

bridge *Canada*

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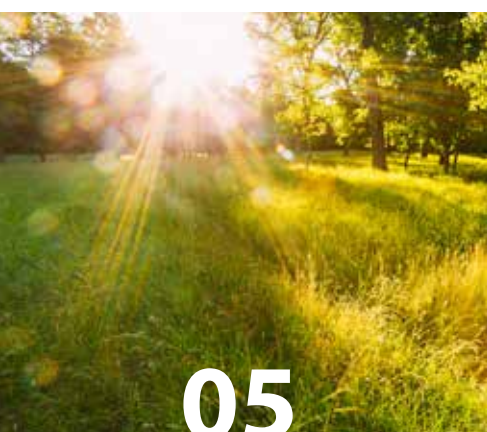
{We'll be Playing Bridge}

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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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3. Email info@cbf.ca for more information.

NOTE: Starting Jan 2021, membership dues for players 25 years of age and under are \$10 per year. When joining or renewing on the CBF website, use promo code JUNIOR to access the discount..

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

2022 Canadian Bridge Championships (CBCs)

These are over for another year. I would again like to congratulate the CBF Board for the successful migration to RealBridge. It was a pleasure to play on this platform, and have access to all the results from every table for the whole event! Plus, one of my pet peeves was addressed, the Cross-table comparisons available on RealBridge allowed for the display of the relative success rate of all pairs in the event.

Hopefully next year we will be back on track for in person CBCs.

Bridge Canada Feedback

Let me know what you think, or if you have any other ideas for other Bridge Canada features. Some of the feedback that I have received is the enjoyment many get from reading and entering The Great Canadian Bidding Contest (TGCBC). I appreciate receiving all comments.

Neil Kimelman, Bridge Canada Managing Editor



MOLLO ON PLAY XXII

Contract: 6♠ by South at IMPs. Lead: ♥Q

♠ Q 2
♥ 6 4 3
♦ A Q J
♣ A K Q 5 3

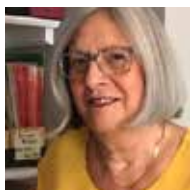
♠ A K 7 6 5 4 3
♥ A
♦ 8 4
♣ 6 4 2

Plan the play. Solution on page 8.

CALENDAR OF BRIDGE EVENTS

- Aug 19-Sept 3 16th World Bridge Series – Wroclaw, Poland
- August 20 CBF Online Game on BBO – 499er – 1:00 eastern
CBF Online Game on BBO – Open – 1:15 eastern
- September to December in-person clubs
CNTC and COPC qualifying games for 2023
- Sept 1-30 Registration for CBF Online Team league
- Sept 17 CBF Online Game on BBO – 499er – 1:00 eastern
CBF Online Game on BBO – Open – 1:15 eastern
- October CBF Online Team league – play begins mid October through January
- Oct 15 CBF Online Game on BBO – 499er – 1:00 eastern
CBF Online Game on BBO – Open –

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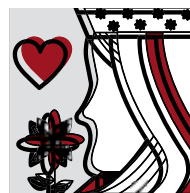
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2022 Senior Team Championships

By Bill Treble

After some discussion, the CBF elected to hold all major team events online rather than in-person for 2022. It was also decided to use a different internet platform, RealBridge instead of Bridge Base Online (BBO). Because of its audio/visual capabilities, RealBridge had the significant advantage of being much like an in-person game with screens, where you could see one of the opponents but not your partner or the other opponent. In one respect, it was even better since you could chat with that opponent without it being heard from the other side of the table.

However, because of an exclusive contract that the ACBL has with BBO, none of the team events awarded Masterpoints awards, and the reaction to that aspect was mixed, even within our own team. Although it didn't matter a whole lot to me, I do feel that part of the ACBL's arrangement with BBO should be that the latter should offer the same playing conditions for the CBF and USBF (United States Bridge Federation) events that RealBridge does.

There were 10 teams entered, and they played a round-robin of 12-board matches over two days. Although some teams were more fancied than others, there were no sure wins to be had, as there were a number of upsets in the individual matches. For example, the pre-event favorites Czyzowicz (Gartaganis-Campbell-Fergani-Marcinski-Jacob-Klimowicz) lost to Hunter, Lerner and Martineau on the first day.

My team (Kuz-Treble-Senensky-Cohen-Cooper-Kleinplatz) was soundly defeated by Kersey on day 1 and Spier on day 2.

Just over halfway through, the Galand team had won four of five matches and the Roche squad had five victories to their credit. Although their momentum slowed in the home stretch, they had enough of a cushion to make it through to the semi-finals in relative comfort. Meanwhile, Czyzowicz was languishing in the bottom half of the standings but roared back like the many-time champions that they are in the last four matches to reach the knockout stage. Todd started well but had tough opponents on the second day and a loss to Martineau in the sixth match left them in a precarious situation, needing to beat Galand in the final match. Kuz was taking one step up, then one back throughout the round-robin but managed to survive a last-round defeat to Czyzowicz to make it through, with Todd the odd team out of the playoffs.

Galand, who finished at the top of the leaderboard, chose Kuz to play in the semi-finals. That left Roche vs Czyzowicz as the other match. The semi-finals and finals were 56 boards in length, with four 14-board segments.

SEMI FINALS

Each of the semi-finals took different paths. Kuz had a good first quarter versus Galand and built slightly on their lead in the next set. Galand won back 14 IMPs in the third quarter to reduce the margin to 12, but the last fourteen boards were relatively even and Kuz advanced to the finals. In the other match, Roche led Czyzowicz by 3 IMPs at the halfway point and then had a big 52-12 third set that seemed to clinch the outcome in their favor. However, the tide turned in a big way in the last fourteen hands as Czyzowicz poured it on with a 70-4 set that put them in the final against Kuz. This was Board 19 from our semi-final against Galand:

♠ KJ10864	♠ A92
♥ K542	♥ Q86
♦ QJ	♦ 1084
♣ 3	♣ AQ108
♠ 7	♠ Q53
♥ 103	♥ AJ97
♦ 7653	♦ AK92
♣ J97642	♣ K5

South opened a strong notrump at both tables. Against us, responder transferred to 4♠ and played it there, making without difficulty. At the other table, North opted for Stayman, and 4♥ became the final contract. With poor minor-suit holdings, West led his singleton and got two ruffs for an immediate down one.

This is the classic scenario of what to do with 6-4 in the majors when partner shows a strong balanced hand. With the spot cards in spades being what they are, I'd be inclined to play in what might be a 6-2 fit. I don't know what your opinion would be.

FINALS

Here are four hands from the finals. The first one is from midway through the first quarter:

North: ♠98xx ♥AK10432 ♦52 ♣J
 South: ♠AKJ10xx ♥J9 ♦Ax ♣K9x

At our table the auction went:

North	South
Kuz	Treble
-	1♠
2♥	2♠
4♠	5♦
5♥	6♠

This was a big pickup when the other table did not bid above game. Next one, with North dealer and E-W vulnerable:

♠ 7543	♠ A	♠ K8
♥ J752	♥ A104	♥ K863
♦ J32	♦ Q10854	♦ 97
♣ 32	♣ QJ65	♣ AK984
	♠ QJ10962	
	♥ Q9	
	♦ AK6	
	♣ 107	

Table 1:

West	North	East	South
Campbell	Kuz	Gartaganis	Treble
	1♦	2♣	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Table 2:

West	North	East	South
Cohen	Klimowicz	Senensky	Jacob
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

At Table 1, East overcalled 2♣ at adverse colors and I bid 2♠ as South. Since we play weak notrumps, Bob could not rebid 2NT as that would show a balanced hand of at least 15 HCPs. His choices were between 3♦ and 3NT, so he chose the latter, depending on me to interpret it as an unbalanced hand with short spades and a bit extra, which I did. 3NT was an easy make for our side.

At the other table, Barry Senensky did not take immediate action with the East hand and N-S had a free run. When responder showed his sixth spade over partner's 2NT, North raised to game on his singleton ace. A heart was led after which 4♠ was down off the top and the defense actually promoted a trump trick for down two.

The next hand occurred in the third set. As West, you hold with N-S vulnerable ♠AK76 ♥105 ♦KQ985 ♣62. The auction goes:

West	North	East	South
Jacob	Cooper	Klimowicz	Kleinplatz
			1♣
1♦	2♥ ¹	Pass	3♦
DbI	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

1. Fit showing

With RHO having shown first-round diamond control, West for our opponents led the ♠A, a reasonable but unfortunate choice, as the entire hand was:

♠	-	♠	J9543
♥	A9873	♥	K64
♦	764	♦	1063
♣	109874	♣	J5
♠	AK76	♠	Q1082
♥	105	♥	QJ2
♦	KQ985	♦	AJ
♣	62	♣	AKQ3

Declarer ruffed, drew trumps and lost a heart finesse to partner. He then throws his second diamond and a spade away on the long hearts to chalk up +1370. Final hand:

♠	QJ7	♠	9x
♥	A1074	♥	983
♦	Q8	♦	AJ
♣	Q987	♣	AKxxxx
♠	Axx	♠	K10xxx
♥	KQ	♥	Jxxx
♦	K10xxx	♦	9xxx
♣	J10x	♣	-

East opened a weak notrump and West jumped to 3NT. I led a spade (3rd and 5th) and Bob won the jack, returning the queen at trick two. He likely would have found the heart shift anyway if I ducked, but I overtook and switched to a heart myself. East can't handle the 4-0 club break and had no entry to the diamonds even if he had picked off the doubleton queen. As always, some pretty interesting hands where the outcome was on a razor's edge.

Mollo ON PLAY XXIII

Contract: 6♠ by South at IMPs.

Lead: ♥Q. Plan the Play

♠ J1098	♠ Q2	♠ -
♥ QJ10	♥ 643	♥ K98752
♦ 109765	♦ AQJ	♦ K32
♣ 9	♣ AKQ53	♣ J1087
	♠ AK76543	
	♥ A	
	♦ 84	
	♣ 642	

Win the heart ace and lead a spade to the Queen. Your thoughts of missing the grand are quickly dashed when East shows out on the first round of trumps. Now the goal is to make six, avoiding having to rely on the diamond finesse, if possible.

The key play is to cash the ♣A at trick three. If West ruffs this then you were not setting up any extra club tricks, and need the diamond finesse. If East shows out then you can make the hand by elopement, if west has specifically 4-3-1-5 shape. You win the first twelve tricks:

- Win the ♥A.
- A spade to the Queen.
- Cash the ♣A.
- Heart ruff.
- Cash the ♠AK.
- Club to the King.
- Heart ruff.
- Cash the club Queen, and ruff a club.
- A diamond to the ace.
- Ruff the last club.

Assuming both opponents do follow on the ♣A, ruff a heart, club to the King, ruff the last heart, cash the ♠AK discarding the ♦J, club to the Queen, and ruff a club. A diamond to the ace allows you to discard your ♦8 on the long club. It does West no good to ruff in on any of these tricks.



what ...does this bid mean?

Editor's note: Here is a new feature of Bridge Canada – understanding less than familiar auctions. See how you do!

1.	North	South
	1NT	5NT

What is the meaning of 5NT?

2.	North	South
	1NT	5NT
	6♣	

What is the meaning of 6♣?

Solutions on page 12.

