

bridge *Canada*

WELCOME BACK TO THE TABLE!

Julie Smith's happy smile speaks for all us who are excited to be soon holding real cards and sitting at real bridge tables across Canada. Smith and her women's team recently won the 2021 CWTC - read their story on page 4. (Photo: Brad Bart)



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.



AUGUST 2021 • VOL. 51 NO.4 IN THIS ISSUE

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Full page \$ 250 | Half page \$ 150

Quarter page \$ 87.50 | Business Card \$ 50

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PUBLISHED 6 TIMES A YEAR

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

New CBF President

I would like to welcome Ron Carriere as the new CBF President! Ron brings a wealth a bridge experience and a management skill set that will greatly benefit bridge in Canada. Ron is very enthusiastic, and is anxious to make a difference.

I will be stepping down after 11 years on the CBF Board. I have enjoyed giving my time and efforts to the CBF. It has been a very rewarding experience, despite last year's challenges. It is always good to have new blood on the Board.

Volunteering

The CBF Board is always looking for volunteers to support different initiatives. Please contact Ina for more information if you may be interested in getting involved, and if there are specific topics (Charitable arm, new player development, Bridge Canada, Junior Program, etc...) which are of most interest.

2022 Canadian Bridge Championships

Next year's CBC's have now been finalized. Our annual championship will take place in Saskatoon, May 21-29, 2022. Further details will be made available over the oncoming months, including protocols that will be put in place to ensure the continuing health and safety of all participants.

Neil Kimelman
Bridge Canada Managing Editor



Mollo ON PLAY XVI

Contract: 4♥ by South at IMPs. after West preempts with 2♠, over South's 1♥ bid.

♠ A 8 3
♥ A 7 5
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ A K 6

♠ 7 5 2
♥ K Q 6 4 2
♦ K 6
♣ 8 4 3

Lead: ♠K. Plan the play.
Answer on page 17.



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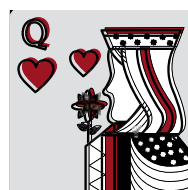
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The 2021 CWTC Final

By Brenda Bryant

The 2021 Canadian Women's Team Championship competition was held online. The playing sites were agreeable for the most part, since the competitors all played from the comfort of their own homes! Eight teams entered the event, and after a full round robin, four teams played in the semi-finals.

It was **Thomson** (Lesley Thomson-Barbara Shnier, Linda Wynston-Hazel Wolpert, Joy Philips-Sondra Blank) vs **Chen** (Yuan Chen-Lisa Chen, Yimei Cao-Cindy He) and **Nisbet** (Pamela Nisbet, Brenda Bryant, Judy Harris-Julie Smith) vs **Burns** (Shelly Burns-June Keith, Ina Anderson-Monica Angus). After the 64 board semi-finals, **Thomson** would face **Nisbet** in the final.

Playing in the final of the Canadian Women's Team Championship was an honour for all, exciting and fun! There were many interesting hands. Consider for example Board 1 of the 1st Quarter: To preempt or not to preempt? That is the question.

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

At one table, with neither vulnerable, the bidding proceeded:

West	North	East	South
-	3♠	DbI	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The 2021 CWTC Final

Continued

After her partner's double, Julie Smith was backed into bidding 3NT. It was an easy contract to make, with the right play in the Diamond suit: plus 430. Judy Harris had a difficult decision after the preempt, but came up with the winning call. At the other table, the bidding was quite different:

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

Preempts are usually expected to make life difficult for the opponents. It is interesting that on this board, the preempt actually helped Judy and Julie to bid a good game. Instead of preempting with the North hand in first chair, Pamela Nisbet decided to pass. Consequently, her side defended 3♦. This translated into a 7 imps gain for Nisbet.

On Board 8, a weak notrump opening bid won out. With neither vulnerable:

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

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

1. 12-14 Balanced
2. Good hand, penalty oriented
3. One suited, bid 2♣ to find out suit

Eventually 2♥ went down 2 for -300. At the other table, the Nisbet team played in 3NT making, after Judy bid

1NT over North's opening bid of one Club. Plus 6 IMPs to Nisbet. Similarly, on board 13 the weak notrump caused problems again.

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

At one table Brenda Bryant opened a weak notrump in 3rd chair, which ended the bidding. 1NT made two, for +120. Note that it is difficult to for E-W to find their heart fit or even to get into the auction after the 1NT opening, especially red. At the other table, after a club opening bid by South, Julie was able to make a takeout double. East-West found their heart fit for plus 110. This resulted in a total of 220 for Nisbet, plus 6 imps. By the end of the 1st Quarter Nisbet was up 35 imps.

The 2nd Quarter brought triumphs for the Thomson team, and disasters to Nisbet. Bidding in bridge is part science, part art. What do the scientists or the artists bid on this hand? Both vulnerable:

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

The 2021 CWTC Final

Continued

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

6♠ rolled when the ♥J came down. Hazel Wolpert's bid of 3♦ was the key to getting to the slam. At the other table, East-West played in 4♠, which resulted in a well-earned 13 IMPs for the Thomson team. What do the scientists or the artists bid on Board 7 (South deals)?

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

At one table the bidding proceeded:

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

Three Spades made four. At the other table, East-West bid the hand quite differently.

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

At the first table, Linda Wynston Doubled with her hand over South's 1♥; Julie bid 2♣ instead. This is a tough bidding situation. You have a good hand and certainly have the strength for a takeout double, ensuring

that you won't be passed (unless partner passes for penalties). The challenge would be if partner responds with a diamond bid. On the other hand, a bid of 2♣ could end the auction, and your clubs aren't great. On this deal, the 2♣ bid allowed West to back in with 2♠, which excited East and allowed her to bid the good spade game. This meant 10 IMPs to Nisbet.

How about opening leads? As we have all heard, it can make or break a contract. What do you lead on the following auction? 2nd Quarter, board 15, neither vulnerable.

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

At one table the bidding proceeded:

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

North led the ♦A and continued the suit. On good declarer play, West wrapped up 4♠ doubled for +590. At the other table the bidding was different.

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

After the same lead of the ♦A and another diamond, 4♥ failed, though it might have made. In dummy with the ♦K, a heart lead was taken by the king. (Better would have been to play ♥A and another heart.) The diamond return was ruffed, and a spade return, ruffed,

The 2021 CWTC Final

Continued

defeated the contract two tricks. This was a win of 12 IMPs for Thomson. At the first table, if North led a club, 4♠ would go down. What would you have led? At the end of the second quarter, Thomson had closed the gap, gaining back 16 IMPs.

The 3rd Quarter was also filled with interesting hands. Take for example Board 6:

♠ K x x x	
♥ x x	
♦ J 10 9 x x	
♣ K x	
♠ A Q 7 x x	♠ J 10 x
♥ Q 10 9 x x	♥ x x
♦ A x x	♦ K Q x x x
♣ -	♣ x x x
♠ x	
♥ A K J x	
♦ -	
♣ A Q J 10 9 7 x x	

At one table the bidding proceeded:

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♣
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♠	5♣
All Pass			

1. Michaels, 5-5 majors

East-West easily made 5♣ with an overtrick. At the second table the bidding was different. Pamela really liked her three loser hand. After opening 1♣, over 2♠ she rebid 3♥. What would you bid with Brenda's hand? She emerged with 3NT, and Pamela bid 6♣, making. Win 11 imps. What do you think of the bidding? Were N-S lucky or brilliant? Nobody really tells you how to bid an 8-4 hand! The 3rd Quarter netted Nisbet another 40 imps.

Board 4 of the 4th Quarter showed a difference in hand evaluation. Both vul:

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

At one table the bidding proceeded:

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

Knowing her partner was 5-5 in spades and clubs, Judy loved her ♣ KQxx and was aware they were red – a big bonus for game, so she raised to 4♣. Julie had a clear 5♣ bid. Careful play netted +600. At the other table, the bidding was a little different:

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

Perhaps North's 2♥ bid created a small headache for the opponent: was partner just competing or did she have a good hand? Perhaps the opponents were worried that they could not defeat 4♥. Pass netted +150 for the Thomson team, and 10 imps to Nisbet.

The 4th Quarter had many swings, most to Nisbet, who gained a further 34 IMPs, securing the win. The Thomson team members, always tough opponents, accepted the silver medal graciously.



