



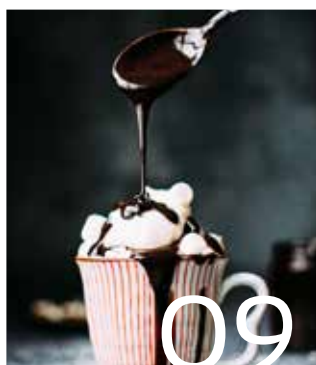
# bridge *Canada*



TASTY TREATS  
*For the Holidays*

## 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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## Editor's Message

NEIL KIMELMAN

### *'Tis' the Season...*

Bridge organizations continue to face reduced memberships, primarily as a result of aging memberships. I encourage all players to continue supporting the CBF by:

- Renewing memberships.
- Giving a gift of bridge to friends who are not currently members. The CBF continues to increase the number of features and events for average players.
- Providing a cash, or in kind donation to the CBF, either while living or as part of your estate. Even a relatively modest bequest can help keep our bridge communities vital and solvent!

### *Hot Buttered Rum*

Also in this issue I am sharing a Holiday recipe for Hot Buttered Rums that our family has enjoyed for years!

May you all have a wonderful and joyous 2019.

Neil Kimelman

# TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

Contract: 4♠ Doubled

♠ 9 8 7 6 4

♥ J 4 2

♦ 7 5

♣ K 10 4

♠ A K J 10 5

♥ 9 7

♦ K 10 9 6 4 2

♣ void

### THE BIDDING

| West            | North    | East | South |
|-----------------|----------|------|-------|
| -               | -        | 1♥   | 2♦    |
| 3♥ <sup>1</sup> | Pass     | 4♥   | 4♠    |
| Dbl             | All Pass |      |       |

1. Invitational

Lead: ♥5. The defence plays three rounds of hearts. Plan the play.

Answer on page 15.

## KAPLANISM 8 *(Quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan)*

Editor's note: *This is the eighth 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.*

"Then, those totals were reduced by a rash of slow-play penalties, six (!) of them: Defenders 62  $\frac{3}{4}$ , Argentina 43, North America 40  $\frac{3}{4}$ , Sweden 39  $\frac{3}{4}$ , China 26  $\frac{3}{4}$ , Australia 20. Australia was the only unpenalized team, and their position was not such as to encourage anyone else to speed up. The relative standings were not much affected, but the tournament officials were having a lot of fun –they could feel that they were genuine participants in a World's Championship."

"The 1977 Bermuda Bowl", TBW 1/78, p. 7



(L to R) Kathie Macnab, Marc Lachapelle, Cathy Walsh, Nader Hanna, Ina Demme, Neil Kimelman, Jerry Mamer, Angela Fenton

## 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

Vacant

### 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

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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

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## DECLARER PLAY 3

This is the third article in a new Bridge Canada series, **Bridge Basics**. A variety of writer's will add their perspective on the basics of bidding, declarer play and defence. Hopefully these different perspectives will add to your skill set, allowing you to successfully apply these principles at the table. Some of these concepts may be a review for you, but this series will also cover more advanced techniques and ideas.

In the first article a Declarer Play Checklist was introduced as a methodology intended to improve your play of the hand. The 2nd article refined this list, and gave examples to help practice. Can you recite the list from memory? Try it now! I recommend you attempt to recall the list every time you are declarer. Practice, practice, practice!

Here are three more problems that will help your declarer play and the use of the checklist. Included in the solutions is the thinking of a capable declarer, as they decide on the best lines of play.

### Quiz 1:

Contract: 4♠ by South. Lead: ♥A.

West leads three rounds of hearts, East high-lows.

♠ 9 4 2  
♥ 8 5  
♦ 4 3 2  
♣ Q J 8 6 4

♠ A K Q J 8 6 5  
♥ 9 7 6  
♦ A K 5  
♣ -

The bidding:

| West     | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♥       | Pass  | 1NT  | 4♠    |
| All Pass |       |      |       |

**Quiz 2:**

Contract: 4♥ by South. Lead: ♣Q.

Plan the play.

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

♠ A 9 8 6 5  
♥ K Q 8 6  
♦ 3  
♣ K 9 7

The bidding:

| West     | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| -        | -     | -    | 1♠    |
| DbI      | 2♦    | Pass | 2♥    |
| Pass     | 3♥    | Pass | 4♥    |
| All Pass |       |      |       |

**Quiz 3:**

Contract: 4♠ by South. Lead: ♥J.

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

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

The bidding:

| West | North | East     | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | 4♠    | All Pass | 1♠    |

**Solutions****Quiz 1:**

Contract: 4♠ by South. Lead: ♥A. West leads three rounds of hearts, East high-lows.

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

"I have seven spade tricks and two diamonds. The defence has already taken two hearts and I have a sure diamond to lose. The clubs are not a source of tricks on this deal, as they are not strong enough nor do you I have the entries to set up the 5th club in case the suit split 4-4. From the carding, East has indicated two hearts, and can overruff if I ruff the 3rd heart. One solution is to ruff the 3rd heart with the ♠9, and hope west has the ten. Is there anything better?"

Yes. One common advanced declarer play technique is to transfer a loser, for a different loser than benefits declarer. Often it is keep a dangerous opponent off the lead (Suit Play Checklist, #9). This example is different. Since if we ruff the 3rd heart, we may be over-ruffed, what happens if we give up our diamond loser now, and discard the ♦2 on the ♥Q? East will discard a minor card, and now what can the defence do? Nothing! A 4th heart can be ruffed by East, but South can overruff. Regardless of West's continuation at trick four, declarer can pull trump in two rounds, and ruff his 3rd diamond in dummy for their 10th trick.



**Quiz 2:**

Contract: 4♥ by South. Lead: ♣Q.

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

"I have 1 spade, + 5 hearts (assuming I pull trump and hearts split 3-2), + 0 diamonds, + 2 clubs = 8 tricks. Not enough. Plus, I am pretty sure that West holds four hearts for his takeout double. Ok, is there a suit I can set up for two or more tricks? Unlikely. There is no spade holding possible. In diamonds, if west holds ♦AKx, I can set up this suit for two tricks. Is there anything else? Yes, I can try to cross ruff as many tricks as possible. I have 3 black suit winners, so I would need 7 heart tricks. So the play should go: "

|           | W   | N   | E  | S  |
|-----------|-----|-----|----|----|
| Trick 1:  | ♣Q* | 4   | 2  | K  |
| Trick 2:  | 8   | 9   | 10 | ♦3 |
| Trick 3:  | 2   | 7   | ♥3 | 6  |
| Trick 4:  | 8   | ♦5  | 2  | ♥8 |
| Trick 5:  | 4   | 2   | 3  | ♠A |
| Trick 6:  | K   | ♥9  | 7  | ♠5 |
| Trick 7:  | 3   | ♣A  | 5  | 7  |
| Trick 8:  | A   | ♦6  | 4  | ♥Q |
| Trick 9:  | ♣10 | ♥10 | 10 | ♠6 |
| Trick 10: | ♣J  | ♦7  | K  | ♥K |
| Trick 11: | ♥4  | ♥A  | J  | ♠8 |

\*The underlined card denotes who is on lead.

