

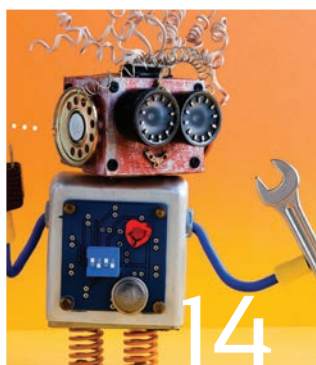
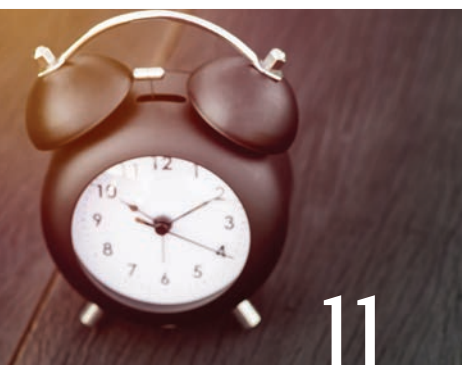
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | FEBRUARY 2018

♥ bridge *Canada*



THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Nader Hanna

We all recognize that the future of our game depends on attracting young players to our wonderful game. The CBF, through its Junior Program, plays a leading role in that effort in Canada. Some of what the CBF offers to encourage and attract young players include:

- Helping youth up to 19 years of age with expenses incurred to attend bridge tournaments.
- Mentoring and coaching programs for promising Canadian youth to further advance their bridge skills.
- Full financial subsidy for youth teams representing Canada at the bi-annual World Youth Team Championships (WYTC). Later this year the CBF will be sending 3 teams to Suzhou, China to compete in the 2018 WYTC.
- Free CBF membership for players up to 25 years of age
- Free entry fee for any junior team (players up to 25 years of age) competing in flight B or C of the Canadian National Team Championship.

You can help us with our efforts to promote bridge among youth by making a donation to the CBF Junior Fund. You can do so on the CBF website (www.cbf.ca) by clicking the "Donations to the Junior Fund" tab on the right hand side of the home page. Please note that such donations are not tax deductible.

Online Renewal

I am pleased to announce that you can now renew your CBF membership, at any time, on the CBF website. If you wish, you can still renew your CBF membership through the ACBL when you renew your ACBL membership. However, renewing your membership directly with the CBF eliminates currency conversion and can be done at any time, and well ahead of your renewal date.

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KAPLANISM 3 *(Quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan)*

(Editor's note: White vs red, Both Norths in the 1977 Spingold, holding ♠10 8 ♥Q ♦Q 10 8 6 5 ♣A 9 8 7 6, compete with the unusual notrump, and South insists on a heart contract.)

"In the crude old days, East-West would have been left alone to go down in some game contract, since North-South would have had no way to compete (...) Today, there is no such problem, for we have modern gadgets. In Room 1, the unusual notrump allowed North-South to steal the contract at three hearts doubled (...) down 700. In Room 2 (...) the unusual notrump reared its head again. Down 900 in four, 5 imps to Smith for stopping so cautiously at three."

"Chicago Spingold, II", TBW 11/77, p. 11



bridge *Canada*

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Meet ... FREDERIC POLLACK

CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPION & GRAND LIFE MASTER

Editor's note: *This regular BC column is intended to learn more about the players that make up the Canadian Bridge community.*

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

It was in December of 1985 and I was eleven. My parents were both avid bridge players and they could not find a babysitter so they brought me to the club. I kibitzed that night and soon I started playing regularly at the club. I became obsessed with the game and read every book I could find. I made life master at 16 a few years later. I was lucky to have played twice in the World Junior Championships for Canada (1995, 1997) and we finished 4th both times. In 1997, I took a break from serious competition to focus on my graduate studies in mathematics. For the next 18 years, I played a lot of bridge but almost exclusively with students trying to improve their game. Things changed in 2015 when Kamel Fergani asked me to partner him in the 2015 CNTC. We have done pretty well in the last couple of years. I consider myself lucky to partner such an outstanding player and who is also a nice guy.



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

The average player is now much better and competitive bidding has greatly improved. Aggressive preempts are now considered normal. Larry Cohen and Marty Bergen changed the game in the early 90's with the law of total of tricks.