THE NEW PLAYER Spot



by Andy Stark

BBO Alert!

This month's New Player Spot will focus on a problem that is of growing concern: the alert procedure when playing on BBO, especially in national events. I'll provide some screenshots and walk you through a good technique for alerting and also discuss what happens if alerts are not given or explained inaccurately.

The CBF received a letter from a competitor in the Flight B event. They wrote, *"...this year's CBF Championships were littered with un-alerted bids in every match... On more than two occasions not only did I have to ask about a Precision System bid and what it meant, but I also had to ask two or three specific follow-ups based on my experience knowing these bids have very precise meaning with respect to the number of cards in a suit, point holding, and shape (as the name of the System itself indicates)..."*

Off the top of my head, I can think of a few reasons why certain players on BBO do

BBO ALERT ... CONTINUED

not properly alert and none of these are for nefarious reasons such as trying to gain an edge. While yes, an edge can be gained by improperly alerting, I find it is often a matter of ignorance not malfeasance. For example, sometimes it's a language barrier, or not being accustomed to how to truncate an explanation, or how to navigate BBO. Here are some screenshots to guide you through the order of operations:

You are South and the auction has gone as follows:



The 2♣ and 2♦ bids are not alertable, so there are no highlights around those bids. 2NT is not alertable but North should announce the range, eg. 22-24. Now at South's second turn comes a bid that requires an explanation: even though most duplicate players play 3♣ as Stayman here, it does not hurt to tell the opponents. Who knows—maybe there are some pairs out there that play 3♣ as natural? So here are the steps South can take:

1. Realize you are about to make a bid that requires an alert or an explanation.
2. Click the level number, here South can click on '3.'
3. Then click 'Alert.'
4. Then type onto the line an explanation. Here, typing in 'Stayman' should suffice. Or if it is a less popular convention, type out a description, eg. type in 'asking for 4-card majors.' If you play Puppet Stayman, type in, 'asking about majors.'
5. Then click on the suit (or NT) symbol

The screenshot top right was taken just after step 4. You can see beside the alert tab, "Stayman." Now,



South is about to click on the club symbol. (Step 5) As soon as South does, the bid is shown to the other players and the explanation box appears—all at the same time. This is key. You should do this if you are not already.

If you bid first, then click on the explanation box to type in your explanation some time will elapse. With typos and mistakes and erasing, it can take up to 10-12 seconds. Now the next player may have bid already. So, it's important to have your explanation viewable at the same time your opponents see your bid. They should have all the information right then and there. For example, here is the screen West should see when it's West's turn to bid:



Notice the top right of the screen—the explanation box is filled with what South wrote as an alert. Presumably South has written an adequate explanation and then nobody has to click on the blue 'Explain' tab. When that happens, the opponents get some unauthorized information. Say you are East,

and you understand the explanation. Suddenly a new box in yellow appears: "Please explain 3♣." Now East knows that West has asked for further explanation. Why would West do that? Is West sitting on a pile of good clubs? Maybe, maybe not. The point is nobody should be gratuitously clicking on the 'Explain' tab if a decent explanation has been offered.

By all means if you legitimately do not understand someone's explanation, go ahead and click the 'Explain' tab. Better yet write them a private message and ask, "Sorry, what are you showing?" This way, your partner is not alerted to the question you have about a specific bid.

What to do if the problem persists: If there is a director, inform the director. If there is no director, politely ask for timely alerts and explanations. Over time, all players will become aware that bridge is a game of full disclosure. The opponents are entitled to know your agreements. Full stop.

I sat down over Zoom recently with ACBL Tournament Director Martin Hunter. I asked him, "What do you say to a Precision pair who do not alert a 1♣-1♠ auction?" Hunter replied, "If the bids were not being alerted, I would first say something privately. If I were the director and I got called to the table, again, I would say something privately—and not in front of the whole table."

Hunter continued, "As their opponent I would not want to come across as heavy-handed. Some club players prefer to lecture other players. Well, people are not receptive to that. Take the issue of time, for example. You often see players yapping on about time, but only the directors should be commenting about time."

I asked Martin about the announced bids such as notrump ranges and transfers. He said, "It seems these days a lot of folks are forgetting to announce a transfer bid after a 1NT opening. The last time I encountered it at the table online I just assumed it was a transfer. Of course, it was a transfer. Now, if it was not a transfer,

then we'd be damaged and we'd have to replay the board, or the other pair might be penalized someimps." Hunter plays the weak notrump with many partners, where a 2♥ response is not a transfer but a desire to play in 2♥. He continues, "When I bid 2♥ I type in 'to play' in the explanation box because most people will assume that 2♥ is a transfer."

So, the bottom line is this: if you have an agreement with your partner that is not a widespread common agreement, you must alert your opponents. Try to be communicative. If you keep getting asked by both players and directors to alert and announce your bids, well, I don't know the repercussions. If it were me though, I sure would be embarrassed about it. For guidance, play against the robots some time and watch how much they tell you what they are showing with every bid they make.

Neil Kimelman of the CBF suggests that if anyone has trouble with another pair not alerting, they can fill out a complaint form. You can find the complaint form by visiting www.cbf.ca. At the top of the homepage are seven categories. Click on 'Complaints & Regulations.' A drop-down menu appears, and you can easily find the form.

As always, remember the Golden Rule: Do unto others what you would have them do unto you. We strive to organize, and compete in, friendly events. Please do your part to make it fun and friendly.



A lady is playing in her first duplicate hears an opponent say: "Alert". The lady says: "I am alert".

BRIDGE BASICS



MAJOR SUIT RAISES

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.

This is a subject that most of us don't think about too much. We all have different ways to describe support for partner's major suit opening or overcall. I will go through some of the alternatives, with the plusses and minuses of the different choices.

Raises when partner opens the bidding with one of a major in 1st or 2nd seat.

Raise to Game

Most play this as a preemptive raise, holding five card support, shortness, and at most one card on the outside. A textbook raise of 1♠ to 4♠ might look like ♠ Q10xxx ♥ x ♦ xxxx ♣ Axx.

Jump Raise

What does 1♠ – 3♠ mean in your partnership? There are two main schools of thought:

1. Invitational raise with at least four trumps or
2. Preemptive raise with four card support, some shortness and very little else. Which is better? It depends. If you have a way to show a four card limit raise (see Bergen below), then the preemptive choice is the way to go. If not, the 1. above is probably the better choice.

Tip #1: There is a big difference between having three card support for partner, and having four or more. Often declarer will have more choices in the play. These include ruffing more cards, not getting short ruffed, being able to end play an opponent. So it is important that partnerships can differentiate the length of responder's support.

Bergen Raises.

In standard Bergen a response of 3♣ to a major opener is artificial, showing normal high card points for a single raise (5-9), but with four or more cards in the major. A 3♦ response shows limit raise values (10 -11), with at least four cards.

I definitely favour this convention. It provides much more accuracy in bidding, and more closely defines a single raise as showing exactly three card support.

Reverse Bergen.

Some partnerships have reversed the meaning of these two bids. The simple reason is by having the limit raise as 3♣, the partnership has a little more room for slam exploration. If you do choose to play Bergen then, as stated above, your jump raise should be played as preemptive.

The last hand type raise is one where you have three card support and a limit raise. This hand type is shown by responding 1NT and then bidding three of the major.

Single Raises

Another big question for partnerships to answer is whether the single raise shows constructive values (8-10) or not (5-9). If you choose the former then with ♠ xxx ♥ x ♦ KQxxx ♣ xxxx you must bid a forcing notrump, and rebid 2♠ over partner's rebid. This feels wrong to me. It is too hard for partner to know whether you have this hand for this auction or ♠ xx ♥ Kxx ♦ Axxx ♣ Q10xx. Big difference! Plus the single raise acts as a preemptive bid, in that the opponents cannot overcall at the two level. Finally, partner can still invite game asking if you have a maximum for your raise.

Strong Forcing Raise

The strong raise for most partnerships is Jacoby 2NT. This bid shows at least a good opening bid, traditionally no short suits, and at least four card support. Some partnerships have become very loose with some of these original parameters, responding 2NT with a bare opener (♠ Qxxx ♥ Kxx ♦ AQxx ♣ Jx), or bidding it with a long suit, or even shortness. I favour 14 plus HCPs, but admit Jacoby seems to work well when the responder has shortness.

