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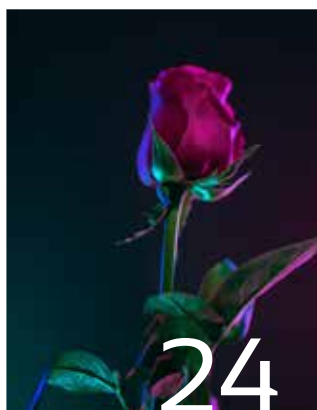


Meet Shelley Burns



THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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



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ina@cbf.ca (CBF Executive Director)



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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

What is your favourite recipe?

I am looking for recipes to put in future Food For Thought articles. It would be great if you have a favourite that you would be willing to share with fellow CBF members. Thanks to Keith Balcombe, as we feature his Beef Stew recipe in this issue.

Congratulation to Ashot Harutyunyan and Donald Jobin!

Both these readers scored 50 on a very difficult set of problems. The expert panel scores were topped by Steve Mackay with 57, closely followed by Gordon Campbell, Zyg Marcinski and Nader Hanna, all with 56.

Neil Kimelman

Bridge Canada Managing Editor



Neil Kimelman, Bridge Canada Managing Editor

KAPLANISM 15 *(Quotes attributed to Edgar Kaplan)*

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

"Beyond question, ROOT had been unlucky throughout the match, but their worst luck was in having opponents that played magnificently." *Canadian Spingold*, TBW 11/78, p. 14

"You can buy my rights to open an off-beat one notrump with a six-card minor for an old subway token." TBW 5/1973, p. 12

"3 imps to SMITH, giving them a little breathing room. A lot of breathing room –since that was board 64. The match was over..." TBW 5/1973, p. 17

* Note: TBW: The Bridge World



(L to R) Ina Demme, Hugues 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

Hugues 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

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BRIDGE CANADA MANAGING EDITOR
Neil Kimelman editor@cbf.ca

BRIDGE CANADA FRENCH EDITOR
Francine Cimon wirek@videotron.ca

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Jude Goodwin jude@cbf.ca

CBF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Ina Demme ina@cbf.ca
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

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February 2020

Host: Neil Kimelman

For Panelists, see page 13

Welcome readers to the February edition of TGCBC. I have been known to have some strong and divergent views compared to some of my peers. That's what makes this game so interesting. Let's find out....

1. As East, you hold ♠-♥AQJ10954 ♦9 ♣KJ1084. Neither vul, matchpoints.

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♥	2♥ ¹
DbI	2♠	4♥	4♠
DbI	Pass	?	

1. Michaels

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

NK: Scoring is divided into maximum 4 points for bidding choice and maximum 6 points for what do you bid now.

What would you have bid over 2♠?

Action	Votes	Score
4♣	6	4
4♥	6	3
3♣	22	2
3♠	2	2
5♣	1	1

What do you bid now?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	11	6
5♣	22	5
5♥	1	3
6♣	1	1

Grainger: I am assuming the first double is just card showing.

It is standard treatment to play that responder's double of a defensive bid, such as Michaels, shows a hand with invitational plus values, and in theory, an ability to penalize at least one of the opponent's suits.

Issue#1: How practical is it to play this double as invitational? How can you differentiate to stop in a part score when so much of your bidding space has been taken away? No one addressed this issue, but I do not see stopping on a dime – the double to me creates a game force. As usual Kokish has words of wisdom on these issues:

Kokish: With a modest hand I could bid a "bad" 2NT. With equal length or one-card disparity and a hand like this I would bid a descriptive 4♣. The problem needs context as double of 2♥ means different things to different people. For me it's general strength, not a singleton heart, sort of a negative double. With a penalty-oriented hand I would pass 2♥ and double everything...

So what would you have bid? Two panelists cue bid:

Grainger: I would start with 3♠, partner isn't a passed hand and would not bid over 4♥ with many slam making hands.

Balcombe: 3♠ This must show long hearts and probably short spades.

Cue bids are good when you do not have a better option, which you do here.

Fung L'Ecuyer, and Smith liked 4♥. As did:

Cooper: I would say "4♥, for now". I would not expect it to end the auction. 4♣ is my second choice, but I prefer 6-5 for that.

Marcinski: Yes. If there existed a club in my golf bag that both (1) described 6+ hearts and 4+clubs and (2) was forcing to 4♥, then I would definitely have wielded it instead of 4♥. Suggesting that I would have bid 4♣ instead smacks of 20-20 hindsight (though I'd much more comfortably sit for 4♠ doubled): (1) most importantly, after this start to the auction there's a high likelihood that the opponents will bid again (particularly at equal vulnerability) so my goal has to be assumed to get to our most likely and largest plus position; (2) with hearts so good that I don't mind playing opposite a singleton or even a void and with a 2-card length disparity in my suits, I really don't want to give responder a choice between my suits lest he raise with only three clubs; (3) although slam is definitely within the realm of possibilities I rate it to be unlikely to be bid with confidence; (4) further to (2) and (3), I think that I'm just a tad short of values to bid 4♣ descriptively intending to continue with 5♥ in what should be interpreted as a slam try. But had I bid otherwise it would have been 4♣...

The plurality of panelists preferred 3♣. Let's see what they have to say:

Thorpe: Never! I bid 3♣ although 4♣ appeals as well. Now I am between a rock and a hard place. It's quite possible that 4♠ is our last plus but I'd bid 5♣. Issue#2: bidding over 2♠. The common expert agreement is a minimum bid in this situation sends two messages to partner:

- I am weak and distributional
- I have poor defensive values

Typical hands to rebid 3♣ would be ♠ x ♥ KQ10xx ♦ Qx ♣ KJ9xx, and 4♥ ♠ - ♥ KQ10xxxx ♦ Qxx ♣ KJx. As a result, I do not buy these answers:

Hornby: 3♣, so partner has some idea of the situation at their next turn.

Miles: No, I strongly prefer 3♣ I mean maybe partner was doubling with ♠ QJ10x ♥ x ♦ Axxx ♣ AQxx and we can make seven clubs. It's a complete guess. Sure we could be destroying them especially if South has clubs. But I'm 7-5. I bid. 5♣ is my choice.

Hornby and Miles were not alone: Lebi, Kokish, Turner and others opted for this call:

Bart: ...I would have bid 3♣. It's probable that 3♣ isn't forcing. I may regret not bidding 4♣. 5♣. I have great admiration for both 6♣ and Pass, both of which may outscore either five level contract. Yes, I can hear partner's opinion. The reason I don't choose pass is because I have a ton of undisclosed shape.

Is 3♣ forcing? I agree in theory it is passable. No other panelists opined on this issue.

Blond: No. Give partner as little as a stiff heart and AQxx of clubs and we have a reasonable play for slam. He'll never know that unless I show my clubs. I would bid 3♣. This auction is not dying here. I don't see a need to jump. This is tough. South could have a huge two-suited hand in spades and diamonds and I have almost no defence for pard and have a hidden five card suit. That being said, its matchpoints and partner has expressed his opinion. He should have trump tricks so I think you have to pass here.

J. Gartaganis: I would not have bid 4♥. I have a very good offensive hand with two potential places to play. But 4♥ does not announce that; it essentially shuts partner out. I would have bid 3♣, with a view to carrying on in hearts next time. If partner still doubles 4♠, at least it will be a much more informed double and I'll have to decide whether to overrule. Now, I will bid 5♣. I certainly don't want to defend 4♠ doubled.

Lebi: No. 3♣. 5♣, Since I have not described my hand previously I feel it necessary to do so now.

I don't get this argument, and it is at the crux of the problem: If you feel you have described your hand sufficiently you can respect partner's decision over 4♠, whatever it is. Bidding 3♣ gives you no chance to do this, and that is why I do not understand the popularity of this bid. To me the question of how to approach this hand comes down to the number one fundamental bidding strategy:

Describe your hand as accurately as possible so that later on you and partner can make informed decisions. Most of the 3♣ bidders get their suit in, but are committing to bidding at the five level. What is wrong with show a powerful 6-5 or better offensive hand? That is what you have got! Then you can comfortably pass the double of 4♠, knowing that you have given partner a reasonable description of your hand to make a good decision. The problem with 4♥ is again back to basic bidding principles: why show 7 of cards with 4♥ when you can show 11 with 4♣?

Campbell: No, would bid 4♣, showing great distribution. Pass, now it is a guess (which is why 4♣ (even 3♣) is good instead of a non-anticipating unilateral 4♥). Pard with doubt could have passed 4♠ which would be forcing after his double.

Bryant: No, I would have bid 4♣. I have a four-loser hand; we could be cold for 6♣? My instincts are to pull to 5♣ because we may not get any club tricks if partner also has 4+ clubs. True partner has maybe one heart, but all the more reason they might have some length in clubs. I understand 4♠ may go down. I hope I have an understanding partner. In my opinion, I would not be in this mess if I bid 4♣ instead of 4♥ (though I get it). If partner doubles 4♠ after I bid 1♥ then 4♣...I would sit. So finally my answer is 5♣.

Other 4♣ bidders were Marcinski, Bishop, Dalton Mackay, Treble and Maksymetz.

Mackay: I don't mind 4♥. I don't mind 4♣. Pass could be very bad and 5♣ could be very good. My first inclination is to pass but bidding 5♣ seems safer to me – even if it means a minus for us rather than a plus. My apologies will be ready.

Lindop: 5♣. Defending might be right, but we could easily belong in 6♣ and we should be safe in 5♥.

