

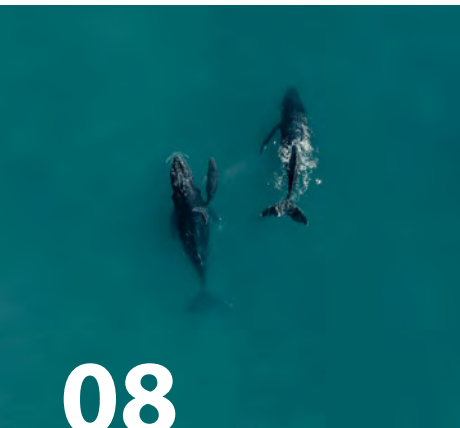
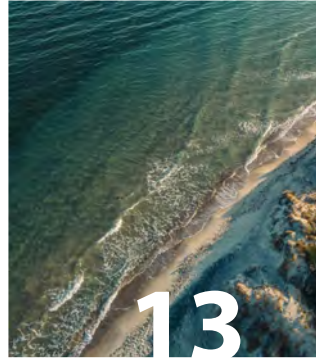
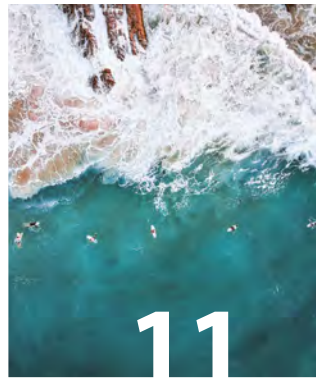
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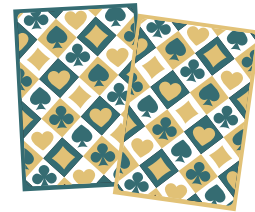
The Winnipeg **WINTER BRIDGE BASH**

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

1. Be sure to include CBF dues with your ACBL dues.
2. Visit cbf.ca and click **Join The CBF**.
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.



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The Goods

2024 Canadian Bridge Championships (CBCs)

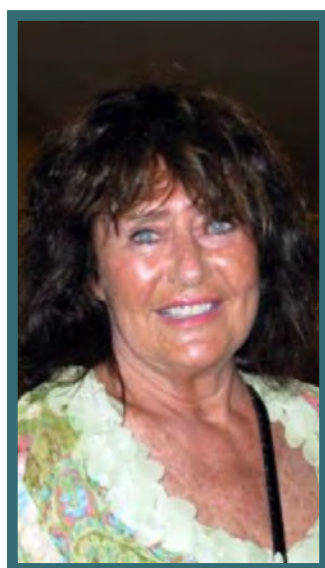
The CBCs are around the corner. The Knockout Phase to determine what teams will represent Canada at the World Championships, being held in Rio de Janeiro this fall, will take place June 10-18 in Penticton, BC, concurrently with the Penticton Regional. Hope to see you all there! You can also play in the Canadian Open Pair Championships and Canadian IMP Pair Championships, with a chance to win some money!

Pics R Us 1

A reader recently mentioned to me it would be nice to be able associate the names with pics of Canadian bridge players, when attending the CBCs in Penticton. We listen! In this issue is a list of all panelists, as well as other players that may be in attendance.

Pics R Us 2

We would love to publish photos of Canadian Bridge in Bridge Canada. Please send me pictures of players, duplicate clubs, and anything else that be of interest to your fellow Canadian bridge players! You can see what even took place in Winnipeg recently.



Remembering Diana Gordon

Diana Gordon recently passed away. For over 30 years she was the premier female player in Canada, and is inducted in the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame. Between 1976 and 2011 Gordon represented Canada in seven Olympiad Women's Teams as well as eight Venice Cups.

Gordon has a complete set of medals from World Championship play: gold in the 1982 World Mixed Pairs; silver in the 2000 Olympiad Women's Teams; and three bronze in the 1989 Venice Cup as well as the 1988 and 1996 Olympiad Women's Teams.

Between 1980 and 2005 Gordon won 15 Canadian Women's Team Championships. She also won one North American title; the 1985 Machlin Women's Swiss Teams.

Neil Kinelman

Bridge Canada Managing Editor

CBF PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Kathie Macnab



LETTER FROM THE CBF BOARD PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to show the Canadian Bridge Federation's gratitude to several people.

First, I want to thank District 19 for allowing the CBF to hold our championships in conjunction with the ever-successful Penticton Regional. We truly believe that this is a huge benefit to our Canadian Championship players as well as the Regional players. Thank you to the tournament committee.

I would also like to send out kudos to the Toronto Summer NABC committee. It is always a treat to have the North American Championships held in our country. We also appreciate how the ACBL has worked to help us with the Canadian dollar exchange.

Next, I want to thank the very generous anonymous donation from a Canadian Bridge player. This was accompanied with a letter thanking the CBF for all we have done to promote their game and allowed them so much pleasure and travel with the game of bridge.