Over a Jacoby 2NT response, opener shows shortness at the three level and jumps in a new suit with a two suiter.

Other game forcing raises – there are other less known major suit raise conventions:

1M – 3NT. In many partnerships this bid shows a strong notrump. However others play it shows 12-14 HCPs, three card trump support and any 4-3-3-3 shape. The advantage of this bid it allows the partnership to declare in 3NT when it seems right. Here is an example:

Example 1

South: ♠ AQJxx ♥ QJ9 ♦ Q10 ♣ J10x
North: ♠ Kxx ♥ Kxx ♦ KJx ♣ Q9xx

South	North
1♠	3NT
Pass	

3NT is an odds on favourite, while 4♠ has four top losers. If you choose to play this convention, a useful adjunct is that a new suit by opener is a short suit slam try:

Example 2

South: ♠ AKQxx ♥ KJ9 ♦ x ♣ AJ109
North: ♠ Jxx ♥ AQx ♦ Jxxx ♣ KQx

South	North
1♠	3NT
4♦	

With little wasted North will cooperate and reach the laydown slam.

Splinters are a useful convention. A double jump shows shortness and usually four card support, and enough high card points for game. When you have a fit you should always count your distributional points. So as little as a good 9 HCPs is enough to splinter, such as ♠ KQxx ♥ x ♦ J109x ♣ Kxxx. A couple of other points to discuss with partner.

1. Do you play the splinters limited or unlimited in terms of point count?

2. When investigating a slam after a splinter, responder's first obligation is to show a void if they have one.

Example 3

South: ♠ AKQxxx ♥ KJ9 ♦ Ax ♣ J10
North: ♠ Jxxx ♥ AQxx ♦ K10xxx ♣ -

South	North
1♠	4♣
4♦	5♣

BRIDGE BASICS ... CONTINUED

Should you always raise a major when you have a fit?

No. When you have a game forcing hand, and a good suit of your own it is better to show that suit first, and then show support. Take this auction:

South	North
1♠	2♣
2♠	3♠

3♠ shows three or more spades and a club suit. A possible hand: ♠ Kxx ♥ xx ♦ Ax ♣ AKJxxx. So partner will be thinking of slam with ♠ AQxxxx ♥ x ♦ Kxxx ♣ Qx, despite having a minimum. Likewise holding ♠ AQxxx ♥ Kxxx ♦ KQxx ♣ – they will know the hands are misfitting, and sign off in 4♠ despite having a good opening bid. Finally, if responder instead held ♠ Kxx ♥ x ♦ Axx ♣ AJ10xxx, they could bid 4♥. A jump in a game forcing auction is a splinter, supporting the agreed suit, or if there isn't one, the last suit partner bid. It does not promise extra values.

Next issue: *More major suit conventions.*



I am called over to a table by one of my students who tells me she only has 12 cards. Sure enough she is right. I look around and find the ♠A on the floor and give it to her. She was previously void in spades. Now she says to me: "You've ruined my entire hand."

Edwin Kantar

QUIZ

INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

SOLUTION ON PAGE 19.

Contract: 4♥

♠ J 9 6 2
♥ A Q 10
♦ K J 6
♣ 8 4 2

♠ 5
♥ K J 9 6 4
♦ A Q 7 5
♣ K 5 3

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♥
Dbl	Rdbl	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Lead: West leads the ♠A, and shifts to the ♦10. Plan the play.



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THE INTERMEDIATE Spot



BIDDING STRATEGIES 5

Bidding over preempts.

By Neil Kimelman

Preempts work! Yes they do. They make our lives difficult as often we have to select from imperfect actions. Plus, we know the odds of bad splits increase. The best we can do is to make the best bid available, and hope it works out. I will provide you with some tools and information that should improve the chance of making the right choice.

Action in direct seat

The hand with shortness should stretch to enter the auction. Any action over a weak two should be the equivalent of a minimum opening bid or better. Suits at the two level should normally be at least six cards in length. A takeout double should be a strong consideration when choosing an action, as there are more good things that can happen. However some judgement is needed.

Let's try a quiz:

Quiz 1 Rho opens 2♥. What action do you take with the following hands?

1. ♠ Axxx ♥ Kx ♦ KQx ♣ xxxx
2. ♠ Axx ♥ x ♦ KQxxx ♣ Axxx
3. ♠ Axxx ♥ x ♦ KQxx ♣ Qxxx
4. ♠ Axx ♥ KQx ♦ Qxx ♣ Qxxx
5. ♠ Jxxxx ♥ x ♦ KQxx ♣ Axx
6. ♠ xx ♥ Kx ♦ Kxx ♣ AKJ10xx
7. ♠ x ♥ xx ♦ KQJxx ♣ AJxxx
8. ♠ AQ10xxx ♥ Kx ♦ xx ♣ xxx
9. ♠ Ax ♥ x ♦ KQxx ♣ QJ9xxx
10. ♠ xx ♥ x ♦ AKQxxxx ♣ xxx

Quiz Answers

1. ♠ Axxx ♥ Kx ♦ KQx ♣ xxxx – Double. This is a good minimum, with good support for the other three suits. You should not think twice of doubling

2. ♠ Axx ♥ x ♦ KQxxx ♣ Axxx – You have a good minimum with a good five card suit, and support for clubs and spades. Double is clear cut. Even if your shape was 3-1-6-3 with the same hand, I would prefer double to 3♦.

3. ♠ Axxx ♥ x ♦ KQxx ♣ Qxxx – We have arrived at close to the lower end of a takeout double. I know some players who would double with less (i.e. no ♣Q). Again, the hand with shortness in preempter suit needs to stretch to enter the auction.

4. ♠ Axx ♥ KQx ♦ Qxx ♣ Qxxx – Pass. This is a trap hand with 4-3-3-3 shape and almost half of your high cards in hearts. If partner is short in hearts with some values they will protect you in 4th seat (see below). If partner has 10-12 with heart length they will usually pass, which is what you want: defending when the hand is a misfit.

5. ♠ Jxxxx ♥ x ♦ KQxx ♣ Axx – It's not pretty, but I would bid. Double is better than 2♠ with that anemic suit. The Lebensohl convention (I will cover this in the next issue) is a great tool to ensure the partnerships doesn't get too high when the initial action is a minimum.

6. ♠ xx ♥ Kx ♦ Kxx ♣ AKJ10xx – 3♣ is the straightforward bid, but many experts would overcall 2NT. I will discuss this issue under 2NT overcalls.

7. ♠ x ♥ xx ♦ KQJxx ♣ AJxxx – You have a lot of playing strength, but can't bid 2NT or 3NT, as both bids are natural. Best you can do is pass and hope partner can take some action.

8. ♠ AQ10xxx ♥ Kx ♦ xx ♣ xxx – Pass. The problem with bidding is that partner will play you for more, and may even drive to slam. You may still get a chance to bid.

9. ♠ Ax ♥ x ♦ KQxx ♣ QJ9xxx – Bid 3♣. You have decent six card suit, an opening bid and good playing strength.

10. ♠ xx ♥ x ♦ AKQxxxx ♣ xxx – This one is a little tougher, but I would bid 3♦. You are hoping partner can bid 3NT. Plus you can avoid what happened to me once when I did not bid. LHO bid 3NT and partner did not find the diamond lead. Making three.

2NT overcall is wide ranging, from a good 14

HCPs to 18. This is pretty self-explanatory. It shows a balanced hand and a stopper in their suit. If you have more than 18 HCPs, double first and then bid notrump. Is it ever better to double or overcall instead of bidding 2NT when you meet the 2NT criteria? The answer is yes. Much like when deciding whether to overcall 1NT, your type of stopper and overall distribution are important factors in making your choice. Holding ♠ Axxx ♥ Ax ♦ KQxx ♣ Kxxx I would double, but with ♠ AKxx ♥ Qxx ♦ KJx ♣ Kxx I would opt for 2NT.

A jump over an opponent's preempt is never preemptive, but shows a stronger hand than a simple overcall.

A non-jump bid in a new suit generally shows a hand within one trick of making the contract. So over 2♥ I would bid 3♠ with:

- ♠ AKJ10xxx ♥ x ♦ xx ♣ AQx
- ♠ AKJ10xx ♥ x ♦ Kxx ♣ AQx

And bid 4♦ with:

♠ Kx ♥ - ♦ KQJxxxx ♣ AQxx*

*Some partnerships play a jump as a two suiter hand.

