

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | DECEMBER 2019



# bridge *Canada*



## Happy Holidays!

Articles by

ANDY STARK / NEIL KIMELMAN / PAUL THURSTON / ED ZALUSKI

Results

THE GREAT CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST

*and more!*

### 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.



24



15



18



28



29

## MEMBERSHIP

Bridge Canada is available to members only.

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

1. Be sure to include CBF dues with your ACBL dues.
2. Visit [cbf.ca](http://cbf.ca) and click **Join The CBF**.
3. Email [info@cbf.ca](mailto:info@cbf.ca) for more information.

NOTE: Membership dues are waived for Canadian players under 25 years of age. Junior players can join the CBF by sending their information to [info@cbf.ca](mailto:info@cbf.ca).

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 03. Editors Message
- 05. The Great Canadian Bidding Contest
- 14. TGCBC December Problems
- 15. Meet Marc-André Fourcaudot
- 18. The New Player Spot  
Defending at Bridge  
Bridge Basics
- 24. The Intermediate Spot  
Intro to Squeezes
- 28. Mollo on play
- 28. Food for Thought
- 29. The Expert Spot  
What Went Wrong  
Zee Game Tries
- 39. IBPA - Chinese National Championship
- 43. Upcoming Events

## Stay CONNECTED



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



[ina@cbf.ca](mailto:ina@cbf.ca) (CBF Executive Director)



1 416 706 8550



[www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca)

CRÉDIT PHOTO:

Todd Ruth, Unsplash  
Niels Steeman, Unsplash  
Kelly Sikkema, Unsplash  
Greg-Rosenke, Unsplash  
Daniil Silantev, Unsplash



I wish you all safe journeys and lasting memories during the upcoming holiday season!

**Neil Kimelman, Bridge Canada Managing Editor**

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

### ***Congratulations TGCBC Winners!***

**BRENT GIBBS AND SANDY MCILWAIN**

We have our first winners in The Great Canadian Bidding Contest (TGCBC). In an extremely close race, Brent edged Sandy by a score 114 to 113, their combined totals for the October and December TGCBC problems. Very impressive scores, both of you! Brent gets \$100 and Sandy \$50. Also my hat goes off to expert panelist Piotr Klimowicz who scored a perfect 60 for the December set of problems! Thank you to all readers who submitted answers.

### **LET'S DO IT AGAIN!**

Until someone suggests an improvement, it is my intention to continue awarding cash prizes every two issues. The two panelists who the highest combined score for February and April will win cash prizes of \$100 and \$50 respectively.

### **DO YOU HAVE A CHALLENGING BIDDING PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE EXPERT PANEL TACKLE?**

We all encounter hands that were especially challenging to bid. Please drop me a line, and we can have that stumper in an upcoming issue. Please include the problem, form of scoring, full hands, and what actually happened at the table.

### ***CBF Hall of Fame***

#### **IS THERE SOMEONE YOU FEEL IS WORTHY?**

If you know of someone please contact Katie Thorpe, chair of the HOF Committee. Her email is [cthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:cthorpe@hotmail.com). Deadline for 2020 nominations is Jan 31, 2020.

### ***World Championships***

The World Championships were held in Wuhan, China in September. Unfortunately, no Canadian teams made it to the knockout phase, although the women's team came close.

### ***Food for Thought***

This is the title of a new Bridge Canada series. Readers are invited to share some of their favourite recipes with their fellow bridge players. So PLEASE, send me yours!





(L to R) Ina Demme, Huges Boisvert, Neil Kimelman, Angela Fenton  
Nader Hanna, Cathy Walsh, Wade Short, Jerry Mamer

## CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION *Board of Directors*

### Zone I

Wade Short                                      zone1@cbf.ca  
8 Hemlock Rd,  
Pointe du chene, NB                      506-530-5612

### Zone II

Huges Boisvert                                      zone2@cbf.ca  
1206-4239 Jean-Talon Quest  
Montreal, QC H4P 0A5                      514-889-9514

### Zone III & CBF President

Nader Hanna                                      zone3@cbf.ca  
53 York Road  
Toronto, ON M2L 1H7                      416-756-9065

### Zone IV & CBF Vice President

Neil Kimelman                                      zone4@cbf.ca  
110 260 Fairhaven Road  
Winnipeg, MB R3P 1C9                      204-487-2390

### Zone V

Jerry Mamer                                      zone5@cbf.ca  
151 Nordstrom Road  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 6P9                      306-668-3951

### Zone VI

Angela Fenton                                      zone6@cbf.ca  
601-1395 Beach Ave.  
Vancouver, BC V6E 1V7                      778-386-4343

# bridge *Canada*

**DECEMBER 2019 • VOL. 49 NO.6**

BRIDGE CANADA MANAGING EDITOR  
Neil Kimelman                                      editor@cbf.ca

BRIDGE CANADA FRENCH EDITOR  
Francine Cimon                                      wirek@videotron.ca

PRODUCTION EDITOR  
Jude Goodwin                                      jude@cbf.ca

CBF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
Ina Demme                                      ina@cbf.ca  
99 Ellis Avenue, Nobleton, Ontario L0G 1N0

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE MANAGER  
Cathy Walsh                                      accounting@cbf.ca

WEB ADMINISTRATION  
Louise Mascolo                                      webmaster@cbf.ca

CBF HOTLINE  
**416 706 8550**  
FAX: 905 832 7184

CBF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
Gim Ong                                      charity@cbf.ca  
32 Sandusky Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5W4  
204-775-5114

### 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



## December 2019

### Host: Bryan Maksymetz

For Panelists, see page 13

1. IMPs, South dealer. Both Vul. As South, you hold  
 ♠KJ8 ♥8 ♦K98653 ♣AJ5.

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

What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
3NT	15	10
4♣	17	9
4♦	1	7
5♦	3	5
4NT	0	3

This problem came up in a KO final at a regional and getting it right means you win – wrong and you lose – no pressure! There were two main options – 3NT (now my first choice) and 4♣ which was originally my first choice. Let's hear from both camps.

**Jacob:** 4♣ at IMPs and 3NT at matchpoints.

Several other panelists mentioned the same thing. Judging by our weak diamond suit only, at IMPs, 5♦ rates to be a more comfortable contract than 3NT.

At MPs, the risk of going down versus the superior score (+630/660 vs +600) is worth the risk to try 3NT.

**L'Ecuyer:** 3NT. 3♠ was not doubled so who knows what the lead will be?

**Miles:** 3NT. Bad diamonds, soft wastage in spades, strong club stop, and minimum. A singleton spade above the 8 may be helpful. Yes I hope partner bids again with x Axxxx Axxx K10x.

This makes sense – if the opps lead a club, 3NT should be smooth sailing.

**Kokish:** 3NT. Far from ideal. Normally a splinter transfers captaincy, but it's the bid that will probably be made at the other table and it's a pragmatic action.

**Lindop:** 3NT. With 1/3 of my high cards wasted opposite partner's hand in a diamond contract, I'm going to suggest playing in notrump. It should be easier to make nine tricks than eleven. If partner continues over 3NT, I'll certainly cooperate.

**Blond:** 3NT: Partner's bid doesn't exactly thrill me. With a minimum had, lousy diamonds and wasted values in spades, I want to hit the brakes here.

**Kimelman:** 3NT. Partner knows I have six diamonds. Need to slow things down with a minimum and slow stuff in spades. There is some risk with a shaky double stopper that we could go down in 3NT and make 5♦. I will be happy to cooperate further knowing I have described my hand.

We do have Spades stopped after all. And they are wasted in a Diamond contract.

Another consideration with a 4♣ bid is that partner may think we have a better hand. Although our hand is pretty limited (11 to 15 roughly), it could be a lot better. So 3NT seems the best bid. If partner bids on (they will), we can unabashedly control bid the Ace of Clubs.

**Cooper:** 4♣. Cuebid. As this is not matchpoints, I don't have to worry that 3NT is the last (and highest-

scoring) spot. Moreover, 3NT might not make facing a hand like x, AKxx, QJxx, KQxx, where 5♦ is cold but 3NT needs some luck. Can easily have slam facing something like x, Axxxx, Axxx, Kxx or similar. See if partner cue-bids back in hearts.

This was a popular sentiment among the 4♣ bidders – feeling that 3NT might be in jeopardy on a lot of hands that 5♦ makes easily. A very good point.

Although, the 4♦ or 5♦ bidders expressed similar sentiments, partner will fail to get the message that you have the ♣A. Perhaps the hand for those bids is Qxx x AKJxxx Jxx.

### What happened in real life?

Partner's hand: ♠-♥AKQJ6 ♦Q1042 ♣Q1093. Over 3NT or 4♣, partner will make one more try for slam with 4♠. Over 4♦, partner will bid 5♦ (fearing that you are off the Ace and King of Clubs), and will pass over 5♦. Over the subsequent 4♠ by responder, opener may bid 4NT if they had bid 4♣, or 5♣ after their 3NT bid, and slam will certainly be reached.

As to the scoring, the arguments for 3NT swayed me to make it slightly higher than 4♣.

## 2. IMPs, North DLR. N-S Vul. As South, you hold

♠10842 ♥4 ♦J1098 ♣J862

West	North	East	South
-	2NT <sup>1</sup>	3♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3♦ <sup>3</sup>	Dbl	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	?

1. 20-21
2. Majors
3. You choose

What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	35	10
3NT	1	9
4♦	8	7
3♠	0	2
4NT	2	1

An overwhelming vote for Pass. The key to this problem is what does partner's double of 3♦ mean? If partner has a maximum with five diamonds, does this change our view on the hand? Can partner have ♠A3 ♥AJ32 ♦KQ753 ♣AK? I don't like our chances of beating 3♥ and we have a great chance to make 5♦. Admittedly a perfect. But partner's double of 3♦ must mean something.

Over a 1NT opening and a multi-meaning bid (Dbl or 2♣ usually) by LHO, a Pass and a nebulous 2♣ or 2♦ by RHO, opener's Dbl should certainly show that minor. You want to be able to compete with a minor suit fit at any form of scoring. But what about over a 2NT opening. Lots to consider. First, can the opponents play a contract undoubled? If there is some intervention, what do responder's bids mean? Does a double (or redouble) show values and a Pass show a negative?

I have played in several long running partnerships and do not recall ever discussing what to do when the opponents interfere over our 2NT opening. I was hoping to gain some insight from our expert panelists, but, alas, none seems forthcoming.

On to the hand. It appears on the auction that our LHO is 2-2 in the Majors and our RHO is 5-6. There is a slim chance that LHO is 1-2 and RHO 6-6. This hand came up in a Vanderbilt round of 32 against a good Dutch pair – they just lost in the BB final to Poland. That leaves partner with 2-4??

