

# bridge *Canada*



## THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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



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**EMAIL:** [ina@cbf.ca](mailto:ina@cbf.ca) (Ina Demme)

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Full page \$ 250 | Half page \$ 150

Quarter page \$ 87.50 | Business Card \$ 50

10% DISCOUNT if 3 issues paid in advance.

**PUBLISHED 6 TIMES A YEAR**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Bridge in Canada and the Pandemic

The Pandemic has resulted in all bridge organizations facing issues that have never encountered before. It has forced the CBF to go to online bridge which has resulted in many new challenges, including allegations of competitor cheating.

The CBF continues to respond and adapt during these ever-changing times, with the understanding that we will never please everyone. We welcome and encourage members to share different views, and encourage you to make constructive and specific suggestions regarding any issue.

Only by us all collaborating moving forward, can we reach the goal of keeping Canadian Bridge alive and vibrant.

Neil Kimelman



## Mollo ON PLAY XV

Contract: 3NT by South at IMPs.

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

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

Lead: ♠2. Plan the play.

Answer on page 12.

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Watch for more results, as well as stories and photos in the August issue.

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Kathie Macnab  
5 Wren St.  
Halifax, NS B3M 2R1  
902-443-4676  
zone1@cbf.ca



### Zone IV & CBF President

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



### Zone II

Ronald Carrière  
51, Cadillac St.  
Kirkland, QC H9H 4G3  
514-718-2406  
zone2@cbf.ca



### Zone V & CBF Vice President

Jerry Mamer  
151 Nordstrom Road  
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zone5@cbf.ca



### Zone III

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484 Steeles Ave West #1014  
Thornhill, ON L4J 0C7  
416-301-2577  
zone3@cbf.ca



### Zone VI

Shelley Burns  
1695 Orkney Place  
North Vancouver, BC V7H 2Z1  
604-988-0990  
zone6@cbf.ca

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Neil Kimelman  
editor@cbf.ca



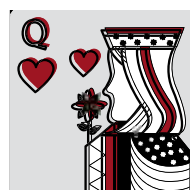
### CBF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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



### FRENCH EDITOR

Francine Cimon  
wirek@videotron.ca



### ACCOUNTING & FINANCE MANAGER

Cathy Walsh  
accounting@cbf.ca



### PRODUCTION EDITOR

Jude Goodwin  
jude@cbf.ca



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



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Louise Mascolo  
webmaster@cbf.ca





by Andy Stark

## Transfer Review

Most players, new and old, play Jacoby Transfers over an opening bid of 1NT. Since this is the new player spot, I think it's time for a review. The reason for a review is because I recently watched a not-so-new player, a student of mine, try to play Stayman and Jacoby on the same hand.

My student picked up:

♠ Q J 7 6 3

♥ A 3 2

♦ 9 4

♣ K J 6

Partner opened 1NT showing 15-17 balanced and my student bid 2♣ Stayman!

THE  
**NEW PLAYER**  
*Spot*



## TRANSFER REVIEW ... CONTINUED

Now, as we know, Stayman promises a four-card major and while there are four spades in this hand, there are actually 4 + 1. So that, technically, is not a four-card major—it's a five-card major. And as soon as we have a five-card major we show it by transferring to it. (An exception occurs when we are 5-4 in the majors; for a review of Stayman, see The New Player Spot in the October 2020 issue of Bridge Canada magazine.)

Opener responded 2♦ to deny a four-card major. My student, realizing the error of her first bid, now decided to transfer to spades by bidding 2♥. The problem with this sequence, though, is that Opener thinks Responder is 5-4 in the majors and either weak or invitational, depending on partnership agreements.

Luckily for my student, Opener bid 2NT over the non-forcing 2♥ bid. It was then, at their third turn in the auction, when my student finally got around to showing their spades and so bid 3♠. Opener, albeit confused, saved the day by bidding 3NT – the normal contract. That auction once again:

Opener Responder		
1NT	2♣	Stayman
2♦	2♥	Transfer
2NT	3♠	Natural
3NT	pass	Best bid of the auction

There's your light entertainment for the day. If there is anything to be learned from this story it's this: there is no such convention as Stay-nsfers.

Clearly my student should have shown this common hand type by bidding 2♥ first, a transfer to spades, and then jumped to 3NT. This sequence shows 10+ HCPs and a five-card spade suit. It asks the opener to pick the final contract – either 3NT or 4♠. How does Opener know what to do? Usually, Opener prefers the major game with three or more spades in their hand. With two-card spade support, Opener usually prefers the notrump game knowing there is only a 7-card fit.

Here were the two hands:

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

As it turns out, there is another reason for a review of transfers. Upon checking how all my students in the game bid the East hand, I see that not one of them bid it correctly.

Two Easts transferred to spades, (good) but then over partner's 2♠ bid, they leaped to 4♠ (bad). So, although it pains me to write this, I feel I must. Here goes: When we transfer into our 5+ spade suit we are showing partner that we have five or more spades. When partner dutifully accepts the transfer by bidding 2♠, they are just doing what we asked them to do. They have the same length they were dealt – either 2, 3, or 4 or possibly 5 spades. They were just following orders. Whose orders? Responder's orders.

Responder must not make the mental mistake of thinking, "Oh, hey my partner just bid my 5-card major! Boy will they be happy with my 5-card support! What a fit we have!" Not so fast. They only bid your suit because you told them to! So, two pairs played in 4♠ on their 7-card spade fit. This was all East's doing. What East needed to do was bid 3NT at their second turn offering West the choice of two game contracts: 3NT or 4♠. Stay in 3NT with a doubleton spade, or correct to 4♠ with three or more spades.

One final funny bidding sequence is worth mentioning. After West opened 1NT another East bid 3♥. I repeat, 3♥! I think I know the mindset of this particular East. They reasoned: "I have a game-forcing hand, so I must make a bid that partner cannot pass," hence the transfer leap. (Leaping Jacoby?) Miraculously, partner was on the same page and bid

3♠, accepting the transfer, and then passed East's 3NT rebid. Well done! Not textbook, but all's well that ends well. (Yet another pair bid 1NT-3NT, but I won't go into that.)

This then brings us to the crux of the transfer bid—the part that flies in the face of everything we have learned in bridge: that we need points to bid. When partner opens 1♣ we know that we need 6+ HCPs to respond. If we have fewer points, we are taught to pass. If our RHO opens 1♠, we are taught that we need a good 12 or more HCPs to enter the fray. Or, even if we have a nice 7-card suit, we are taught that we need two of the top three honours in order to pre-empt. That's all valid and reasonable and sound solid strategy.

Then along comes transfers and we are told we do not need one high card point in our hand in order to bid. That I think is what throws many-a-player for a loop. When we transfer, we are showing our shape, our 5+ suit. If we transfer to a minor, we usually show 6+ in the minor. We do not promise a bean other than that length. So, the thinking is this: show your length first, then bid again if you wish to invite or force. Shape first, strength later.

To wit, here was another trouble hand. East held a 7-card diamond suit and 2 HCPs:

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

Partner opens 1NT. What do you do, pass or bid?