Turner: No: It's the same old story ... If you bid out your shape you've given away information and they were going to subside in 2♠ anyway; if you hide your distribution they bid game - so I have lots of sympathy for 4♥ if righty passes. However, when your opponent volunteers 2♠, it behooves you to prepare for more opposition bidding by showing your clubs. I think 4♣ might show 6-5 or 6-6, so 3♣ would be my choice (weak and shapely). As the auction went, I'm unwilling to defend with my clubs unbid. So 5♣ and apology ready.

So when you are 7-5 it is better to show 5-5 with 3♣ than 6-5 or 6-6 with 4♣?

Back to the 2nd part of this problem do you pass 4♠ doubled or do you bid more? Some went high...

Smith: ...On the actual auction, I would now bid 6♣. ...But most went low.

Stark: 5♣. I would have bid 3♣ at my second turn, to help partner judge what to do at this level. His double of 2♥ was probably based on values in one or both of the minors. So, we may be on for 6♥ if he has as little as the heart king and the club ace with club length. Or it may be a giant misfit in which case we're better defending. If they go to 5♠ and partner doubles, I shall abide.

Bart: ... Now I bid 5♣. I have great admiration for both 6♣ and pass, both of which may outscore either five level contract. Yes, I can hear partner's opinion. The reason I don't choose pass is because I misdescribed my hand on the last round.

L'Ecuyer: 5♣. I will assume my opponents are not crazy and heard the auction (partner did double 2♥) - and my extreme shape and good spot cards scream for offense - partner is merely suggesting to defend, this is NOT an order so I will cooperate.

Dalton: Pass. With North only responding 2♠, it sounds like partner has a spade stack. This could be the last plus for our side and we may even get +50.

Marcinski: ... Pass. Am I happy about this unexpected turn of events? Of course not – now I rue not essaying 4♣ instead. But the auction to date gives me no compelling reason to believe that (1) our side can make a 5-level contract, (2) the opponents can make 4♠ doubled, or (3) that our side's plus in a 5-level contract is better than what we'll reap in 4♠ doubled. I would observe that responder's second double is unequivocally penalty, so (1) he must have not only length but also strength in spades and (2) it would be destructive of partnership confidence for me to override his judgment when I have no persuasive reason to do so. Having said that, this is a close decision on an auction where knowledge of the opponents' proclivities and the tempo of their bidding might persuade me to override partner's judgment. 4♥ showed a strong offensive hand. The question is whether having a two-suiter outweighs partner expressing a clear preference in defending (they could have passed). To me, two thirds of the panelists are trusting the opponents more than partner. And as Marcinski inferred, overruling partner can erode a partnership very quickly.

What happened at the table?

Partner knew what he was doing - 5♠ is makeable, your way!! This was full deal:

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

Frustrated that his partner did not pass 4♠ doubled, West made an undisciplined 7NT call, instead of the more obvious 7♣. He was compensated with a fortuitous lie of the cards.

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♠
Dbl	Rdbl	?	

What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	8	10
2NT	14	9
3♥	8	8
3♦	5	7

Treble: Pass and then 3♦...

Thorpe: 3♦. Wish I knew if we'd agreed pass was penalty or weak. Wish we'd discussed if 2NT was a scramble or natural. 3♦ seems to be the least ambiguous thing I can do.

I think the expert consensus is that pass is for penalties and should end the auction unless partner has extra distribution. Agreeing with me:

Cooper: Pass. Partner shows extra values, short spades. Visualize ♠x ♥Axxx ♦AQxx ♣AKxx. I would want to

defend, so I pass. The redouble does not change the meaning of my pass. Game is remote, and plus +400 (!) is an easier target.

Dalton: Pass, which should be for penalties. Close decision but at matchpoints I choose to defend and hopefully prevail.

A lot of discussion and decisions were made regarding the location of the ♠J:

Campbell: Pass, hopefully sit behind ♠J. If so, beat it 1-2. Don't panic just because RHO redoubled. 2nd choice is 2NT and over 3♣ bid 3♦ showing two places to play. Diamonds could be better than hearts. Don't want to ruff spades with Pard's heart honours.

J. Gartaganis: Pass and hope for +200. Otherwise, it's only a bottom. I'm gambling somewhat on the location of the ♠J ... if it's in dummy, I'm likely cooked.

Bryant: I would not sit for 2♠ doubled (3 perhaps). What if ♠J is in dummy? I am bidding 3♦. I don't like the redouble and I don't like my four small hearts. Likely they will compete to 3♠ with the redouble, and since I bid diamonds, partner may lead one. Also, since I have the ♦K, less likely opponents will double me, but doubling me in hearts (possibly a 4/3 fit) may be easy since I have four small.

Thurston: 2NT – a Lebensohlish crawl – but happy if partner passes or rebids 3♣ or 3♦. Playing Penalty Pass Over Redouble is too much like Russian Roulette for my taste (see last issue's WWW!!)

Mackay: If I were confident that 2NT would not be interpreted for play but, rather, two places to play, that is what I would bid, intending to correct 3♣ to 3♦, implying four hearts and, obviously, not enough values to have doubled 1♠. If I were nervous that my partner might take 2NT as natural, I would bid 3♦ instead. Put me down for 2NT.

Kokish: 2NT. Pass would be business. 2NT is not natural but a scramble, typically at least two places to play or

the dreaded no place to play. Over 3♣ I will bid 3♦ and show my hearts without committing to the suit.

Hanna: I need to allow for the possibility that partner is 1-3-5-4, so I bid 2NT (scramble). Over 3♣ I would bid 3♦ which should promise only three diamonds (since I would bid 3♦ directly with four) and therefore should also show four hearts. I would pass if partner bids 3♦ over 2NT even though we are probably missing a 4-4 heart fit but the 5-3 (or 6-3) diamond fit is likely to play better than a 4-4 heart fit.

I have always thought that 2NT as better played as natural in this type of auction, where the responder/advancer is too weak to penalize, but has no place to go. What would East do with something like ♠ J108x ♥ xxx ♦ xxx ♣ J10x. Otherwise, pick a suit! A small number of experts agreed, including:

Willis: The choices seem to be between 2NT (if taken as natural), 3♥ and 3♦. Would bid 3♥ as is the most likely game: ♠-♥ AKxx ♦ QJ10xx ♣ AQxx if there is one and part score will score better. Passing the redouble risks confusion and you might not have six tricks even were partner to pass.

Kirr was alone in the view that 2NT denied constructive values:

Kirr: 3♦, should show some values as 2NT should be Lebensohl. Partner can bid 3♥ with four or 3♠ if all he needs is a stopper.

The panelists did a good job in debating the merits of 3♥ versus 3♦:

Jacob: 3♦ a bit safer than 3♥. If opps compete to 3♠ (which I fully expect) I would double.

Stark: 3♥. Pard will have four hearts for this auction. If not, he will have extras and I can bid notrump or diamonds next.

Fung: I might have eked out a negative double the first time. 3♥.

Miles: 3♥. Colour me scared. Yes if partner has a prime 18 HCP we should probably be passing.

Lindop: 3♥. Partner won't expect much since I didn't make a negative double. If partner has only three hearts, too bad. It's only matchpoints. I have a pretty good hand if partner does hold four hearts. The spade holding should protect me somewhat from having to ruff with dummy's high hearts.

What happened at the table?

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

This hand occurred in the 3rd session of the Mixed Pairs final at the 2010 World Championships held in Philadelphia. East bid 3♥ and South doubled, to end the auction. East was not punished for her questionable call as poor defence resulted in +730 instead of -500. The winning call was pass. Declarer can score 7 tricks on the likely diamond lead, +400 to E-W.

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

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

1. 10-12 HCPs.
What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
3NT	13	10
4♠	10	8
4♣	6	7
4♦	3	7
5♦	3	6

3♥ shows at least 4-5 in the reds, enough to force to game, and asks responder to further describe his hand by focusing on likely contracts. In this context, what does 3♠ mean, the key to this problem:

Thurston: Expect partner to have spades stopped but not clubs – ♠QJx ♥QJx ♦Axxx ♣Jxx is possible, so 3NT is out. Here I'd try 4♦. Usual practice here (I think) is for partner to bid 3NT with clubs and/or both blacks stopped but to bid 3♠ to show as opposed to asking.

Kuz: I have a severe dislike for undefined bids such as these. Where are the points located? Do they deny a major?

Good point. But we are playing with an expert partner, who has just made what they think is the best bid. What could it mean? Maybe we can learn a valuable guideline that can be applied in similar spots in the future. Most panelists focus on higher contracts:

Treble: 3NT might be the best spot but diamonds could well be the best game and there is an outside chance at slam. Although I don't have first-round control of the suit, I cuebid 4♣. Then if partner bids 4♦ or 4♥, I'll follow up with 4♠.

L'Ecuyer: 4♣ - not sure yet what partner is up to but if partner is taking the time to bid 3♠ then I owe him a four level bid and 4♣ is both flexible and cheap, the next bid will confirm what he was up to - I would like to bid 4♠ if that showed exactly this (strength wise) but I don't like to take the whole four level out.

Marcinski: Responder's 3♠ is possibly very encouraging as it describes uncertainty about 3NT when facing a "Red" hand – great news for me if he holds little or no club "wastage". At this form of scoring I'm not in the

least troubled bypassing 3NT in the realistic pursuit of a slam when Responder's 3♠ surely announced that 5♦ is a safe haven. 4♠ should be describing 3-3-6-1 or (3-4)-5-1 and leave responder well placed to assess how well his values mesh with my distribution.

Balcombe: 4♦. What else? Partner might have ♠QJ6 ♥Q64 ♦K964 ♣A54 for example. Then we make 6♦ but go down in 3NT. You can't bid 3NT (no club stopper or club help) or 4♠ (don't have 4 cards) or 4♥ (don't have 5 cards).