**L'Ecuyer:** Pass - I don't think I am invited to this party even if partner doubled 3♦ (natural?). From my spade length and West giving a choice of Majors, it looks like West is 2-2 in the majors and that partner has 4 hearts while East is 5-6. I am not sure of beating this but I do

have 4 spades to the ten which might be enough and, again, I don't think I am invited to cooperate - four in a minor doubled might even be more expensive than -530... I will lose if partner is 2-4-5-2 but who knows and why should I assume that?

Korbel: 4xDx. Wait, was I asleep last round? I can't imagine not bidding 4xDx the first time once partner admits to having 5 or 6 of them. I don't know that a hand exists where partner can double 3xDx for penalties and then double 3xHx for penalties. I'll just play it safe and bid 4xDx now.

Kimelman: I don't think partner's double should be natural, catering to the odd hand where the 2NT bidder has five or six diamonds. It makes much more sense to me that the double says, "Partner I want to penalize the opponents, and can double at least one of the majors for penalties."

Some radically different views. The point is that it is not clear what partner's double of 3xDx means.

My own view is that it would greatly improve bidding in this type of scenario if you and your partner agree that the opponents CANNOT play the hand undoubled. So opener's double would show a suit and a pass is noncommittal.

### What happened in real life?

At the table I bid 4♦ and we wound up in 4NT doubled down one. Here is the hand:

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

If you pass 3♥ doubled and lead a minor, you will be +300. If you bid 3NT as a transfer to diamonds, partner will pass and you will be +600.

### 3. Matchpoints, East dealer, neither Vul. As south you hold ♠AQ76 ♥- ♦A108632 ♣QJ3.

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♦
2♥	Dbl	4♥	4♠
Pass	4NT	5♥	5NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	6♠	7♥	Pass <sup>2</sup>
Pass	Dbl	Pass	?

- Two keycards, plus the spade queen.
- First round control of hearts.

What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	34	10
7♠	2	7

This problem boils down to whether to bid 7♠ or pass. Pretty simple it seems. Our RHO by going slow has allowed us to exchange a lot of information. Our partner has a good hand – likely 4135/4144 distribution with the King of Spades, the Ace of Clubs, the King of Diamonds and at least one of the Queen of Diamonds and King of Clubs. Possibly both.

Our bidding has shown two keycards plus the ♠Q and a Heart void (hopefully not the Ace – see below). (Editor's note: I don't see that where we have shown the heart void.) Seven could be cold if partner has the right hand. At worst it will be 50% and could be better if partner has the ♦J and the ♣K – we should be able to get a fairly precise count on the hand if a diamond guess is necessary. We will have 12 top tricks with the most likely hand – 4 Spades, a Heart ruff, 5 Clubs and 2 Diamonds.

Another consideration is the form of scoring. In a good matchpoint event, you would have to assess how good of a score +1100 or +1400 is going to score. At IMP's, it



depends on the state of the match. Do we need a good board or not?

**Dalton:** 7♠ – My 4♠ call was pretty conservative. I could certainly have less than this strength for that call. In addition, partner must have extras to have blasted to slam. With say, KJxx Axx x AKxxx, he would likely have passed 4♠. Perhaps he has extra shape, in which case we should have a decent shot at the grand. He knows about my key cards and void but I've got the QJx of clubs in reserve. Finally, another reason to take the push would be the fact that defending and collecting a penalty of smaller than +1430 is likely to be below average.

Exactly!

**Kimelman:** I think the way to look at this problem is what will we score for 7♥ doubled? If we think less than for 6♠ then we should bid 7♠, as we don't have as much to lose, and hopefully the keycard we were off is the ace of hearts. I will trust east and bid 7♠. I might be buying the beer later. The only other thing that scares me a bit is that a really good partner would have bid 6♥, not 6♠, asking me if to bid the grand if I have a heart void.

Good reasoning.

**Klimowicz:** Pass. First of all I don't like the agreement here that pass shows any first round control of hearts. When partner places the contract at the six level we know we are missing a keycard, so here pass should show a void and we should double with the ace of hearts. Too bad we couldn't show two with a void. Following the RKC structure 6♣ would show two with a void and subsequent 6♦ (by partner) could ask for the queen. I don't expect anybody in the panel to bid 7♠. Some excellent points for a partnership to discuss. Double with a singleton ace, pass with a void. The problem is that partner will never be able to find out

about 3<sup>rd</sup> round Club control and/or a 6<sup>th</sup> Diamond, if they have, say, 4-1-4-4 with the King of Diamonds and the Ace and King of Clubs. You would pass and invite seven with AQ76 - AQJxx 10xxx. Partner is looking at KJ10x x K10xx AK8x.

Many of the panelists mentioned how great it would be to be able to show two keycards plus a void. The advantage as pointed out by Klimowicz of using 6♣ to show a void (partner should know what the void is in this auction), is that it leaves room to ask for the Queen with a 6♦ bid.

### What happened in real life?

You collect +1100 in 7♥ doubled for about 20% of the matchpoints while 7♠ would get you +2210, and 90%. So bidding seven and going down risks losing 20% and gaining 70% depending on where the King of Clubs is. The full deal:

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

### 4. MPs, North dealer, E-W Vul. As South you hold ♠KJ4 ♥AK6543 ♦53 ♣A9.

West	North	East	South
-	2♥	3♦	4♥
4♠	Pass	5♦	?

What do you bid?



Action	Votes	Score
Pass	15	10
5♥	21	9
DbI	0	6
6♣	0	1

This is a common situation at matchpoints. To save or not to save, that is the question. Lots of bidding and here we are at the five level. A save will certainly not be expensive. -500 is a likely worst case scenario. -300 likely.

What do we know? Our RHO has a lot Diamonds, no Spade fit and very few Hearts. Also, with something like 1-0-7-5 distribution, would have almost certainly bid 5♣ over 4♠. So 2-0-7-4 or 1-0-8-4 are most likely. Most experts these days play leaping Michaels, so RHO's options do not likely include bidding 4♦ over the 2♥ opening. So we know it is not a super hand. Our LHO did not make a responsive double so a ballpark hand is 6-1-2-4. Also, partner is in first chair not vulnerable, so may only have five hearts.

All this analysis leaves partner with something like 2-6-2-3, 2-5-3-3 or 2-5-2-4. You certainly rate to get six heart tricks, the ♣A and a Spade ruff in partner's hand – ergo, the -500 worst case scenario.

Back to our decision. Knowing (?) all this, have we done enough? Can they make six if we push them there? Have we already won the battle in the auction? Speaking for the passers:

**Grainger:** Pass. RHO having short spades is awful. They probably make six and I will probably lose six tricks unless partner has the club king. Lead club ace, just in case he has it. If RHO didn't pull to 5♦, I would bid.

**Kimelman:** Things look ominous. The opponents are bidding a lot on limited values, so have good distribution. West rates to have 6+ spades and three

diamonds. I do not want to push the opponents to six which I don't think I can beat. Here is what I think is a likely deal:

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

6♥ is down four, -800.

A couple of extra considerations. A lot of expert partnerships use one under four of their major (or a Q bid) as a good raise and a simple four of a major as non-descriptive. That treatment allows responder in this type of auction to follow-up with a penalty double after the strong four of a Major raise. AND, it allows an optional double after a simple four of a major when the opponents bid on. Along the lines of DSIP doubles, negative slam doubles and so forth. The message is – partner I want to save but I am giving you a chance to pass if you have a good hand for defence. Having such a tool in your arsenal would work well on this hand.

**Balcombe:** Pass. If I knew my partner's weak two bid tendencies, then I might bid something. Barry Crane reportedly said only Jesus saves and I don't think that we will make 11 tricks.

**Todd:** Pass. This is the toughest hand. I think it is a guess depending on what cards partner holds. We may be going for a number, but beating 5♦.

### What happened in real life?

5♥ was bid and -300 was the result. It is possible to beat 5♦ two tricks but down one is likely. To beat it two, partner would have to play a Spade into the A10 in the dummy when they win the King of Diamonds. If declarer plays the Queen and ducks when North covers,

a second spade will kill the spade suit and declarer will lose two club tricks. This is extremely difficult to find at the table as a club play by South is more natural when in with the King of Diamonds.

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

**5. Matchpoints, North dealer, N-S Vul. As south you hold ♠AJ7 ♥QJ873 ♦K4 ♣AK5.**

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	?

What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
5♣	25	10
4NT	9	7
4♥	2	4
4♠	0	3

A very uncomfortable auction. As sometimes happens in 2/1 auctions, there is difficulty in showing strength at a convenient level. Here, North's 2♠ rebid could be a six card suit in a good hand or it could be a five card suit and a minimum. With this particular South hand (a spade fit), there is a lot to be said for a simple (yet ambiguous as to length) 2♣. Is finding a 5-3 Heart fit an advantage?

Anyway, here we are. Proponents of 3NT in a good/bad scenario will love this hand, although it will still not solve the myriad of problems going forward.

Here is some excellent insights from:

**Kokish:** I would be remiss not to mention two other approaches over 3♠:

- (1) 3NT = Balanced slam try, 4x = shortness;
  - (2) 3NT = waiting - to leave room for a club cue bid.
- 4♣ = C control but no diamond control; 4♦ = BOTH club and diamond controls, else 4♣ to leave room for a diamond control, 4♥ = all three controls.

The 3NT waiting bid seems like a good idea. On this hand if opener shows short hearts (instead of 3NT), we have a simple way forward. Over 3NT, however, we will go quickly back at 4♦.

A key question: Does opener's 4♦ control bid show extras in a slam going hand or is it mandatory in this type of auction (I think it should be)? This hand is a great promo for why a good/bad 3NT is a good idea (pun intended). The panel finds 5♣ as the best way forward:

**Bart:** 5♣. Hopefully the club suit was what partner was worried about. The target seems like a small slam: 6♠, but perhaps 6NT. If partner fails to bid 5♥, I'll be content to play 5♠. But if they bid 5♥, will 5NT by me be a try for 6NT? Unclear.

**Korbel:** 5♣. 4♥ should be a club cuebid more than a heart cuebid, and that's what I would bid if I was willing to pass 4♠. But given that I have enough to drive to the five level, I'll make it crystal clear to partner what is going on in the off suits.

**Smith:** My plan is to bid 4♥ (last train)...

The problem with 4♥ is that partner will correctly play this for a cuebid, not last train.

## What happened in real life?

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

♠ A J 7  
♥ Q J 8 7 3  
♦ K 4  
♣ A K 5

Suggested auction:

North	South
1♠	2♥
2♠	3♠
4♦	5♣
5♥	5NT
6NT	

Once South hears the 5♥ bid, they should commit to slam. 5NT offers a choice of slams and North should bid 6NT for several reasons. The ♥10 should help bring the trick total to twelve. Partner may have ♣AQ instead of ♣AK and slam will be safe from South's hand. Also, the slim chance of a Heart singleton lead could defeat 6♠. And, opposite Axx in Spades, there could be a Spade loser to Jxxx in East in addition to the ♥A.

