

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | APRIL 2019

bridge *Canada*

WELCOME TO SPRING
IN BURNABY, BC

CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
MAY 4-12, 2019

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.



IN THIS ISSUE

- 03. Editors Message
- 03. Mollo on Play
- 05. Bridge Basics - Declarer Play 5
- 08. Meet Andy Stark
- 10. Mollo On Play Solutions
- 11. Holding your breath - a Bridge Movie
- 15. The Newcomer Spot - Jacoby 2NT
by Michael Abbey
- 18. The Intermediate Spot - Defense
by Neil Kimelman
- 21. The Expert Spot - What Went Wrong
by Paul Thurston
- 24. IBPA Files - 11th Rosenblum Cup
- 30. Upcoming Events

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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.

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	5♦	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Contract: 6♠

♠ K 6 2
 ♥ A 7 6
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ A K Q 4 3

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

Lead: ♣J

Dummy wins, and East discards a diamond. East discards another diamond on the ♠Q. Plan the play.

Solution on page 10.

Editor's Message

BURNABY, HERE WE COME!

There is still a lot of time to plan on attending the Canadian Bridge Championships, taking place next month at the Delta Hotel in Burnaby, BC. Although too late to register for the premier team events, there is a host of other Regional events, plus the CIPC and COPCs, with cash prizes!

For more information, click on the link on the CBF homepage.

Neil Kimelman
Managing Editor, Bridge Canada

KAPLANISM 10 *(Quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan)*

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

"In addition to the few brilliancies and many errors reported here, each player made thousands of sound, accurate decisions which go unheralded because the right play or bid is unspectacular."

"Analysis of the 1958 World Championship", TBW 1958, as reprinted (abridged) in TBW 1.1998, p. 21



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

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bridge Canada

APRIL 2019 • VOL. 49 NO.2

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MAGAZINE AD RATES

Full page \$ 500 | Half page \$ 300

Quarter page \$ 175 | Business Card \$ 100

10% DISCOUNT if 3 issues paid in advance.

PUBLISHED 6 TIMES A YEAR



DECLARER PLAY 5

This is the fifth article in a new Bridge Canada series. A variety of writer's will add their perspective on the basics of bidding, declarer play and defense. 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. I included the full list in the February Bridge Canada article. In this article, I continue to focus on items 7 & 8, and introduce 9, but focusing solely on notrump contracts.

- 7. What does the bidding tell me about the opponents' hands?
- 8. What does the lead tell me about the opponents' hands?
- 9. What are the opponents' signaling methods?

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

There are different strategies the opponents adopt when defending 1NT, 3NT and 6NT contracts. Against partscore hands, defenders will frequently lead from length, but very often will make safer leads (i.e. through dummy's first bid suit or from three small), rather than from a broken four card suit, such as K975. The thinking is that declarer will have to give the opponents the lead more often when setting up tricks with fewer combined assets. When they do, you will no longer making a blind lead, as often happens at trick one.

Tip# 8 Even though this series is focused on declarer play, there is much worthwhile learning that can be learned, and then applied when defending.

Example 1.

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

Here, South's 1NT started and ended the auction. What should West lead? Any lead except a small diamond will cost one trick right away, and allow declarer to eventually make the contract by end-playing West. But on a diamond lead declarer has only four tricks, and has to guess what suit to attack. All road will lead to down one or two.

Against 6NT defenders will usually opt for passive defense, leading from long suits not headed by an honour. If they have a natural lead, they will normally lead it, if safe. Consider the lead of the ♣Q against 6NT. The lead from QJx(x) will usually be avoided as it is considered too dangerous. This will cost a trick when declarer and dummy have A10x opposite K9x. So you can assume the leader has at least five clubs and/or a stronger holding, such as QJ9(x...) or QJ10(x...). Often the person on lead against a small slam will lead an ace if they have one, but not always.

3NT is the contract we are most familiar with, and one where the defense can be relied upon to usually lead from their longest suit. There are exceptions. Defenders will not usually lead their suits:

- If one of the opponents have either bid it, or implied they have at least four cards via a Stayman sequence.
- When their partners have opened or overcalled.
- When they know their partner has most or all of the defensive assets.

Playing 3NT is much easier when the opponents have bid, especially when they have opened. Let's say the bidding went:

Example 1.

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♣	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

With N-S having enough points for game, East can be counted upon having almost all of the defensive assets. I would conditionally place West with no more than a King. The hand is often an open book, with the strong hand, here East, having problems in discarding, and generally defending effectively.

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

On a club lead declarer will make 12 tricks, regardless of East's defense! If East takes the ♣A at trick one, he has 12 tricks, with the help of the diamond finesse. If instead he puts in the ten at trick one, declarer can win the ♣K, cross to a spade, take the diamond finesse twice, unblock the ♦A, and run the spades and diamond winners. With one winner to go, this is the end position:

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

When North leads ♦2 East is stuck. If he pitches a heart, declarer pitches a club, scores their ♥AJ, and gives up a club at trick 13. If East instead throws the ♣J, declarer

simply discards the ♥J, and gives up a club, winning the last two tricks with the ♥A and ♣9.

Tip# 9 It is often possible to make contracts with fewer than the normal high card needs, when the bidding reveals that one defender holds all the defensive assets. This is doubly so when the strong defensive hand is in front of the declaring side's strong hand, as in the above example.

8. What does the lead, and subsequent defense, tell me about the opponents' hands? What are their signaling methods?

Declarer can often discover the length of the suit led by the spot card led, and if the leader's partner has any high cards in that suit, by the judicious use of the rule of 11 (assuming 4th best leads). It is often easier than that. When the defenders lead the smallest spot outstanding, they have likely led from a four card suit, playing standard leads. Another useful assumption is that when an opponent has led from a four card suit, he doesn't have a five card suit!