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

The best bridge moment was winning the CNTC in 2016. The most important thing to me is that I played well in the

final, something I did not do in the 2015 final. The win also made me a Grand Life Master which was a lifelong goal of mine.

The most disappointing bridge moment was losing in the quarterfinals of the Spingold in 2017.

We really had a good shot to win and I let the victory slip away with some conservative bidding decisions.

What is your favourite bridge book?

Killing Defense by Hugh Kelsey and Dynamic Defense by Mike Lawrence. The Law of Total Tricks by Larry Cohen is in my opinion, a must read.

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

IMPs Contract: 6NT

Lead: ♣10

♠ AKQ7
♥ AKQ
♦ J103
♣ AK7

♠ J854
♥ J762
♦ Q952
♣ J

The Bidding

West	North	East	South
-	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT!	All Pass	

Plan the play. Answer on page 23.

Meet ... FREDERIC POLLACK

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

Reading is essential. I consider it the main way to improve. Even to this day, I read bridge everyday. Playing with better players is also essential. Newer players need a good foundation to avoid bad habits. Correcting bad habits is very difficult. The best strategy is to avoid them in the first place. When discussing hands, it's essential for newer players to view the advice in a positive way instead of getting defensive.

How does the level of the opposition influence your play?

I do play a lot in club games against weaker opposition. The goal here is to induce mistakes and to take advantage of the opponent's mistakes. At the top level, the game is entirely different. The goal here is to avoid mistakes and correct bidding decisions are paramount.

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Canada

16TH EUROPEAN Championships Cup

Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands
Dániel Gulyás, Budapest

(Editor's note: This is the first of several articles covering the above Championship.)

Twelve teams, comprising the top ten in the previous European Championship, the Cup-holders and the hosts, played a Round Robin to determine semifinalists for knockout play. Like last year, we had the luxury of being offered three matches on BBO in each round. That enabled me to report about the highlights of these three matches simultaneously. I'll do that for Round 1, where there were lots of high-level decisions. These three BBO matches were Rigainvites.lv versus Allfrey, Harplinge BK versus Zaleski and K1 versus Vytas RAL Poznan.

Round Robin 1 (Jacobs)

After three pushes or near-pushes ...

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Rigainvites.lv vs. Allfrey : Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Neimanis	Forrester	Rubenis
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Artificial, 22-24 balanced or game-forcing
2. Waiting

THE IBPA FILES

Fierce Latvian intervention, coupled with East's timidity, led to the slam being missed: Allfrey plus 710. If one assumes that a direct five-heart bid over three spades would ask partner to raise a level for each of the king and ace of hearts, then the later five hearts must show something like the hand West held. He could hardly be off an ace and a king, for example.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	Gold	Rubins	Bell
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	3♠
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Artificial, 22-23 balanced or game-forcing
2. Double negative

On a diamond lead from South, declarer called for dummy's ace and claimed his 12 tricks. Rigainvites plus 1430 and 12 IMPs to them.

In the Harplinge BK vs. Zaleski match, they had entirely different ideas about this Board:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zaleski	C.Rimstedt	Cronier	Eriksson
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	3♠
Pass	4♠	Double ³	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Game-forcing
2. Waiting
3. Discouraging

When Cronier opted for hearts, Zaleski thought his trump support was worth a polite raise. And when the diamond finesse worked, the French could write plus

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O.Rimstedt</i>	<i>Quantin</i>	<i>M.Rimstedt</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	3♠
Double ³	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT ⁴	Pass	5♦ ⁵	Pass
6♣ ⁶	Pass	6♦ ⁷	Pass
7♥	7♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. (a.) Weak with diamonds; (b.) 22+ balanced; (c.) Game force
2. Pass or correct
3. Option (b.) or (c.)
4. RKCB
5. 0 or 3 key cards
6. Asks for help in clubs
7. No help in clubs; something in diamonds (?)

It looked as if Ola Rimstedt was expecting something useful in diamonds. This may or may not have been the case, but J.-C. Quantin certainly believed it and that was all that mattered. The sacrifice cost only 1100, so the French gained 15 IMPs on the board.

In the K1 vs. Vitas RAL Poznan match, there was only a bit less excitement ...