**6) IMPs, East dealer, NS Vul. As South you hold**  
♠K6532 ♥K ♦KJ104 ♣AQ9.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
		-	1♥
?			

What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
1♠	24	10
Dbl	12	8
2♥	0	6

This one is quite simple. You are going to bid and the choices are 1♠ or Double.

This is a good but not a great hand. Are you good enough for another bid at the 3 level if it goes 3♥ by LHO Pass Pass to you? Perhaps at MP's, not so much at IMPs. If you deem the hand to be worth one bid only, does that sway your decision? A concern with bidding 1♠ is that partner with a decent hand for one of the minors will probably not have a bid. Say, something like xx xx Axxxxx Kxx. Here 5♦ has great play and even xx xx Axx Kxxxxx might be good enough for 5♣.

As against that, bidding 1♠ will gain when partner has exactly 3 spades and a good enough hand to bid. If they have 4 spades and an ok hand, they will probably bid anyway.

This would have been a better problem if it was extended to what would you bid with this hand over a 2♥ or a 3♥ opening. I suspect there would be a dramatic shift toward double.

If you switch the majors (they open 1♠ and you are 1-5-4-3), it would be almost unanimous to double. I was curious to see what the panel would do with the spade suit in the picture and they chose 1♠ by a 2 to 1 margin. Let's see what their thinking was.

**Kokish:** 1♠. So what's to like about this routine action? Not much, but neither 1NT nor Dbl is better, so grin and bear it.

**Rayner:** 1♠. This hand is not good enough to double and then bid spades, so I will start with a simple overcall. If Responder bids 2♥ or 3♥ (weak) and it comes back to me I can re-open with a take-out double.

**Cooper:** 1♠. I may get a chance to double hearts later to show extras and request a minor if partner could not support my spades.

**Bart:** 1♠. To double first would most likely lose the fifth spade. Plan to double for takeout on the second round. Good reasoning – if partner does not support spades, he could still have some values and bid a minor. What partner should bid with Jx xxx Qxxx Kxxx is tough. With 2-3-(6-2) or 2-2-(6-3), there should not be a problem. With 2-3-(5-3), it would probably depend on the minor and how strong the spade doubleton is.

Then again...

**Bishop:** Double... Overcalling 1♠ would seem to put our eggs into a very small boat... the takeout double makes it easier to get to either minor and also to give the heart king some weight if advancer were to bid 1NT. All we seem to lose going in this direction is the value of our paltry fifth spade. Here we extend our bidding arc to include other denominations.

**Stark:** Double. K6532 looks like a 4-card suit to me.

Balcombe: I guess that I Double, treating the spades as 4 cards long.

**Kuz:** Double. Get all the suits in.

**Miles:** Double. I have 16 HCPs, singleton heart, support for each minor, and four cards in the other major, no? ☺. I'm usually one to overcall then double, but I don't think this hand is quite as good as it seems; the ♥K is of dubious value. I'll just treat it as 4-4-4-1 and double once or maybe twice depending how I'm feeling next round.

**Treble:** Double. It's a one-bid hand and the minor-suit support is too good to just bid 1♠.

**Willis:** Double. Playable in all other suits, definite desire to understand number of spades and quantity of hand held by partner to guide future bidding. Looking for available plus score and still likely to get to spade games opposite four card suit.

Or even a 3 card suit if partner makes a responsive double over 2♥ or 3♥ by East, we can bid spades, which should be five. Summing up:

**Mackay:** 1♠ or Double? I have sympathy for both. I will bid 1♠ and hope to bid again ... maybe double next time, if LHO raises.

**Culham:** 1♠. This was close between 1♠ and double.

### What happened in real life?

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

West	North	East	South
1♥(!)	Dbl	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	2♠
3♥	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl		

1. Good raise to 2♥

The opponents found the good save. On a spade lead, a second spade was played (South reasoned that partner had only four Spades) and 5♥ doubled made. West's psychic 1♥ opening worked better than the normal 3♥ opened at the other table. So the double backfired in an unusual way – such is life at the bridge table.



# PANEL'S ANSWERS

Panelists Bid	Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3		Hand 4		Hand 5		Hand 6		Total
	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score		
Balcombe, Keith	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	Dbl	8	57
Bart, Brad	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	1♠	10	58
Bishop, Ron	4♣	9	4♦	7	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	Dbl	8	54
Blond, Jeff	3NT	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	1♠	10	59
Campbell, Gordon	5♦	5	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	4NT	7	1♠	10	51
Cooper, Stephen	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	4NT	7	1♠	10	56
Culham, Susan	4♣	9	4♦	7	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	1♠	10	55
Dalton, Roy	3NT	10	Pass	10	7♠	7	5♥	9	5♣	10	1♠	10	56
Fung, Kismet	3NT	10	4♦	7	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	1♠	10	57
Gartaganis, Judy	5♦	5	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	4NT	7	1♠	10	51
Grainger, David	3NT	10	4♦	7	Pass	10	Pass	10	4NT	7	1♠	10	54
Hanna, Nader	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	1♠	10	58
Hornby, Ray	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	Dbl	8	56
Jacob, Dan	4♣	9	4NT	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	Dbl	8	56
Kimelman, Neil	3NT	10	Pass	10	7♠	7	Pass	10	5♣	10	1♠	10	57
Kirr, Marty	3NT	10	3NT	9	Pass	10	5♥	9	4♥	4	Dbl	8	50
<b>Klimowicz, Piotr</b>	<b>3NT</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5♣</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1♠</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>60</b>
Kokish, Eric	3NT	10	4NT	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	1♠	10	59
Korbel, Daniel	4♣	9	4♦	7	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	1♠	10	56
Kuz, Bob	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	Dbl	8	57
L'Ecuyer, Nic	3NT	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	4NT	7	1♠	10	56
Lebi, Robert	4♣	9	4♦	7	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♠	10	1♠	10	55
Lindop, David	3NT	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	1♠	10	59
Mackay, Steve	5♦	5	4♦	7	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	1♠	10	52
Miles, Danny	3NT	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	4NT	7	Dbl	8	54
Oddy, Vince	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	4NT	7	1♠	10	55
Pollack, Frederic	3NT	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	1♠	10	58
Rayner, John	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	4NT	7	1♠	10	55
Sekhar	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	Dbl	10	59
Smith, Jeff	3NT	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	1♠	10	59
Smith, Julie	3NT	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	4♥	4	1♠	10	54
Stark, Andy	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	Dbl	10	59
Thurston, Paul	4♣	9	4♦	7	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	Dbl	10	55
Todd, Bob	4♣	9	Pass	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	1♠	10	59
Treble, Bill	4♦	7	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♥	9	5♣	10	Dbl	8	54
Turner, David	3NT	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	Pass	10	4NT	7	1♠	10	57
Willis, David	3NT	10	4♦	7	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♣	10	Dbl	8	55

# February 2019 Problems

Host: Neil Kimelman

1. As east, you hold ♠- ♥AQJ10954 ♦9 ♣KJ1084. N-S are intermediate players. Neither vul, matchpoints.

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♥	2♥ <sup>1</sup>
DbI	2♠	4♥	4♠
DbI	Pass	?	

1. Michaels

Would you have bid 4♥ at your 2<sup>nd</sup> turn?  
If not, what?  
What is your call on the actual auction?

2. As east, you hold ♠Q1098 ♥9862 ♦K82 ♣93. Both vul, matchpoints. The bidding starts:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♠
DbI	Rdbl	?	

What do you bid?

3. As west, you hold ♠AK7 ♥AK53 ♦QJ1083 ♣10. Neither vul, IMPs.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	pass
?			

1. 10-12 HCPs.

What do you bid?

4. As north, you hold ♠3 ♥AQJ43 ♦Q2 ♣K7432. Both vul, teams.

West	North	East	South
-	1♥	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	DbI
3♣ <sup>2</sup>	DbI	3♦	3♠
Pass	3NT	DbI	Pass
Pass	?		

1. Michaels

2. 2NT by West would have asked for East's minor

What do you bid?

5. As west you hold ♠AK984 ♥95 ♦- ♣AKQJ74. N-S vul, pairs.

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	1♥	pass
2♠	Pass	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
?			

1. Game forcing as Lebensohl was available.

What do you bid?

6. As south, you hold ♠Q8 ♥42 ♦AK105 ♣K10976. N-S vul, teams.

West	North	East	South
-	1♠	2♦	
?			

What do you bid? At matchpoints?

## TOP SCORES FOR THE DECEMBER CONTEST

**Experts.** Peter Klimowicz had a perfect score of 60. These seven panelists tied with 59: Jeff Blond, Eric Kokish, Gordon Campbell, Sekhar, Jeff Smith, Bob Todd, Andy Stark and David Lindop.

**Readers.** Four readers tied with a score of 59: Sandy McIlwain, Brent Gibbs, Raja Sinno, and Fred Lerner.

Please submit your answers  
no later than January 7<sup>th</sup>.

# meet ...

## MARC-ANDRÉ FOURCAUDOT

### CANADIAN CHAMPION

Marc-André Fourcaudot has been a regular tournament player for the last 30 years. He has won two Canadian team championships (2008 and 2019). In his early bridge days, he was on the Grand National Team (GNT) Flight B winning team two consecutive years (1994 & 1995). He was the Non Playing Captain of our Canadian team in Wroclaw Poland in 2016. He came 9th in the 2002 World Imps pair and he also is a proud five times winner of the Chicoutimi Carnival tournament!

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

It all started in a bar late '80s when a good friend did not show up for our daily happy hours. The kind of guy anything could happen with, the year before I spent in hospital as a result of a car accident, he spent it in jail for a bank withdrawal that did not go as planned. When he showed up later his excuse was, he had to replace his aunt who was under the weather and played with his mother in a bridge game. What?? where did you learn this game? In jail of course. He agreed to teach us, we were a table of four, got a deck from the bartender and I found this to be a great alternative to sport given my physical situation. After playing kitchen bridge that whole summer 2-3 times a week I was the only survivor of this first team of four I had. I discovered a wonderful game that I love for 30+ years, even more important is all the people I met and friends I made.



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

After studying in Mathematics, I went from I.T. to Sales to I.T. to Sales and I am now managing sales teams across Canada.

#### ***Online or at the table...what do you prefer?***

I like to touch the cards and be with people, online is a tool to me. This is what I answered in a TV interview in Quebec City 20 years ago and I have not changed my mind yet.

#### ***You are 'The Fork'...where does this comes from?***

One of my best early bridge friends is Larry Crevier, in those days we all considered ourselves being a group of 'fish' from Montreal...When Larry realized English speaking people pronounced my last name ForKaudot, it just made sense to him my 'fishname' should be The Fork and I became part of the cutlery division (we have a Knife... still looking for a spoon) got a t-shirt, a diploma an intronization ceremony and the rest is history...