Man having a drink at a bar: My wife thinks I am more interested in Bridge than I am in her.

Bartender: How long have you been married?

Man having a drink at a bar: Since my 3rd Canadian Bridge Championship.



THE NEW PLAYER *Spot*



by Andy Stark

Follow-ups to Roman Keycard Blackwood

Many new players are learning Roman Keycard (RKC) from the get-go, instead of first learning old fashioned Blackwood and then un-learning Blackwood. So, for the purpose of this article, I will assume you are comfortable with RKC, but are not 100% sure what to do after you learn how many keycards partner has. That is, how do we learn about the trump queen and how do we learn about outside kings?

First, let's assume you play 14/30. This means that the bid of 5♣ shows one or four keycards and the bid of 5♦ shows zero or three. If you play 03/14 then you flipflop those meanings.

In both 14/30 and 03/14 the 5♥/5♠ bids retain the same meaning: 5♥ shows two keycards without the trump queen and 5♠ shows two keycards with the trump queen. A little-known fun fact is that the bids of 5♥ and 5♠ are the way to show five keycards. It is a blue moon when the asker has zero keycards and learns their partner has five keycards, so rare that you probably will never encounter the situation. (Reason: Why is the partner with zero keycards even captaining the auction and asking the strong hand for keycards?)

Notice that after a 5♣ and 5♦ response Asker does not know the whereabouts of the trump queen unless they are looking at it in their own hand. Therefore, we need a way of asking for the queen. Most of the time it is the next bid up. For example, say spades have been agreed:

Asker	Teller
4NT	5♣
5♦	

Teller has one or four keycards. Asker wants to know about the queen of spades, so bids 5♦—the next suit up from the previous bid of 5♣.

The above example was somewhat easy to navigate. What happens though if the next suit up is the agreed upon trump suit? Say diamonds have been agreed. If the response to 4NT is 5♣, then 5♦ is to play as it is a return to the trump suit. In the cases where the next bid suit is the trump suit, if Asker wishes to know about the trump queen, they need to go on to the next suit up—in this case, hearts.

Asker	Teller
4NT	5♣
5♥	

There is one exception though, as laid out by the great Eddie Kantar (who left us too soon in April of this year). If the agreed suit is hearts and the answer to 4NT is 5♦ showing zero or three keycards, Asker can bid 5♥ to ask for the trump queen. But Teller only answers if holding three keycards. If holding zero keycards, then 5♥ is a signoff.

How does Teller show the queen?

Before we learn to show the queen let's review how we deny the queen. If you are asked, to deny possession of the trump queen, simply bid the trump suit at the cheapest available level. So, if spades are trump and Asker bids 5♦ to ask for the spade queen, bid 5♠ to deny it.

Asker	Teller	
4NT	5♣	
5♦	5♠	No, I do not have the trump queen.

If clubs are agreed upon, and Asker bids 5♦ or 5♥ to ask for the club queen, Teller bids 6♣ to deny it. (5♣ would be insufficient.)

The only bid to deny the trump queen is a return to the trump suit at the cheapest level. The way to show the trump queen is to make any other bid. Each of those trump queen promising bids will also be descriptive: they will show a side king in the suit bid. Let's go back to spades being agreed upon:

Asker	Teller	
4NT	5♣	
5♦	5♥	Yes, I have the ♠Q, and I have the king of hearts

Teller can use a 5NT bid as a response to show the king in the suit in which Asker is asking. Again, assuming spades is the agreed trump suit, here are all of Teller's responses to the Queen Ask and their meanings:

- 5♥ = Have the ♠Q and the ♥K
- 5♠ = Do not have the ♠Q
- 5NT = Have the ♠Q and the ♦K (do not have the ♥K, may have the ♣K)
- 6♣ = Have the ♠Q and the ♣K (do not have any other side kings)
- 6♠ = Have the ♠Q, but no side kings.

The reason for using the 5NT bid as a response to show the king of the asking suit (here, diamonds) is that it conserves room. The importance of conserving room will become clear during a more advanced lesson on RKC.

Showing kings

If Asker bids 5NT after getting a response to 4NT, Asker is now asking for kings. Many new players show number of kings: 6♣ shows zero kings, 6♦ shows one

king, etc. But a superior method and not that difficult to absorb is to play something called Specific Kings. In this way, Teller bids the king in the suit they have so that Asker knows exactly which king it is. How is this superior? Well, say the two hands are like this:

♠ AKJ986	♠ Q743
♥ 2	♥ A4
♦ K92	♦ AQJ106
♣ AJ7	♣ Q2

The two pairs discover their spade fit and strength. The only question now is whether to bid a small slam or a grand slam.

Say East is the Asker. Over their 4NT bid, West bids 5♦ (to show zero or three keycards). East can now bid 5NT to ask for kings. When West bids 6♦ to show the diamond king, East can count a likely five diamond tricks and bid 7♠. But if West had bid 6♥ to deny the diamond king and show the heart king, then East could ascertain a diamond finesse would be needed, and thus sign off in 6♠. We try not to bid grand slams that require a successful finesse.

5NT is a big bid

Something that even advanced players forget is that when Asker bids 5NT to ask for kings they are also promising possession of all five keycards plus the trump queen. This means that if Teller has some extras that Asker does not know about, Teller may, if they choose, bid a grand slam. Say the East-West hands are dealt out like this:

♠ KQ954	♠ AJ73
♥ A4	♥ 32
♦ AQ98	♦ 7
♣ 65	♣ AKQJ109

The auction might go:

West	East
	1♣
1♠	3♠
4NT	5♥
5NT	7♠

East knows something that West does not: there are six, count 'em six club tricks for the taking. Even though East could have responded 6♣ to West's 5NT bid, East may use judgment and leap to the grand slam. Here, East has a source of tricks. Remember: Asker cannot ask for kings unless they know the partnership has all five keycards. Since East knows this, East knows West holds the ♠KQ and the two red aces. East can count four natural trump tricks, two red aces, a diamond ruff, and six clubs.

So, the 5NT is a big bid because it asks for kings but 5NT also tells partner, "We have all the keycards plus the trump queen." I highly recommend you switch over to Specific Kings. If you do and you get to a good grand slam, I'd love to hear about it.

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BRIDGE BASICS



TWO OF A MAJOR CONVENTIONS

This is the 24th 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.

Weak twos are the standard for opening two hearts and spades. We will examine these bids, and the various treatments, as well as examine other options for these two bids (except strong).

NATURAL AND WEAK

Although this bid seems straightforward, there are some treatment choices when using natural weak twos.

Length of suit. This is a question best discussed and agreed by the partnership.

New suits, forcing or not? Again both have advantages, but you can't play it both ways! :)

The 2NT response. This is generally played as a hand with at least game interest, asking for opener to describe their hands. There are three reasonable ways to respond:

1. The default for a non-maximum is to rebid your suit. With a good weak two, most pairs bid a new suit to show this hand type, with a high card feature in the suit bid. A rebid of 3NT by opener shows a solid six card suit.

2. Another 2NT response system is Ogust. The responses are:

3♣-weak hand, weak trump suit.

3♦-weak hand, good trump suit.

3♥-strong hand, weak trump suit.

3♠-strong hand, good suit.

3. Shortness ask: Many pairs ask for shortness. However to do this properly you need to have 2NT as the shortness ask for spades, and 2♠ the shortness ask for hearts. Opener rebids their major with no shortness, otherwise bids their short suit. Over 2♥ the same structure applies, except that a 2NT response shows short spades. If you play this system then 3♣ becomes the asking for a feature/maximum, as in #1 above. There are definite advantages to be able to ask both for shortness, as well as minimum/maximum, depending on the responder's hand.

Example 1 You hold ♠Axxx ♥xxx ♦AKQJxx ♣-, and partner opens 2♠. Bid 2NT, shortness ask. If partner bids 3♥ you will drive to 6♠, and even try for seven! Partner could easily hold ♠KQ10xxx ♥x ♦xx ♣Qxx, or even better, KQ10xxx ♥- ♦xx ♣Qxxx.

NATURAL AND INTERMEDIATE

This has a decent following, showing an intermediate hand, often 10-13 HCPs. Again, asking bids can be employed, similar to the weak two structure above. Using these methods can be very effective, as it is

harder for the opponents to come in, knowing that opener could have a full opening bid.

TWO SUITED AND WEAK

These bids usually show the bid five card major, and a side unknown minor. The side minor can be either a minimum of four or five cards. Some pairs attest to their efficacy, and have a detailed way to respond when responder has a good hand. (Editor's note: anyone interested in these methods, please email me at editor@cbf.ca). There are also variants that a 2♥ or 2♦ bid shows at least 4-4 in the majors.

These defensive methods can be very challenging to play against. In fact the ACBL and CBF have restrictions on their use, depending on the level of the competition.

TARTAN TWO BIDS

This is an advanced convention. It has much to commend it for partnerships with serious tournament aspirations. With this convention an opening bid of 2♥ is either strong (unlimited one-round force) with hearts, or a two-suiter with hearts and a minor. An opening bid of 2♠ is similar, showing either a strong hand with spades, or a two-suiter with spades and another.

Some pairs allow the two-suited holdings to be either weak or strong - others limit their selection to the weak option. Either or both of these bids might also include a strong notrump.

MINOR SUIT PREEMPT

Another wrinkle in the two level preempt category is to show a minor suit preempt of a specific quality. Two hearts shows clubs and two spades shows diamonds. Again, the use of this type of obstructive bid is limited to only certain high level events.

Next issue: Cuebid of opener's suit.

What ...does this bid mean?

1. North	South
1NT	5NT

What is the meaning of 5NT?

Answer: This bid invites 7NT, and is forcing to 6NT. Playing a 15-17 notrump system, South has approximately 19-21 HCPs, and is usually very balanced.

2. North	South
1NT	5NT
6♣	

What is the meaning of 6♣?

Answer: 6♣ accepts the invitation, and shows a four card club suit, and invites partner do the same. The theory is that a 4-4 or 5-4 fit will sometimes play better than notrump. Once North accepts the invite, the partnership *must* bid a grand slam. A jump to 7♣ over 5NT also accepts the invitation but shows a five card club suit.

These methods are the same had the auction started 1NT-4NT, invitational, just one level lower.

Before I teach a class at Leisure World, a retirement community in Southern California, I am told not to use the term "drop dead bid." *Edwin Kantar.*





THE INTERMEDIATE *Spot*



BIDDING STRATEGIES 10

When to Preempt

By Neil Kimelman

Over the last half dozen issues we have look at preempts. First from the perspective of bidding over them, and in the last two issues, when to preempt. Let's assess your learning of these latter principles with a quiz.

For the purpose of this exercise, assume your partnership agreements is to bid differently depending on seat and vulnerability. White versus red in 3rd seat could be quite weak, whereas a 1st or 2nd seat vul vs not, will tend to be very constructive. Also, all four level bids are natural and preemptive (no Namyats).

PREEMPTING QUIZ PROBLEMS

1. ♠KJ10764 ♥Q109 ♦43 ♣75

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat.
Do you open 2♠?
- b) What if you are in 2nd seat, both vul, and RHO passes?
- c) 3rd seat, vul. vs not, it goes pass, pass to you.
Do you open 2♠?