J. Gartaganis: 4♦. I want to make a forward-going noise so I can't bail out to 3NT. We'll see what develops. I considered 4♠ but I just hate landing in sub-Moyseans.

Jacob: 4♠; 3♠ by partner should be a stall, either not sure about 3NT or has higher aspirations.

Bart: 4♣. Partner heard me reverse and reacted with a cue-bid. I can hardly do less than cue-bid myself. Maybe he has the perfect: ♠Qxx ♥Jx ♦AKxx ♣Jxxx, but if not, we can play 5♦.

Kirr: 3♠ Sounds like some kind of Last Train bid (he's not sure about 3NT), normally a cue bid but not here, maybe card-showing with doubt about 4th suit, I'll pass if he bids 5♦ but haul out Blackwood if he bids 4♦.

Todd: 3♠ is a punt or last train for 3NT. Assuming partner has something in the majors his hand could have a lot of club wastage. If he has something like ♠Jxx ♥QJx ♦xx ♣AQJxx, 4NT is the limit. If he has ♠Qxx ♥QJx ♦Kxx ♣A10xx 6♦ is cold. I think 4♠ should get us to the best spot. I will pass 4NT and raise 5♦ to 6♦.

Lebi: 4♠. Patterning out.

However some panelists give a little more thought to partner's bid:

Campbell: 4♠ showing short clubs, slammish. 3♠ is ambiguous. It is Pard's only spare bid below 3NT. Maybe he has clubs stopped but not spades stopped. I usually assume Pard has clubs stopped after 2NT. We could easily be off two Aces.

Mackay: What is 3♠? It can't be shortness. No room to distinguish between asking and telling although telling is possible (QJx). If that is what partner has and partner is telling, I'll look foolish if I do bid 3NT as we may be on for five or six diamonds. Asking seems more likely and so I will bid 3NT. If partner takes me to be showing something in spades, he or she can still move over 3NT. We'll see if my second choice of 4♣ would have worked better.

I disagree with the majority of panelists on this problem. Let's say partner had bid 3NT over 3♥. What would it have shown? For sure a spade stopper. So how does partner express interest in 3NT without a spade stopper? They bid 3♠!

What about the club stopper? Again this is secondary has responder has implied 3-5 clubs. To me, this is analogous to bidding notrump with a stopper in the opponent's overcalled suit, and three small in an unbid minor. The first obligation is to show spades stopped. We can reevaluate slam if partner bids over 3NT.

Agreeing with me:

Grainger: Methods aren't great. 3♠ is just an 'I don't know what to bid' punt. Likely, partner is concerned about spades and has only a mild diamond fit, so I would just bid 3NT.

Maksymetz: 3NT. Partner may have doubt about spades for notrump. If partner has a great hand for diamonds and hearts, they can still bid on over 3NT. Say ♠Qxx ♥Qxx ♦Kxx(x) ♣Axx(x).

Turner: 3NT. I think that "doubt about spades" is more likely than "doubt about clubs" on this auction (2NT bidder almost always has 4-5 clubs when inverted minors are played). If partner meant otherwise we may still survive. If the opponents ask about 3♠ I can honestly say "undiscussed".

Lindop: 3NT. No idea what partner has. I assume 3♥ was a natural slam try (I would probably have settled

for 3NT on the previous round since partner is a heavy favorite to hold wasted values in clubs). If we play inverted minors, partner must hold four or more clubs. Doesn't sound like partner has good diamonds and the ♣A, so 3NT it is.

As usual, Mr. Kokish gives us some valuable suggestions for treatments in low frequency auctions.

Kokish: 3NT. We would want to know before agreeing to play this (hateful IMO) treatment whether it denies a four-card major and I'm assuming it does, so 3♠ shows uncertainty about 3NT, perhaps: ♠ QJx, ♥ Jxx, ♦ AKx, ♣ 10xxx, or a rather different family example: ♠ Jxx, ♥ QJx, ♦ Kxx, ♣ A109x. As 2NT implies four cards in clubs opener tends to assume clubs are stopped so perhaps the second example is the one a casual partnership would expect. Though my preference is 2NT=FG, I would play the same general methods over this 2NT=Inv: 3M=short, 3D=NF; 3♣=no shortness or club shortness (FG) – responder can find out which easily enough. It's a lot easier to know how to proceed having shown club shortness. As I would have bid 3NT or (rarely) 4NT and not 3♥ with 2-4-5-2, I can bid 3NT now expecting partner to play me for 3-4-5-1 as his 3♠ expressed doubt, more logically about spades. Not very satisfactory.

What happened at the table?

This hand came up at a duplicate game at Lorraine's Bridge Club in Winnipeg.

The full deal:

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

West took 3♠ as a good hand for diamonds and drove to 6♦, down three.

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

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

What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	14	10
4♣	13	8
Rdbl	7	8
4♠	0	4
4♥	1	3

Well this is an odd auction. One panelist feels that he is in the movie Groundhog Day:

Mackay: What is 3♠? OK, I'm repeating myself. Partner did not bid 3NT, rather, partner bid 3♠. Really, what is 3♠? And, should I have bid 3NT? Was I that endplayed? If ever there were an auction where we should be playing redouble to express doubt, this one sounds like it. Should I trust my LHO or should I trust partner? Could partner have spades stopped and the diamond ace, wanting to play from my side? If so, LHO does not have a double. Obviously, I have no idea what is going on. What a miserable place! I hope my other panelists

will enlighten me. Hard to believe that my RHO's bid of 3♣ was a psyche! I am going to run to 4♣. Partner heard the 3♣ bid. Probably I will be giving him no choice but to retreat to 4♥ but if he wants to pass, he can. You problem setters are torturing us!

The following comment covered the sentiment of a lot of panelists:

Kuz: Pass. I fear this could end badly.

Campbell: Is 3♣ natural or Pass/Correct? Pard holds a long spade suit and cannot hold three diamonds or he would double and lead a diamond. So I pull to 4♣. I suspect the partnership will not survive this hand!! Again, Pard could pass 3♦ as it is forcing. I wouldn't be surprised if 4♠ was the best of our bad spots

Okay, let's see what we know. East has diamonds and spades. Partner doubled, showing invitational plus values and willingness to double the opponents. West showed a club suit. East didn't like that and ran to his 2nd suit. Now partner, instead of seeing if you could double 3♦ bid 3♠! What is that? One panelist has an idea:

Stark: 4♣. Partner's double of 2♥ showed a hand willing to double East in at least one of East's two suits. If South had diamonds wired, he would have doubled 3♦, but he does not so he did not. What South has is a spade stack. And now I'm bidding 3NT with a half-stopper in diamonds? Time to run.

In the same time zone is:

L'Ecuier: 4♣ - I don't understand this auction that well - what is 3♠ - seems bizarre to be showing a spade stopper, personally I would have taken this as natural(!) and passed so I am probably very far out (read wrong) on this one - to me the double of 2♥ denies a fit - so what can 3♠ really be aside from natural (once I double 3♣, we should be in a forcing auction so 3♦ cannot be passed out)? Therefore if 3♠ is natural then I am not playing 3NT.

In my experience, Nic is never far off. I agree with his assessment. To bid 3♠ now must be a good long spade suit. But how many diamonds does partner have? Turner: 4♣. Chicken ... feels like I'm being had, though! Maybe we're off 4-6 diamond tricks and ♠A.. How about partner holding: ♠ KQ10xx ♥ Kx ♦ xx ♣ AQxx? That's a pretty narrow target, I admit, but maybe my bid will avert an IMP disaster.

I sympathize with the panelists, but why wouldn't partner just pass with this hand?

Cooper: 4♣. Pass is tempting. What did I think was going on when I bid 3NT? Did the double change my opinion? Could partner redouble with doubt? Could I do that now? One argument is that I have no stopper in either of East's suits. But I knew that when I bid 3NT. Since I doubled 3♣, Partner could have passed over 3♦ and that would be 100% forcing. His 3♠ should have spade values, club support, and game-going strength. Partner could have Axxx, Kx, xxx, AQxx. My deciding factor is that partner did not pass and give me the chance to double 3♦, so I doubt he holds Jxx or better. (And he did not bid 3NT over 3♦).

I agree that it would be tempting to pass on the last round, unfortunately partner's bid is 100% forcing in my view. Besides L'Ecuier, no one else opined on what North should have bid over 3♠. I don't mind 3NT, but 4♠ seems a bit safer, especially now that East has doubled.

What about redoubling to express doubt, getting help from partner to decide:

Willis: Redouble showing doubt. There is definitely something strange going on but East could hold: ♠ Axxxxx ♥ x ♦ AKJ10xx ♣ - and be hoping that we have problems which we do. Might also be missing the ♦J. Now partner seems to have lots of spades and could have: ♠ KQ10xxx ♥ Kx ♦ Jxx ♣ Ax. Not sure what they do in that case but there are hands where clubs might be best for us and at least partner will know that diamonds and tricks are problems and I won't have run in front of them if it was right to sit.

Blond: My instinct is to run, and to do it quickly. However, I would be guessing what to do. I think redouble is best here. Shows doubt. I have shown hearts and clubs in the auction and something in diamonds. He should have a better idea of what to do next. East might be playing poker and bluffing. I doubt it, but partner should be able to tell.

Good to see this partnership and my CNTC teammates are on the same wavelength. BTW, Blond and Bryant might be a good partnership – they made the same bids on every problem!

Hornby, Maksymetz, Smith, Bryant and Lindop also redouble.

Balcombe: 4♣. I don't have a diamond stopper anyway and West may not have genuine clubs. If we somehow belong 4♠ or 4♥ partner can bid that.