You bid. Leaving partner in 1NT leads to down 2 as partner is constantly leading away from their own hand. You want to play in 2♦, but you cannot because 2♦ is a transfer to hearts.

Many players play that 2♠ is a relay to 3♣. (Note: a relay is not a transfer. A transfer unequivocally shows a suit. A relay just asks partner to bid the next suit up.) Now with 6+ clubs you pass 3♣ and with 6+ diamonds you correct to 3♦. As it turns out, three players in the game

did bid 2♠ and corrected partner's 3♣ to 3♦, expecting to play it there. However, all 3 Openers, corrected 3♦ to 3NT. This turned out to be incorrect.

The full deal:

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

As you can see, 3♦ is a great contract. If they lead a heart or club, you win with the ace in West and cash the ♠A. You then play the ♠Q and if North covers, ruff and return to hand to cash the ♠J and ♠10 to pitch losers from the East hand. If North plays a low spade under the queen, let the queen ride and pitch a loser from East. Eventually, return to West to pitch another loser on the ♠J.

To sum up, when partner opens 1NT, if you have a 5-card or longer major or if you have a 6-card or longer minor, think about showing it by transferring to it. If you want to play in a partscore, just pass partner's acceptance of your transfer. If you wish to invite, make a bid that keeps the bidding open such as 2NT after transferring to spades. And if you want to be in game, bid game. But do not insist on your 5-card major being trumps. Instead, rebid 3NT and let partner decide which game is best—3NT or your major.

Oh, and if you would like to learn a better treatment than the 2♠ relay bid, (to get out in 3♣ or 3♦), I highly recommend 4-Suit Transfers.

## A hand is placing an orange block on top of a pyramid of colorful blocks. The pyramid is built on a white surface against a dark background. The base consists of four blocks: green, red, blue, and yellow. The second row has three blocks: blue, purple, and green. The third row has two blocks: yellow and red. The orange block is being placed on top of the yellow block.

This is the 18th 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.

**... continued**

settle for the smaller score of a doubled game contract. Should the opponents redouble the contract, conventional wisdom recommends running like a “stripe-tailed ape” to a sacrificial contract. Here is a possible example:

Ex 2: E-W vulnerable. You hold as North  
 ♠ xxx ♥ Jxxx ♦ Jxxx ♣ 10x, and hear this auction:

<b>West</b>	<b>North (you)</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♥	Pass	2♠	5♣
5♠	?		

Double!! The full deal:

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

A stripe tailed ape double is a strategic double of an opposing game contract. The doubler actually expects that the opponents can make a slam, but hopes they'll



If it goes all pass and they make seven then that is -1250. Bidding slam is worth -1460 or -2210. A double may end the auction. It looks like the opponents can make at least 6♠, but it is tough to bid slam after you have been doubled at the five level. Even 7♣ doubled is a worse score at -1400.

## Doubles to ask for an unusual lead (lead directing doubles)

There is a family of doubles of voluntarily bid contracts that ask for a specific suit led. One of the most well-known is the "Lightner" Double. Named after its creator, Theodore Lightner, the double asks for an unusual lead when the opponents voluntarily bid a slam. It frequently implies a void, partner hoping to score a ruff. Generally speaking, partner is asking you to do one of the following:

1. Lead dummy's side suit, if one has been bid.
2. Make any other unusual lead - usually partner's longest suit, to get a ruff.

Sometimes it is difficult to know which is requested, but all you know is: don't make the 'normal lead'.

Ex 3:

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



David Bruce, Life Master #1, was on lead against a grand slam in a suit contract holding two aces and he knew the dummy had to be void in one of those suits. The dummy was Ozzie Jacoby, who always left the table the moment a card was led. David Bruce decided to lead his gum wrapper. When Jacoby saw something hit the table he put this dummy down and David Bruce saw which ace would cash.

You hold as West ♠ xx ♥ QJ10x ♦ xxx ♣ xxxx. Partner is 99% void in clubs – lead a club, not the heart you would have led otherwise. The theory behind a double, asking for an unusual lead, can be extended to game contracts.

Ex 4: You hold as West ♠ xx ♥ Qx ♦ xxx ♣ AKQ10xx.

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

Here you would double, asking partner to lead a suit bid by dummy. How does partner know you want a club lead and not a spade lead? If you had a good spade suit you could have bid it directly over one club.

## Other applications

Some partnerships play that if the opponents bid to 3NT without introducing a suit, a double asks for a specific suit, for example, hearts. For example if the opponents bid 1NT-3NT, and your partnership agreement is that a double asks for a heart lead, you would double with either ♠ xx ♥ AKQ10x ♦ xxx ♣ xxx or ♠ xxx ♥ KQJ10x ♦ xxx ♣ Ax.

## After Splinters

Another less frequent application of lead directing doubles is after splinters.

Ex 5:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣	Dbl	

North has shown a singleton club, so having a double ask for that suit led is not commonly seen as useful. Some partnerships play that this double asks for the suit immediate above the splinter suit in rank, here diamonds.

**Next article:** Major suit raise conventions.



# THE INTERMEDIATE Spot



## BIDDING STRATEGIES

### *When to make a Takeout Double.*

*By Neil Kimelman*

Takeout doubles are a valuable tool, and should be wielded wisely. Sometimes pass is a better choice, sometimes overcalling will be the indicated action. Here are some factors to consider in your decision-making.

#### DISTRIBUTION

When the opponents open the bidding the perfect takeout double is 4-4-4-1 shape with your singleton being in RHO's suit. But life doesn't always deal us perfect hands. So more balanced distribution should be augmented with solid minimum opening bid values.

Quiz 1: RHO opens 1♦. What would you bid?

1. ♠ AQxx ♥ AQx ♦ xx ♣ 10xxx
2. ♠ AQx ♥ Q9x ♦ xxx ♣ KJxx
3. ♠ AQ109 ♥ A109x ♦ x ♣ 10xxx
4. ♠ Qxxx ♥ AQx ♦ KQx ♣ xxx
5. ♠ Qxx ♥ QJ10 ♦ Qx ♣ KQxxx
6. ♠ AQJxx ♥ Axxx ♦ x ♣ xxx
7. ♠ Axx ♥ 1098xx ♦ x ♣ AKxx
8. ♠ AQxx ♥ AQxx ♦ xxx ♣ xx

## Quiz 1 – RHO opens 1♦ Solutions

1. ♠ AQxx ♥ AQx ♦ xx ♣ 10xxx - Double, easy.
2. ♠ AQx ♥ Q9x ♦ xxx ♣ KJxx – Double, but very iffy with 3-3-3-4 shape.
3. ♠ AQ109 ♥ A109x ♦ x ♣ 10xxx – This is a much better double than #2, despite having two less high card points.
4. ♠ Qxxx ♥ AQx ♦ KQx ♣ xxx – 50-50, double is risky, but best. At least you show your values where a pass will likely leave you guessing what to do later in the auction.
5. ♠ Qxx ♥ QJ10 ♦ Qx ♣ KQxxx – Many people, including me, would pass this hand with only three cards in both majors, only one king, and no aces.
6. ♠ AQJxx ♥ Axxx ♦ x ♣ xxx – Bid 1♠.
7. ♠ Axx ♥ 1098xx ♦ x ♣ AKxx – Double is the best call with a poor five card suit, good defensive values and support for all unbid suits.
8. ♠ AQxx ♥ AQxx ♦ xxx ♣ xx – Double. Having partner bid clubs is a risk I am willing to take in showing my values, and looking for a major suit fit.