## ***What is your worst bridge nightmare?***

Losing the last match of the round robin to Trinidad and Tobago in the World Mind Games in 2008. We were in a very good spot to qualify although the team did not have the best day so far. We could have afforded to even lose that last match by a few tricks, we lost by more than 30. There are so many hands I could have personally done much better, that was not the best feeling.

## ***Is there a hand you are really proud of?***

2008 CNTC final, I took something that looked to be an anti percentage play: Dummy had A9xxx facing KJx in my hand. I needed 5 tricks in this suit to make 3NT. Given a Michael Cue Bid on my right I decided to play the K and run the J intending to pin the 10. Before playing the J, I was told the BBO operator (Tony Reus) told my mother to close her eyes. The play was a success and great teammates (Fergani/L'Ecuyer) at the other table did not enter the bidding showing a two suiter so the opponent had no reason to find the winning line.

Here's a more amusing one. You hold ♠AKQxx ♥Axx ♦Q10 ♣Jxx, three passes to you. Boris Baran decided to open 1♠ and heard (no bidding boxes at the time) 2♦ - P - 3NT. He passed. That was my first regional (St-John NB) and passed in 3rd seat with Jxxxx Kx K AQxxx. I just learned that 3rd seat opening were suppose to be lead directing (I obviously did not get the whole concept). Boris lead a small spade and dummy held: ♠10 ♥Qxx ♦AJxxxx ♣Kx. I scored 13 tricks, lost the match but have a story that I never forgotten.

## ***Travels?***

Not a globe trotter but had my share of very nice trips around the world, mainly in Europe. I often enjoyed trips that included Bridge. I am a big fan of the European festivals formula that allows you to discover a city, play some bridge and then enjoy a late dinner.

## ***What do you drink?***

Red wine and my favorite, if not a Rioja, is always the one Kamel picks!

## ***Music: Analog of digital?***

I like many kinds of music but rock from the 80's was always what I preferred. My favorite band is clearly Styx, always must count when asked how many times I saw them live. Some people from Toronto or Brossard may think Rush had a bigger impact on this generation however they must be wrong given how many songs we all remember from them... Lately I am back to Vinyl so it finally made sense to have carry those boxes of albums every time I moved.

## ***Movies...are you a fan?***

I was never a big movie fan (Indiana Jones was my obscure hero that says a lot) but I do have my favorite one: L'itinéraire d'un enfant gâté. There is no English version that exists not even with subtitle to my knowledge. The story is about a survivor with an immense passion. One night back from a bridge tournament I was with an old partner and forever friend (Ranald Davidson) when we watched it but I paused every minute or so to translate, 125 minutes turned into hours...

## ***Bridge partners, you really have had many.***

Yes, true, I have had many. My favorite one was for sure my close friend Jean-Francois Boucher with whom tried so many styles and system variations. Of course, he is the one that accepted all my blunders for the longest time. The one however that had the most impact was Vincent Demuy. I played with him during a summer when he was a teenager, years later he called to ask me to play in the 2008 CNTCs, that phone call sincerely changed my bridge life. I had not attended a NABC for almost 10 years and Vince helped me put a structure to a system I love and keep having it evolve.

## ***Any favourite bridge book?***

The very first book I really enjoyed was Killing Defense by Kelsey. Playing in what must have been my first sectional back in Chicoutimi George Retek offered to send me a book but I had to pick a topic, this is what I



received in the mail a few weeks later. I am not reading as much bridge as I used to in the 90's, there was no trip (non bridge trip) I would not leave with at least 3-4 new books. Lately the book I enjoyed the most was Master of Bridge Psychology: Inside the Remarkable Mind of Peter Fredin. This book is all about the difference between learning and understanding the game, a concept I was always a huge supporter.

### ***What is your favorite convention?***

Two-way Stayman. This is how I learned and always preferred to transfer. Nowadays however there are more efficient (and complex) systems that offers the best of both worlds.

### ***What is your least favorite convention?***

Pass. Not a big fan of the green card.

### ***Ethics/Scandals any comments?***

Competitive players like to win, and some professional players would do anything to win unfortunately. Everything has been said on this topic in the last few years. Winning simply must be for the right reason. After a CNTC round robin 20 years ago when we qualified by 1VP I was at the bar with teammate Nick Krnjevic when we realized there was a procedure penalty of 1 VP that was not subtracted from our total. It was obvious to us to report the error and go home. How could we steal a qualification spot?

Playing the intercity match between Montreal and Toronto years ago, very first board my teammates started the play without filling a card completely. They never played together: one was filling in for a player late due to a flight delay. They had a blackwood misunderstanding and played 7 off the ace of trump. When the Toronto opponents realized this was due to not having the time to discuss, they just offered to reshuffle the board: That is extreme sportsmanship.

We've all been guilty of creating/ using UI without the intention of doing it. Responsibility as experts is to be super cautious and avoid it with no exception. It is also important to bring this to the attention of the less experienced players to ease their learning curve, this

way the game will remain as fun as it can be.

### ***You talked about the Intercity Match between Montreal and Toronto, tell us more.***

This event is 50+ years old and could be my favorite one. It is a friendly two days competition with some of the best players from both cities competing. No master points, no directors, just good bridge, fun and competition for bragging rights! I have been contributing on and off to its organization for about 25 years, mainly with Irving Litvack without him this event would have not lasted that long. Talking about Irving, having diner with him chatting about rubber bridge hands he played in the afternoon or hearing stories about Belladonna in the 60's are moments I cherish and that I try to repeat many times every year.

### ***Anything else you want to add?***

Long, long time ago I was in a parking lot chatting about hands with Mark Molson after a club game. He asked me when will I become serious at the bridge table? My answer was... hopefully never so that the game remains a game!



Jean La Traverse, Irving Litvack, Marc-André Fourcaudot with the 2015 Irving Litvack - Maurice Paul trophy celebrating intercity winners between Toronto and Montreal.

PHOTO: Jonathan Steinberg





## **BREAKING NEW SUITS** *when defending*

by Andy Stark

Trivia time—what was the title of the award-winning neo-Western crime drama that appeared on TV between 2008-2013? What Neil Sedaka hit is considered to be his signature song, one that he recorded twice, in 1962 and 1975? And finally, what is something you should think twice about when defending a bridge hand?

Answers: Breaking Bad, Breaking Up is Hard to Do, and breaking new suits. Note the theme going on here.

Early on in our bridge education we are taught opening lead stratagems such as 'lead the top of an honour sequence' and 'lead fourth best from your longest and strongest.' But given a choice between those two, the former is much preferred over the latter. Let's see how and why.

THE  
**NEW PLAYER**  
*Spot*

## BREAKING NEW SUITS ... CONTINUED

Say the auction goes 1NT-3NT. You are on lead with:

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

What do you lead? Goren and his disciples would say lead your ♠7 because that suit is your strongest. But a spade lead might give away a trick. In a matchpoint game that is a big no-no. A diamond lead is safer because it cannot possibly blow a trick. Let's look at the whole hand:

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

On a spade lead declarer will capture your partner's jack with their queen. Then they will attack clubs and eventually score up 3NT making with an overtrick. They are entitled to four club tricks (with your ♣A onside and repeated club plays from the South hand), plus three diamonds, one heart and get two spade tricks because of the spade lead away from the king.

But look what happens on a diamond lead. Your jack will most likely be won by South so that they can play clubs towards the dummy. Now, declarer's ♠Q should never score a trick. If they takes a spade finesse you will win the queen with your king. And if partner gets in to push a spade through declarer, same result. The diamond lead gives nothing away: declarer is guaranteed to score three diamond tricks and only three diamond tricks.

Sometimes a suit is considered to be "frozen" around the table. Frozen means no player can break it without

giving up a trick. For comparison sake, the diamond suit in the previous hand is *not* frozen because any player can break diamonds and the outcome will always be the same: declarer is entitled to three diamond tricks. This is a frozen spade suit:

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

If West plays spades first, declarer will score their king. The same goes if East plays spades first. It might go 6-7-A-2. Again, the ♠K will win a trick. Notice what happens if North breaks this suit. Say it goes 2-6-K-A. Now the remaining spades are

	♠ J 4 3	
♠ 10 5		♠ Q 8
	♠ 9 7	

The spades are still frozen. If West continues spades, South will score the jack or nine. If the next spade is started by North, N-S will not win a trick at all! Same goes for South. And if East continues spades, one trick will go to N-S. Clearly the layout of the spade suit is dangerous as whoever touches it first loses at least one trick.

So, how do we manage the spade suit if it's divided like that or in a similar way? Answer: try not to be the first to break it. Leave it alone and wait for the opponents to break it first, then play second hand low.

There is a deal from a recent Sectional tournament. You are West and hold:

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

It goes 1NT (15-17) on your right, pass by you, 2♥ (transfer to ♠s) on your left, Double from partner (for the lead) and 4♠(!) on your right—the ol' *super duper* accept.

## BREAKING NEW SUITS ... CONTINUED

You lead the ♥A and this is what you see:

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

Partner encourages with the ♥Q which promises the ♥J. You continue with your ♥9 and it goes to declarer's king. Oops, your heart lead blew a trick because you started them, but that's okay, partner asked for a heart lead. His fault. But here comes the real test.

Declarer, at trick three, plays a low heart and ruffs it in the dummy as you pitch a diamond. A diamond is played from dummy. Partner plays the ♦J, declarer the ♦Q and you win the ♦K. Now what?

You have two tricks in and can see getting the ♠K. All you need to defeat this contract is one more trick. Do you go after clubs or return a diamond? Here's the full deal:

4♠ by South  
Lead: ♥A

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

Given that this article is about the danger of breaking new suits, let's focus on the clubs and see how dangerous it is for you to break this suit. If you play the ♣8 or ♣7 it will ride around to declarer's ♣10. If you play the ♣Q or ♣J, declarer might play you for the other honour. He might not, but he might. Best is to lay off clubs altogether.

Back to when declarer played a small diamond off dummy, your partner played the ♦J. He was splitting his honours to let you know it would be safe to continue diamonds. Therefore, fire back a diamond and give nothing away. Eventually, after declarer takes a losing spade finesse into you, he will have to break clubs. When he does, split your club honours to ensure you get a club trick. Bottom line: looking at a flat dummy, go passive and wait for declarer to break suits.

Nobody in the room was in 4♠. Nobody in a spade partscore made ten tricks. But the declarer in 4♠ at my table made ten tricks because West broke clubs and turned a top board into a bottom. That's okay, West, I forgive you.

Is there ever a time to break a new suit? Of course! Bridge would not be bridge unless there was an exception. But that exception occurs when there is a solid suit or obvious source of tricks in the dummy. Then you need to break a new suit to get whatever you have coming in that suit before declarer pitches his losers while playing the good suit in dummy.



