972 ♦ J972 ♣ AQ - lead a small diamond.

When leading from a high honour not all leads are created equal. Leading from the king is often the best, as you win when partner has the ace or queen or the jack in some cases and declarer misguesses. The jack is the worst unsupported honour to lead from. Underleading the ace is dangerous, but can be indicated more often than players realize. However you need an understanding partner when wrong, as you have definitely gone against the field.

5 Trying for a ruff

Likely the most aggressive lead choice, it is often right. However the conditions for this choice must be recognized:

- No other lead choice is attractive
- You have an early trump trick.

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

EXAMPLE 9

As west you hold: ♠ QJ3 ♥ K2 ♦ 972 ♣ A9763. Lead the ♣A, then the ♣9.

EXAMPLE 10

As west you hold: ♠ Q1043 ♥ 972 ♦ J972 ♣ 3. Lead the ♣3.



Defending Strategies for IMP and Matchpoint Games

At teams, the focus should be on taking all reasonable defensive strategies to beat game and slam contracts. Overtricks are not crucial. Therefore I will be more likely to lead from Kx in a side suit against a suit contract at IMPs.

Next Column: Defensive Play 7, Defensive Strategy 2:
Applying the Theory: Quiz Time

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by Ed Zaluski

THE EXPERT Spot

AFTER PARTNER DOUBLES A WEAK TWO BID FOR TAKEOUT

Lebensohl, Rubinsohl and Zalinsohl Transfers

By Ed Zaluski

After an opponent's weak two opening is doubled for takeout, a good bidding system should provide a method of investigating the three most logical game contracts, they being 3NT, 4♥ and 4♠.

To this end, the structures behind *Lebensohl* and *Rubinsohl* Transfers have been enhanced by adding a third transfer method called *Zalinsohl*. This convention allows the responding partner (called the advancer) to choose which member of the partnership should declare (i.e., to position or "right side") game contracts depending on who holds, or may hold, one or more stoppers in the opponent's suit in order to protect those stoppers from immediate attack by an opening lead. The integration of *Lebensohl*, *Rubinsohl* and *Zalinsohl* transfers require that, after a takeout

double of an opponent's weak-two bid and a pass by the right-hand opponent, advancer continue as follows:

1. 2NT is a **Lebensohl** transfer to 3♣ to show either a weak hand with a long suit that ranks below the opponent's suit, or a hand that contains at least invitational values and stoppers in the opponent's suit;

2. A three-level bid in a suit is a **Rubinsohl** transfer to the next higher suit to show at least invitational values without a stopper in the opponent's suit;

3. A **Rubinsohl** transfer into an unbid suit shows length in that suit, while a transfer into the opponent's suit is Stayman (with one exception being a 3♥ transfer into an opponent's spade suit); and

4. After advancer's **Lebensohl** 2NT and subsequent invitational rebid, doubler uses **Zalinsohl** transfers to "right-side" major-suit game contracts to protect advancer's announced stoppers from immediate attack by the opening lead.

Adding the flexibility of **Zalinsohl** transfers into a partnership's defensive bidding structure is believed to be an improvement over methods currently being used.

To identify the bidding participants in the following sequences, the doubler's bids are underlined and advancer's bids are not. As the bidding progresses, each is indented one tab to the right.

After partner's immediate takeout double and a pass by RHO (or after a takeout double in the balancing seat), continuations are as follows:

2♥/2♠ Advances at the two level are natural and not forcing.

3NT Doubler shows a strong balanced hand with at least one stopper in the opponent's suit. 2NT shows 19-21 and 3NT shows 22-24 HCP. A double made in the balancing seat may reduce its strength by a couple of points.

2NT **Lebensohl**, which advancer uses as a suggested artificial transfer to 3♣.

3♣ Usually, the doubler accepts the transfer to clubs. Refusing the transfer would be natural, and show a very strong hand. Subsequent bidding is natural.

Pass Pass confirms a weak hand with long clubs.