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²	3♠
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. (a.) 12-14 balanced; (b.) 15+ with clubs; (c.) Any 18+
2. 0-7

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Damianova</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	3♠
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 23-24 balanced or any game-force
2. Waiting

A noble push at plus 1460.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Rigainvites.lv vs. Allfrey

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Neimanis</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Rubenis</i>
—	—	—	1♥
2♠	Pass	3♥	4♥
4♠	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This turned out not to be the right moment to sacrifice. Down two, Allfrey plus 200.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	Gold	Rubins	Bell
—	—	—	3NT1
Pass	4♣2	Pass	4♦3
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1. Good 4M opening
2. Bid the suit under your major
3. Hearts

The English had a nice tool available for the South hand, which easily led them to the right suit, albeit at a dangerous level. However, the Kantar Three Notrump bid had the advantage of completely concealing the North hand from the defence.

On the seven-of-diamonds lead to declarer's ace, the nine of spades to West's ace, and a trump return, the defence had to be very careful on the run of the hearts. Here was the end position with two trumps left to play:

♠ —
♥ —
♦ K 8
♣ Q J 9 8

♠ Q 10
♥ —
♦ J 9 5
♣ K

♠ K 7
♥ —
♦ Q 10
♣ A 10

♠ J 2
♥ 7 5
♦ 6
♣ 5

On the penultimate heart, West discarded the five of diamonds and East, not yet certain of North's distribution, pitched the ten of clubs. That was not yet fatal since the defence had two spades to cash if allowed to get in with the ace of clubs. On the last heart, both defenders threw their black kings. The defence was still in command. However, when declarer next led dummy's club, West let go the ten of spades. Thus, the defenders had only the ace of clubs and the queen of spades to take before leading a diamond to declarer's king; declarer also had the good queen of

clubs remaining. Plus 620 added to the plus 200 from the other table meant 13 IMPs to Allfrey.

Harplinge BK vs. Zaleski

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zaleski	C.Rimstedt	Cronier	Eriksson
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2♣	2♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Swedes did the right thing here when they elected to defend. Declarer ruffed the third round of hearts high and, when he continued with the ace of spades, he (unluckily) had to lose a trump trick as well, as well as the two tops in each red suit. Down two, Harplinge plus 500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
O.Rimstedt	Quantin	M.Rimstedt	Lorenzini
—	—	—	1♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led his king of clubs and shifted to a trump to end declarer's chances. One down, Harplinge another plus 100 and 12 IMPs to them.

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

K1 vs. Vytas RAL Poznan

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Karakolev	Russyan	Mihov
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
1♠	Double ²	2♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision, any 16+
2. 5-7

Mihov had a tough decision to make when four spades came back to him. The defence lost a trick, but one down still meant plus 100 to the Poles.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gierulski	Damianova	Skrzypczak
—	—	—	4♣ ¹
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Good 4♥ opening

When the defence led a spade to the ace and continued with another spade, rather than a trump, declarer could ruff and had his ten tricks; Poznan plus 620 and 12 IMPs to them.

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY SOLUTION

IMPs Contract: 6NT

Lead: ♣10

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

Win the club, cash the ♥AKQ and play the ♦J. The chances of not crashing the ♦AK are small, but there is a real possibility of stealing your contract on the above holding. West may withhold his ♦A for two rounds, trying to keep you out of your hand to cash the ♥J, playing you for either ♦K9xx, KQxx or KQxxx. The actual declarer this was successful as West ducked both the ♦J and ♦10 at trick four and five!

Remember, it is important that your body language does not betray the actual diamond holding!



Helping to *Speed Up* The Game

by Michael Abbey

This month I will discuss six items we can think about and consider employing at the table to help keep the game moving at the best pace.

The unofficial time to play each board is 7½ minutes. If we are able to keep to that timing, we should be able to play eight boards an hour. As we discover close to the start of our duplicate career, this limit is hard to meet for many reasons. Some items that sometimes consume precious time are beyond our control and some we can do something about. I am retired from a torrid career in high tech, where the theme the whole is the sum of its parts keep rearing its head. Nothing could be more true when playing duplicate bridge – part of a minute here and there during the play of a board can mount up when added together.

by Michael Abbey
THE NEW PLAYER
Spot

Consideration #1

Many clubs use Bridgemates and after each board, we tend to spend time looking at other results. Some of us like to discover where we placed compared to others who played the same board. North enters the results, presses OK, then one of East/West accepts. At many tables the next thing we hear is six hearts down two, three no made four, and more the later it is in the game. This all takes time.