If playing 3rd and 5th, then the lead of the lowest outstanding spot card is likely from a five card suit. If the lead is a higher spot, then the leader likely has led from a four card, suit, with two cards above the spot led, and one below. Here is an example, and how as declarer you can benefit from this knowledge:

Example 3.

Contract: 3NT Lead: ♠6, playing 3rd and 5th. Dummy holds KJ83, and declarer A72. There are three cards above the spot card led in the defensive hands.

One with East and two with West, who has likely led from one of these holdings:

♠ Q10xx

♠ Q9xx

♠ 109xx

Playing low at trick one from dummy, and later finessing West will guarantee four tricks against all of these holdings! Like anything else, it takes a while to practice something before becoming proficient. Be patient!

The Smith Echo

This is a useful defensive tool, to gauge how much each defender likes the suit led a trick one. This is communicated at trick two, by the spot card that each defender plays. In standard Smith, a high card says, "I like the suit led. When we get in, I think we should continue it." A low card has the opposite message. Reverse Smith simply reverses these meanings. The opponents are almost always truthful, so a lot of useful inferences can be drawn from this signal.

Tip# 10 It is important that as declarer you check to see what type of length leads the opponents use, what type of signals they adopt, and whether they play a form of the Smith Echo.

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

Meet ... Andy Stark



Andy Stark of Toronto got his first bridge lesson during March Break of his Grade 6 year. But he didn't really take up serious bridge until after he graduated from university in the late 80s. While he has not won a Canadian championship yet, it is on his bucket list. Andy won the Flight 'A' GNTs in 2006 in Chicago and came second in the 0-6,000 Teams at the Toronto NABC in 2017. He also came second in the 1999 Red Ribbon Pairs in San Antonio.

Andy is also the Editor of the Kibitzer, the bridge publication serving five Units within ACBL District 2.

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

It was the proverbial, "We need a fourth for bridge—Andy, want to learn bridge?" I was 11 years old and one of my grandparents didn't feel like sitting in. We had one of those plastic table cloths with charts and graphs telling you what to bid—one giant cheat sheet! After playing a ton of whist and cribbage and other card games with my family I was hooked. Once you learn bridge there really is no other game.

In the summer of 1988, I came home from University (then UWO, now Western) and saw my parents each had their own textbook. I said, "What's this—you already know how to play." "Yes, but we feel rusty so we're taking lessons. We want to learn duplicate bridge." It was Audrey Grant's 'The Joy of Bridge' and it was an 8-week course being taught by John Rayner at the Mississauga-Oakville Bridge Center. My job that summer was at Canada Post and my shift was from 3:00 – 11:00 pm. So, I sat outside in the sun and read the book in two days. "Okay, I'm ready to go. When can we play?" Apart from Eric Sutherland, who was finishing high school, I

was the youngest in the room.

This only happens in the movies, but it happened in real life. I began playing with my mom at the Monday night Huron Park game. We came 6th overall. The next week we were 5th, the next week 4th, then 3rd, then second. Could it be? Would we return the following Monday and get our first win? Yes! Pretty cool to see your name on top of the leaderboard, said every bridge player everywhere.

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

Back then, the bridge clubs were like smoky nightclubs: nasty. Oh sure there were ashtrays at every other table, but still... I don't know how we survived that era. When I smell someone's cigarette today I feel nauseous. It was also a time of some tolerance for bad behaviour as opposed to today's zero tolerance. I got a chuckle from a line in a bridge book I once read. A rubber bridge player, so incensed with his partner's bidding, tears off the tiniest snippet of paper from his scorepad and says, "Here, write down everything you know about bridge." Nobody would do that nowadays, (but they might think about it).

What is your most memorable bridge moment?

Becoming Life Master in a Flight 'A' pairs event at the 1992 NABC in Toronto. I was playing with Bev Ross. We had a 52% game in the afternoon and were the 40th (and final pair mentioned on the first-session leaderboard).

Meet ... Andy Stark

Then at night we were near perfect with a 71% game to come first overall by a board. Benito Garozzo, among many other world class players, was in the field. I had needed 35 golds to get my LM; the win was worth 46.

What about life away from the bridge table? What do you do for a living?

I teach a Basic English Language Skills course at George Brown College, and sometimes a public speaking course. Lots of good laughs in the classroom are to be had with those two subjects. When I'm not at college I go into homes and teach bridge. And when I'm not teaching I'm trying to spend time with my two boys: Lennox is 10 and Camilo is 6. I think they'll both be bridge players, but for now they are doing some caddying. Camilo caddied at the Goderich Sectional last August, as a 5-year old—is that a record?

What do you like to do besides bridge?

There are not enough hours of the days to do it all. I love movies, especially in the cinema, (Netflix is okay) where I can Hoover down a ton of popcorn. I also love puzzles—in no particular order: the cryptic crossword, Sudoku, and Kenken. Lately I've been trying to see as much live music as possible.

What is your favourite bridge book?

I have two: *Tales of the Club Expert* by Jimmy Tait, and, *Play Swiss Teams with Mike Lawrence* by you-know-who. The Lawrence book puts you inside his head at every turn and decision—that was an eye opener. (I've also loaned it out so whomever has it, I'd like it back!)

Cats or dogs?

Dogs. What gentle souls. Love cats, too, but...

Red or white?

Neither these days. Give me a craft beer! Pale ales or lagers I love them all.

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

Triangulate: read, play, and take a lesson. Now this does not mean you have to pay per se. But go out with a good player after the game, preferably with hand records, and, over a nice pale ale (or vino), discuss the hands. Ask questions. Listen. The same hands won't come up again, but the themes will. Even if you can't corner a good player, peer-based learning also works. As my Grade 13 English Lit. teacher said, "We grow through pain."

