

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | APRIL 2018



bridge *Canada*

SPRING IN CANADA

A beautiful thing



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.



Spring IN THIS ISSUE

- 03. Editors Message
- 03. Test Your Deceptive Play
- 04. President's Message
- 06. Meet Marc Lachapelle
- 08. IBPA Files - Part 2
- 11. Dealing with Losses at the Bridge Table
by Katie Coopersmith
- 12. The New Player Spot - Transfers
by Michael Abbey
- 15. The Intermediate Spot - Defense
by Neil Kimelman
- 18. The Expert Spot - What Went Wrong
by Paul Thurston
- 23. Test Your Deceptive Play - Solution
- 21. Upcoming Events

MEMBERSHIP

Bridge Canada is available to members only.

If you know of anyone who wishes to become a member of the Canadian Bridge Federation please share with them these options:

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.

Stay **CONNECTED**



[Canadian.Bridge.Federation](https://www.Canadian.Bridge.Federation)



ina@cbf.ca (CBF Executive Director)



1 416 706 8550



www.cbf.ca



Editor's Message

NEIL KIMELMAN

It's that time again: I am looking for any feedback and/or contributions to future Bridge Canada issues. I would be more than willing to discuss, in person, any ideas during the Canadian Bridge Championships, being held in Montreal, May 28 – June 3, 2018.

Neil Kimelman
Managing Editor, Bridge Canada

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Contract: 2NT

♠ K Q 8 6 4

♥ J 6

♦ 9 7 2

♣ 6 3 2

♠ J 10 9 7

♥ A 5 2

♦ A Q 3

♣ A 10 5

The Bidding

West	North	East	South
-	-	1 ♠	1NT
2♣	2NT	All Pass	

Lead: ♦6 (4th best). West plays the ♦J, and you win the ♦Q.

Plan the play. Answer on page 20.

KAPLANISM 4 *(Quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan)*

(Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan, one of the game's greatest: He was a bridge writer, teacher, administrator, commentator, coach, journalist, player and lawmaker.)

'...And there was Forquet's incredible auction on Deal 58. He held ♠8 6 ♥Q J 4 ♦A J 10 7 ♣J 10 9 4. With both sides vulnerable, Siniscalco opened with one spade. Forquet responded one notrump. Siniscalco rebid two spades. Forquet rebid two notrump. Opener ran to three spades, and, so help me, Forquet persisted with three notrump, and went for 500. I know a few players who bid like that, but they are all either occasional club players or dentists, not World Champions.'

"1958 World Championship", TBW 1958, as reprinted (abridged) in TBW 1.1998, p. 22



Message from the President

by Nader Hanna

As usual when the Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC) are in Montreal we can expect a great tournament. Not only is Montreal a beautiful city but we also look forward to the usual great hospitality the Montreal organizers are known for, and to the many wonderful places to eat close to the playing venue (McGill University New Residence Hall).

During the championships we'll celebrate the induction of two great Canadian players, Sharyn Reus and Kamel Fergani, to the CBF Hall of Fame. Sharyn is a 10 time winner of the Canadian Women Teams Championship (CWTC). Between 1972 and 2011 she represented Canada 16 times in world women teams championships, winning three bronze medals. Kamel is a winner of two NABC titles and six Canadian Open Team Championships. He was a member of the Canadian Open team which finished 5th at the 2016 World Bridge Games, best finish by a Canadian Open team at the World Championship in over 20 years.

When the CBC is held in Montreal attendance is always high. This year is no different with 54 teams pre-registered to participate in the three Open Championship flights (CNTC A, B and C), as well as the Seniors Championship. In addition, a full schedule of regional events will take place alongside the national championships.

Sadly, this year's CWTC was cancelled as only 4 teams pre-registered to compete in the event, which did not meet the 6 team minimum requirement to hold any of the Canadian team championships.

Despite the fact that many women compete in the Open and Senior Championships, the CWTC has experienced a steady decline in participation since 2008. An average of fewer than 5 teams competed in each of the last 5 CWTCs. However, this situation is not unique to Canada. Participation in the corresponding event in the US has averaged only 7 teams since 2008, and the ACBL has cancelled several women team events at the NABCs due to declining participation.

