

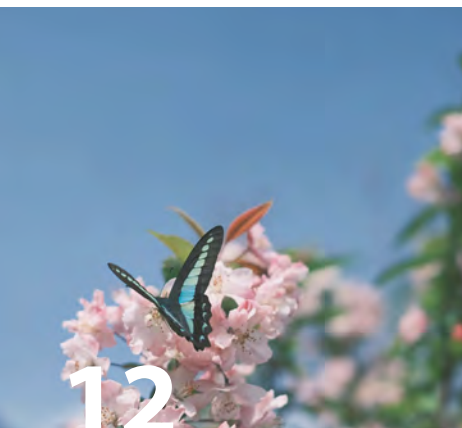
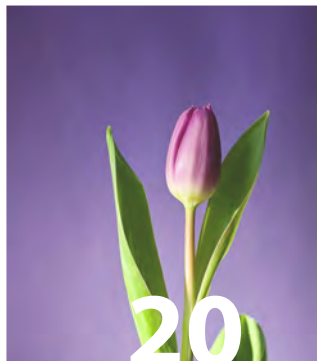
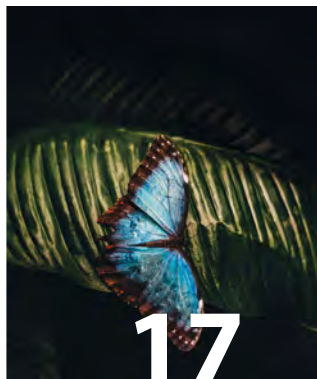
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | MARCH 2025

bridge *Canada*



THE CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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



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MEMBERSHIP

Bridge Canada is available to members only.

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.

Stay **CONNECTED**

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The Goods

2025 Canadian Bridge Championships (CBCs)

The online phase of the 2025 CBC events have now completed, and the successful teams who will compete in the knockout phase can be found on the CBF homepage. This knockout phase of the CNTC A's, CSTCs, CMTCs and the CWTCs will take place in Toronto, April 14-20, 2025, at the same time as the Toronto Regional. For more information on which team qualified, and all Canadian Bridge Championship specifics, go to: cbf.ca/cbf-canadian-championships-2025-toronto

Thank You

I would like to recognize all the people with whom I work, that make this publication possible. In alphabetical order:

- Francine Cimon
- Jude Goodwin
- Sky Goodwin
- Catherine Kinsella
- Louise Mascolo
- Audrey Thizy
- Cathy Walsh

Thank you all for your efforts.

2024 IBPA Personalities of the Year!



Congrats to RealBridge for snagging this bridge reward. As a competitor in the Canadian Bridge Championships, RealBridge has been a great online platform on which to play. The key individuals in this entity:

- Andy Bowles - Operations Director.
- Graham Hazel - CEO and CTO.
- Shireen Mohandes - Commercial Director.

The complete list of IBPA award winners, and the corresponding deals, will be in the June edition of Bridge Canada.

Neil Kimelman

Bridge Canada Managing Editor



2025 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 14 – 20, 2025

Hart House – University of Toronto
7 Hart House Circle, Toronto, On



Hart House is a student-focused centre for the arts, dialogue, and wellness at the University of Toronto. Established in 1919, it is one of the earliest North American student centres, being the location of student debates and conferences since its construction.

The **Arbor Room**, located on the main floor, provides food service Monday to Friday from 8:30 am–7 pm, and Saturday from 9 am–3 pm.

Thank you for the sponsorship and support of the Hart **House Bridge Club** (Manager Kevin Johnston) and the wonderful Hart House staff for hosting the Canadian Bridge Championships in such a historical and beautiful facility.

Canadian Championships - Team Events

April 14	CNTC QF	10:00 am
April 15	CNTC B	10:00 am
	CNTC C	10:00 am
April 16	CWTC SF	10:00 am
April 18	CMTC QF	10:00 am
April 19	CSTC SF	10:00 am

Canadian Championships - Open Pairs

April 16 – 17, 2025	10:00 am
Hall of Fame	
April 17, 2025	7:00 pm

Debates Room (2034)

D Wang	vs	Jai Luo
Jian Luo	vs	Hanna
Prodan	vs	Willis
Feldman	vs	Jacob
Pontifex	vs	Xu
Forget	vs	Faille
Fung	vs	Smith
Chen	vs	Burns
Miles	vs	Smith
Fourcaudot	vs	Senensky
Hou	vs	Lin
Wang	vs	Tian
Roche	vs	Todd
Jacob	vs	Hanna

East Common Room (1034)

Music Room (2006)

Website: www.harthouse.ca





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the newly-elected President of the CBF, I am honoured and excited to announce and welcome our three new Directors at Large:

- Marc-Andre Fourcaudot - focus on WBF matters and Canadian Championship format
- Ginger Grant - focus on Grant applications and Education
- Mike Hargreaves - focus on Legal and Procedural matters

These new Directors will greatly assist our Board in accomplishing our goals. Let me introduce the rest of our team:

Executive Assistant - Catherine Kinsella

Treasurer - Cathy Walsh

Our Zonal Directors are:

Zone 1 - Allan Callard

Zone 2 - Deb Harper

Zone 3 - Terry Du (Junior Development)

Zone 4 - Fred Mykytyshyn

Zone 5 - Vacant

Zone 6 - Shelley Burns (President)

I would also like to introduce myself and outline some of the priorities the Board will focus on over the coming year. I grew up in Vancouver, earned my CPA designation, and learned Bridge from some of Canada's best Teachers (John Rayner and Barbara Seagram) during my husband's 10 year transfer to Toronto.

After moving back to Vancouver in 2009, I started teaching and running a Bridge Club. I love to teach Bridge, and have made lifelong friendships with students and fellow teachers. I'm also a game Director, and I help manage a non-profit Bridge Club called Greater Vancouver Bridge Club.

When Neil Kimelman first encouraged me to sit on the CBF Board, I didn't know much about what the CBF did. I have learned a lot over several years, and am now ready to bring my leadership style to our Board. My priorities:

1. Given my accounting background, my focus is on financial sustainability. The CBF will look at ways to increase revenue, including increasing our membership base and taking advantage of Grant monies.

2. We like to understand various points of view, and we welcome feedback both positive and constructive. All feedback will be considered by the Board in making the best decisions for our members.

3. Communication through Bridge Canada magazine, E-mail and our website:

- a) We plan to communicate regularly through our Bridge Canada magazine and E-mails.
- b) We hope that increased communication will increase participation in our events, and in turn increase our membership base.
- c) We would like to educate and involve our Club Managers and Directors so that they are conversant with what special games, races and events they can offer to their players.
- d) We plan to reach out to Canadian ACBL members who are not CBF members to encourage them to become CBF members.

4. Online AGM

This year we are moving towards having our AGM online, so that those across Canada can participate. Watch for an announcement of the date, which will likely be sometime in May.

5. Style - I want to move forward in a positive way, while recognizing changing circumstances and learning from the past. I will personally do my best in making decisions, as will our entire Board. We will be flexible and fair.

We look forward to serving our members. Please check our Website www.cbf.ca to find out more about what CBF has to offer. We welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Shelley Burns

CBF President





MAURICE DE LA SALLE

1946-2024

It is with great sadness I am informing all of you of the passing of my Maurice. Maurice suffered many years with Alzheimer's but typically he did not complain, and accepted his fate with his customary quiet dignified demeanor.

Maurice loved the game of bridge. He would say to me if we were having a poor game, just enjoy the hands. This was his philosophy, win or lose, he was happiest when playing. Also, Maurice greatly appreciated all of you, his friends, both while competing at the bridge table and socializing after.

Our best memories were of the get togethers, the parties, the favourite stories told over and over.

Maurice spent his entire career caring for others, those with mental health challenges. He was good at his job, kindness was an integral part of his personality.

We had a wonderful life together, I felt cherished and loved. How fortunate was I that he chose to share his life with me.

A heartfelt thank you to all of you, his friends, I'm so thankful for the memories.

Susan Culham



CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



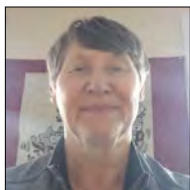
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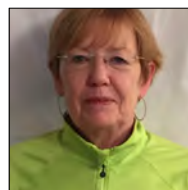
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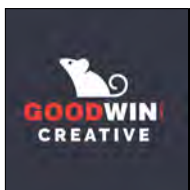
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VERY BAD BIDS VERY OCCASIONALLY LEAD TO VERY GOOD RESULTS

By Charles Mcleod

I am sure that most of us have made bad bids and been punished for it. But very occasionally a bad bid can produce a very good result.

Recently I was playing in an online club game with one of my regular partners. My partner was declarer holding:

♠ A10982
♥ AKJ8
♦ A5
♣ Q9.

She opened 1 spade (18 HCPs). I held:

♠ -
♥ 94
♦ KQ98743
♣ A832

I had a mental block and bid 3♦ – meaning to show lots of diamonds and not much else – but forgetting that my partner and I play Bergen, so a 3♦ bid shows four spades and 11 to 12 points (I explained my bid to our opponents, but of course I could not do so to my partner).

My partner bid 4NT (Roman Key Card Blackwood) – a mistake since she had two useless clubs - and I started getting worried.