Remedy

Do not worry about how well you did compared to other like pairs at the table. If we like to know that information, be aware of how the game is proceeding and if it may be wise to shorten the time required to look as the game wears on.

Consideration #2

Suppose, sitting East, we are in a two spade contract in the North. Before I make the opening lead, I put my cards down, fetch my convention card folder, make the entry 2SN beside the board number, then pick up and fan my cards. I then choose the card to lead and place it face down on the table. Time has been chewed up.

Remedy

Make the opening lead before going to your score card to mark down the details of the contract.

Consideration #3

On top of that, South is the dummy and marks down the contract on his card, then places the dummy on the table. Extra time is required. From time-to-time, the cards from the trump suit are placed in the wrong place, and need fixing. More time consumed.

Remedy

Lay dummy down before going to your score card to mark down the details of the contract.

Consideration #4

During the auction, anticipate what you may do based on what you and your opponents may (or may not) bid.

Remedy

Suppose I am sitting South with the following hand, and North is the dealer.

♠ K Q J 2

♥ 9 7 3

♦ A 9

♣ Q J 9 6

Before North even says anything, I run a responder checklist through my head, beginning to formulate a plan of what to say (or not to say) depending on what North says. That checklist includes questions such as

If opener bids one notrump

Do I have one or both 4-card majors and 8+ HCP to bid Stayman?

Do I have a 5-card major to initiate a transfer?

Do I have neither and will simply show my HCP in notrump?

If opener bids one of a major

What do I have in HCP so I can say something in support?

If playing 2/1, do I have opening HCP to be able to do a non-jump raise to the 2-level?

If opener bids one of a minor

Do I have 6+ HCP, meaning I need to say something?

Once I decide I have enough HCP, do I have a 4-card major to show?

Might I be better off supporting my partner's minor, after eliminating other options?

If opener says nothing, what are my options based on my hand? How might all this change if

My partner as well as my right-hand opponent pass

My partner says nothing and my right-hand opponent bids

There is a lot more going on than this, but it is a start for those readers not already doing something similar.

Consideration #5

Post-hand discussions often consume valuable time. We tend to do them if we can right after the hand, while the play is still fresh in our minds.

Remedy

Keep score, and devour the details of a board after the game is completed. As a board that you would like to discuss is played, mark your score card accordingly as a reminder that you would like to go over it later.

Consideration #6

We leave the table after finishing a set of boards before the Director calls the round.

Remedy

Ensure you stay within earshot of the bridge room to hear when the round is called. Going outside for a breath of fresh air, a smoke (or part thereof), or anything else that breaks contact with the bridge room can delay the start of the next round.

I am confident that most readers would have one or more ideas on speeding up the game. It is the absolute responsibility of the Director to keep the game moving. Theoretically we can play 24 boards in three hours (at 7½ minutes per board) but as soon as we take extra time, that erodes the room's ability to play the desired number of boards. I have gone through many techniques at the games I direct to keep on pace and, with the co-operation of the players at the tables, we can usually pull it off.