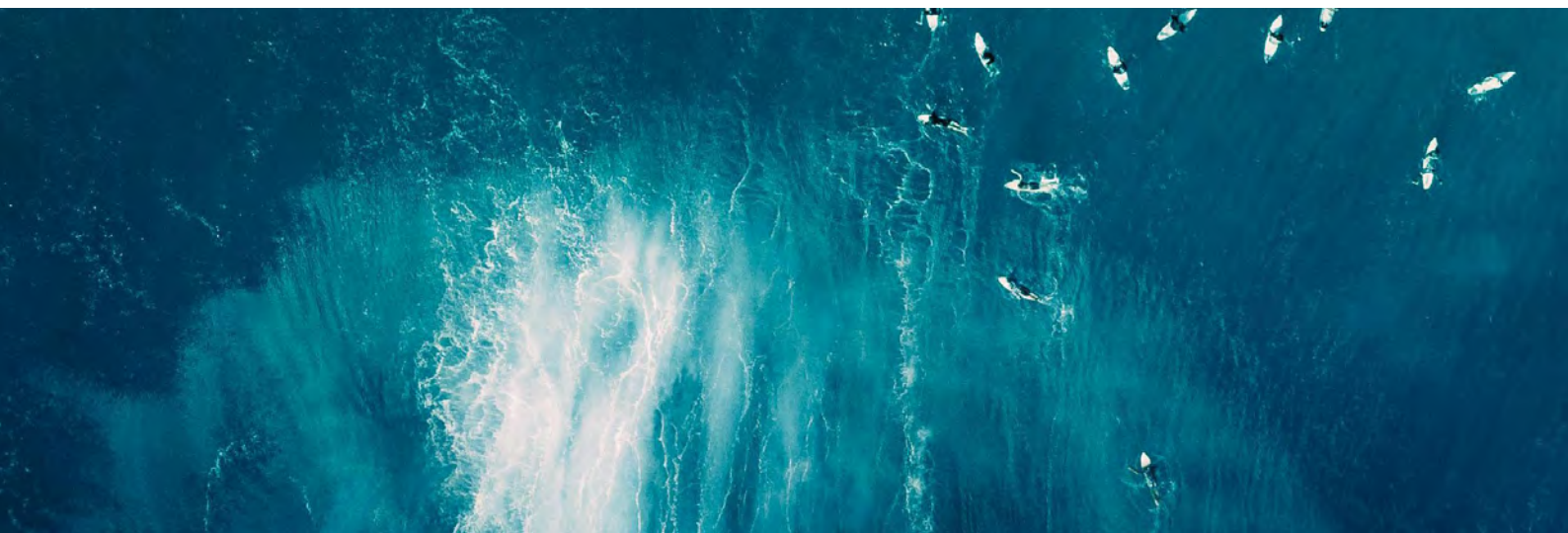
Of course, I want to thank all of you for supporting the CBF by renewing your membership which goes a long way in helping us keep the Canadian Bridge Federation operating. And to all the club managers and directors for your work in keeping bridge alive.

I am hoping that many of our Canadian Club directors have been using 'CND' on your BBO game by-line. Let the Canadian players help support Canadian online bridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie Macnab

CBF President



CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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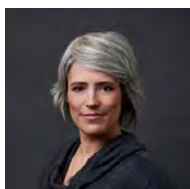
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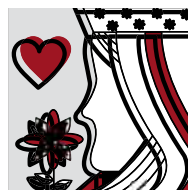
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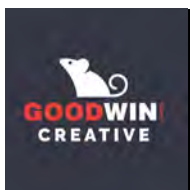
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WINNIPEG'S WINTER BRIDGE BASH

by John Hindle



Bridge is alive and well these days in Unit 181. Several of our players had success last year at the CNTCs, a number of programs targeting new players are blossoming, and in February our Unit held a **Winter Bridge Bash**...a social evening that was attended by 100 bridge players! I was fortunate to be the MC of this fun event.

The day started with a team game, divided into two sections, followed by an energetic happy hour, a wonderful catered dinner with a potluck dessert, and a lot of fun after dinner highlighted by a live auction. Six of the best players in this part of the country, most of whom are Canadian Champions, were willing to have attendees bid on the opportunity to play a game with them. They included Doug Fisher, Bob Todd, Neil Kimelman, Marielle Brentnall, Ray Hornby and Len Doerksen. While the organizers were concerned about what would happen if no one bid, they needed not to worry. The bidding was fast, furious and fun! The energy in the room was electric.

The event was designed to promote the game and to encourage new players to be more comfortable in participating in duplicate games. What a resounding success! As I looked out over the crowd, I was pleasantly surprised to see huge numbers of newer players who recently came to bridge through the Unit's introductory programs such as Learn How to Play Bridge, Introductory Lessons, and Supervised Play games.

The buzz among our players after this event lasted for weeks. To say people enjoyed themselves is understating the impact of this social event! The social part of playing this game is important and events, such as this highlighted that significance.

WINNIPEG'S WINTER BRIDGE BASH ... CONTINUED

Yes, bridge is alive and well in Unit 181, thanks in large part to the programs aimed at new players and the time and talents of the Unit Board and their efforts to promote the game. Special thanks to our director Shirley Galler, to Jason Walpole for his wonderful meal, and to all the caring volunteers who made this fun social event possible. In alphabetical order, the volunteers included:

Deloris Ankrom, Marielle Brentnall, Leigh Chenoweth, Paulette Desaulniers, Marsha Kimelman, Jaqueline Meyers, Beth Mason, Jim Sanders, Keran Sanders, Gloria Woloshyn and Dave West

Below are pics from the event, which can also be found at www.bridgemanitoba.org



Master of Ceremonies John Hindle



Who Needs a Bidding Box!!

By Neil Kimelman



It is the last round of a local club game and I am ready to get going. It seems that many pairs have been slow all day, and as expected, you have to wait to sit against the last opponents. Worse, the bidding and hands have been uninteresting. I didn't realize that this was about to change.

My name is Jim, and I am sitting East, playing with my favourite partner Kim. We quickly fill the vacated E-W seats as North is passing the boards, and is talking very quickly to his partner. He greets us very warmly, as you are his best friend, and somehow does not miss a beat explaining a salient point about the last hand to his partner.

You have never seen North before, and you quickly find out his name is Mike, apparently is a very good player, visiting from Topeka, Kansas. He is one of those people that is instantly likeable, in an ego-filled, charming sort of way.

Your thoughts of what to have for dinner are abruptly interrupted, as North accidentally dumps his bidding box on the floor. He quickly picks up a bunch of cards and says, "I will get the rest after the round is over. Nobody else seems to notice, but North is missing bids from 2♣ to 5NT! Who am I to say anything that would be construed as rude or none of my business, so on to **Board 19**, E-W vul. I pick up as East ♠A76 ♥6 ♦K1098753 ♣64 and am in 4th seat. Wondering if I will get a chance to bid my diamonds, I quickly find out the answer:

South	West	North	East
1♣	2♠	6♥!	All pass

Wow! I see no reason not to lead the ♠A. This dummy appears:

♠ K94
♥ -
♦ AQ64
♣ KJ10976.

