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bridge *Canada*



THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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



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Editor's Message

NEIL KIMELMAN

We say goodbye to...

Test Your Deceptive Play. This is the last issue for this type of problem, with this last one being unique for this series. Being able to mask your holdings as declarer, and make your contract by subterfuge, when normal play does not work, is a great tool to have in your tool box. I hope you have found this series beneficial. I will revisit if other new examples of this theme cross my desk.

We say hello to...

A new limited series: Mollo on Play. Victor Mollo, who brought us the Hideous Hog and the Rueful Rabbit, was also a prodigious author of Declarer Play problems. The CBF brings Mr. Mollo back to life with this new Bridge Canada series. Enjoy!

Neil Kimelman
Managing Editor, Bridge Canada

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

IMPS. Contract: 3NT

♠ A 5
♥ A K J 9 5 4
♦ 9 8 2
♣ 7 3

♠ K Q J 10
♥ 10 7
♦ K J 7
♣ A J 9 5

THE BIDDING

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-----------------|------|------------------|
| - | - | - | 1♣ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT ¹ |
| Pass | 3♥ ² | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |
| 1. 15-17 | | | |
| 2. Forcing | | | |

Lead: ♦4 (low from interest). East wins the ace and returns the ♦3. Plan the play.

Answer on page 18.

KAPLANISM 9 *(Quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan)*

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

"This stampeded North-South into a slam, which East doubled –the deadly "negative slam double" showing zero defensive tricks (it beats me how anyone can think he knows whether a hand like East's has a trick, or whether West's hand is worth zero, one or two tricks)."

Chicago Spingold, TBW 10/77, p. 9



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

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DECLARER PLAY 4

This is the fourth article in a new Bridge Canada series. 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 of this series (Aug 18 BC) a Declarer Play Checklist was introduced as a methodology intended to improve your play of the hand:

SUIT PLAY CHECKLIST

1. Count your tricks.
2. Look to where you can develop more tricks.
3. Count your immediate losers.
4. What is your priority:
 - a. Pulling trumps
 - b. Setting up side tricks
 - c. Ruffing losers
5. Are there are communication issues between dummy and my hand that I need to consider?
- 6. What does the bidding tell me about the opponents' hands?**
- 7. What does the lead tell me about the opponents' hands?**
8. What are the opponents' signaling methods?
9. Is there one opponent I want to try and keep off lead?
10. Are there deceptive plays I can try to make the hand more difficult for the opponents to defend to their best advantage?
11. Am I maintaining a consistent demeanor, tone, etc..., whether your contract is cold or hopeless.

The first six on the list are fundamental considerations for players at all levels. As we continue down the list a more refined thinking is needed,

using both positive and negative inferences, focused primarily on the opponents. Let us consider some of these secondary considerations and thinking that if adopted regularly, will result in more success and tricks taken as declarer! So let us now look at the two bolded items.

**OPPONENT BRIDGE
BEHAVIOR CHECKLIST**

What does the bidding tell me about the opponents' hands?

Did the opponents bid? If so, what does that tell me about their holdings, and the holdings of their partner?

Did the opponents have a chance to bid (open, overcall, preempt), but did not.

Most of us are familiar with the discovery play, where a player who passed initially, and showed up with 9 HCPs, cannot have an ace left. It means always mentally adding up what high cards each opponent reveals during the play.

TIP# 6

Counting the opponents' high cards is important, but so is observing their distribution. This can be very telling, both in terms of how to play a key suit, but you can also draw inferences about their holdings in relation to their bidding.

Here is an easy one. Let's say you are in 4♥ on this bidding (neither vul):

Ex 1:

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

West leads the ace and king of spades to trick one and two. You can assume that West has at most four spades, as they didn't overcall 1♠ over 1♥. And of course you take note that East passed, so does not have an opening bid, or a hand worth of preempt of some kind.

Another example of what the bidding can communicate:

Ex 2: The contract: 4♥ by South.

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

The bidding:

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

West leads the ♦5. What do you know, or can surmise about the opponents' hands?

The first thought is that West did not lead from the AK of clubs, so in all likelihood, does not hold both honours! That means East has a high club, but nothing else as he passed 1♣. Next you are missing 20 HCPs. East has at most four (ace of clubs), so West has 15-16 HCPs. Why didn't he open 1NT? Because he is unbalanced, likely with a singleton king of hearts*. So the indicated play is to take the diamond finesse, and lead the ace of hearts. The full deal:

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

After trick two it is an easy matter of pulling trumps and repeating the diamond finesse to make at least 10 tricks.

*It is becoming more commonplace for players to open 1NT with this hand type.

TIP# 7

It is ok to ask your opponents their methods and agreements. Some examples: Do they play a strong notrump? Do they open with any 10 HCPs? What is their preempting style?

What does the lead tell me about the opponents' hands?

- What type of defence are the opponents adopting?
- What kind of inferences can I draw when an opponent leads a trump, or conversely, when they do not lead one.
- What other inferences can I take from the defence?

In general terms, there are inferences that may be valid, but won't necessarily be true every time:

- If the opponents lead from three small, they often have high cards in the other suits, including the trump suit, but no natural lead (i.e. QJx(x..))
- Leads from a singleton honour are risky, and often indicate no better lead.
- 99% of the time players do not underlead an ace against a suit contract.
- If dummy, North, has KJx(x..) and when West gets in he leads that suit, it is more likely that he has underlead the ace than the queen. Of course you would first consider the bidding and defence until that point to see if there are stronger indicators of the right play.

I will close this instalment with an example from a recent duplicate game:

Ex 3: The contract: 3NT by South. Lead: ♥2 (3rd and 5th best).