2. ♠4 ♥QJ109742 ♦J3 ♣Q75

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid?
- b) What if you are in 2nd seat, both vul, and RHO passes?
- c) 3rd seat, vul. vs not, it goes pass, pass to you.
What is your call?

3. ♠J107654 ♥Q109 ♦K3 ♣K5

- a) 3rd seat, vul. vs not, it goes pass, pass to you. What is your call?
- b) 3rd seat, not vul. vs vul, it goes pass, pass to you. What is your call?

4. ♠Q4 ♥Q87532 ♦K3 ♣752

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid?

5. ♠A109764 ♥A109 ♦43 ♣75

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid?
- b) 3rd seat, vul. vs not, it goes pass, pass to you. Do you open 2♠?

6. ♠4 ♥AQ10984 ♦A1043 ♣75

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid?

7. ♠KJ10764 ♥3 ♦3 ♣QJ1085

- a) You are in 2nd seat, both vul, and RHO passes?
- b) Not vul, vs vul, you are in 3rd seat. What do you bid?

8. ♠KJ107654 ♥- ♦3 ♣QJ1085

- a) Not vul, vs vul, you are in 3rd seat. What do you bid?

9. ♠KJ984 ♥2 ♦3 ♣QJ9875

- a) The Opponents are vul, you are not. What do you bid in 1st seat?

10. ♠K4 ♥J876542 ♦3 ♣Q75

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid?

PREEMPTING QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. ♠KJ10764 ♥Q109 ♦43 ♣75

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. Do you open 2♠?
Yes.
- b) What if you are in 2nd seat, both vul, and RHO passes? **Yes, suit is good enough**
- c) 3rd seat, vul. vs not, it goes pass, pass to you. Do you open 2♠? **Yes, but barely. If you are adverse to risk, or perhaps doing well in the match, pass is acceptable.**

2. ♠4 ♥QJ109742 ♦J3 ♣Q75

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid?
Bid 3♥.
- b) What if you are in 2nd seat, both vul, and RHO passes? **3♥, but just.**
- c) 3rd seat, vul. vs not, it goes pass, pass to you. What is your call? **Pass, too weak at these colours.**

3. ♠J107654 ♥Q109 ♦K3 ♣K5

- a) 3rd seat, vul. vs not, it goes pass, pass to you. What is your call? **Pass. Too weak a suit for 2♠.**
- b) 3rd seat, not vul. vs vul, it goes pass, pass to you. What is your call? **In 3rd suit, especially at these colours, it is a reasonable partnership agreement to be able to stray from your partnership agreements. Bid 2♠.**

4. ♠Q4 ♥Q87532 ♦K3 ♣752

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid?
Pass. Suit is too weak.

5. ♠A109764 ♥A109 ♦43 ♣75

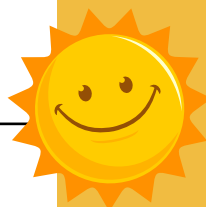
- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid?
Pass. A good partnership agreement is not to open a preempt with two aces. Partner will often misjudge what to do in a competitive auction. Plus you will play in 2♠ instead of 4♥ when partner has ♠x ♥KQxxxx ♦Axx ♣KJ10.
- b) 3rd seat, vul. vs not, it goes pass, pass to you. Do you open 2♠? **Yes. Now that your action is more defensive, with partner being a passed hand, you have an excellent weak two.**

6. ♠4 ♥AQ10984 ♦A1043 ♣75

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid?
This is an opening bid! Open 1♥. Even if your diamond ace was the king, most experts would treat this hand as an opener.



I'm not sure whether glory or Masterpoints is first on the list of beginning tournament players, but I know learning to play better is definitely last. *Edwin Kantar*



QUIZ

INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

SOLUTION ON PAGE 20

7. ♠KJ10764 ♥3 ♦3 ♣QJ1085

- a) You are in 2nd seat, both vul, and RHO passes? **In 2nd seat you want to have your bid, because partner has as good chance as LHO of having a good hand. This hand is good enough, and has definite extra playing strength potential.**
- b) Not vul, vs vul, you are in 3rd seat. What do you bid? **2♠ is fine, but 3♠ is also reasonable.**

8. ♠KJ107654 ♥- ♦3 ♣QJ1085

- a) Not vul, vs vul, you are in 3rd seat. What do you bid? **3♠ is ok, but 4♠ is better.**

9. ♠KJ984 ♥2 ♦3 ♣QJ9875

- a) The opponents are vul, you are not. What do you bid in 1st seat? **Pass, and hope you can show your two suiter later in the bidding. Opening 3♠ with a good five card major is wrong. A small minority of experts would open 2♠.**

10. ♠K4 ♥J876542 ♦3 ♣Q75

- a) Neither vul, you are in 1st seat. What do you bid? **Pass. Your suit is too weak.**

Contract: 4♠, IMPs. Lead: ♠6.

♠ K 7 3
♥ J 7 4
♦ Q 7
♣ 9 8 7 3 2

♠ A Q J 10 9 8
♥ A 10 9
♦ 9 6 5
♣ A

The auction:

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

Next issue: Preempt quiz II



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What Went Wrong?

by Paul Thurston

With the outcome still very much in doubt, the first deal of the fourth quarter of the Canadian Senior Teams Championship started a trend that eventually saw KUZ end with a decisive victory over CZYZOWICZ (npc). For those that might not know, the team of Kamel Fergani-Zygmunt Marcinski, Nicholas Gartaganis-Gordon Campbell and Dan Jacob-Piotr Klimowicz had named their team after the recently deceased Jurek Czyzowicz, a great Canadian player, friend and frequent past teammate of the sixsome and a true gentleman at the table wherever and whenever he competed.

HAND 1

For this deal, both tables saw South declare four spades and the declarer for KUZ ended with twelve tricks for +480 while his counterpart had to settle for only nine and that -50 meant 11 IMPs for KUZ who never looked back. Twelve versus nine with a world-class declarer at both tables? Truly a candidate for WHAT WENT WRONG?

♠ A102	♠ KQ76	♠ J5
♥ K76	♥ AJ9853	♥ Q42
♦ 9743	♦ -	♦ KJ62
♣ 963	♣ A104	♣ QJ87
	♠ 9843	
	♥ 10	
	♦ AQ1085	
	♣ K52	

THE
EXPERT
Spot

WHAT WENT WRONG ... CONTINUED

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

When North-South for KUZ took the direct route to four spades, an unsuspecting West chose the ♦7 for his opening lead and South was off of a great start with two sure diamond winners and no pressure on any of his other holdings. Low spade to win in dummy, ace and a heart ruff, second spade towards dummy and with both the trump suit and hearts behaving, declarer raced home with a comfortable twelve tricks. A subtle but important difference in the other table's auction motivated a different opening lead that started a process of a couple of declarer mis-guesses accompanied by some opportunistic defense to eventually defeat the contract.

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

What North's best rebid might be would make a good problem for a future bidding problem as there would be votes for three or four spades as well as North's splinter raise of four diamonds. What is sure is that North's choice of the shortness-showing four diamonds leaked enough information to steer West away from a diamond opening lead and his alternative of a low club certainly put some pressure on declarer. Low club start to the Jack and King for South to lead and pass the ten of hearts.

When East won and shifted to a low diamond, declarer won his ace to discard a small club from dummy before leading a spade that West played low on for dummy to win a high honour.

Heart ruff in the closed hand for a second spade lead towards dummy. This time West did win his ace to shift back to diamonds. As you can see, with hearts coming home, declarer could still prevail by pitching a heart from dummy but he made the reasonable decision to trump in dummy.

The next play proved decisive as South clicked on the ♥9 from dummy to take a ruffing finesse for the missing King. But when South discarded from hand and West produced the King to play back yet another diamond, the contract was doomed: if South discarded from dummy, the ♦K would win while ruffing would promote the ten of spades for the fourth defensive winner a different way. Bottom line: for sure, not the best line of play by South for CZYZOWICZ but a textbook example of how information leakage occasioned by a mild overbid can aid the defenders and harm the declarer.

HAND 2

One very cogent way to dampen opponents' enthusiasm for bidding slender games was starkly exhibited when this deal was contested during the decisive fourth quarter of the Canadian Senior Teams Championship. Lead: 7♣

	♠ KJ9	
	♥ K107632	
	♦ A	
	♣ A54	
♠ A3		♠ 10742
♥ Q		♥ AJ854
♦ KJ94		♦ 532
♣ J87632		♣ 10
	♠ Q865	
	♥ 9	
	♦ Q10876	
	♣ KQ9	

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

Assuming that his vulnerable opponents might be counting on hearts as a source of tricks for South's push to game as a passed hand over his partner's invitational rebid, East tacked on a penalty double as he knew his own heart holding was going to be a serious impediment for declarer. Many times, an "out of the blue" penalty double of opponents' freely bid 3NT is

WHAT WENT WRONG ... CONTINUED

lead directive, strongly suggesting an opening lead of dummy's first-bid suit but West recognized there was no hurry to lead the suit declarer was going to need to broach for his own purposes and so he kicked off with a club lead.

When he saw dummy, South knew what East had based his double on but had little in the way of options but to win the club in hand and push back the nine of hearts to the Queen, King and ace. East played back his highest diamond to dislodge dummy's ace and leave declarer's chances about where they were at the outset (nil) with only the size of the penalty to be determined. Eventually it was +500 for the defenders after South managed two spade tricks, three clubs, one diamond and even one heart via an eventual endplay on East (thrown in with the spade ten to surrender a trick to dummy's heart ten). The effective defense and timely double were a big part of the double-digit loss North-South's team suffered here but let's ask WHAT WENT WRONG?

To get to the heart of the matter. Ah, yes, hearts! While North does have an extra-value hand for his overcall, that six-card suit does seem more than a bit porous for the strongly-invitational jump to the three-level. Compare that aggressive rebid to the two-heart call chosen at the other table that produced a pass from South and a useful plus score of 110 for the eight tricks declarer took in his conservative partial. While it's also true that South held minimum values for his acceptance of his partner's invitation, for sure he was counting on the likelihood of more than one heart trick and that only obtained from an unlikely endplay.

To be fair, North and South may have felt the match was getting away from them in the fourth quarter that hadn't gone particularly well for them BUT when both halves of a partnership stretch their assets in search of a game bonus, there will very often be an unhappy result.

HAND 3

Our final entrant in this instalment of WWW might be better placed in Ripley's "Believe it or Not" or Tussaud's "Wax Museum of Horrors" but as I did witness it during

a match between (alleged) World Class competitors on BBO, I present it for entertainment purposes only (with maybe a tad of cautionary warning about the dangers of exercising too much imagination at the table!).

Dealer: West. East-West Vulnerable.