- I bid 5 clubs (one key card)
- My partner bid 5 spades and I was getting more worried.
- I did not want to play in spades, so I bid 6 diamonds.
- My partner bid 6 spades - which was doubled.

I was now very worried and (a) focusing on damage control and (b) wondering how best to explain things/ apologize to my partner. In light of my void of spades, I bid 7♦, estimating that we would go down less badly in 7♦ than in 6♠. Needless to say, my 7♦ bid was doubled.

The Play

My left hand opponent led a low club. I played the queen which won.

I now played Ace and King of hearts and Ace of spades from dummy (discarding a club from my hand), all of which won. I then played dummy's remaining club and took it in my hand with my Ace.

I played my remaining club and trumped low in dummy.

I then played the Ace of diamonds from dummy, trumped a spade lead from dummy, and played my diamonds, taking all the tricks! Plus 2330 in case you were wondering!

I can't remember when I last bid and made a grand slam. And it was all due to my bad 3♦ bid early on and good distribution – not to good bidding!

Sometimes you get (very) lucky. If our opponents are reading this, I'm sorry!



Q: Why are DJs bad at bridge?

A: Because they only play in clubs.



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PLAY OR DEFEND?

ANSWER ON PAGE 35

Editor's note: In these problems you must determine who will prevail if all sides play perfectly, declarer or the defenders?

Dummy

♠ 3
♥ K6
♦ AQ32
♣ KJ10732

♠ 7654	♠ QJ1082
♥ 875	♥ AJ103
♦ KJ876	♦ 10
♣ Q	♣ 865

Declarer

♠ AK9
♥ Q942
♦ 954
♣ A94

Contract: 6♣ by South. Do you chose to play, or defend this contract?



IMMEDIATE RAISES OF MAJOR-SUIT OPENING BIDS

By Ed Zaluski

This article presents a description of responses that support a major-suit one-level opening bid. Included are immediate raises plus one step (e.g. 2♠ or 3♠ over 1♥ and 2NT or 3NT over 1♠) to show at least four-card support, at least invitational values, and a side-suit singleton. In my opinion, these raises are superior to the Bergen and Jacoby 2NT conventions (both of which show strength and support of four or more cards but show nothing about distribution). A quote from Benito Garozzo:

- ♦ “The distribution is the most important thing and you should gear your bidding to concentrate on that first.”

The distributional raises described here do just that.

After such a distributional raise, opener may use an artificial next-step rebid, as long as that next step is not in the trump suit, to ask for more information about responder's hand, thereby allowing the partnership to reach a final contract without describing to the opponents any distributional details about opener's hand.

In the following sequences, opener's bids and rebids are at left while responder's responses and rebids are at right. The opponents are assumed to pass throughout.

Immediate Raises

1♥/♠ openings

1. **Raise.** A single raise of either major suit shows at least three-card support, with values up to 10 points, or specifically a Constructive Raise of eight to 10 points, as agreed by the partnership.
2. **Jump Raise.** A jump raise to the three level shows four trumps; it is either preemptive or a limit raise without a short side suit, as agreed by the partnership. However, a jump raise to game is always preemptive, and usually shows five or more trumps, a side-suit singleton or void, and no side-suit Ace or King.
3. **3NT.** specifically over 1♥, 3NT, a jump raise plus two steps, shows a game raise with four or more hearts, 10+ HCP, and a void in spades.
4. **4♣/♦/♥.** These jumps to the four level show game values, at least four cards in opener's major, at least 10 HCPs, and a void in the bid suit. After a 1♠ opening bid, a jump to 4♥ -- it being is a game bid -- can be played as showing similar values and either a void in hearts, or a natural bid, to play.

After a Single Raise

1♥ 2♥

1. **2NT/3♣/♦**. After a single raise, opener's bid of another suit that is not the next step (i.e., not 2♠ over 1♥) should show a real suit of four or more cards; it should be treated as a Help-Suit Game Try (HSGT), where 2NT is a HSGT in spades. Example for 1♥, then 2NT: Kxxx, AKJxxx, Ax, x.
2. **3♥**. After a raise to 2♥, opener's rebid of 3♥, as agreed by the partnership, is either a Stop Bid or, as Kokish recommends, a Trump-Suit Game Try (TSGT) that asks for good trumps. Example for a Stop Bid: Kx, QJ10xxx, AJx, Jx. Example for a TSGT: AQx, Jxxxxx, Ax, Kx.

3. **3♠/4♣/♦**. A jump in a new suit shows length, and is a slam try. Example for 4♣: x, AKJxxx, x, AK10xx. Responder should show a side-suit Ace if one is held. If holding a side-suit Ace and a complementary high honour in opener's second suit, a jump to slam should be considered.

4. **2♠**. The first step above a single raise is an *artificial bid* that asks responder to show, in ascending steps, the first suit that contains "wasted" minor honours (i.e., Kings and Queens but not the Ace) that would suggest rejection of a Short-Suit Game Try (SSGT) in that suit. This convention is called a "Reverse Kokish Game Try" (RKGT). The major advantage of this convention is that it does not broadcast opener's distribution that could aid the opponents in finding the correct defence.

- In response to a RKGT, responder shows the suit that contains wasted minor honours, starting with the "lowest-ascending" suit, where 2NT means spades. Example for 2NT: KQx, xxxx, Ax, 10xxx. Any skipped suit means that responder would have bid game had opener made a SSGT in that suit, thereby suggesting that responder has seven or more HCPs outside any skipped suit. Example for 3♦:

xx, KJx, KQxx, xxxx. With room, opener has the option to make a further HSGT in any suit bid below the three level of the agreed trump suit. Also, knowing responder has wasted minor honours in the shown suit allows opener, on some hands, to contract for 3NT.

- **3♥**. "Sweep Acceptance," which means all SSGTs would be accepted. This bid is forcing and allows for following cue bids should opener have slam aspirations. Examples hands for responder: Axx, KQxx, xxx, xxx, or xx, AKJx, xxxx, xxx.

1♠ 2♠

5. **2NT**. Again, the first step above a raise is a RKGT. Continuation methods are described in the two previous sequences, where hearts was agreed as trumps.

Distributional Limit Raises

1♥ 2♠

Responder's single raise plus one step is an *artificial bid* that shows a Distributional Limit Raise, which promises a distributional hand containing four or more trumps, an unspecified side-suit singleton, and either 7-9 or 13-15 HCPs outside the singleton suit. Note: In addition to the stated HCPs, a side-suit singleton adds an additional three support points. For the missing point ranges, see sequences described later under the heading Distributional Game-Forcing Raises.

1. **2NT**. Opener usually bids the next-step as an artificial Short-Suit Asking Bid (SSAB).

- **3♣/♦/♥**. Responder's rebid at the three level identifies the suit of the singleton, with seven to nine HCP. 3♥ identifies a singleton spade.
- **3NT/4♣/♦**. Responder's rebid at or above 3NT show 13 to 15 HCP and

shortness in the next higher non-trump suit. 3NT shows a singleton club. The reason that responder bids the suit below the singleton is to allow opener the option of rebidding responder's singleton suit as a Working Control Asking Bid (WCAB).

- **4♣**. Responder shows a singleton in the next higher suit, diamonds.

a. 4♦. The bid of responder's singleton is a WCAB, which is a treatment that is useful when opener holds the trump Queen. 4NT instead would be RKC Blackwood.

i. 4♥/♠ Step responses show the number of controls in responder's hand, where the first step shows two or less, the second step shows three, etc., where an Ace counts as two controls and a non-singleton King counts as one.

1♥ 2♠
2NT 4♣

This jump to the four level jump shows a singleton in the next higher suit, diamonds, and 13 to 15 HCP outside of diamonds.

Example 1:

Opener: ♠Kx ♥AQxxx ♦Axx ♣Kxx
Responder: ♠AQxx, ♥Kxxx, ♦x ♣Axxx.

1♥ 2♠¹
2NT² 4♣³
4♦⁴ 5♣⁵
7♥

1. Distributional Limit Raise, 7-9 or 13-15 HCPs.
2. SSAB (Short suit asking bid).
3. Diamond singleton.
4. WCAB, asking for total controls.

5. Responder's bid of the fourth step shows five controls.

1♠ 2NT Again, responder's single raise plus one step is an *artificial bid* that shows a Distributional Limit Raise, as described above where hearts was agreed suit.

1. **3♣**. Opener's next-step rebid is a SSAB.

a. 3♦/♥/♠. Responder's rebid at the three level identifies the suit of the singleton, with seven to nine HCP. 3♠ identifies a singleton club.

b. 3N/4♣/♦. A rebid at or above 3NT shows 13 to 15 HCP and shortness in the next higher suit. 3NT shows a singleton club.

Example 2:

♠AQJxx ♥Jxxx ♦Axx ♣x
♠Kxxx ♥x ♦KJxx ♣AKxx

1♠ 2NT¹
3♣² 4♦³
4♥⁴ 5♦⁵
6♠

1. Artificial distributional raise, with either seven to nine or 13 to 15 HCP.
2. SSAB (Short suit asking bid).
3. Shows a singleton heart, 13 to 15 HCP.
4. WCAB
5. 4th step, 5 controls.