♠ A Q 10
♥ J 7
♦ J 10 9 3 2
♣ K J 9

♠ K J 5 4
♥ A 8 4
♦ K Q 8
♣ 5 4 3

Declarer should duck the first two hearts, East winning the ♥10 at trick one, and the ♥K at trick two. When you lead the ♦K West wins and shifts to a small club. What is your guess?

The bidding is of no help. It seems that West started with three or five hearts...duh! If he had five hearts he would cash the setting tricks. So he has led from a three card suit, unless he falsecarded his opening lead, which is very unlikely. If East has the club ace you are down. Plus, you can expect a poor matchpoint score as West found a lead from a three card suit which likely will not often be duplicated. Your only hope is that West has the ♣A, so you rise with the king. The full deal:

♠ A Q 10
♥ J 7
♦ J 10 9 3 2
♣ K J 9

♠ 3 2
♥ 9 6 2
♦ A 5 4
♣ A 10 8 4 2

♠ 9 8 7 6
♥ K Q 10 5 3
♦ 7 6
♣ Q 7

♠ K J 5 4
♥ A 8 4
♦ K Q 8
♣ 5 4 3

Next issue: We continue to examine the checklist and learn to use available information to our advantage when declaring.

Meet ... Gray McMullin



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

What drew you to start playing bridge?

I loved playing all sorts of card games as a kid, and of course, bridge is the best. At 19, I failed my first year of university playing bridge. That was 42 years ago.

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

The horrors! I think most fondly of the good moments (not the nightmares). Like last year, where in the CNTC qualifying, I was playing 3NT; I said to my screen opponent (a friend), on lead, "make it a good one, I have extras". He leads the ♦10. The dummy shows up with the ♦QJxxx, opposite my ♦AK. So I go, "uh oh, that's not going to do it. And my friend, leaning into the table so that his partner can hear, comments, "Well, I was trying to give my partner a ruff..." When his partner subsequently showed out, we all could not stop laughing.

What about life away from the bridge table?

33 years in the same (boring) job as a driver, self-employed. Retirement is only a couple of years away. I already get a pension from BC Tel (now Telus), for the 12 years I worked as a telephone operator.

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

Partnership, partnership, partnership ... the most important thing about the game. Love thy partner.

Can you share any stories with us?

I loved Judith Gartaganis' take on Bill Gates, 2002 NABC Montreal. I too played against him in his VERY FIRST NABC, 2000 Anaheim. He was playing in the Mixed BAM with Sharon Osberg.

They qualified 16th, to make the cut, while we were a point behind, in 18th. Like Montreal, the tournament was all atwitter with his presence. Unobtrusive security all around. The thing I best remember; Gates was interviewed for the Daily Bulletin, where he stated. "I think if you play bridge for long enough, a player can play virtually mistake free". Well, us bridge players found it very funny, because we know, that even the very best players, World Champions, make mistakes; sometimes real doozies.

How are you interested in furthering Canadian bridge?

In 2010, before I started playing seriously (My first CNTC was in 2009), I came up with a plan for a Canadian Team to win a World Championship. I started a partnership with Bryan Makysmetz, who was responsible for raising my game from zero to hero. I told him about my desire to sponsor a team, without the need for me to be a player on that team. He thought I was nuts.

Nine years later, I continue with my plan. And as many still do question why I would do this, I think Nader Hanna summed it up nicely; "Everyone needs a hobby". My plan may not be viable, and I may never find a team that wants to pursue it, but I will never-the-less, make the offer to any enthusiastic team that wins the CNTC's.

My offer is this; to pay the expenses of up to two weeks of practice time for the team that wins the CNTC's, traveling to the World Bridge Championship venue, before it starts. The goal: to participate in a structured

Meet ... Gray McMullin

training regime, focused on the methods that other countries use that we are not familiar with. And to engage in practice sessions with other teams that wish to challenge us.

This offer is LONG TERM, starting in 2020 (not 2019; China... I found it difficult dealing with Chinese officials; and not any of the Trans National World's; 2022, 2026, etc.). It would be structured to the needs and desires of the team participating.

Though I doubt that my offer will be taken up immediately, my offer is sincere. Anyone is welcome to talk to me about it. And I intend to make a submission to the CBF at their annual board meeting here in Vancouver in 2019; I will have more detailed plans available at that time.

Anything else?

I spent 7 years as the supplies manager on the unit board. I have been teaching bridge at the homeless shelter for the past four years.



Mike Kenny, CIPC Gold & Gray McMullin, CIPC Silver 2015.
Photo: Jonathan Steinberg

MOLLO ON PLAY

Editor's note: Victor Mollo treated us to some great characters such as the Hideous Hog and the Rueful Rabbit. In addition, he shared with us some great declarer play problems. In this limited feature, we present some of these gems.

Contract: 6S

♠ 5 2
♥ K 8 6 4
♦ 4 3 2
♣ K Q 8 6

♠ A K Q J 10 4
♥ A
♦ A K 7 6 5
♣ A

Lead: ♣10
Plan the play.

Answer on page 26.



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EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PROFESSIONAL BRIDGE

By Alex J. Coyne

Have you ever wished you could somehow quit your job and play bridge full time? Unfortunately bridge tournaments, unlike poker tournaments, rarely offer prize money. But for many expert players, prize money isn't the only way to earn a living at the world's favourite card game.

The world of bridge actually offers many possible careers including bridge director, teacher, club owner, writer, cartoonist and publisher. However, the most lucrative bridge profession could be said to be that of a bridge professional. But what's involved? How much do bridge players make? How would one hire a bridge pro?

We went digging into the world of professional bridge to find out more.

How much do prof bridge players make?

Canadian player Daniel Korbel revealed in an interview for The Record ("This bridge pro reveals his secrets as a hired gun", The Record, 2012) that some bridge players are happy to fork out "upward of \$30,000 or more to a top pro to be their teammate at a week-long national tournament." Smaller tournaments, also according to Korbel, could bring a professional player up to \$9,000.