		♠ K9	
		♥ AQJ4	
		♦ AJ642	
		♣ J3	
♠ QJ73			♠ A65
♥ 9			♥ 853
♦ -			♦ Q10983
♣ K10987542			♣ A6
	♠ 10842		
	♥ K10762		
	♦ K75		
	♣ Q		
West	North	East	South
3♣	Dbl	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

I suppose the F.B.I. (Faultless Bidding Institute) might have something to say about the wildly skewed three-bid, the takeout double and South's razor-thin jump to game but the final contract was okay in a single-dummy sense, just not makeable on the actual layout. (Ha!). West's opening lead of his eighth-best club is what is often referred to as an "alarm clock lead": partner, I hope you're awake to the fact that I've led an unusual club spot because if you can win the first trick, I can ruff something on the way back". A decent effort by West that might have been more necessary on a different layout as virtually any lead and sensible follow-up would have seen South lose one club, one diamond and two spades. But to keep peace in the partnership, East did win the club ace and, knowing full well it was a diamond that West lusted to ruff, played back the ten of that suit. And West did feel gratified that his opening lead had generated the sought-after ruff and continued with what might have been, even should have been, an effective defensive campaign when he returned the Queen of spades. Except that great start fizzled instead of sizzled when dummy played low out of resignation and East won the ace of spades (oh, yes he did!) to immediately fire back another diamond. East

was apparently taking no chances as he really wanted to set the contract and his partner's second ruff would do just that.

West's ability to ruff that second round of diamonds was, as you can see, severely constrained by his inability to locate another heart among the forest of black cards remaining in his hand and unbelievably the game had been allowed to make.

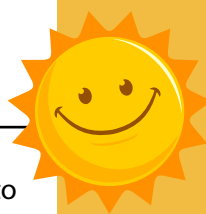
WHAT WENT WRONG?

Now there are those that might charitably believe that East's play of the spade ace was an anticipatory mislick: he fully expected declarer would cover the spade King with dummy's Queen but I don't think so as the play of the spade ace was not without thought. Further, undo's for mechanical errors of mis-clicks were permitted in this game and there was enough of a pause by South to allow East to request that undo if he had so desired. From a purely practical bridge sense, of course East's overtake of the spade Queen was flawed in two respects: given South's jump to game, how would declarer not have five hearts as he had very little else to warrant that jump and, heavens to murgatroyd, the spade Queen would have won the trick! We'll give the final word (shared in private after play's end) to West who confided that he's quite used to this particular partner attempting plays of "genius" that don't pan out as well as hoped. Indeed!

George S. Kaufman, the playwright, humorist and drama writer, was a prominent player of bridge. At the Regency Club one afternoon, Kaufman shuddered at the atrocious playing of a fellow member. When the hand was finished, the bungler sensed disapproval in Kaufman's silence.

"Alright, George," he protested, "how should I have played it?"

Kaufman answered, "Under an assumed name."



QUIZ

INTERMEDIATE DECLARER PLAY

SOLUTION FROM PAGE 16

Contract: 4♠, IMPs. **Leads:** ♠ 6.

♠ K 7 3

♥ J 7 4

♦ Q 7

♣ 9 8 7 3 2

♠ 6

♥ Q 3

♦ K J 10 8 4 2

♣ K Q J 4

♠ 5 4 2

♥ K 8 6 5 2

♦ A 3

♣ 10 6 5

♠ A Q J 10 9 8

♥ A 10 9

♦ 9 6 5

♣ A

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

Things are looking grim. You have two diamond losers for sure, plus possibly two hearts. In addition, you hope to ruff your third diamond in dummy, but the trump lead is threatening that plan. Counting winners you have 6 spades, 1 heart and 1 club.

Even if you are pessimistic on the inside, don't show it! Win the spade in your hand, and lead a diamond to the Queen. West wins the King, and shifts to the ♣K! They must have held only one trump. Win the ace and lead a 2nd diamond. East wins and plays a 2nd trump, West discarding a diamond.

Just a little care in the timing is required before you are home. Win the spade with the King, and lead a heart, finessing the ten. The best that West can do is to win their heart honour, and lead the ♣Q. Ruff, ruff your 3rd diamond with the ♠7 (East cannot overruff), and now repeat the heart finesse, pull the last trump and claim. Well done!

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.



IBPA AWARDS 2021

Continued

The Yeh Bros. Bidding of the Year Award

Winners: JJ Wang & Hailong Ao (USA)

Journalist: Jerry Li (China) Special Key-Card Ask

While chatting with my long-time friend Dr. Jian-Jian (J.J.) Wang recently, I learned about the following deal with great interest. It's from the 2020 ACBL Grand National Team District 6 Final.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ K84	♠ A
♥ Q5	♥ AJ109743
♦ J104	♦ AKQ6
♣ AJ873	♣ 10

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Ao		Wang	
-	1♠	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣ ¹	Pass
5♦ ²	Pass	5♠ ³	Pass
6♠ ⁴	Pass	7♥ ⁵	All Pass

1. Based on their agreements: four spades and four notrumps here are cuebid (opponent's suit) and Kickback RKCB, respectively. And, five clubs is a Special Keycard Ask (more details in the following text).
2. 1430 answer showing one ace (nothing about trump king at this moment).
3. Relay, asking for trump queen (or king). When five spades is an asking bid over five hearts, it also shows grand-slam interest.
4. Heart queen (or king) plus spade king (an answer over six hearts commits to 6NT at least).
5. Thank you, partner!



Seven hearts is an easy make after picking up North's marked heart king. If using ordinary Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB), the best East/West can do is to reach six hearts because of a missing key card. Making seven hearts was a 14-IMP pickup for their team as the opponents played in five hearts at the other table.

The Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year

Winner: Jin Kai (China)

Journalist: Jerry Li (China)

With the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, live bridge has changed to online bridge. The Chinese Premier League is the highest level of bridge tournament in China. This year, the difference was that it could not be as face-to-face bridge is played.

Repeat Endplay

Leg 2. RR 7. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul

	♠ AQ83		
	♥ 2		
	♦ AQ72		
	♣ AQ86		
♠ 6		♠ KJ2	
♥ KQJ108763		♥ A4	
♦ K4		♦ 1053	
♣ J9		♣ K10432	
	♠ 109754		
	♥ 95		
	♦ J986		
	♣ 75		

West North East South

Jin Kai

1♣¹ Pass 1♥²
4♥ 4♠ All Pass

- Two or more clubs
- Spades

Jin Kai is a member of the Chinese U-26 team. Here he was declarer in four spades.

When East led the ace of hearts and another heart, Jin Kai ruffed. According to the auction and opening lead, declarer knew that West had eight hearts, so the trumps were almost certain to be three-one or four-zero. So, Jin played the queen of spades! The East player was endplayed at the third trick.

If East won and played a club, declarer would avoid a club loser; if he played a diamond, declarer would win and cash the trump ace and the diamonds. Then, if East ruffed, he was endplayed again; if he didn't ruff, declarer could throw him in with a trump to lead a club. Jin Kai was the only declarer to make four spades.



the GREAT CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST



AUGUST 2022 TGCBC Host: Neil Kimelman

For Panelists, see page 37

On the readers side, congrats to Fred Lerner with the high score of 46. Tied at 44 were Richard Bickley and Ashot Harutyanyun. The best total for June-August with 91, and the winner of \$100, was Richard Bickley, narrowing out our \$50 winner Fred Turner who had 90. Kudos to you both! It is easy to enter! Try your luck at winning some 'mad money'. October problems can be found on page 38. Email me your answers to editor@cbf.ca. by September 12th.

Panelists with the top score for August were Francine Cimon and the erudite Stephen Cooper. I would also like to thank Mike Hargreaves for suggesting Problem 4, and all panelists for sharing their knowledge and experience.

1. As South, you hold ♠AQ1062 ♥6 ♦AKJ5 ♣AKJ. E-W vul, teams.

West North East South

Pass 2♦¹ 2♥ ?

1. Waiting, denies a complete bust.

a) What do you bid, assuming North is an expert, and you have no agreements?

b) How does your favourite partnership handle interference over a 2♣ opener?

Bid	Panelists	Score
2♠	16	10
Pass	2	9
Dbl	0	9

a) turned out to be a dud without clear agreements. The vast majority bid what was in front of their face:

Balcombe: a) 2♠. Why complicate life?

Treble: a) 2♠. Close, but I want to get the spades in now in case hearts are getting raised.

Good point. Marcinski, Hargreaves, Jacob, and Miles all agreed they would like to double with this hand, but play it safe with no agreements, even with an expert partner. The passers' arguments, to me anyways, were not compelling:

Lindop: a) Pass. Could bid 2♠ but I would like a better suit. This hand has such good support for both diamonds and clubs I would like to see what partner has to say rather than insist on spades. We should be able to find an eight-card spade fit later if necessary.

Jacob: Pass. I would like double as takeout but with no agreements I'd rather pass (100% forcing) than bid 2♠.

On to b). A large number think that a double of 2♥ is pure penalties:

Grainger: b) Penalty doubles by opener, and double showing a bust by responder, with pass showing some values, otherwise natural. Reasonable to play cuebid as Michaels by opener.

Lebi: b) My notes show Double= Penalty, Pass= Balanced hand, no stopper or short stopper in opponents suit. Responder's default bid is double after a pass, or otherwise responds to a 2NT rebid.

Balcombe: b) Pass is forcing, so double is penalty.

Kuz: b) Bid a suit with an unbalanced hand. Double with balanced hand. I like doubles of the overcall as pure penalties.

Cooper: b) In a game-forcing auction, doubles by a 2♣ opener should be penalty. One can always pass to force (usually a balanced hand), or cue-bid as takeout with shortness. My recent agreements only cover direct action - Pass is like the 2♦ response, a non-bust with no long suit to bid, and double is a complete bust. No special agreement in this position.

Willis: b) Pass by the 2♣ bidder would be forcing and tend to show a big balanced hand, leaves open the possibility of a cooperative double by partner. Double is penalty oriented showing length and values in suit (exposes psyches and stops partner bidding when they shouldn't). Bids are natural. Suit jumps are single suited and suggest cuebidding and short hearts. Cuebid is two suiter typically short hearts expecting more action.

A second group thinks a double shows a balanced hand:

L'Ecuyer: Playing standard methods, 2♦ is GF therefore, here, pass by opener tends to show a balanced hand without a takeout double.

Yes! It is clear to me that 2♦ creates a game force, although some panelists thought otherwise.

Miles: By responder – bids are natural/positive, double is a bust, pass is GF and shows at least something. I believe this is 'standard'. By opener – bids are natural, double is strong balanced. Over RHO's interference, opener can also pass with a balanced hand. Cuebid can show a 3 suiter.

While an equally large number say double by the strong hand is takeout:

Marcinski: b) So-called "Pass/Double Inversion", where a (i) direct seat double is take-out, (ii) direct seat bid is

highly directional, and (iii) a Pass is either penaltyish or a flexible hand that did not qualify for (i) and (ii) where Responder is expected to double unless he has a highly distributional hand. 2NT would show stop(s) with a side 5+ suit. Which leaves Pass as the default, usually assumed to be a directionless balanced hand

Hargreaves: b) Takeout. With penalty interest, passing. A reopening double is also takeout and I'd convert with a penalty hand.

Todd: b) Double is for takeout and pass with any balanced hand or trap pass.

Cimon: b) Double is take out, a new suit is a single suiter, 2NT a natural offensive hand, pass a strong balanced hand.

Treble: b) Bids usually one-suited, double takeout, pass strong balanced with no clear direction. 2NT is natural, with more of a source of tricks than pass.