Declarer has scored 1 spade, 2 clubs, 3 hearts in south, and 4 hearts in north = 10 tricks. Had East not returned a heart at trick three, declarer would have scored all 8 hearts separately, and made five. The lesson to learn on defence, is that if you think that declarer will play for a cross ruff, lead trumps! Even from an honour! One other note: when embarking on a cross ruff, cash your side

suit winners earlier than later, as the declarer cashed his ♣A at trick 7. The reason is that if you wait until later, a defender may be able to discard all cards in that suit, and ruff out your winner if you wait too long!

**Quiz 3:**

Contract: 4♠ by South. Lead: ♥J.

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

| West | North | East     | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | 4♠    | All Pass | 1♠    |

"I have a big trump fit so there will be no problem ruffing losers if I have to do so. I have 8 top tricks, 5 spades and 3 hearts. I have a 9th trick if I ruff my heart loser. I have 3 top losers, 1 club and 2 diamonds. The danger is that I might have a 3rd diamond loser. What can I do?"

Well the first option is hope that one opponent has the both the ♦A and ♦K. Which one? East. Why? West was on lead and probably would lead from the AK.

**Tip #3**

99% of the time a player will lead an AK combination against a suit contract. If they don't lead it, they don't have it!

A second possibility is to guess who has the ♦10. In fact you can combine chances 1 and 2 by leading a diamond from dummy and playing the jack. If it loses, play west for the ♦10, and finesse the nine on the 2nd round of the suit.

The third, and best line, makes 100% of the time. Win the heart lead, pull trump and cash two rounds of hearts, discarding the ♣10 on the 3rd round. Then ruff the 4th heart, and lead a club. You don't care who wins this trick. Either way, the defence has to give you your contract, either by leading a heart or a club, giving you a sluff and a ruff, or leading the diamond suit, guaranteeing you one diamond trick and your contract.

### Tip #4

It is important to recognize the suit combinations where you can gain an extra trick if the opponents lead the suit, versus no such guarantee if you have to start the suit.

Some common examples:

|     | Declarer | Dummy  |
|-----|----------|--------|
| 1.  | K 9 x    | Q 10 x |
| 2.  | K x x    | J x x  |
| 3.  | Q x x    | J x x  |
| 4.* | K x x    | 10 x x |
| 5.* | A J x    | 10 x x |
| 6.* | A Q 10   | x x x  |

\*These examples assume that the opponents must continue the suit after they win, or concede a ruff and a sluff.

### Tip #5

Highly effective declarers always look to improve on the line of play they originally consider. Sometimes the better line just improves your chances, sometimes as in Ex3, they give a sure thing.



## Meet ... Hervé Chatagnier

Hervé Chatagnier, in partnership with long time partner René Pelletier, won the Canadian team championships in Winnipeg in 2007, with teammates Jeff Smith, Waldemar Frukacz, David Sabourin, and Piotr Klimowitz.

### How was that 2007 team put together?

It's interesting how it was done. At the time, you had to have had qualified at the club and zone levels to be able to play in the CNTC.

Our original team was an all Quebec City team composed of René and I along with Jacques Carel and Richard Wildi. We played in the Zone finals in Montreal, a three day event, and finished 1st in what was quite a good field. On a side note, one of my favorite accomplishments during the zone finals was beating my girlfriend at the time, Pamela Nisbet!

After winning the zone finals, our partners, for various reasons, could not travel to Winnipeg to play in the CNTC. René and I then decided not to go. However, with the help of Pamela, we hooked up with David, Jeff, Waldemar and Piotr, a talented group, some of which failed to qualify in the same zone finals that we won. None of us had ever won a CNTC and it was David's first.

### Do you play a lot of bridge and with whom?

In essence, no. René and I don't play bridge outside of the Ontario/Quebec area. We do not play in NABCs. We both, however love the game and have been a partnership for over 15 years. When Pamela Nisbet and I were together, I also played with her in various



# Meet ... Hervé Chatagnier

tournaments in Ontario. For those who don't know her, Pamela is a multiple CWTC champion and plays fearlessly.

My first partner was Kamel Fergani. We learned bridge together while I was doing my master's degree at Laval University in Quebec City. As we know, he went on to do great things in bridge while I went on to read... "Why you lose at bridge"

## **What is your most memorable bridge moment?**

Winning the CNTC in Winnipeg of course particularly, beating Kamel in the quarterfinals after his team picked us to play first! Prior to Winnipeg, René and I had qualified a few times but never got past the quarterfinals. We knew we had a talented team and we were a solid, if unspectacular pair, but, to be honest, I never really thought we would win the event. It was special because not only did we win but Pamela, my girlfriend at the time, won the CWTC at the same time. We had quite a celebration that evening!

## **What about life away from the bridge table?**

Well, I just recently retired at 65. My entire working career, after graduating from McGill University, revolved around work at the Quebec provincial Environment department as Director of the Environmental Assessment and Review office, a job I loved. I now teach bridge to beginners and realize how complicated the game is and how hard it is to learn.

## **What do you like to do besides bridge?**

I didn't know that there was anything outside of bridge. Just kidding! I am passionate about Notre Dame college football, an American university in South Bend, Indiana. We moved to South Bend from France when I was 5 years old and had season tickets for years. I follow Notre Dame closely since then and never miss a televised game. Going back to visit and to see a game is on my bucket list. I love to read (in English which I consider to be my native tongue), listen to music by Radiohead and Beck, bicycling, kayaking and travelling with my girlfriend who has never played bridge and continues to think it is played by women with a cup of tea and biscuits!

## **What is your favourite bridge book?**

I have two favorites. The first is "Why you lose at bridge" by S. J. Simon. I keep waiting for the sequel "Why you

continue to lose at bridge"! The second is "Misplay these hands with me" by Mark Horton.

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

Teaching bridge to beginners is a humbling experience. In addition to taking courses recognized by the ACBL (club and diamond series by Audrey Grant and Betty Starzec), I push students to read and read and read more. I also urge them to play and practice. For card play, I refer them to Bridge Master, which is available on the BBO website and which has a series of hands made for beginners and is a great learning tool.