An article from The Globe and Mail ("High rollers fit the bill for bridge pros", The Globe and Mail, 2011) noted that tournament rates for professional players can vary between \$8,000 to as much as \$50,000 according to professional bridge player and Canadian, Gavin Wolpert.

It would seem that just how much bridge players can make in the professional circuit would depend on how active they are, how often they win – and, largely, who is sponsoring their game. In many cases, these are larger companies and bridge-enthusiasts who like to see the game continue – the "high rollers" referred to by The Globe and Mail.

Someone asked this question of Quora in 2014, and Jim Griffin, a professional bridge player in the SF bay area replied:

As a professional player I can shed some light on the subject. How much a pro charges is like asking "How much does a lawyer charge?". The fee is based on several things:

- 1) How good a player is the pro? Does he (or she) have significant tournament wins and a reliable track record?
- 2) What is the event you are hiring the pro for? A club game is significantly less than a sectional, which in turn is less than a regional event. At the top of the fee ladder would be a National or World event.

3) What part of the country do you live? There is a regional pricing variance I've noticed depending somewhat on the locale you're in. NYC or LA or the SF bay area with their higher costs of living command a higher price tag. Many of the top pros have moved to Las Vegas and Florida and some of those rates are quite high as well.

In general I would say (based especially on bullet 1), a pro might get:

- a) \$75 to \$300 for a club game (3-4 hours). I know people getting paid both extremes.
- b) \$250 to \$800/day for a sectional (two 3-4 hour sessions)
- c) \$300 to \$1000 /day for a regional event (two 3-4 hour sessions)
- d) \$500 to \$3000/day for a nationally rated event (two 3-4 hour sessions).

Many top pros are hired to play all 3 nationals and some set number of regionals / year for an agreed upon price. Frequently, they have written contracts outlining their agreements.

Want to become a bridge professional?

You've earned a reputation at the bridge table, and you've amassed a goodly sum of points, now you want to see if you can earn some money to cover the costs of attending tournaments.

You can start small at your local bridge club. Talk to other 'pros' in your area and see what the going rate is for a club game. Then give your name to the club owner, to local teachers, and even to your local tournament organizers.

Your success as a bridge pro big or small will ultimately depend on how personable you are at the table as well as how well you play.

Documentaries & Books

These excellent publications will help you get a feel for the world of professional bridge.

In the Cards: The Secret World of Professional Bridge.

This bridge documentary, directed by Andy Pedersen and produced in 2004-2005, follows Gavin Wolpert and Vincent Demuy around the world capturing the excitement of professional bridge.

The Sheriff of Bridge: This is a perhaps lesser-known documentary about professional bridge player Boye Brogeland and his mission to spot and bring down cheaters in the professional bridge world. (And it was nominated the Best Norwegian TV Documentary!)

Aces & Knives: This is an exciting documentary about the mental side of playing bridge. Their webpage notes: *Aces & Knives is a documentary for and about us—the millions of people who discover the game of bridge and never let it go.*

Double Dummy: This is a documentary by John McAllister about the competitive world of youth bridge tournaments and the friendships that players form around the tournament table.

The Bridge Bum by Alan Sontag. This famous book follows professional Alan Sontag as he navigates the glamour and grind of a bridge professional's life

Would you like to get in touch with some professional bridge players yourself?

Pro Bridge: Find Me A Bridge Pro. On this cool website, Sally Brock, Simon Cope and Ben provide a service where players can be matched with a bridge pro - for tournaments or even for club games. Sadly Pro Bridge is located in the UK, and we haven't been able to find anything similar in North America. pro-bridge.co.uk

Truth is, though, any 'expert' bridge player would likely be available for a 'pro' bridge date. You could also ask at your local bridge club – very likely they'll have a list of players who are available.



by Jean-Francois Boucher

THE **NEW PLAYER**
Spot

Reverses

by Jean-Francois Boucher

Reverses are made when you have a maximum one level opener, and your longer suit is lower ranking than your second longest suit. If the opposite were true, then you would open the higher ranking one, and jump shift on the 2nd round of bidding. The key is to always open your longer suit.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A REVERSE

- 1.** The first suit is always longer than the second one.
- 2.** It promises a good 17 up to 21 points. If the hand is a minimum, the points will be concentrated in both suits.
- 3.** The reverse is not forcing to game, but is forcing for one round.

NEW PLAYER SPOT ... continued

EXAMPLES

- a) ♠ 5 3 ♥ A K Q 6 ♦ A Q J 9 6 2 ♣ 4
Open 1♦, then bid 2♥
- b) ♠ A J 3 ♥ K Q J 4 ♦ A K J 10 7 ♣ 5
Open 1♦, then bid 2♥
- c) ♠ 8 ♥ A K 9 8 7 ♦ A K 10 7 6 2 ♣ 5
Open 1♦, then bid 2♥
- d) ♠ A Q ♥ Q 9 8 7 ♦ K 10 7 6 2 ♣ K Q
Open 1NT.

RESPONDING TO PARTNER'S REVERSE

Let's say the beginning starts :

| Opener | Responder |
|--------|-----------|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♥ | ? |

SUPPORT

Supporting one of partner's suits is a positive, showing 8+ points. The responder announces that he wants to go to game and there is a slam possibility in the air. These auctions are forcing to game.

Warning: Do not count Queens and Jacks in suits other than those promised by opener. These points are worthless when they face singleton or doubleton. Even Kings in these other suits can be of dubious value.