Can you share any amusing stories with us?

As we all know, bridge players are passionate. And sometimes stubborn. One of my first sectional tourneys was St. Catharines—actually back then it was held at the Beacon, a favourite spot for Canucks and Americans. We were on the QEW heading east when a discussion in the car ensued over the need for a rescue system if playing weak notrumps. One teammate believed (strongly) yes; another teammate believed (equally strongly) no. It got heated. "No, you listen to me." "NO, you listen to me!" "NO, YOU LISTEN TO ME!" After things settled down, we looked out to see a sign, "Bridge to USA." We found an exit, pulled a U-Turn, and made it to the event just in time.

Over 20 years ago I played in a Montreal regional with Roy Dalton. Our Swiss teammates were Jonathan Steinberg and Bert Eccles. We finished a match and gathered to compare scores. I sometimes take a quick scan of my teammates' scorecard to see how many plusses they have. All of our scores were plusses and all of theirs were minuses. So I thought, "Well, we'll just have to out-pip them." But after winning big swings on the first four boards, I broke rhythm and asked, "Wait, do you have all plusses?" Jonathan and Bert nodded and smiled. Now that's a rarity: in a 7-board match, having 14 plus scores for the team.

I've taught bridge for nearly 30 years; I could write a book on funny moments. Like the time a group was playing out a hand. 10 tricks had been played. I walked by their table, "Well now, something appears off—do

Meet ... Andy Stark

you see what's wrong?" Blank stares. Then one woman breaks out laughing, "We forgot to put down the dummy!"

Once, In a big pairs game, I played against Zia and Chuck Berger. Zia thought we would get an average plus result on a board. I told him I thought he would. So we bet. The loser had to buy the other a brandy. I won. He told me to get the brandy and put it on his tab but I never did. I should have bet a beer.

And finally, here's a recent one. Playing against the editor of this magazine in a CBF online teams match, I picked up ♠ 6 3 ♥ A K Q J ♦ A K Q J 9 6 2 ♣ - It went 1♣ by LHO, Pass, Pass to me. I just went for it and bid 6♦. Neil Kimelman bid it the same way. We pushed the board at +920 because partner provided the spade ace. Sometimes, not often, the game is easy.

Any final thoughts?

I think we have some world beaters here in Canada, but when we get to the world stage we often don't play up to our potential. For sure we have had some international successes, but here's hoping that some of our future Canadian Champions go on to medal at the world's in China—this goes for all the events, like the new mixed pairs. Maybe Canadians need to spend the extra time and money and arrive early to help get over jetlag.



Shan Huang, Aled Iaboni, Geoff Webb, Andy Stark (NPC), Malcolm McColl, Ethan Macaulay. Canadian Juniors, 2010. Photo: Jonathan Steinberg

MOLLO ON PLAY

SOLUTION FROM PAGE 3

Contract: 6♠

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

Lead: ♣J. Dummy wins, and East discards a diamond. East discards another diamond on the ♠Q. Plan the play.

Declarer leads all of his trumps but one to reach this ending:

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

On the last trump West must keep all four clubs (otherwise declarer can just play three rounds of clubs setting up his 12th trick in that suit), and discards the ♥3, declarer a club (let's say that East discards the ♦J). Now declarer cashes the ♣AK, and East must either: (1) relinquish his heart guard, or (2) come down to the singleton ♦A. If (1), declarer pitches a diamond on the 2nd round of clubs and wins three heart tricks. If (2) scenario, declarer discards the ♥2 on the 2nd round of clubs, and gives up a diamond, setting up the ♦8 as his 12th trick.

Holding Your Breath

Playing matchpoints, neither vul, you pick up a nice opening bid:

♠ K 4
 ♥ Q J 9
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ A 10 8 6 4 2

LHO is a sly, experienced player who likes to be tricky. His partner is having a good day when they don't revoke. After two passes you open 1♣.

The bidding continues:

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	?

1. Partner is showing a good passed hand (10-12 HCPs) with 5-4 in spades and diamonds.

What do you bid now?

Although you have a sound opening bid, partner is a passed hand. A simple bid is the best. 2♠, 2NT and 3♣ are all possibilities. Which one is the best choice?

2NT is too aggressive. Although you have a solid opener, there is no clear source of tricks, and if you play there, the hearts will likely be set up on the opening lead. 2♠ is best, as you have already shown a long club suit. 1♠ will often be on a five card or longer suit (partner could have made a negative double with four). In addition, they will not be expecting you to have three card support, once you didn't raise on the previous round of bidding. Plus, your hand is prime for play in spades, with quick tricks and a ruffing value. The bidding continues:

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	?



A BRIDGE MOVIE

by Neil Kimelman

A bridge movie is intended to give the reader bidding and play decision as the hand develops.

What do you bid?

Partner's 3♣ was one last try for game, showing club support, likely a doubleton. Although it is close, bidding game is against the odds, and you pass. But wait! The bidding is not over! LHO balances with 3♥! This is passed back to you.

Now what?

Your defensive prospects are excellent, and double is the best call. East should have very little, and declarer will unlikely be able to reach dummy. You can expect +300 if partner is anywhere close to his bid. However at the table, the actual south chose 3NT, having not declared a hand all day. Besides, had they doubled there would be no story.

3NT becomes the final contract and LHO leads the ace, king and a third heart, east following twice, then pitching a diamond. You are in.

A BRIDGE MOVIE *by Neil Kimelman*

Partner has full values for their bidding:

♠ A J 9 8 3
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ A 9 8 7
 ♣ Q 7

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

How are your prospects and what is your plan?

Despite a great dummy, I wouldn't bet the family farm on making. Your best bet is that West has ♠Qxx, and you can score five spade tricks and your contract.