## **Can you share any amusing stories with us?**

Like Judith Gartaganis, I also attended my first and only world championship in 2002 when it was held in Montreal. My partner at the time was Pamela Nisbet. During the open pairs, Pamela and I saw that we would be playing against Bill Gates in a few rounds. Pamela got all excited and told me she would ask him to pay for a van for her nursing home to carry the elders around. I know Pamela and really thought she would ask (she ended up chickening out thank god). When we got to his table, wanting to be different, I sat down, looked at him and said "Your face rings a bell". He replied, "If it does it is certainly not because I am a good bridge player!"

On another note, my favorite accomplishment in life is driving back from Kingston, Ontario, to Quebec City on a February Sunday night with my front driver's seat window missing and with the temperature hovering around the -32 F. I had left my keys in the car and locked it during a Sunday Swiss team event in Kingston. I had called a garage during the tournament. The mechanic who worked on it came to my table and told me "I have some good news and some bad news... the good news is that here are the keys and the bad new is that I had to break the window to get them." He put a plastic garbage bag to cover the window. It promptly ripped off as soon as I was headed on the highway. I stopped at the police station in Cornwall, totally frozen, to ask a policeman if he could do something for me. I quickly left when he informed me that it was illegal to drive with a broken window. I finally ended up at home 8 hours later with frozen fingers. The next day at the hospital, I got treated and was told by a nurse that I was stupid but lucky that my fingers weren't frostbitten!



## GERBER

This month's treat will be a look at a close relative of last issue's article on Blackwood.

When heading for a suit contract, we use Blackwood for an ace ask and, if we hold all the aces, a follow-up king ask. Gerber is used for an ace ask when headed for a notrump contract. With Blackwood, the next available rung is five clubs whereas with Gerber it is four diamonds.

Gerber is started with a four club bid. The king ask, in most situations, follows after the partnership discovers it has all the aces:

### ACE ASK 4♣

|     |             |
|-----|-------------|
| 4♦  | 0 or 4 Aces |
| 4♥  | 1 Ace       |
| 4♠  | 2 Aces      |
| 4NT | 3 Aces      |

### KING ASK 5♣

|     |              |
|-----|--------------|
| 5♦  | 0 or 4 Kings |
| 5♥  | 1 King       |
| 5♠  | 2 Kings      |
| 5NT | 3 Kings      |

by Michael Abbey  
**THE NEW PLAYER**  
*Spot*

## NEW PLAYER SPOT: Michael Abbey ... continued

Notice how the four-diamond response is like the five club response to Blackwood. Look at the next few hands and the appropriate response to Gerber. The first four examples are an ace ask and the last four are looking for kings:

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

Bid four spades, showing two aces

4. ♠ A J 10  
♥ Q 9 3 2  
♦ A 9  
♣ A 10 8 3

Bid four notrump showing three aces

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

Bid five hearts, showing one king

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

Bid four spades, showing two aces

5. ♠ 10 8 4  
♥ K 4 3 2  
♦ 9  
♣ K Q 8 3 2

Bid five spades, showing two kings

8. ♠ K 5 2  
♥ K Q 8  
♦ K Q 8 2  
♣ K 10 6

Bid five diamonds, showing zero or four kings

3. ♠ 9 8 4 3  
♥ K Q J 9  
♦ Q 8  
♣ Q J 8

Bid four diamonds, showing zero or four aces

6. ♠ J 8 6 3 2  
♥ A 8 4 2  
♦ 10 7 3  
♣ A 2

Bid five diamonds, showing zero or four kings

To further illustrate how Gerber works, let's have a look at few deals.

Board 21. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

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

♠ J 5 3  
♥ 7 6 4 2  
♦ J 9 7 4  
♣ 8 3

♠ K 9 6  
♥ A Q 8  
♦ A 10 8  
♣ A K Q 4

Suppose the auction proceeds as follows:

| West            | North    | East             | South |
|-----------------|----------|------------------|-------|
|                 | Pass     | 2♣               | Pass  |
| 2♦ <sup>1</sup> | Pass     | 2NT <sup>2</sup> | Pass  |
| 4♣ <sup>3</sup> | Pass     | 4NT <sup>4</sup> | Pass  |
| 5♣ <sup>5</sup> | Pass     | 5♠ <sup>6</sup>  | Pass  |
| 6NT             | All Pass |                  |       |

1. Waiting
2. I have a balanced hand an 22-24 HCP
3. Gerber Ace Ask
4. I have three aces
5. We have all the aces, how many kings do you have
6. I have two kings



## NEW PLAYER SPOT: Michael Abbey ... continued

Many pairs will bid 6NT, but make all the tricks when the heart finesse works. Any pair who bids 7NT will get a really good score, or a really bad one, depending on the success of this finesse. Now for one more:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Suppose the auction proceeds as follows:

| West     | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
|          | 1NT   | Pass | 4♣    |
| Pass     | 4♠    | Pass | 5♣    |
| Pass     | 5♥    | Pass | 5NT   |
| All Pass |       |      |       |

1. Gerber Ace ask
2. I have two aces
3. We have all the aces, how many kings do you have
6. I have one king
7. Set the contract in notrump at a safe level; we are missing three kings

**Editor's note:** Although you have enough points to ask for aces, an equally good approach is to first look for a 4-4 heart fit, and bid 2♣ as Stayman. Another good option is respond 4NT (see Michael's comments below).

Readers who are using Blackwood may enjoy Gerber when the auction is in notrump. Based on one's partnership agreement, some players use Blackwood all the time. If they do, they eventually discover that one notrump followed by four notrump is a quantitative response, showing 16-17 HCP and a balanced hand. A

quantitative response is saying to partner if he has a maximum, bid six notrump, otherwise pass. Therefore, if a partnership agrees to always use four notrump as an ace ask, it cannot be distinguished from a quantitative response. Along comes Gerber and now one notrump-four notrump is quantitative and a four club bid is an ace ask (Gerber).

Investigating slam is something that newer players hone their skills on as their experience increases. Don't forget to keep an eye on the board being played and take vulnerability into consideration when using any technique to explore a slam. As is the case with artificial bids, if one of your opponents asks you what your partner's four diamond bid means, for example, in response to four clubs, offer a full explanation (i.e., showing zero of four aces) rather than saying "That's Gerber." Being a polite, friendly, and accommodating player at the table reflects on you more than how well (or not :) ) you do in the final standings.



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# by Neil Kimelman

## THE INTERMEDIATE Spot

## THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES **DEFENSIVE PLAY 12**

### **DEFENSIVE STRATEGIES**

*By Neil Kimelman*

For this month's defensive treat, we'll look at general themes when defending which are worthwhile learning. Some of these tend to become more advanced, but it is still worthwhile to be introduced to them. Also, the first two apply only to suit contracts, while the remaining ones can be used against notrump contracts as well. These defensive strategies include:

When trumps split poorly for declarer.

Promoting trump tricks.

When you are weak, and want to aid partner's defence.

Anticipating declarer's plan.

Masking your distribution.