## LOCATION OF HIGH CARDS

In #4 above you have a large number of your high cards in their suit, and whether to bid when these conditions are present, should be carefully considered. So pass is best with ♠ Qxx ♥ xxx ♦ KQx ♣ AQxx. Also in #7 the lack of a good suit makes a double slightly preferable.

Another situation is when the opponents bid two suits:

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	?

Here you should be at least 4-4 in spades and diamonds with an opening bid.

♠ AKxx ♥ x ♦ Axxx ♣ QJxx is perfect. However:

1. ♠ AKxx ♥ x ♦ xx ♣ AKQxxx – double is ok, but better to bid 2♣, and either 2♠ or double on your next turn.

2. ♠ Qxxx ♥ K ♦ KJxx ♣ Kxxx – pass. Too many values in their suits, that are especially not likely to have a lot of value on offense. However, I would consider balancing.

3. ♠ AKxx ♥ Ax ♦ Axxx ♣ Qxx. You must show your high cards. Double is ok, but a natural 1NT is more descriptive.

## DEFENSIVE VALUES

This is an important consideration, as a double promises some defensive values. So a double might seem reasonable with ♠ KJxx ♥ QJxx ♦ x ♣ QJxx, or even ♠ Qxxx ♥ KQxx ♦ - ♣ Qxxxx, but passing might be better. The problem with doubling is that partner will reasonably place you with more high cards, and/or defensive values, therefore misjudging what to do later in the auction.

## A ONE-BID HAND

This is a very important concept. When you are likely to get only one bid, it is important you pick the one that is likely to benefit your side the most. #7 above is a good example of a one bid hand, with a double the clear choice of what bid will most likely be of greatest benefit.

Here is a hand I recently held during this year's CNTCs: ♠ – ♥ 7653 ♦ AKJ1075 ♣ KJ10. We were Vul vs not, and RHO opened 1♠. What would you do? One option is to bid 2♦. You have a great suit, and likely want a diamond lead. However double is a better bid, and the one I made at the table. You win when partner has a decent heart or club suit, and is a good description of your hand. In fact you have a great hand opposite 5-6 hearts or clubs with partner. Bidding 2♦ for a lead has diminished as if the opponents declare, it will likely be in spades. The other danger of 2♦ is you may lose your best fit if LHO jumps in spades. Partner held ♠ 1075 ♥ AKQ94 ♦ 9 ♣ 9852. We played in 5♥ making after the opponents did compete to 4♠.



## A TWO-BID HAND

Bidding a hand with a good suit and lots of high cards needs to be planned carefully. Generally speaking it is better to bid your suit first, then double to show your extra values. In this way, partner will have a choice to go back to your suit, bid a long one of their own, or hopefully, converting the double to penalties by passing. So if you hold ♠ 3 ♥ AKJ1065 ♦ A109 ♣ KQ2 overcall 1♠ with 2♥, then double at your next turn. An exception to this guideline is hands which are strong and are offensive in nature. An example is what to do when the opponents open 1♥ and you hold ♠ AQJ10xxx ♥ Kxx ♦ A ♣ Kx. Double and then bid spades at your next turn. This sequence of bids shows about 8 – 8 ½ playing tricks, usually with about 15-19 HCPs.

Next issue: We will look at the best actions after the opponents preempt.



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ONLINE SINCE 1995

# MOLLO On Play

Problem on page 3.

Contract: 3NT by South at IMPs. Lead: ♠2.

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

Declarer has eight tricks, nine if the diamond finesse wins. The only danger is if the defense can take four club tricks in addition to the ♦K. This is only possible if East is on lead for the first round of clubs. To take a safety play, declarer should cash the ♦A, just in case the king is singleton with East. If not, you are no worse off.



I'm teaching a class on counting losers and how to get rid of them. I ask a gal in the class how many losers she has, and she replies correctly that she has three. "And what are you going to do with them?" I ask. "Lose them right away so I don't have to worry about them any longer." And she was one of my best students!

- Edwin Kantar



# What Went Wrong?

*by Paul Thurston*

One very important thing Went Wrong with all of this instalment's deals before a single bid was made or a card was clicked on: live kibitzers were barred (with a few rare exceptions) from enjoying the feats and foibles of Canada's finest. WHY?

Because a significant percentage of online players in other major events (variously estimated at from 3-10%) insisted on cheating, often by "self-kibitzing" whereby a player might learn details about his partner's or opponents' holdings by kibitzing either his own or the other table in a match.

Not wanting our own major team events to be tarnished by this form of cheating, the CBF Board decided a recommendation to bar kibitzing (but leaving it up to the Captains in any particular match to actually do the barring) would be the best way forward. Did barring kibitzers help?

Well doing so most definitely did cut down on the amount of cheating but it might have been a baby out with the bath water solution as the miscreants (thankfully very few but regrettably still some) still found ways to gain illicit information while damaging the game itself as literally thousands were denied access to enjoy and maybe learn from our National Championships.

THE  
**EXPERT**  
*Spot*

## WHAT WENT WRONG ... CONTINUED

Thank You CBF for your efforts in trying to keep the game clean and a large BOO! To those who circumvented the rules for their own perverse pleasure. As my wife Jo-Anne so often asked me whenever another cheating scandal came out, "How can they enjoy the game of bridge by not playing fairly?" How indeed!

But now I'll step down from my pulpit to (hopefully) entertain you with a few tales of WHAT WENT WRONG with some selected deals from the 2021 Canadian Bridge Championships. As usual, names of players will be omitted to avoid causing embarrassment – we all make errors, don't we?

## HAND 1

Let's start with a slam success by North-South during a round robin match for the Women's team event.

Dealer: South, Neither Vulnerable

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

Lead: ♠ J

The play went swimmingly for South as she won the ♠K to cross to the ♦A and ruffed a small heart. Diamond and heart ruffs were repeated until all of declarer's small diamonds had been taken care of and the closed hand was re-entered to extract East's lurkers so the slam was made with six club tricks in hand, three ruffs in dummy with the two top spades and the diamond ace rounding out the required twelve tricks. But the contract might have been set – so What Went Wrong?

As is common with slams that might be set, the problem was all about finding the most effective opening lead. As veteran Toronto star Irving Litvack might have said, "the only time I wouldn't lead a trump against such an auction is when I was void in the suit". With good controls of the red suits and South being seemingly dragged, kicking and screaming, to the six-level, Irving would have been right once again: club lead and I can't see a way home for South, can you?

**Editor's note:** *How about winning club in hand, diamond to the ace, ruff a heart, diamond ruff, heart ruff, diamond ruff, heart king, declarer pitching their last diamond.'*

## HAND 2

There's always room for a spot of Double Trouble in this feature and here's an example of the gruesome results that can be suffered when the two partners aren't quite in sync with the meaning of a particular double.