3X Where 'X' is a suit below the opponent's suit, advancer shows a weak hand with length in that suit, to play.

3Y Where 'Y' is a major suit above the opponent's suit, advancer (1) shows an invitational hand with length in the bid major, (2) shows a stopper in the opponent's suit, and (3) offers doubler a choice of three contracts. With a minimum, doubler may pass. With extra values, doubler may either raise to the major-suit game, or bid 3NT knowing that advancer has a stopper.

Cue **Lebensohl** followed by a cue bid of the opponent's suit is Stayman, asking for four-card majors and showing at least a half stopper in the opponent's suit.

3♦ Cue Specifically after a weak 2♦, **Lebensohl** followed by a cue bid is Stayman with a full stopper, forces game, and promises four cards in only one major suit.

Ex: ♠ Kxxx ♥ Ax ♦ KJx ♣ Q10xx.

3NT Natural. Doubler denies four cards in both majors.

3♥/3♠ **Zalinsohl**, which is a convention whose specific purpose is to find a game contract while simultaneously "right-siding" that contract so that it is played by the advancer, whose previous **Lebensohl** 2NT announced at least one stopper in the opponent's suit. In the style of Smolen, doubler's rebids at the three level deny four cards in the bid major suit while confirming possession of four cards in the other.

Ex for 3♥: ♠ AQxx ♥ KJx ♦ xx ♣ AJ10x.

3/4♠ Over doubler's 3♥, forces game and agrees spades as trump. Using the "Principle of Fast Arrival," 3♠ shows extra values and invites a cue bid in search of slam.

Ex for 3♠: ♠ KJxx ♥ Axx ♦ Kx ♣ KQxx.

Ex for 4♠: ♠ Kxxx ♥ A10x ♦ Kx ♣ QJxx

3/4NT Denies four cards in the doubler's major suit. A jump to 4NT is invitational, showing 16 to 18 HCP.

Ex for 4NT over 3♥: ♠ KJx ♥ AQxx ♦ Kx ♣ Kxxx.

4♦ Doubler's return cue bid is also a part of **Zalinsohl**, in this case being an artificial bid that promises four cards in both majors and transfers the game contract to advancer to protect the announced stopper.

Ex: ♠ AQ10x ♥ KJxx ♦ xx ♣ AJx.

3♥/♠ Cue After an opponent's weak two in a major, **Lebensohl** followed by a cue bid is Stayman with a half stopper (such as Qx or Jxx), forces game, and promises four cards in the unbid major.

Ex for 3♥ cue: ♠ KQxx ♥ Qx ♦ KJx ♣ Q10xx.

On the other hand, 3NT after **Lebensohl** is Stayman with a full stopper. For continuations, see next sequence.

3NT Natural over a cue bid, denies four cards in the unbid major, but confirms possession of at least the other needed half stopper.

Ex: ♠ AJx ♥ Jxx ♦ AQxx ♣ KJx.

4♣/4♦ Natural, not forcing, and denies both four cards in the other major and the other half stopper.

3NT **Lebensohl** followed by 3NT is always Stayman with a full stopper.

Ex over 2♠: ♠ Kx ♥ AQxx ♦ Kxxx ♣ Kxx.

But specifically over 2♦, 2NT followed by 3NT promises a full stopper and four cards in both major suits.

Ex over 2♦: ♠ AQxx ♥ Kxxx ♦ Kx ♣ Kxx.

Doubler's continuations at the four level follow these **Zalinsohl** Rules:

1. After a weak 2♦ (and both major suits are available as playable contracts), 4♣ transfers to 4♥, and

4♦ transfers to 4♠.

Ex for 4♣: ♠ KQx ♥ AQxx ♦ xx ♣ QJ10x.

Ex for advancer: ♠ AJxx ♥ KJxx ♦ Kxx ♣ Ax.

On these two hands, the right-sided 4♥ game would be reached and an opening lead through advancer's ♦K would be avoided. (The easy way to remember these transfer methods is to associate the rounded and pointed suits together, clubs with hearts, and diamonds with spades; this makes any other four-level bid a likely cue bid that shows extra values with interest in slam.)