Defending against a squeeze.

Giving declarer a losing option.

Over the next few issues I will address these and others.

## When trumps split poorly for declarer.

Often, a bad trump split is evident before trick one. One way of knowing this, is if you are holding four or five trumps!! Or, on the flip side, you are void. Often the auction will be informative, such as when the opponents go through Stayman, bid game in a major, and you have a singleton. There are two specific strategies to consider: attacking declarer's trump holding by leading a side suit; and leading trumps.

### Attacking with a side suit

Attacking with a long side suit is often the best overall strategy, especially when your trump holding is relatively strong, such A 10 x x or K Q 9 x. The idea is to promote additional trump tricks, or set up long cards in the suit which you led. Here is a classic example of this tactic:

#### EXAMPLE 1

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

In 4♥, with a 3-2 trump break, declarer has an easy time, scoring 3 spades + 4 hearts, + 2 diamonds, + 1 club, losing at most 1 heart, + 1 diamond, + 1 club. However the 4-1 trump breaks thwarts this plan. Let's look at the play:

|          | W   | N | E  | S  |
|----------|-----|---|----|----|
| Trick 1: | ♣5* | 9 | 10 | A  |
| Trick 2: | 2   | 6 | 8  | ♥Q |
| Trick 3: | 3   | 7 | ♠2 | ♥J |

\*The underlined card denotes who is on lead.

A club lead is mandatory for the defence to have a chance. However, ducking the heart ace at trick 3 is the key play. Now if declarer plays a 3rd trump, west can win and play his fourth heart, exhausting all hands of trump. Now declarer has only 3 spades, + 3 hearts, + 1 club, + 1 diamond. If he then finesses in diamonds, the defence can take 4 club tricks, + the ♥A, + the ♦K, scoring +300 against 4♥!

The best declarer can do is abandon trumps, cross to the ace of spades and take the diamond finesse. Now west will play two rounds of clubs, which declarer must ruff, leaving:

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

Declarer has lost two tricks. If he now plays a trump, west wins the ace, and plays a 4th club, promoting his heart 10 as declarer must ruff with the king, his last trump. Otherwise West scores his club, if declarer discards.

**One cautionary note:** It is best when the defender with the trump length has at least four cards in the side suit used for attacking. So, let's say you are on lead against 4♥ on a Stayman auction, and your hand is ♠J9854 ♥3 Q98652 A, I would lead a spade, not a diamond, as partner is more likely to have spade length.

### Holding a weak four or five card trump holding

As we saw in the Bridge Basics column from the October BC issue, declarer can often play a high cross ruff, neutralizing any small trumps outstanding. The way to counter this is to lead trumps at every opportunity. It is even possible to survive a different lead, and switch to trump leads later in the defence.



## EXAMPLE 2

|              |              |             |              |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|              | ♠ A K 7 4    |             |              |
|              | ♥ K 10 9 3   |             |              |
|              | ♦ 5          |             |              |
|              | ♣ 10 9 7 2   |             |              |
| ♠ 6 3        |              | ♠ Q 10 9 2  |              |
| ♥ 7          |              | ♥ 8 5 4 2   |              |
| ♦ Q 10 9 8 2 |              | ♦ A 3       |              |
| ♣ Q 6 5 4 3  |              | ♣ A K 8     |              |
|              | ♠ J 8 5      |             |              |
|              | ♥ A Q J 6    |             |              |
|              | ♦ K J 7 6 4  |             |              |
|              | ♣ J          |             |              |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| -            | -            | 1♣          | Dbl          |
| 2♣           | 3♣           | Pass        | 3♥           |
| Pass         | 4♥           | All Pass    |              |

Partner leads the ♣4. Declarer plays low from dummy, and you win your ace. What now? If you woodenly return a club declarer will ruff, cross to the ♠A and play a diamond towards the king. Assuming you win and return a trump, declarer can take 2 spades, + 1 high heart, +1 diamond, +6 hearts on a cross ruff, = 10 tricks. Now look what happens when you shift to a trump at trick two. Declarer can win in dummy, and play a diamond as before. You rise with the ace and play a 2nd trump. Now declarer can score 2 spades, + 2 high hearts, +1 diamond, +4 hearts on a cross ruff, = 9 tricks.

Some points to note on this deal:

1. Had you been on lead, a low heart would be the indicated lead, and might lead to down two. That doesn't mean partner made a mistake with his lead. He just followed rule #1, leading a long suit when trumps break poorly. In this way, West avoids taking away any potential guess in the trump suit.
2. West's club raise is ok, but a pre-emptive raise to 3♣ would do more to impede the opponents' conversation during the auction, and better describe your hand in case partner wants to compete to 5♣.

*February column: Promoting trump tricks.*

# TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY SOLUTION

Contract: 4♠ Doubled

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

## THE BIDDING

|                 |          |      |       |
|-----------------|----------|------|-------|
| West            | North    | East | South |
| -               | -        | 1♥   | 2♦    |
| 3♥ <sup>1</sup> | Pass     | 4♥   | 4♠    |
| Dbl             | All Pass |      |       |

## 1. Invitational

Things are pretty bleak. You must hope that the spades are 2-1 and the ♦A is onside. Even with that you are in the wrong hand to lead diamonds. One option is to hope for a singleton spade queen. An equally good chance is a swindle. Lead the ♠5 and hope that West ducks from ♠Q x or ♠Q x x, his likely spade holdings from the bidding.

This is not impossible as East could easily have a singleton ♠A, and a fourth heart will promote West's ♠Q. After all, will West suspect the actual holding? No!!

By the way, you did save the ♠5 and not use it to ruff the 3rd heart? Whoops!! You need to ruff the heart with the ♠10. As usual, planning is required BEFORE you play to trick one!

# WHAT WENT WRONG

By Paul Thurston

## Hand 1

For our first treat in this instalment, let's look at a purely constructive bidding challenge on a layout where both pairs in an all-experts match dropped the ball.

NORTH

♠ A J 9 5 3  
♥ 3  
♦ K 9 6 3  
♣ K Q 9

SOUTH

♠ 10  
♥ A J 10  
♦ A 10 8 2  
♣ A 8 5 4 3

With neither side vulnerable and South the dealer, here are the two auctions:

Table One:

| NORTH | SOUTH |
|-------|-------|
|       | 1 ♣   |
| 1 ♠   | 1 NT  |
| 2 ♦   | 3 ♦   |
| 3 NT  | Pass  |

Table Two:

| NORTH | SOUTH |
|-------|-------|
|       | 1 ♦   |
| 1 ♠   | 2 ♣   |
| 2 ♥   | 2 NT  |
| 3 ♦   | 3 ♥   |
| 3 NT  | 4 ♣   |
| 4 ♦   | 4 ♥   |
| 5 ♦   | Pass  |

by Paul Thurston  
THE EXPERT  
Spot

## Expert Spot : What Went Wrong? ... Continued

With 6♦ a highly desirable contract that needs a 3-2 diamond break, and maybe a bit of racing luck in clubs, the two auctions point out a glaring deficiency in even expert methods and/or judgment – WHAT WENT WRONG?