Example 3:

♠Axx ♥KQxxx ♦Kx ♣AQx
♠x ♥xxxxx ♦AJxx ♣Kxx

1♥ 2♠¹
2NT² 3♥³
3♠⁴ 4♣⁵
6♥

1. Artificial distributional raise, with either seven to nine or 13 to 15 HCPs.
2. SSAB (Short suit asking bid).
3. Singleton spade, 7-9 HCPs.
4. WCAB.
5. Three Controls, one red Ace and the King of clubs.

Examples 4:

xx, QJxxx, KQxx, Ax
AQx, AKxx, x, Qxxxx

1♥ 2♠¹
2NTx² 4♣³
4♥⁴ Pass

Distributional Game-Forcing Raises

1♥ 3♠ Responder's double raise plus one step is an artificial Distributional Game-Forcing Raise that promise four or more trumps, an unspecified side-suit singleton, and either 10 to 12 or, rarely, 16+ HCP outside of the singleton suit.

1. **3NT.** Opener usually bids the next-step as an artificial SSAB.

a. 4♣/♦/4♥ Responder shows 10 to 12 HCP and shortness in the next higher non-trump suit. 4♥ shows a singleton club. The reason that responder bids the suit below the singleton is to allow opener the option of rebidding responder's singleton as a WCAB, a treatment that was described in earlier sequences.

b. 4♠/5♣/♦ Bidding above the game level of the agreed major shows 16+ HCP, with a singleton in the next higher non-trump suit. 5♦ shows a singleton spade.

c. 4NT. RKC Blackwood, hearts agreed as trumps, and 16+ HCPs outside a singleton.

1♠ 3NT

Again, a double raise plus one step is a Distributional Game-Forcing Raise that promise four or more trumps, an unspecified side-suit singleton, and either 10 to 12 or 16+ HCP outside of the singleton suit. Continuations conform with those described in the previous sequence where hearts was the trump suit.

1. Seven to nine or 13-15 HCP and a singleton.
2. Asking.
3. 13-15 HCPs with a singleton diamond.
4. Sign off. Too many values are wasted in diamonds opposite responder's singleton.

Fit-Bid Raises or Invitational Bids in a New Suit

1♥ 2N/3♣/♦

A natural fit-bid raise -- which is a *raise plus two, three or four steps* -- shows nine or more cards in two suits, usually with four trump and five or more cards in the implied suit, which contains at least two of the top three honours or the AJ10xx. The hand must have at least invitational values of 10 or more HCPs. 2NT means the fit-bid suit is spades. As an alternate option, a partnership may instead choose to use jump shifts to show long and strong suits with invitational values. To be decided.

1♠ 3♣/♦/♥.

Either a fit-bid raise, or a natural bid with invitational values, as described above and as agreed by the partnership.

1♥ 3♣

Responder makes a fit bid in clubs.

3♦

After a fit bid, opener's next-step rebid, provided it is below three of the agreed trump suit, is artificial and asks for more information.

1. **3♥**. Responder's return to the trump suit shows seven to nine HCP (where additional distributional points of three or more are added for side-suit shortness). Example for 3♣, then 3♥: xxx, Qxxx, x, AQxxx.
2. **3♠/4♦**. Responder's rebids in a new suit above the trump suit shows a singleton in that suit and 13 to 15 HCPs. Example for 3♣, then 4♦: KQx, Qxxx, x, AQJxx.
3. **4♣**. Rebidding the fit-bid suit shows a solid suit of five or more cards. Usually, four trumps are also held, but three cards are permitted if the major has at least one of the top three honours. Usually, responder's hand does not have a first-round control in the other two suits unless a cue bid in one of the other suits is made on the next round. Example for 3♣, then 4♣ over 1♥: xx, KJx, Qx, AKQxxx. Example for 3♣, then 4♣, then 5♦ over 1♥: xx, Kxx, Ax, AKQxxx.

1♠

3♣. Responder makes a fit bid in clubs.

1. **3♦**. Rebidding the next step below the trump suit artificially asks for more information.
2. **3♥**. Rebidding a new suit below the trump suit that is not the next step is a HSGT.
3. **3♠**. Rebidding the trump suit shows a minimum, not forcing. Responder possibly holds a singleton or void in responder's fit-bid suit.



Q: What's the difference between a raging bull and a bridge partner?

A: You can reason with a raging bull.

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.



2024 CHINESE PREMIER LEAGUE FINAL

By Jerry Li, Beijing



The 2024 Premier League Final was held in Taicang Jiangsu Province from 16-23 November. After two legs of the competition, Mianyang Jinshuo, Qingdao Sailun, ORG, and Shanghai Leijiaguan went to the final stage. All teams have foreign players: Israeli pair Birman - Padon in Jinshuo, Poland's Kamil Nowak playing for Sailun, US pair Kranyak - Demuy playing in the ORG team, and the Swedish Rimstedt brothers playing for Leijiaguan.

The format is a four-team Upper-Lower Knockout. Leijiaguan beat Jinshuo and ORG to proceed straight to the final, and then ORG defeated Jinshuo to earn the second spot in the final. ORG won the 96-board final 233-219, to take their first Premier League Trophy. Here are two boards from the final:

Board 11. Dealer South, North-South vulnerable.

♠ 4
♥ QJ72
♦ J32
♣ A10983

♠ KQ
♥ A1084
♦ AKQ1075
♣ 5

♠ A10965
♥ K3
♦ 96
♣ QJ62

♠ J8732
♥ 965
♦ 84
♣ K74

West	North	East	South
Padon	O. Rimstedt	Birman	M. Rimstedt
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Dror Padon from Israel played in 6♦ on a trump lead. Padon drew trumps and played the king-queen of

spades. If North had followed to the second spade, Padon would have overtaken with the ace and thrown a club on the spade ten, playing for spades 3-3 or 4-2. When North showed out on the second spade, Padon had to change his plan.

He won the spade queen, and cashed two more trumps. North had to keep four hearts, pitching two clubs. South had to keep the spade guard, and pitching a club would have led to this position:

♠ -	♠ -
♥ QJ72	♥ QJ72
♦ -	♦ -
♣ A10	♣ A10
♠ -	♠ A10
♥ A1084	♥ K3
♦ 5	♦ -
♣ 5	♣ QJ
♠ J8	♠ J8
♥ 965	♥ 965
♦ -	♦ -
♣ K	♣ K

With the defenders' club communication broken, declarer would cash the last trump (throwing a spade) and exit with a club to rectify the count. South can do nothing to prevent North from being squeezed in clubs and hearts.

So, South discarded a seemingly-useless heart on the fifth round of trumps. Now Padon crossed to dummy with the king of hearts, leaving this position:

♠ -	♠ -
♥ QJ7	♥ QJ7
♦ -	♦ -
♣ A10	♣ A10
♠ -	♠ A10
♥ A108	♥ 3
♦ 5	♦ -
♣ 5	♣ QJ
♠ J8	♠ J8
♥ 9	♥ 9
♦ -	♦ -
♣ K7	♣ K7

Padon threw the club loser on the spade ace, while North had to release another club. Finally, a club ruff in hand stripped North and West down to hearts in this position:

♠ -	♠ -
♥ QJ7	♥ QJ7
♦ -	♦ -
♣ -	♣ -
♠ -	♠ 10
♥ A108	♥ 3
♦ -	♦ -
♣ -	♣ Q
♠ J	♠ J
♥ 9	♥ 9
♦ -	♦ -
♣ K	♣ K

Padon exited with the ten of hearts, pinning South's now-bare nine of hearts, while North won with the jack, and North had to lead away from the queen into the ace-eight.

Mikael Rimstedt showed good card sense on this deal, also from the final:

Board 7. Dealer South, both sides vulnerable

♠ 10652	♠ -
♥ K98	♥ J2
♦ AK32	♦ QJ1098
♣ 64	♣ A98752
♠ A98	♠ KQJ743
♥ A754	♥ Q1063
♦ 754	♦ 6
♣ Q103	♣ KJ

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	O. Rimstedt	Demuy	M. Rimstedt
			1♠
Pass	2NT	3♣	4♠
All Pass			

Demuy never mentioned his diamonds, and declarer needed to find the jack of hearts. Kranyak led the three of clubs to the ace, and Demuy returned a club to declarer's king. Mikael played the ace-king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond, before playing trumps. Kranyak won the second trump and returned a third trump. Mikael won in dummy and ruffed the fourth diamond, revealing East's 0=2=5=6 shape. This was the end position:

	♠ 6	
	♥ K98	
	♦ -	
	♣ -	
♠ -		♠ -
♥ A75		♥ J2
♦ -		♦ Q
♣ Q		♣ 9
	♠ J	
	♥ Q106	
	♦ -	
	♣ -	

Mikael played the queen of hearts, and Kranyak won and played back another heart. Mikael rose with dummy's king, dropping Demuy's jack, and made 4♠! What an amazing read! Why did Mikael play the short hand for the jack of hearts? When I asked him, he said that Kranyak took a long time before winning the ace of hearts, so he seemed unlikely to have the jack. Good table sense!

QUIZ

IBPA DECLARER PLAY PROBLEM #28

ANSWER ON PAGE 34

Contract: 4♠.

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

Lead: ♣6, East wins the club jack, and then plays the ace. IMPs. Plan the play.