A jump to game is to play. This is straightforward. There are some hands where you may have a heart stopper and a good long suit. So I would bid 3NT over 2♥ with:

♠ Kx ♥ Qxx ♦ AKQxxxx ♣ x

♠ xx ♥ AQ ♦ AQJxxx ♣ Qxx

♠ Ax ♥ KJx ♦ xx ♣ AKJ10xx

The same goes for suits. Here are hands that I would jump to 4♠:

♠ AKJ10xxx ♥ x ♦ x ♣ AQxx

♠ KQJ10xx ♥ - ♦ xx ♣ AQJxx

The only caution is not to jump to game when you have strong slam potential, such as ♠ Ax ♥ A ♦ AKQxxxx ♣ Kxx or ♠ AKJ10xxx ♥ A ♦ x ♣ AKJx.

A double of a preempt, then a new suit shows a strong hand that is too strong for a simple overcall, and usually has more than one place to play. A double followed by a new suit is a strong hand that can play in more than one strain. A hand you want to force to game is shown by doubling, then cue-bidding the opponent's suit. So with ♠ AKJ10x ♥ x ♦ AJx ♣ AQxx it is best to double 2♥, and then over partner's response bid spades. Finally with one of the hands shown above, ♠ AKJ10xxx ♥ A ♦ x ♣ AKJx, I would double and then jump to 4♠.

Next issue: *Lebensohl and other tools to combat preempts.*

MOLLO on Play xvi

Contract: 4♥ by South at IMPs. after West preempts with 2♠, over South's 1♥ bid.

♠ A 8 3
♥ A 7 5
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ A K 6

♠ K Q J 10 9 6
♥ 10
♦ Q 2
♣ J 9 5

♠ 4 6
♥ J 9 8 3
♦ 10 9 8 5
♣ Q 10 7 2

♠ 7 5 2
♥ K Q 6 4 2
♦ K 6
♣ 8 4 3

Lead: ♠K. Plan the play.

The key to your prospects lies in the distribution of the trump suit. If hearts split 3-2, there is no problem; if it splits 5-0 there is very little chance. The correct line is the one that maximizes chances against a 4-1 split.

Declarer should cash the ace and king of hearts. If West shows out on the second round, cash the ace and king of diamonds, and ruff a diamond. Return to dummy with a club and attempt to ruff the remaining diamond. If East ruffs in front of you, simply discard your club loser.

However if it is East who shows out on the 2nd round of hearts then the best chance is to duck a heart and hope for an eventual squeeze against East (For example, if West's original distribution was 6-4-2-1 and East 1-1-5-6).

Finally, if West shows out on the first round of hearts, you need East to have four diamonds in addition to their five hearts (1-5-3-4 works too), adopting the same line as above. Here it mandatory to cash the heart ace first, not the king.

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 BRIDGE CLUB

Frank Stewart, Fayette, AL

TRUMPS IN MODERATION

My friend the English professor made one of his infrequent appearances at the club a couple of days ago. The prof has a low tolerance level for both bad play and improper use of the English language. He chastised me once for writing that a contract “foundered and sank.”

“It’s a redundancy,” the prof advised me. “‘Founder’ has a built-in sink. That’s what the word means.”

I was sitting in the club lounge with the professor when a member came over and asked him if “abstemiously” is the only English word that has all six vowels in order. “Abstemiously,” mused the prof. “It means ‘not in excess.’” “The word usually refers to eating and drinking in moderation, doesn’t it?” I asked.

“True,” the prof replied, “but some of my partners would do better to be abstemious about drawing trumps.”

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

That afternoon, the prof sat in for a few deals of rubber bridge and I watched a deal in which he had to suffer as dummy. South, playing at four hearts, took the king-of-diamonds lead with his ace and promptly began to draw trumps. When he cashed the ace-king of hearts, however, East discarded a spade, and South found himself in hot water. He took the queen-jack of trumps and led the jack of clubs, which East won to lead another diamond. South ruffed, took his ace and king of spades, and led another club. However, West produced the ace and cashed the ten of hearts, drawing South's last trump. West then took two diamonds for down two.

"What luck," South sighed.

The prof groaned. "If you weren't such a glutton for drawing trumps, you'd have made the contract. You had only two top losers, so you could have afforded to lose a club ruff. So, lead the jack of clubs at the second trick. If the defence takes the ace and king, ruffs the next club, and forces you to ruff a diamond, you can draw trumps – even if they broke 5-1 – and take the rest.

"If instead they win the first club and force you to ruff a diamond," the prof went on, "you lead another club. If they lead a third diamond, you can ruff in dummy, keeping control, and you're safe."

"Is 'abstemiously' really the only word with a, e, i, o, u and y in order?" I asked the prof.

"Maybe," he responded facetiously.

QUIZ

INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

PROBLEM ON PAGE 14

Contract: 4♥

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Dbl	Rdbl	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Lead: West leads the ♠A, and shifts to the ♦10. Plan the play.

South has two legitimate chances. One is if East holds the club ace. However the bidding marks West with this card. The other option is a dummy reversal. This is where declarer ruffs cards in the longer trump hand, to the point where the other hand ends up with more trumps. What is normally needed for a successful dummy reversal:

1. Cards to ruff.
2. Sufficient entries to enable the ruffs, and still pull trumps.
3. Strong trumps in the original short trump hand, so the defender's trumps are not promoted.
4. A reasonable trump split.

Here declarer has all that is needed. The play from trick two: declarer wins the ♦J, and ruffs the ♠6 with the ♥4. Declarer then crosses to dummy with a diamond to the king, ruffs the ♠x9 with the ♥6. Now, declarer plays the ♥9 to the ten, and ruffs the ♠J with the ♥J. Now all is left is for declarer to lead the ♥K, overtaking with the ace, and pulling the last trump with the queen. That brings declarer's total to this point up to eight, three heart ruffs, three high trumps and two high diamonds. Declarer scores two more diamond tricks to bring their total to ten, thus making their contract!

Bridge Poker

By Gim Ong

It was past noon on a winter day at the back room of the Winnipeg Bridge Club. A fertile mind in Winnipeg has invented a new game. Bridge Poker is played by competitors who would like more action than the normal bridge game would provide. It is actually two games in one - Bridge and Poker- with certain rules to enhance both games.

The cards are dealt as for Bridge but the players bet on their best five-card poker hand with three raises allowed. After betting their poker hands, the players do not declare or show the poker hand immediately, but play out the hand according to the rules of Rubber or Chicago Bridge. The only additional rule is that if a player "feels" he has the best poker hand, he must bid when his turn comes, regardless of his Bridge hand.

An illustration would show how this works:

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

The ante for Poker could be one loonie. East checks as he is missing the club ten for a good poker hand. South, with four tens, imagines he has the best Poker hand, opens and bets. West, with a full house stays in and North, with the real Poker hand of four aces, raises. South, poor fish, re-raises and West folds. Now North starts to think, for there is plenty of room for South to hold a straight flush in either minor suit. But he is not going to be bluffed out with a genuine hand. He re-raises and South stays in.

At this time, the Poker hand is not declared but held in abeyance until the Bridge hand is played out. This is the auction:



West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass ¹	2♥ ²
Pass	2NT ³	Pass	3♥ ⁴
Pass	7♥ ⁵	All Pass	

1. Pass - I don't even have a good poker hand so I don't have to bid - we are vulnerable.
2. Oh-Oh. (I think I have the best poker hand, so I must bid.)
3. I think partner may have psyched with a long running minor. Better check this out - 2NT (forcing, asking for clarification).
4. Should I pass? Better bid 3♥ to show a poor hand.
5. Partner hasn't psyched the heart suit. Good, I think I am going to like this hand. I think I'm going to win the poker pot also.

When dummy came down, there were exclamations all round. South remarked that dummy did indeed have the "best" hand. Then he turned to West and asked if he held both the King and Jack of spades, he better start eating them right away as they were going to be finessed and the grand slam would surely be made. West hadn't commented on the taste of the cards.