Grainger: 4♣. Passing is asking for trouble.

Miles: I don't like this. A likely misfit with partner having 5+ spades and the opponents ready to setup and/or cash their diamonds. I'm going to bank on him having a few clubs and run to 4♣.

Interesting...experience has taught many of us the contrary, that in a misfitting deal with bad trump splits, notrump is the best option, even if they can run 3-5 cards in a suit. Agreeing with the portents:

J. Gartaganis: Pass. I can't work out partner's hand. First he doubles to suggest defending, then he doesn't double 3♦. I'm guessing he has a good six card spade suit. West's 3♣ should show at least five, but he likely has a few diamonds (say 2, or maybe even 3), just in case East can't stand it. We might be in the soup, but we're following partner's recipe. Maybe it will be in the new BC column Food for Thought 😊.

Jacob: Pass. Perhaps I should run to 4♣ but I am staying. I am not quite sure if the explanation given makes sense but 3♠ is GF. The big question is why is east doubling after willing to play 3♦; urging partner to compete?

Kokish: Pass. As 3♣ is natural, not pass or correct and East has spades and diamonds, where do I go to, my lovely, when I'm alone in my bed? 3NT looks like an unpleasant bid with both a stiff spade and no genuine diamond stopper, but South knew I'd be under pressure.

What happened at the table?

This hand came up in a 2010 Damiani Cup (Youngsters World Championship) match:

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

3♠ is questionable; I would have doubled. 3NT ended up down one on a diamond lead. However at the other table Adam Grossack doubled 3♦ on a similar auction and East managed to make it! Grossack reasonably led a trump and Kaplan reasonably played the ♦2, withholding the ♦Q for over-ruffing purposes. Declarer simply pulled trumps and set up two spade tricks by force!

My thanks to the panel for working hard on a difficult and bizarre problem.

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

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

1. Game forcing as Lebensohl was available.
What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
5♦	24	10
6♣	3	9
6♥	2	8
Pass	4	7
4NT	1	6
5♥	1	6

Kokish raised a good point that I didn't consider in using this problem:

Kokish: 5♦. I confess I'd have bid this a round earlier. Hey, it's your panel, but stipulating that 2♠ was not game-forcing just because a conventional 2NT was available is not something I'd include in a family magazine. If we belong in spades, 4♦ to agree hearts won't preclude our reaching a high contract (not game, however) in spades. What East wants most over her 3♥ is to know about some support and control in the opponents' suit. 4♦ gets that message across early.

As Eric suggests, 2♠ creates a game force for most partnerships. The rationale is that 19-21 HCPs opposite a response = values for game. But does this make sense? But maybe it should be a conditional game force? I think most experts would respond 1♥ with xx J108xxxx xxx x. Maybe a Lebensohl 2NT, followed by 3♥, should show this type of hand? Otherwise what would 2NT followed by 3♥ show? There is some uncertainty about how good 3♥ is, but there seems to be consensus as to the way ahead:

Treble: 5♦. Have to make a try. The real decision comes next turn, if partner now bids 5♥. Do I respect the signoff or commit the hand to slam? It would probably be right to pass, as the play won't be that easy and there could be a trump and a diamond to lose.

When I decide to ask partner's opinion, I will not then overrule them, unless I want the partnership to be of a very short duration.

Bishop: 5♦... Don't see how responder is supposed to know the difference between (a) Qx AK10xxxx xxx x or (b) Jx KQJ10xxxx xxx --- or (c) x AKQ10xxx xxx xx unless and until we show him that we have first round diamond control [with slam intentions] so that he can tell us what type of suit he has and whether he has a late entry. With (a) we are virtually cold for 7♣... the ♠Q is the late entry we need; with (b) we should be able to negotiate 6♥ even though they have the trump Ace but would likely go down in a club slam; and with (c) we are a favourite to make 7♥ since the defenders can't disconnect the hands. Questions, questions...

Balcombe: Good problem! I am not sure how strong partner is. AKJ10xx and out? Partner could have bid 5♥ over 3♠, so partner is limited. Partner might have something like ♥KQJxxx and a stray card. Then 5♥ is marginal after a diamond lead, let alone 6♥.

Hornby: 5♦ - should ask partner about the quality of their hearts.

Grainger: Ugh. Solid hearts is an easy 7♥, but a one loser heart suit could get ugly. Partner rates to have 5ish diamonds from the opps silence, which leaves not many black cards. It's tempting to assume partner lacks the ♦A and bid keycard, but I think I will just stall with 5♦ and see if I get something other than 5♥ from him. Clubs will play better than hearts opposite AQJ/ AKJ long unless South has five clubs (which is also quite possible).

Campbell: 5♦. If Pard is looking at AKQxxxx of hearts (which is certainly possible as he bid 3♥ not 4♥, he should know I must have the black Aces too. Even if

only KQJ10xxx, hearts may play better than clubs.

I think some of these panelists are being overly optimistic. Partner has at least six hearts in a game forcing hand, but may just be investigating the best strain for game. Something like ♠ Qx ♥ QJ10xxx ♦ Kxx ♣ xx. Plus with the hands Bishop and Campbell are suggesting partner would not choose a non-forcing 4♥.

Miles: Certainly worth another try - I'm interested in heart honours but of course I will be offering clubs as a strain along the way. I'll bid 5♦ and respect a 5♥ signoff. Given the strength I've shown so far, partner needs to pay careful attention to her heart quality.

As these two panelists suggest, clubs may play best, but the chance for offering that suit as a final strain is no longer viable.

Dalton: 5♦. I'm not sure where we will wind up, but if partner has solid trumps we can likely make a grand. I'm hoping to cuebid 6♦ at my next chance.

Marcinski: 5♦. Sure, I might have opened 2♣ on this monster and now it's somewhat difficult to "catch up" – but risking a 1♣ opening did gain me considerable information too. Responder's sequence indicates either a choice of games or a mild slam try, and my best guess is that his pattern is x=6=4=y with less than three spades (N.B. unless South is playing a clever or deep game, certainly possible at his adverse vulnerability, his initial pass should indicate a maximum of four and quite likely fewer diamonds).

But there were also other choices:

Bart: Pass. A slam in hearts seems far away. However, the hand may play well in 6♣ if partner holds something like ♠ xx ♥ AKJ10xx ♦ xxx ♣ xx, but not so well with ♠ xx ♥ KQJ10xx ♦ Jxx ♣ xx. At pairs, I'm content to go plus in four of a major.

Willis: Pass. You bid 2♠ originally and have shown a strong distributional red hand. If partner's hearts were good enough that all they cared about was a diamond control they could have bid 5♥. Even if their hearts are pretty good ♠ x ♥ KQJ109x ♦ Kxxx ♣ xx you might have challenges pulling trump while retaining diamond control.

J. Gartaganis: 4NT. I have way too much to pass 4♥ and I can't see what 5♦ will buy me. I can't bid 5NT without one of the top three myself. I'm really hoping partner shows three key cards so we can investigate the grand. If he has only two, I'll settle for 6♥ (I don't know how to ask "are they both in hearts"). If he has only one, I'll gamble 6♥ and if he has none, well ...

Cooper: 5♥. I could have the same hand with a heart void and two baby diamonds, so I give a little nudge and leave it up to partner.

I think bidding 5♥ shows a hand like ♠ AKxxx A xx AKQxx.

Maksymetz: Pass. Partner could have jumped to 4♥ over my 2♠ which should be a longish (6+) Heart suit solid or semi-solid. But that is not clear unless you and your partner have this agreement. So partner has 6 or 7 good but not great hearts. Something like ♠ Jx ♥ AQ109xx ♦ Qxx ♣ xx. Tough. If partner has ♠ Jx ♥ AKxxxxx ♦ Qxx ♣ x slam could be pretty good – but I think that hand is a 4♥ rebid.

Stark: 6♥. 5♥ might be interpreted as, "If you have a diamond control, bid 6♥." Since I have the diamond control, I'll trust partner has seven good hearts. Maybe we need a heart finesse to make.

Without a specific agreement, I would play partner who bids 4♥ directly over 2♠ to have a hand with a good 7+ heart suit with no convertible values. Perhaps KQJxxxx in hearts and a side queen. Perhaps they have a hand like ♠ xx ♥ QJ10xxx ♦ Kxxx ♣ x, and was hoping West could place the contract.

Some panelists focused on the play in various contracts:

What happened at the table?

This is where you want to play opposite Turner's hand, or the actual deal:

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

At the table West bid 5♦ and East happily accepted and bid 6♥. East started well by ruffing the diamond lead and playing three rounds of clubs, discarding two diamonds. South ruffed, but did not find the killing diamond continuation, but switched to a spade allowing the slam to make. Defending against 6♣ we all as South would smoothly duck when declarer played a heart to the Jack on the 1st round of that suit...

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?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	9	10
3♣	21	9
3NT	2	7
2NT	3	6
Dbl	0	5

The panel is fairly evenly divided among 3 camps: The inviters, the game forcers and the penalizers. First, the game forcers. The easy way to do this:

Lebi: 3NT. The most likely game.

Lindop: 5♦. This should allow partner to bid slam with good hearts – KQJxxx for example. If partner 'signs off' in 5♥, I'll still be tempted to bid 6♣.

Slam will not make if that is all partner holds. Focusing on a different strain:

Julie Smith: 6♣. I hope this is a practical bid.