Supporting partner's first suit shows three or four card fit and a value of 8+ support points. This is the required minimum for support.

| Responder | Opener | Responder |
|-----------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ A J 8 6 | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ♥ 6 4 2 | 2♥ | 3♣ |
| ♦ 7 5 3 | | |
| ♣ K J 7 | | |

Supporting the opener's second suit shows a four card fit and a value of 10+ in support points.

| Responder | Opener | Responder |
|-------------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ A 9 7 4 3 | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ♥ K 9 7 2 | 2♥ | 3♥ |
| ♦ J 9 | | |
| ♣ Q 7 | | |

The Ace of Spades is a primary card. The King of Hearts and the Queen of Clubs help strengthen the opener's suits. The Jack of Diamonds has no value. No need to jump to game, 3 Hearts is forcing. This leaves room to explore slam.

3NT

A jump to game in no-trump is not forcing since game has been reached. It shows limited values, about 11-12.

| Responder | Opener | Responder |
|------------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ K 10 8 6 | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ♥ Q 9 8 | 2♥ | 3NT |
| ♦ A Q 6 | | |
| ♣ 9 4 2 | | |

Your concentration of points in spades and diamonds and your balanced edistribution suggest to play in no-trump.

4TH SUIT

When you do not have an obvious bid, bid the fourth suit. You confirm to opener that you want to go to game and you ask him to complete his hand description.

| Responder | Opener | Responder |
|-------------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ A K 7 5 4 | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ♥ 9 6 3 | 2♥ | 3♦ |
| ♦ 8 4 3 | | |
| ♣ A 5 | | |

NEW PLAYER SPOT ... continued

You want to be at game, but you don't know yet what will be the best one.

SIGN OFFS

When the responder has less than 10 points, he must tell the opener by making one of the two sign-off auctions which only specify that his hand is weak while indicating the possession or not of a 5 card major.

Repeating the Major

It shows a 5+ card suit and less than 10 points. It's only forcing for one round.

| Responder | Opener | Responder |
|-----------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ 9 7 5 4 | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ♥ A J 7 | 2♥ | 2♠ |
| ♦ 9 2 | | |
| ♣ 8 7 2 | | |

You confirm 5+ Spades and less than 10 points. It is possible that you have a fit, but you cannot show it immediately.

2 No-trump

2NT denies possession of a five card in major.

| Responder | Opener | Responder |
|-----------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ A 7 5 4 | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ♥ 8 7 6 | 2♥ | 2NT |
| ♦ Q J 5 | | |
| ♣ 7 5 3 | | |

This bid does not promise a stopper in the unbid suit. It is artificial, showing less than 10 points. It is forcing for one round.

Editor's note: Another very common treatment when responder wants to sign off over a reverse is the Lebensohl Convention. Using this bid, responder rebids 2NT which is artificial and tells opener to bid 3♣ with any minimum reverse. Responder then places the contract.

STOPPING BEFORE GAME

When the responder starts with one of the two sign-off bids, the opener must make another bid. If he is minimal, he can show it by doing one of the three things below. All other bids are forcing to game.

| Opener | Opener | Responder |
|--------------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ 5 | 1♦ | 1♠ |
| ♥ K J 9 8 | 2♥ | 2♠ |
| ♦ A K J 10 5 | 2NT | |
| ♣ A J 8 | | |

2 no-trump promises a stopper in the unbid suit. This bid is not forcing. However, the responder can still have a fit and will show it on his next turn to bid. Finally, if he has his maximum (8-9), he will go to game. Rebidding his first suit guarantees six plus cards.

| Opener | Opener | Responder |
|----------------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ 9 | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ♥ 3 2 | 2♦ | 2♠ |
| ♦ A K 9 6 | 3♣ | |
| ♣ A K J 10 5 4 | | |

| Opener | Opener | Responder |
|-------------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ A 5 | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ♥ 4 3 | 2♦ | 2NT |
| ♦ A K 9 6 | 3♣ | |
| ♣ K Q J 7 5 | | |

Support responder's major suit.

This shows three card support and a minimum inverted bid. It is invitational to game.

| Opener | Opener | Responder |
|-------------|--------|-----------|
| ♠ 9 5 2 | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ♥ 4 | 2♦ | 2♠ |
| ♦ A Q 10 8 | 3♠ | |
| ♣ A K Q J 5 | | |

Of course you want to be in game. You have already limited your hand with the sign-off. Now you can invite to game.

NEW PLAYER SPOT ... continued

Go to game after a sign-off.

The sign-off bid shows 6 to 9 points. But if the responder has 8-9 points, game is still possible. The responder must start with a sign-off (2NT or repeat his major) and invite or go to game afterwards.

Responder

♠ A 9 6 5 4
♥ 6 5
♦ 4
♣ 9 8 7 5 3

Opener

1♣
2♦
2NT

Responder

1♠
2♠
4♣

Responder

♠ K 8 7 4
♥ 6 5
♦ K J 8 6
♣ J 10 5

Opener

1♣
2♥
3♣

Responder

1♠
2NT
3NT

SUMMARY TABLES

| Reverse bid | | Responder's second bid |
|-------------|-----------|--|
| Opener | Responder | |
| 1♣ | 1♠ | <i>Sign-off (6-9)</i> 2♠ : 5 cards major 2NT : denies 5 cards in the major |
| 2♥ | ? | <i>Positives (10+) forcing to game</i> 3♣ (1st suit of the opener) : 3+ cards fit 3♥ (2nd suit of the opener) : 4 cards fit 3NT : 11-12 H, double stopper in unbid suit 3♦ (4th suit) : do not know what is the best game |
| | | Third bid by opener |
| 1♣ | 1♠ | <i>After a sign-off 2♠</i> 2NT : minimum reverse, stopper unannounced suit, not forcing 3♣ : (1st suit of the opener) minimum, 6 cards, non forcing. 3♠ : 3 cards fit, minimum, invite to game : non-forcing Any other bid = forcing to game |
| 2♥ | 2♠ | <i>After a sign-off 2NT</i> 3♣ (1st suit of the opener) minimum, 5-6 cards, non-forcing. If the responder comes back in the 2nd opener's suit, he wants to play here... Any other bid is forcing to game |
| ? | | |
| 1♣ | 1♠ | |
| 2♥ | 2NT | |
| ? | | |