2. After a weak 2♥ (where only 4♠ is available as a playable major-suit contract), any four-level bid is forcing to 4♠, where 4♦ is an artificial bid that just transfers to 4♠, while both 4♣ and 4♥ are cue bids that show extra values

3. After a weak 2♠ (where only 4♥ is available as a playable major-suit contract), both 4♣ and 4♦ are forcing to 4♥, where 4♣ is an artificial bid that just transfers to 4♥, while 4♦ is an artificial bid that shows extra values.

3♥/3♠ Natural **Lebensohl** followed by any suit that could have been bid at the two level as not forcing but instead is bid at the three level usually shows five or more cards in that suit and invites game. Advancer wishes to be declarer because a stopper is held in the opponent's suit.

Ex for 2NT, then 3♠: ♠ QJxxx ♥ Kx ♦ Kx ♣ Qxxx.

4♣ Natural, invitational. To force, jump to 4♣ immediately.

4X Where X is any suit except clubs, **Lebensohl** followed by a jump to the four level in any suit is a Splinter that shows a long club suit, forces at least 5♣, and invites a slam.

Ex for 4♦: ♠ Ax ♥ KQx ♦ x ♣ AQJxxxx.

Ex for 4♥: ♠ KQx ♥ x ♦ Ax ♣ KQ10xxxx

Doubler is invited to cue bid, or bid 4NT as RKC Blackwood. Over doubler's cue bid, advancer's following 4NT would also be RKC Blackwood. Compare this sequence of showing strong club hands with the immediate jump to 3♠, as shown near the end of this article.

3X Where x is the suit immediately below the opponent's suit, the bid is a **Rubinsohl** Transfer into the opponent's suit, to be played as Stayman without a stopper.

Ex for 3♣ over 2♦: ♠ K10xx ♥ AKx ♦ xx ♣ Q10xx

The following continuations assume that partner has doubled a weak 2♦ and advancer has made a **Rubinsohl** transfer of 3♣.

3♦ When doubler accepts the transfer into the opponent's suit, it denies both four cards in all unbid majors and a stopper in the opponent's suit.

3♥/♠ Advancer's rebids in an unbid major are natural, showing a strong four-card suit and asking doubler to raise with three-card support.

Ex for 3♠: ♠ KQJx ♥ K10x ♦ xx ♣ KQxx

4/5♣ Natural. No one stops the opponent's suit. 4♣ is invitational.

4♥/♠ Natural, but shows only three cards and suggests playing in a 4-3 major-suit fit. Ex for 4♥: ♠ Axx ♥ AQx ♦ xx ♣ AJ10xx

Advancer's continuation of 4♠ over 4♥ would deny four hearts but show four spades, which doubler may pass with three-card support.

4♦ A cue bid forces partner to choose one of the two unbid major suits, suggesting five-card length in both.

Ex: ♠ K10xxx ♥ KQJxx ♦ xx ♣ x

3♥/♠ Natural over 2♦, showing four cards in the bid major. 3♠ denies four hearts.

3NT Denies a fit for the bid major, confirms four cards in the other, but still denies a stopper in the opponent's suit.

Ex after 3♠: ♠ Ax ♥ KQ10x ♦ xx ♣ AJxxx

4♣/♥ Also denies a stopper in the opponent's suit. After 3♠, 4♣ is a scrambling bid that shows length in that suit and suggests playing 5♣ while 4♥ confirms three-card support for hearts with likely short diamonds.

Ex for 4♥: ♠ KJxx ♥ AJx ♦ xx ♣ KQxx

3NT Denies four cards in an unbid major, but confirms holding one or more stoppers in the opponent's suit.

3Y Where Y is a **Rubinsohl** Transfer to the next higher unbid suit at the three level, advancer shows five or more cards in that suit, at least invitational values, but no stopper in the opponent's suit.