The table one auction went off the rails often and early: when we see how the table two auction developed, we can start pointing fingers right away. The 1♣ opening may have shown South's longest suit first, but it left him ill-prepared for a rebid and, of course, partner responded in his shortest suit to compound the difficulty. The one notrump rebid would be the choice of many – "You bid spades partner and I have everything else, so why not 1NT?"

Why not indeed! Because as so very often happens, it got partner derailed from a possibly effective bidding path as he used New Minor Force to seek but not find three-card spade support before planting the partnership in three notrump. Yes, Opener's third call should have revealed the diamond length but two issues mitigated against North pursuing a possible diamond slam: auction space was getting cramped and opposite a balanced hand in the range of 12-14 high-card points, there simply couldn't be enough cover cards with South to make a slam feasible. Note that it is South's spade singleton that really helps in the slam department and that is shortness that his partner can't really expect after South's first two calls.

The auction at Table Two came much closer to hitting the bullseye until North put the brakes on in a context where doing so doesn't seem at all warranted. To start, South got the ball rolling by opening with a well-prepared 1♦. Prepared because he anticipated a likely spade response and had a planned rebid of 2♣ available. Thus he had shown an unbalanced hand after two bids so was on firm ground for what followed. Yes, he was 4-5 in the minors and partner might have been expecting 5-4 but that slight distortion has a way of getting worked out in follow-up bidding. Starting with North's rebid of 2♥: an artificial and game-forcing use of the Fourth Suit to ask for more information while

preparing for North to show more about his hand in a game-forcing context.

When South admitted to a heart stopper in a hand lacking three-card spade support, North then showed one reason he had used Fourth-Suit Forcing: he had diamond support. Music to South's ears as every feature of his hand looked positive for a possible slam: the spade shortness and prime cards in all of the other suits made a high-level diamond contract look very attractive. A potential he started to show by making a control bid of 3♥ followed by another control bid of 4♣ after North tried to close up shop in the notrump game.

Why North wouldn't want to commit to slam with those great club fillers and a singleton heart after an auction that said South was clearly interested in slam is a mystery to me, you and, after he saw dummy, South but there the matter rested. Trade North's ♣K for the ♠K to see the hand South feared opposite, when he respected the sign-off. North's turning turtle was most definitely What Went Wrong at Table Two.

Two auctions that starkly illustrate how and why reaching minor-suit slams is an elusive pursuit. Oh, yes both diamonds and clubs were 3-2, so bringing home twelve tricks in notrump was much easier than constructing a winning auction.

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## Hand 2

At team play (scored by IMPs), you don't really need a game contract to be an odds-on favourite to succeed (especially when vulnerable) as the pay-off is so great. Here's a perfect example of that approach to bidding from a recent online practice match (next page).



## Expert Spot : What Went Wrong? ... Continued

### HAND 2 (continued)

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

With only their side vulnerable, both South players opened 1NT and then the auctions exhibited markedly different philosophies. One North saw only eight high-card points and issued a game invitation by responding two notrump and there the matter rested. The other North saw the same raw point count but also saw a decent five-card suit that might well be a source of tricks and so he raised directly to game.

The play was identical at both tables as South scooped up the perfectly normal spade lead with his Jack to lead and pass the ♦9. That lost to the Queen and there was a temporarily threatening moment when East made the good shift to the ♥10, a play designed to surround dummy's nine while looking for a more immediately rewarding source of defensive tricks than West's spades might be. All to no avail when South won the ♥Queen and went back to work on ♦.

**Editor's note:** While a heart shift by East upon winning the ♦Q could be right, a spade continuation seems like the odds on return, catering to West holding ♠AQ10xx, Qx xxx Jxxx, A10xxx xx Axx xxx or ♠Q10xxx xx Axx Axx. A heart shift on all three hands results in declaring making, while a spade dooms declarer to defeat.

Yes, there were communications issues between the North and South hands after West performed won the ♦ace and fired back the ♥Jack but South played carefully enough to emerge with the three spade tricks,

two hearts, three diamonds and one club to which he was entitled, and just enough to record +600.

Now for the scoring to illustrate why bidding such games is winning strategy in the long run.

For his +600 against the other team's +150, the South in game earned 10 IMPs for his effort while had he gone down one, the loss would have been only 6 IMPs, a good payoff for reaching a contract that in isolation might have been only about 40% likely to succeed.

## Hand 3

Let's see if your declaring skills would be the equal of this South who brought home an iffy game.

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

With only his side vulnerable, South opened and closed the bidding with 4♠.

West cashed one high club and, taking South's play of the club in the context of his partner's count signal, made the accurate shift to a low diamond. In with the diamond at trick two, East passively returned the ♣J and it was time for South to take over.

He started by cashing the top spades before conceding a trick to West's Queen. With nothing better to do, West played a third round of ♣ that South ruffed to play a ♦

## Expert Spot : What Went Wrong? ... Continued

to the ace and ruffed a third round of ♦, That left West solely in charge of guarding both red suits and after an avalanche of ♠ was led at him, he eventually had to capitulate in this ending:

|   |       |            |
|---|-------|------------|
| ♠ | -     |            |
| ♥ | A 10  |            |
| ♦ | 10    |            |
| ♣ | -     |            |
| ♠ | -     | irrelevant |
| ♥ | K J   |            |
| ♦ | Q     |            |
| ♣ | -     |            |
|   | ♠ 2   |            |
|   | ♥ Q 3 |            |
|   | ♦ -   |            |
|   | ♣ -   |            |

Very nicely played by South so certainly nothing went wrong from his perspective but could the defenders have done better?

For sure, defending against squeezes may well be thought of as a pursuit best left to really advanced players but it doesn't always have to be that way. As here, so often it will be a simple matter of recognizing where the necessary tricks might come from and doing what might be practical to pursue the establishment of

those tricks. In that regard, it's mildly ironic that East is marked as "irrelevant" in the endgame diagram because his play certainly wasn't irrelevant at an earlier stage.

After he wins the ♦ King, East has to set his sights on finding two more tricks for the defense to prevail. Clubs? No, his partner's shift and South's club should be ample evidence that no more nourishment will be available from that source.

Whatever trump trick(s) West might have coming can wait to leave East's choice for what to play at trick three resting with the red suits and anything else, like his futile club return might be considered a dereliction of duty. The clue about what East could do lies with West's choice of a diamond at trick two, a play he would be unlikely to make if held both the King and Queen of hearts. If South started with the ♥K, a shift to that suit by East would be unlikely to do any good but South's hypothetical ♥Q might well be vulnerable to attack from East's side of the table.