I love this game, Bridge Poker. Try it, you'll like it too.

the GREAT CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST



AUGUST 2021 TGCBC

Host: David Willis

For Panelists, see page 32

Editor's note: Congratulations to **David Lindop and Ron Bishop**, who topped our expert panel with scores of 47 and 46, respectively. **Ashot Harutyanyun** was not only the reader with the top score for August, but also had the best score for June-August combined, thus the winner of **\$100**. **Sheldon Spier** was the runner-up and will get **\$50**. The **October TGCBC** problems can be found at the end of this article.

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

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

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

a) What do you bid?

Action	Votes	Score
5♦	7	8
4♥	1	6
4NT	3	5
5♠	1	4
4♠	7	3

b) Would you have bid 3♥?

Action	Votes	Score
Yes	11	2
No, 4♦	7	2
No, 3♦	1	0

So this one is an interesting hand as between the editor and I we ended up with a couple of minor changes to the hand as my 10 written as "T" got converted to "J" so this hand is actually a bit better in spades and clubs than they were at the table which perhaps would have made the b) discussion even more interesting. A good hand for seeing who likes to bid them up (and in what way) versus those who might be more conservative.

Those pushing forward to slam outnumber those signing off, which is reflected in the scoring. Among those moving forward there were 4 ways of doing so. Let's start with those signing off including Balcombe (along with Smith, Hornby, Cimon, Kuz, and Jacob) for whom this hand seems to be a minimum with no additional features." Neil Kimelman further evaluated the case for pulling in your horns at this point:

Neil Kimelman: a) 4♠. Whatever partner has, you know it does not include a good spade suit. Cooperating was right with good trumps, an ace and singleton. Having done so, it is now time to limit your hand...

Among those moving forward the most popular were 5♦ with seven proponents and 4NT with three. There were lone voices for 4♥ and 5♠. Let us see what each of these groups had to say. For the 5♦ bidders, which garnered the maximum score, Bishop, Campbell,

Turner, and Grainger summarize the need to move on due to trump quality, to highlight the heart problem by not cuebidding again, and to include partner in the decision by showing our shortness:

Ron Bishop: 5♦. Partner now confirms that he was making a “short suit” slam try. He must have something like: A10xxx Kxx AJxx K or Axxxx KJ9 AQJx x where we might be at the mercy of the heart layout. Making a slam try when we have these trumps, we must co-operate. Our control-bid of 5♦ must show shortness (since we didn’t show a high honour after his 3♣ try) with limited heart strength (no 4♥ continuation over 4♦ now); and denies the club ace; so we certainly must be indicating the trumps that he’s looking for.

Gord Campbell: 5♦. South cannot signoff with such good trumps and only moderate wastage in clubs. However, neither can South take control with 1430. I suspect North is at least 5-5 in spades and diamonds. Opposite spade length, my values may not be as useful as I suspect. I am worried that we need another heart control.

David Turner: 5♦. Partner must have quite a hand to try for slam when I hold these trumps. We might still have trouble finding a parking spot for the third round of hearts, but it would be a shame to miss slam opposite A10xxxx KQx Axx x.

David Grainger: 5♦. Blackwood doesn’t help. I have a good hand, but the ace of clubs is missing, so partner either needs solid diamonds with 5-5 or 6-4 or a heart control. I would bid 6♠ over 5♥ but pass 5♠.

The 4NT bidders most of whom indicated they would have splintered after 3♣:

Bob Todd: 4NT. I considered four hearts, but if partner is short in clubs and is still making a slam try opposite my 3♥, I suspect I have enough working cards. The only

problem may be a 3rd round loser in hearts which if four hearts is last train might cause an (evaluation). This could all have been avoided by splintering (4♦) over 3♣.

Danny Miles: 4NT. I cannot have more than this. Partner is trying for slam with weak trumps. As little as A10xxx KQx AKxx x makes slam virtually laydown. I will ensure we aren’t missing two aces.

Now for the other co-operators:

Bill Treble: 5♠. Since we have shown control in all suits, I think this shows great trumps. Since I have bypassed 4♥ or 5♦ I would be denying a red-suit king.

Bill is getting the trump quality across, but his partner will need to figure out which red cards are working and is not likely to anticipate diamond shortness. The scoring on 5♠ is lower as a result.

Robert Lebi: 4♥, since partner has now indicated a slam try, and since I only rebid 2♠, I am worth one last move, so I try a Last Train bid.

Robert’s partner assuming they are on the same wavelength is likely to make another try over this bid giving him a chance to move forward and reach a possible slam.

Now for the b) question. Most people felt that cooperating was reasonable but there was significant support for 4♦ at the first opportunity, many people felt 3♥ was appropriate with 4♦ being reserved for more perfect hands and others follow a strict cue-bidding regimen that would have led to 3♦ as either shortness or an honour. A couple of people suggested an original 3♦ as a mini-splinter in response to 1♠ to get the hand off your chest immediately. Some comments from our panelists:

Ray Hornby: No. A 4♦ splinter looks more descriptive as I limited my hand with 2♠.

Danny Miles: No. Over 3♣, if partner were on the same

wavelength, I would have splintered in return with 4♦. Else, 3♥ is fine.

Dan Korbel: No. I like a 4♦ splinter over 3♣... it is possible that our diamond shortness and even spade values are wasted (picture, say, A10xxxx KJx KQx x - a hungry 3♣ bid for sure, but partner was hoping for Kxxx AQxx Ax xxx).

Bob Todd: No! I showed a minimum raise and partner made a short suit game or slam try in clubs. If it is a slam try, my most descriptive bid is 4♦ splinter, showing my hand. Partner will know I do not have a lot of club wastage. If he then bids 4♠, I quit.

Francine Cimon: Yes, but it is a little bit aggressive, but I have good spades and controls in the red suits.

Ron Bishop: Yes. Not that I think that 3♥ is outstanding (nor is it compulsory) ...it is not... but it's just that the hand isn't really worth a splinter jump to 4♦ if partner is only making a "game-try". That bid should be reserved for a 'perfecta', perhaps KJxx AQx x Axxxx.

David Lindop: Yes. Despite the wasted club values, I have enough to be interested in whatever partner has in mind... I assume I am initially making a return game try saying "I don't like your club shortness, but I'm still interested in game."

How about 3♦:

Kismet Fung: 3♦ was a better bid. That would have allowed my 4♥ next bid.

Gord Campbell: No. Would have bid 3♦ at the last turn. South has already made 2 bids I dislike. South has an easy non-GF 3♦ splinter instead of 2♠, especially as there is room for North to check size with a "Last Train" 3♥. I religiously cuebid up the line, so I would bid 3♦ not 3♥.

The actual hand is shown. Slam was about 50-50. On the 3rd/5th club lead you have to guess to play for Kxx to drop offside rather the ruffing finesse or playing for

squeeze chances. Partner was a good guesser on this one, but the bidding is the thing.

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

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?

Action	Votes	Score
5♣	17	8
Pass	2	7
4NT/DbI	0	7

b) Would you do something different at IMPs?

Action	Votes	Score
No	18	2
Yes	1	0

I expected this problem to provoke more discussion than it did. There were a lot of matchpoints riding on your choice. However, most of the panel moved forward with 5♣. Given the size of the potential game swings involved at IMPs 5♣ seems indicated as was unanimous for the panel. However, at matchpoints, it is frequency independent of size that matters. Is there not a reasonably good possibility that both contracts are going down because of your singleton diamond? Let's hear from a few of the 5♣ bidders starting with

the winner of the recent NAOP who played the hand in the event:

Bob Todd: 5♣. Who knows what makes? Would do the same at IMPs.

Danny Miles: 5♣ at either form of scoring. Lots of good can happen. x Ax Axxxx KQJxx as an example. 4♠ may be making; 5♣ may be making; 5♠ may be going down 1.

Ron Bishop: 5♣. Feel strongly that a hand that has, as of yet, not done anything but pass, should not roll the dice with 'double' which could easily lead to a 'double game swing' – pun intended.

Dan Jacob and Bill Treble bring out some of the benefits/challenges of 5♣:

Dan Jacob: I would bid 5♣ at both; East will likely bid more.

Bill Treble: 5♣. I think the odds are 2 to 1 in my favor - 5♣ could make or we are down 2 or less and 4♠ makes. Other than a possible diamond ruff, I have no surprises in the major suits. The losing scenario is that both 4♠ and 5♣ go down.