We hope that Canadian women players will support the CWTC by participating in greater numbers in future years.



bridge *Canada*

APRIL 2018 • VOL. 48 NO.2

BRIDGE CANADA MANAGING EDITOR

Neil Kimelman

editor@cbf.ca

BRIDGE CANADA FRENCH EDITOR

Francine Cimon

wirek@videotron.ca

PRODUCTION EDITOR

Jude Goodwin

jude@cbf.ca

CBF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Ina Demme

ina@cbf.ca

1 Pietro Dr. Maple, ON L6A 3J4

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE MANAGER

Cathy Walsh

accounting@cbf.ca

WEB ADMINISTRATION

Louise Mascolo

webmaster@cbf.ca

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

www.cbf.ca

CBF HOTLINE

416 706 8550

FAX: 905 832 7184

CBF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Gim Ong

32 Sandusky Drive

Winnipeg, MB R3T 5W4

204-775-5114

charity@cbf.ca

MAGAZINE AD RATES

Full page \$ 500 | Half page \$ 300

Quarter page \$ 175 | Business Card \$ 100

10% DISCOUNT if 3 issues paid in advance.

PUBLISHED 6 TIMES A YEAR

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Zone I & CBF Vice President

Kathie Macnab

zone1@cbf.ca

5 Wren Street

Halifax, NS B3M 2R1

902-443-4676

Zone II

Marc LaChapelle

zone2@cbf.ca

4005 ch du Bois-Franc

St.Laurent, QC H4S 1A8

438-391-6105

Zone III & CBF President

Nader Hanna

zone3@cbf.ca

53 York Road

Toronto, ON M2L 1H7

416-756-9065

Zone IV

Neil Kimelman

zone4@cbf.ca

110 260 Fairhaven Road

Winnipeg, MB R3P 1C9

204-487-2390

Zone V

Jerry Mamer

zone5@cbf.ca

151 Nordstrom Road

Saskatoon, SK S7K 6P9

306-668-3951

Zone VI

Angela Fenton

zone6@cbf.ca

601-1395 Beach Ave.

Vancouver, BC V6E 1V7

778-386-4343

Meet ...

MARC LACHAPELLE

CANADIAN BRIDGE PLAYER & ZONE 2 DIRECTOR

After a near 15 year break, Marc came back to the game in 2002, playing with François Boucher mostly up until 3 years ago, now very successfully teaming up with Xavier Combey and Pascale Gaudreault in competition. Holding some 8,000 masterpoints and multiple dozens of Regional wins in pairs and team events, Marc strongly believes in a very aggressive bidding style along with a finely tweaked system that he developed and refined over the last 35 years.



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

Working a full time job at Air France and attending University of Montreal HEC, one of my passion was then chess, up until a young colleague and friend of mine, Gregory Garinther, asked me to play one evening in a very large bridge duplicate at Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci, my bridge experience then simply being nonexistent... 'An ace is 4 points' and such he told me. 'Bid your longest suit if you have more than 12...' Our very first auction: 1 diamond by me, 1 spade by him, pass, pass, pass... He was holding some 20 high, just not having told me what to do after...

I played with him for a year and a half or so, and then with Daniel Doston, with whom I had a short but extremely successful two years partnership. We were

then already renowned as a very strong pair on the National scene, despite the fact that I was 'so new to the game' as Eric Kokish once wrote about me in one of his articles. I had almost no experience, but I quickly picked up on the vulnerability nuances and acted accordingly, just as then prescribed by the all-time matchpoints legend, Barry Crane.

During this period, and having been given the chance to start playing with very good players, I wanted

to reciprocate and offered a young kid who was looking as having some potential to coach him twice a week before the 'Mon club' duplicate sessions. My efforts certainly were not wasted, as Nicolas L'Écuyer now sits at the very front row of the Canadian bridge scene.

Family and work promotions, accompanied by multiple 'out of country' lengthy trips, had me stop playing the game in 1987. Now being happily retired since December 2016, I just can't play enough.

Meet ... MARC LACHAPELLE

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

Smoke and MUCH larger attendances. Most unfortunately, we now see almost no youngsters playing the game in clubs and the future of our game looks grim. Having very recently been appointed as leader of the CBF 'Zone 2', I wish to be able reverse the trend with the much needed help of local bridge leagues and clubs of my region.

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

Having won 3 events in a row with 3 different partners (Xavier Combey, Jeff Blond and Pascale Gaudreault) across the table at the last CBF Regional held in Montreal in 2016. A fourth for the 'grand slam' was in reach with Pascale right up until the last round of the Sunday Swiss, closely losing our last match to finish... second.

What about life away from the bridge table?

As I've said earlier, I retired in 2016 after a successful career in the airline industry, as my absolute priority was to be able to enjoy life 'full time' while I was still able to do so... Beside bridge, I am an accomplished golfer, skier, guitar and harmonica player, singer, billiards player, photographer... I also love cooking for Lise, my lovely wife, as well as for my family and friends. Discovering the world through our multiple trips is also a passion that I am so happy to be able to share with her.