Visit Michael's website for beginners
at beginnerbridge.net



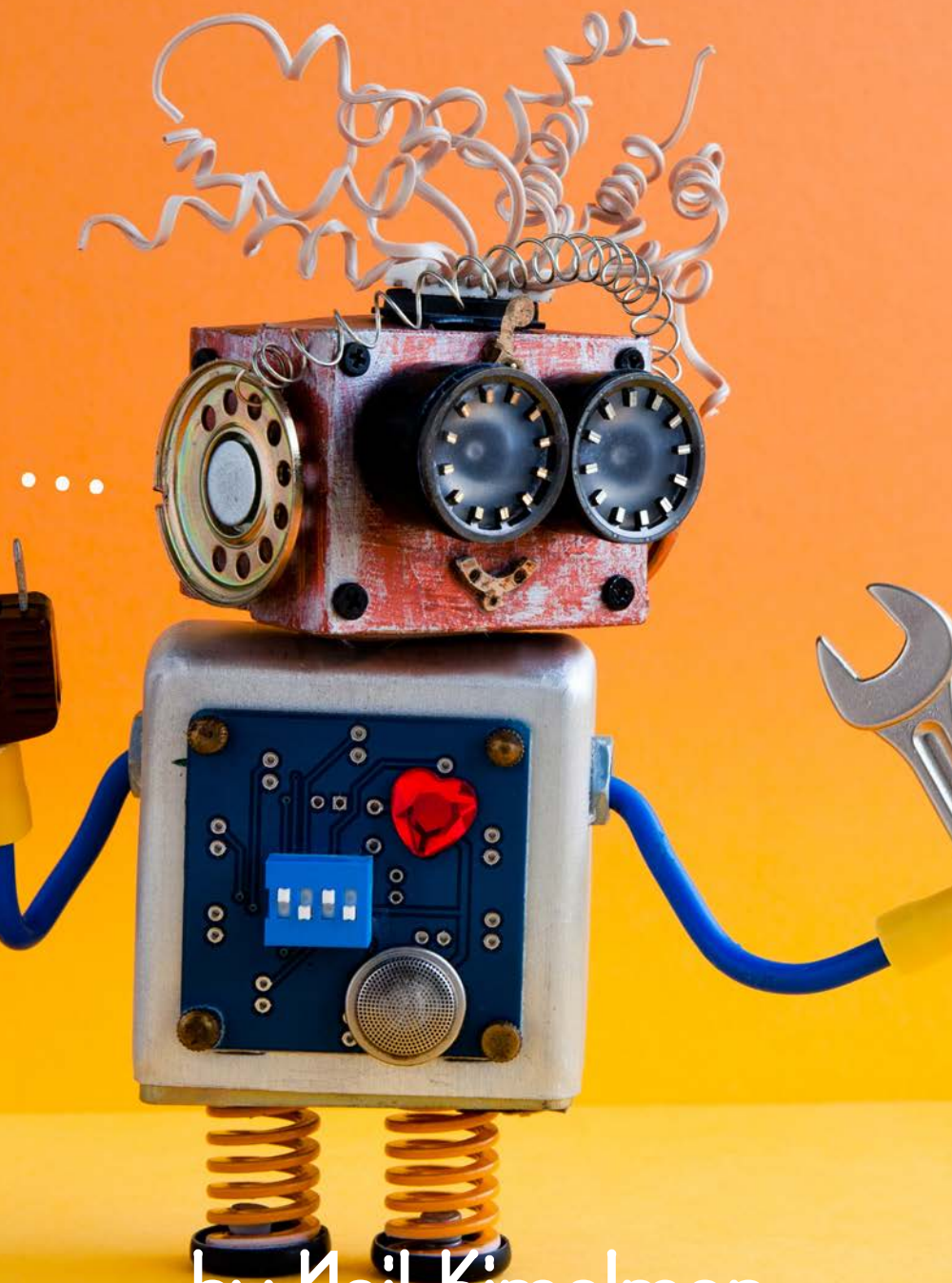
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THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES

DEFENSIVE PLAY 7

DEFENDING AGAINST
A SUIT CONTRACT

QUIZ TIME PART 2

By Neil Kimelman

To review, there are five general strategies to employ when defending against a suit contract:

- 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.

by Neil Kimelman
THE INTERMEDIATE
Spot

QUESTION 6

Neither Vul, matchpoints you hear this auction:

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

1. Short suit game try.

What do you lead? IMPs?

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

QUESTION 7

Neither Vul, matchpoints you hear this auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

What do you lead? IMPs?

- 7a) ♠ Q 10 9 3 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ Q 10 5 3 2 ♣ A
 7b) ♠ 2 ♥ A 10 4 3 ♦ Q J 8 3 ♣ 9 8 4 3
 7c) ♠ 9 7 2 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ J 4 3 2 ♣ 8 5 3

QUESTION 8

Defending against notrump contracts requires different thinking and considerations. Here is a taste of this subject. I will cover in more depth in the April Bridge Canada.

Neither Vul, matchpoints you hear this auction:

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

What do you lead from the following hands?

- 8a) ♠ 5 2 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ Q J 8 7 6 3
 8b) ♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 3 ♦ J 4 3 2 ♣ A 9 8 6 4
 8c) ♠ J 10 5 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 9 2 ♣ 10 9 8 7 5 3



ANSWER 6

Neither Vul, matchpoints you hear this auction:

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

Short suit game try.

What do you lead? IMPs?

6a) ♠ 5 2 ♥ A K 2 ♦ 9 4 3 2 ♣ 10 5 4 3.