Trick one went: A,4,Q,2. My partner and I are playing upside count and attitude. Now what? Maybe my partner is void in diamonds. I thus shift to the ♦10, and am quickly chalking up -980. Here is the full deal:

♠ 2		
♥ AKQJ109543		
♦ -		
♣ Q83		
♠ QJ10853	♠ A76	
♥ 872	♥ 6	
♦ J2	♦ K1098753	
♣ A2	♣ 64	
♠ K94		
♥ -		
♦ AQ64		
♣ KJ10975		

Declarer finessed the ♦Q, and cashed the ♠K and ♦A, throwing all three of his clubs away!

I recognize that this bottom is a chance to ask these experts how I should know to switch to a club. South explained that this an important issue to discuss with your partner. Here is what South told me what he does in his regular partnerships:

‘A low card is encouraging and a high card is discouraging. If discouraging, to help partner find which suit to switch to, a lower discouraging card suggests switching to the lowest suit, whereas a higher or highest card suggests the higher ranking suit.’

So on this deal West should play the ♠8. This cannot ask for a diamond, as this would give declarer ♠QJ102, and the 6♥ bid makes no sense. As we leave this board

North chimes in one more time, “5NT was probably a better bid than 6♥, but I didn’t seem to have one in my bidding box.”

We go on to **Board 20**. Both vul, West deals, and I hold ♠4 ♥A8632 ♦KQ10932 ♣7. It goes pass, 1♣ to me. What should I bid? I don’t know. I bid 2♦, weak. It goes 2♠, Pass, to North. I am curious if North is going to pick up the rest of his bidding cards, and I found out, no. North bids 6♣! This, not surprisingly, ended the auction. Now I get to lead. I don’t know, but this is matchpoints so I better cash my ace. -1390! The full deal:

♠ J5		
♥ -		
♦ AJ6		
♣ AKQ109652		
♠ K983	♠ 4	
♥ J1074	♥ A8632	
♦ 8754	♦ KQ10932	
♣ 4	♣ 64	
♠ AQ10762		
♥ KQ95		
♦ -		
♣ J83		

We go on to **Board 21**. N-S vul, North deals, and I hold ♠Q9732 ♥AJ954 ♦3 ♣K10. The bidding:

South	West	North	East
		1♦	2♦
4♣ ¹	Pass	6♦!	All pass

¹. Splinter.

Yes, we played three boards and North bid only with bidding cards for the 1, 6, and 7 level! Why am I on lead again!? For the 3rd time in a row I lead an ace against a slam. The full deal:

♠ K4

♥ 7

♦ QJ972

♣ AQ765

♠ 65

♥ Q1062

♦ K8

♣ J9432

♠ Q9732

♥ AJ954

♦ 3

♣ K10

♠ AJ108

♥ K83

♦ A10654

♣ 8

Partner eventually scores their ♦K and we beat 6♦ one. Whew!! Notice if I do not lead my ace declarer can discard their heart on a spade, making. So what I have learned this round:

1. The most important lesson was on board 19, and how to signal encouragement and discouragement.
2. The 2nd thing I learned was why waste time bidding at the 2-5 level, and just cut to the chase.
3. I also earned that leading against slams is a bit of crap shoot. The best you can do is listen to the bidding and do your best.
4. Finally, I learned that I wanted to smoke what North smoked, and we went out for a drink after so I can soak in some Topeka knowledge.



When I take a 50-50 chance, I expect it to come off 8 or 9 times out of 10.

*Victor Mollo's character
'Hideous Hog'*

QUIZ

IBPA DECLARER PLAY PROBLEM #25

ANSWER ON PAGE 23

North

♠ AKJ108

♥ 64

♦ J652

♣ Q9

South

♠ Q64

♥ J9752

♦ AKQ

♣ A3

The contract is 4♠, on the following auction:

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

West leads ♥3. East wins the first two hearts and continues with the ♥8. West ruffs your ♥9 with the ♠5. Plan the play.



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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.



2024 CAMROSE TROPHY: BEST-PLAYED WORST-BID HAND

By Barnet Shenkin, Glasgow



The Camrose Trophy is contested by Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Wales and the Irish Republic over two weekends. My first Camrose match was in 1972. The seventies were Scotland's hotspot, winning on six occasions with two ties. Unfortunately for Scotland, three of their all time greats from those days, Silverstone, Coyle and Goldberg, are no longer with us, and Rosenberg found USA towards the end of that run. This year I played in Altrincham, Manchester, on the second weekend. After a face-to-face 31-year absence in USA (I played online during COVID), I had thought wrongly that I would have the longest span of playing at 52 years. However, John Salisbury of Wales played the same match as I did in 1972, and Rex Anderson of Northern Ireland easily beat us both, playing his first match in 1969. Here is a deal from the Scotland vs Northern Ireland Match:

Dealer South. East-West vulnerable

♠ J
♥ AQ862
♦ AK1075
♣ AJ

♠ Q1093	♠ A54
♥ J953	♥ K104
♦ 82	♦ QJ93
♣ Q72	♣ 654

♠ K8762
♥ 7
♦ 64
♣ K10983

West	North Greenwood	East	South Anderson
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠!	All Pass	

4♠ would not have been everybody's choice. 3NT was a popular spot in the other matches, failing by two or three tricks due to a bad lie of the cards. In my room we made nine tricks in a heart partial for 140, which looked like a promising result. West led the eight of diamonds. Anderson, a good humoured partner, smiled and said thank you when he saw the dummy. He played briskly. Diamond ace, heartace, heart ruff, diamond king, heart ruff, club ace-king, club ruff. Now he had eight tricks in, and led a low heart from dummy. When East discarded, he ruffed with the seven and exited a club, making the king of spades for his tenth trick! East had missed the opportunity to ruff the heart with the ace of spades; West, down to four trumps, would have to score three for down one. This was an illustration of those many bridge enthusiasts that say, "Never mind the complicated bidding; the play is what really counts!"

Congratulations to the English team who, with a fine performance, easily led the field to add to their tally of wins.



what

...does this bid mean?

1. E-W vul, matchpoints:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	4♣	Dbl

What does the double show?