Student in class has xxx facing AQJ in dummy. She leads low and puts in the jack which holds. She plays the ace next. Teacher asks why she didn't take the finesse again? She says: "You told us that only one of two finesses work."





## DECLARER PLAY 9

This is the ninth article in a new Bridge Canada series. 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 2018) 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. This article is Part II of our focus on item #9: Techniques in keeping the dangerous hand off lead

## TECHNIQUES IN KEEPING THE DANGEROUS HAND OFF LEAD: PART II

### Two Way Finesses

Two way finesses are the meat and potatoes of avoidance plays. Quite often we have a choice, usually when we are in search for a queen:

AJ10

K98

If this is the declarer and dummy's holding in the key suit, we can choose who to play for the queen. Sometimes the answer is evident: for example one opponent has opened 1NT, and you are only missing 15 HCPs. However often it is a guess. However, when combined with keeping one defender off the lead, it becomes clear which way to go.

In the first two examples in the August BC Bridge Basics article, we took purposeful finesses through the dangerous opponents. The third example was ducking at trick one, forcing the defence to take their tricks now, or not got them. The first example in this instalment of BB is a combination of these two techniques.

### Example 1: Playing IMPs

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

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

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

You can count five hearts, two spades, one diamond, and one diamond ruff for nine tricks. The tenth can come from a third spade. However you are in danger of losing a spade and three clubs. However you have a sure thing! Win the diamond, pull trump, and play a spade to the jack. If it wins you are playing for over-

## BRIDGE BASICS ... CONTINUED

tricks. If it loses west cannot attack clubs for three tricks.

The full deal:

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

Finessing spades the other way would have resulted in down one.

### Two Way Finesse for a King

You might be saying, 'huhh??' But it is real technique. Sometimes you have an option of playing either opponent for a king, if there is a ruffing finesse available. A ruffing finesse is possible when, playing in a suit contract, one hand has a singleton in a side suit and the other AQJ(x..). You can either put in the queen on trick one of the suit, like a normal finesse, or cash the ace and play the queen at trick two, catering your right hand opponent to having the king. Again, you may have info to make it clear which way is better. But when you don't, consider which defender you wish to keep off the lead.

#### Example 2: Playing IMPs, your contract is 5♠.

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

West leads the ♥J. Plan the play.

Trying for slam, you got to a bit of an uncomfortable level. You have five spade tricks, two hearts, and four diamonds, just as long as you keep East off the lead. Pull trump and play ♦A, then the ♦Q. If east covers, ruff, cross to dummy with the other high heart honour, and cash your diamonds, discarding three clubs, and give up one club at the end. If east play small on the ♦Q lead, discard a club. If west wins, the defence can only take one club trick. The full deal:

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

And finally:

#### Example 3: 4♠ by south. ♥K lead. Plan the play.

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

Once again east is the dangerous opponent. All efforts should be employed to keep them off lead. Here you have been granted a favourable lead. Duck the heart! On the likely heart continuation, win the ace and discard a diamond. Now you can safely set up your diamond tricks while keeping east off lead.

## BRIDGE BASICS ... CONTINUED

The full deal:

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

**Example 4: 4♠ by south. ♦K lead. East wins the ace, and returns the ♥2. Plan the play.**

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

score a heart ruff. What can you do? There is one chance. You must hope to keep West off lead, by cutting the defenders' communications. The only way is for East to have the ♣J! Lead the ♣A, ♣Q overtaking with the ♣K. Now play the ♣10. East covers and you discard your 2<sup>nd</sup> diamond. The defence can longer score a heart ruff. The full deal:

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

**Next issue:** We move on to another interesting subject: Deceptive plays by declarer to impede the opponents to find their best defence.

Here East has made their intentions clear. They plan on winning the ♠A, lead a diamond to partner to

## KAPLANISM 14 *(Quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan)*

Editor's note: *This is the fourteenth 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 my view, to push the opponents into a contract and then sacrifice against it is one of the gravest bidding crimes."

Analysis of the 1958 World Championship, TBW 1958, as reprinted (abridged) in TBW 1.1998

"For a full explanation of this remarkable auction, I must refer you to the perpetrators."

Analysis of the 1958 World Championship, TBW 1958, as reprinted (abridged) in TBW 1.1998, p. 29

"In the Open Room, Altman, West, had to make a blind opening lead, and chose a trump (violating "Mathe's Law": never lead a trump, unless it turns out right)."

Play-off semifinals, Stayman vs. Sheinwold, TBW 11/1972, p. 16



## *The Intermediate Series* **DEFENSIVE PLAY** **18: DEFENSIVE** **STRATEGIES**

*By Neil Kimelman*

I continue looking at some general defensive strategies. There are only a few more articles on this subject, addressing more advanced strategies. In this instalment I look at defending against possible squeezes.

### ***An Introduction to Squeezes***

Defending against squeezes is difficult, and one of the most difficult aspects of defence. Squeeze defence is slightly easier playing IMPs, as overtricks are of secondary importance: making or defeating the contract is the thing.

But like anything else, understanding how squeezes work will occasionally guide the way of finding an effective defence. Treat this column as an introduction to squeezes, rather than thinking, 'after reading this article I will I understand squeezes and always find the best defence.' I also invite you to:

- Read other literature available on this topic.
- Discuss this topic with an advanced or expert player who serves as your bridge mentor.

THE  
**INTERMEDIATE**  
*Spot*



## THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES ... CONTINUED

Simple positional squeezes occur in an ending where at least one defender has to guard two suits, but cannot do both.

**EXAMPLE 1:**

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

When declarer leads the ♥A, West is finished. If he throws the ♦A, declarer discards a low spade from North, and dummy is good. If instead West keeps the boss diamond then declarer discards the now useless ♦K, and the spades run for four tricks.

In order to effect such as ending the declarer must:

1. Rectify the count. In most squeezes, declarer has to be exactly one trick short of trick goal.
2. Have the necessary communication between their hand and dummy, and
3. Force the defender(s) to commit giving up the guard in a suit before declarer has to (positional squeeze).

I will examine each of these items in more detail and show how the defence can thwart a competent declarer.

**1. Rectify the count**

This means that for most squeezes declarer but be within one trick of their goal number of tricks. If declarer has 10 tricks, but is trying for 11. In order for the squeeze to operate at the key trick in this example, declarer has to have lost exactly two tricks.

The defence can thwart declarer rectifying the count by not cashing tricks it has coming. There is risk with this strategy, but sometimes it becomes logical. One such situation is when declarer gives you the chance to rectify the count.

**EXAMPLE 2: Contract: 6NT. Lead: ♦J.**

♠ K Q J ♥ A K J ♦ A K Q x ♣ Q x x			
♠ x x x	♥ x x	♠ A x x x	♥ x x x x x
♦ J 10 9 8	♣ J 10 9 8	♦ x x	♣ x x
♠ x x x ♥ Q x x ♦ x x x ♣ A K x x			

Declarer wins the diamond lead and leads a spade. East should hold up. Declarer wins and play a 2<sup>nd</sup> spade. East should hold up again. Now if declarer plays a third spade, East can cash two tricks. If instead, declarer abandons spades, no matter what he does he cannot avoid losing two tricks.

**EXAMPLE 3:**

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

Playing IMPs you are West and South is declarer in 3NT. On the following auction:

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

## THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES ... CONTINUED

Playing 4<sup>th</sup> best leads you lead the ♥3, declarer ducks the first heart, East wins the queen and returns the ♥9, declarer wins, places a club to their ace, and surprises you by playing ♥J! How do you defend?

Here is the full deal:

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

Declarer can see from the 4<sup>th</sup> best lead that you started with five hearts. Instead of trying to rely on a 3-3 break in one of the other three suits, declarer knows that rectifying the count might squeeze East. If you cash your hearts the ending will be:

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

It doesn't matter what your return, but for argument's sake, let's say it is the ♣J. Declarer wins, and tries for 3-3 clubs. It doesn't work but East is squeezed on the third round of clubs, between giving up his diamond or spade stopper – making three!

## 2. Have the necessary communication between their hand and dummy

Sometimes, not always, the defence can successfully attack declarer's communications. Here is an example as to how this can be accomplished.

### EXAMPLE 4:

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

Playing in notrump, declarer needs all six tricks. West is on lead. If he woodenly returns a high club. Declarer will cash their ♦A and West has to give up a guard in one of the black suits. But a spade return breaks up declarer's communication and must cash their 2<sup>nd</sup> spade to only go down one.

## 3. Eliminate threats in a suit

As a defender, you sometimes can eliminate the threat in a suit. Here is a classic example:

### EXAMPLE 5:

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

## THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES ... CONTINUED

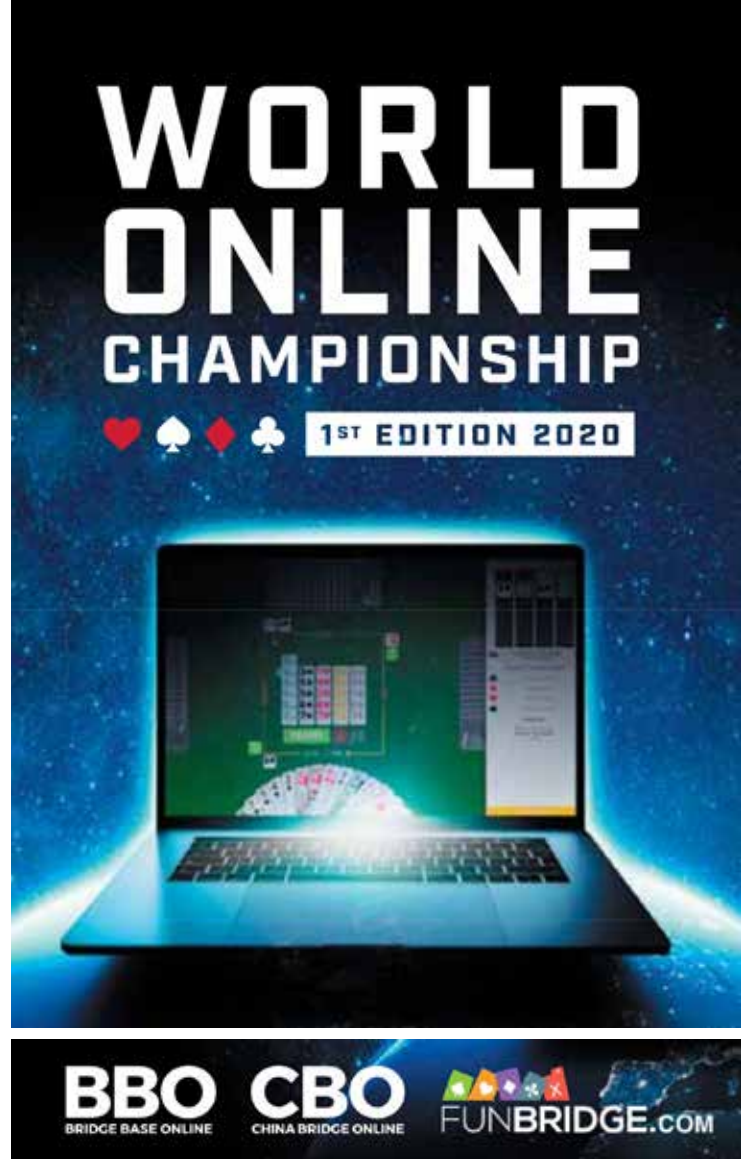
South is declarer in 5♠. West leads the ♣K, which east overtakes and plays back a 2nd club, which west wins with the jack. Now the only winning defense is for West to play a third high club, making declarer play the ten, which East can ruff. This removed the threat card, the ♣10.