Turner: 6♣. In terms of level, I don't think we can stop short of slam. In terms of strain choice, hearts will play poorly on an opening diamond lead unless the hearts are solid. I think I should have a high heart for 5♦, and I'm not sure I want to deflect the opponents from a diamond lead in 6♣. I'd bid 4NT (RKC in hearts) to mask my diamond void if I thought I could bid 6♣ to play next, but I don't think that'll work. It's easy to over-estimate partner's strength, but 8 HCP or so would be enough to force to game over a jump shift. I'm hoping for something like Qx, KQJxxx, Jxx, xx opposite.

L'Ecuyer: 6♣ - I would like to bid 5♦ but I am not sure that I will like to hear 6♥ so let's suggest where to play right away - already 6♣ may be too high but I am guessing and when guessing, playing in a solid suit is usually not a bad idea. I am not sure 6♥ will play well on a diamond lead. Partner may bid again if bidding again is correct...

The last two panelists came to a reasonable analysis, and arrived at the most desirable contract. Most panelist think we have enough for slam, but only a few considered the play in 6♥, vis-à-vis giving up the likely trump loser when pulling trump, while not having to give up a diamond trick.

Yes, however partner with ♠ AKxxxx ♥ Jx ♦ xx ♣ AQx will pass. A better way:

Balcombe: 3♣. Initially, I thought 3NT was the right bid. 3♣ now seems to be better. If partner has an easy rebid and then you bid 3NT or raise 3♠ to 4♠. If partner raises clubs, partner probably has four card support and you can prefer spades.

Turner: 3♣. Absent any opponents' bidding I'd be forcing to game with this hand, so it's either this or go for what looks like a substantial penalty. My reservations about trying for the penalty are: (1) it may be in 50's! (Partner holding ♠ AKJxx ♥ Q10x ♦ xxx ♣ Ax); (2) it could be into our slam (partner holding ♠ AKJxx ♥ Axx ♦ x ♣ AQxx); (3) partner may not balance with a double, in which case it may be difficult to get my hand type across. That's not to imply 3♣ is risk-free (we may blow by 3NT, and if I end up as dummy my opponents will know they can push me around with impunity), but it's not unilateral.

Campbell: Pass – I don't have a clear cut bid (2NT, 3NT, 3♣ are all options) so I pass hoping partner's action provides a direction. If he passes (minimum with not short diamonds) we may not have missed game, and a plus will beat the other table in 3NT going down.
Todd: Pass – Famous last words. "This won't end the auction."

Okay, let's address the nervousness of the above panelists that the auction might end. In my partnerships partner can NEVER pass out 2♦ undoubted. Ok, never is a strong word. As North, I would pass with 4+ diamonds, such as AJ10xx xx AKxx xx.

Otherwise, partner may have a giant double of 2♦ (See hand 1), and your reopening double only says, 'In case you have a penalty double and want to convert.' It does not promise certain distribution or defensive strength. To play any other treatment is, to me, like tying one hand behind your back. This is not the treatment of many experts.

Stark: 3♣. 2NT might be construed as something else. Second choice: 3NT. I plan to bid 3NT next or raise partner in spades if he rebids spades.

In my partnerships 2NT is a four card limit raise or better in partner's major. But without any agreement to the contrary I don't see 2NT as anything but natural.

Kokish: 3♣. It would be easy to vote for 3NT or a conservative 2NT only to find that we have a problem in hearts. There is lots of room over an honest 3♣ and I'm not from the school that advocates for a delayed 3NT showing less impressive stoppers in overcaller's suit than a direct 3NT. 4♠ could so easily be the right spot and 5♣ or 6♣ are still in play.

Cooper: 3♣. Beautiful! A perfect hand for my convention - Double shows a doubleton spade and values to compete and says nothing about heart length. Since that is not available, I make a natural force. With my diamond length, I don't expect any more competition, so I plan to bid 3NT over partner's 3♦ or 3♥, and to raise his 3♠ to 4♠. If he raises I bid 4♠.

Yes, we could belong in 4♠, 6♣ or 6♠. Now for the inviters:

J. Gartaganis: 2NT. If your partnership opens all 11 point hands (as many experts do, especially with a major) you can't afford to force to game with hands like this. At this vulnerability and form of scoring, partner knows to bid on with any reasonable excuse.

I concur with the sentiment that with a misfit responders need to be a conservative when inviting. However with the triple diamond stopper and a source of tricks suit with interior spots, I feel 2NT is too conservative.

Finally the passers:

Jeff Smith: Pass, taking my sure plus in 2♦.

L'Ecuyer: Pass - I go for the gonzo - no guarantee of a game, decent trumps, wrong colors but life cannot

be perfect all the time - don't like the alternatives that much: double is out, 2NT may not be enough, 3NT is too much with xx in hearts, 3♣ on such a suit is not fun - why don't hear what partner has to say...

Bart: Pass. Gunning for a penalty, even at these colours.

Plus Brad knows what my answer would always be in this type of set-up: PENALIZE!

Lindop: Pass. I'm willing to pass and defend if partner reopens with a double. If partner does something else, I'll be well placed.

...To find a new partner. Miles sums it up nicely in my opinion:

Miles: Pass. Who knows and who cares what our best game may be - we should be putting a hefty score in our column. At matchpoints, where +500 loses a bunch of times to +600, it's more tempting to trot out 3♣ followed by 3NT. But at IMPs I'll accept a few small losses to collect some large gains.

What happened at the table?

This hand came up in a 2010 Rosenblum qualifying match. At the table, South bid 3NT. The full deal:

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

3NT is an iffy contract, as it needs the clubs to be 3-3, or the jack fall singleton or doubleton. Even though the

club suit was obliging, declarer still went down! On the ♥J lead declarer finessed the queen, and won the ♦9 shift with the ten. With four cashable tricks probably available for the defence, declarer was concerned about the losing a club trick, and not having an entry if the clubs go 4-2. So instead, decided to play two rounds of clubs, overtaking the queen with the king. Down one.

Against 2♦ doubled, the ♠Q lead is a normal lead, although it is always a better strategy to lead a 2nd suit when you have one, in addition to length in the trump suit. A spade lead will result in down 3 for +500, whereas a club lead will likely result in +800.

This would have been a harder problem at matchpoints.

After a taxing set of problems, I leave the final word to the October TGCBC Host:

Thurston: 3♣ – worn out so no comment with the bid!

MOLLO On Play

ANSWER ON PAGE 32

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

Contract: 6♥ at IMPs. Lead: ♠Q. Plan the play.

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



PANEL'S ANSWERS

Panelists	Hand 1		Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3		Hand 4		Hand 5		Hand 6		Total
	Y/N	Bid	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	
Balcombe, Keith	No	3♠	Pass	8	2NT	9	4♦	7	4♣	8	Pass	7	3♣	9	48
Bart, Brad	No	3♣	5♣	7	Pass	10	4♣	7	Pass	10	Pass	7	Pass	10	51
Bishop, Ron	No	4♣	5♣	9	2NT	9	4♠	8	Pass	10	5♦	10	2NT	6	52
Blond, Jeff	No	3♣	Pass	8	3♥	8	3NT	10	Rdbl	8	5♦	10	3♣	9	53
Bryant, Brenda	No	3♣	Pass	8	3♥	8	3NT	10	Rdbl	8	5♦	10	3♣	9	53
Campbell, Gordon	No	4♣	Pass	10	Pass	10	4♠	8	4♣	8	5♦	10	Pass	10	56
Cooper, Stephen	Yes		5♣	8	Pass	10	4♠	8	4♣	8	5♥	6	3♣	9	49
Dalton, Roy	No	4♣	Pass	10	Pass	10	5♦	6	Pass	10	5♦	10	3♣	9	55
Duquette, John	No	3♣	5♣	7	3♦	7	3NT	10	4♥	3	6♥	8	3♣	9	44
Fung, Kismet	Yes		Pass	9	3♥	8	3NT	10	Pass	10	5♦	10	3NT	7	54
Gartaganis, Judy	No	3♣	5♣	7	Pass	10	4♦	7	Pass	10	4NT	6	2NT	6	46
Grainger, David	No	3♠	5♣	7	2NT	9	3NT	10	4♣	8	5♦	10	2NT	9	53
Hanna, Nader	No	3♣	Pass	8	2NT	9	3NT	10	Pass	10	5♦	10	3♣	9	56
Hornby, Ray	No	3♣	5♣	7	2NT	9	5♦	6	Rdbl	8	5♦	10	3♣	9	49
Jacob, Dan	No	3♣	5♣	7	3♦	7	4♠	8	Pass	10	5♦	10	Pass	10	52
Kirr, Martin	No	3♣	5♣	7	3♦	7	4♣	7	Pass	10	5♦	10	3♣	9	50
Kokish, Eric	No	3♣	5♣	7	2NT	9	3NT	10	Pass	10	5♦	10	3♣	9	55
Kuz, Bob	No	3♣	5♣	7	3♦	7	4♠	8	Pass	10	5♦	10	3♣	9	51
L'Ecuyer, Nic	Yes		5♣	8	Pass	10	4♣	7	4♣	8	6♣	9	Pass	10	52
Lebi, Robert	No	3♣	5♣	7	2NT	9	4♠	8	4♣	8	5♦	10	3NT	9	51
Lindop, David	No	3♣	5♣	7	3♥	8	3NT	10	Rdbl	8	5♦	10	Pass	10	53
Mackay, Steve	Yes	4♣	5♣	9	2NT	10	3NT	10	4♣	8	5♦	10	Pass	10	57
Marcinski, Zygmunt	Yes		Pass	9	2NT	10	4♠	8	Pass	10	5♦	10	3♣	9	56
Maxsymetz, Bryan	No	4♣	5♣	9	2NT	10	3NT	10	Rdbl	8	Pass	7	3♣	9	53
Miles, Danny	No	3♣	5♣	7	3♥	8	4♠	8	4♣	8	5♦	10	Pass	10	51
Oddy, Vince	No	3♣	5♥	5	Pass	10	3NT	10	Pass	10	5♦	10	3♣	9	54
Smith, Jeff	No	5♣	6♣	2	3♥	8	4♠	8	Pass	10	5♥	6	Pass	10	44
Smith, Julie	Yes		5♣	8	2NT	9	5♦	6	Rdbl	8	6♣	9	3♣	9	49
Stark, Andy	No	3♣	5♣	7	3♥	8	4♣	7	4♣	8	6♥	9	3♣	9	48
Thorpe, Katie	No	3♣	5♣	7	3♦	7	4♠	8	Pass	10	5♦	10	3♣	9	51
Thurston, Paul	No	3♣	Pass	8	2NT	9	4♦	7	4♣	8	5♦	10	3♣	9	51
Todd, Bob	No	3♣	5♣	7	2NT	9	4♣	7	4♣	8	5♦	10	Pass	10	51
Treble, Bill	No	4♣	Pass	10	Pass	10	4♣	7	4♣	8	5♦	10	3♣	9	54
Turner, David	No	3♣	5♣	7	2NT	9	3NT	10	4♣	8	6♣	10	3♣	9	53
Willis, David	No	3♣	Pass	8	3♥	8	3NT	10	Rdbl	8	Pass	7	3♣	9	50