What should you discard from dummy at trick 3?

You need to discard a minor suit card. Either one will reduce some future options if five spade tricks fail to materialize, but it is more important to retain both of dummy's clubs: discard a diamond on the 3rd round of hearts. You optimistically play ♠K and another to the jack. Good news and bad news – the finesse wins but East follows with the ten.

Now what?

You are fairly certain spades are 4-2. Yes, East might have pulled the wrong spade, but not cashing the ♠A at this juncture is best. It looks like LHO started life with ♠Qxxx ♥AKxxxx ♦? ♣?. Things are getting gloomier. It looks like West needs the ♣K to justify their bidding. If he has ♣Kx or ♣Kxx you can't make.

Should you play West for a stiff king?

That would mean that West had started with two diamonds and East five. After cashing two clubs, bringing your total up to eight, you would be in dummy. East would still have ♣J9 left, and a diamond shift would ensure your demise. No a stiff ♣K with West is of no help.

What is left?

You must hope that East holds the ♣K.

What should you do?

Lead the ♣Q, and if it goes small, hold your breath, and

play small from your hand. West shows out, pitching a heart! Here is the end position:

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

Should you cash the spade ace now?

It does force East to find a discard, but he can afford a club, and thwart any continuation, as long as West continues to discard hearts. No, it is better to keep the spade tenace intact, as there is still a slight chance of endplaying West.

So what should you do?

Lead dummy's last club. East must put in the jack, and you win. What does West discard? He can't throw a spade. If he discards a diamond, then you cash, in order, ♦K, ♦A, ♠A, and, at trick 11, throw in East with dummy's last diamond. East can cash the club ♣K, but must give you ♣10, your ninth trick.

So West must discard his second last heart. Here is the ending with E-W having won two tricks and N-S five, and South on lead:

♠ A 9 8	♠ A 9 8	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -	♥ -
♦ A 9 8	♦ A 9 8	♦ ?? x
♣ -	♣ -	♣ K 9 5
♠ Q 7	♠ -	♠ -
♥ 10	♥ -	♥ -
♦ ?? x	♦ K 6	♦ -
♣ -	♣ 10 8 6 4	♣ -

A BRIDGE MOVIE *by Neil Kimelman*

Now what?

Now cash the two top diamonds ending in dummy, and watch which cards the opponents play.

	♠ A 9 8	
	♥ -	
	♦ 9	
	♣ -	
♠ Q 7		♠ -
♥ 10 7		♥ -
♦ ?		♦ ?
♣ -		♣ K 9 5
	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ 10 8 6 4	

You need to guess which opponent will win the 3rd round of diamonds. If East, cash the spade ace** and lead a diamond, to score your ♣10 at trick 13. If West, lead your diamond. West can cash a heart, but then must lead away from his ♠Q at trick 12.

What if East covers the club queen with the king?

You don't have to hold your breath anymore (LOL), but it is still best to play small. The reason is that your entry situation is tenuous at best, and ducking will leave you with more flexibility, thus more options. As we know from above, LHO shows out on the 1st round of clubs, throwing a heart. Had you won the ace of clubs, you would have had no hope. But you are alive and kicking. You are guaranteed an 8th trick. Here is the ending with East on play:

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

What suit are you hoping East returns?

You are really hoping East returns a diamond. You can win in dummy and cash the spade ace. What does he discard? If he throws a diamond you take the club finesse, then cash the king of diamonds. With seven tricks in, the ending, with south to lead, is:

	♠ 9 8	
	♥ -	
	♦ 9	
	♣ -	
♠ Q		♠ -
♥ 10		♥ -
♦ ?		♦ -
♣ -		♣ J 9 5
	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ A 10 6	

South gets out the ♣6 and East must win, and give up the last two tricks. What if East, after returning a diamond at trick seven, instead discards a club on the ♠A to reach (next page):

	♠ 9 8	
	♥ -	
	♦ 9 8	
	♣ 7	
♠ Q 7		♠ -
♥ 10 7		♥ -
♦ ??		♦ ??
♣ -		♣ J 9 5
	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ K	
	♣ A 10 8 6	

A club finesse and giving up a club to set up the suit brings the total to nine tricks.

Can you make it if East returns a club after winning the King?

I wouldn't bet on it! You can't win in dummy, as you only have one entry to your hand and the clubs are not set up. So you win in your hand to reach this ending:

A BRIDGE MOVIE *by Neil Kimelman*

♠ Q 7	♠ A 9 8	♠ -
♥ 10	♥ -	♥ -
♦ ??x	♦ A 9 8	♦ ??x
♣ -	♣ -	♣ J 9 5

♠ -	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -
♦ K 6	♦ -
♣ A 10 6 4	♣ -

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

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

Do you have any chance?

You have won four tricks, and the defense has score two hearts and a club. Your only chance is that West started life with ♦QJ10. Lead the ♣6. West must pitch a heart to give the defense any chance. Dummy discards the ♠8. East wins the ♣9, the defense's 4th defensive trick and must return a diamond, which you win with the King.

♠ Q 7	♠ A 9	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -	♥ -
♦ Q J	♦ A 9	♦ 5 4
♣ -	♣ -	♣ J 5

♠ -	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -
♦ 6	♦ -
♣ A 10 4	♣ -

Now lead the ♣A. West has not answer: dummy will simply keep the nine in the suit that West discards. All your breath-holding worked wonderfully, as the full deal was:

Epilogue

+300 (or+500) in 3♥ doubled would have been so much easier, plus not having to hold your breath so much. 3♥ doubled is tough to defend, but on the likely ♣Q lead (heart lead is best), declarer doesn't have many options, and will likely wind up down two if he pulls trumps, three if he doesn't. Against 3NT, 4th best from longest and strongest would have worked well here, giving declarer no hope. And finally...