## WHAT WENT WRONG ... CONTINUED

Dealer: North, Neither Vulnerable

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

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

1. One major

Lead: ♣4

The auction started innocently enough with East's artificial intervention over the 15-17 one notrump showing a single-suited major hand. South's natural and non-forcing response must have startled North a tad as he fully expected his weaker major would be East's suit. Not so as East informed the other three that he actually held spades (no surprise to West!).

Very, very pleased that he hadn't opened one spade to warn East off, North decided to wield the axe when that revelation of spades on his left came back around, no doubt sure that he had six tricks himself with whatever bits and pieces his partner could provide only adding to the anticipated haul.

But East's declaring prowess never got to be tested (two spades can be made for the loss of the club ace and only four spade tricks via a trump coup) as South thought he knew a takeout double when he saw one and introduced his second suit, such as it was! West had sat uninvolved for long enough and chipped in with a penalty double of his own and doubled again when

North ran for the assumed comfort of his side's eight-card heart fit.

The play had an amusing wrinkle to it as South won the club lead to start cashing high spades for discards of club losers from his hand. Unfortunately for him, that cashing and discarding plan got scuttled before it got started as West ruffed the first high spade from dummy. And from there, matters didn't improve for South as the defense eventually amassed enough tricks to "dial toll free" - +800 for East-West. As always, we ask WHAT WENT WRONG? Of course, it was all about North's double that he considered to be for penalty and that South believed to be a takeout or competitive double. So who was right?

In many similar circumstances, right or wrong doesn't really matter, what does matter is that the two partners are on the same wavelength and that clearly wasn't the case at the scene of this North-South disaster. For what it's worth, I would think most experts would agree with South that the double should be purely competitive. Simply based on frequency, North-South would very rarely have enough good spades and outside high cards to think two spades would be going down. Even this time when North's spades were super-strong, two spades might be made for a different kind of North-South disaster if North's double had been passed out.

Advice to North: let sleeping dogs lie and don't double in such cases, especially if you aren't totally sure how the dog across the table will interpret your double!

### HAND 3

For our third and final exhibit, here's a totally amazing scenario in which two players from the two competing teams both made a very doubtful auction entry but only one was duly punished – to the tune of an 18 IMP loss!

Dealer North Both Vulnerable

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

Lead: ♠K

This time there was no doubt about the meaning of the bids in question: West's double was a lead directing effort of South's artificial (Stayman) response saying he had very good clubs and that East should lead one of those if he had to make the opening lead. And then came the cruncher: North's redouble said he too had very good clubs and that maybe West had erred and that South might consider declaring two clubs redoubled.

South considered and with decent clubs of his own in context and enough high cards to support the effort, concurred with his partner's suggestion and 2♣, redoubled became the final contract. This exact auction was perpetrated at both tables so What Went Wrong that one team actually won 18 IMPS?

Ah, yes, the play's the thing! One West led the ♠K and continued with a second round to his partner's ace for a hopeful shift to the ♦J. Declarer countered by winning the ♦K and clicking on the ♣J, covered by the King and ace. Heart to hand for a second club to the seven. Another heart to hand for a third round of clubs to the nine followed by the ace of clubs. Final haul for the defenders: one club trick and two spades. For declarer: ten tricks for two redoubled and vulnerable overtricks and the very rare score of +1560 (I had to look it up, it's that rare!).

Things didn't go nearly as well for the other team's declarer as he seemed paralyzed by West's claim of holding great clubs to the extent that he never tried to draw trumps. In that scenario, even the deuce of clubs took a trick (by trumping the third round of hearts) and South eventually drifted off one for the loss of two spades and, yes unbelievably, four club tricks.

That all totalled +1560 at one table and +200 at the other for a huge 18 IMPS! Aside from the very poor play by the second team's declarer, What Went Wrong was West's double in the first place.

Generally, low-level lead directing doubles of artificial bids suggest a much stronger suit than the one the West hand actually contained so that the presumption that the suit doubled is the one to lead is much stronger than it would be with these West clubs. Not to mention that the suit should be considerably stronger to be proof against the opponents choosing to play in that suit! On the positive side of players making such ill-fated bids, we won't run out of material for future What Went Wongs!

## QUIZ

### INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

#### SOLUTION ON PAGE 31

Contract: 4♥ IMPS

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

Lead: ♣K, East plays the three.  
Plan the play.

# the GREAT CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST



## JUNE 2021 TGCBC

Host: Ray Hornby

For Panelists, see page 25

**Editor's note:** Congratulations to **Bill Treble** and **Danny Miles**, who topped our expert panel with scores of 44 for the June contest. High for readers were Ashot Harutyunyan with 42 and Allan Simon with 41. **August TGCBC** problems can be found at the end of this article.

1) IMPs, E-W vulnerable, you hold as East  
 ♠KJ974 ♥Q3 ♦J7632 ♣Q

North	East	South	West
3♥	Pass	3NT	Double
4♥	?		

a) What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
4♠	14	8
Pass	2	3
Double	1	3

b) Bonus question, if you pass, South passes and West doubles again. Your call?

Action	Votes	Score
4♠	12	2
Pass	2	0
4NT	1	0
5♠	1	0
5NT	1	0

**Looks like South is fooling around, trying to "walk the dog" to 4♥ doubled, might as well try to take EW's eye off the prize (whatever that may be). Out there on their own:**

**Kimelman:** (to question 1) It looks like South's 3NT is a

bit of frivolity. Surprising though that North pulled ... must be a bad suit. Anyways, I double to show values.

**Stark:** I pass 4♥. At this stage we don't know the nature of partner's double of 3NT, maybe it was on AKJ seventh of clubs and an ace.

**Cimon:** Pass. Strange 4♥ by North. I suppose he had a 7-4 or a 7-5 with a bad suit in ♥. Partner can easily have points lost in hearts and a long solid suit for his double.

**The majority of the panelists have no doubts:**

**Lebi** (to both questions): 4♠, can't imagine anything else.

**Balcombe:** 4♠, partner might have clubs but 4♥ is usually a transfer to 4♠, right?

**Grainger:** 4♠, they are likely to be screwing around. Neither South nor West should be acting on solid suits because they have none. If I bid 4♠ now, partner will know I have something.

**Similar sentiments were echoed by other panelists.**  
**Some other thoughts:**

**Willis:** 4♠. Right loser count, good spades, second place to play. Partner's double should be more takeout than 1-suited. At least I have the ♣Q if pard is single suited in clubs. Worth a discussion as to whether partner is supposed to stop hearts or not.

**Miles:** 4♠. If we belong in 4♠, I'm the one that has to bid it. Hopefully partner has 2 or 3 spades for his penalty double!



**I don't buy that this is a penalty double, South typically has a landing spot in mind if they're fooling around; West's double may be convertible, but it's definitely takeout of hearts. Summing up the majority decision:**

**Campbell:** 4♠ seems automatic whatever West holds, right on length and values, pass to me is ridiculous. When someone pre-empts, you must make a decision, and not pass the buck.