2. E-W vul, matchpoints:

West	North	East	South
1♣	Dbl	1♠	Dbl

What does the double show?

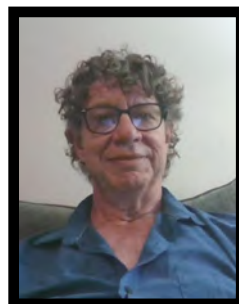
Answers on page 24.



Bridge!! The most fun you have with your clothes on.

Author unknown

the GREAT CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST

JUNE 2024 TGCBC

Host: Stephen Cooper

*For panelists, and their bids,
see page 20*

The whole panel were tightly bunched with scores in the high forties, but Mike Hargreaves (49) and David Turner (48) nipped the rest of us. Way to go gents! Also welcome Ben Zaidenberg to our June panel! Ben, a former representative of Canada when a Junior, is returning to more active playing. Ashot Harutyunyan had the best reader score for June.

1. Board-A-Match. Both Vul. South Dealer. As South you hold ♠96 ♥K84 ♦76542 ♣K92.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	?

a) What do you bid now?

b) *Would you have passed over 1♦? If not, what would you have bid then?

Bid	Votes	Score
2♣	12	10
Pass	1	6
1♥	6	8
1NT	0	4

***Part B was for discussion purposes only and was not scored. Note: the Board-A-Match scoring. In effect, it's a two-table matchpoint event. You must outscore the one opponent. The amount doesn't make a difference – just win, baby.**

At the table, my choice of 1♥ led to +110 when partner raised with a nice 3-4-1-5, but clubs made +130 at the other table. Only one panelist left in the double, albeit reluctantly:

Grainger: Pass. I don't like it, but I like everything else even less, so pass. It is BAM after all.

Everyone else bid something, although even a 7-card fit was not assured. Supporting partner's suit was the popular choice. Position was considered by some:

Lindop: 1♥ might work out better, but I'll let partner play it. I don't want partner's hand down on the table as dummy.

Turner: I choose 2♣ rather than 1♥ to put the overcaller on lead.

Keith chose the lesser lie:

Balcombe: 2♣. This might be a 3-3 fit, but it's probably not. 1♥ is also reasonable, especially at BAM, but could get raised. I suspect getting a plus score will be a good result. I usually prefer to "lie" about a minor, not a major.

Hargreaves: I'm conflicted (not an uncommon state for me). Either 1♥ or 2♣ could get us to a 3-3 fit: 4324/4315 for hearts, 4-4-2-3 for clubs. My diamond length suggests 4-3-1-5 is more likely than 4-3-2-4 so I'll go with 2♣ since we may have an 8-card club fit and the best we'll do in hearts is a 4-3.

Hearts score more than clubs, so...

Treble: I would bid 1♥, playing 4-3 or 3-3 fit at board-a-match.

Miles: 1♥. No guarantee partner has five clubs, and I just can't bring myself to bid 1NT with those awful spots. Try to play in the major and scramble as many tricks as we can; luckily, we're ruffing diamonds behind West's shortness.

Although a few considered bidding 1NT, nobody chose it.

The second part of the question is more interesting. This is one of those annoying hands where you have enough to make a minimum response, but the opposing pre-empt of 1♦ has taken away a comfortable bid. Few experts disagreed with the initial pass of the overcall, but partner's reopening double hasn't made your second bid any easier.

Only three panelists would have bid initially instead of passing:

Kimelman: I would have bid 2♣. Bidding takes away from West being able to bid a major at the one level.

Pre-empting over their preempt? The fabled partnership of Treble and Kuz chose two more actions:



Bill Treble (left)

Treble: 1NT. Close, but I would have bid 1NT rather than pass 1♦. Even if they run the overcaller's suit, with my two kings we might have enough quick winners once we get in.

The ♦7 could be a 5th round stopper!

Kuz: Double - I firmly believe in showing values originally when I have some.

Right on, Bob! Eric Kokish was an advocate of negative doubles covering hands that might otherwise be impossible to describe: In Kokish-speak, after a 1♥ overcall, a double denies as many as 4 spades. Distinguishing between 4 and 5 spades is a "nice to have", not a "need to have" when you might otherwise have no good call.

A similar treatment might apply after a 1♦ intervention. It would show this hand-type, responding values with no convenient bid, typically a 1NT bid with stopper issues. If you have 4/4 majors, bid 1♥. You should still be able to find a 4/4 spade fit.

2. IMPs. Dealer North, E-W Vul. as South you hold
♠KQ ♥A98 ♦AQ ♣AQ9876.

- a) What do you open?
- b) If you open 1♣, what do you rebid over a 1♦, 1♥ or 1♠ response?
- c) If you open 2♣, what do you rebid over a waiting 2♦ response?

Bid	Votes	Score
2♣	12	10
2NT	5	7
1♣	2	6

Only two panelists bid 1♣, without comment. The rebid problems would be significant.

Part (b) was a polling question. After a 1♣ start, how do you show this hand? About half said they'd rebid 3NT, while the rest would stall with a "fake" jump shift or reverse, depending on the response. Nothing fits, unless, as some suggested, you have a pet convention to show this hand type. I was taught that 3NT showed a solid suit.

Instead, these hands – very strong, semi-balanced with a good long, suit (usually a minor) – are increasingly solved by the simple act of treating them as balanced. It's conceded that they are unlikely to ever get a chance to show the long suit. Moreover, the old hidden-suit-trick may be a nice surprise in the play.

It was easy for some:

Kuz (Treble agreeing) 2♣, then rebid 3♣. Show my suit, figure out the rest later.

It's good to have a plan:



Neil Kimelman

Kimelman 2♣, then rebid 3♣. Will raise hearts (forcing), bid 3NT over 3♦ and 3♠. I know many will rebid 2NT over waiting 2♦ but this hand has way too much slam potential in clubs. Give partner AJxxx xx xxx Kxx and you have 13 top tricks in 7NT!"

Julie is the only other one to plan a club rebid, although her first choice was to open 1♣

Smith: If I opened 2♣, I would rebid 3♣. (No choice after a 2♣ opening bid.)