April 2019 Problems

Host: Andy Stark

1. Imps. None vul., you, South, hold:

♠ A K Q 9 8 4
♥ A K Q 7 6 3
♦ A
♣ –

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♦	2NT ¹	?

1. Both minors

2. Imp pairs, E-W vul., you, South, hold:

♠ A 9 8 4
♥ A 4 3
♦ 9 7 6 5 4
♣ 8

West	North	East	South
1NT ¹	Double ²	2♥ ³	?

1. 12-14

2. Penalty oriented; shows a good 14+ HCP

3. Both majors (Guoba rescue, wanting to play at the 2-level)

3. Imps. N-S vul., you, South hold:

♠ A K 6 4
♥ A 8 5 2
♦ K J 10 8
♣ 8

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	3♥	?

4. Imps., Both vul., you, South, hold:

♠ A K 5 3
♥ K 9 6 4
♦ 6 5 3
♣ 10 2

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

Shortness in spades, GF heart raise

5. Matchpoints, E-W vul., you, South, hold:

♠ 2
♥ A J 9 8 7 6 2
♦ A K 10 4
♣ 6

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

6. Imps, E-W vul., you, South, hold:

♠ A Q J 5 3 2
♥ 3
♦ Q 6
♣ A 9 3 2

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

1. Serious slam try

1] Do you agree with South's call of 3♣ or do you prefer 2♠?

2] Do you agree with South's call of 3NT or do you prefer something else?

meet ...

SHELLEY BURNS

CANADIAN BRIDGE TEACHER & CLUB OWNER

Shelley is an energetic, sports-minded, analytical and focused individual who enjoys people. It is these traits that she feels draw her to Competition in her two favourite activities of bridge and golf.

Tell us about yourself:

I have been very blessed in my life. I have a wonderfully supportive husband, and two loving grown sons, all of whom are active and hard working. I have a very close-knit family with three brothers who all live in Vancouver. My parents are still healthy and very active. They share my passions of golf, tennis and Bridge, and they regularly help out at my Bridge Club by playing in my Duplicate game to make sure that the numbers work out. I went to UBC before getting my Chartered Accounting Designation at KPMG, and I still have many friends from university and work life. I love singing and cooking as well as playing sports and games.

How did you start playing Bridge?

I played what I thought was “Bridge” with friends after University. It was only after my husband Lorne’s transfer to Toronto with KPMG that I discovered what the game of Bridge was really about. I was fortunate to get involved with a women’s group who had John Rayner as their teacher. He was a fantastic teacher who always had a sense of humour, and he inspired my interest in the game.

I was fortunate to live in an area of Toronto that was central to several Bridge Clubs, and I got to know a lot of top teachers and players. I frequented Barbara Seagram & Alex’s Bridge Club most often, but I played at Hazel’s Bridge Club and several other Clubs as well.



I belonged to a tennis club called The Cricket Club where Andy Stark taught Bridge at that time.

How long have you played Competitive Bridge?

I feel like a “Newbie” in the world of Competitive Bridge. After taking a few years of Bridge lessons and then studying Bridge on my own, I found my passion for the game. I joined the ACBL in 2007. Greater Toronto has a much bigger population of Bridge players than Vancouver, so I often had the opportunity to attend nearby Sectional and Regional tournaments. It was only after returning to Vancouver at the end of 2009, after 10 years in Toronto, that I attended my first NABC in 2011.

What are your biggest Bridge achievements so far?

2018 was my first year to compete in the CNTC B Teams. This year I competed in the CNTC A Teams and the Mixed Teams which were held in Vancouver. I played with my partner Kelvin Raywood, Sam Krikler and Greg Morse in the A Teams, and we were extremely pleased to place 9th out of 17 top Canadian Teams. I played with Kelvin, June Keith and Les Fouks in the Mixed Teams,

MEET SHELLEY BURNS

and I was happy to get to play in the Semi-Finals. Kelvin and I came 3rd in the Mini Blue Ribbon Pairs in the 2018 Hawaii NABC. I am confident that my biggest Bridge achievements are yet to come!

Who has influenced your Bridge career?

Besides learning from all my teachers in Toronto, I was fortunate to meet Gene Simpson at the Penticton Regional in 2013. He has been very generous in sharing his Bridge knowledge, and acted as a mentor in my early Bridge development. My Bridge friends in Vancouver are much more experienced than I, and we would often go to Boston Pizza after a Bridge game and talk about hands with Aiden Ballantyne, Ben Takemori, Martin Henneberger, Kelvin Raywood, Gus Axen, Dee Steil, and Andrew Krywaniuk. I have also learned a lot from my Bridge partners Kelvin and Tom Anderson (who I was introduced to by Barbara after my move back to Vancouver).

What were your motivations in opening a Bridge Club?

It was purely accidental. After moving back to Vancouver in 2009 and playing "Kitchen Bridge" with my friends, I decided to teach them "proper" Bridge. I came to realize that I love to teach, as I love to share my passions with others. I took my Teacher's Accreditation in 2011, became a Director in 2012, and started running ACBL sanctioned games in 2013. I now teach a few courses per year, and my friend Margaret and I run a small Duplicate game on Wednesday evenings, and a very casual Duplicate game and Party Bridge for new players on Tuesdays. It has been a truly rewarding experience as I have made lots of friends and have also cultivated a lot of friendships through running Shelley's Bridge Club. My Club motto is: "Enter as Strangers, Leave as Friends".

What do you like about Bridge?

I like that Bridge is a social game that can be played and enjoyed at various levels. It is the most Challenging game that I know of, but I feel that everyone can learn enough Bridge to enjoy the game. In contrast with other sports, in Bridge you sometimes get to play against players of a much higher caliber. In

the recent Summer NABC in Vegas, Kelvin and I found ourselves playing in a Swiss Team match against the World Champions Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth. We held our own for 6 of the 7 boards, but we were beaten on one hand where their partners found a minor suit slam and we played in 3NT. They were gentlemen, and they even obliged by posing for a photo with me!

I now have an appreciation for Competitive Bridge. I still think back and chuckle at my ignorance in reference to a comment made by Barb Stewart. Lorne and I had joined Scarboro Golf Club in Toronto, and Barb and I were golf partners. We golfed now and then with Barb and her husband Michael Roche. We didn't know a lot of people, so I suggested to Barb that we get together to play some "Bridge". Barb diplomatically replied "We don't do Social Bridge". I didn't understand her comment until several years later, and now my husband and I still laugh at ourselves. Lorne still doesn't play Competitive Bridge, although I'm hoping that he will take it up when he retires in the next few years.

If you are ever in North Vancouver, I encourage you to come and play at my Bridge Club!

Shelley's Bridge Club

1695 Orkney Place,
North Vancouver
(604)988-0990
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/shelleys/>

Tuesdays 1:00 pm
3rd Wednesday 7:00 pm
ACBL Sanctioned games
Supervised Play games



DECLARING *After a Jacoby Transfer*

by Andy Stark

You are South and deal yourself a nice 15-count:

♠ A 5 4 3

♥ 9 8 7

♦ A K 3 2

♣ A 2

True, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but believe me, three aces and a king make for a nice 15-count. Conversely, a hand with four queens, four jacks, and one king (all those royals!) is not a nice 15-count, but it sure is pretty to look at.

Do you open 1NT or 1♦?

You should open 1NT because that is the nature of your hand. Are you worried about your ♥987? You should not be. Granted you do not have a stopper in hearts but so far there is no indication your LHO will lead hearts, or even that you will be declarer. Partner might have six or seven hearts. Partner might have the ♥AKQ!

THE
NEW PLAYER
Spot

DECLARING AFTER A JACOBY TRANSFER ... CONTINUED

The main reason for opening 1NT though is that with one bid you can describe the nature of your hand to partner. The beauty of opening 1NT is that you describe your hand within three high card points (15-17) and reveal that you are balanced. Partner will already have a good idea of whether you belong in slam, game, or partscore, and what suit, if any, you should be in. If partner needs to explore more, they have Stayman and transfer bidding at their disposal.

In short, you should look for excuses to open 1NT, not look for excuses to refrain from opening 1NT. Do you have 15-17 HCPs? Are you balanced? Yes, and yes? Open 1NT.