Francine Cimon would double if she were on lead highlighting the crux of the problem at matchpoints, your result is highly dependent on the lead if you choose not to bid.

Francine Cimon: 5♣. A lot of bidding, very distributional hands, maybe I will make it, maybe they will bid 5♠. If I was on lead in matchpoints I would have doubled 4♠.

But do you have to be on lead for double to be right? You are going to be on lead with the ♠A at some point still with trumps and the contract is then likely

going down most of the time partner has the ♦A (two spades, a diamond and a club, maybe a heart if partner has the Jack) even when partner is minimum. While David Turner is bidding for partnership harmony and holding out hope for more bidding:

David Turner: 5♣. The spade ace is not a great card on this auction, and 5♣ could easily be -200 or -500 into +200 or +500. But it would be too tough to explain to partner if 5♣ were the par spot if I passed or doubled. I suspect rightly isn't done, and I hope we can beat 5♠ doubled. At Imps I'd bid 5♣ quicker.

A few more interesting things out of these comments from Turner, Grainger and Kimelman. What is South's expectation of partner's hand for 2♣? There is a lot of variability.

David Grainger: I bid 5♣ at any form of scoring. Could miss a slam, but it's too hard to try and bid one over 4♠ even though 4NT should probably be coming in clubs at this point. Partner is far more likely to have diamond values rather than hearts, anyway.

Neil Kimelman: 5♣. I think this is the right call at both pairs and teams. RHO has a very good hand for spades. I wouldn't be surprised if East held 10xxx AKxxxx AQx -, and partner has x Jx Kxxxx AKQxx. They can make six spades and five clubs is down one. Tougher decision what to do over 5♠, but likely pass, although partner will not know to lead a diamond.

Grainger and Bishop expect partner to have a good hand but at that point in the auction could you not be bidding hoping that partner has Axx xx Kxx Qxxxx and was stuck for a bid over 1♥, or does your system cover that off by bidding 1♠ to show values and deny spades. If you do have that tool how good should 2♣ be given your partner's likely spade length?

Kimelman expects RHO to have a very good hand for spades, but can you be confident they are not just taking a flyer with a more modest hand and hoping to propel you to the five level at matchpoints? Kimelman also reinforces the challenge that partner does not

know to lead a diamond. The real hand is shown. Passing 4♠ gets you 61%, doubling gets you 94%, while bidding 5♣ gets you 8%. Maybe the 2♣ bid was the problem...you can be the judge.

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

Julie Smith and Bob Kuz were the only passers at Matchpoints and both would be bidders at IMPs. Given most of the panel voted for bidding in both scenarios that has been grudgingly given the maximum score. Given the at the table result Julie and Bob's "penalty" for being in the minority is small.

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

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

Action	Votes	Score
No, pass	1	5
Yes	8	4
No, 1NT	10	4*

*Scored as redouble due to lack of clarity of system.

b) What do you bid now?

Action	Votes	Score
2♠	11	5
Pass	1	3
Double	6	1
2♦	1	0

A bunch of issues on this one: How good should partner's 4th seat opening that includes spades be? Are we still forced to act as a passed hand after the redouble? What is our trump expectation if we double now (penalty, cooperative or competitive)? Or what is our trump holding if we bid 2♠? And should we have even redoubled on the first round? The hand also allows us to explore whether full transfers are worth it in this sequence including what we should do if we had a 3-card LR if playing the system that was forced on us in this problem. Let us see what the panel has to say.

This time it is Danny Miles who could have had the wire but despite having played this hand against us Danny would have duplicated South's actions at our table – however, perhaps his partner would not have opened the North hand.

Danny Miles (with Hornby): a) Yes Redouble. Partner is 4th seat Vul. so should not have cheese, and with transfers on, 1NT is not available anyway. b) Honour-third is standard to double here, and we barely have enough. If they make it, at least it's not game!

Robert Lebi (and sometimes partner **Jacob**): a) Redouble is fine. b) Double, still not game if they make it.

Bishop agreed with the redouble but only because of the stated problem conditions where 1NT would have been a club transfer. Otherwise, he would have joined Balcombe, Cimon, Kuz, Thurston, Fung, Kimelman and Campbell who would all have liked to have bid 1NT showing 8 to 10 with scattered values. Campbell noted the transfer implication of 1NT and thus passed to avoid the problem South now faces. The others were bidding 1NT not intending it as a club transfer but as a natural NT.

Ron Bishop: a) the footnote said that we played "transfers" immediately after double, so I elected not to

bid 1NT earlier because, in our reading of the footnote, it was a request to have opener bid 2xC. But if 1NT had been natural, a balanced 8-10 with stopper(s), we would have selected that call instead.

Gord Campbell: a) No (*Pass inferred DW*). It says I play transfers over the double. So, would an immediate 1NT be clubs? (*Yes. DW*) That's what I play! If 1NT would be natural, I bid that. I don't like redouble when over most opponent actions I have no good bid.

David Lindop: a) Redouble is reasonable, although I would probably have bid 1NT to avoid this very problem.

Paul Thurston: No to redouble - no good follow-up - prefer 1NT with scattered 10.

Bob Todd: The redouble is OK but 1NT might help partner a bit more – unless that is a transfer – then redouble is my only choice.

Do we have to bid now? Some partners would think so, while others do not. Dan Korbel has some good food for thought:

Dan Korbel: b) 2♠. We are not in a force since partner was in a late seat. I have no strong feelings between competing to 2♠ or passing this out, or even doubling. It is my general style to bid 2♠ here, as it is possible the opponents are on a 9-card fit (partner could be, say, 5-3-1-4) and I would rather not defend that at the two level.

Paul Thurston: b) Pass - square peg round hole = nothing fits so I am constrained to pass - that is the trouble with redouble in the first place.

Keith Balcombe: b) 2♠. Gotta bid something.

Gord Campbell: b) 2♠. I cannot pass. Pard is in 4th seat so holds a reasonable hand.

David Turner: (b) Double. There is a similar Reese hand entitled "The Net", where they may get the trumps wrong after double, not expecting ours to be 3-3. Maybe we have 6 top tricks with a round suit ruff into no game our way. (I'll write this explanation down in advance and show it to partner when they make it, not finding the 3-1 diamond break very troubling.)

What about double vs 2♠?

Francine Cimon: b) Double. I want to compete and bidding 2♠ now will tend to show a limit raise. I will be happy if the partner can pass now.

Bob Todd: b) 2♠. Partner didn't double 2♦ and he didn't bid showing a weaker distributional hand. My best shot at game may be in spades. Kx in spades is at least as good as xxx, so I raise.

Ron Bishop: b) 2♠. Might easily cause partner to misjudge. Hope we can rely on the fact that partner passed 2♦ so is quite unlikely to have as much as Hxx in diamonds. Understanding that our view might run contrary to 'standard' expert practice; I don't play that our double now would be 'co-operative' – but instead play it as some 1-4-5-3 that really has a desire to defend 2♦ doubled.

Bill Treble: b) 2♠. If partner had three diamonds to an honor, he might have doubled 2♦ himself. While I don't have a third spade, Kx and AQ9 in the majors behind the doubler will be a decent buy for opener.

Kismet Fung: b) 2♠, double is penalty, and you are boxed into 2♠.

David Lindop: b) 2♠. Double could work out but could also work badly if partner is short in diamonds and has club values. I owe partner a spade, but the hand should play okay. I might take a shot at doubling if we were playing matchpoints and needed a good (different?) result.

David Grainger (with Neil Kimelman): b. 2♠. This is more likely to have two spades than the initial transfer, so it is a better choice.

As Francine highlights partner may play you for a 3-card limit raise now (as that was bundled in the 1NT transfer) but most panelists feel 2♠ is the least distortion. The diversity of panel opinion shows that the need for better definition of what double shows, agreeing the quality of your fourth chair openings, the forcing nature and quality of redouble after late seat openings and discussing the merits of fancy transfers. The real hand follows and double results in a loss of 3 to 8 Imps as they easily wrap up 2♦ doubled with 2♠ possibly making or down 1 or a passout at the other table.

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

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?

Action	Votes	Score
No	12	2
Yes	7	1

b) What do you bid now?