Clearly, showing the long suit could aid in a slam search. But is it practical?

With the same HCP, a 6322 has far more trick-taking potential than a 4432 or 5332. How much to upgrade the value of the hand? Point count, like age, is just a number – it depends how you feel. Speaking for the majority:

Miles: 2♣, then 2NT. Feels like around 22 HCP in playing strength. Will be difficult to reach a club slam unless we open 1♣ and reverse. I'll take the practical approach, hiding my shape when we play the very likely 3NT, especially with partner being a passed hand. Yes I know, 5♣ makes and 3NT goes down opposite say, xxx, KQJx, xxx, J10x but can't cater to everything.

An interesting point from David:

Turner: 2♣, then 2NT. Most would assume more playing strength for a 3♣ rebid.

One person's 23 is another person's 21.

L'Ecuyer: "Too good for 2NT? Not for me. That being said, if we belong in 4♥, it is probably the best way to start this auction. We might miss a slam or be overboard? So be it."

Willis (and Jacobs and Thurston, similarly): 2NT. It is more than that in some ways and less in others (KQ doubleton of spades) and I have no good rebids after

opening 1♣ that are not lies. If I had an x in spades and Ax in hearts would open 2♣.

Hargreaves: 2♣, then 2NT. I used to always rebid 2NT with these hand types but am increasingly of the view that one should not suppress a good 6 card. However, I rebid 3♣ only if we have the agreement that 3♦ by partner is a punt (rather than either second negative or real diamonds). Otherwise, rebid 2NT. With no such agreement, put me down for 2NT.

Francine Cimon pointed out that the trend to open 2NT with 19 (or less?) means this hand is too strong for 2NT and must be started 2♣ with a 2NT rebid.

3. Both Vul, IMPs. You hold ♠AQ654 ♥K987 ♦- ♣Q1098.

Partner opens 1♥. RHO passes. You?

Bid	Votes	Score
2NT	8	10
4♦	8	9
1♠	3	7
2♣	0	6

More a choice of tasty treats rather than of bitter melons. There are technical issues relating to two options: Does a 2NT (Jacoby) Forcing raise show anything beyond a game-force with (at least) four trumps? When I learned the convention, my Koach said it denied a short suit. The issue is that partner may show a minimum by rebidding 4♥, which could be: Kxx, AQxxx, xxx, Ax, where you want to be in a Grand. But switch the minors and you might be off three top clubs.

One key feature is the short diamond, so a splinter-bid of 4♦ is worth considering. The issue there is the void. I may not be the first to point this out, but a void is not a singleton. Opener will think the ace is good (it's not), and, lacking the ace, will believe there's a diamond loser (there isn't). Some are prepared to rebid 5♦, but the five-level is not guaranteed to be safe.

1♠, a simple one over one, is the choice of some. Keith may regret getting his wish:

Balcombe: 1♠. 4♦ takes up too much room. I hope to bid Fourth Suit Forcing, set hearts as trumps, etc.

Agreeing, but seeing a possible hitch in this plan:

Todd: 1♠. I am not crazy about 2NT with a void and, good spades and lots of support. If partner bids 2♦ I will be OK with 3♣, maybe.

Maybe. Might get too high with heart support delayed until the four level. Some were happy to splinter:

Smith: 4♦ I think this is an ideal hand for a splinter bid: four trumps, limited but game-going HCP, and with values in all suits but Diamonds.

Hornby: 4♦, descriptive with a minimum GF hand.

Turner: 4♦... with Roy (Hughes) a Soloway-style jump shift to 2♠ is possible.

Grainger: 4♦ void splinter.

I don't think you're allowed to say the word "void" before your call, but I have to admit I haven't kept up with all the recent rule changes.

Lindop (and others): 2NT. No reason to look for anywhere else to play. The hand is too strong for a 4♦ splinter raise. I value it as 11 high-card points plus 5 for the diamond void and a splinter raise should be limited to at most about 14 points. If partner holds as little as ♠K32 ♥AQ432 ♦765 ♣K2, partner isn't going to expect we belong in slam unless I push things along.

L'Ecuier: 2NT... I like to bid Jacoby (with good methods) when possible.

Hargreaves: 2NT. In my partnership, we have 4♦ as a void showing splinter, promising 4+ trump, void diamonds and 10-12 hcp. Simple, right? Oh well,

unavailable. If we play a sensible 2NT structure, I'll do that.

Willis: 2NT. 2♠ if available as a game-forcing or constructive fit-bid (my usual approach) – forcing to 3♥. Will follow up by cue-bidding ♦ (shortness) to show the GF and slam interest.

The discussion shows the limits of the once innovative Jacoby forcing raise – to paraphrase Yogi Berra – "It's too popular – nobody plays it anymore". Although some chose it, they focused more on what they were showing – game-force, 4 trumps – and less on the possible rebids from Opener they'd face.

Miles: 2NT - Game forcing raise. Dislike splintering with a void and no control in an unbid side suit, taking up all our room. I'll be guessing over the likely 4♥. Dislike 1♠ as I'll have to use up another level of bidding to create a force and then support hearts. Let's start to remove layers of the onion that is partner's collection. Do they have a short black suit? A long diamond suit? Extra values?

Treble: 2NT. If partner shows club shortness, I'll bid 3♥, and if he bids 3♥, I'll cuebid.

Nobody mentioned my choice – 2♣. Its sets up a game force. Your diamond void suggests a likely 2♦ rebid from Opener, and you'll get to support hearts at the two level, or 3♥ at worst. Plenty of time and space to see how the hands fit, identify controls, and suggest slam while staying at a safe level.

4. IMPs. Dealer South, both Vul, as South you hold ♠AQ64 ♥J108532 ♦8 ♣A9.

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	?

Bid	Votes	Score
2♥	12	10
2♠	7	8

What's your rebid, with 2/1 style: 2♥ would not show extra hearts, and 2♠ would not show extra strength.

If you rebid 2♥, partner continues 3♣. Now what? What would 3♠ show at this point? Some say the natural 4-6 is being described. Most claim it shows a scramble, with no clear bid, not wanting to bypass 3NT. They point out that responder twice had the chance to bid spades and didn't, so there's no 4-4 spade fit.