Turner: b) I'm not sure there's any surefire system; our partnership plays my preferred approach after a suit overcall:

- Responder's double of a suit overcall is weak and for penalty.
- Pass is not GF.
- Natural GF responses without usual honour requirements.
- Opener's double after pass is for takeout, often a 2NT rebid lacking a secure stopper;
- 2NT natural NF
- After a double of 2♣, I suggest responder's redouble is weak with clubs [one or both shown suit(s)] not GF, pass is weak and not GF, 2♦ is balanced GF, suits bid are natural GFs.

While two panelists think that double should show a bad hand:

Hornby: b) Suits/notrump are natural, cues are shortness without a biddable 5-card suit, pass is waiting with values not covered by the preceding, double is a bad hand. Opener's double of a 4th hand overcall after

2♣-2♦ is the notrump hand without good stoppers.

Lindop: b) This depends on whether the interference is directly over 2♣ or after partner has responded. In the direct position we play double as a weak hand, pass as game-forcing, and a new suit as a reasonable 5+ suit. When the interference is after responder's first bid, double would be for penalty showing a balanced notrump-type hand, and our 2NT systems would be on (transfers, etc.). Pass would be for takeout, allowing responder to double for penalty. A suit bid would show a good 5+ card suit.

To me, you need to be able to accommodate all hand types, as well as defending or declaring. Here, East has offered themselves up, vul vs. not. If they made a mistake, you want to take advantage of that. So there must be a way for both partners to have the opportunity to penalize the opponents. From the panelists responses it seems to me that this may be an area of weakness in expert partnerships. Or as Andy Stark puts it:

Stark: b) In a tourney before Covid, a Toronto expert came in over 2♦ and after the hand, (after my partner and I had bungled the auction), he said, "I find nobody really knows how to properly handle interference over 2♣." So this is definitely a good discussion for any serious partnership. My partnerships are still operating by the seat of our pants in this area.

Bishop: b) Although some partnerships might have different agreements here ... this 'set' seems workable as continuations by opener:

- 2NT natural; 22+, semi-balanced at least, forcing.
- Pass = Notrump pattern without clear stopper [or a 'true trap' – to teach them a lesson as why it's not a good idea to 'psyche' interference];
- Cuebid = Huge 3-suited takeout;
- New suit = natural, forcing, 5+ card suit with/or without control in the opponents' suit (could be 2-suited).

- Jump in a suit (sets trumps; slammish).
- 3NT = stopper in their suit; long running trick source ... 8 ½ - 9 ½ tricks.

Double is an area for each partnership to agree on, but this has worked well for me. Over major suit interference double is four of the other major and a longer minor. Over minor suit interference double is Michaels. This takes away a penalty double from our arsenal, but historically it has been rare that an intervening opponent has been "setting themselves up to be hacked to pieces", at least not at the expert level.

Quite a variety!! Here is my suggestion/two cents for a comprehensive structure:

Interference directly over 2♣

- 1) 2♣ (Dbl)
 - i) Pass is very weak hand
 - ii) 2♦ = some values; Redouble is to play.
 - iii) New suit = HHxxx in suit bid.
- 2) 2♣ (2any)
 - i) Pass is weak hand or willing to penalize. Opener will usually reopen with double with shortness in the suit overcalled.
 - ii) Dbl = 4+ HCPs.
 - iii) New suit = HHxxx in suit bid.

4th seat Interference - 2♣-(pass)-2♦ - bid

- 3) 2♣ (pass) 2♦ (2♥)
 - i) New suit is natural, with a one or two suiter.
 - ii) Double is balanced or semi-balanced hand with no stopper.
 - iii) Pass is either wanting to penalize (responder **MUST** reopen with a double, or a three suiter. Opener then bids their cheapest bid over partner's forced reopening.

The full deal:

♠ 73	
♥ QJ1092	
♦ 82	
♣ 10972	
♠ 862	♠ KJ7
♥ 4	♥ AK8753
♦ Q1098763	♦ -
♣ 53	♣ Q985
♠ AQ1062	
♥ 6	
♦ AKJ5	
♣ AKJ	

What happened at the table? In a World Championship match featuring some of the best players in the world, the Italian South hand bid 2NT to show spades and a side minor, and wound up in 3♠, down two for -100. At the other table the American pair were able to penalize. +800 was worth a 14 IMP gain, which goes against one of the panelist's comment that an expert will rarely offer themselves for a number when the opponents open 2♣.

2. IMPs. N-S Vul., you hold as South:

♠K2 ♥K72 ♦KJ3 ♣KJ643.

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	?

What do you bid?

Bid	Panelists	Score
Pass	17	10
Dbl	1	9

This is a common theme in high level bridge – the opponents put pressure on you. Here, if you bid you could go for a number. If you don't the opponents may be stealing you blind. Do you or don't you? Once again, the panel was of the same mind. Let's start with the dos:

Lindop: Double. Even downgrading for the ♠K and the lack of a fourth spade, this is a marginal takeout double. I don't mind getting in early and taking the pressure off partner in the balancing position. Definitely not a 3♣ overcall.

That didn't take very long. Now the don'ts:

Balcombe: Pass. Maybe the opponents are stealing, but we have crap.

Treble: Pass. Likely no game, so why fight over scraps at IMPs and put my head on the chopping block?

Grainger: Pass. Enough to double 1♠ or consider balancing double over 2♠, but direct in a live auction, vul/not at imps? No thanks. Any thought of bidding clubs is craziness.

Willis: Pass. I am a big believer in getting in here but too many flaws. ♠K is likely wasted, two spades rather than 1, bad shape, missing 4th heart, can easily land in a 3-3 fit if partner is scrambling could get killed opposite partner's 3=4=3=3 hand.

Cimon: Pass, the spots are not good and no Ace. Pard didn't bid over 1♠ so the chance of a game is very small versus a big penalty if I bid.

Marcinski: Pass. I'll hazard a guess that the panel will be unanimous or nearly so. Sure, I might be getting stolen from (particularly if the opponents' system calls for a limited 1♠ opening bid) but: (1) this aceless flattish hand crowned with a so-so 5-card suit is considerably worse than its point count suggests; (2) the danger of running into a large penalty is far greater than the likelihood that we can make a game; (3) adverse vulnerability makes the penalty downside weigh far more than the lure of a part score; (4) even if I felt compelled to act, there is no standout choice that maximizes our chances of landing in our best strain; and (5) finally, even if I were to act and partner had sufficient values to keep us out of immediate danger, there is no assurance whatsoever that, expecting a better hand from me, he won't get our side overboard.

Should you play Lebensohl in this sequence? I say no.

Hargreaves: Pass. In today's game passing with 14 HCPs is a rare choice. But I have the worst spade holding – partner will often hold 3 spades, making the

likelihood of a playable fit less than it would had I three spades. My club suit is anemic. I have no aces. If LHO is ultra-light or has psyched, he got me. C'est la vie. Anyway, virtually nobody (other than McOrmond and me) psyches an opening bid in first chair anymore.

Lebi: Pass. Not happy to have partner declaring (positionally) by making a takeout double.

Stark: Pass. I am a conservative overcaller and bidding here could be disastrous if West has extras. Maybe with a fourth heart I'd be tempted to double. The clubs are porous.

Jacob: Pass. I am not coming in with this hand unprovoked

L'Ecuyer: Pass, happily. Not coming in with such a bad hand under an opening hand. My kings look terribly placed. I will go low and take my minus if need be. Partner is aware of the pressure I am to come in and will balance if need be. I expect this auction to die in 2♠. Sometimes achieving the best result possible is OK versus trying to achieve the best possible result and achieving disaster. Too bad.

Kuz: pass. Values, all unsupported. Why offer up a number?

Hornby: Pass, the opps have half the deck, you have 2/3 of the rest with a suspect ♠K and only one real landing spot at the 3-level. If this gets passed back to partner and they can somehow balance you'll be happy to bid 3♣, otherwise I'll defend and win the match on another deal.

I think the 'half the deck' assumption is one that is made all too often. A panelist who will wax poetic for the remainder of his responses:

Cooper: Pass.

You are old," said the youth, "one would hardly suppose that your eye was as steady as ever.

Yet, still I can see,
it's red, only we,
and that scares me
from being so clever!

Shaky hand, many losers, weak, short suit.

The panel has spoken. Lindop and myself our outliers. However I feel that there are a couple of points that favour action:

- 1. Partner will never balance at the three level, a these colours. That bid makes a double here look like a conservative action!**
- 2. Bidding would be more dangerous had the response been 1NT.**
- 3. Vulnerable games still score 600 or more.**
- 4. Players are more 'out there' on bidding, especially white versus red colours. In the CNTCs we saw 7-2-2-2 shape 15 HCPs opened 2NT and a bad 13 HCP, 6-3-2-2 opened 1NT. White vs red would you not open ♠10xxxxx ♥x ♦AQJxx ♣K 1♠?**
- 5. One of the most important mantras for me is to show your values, especially vulnerable. Yes, risk needs to be considered, but so does the reward. Events have been lost when players didn't show the courage to bid what they had. Having said that, maybe I will get doubled a lot more in the future. 😊 If bidding, double is the only choice.**
- 6. It is harder for the opponents to penalize at these colours, as they may be suspect of partner's values.**

Turner: Pass: Unless 2♠ is defined as especially weak this looks way too dangerous to act and a double might end up road mapping a double-dummy make in 4♠. Even a sophisticated 2NT by partner might not allow us to get to a 5-3 minor suit instead of a 4-3 heart fit (but for my partnership it would be natural). Yes, I could be getting hosed by passing 😊

Good point about providing the opponents a roadmap if they end up playing the hand. On the flip side, the opponents will not tell you when they are deviating from system strength.

Todd: Pass. Maybe partner will re-open. Partner knows I could have a good hand for my pass. Bidding is asking for trouble.

Bishop: Pass. I have a moderate collection with quite a bit of defense, but just a poor 5-card suit and am opposite a passed-hand partner that couldn't act over 1♠, even though they haven't many spades.

Miles: Pass. Downside of doubling: We could get carved up, even with a modest fit. We could be helping declarer in the play if they buy the hand. We could get to the wrong strain. Sure, game is (slightly) possible, but I'll play the percentages. Normally I like to aggressively balance; I think people worry about going for the big penalty too much. But this is too much for me in direct seat.

What happened at the table? This hand came up during a casual online match. The full deal:

♠ A8764	♠ Q95	♠ J103
♥ Q953	♥ AJ1086	♥ 4
♦ A1096	♦ 74	♦ Q852
♣ -	♣ AQ7	♣ 109852
	♠ K2	
	♥ K72	
	♦ KJ3	
	♣ KJ643	

At one table South passed, and E-W played 2♠, down one for -50. At the 2nd table South doubled, reaching a good heart game.

3. As South, you hold ♠AKQ5 ♥K9765 ♦AJ62 ♣-. Neither vul, Matchpoints.

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

What do you bid?

Bid	Panelists	Score
2♠	9	10
5♣	5	9
3♦	3	8
4♣	1	7

Tricky was the operative word for some panelists:

L'Ecuyer: 3D♦. Tricky. It seems natural enough to bid 4♣ but chances are partner will not be excited missing everything in spades, the ♦A, ♥K and not knowing yet about the club void. Chances are partner will bid 5♦ even looking at the heart ace within a minimum hand and now we will have to guess to bid 6♦. Maybe it is better to start slowly with 3♦, hoping to get partner to describe without having to commit to slam. We may have a grand slam and sometimes only game in hearts or diamonds. Therefore pre-empting the auction with 4♣ is likely to achieve nothing good. I will go slowly and hope for the best. I will also be very careful if partner next bids 3♥. Exclusion is not doing it for me as I am missing the ♥Q.