In response to your 1NT opening, partner bids 2♦. See, I told you partner might have hearts! Turns out they has five or more hearts. You dutifully accept the transfer and bid 2♥. Partner jumps to 3NT showing exactly five hearts and offering you a choice of games. With a six-card heart suit partner usually insists on a contract of 4♥. They can do this knowing you have at least a doubleton in hearts. Their six hearts get you up to an eight-card fit (or better if you have three or four or five).

Most of the time, given the choice between 3NT and 4♥, it's a simple matter of looking at your heart holding. Do you have two hearts? Play in 3NT. Do you have three hearts? Play in 4♥. But there are always exceptions in our game. For example, say you hold:

♠ Q J 9 8
♥ Q J 7
♦ K Q J
♣ Q J 6

This flat and quacky hand sure is pretty to look at (all those royals!) but it does not have any ruffing value. Often your 4333 shape makes 3NT the best spot, even though you have eight hearts between you and dummy. The whole deal could be one where there are four inescapable losers (two aces and two kings). That translates to 3NT making and 4♥ down one.

Back to the original hand. You have three trumps, so you bid 4♥. The opening lead is the queen of clubs and the first thing you notice is that partner had you covered in hearts all along. Plan the play.

Contract: 4♥

Opening lead: ♣Q

♠ 2
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ 9 8 7
♣ 7 6 5 4

♠ A 5 4 3
♥ 9 8 7
♦ A K 3 2
♣ A 2

When you finish pondering that one, try another one. The contract is also 4♥ and this time you have the good hearts in your hand.

Contract: 4♥

Opening lead: ♣Q

♠ A 4 3 2
♥ J 8 7
♦ A K 8 2
♣ 7 2

♠ 5
♥ A K Q 10 9
♦ 9 7 3
♣ A 6 5 4

And now for the big reveal. The two problem hands are the same: between North and South the high cards and the spot cards are the same but shifted around a bit.

Take the first problem hand. Did you win the queen of clubs with your ace and immediately cash the spade ace and ruff a spade in the dummy? If so, that's not your best technique. You just whittled your powerful trump holding down to four trumps.

DECLARING AFTER A JACOBY TRANSFER ... CONTINUED

Take the second problem hand. Did you win the queen of clubs with your ace and immediately fire back a club? That's a great approach. That means you recognize that you have three club losers but two of them can be ruffed in dummy. Plus, your five good hearts in your hand remain untouched.

When the opening lead hits the table and the dummy comes down, take time to make a plan. You should count losers in a suit contract. You can see in both problems that you have no spade losers, no heart losers, one diamond loser, and three club losers.

The only difference is that in the first problem, due to the Jacoby Transfer sequence, you are declarer with the short trumps in your hand. The second problem is typical in that dummy has the short trumps. Thus, the same declarer play approach should be pursued in both.

Let's focus on the first problem: win the club queen with your ace and exit a club. Let the opponents win that trick. They can do whatever they want next, but you will have the timing to ruff dummy's ♣76. Why are you ruffing in your hand? Because that is where the short trumps are.

Here are the full deals:

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

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

When you take on Jacoby Transfers you will be declaring with the short trumps in your hand. The length in trumps (5+) will be in dummy. As such, you need to visualize the dummy being the declaring hand, and your hand being the dummy. You get more tricks by ruffing in the hand with short trumps. You may lose trump control if you start ruffing in the hand with long trumps.

Look for it next time you're the declarer after a transfer sequence. Just say to yourself, "My hand is the dummy, my hand is the dummy..."



The sum of all technical knowledge cannot make a master bridge player.

Ely Culbertson.



DECLARER PLAY 10

This is the tenth article in a New Player 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.

DECEPTIVE PLAYS BY DECLARER TO IMPEDE THE OPPONENTS TO FIND THEIR BEST DEFENCE.

As declarer, there are many plays you can make that can cause the opponents to defend less than optimally. These include:

- Mask your hand type and holdings by deceptive bidding.
- Force the defenders to make critical decisions early in the play.
- When winning a trick, select the card that makes your holding ambiguous.
- False carding.

Let's look at these common techniques in more detail:

MASK YOUR HAND TYPE AND HOLDINGS BY DECEPTIVE BIDDING.

When bidding, the goal is for you and partner is to accurately describe your hand so as to gauge how high to bid. This is true in both competitive and non-competitive auctions. But it is important to be aware that the opponents can use this information to aid their defence. So occasionally it is wise to weigh the value of fully describing your holdings, versus hiding a second suit or the like.

EXAMPLE 1

Playing IMPs:. Let's say you hold ♠ x ♥ KJ109xx ♦ A ♣ AJ1084. You open 1♥ and partner raises you to two. What do you bid? You want to be in game, and slam is possible, but unlikely. Bid 4♥. Why introduce the club suit? All you are doing is giving the opponents a blueprint to the best defence. Who knows, maybe LHO will lead the ♣K from KQ9x? If you do bid clubs, LHO will likely find a trump lead when it is right, such as from ♠ QJ9x ♥ xxx ♦ xx ♣ AQ9x. Taking this is a step further, it is not uncommon for experts to bid a suit they DO NOT want led.

BRIDGE BASICS ... CONTINUED

EXAMPLE 2

As South you hold ♠ x ♥ AQJ109xx ♦ xx ♣ AKx. You are playing in a KO match and are in need of a swing. The bidding starts:

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

Many experts would cue bid 4♦ in this situation, trying to deflect a diamond lead. South is hoping that partner has something like ♠ AKx ♥ Kxx ♦ xx ♣ QJxxx and your diamond bid has convinced West to lead something else.

FORCE THE DEFENDERS TO MAKE THE CRITICAL DECISION EARLY

This is an ongoing theme that all players should know. It is much harder to defend when you have relatively little information. At trick 11 you know what partner and declarer hold, but not at trick 2! Quite often a competent declarer will take a needed finesse or make that critical play even before pulling trump. The reasoning is players who show out when trump are being pulled can signal partner with their discard(s).

EXAMPLE 3

Playing IMPs, your contract is 5♠ after West had opened 2♥.

♠ A Q 8 4 2
♥ A 8 7
♦ J 10 9
♣ 9 6

♠ K 10 9 7 3
♥ 4
♦ 6 5 4
♣ A K J 10

West leads the ♥K. Plan the play.

Trying for slam, you get to a bit of an uncomfortable level. You reasonably decide to play East for the ♣Q. Declarer should take the club finesse at trick two! Even if West wins the club he may try to cash a heart trick, or may fear switching to diamonds, perhaps holding ♠ xx ♥ KQxxxx ♦ Kx ♣ Qxx.

EXAMPLE 4

Playing IMPs, your contract is 4♠ after a competitive auction.

♠ J 8 3
♥ A 9
♦ J 10 9 8 7
♣ 9 8 4

♠ A 7
♥ J 10 7 6 3
♦ K 6 4 3
♣ A 7

♠ 6 5
♥ Q 5 4 2
♦ A 5 2
♣ Q J 10 5

♠ K Q 10 9 4 2
♥ K 8
♦ Q
♣ K 6 3 2

Declarer should win the first heart with the ace and lead 'the ♦J' at trick two. The best hope declarer has is that the diamond honours are split and West wins the first one. Leading the Jack may catch a sleepy East ducking, and now you are home. West can win, and their best continuation is a heart. You win and play a spade to dummy, and take a ruffing finesse in diamonds, throwing a club if east does not cover. Then ruff out the ♦A, and lead a 2nd trump. Your 3rd trump is an entry to cash the good diamonds. Note had you played on trumps first West would win and play a 2nd heart. This line would likely wake up East as to the necessity of rising with the ♦A on the first round of that suit and shifting to a club.

Next issue: We continue to delve into deceptive declarer techniques by examining specific card selection when winning a trick and false carding by declarer.



The Intermediate Series **DEFENSIVE PLAY** **19: DEFENSIVE** **STRATEGIES**

By Neil Kimelman

This is the last in a series on Defensive Strategies. I hope this series has been helpful.

GIVING DECLARER A LOSING OPTION.

There is a cute episode of 'Friends' where there is a dialogue that goes something like, "You don't know what we know that you know." This is equally true when referring to the knowledge that defenders have, which declarer's don't...yet. There are often options available to the defence that can distract declarer from a winning line that they were likely about to take. Here is a great example of this stratagem that I will pose this as a declarer problem:

EXAMPLE 1

Contract: 6♥. Opening lead: ♦J.
How do you play?

♠ K Q 7 2
♥ 10 8 3
♦ K 2
♣ 10 7 6 3

♠ A 5 3
♥ K J 7 6 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ A K

You need a lucky holding in the trump suit: There are a number of holding that East may have where you can make slam. AQ, AQx, Q

THE
INTERMEDIATE
Spot

THE INTERMEDIATE SERIES ... CONTINUED

are the more common ones. You could lead the ♥10 at trick two, or the ♥3. Let's say you decide on the latter, and East follows with the ♥Q. Bonus!! You now know that West started with ♥A954 or ♥954, and you confidently lead a 2nd heart dummy to dummy, and put in the eight when West follows with the five. It loses to the nine! East found an effective false card from ♥AQ9, knowing that if he put in the nine at trick one, declarer would simply win the jack, cross to dummy to play a 2nd round of that suit. East found a play that gave declarer a losing option! This example is more esoteric, but there are a number of more common ones of which you should be aware:

False carding in the Trump Suit**EXAMPLE 2**

Declarer (south) is in 4♠, and must not lose a trick in the trump suit, which is distributed as follows:

♠ J 9 4 3	♠ K Q 10 7	♠ 2
	♠ A 8 6 3	

Declarer plays a spade to the king. Assuming both defenders follow small, declarer can only guard against West having four spades, and will play the second round of the suit by leading the ♠7 to the ace and finesse the jack on the way back. But what if West plays the ♠9 on the first round of the suit? Now declarer will probably treat it as an honest card, and after winning the first round with the king, lead the queen to the 2nd round, hoping to have a finesse against East. Wrong!