Ex for 3♥ over 2♦ or 2♥: ♠ KJxxx ♥ xx ♦ xx ♣ AQxx

If partner only accepts the transfer to show a minimum, that bid may be passed.

The following example continuations assume that partner doubled a weak 2♥, and advancer has bid 3♣ as a **Rubinsohl** transfer to 3♦.

3♦ Doubler usually accepts a transfer to an unbid suit when holding a minimum.

Pass Confirms a minimum invitational hand.

Ex: ♠ Kxx ♥ xxx ♥ KQ10xx ♣ Jx

3♥ A cue bid artificially confirms at least game values, denies a solid diamond suit, and asks for a fit and a stopper in the opponent's suit.

Ex: ♠ Kxx ♥ xx ♦ KQ10xxx ♣ Ax

3♠ Natural. Doubler denies a stopper in hearts, shows good values in the bid suit, and invites a raise with three-card support.

Ex: ♠ AQJ ♥ xx ♦ Axx ♣ QJxx

3NT Confirms that a stopper is held.

Ex: ♠ AJ10x ♥ Kx ♦ Axx ♣ Qxxx

4♦ No stopper. Ex: ♠ A10xx ♥ xx ♦ Axx ♣ KQJx.

3♠ Forcing, shows values in the bid suit but not four cards, and confirms a long diamond suit.

Ex: ♠ KQx ♥ xx ♦ KQ10xxx ♣ Ax

3NT Although somewhat dangerous, this bid can be agreed to show a solid suit that requires the doubler to stop the opponent's suit. The key here is that advancer's 3♣ -- a **Rubinsohl** transfer to diamonds -- did not promise a stopper.

Ex: ♠ Kxx ♥ xx ♦ AKQ10xx ♣ Jx

Pass Promises the needed stopper in the opponent's suit.

Ex: ♠ AQJx ♥ Kx ♦ Jxx ♣ A10xx

4♦ Returning to advancer's suit is natural, denies a stopper, and is not forcing.

Ex: ♠ AQJx ♥ xx ♦ Jxx ♣ AQxx

4♠ Shows three cards in spades. Doubler may pass with good spades, or correct to 5♦.

4♣ Natural, and invitational with both minors. To force game, rebid 5♣.

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

3♠ Natural, forcing, likely with five or more spades in a better hand than what one would expect of a 2♠ overcall.

Ex: ♠ AQJ10x ♥ x ♦ AJx ♣ KQxx

3NT Shows a stopper in the opponent's heart suit and at least one high honour in diamonds, making it worth a try for game.

Ex: ♠ AKxx ♥ Kx ♦ Axx ♣ Q10xx

3♦ If the opponent's bid was 2♠, 3♦ is a *Rubinsohl* Transfer to hearts, to show four or more hearts with at least invitational values. No stopper is promised. The reason: if a 3♥ transfer into the opponent's spade suit is used as Stayman with no stopper, the wrong hand would become declarer when a 4-4 heart fit is found. This would make the opening lead come from the weak-two bidder through partner's strong hand. The following bids assume that the opponent's bid was a weak 2♠.

3♥ A minimum, not forcing, and, despite the takeout double of 2♠, promises no more than three hearts.

Ex: ♠ xx ♥ AQx ♦ KJxx ♣ KJxx

Pass Advancer confirms invitational values only.

Ex: ♠ xx ♥ KJxxx ♦ Qxxx ♣ Ax

3♠ An artificial bid that confirms game-forcing values but only four hearts.

Ex: ♠ xx ♥ KJ10x ♦ AQ10x ♣ Axx

4♥ To play on the known, possibly 4-3 fit in hearts.

3NT Natural, shows five hearts, offers a choice of 3NT or 4♥, but a stopper in the opponent's suit is not promised.

Ex: ♠ xx ♥ KJxxx ♦ AQx ♣ Axx

4♥ Shows six or more hearts.