**If you somehow forgot to bid 4♠ the first time:**

**Jacob:** 4♠. Just because I made a bad bid in the first instance I am not going overboard now. I don't think that pass with that hand is an actual option; what if partner doesn't have a huge hand but just a normal TO x of ♥? How would you feel if partner cannot do anything but pass 4♥, and 4-5 spades are gin?

**Simon:** 4♠. I don't think the double now is strictly penalty; he should have a fit for spades. I can go down in 4 or miss a slam, difficult problem.

**Missing their last chance:**

**Kimelman:** If I had passed instead, I will pass partner's 2<sup>nd</sup> double. Yes, we could make game but not always. I have a good lead against 4♥, so will pass and take my +300 or +500 (or maybe nip it a trick).

**And some players are getting accustomed to online play:**

**Lindop:** b) 4NT, showing a two-suiter and slam interest. I'll correct 5♣ to 5♦ implying diamonds and spades. Of course, if this doesn't work out, I'll apologize to partner for my misclick on the previous round of the auction.

**Stark:** b) 5NT, pick a slam. Sounds like South was fooling around. Can't fool me! If pard bids 6♣, I'll bid 6♦ which should show the pointed suits.

**This problem was a bit of a "gimme" IMO, with the only real question being what exactly 2<sup>nd</sup> hand could expect from partner's double of 3NT. I've had a number of similar auctions come up this year, with the added question as to what a pass vs. a 2<sup>nd</sup> double by 4<sup>th</sup> hand would mean if 3NT bidder pulls the double. In this latter case I think the pass should be a routine ¾ level takeout double, while a 2<sup>nd</sup> double should reinforce that you have a very good takeout double of pre-emptor's suit.**

**What happened at the table? South was indeed fooling around, trying to muddy the waters:**

♠	108		
♥	K9876542		
♦	K105		
♣	-		
♠	A652	♠	KJ974
♥	J	♥	Q3
♦	AQ9	♦	J7632
♣	AK732	♣	Q
		♠	Q3
		♥	A10
		♦	84
		♣	J1098654

**At the other table North chose the aggressive, but straightforward 4♥ opener, passed around to an obvious takeout double by West, with EW settling into their 4♠ game. Here East tried to show convertible values by doubling 4♥, with West converting, a distinctly suboptimal result. IMO, West's double of 3NT should reveal the psyche, giving East an easy 4♠ call, regardless of whether North passes or bids 4♥.**

2) IMPs, EW vulnerable. As North you hold  
 ♠ 1052 ♥ K976 ♦ AKQ1098 ♣ -:

South	West	North	West
3♣	3♠	?	

a) What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	14	4
4♦	3	4

b) If you pass, East raises to 4♠, passed back to you. Your call now?

Action	Votes	Score
5♦	2	5
Pass	14	3
Double	1	1

c) Bonus question, if you pass out 4♠, what do you lead?

Action	Votes	Score
♦8	1	1
♦A	8	0
♦Q	5	0
♦K	1	0
♠2	2	0

**It's called a bonus question for a reason. The bidders at the front end:**

**Grainger:** a) 4♦, just in case I catch partner...

**Bishop:** a) 4♦, feel strongly (IMNSHO) that 4♦ should be natural and non-forcing...

**Maksymetz:** a) 4♦, 5♦ could be a good save if partner is short in spades and has 3 diamonds.

**And on the way back after passing originally:**

**Treble:** b) Now that spades have been raised, I would bid 5♦ at favourable colours.

**Stark:** b) 5♦. Playing partner for spade shortness and taking the sac.

**The passers:**

**Lebi:** (to both bidding questions) pass, can't imagine anything else.

**Grainger:** b) no longer able to elicit partner's opinion or help.

**Lindop:** a) Pass. Bidding diamonds would imply a club fit in most of my partnerships. I'm content to defend b) Pass. Despite the marked spade shortness in partner's hand, I still feel our most likely plus is defending – although I wouldn't be completely surprised if our side could make 5♦.

**A lone voice after passing initially:**

**Miles:** Double. We've made them guess and I'll gamble they've stretched vulnerable at the wrong time. There is no guarantee partner is short in spades, which would make a 5♦ contract more attractive.

**At this point I'll weigh in with the bit about partner's 1<sup>st</sup> seat preempt at "terrorist" vulnerability and how it promises no defense, and typically is short in at least 1 major, here pretty much telegraphed by the auction. As to the lead:**

**Lebi:** ♦Q, a mild attempt at suit preference if partner gets in.

**Grainger:** ♦A. Not going crazy.

**Lindop:** ♦A. I'm not going to go for the headlines and lead a low diamond, hoping to find partner with the ♦J. A trump lead might be best, but I prefer to have a look at dummy first. Of course, it may then be too late to find the trump switch.

**Cashing in on the bonus (with a reservation):**

**Stark:** c) If I do pass 4♠ and boldly lead the ♦8, my lowest diamond. When partner wins their jack they'll know what to do. When declarer wins their jack, they'll know what to do too.

### What happened at the table?

*At one table South passed on the ultra light 3♣ pre-empt and North was able to introduce diamonds at the 2-level over West's 1♠ opener. N-S finding their way to 5♦ doubled off a couple (off 1 with best play) winning IMPs when the other table defended 4♠. Many pairs have a fit understanding when responding to partner's pre-empt in a competitive auction; here they're not well served by that agreement. Backing into the auction with 5♦ on the basis of opener's implied spade shortness is possible here, though obviously not without its risks. Is the "hero" ♦8 lead that farfetched against 4♠, if you're truly trying to beat the contract?*

♠ 1052  
♥ K976  
♦ AKQ1098  
♣ -

♠ KJ9763  
♥ AQ2  
♦ 3  
♣ A95

♠ AQ8  
♥ J54  
♦ 754  
♣ J1063

♠ 4  
♥ 1083  
♦ J62  
♣ KQ8742

3) IMPs, EW vulnerable. As South you hold:

♠ Q2 ♥ A96 ♦ J54 ♣ KQ1083:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Rdbl
1♥	1♠	2♥	?

a) What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	6	5
3♣	5	5
3♦	5	5
2NT	1	4

b) If you pass, partner bids 2♠, if you do anything else except 3NT, partner bids 3♠. Now what?

Action	Votes	Score
4♠	4	5
4♥	3	4
4♦	2	3
5♦	7	3
Pass	1	1

*After a couple of pre-emptive auctions, we're back to a "both sides have got some stuff" competitive auction with a number of options available to N-S. South has a minimum redouble with an extra Queen and 3 of the opponents trump to the Ace. A plurality of panelists choose to get more information over East's obstructive 2♥ via a pass, while all but one of the rest are split between introducing their club suit and taking a preference to partner's first bid suit. A lone voice here:*

**Dalton:** 2NT – the descriptive value bid. If partner has a minimum, game is probably not there. I'll leave it up to partner to decide.

**The passers:**

**Balcombe:** Pass, maybe forcing and maybe not. I presume partner is weak with heart shortage. If pard has a weak 4-1-4-4, they will likely bid 3♣ and I can bid game.