What is your favourite bridge book?

'Bridge Squeezes Complete' by Clyde E. Love, very closely followed by 'The Complete Book on Hand Evaluation' by Mike Lawrence.

Cats or dogs?

Cats, definitely. Despite my allergies and asthma problems, I just can't stay away from Microbe, our magnificent yellow striped Cornish Rex.

Red or white?

Your choice is mine, as long as it's good wine!

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

Read and while being at the bridge table, take your time! Most new players that I see just play too fast, ending up with bad results because stupid mistakes or incomplete analysis.

Can you share any amusing stories with us?

Playing in a Regional Swiss some years ago, I ended up in 5 spades doubled, having sacked against a 5 heart contract that was going down one trick due to the J1098 of hearts tabled by my partner facing my void... Holding AJ982 of diamonds opposite a singleton 10, I had serious reasons to believe that my left hand opponent was holding 5 of them headed by the KQ. In dire need to establish 3 other tricks in the suit (beside my ace) in order to be able to pitch 3 small clubs from the board (facing 3 small ones in my hand), I lead the deuce of diamond towards the singleton 10. LHO smoothly ducked and just fell off his chair when the 10 held the trick... After taking some ruffing finesses, trumps not being a problem, I ended up making 12 tricks instead of 10... The look on both opponents' face was simply worth a million.



greatbridgelinks.com

WITH NEW EXPANDED
MAGAZINE SECTION

Links • News • Tournaments

16TH EUROPEAN Championships Cup

Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands
Dániel Gulyás, Budapest

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

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Rigainvites.lv vs. Allfrey

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Neimanis	Forrester	Rubenis
Pass	1♦	1♥	4♦
4♥	5♦	5♥	Pass
Pass	6♦	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North/South decided to bid one more and thus conceded one down for plus 100 to Allfrey. This is what happened at the other table:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	Gold	Rubins	Bell
Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On the lucky spade layout, declarer could not go down. Riga plus 590 and 10 IMPs. The penultimate board of the set was a slam but not in all denominations.

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Harplinge BK vs. Zaleski

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zaleski	C.Rimstedt	Cronier	Eriksson
Pass	1♣	1♥	Double
4♥	4NT	5♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With five diamonds a make, the French did well to bid on to five hearts, one down; Harplinge plus 100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
O.Rimstedt	Quantin	M.Rimstedt	Lorenzini
Pass	1♣	1♥	Double
4♥	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

A similar start to the auction at the other table but, here, five diamonds was left undisturbed by East/West.; the French registered plus 400 for an 8-IMP gain.

K1 vs. Vytas RAL Poznan

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Karakolev	Russyan	Mihov
2♦ ¹	3♣	3♥ ²	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Double	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1.	Multi		
2.	Pass or correct		

Russyan produced an extraordinary auction, first bidding only three hearts, then, perhaps nonplussed by Kowalski's non-correction, passing four diamonds and, finally, emerging with five hearts. Everyone looked at that very suspiciously, but passed. East went one off for minus 50.

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gierulski	Damianova	Skrzypczak
2♦ ¹	3♣	4♦ ²	Pass
4♥	4NT	5♥	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1.	Multi		
2.	Bid your suit		

Gierulski ruffed the heart opening lead and led the king of clubs. West won with the ace and played a spade to East's ace. East led another spade, won by North, who crossed to dummy with a diamond to take a club finesse; two down, minus 100 and 4 IMPs to K1.

Insisting on solid diamonds proved not always the right thing to do on the penultimate board of the match ...

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Rigainvites.lv vs. Allfrey

Open Room

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

When North led the ace of clubs, declarer's problems were over, as one black loser could go on a top heart; Allfrey plus 600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	Gold	Rubins	Bell
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Double	Pass	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Gold found a great lead, the two of hearts. Knowing that the ace of clubs was offside, Lorencs finessed the jack of hearts for two pitches but, when South could ruff the third round of the suit, declarer had to concede down two for an additional plus 200 and 13 IMPs to Allfrey.

Harplinge BK vs. Zaleski

Open Room

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

Eriksson led the two of clubs. Declarer ducked to North's queen. When she tried to cash the ace of clubs, declarer ruffed, played the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, cashed the ace of spades and took heart discards on the king of clubs and ace of diamonds. He ruffed a diamond and surrendered the king of spades for plus 650.



THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O.Rimstedt</i>	<i>Quantin</i>	<i>M.Rimstedt</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Double	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT ¹	Pass	5♣ ²	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
1.	RKCB		
2.	1 or 4 key cards		

When South led a heart, declarer was able to win, ruff a heart and take two pitches on the diamonds for plus 680 and 1 IMP to Sweden.

K1 vs. Vytas RAL Poznan

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Russsyan</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Kowalski also got a heart lead. He too finessed the jack but, rather than trying to discard two losers, he just cashed one more top heart, ran the queen of spades and tried a club to the king, not having had the benefit of North telling him the ace was offside. When this lost to North's ace, the contract was one down, K1 plus 100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Damyanova</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>
—	2♥ ¹	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT ²	Pass	5♣ ³	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
1.	5+♥ and (4)5+ either minor, 5-10 HCP		
2.	RKCB		
3.	1 or 4 key cards		

The Bulgarians managed to reach a better spot, which made with an overtrick on a heart lead. Plus 680 and 13 IMPs to K1.

The final results of the three matches were:

Allfre	36	–	Rigainvites.lv	25
Zaleski	24	–	Harplinge BK	13
K1	24	–	Vytas RAL Poznan	14



THE CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS INCLUDE BOTH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL EVENTS

CBF membership not required for Regional Events. Find out more & follow the action on our website www.cbf.ca

Dealing with Losses at the Bridge Table

by Katie Coopersmith

For some of us, losing at bridge is no big deal – you're a beginner, or you're not so competitive, and a loss here and there is to be expected. You dust your ego off and move on.



However, for others among us in the card-playing crowd, losing is a big deal – and it hurts. Particularly for those who play at a high level, or who feel like they have a lot to lose, not coming out on top can kind of feel a bit like the end of the world. You might experience symptoms like rage, grumpiness, snappiness towards your partner and/or opponents, and perhaps even an intense desire to give up the game. What's more, bridge may be particularly fraught with loss anxiety because of its inherent partner element: letting down partner (or team) is upsetting, and so is being let down.

Losing may be especially difficult when you're not used to it. Studies have shown that 'high-status' players who lose to 'low-status' players tend to behave less generously after the game. This can be seen at most bridge tournaments: we're all familiar with the person who sulks following an unexpected loss, or who refuses to join the rest of the group at the bar because they're too emotionally sore.

There's also a biological reason why we tend to feel low after a loss. Our bodies respond differently on a hormonal level after winning and losing, respectively: both men and women have higher levels of circulating testosterone after attaining 'high status' through winning, and testosterone tends to drop along with social status after a loss. Of course, we're speaking on caveperson terms here: odds are, your fellow bridge players aren't actually going to see you as 'lower status' after you lose a game, but you might consciously or unconsciously feel less-than, and that's enough to set

off this physiological response. But the truth is that not one of us can win 100% of the time, so losing is something that we likely can and should all learn to deal with. Luckily, researchers have also uncovered a few potential coping tips and tricks:

Gain Experience. In poker, there's a term called "tilting". It's used to refer to "detrimental decision-making as a result of losing control due to negative emotions," and anyone who's ever played bridge at a competitive level knows that this phenomenon isn't just limited to poker. However, studies have shown that having more experience playing the game can improve our emotion regulation capabilities and reduce tilting. This makes sense, if you think about it: the more games you play, the more you might be able to understand that losing – while painful – isn't the end of the world.

Distract Yourself At First. Do you spend the hours (or days, or even weeks) after a big loss replaying what went wrong over and over in your head? Well, cut it out! It's easier said than done, of course, but try to spend the night after your loss doing something totally unrelated to bridge – hanging out with your family or non-bridge-playing friends, for example.

Then, Study Up! Once you've given the burn some time to cool off and heal, meet up with partner (or take some time on your own) to think logically and clear-headedly about what, in your view, went wrong during the game. Next, create a plan of study and/or attack designed to address those specific weaknesses. You'll be back better than ever before you know it!



by Michael Abbey
THE NEW PLAYER
Spot

JACOBY TRANSFERS

by Michael Abbey

Last year, we spent two successive issues looking at Stayman. This issue we will look at the second of the earliest conventions the new player studies and uses.

This is commonly called Jacoby Transfers but as one gets more experience at the table, it is shortened to Transfers. This is to avoid confusion with another convention that is part of Standard American Yellow card. That convention is called Jacoby 2NT. Let's get started.