I would try for a spade ruff, leading the five. Since South is short in clubs, there is a good chance he has three spades. The plan is to win the first heart, lead a second spade, win your second heart honour and hope partner has a quick entry. You are hoping for a layout like:

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

One of the keys in successfully implementing this type of strategy is the high card 'room' in partner's hand for an entry. Having only 7 HCPs, partner rates to have 5-9 HCPs. Had you a full opening bid, such as ♠ 5 2 ♥ A K 2 ♦ 9 4 3 2 ♣ K Q 4 3, this defensive strategy would fail.

6b) ♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 3 ♦ 10 9 3 2 ♣ A J 8 5 3

The best chance is that partner has four hearts and you can attack declarer's heart control, and perhaps promote a trump trick for partner. I would lead the club ace and hope for (next column):

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

At IMPs, where overtricks are not crucial, I would lead a small club, in case dummy has a club guess with ♣ KJ, or ♣ Kxx(x) and ducks, playing East for the ace.

6c) ♠ 10 9 8 2 ♥ A 10 3 ♦ 10 9 8 3 ♣ A 5

I would try and promote a 2nd trump trick by leading ace and another club. If partner gets in and can play a third club, declarer may lose an additional trump trick to my ♥ 10:

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

Declarer will usually ruff the 2nd club and play a heart to the King, and 2nd heart to the Queen and my ace. I will then lead a spade to partner's ace, who will return a 3rd club. This guarantees the 4th defensive trick with the ♥ 10.



ANSWER 7

Neither Vul, matchpoints you hear this auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

What do you lead? IMPs?

7a) ♠ Q 10 9 3 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ Q 10 5 3 2 ♣ A

Lead a diamond, hoping partner has a singleton.

This is more likely than spade shortness, as North has indicated no major, so likely has four plus diamonds, while South will normally have 2+ diamonds for his 4NT bid.

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

7b) ♠ 2 ♥ A 10 4 3 ♦ Q J 8 3 ♣ 9 8 4 3

It looks like the ♥ A isn't going anywhere. A diamond is possible, but dangerous, especially at teams. A spade lead is silly, as you can't get a ruff and will just pick up any spade guess for declarer. I would lead a club, not giving anything away, and make declarer do all the heavy lifting.

7c) ♠ 9 7 2 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ J 4 3 2 ♣ 8 5 3

I would chance the ♥ K. At IMPs it is closer, but would still lead the heart honour.

ANSWER 8

Neither Vul, matchpoints you hear this auction:

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

What do you lead?

8a) ♠ 5 2 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ Q J 8 7 6 3.

Partner rates to have four spades, as you assume they have no eight card spade fit. With his heart suit, there is little room for 3+ clubs. I would lead partner's suit.

8b) ♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 3 ♦ J 4 3 2 ♣ A 9 8 6 4

Here a club sticks out. With only one heart, and a good five card club suit headed by the ace. Plus you have one likely entry, and one not so likely entry.

8c) ♠ K J 5 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 9 2 ♣ 10 9 8 7 5 3.

Here partner does not have spade length (compare to 8a), thus more room for clubs. I would lead one. Not infrequently, there is no club stopper:

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



WHAT WENT WRONG

By Paul Thurston

Let's kick off our 2018 series of WWW with three opening lead problems for your solving pleasure.

1. Dealer: North Vul: East-West

As West, you hold:
♠8 7 5 3 ♥K Q J 9 5 ♦9 ♣10 9 2
and watch the auction unfold with only modest input from your side:

West	North	East	South
-	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Dbl	3NT
All Pass			

- 2♦ is a weak two-bid showing, of all things, diamonds
- 2NT was an artificial forcing response asking for more description
- 3♠ showed a high-card feature in spades as well as a maximum
- Double: well, he's your partner, but I can tell you it asked for a spade lead.
- 3NT: the usual final contract

And your choice?

by Paul Thurston
THE EXPERT
Spot

2. Dealer: North Vul: N-S

Back in the West seat with: ♠A 9 ♥Q 7 5 ♦K J 10 5 ♣K 9 7 3, and the auction has a bit of Modern Science:

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

- 2♦ was 3-card Drury, an artificial passed-hand response showing
- 3-card trump support and 9-11 HCP.
- 4♥ not wanting to divulge any more about his hand other than that he thinks he has enough for game and not enough for slam, South goes straight to game to leave the fate of the contract in your hands – sort of!