Editor's note: Bridge Canada would like to welcome Jean-Francois Boucher as a guest contributor. Jean-Francois lives in Chicoutimi and has been playing for over 40 years, half of this time as a club owner and bridge teacher. He has written nearly 2,000 bridge columns for such newspapers as "Le Soleil" in Quebec, "Le Droit" in Ottawa and "Le Quotidien" in Chicoutimi.



by Neil Kimelman

THE **INTERMEDIATE**
Spot

THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES **DEFENSIVE PLAY 13**

DEFENSIVE STRATEGIES

By Neil Kimelman

I continue looking at some general defensive strategies. This issue: Promoting trump tricks.

There are a couple of specific ways in which this can be accomplished:

- Forcing either declarer or dummy to ruff with high trumps.
- One or more uppercuts.
- Defensive timing.

FORCING RUFFS

Sometimes the declaring side's trumps are such where this is the indicated defence. The best way to illustrate this principle is with an example (see next page).

Intermediate Spot : by Neil Kimelman ... Continued

Example 1: Contract: 6♠

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

Declarer has 12 tricks, with only a club loser. However the defence can promote a trump trick for East by leading and continuing clubs.

UPPERCUTS

Uppercuts occur when you ruff a trick, usually with the highest trump you have, even though you know declarer can overruff, in the hope that this promotes one or more of partner's trumps into winners. As usual an example is the best way to illustrate this stratagem:

Example 2: Contract: 6♠

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

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

West knows that declarer and partner are short in hearts, and should adopt the defensive strategy of leading a heart. Hopefully partner can trump the first round*. If not a 2nd round may promote a 2nd trump trick. Sure enough West wins the first round of spades and plays a 2nd round of hearts, and partner's lowly ♠6 is enough to promote the ♠10 to the setting trick!

TIP: When trying to promote a trump trick for partner via an uppercut, it is good technique to ruff with your highest trump, even if an honour.

There is a corollary related to uppercut defense. Sometimes you have a winner(s) in the suit you want partner to ruff high. Don't lead the winner! Purposefully lead your smallest, so partner knows what you want them to do.

*You might think that this is not possible as partner did not make a Lightner double. Sometimes Lightner doubles, asking for an unusual lead usually with a void, are unadvisable, as here. A smart South will convert the contract to 6NT, which is unbeatable!

Sometimes the promotions of trump tricks is more subtle:

Example 3: Contract: 4♠

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

East overtakes partner's ♥K lead and returns a heart for West to play a 3rd round. Little does East know, but his ♠8 is now destined to score the 4th defensive trick!

DEFENSIVE TIMING

This occurs when you can choose when to take the ace of trump (or sometimes another high trump), in order to give partner a ruff they otherwise could not obtain:

Example 4: Form of scoring: IMPs; N-S vul;
Contract: 4♥; Lead: ♣9;

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

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

This is a recent duplicate hand, where I was the victim of good defence. My partner thought my double of 2♣ was penalty; alas, we pushed on to a very pushy game. The defence started with two rounds of clubs. I was happy when North did not ruff out my ♣K, and optimistically led the ♠Q at trick 3, intending to finesse. South ruffed, played a 3rd club, which North ruffed with the ace of trump, in order to lead another spade for their partner to ruff – down two!

Next column: When you are weak and want to aid partner's defence.

TEST YOUR DECEPTIVE PLAY

IMPS. Contract 3NT

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

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

- 15-17
- Forcing

Lead: ♦4 (low from interest). East wins the ace and returns the ♦3. Plan the play.

SOLUTION

This one seems fairly straightforward. West has likely led from four or five diamonds. The only danger is if West wins the 2nd round of diamonds and shifts to a club. Now, you are in jeopardy if the heart finesse loses and East returns a club through your ♣J9 and West started with ♣K10x(x) or ♣Q10x(x).

The expert declarer averted this danger by winning the 2nd diamond with the King, and finessing hearts. However, East won, and cashed three diamond tricks.

You will not be surprised to learn that that West was Zia, known for his imagination. His reasoning that this contract looked likely to make and he made a subtle falsecard that he hoped wouldn't affect partner's defence. As is more often than not, he was right!

The lesson here is that deceptive play is also available to defenders, but is more dangerous, as it may lead partner to not get the defence right.

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.



This series represents 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



The 15th World Bridge Series

11th Rosenblum Cup

Editor's note: This is the 2nd in a series on the 11th Rosenblum Cup, held in Orlando last September.

Swiss Qualifying Round 9 – MOSSOP v CONNECTOR (Horton)

Drawing inferences from the bidding is routine for an expert. It was of vital importance on these two deals from the Rosenblum qualifying:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Hackett | Gierulski | Hackett | Skrzypczak |
| Pass | 2♣1 | 4♥ | 5♣ |
| 5♥ | Pass | 6♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

1. 10-14(15), 6+ clubs or 5+ clubs and a 4-card major

Looking at three low clubs, East knew there was a good chance his partner would be void. South led the king of spades. He switched to his trump, but declarer won, cashed the top diamonds and claimed when the queen appeared. Only eight pairs reached six hearts – three lucky ones were doubled.