Right from day one, most players favour majors, then notrump, then minors. Transfers are designed to help find a fit in a major after the opener bids one notrump. Without transfers, the following can happen after a one notrump opening:

NEW PLAYER SPOT: Michael Abbey ... continued

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

The bidding may go as follows:

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

We end up in three notrump. Notice the major holding between North and South. Between the two, they have seven spades and eight hearts. Wouldn't it be nice if they could have played game in hearts and made +620 rather than +600, the score for making game in notrump. Let's look at the requirements to do a transfer instead:

- 5-card major
- Any number of HCP. Yes! you read that correctly. Transfers are done even with 0 HCPs.

Here is how the first two bids by the partnership play out, assuming the opponents pass:

Opener bids 1NT, showing 15-17 HCP and a balanced hand.

Responder says "15-17" out loud.

Responder has

5♥, he bids 2♦ (one rung lower on the ladder than the long suit).

5♠ he bids 2♥ (one rung lower on the ladder than the long suit).

Opener says "Transfer" out loud

Opener accepts the transfer by

- Bidding 2♥ if responder bid 2♦
- Bid 2♠ if responder bid 2♥

The following discusses what the responder does for his second bid, and how the opener then sets the contract:

Responder's second bid with a five card major and a balanced hand:

- With 0-7 HCP – Pass
- With 8-9 HCP – 2NT
- With 10-15 HCP – 3NT

Opener's third bid with only two cards in responder's major:

When responder bid 2NT

- With 15-16 HCP – Pass
- With 17 HCP – 3NT

You might wonder what responder does with 16+ HCP? For the theory of doing a transfer in this issue, we uncomplicated the material by the responder having 0-15 HCP. What is done when he has 16+ is for a more advanced discussion.

Let's look at a few hands:

1. North

♠ A Q 8
♥ 9 7
♦ A K 2
♣ K J 8 3

South

♠ 10 8
♥ K 10 8 6 4
♦ Q 8 4 2
♣ 9 7

2. North

♠ J 10 9 6 2
♥ A K
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ K Q

South

♠ Q 7
♥ K 9 8 4 3
♦ A 9
♣ 9 8 6 3

NEW PLAYER SPOT: Michael Abbey ... continued

3. North

♠ 6 5
♥ A K J 6
♦ 10 8 7
♣ A K Q 4

South

♠ K Q 8 6 3
♥ 10 5 4
♦ A J
♣ J 9 3

4. North

♠ A 2
♥ K 5 2
♦ K J 10 9 3
♣ A 9 3

South

♠ K J 8 5 2
♥ A 9
♦ A 9 8 7
♣ Q 5

Let's look at the bidding:

1. North (17 HCP) South (5 HCP)
1NT
2♥
Pass

2. North (16 HCP) South (9 HCP)
1NT
2♥
Pass *

* They do have 25 HCP, enough for game. South is promising 8-9 HCP, but North can only assume 8. Since $16+8 = 24$, North is best to pass. As our experience increases, with some 24 HCP counts, North may go to game in notrump.

3. North (17 HCP) South (11 HCP)
1NT
2♠
Pass

4. North (16 HCP) South (9 HCP)
1NT
2♠
Pass

The initial theory of Transfers can be summed up as follows:

Opener

1NT

Responder

Transfer to ♥ or ♠

Accept Transfer

- With 0-7 Pass
- With 8-9 Invite to game with 2NT
- With 10-15 Bid 3NT

With 15/16, pass when responder bids 2NT

With 17 bid 3NT when responder invites to game

That's about it for this first of two articles on Transfers. A few questions I will leave you with which come up whenever we discuss transfers with newer players. They will be the substance of the June article:



What does the opener do when he has three of the major that the responder transfers to? For example, responder bids two diamonds (transfer to hearts) and opener has three hearts.



What does the responder do when he has six of the major that he transferred to? For example, responder bids two hearts (transfer to spades), opener accepts the transfer. How does the responder show he has six rather than five of the major?

Visit Michael's website for beginners at beginnerbridge.net





by Neil Kimelman

THE INTERMEDIATE *Spot*

THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES **DEFENSIVE PLAY 9**

DEFENDING AFTER THE OPENING LEAD

By Neil Kimelman

I am going to change the focus on defensive play, from the opening lead to defending after the opening lead. I will address the differences between suit and notrump contracts, as well as the difference between matchpoints and IMPs.

The general strategies do not change after the opening lead. However, there are two differences:

- 1.** You have a lot more information being able to see dummy and cards played to trick one, and
- 2.** The number of chances you have to influence the final result diminish as each trick is played.

BE THERE!