If you bid 3NT, to confirm the spades are well stopped, you haven't shown the 6th heart. At my table, Opener faced the secondary problem: 1♥-2♦-2♥-3♣-? Rebidding 3♥ was possible, to show the 6th heart. But then does Responder punt with, say, two or three little spades 3♠ to allow us to show our stoppers and bid 3NT? Opener in fact chose 3NT (along with many of the panelists) and the superior 4♥ contract was missed.

In a 2/1 game-forcing auction, there's an interplay between making descriptive bids, or stalling by taking little bidding space and listening to partner's description. Here, if you rebid the default 2♥, the message does not amplify the original meaning except inferentially by the bids not chosen. The only certain message is, "I still have the same five hearts I announced the round before". The main purpose is to leave room for responder to describe.

Looking at Part (b) first, almost everyone bids 3NT over 3♣. A typical comment:

Smith: I think 3♠ now could not be a Spade suit, but would instead indicate an inability to bid 3NT because Spades are not well stopped. Probably, this should be a partial stopper such as Qxx, looking for something in Spades from P.

It all starts with the initial rebid:



David Willis

Willis: 2♠. Given the stated conditions I would bid 2♠ to flag a shapely hand (not sure what else). Some would play this shows mild extras which I have from a shape perspective and I will not get this shape across unless I begin to show it. How do I figure out where I want to play opposite Kx Qx AKxxx Jxxx or KJxx x AQxxx Kxx if I don't bid 2♠ followed by 3♥. I would normally bid 2♥ as am from the Gavin Wolpert School showing 6 with 2♥ vs the Paul Thurston school showing 5. 2♠ would not be a reverse but is not needed on this hand as can bid 2♥ and partner can show spades next.

He'd rebid 3♥ over 3♣ to expressly show the 6th heart.

Cimon: 2♠. Showing where I live. I hope I will be able to repeat hearts.

Lindop: 2♠. What else? Doesn't promise anything extra in 2/1 style. 6-4 patterns should generally be bid with the six-card suit, followed by the four-card suit, followed by rebidding the six-card suit.

Summarizing the majority view:

Todd: 2♥. Even though 2♠ would not show extras, 2♠ just seems wrong. Partner can still bid 2♠. If not, spades are out of the picture probably.

I think 2♠ is the correct rebid, showing 4+5+xy without implying extra values. Then if responder bids 2NT, 3♣ or 3♦, the hearts can be rebid to show six of them.

If opener had 64xy instead of 46xy, everyone would rebid 2♥. What are the differences here? 2♠ is higher than 2♥, and bidding 2♥ economizes space. But at what cost? It allows exactly one more notch in the bidding ladder for responder: 2♠. False economy, because opener would then raise to 3♠ to show the fit, while Responder could just as easily raise your 2♠ to 3. And if Responder wants to support hearts next, he

still has two levels of support to show different hand types. Meanwhile, Opener has given potentially useful information to responder, particularly compared with the sequence: 1♥-2m-2♥-3♥.

I'll grant you that sometimes concealment can be advantageous in the lead and play. That is important, but should be a secondary consideration to finding the best contract.

5. Matchpoints. Dealer South, neither Vul, as South you hold ♠K108 ♥A92 ♦QJ1052 ♣Q9.

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

What now?

Bid	Votes	Score
4♥	10	10
5♣	4	9
4♦	3	8
4NT	2	7

Four panelists raised, trusting that a doubleton honour would be sufficient support for a suit freely introduced at the four level. They see a minimum hand and didn't want to encourage partner too much. Three panelists rebid their decent five-card suit, saving space and leaving the most flexibility.

There are two issues here – evaluation, and interpretation. I would have thought that the evaluation was fairly simple – you have a balanced minimum. Your partner has bid your shortest, weakest suit. So why are so many folks cue-bidding?

Some liked their hand a lot!

Willis: 4♥ – partner has already gone by 3NT (either

lacking spades for a negative double or with a good single suited club hand or clubs and diamonds. They have found me with a great minimum (including all my spots) and will show that by cuebidding now. Any control rich hand with partner should offer good play in either 6♣ or 6♦ and partner can bid 6 clubs or offer a choice with 5NT.

Grainger: 4♥. I have the ♥A, Qx of the minor partner has introduced at the 4 level, a potential source of tricks and a king. It's also MP and we are past 3NT, and partner either has a freak or slam interest to do that, so I'm going to cooperate.

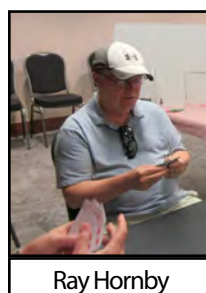
Partner has shown 5 or more clubs, game forcing strength and fewer than 4 spades. A shortness or missing stopper would explain his failure to bid 3NT. everything else is speculative.

Some liked their hand a little:

Kimelman: 4♥ Partner has bid 4 clubs for a reason. Will cuebid 4♥, despite minimum opening bid.

Balcombe: 4♥. Agrees clubs, but could be an overbid. A raise to 5♣ is reasonable but partner might need to know about the Heart Ace.

At least he suspects it's an overbid, as did Bob Kuz and Paul Thurston. Some didn't like it all that much:



Ray Hornby

Hornby: 4♥. An all purpose below game cue bid. Partner should have pretty good clubs here. I'll sign off in 5♣ if that's available.

He might have good clubs, but what would he bid with 2236 or so and weak clubs and GF?

Editor: Double?

Feldman: Don't love it, but worth showing the heart control, and making one move.

Treble: Dog of a hand, but partner could have just about anything. We're past 3NT, and I'm not sure how responder would interpret 4NT if I bid it.

Ay, William, there's the rub! What would 4NT mean?

For this problem set, I invited Ben Zeidenberg to join the panel. As a junior, he represented Canada twice, then left Bridge on the sidelines for many years. Having just turned fifty, he's getting back into it. And just in time, as this is his view:

Zeidenberg 4NT (to play). 4NT should be natural here because there was no room for us to find 3NT over 3♥ when partner has long clubs (with no heart stop or too strong for 3NT). I'll need to do something else (like cue-bid 4H) with a strong hand.