♠ Q8762
♥ J
♦ A762
♣ Q92
♠ AKJ104
♥ Q95
♦ K854
♣ 5

Bridge is not just a card game, it's a way of life. For those who truly love the game, it's not just about winning, it's about the thrill of the challenge and the camaraderie that comes with it. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, there's something enchanting about the game of bridge.

the GREAT CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST




March 2025 TGCBC

Host: Neil Kimelman

*For panelists, and their bids,
see page 37*

Welcome back panelists. Good news - winter is almost over 😊. I would especially like to welcome our four new panelists:

Eve Deng – Eve is originally from China and attended Tianjin Normal University in Tianjin, China and majored in ... Bridge!

In 2020 she had a visa to go to the US and Canada, but the US closed the boundary to Chinese, so she instead came to Canada. As a result of the pandemic, she stayed for close to a year, learning English at UBC. At the end of 2020, she went back to China, but decided in October 2021, to return to Canada, and live here permanently.

Looks like she was a top student! She won the 2024 COPCs with Jeff Smith, and had two overall NABC finishes at the 2024 Las Vegas NABC, including 2nd in the world class Mitchell Board-a-Match team event (Eve's partner was Difan Wang).

Terry Du – At the bridge table, Terry won the 2022 COPC, and came 2nd in 2018. His team lost in the final of the 2024 CNTCs, and won the 2024 CBF Online League. Terry has had numerous successes and high finishes in Regional wins and high finishes at NABC events.

In addition Terry has given back to the bridge community. He is currently on the CBF board of directors, ACBL Charity committee, CBF Junior committee, and NPC for the Canadian under 26 national team. Thanks Terry!

Fengming Chen has been a long time competitor in the major CBC events, winning the COPCs in 2023.

During COVID his team won the Reynolds KO event in September of 2021 and April, 2022.

Edward Xu – A very successful competitor on both the CBF and ACBL scene.

I would also like to thank Mike Hargreaves for contributing problems 3 & 5. TGCBC warmly welcomes, and will consider using all deals, from panelists and readers alike.

David Grainger was the top panelist, with a perfect score of 50. Also, congrats to Rasim Sari and Mihai Radu, 1-2 in reader scores. Ok back to the main show...

1. IMPs, both vulnerable. Dealer South. As south, you hold ♠AJ ♥K10 ♦AJ7653 ♣AK10.

What is your plan?

A1. 2♣, rebidding 2NT.

A2. 2♣, rebidding 3♦.

B. 2NT.

C1. Open 1♦ and rebid 2NT.

C2. Open 1♦, and rebid 3♣.

Bid	Votes	Score
B	14	10
C2	4	9
A1	4	8
A2	1	7
C1	0	7

This is a subject that is near and dear to my heart. I feel that too many hands are pigeonholed into a notrump range, which often makes it impossible to

determine whether openers hand-type will fit well with responder, or not. Many slams are missed, and wrong contracts reached, as a resulted of this practice.

Do the panelists agree with me? Nope!! Actually, three. (Could have been worse 😊). Let's go to my 1970s and 1980s partner for his comments:

Kuz: C2. If my partner bids diamonds over my 3♣, then I bid 3♠ if they responded 1♥ or I bid 3NT if they responded 1♠. I understand this about anyone who opens 2NT: maybe they can count but they can't bid, IMO.

That is direct and succinct.

Stark: C2. I open 1♦ and then rebid 3♣ (as 2NT is not strong enough). Opening 2NT or rebidding 2NT after opening 2♣, and you lose the diamond suit. Rebidding 3♦ after opening 2♣ and you show a better diamond suit, so let's Goldilocks it and try to describe our hand to partner. We can always get to 3NT after a 1♦ start but we probably won't get to 6♦ after a 2NT start. Granted, opening 2NT will work well when partner has a 6-card major.

Yes, there is always the choice as to whether it is better to describe our hand to partner, letting the opponents bid and make more informed decisions, or use a Texas Hold'Em All-In approach, which has increased in frequency. They are both worthy choices. The trick is when to apply one or the other.

Cimon: C2. It is a very nice hand if partner has a fit in diamonds. A lot of controls, so I want to show my diamonds. The hand is too strong to rebid 2NT, so I have no choice to rebid 3♣.

Exactly. We are supposed to use or skill and experience to work, when judging how high to bid. Why would we want to tie one hand behind our backs by making a bid that could be 4-3-3-3 shape? Let's hear what the 2NT bidders have to say:

L'Ecuyer: B. I open 2NT. I think it is the most descriptive bid. I have to say, for some reason, that I almost always

do badly when opening six card minors in notrump. Hmmm....

Hargreaves: 2NT is the least distortion with 2♣, then 2NT next. Surely nobody opens 1♦ then bids 2NT, grossly underbidding while concealing the diamond length. And 1♦ then 3♣? Never make a call when the one thing you can't handle is a raise.

No one opened 1♦ then rebid 2NT. As to your last comment, isn't it fairly common expert practice to open 1♠ and rebid 3♣ on something like xAKxxxx AQx x AKx?

Lebi: B, 2NT. The diamond suit is not good enough to upgrade the hand to a 2♣ opener.

Hornby: B1. HCP range is right despite the 6-card diamond suit. No spots in diamonds, honour tenaces in doubletons suggest notrump.

Du: B, 2NT. The hand is not strong enough for a 2♣ opening, and opening 1♦ creates potential rebid problems. 2NT is the most appropriate choice.

Chen: My choice is B, 2NT. I have six diamonds and 20 HCPs, but with those baby diamonds and scattered Honors, 20 HCP justifies their values.

Feldman: B. Close to upgrading. Move the 10 of hearts to diamonds and I'd bid 2♣ then 2NT.

Thurston: B – diamond suit too sparse in the middle for an upgrade although if partner fills it out, we might not get high enough. A1 a semi-distant second choice.

Cooper: B, 2NT. It would be nice to open 1♦ and get a diamond raise. But any other response leaves you with no perfect rebid. Also, I don't want to leave them room for cheap interference (I know, they're vulnerable. Many players are colour-blind). Is it worth a 2♣ opener? I'd say no. The ♠J may not be useful. The tens are in your short suits, leaving you a broken long suit. 20-21 seems about right. I might miss a diamond slam, but these hands are usually treated as balanced to simplify most auctions. I don't think I'm playing against the field at any form of scoring.

Jacob: B, 2NT. I would not open 2♣ with 20 HCPs, balanced, and a bad diamond suit.

Grainger: 2NT. The diamond suit is too weak for anything else.

It still is a six card suit, headed by 2 of the top 4 honours.

Todd: B, 2NT. A1 is tempting, but if partner doesn't fit diamonds, the hand may collapse.

This may happen any time you treat as a balanced hand. How about our new panelists:

Deng: B, 2NT. There are disadvantages with different opening bids. First, I don't have a good diamond suit. Secondly, 2NT is more difficult for opponents to compete against. I don't want opponents to enter the auction. I think 2NT appropriately describes my hand.

I actually welcome interference on this hand. It can help us avoid 3NT or may allow us to penalize aggressive interference, which is very common in the expert community. Never mind all the great declarer play deals we read about is only when the opponents give you information when entering the auction.

Xu: B, 2NT. 20 HCPs, 2-2-6-3, not too good a 6 card suit. I can't find any reason to upgrade.

It is a question of which notrump to open for Edward, as it was for most experts. These panelists thought it was too strong for a 2NT opener:

Treble: A1. I don't like my rebid choices after opening 1♦, so 2♣ followed by 2NT. I'll look through rose-colored glasses and treat this as a 22-point hand.

Lindop: A1. I value this hand as 22 points – 20 high-card points plus 2 length points for the six-card

diamond suit. Since it is semi-balanced, this falls in the 22-24 point range for opening 2♣ and rebidding 2NT.

Marcinski: A1. There are several facets of this balanced hand that make it worth more than its raw high card points:

- (i) 6-card suit (including the Jack), though I would have preferred holding the 9 or 10 as well;
- (ii) The two 10's buttressed by higher honors, the ♠J is not "loose" but anchored by the A; and
- (iii) Ownership of three aces and two kings (since high-card points generally moderately understate the value of A's and K's while moderately overstating the value of Quacks).

A2 brings diamonds into the picture for slam purposes but could fatally wrong-side 3NT – and I subscribe to the "game before slam" school. B is an underbid. C1 will not bring diamonds into the picture and is an even greater underbid than B. C2 risks playing in 1♦, may well wrong-side 3NT, and leads to murky waters unless there are firm agreements on follow-ups.

If partner passes, 1♦ will play much better than 2NT. Let's hear what our A2 bidder has to say:

Miles: A2. Originally I went with A1 but upon reflection, especially at IMPs, the cost of missing slam is too great. True, this may endplay partner into 3NT from the wrong side if they can't bid a major, but I'll have gotten the diamonds into play and we can settle in 3NT guilt-free (likely after 2♣-2♦-3♦-3M-3NT). There are layouts where 6♦ is making with 3NT failing (eg x Axxx Q10xx Qxxx or xx AQxx Q10x xxxx). At matchpoints I would not risk ending in 5♦ so would go with A1.