3♠ An artificial bid that forces game, showing a hand that is too strong for a not-forcing 3♥. Doubler may have only three hearts without a stopper in the opponent's suit.

3NT Shows a stopper in the opponent's suit and a hand that was not strong enough to first bid 2NT *Lebensohl*, then cue bid 3♠ as game-forcing Stayman with a stopper.

Ex: ♠ QJx ♥ AQxx ♦ xx ♣ Q10xx.

3NT Too strong to just bid 3♥, showing at least one stopper in the opponent's suit and offering a choice of 3NT or 4♥ contracts. Doubler may hold a long minor that should produce many tricks in a no-trump contract.

Ex: ♠ Kxx ♥ Axx ♦ Kx ♣ AQJxx.

3♠/NT Doubler forces game.

4♣ A cue bid in support of hearts, and promising at least five hearts.

4♦ A retransfer to hearts, either to play, or followed with RKC Blackwood.

4♥ More than a minimum, with four hearts.

3♥ If the opponent's opening bid was 2♠, a *Rubinsohl* Transfer into the opponent's spade suit (1) is not Stayman -- see 3♦ transfer described above -- (2) denies a stopper, (3) denies four or more hearts, (4) suggests length in both minors distributed at least 5-4, and (5) offers a choice of games of 3NT or five or a minor.

Ex: ♠ xx ♥ x ♦ AQxxx ♣ KJ10xx.

3♠ Because 3♥ as a transfer to spades was not used, a bid of 3♠ cannot be natural. Instead, an immediate jump to 3♠ over any weak two bid, including an opponent's weak 2♠, is an artificial bid that (1) denies

four-card length in any unbid major, (2) denies a stopper in the opponent's suit, and (3) shows a long club suit with values too strong to use a *Lebensohl* 2NT transfer to 3♣ followed by raise to invite game. Essentially, 3♠ should show at least two of the top three club honours and asks which game contract partner considers best.

Ex: ♠ Kx ♥ KJx ♦ xx ♣ KQ10xxx.

In rare cases, advancer may continue on the next round with another bid to show a strong hand in search of slam. Note: Distributional club hands that contain a stopper in the opponent's suit but only game values should consider an immediate jump to 3NT, intending it "to play." Furthermore, if holding a stopper, game values, and at least five cards in an unbid major, advancer should assume that doubler has at least three cards and just jump to game in that major, thereby protecting the stopper from immediate attack by the opening lead.

3NT Doubler should have not only a high-honour fit for clubs but also must provide the stopper in the opponent's suit.

Ex over 2♦: ♠ AQ10x ♥ Qxxx ♦ Kx ♣ Axx.

4♣ Forcing, sets the trump suit, and asks for cue bids in search of slam. This is a strong bid because advancer did not use 2NT as a transfer to 3♣, then invite game with a raise.

Ex: ♠ Kx ♥ AKx ♦ x ♣ KQJ10xxx.

4Y Where Y is any suit but clubs, a cue bid that confirms long clubs that forces 5♣ and invites a slam. With a strong club hand containing a singleton or void, an option is to use 2NT *Lebensohl* followed by a splinter jump to the four level, which was previously described.

4♣ Denies a stopper and confirms a minimum.

Ex: ♠ AKxx ♥ Q10xx ♦ xx ♣ Axx.

Pass Too weak to raise to game.

Ex: ♠ xx ♥ Kx ♦ Jxx ♣ KQ10xxx

4Y A cue bid, forcing to 5♣.

4Y Where Y is any suit but clubs, a cue bid with club support, forcing to 5♣ and inviting slam.

4♣ Natural, and forcing. To invite, bid 2NT transferring to 3♣, then raise.

4♦ Natural and forcing after 2♥ and 2♠, but a Splinter after a weak 2♦ showing a singleton or void, five or more cards in both majors, and values either to play a major-suit game, or to continue with a cue bid or RKC Blackwood after doubler chooses a major suit. Game bids Natural, to play.