Action	Votes	Score
3♦	7	8
3♠	2	7
4♦	0	6
Pass	3	5
4♠	3	4
4♣	3	4
5♦	1	3

Part a) is a style discussion to better understand the range of hands where pass is appropriate, which could influence what double means. Many partnerships particularly those that could be heavy for 2♦ or have a 6-4 pointed suit hand might expect that South would have bid 2♠ on the last round. Some of the panelists below might need some discussion before partnering up.

Bob Todd (with Francine Cimon): No. I would have bid 2♠ in case partner has a game try still coming. I have some pretty good working cards.

Ron Bishop: (a) No. Our hand is much too good not to give the opener another chance to bid. In the modern style of 'prepared/mark time rebids' we could easily have had enough for game. If opener had raised our 'preference of 2♠' up to 3♠, we would have been happy to accept the invitation.

Danny Miles (with Gord Campbell): a) Yes but its close - Axxxx KQx AQxx x makes 5♦ a reasonable bet.

Dan Korbel: a) Passing seems fine, although you will miss a game if partner is 6-4 with extras.

Robert Lebi: a) would not have passed, definitely a 2♠ bid in a Forcing NT system.

Paul Thurston: a) even if 1NT was only semi forcing, prefer preference to 2♠ in case partner wants to move.

We have had pass forced on us and now partner has doubled. What does that mean?

Danny Miles: b) what on earth is double? I would play this as suggesting penalty rather than extras trying for game. Something like Axxxx x AQxx KJx. I pass. We could get rich. West declined to bid at the 1-level or the 2-level. Let's hope they've made a big mistake.

Dan Jacob: b) 5♦; I cannot have a much better hand in this auction. Partner shows a good hand with short clubs. At least something like AJxxx KQx AQxx x

One of our Dan's has short hearts the other short clubs. What do others think?

Paul Thurston: b) 3♦ expect 5-3-4-1 with extras but even one of his best doubles might not survive a 4-2 spade split in the most likely game (4♠).

Gord Campbell: b) So what is the double? I think a DSIP – Do Something Intelligent Partner. I hold great values and 4♦, 4♠ and 4♣ all seem options. Pard will not punish me because I passed 2♦. I like 4♠ as it is Imps. I have denied three spades, so I must hold honour-doubleton. Pard can correct to 5♦ with poor spades. There are many hands where 4♠ makes but 5♦ doesn't.

David Turner b) 4♣. Honestly, I don't know whether 5341, 5350 or 5044 is more likely with partner, and I've never discussed this auction with partner. He could even have a 5242 19-count with 4 aces and a king! Regardless, we're in game now - let's find out where.

David Grainger: b) This double should be a cooperative takeout. My hand is surprisingly good for offense. I will try 4♣ to encourage partner and show flexibility. Will pass 4♦/4♠/5♦, but not 4♥.

A whole range of options are on the table, 3♦ signing off, 3♠ to mildly encourage partner, 4♣ as a choice of games or 4♠ and 5♦ to insist on game with 4♠ providing an implied choice.

Bob Todd b) 4♠. Partner will know that I have only 2 spades and probably 4 diamonds. 3♠ might be enough, but I have shown nothing, and partner is forcing me at the three level.

Robert Lebi: b) 4♣, Vul games are good to score up at IMPs, this bid should logically show a doubleton spade honour and diamonds, not strong enough to raise earlier.

The majority stayed low bidding 3♦ earning a top score, while others passed or bid 3♠ to offer a choice of spades and diamonds.

Bill Treble: b) Pass. Is the double for takeout or penalty? Also, what does LHO have for two passes and then a vulnerable 3♣? Partner is unlikely to have a fifth diamond, sixth spade, or four hearts. So that leaves general strength or a 5-3-4-1 hand with extra values. At MP, I would pass for sure. At IMPs, I do the same albeit more reluctantly.

Francine Cimon: b) 3♦. I missed my opportunity in the last round, so now I am in trouble.

Dan Korbel: b) 3♦. Sorry, partner. I am not passing. If this was getting slaughtered, so be it.

Bob Kuz: b) x3♠. Where my cards are. Leaving it up to him.

David Lindop: b) 3♠. I must show my useful spade holding somewhere along the line. If I had given false spade preference earlier, I would now be well-placed to bid 3♦.

Keith Balcombe: b) Assuming I play with somebody who generally makes takeout doubles, I bid 3♦ but not with much conviction.

As you have already shown diamonds, showing spades now and leaving it up to partner has merit and is reflected in the scoring. There was not much panel discussion of what West might hold for their delayed 3♣ bid and thus what range of hands partner might

hold for their double. This hand came up as the last hand of the CNTC round robin in a match where a big win was required. Treble and Hornby would have had it right at the table. All that is clear, however, is that there is not a lot of agreement about what partner should have for this double.* A simple always takeout agreement seems to be implied by several panelists and might make the most sense. However, due to your pass of 2♦ partner may be expecting you to have a singleton spade with 3+ diamonds. They could easily be doubling to show extra values expecting you to pass with relatively short diamonds and lead your stiff spade with ruffs and values taking care of the rest, while you can bail out to 3♦ with long diamonds.

***Editor's note:** I was very surprised by some of the responses to #4. First, passing 2♦ is masterminding. Partner has up to 18 HCPs, and can be 5-4, 6-4, 5-5 in their suits. Your hand is golden! Game can be lay down on many hands that partner would rebid 2♦ (see below).

Next on my hit list: the double by partner shows their two suits and extra values, 15-18 HCPs. It asks partner to do something intelligent. It makes no sense for this to show a club fragment, trying to penalize. The double say do something intelligent, including converting the double to penalties, with something like ♠x ♥K10xx ♦xxx QJ9xx.

Finally, bidding 3♦ is not appreciating the value of the South hand. On the actual hand game is poor. However game is either cold or excellent opposite ♠AQxxxx ♥Ax ♦AQxx ♣x, or AQxxx ♥Ax ♦AQxxx ♣x, and 6♦ is excellent opposite AJxxxx ♥Ax ♦AQxxx ♣-. And none of these hands have 17 or 18 HCPs.

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

♣ 10 8 5

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

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

a) Was 3♣ forcing for your partnership?

Action	Votes	Score
Yes	7	
No	9	

b) What do you bid?

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

Not much agreement on this one but some of our most experienced panelists agreed that this was an unusual auction:

Robert Lebi: a) Never encountered or discussed this auction as a balancing seat situation. By the subsequent developments north definitely considered it forcing. I would like to reserve the bid for a weakish hand with something like 4-0-3-6 distribution.

Dan Korbel: I'll be honest, I've never encountered any auction in my life similar to this one.

Neil Kimelman: What a bizarre auction! I would have overcalled 1NT, although it could be wrong.

There were several people that felt that South had underbid after 2♥ and felt that the 2NT bid would not have been natural.

Ron Bishop: a) No. What were we thinking when we bid 2NT? That it was invitational to a non-vulnerable game and showed a balanced 14 count? Rather than it being the normal expert usage, to show a competitive hand with the minors.

Francine Cimon: a) Strange bidding, what was 2NT? Partner double, yes it is a reopening double maybe not so strong but I have 14 HCP and a good stopper in opponent suit, so I bid 3NT. I don't think 3♣ is forcing – maybe partner took my 2NT as asking to bid a minor.

Although on values 3NT might make sense on values we are potentially hanging partner for a light balance with short hearts. Given the 2♥ bid by righty we can envision a heart lead ducked followed by multiple down tricks as soon as we lose the lead. 2NT seems right to bring into play other contracts even if it is Lebensohl like. The slow path to 3NT could show doubt while giving partner room to show extra values. Bidding 3♥ gets the hand strength across but risks partner bypassing 3NT when it is right. The majority felt that 3♣ should be forcing in context. Keith Balcombe provided some comparable scenarios to consider:

Keith Balcombe: Was 2NT natural? I presume yes, so I sure hope 3♣ is forcing.

My counter questions:

		1♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	?

Is this forcing or highly invitational or a runout?

		1♥	Dbl
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	?		

Is this forcing or highly invitational or a runout? While playing these types of bids as “part score corrections” can be right, especially at MPs, playing these as forcing to suit agreement is much better for a partnership.

David Lindop: a) Yes. Partner shouldn't have doubled if partner couldn't accept notrump as a possible contract.

Others felt that the only available force would be 3♥.

Neil Kimelman: 2NT was reasonable, although conservative. To me, 3♣ is a weak hand to play. Maybe Kxx xx xxx AQxxx.