Agreeing, a voice of experience:

Cimon: 4NT natural. At MP with slow values, I don't want to be in five of a minor. I can duck hearts twice if necessary.

One outsourced pseudo-panelist with the last word:

Michael Rosenberg: 4NT is natural when we have bid a non-jump four of a new minor after they overcall at the 3-level directly over our opening bid.

Examples:

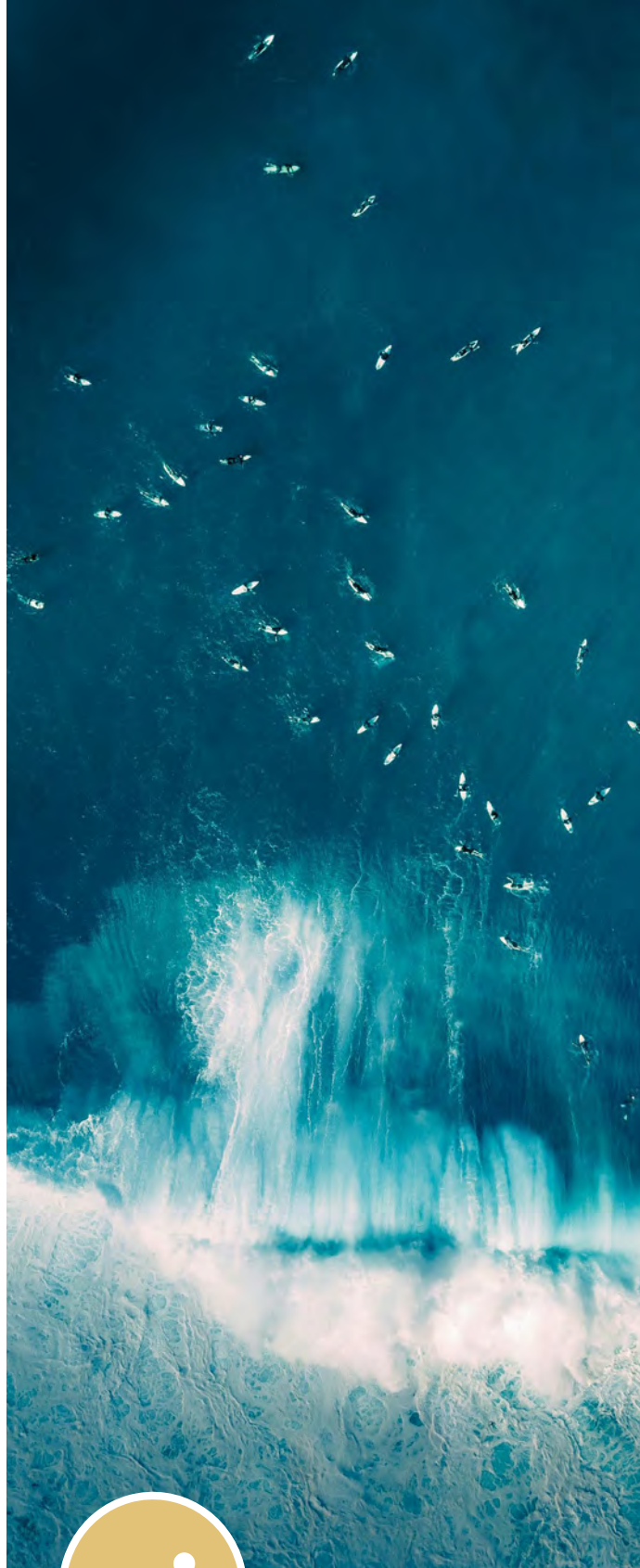
1♠ (3♥) 4♦

and

1♦, 3M – 4♣

(Paraphrased from a Bridge Winners Article): 4NT could be the only making game. Feel free to write me for examples or construct your own. There oughtta be a way to get there, since you could always do something else with a great hand for clubs (such as cue-bid 4♥).

Editor: Thanks for playing and see you in September! TGCBC problems can be found right after the panelists' scores for June. Have a good summer, NK.



Posse quam possunt. (They can because they think they can.)

Virgil

PANELIST ANSWERS

June 2024 Bidding Contest

	Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3		Hand 4		Hand 5		
Name	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Total
Keith Balcombe	2♣	10	2♣	10	1♠	7	2♥	10	4♥	10	47
Francine Cimon	2♣	10	2♣	10	2NT	10	2♠	8	4NT	7	45
Jason Feldman	1♥	8	2♣	10	4♦	9	2♥	10	4♥	10	47
David Grainger	Pass	6	2♣	10	4♦	9	2♥	10	4♥	10	45
Mike Hargreaves	2♣	10	2♣	10	2NT	10	2♥	10	5♣	9	49
Ray Hornby	1♥	8	2♣	10	4♦	9	2♥	10	4♥	10	47
Dan Jacob	Pass	6	2NT	7	2NT	10	2♠	8	4♥	10	41
Neil Kimelman	1♥	8	2♣	10	4♦	9	2♥	10	4♥	10	47
Bob Kuz	1♥	8	1♣	6	4♦	9	2♠	8	4♥	10	41
Nic L'Ecuyer	2♣	10	2NT	7	2NT	10	2♥	10	5♣	9	46
David Lindop	2♣	10	2♣	10	2NT	10	2♠	8	4♦	8	46
Danny Miles	1♥	8	2♣	10	2NT	10	2♠	8	4♦	8	44
Julie Smith	2♣	10	1♣	6	4♦	9	2♠	8	4♦	8	41
Paul Thurston	2♣	10	2NT	7	4♦	9	2♥	10	4♥	10	46
Bob Todd	2♣	10	2♣	10	1♠	7	2♥	10	5♣	9	46
Bill Treble	1♥	8	2NT	7	2NT	10	2♠	8	4♥	10	43
David Turner	2♣	10	2♣	10	4♦	9	2♥	10	5♣	9	48
David Willis	2♣	10	2NT	7	2NT	10	2♠	8	4♥	10	45
Ben Zaidenberg	2♣	10	2xC	10	1♠	7	2♥	10	4NT	7	44



The difference between success and failure
at any endeavour is often very slim.