** By the way, I excluded one other time you needed to hold your breath: In the scenario asterisked, had East held the xDxQ, as they did in the actual hand, they can brilliantly thwart this alternative by getting rid of his high diamond when you cash the spade ace!! Our East was not up to it! Kudos to anyone who caught this omission, and I hope I don't have to play you too often!

(Note: My thanks to Bob Todd who gave me a very similar hand that started the creative juices flowing.)



by Michael Abbey
THE NEW PLAYER
Spot

Jacoby 2nt

by Michael Abbey

In this issue we are going to have a look at Jacoby 2NT in its simplest form. This convention is used to get to game in a major with at least nine cards in the trump suit.

Suppose your partner has opened one of a major. You have opening high card points (HCPs) and four or more cards in partner's major. Your bid is two notrump, which the opener alerts. This article assumes there is no interference from the opponents.

The partnership knows they have a minimum of 26 HCPs and must be in game. They also have a 9+ card fit in the major to add to their arsenal. If asked what the two notrump bid means, the opener says, "Minimum 4-card support for my major and opening HCPs."

NEW PLAYER SPOT ... continued

There is now an implicit suit agreement in the major. It's back to the opener. He has a few choices now on the way to game, and maybe slam:

- Bid another suit at the 3-level, showing shortness in that suit – a singleton or a void.
- Bid another suit at the 4-level, indicating a strong five card or longer side suit.

Barring a desire to do one of the above, he bids game in the major.

Let's have a look at a few deals and the auctions that may ensue using Jacoby 2NT.

Example 1: Dealer West. None Vul.

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

The auction, using Jacoby 2NT, may proceed as follows:

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3 ♦ ²	Pass	4 ♥*	All Pass

1. Jacoby 2NT, alerted by opener, with 4+ card support and opening HCPs.
2. Shortness in diamonds, alerted by responder.

***Editor's note:** Although this concept is perhaps too advanced for this column, in a game forcing auction, an unnecessary jump to game, as here because East could have bid 3♥, is the weakest bid showing minimum values, with no interest in slam. 3♥ would have been more encouraging.

Example 2: Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

The auction, using Jacoby 2NT may proceed as follows:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 NT ¹	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♠ ³		4 ♣ ²

1. Jacoby 2NT, alerted by opener, with 4+ card support and opening HCP.
2. Opener shows a nice side suit in clubs.
3. Bids game back in the agreed upon suit.

Notice how South had a choice between showing:

- A singleton or void in diamonds
- A strong club suit

In this situation, South chose to show the long club suit rather than the singleton in diamonds.

One more example then a few questions about using the Jacoby 2NT convention (see next page):

NEW PLAYER SPOT ... continued

Example 3: Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

The auction may proceed as follows:

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	2 NT ¹	Pass	3 ♦ ²
Pass	4 ♥ ³	All Pass	

1. Jacoby 2NT, alerted by opener, with 4+ card support and opening HCPs.
2. Shortness in diamonds, alerted by responder.
3. Bids game back in the agreed upon suit.

Editor's note: *This is a unique hand, as you have three choices:*

- Show spade shortness
- Show diamond shortness
- Show your good, long second suit.

Although any could work best, I slightly prefer 4♣.

Quiz

Question 1

Opener bids one heart. Responder needs opening HCP and 3+ card support to bid two notrump.

True or False?

Question 2

Opener bids one spade. Responder bids two notrump. Opener bids four clubs. That four club bid shows a nice side suit.

True or False?

Question 3

Opener bids one diamond. They have a partnership agreement that opening one of a minor shows a minimum of five. Responder has opening HCP and four diamonds and bids two notrump. Responder's bid is game forcing in diamonds since its Jacoby 2NT.

True or False?

Question 4

Before bidding, your LHO asks you about the 2NT bid your partner made after you opened one of a major. Your explanation is "That's Jacoby 2NT." Is that correct since this convention is on your card?

Quiz solutions

Answer 1

False. Responder needs a minimum of four card support

Answer 2

True. The opener can bid at the three level to show shortness or the four level to show a nice side suit, at least five cards in length. This is a four-level bid.

Answer 3

False. Jacoby 2NT only applies to a major suit opening.

Answer 4

Yes, it is correct, but when asked for an explanation, it is expected you tell the player who asked what the bid meant and, if you want, followed by the name of the convention. Technically it is not correct since the requester may not understand what you meant by just naming the convention.

Two points about this convention that I have found intriguing since I first added it to my repertoire:

1. It hardly ever comes up but, when it does, you will be glad to know it.
2. It is so easy ... at least in its simplest form as discussed in this article.



by Neil Kimelman

THE INTERMEDIATE
Spot

THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES **DEFENSIVE PLAY 14**

DEFENSIVE STRATEGIES

By Neil Kimelman

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

WHEN YOU ARE WEAK AND WANT TO AID PARTNER'S DEFENSE.

Quite often we tend to get lazy on defense when we don't have much in the way of high cards. However partner, having the majority of the defensive assets, might be having a difficult time trying to decide how to defend and what to discard. He might be singing the line from the Beatle's song Help: 'Won't you please, please help me, help me, help me.'

Here are some general guidelines to assist you in making informative discards:

Intermediate Spot : by Neil Kimelman ... Continued

GUIDELINES

► It is not always clear to partner how weak you are, so the first discard in a suit is always attitude. The second, count.

► Don't discard all cards in a suit where you have any chance of winning tricks or providing a stopper.

For example if declarer is in playing in notrump, and has a side suit in dummy of AK83. DO NOT discard from 9754. The full suit might be:

	AK83	
J10		9754
	Q62	

► Try to give your first signal in the suit which you anticipate partner needs the most information.