Turner: A1. Cheating a bit here as my partner will bid 2♥ with 0 controls and I will still be on play in notrump, but I'd bid the same way if we played 2♦ waiting. It looks like we'll need partner to have 8 or 9 points to make a slam cold and we can bid 5♦ over 4NT if that's what he bids eventually. I think A2 may get us too high if partner goes crazy with Qx of diamonds and

not much else ... I'd usually want 8 or 9 solid tricks in diamonds to rebid 3♦.

Makes some sense David. Still, I prefer C2. Over a major response 3♣ creates a game force with diamonds and clubs. Over 3♦ we can comfortably investigate the best contract, avoiding notrump lacking a heart stopper. Over 4♣ you can bid 4♦ to suggest 6/7-3 shape. Partner can still insist on clubs with five or more.

What happened at the table? Partner held K752 43 K10854 Q2. The actual South chose 2NT, and ended up missing this cold slam. Although opening 2♣ will probably work fine on this hand, opening 2♣ with 20 HCPs and 5 losers seems to be a sure recipe for getting too high on many deals. Most of the panel was in agreement.

2. IMPs, N-S vulnerable. Dealer is West. As South, you hold xAQ4 ♥KQ54 ♦K4 ♣KQ87.

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

- a) What do you bid?
- b) Do you agree with 2♠?
- c) Do you agree with 1♥?

a) Bid	Votes	Score
4♦	15	10
4NT	1	8
6NT	3	6
3NT	2	5

b) Bid	Votes	Score
Yes	12	
No	9	

a) Bid	Votes	Score
Yes	17	
No	3	
?	1	

This deal attracted me because:

a) The actual auction has put South in a delicate position, as partner thinks we are playing in hearts

b) Should we create a game force by bidding 2♠ as the actual auction, or is 3♣ better, being a minor?

c) Finally, would we have been better off forcing to game right off the bat, with 2♣?

Let's tackle the questions in the order that they are listed. What do you bid on the given auction?

There was a pretty clear consensus on 4♦. This clarifies what our game force was about. Had we wanted to play in hearts we would have cue bid a black suit. Here are a smattering of comments from the panel:

Cooper: a) 4♦. After my semi-artificial force, I must clarify that I have diamond support and not 5+H. Provisionally set trump. To agree on hearts, I would have to bid something else.

Treble: x4Dx. I'll probably follow up with 4NT unless partner bids 5♣, in which case I might offer a choice of slams with 5NT.

L'Ecuyer: 4♦: why make things complicated?

Feldman: 4♦. With my regular partner, this would be optional Keycard. I still want to set diamonds and Keycard.

Grainger: 4♦, let partner know what you're up to at some point.

Jacob: 4♦. Partner should have six diamonds so I am going to raise their suit and hopefully I can Keycard in diamonds. The plan is to settle for 6NT.

Du: 4♦. This should be forcing. Cannot bid 4NT here, as it should be RKCB for hearts.

Miles: 4♦. Tough one. Feels like we want to play 6NT from my side to protect the spade holding, as we almost certainly will need to knock something out (a round ace or a diamond). It's possible for a perfect to

make 7 (i.e. x Axx AQxxxx Axx) which can be uncovered by asking for Keycards and counting 13 tricks. If I could be sure 4NT was RKC for hearts I'd probably go with that but I want to know about the ♦Q, not the ♥Q. Things may get murky but hopefully 4NT next is interpreted as RKC for diamonds.

Turner: 4♦ - set trump. My initial reaction was 4NT RKC for hearts, but in general it seems to work better if you set trump in the suit where you **don't** have the queen, as KCB can usually resolve that for you.

Stark: 4♦. Maybe a quantitative 4NT is best, but will partner take 4NT as quantitative? Likely partner will respond as if it is RKC. So no 4NT. 4♣ may lead to a nebulous auction as we may not know what to do after the expected 4♦ bid, so let's support now with our ♦K4. It may be welcome news.

Chen: I bid 4♦. This should be a slam try for diamonds since I could have bid 4♥ or 3NT to end the auction. My partner's 2♦ and 3♥ bids would show normally 6+ diamonds. With five diamonds and three hearts he would have five cards in clubs and spades and he would have bid usually 1♠, 1NT or 2♣ instead of 2♦. I am hoping my partner will cuebid 4♥ or 4♠ after my 4♦, then I'll use 4NT to Keycard for diamonds. If he shows 3 KCs or 2 KCs with ♦Q, I will bid 6NT, not 6♦, to protect my ♠AQ. If he replies 5♥ (2 KCs without ♦Q), I'll pass.

Lebi: 4♦. Set trump for the Keycard ask that I hope to make next. No number of notrump bid at this point is appropriate.

Todd: It would be nice if I could Keycard for diamonds and find out if we have the ♦Q. If I bid 4♦, it seems doubtful that partner will Keycard or cue bid. Choices seem to be either Keycard in hearts, then bid 6NT if partner has two, or bid 4♦ and if partner fails to cue bid, raise to 6♦. I hope for the best and bid 4♦.

Marcinski: 4♦ – imperative to try for slam and hear the extent of opener's enthusiasm facing a modicum (or better) of diamond fit. If opener's diamonds are worth 6 tricks facing my "fit", then slam should be at worst approximately a finesse.

Although in my world 4NT would be natural and a non-forcing slam invitation (to set hearts as trumps I'd have to cuebid 4♣ first) absent express agreement to the contrary I would not be confident that 4NT would be interpreted as something other than Keycard Blackwood for hearts – hence what's left is my choice of 4♦ even though it somewhat overstates the extent of my diamond fit. This would have been an even trickier problem at Matchpoints as it may be difficult to slip back into a non-forcing "naturalish" 4NT.

What about 4NT, is it quantitative or keycard for hearts? Du and Turner say Keycard, Stark and Marcinski represent the quantitative view. I think it is better played as quantitative. If you want to keycard for hearts, first cuebid a black suit, and then bid 4NT. And as the panel has so well addressed, you must bid 4♦ now, to agree that suit as trump.

As an aside, if you do play it quantitative, a decent option is, when accepting, to show keycards (hearts being the only suit bid and raised). Sort of like:

Thurston: 4NT and if partner takes it as Keycard for hearts, so be it! (Seems like this problem might be an ad for the various forms of Kickback!)

Nope, maybe better auction planning. And some different views:

Cimon: 3NT. My values in clubs and spades don't seem very good for diamonds. I should show a very good hand, because I don't have five hearts, and with a medium hand I would have bid 3NT over 2♦. My first thought was to bid 4♦, but I find that can be very ambiguous. Is it a cue bid for hearts?

Kuz: 3NT. A wise man told me if 2/3 of your hand is outside the known suits, it is not as strong as it looks.

Yes, but you do have 19 HCPs, which should warrant at least an invite.

Lindop: 6NT. If four hearts here is Keycard for diamonds, I might try that, looking for a grand slam if partner holds three aces and the trump queen. Otherwise, why give the defenders and further information about my hand?

Hornby: 6NT. I boxed myself in with 2♠ so I'm bidding what I think will make.

Hargreaves: a. 6NT. Crude....perhaps agricultural.... but someone has to bid notrump and surely it's pusillanimous to stop below slam. Plus I can't construct any other sequence that lets us avoid a bad slam or reach a good grand (which seems remote given the 2D rebid)

Deng, and several other panelists, also mentioned the idea of ending in 6NT. Of course, the problem of bidding 6NT now, is you may have a grand opposite ♠Kxx Axx AQxxxxx ♣-, ♠x Axx AQxxxx Axx, or the like.

Now on to b) do you agree with 2♠? b) and c) were survey questions – we have to create a game force, and 2♠ is the most economical bid. Did any of the panelists prefer 3♣, being a non-major?

Turner: b) Yes. In a case of good alternatives, bid the cheaper.

Hargreaves: b) Yes. The alternative of 3♣ takes away a 2NT rebid on some hands and otherwise gains us nothing.

Cooper. b) Yes I don't really see any options, even if playing strong jump shift.

Du: b) Agree, partner might have 4 clubs, in which case contracts in clubs could be superior to diamonds. Additionally, slam possibilities in clubs (six or even seven clubs) become feasible with hands like: x, xx, AQxxxx, AJxx; x, xx, AQJxxx, AJxx; xx, A, Axxxxx, AJxx.
Sounds like Terry prefers 3♣.

Marcinski: b) Yes – far too much (including ♦ fit) for a jump to 3NT.

The issue that I was trying to poll was whether it was ok to force in the cheaper spade bid, despite it being a major. Not agreeing with 2♠:

Cimon: b) No I don't like it. Unless you have other methods, I would bid 3♣. 2♠ should be natural and forcing one round, usually 4-5 in the majors.

Miles: b) No, I prefer next suit up is a natural game force, while the "fourth" suit (in this case, 3♣) is the catch-all, artificial game force. Notice this may have made things easier - 1♦-1♥-2♦-3♣-3♥-3♠ and we can hear 3NT from partner.

Hornby: b) Not really. I'd like to ask for Keycards in diamonds, but partner's 3♥ bid pretty much messed that up. **(Fengming (Chen) addressed that issue.**

Grainger: b) No. 2NT must be forcing to 3♦ to include GF diamond raises and let quantitative+ balanced hands get more information. You never want to declare 2NT.

A useful treatment, but not standard. I would not spring on an unsuspecting expert partner.