**Maksymetz:** Pass, close to a double.

***Pretty hungry if you ask me, especially after opener's 1♠. Bidding their own suit:***

**Kimelman:** 2♥ doubled might be right, but too risky if the opponents are on a 9 or 10 card fit. I bid 3♣, forcing. I will likely raise partner's rebid, 3♦ to five.

**Treble:** 3♣ - Redouble followed by a new suit at the 3-level should be a 1 round force, if not a game force. I want to give partner room to show extra diamond length and not put all my eggs in the no-trump basket.

***Showing a fit for partner:***

**Lebi:** 3♦, taking a NF preference.

**Lindop:** 3♦. Partner obviously has diamond length and I have support, so I might as well show it. We may still be able to reach 3NT if that's where we belong.

**Miles:** I bid 3♦ over 2♠, and 4♠ over 3♠. Maybe 3♣ is more technically correct but we should show a fit as early as possible.

***The real decision comes after the redoubler has taken their 2<sup>nd</sup> call and partner has shown a 5<sup>th</sup> spade.***

***Opener rates to have a lot of offensive strength, but not necessarily a lot of HCP. Both the 4♠ and 5♦ bidders make their cases for the most likely game.***

***First though, a solitary bidder taking the low road:***

**Stark:** Pass (over 3♠). 2<sup>nd</sup> choice 4♠. I fear the heart taps and East holding a trump stack. So will go low, especially non-vul.

***Pushing on to game:***

**Balcombe:** 4♠, partner has a weak 6-5, maybe AJ1043-x-KQ10852-J, maybe even less.

**Grainger:** 5♦ – don't see the need to try and play spades.

**Kuz:** 5♦ - 3NT never a consideration. Since partner bid in front of me, they should have a shapely 5-6 hand with minimum strength.

***The 4♥ cue-bidders have different ideas about what their bid means. Making a reasoned case:***

**Bishop:** with the secret revealed that a 3NT resolution would NOT be well thought-out (nor likely to be well-received – imagine declaring 3NT opposite just one heart and WITHOUT the diamond Ace), we can now use the 4-level Q-bid as a choice of games. With 3-card spade support we would now raise to 4♠; with better diamond assistance we would show it now over 3♠; so our delayed Q-bid 'as choice of games' should outline almost exactly what we have.

***Other thoughts:***

**Maksymetz:** 4♥ – Hope this helps partner over my presumed 2NT bid on the previous round.

**Treble:** 4♥ – we're playing the hand in 5♦, perhaps slam in the unlikely event that partner can cuebid 5♣.

***A 4♥ cuebid doesn't cost, but given that partner opted to bid in front of the redoubler, I don't think slam is a real consideration.***

***What happened at the table?***

***I was mentoring the South player in a friendly team game and they bid an immediate 3♣ over East's 2♥. Rightly or wrongly, I decided to "mark time" with 3♦ on my shapely 10 HCP and got to play it there. At least it was a plus relative to a non-vulnerable 4♠ or 5♦ game (if you pick off the ♦K), not the end of the world at teams. The 4♠ game comes with potential trump control issues, but is 10 tricks instead of 11, while 3NT has no play. Of course things could be somewhat different after a 1♠ opener depending on who bids 2♣ first ....***

♠ KJ1093  
♥ 8  
♦ AQ10962  
♣ 4

♠ 754  
♥ K10754  
♦ 873  
♣ 76

♠ A86  
♥ QJ32  
♦ K  
♣ AJ952

♠ Q2  
♥ A96  
♦ J54  
♣ KQ1083

4) IMPs, NS vulnerable, as East, you hold  
♠ AQJ2 ♥ - ♦ AQJ865 ♣ Q43:

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

a) What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
3♥	4	9
4♦	5	8
4♥	8	6

b) If you bid 4♥, partner bids 4♠. Do you take another call?

Action	Votes	Score
5♦	1	2
Pass	16	1

**Here we have another deal where at least one of the opponents is in the auction showing values. This time, game is relatively certain and slam may be in the offing. The question for East is how best to proceed with the latter goal in mind. A plurality proceeds in straightforward fashion:**

**Dalton:** 4♥. Splinter seems appropriate.

**Balcombe:** 4♥, I presume a splinter. I prefer to play that 4-level splinters show a void.

**Several other panellists splinter without comment.**

**The splinter suffers from the lack of a club control and it pretty much leaves partner guessing. Personally, I prefer splinters to promise controls in the side suits. Some of the 4♥ bidders expressed reservations that 4♦ just showed extras with long diamonds and not necessarily spade support. Not this group:**

**Lindop:** 4♦ - Assuming our partnership has the agreement that a jump to 4♦ shows a good six-card diamond suit in addition to four-card spade support and game-going values. I prefer that to a 4♥ splinter with a void – always an awkward call since partner may give too much weight to the ♥A.

**Stark:** 4♦ – I should probably have the ♦K but I think partner has it or it's onside.  
A 5♣ cuebid seems automatic on the way to 5♦.

**Saving room while eliciting more information from partner:**

**Miles:** 3♥. I'm not crazy about splintering with a void and especially without control of the 4th suit; on top of that it takes up all of our room. I wouldn't expect partner to cooperate anyway given he/she is looking at weak trumps. Absent interference, 4♦ is a better description (4 spades and six plus diamonds), and allows a 4♥ "last train" slam cooperation from partner. However with interference, 4♦ may be misconstrued as simply diamonds and extras.

**Maksymetz:** Do not like to direct a club lead by bidding 4♥. Wondering if 4♦ shows this hand? Not without discussion – so I settle for 3♥.

**Kuz:** 3♥ – too strong for 4♥.

**Kimelman:** 3♥, not quite the right hand for 4♦.

**After 3♥, responder has room to show the diamond fit, followed by a club control bid if/when opener chooses a 4♥ control bid. That should get you to 6♦. Another advantage to 3♥ is that you'll find out if partner has heart wastage in a balanced hand. As to part b), assuming you splintered with 4♥ and partner signed off in 4♠:**

**Stark:** 5♦. I will take one more shot. This denies a club control and shows the good trumps partner is not looking at. Slam is in play opposite the spade king and a club control.

**The rest of the panellists (not unreasonably) were done:**

**Campbell:** Definitely not. I could go down in 5♠.

**Dalton:** No. Four may be the limit of the hand – too risky to bid again.

**Miles:** You've left yourself a complete guess.

**What happened at the table?**

**North's 2♥ call gave opener an extra cuebid option over partner's 1♠ response on a hand where the splinter gobbles up a lot of room. 6♦ is the spot here, hard to reach after the splinter. Of note here is West's 4♠ sign off after the 4♥ splinter. Yes the ♥K is probably useless, but West has 2<sup>nd</sup> round control of every suit and a big fit for partner's diamonds. At the table, East (an aspiring B player) refused to take no for an answer, asked for key cards with 4NT, but then bailed to 5♠ when partner showed one:**

♠ 109  
♥ AQJ10875  
♦ void  
♣ K965

♠ K754  
♥ K93  
♦ K10943  
♣ 8

♠ AQJ2  
♥ -  
♦ AQJ865  
♣ Q43

♠ 863  
♥ 642  
♦ 72  
♣ AJ1072

5) IMPs, EW vulnerable. As East you hold  
♠ 7 ♥ KQJ ♦ KQ107 ♣ Q9432:

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♠	all pass

<sup>1</sup> 15-17 HCP

<sup>2</sup> Texas transfer to 4♠

What do you lead?