► A high card discard shows a natural sequence, and is neutral about attitude. For example, discard the ♣J from ♣J1098x. CAUTION: Ensure that by discarding a card in this suit doesn't allow declarer to set up long cards in that suit.

► A good strategy is to discard all the cards in one suit, until you are void in it.

► Lead a suit that will be of most benefit to partner.

► Leading a count card can be very useful. For example, playing 3rd and 5th leads, I will more often than not lead the two from 109752 not the 10, as knowing I have a five card suit will be of more benefit in partner's defense. The 10 could be from 10, 109, 109x, 109xx, etc...

LEADING WITH A WEAK HAND

With a weak hand, this will likely be the last time during the hand you will be on lead. Careful consideration should be given what lead will be of most benefit to your side, and informative for partner. Some of the

concepts learned from the previous instalments in this series may be beneficial. For example, defending against 3NT, you want to try and find partner's suit.

Ex 1: You hold ♠ 108743 ♥ Q3 ♦ 92 ♣ 9874 and hear this auction:

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

A diamond is likely your best chance, hoping partner has at least five cards in that suit.

Ex 2: You hold ♠ 108743 ♥ 1092 ♦ 9432 ♣ 4 and hear this auction:

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

A spade lead is safe, and a heart lead is a strong possibility, as you know partner likely has at least four of them. However the best choice is a diamond. Declarer has a weak hand, a long club suit, and a diamond stopper. Clubs is likely declarer's primary source for tricks. You know that the suit might be breaking badly for him. Perhaps declarer has only one outside entry, and you can knock it out. The full deal:

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

GIVING COUNT AND DISCARDING

When leading, or discarding, one of the key pieces of information that you can indicate is your count. Declarer is running a long suit. You have a worthless hand. Try to make informative discards. There are a couple of different ways in which this can be accomplished:

- Discard all cards in a suit until you are void.
- Give count.
- Discard from a sequence.

Ex 3: Form of scoring: IMPs; N-S vul; South opens 4♥ in 3rd seat, partner doubles, which ends the auction. Partner leads the ♠K.

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

Assuming declarer continues to lead trumps, you must find discards that will benefit partner. First you want to discard the rest of your spades. Partner will know when you discard a new suit, you have voided yourself in spades. A good strategy is to void yourself in your next short suit clubs. Let's see how that it works, looking at the full deal:

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

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

After this trick West knows, thanks to East's informative discards, that declarer is 1-7-2-3. Why can't East have ♣J 10 6 4? Because his first club discard would be the jack, the top of a high card sequence. The ending reached is:

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

If declarer leads a diamond at trick 8, west simply plays three rounds of that suit, waiting for his two club tricks. Although this defense works here, East discarding clubs could be wrong, as the ♣10 could be a big card. Switch the location of the ♣8 with the ♣9 and you can see what I mean. A better defense is too discard from your long suit. The common agreement is that the first discard in a suit is attitude, the second one is current count.

So on this deal, after East throws his last spade his best option at trick five is to throw a discouraging diamond, the four if playing standard. At trick six throw another diamond, giving current count.

Next issue: Anticipating Declarer's Plan



WHAT WENT WRONG

By Paul Thurston

As many will know, the Camrose Trophy is awarded to the winner of a major team competition featuring representatives from the various countries of the British Isles. Played over two weekends, the 2019 event was nearing its end when England faced Scotland in the ninth of ten total matches.

In the three deals that follow, England won just enough IMPs to virtually secure first place while reversing the results could have produced an entirely different set of standings. Mostly about bidding, the deals didn't present Scotland at its best but do have some instructive points for serious partnerships.

Let's take a look at WHAT WENT WRONG.

by Paul Thurston
THE **EXPERT**
Spot

Expert Spot : What Went Wrong? ... Continued

HAND 1

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	3♠
All Pass			6♠

Opening Lead: ♥5

An embarrassing slam to be sure with two aces “offside” and nothing to do but lose both of them after West’s opening lead of a small heart so WHAT WENT WRONG in the auction.

I think we’d have to point the finger at South for a serious onset of over-upgrading. Playing the opening bid as 20-22 HCPs South liked his collection of aces and kings (and two touching 10’s!) and good club suit as a possible source of tricks enough to warrant an upgrade to the 2NT opening. A very reasonable assessment I’d say.

North transferred to spades and next issued an invitation via a quantitative four notrump: “I have five spades in a balanced hand and enough for slam if your hand is maximum and you can pick spades or notrump subject to how much spade support you have”.

And then South upgraded his hand once more, judging it to not only to have been good enough to open 2NT

but also good enough to accept the slam invitation! Not really a delicate decision with a pinch less than North might have expected in the first place but declining the invite and converting to a final contract of five spades would have saved 13 IMPs for the Scottish cause.

Editor’s note: *In my partnerships, if accepting a quantitative invitation after a transfer sequence, we have the option of accepting by showing Key Cards over 4NT. This treatment would also have avoided the zero-play slam.*

HAND 2

We may be in the minority, but there are many bidding theorists who share a common belief that opening one club when holding 5-5 in the black suits is a superior way to treat those hand types. For best results, I’ve experienced that the hands to be so treated should be limited to 11-14 HCPs (to be shown with a minimum rebid) or 18+ HCPs (to be shown by a jump shift rebid).

Either the Scottish North-South who turned over 7 IMPs here don’t share those same point count parameters, or one of them simply bid too much – let’s take a look at WHAT WENT WRONG.

Dealer: South Vul: Neither

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

Expert Spot : What Went Wrong? ... Continued

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

Opening lead: ♠5

After the good trump opening lead, South had no way to deal with all of his potential club losers and eventually drifted two down – WHAT WENT WRONG?