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------------|--------|
| Nawrocki | Hydes | Wiankowski | Mossop |
| Pass | 1♣ | 4♥ | Double |
| Pass | 5♣ | Double | Pass |
| 5♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

There was no inference to be drawn here, so MOSSOP had 13 IMPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-------|--------|----------|
| Versace | Hult | Lauria | Ekenberg |
| — | 1♣ | 1♥ | 5♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Double | Pass |
| 5♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

1. (a.) 2+ clubs, 11-13 balanced or 17-19 balanced (can be 3=3=5=2), or; (b.) 11-23 HCP, 4+ clubs

North led the king of clubs. Declarer ruffed in dummy and played a spade to the king. When it held, he played the six of hearts and ran it! He knew from the bidding that North held a balanced hand, and he needed three rounds of hearts to stand up. When the six held, declarer ruffed a club and played hearts, pitching his last club from hand. North ruffed and played a diamond, but declarer could win in dummy, cash another diamond, ruff a diamond and play the queen of spades for a seemingly effortless plus 450.

No doubt you have spotted North's mistake. He should have won the first spade and return the ten of spades, pinning dummy's nine.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Stamatov | Donati | Danailov | Tokay |
| — | 1♣ | 1♥ | 5♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Double | Pass |
| 5♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

The initial play was identical, North again making the mistake of ducking the first spade. Here, declarer continued by ruffing a second club, then playing three rounds of diamonds, ruffing. So far so good, but declarer then made the mistake of exiting with a club (I wonder did he pull out the wrong jack?) and he finished two down.

Round of 64 Stanza 1 – PDC v PD TIMES (Tacchi)

PDC, a team of two Dutch pairs and a third pairing of USA/Italy finished in twenty-eighth position in the opening Swiss phase. Their opponents, PD TIMES, are all Chinese, and were two places ahead of them.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|------|----------|
| Li | Verbeek | Fu | Molenaar |
| — | — | — | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Warned by the Stayman sequence that North had a four-card heart suit, West tried his fourth-best diamond.

Dummy's nine elicited the queen from East, who continued the suit to West's ten and dummy's jack. Declarer now set about the club suit and made the natural play of a low one to his king, West dropping the ten. He continued with the nine of clubs, running it when West discarded a heart – East ducked. Had he taken his queen, the contract would have failed by at least one trick, as West had two diamonds and the ace of hearts to cash.

Declarer then made the excellent play of getting off play with a diamond, whereupon West cashed his two diamond winners. The play when West takes the thirteenth diamond is very complex. Here are the main points:

- If dummy throws a heart, West can exit with a high or low heart, so instead a club must go.

Over to East:

- If East then discards a club, declarer gets four club tricks and has time to establish hearts.

- If instead, East throws a heart, West can return hearts but will be thrown in or squeezed later on the club ace. And, if he returns a spade, declarer cashes his high spades and establishes hearts.

So, East must get rid of a spade.

West was now in deep trouble; if he exited with a spade, declarer would get five tricks in the suit. If instead, West played the ace and another heart, on the ace of clubs, he would be squeezed in the majors. Finally, if West exited with a low heart, declarer could play back a heart and West would again be thrown in and squeezed. Nice play by declarer.

West brought this disaster upon himself. With a certain entry in the ace of hearts, he should have won the

second diamond with the ace and set up the thirteenth diamond. Then, on a club play from declarer a positive signal in hearts would have led East to the correct decision to win the second club.

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Nab</i> | <i>Chen</i> | <i>Drijver</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♣1 |
| 1♥ | 2♣2 | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| 1. | 16+ HCP | | |
| 2. | 5+ clubs, 8+ HCP, game-forcing | | |

East heeded West's overcall and led the knave of hearts to the king, ace and deuce. West switched to a low diamond and East's queen took the nine from dummy. East continued the suit and West ducked, letting declarer win with the knave. Maybe declarer was playing West to be 2=5=4=2 as he cashed the ace and king of spades and then exited with a diamond. West took his two diamond tricks exited with a heart to the now-singleton queen in dummy. Note that West did not cash the queen of spades, the setting trick, playing instead for two down – declarer would not have played that way with four or more club tricks. Declarer had two spade tricks, two hearts, one diamond and two clubs, and so failed by two tricks to lose 13 IMPs.

Round of 64 Stanza 1 – CONNECTOR v JJ MAXROD (Tacchi) Some Comic Relief

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

I was interested to see if any pairs had actually managed to bid the heart slam on this deal. The answer was two, but one of them failed. During my perusal, I saw that one team had bid and made six clubs. I naturally assumed that this was a typographical error, but I noted that the board had been played on BBO so I rooted out the lin file and had a look and, yes, the contract was bid and made. How? I hear you ask. Shall we say that East was perhaps not fully awake. Here is the story as it unfolded. Names have been withheld to protect the guilty, but declarer deserves to be mentioned.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | Pass | 1♣ |
| 4♠ | 4NT | Pass | 5NT |
| Pass | 6♣ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

As to the meanings of the notrump bids, I cannot be sure, but I think North was trying to get South to bid a suit and South suggested that North might try his best suit. Whatever the understandings were, or should have been, South became declarer in six clubs.

Not surprisingly, West started with the ace of spades. Declarer ruffed in dummy and led a low trump. When East failed to split his honours, South made a valiant attempt to make his contract by playing the eight. It held! Declarer was not out of the woods yet. He ruffed another spade and returned to hand with the ace of diamonds. South led his last spade and ruffed it in dummy, East made his last fatal error when he did not overruff but discarded a diamond. A heart was led from dummy – East split his honours and declarer won with the ace. He cashed his two top trumps and then played diamonds. East had no option but to ruff the fourth round but found himself thrown in to lead a heart. Declarer was not hard-pressed to play the ten and bring home a most-improbable

contract. In spite of this excellent result, JJ MAXROD lost the match by 7 IMPs.