As I discussed in my 2nd book, *The Thin Fine Line*, I cannot overemphasize the importance of concentration and analysis after the contract has been determined. You need to look at your hand in light of the bidding and examine dummy as soon as it put down. This is not the time to write your score in or sip your coffee, or say hi to a friend. This is a time to be ready to play to tricks one, two and three. These are often the critical tricks, and the difference between success and failure!

One of the most likely scenarios is, at trick two, declarer leads a suit from dummy. Do you:

- Go up with the ace if you have it?
- Split honours, such as KQx(x...) or QJx(x...)?
- Give count?

If you are not paying attention you will not be able to make these decisions in a reasonable tempo, having only a few seconds between the time dummy goes down, and declarer calling a card for trick two.

Okay, let's see if we can find some answers to the above questions and challenges. First, very few players ever play in tempo all the time. It is hard at first, because the emphasis is on 'doing the right thing.' This is good. Your tempo will improve the more you play. Just don't be discouraged if you are not there yet. Being ready will help a lot. As will recognizing familiar situations that you have experienced before.

2nd hand low is an excellent guide, and should be your goto strategy. The same with giving count. Experience has taught me that a true count is more helpful to partner than to declarer.

How High are We?

The level of the contract makes a huge difference, as does the mode of scoring (pairs vs. teams). Against a Grand Slam we take our aces very quickly don't we?!

Against a 1♠ contract ducking the ace is usually right. Giving count against a slam is not normally advised, as it will help declarer more than partner. Ok, enough theory. Let's start looking at some meat and potato hands:

EXAMPLE 1

You hold as East ♠ Q J 9 ♥ A 10 9 3 ♦ 8 3 ♣ J 7 6 5, and hear this auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	You	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

What are you thinking?

South has a very good hand! After all he is missing three aces/key cards. He likely has 1st or 2nd round control in both red suits. Partner leads the ♣8 and dummy appears:

♠ 6 5 4 2
♥ K 8 2
♦ A 10
♣ A Q 10 9

Declarer wins the ♣A, leads a low heart, and you?

Yes, this is the time to take your ace. Declarer must have a reason to play on a side suit and not on trumps, and that reason is usually trying to steal a trick. You return a club. Declarer ruffs, leads a diamond to the ace and then a small spade from dummy. And you?

Let's go back to the question 'What are you thinking?' I would be thinking:

- South has a good hand, since he is missing three aces/key cards.
- South has no voids as he used Blackwood.
- He probably has 1st or 2nd round control in both red suits. He either has a good club fit or a 2nd suit.

I hope that a spade honour is in dummy, guaranteeing me a trump trick. If not I must not split the honours as declarer may not finesse if has six or more spades. Did you split your honours when a spade was led from dummy, 'just to be safe'? I hope not. The full deal:

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

If you split the honours, declarer can win, reenter dummy with the ♦10 and pick up the spade suit, for no losers making his slam. Even ♦A9 in dummy would guarantee a 2nd reentry for declarer. Anything else? Yes. You should congratulate your partner on an excellent lead! A club was a good lead as North had shown two aces/key cards. There is a good chance that one is the ace of clubs. Declarer may eschew the finesse if he thinks he runs an unnecessary risk of a ruff, or he has a better line. The eight lead, a high card, is a good psychological ploy to support leading from nothing. Putting it another way, on a diamond lead declarer would lead trumps, find out the bad news, and be forced to take the club finesse to make his contract.

EXAMPLE 2

You hold as East ♠ J 4 2 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ A 10 2 ♣ Q 9 8 4. South opens 1NT and North quickly raises to game. Partner leads the ♠5 (4th best) and dummy has ♠ AK9 ♥ 1075 ♦ QJ873 ♣ 32. Declarer wins the first trick in dummy, and leads a small diamond from dummy. Plan your defence.

♠ A K 9
♥ 10 7 5
♦ Q J 8 7 3
♣ 3 2

♠ J 4 2
♥ Q 9 8
♦ A 10 2
♣ Q 9 8 4

The first thing you should think about is concentrating. Next question: 'What did declarer play at trick one?' Many defenders are in too much of a hurry to think about trick two, that they forget this basic tenet. Declarer played the spade seven. This means that partner likely has the ♠3, thus a five card suit. What else?

Partner has 4-6 HCPs (dummy has 10, you 9 and declarer 15-17). It looks like two of the points are the ♠Q. There are a lot of variables you cannot answer at this juncture in the play, so you should focus on what you know. Partner likely has ♠Qxxxx and declarer is playing on diamonds. If declarer has the ♦K, when you take your ace is irrelevant.