Lindop: b) No. I already know we don't have a fit in spades, hearts, or clubs. It is really only a question of small slam or grand slam. Over 2♦, I would simply Keycard Blackwood to check we aren't missing two aces. If partner shows three aces, I can ask about the ♦Q since 7NT is likely opposite three aces and six diamonds headed by the AQ.

Treble: b) No, I would have bid 4♦, which should be game-forcing, as 3♦ would be invitational.

Kuz: On b) I would have preferred 3♣.

Thurston: b) No. While 2♠ is sufficiently attractive as a stall-tell-me-more GF, I really prefer 4NT as a quantitative slam try (no suit agreed for RKC) but having partner on the same wavelength can be an issue.

Todd: b) What else, other than forcing 4♦ – If you play that. So yes – I agree but wish we played 4♦ as Keycard.
L'Ecuyer: b) No, I would have bid 4♦ Minorwood.

Lebi: b) Yes, almost always best to minimize the amount of space used.

I think saving space should be the highest priority in game forcing auctions, so I prefer 2♠. If partner has four spades, they can still raise.

And c), the final survey question, are we better off creating a game force with 2♣, rather than go through the awkwardness that an immediate 1♥ bid entails?

Lindop: c) Yes. With no five-card suit we don't have a jump shift available.

Lebi: c) Yes, do not wish to misrepresent the club length by responding 2♣.

Xu: c) Most people maybe like to bid 2♣ forcing game first, but for this hand, 1♥ gets a good result: you know your partner has six more diamonds immediately, and then know his three hearts. In this auction, 2♠ is artificial GF for me, so I can't agree more.

Turner: c) Yes, but reluctantly, and only because 1♦-2♣ (even game forcing) is a VERY difficult auction in 2/1. And, although I'm plenty old and play strong jump shifts, I'm not so old this hand would qualify. Once again, with reasonably good alternatives choosing the cheaper bid got more information, despite making the later auction more difficult. This hand is a perfect advertisement for a 2♣ relay response.... ah, youth!

Thurston: c) What else? I know some ersatz Scientists like to set up a GF by responding 2♣ but that way madness lies IMHO.

Deng: I agree with both b and c. If there is a slam with this hand, it requires that my partner have a good diamond suit, but finally I would bid 6NT to protect my hand.

Du: c) Yes agree, partner could have 4-card heart suit, making 4♥ a reasonable contract.

And a panelist with their tongue firmly planted in their cheek:

Hargreaves: c) Yes. I had a partner once who held four hearts. I know...very unusual but worth catering to imo.

Cimon: c) Yes, but If we played 2NT as either 13-15 HCP or 18-19HCP, so partner can bid 3♣ Stayman, I would prefer 2NT over 1♦.

Je suis désolé Francine, mais ce n'est pas la norme.

Todd: c) No other choice. *There is for some panelists.*

Treble: c) Tougher one but no, I might have responded 2♣ instead.

Marcinski: c) No – with so much strength I would prefer 2♣ to establish an immediate game force and ease slam probes without getting past 4N (from my side I would hope).

Hornby: c) Not sure, 2♣ first might make the bidding easier, especially if partner rebids 2♦. This hand feels like NT from the get go with South wanting to declare that or other strains such as hearts or clubs.

Stark: c) I can live with 1♥, but starting with 2♣ and then rebidding 2♥ at our second turn sets us up very well. That sequence shows four hearts and a game-forcing hand. Next we can bid diamonds to show our honour doubleton.

Yes, I feel that many auctions would be easier to navigate when you start 2♣, GF with a very strong hand, and less than five clubs. In fact bidding 2♣ as a game force, promising no club length, is a very common expert practice. What happened at the table?

Partner held ♠KJ10 ♥J98 ♦AQ8762 ♣7. **4NT was in jeopardy on a club lead from AJ10xx, but, fortunately, west also had the heart ace.**

3. Matchpoints, both vulnerable. Dealer is East. As South, you hold ♠AQJ103 ♥J972 ♦A4 ♣K7.

West	North	East	South
		3♦	?

What do you bid?

Bid	Votes	Score
DbI	7	10
3♠	12	9
3NT	2	7
Pass	0	3

The panel voted for 3NT, 3♠ and double. Let's first hear from the 3♠ bidders, the clear top choice of the panel:

Treble: x3Sx. I'm a simple guy. Slight overbid, but pre-empts work.

Turner: 3♠. Maybe partner can bid 3NT with some stuff and Qxx of diamonds. And an under pressure 2-card raise will probably be OK with such good spades. In this case, with some reasonable alternatives, choose the one you expect the majority of the field will choose. Let's see if I'm right about that in our very tough TGCBC field.

The rub is partner may raise spades with 2-3 card support and only a modest diamond stopper.

Yes, going with the field, or in this case the panel, you hope to avoid a bottom. However, at the table we still try to make the best bridge bid, and the other table auctions are a consideration, but only one of many. The next panelist's 2nd choice was not bid, or mentioned, by any other panelist:

Stark: 3♠. For me the choice is between spades and pass. To double one of our spades should be a club. Yes, double might work well as it gets the hearts in the picture. I'll bid where I live.

Deng: 3♠. My spades are so much better than my hearts.

Cooper: 3♠. One-loser suit. Double could work if we find a superior heart fit, but could also lead to heart contracts when spades are better. 3NT is a flyer which also has a non-zero chance of succeeding, but is fairly desperado.

Lebi: 3♠, although aware of double and 3NT as possibilities.

Miles: 3♠. Looks like I have 6 spades and 3 hearts so that rules out double. I'll bid where I live. This also keeps open 3NT from the right side if partner has a good hand with say, Qxx or KJx of diamonds. Preempts work. **Yes they do. That is why it is incumbent to make your high level bid with the most safety and bang for your buck. Many 3♠ bidders see 3♠ as the safest bid. Not I.**

Cimon: 3♠. A good suit. There are many choices. I can double, but I am afraid with 3-3 in the majors and no diamond stopper, partner will bid 3♥. I could bid 3NT, but only have the stopper, and can only duck once. Plus I am not sure where I can find 9 tricks.

Yes, experience has taught us that Axx is a much better stopper than Ax. As far as trick source, it is in spades. Some players don't consider a major for this purpose as often as they might. Some panelists point out the downside of doubling, including the next three:

Thurston: 3♠. Looks like a biddable suit doesn't it? A bit too weak for 3NT and those who double for takeout deserve a term in bidders' purgatory putting down dummy in partner's forced response of 4♣.

Yes, there is that risk. However maybe partner has Q109xxx in clubs and spade shortness? Why not? With a bad hand and 3-4 in a major and clubs, I would bid 3 of the major. Wouldn't you? Terry Du agrees with me:

Du: Double. Not a perfect bid, but it is preferable to a 3♠ overcall, as double keeps hearts in picture. The downside of doubling is the potentially risk of missing a 5-3 spade fit. If partner responds with 4♣ after your double, I would pass, hoping partner holds a weak hand with spade shortness. If partner has only 4 clubs, a 3

card major suit bid might be the choice in this bidding scenario.

Todd: This is more of a style thing... with poorer hearts and short clubs (2 things to go wrong), I bid 3♠ which also has issues.

Jacob: 3♠. Double could be right although there is a big difference in quality between the two suits (in addition to the length), plus the danger of a 4♣ bid.

Feldman: 3♠, close between this and double.

Now let's listen to the doublers, and see if they can sway the 3♠ bidders:

Grainger: Double. Nothing perfect here. Hope partner doesn't have 3♠, fewer than 4♥ and long clubs.

Marcinski: Double – hearts are too good for 3♠ and clubs are good enough for double. In short, 3♠ puts too many eggs in the spade basket.

Hornby: Double. It risks missing a spade fit, but brings hearts, notrump, or even a penalty pass into play.

Hargreaves: Double. I want invoke the F word but... ok....I will....double is the most flexible call. If partner bids any number of clubs, I'll move a spade into clubs as I lay dummy down. 3♠ is just too committal on a five card suit holding the other major.

Lindop: a) Double. Partner will tend to bid a major if possible. I'm also okay if partner bids 3NT. We may miss a 5-3 spade fit, but we can't cater to everything (at rubber bridge I might want my 100 honors). If partner bids 4♣, I'm not strong enough to convert to 4♠, so we'll wish partner luck.

I am swayed, and have chosen to give the top score to the doublers. More good can happen by doubling. As

Zyg, says, it pays to have more baskets for partner to fit their hand into. 3♠ is basically a one trick pony.

And there is no guarantee that LHO won't double 3♠ for penalties. Now what? The 2nd to last comment is from a 3NT bidder:

L'Ecuyer: 3NT: tough one. Nothing is right or wrong. Generally speaking I bid 3NT when I can. This is one of these cases where 3NT seems like a good idea although it can be horribly wrong.

It is hard to argue with Nick, with his ton of experience and great success at top-tier NABC events. The panel doesn't agree with him on this deal, but it is a worthwhile thought to keep in mind, when encountering all such difficult game decisions. The other plus of 3NT is that trump suits often break poorly when there is a preemptive bid made.