Round of 32 Stanza 1 – NICKELL v MAHAFFEY (Bird)

This was an encounter that I believe could be described as ‘all American’. May I request that any letters correcting me on this matter be addressed directly to your trash bin? Let’s see some action.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <i>Cohen</i> | <i>Rodwell</i> | <i>Cohler</i> | <i>Meckstroth</i> |
| — | Pass | Pass | 1♣1 |
| 1♥ | 2♦2 | 3♣ | Double |
| Pass | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♥3 |
| Pass | 4NT4 | Pass | 5♣5 |
| Pass | 5♦6 | Pass | 6♠7 |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. 16+ HCP
2. 8+ HCP, 5+ diamonds
3. Agrees spades
- 4, RKCB
5. 3 key cards
6. Trump queen ask
7. Queen of spades but no side king

Meckstroth’s double was for penalties. Meckstroth was facing a passed hand and I confidently informed the kibitzers that he would bid just game over three spades. No, Meckstroth could sniff a low point-count slam.

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Kohler led the king of clubs, I expect I would have done the same, but a lead of any other suit would have given declarer too much work to do. Rodwell won with the ace of clubs and ruffed a club immediately. He played a trump to the queen, which won, and ruffed another club, West showing out. When the ten of spades was led to the jack (nice nine, Partner!), West won and returned the king of hearts to the ace. Rodwell crossed to the ace of diamonds, drew the remaining trumps and claimed. He made three trump tricks, five diamonds, the ace of hearts and two club ruffs. What a splendid plus 980!

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Levin</i> | <i>Lev</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> | <i>Mahaffey</i> |
| — | Pass | Pass | 1♣ |
| 1♥ | Double | 3♣ | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

North's double promised spades but the diamond fit was never disclosed. West led the king of hearts. Declarer eventually suffered a third-round diamond ruff to collect plus 420. It was 11 IMPs to NICKELL. Anyone hoping to beat this team will have to play very well!

Round of 32 Stanza 2 – LAVAZZA v MOSS (Senior)

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Madala</i> | <i>Lall</i> | <i>Bianchedi</i> | <i>Bathurst</i> |
| — | 1♣1 | 1NT2 | Double3 |
| 4♣4 | 4♦ | 4♠ | 5♦ |
| Pass | Pass | 6♣ | Double |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. 16+ HCP
2. 2 suits of the same colour
3. 5-7 HCP
4. Pass or correct

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <i>Dwyer</i> | <i>Bilde</i> | <i>Huang</i> | <i>Duboin</i> |
| — | 1♦ | 1♠ | 2♣1 |
| 2♥ | Double2 | 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3NT | 4♣ | Pass |
| 5♣ | 5♦ | 6♣ | Pass |
| Pass | 6♦ | Double | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Lall tried to cash the ace of hearts. That was ruffed, of course, and Madala drew trumps, then ruffed out the heart to claim all 13 tricks and plus 1740 – one of the less common results we can expect to see at this tournament.

Huang led the ace of spades, Bilde dropping the queen in an attempt to avoid the impending ruff, then switched to the king of clubs, asking for count. Dwyer's nine was a very clear signal to show four cards, so the spade ruff was the only hope of a further trick. Sure enough, Dwyer ruffed the spade switch and dealt Huang a heart ruff, but that was that. The contract was down three for minus 500, but that was worth 15 IMPs to LAVAZZA.



Team Zimmermann displays the Rosenblum Cup and their gold medals from the Open Team Championship: captain Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon, Tor Helness, Geir Helgemo, Piotr Gawrys and Michal Klukowski

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Versace</i> | <i>Jones</i> | <i>Lauria</i> | <i>Paske</i> |
| 1♣ | 1♦ | 3♦1 | 3♥ |
| 3♠ | Double | Pass | 4♦ |
| Pass | 5♦ | Pass | Pass |
| Double | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 1. Majors | | | |

Round of 32 Stanza 4 – CAYNE v ALLFREY (Senior)

Board 48. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Robson</i> | <i>Donati</i> | <i>Allfrey</i> | <i>Tokay</i> |
| 1NT | Double1 | Redouble | 2♣2 |
| Pass | 2♦ | 2♠ | 3♠ |
| Pass | 3NT | 4♥ | 5♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. 4M and a longer minor
2. Pass or correct

Allfrey led the queen of clubs and Robson overtook it to play two more top clubs. Donati ruffed with the king, played a spade to the ace, ruffed a spade, drew two rounds of trumps, then ruffed another spade. Next he ruffed dummy's last club and cashed the last trump. Having been administered the sole guard in both majors, Allfrey was squeezed into submission and Donati had his eleventh trick for a well-played plus 600.

The play followed the same lines as at the other table, with the same outcome: 11 tricks, but here for plus 750 and 4 IMPs to ALLFREY.

Round of 16 Stanza 4 – LAVAZZA v PSZCZOLA (Horton) *Inference and Hypothesis*

Sometimes when you go down in a contract you spot a winning line in the post mortem and think, 'I should have seen that.' Take a look at this deal from the final session of the Rosenblum Round of 16.

Board 51. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| <i>Duboin</i> | <i>Nowosadzki</i> | <i>Bilde</i> | <i>Kalita</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Double | Pass |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | 5NT | Pass | 6♦ |
| Pass | 6♥ | All Pass | |

At the other table, North/South had stopped in three notrump and emerged with 12 tricks.

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Here, East led the queen of clubs. Declarer won with

dummy's ace, dropping the jack from his hand, and drew trumps, pitching the club five from dummy. He continued with the nine of clubs and West won to switch to a diamond. Declarer won, cashed the ace of spades and played a spade to the ten. When West produced the jack and played a second diamond the contract was four down.

Was it possible for declarer to make the contract?

The opening lead suggested that East held a doubleton club and he had followed to three rounds of trumps. He had doubled three diamonds, which suggested he held some length in that suit, and might persuade declarer that East is unlikely to be long in spades.