Suppose West returned a heart instead of a club. Then declarer could win the ace, draw trumps, cash the diamonds and some trumps and come to this ending:

♠ -	♠ -
♥ K 9	♥ 5 4
♦ -	♦ 9
♣ 10	♣ -
♠ -	♠ 8
♥ Q J	♥ 8 7
♦ -	♦ -
♣ Q	♣ -

Now when declarer plays the last trump from hand, West is squeezed.

**Next issue:** Giving declarer a losing option.



The WBF has just announced the first ever **World Online Bridge Championship** to be played through Funbridge, BBO and China Bridge Online. The competition will start in March 2020 and runs until August. Up to 500 finalists will win an all expenses paid to China for the 3-day final to be held in November. The finalists will compete for a prize fund of up to US\$500,000 with a US\$100,00 prize to the winner! In addition, the winner(s) will be awarded the title of World Online Champion in their playing category.

Read more on the WBF site at this link:  
[www.worldbridge.org/2019/11/08/world-online-championship/](http://www.worldbridge.org/2019/11/08/world-online-championship/)



# MOLLO On Play

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

Contract: 4♠ at IMPs.

♠ A Q J 3

♥ Q J 9 5

♦ K 6 2

♣ A K

♠ 8 6 5 4 2

♥ 6 4 2

♦ A Q

♣ 7 5 3

Lead: ♥A. West leads a second heart to the queen and king, and east returns a third heart, and West discards the ♦8! Plan the play.

SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 38

The real test of a  
bridge player isn't in  
keeping out of trouble,  
but in escaping once  
he's in it.

-Alfred Sheinwold



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This is the first of a new series – recipes from fellow CBF members. We all have our favourites – why not share!

### Jodi's Chicken

by Neil Kimelman

Named for my sister, where I first tasted it, this marinade is always a crowd favourite when I use. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

½ C Ranch Dressing

½ C Oil (I use Canola)

3T Worcestershire

1T Rosemary

2 tsp salt

1 tsp lemon juice

1 tsp white vinegar

1T white sugar

½ tsp green pepper

Combine all ingredients and let sit at room temperature for 5 minutes. Then mix in with your chicken thighs and refrigerate for anywhere from 30 minutes to 24 hours. BBQ whole pieces or make skewers.



# WHAT WENT WRONG?

By Paul Thurston

When the Japanese Women's team faced the U.S.A. during the recent World Championships in Wuhan, China, one of the largest numbers any of us will ever see from a one-level misadventure was produced by this deal.

**Hand 1 DLR: North. VUL: Both**

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

West	North	East	South
-	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
DbI	Rdbl	All Pass	

Lead: ♥ J

No doubt the American South was shocked to find herself declaring one heart redoubled with overtricks looming but not so shocked that she didn't maximize her result. South won the opening heart lead in hand to play a low diamond, winning dummy's Queen after West routinely played low. A second round of hearts picked up East's Queen and then came a parade of hearts, lots and lots of hearts, so many hearts that

THE  
**EXPERT**  
*Spot*

## WHAT WENT WRONG ... CONTINUED

West's modest values were squeezed into useless pulp and South actually emerged with all thirteen tricks! For making six redoubled and vulnerable overtricks, the score was a remarkable 3120 – you could look it up to be sure, I know I had to! So when World Class experts generate a score like that, WHAT WENT WRONG?

The immediate cause of the debacle was obvious: West assumed an agreement was in place that so painfully obviously wasn't and, even if it had been, would have been dubious at best.

**What agreement?** A particularly pernicious treatment called "Penalty Pass Over Redouble" that, if and when used, would define East's pass over North's support redouble (showing three-card heart support) as expressing a desire to play for a penalty against one heart redoubled. Pity poor East: all she thought she was doing was leaving the way clear for partner to choose which suit to take out the redouble to! Of course, as there often are, there were other factors helping cause the disaster.

Starting with the takeout double in a live auction: maybe West's distribution was okay for such a double but where were her opening-bid values traditionally shown by such an action, especially given the vulnerability conditions and her partner's passed-hand status? And given her own sparse contributions to a possible successful defensive campaign at the one-level, discretion might have been the better part of valour: RUN, West, RUN as you're odds against to set one heart even if partner's pass really did suggest defending.

Worthy of mention: the Japanese team turned over 20 very real and very painful IMPs on this deal when their North-South pair subsided in four hearts and brought home only eleven tricks BUT this East-West pair buckled down and played very well for the rest of the match and emerged as 56-50 winners! Now that's a rally!



Tunnel vision afflicts even the best experts on occasion and might crop up in unusual contexts but most often in the bidding.

### HAND 2 DLR: West. VUL: None

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Lead: ♠2

When the defense was perfect, the eventual loss was 500 and no sympathy from partner, teammates, kibitzers or the BBO commentator during this International match, so WHAT WENT WRONG?

As mentioned, nothing went wrong with the defense: low trump lead to the ace for a club shift to the ace and a second round of spades to put paid to any diamond ruffs in the North hand, a possibility West had foreseen from the bidding. Yes, it was the auction with South's over-exuberant bidding and rebidding of his admittedly massive values constituting a kind of tunnel vision: he was so hypnotized by his own hand, he failed to notice what was going on around him. For sure, his collection was worth the second-round jump shift but his partner's preference back to spades was no genuine show of support. That was likely to mean diamond losers in any high-level spade undertaking and, after all, North had passed over one spade.

The result this time: -500 when South could assemble no more than five trump tricks and the two top

## WHAT WENT WRONG ... CONTINUED

diamonds. "But I had a marvellous hand" lamented South! It's definitely a part of many player's psyches that they fall in love with big hands and drag partner, kicking and screaming all the way, to unsustainable heights but taking a look at the entire auction and processing its implications would save hundreds of points and forestall multiple bruising of innocent partners.

Remember: some deals, you too will hold hands like North's little bit of nothing!



Tunnel vision can also afflict a declarer who makes a practical plan for success but fails to adjust that plan in light of unexpected developments.

**HAND 3****DLR: South. VUL: N-S**

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

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

Lead: ♦4

North's responsive cuebid, while possibly overemphasizing clubs by some standards, got the desired reaction South announced a spade stopper to reach the best game. Noteworthy: West's overcall on a lousy suit and sub-minimal values, the kind of overcall that makes bridge teachers' blood curdle but that escaped immediate retribution – this time!

Having bid spades, West tried the surprise led of fourth-best diamond. Surprise! It didn't work well at all as South won the ten and cashed the King before leading a low club towards dummy. Declarer let West hold his contribution of the Queen and the defender found the best plays of King and a second round of hearts for his partner to win the ace and clear the suit.

That more or less finished off South's prospects for any length trick(s) in clubs when he next cashed the King of that suit to discover the 4-1 split. But he was wasn't done yet as he led a club back to the ace while paying careful attention to West's discards. And those discards were: a spade on third round of hearts and a spade and a diamond on the last two rounds of clubs.

Seeing the opportunity to endplay West into a forced diamond return, declarer played a spade to the Jack and ace and a second round back to the King in the closed hand. But on that trick, West saw what was coming and astutely dumped the spade Queen. To give South an immediate third spade winner but no prospects of a ninth trick as, diamond less, he was the one endplayed and forced to lead a club to East who sat waiting with the setting tricks while the diamond ace withered on the vine in dummy. A promising contract with the ninth trick there for the taking so WHAT WENT WRONG?

A fatal onset of tunnel vision on that first round of spades as West's unburdening of a spade honour might have warned South that the defender saw what was coming and was taking evasive action. After winning the spade ace, South could have taken the diamond ace and exited with the diamond Jack to force a spade return into the closed hand's tenace.

Alternatively, South might have initiated spades by cashing the King and then leading a second round to leave both options open: a third spade winner if West unblocks or the endplay if he doesn't. In either case, the ninth trick would be available and East would have been less ecstatic at his partner's defense (even though it was the best it could be under the circumstances!).

# AFTER A MAJOR-SUIT RESPONSE IS RAISED TO THE TWO LEVEL

By *Ed Zaluski*

## Zee Game Tries

After a major-suit response to a minor-suit opening is raised to the two level, a variety of natural game-try methods can be used, most of which will reveal information about declarer's strength and distribution; this will only assist the opponents in finding an effective opening lead and guide their later defence. An arguably better method is one that uses a Step-Relay Asking Bid (SRAB) -- 2♠ over 2♥ and 2NT over 2♠ -- to artificially inquire about partner's "type" of raise. This keeps the distribution of declarer's hand outside the trump suit unknown, thereby making the opponent's defence more difficult.

One simple game-try convention that uses a SRAB is the "3344" step structure of Rodwell Game Tries, where each number represents an escalating-step structure that applies a specific meaning to each response. Specifically, the first two steps (the '33' part of the convention) show a three-card raise, and the next two steps (the '44' part) show a four-card raise. In each pair of raises, the first step shows a minimum and the second step shows a good opening hand.

Should responder deem that a SRAB is not appropriate, then game tries related to a specific suit -- such as the commonly used help-suit game try -- can continue to be used by skipping the SRAB and, instead, bidding the applicable suit below the three level of the agreed major. Where hearts were raised, responder just skips the SRAB of 2♠ and bids 2NT to make a game try with specific reference to the spade suit. But where spades were raised, responder's 3♥ rebid should be treated as natural, and opener should raise with four-card support.

This article describes a game-try convention similar to "3344," named "Zee Game Tries." This convention allows opener to raise not only when holding four-card support, but also when holding three-card support and a side-suit singleton or void. Responder's SRAB then shows at least invitational values and asks for opener's strength and distribution. (Note that, because a raise on three-card support is allowed, responder should check back for four-card support when holding only four cards in the raised major unless willing to play a game or slam based on a Moysian 4-3 fit.)

Zee-game-try responses to the SRAB basically use a five-step artificial responding structure up to 3NT, where the acronym of "345MinMax" facilitates remembering the meaning of each step. To make it simple, an opponent's double of a SRAB, or any other artificial bid, is ignored.