Hornby: 4♣, what's the trick? 2♠ 2nd choice followed by 4♦, but I think the immediate splinter gets my hand across in one bid.

The panel was split between a straight forward 2♠, further describing their hand, versus confirming the diamond fit and going slamming:

Lindop: 2♠. Planning to show the diamond support next. Since I want to pursue a possible slam in diamonds, this seems more space-saving than immediately raising diamonds. 3♦ would be the second choice – assuming we're in a 2/1 auction – although a

jump to 5♣ as exclusion keycard Blackwood is another possibility. I hope I'll get a chance to use exclusion keycard later. First, however, I'd like to hear partner's rebid. If partner shows heart support, I'm going to have to worry about partner's heart holding in addition to partner's diamond holding.

Well said. Some panelists like L'Ecuyer and Balcombe reject exclusion:

Balcombe: 2♠. I don't know our methods exactly but Exclusion RKC might not work well if responder has a balanced hand.

While others have varying degrees of affinity for it.

Hargreaves: 5♣, exclusion. 3♦ is a close second choice since ideally he'd clarify his heart holding. However, the auction may well not time out happily for us, and slam is so likely cold that I'll just take charge. It helps that I like a style in which 2♦ is almost always 5+ in length.

Lebi: 5♣. Exclusion Blackwood. I expect near unanimity.

Treble: 5♣. Seems right for Exclusion.

Grainger: 3♦. Find out if partner intends to raise hearts. Likely to jump to 5♣ exclusion over whatever partner does. Very normal to play 2♦ promises five these days as well.

Cimon: 5♣, a very good hand for exclusion, if the answers are 0-3, 1-4.

Miles: 3♦. I am hoping to jump to 5♣ exclusion over any 3-level bid from partner. If partner bids 4♣ over 3♦, presumably denying the heart ace, I will just jump to 6♦ and hope for the best; even if partner has two little hearts, the Ace may be onside, or they may not lead one (will be tough for just the Ace to double).

Jacob: 3♦- first establish the trump suit; then I would bid 5♣ exclusion keycard.

Exclusion seems the best tool to me, for reaching the right level in diamonds. The only caution is if partner shows two without, you have a way to ask about extra diamond length (five is assumed). The two spade bidders:

Kuz: 2♠. No rush to support diamonds i will support them next, cuebid clubs and hope partner will give me a heart cuebid at some point.

Stark: 2♠. We might have a 4-4 spade fit. I can show my diamonds next. Partner may not know about my fourth diamond but at least it's a good surprise. I can't see stopping below 6♦.

Willis: 2♠ – where I live, helps partner to bid notrump with balanced hands, allows us to find out about heart situation with partner (2 or 3). Leaves open the possibility of 3NT. Will show 12 of my 13 cards when I follow up with diamond bids. Raising or splintering immediately will leave more challenges in describing the whole hand, could miss a 4-4 spade fit at matchpoints (or a good 4-3 one.), and makes it challenging to stop in 3NT. Would do so atimps as well but all of these are even more important at MPs.

Yes, it is matchpoints.

Cooper: 2♠. "Begin at the beginning", the King said gravely, "and go on till you come to the end: then stop." Strain and level. Spades may be best, diamonds can be raised later. Keep it low, describe, leave room.

Turner: 2♠: it seems to me the problem on this hand is going to be trying to discover whether partner has real diamonds or just a balanced hand with 2-3 hearts and 3-4 clubs. If I make a direct diamond raise somehow (3♦, 4♦, 4♣) and partner bids hearts next I won't be sure whether he's cuebidding or suggesting a contract. I'm hoping my extras-showing 2♠ bid will permit him to bid 2NT or 3NT with the balanced type at which point my 4♦ bid will turn his 4♥ bid into a cuebid and his 4NT

into a natural regressive bid (I hope). Second choice a direct 6♦ and hope. If partner has good diamonds and the ♥A he'll bid 7♦ for me, and diamonds might be better than hearts even if he has 3 (e.g. xx, Q10x, KQxxx, AJx).

Todd: Since I'm not stopping below six, I may as well exclusion with 5♣. If we get to seven and partner holds ♥Axx, hopefully he has the ♠J or two spades, or spades break 3-3.

Bishop: 2♠. The Matchpoint conditions are sure to make some panelists bid a little 'funny' here as we need to take into consideration the possibility of playing in hearts or notrump since those contracts making at the same level as diamonds will saddle us with a bad result if we take it upon ourselves to charge into "only diamonds" routings. (think of something like QJx of hearts; 5 diamonds K(Q); and the A of clubs opposite us...where playing 6♦ instead of 6♥ will, in all likelihood, not score well).

So, while obviously worthy of a 4♣ splinter in support of diamonds that good support for partner's suit will just have to wait, as going that road would force us down the "diamonds-only route". Let's start to pattern out (and show a good hand) while leaving responder as much room as possible to finish the description of their hand (soon he will get our picture of short clubs; lots of cards; and good diamond support). And yes, we do understand that discovering hearts (say Axx in support) may find that we get to 6♥ down one, when hearts split badly, when we could have made 7♦! Without a thought picture Jx Axx KQxxxx Kx opposite our hand and you will see why. But a making 6♥ will outscore 6♦+1 if a grand proves to be unbiddable noting that, without responder's key spade Jack, we wouldn't have 12 tricks in 6NT, unless the defenders are co-operative enough to lead the club Ace.

Summing it up very nicely (and comprehensively as usual):

Marcinski: 2♠. I confess that my initial visceral reaction was "4♣ – what's the problem?" on grounds that there's nothing not to like about a bid that a) shows

4+ diamonds with at most one club and at least mildly slammish values (since it's Matchpoints and I'm driving past 3NT), b) should not present responder with any insurmountable rebid problem, and c) best sets us up to conduct an exploratory dialogue – particularly if a grand slam beckons? Easy also-rans to dismiss were both 3♦ and 5♣: the former doesn't begin to come to grips with the issues this hand is likely to raise (such as Responder's round suit holdings whereas the latter (presumably "Exclusion" Blackwood) in my view presumptuously overstates this hand (even if held ♥A instead of the ♥K I would not resort to this blunt instrument as how would I be able to judge whether or not responder has an inescapable heart loser when he has inadequate club length).

But on reflection it occurred to me that 4♦ presumptuously precludes spades as trumps yet responder could easily hold 4=1=4=4 or 4=2=4=3 or 4=2=5=2 patterns (or the like) where he judged that setting an immediate GF was preferable to the follow-up 4th suit forcing ambiguities after an initial 1♠ response. Furthermore, 2♠ conserves bidding space and will easily permit me to next support diamonds (over 2NT I intend to jump to 4♦) and if necessary support diamonds a second time, thereby "showing" my club splinter after all.

What happened at the table?

	♠ J876	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ KQ1054	
	♣ K4	
♠ 1094		♠ 32
♥ Q843		♥ 102
♦ 9		♦ 873
♣ J9763		♣ AQ10852
	♠ AKQ5	
	♥ K9765	
	♦ AJ62	
	♣ -	

The South player bid 3♦ losing the spade suit completely. Over 3NT he shot out 6♦, missing the fairly easy to bid grand slam. As Marcinski obliquely alludes to, and North did on this hand, it is always

right, with game forcing values, to respond in your longest suit. Once South bids spades at their 2nd turn an expert auction might go:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♠

4. As South you hold ♠873 ♥AKJ3 ♦A94 ♣864. Neither vul, IMPs.

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Db1 ¹	Pass	?

1. Support double, promising exactly three hearts.

What do you bid?

Bid	Panelists	Score
3♦	1	10
3♥	4	9
2♠	11	7
2♥	1	3
2♦	1	2
Pass	0	1

1st question, is 2♠ game forcing?

Miles: Ugghh. How high does 2♠ commit us? I think I have no choice. It's tempting to pass 2NT from partner but that might get me to the partnership desk.

Lindop: 2♠. Since I would have opened this hand, I'm willing to commit the partnership to game. If partner can show a spade stopper, we'll likely play in notrump. If not, we may play in 4♥ on the 4-3 or in 5♦.

Except for Marcinski, and a bit L'Ecuyer, panelists implied by their comments that the 2♠ cuebid is effectively a game force. I agree. Otherwise you cannot constructively search for the best strain. 2nd question, is this hand strong enough to force to game?

Jacob: 2♠ – hoping to get a notrump bid from partner with a spade stopper.

Balcombe: 2♠. It might be right to launch into 4♥, but opener might have something like ♠Kx xHQxx ♦KQJxx ♣Qxx and 3NT is simple.

It is simple, and a good chance heading for a minus. Vulnerable, I could at least see some rationale for an aggressive view.

Kuz: 2♠. (Again). We are going somewhere. I just don't know where.

L'Ecuyer: 2♠. Tough. It could be really stupid to pass one spade doubled. I have a good hand, let's start with 2♠ and hear partner. Not sure what I will do next. Maybe West will be nice enough to double it and give us a chance to stop below game.

Lebi: 3♥. I will invite. Not an easy hand to bid in context.

I also think this hand is an opener, but I would not force to game.

Treble: 2♠. Ugly, but no standout alternative. I'd like to bid 3♦ if it's invitational, but it would sound like a weaker hand with diamonds.

Grainger: 2♠. Not really anything else I can do, need to find out more. If we belong in 2NT and get to three, oh well.

Some honesty. The advantage of forcing to game is you can more easily investigate the best (least bad?) game.

Stark: 2♠. While 2♣ should be forcing (new suit by Responder), I should have 4+ clubs. 2♠ should not insist

on a heart fit but ask opener to keep describing. If pard has a spade stopper we can play 3NT. With no heart stopper, we can try the 4-3 heart game. If partner bids 3♦ over 2♠, I'll raise to 4♦.

Hornby: Yuck. 12 prime HCP but 9 losers. 2♠ has some appeal as does 3♦, though I'd also consider 2♦. I think I'll bid 2♠ and let the chips fall where they may. Great problem.

I do not think these panelists are giving partner enough credit, and are overvaluing this hand. We have a good 12 HCPs, but 4-3-3-3, and are not vulnerable. And a point that no panelist mentions, we have no idea how many spades partner holds. All I know is that East did not raise spades, which to me is a 'proceed with caution' signal. What if partner has ♠Jxx ♥xxx ♦KQxxx ♣AK? Agreeing:

Cooper: 3♥. 2♠ looks like an option, but with opening-bid inflation, this 4-3-3-3 isn't strong enough to insist on game.

Turner: 3♥: Invitational I guess. I would take partner's 3NT now as natural, so I hope he thinks of it :-)

Todd: Maybe 3♦ is enough, but not for me. I guess to make the ugly 2♠ bid and raise 2NT to 3NT. If partner bids 3♣ I will bid 4♥. If partner bids 3♦, I will raise.

Contrast the 2♠ bidders, with the following two panelists, who did not even invite:

Willis: 2♥ – 9 loser hand, 3 bad spades, no good invite. If partner cannot move we will likely have landed in a good spot.