Winning a card to give declarer the impression a finesse is onside**EXAMPLE 3**

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

Lead: ♥5

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

West finds an effective heart lead. Declarer wins the 3rd round and leads the ♦8. Plan your defence?

From the bidding you are confident that declarer has the remaining high cards. With the club king on side declarer is bound for success...unless you win the first diamond with the ace and shift to a small club! Look at it from declarer's perspective: He 'knows' that there is no reason to take a dangerous club finesse and go down in a cold contract when the diamonds are running. Declarer will reasonably go up with the club ace, and take a 2nd diamond finesse. You will win, the defence's 4th trick, and cash the ♣K to beat an otherwise unbeatable contract!

Next issue: Giving declarer a losing option – part 2.



The difference between genius and stupidity at the bridge table is that genius has its limits.

~
Author unknown

Beef Stew

by Keith Balcombe, Whitby ON

Dianne (thanks honey!) taught me how to make this stew. We prepare the stew the day before and will often invite friends and family. The overnight dwell in the refrigerator increases the taste and makes a simple nutritious meal that's easy to have ready when company is coming.

INGREDIENTS FOR MEAT ROUX

About 2 pounds beef or lamb stewing meat.

Don't use a good cut, slow cooking will tenderize it

Cut into 2.5 cm (1 inch) cubes

3/4 cup all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon seasoning salt

1/2 cup olive oil (approximately)

1 teaspoon black pepper

1 tablespoon organic paprika

1 or 2 tablespoons raw or minced garlic

We use 2 level tablespoons of minced garlic. I buy the Kirkland minced California Garlic from Costco

1 large onion (or substitute frozen onions)

Cut into sections about 1/2 cm. or less

INGREDIENTS FOR STEW

2 cups water

One large can of your favourite diced tomatoes

One 398 ml can of Sprague Organic lentil soup

This helps thicken the stew

3 heaping teaspoons beef Better than Bouillon (organic roasted beef base)

Better than Bouillon is available at Costco, at least in Ontario

One or two cups of red wine

We prefer Cab. Sav. or Cab. Franc

Small dash of organic curry powder

Dash of mild chili powder

Dash of thyme

1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1/4 cup of fresh parsley leaves

Cut into small sections

4 large new white potatoes washed (not peeled)

Cut into 1.3 cm. (1/2 inch) cubes

3 large organic carrots peeled & sliced

Slice into coins 1/4 to 1/2 cm. thick

2 or 3 stalks organic celery

Cut into 1/2 cm. (1/4 inch) cubes

About 1/2 cup frozen vegetables to your taste

We use peas and corn to add colour and flavour.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. COAT. Coat the beef or lamb in a flour, pepper and paprika mixture. Put the flour and spices in a sealable container, add the meat and shake the mixture to coat the meat with the flour mixture.

2. COOK MEAT. Heat some oil medium high in a large frying pan to make the meat roux. Using tongs, one or two pieces at a time, add one quarter of the meat from step 1. You don't want to crowd the pan, which is why you are only adding one quarter of the meat. Once the beef is browned on that side, flip to another side. When that quarter of meat is done, place in the stewing pot. Add more oil to the frying pan and repeat until the last quarter of meat. Into this add the onions and garlic. Continue to cook until all of the beef is browned and add all to stewing pot.

3. ADD. With stewing pot on medium high heat, add (stir thoroughly and frequently) water, tomatoes (use the wine to rinse the last of the tomatoes into the stew), can of organic lentil soup (use the wine to rinse the last of the soup into the stew), beef bouillon, Worcestershire sauce and spices and anything else that I missed. Add to the stew (stir to combine and let it simmer): diced potatoes, diced carrots, diced celery.

4. COOK. Cook until the vegetables are tender, at least three hours, gradually reducing the heat. Periodically open the lid to savour the aroma, taste (clean the spoon) and stir thoroughly.

5. COOL & STORE. Turn off and let cool for a while. If you use a gas or electric stove, remove from the hot element or hot grate so that you don't burn the bottom. Store overnight in the fridge in the stew pot.

6. REHEAT. Allow well over an hour to slowly reheat the stew on medium low heat. Within ten minutes or so of serving, add the frozen vegetables and cook until heated.

7. SERVE with bread and butter. Buy some frozen ready-to-bake bread (such as from Ace Bakery) and serve the bread freshly baked. If you are having company, you better bake two loaves. If that is not possible, as close to serving time as possible, go to your local bakery and get some fresh French bread. Buy two loaves if you're having company. Don't forget to serve the balance of the wine from cooking. In fact: treat yourself – you worked hard to make this. Open a second bottle.

MOLLO On Play

Solution - Mollo on Play VII

Contract: 6♥ at IMPs. Lead: ♠Q. Plan the play.

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

The only time the contract is in jeopardy is if west has all three hearts. Sure enough, when you lead a heart to the ace, East shows out. It looks like you will need the club finesse, but before you bank on it, play a diamond to the ace. If the king falls, you are home with careful play.

Cash the ♥K, and then play a 2nd diamond. West, assuming he is the one short in diamonds, cannot profitably ruff, as you will play small from dummy, and eventually discard a club on the good ♦Q. Say west discards. Win the ♦Q, ruff a diamond, ruff a spade and ruff another diamond, setting up the suit, with ♣A as an entry to score a 3rd diamond trick, discarding your losing club.



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**We play forcing
hesitations.**

~
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.



THE NORWEGIAN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway

The final was played in Stavanger over the last weekend of May and resulted in victory for Studentenes BK, a team of youngsters who completely outplayed the rest of the field. The tournament turned out to be a great disappointment for one of the favourite teams, Heimdal, but, on this board, world champion Glenn Grøtheim defended carefully to be one of the few to beat four spades:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 9
♥ KJ976
♦ J72
♣ J852

♠ AJ108654
♥ A
♦ A4
♣ KQ10

♠ -
♥ 10832
♦ Q108653
♣ A94

♠ KQ732
♥ Q54
♦ K9
♣ 763

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Harr</i>	<i>P. Tøndel</i>	<i>S. Iversen</i>	<i>G. Grøtheim</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT ¹	Pass	3♦ ²	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Game forcing
2. Hearts

North lead the heart six to the queen and ace. Gunnar Harr played the ace of trumps followed by the knave to Grotheim's queen. South paused for a while and finally returned a club to the king.





THE NORWEGIAN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

He came back in with the spade ten to the king and once again avoided the fatal continuation of a heart, returning another club to the queen. Harr cashed his eight of spades, played a club to the king and ruffed a heart to reach this position:

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

Harr played a trump to Glenn's seven, but now, since he had retained a heart to return, he could wait for the setting trick with his king of diamonds. If he at one point had returned a heart, he would have been forced to lead a diamond in the end.

Grotheim's partner, Petter Tøndel, was awarded the prize for the best-played deal of the tournament by his handling of the following deal, on which he overcame a terrible trump break:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

With the same line-up as on the previous board, the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
G. Harr	P. Tøndel	S. Iversen	G. Grøtheim
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦ ²	Pass	4NT
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Clubs, game-forcing
2. RKCB

East led the four of hearts to the ten and ace. The king of trumps revealed the bad break. Petter now made the only play to secure the contract by playing the ace of spades and ruffing a spade. He returned to hand with a heart and played spades. East ruffed, but Petter overruffed and played a trump to the queen. When he continued with his high spades, East had no defence. If he ruffed, Petter would remove East's last trump and would still have a heart in dummy to reach his hand. On his last spade, Petter would discard dummy's heart and the queen of hearts would end East's hope of defeating the contract.

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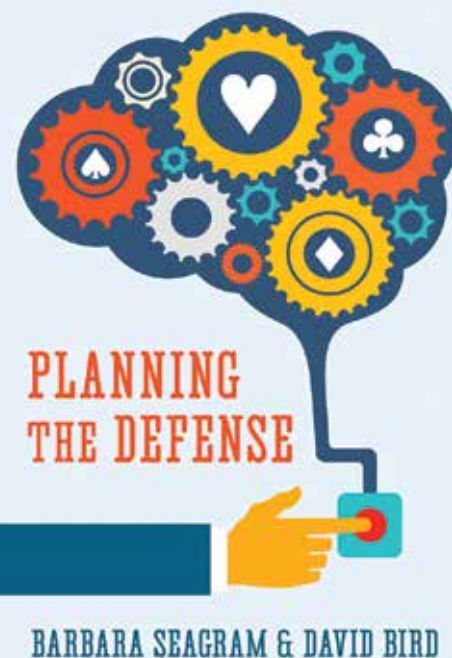
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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

2020

24 Jan	ACBL wide Junior Fund game (AM)
1 Feb aft. 10-16 Feb	ACBL wide Internation Fund game Canada wide CBF STaC
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
9 June	Canada Wide Olympiad Game Afternoon
17-24 June	Day of Bridge benefiting Alzheimer Societies

LOOKING AHEAD

2020 Canadian Youth Trials

14-16 March Hazel's Bridge Club, North York, ON

2020 Canadian Bridge Championships

27 May - 7 June Niagara Falls, ON www.cbf.ca

2020 International Fund Regional

15-20 Sept St. Catharines, ON www.cbf.ca

2020 ACBL Summer NABC

16-26 Jul Montréal, PQ www.acbl.org



INTERNATIONAL

Jul 31-Aug 9 18th World Youth Championships
Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy

Aug 21 – Sept 4 World Bridge Championships
Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy.