## ZEE GAME TRIES ... CONTINUED

- FIRST STEP** Shows a three-card raise of responder's major and a short side suit, where the opened minor will likely be five cards long. The use of "short side suit" here and in later paragraphs means a singleton or void in an unbid side suit. This is the '3' part of the 345MinMax acronym of "Zee Game Tries."
- SECOND STEP** Shows a four-card raise of responder's major and a short side suit. This is the '4' part of 345MinMax acronym to show distributions of 4441, 5431 or possibly 6421. Compare this bid with the jumps to 4♣ and 4♦ below.
- THIRD STEP** Shows 5422 distribution consisting of four-card support for responder's major and exactly five cards in the opened minor. Note that there is no short suit. This is the '5' part of 345MinMax acronym. If responder rebids three of the agreed major, it is not forcing, but opener may raise with a maximum.
- FOURTH STEP** Natural, in that a return to responder's major shows four-card support and a minimum distributed 4432 or 4333. This is the 'Min' part of 345MinMax acronym. Responder may pass if holding only invitational values.
- FIFTH STEP** Shows four-card support in a balanced maximum whose distribution is 4432 or 4333, and forces game because the bid is above the agreed trump suit. This is the 'Max' part of 345MinMax acronym.
- 3NT** When 3NT is the sixth step (which happens only when hearts have been raised), it shows four hearts, a maximum, and exactly 4333 distribution. Responder may choose to pass and play 3NT because opener's hand lacks a ruffing value, and nine tricks may be the limit.
- 4♣/♦ Shows four-card support, 5431 (or possibly 6421) distribution, and a short side-suit. Opener's five-card minor should contain two of the top three honours, thereby identifying a good suit that should provide a source of tricks in a slam contract if responder is so inclined. 4♣ shows a singleton in the unopened minor, while 4♦ shows a singleton in the other major. Compare these bids with the second-step response previously described.
- 4♥ Void in the other major regardless of which major has been agreed.

In the listings on the following pages, a letter/number combination has meaning as identified by the following examples: O3 would identify one of opener's possible rebids on the third-round, and R4 would identify one of responder's possible rebids on the fourth round.



## ZEE GAME TRIES ... CONTINUED

**AUCTION 1:** 1♣ – 1♥

2♥ – 2♠ (SRAB)

2NT – ?

The first-step identifies three-card support with a side short suit.  
Continuations are as follows:

**R3. 3♣**

Responder's return to opener's minor is natural, not forcing, and confirms only a 4-3 fit in hearts.

**R3. 3♦**

Bidding the other minor is an artificial bid that asks opener to identify strength and the short suit by replying in ascending steps.

**O4. 3♥/♠**

A minimum. The first step shows shortness in lower suit, diamonds (which responder is allowed to pass), while the second step shows shortness in the higher suit, spades.

**R4. 3NT**

Natural, to play, with opener's short suit being well stopped.

**R4. 4♣**

Responder's return to opener's minor is not forcing.

**R4. 4♦/♠**

At any time -- both here and in later sequences -- responder's next bid in opener's singleton at the four level is a Working Control Asking Bid (WCAB), to which opener replies in steps, as follows: the first step shows two or less controls, the second step shows three, etc. Note: There are eleven controls in play, where each Ace counts as two controls and each King outside the short suit counts as one. The WCAB can be used in lieu of Blackwood, particularly when holding the King and Queen of trumps and looking instead for "working" Kings in the non-singleton suits.

**O4. 3NT/4♣**

A maximum, forcing to game. The third step shows short diamonds, and the fourth step shows short spades.

**O4. 4♦/♥**

A maximum, forcing to game. 4♦ shows a void in diamonds, and 4♥ shows a void in spades. Responder's later bids of game or slam in opener's minor suit are to play.

**R3. 3♥**

Invitational, and announcing a hand that does not wish to be in game if opener has a minimum and short spades because opener's two-step reply of 3♠ to a 3♦ asking bid would force the partnership beyond the safety level of 3♥.

**O4. Pass**

A minimum and short spades.

**O4. 4♥**

Either a maximum, or short diamonds.

**R3. 3♠**

A cue bid and a slam try. Subsequent bidding is natural. Opener's short suit is not relevant to responder's hand. Because only three-card support for hearts was promised, game and slam contracts in both hearts and clubs remain in play, at responder's choice.

**R3. 3NT**

Natural, to play.

**R3. 4♣**

Because only three-card support for hearts was promised, a jump in opener's minor is forcing and agrees that suit as trump (at least for now). It can be treated as Minorwood, if so agreed. Alternately, after opener's following cue bid at the four level, responder's 4NT can ask for key cards with opener's minor agreed as trump. Later, responder may correct a slam contract back to the bid-and-supported major suit.

## ZEE GAME TRIES ... CONTINUED

**AUCTION 2:** 1♣ – 1♠  
 2♠ – 2NT (SRAB)  
 3♣ – ? The first-step identifies three-card support with a side short suit. Continuations are as follows:

**R3. Pass** Shows a fit for opener's clubs, and no interest in game opposite opener's minimum hand that contains only three-card support for spades.

**R3. 3♦** *An artificial bid, asking for opener's strength, and short suit.*

**O4. 3♥/♠** A minimum. The first step shows short diamonds, and the second step shows short hearts. If responder rebids 3♠ over 3♥, or 4♣ (clubs being opener's minor), both bids are natural and not forcing.

**R4. 3NT** Natural, to play, with the singleton suit well stopped.

**O4. 3NT/4♣** A maximum, and forcing to game. The third step of 3NT shows short diamonds, and the fourth step shows short hearts.

**O4. Any** **R4. 4♦/♥** Responder's rebids in opener's short suit is a WCAB; this convention was described under auction one.

**R3. 3♥** A game try for 4♠, be it a natural bid in a second suit, a help-suit game try, or a short-suit game try, as agreed by the partnership. But the game being investigated is not necessarily in the bid major because an eight-card fit in that major is not confirmed. This means that if responder later rebids four or five of opener's minor suit, both would be natural and not forcing.

**R3. 3NT** Natural, to play.

**R3. 4♣** When opener has shown only three-card support for responder's major, a return to opener's minor at the four level is forcing and agrees that suit as trump. It can be treated as Minorwood, if so agreed. See 4♣ response in auction one.

**AUCTION 3:** 1♣ – 1♠  
 2♠ – 2NT (SRAB)  
 3♣ – ? The first step identifies three-card support with a side short suit. Continuations are as follows:

**R3. 3♦** A return to opener's minor is natural, not forcing, and confirms only a 4-3 fit in the major.

**R3. 3♥** An artificial bid, asking for opener's strength, and short suit. Step responses are similar to those shown in the previous cases.

**R3. 3♠** Returning to the agreed major is not forcing, identifying a hand that does not wish to be in game if opener has a minimum and short hearts, because a two-step 3NT reply to a 3♥ asking bid would force the contract beyond the safety level of 3♠.

**O4. Pass** A minimum and short hearts.

**O4. 4♠** Either a maximum, or short clubs.

**R3. 4♦** A jump in opener's minor can be Minorwood. See auction one.

## ZEE GAME TRIES ... CONTINUED

**AUCTION 4:** 1♣/♦ – 1♥

2♥ – 2♠ (SRAB)

3♣ The second step identifies four-card support with a side short suit.

Continuations are as follows:

**R3. 3♦** With the partnership having a known fit in a major of at least eight cards, any one-step rebid by responder at the three level below the agreed trump suit, even if its opener's minor, is forcing and always asks for opener's strength and short suit.

**O4. 3♥/♠** A minimum. The first step shows shortness in the unopened minor, while the second step shows short spades.

**O4. 3NT/4♣** A maximum, forcing to game. The third step shows shortness in the unopened minor, while the fourth step shows short spades.

**O4. Any** **R4. 4♣/♦** If available, responder's rebid in opener's short suit at the four level is a WCAB.

**O4. 4♦/♥** When available, rebidding the fifth or sixth step shows a maximum and a void. 4♦ shows a void in the unopened minor and 4♥ shows a void in spades.

A later return to game or slam in opener's minor is to play.

**R3. 3♥** Invitational, announcing a hand that does not wish to be in game if opener has a minimum and short spades, because opener's two-step 3♠ reply to the 3♦ asking bid would force the partnership beyond the safety level of 3♥.

**O4. Pass** A minimum and short spades.

**O4. 4♥** Either a maximum, or shortness in the unopened minor.

**R3. 3♠** A cue bid and a slam try. Opener's short suit is not relevant to responder's hand. Subsequent bidding is natural.

**R3. 4♠** Alternately, when using the standard "0314" responses to a 4NT key-card asking bid, a partnership may agree to use a jump to 4♠ as "Spadewood," which asks for key cards only when hearts are trump.

**4NT** When four-card support for responder's major exists, 4NT is RKC Blackwood.

**AUCTION 5:** 1♣/♦ – 1♠

2♠ – 2NT (SRAB)

3♦ The second-step identifies four-card support with a side short suit.

Continuations are as follows:

**R3. 3♥** *An artificial bid, asking for opener's strength and short suit.*

**O4. 3♠/NT** A minimum. The first step shows shortness in the unopened minor, and the second step shows short hearts. 3♠ may be passed.

**O4. 4♣/♦** A maximum, forcing to game. The third step shows shortness in the unopened minor, while the fourth step shows short hearts.

**O4. Any** **R4. 4♣/♥** Again, if responder rebids in opener's short suit, it is a WCAB.

**R3. 3♠** Returning to the agreed major is not forcing, identifying a hand that does not wish to be in game if opener has a minimum and short hearts, because a two-step 3NT reply to a 3♥ asking bid would force the contract beyond the safety level of 3♠.

**O4. Pass** A minimum and short hearts.

**O4. 4♠** Either a maximum, or shortness in the unopened minor.

## ZEE GAME TRIES ... CONTINUED

Below is a hand that occurred during a recent knockout-team event, which resulted in a slam swing of IMPs that contributed substantially to our team winning the match. The hands were as follows:

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

Using the described 345MinMax treatments of Zee Game Tries, our auction proceeded as follows:

<b>West (DLR)</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>5</sup>
Pass	5♥ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♥

1. Step-Relay Asking Bid.
2. Second step response shows four hearts and shortness in a side suit.
3. Artificial, asking for strength and short suit.
4. Second step shows a minimum, and short spades.

But opener also had the option to bid the fourth step of 4♣ to show short spades, a maximum, and a club suit topped by at least two of the top three honours in that five-card suit.

5. Rather than using 4NT as RKC Blackwood, responder had the option of immediately bidding 4♠ (spades being opener's known singleton) as a WCAB, to which responder would reply 5♦ -- a three-step reply -- to show four controls, in this case meaning two Aces.

The WCAB and responses thereto were explained in auction one.

6. Two key cards, no Queen.

There were 12 top tricks despite there being only 29 HCP between the two hands. Had South also held the Ace of Spades, a grand slam could have been bid with confidence. At the other table, the opponents were content to stop in 4♥.