DEAL NO. 1

Deal # 1 came up during an online IMP pairs session and offered the opening leader a dilemma of sorts: keep partner happy and lead a spade or take notice that the computer had favoured you with a reasonably long and strong heart suit and kick off with the top card of the strong sequence.

Here's the whole layout and the (semi-sad) tale of what happened to a charter member of the Keep-Partner-Happy-Brigade:

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

HOW THE PLAY WENT:

West's opening lead of the ♠8 was ducked to the Jack for East to huddle a bit before shifting to a low club.

Whoops! South won the club King and rattled off six diamond winners (pitching two small hearts and a spade from hand) before coming off dummy with a second round of clubs. That left South with an easy ten tricks, a significant advance on the maximum of eight he might have had to make do with in a variety of alternate scenarios.

What Went Wrong?

It's hard to fault West too much for leading the suit his partner asked him to lead although the King of hearts must have seemed very attractive – would you have been able to resist temptation? Please note that had West started with the King of hearts, it would have taken a misdefense of monumental proportion to let three notrump make as winning the heart ace too soon would likely hold South to seven tricks while ducking the first two rounds would at least require West to give up on hearts and switch to the spade suit his partner had been so eager to have led in the first place. Yes, back to that partner who got the spade lead he asked for and then managed to foul things up thereafter – don't you just hate it when that happens?

Given that East was effectively forced into finding a shift at trick two, could we expect him to put his Golden Arm on a heart instead of the fatal club? Two very real considerations: As East does have a club stopper, there would seem to be more "room" for a heart stopper than another club honour with his partner although it's not conclusive. BUT, do you suppose that West, knowing from North's bid and East's double, realizes he will never be played for a spade honour by his partner, might well have led a suit-preference eight of spades? That would be the EXPERT WAY!

DEAL NO.2

Our second opening lead challenge comes from the 1995 Rosenblum World Championship Teams and will vividly illustrate that even World Class experts can put their fingers on some truly awful leads at times. Before revealing the full layout, I can tell you that neither

declarer did anything particularly wrong or particularly brilliant but one made an overtrick in 4♥ and one went down a trick! Here's the deal in full:

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

TABLE ONE: West reasoning that he couldn't expect much from partner but hoping for a stray Queen or two (or maybe a diamond layout where his lead wouldn't cost a material trick) chose the aggressive but perfectly reasonable opening lead of the Jack of diamonds. To immediately give declarer a very large headache. Yes, he could finesse at trick one and if East produced the King, break even in the minors as he'd have the diamond ace available to pitch his losing club.

But there was a downside to taking and losing a diamond finesse: a spade switch might be forthcoming to give the defenders two fast tricks in that suit plus a possible third-round ruff.

There's a lot of if's and maybe's in what might happen if the diamond Queen lost to the King but South decided a better course of action would be to win the diamond ace, hopefully resolve the trump situation in his side's favour by cashing the tops and praying for rain. To leave solving spades for a maximum of two losers a problem for later. As you can see, that didn't work out in the offense's favour at all as declarer eventually lost two spades, the club trick and, nasty split, the Queen of trumps. Do you think he bid too much? With game bonuses ever so valuable at IMP scoring and the very attractive 6-4 shape in the majors, it seems virtually automatic to bid the game and hope for the best, figuring that the other team's South will also be in four hearts and will also have a struggle.

Well, yes and no as the other South was indeed in four hearts but he made an overtrick!

What Went Wrong?

Trick one decided everything after the opening lead was the ace of spades followed by a spade continuation! South was charmed to find that the two-loser spade layout had just been reduced to one and he wasn't even chagrined to discover the trump loser after cashing the ace and King. And with no worries of any kind about making his contract, South could take the diamond finesse for "free" and dump his hand's club loser when the King turned out to be with West. Ah, yes that opening lead! It was truly shocking to find a World Class competitor who would lead an unsupported ace in such a situation, a lead that would find a lot of favour with club-level players who really, really like to take tricks. If the leader was seeking a possible ruff, why? He has a very likely trump trick in any case and if he was simply trying to cash spade tricks for his side, where were they going, given his strong minor suit holdings? WHAT WENT WRONG with this deal was a poor opening lead choice got what it deserved – a double digit IMP swing!