Can partner have the ♦K? If you answer yes, what does it mean? Yes he can have this card. If declarer needs one or more diamond trick to make this hand we need to go up with the ♦A at trick two. Why? To set up spades, AND preserve partner's entry to cash them. The full deal:

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

To be continued ...



WHAT WENT WRONG

By Paul Thurston

Seems there's always something new to experience at the table – and I don't just mean auctions attributable to modern developments in bidding!

Before we examine the play, where you'll witness something truly unique, let's have a look at the bidding from a recent pairs contest.

HAND 1

Dealer: West Vulnerable: East-West

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dbl	2♦	2♥
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Opening Lead: ♦K

The first dubious element was East's choice of response: sure, raising partner with good support is rarely a bad idea but what about the spade suit. Weak? Yes and maybe North would have four cards

by Paul Thurston
THE EXPERT
Spot

Expert Spot : What Went Wrong? ... Continued

in the suit for his takeout double but mentioning a suit at the one-level doesn't promise a bullet-proof holding and of all the suits to "lose" in the auction, spades would seem to be the most difficult but East did just that. And with that loss, went any chance East-West had of successfully competing for a making part score as three spades would have been an easy make but four diamonds would have failed. But at least East-West were due to get a small plus score for defeating three hearts as South was slated to lose one trick in each of spades, hearts and diamonds to go with two clubs. Stay tuned!

Looking at just the N-S hands, you could project that declarer would ruff the second round of diamonds and lose a heart finesse. Eventually he would lead through the defender deemed most likely to hold the club ace (West in this case) to win the honour in the opposite hand and later lead a low club from both hands in the faint hope that the ace would drop on the second round (the play is sometimes called an "obligatory finesse") – it wouldn't!

What Happened: declarer did ruff the second round of diamonds to play a heart to the Queen and King but then came a trick the likes of which I've never witnessed before as all three players made an error on the same trick (only dummy was innocent!). East shifted to the ten of clubs, ducked by South, and West won the ace to play a club right back!! 3♥ just made.

What Went Wrong?

To start with, there was zero need for East to shift to clubs. Whatever club losers South might have, dummy was no threat to provide discards so a passive defense was called for – either a third round of diamonds or a trump return after winning the ♥K. And, especially with that ♣Q96 sitting in full view in dummy, the club ten had too much promise in its own right to squander it on a shift that wasn't going to accomplish anything.

South made an even more serious error by playing low on the club shift that marked the location of the

Jack. To exploit East's error to the fullest (and don't let anyone tell you that taking advantage of opponents' mistakes isn't a crucial part of the game!), South should cover the ten with the King to establish a tenace with dummy's ♣Q9 sitting poised over the ♣Jx, thus holding his club losers to one (unless the ten was a singleton and a defensive ruff was looming).

Third and final error on the trick: West won the A♣ to play the suit right back - "please ruff partner?". But of course no ruff was needed for the defenders to secure a second club trick as South's error had created a second club winner for E-W had West simply ducked to let East's ten force the Queen.

WHAT WENT WRONG here was a common failing for a lot of players: all three players could have acquitted themselves much better had they visualized the lie of the cards and what their plays might or might not have accomplished: East might have seen no need for a club shift as dummy had no source of discards, South could have played high to neutralize West's Jack of clubs and, final and most avoidable error as the play went, West should have played low to guarantee his side a second club trick.

HAND 2

Here's a deal from a BBO match where one team won a surprising 2 IMP swing by going down in a freely-bid but very poor slam! (Note: the verb was "won" and definitely not "earned"!).

Dealer: North Vulnerable: East-West

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

Expert Spot : What Went Wrong? ... Continued

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♥Q

What Happened: After a brief auction (2NT showed 12-14 HCP in a balanced hand that wouldn't usually have a 4-card major), South declared the notrump game. West's opening lead of the ♥Q was ducked around to South's King. Declarer immediately tabled the ♦Q and let it ride for an unsuccessful finesse. Ace and another heart came next and West was more than thrilled to run the suit for a fast down two.

What Went Wrong?

The auction's brevity was no great virtue as North knew the partnership would have a (likely) maximum of four hearts and that the suit might prove a fatal weakness for notrump purposes. Further, he could tell that there would be a decent fit in at least one of the minors to make a (forcing) three club rebid attractive if not automatic.

But getting the bidding over to get on with the play is a popular approach and the raise to three notrump might have been a winning move.

For instance, South might have ducked the opening lead and that would have neutralized the heart suit but defenders have been known to lead the Queen from suits headed by the Ace and Queen and South thought it best to take his heart trick while the taking was possible. And that wasn't the final and fatal error in any case. For sure, had the ♦K been on his left, South would have coasted home with lots of tricks but there was another chance to secure (at least) nine tricks.