Assuming the pair was using the same strength parameters mentioned above, South was close to a tip-top maximum for his acceptance of North's gentle invitation although a doubleton King-Queen is rarely worth its putative point count so maybe South could take a (small) share in the blame for the seven IMP loss.

North? With no red ace to help cover South's potential for three losers there, only three-card support for spades and not a lot of help for the club suit, North was really stretching to issue the invite – he was looking for a miracle hand opposite – and didn't find it!

HAND 3

England's Tony Forrester who is known worldwide as a dangerous and imaginative opponent lived up to his reputation here and helped author another double-digit swing although we may question if that should have been the case – WHAT WENT WRONG for Scotland this time?

When Forrester kicked off with a truly weak two-bid in hearts (see top of next column), he certainly caught North with an awkward hand for the situation. For all of his 17 HCPs, North didn't really have a "pure" bid to make. Double with the diamond deficit seemed wrong and a two notrump overcall a bit cavalier for the same reason and with no long suit to overcall, North chose to pass and await further developments. Which turned out

to be his making an opening lead after South couldn't find a call other than Pass.

Dealer: West Vulnerable: None

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

Opening lead: ♣K

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
2♥	All Pass!!!		

As for South, intermediate players learn to "borrow a King" to hypothetically add to their actual holding to decide whether to pass or bid when an opening bid on their left is passed round to them. Even without that imaginary added value, South does have what would be an opening bid for many and does have at least a modicum of support for all unbid suits to make a balancing double a standout choice for even mildly aggressive players.

Had South chosen that action, Forrester's daring opening wouldn't have registered 50 points per down trick but, after North's automatic penalty-seeking pass, Scottish supporters would have been delighted with +800 for one spade trick, three clubs, two diamonds, two hearts and a diamond ruff while the English fans could have asked WHAT WENT WRONG?

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 3rd in a series on the 11th Rosenblum Cup, held in Orlando last September.*

Quarterfinals Stanza 2 – FROGS v ALLFREY (Senior)

The English team ALLFREY took a modest lead of 29-20 IMPs into the second quarter of their Rosenblum quarterfinal match against the multi-national team FROGS. When regular partners meet in opposition across the table there can often be fireworks and I could not resist the sight of Tony Forrester (FROGS) versus Andrew Robson (ALLFREY), the anchor pair of recent England Open teams in opposition across the table.

The set started with a bang, though there was no actual swing on the deal.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Allfrey	Forrester	Robson
Jones	Volcker	Paske	Bessis
—	—	—	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Both Wests opened a perfectly normal weak-two bid and when that came back to South he doubled, having a pretty good idea of what would happen. Sure enough, the respective Norths, with six certain trump tricks, barring endplays), were delighted to pass out the double.

Alexander Allfrey led the ace and another heart. Cédric Lorenzini rose with dummy's king and played a club. Robson rose with the ace and cashed the queen of hearts, Allfrey pitching his remaining club. Robson duly gave him a club ruff and Allfrey got out with the queen of diamonds to dummy's ace. Lorenzini played a trump, discovering the horrific split. Allfrey won cheaply and again got out with a diamond. This time Lorenzini won with the king, ruffed a diamond and played a spade. Allfrey could win three of those but had to concede a trick to declarer at the end; down three for minus 500.

Frédéric Volcker cashed a top spade before switching to the ace and another heart. The play after that was essentially the same as at the other table, with the same outcome: down three for minus 500; no swing.

Quarterfinal Stanza 2 – CHAGAS v LAVAZZA (Ana Roth)

The LAVAZZA v CHAGAS match was dramatic until the last board. In the end, LAVAZZA won by 6 IMPs and made their way to the semifinals. At one of the tables, the Italian team was represented by Dennis Bilde/Giorgio Duboin as North/South while for the CHAGAS team, Marcos Thoma sat West and Pablo Ravenna East.

The following board saw an excellent defense by Ravenna that managed to fool the declarer into going down in a cold contract.

Board 52. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Thoma</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♣	1♠	Double	Pass
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Ravenna led the ace of clubs. After winning the first trick, East shifted to a trump to stop declarer's potential heart ruffs. Looking at dummy's nine-eight of spades, he led the two so that declarer could not develop a late entry to the table with the nine of spades. Bilde played the eight of spades, Thoma the queen, and declarer won with his trump ace.

The BBO commentators thought that it looked like minus 590 at this point. However, Bilde continued with a club and Ravenna discarded the eight of hearts. He was still thinking about denying declarer the nine of spades as an entry to the clubs in dummy. Declarer won the trick with the king of clubs. At that point, Bilde believed that Thoma had all the trumps.

Declarer played another club and, after this play, he could no longer make the contract. When Bilde played dummy's six of clubs, Thoma played his queen, Bilde ruffed with the seven of spades and Ravenna discarded another heart. Declarer continued with the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart in dummy, and played a club. Thoma ruffed with his four of spades and Bilde threw his last heart loser. Ravenna pitched his last heart too. Thoma returned the king of hearts; Bilde ruffed with the six of spades, but Ravenna now over-ruffed and the diamond trick to come meant one off. That was fantastic defense. Bravo!

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Double dummy, there is no legitimate way to beat four spades. After the ace of clubs lead and, say, a spade shift, declarer utilizes the bidding to deduce that West holds all the red high cards and draws trumps, squeeze-ending playing him.

Quarterfinal Stanza 4 – FROGS v ALLFREY (Senior)

Board 55. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jones	Volcker	Paske	Bessis
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Paske led the queen of hearts. Not giving the matter too much thought, at least by the standards of what had been, at times, quite a slowly-played set, Volcker won the lead with the ace and led a spade to the king then a second spade to the ace and, when the queen appeared, just claimed nine tricks for plus 140.