Action	Votes	Score
♦K	2	10
♥K	15	7

**Only 2 choices appeal here, with the ♦Jxx bogeyman in dummy influencing a number of the panellists. Offering up minority views:**

**Grainger:** ♦K - LHO didn't open 2♠ and obviously isn't broke (though some might call them overly optimistic-Ed.). One reason may be they hold 4 hearts in which case I really need to lead diamonds. With the 6-card spade suit, they are less likely to have ♦Jxx there as well. Black suits are too dangerous to consider.

**Todd:** ♦K - originally I thought this was a tougher problem. The ♥ lead fails when declarer holds A10xx or Axxxx in ♥ and can set up a pitch. The ♦ leads fails when dummy hold Jxx or Jxxx in ♦. Since dummy will have at least 6 spades, Jxx or Jxxx in diamonds in dummy is much less likely.

### **Almost getting it right ...**

**Bishop:** ♥K - If this is the layout where declarer always has to lose hearts, but can immediately toss a diamond loser on a club winner; then we have gotten it wrong.

**Stark, Balcombe, Jacob, and others expressed concern about the ♦K lead:**

**Kuz:** ♥K – As in real life. When I try ♦K, Jxx hits in the dummy. In real life, this allows declarer to set up a heart to make his game. Damned either way.

### **A differing analysis in support of the majority lead:**

**Willis:** ♥K – Short suit with possibility to generate 2 tricks and the opportunity to shift to a diamond before the potential long ♥ in declarer's hand may be set up. Will also have more information prior to needing to exit/play a minor.

### **Another view:**

**Campbell:** I was given a sequence, so I don't need to think. I lead ♥K.

**A final thought, surprisingly close to being right, and wrong, at the same time.**

**Lebi:** ♥K – if this is not unanimous, I'll be shocked.

### **What happened at the table?**

*Playing a simple 2/1 strong NT system in another mentoring team game, partner rightly eschewed the offbeat 2♠ opener and passed. Never having discussed hands like these, they chose to transfer to game in their better major, though this sequence should cause the defence to ask themselves why South didn't pre-empt in spades. 6-4 ish in the majors anyone? A diamond lead beats 4M outright, but the ♥K lets declarer ditch dummy's losing diamonds on the ♣AK, followed by a 2<sup>nd</sup> heart, minor suit ruff, 3 rounds of trump and more hearts:*

♠ K8	
♥ A85	
♦ 862	
♣ AKJ65	
♠ J943	♠ 7
♥ 103	♥ KQJ
♦ AJ54	♦ KQ107
♣ 1087	♣ Q9432
	♠ AQ10652
	♥ 97642
	♦ 93
	♣ -





## PANEL'S ANSWERS

	HAND 1		HAND 2		HAND 3		HAND 4		HAND 5		TOTAL
	<i>Bid</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Bid</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Bid</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Bid</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Bid</i>	<i>Score</i>	
Balcombe, Keith	4♠/4♠	10	Pass/Pass/♦A	7	Pass/4♠	10	4♥/n	7	♥K	7	41
Bishop, Ron	4♠/4♠	10	4♦/Pass/♠2	7	3♣/4♥	9	4♥/n	7	♥K	7	40
Campbell, Gordon	4♠/5♠	8	Pass/Pass/♦K	7	3♦/4♠	10	4♥/n	7	♥K	7	39
Cimon, Francine	Pass/4♠	5	Pass/Pass/♦Q	7	3♦/4♦	8	4♥/n	7	♥K	7	34
Dalton, Roy	4♠/4♠	10	Pass/Pass/♦A	7	2NT/5♦	7	4♥/n	7	♥K	7	38
Grainger, David	4♠/4♠	10	4♦/Pass/♦A	7	3♦/5♦	8	4♥/n	7	♦K	10	42
Jacob, Dan	4♠/4♠	10	Pass/Pass/♦Q	7	Pass/5♦	8	4♦/n	9	♥K	7	41
Kimelman, Neil	Dbl/Pass	3	Pass/Pass/♦A	7	3♣/5♦	8	3♥/n	10	♥K	7	35
Kuz, Bob	4♠/Pass	8	Pass/Pass/♦Q	7	3♣/5♦	8	3♥/n	10	♥K	7	40
Lebi, Robert	4♠/4♠	10	Pass/Pass/♦Q	7	3♦/5♦	8	4♥/n	7	♥K	7	39
Lindop, David	4♠/4NT	8	Pass/Pass/♦A	7	3♦/5♦	8	4♦/n	9	♥K	7	39
Maxsymetz, Bryan	4♠/4♠	10	4♦/Pass/♦A	7	Pass/4♥	9	3♥/n	10	♥K	7	43
<b>Miles, Danny</b>	<b>4♠/4♠</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Pass/Pass/♠2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Pass/4♠</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3♥/n</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>♥K</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44</b>
Stark, Andy	Pass/5NT	3	Pass/5♦/♦8	10	Pass/Pass	6	4♦/y	10	♥K	7	36
Todd, Bob	4♠/4♠	10	Pass/Pass/♦A	7	Pass/4♦	8	4♥/n	7	♦K	10	42
<b>Treble, Bill</b>	<b>4♠/4♠</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Pass/5♦/♦A</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3♣/4♥</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4♦/n</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>♥K</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44</b>
Willis, David	4♠/4♠	10	Pass/Pass/♦Q	7	3♣/4♠	10	4♦/n	9	♥K	7	43

# AUGUST PROBLEMS

Host: David Willis

**Readers! Enter to win cash prizes!**

Send your choices to [editor@cbf.ca](mailto:editor@cbf.ca), by July 14.

1. IMPs, Neither Vul, you hold as South  
♠KQJ9 ♥A1052 ♦2 ♣QJ98:

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

1. Shortness game or slam try.
2. Accepting with high heart honour.
3. Cuebid.

- a) What do you bid?
- b) Would you have bid 3♥?

2. Matchpoints, both Vul. You hold as South  
♠A94 ♥1082 ♦4 ♣1098752:

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

- (a) What do you bid?
- (B) Would you do something different at IMPs?

3. IMPs, N-S Vul. You, South, hold  
♠K5 ♥AQ9 ♦J75 ♣98742:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Rdbl <sup>1</sup>
2♦	Pass	Pass	?

1. 10+ HCP (good 9) could include 3 card limit raise, you also play transfers.

- (a) Would have redoubled on your second turn? If not what would you have bid?
- (b) What do you bid now?

4. IMPs. Both Vul. You South hold  
♠K5 ♥J1053 ♦K1053 ♣1085:

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

- (a) Would you have passed 2♦ at your first opportunity?
- (b) What do you bid now?