David Grainger: a) I've never played 2NT natural in competition. In my current partnership we play good/bad and it would force 3♣ opposite any normal hand.

What do we do now? The panel offers up no less than 6 choices! The majority make a slam try with a few planning to drive there.

David Lindop: b) 4♦. I think I'm worth a control-showing bid on the way to 5♣. Partner does not need much for slam: ♠ Kxxx ♥ x ♦ xx ♣ AKxxxx would give us a play – and I expect partner to have more.

Bill Treble: b) I will bid 4♥, the same 'Bluhmer' action I should have taken on the previous round. This should agree clubs as the trump suit. I am going to drive the auction to 6♣ and look for a grand. If partner signs off in 5♣, I'll now bid 5♦, hoping for 5♥, and then follow up with 5♠.

Julie Smith: 4♥. I think I have a good hand for partner's clubs. I have too much to just bid game in clubs.

Danny Miles: 5♣. I've under-repped my hand so far; ♥QJx probably useless on offence and cannot count on 9 runners in 3NT. Could we have a slam? Kxxx x Kx AKQxxx. Perhaps I should be doing more.

Dan Jacob: b) It seems that partner is quite short in hearts, but I still have a huge hand in this auction. I'll try 4♥, and over 4♠ I'll bid 5♣.

Gord Campbell: b) 6♣. The absolute worst hand Pard holds is Kxxx x xx AKJxxx when I need the likely onside diamond hook. I am more likely to take 13 tricks (if opposite a heart void) than 11.

Among those moving to slam 4♦ would seem the most straightforward – it must be a cuebid and is clearer than 4♥ which could imply lack of a diamond control. Trying for slam versus forcing also seems more reasonable given the auction and is reflected in the scoring. Others bid game:

Robert Lebi (with Bob Kuz, b) 5♣, that's game, isn't it?

Kismet Fung: 5♣ - looks like you are missing the ace of clubs. 2NT was an underbid. Partner is bidding with some shape, but strength is unknown, and doesn't have solid clubs (no 3NT bid).

Hornby (with Bob Kuz): b) why didn't I clip 3♥ to show real defence once I'd shown an opener with 2NT? Partner should have a stiff or void in hearts, 3NT rates to go down as they'll clear hearts and get in with their entry, so I'll try 5♣ instead.

David Grainger: b) 5♣ I guess. Partner seems not to want to play notrump and my QJx in hearts is not helping in anything.

Dan Korbel signs off at 4♣ off leaving the final choice to partner. Why didn't we double 3♥? It is likely down 1 but is that enough to compensate for our possible game (or slam). Our four-card fit for partner's suspected forcing 3♣ bid may be burning up any extra defense. Kis's point on the club suit does raise some concern for slam particularly with the opener (and potential club K or A) behind the club suit.

Lots to discuss for partnerships to discuss with this one* – what does 2NT show? What range is it if natural? What does partner bid with 5-5 in the blacks in balancing seat and medium values? What does pulling a natural 2NT show in this sequence? Now, giving the last word to Ron Bishop who wrote

extensively this month and despite his concerns almost nailed the exact hands from our “parallax universe” on this one:

***One question not addressed – what is a balancing 2♣ overcall? In most partnerships, including mine, it promises the same values as in direct seat. NK**

Ron Bishop (b) 4♥. An extension of Last Train. What is partner doing? We didn't act over 3♥; so what's he so proud of? Perhaps he has the same 'parallax' view of what 2NT promised as the problem setter? So... short hearts; better clubs than diamonds and at least 5 spades, and quite a good hand. Maybe K109xx x Kxx KQJx which would give us an excellent shot at 5♣; they can't tap us as the partner of the opening bidder will need to ruff my heart winner from trump length. That would leave opener with Qx(x) AKxxxxx x(x) Ax or KQ10xx x Jx AQJxx and didn't want to live or die by the sword by continuing to compete with a 4-level cuebid? That would still give opener enough for his bidding (perhaps?) – Something akin to x AK109xxx Kxx Kx hoping for intermediate diamonds in his dummy to save him from disaster.

Given the panel preferences, top marks to those who tried for slam with a bit less for those who got to game. At the table the ♣K was onside, and slam made but not sure you want to be there.

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



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♠/y	4	5♣/n	10	2♠/n	9	3♦/y	9	4♦/y	10	42
Bishop, Ron	5♦/y	9	5♣/n	10	2♠/y	9	3♦/n	10	4♥/n	8	46
Campbell, Gordon	5♦/n	9	5♣/n	10	2♠/n	10	4♠/y	5	6♣/y	7	41
Cimon, Francine	4♠/y	4	5♣/n	10	Dbl/n	5	3♦/n	10	3NT/n	2	31
Fung, Kismet	5♦/n	9	5♣/n	10	2♠/n	9	3♦/n	10	5♣	6	44
Grainger, David	5♦/y	9	5♣/n	10	2♠/n	9	4♣/y	5	5♣	6	39
Hornby, Ray	4♠/n	5	5♣/n	10	Dbl/y	5	Pass/y	6	5♣/n	6	32
Jacob, Dan	4♠/y	4	5♣/n	10	2♦/y	4	5♦/n	5	4♥/n	8	31
Kimelman, Neil	4♠/y	4	5♣/n	10	2♠/n	9	4♠/n	6	5♣/n	6	35
Korbel, Daniel	4NT/n	7	5♣/n	10	2♠/y	9	3♦/y	9	4♣	4	39
Kuz, Bob	4♠/n	5	Pass/n	9	2♠/n	9	3♠/n	9	5♣/n	6	38
Lebi, Robert	4♥/n	7	5♣/n	10	Dbl/y	5	4♣/n	6	5♣/n	6	34
Lindop, David	5♦/y	9	5♣/n	10	2♠/n	9	3♠/n	9	4♦/y	10	47
Miles, Danny	4NT/n	7	5♣/n	10	Dbl/y	5	Pass/y	6	5♣/y	6	34
Smith, Julie	4♠/y	4	Pass/y	7	Dbl/y	5	3♦/y	9	4♥/y	8	33
Thurston, Paul	5♦/y	9	5♣/n	10	Pass/n	7	3♦/n	10	5♣/y	6	42
Todd, Bob	4NT/n	7	5♣/n	10	2♠/n	9	4♠/n	6	5♣/n	6	38
Treble, Bill	5♠/y	5	5♣/n	10	2♠/y	9	Pass/n	7	4♥/y	8	39
Turner, David	5♦/y	9	5♣/n	10	Dbl/n	5	4♣/n	6	4♦/n	10	40

OCTOBER PROBLEMS

Host: Paul Thurston

1. IMPs, Both Vul. Dealer: South. As South, you hold:

♠J87653 ♥105 ♦ - ♣AQ983

A simple start, do you or don't you?

2. IMPs, Both Vul. Dealer: South. As South, you hold

♠AQ86 ♥ - ♦9732 ♣98632

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

1. Hearts and an unspecified minor without precise constraints on strength except deemed to be "sensible" at the given vulnerability conditions.

What is your call?

3. IMPs, E-W Vul. Dealer: West. As North, you hold ♠63

♥A ♦A7652 ♣AK732.

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

a) Do you agree with 2NT? (2 lower unbid suits.)

b) What is your call now?

4. IMPs, Both Vul. Dealer: East. As South you hold ♠J864

♥8 ♦K6543 ♣763

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

1. Natural and game-invitational

What is your call?

5. IMPs, E-W Vul. Dealer: West. As West, you hold:

♠A1053 ♥AQ9876 ♦Q96 ♣-

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

a) West's double was takeout - do you agree with the double?

b) What is your opening lead?



Four guys are playing bridge at the golf club and there is one kibitzer. Phone rings and one of the fellows has to leave. They beg the kibitzer to play a few hands even though he doesn't play and only knows from what he has seen these last few hours. They say its o.k. The kibitzer sits in and deals. They all look at him. He bids 4♣! Very strange opening bid even for a beginner. Second hand doubles and it comes back to the kibitzer who bids 4♦! They are beginning to have second thoughts about this guy. Second hand doubles again and when the bidding comes back to the kibitzer he bids 4♥. This is just too much. This will surely be the last hand, but second hand doubles again. When it comes back to the kibitzer, this time he says: "And the jack of spades."

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Barbara Seagram & David Bird



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