Had that shift been made, the applause would have been directed at East and West!

## Hot Buttered Rum Recipe

### Ingredients

½ lb. of butter  
2 ¼ Cups of brown sugar  
2 eggs  
Cinnamon & Nutmeg

### Making Mixture

Cream butter, add brown sugar, add eggs (one at a time), beat on low for 20 minutes, adding a dash of Nutmeg and Cinnamon. Refrigerate.

### Making Drinks

1 Tablespoon mixture.  
1 ounce of rum.  
½ ounce brandy.

Fill mug with boiling water.  
Stir to combine ingredients.  
Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with cinnamon.

*from the Kimelmans*



## THE IBPA FILES

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



## The 15th World Bridge Series

### 11th Rosenblum Cup

*A collection of articles by the following authors: Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, France; Barry Rigal, NYC; Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK; Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., UK; Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands; Jerry Li, Beijing; David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK; Ana Roth, Buenos Aires; Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW*

This year's Rosenblum comprised 96 teams, with players from 43 countries. They played a two-day, 10-match x 10-board qualifying, with the top 64 teams proceeding to full-day knockout matches, excepting the day-and-a-half final. Fancied teams included: CAYNE (Cayne/Sontag, Donati/Tokay, Lauria/Versace); DIAMOND (Brogeland/Lindqvist, Diamond/Platnick); FLEISHER (Fleisher/Martel, Greco/Hampson, Grue/Moss); LAVAZZA (Bianchedi/Madala, Bilde/Duboin, Bocchi/Sementa); NICKELL (Katz/Nickell, Levin/Weinstein, Meckstroth/Rodwell); SPECTOR (Demuy/Kranyak, Hurd/Wooldridge, Spector/Wolpert); and ZIMMERMANN (Gawrys/Klukowski, Helgemo/Helness, Multon/Zimmermann). Every one of those teams contained players with multiple World Championships.

#### Swiss Qualifying Round 1

##### LAVAZZA v PAVLICEK (Tacchi)

Team LAVAZZA were seeded at number five and were drawn against a team headed by Richard PAVLICEK, whom many players will know of from his website, which is full of all sorts of useful gadgets and information. Pavlicek was a great player in his day (not that long ago!), winning 11 North American Championships, including three Vanderbilts and four Reisingers.



## THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

| West          | North            | East             | South           |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Munday</i> | <i>Bianchedi</i> | <i>Pavliceck</i> | <i>Madala</i>   |
| —             | —                | —                | 1♣ <sup>1</sup> |
| Pass          | 1♥               | Pass             | 1♠              |
| Pass          | 2♦ <sup>2</sup>  | Pass             | 2♠              |
| Pass          | 3♠               | Pass             | 4♣              |
| Pass          | 5♠ <sup>3</sup>  | Pass             | 7♠              |
| Pass          | Pass             | Pass             |                 |

1. 2+ clubs
2. 4th-suit-forcing to game
3. Trump quality ask

The lead was a classic low trump against a grand slam. Declarer won in hand and ruffed a club, came back to hand with another trump in order to ruff a second club. He returned to hand with a heart to the queen and drew the outstanding trump. A heart to the ace now revealed the unkind heart division, but a ruff established the suit and, with the diamond king being onside, the contract came home.

Seven spades is a mediocre contract, needing one of the major suits to be 3-2, with the diamond finesse in reserve if it is hearts that prove to be 4-1, as happened in real life. On the actual layout, a diamond lead away from the king would have put declarer's feet to the fire.

| West           | North           | East          | South         |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Sementa</i> | <i>Fredin</i>   | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Amoils</i> |
| —              | —               | —             | 1♣            |
| Pass           | 1♥              | Pass          | 1♠            |
| Pass           | 4♣ <sup>1</sup> | Pass          | 4♥            |
| Pass           | 4♠              | Pass          | Pass          |
| Pass           |                 |               |               |

1. Splinter-bid in support of spades

In this room, some wheels fell off the bidding wagon. It seemed to me to showcase the negative side of splintering with a void. Obviously, South downgraded his hand when he knew his partner was short in clubs and both parties simultaneously took a poor opinion of their hands. That was 14 IMPs to LAVAZZA.

### Swiss Qualifying Round 1 MCALLISTER v VICKY (Rigal)

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

| West            | North           | East            | South       |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <i>Andresen</i> | <i>Hans</i>     | <i>Johansen</i> | <i>Hung</i> |
| 2♥              | 3♥ <sup>1</sup> | 5♥              | 5NT2        |
| Pass            | 6♦              | All Pass        |             |

1. Bid 3NT with a heart stop
2. Pick a slam

Andy Hung did well over five hearts to infer that, from the fact that his partner's minor wasn't solid, it suggested that he had extras. Additionally, that the opponents' competing to the five-level made a singleton heart opposite more likely than not.

## THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Hans won the heart lead, drew trumps, ducked a spade, ruffed the heart continuation, then played the ace and another spade, ruffing. That got him a complete inferential count on the West hand and allowed him to play the club ace and run the ten with complete confidence, resulting in a gain of 13 IMPs against the 620 achieved in the other room.

On the following deal, Lars Arthur Johansen did well to turn a small loss into a gain after some thoughtful defence by his opponents.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

| West     | North  | East     | South |
|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Andresen | Hans   | Johansen | Hung  |
| 2♦       | Pass   | 2♠       | 3♦    |
| 3♠       | 4♥     | 4♠       | Pass  |
| Pass     | Double | All Pass |       |

Andy Hung led a top heart, and Sartaj Hans overtook to shift to a low trump to kill the club ruff and the entry to the diamonds. It looks as if declarer is going to go for a big number, but Johansen put in the spade nine on the first trump! Though Hans won the first diamond to play the ace and jack of spades, declarer could win and draw trumps, then play the heart jack. The best Hung could do was win and shift to the club queen (on other

layouts, a low club is better), but declarer ducked and had the rest. That was minus 300 against the 450 from the other room for a gain of 4 IMPs.

### Swiss Qualifying Round 4 EMERALD v BULLYS (Senior)

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Both tables in the match I watched declared five spades doubled after East/West had bid to five diamonds. That contract was two off at one table on club ruffs, making at the other on no clubs ruffs.

However, in EMERALD versus BULLYS ...

| West  | North    | East   | South |
|-------|----------|--------|-------|
| Barel | Lee      | Zack   | Burns |
| —     | —        | —      | 4♠    |
| Pass  | Pass     | Double | Pass  |
| 5♦    | All Pass |        |       |

Five diamonds was declared at 28 tables and defeated just once. Take a bow, Cadir Lee and Randal Burns of team BULLYS. Lee was one of only five Norths to select a heart lead, the six, against five diamonds, and the contract was indeed defeated when Burns underled his spade honours. Very well done indeed. Alas, their reward for this was to concede 13 IMPs, since their teammates let through five spades doubled for minus 850 at the other table!

## THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

### Swiss Qualifying Round 5

#### MIXED UP v PSZCZOLA (Horton)

There is probably not a player on the planet who has not heard of Blackwood. Its inventor, Easley Blackwood, could not have imagined the impact his brainchild would have on the bridge playing community, nor envisaged the numerous variations that would ensue. However, it was by no means his only contribution to the game. His Complete Book of Opening Leads, published in 1963, is one of the best on this important topic.

Used correctly, Blackwood is a powerful aid, but the number of aces held by the partnership is not the only factor to consider when contemplating a slam. It was another great name in bridge, Ely Culbertson, who devised a rule that could help a player who was thinking of bidding a slam – it is described in detail in another book that should be in everyone's collection, Jeff Ruben's The Secrets of Winning Bridge. It says that if you suspect that your slam will be, at worst, on a finesse, then it is reasonable to bid it.

Let's look at this deal from Round 5 of the Rosenblum qualifying:

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

| West              | North      | East            | South      |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Kalita            | Gartaganis | Nowosadzki      | Gartaganis |
| —                 | Pass       | 1♦ <sup>1</sup> | 2♥         |
| 2NT <sup>2</sup>  | Pass       | 4♥ <sup>3</sup> | Double     |
| Pass <sup>4</sup> | Pass       | 4♠ <sup>5</sup> | Pass       |
| 4NT <sup>6</sup>  | Pass       | 5♥ <sup>7</sup> | Pass       |
| 6♣                | Pass       | Pass            | Pass       |

- 11-GF, 3+♦, 3 only with 4=4=3=2
- Clubs
- Splinter
- Denies first-round heart control
- Control-bid, denies first-round heart control
- RKCB
- 2 key cards

After the splinter, West knew that his partner held at least four diamonds, so it was long odds that the slam would at the worst depend on a diamond finesse. On this layout, declarer's extra chance that the spades would play for four tricks paid out for plus 920.

| West            | North   | East            | South |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-------|
| Punch           | Drijver | Peterkin        | Brink |
| —               | Pass    | 1♣ <sup>1</sup> | 3♥    |
| 4♥ <sup>2</sup> | Pass    | 4♠ <sup>2</sup> | Pass  |
| 5♣              | Pass    | Pass            | Pass  |

- 4+♣, 10+ HCP
- Control-bids

South's overcall removed a round of bidding, making it just that little bit harder for East/West.



Bronze Medalists Joel Wooldridge, Gavin Wolpert, Vincent Demuy, Simon Fellus, John Hurd and John Kranyak.

Photo: World Bridge Federation

## THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

### Swiss Qualifying Round 8

#### ERA v MIXED UP (Jacobs)

At the start of this round, these two teams were in seventh and eighth place, so qualification was not so much the issue as finishing among the top 16, as this would offer the chance to choose an opponent for the Round of 64.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

| West                 | North           | East                 | South             |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>N. Gartaganis</i> | <i>Arlovich</i> | <i>J. Gartaganis</i> | <i>Vainikonis</i> |
| —                    | —               | —                    | Pass              |
| Pass                 | Pass            | 1♠                   | Pass              |
| 1NT                  | Pass            | 2♣                   | Pass              |
| 2NT                  | Pass            | 3NT                  | Double            |
| Pass                 | Pass            | Pass                 |                   |

Arlovich led the nine of spades, as requested by partner's double. Dummy's king won the trick. A diamond went to declarer's king and a club was ducked to South's jack. Back came the eight of hearts, which ran to dummy's king. Against this accurate and deadly defence, declarer was powerless. He cashed his minor-suit winners, but he had to concede the rest to the defenders who, by ducking the first spade and the first heart tricks, had kept their communications fully intact for a well-deserved plus 200 to ERA.

| West    | North     | East   | South     |
|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Dubinin | J. Sprung | Gromov | D. Sprung |
| —       | —         | —      | Pass      |
| Pass    | Pass      | 1♠     | Pass      |
| 1NT     | Pass      | 2♣     | Pass      |
| 2♦      | Pass      | 3NT    | Pass      |
| Pass    | Pass      |        |           |

With nothing to guide her, North led the jack of diamonds. Declarer won with the king and led a spade up, South taking dummy's king with his ace and returning a diamond. Declarer won and ducked a club to South, who persisted with diamonds, thus establishing a winner for partner. A heart went to dummy's king and declarer cashed dummy's ace and king of clubs before playing a heart to his ten and North's jack for one down. ERA minus 100, but still, 3 IMPs to them.

Had declarer cashed dummy's queen of spades and then crossed to his hand with the last club, he might then have exited in diamonds, forcing North to give him a second heart trick and his contract. That endplay was made impossible at the other table by virtue of South's well-timed double, making the defence clear from the first trick.

### Swiss Qualifying Round 8

#### PD TIMES v CAYNE (Li)

Many world champions are playing in this World Bridge Series. Here is an exciting board from one of these World Champions, Zhong Fu from China, who was World Open Pairs winner in Verona, Italy, in 2006.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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



| West     | North     | East     | South    |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Jerry Li | G. Donati | Zhong Fu | M. Tokay |
| —        | —         | —        | 1♥       |
| Pass     | Pass      | Double   | 2♣       |
| Pass     | Pass      | 2♦       | Pass     |
| 2♥       | Pass      | 2NT      | Pass     |
| 3NT      | Pass      | Pass     | Pass     |

Tokay led the king of clubs. Fu ducked twice, and Tokay continued with clubs, clearing the suit. If declarer could take four diamond tricks, the game would be made easily enough. But you have to be aware that South is the danger hand. Declarer wants to make sure he keeps that player off lead – so playing ace, king and another diamond looks reasonable, doesn't it?

Fu played a low diamond toward dummy! The low diamond play worked spectacularly well. Dummy's ten lost to the jack in North, and the two entries to dummy could be used to finesse diamonds and take four diamond tricks. Fu made three notrump and won 10 IMPs.

What was the reason for Fu's play? Why wasn't he afraid Tokay had the stiff jack or queen of diamonds? As Fu analyzed the deal: South had bid two suits, vulnerable, so rated to be 5-5 or better (and, even if not, a 4-4 club break would not be a problem for declarer – the contract would always make in that case). As for the other side suits, what was his shape: 3-0 or 2-1? If he were 2-1 (with two spades and one diamond), North would have had five spades, and since it is a World Championship, surely no one would pass a one heart opener with five spades! So that is why Fu did what he did and brought home his unlikely game.