5. IMPs, E-W Vul. You hold as South  
♠AJ ♥QJ4 ♦AQ72 ♣10542:

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

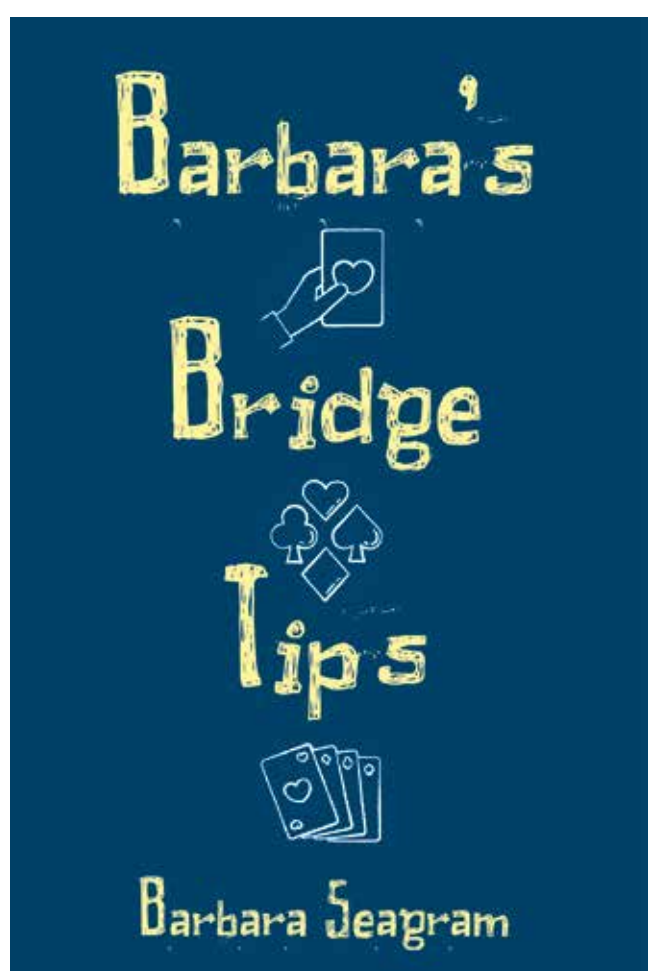
What do you bid?

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## LETTER FROM NORWAY

*Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway*

The prizes for the best played deals of 2020 have been presented by the Norwegian Bridge Press Association and, in the Open class, Tor Helness was awarded the prize for his defence against three notrump from an ACBL Nationals final:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

### 1. Majors

Geir Helgemo started with queen of diamonds, which was allowed to hold. The continuation was a diamond to the ace and a third one went to the king. West played on clubs, but Helness ducked three times, leaving West with no chance to land the contract. If South had taken his ace earlier, North would have been squeezed in the majors.



In the junior class, one of our coming stars, Thea Indrebø earned the prize for this effort from a match in the opening rounds of the Norwegian Teams Championships:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

The junior girls bid their way to slam in this way:

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

- 2+ cards
- Hearts
- 3 hearts
- Checkback
- RKCB
- 2 key cards, no heart queen

The diamond lead was taken by the ace. Indrebø led a heart to the nine and knave. A diamond was played back to the ten, king and ruff, and the ace of trumps revealed the unkind distribution. Three rounds of clubs (West declining to ruff), a club ruff and a spade to the ace left this ending:

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

The seven of clubs finished West, He discarded a diamond and Indrebø sluffed dummy's ten of spades. The king of spades completed Indrebø's fine declarer play, gaining 13 IMPs when the contract was four hearts making five at the other table.

With the coronavirus still heavily influencing our bridge life, Internet bridge activity is blooming. In the OCBL league, Tom Johansen from Vestfold in southern Norway confirmed his reputation for creativity and his ability to place his opponents in difficult situations.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Johansen was West and the bidding against a Hungarian team went (see next page):

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	Double	Pass	1NT
2♠	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Johansen's six-of-spades lead was taken by dummy's ten. It is hard to see how things can go wrong for declarer from here.

At trick two, declarer played a club to the king, winning, and played a diamond to the knave and queen. He cashed the ace and jack of hearts and played the queen of clubs to West's ace. Johansen returned the king of diamonds to dummy's ace. Declarer cashed dummy's hearts and played a spade to his queen, confident that West was left with only black cards. To his absolute surprise, Johansen Tom produced the six of diamonds with an innocent smile and East, with his near-Yarborough, put the contract one down. Team Skeidar was the only one among 33 teams to produce a plus score with the East/West cards.

The next one is also a defensive move, again sending his opponents astray:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

The bidding with Tom in the East seat:

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	1♣	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lasse Aaseng led the eight of clubs and the nine was allowed to hold. Declarer played a low heart from dummy, and East's queen took the trick. Johansen led the ace and another club, West throwing a spade. South cashed his king of hearts and three diamonds tricks and, when he took his ace of spades, Johansen contributed the queen! Convinced that East had started with a 2=3=3=5 distribution, declarer played a heart to the ace and uttered a sigh of anguish when Tom showed out. Nice defence, but declarer could have done better by cashing the king and ace of hearts and playing a low heart towards the nine, catering for both the actual layout and hearts three-three. Finally we see Tom perform as declarer:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Double
3♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	4 NT	All Pass	

1. Majors

# QUIZ

## INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

### PROBLEM ON PAGE 16

Contract: 4♥ IMPs

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

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

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

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

Lead: ♣K, East plays the three.

Plan the play.

Declarer can count 4 spades, 4 hearts (assuming they split 3-2), 1 diamond and 1 club, ten tricks perfect! However there is danger if the opponents can set up two diamond tricks first.

The best line is simple: win the club ace, and play on trumps. Let's say that East takes the ace of trumps on the first or second round of the suit, and returns to the West hand with a club for a switch to the ten of diamonds. You can try the queen, losing to the king without cost. You can win the diamond return with the ace. After drawing trumps, you unblock the three spade honours in your hand. You then cross to dummy with a club ruff and discard your last diamond on the jack of spades. If trumps are 4-1 you will need the ♦K onside.

The key play is winning the first club. Ducking would risk a diamond shift, which on this deal, defeats the contract. East can win the first round of hearts and play ♦K and give partner a diamond ruff.

Tom ought to have doubled four spades and collected 800 or so but, instead, he got a chance to shine as declarer. The opening lead was the three of spades to the queen and ace. It was a disappointment to see East discard on a club to the knave. Johansen lead a low heart to East's queen; that was followed by a spade to West's nine, and West returned the ten of clubs to the king. Johansen ducked a spade to the king, and the nine of clubs went to dummy's queen. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts and the ace of clubs, then played a diamond to the ace, leaving this position:

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

The scene was set for a double squeeze when Johansen cashed the knave of spades. West was forced to keep his club stopper, and East had to retain his king of hearts. The king and ten of diamonds produced the rest of the tricks for a gain of 13 IMPs, since South at the other table went down in three notrump.



Did you hear about the player who led the 8 from a 98 doubleton because their teacher told them "eight ever, nine never?"