Marcinski: 2♦. A difficult problem with no conceivable answer that isn't significantly flawed: (i) 2♥ is regressive and understates my values, (ii) 2♠ is forcing to 3NT or 4♦ and so overstates my hand, (iii) without even a scintilla of a ♠ stopper 2NT is right on values but "Poker" that will destroy Partner's confidence in my bidding, (iii) 3♣ grossly overstates my ♣ length, (iv) 3♦ is about right on values but overstates my diamonds and precludes getting to a better 2♥ contract when Opener

is weak and holds only 4 (or even 3) diamonds. RHO's second Pass suggests that Opener has some length which in turn increases the likelihood that he has a weak 1NT as well as the risk that he holds unattractive (i.e. 4) for NT's ♦ length. True, Opener might be 4=3=3=3 but in such case he should correct to 2♥. So I guess to suggest diamond support in the hope that opener will be encouraged to find another bid with a 5th diamond and at least mild extra values (over any bid by opener I intend to rebid 3♥ to suggest extras in context with 4 strong hearts). If instead 2♦ gets passed out, there's a reasonable hope that we'll be in a makeable contract with 3NT unmakeable.

Bishop: 2♠. With an easy game opposite Kx Qxx KQ10x Axxx we had better do something that will spark partner's interest. No number of diamonds nor hearts seems correct, and (although some use it conventionally) a rebid of 2♣ seems too far out in left field (as it might normally be used to show something like Kx 10xxx x QJxxxx). Let's just Force, focusing on the spade stopper situation for now, decide what to do after seeing what partner has to say.

Hargreaves: I held this hand playing in a friendly team game with Michael Roche. I chose 3♥ then and still think it to be the best call. I think non-experts are needlessly paranoid about Moysian fits (they played 4♦ at the other table after a similar start).

Another question asked by one panelist is around the inferences that can be drawn from a support double:

Cooper: 3♥, When I use a word, 'Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, 'it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less.' A support double should be optional with three trumps. Pass is an option as is 1NT, if either is a better description. The Support Double should announce a hand that is oriented towards playing with hearts as trump, but lacking four trumps. Normally **NOT** 4-3-3-3. So 3NT seems remote (opener could have rebid 1NT), and 4♥ needs more than a minimum from partner.

I have two problems with 3♥: 1) it overstates your interest in playing in hearts. If partner has ♠Axx ♥

xxx ♦KQxx ♣Kxx they will raise to 4♥. And 2) there is a better invitational bid available in my opinion, 3♦. Partner will know what to do.

With: ♠xxx ♥Qxx ♦QJ10xx ♣AQ they will pass.

With: ♠xxx ♥Qxx ♦Kxxx ♣AKx they will bid 3♥.

With: ♠x ♥Qxx ♦KJxxx ♣AKxx they will bid 4♥.

With: ♠KJx ♥xxx ♦KJxxx ♣Ax they will bid 3NT.

With: ♠- ♥Qxx ♦KQxxxx ♣AKxx they will bid 3♠ and maybe find a slam.

Not for the first time, I am on the same wavelength with the following panelist:

Simon: 3♦. No bids are good, I don't want to force to game with 2♠ and to propel us into hearts with an invitation of 3♥. I am pretty sure partner has at least four diamonds, so I will bid where I live.

5. As South, you hold ♠J642 ♥A9 ♦J10742 ♣95. N-S vul, IMPs.

West	North	East	South
4♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	?

- a) What do you bid?
- b) Do you agree with 4♠?

Bid	Panelists	Score
5♦	5	10
Pass	10	9
5♥	3	6

Let's start with b). The accepted practice is that any bid after partner doubles a four level bid is constructive, expecting to make the contract bid. So partner rates to have a strong notrump or better, with a fairly balanced hand, maybe short hearts, or maybe just a good strong notrump hand. So I was a little surprised as to the almost unanimous support for the

4♠ bid. Again, my like thinker shares her views:

Simon: b) No I prefer pass. My spade suit is very weak and the double doesn't promise four spades. My only card is in their suit.

Marcinski: b) No, though not violently so as 4♠ is not unreasonable (and might be my choice at Pairs). Although 4♠ could easily prove more fruitful than pass, with such modest spades as well as values I have inadequate reason to conclude that 4♠ will be a bigger plus than 4♥'d when I face 15-17 HCP and say 4-1-4-4 or the like. Moreover, even if 4♠ is indeed a more fruitful contract than 4♥, expecting me to have a better hand Partner may well reasonably try for slam and carry us beyond our depth.

Turner: b) Yes, but close to Pass, I admit. This auction shows why it's right to take out partner's takeout doubles when in doubt.

Lindop: b) Yes. Enough to bid game but not enough to explore and risk getting too high.

Balcombe: b) Agree. Partner could have a typical ♠KQxx ♥x ♦AKxx ♣Kxxx and declaring is going to be better than defending. I mean, the double is called "Takeout" for a reason.

What if partner has ♠Kxx ♥Kx ♦AKxx ♣K10xx?

Treble: b) Yes, I agree with the 4♠ bid since we're vul against not.

Grainger: b) 4♠ is automatic.

Willis: b) Yes I agree, not enough hearts to try for penalty and partner will be looking for me to bid with spades where I have an ace, a ruffing value and four trump.

Hargreaves: b) Yes, 4♠ seems clear. Swap the majors and have LHO open 4♠ and now it's more difficult. 4NT would show two suits, so we'd find whatever red fit we had, but I think I'd pass in real life.

Lebi: b) Yes that was a takeout double, and I take it out.

Stark: b) 4♠ is fine. We're under pressure.

L'Ecuyer: I do agree with 4♠. Take out doubles are meant to be taken out. Most of the time you will regret not bidding versus bidding.

Todd: b) 4♥ is a transfer to Spades isn't it?

Bishop: b) Yes; agree with the 4♠ bid. Doubles of 4♥ are essentially for takeout (with a really good hand), so see no reason to violate partner's direction (?); and see no position where it would be correct to choose 5♦ instead of 4♠.

Hornby: b) Yes, partner made a takeout double, I bid my cheapest suit.

Miles: b) Yes, I agree with 4♠, despite the weak trumps.

Kuz: b) Yes. Who wouldn't?

Cooper: b) Partner doubled for takeout. I took out to the cheapest game. Looks fine.

I have always thought that 4NT should be takeout of a four level preempt with a void, usually some 5-0-4-4 shape. Maybe it should include 4-4-4-1 also, so double is a balanced strong notrump or better?

Now where were we? Oh, yes, what do we do over 5♣?

Simon: a) 5♦. I play partner to have a good defensive hand and two places to play. He will have been happy if I pass the double. With only one suit he will bid it immediately unless he has a very, very strong hand.

Cooper: 5♦. "If you don't know where you are going any road can take you there." I suppose he must be big with some flexibility, a minimum of ♠Axx ♥- ♦AKxx ♣KQJxxx. He loses if 4♠ was the only making spot. Ace of hearts may face void. He has to have been prepared for me to bid diamonds. This is not equal level conversion. Had I bid 5♣ and he went to 5♦, that may have had 4♠ and 6♦, and not necessarily so strong.

Lindop: a) 5♦. Awkward. Have to hope the partnership is on the same wavelength. Partner presumably doesn't have a one-suited hand with clubs in this auction. Partner also doesn't have approximately equal length in the minors since partner could have tried 4NT. I expect partner to have something like ♠AK ♥75 ♦A963 ♣AK863. The danger in bidding 5♦ is that partner may correct back to 5♠ and I don't want to be in a 4-3 fit at the five level. There's also the possibility partner is making a control=showing bid, looking for a heart control, but I would expect partner to simply raise to 5♠ with that type of hand. We'll likely have to discuss this sequence later.

Here is a suggestion: In an auction where there is not a lot of bidding room, unbid suits should always be natural!

Treble: a) 5♦. In the absence of a direct 5♣ bid by partner, I'm assuming either two places to play or a one-suiter so strong that my hand will produce 12 tricks.

Lebi: a) 5♦. Double must show at least two places to play, I pick diamonds.

Todd: Does he have diamonds? Probably. But my diamonds will help his holding. I pass. Partner could have bid 4NT with clubs and diamonds so at least his clubs are long.

Miles: a) Pass. Prepared to look silly. 5♣ should be natural and a hand too good to bid 5♣ directly. Who knows, maybe with a trick I should be raising.

Willis: Pass, if partner wanted to bring diamonds into the picture they could have bid 4NT.

Unless you had an explicit agreement, I would think to bid 4NT over 4 spades, partner will hold something like ♠Ax ♥Kxx ♦AQxx ♣AKJ10. Now the passers present their arguments:

Balcombe: a) Pass. I mean really, what's the problem?

Grainger: a) Pass. Partner is showing a good hand, not

flexibility with diamonds - minors starts with 4NT. Sure, they may have diamonds, but it's too hard. One card isn't quite enough to raise - give them something like AK xx AKx AKQxxx.

Marcinski: Pass. A guess. First question to try and answer: what is Partner's sequence showing? At lower levels it would show significant extra values but here it shows enough to "get involved" (his initial Double) without 55+ in the minors (his Double rather than 4N) but 6♣'s (with 7 he would take the bull by the horns and prefer an immediate 5♣). A delayed 4N in lieu of 5♣ should be Blackwood. Since Partner has shown less than 3♠ (no pass of 4♠), quite likely no more than 2♥ (I hold 2 and Opener at least 7 and often 8), his most likely hand pattern is 2=2=3=6 though (21)46 is entirely possible. In competition partner is entitled to bid assuming that I hold app. 5-7 HCP's - which is what I have and no more - with no "surprise" ♣ fit or immediate ruffing value. Even opposite (21)46 5♦ will not necessarily play better than 5♣. So although we may either (i) have a ♦ fit that yields one or more tricks than clubs or (ii) we be able to make 12 or more tricks even in clubs, I see no clues to help unravel these mysteries of level and strain and instead judge these possibilities to be less likely than that we're already in a reasonable spot. In short, sometimes the opponents' nasty preemption simply succeeds in creating insoluble problems.

L'Ecuyer: Pass, unhappily. My clubs are not great, I have only two. I already bid 4♠ to show a little something (I could have passed). It seems a long way to be able to make 6♣. Maybe this is 100% wrong, maybe we can make 6♣ or 6♦ or even 7♦. I don't know and that is why we preempt. I have an ace and diamond length which might be enough and then again might not. But in general life, being cautious when they pre-empt tends to be a good idea.

Turner: a) Pass. I have a misfit with possibly zero tricks for partner.

Hargreaves: a) Pass. Preempts work. When I was younger, I tended to be too aggressive in these situations, but partner is far more likely to have a hand where even game is not cold than one where slam is good. Don't snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, aka, preempts work. Since bidding polls are popularity contests, I expect a low score here, but bidding would be contrary to my biases.

Belief in your convictions is always good. Again another good reason to bid clubs with a good single suiter, directly over 4♠. Some panelists played partner for a REALLY GOOD hand, and forced to slam:

Stark: 5♥. Partner has a moose, so I'll show them the heart ace. Passing 5♣ could be the right call but I'll back my judgment that partner has something resembling ♠AKx ♥x ♦AQx ♣AKQJxx.