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Allfrey	Forrester	Robson
—	—	—	1♣
1♦	1♥	Double	2♠
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lorenzini led the four of hearts. Robson ducked, won the heart continuation, played the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, ruffed dummy's last heart, and continued with the queen of diamonds to the king and a ruff. Only then did he play two rounds of trumps, ending in hand. He cashed the jack of diamonds, discarding a club from dummy, and exited with a club. The club blockage meant that the defense could take only two clubs tricks, then Lorenzini had to give a ruff and discard to give the contract for a very nice plus 420 and 7 IMPs to ALLFREY.

The cards lay kindly for declarer, and the defense was powerless unless West started by cashing the two club tricks or East won the heart lead and switched to a low club, neither of which was very likely.

Semifinals Stanza 1 – ALLFREY v LAVAZZA (Bird)

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Madala	Jones	Bianchedi	Paske
—	—	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Marc Smith and I, commenting on BBO, posed the kibitzers this question: 'What action should North take when four hearts runs around to him?' We are both members of the New Bridge Magazine bidding

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

panel. (I might mention that this great magazine, on the internet, is available totally free of charge for all comers!) We imagined that the options there would be five diamonds, pass and double. Indeed, we both ranked our own preferences in that very order, awarding ten, seven and four marks to the three actions.

On that basis, Jones will be sad to receive only four marks. South quite reasonably passed the double, and two overtricks were made for a score of plus 1190.

West	North	East	South
<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
—	—	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♦	6♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Sementa had the rounded kings sitting over an opponent who had opened four hearts and rebid six clubs. He doubled, of course, but the contract could not be beaten. It was plus 1660 and 10 IMPs to ALLFREY.

Semifinal Stanza 4 – SPECTOR v MONACO & ALLFREY v LAVAZZA (Ron Klinger)

On Board 56 of the semifinals, all four Souths were in three notrump on a low spade lead. Three Souths succeeded. The early play proceeded similarly ...

Board 56. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

In SPECTOR v MONACO ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
—	—	Pass	2NT1
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦2
Pass	3♥3	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 19-21 balanced
2. No 5-card heart suit, nor a 4-card spade suit
3. Asking about spades
4. No 5-card spade suit

Michal Klukowski, West, led the spade five: two – seven – queen. Declarer, Joel Wooldridge, played the three of diamonds: five – ace – seven and the diamond two: four – jack – queen. West continued with the ten of spades. South won, cashed the king of diamonds and exited with the nine of diamonds. East won and switched to the queen of clubs, ducked, and the jack of clubs. South then had three spades, three diamonds and three clubs, plus 600.

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	Pass	2NT1
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥2
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 20-21 balanced
2. No major

Here, the first three tricks were the same. Vincent Demuy, West, won trick three with the diamond queen and switched to the ace of hearts. Nice try, but no cigar.

THE IBPA FILES CONTINUED

Geir Helgemo, declarer, won the next heart and played the king and a fourth diamond. He made three spades, three diamonds, one heart and two clubs for plus 600; no swing.

In ALLFREY v LAVAZZA ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣1
Pass	2♦2	Pass	2♥3
Pass	3♠4	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 18-19 or 22-23 balanced
2. Relay
3. 18-19
4. 4-card heart suit, not 4 spades

Thomas Paske led a spade, won the queen of diamonds and led another spade. Declarer, Giorgio Duboin, set up diamonds and East, Edward Jones, switched to a low heart, South played low and had three spades, three diamonds, one heart and two clubs for the by-now-common plus 600.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT1
Pass	2♣2	Pass	2NT3
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Artificial, 16+ HCP any
2. 8-12 HCP any
3. 18-19, 3=2=5=3

Antonio Sementa also led a spade: three – two – eight – ace. Declarer, Alexander Allfrey, played the diamond

three: five – ace – four, and the diamond two: seven – jack – queen. When dummy has shown a suit and declarer is in three notrump, if dummy's suit is not particularly strong, that might be declarer's Achilles' heel. Accordingly, West shifted to the two of hearts. Nice play.

Declarer played dummy's seven of hearts, and now East needed to co-operate. West's switch to the heart deuce indicated a top honour, but which one? If declarer had the ace-doubleton of hearts, there was surely no chance for the defense. East therefore intelligently elected to play South for the king-doubleton of hearts. Thus East contributed the five and declarer the six. Declarer came to hand with a spade, cashed the king of diamonds, and exited with the fourth diamond. East won, played the four of hearts to West's ace and collected two more hearts with his ten and queen for one down, plus 100, and 12 IMPs.

This was an excellent co-operative defense. Note the switch to the two of hearts, not the ace. The ace of hearts works when East has the king-queen-ten-low, but the heart deuce works equally well if that is the position.

Next issue: The Final



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PREEMPTS



Preempts

Warren Watson

It has been many years since any bridge author attempted a comprehensive description of preemptive bidding, and much has changed in the interim. Modern players open the bidding on lighter values, and preempts, formerly based in at least a semblance of sanity, are now made on the flimsiest of excuses. This is a comprehensive treatment of preemptive bidding – not just when to open and with what, but the issues surrounding constructive and obstructive bidding in the subsequent auction.

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June 12 Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Game
June 16-23 Select a day for Alzheimer Fund Games

JULY

8 July ACBL wide Instant Matchpoint Game

AUGUST

6 Aug ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game
Open to all ages

SEPTEMBER

12 Sept ACBL-wide International Fund Game

OCTOBER

Oct 10 Canada Wide Olympiad Fund Game
Oct 29 Erin Berry Rookie Master Game
Oct 31 ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game

DECEMBER

16 Dec ACBL-wide International Fund Game

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Jul 25-27	Youth NABC in Las Vegas
Aug 20-29	6th World Open Youth Championships Opatija, Croatia 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