Finally, these treatments can also be extended to auctions where partner doubles an opening bid of one of a suit, and the right-hand opponent raises that suit to the two level. In this case, 2NT is still available and the described system of transfers can continue to be played.

An example: Partner doubles either 2♠, or 1♠ that RHO raises to 2♠. What should advancer do with the following two hands:

1. ♠ Qxx ♥ Qxxxxx ♦ xx ♣ xx, xx?

2. ♠ Qxx ♥ Qxxxxx ♦ xx ♣ Kx?

On hand one, advancer should consider bidding an artificial *Lebensohl* 2NT as a transfer to 3♣, then follow with a natural 3♥ to express a desire to compete in hearts but warning doubler that held values are not sufficient for an invitational bid. On hand two, which has an extra King, advancer should bid 3♦ as a *Rubinsohl* transfer to 3♥ to show a long heart suit, invitational or better values, but no assured stopper in the opponent's suit.

With a hand like ♠ Kx ♥ AK10x ♦ Q10x ♣ AJ10x, doubler would pass 3♥ in the first case (which would likely make only nine tricks despite the doubler's strong hand). In the second case, doubler would jump to the 4♥ game.

SUMMARY

Below is a summary of the **Zalinsohl** transfer sequences that place major-suit game contracts in advancer's hand to protect advancer's stoppers in the opponent's suit.

After a weak 2♦ is doubled and advancer transfers to 3♣:

A following 3♦ cue bid is Stayman to show a full stopper and length in only one major suit. Over Stayman:

Doubler rebids 3♥ or 3♠ as **Zalinsohl** transfer (in the style of Smolen) to show four cards in the other major.

Doubler rebids 4♦ as a **Zalinsohl** transfer to show length in both major suits.

A following 3NT is also Stayman to show not only a full stopper, but also length in both major suits.

Doubler's minor-suit rebids are **Zalinsohl** transfers, 4♣ transferring to 4♥, and 4♦ to 4♠.

After a weak 2♥ or 2♠ is doubled and advancer transfers to 3♣:

A following cue bid of the opponent's major suit or a rebid of 3NT are both Stayman, showing four cards in the other major suit. In these cases, the cue bid shows a half stopper while 3NT shows a full stopper. Over Stayman:

Doubler's 4♣ is a **Zalinsohl** transfer to 4♥ and 4♦ is a **Zalinsohl** transfer to 4♠. Any other bid below game would show extra values.

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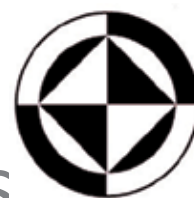
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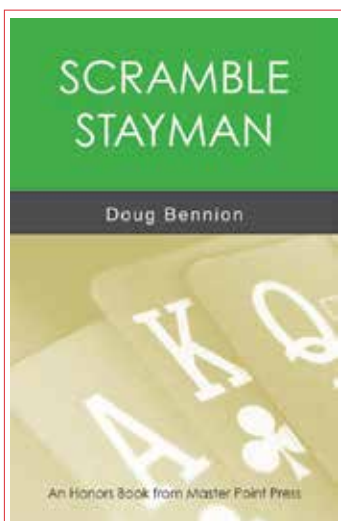
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All month – Club International Fund Games

COPC and CNTC club games begin – September through December

OCTOBER

Canada-Wide Olympiad Fund Game
6 October, Friday afternoon

Erin Berry Rookie Master Game
18 October

NOVEMBER

ACBL wide Charity Game
21 November evening

DECEMBER

ACBL wide International Fund Game #3
20 December evening

FEBRUARY 2018

CBF STaC - Sectional Tournament At Clubs
February 12-18, 2018



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- 2018 Canadian Bridge Championships | 26 May - 3 June | McGill University, Montreal QC
- 2018 17th World Youth Team Championships | 9-18 Aug | Wu Jiang, China
- 2018 CBF International Fund Regional | 4-9 Sept | St. Catharines, ON
- 2018 11th World Bridge Series | Sep 22-Oct 6 | Orlando, FL