Jacob: 5♥. When in doubt bid. If partner has only clubs, too good to bid 5♣ over 4♥, then my ace should be good for something. With both minors partner should bid 4NT. If partner is looking for a diamond control, I don't have it.

With ♠Ax ♥x ♦AQx ♣AKJ109xx I would bid 5♣ directly over 4♥, not double. With a better hand, with ♠Ax ♥- ♦AKx ♣AKJ109xxx I would bid a direct 6♣.

Bishop: a) 5♥. This is admittedly a 'funny' auction ... clearly intervenor doesn't just have a club 1-suiter [when expecting the double to most likely be 'removed'; he could have simply bid 5♣ one round earlier]; and he wouldn't say double with that type anyway as advancer will sometimes be passing with 3-3-3-4 and no place to go. Since intervenor's double always shows a wealth of high cards. In that instance we might (if intervenor HAD the club 1-suiter) be defending 4♥ when we have 11/12 clubs and they have approximately 10(11) hearts..try that on for size with your The Law of Total Tricks, if you please, Mr. Larry Cohen. Now that I have 'pulled' the double, I had better cue bid 5♥ since I didn't promise anything (except for playability) when I bid and

intervenor may just be looking for a sure heart control, which I have. Perhaps he has KQ10xx xx AQx AKQ where a 5♠ raise (asking about control of Hearts) might get us to 6♠ off two Aces (if I had Kx of Hearts instead of the Ace) and RKC (silly) would get the 1-key response and wouldn't solve anything. We may need hearts to be 8-1 [possible!]; or to decide if the preemptor has three clubs in order to succeed in 6♠ if we get there – but that's just bridge. Sometimes the opening leader won't lead a heart; preferring to try another suit instead – and that won't be a success.

Hornby: Pass, partner brought this on themselves, they had a 4NT takeout available for the minors or the red suits.

Kuz: Pass. Preemption wins again. I don't try to guess my pard's hand.

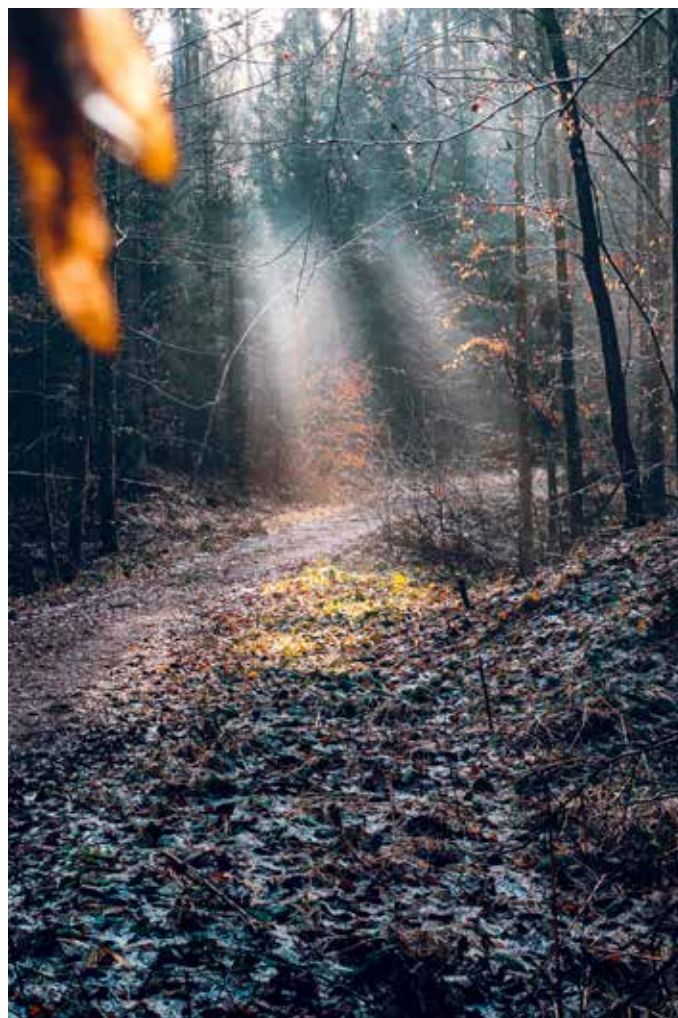
No, we try to deduce it with the information and inferences available. The full deal:

Bathurst	
♠	K8
♥	10
♦	AQ98
♣	AK10873
Graverson	Casperson
♠	AQ975
♥	QJ87432
♦	-
♣	Q
Hurd	
♠	J542
♥	A9
♦	J10742
♣	95

Hurd passed, -200 where 5♦ is unbeatable. For those of the sober take the money and run in 4♥ doubled types, you better defend well! At the other table the bidding was quite different!

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

Kranyak found, IMHO, a great call, 3♦ game try. This shut up North and scored +420 for a 6 IMP gain that could have been more. This board was especially dramatic as it happened during the last round of the 2022 Bermuda Bowl round robin. Denmark got off to a great start, and winning IMPs on this board may have allowed Denmark to overtake USA 1 for the final K-O spot.



PANELIST ANSWERS

Name	Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3		Hand 4		Hand 5		Total
	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	
Keith Balcombe	2♠	10	Pass	10	2♠	10	2♠	7	Pass/yes	9	46
Ron Bishop	2♠	10	Pass	10	2♠	10	2♠	7	5♥/yes	6	43
Francine Cimon	2♠	10	Pass	10	5♣	9	3♦	10	5♦/no	10	49
Stephen Cooper	2♠	10	Pass	10	2♠	10	3♥	9	5♦/yes	10	49
Mike Hargreaves	2♠	10	Pass	10	5♣	9	3♥	9	Pass/no	9	47
Roy Hornby	2♠	10	Pass	10	4♣	7	2♠	7	Pass/yes	9	43
Dan Jacob	Pass	9	Pass	10	3♦	8	2♠	7	5♥/yes	6	40
Bob Kuz	2♠	10	Pass	10	2♠	10	2♠	7	Pass/yes	9	46
Nick L'Ecuyer	2♠	10	Pass	10	3♦	8	a2♠	7	Pass/yes	9	44
Robert Lebi	2♠	10	Pass	10	5♣	9	3♥	9	5♦/yes	10	48
David Lindop	Pass	9	Dbl	9	2♠	10	2♠	7	5♦/yes	10	45
Zyg Marcinski	2♠	10	Pass	10	2♠	10	2♦	2	Pass/no	9	43
Danny Miles	2♠	10	Pass	10	3♦	8	2♠	7	Pass/yes	9	44
Andy Stark	2♠	10	Pass	10	2♠	10	2♠	7	5♥/yes	6	43
Bob Todd	2♠	10	Pass	10	5♣	9	2♠	7	Pass/yes	9	45
Bill Treble	2♠	10	Pass	10	5♣	9	2♠	7	5♦/yes	10	46
David Turner	2♠	10	Pass	10	2♠	10	3♥	9	Pass/yes	9	48
David Willis	2♠	10	Pass	10	2♠	10	2♥	3	Pass/yes	9	42

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OCTOBER PROBLEMS

Host: Zygmunt Marcinski

Reader's solutions to be returned by Sept 12th to editor@cbf.ca

1. IMPs. Both vul. As West you hold
♠Q75 ♥A109432 ♦KQ2 ♣2.

South	West	North	East
4♦	?		

What do you bid?

2. IMPs. N-S vul. As West you hold
♠A82 ♥10975 ♦KJ73 ♣J4.

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

1. Polish club: forcing for 1-round showing either (a) weak notrump with less than four diamonds, (b) unbalanced with fewer than six clubs, and clubs longer than diamonds, or (c) any 18⁺.
2. Artificial, any 0-5 HCP's.
3. Natural, by agreement.
4. 18⁺, take-out

What do you bid?

3. IMPs. N-S vul. As North you hold ♠AKQ82 ♥10653
♦AK ♣Q9.

East	South	West	North
Pass	1♦ ¹	4♥	?

1. 3⁺ diamonds, denies balanced 15-17, balanced 20-21, or any 22⁺.

- (a) What do you bid?
- (b) If you double, what do you bid if opener rebids 4NT?

4. IMPs. Both vul. As West you hold
♠A4 ♥AJ108 ♦Q874 ♣K52.

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

1. 14-16 balanced (off shapes permitted)
2. No particular agreement although alternative bids would have been:
(a) Dbl = take-outish; (b) 3NT = to play; (c) 4 minor = 5 hearts and 5 or more in the minor; (d) 4♥ or 5 of a minor = natural, to play; and (e) 4NT = both minors, presumably at least 5-5.

What do you bid?

5. IMPs. E-W vul. As West you hold
♠982 ♥KQ92 ♦A976 ♣83

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

1. 3⁺♣'s, denies balanced 15-17, balanced 20-21, or any 22⁺
2. By stylistic agreement, might be only a 4-card suit if the following conditions are all met: (a) inadequate support for either Major to justify a take-out double; (b) due to absence of club stopper or inadequate strength, inability to overcall 1NT; (c) 13⁺ HCP's; and (d) at least KJxx in diamonds.
3. Any limit raise – since 1♥ could be only 4♥'s hence 2♥ would have been natural rather than stronger cuebid. 3♣ instead of 2♣ would have been a so-called "mixed raise" (i.e. 4+ diamonds and app. 7-9 HCPs). 2NT instead of 2♣ would have been natural.

- (a) Do you agree with 2♣?
- (b) What do you bid?

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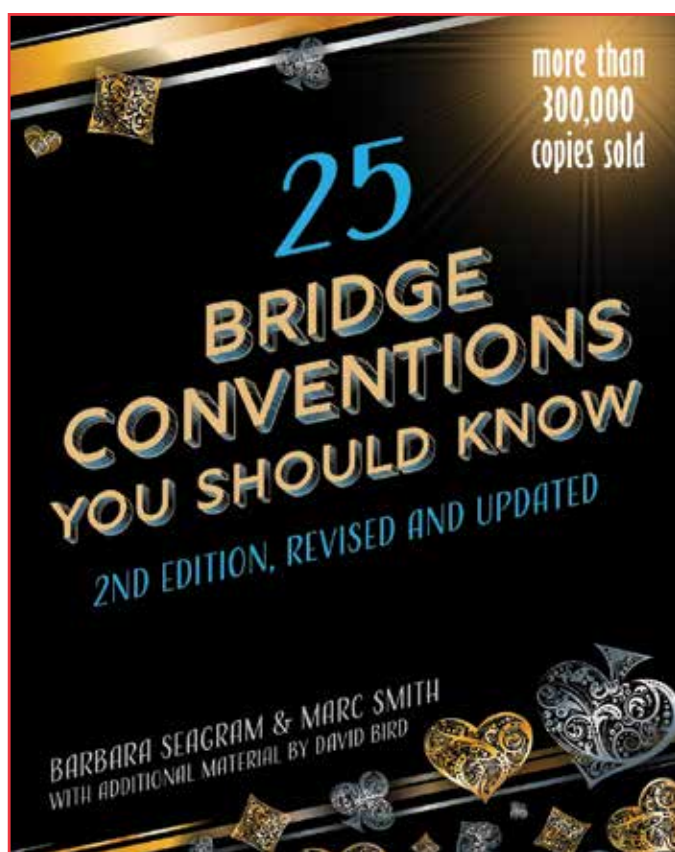


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