For a final test for West, we'll see how he made a decent lead as part of a well-reasoned defensive plan but fell at

the last hurdle (see next page).

DEAL NO.3

Dealer: West Vul: None

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♥	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

THE BIDDING: a fairly routine tournament auction as North used a Michaels Cuebid (spades plus an unspecified minor) to introduce his two-suiter, East showed support and South, spade fit and some values, closed the auction's active phase.

West decided a possible diamond ruff to go with his

CBF Canada-Wide STaC

Feb 12-18, 2018

The CBF Canada-Wide STaC is played in clubs all across the country. Talk to your local bridge club to find out what their schedule of games will be in this year's STaC.

STaC is an abbreviation for a special kind of sectional tournament known as Sectional Tournament at Clubs. It offers sectional rating and is played in a number of clubs in a specific area over a period of several days. The

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Results of all games are sent to the director-in-charge of the event. Section results are determined by comparing the results of play at individual clubs. Overall pair game awards are determined by comparing the results of all games conducted at a particular session just as if all of the games were played at one site.

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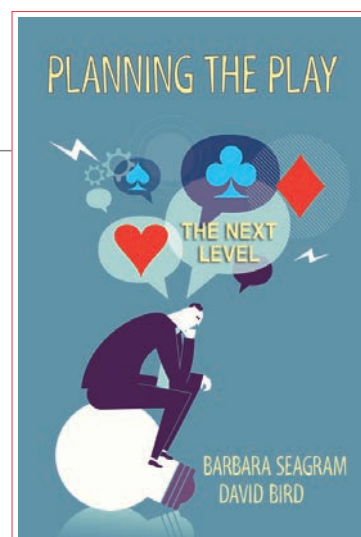
Bill Treble

Slam bidding is perhaps the most exciting part of bridge, but at the same time it is the most technically challenging. The rewards for success are high, but so are the penalties for failure. As a launching pad, the author introduces some useful agreements and conventions. After that, he addresses how to decide whether to try for slam, and how to investigate via cuebidding. More direct and advanced techniques, competitive auctions and a final quiz make up the remainder of the book.

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Barbara Seagram and David Bird

Seagram and Bird's *Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand* was named Book of the Year in 2010 by the American Bridge Teachers' Association. It introduced the basic concepts of how to go about making a plan as declarer for beginning and improving players, and is a popular text for bridge teachers. This sequel extends the plan to more complex situations, and covers ideas such as safety plays, avoidance play, trump control, dummy reversal, and endplays.



Playing 2/1: The Rest of the Story

Paul Thurston

Paul Thurston's *25 Steps to Learning 2/1* was an instant bestseller, winning the 2003 American Bridge Teachers' Association Book of the Year award. In a tantalizing postscript to that book, he promised a sequel, one that would cover 'the rest of the story' for those who wanted to add modern sophistication to their 2/1 bidding. Here at last he delivers, and the long wait has been worth it. The book describes an understandable and playable version of today's most popular system.

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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

FEBRUARY

12-18 Feb CBF STaC

MARCH

11 Mar Registration Deadline CBC team events
8-18 Mar NABC Philadelphia

APRIL

17 Apr Helen Shields Rookie Master Game

MAY

26 May -3 June Canadian Bridge Championships

JUNE

1&2 June Worldwide Bridge Contest
13 June Canada Wide Olympiad Game #1
Afternoon
17-24 June Day of Bridge Benefitting Alzheimers
Days selected by specific clubs

JULY

9 July ACBL wide Instant Matchpoint Game
25 July – 5 Aug NABC Atlanta

AUGUST

8 -18 Aug World Youth Teams Championships,
China

SEPTEMBER

4-9 Sept. CBF International Fund Regional
St. Catharines
21 Sep - 6 Oct World Bridge Series
Orlando Florida



IMPORTANT DATES

26 May - 3 June	Canadian Bridge Championships , McGill University, Montreal QC
4-9 Sept	CBF International Fund Regional, St. Catharines, ON
Aug 9-18	17th World Youth Team Championships Wu Jiang, China www.worldbridge.org
Sep 22-Oct 6	11th World Bridge Series Orlando, FL www.worldbridge.org
Oct 25-28	9th World University Championships Xuxhou, China www.worldbridge.org