The full deal:

♠ 94	
♥ AQ1064	
♦ 7	
♣ J9653.	
♠ 762	♠ K85
♥ K853	♥ -
♦ K85	♦ QJ109632
♣ Q42	♣ A108
♠ AQJ103	
♥ J972	
♦ A4	
♣ K7	

The final word goes to the panelist who faced this decision at the table:

Hargreaves: I bid 3♠ because I felt that I couldn't handle a 4♣ advance and I wouldn't know what to do over 3♥ or 3♠ by partner were I to double. *(One useful guide is that with 9+ HCPs partner will bid game with a fit, over partner's takeout double of a preempt. Therefore pass is the suggested action if advancer makes a minimum advance over partner's double).*

I thought 3♠ would be raised on hands where game is good and I'd have to pass were he to bid 3♠...and, of course, he could be, say, 3-5 in the blacks and we'd never find spades.

As other problems, there is never a perfect solution, and we try to make the bid that we feel has the most upside. The consensus of panelists thinks this bid is 3♠. They lose hearts, penalizing the opponents, but gain when partner holds exactly three spades. I relate more to Marcinski's eggs in the basket analogy. I like the flexibility of double, and my spade suit will provide a source of tricks if we end up in notrump.

We will revisit the choice of bidding a suit or doubling again in both Problems 4 & 5.

4. Matchpoints, both vulnerable. As South you hold
♠AQ754 ♥Q10 ♦AQJ982 ♣-.
East opens 1♣. You play Klinger.

- a) What do you bid?
- b) What is your plan?

Bid	Votes	Score
2NT/3♦	10	10
1♦/3♠	3	9
2NT/Dbl	7	9
2NT/4♦	1	8
1♦/Dbl	0	7

Todd: a) is this a trick question? If I play Klinger I bid 2NT.

No, no trick Bob. You were in the majority. Other panelists also felt there was only one obvious choice. Unlike us, many panelist were not familiar with Klinger (named after world class Australian player Ron Klinger), an excellent option to regular Michaels, allowing you to always being able to show exactly which two suits you hold in one bid.

14 other panelists also bid 2NT, most very confidently, if not cockily.

Turner: 2NT, happily 😊 b) 3♦: Extra strength AND extra shape. With just the extra strength, double would be clear.

Kuz: 2xNTx. I have a bid to show shape, I use it. b) Dbl. Strength next.

Lebi: 2NT, is this a rhetorical question? If I am obliged to play that 2NT shows spades and diamonds, how can I not bid it? 4b) 3D, again I ask if this is a trick question? Can't see any alternatives.

Chen: a): 2NT to show D+S. b): 4♦ to invite game with better and longer diamonds than spades.

Here is a comment that I did not anticipate.

Cooper: a) 2NT. b) 4♦. Playing a Klingon convention, I must honour my ancestors. Those who die with purpose and honour are said to join Kahless, who had been the first Klingon emperor and a [messianic figure](#) in the Way of the Warrior, in the Black Fleet in Sto'Vo'Kor, a paradise where battle and feasting can eternally be shared and won. In addition to my valour, the bid shows 6+ diamonds, 5spades, and extra values.

Thank you Stephen for keeping things interesting!

Stark: a) Klinger! 2NT. Smoke'm while you got'em. b) 3♦. Shows an extra diamond and an extra point or two.

Grainger: a) If 2NT shows spades and diamonds, it is clear to do that. b) 3♦. Can't sell out with 6-5 and I don't want to double.

Miles: a) 2NT. If I'm fortunate enough to have the tool in my toolbelt for this session, I use it! b) 3♦. The club void, extra diamond, and good spot cards sway me to bid rather than re-open with a double. Offence to defence ratio is too high to pass or double.

Cimon: 2NT. Rodwell-Mecktrosh say it is wrong to play Klinger only with bad hands. It should be used with any hand who had the right distribution for it. Show the distribution first, and after the strength. b) 3♦. I have

some defence but I don't like to double with a void. 3♦ should show a good hand.

The advantage of bidding 2NT is that you force the opponents to bid at a higher level, and you have closely described your distribution. The disadvantage of 2NT is the opponents hands are not clear, as you have forced them to bid at a higher level. My preference on hands like this is to allow the opponents room to make their 'natural' calls, and see what partner does. You can make a better decision at the five or six level when you have more information at your disposal. Plus you hold the highest ranking suit. Agreeing:

Du: a) 1♦. Klinger 2NT is ok in some cases, but here 1♦ overcall simplifies finding the best contract and, in an extreme case, even possible playing in a heart contract. b) 3♠. If the 1st overcall is 2NT, now I would bid 4♦ to show a powerful hand with 5 spades and 6+ diamonds.

Hargreaves: I don't play Klinger. I don't intend to play Klinger. But in any case, I have a powerful hand, which partner won't/shouldn't play me for after 2NT, so I'll start to describe my strong 5-6 hand by bidding 1♦. Thankfully LHO didn't bid 5♣, so I'll continue with a quiet 3♠....give me AQJxx and I'd reopen with 4♠. No doubt partner is 2=5=1=5. Too bad.

No they aren't. Not sure what the major objection is to a bid that describes ten cards in your hand in one bid. Do you also dislike Michaels?

One area on which the panel did not address was the opponents' bidding. There is a good chance that they will also be bidding a lot. Experts usually recognize when a deal fits this criteria, and will plan what to do over expected opponent pre-emption.

A tool I use for these type of hands, where everyone is bidding a lot, is what I call 'two natural bids and a double'. You bid your long suit, then show your

secondary distribution feature(s), and then you double allowing partner a complete picture of your hand, and maximizing the chance they will make the winning call.

I think this hand is a good example of a three bid hand: 1♦, then spades at the cheapest level, and then double. Zyg however, disagrees, and explains why:

Marcinski: a) What do you bid? 2NT – if you don't bid 2NT on this hand then you shouldn't be playing "Klinger": after all, what's not too like about describing in one bid the location of at least 10 of your cards? A useful general principle for partnerships to discuss is that "big" two-suited bids (e.g. Michaels, unusual 2NT) show equal length or longer length in the lower suit (if the 2-suiter has considerable extra strength than longer length in the higher suit can be shown by freely bidding it). Thus "in my world" the extra diamond is not at all inconsistent with 2NT whereas overcalling in diamonds first then bidding spades would be showing exactly 4♠'s and never more. b) 3♦ – showing a 6th diamond. Although not unreasonable, I would not double as I'm a bit light on defence and hearts for that action.

As usual, Zyg mentions worthwhile points. Discussing how to proceed with a strong suiter, in a competitive auction, is a good investment of time for a regular partnership.

Treble: 1♦. In Klingers' book, 2NT shows 5-7 losers and I have a four-loser hand. I'll bid the spades next, hopefully at the three-level. Not quite enough texture in the spade suit to force the bidding to game.

The panel was split as whether it is better to show values on the 2nd round of bidding, or your extra distribution:

Todd: b) While double might work out well if partner has defense, it could turn out poorly. 3♦ seems more middle of the road. 3♦.

Xu: a) 2NT b) 3♦. I am forced to play "Klinger", so 2NT for sure: one bid shows two suits, efficiency. And I have enough power to bid 3♦ showing 5-6 in suits.

L'Ecuyer: a) I bid 2NT – what a pleasure to have that tool with me. b) Double. I hope partner does the right thing. Maybe double is a little hedgy and/or even light but bidding 3♦ seems a little unilateral. Let's get partner involved here. I cannot have more than one club here so partner should be aware of the danger of passing 3♣.

Lindop: a) 2NT. If I'm playing this convention (never have), I might as well use it on this hand. I assume partner initially plays this as weak, distributional, but I can follow up to show the extra strength. b) Double. This is my chance to show the extra strength. I suppose I could commit us to game by bidding 4♣, but this is matchpoints and we are vulnerable. Partner could have a weak hand with no good fit.

Feldman: What do you bid? 2NT! – seems like why we play this, so let's make use of the convention we've got! b) Double. If partner wants to sit, I like my chances, and with them being vulnerable it is likely to be +200 vs. our part-score. I'd bid 3♦ at IMPS now.

Hornby: a) 2NT? Seems obvious. b) Double. Shows lots of extra strength. 3♦ is the other option.

Thurston: a) 2NT – If I'm coerced into playing this convention, I don't really see why I wouldn't use it. b) Double – the experts' "flexible" choice when all alternatives seem flawed and really only 1 small heart away from perfect!

Jacob: If that's what we play I bid 2NT. b) Dbl, the hand is too good for 3♦.

Both double and 3♦ on the 2nd round have their plusses, and are equally reasonable. This South hand was from the 1st qualifying round of the 2024 COPC.

5. Pairs, Both vulnerable, South dealer. As South you hold ♠AK10853 ♥AKJ10 ♦9 ♣J4.

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

1. One round force.

a) What do you bid?

Bid	Votes	Score
Dbl	13	10
4♥	6	8
4♠	2	7
Pass	0	2

This is a three horse race. First, let's hear from the 4♠ bidders:

Treble: 4♠. This could turn out badly if we have a nine-card or better heart fit, but partner is going to pass 4♥ with 1-3 in the majors. Double may turn out well if partner doesn't bid clubs, but.....

Jacob: 4♠. 4♥ is problematic (should be 5/6-5 shape). What is partner going to do with Jx, Qxx, Jxx, K(Q)xxx? Bidding 4♠ seems right.