Note that if North lacked the Queen of diamonds (meaning that North held only 11 HCP and the combined partnership holding was only 27 HCP), 12 tricks would still be made by just conceding a spade, ruffing one in dummy, and then discarding the third spade and the losing diamond on dummy's long club suit.

**AUCTION 6:** 1♣/1♦ – 1♥/♠  
 2♥/♠ – 2♠/NT (SRAB)  
 3♦/♥ – ?

Rebids starting with the third step show four-card support for the agreed major and no short suit, as described at the beginning of this article. Continuations are natural.

The third step that shows five cards in the opened minor, as shown in the next hand, may just be the critical long suit (as a source of tricks) that responder needs to bid a slam.

Here is an example (next page):

## ZEE GAME TRIES ... CONTINUED

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

West (DLR)	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	5♣/♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	7♥ <sup>5</sup>

1. Step-Relay Asking Bid.
2. The third step shows four-card support in hearts, five cards in clubs, and doubletons in the two unbid suits.
3. RKC Blackwood for hearts.
4. Shows zero or three key cards, but no queen of trump.
5. The grand slam contract succeeds because declarer can discard both losing spades on dummy's long club suit.

MOLLO  
On Play

Solution from page 28

Contract: 4♠ at IMPs.

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

The defence makes no sense unless trumps are 4-0. If East has four trumps then there is nothing you can do. If West has the stack, then he must have one more diamond in order for you to be successful. Play a diamond to the ace and finesse in spades. When that wins and East shows out, play off the xCxAk. Then cash the 4<sup>th</sup> heart, discarding a club, (West will throw away a club). Then play a 2<sup>nd</sup> diamond to the queen. The best West can do is ruff, and return a club, giving you an entry, so that you can repeat the spade finesse.



We had a partnership misunderstanding. I assumed my partner knew what he was doing.

-Author Unknown



## 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.



## 2019 CHINESE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Jerry Li, Beijing*

In China, we have four big tournaments each year, the Premier League (in three legs), the National Club Championship, the National Team Tournament, and the National Championship Tournament. Like the NABCs of the ACBL, the National Championship is a very popular tournament with the Chinese. It has open teams, women's teams, mixed teams, open pairs, women's pairs, mixed pairs and side games. The Open Teams is the most important event.

The 2019 Chinese National Championship was held in Hangzhou from May 3-12. The Open Teams started play on the morning of Monday May 6; 56 teams took part. The format was two days of Swiss qualifying, after which the top 32 teams went to the knockout stage. After four rounds of KO, two strong teams met in the final: Jinshuo (Jacek Kalita/Michal Nowosadzki, Ju Chuancheng/Shi Zhengjun, Zhuang Zejun/Jiang Tong) and PD Times (Boye Brogeland/Christian Bakke, Jerry Li/Zhong Fu, Hou Xu/Dong Lidang). The same teams met in the final last year, with Jinshuo winning.

The final comprised 48 boards over four sessions. In the first set, Jinshuo got off to a good start: the score was 40-9 IMPs in their favour. In the second and third sessions, PD Times did well, cutting the margin by 22 IMPs to trail by 9 going into the last set. This board from the fourth session was very important.

F4. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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



## 2019 CHINESE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

As West, with no North/South bidding, you play in six spades. North leads the five of spades. You win with the king in dummy and lead the king of diamonds. North wins the ace and continues with the ten of spades. What is your plan now?

Here is the full deal:

♠ 10 6 5  
♥ K 7 5 4  
♦ A J  
♣ 10 6 5 3

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

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

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

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

1. Asking
2. Diamonds
3. Pick a slam
4. Having already denied four hearts

West	North	East	South
Brogeland		Bakke	
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Artificial game force
2. 3-card heart support

Both declarers played in six spades against the same opening lead, the five of spades. They played the same way, winning in dummy and leading the king of diamonds. They won the next trump in dummy and took the heart finesse for down one.

If declarer had dropped the jack of diamonds, he'd have found out that North had three trumps and two diamonds, making him a favourite to hold the king of hearts (not to mention the passive trump lead pointing in that direction as well). Declarer could then have run the trumps and diamonds to squeeze North. Double dummy, only a club lead can beat the slam.

Why didn't Brogeland and Kalita cash the queen of diamonds? Because it would have been a later entry to hand if the king of hearts had been onside. If the king of hearts were onside, they'd have had four spades, three hearts, one diamond and three clubs. The twelfth trick could have come from hearts 3-3, the diamond jack onside or a squeeze. If North had had four or more cards in clubs, the contract would have been cold. The plan would be to take two rounds of hearts and draw trumps; if trumps had been 3-3, they would have cashed the heart ace; if trumps had been 4-2, the double squeeze would have been coming. So, on that line of play, the queen of diamonds was very important, and it should not have been cashed earlier.



## 2019 CHINESE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

An alternative play would have been to lead a diamond to the queen and ruff a diamond. If the jack of diamonds had appeared, you could then have played for the heart-club squeeze or taken a heart finesse. If the jack of diamonds had not fallen, you would have needed the heart finesse.

Anyway, if Brogeland had made the slam, PD Times would have won the Championship. The Jinshuo team actually won, 88-75, the third time in the past four years they have won. Congratulations to the Jinshuo team!

The following board exhibited wonderful defence by Kalita and Nowosadzki.

Quarterfinal Session 4. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

♠ 7 6 3  
♥ Q 8 7 6 4  
♦ -  
♣ K 10 8 7 6

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

West	North	East	South
Kalita		Nowosadzki	
—	1♣	Pass	2♦
2♠	2NT	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Nowosadzki led the seven of spades. Their agreement is that it's attitude. Kalita won with the ace. He knew partner did not have an any honour in spades. As soon as declarer knocked out his ace of diamonds, he'd have at least two spades, one heart, six diamonds, and whatever club tricks he had, to make three notrump. The problem for the defence was to take five tricks before declarer played on diamonds. Clubs were problematic; hearts was a possible shift: if partner had five or more hearts or even four good ones, a heart shift might work.

Kalita shifted to the nine of hearts! When declarer ducked twice. Kalita made a second shift, this time to clubs. East/West got one spade, two hearts, one diamond and one club before declarer make his nine tricks. Well done, guys!



[greatbridgelinks.com](http://greatbridgelinks.com)

Linking you to Bridge on the Net  
News • Tournaments • Links

*Gifts & Bridge Supplies*  
[giftsforcardsplayers.com](http://giftsforcardsplayers.com)  
Holiday Shopping for Card Lovers

# New from Master Point Press



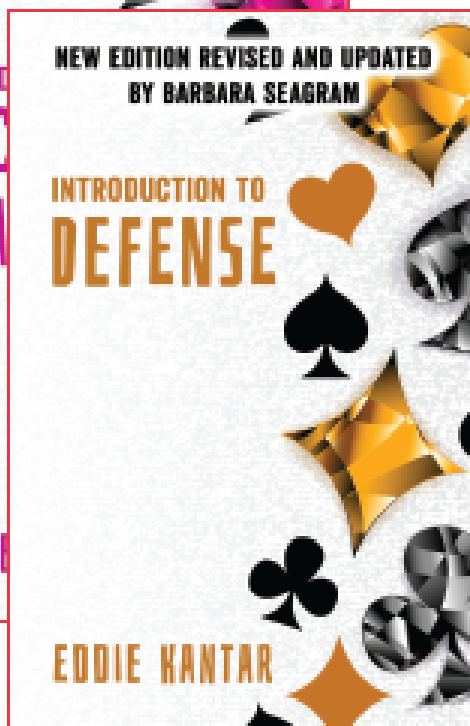
NEW EDITION REVISED AND UPDATED  
BY BARBARA SEAGRAM

## INTRODUCTION TO DECLARER PLAY and

## INTRODUCTION TO DEFENSE Second Editions

Eddie Kantar

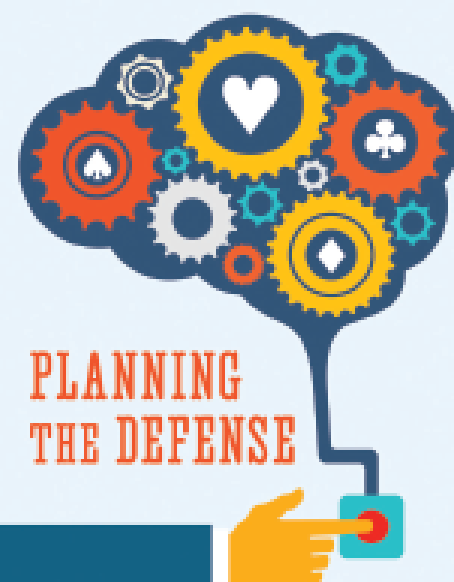
These classics on defense and declarer play cover the topics with clarity, skill and humor. More than fifty years after their first publications, these books have been revised and updated by Barbara Seagram to bring them into line with modern methods of play and bridge education.



## PLANNING THE DEFENSE

Barbara Seagram and David Bird

Ten years after their award-winning *Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand*, Seagram & Bird tackle the hardest part of the game: defense. Using the same step-by-step approach, they guide the reader through the minefield of signaling, making a defensive plan and, above all, counting – points, tricks and distribution.



BARBARA SEAGRAM & DAVID BIRD

AVAILABLE FROM A BRIDGE RETAILER NEAR YOU

[WWW.MASTERPOINTPRESS.COM](http://WWW.MASTERPOINTPRESS.COM) | [WWW.EBOOKSBRIDGE.COM](http://WWW.EBOOKSBRIDGE.COM)



# CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

## **COPC Club Qualifying games**

September through December

## **CNTC Club Qualifying games**

September through Jan. 15, 2020

## **DECEMBER**

16 Dec ACBL-wide International Fund Game Morning

## **2020**

24 Jan ACBL wide Junior Fund game (AM)  
1 Feb aft. ACBL wide Internation Fund game  
2 Mar aft. ACBL wide Senior Game  
20 Mar Registration Deadline for CBC Team events.  
31 Mar aft. ACBL wide Charity Game  
16 Apr Helen Shields Rookie Master Game

## **New in 2019/2020**

Definition of Rookie for the upcoming 2019 Erin Berry Rookie Master game and future rookie master games, is raised to 100 masterpoints from the previous 50.

The new schedule for the Canadian Bridge Championships will allow for less overlap between events. See the new schedule on [cbf.ca](http://cbf.ca)

The masterpoint level for 2020 Canadian Bridge Championships Flight B have been raised to 3,500 mastpoints from 2,500



## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **2020 Canadian Bridge Championships**

27 May - 7 June Niagara Falls, ON [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca)

### **2020 International Fund Regional**

15-20 Sept St. Catharines, ON [www.cbf.ca](http://www.cbf.ca)

### **2020 ACBL Summer NABC**

16-26 Jul Montréal, PQ [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org)