Suppose, after drawing trumps, declarer cashes the ace of spades and plays a fourth round of trumps, discarding dummy's queen of diamonds. West is already under pressure. Discarding a spade is immediately fatal, and pitching a club allows declarer to play the nine of clubs, establishing enough winners. So, West must part with a diamond.

Now declarer cashes the ace of diamonds to reach this position:

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

When declarer plays the nine of clubs, West must duck to avoid endplaying himself. Then declarer cashes the last trump forcing West to part with a club. Declarer crosses to dummy with a spade and exits with a club, forcing West to lead into dummy's spade tenace. Beautiful, as I'm sure you will agree, but after the opening lead declarer can get home by the prosaic play of returning a club.

To be continued...



BRIDGE IN THE MENAGERIE

Victor Mollo (1909 - 1987) was a British bridge player, journalist and author. He is most famous for his "Bridge in the Menagerie" series of bridge books, depicting vivid caricatures of players with animal names and mannerisms through a series of exciting and entertaining deals—bridge fables of a sort.

Source: Wikipedia

MOLLO ON PLAY

Contract: 6♠

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

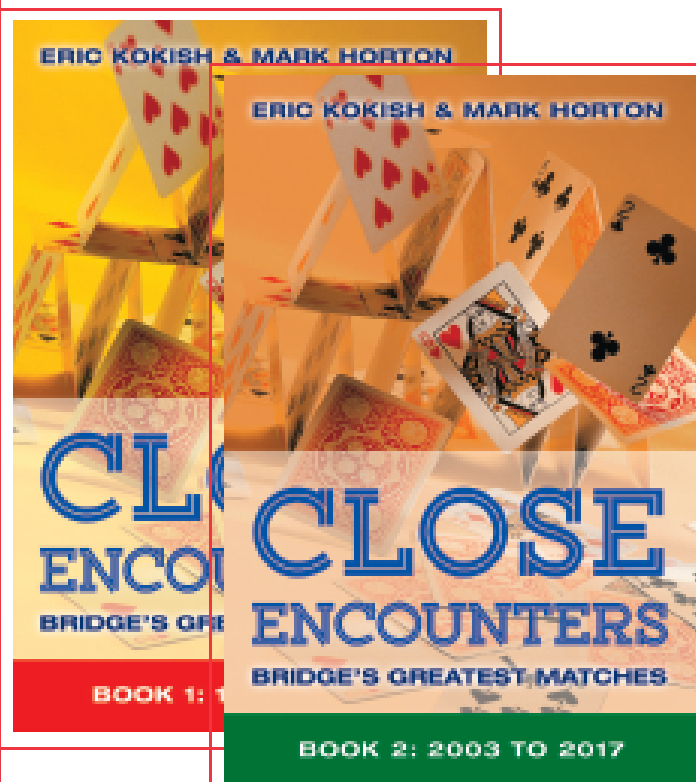
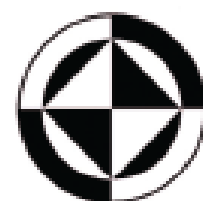
Lead: ♣10

SOLUTION FROM PAGE 9

The key on the hand is to win the lead, cash only two high trump, then cash the ♥A, and then the two top diamonds. If the diamonds are 3-2 then declarer pulls the last trump and gives up a diamond. However if the diamonds are 4-1, then declarer must hope that the hand that has the long trumps has the singleton diamond, and then must lead a heart or club, thus allowing declarer to throw all of his diamonds on the three round suit winners in dummy.

Of course the defence can always prevail, if West follows to the AK of spades with the seven and six, keeping the three. (In Mollo's original hand, the spades four and three are reversed).

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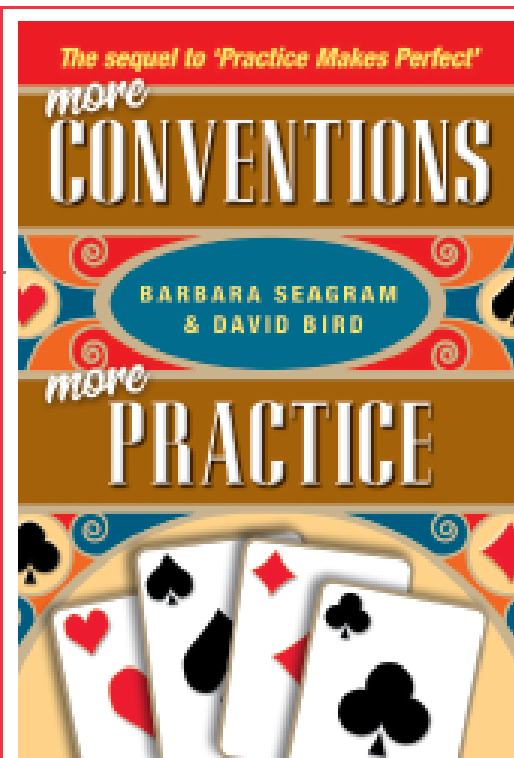
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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Feb 2 (10 am to 3 pm 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 Erin Berry Rookie Master Game

MAY

May 4-12 Canadian Bridge Championships
Burnaby, BC www.cbf.ca

JUNE

June 12 Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Game

June 16-23 Select a day for Alzheimer Fund Games



IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL 2019 DATES

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Mar 21-31 | ACBL Spring NABC Memphis, TN www.acbl.org |
| Jul 18-28 | ACBL Summer NABC Las Vegas, NV www.acbl.org |
| Jul 25-27 | Youth NABC in Las Vegas |
| Aug 20-29 | 6th World Open Youth Championships Opatija, Croatia www.worldbridge.org |
| Sep 14-28 | 44th World Bridge Team Championship. China worldbridge.org |
| Nov 28-Dec 8 | ACBL Fall NABC San Francisco, CA www.acbl.org |