*To be continued...*



## Macadamia Shortbread with Lemon Curd Dip

It's the holidays and you're going to be asked to bring something for the treats table at your club or at your next IMP League game! This delicious shortbread recipe served with Lemon Curd Dip will add just that little touch of zesty 'wow' and is sure to impress!

- 1 ¼ c. all-purpose flour
- 3 tbsp brown sugar
- ½ c. butter
- 2 tbsp finely chopped macadamia nuts

Combine flour and brown sugar in a bowl. Cut in butter till mixture resembles fine crumbs and starts to cling. Stir in macadamia nuts. Form mixture into a ball; knead till smooth.

Pat or roll dough on a lightly floured surface into an 11 ¼ x 6 inch rectangle. Cut into 2 ¼ x ¾ inch strips. Place strips about 1 inch apart on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake in a 325 oven about 10 minutes or till bottoms just start to brown. Transfer to wire racks to cool. Serve with Lemon Curd Dip. Makes 40.

## Lemon Curd

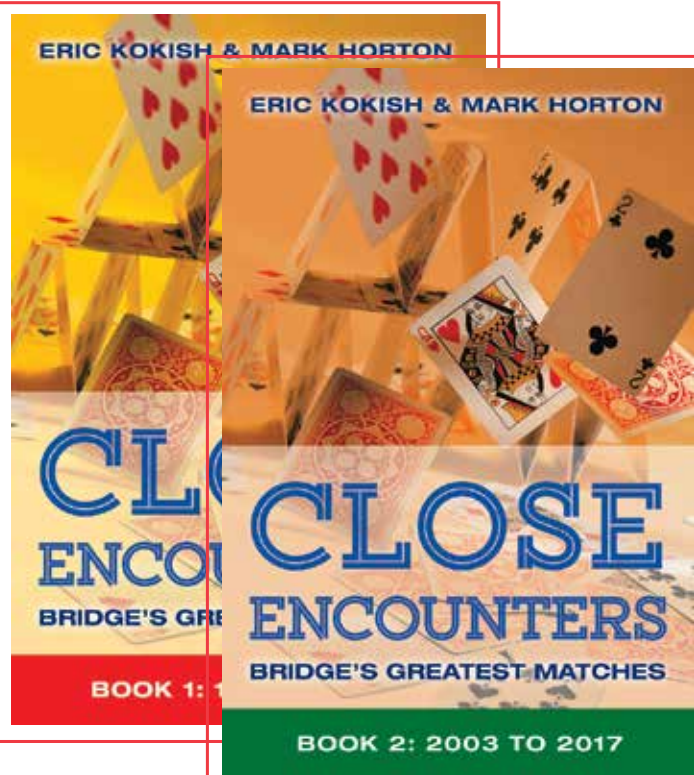
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 teaspoons lemon zest

Whisk eggs, sugar, and lemon juice in a double boiler over simmering water until mixed well, then continue to stir until thick, 7 to 10 minutes. Drain through a mesh sieve to get rid of lumps. Fold in butter until well incorporated. Mix in lemon zest. Cover curd and chill in the refrigerator until it has thickened, about 4 hours.

## Lemon Curd Dip

- Combine
- ¾ cup lemon curd
- ¾ cup sour cream
- ¼ tsp ground ginger
- Makes about 1 ½ cups.

# New from Master Point Press



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Eric Kokish and Mark Horton

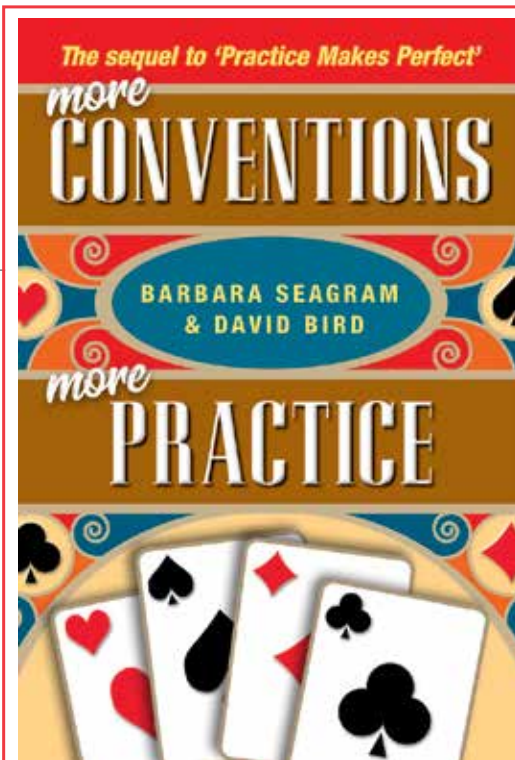
*Close Encounters* is a two-book series that describes some of the most memorable bridge matches of the last fifty years. There are amazing comebacks, down to the wire finishes, overtime victories, and an insight into how the game has changed over the last half century.

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# CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

## DECEMBER

COPC Qualification- club level Dec  
CNTC Qualification- club level Dec - Jan 14, 2019

Dec 17 ACBL-wide International Fund

## JANUARY

Jan. 22 (10am to 3pm start time)  
ACBL wide Junior game

## FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 (10am to 3pm start time)  
ACBL wide International fund game

Feb 11-17 CBF STaC

Feb. 20 (10am to 3pm start time)  
ACBL wide Charity game

Feb 22 DEADLINE Registration for the  
Canadian Bridge Championships

## APRIL

Charity game month

April 10, 2019 Erin Berry Rookie Master Game

## NEW!

The 2019 CBC will be held in Burnaby BC, May 4-12.  
There is a new schedule this year because we have  
added a new event - the Mixed Teams Championship!

## WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the **2018 Erin Berry Rookie-Master Game**. For complete results listings  
see our website at [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca)

|   |                                 |       |
|---|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Linda Connell & Gary Naugler    | 69.13 |
| 2 | Liz Legacy & Debbie Stover      | 68.58 |
| 3 | John Gowdy & Margaret Lightbody | 68.37 |
| 4 | Donald Kersey & Valerie Gowsell | 68.13 |
| 5 | Wally Graham & Kevin Carter     | 67.99 |



## IMPORTANT 2019 DATES

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Feb 11-17       | CBF STaC  |
| Feb 22          | Deadline Registration for the Canadian Bridge Championships                                     |
| Mar 21-31       | ACBL Spring NABC Memphis, TN <a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>                     |
| <b>May 4-12</b> | <b>Canadian Bridge Championships Burnaby, BC <a href="http://www.cbf.ca">www.cbf.ca</a></b>     |
| Jul 18-28       | ACBL Summer NABC Las Vegas, NV <a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>                   |
| Sep 14-28       | 44th World Bridge Team Championship. China <a href="http://worldbridge.org">worldbridge.org</a> |
| Nov 28-Dec 8    | ACBL Fall NABC San Francisco, CA <a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>                 |