Author unknown



SEPTEMBER 2024 PROBLEMS

Host: David Turner

Readers: Answers due by Aug 11th.

1. IMPs. Dealer: West, both vul, as South you hold:
♠KQ4 ♥A6543 ♦A73 ♣J2.

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

1. Game force

- a) Do you agree with 2NT? If not, what would you have bid?
b) What now?

2. IMPs, Dealer: South, E-W vul. As South you hold:
♠A ♥53 ♦AQ109843 ♣AK7.

West	North	East	South
			1♦
1♠	2♥	Passe	2♠
Passe	4♥	Passe	?

- a) Do you agree with the pass of 2♠? If not, what would you have bid?
b) What now?

3. IMPs, Dealer: South, both vul. As South you hold:
♠8763 ♥QJ ♦Q3 ♣AJ1093.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	4♦ ¹	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	?

1. Unfamiliar expert partner.

- a) Do you agree with the pass of 4♦? If not, what would you have bid?
b) What now?

4. IMPs, Dealer: West, neither vul. As South you hold:
♠AKJ9743 ♥Q ♦7 ♣AQ65.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	?

What is your plan?

5. IMPs, Dealer: East, both vul. As South you hold:
♠K ♥AKQ9 ♦A1087 ♣AQ63.

West	North	East	South
		Pass	?

What's your choice, and why?



Ethan: How should I have played the 4♠ contract on Board 9?

Samantha: Under an assumed name.



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QUIZ

IBPA DECLARER PLAY PROBLEM #25

PUZZLE ON PAGE 10

North

♠ AKJ108
♥ 64
♦ J652
♣ Q9

South

♠ Q64
♥ J9752
♦ AKQ
♣ A3

The contract is 4♠, on the following auction:

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

West leads ♥3. East wins the first two hearts and continues with the ♥8. West ruffs your ♥9 with the ♠5. Plan the play.

You have 10 tricks, and might ask what is the problem? What if East has 4 spades? Then if you ruff trick 3 you will not have the communication to enjoy your ♦J. The solution is to throw a club from dummy. No matter what West does, you can pull trumps, unblock the diamonds and ruff a club to enjoy your good ♦J.

The full deal:

♠ AKJ108	
♥ 64	
♦ J652	
♣ Q9	
♠ 5	♠ 9732
♥ 3	♥ AKQ108
♦ 109873	♦ 4
♣ 1086542	♣ KJ7
♠ Q64	
♥ J9752	
♦ AKQ	
♣ A3	



They call it bridge as it makes you want to throw your partner off one.

Author unknown.



A Matter of Priority

A man has a severe heart attack and is rushed to the hospital emergency room. The admitting nurse says, "I'm sorry, you'll have to wait in line."

"But I might be *dying*!" says the man.

"Sorry, a doctor will see you when one is available."

Then an ambulance races up with its siren blaring, and a woman is carried in on a stretcher. A paramedic explains, "She was in a terrible accident and has just stopped breathing."

"I'm sorry," says the nurse, "she'll have to wait in line."

Next a guy walks in without assistance, whispers something to the nurse and is taken immediately to the examination room, surrounded by doctors.

"What's *this*?" says the first man. "How come he goes right in?"

"Oh," explains the nurse, "he's a bridge player and his partner just passed him in a cue-bid."

what

...does this bid mean?

1. E-W vul, matchpoints:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	4♣	Dbl

What does the double show?

Double shows high card points, around 10+ HCPs. It is usually fairly balanced. Opener can convert to penalties, or bid on with a distribution hand. Also:

- Double does not promise four card support for unbid suits.
- If all of your points are in the opponent's suit and you want to penalize, you must pass and hope partner will reopen with a double with extra values.

2. E-W vul, matchpoints:

West	North	East	South
1♣	Dbl	1♠	Dbl

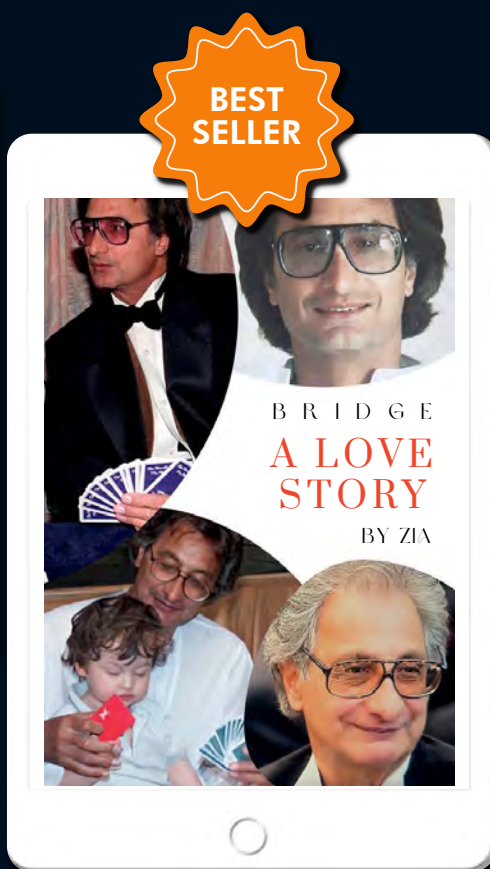
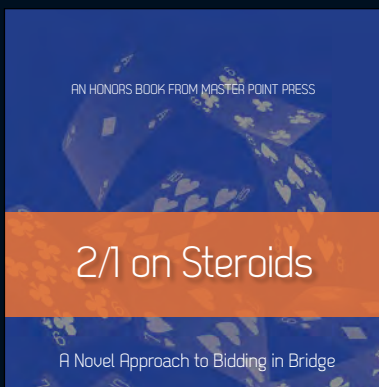
What does the double show?

Most partnerships play this as 'I have four spades and at least 6 HCPs. It exposes a psych by East. If you have a red suit and some values, bid it at the two level. If not, pass.



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