Experienced players are familiar with the concept of successive chances: try to exploit one possibility for finding enough tricks for your contract and if it doesn't work, try another. In real-life language: don't put all your eggs in one basket! Here the N-S hands have

eight combined clubs missing only the Queen as far as honour cards are concerned. So that while finessing for the club Queen wouldn't be any better of a play than taking the diamond finesse (both are more or less 50-50 propositions), there is a slight but certainly not negligible extra chance: the ♣Q might drop after two high rounds of the suit are played!

Best line of play after winning the ♥K at trick one: play to the ♣A and back to the ♣K and if the Queen hasn't dropped, take the diamond finesse. Four club tricks, three spades, one heart and the ace of diamonds would have earned the game bonus just as successfully as taking more diamond tricks might have! Meanwhile the bidding at the other table illustrated some pluses and minuses of a more scientific approach:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Before we examine this bidding, we can check out the play which was short if not particularly sweet for North-South.

East won the heart ace to return the suit. South won the King played to the club ace and back towards his hand to discover he had a chance to make his slam, Drawing the last trump was followed by the losing diamond finesse and the score of 50 to East-West was worth 2 IMPs compared to the 100 recorded for down two in 3NT.

WHAT WENT WRONG? The auction from North's perspective:

After the game-forcing 2/1 response, North's rebid was a splinter raise of clubs: heart shortness, at least four-card club support and a continuation of the game-force pit in place by the initial response. 3NT was an offer to

Expert Spot ... Continued

play but with his control-rich collection, North deemed at least one more slam try would be in order and 5♣ seemed likely to be a safe landing place in any case. But when his partner made a return cuebid of 4♥ that had to be the ace, North showed his spade control and then three Keycards in response to Blackwood and was content to table his promising dummy.

Enter the comic element: South totally “missed” that 3♥ was a splinter raise of clubs, mis-interpreting it as showing some number of hearts! Hey, it could happen to anyone, couldn’t it? That made 3NT just what it looked like and four hearts a delayed show of support! 4NT was not Blackwood at all but a further attempt to play in that strain and only after the Keycard “response” did South mentally review the previous bidding and decide 6♣ was going to be his last refuge. (Note: he did have pretty good diamond support that had never been shown and might have saved the day by passing in that spot once he realized the wheels had come off).

VINCE ODDY'S

Bridge Books, Games, & Supplies

+ Bargain Basement & Monthly Specials

**ALL AUDREY GRANT
MATERIALS AVAILABLE**

**Check out our Website
for Monthly Specials**

www.vinceoddy.com

1.800.463.9815

905.727.2300 | bridge@vinceoddy.com

All orders shipped within 24 hours

42 Stemmler Drive

Aurora Ontario L4G 6N4

Canada

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY SOLUTION

Contract: 2NT

Lead: ♦6

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

This was a famous hand played by Howard Shenken, way back when. He saw eight tricks: 4 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 1 club. The fly in the ointment was that East will duck the first three rounds of spades, thus limiting the spade total to three, defeating the contract. Mr. Shenken found an elegant solution that would still work today.

At trick two he returned the ♦3, West winning the ten. Naturally West continued diamonds, setting up his suit. And just as naturally, East discarded a discouraging spade, to help partner with his defence! NOW declarer attacked spades, and East had to win the ace on the third round, and declarer scored a wonderful +120!! The key to the success on this deal is to envision East discarding a ‘worthless spade’, and to do it quickly, thus not raising East’s suspicion, or allowing him extra time to consider the deal.

New from Master Point Press



Hand of the Week

Joel Martineau

Perhaps the best way to improve your bridge is to watch an expert play, and try to understand the reasoning behind their bids and plays. Here, readers follow the bidding and play (or defense) of fifty-two deals – one a week for a year – and listen to the author's thinking as each hand develops. Understanding why the experts do what they do is the first step towards being able to do it yourself – at least some of the time!

Joel Martineau (Vancouver) was a finalist in the 2017 Canadian National Teams Championships. Since retiring from teaching literature at the University of British Columbia he has focused on teaching bridge.

AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL BRIDGE BOOKSELLER

WWW.MASTERPOINTPRESS.COM | WWW.EBOOKSBRIDGE.COM



CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

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

OCTOBER

Oct 11 Canada wide Olympiad Fund Game #2
Afternoon
Oct 25 Erin Berry Rookie Master Game



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