Lebi: 4♥. Can still play 4♠ if partner prefers, can't play in hearts if I rebid 4♠. Double is also a strong possibility, but I don't look forward to a 5♣ bid by partner.

Maybe partner has KQ109xxx in clubs? Why not?

Cimon: 4♥. Difficult because this bid shows 5 hearts, but at least the suit is good.

Cooper: 4♥. Those wascals! I have nice shape, good honour location, so they hooked a fish in me. You can't get to 4♥ from 4♠, but partner will always correct to 4♠ with 3♠, and should correct to 4♠ with 2-2 in the majors. He may have two spades and three hearts, where he'll pass, but we're not down yet. The 100 honours might be useful – no promotions – but control could be an issue if I'm tapped. We may ruff one or two spades if pard has four or five hearts. Maybe double should be takeout? 4Dx could be our best spot!

A high level double like this is usually treated as a DSI (do something intelligent), with extra values, in the expert community.

Lindop: a) 4♥. Don't like it with this distribution but I don't want to double and have partner bid clubs.

Hopefully, partner can correct back to spades with only three hearts – although partner may think I have five hearts in this auction. I think I'm too strong to pass. Well done by East, giving me this problem. 4♦ doubled could be our best spot.

Stark: Good one, Neil! I'm bidding 4♥ before 4♠ so the question is, should we double here? Either could be right and so could pass or 4♠, but I'll go with 4♥ on a hunch that East has their bid. I don't want a minus 710 or whatever it is for 4♦ doubled making.

I agree with Jacob and Cimon that a 4♥ bid here should be highly distributional, and says partner I have enough playing strength to play in 4 of a major – pick one. Whereas double clearly shows more values, and openness for other contracts. I do not expect -710 if partner passes. A possible conversion hand from partner: ♠x ♥Jxxx ♦KJxx ♣Kxxx.

Some panelists were concerned about the meaning of a double:

Turner: Double. Will my UEP assume this is takeoutish? I hope so. I better confirm my VFEP thinks so too. This is a bit forward, but my hand is a pretty good dummy if partner is "all clubs". I think I'd rate 4♥ ahead of 4♠ here ... just because it feels like LHO is ready to double that :)

While others were certain of its meaning...

Grainger: Double. It's takeout.

Ok, UEP I am guessing is Unknown Expert partner, but VFEP? Maybe something expert panel. Yes, the panel's consensus is that this is not penalty. I think it shows a good hand, likely with extra shape, and expects to be able to handle all continuations.

Some panelists mentioned the similarity with problem #3, with different views. Here are the doubler's, in order with the least certain, to the most confident:

Thurston: Double – hope partner can take a joke? (See answer to #3 above).

Hornby: Double and hope for the best. RHO won't have many spades here and partner should recognize this as takeout, but convertible. This depends to some extent on your agreements regarding 1NT vs other invitational hands.

Miles: Double. Preempts work. Of course we'd like to show a 6th spade, hearts, and a good hand but we can't do everything. At least we won't miss a heart game if partner has 5 of those. If partner bids 5♣ with something like 2-3-3-5 I will be sad. I'll tell myself at least its pairs and not IMPs. 4♥ is my close second choice.

Todd: Anything could be right here from pass to double, 4♥ or 4♠. Partner's hand is somewhat limited for most people, but he could easily hold AQ109xx in clubs or several other good hand types. Partner should not expect perfect shape for the double and should use some judgement. While this could work poorly, but I double.

I think Bob starts all off a lot of his answers with 'anything could be right'.

Du: Double. Similar to question #3, no option is perfect here, double handles most scenarios effectively, especially if partner's 1NT response shows shortness in spades.

If partner has spade length won't they just bid 4♠?

Xu: Double. There is no one bid that is perfect: your spades not good enough for the 4 level, also your hearts are short one for a 4 level bid. I prefer the flexible double to keep most possibilities.

Feldman: Double Keeps defending and both majors in play. Hope partner doesn't bid 5♣, but they will likely have 6+ clubs if they do, so that might be okay anyways.

Deng, Kuz, and Marcinski doubled without comments, suggesting what Nick says:

L'Ecuyer: Double. And I ask: what is the problem?
Seems automatic. Maybe I am missing something?

Yes, that is my view as well. It keeps the most contracts open and I think this choice would be the strong favourite among the expert and world class playing community.

The full deal:

♠ Q	
♥ 865	
♦ K107	
♣ KQ10732	
♠ 7642	♠ J9
♥ Q973	♥ 42
♦ 6	♦ AQJ85432
♣ A965	♣ 8
♠ AK10853	
♥ AKJ10	
♦ 9	
♣ J4.	

Hargreaves: 4♥. Partner should correct to 4♠ with 2=3 majors. 4♠ is a close second. Double not ever....I've no desire to table this hand in 5♣ opposite 2=2=3=6.

Thanks again Mike for sharing this problem. I hope we all have a better sense on what to do with this hand type in the future. See you in Toronto in April!



*"In bridge, as in life, it's
all about finding the right
partner."*

QUIZ

IBPA DECLARER PLAY SOLUTION #28

PUZZLE ON PAGE 19

Contract: 4♠. The bidding:

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

Lead: ♣6, East wins the club jack, and then plays the ace. IMPs. Plan the play.

♠ Q8762

♥ J

♦ A762

♣ Q92

♠ 9

♥ A8432

♦ Q1093

♣ 1076

♠ 53

♥ K1076

♦ J

♣ AKJ843

♠ AKJ104

♥ Q95

♦ K854

♣ 5

You are always cold if diamonds are 3-2, losing one trick in every non trump suit. However if West has four diamonds (the bidding makes is virtually impossible for East to hold four diamonds) you are in danger of losing two tricks in that suit. There is a very neat solution that works for all but one of those combinations, but first you need to strip the hand.

Ruff the ace of clubs continuation and lead the five of hearts from hand. West wins with the ace and plays a third club to remove dummy's queen as a card that might threaten East.

Trump in your hand, and ruff a heart in dummy. Returned to hand with a low trump to the ace and ruff the queen of hearts in dummy. Now draw the last trump with dummy's king.

♦ A762

♦ ????

♦ ?

♦ K854

The solution is to lead the four of diamonds and put in the six! Let's see what this looks like:

If East wins a singleton honour, they must give you a sluff and ruff. If West inserts an honour, you duck as before. Their only safe return is a diamond. If they return the ♦3, you win with the five and still have the AK left. If they return a high diamond, you win with the king, and then finesse through West's ♦93, with dummy still holding the ♦A7. The only holding where this technique does not work is when East's singleton is the three.



SOLUTION TO PLAY OR DEFEND?

PUZZLE ON PAGE 11

Editor's note: In these problems you must determine who will prevail if all sides play perfectly, declarer or the defenders?

Dummy

♠ 3
♥ K6
♦ AQ32
♣ KJ10732

♠ 7654	♠ QJ1082
♥ 875	♥ AJ103
♦ KJ876	♦ 10
♣ Q	♣ 865

Declarer

♠ AK9
♥ Q954
♦ 942
♣ A94

Contract: 6♣ by South. Do you choose to play, or defend this contract?

At first blush it looks like a simple Morton's Fork Coup. Assume a heart lead, play low from dummy, and East must put in the ten. You win the queen. If you now pitch the ♥K on the ♠AK, you cannot ruff the two diamond losers as East will ruff in. Nor can you pull trump as you have two diamond losers... or do you?

Declarer should win the ♥Q, pull trump, take the diamond finesse and ♦A, and run trump to reach this ending:

♠ 3	♠ QJ10
♥ K	♥ AJ
♦ 32	♦ -
♣ 7	♣ -
♠ 7	♠ AK9
♥ 8	♥ 95
♦ KJ8	♦ -
♣ -	♣ -

On the lead of the ♣7 east is stymied. If he throws a spade, the nine will be declarer's 12th trick. If instead east discards the ♥J, declarer will throw a spade from his hand, lead the ♥K and score the ♥9 as the 12th trick.

However, if you chose to declare you chose wrong, as a spade lead will destroy the communication to effect this squeeze. If declarer plays the ♥K early, East can win and must return the ♥J. If declarer runs their minor suit tricks this will be the ending:

♠ -	♠ QJ
♥ K6	♥ AJ10
♦ 32	♦ -
♣ 7	♣ -
♠ 7	♠ A9
♥ 8	♥ Q95
♦ KJ8	♦ -
♣ -	♣ -

On the lead of the last trump east can pitch the ♠J. If declarer discards the ♠9, East scores two heart tricks by force. If instead declarer throws the ♥5, east ducks the ♥K, and wins two hearts. If instead declarer tries a sneaky ♥6 east can rise with the ace and lock declarer in dummy with two diamond losers.


CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2025

MONTH	DATE	EVENTS
MARCH	March 15	CBF Online Game on BBO – 1:15 EST – COPC 2025 Qualifier
	March 25	ACBL-wide Charity Game (1 of 2)
APRIL	All Month	Charity Games – In person Clubs
	April 2 (Wed.)	Helen Shields Rookie Master Game – F2F Clubs
	April 14-20	Canadian Bridge Championships: CNTC A-B-C/CWTC/CSTC/CMTC/COPC
	April 16	ACBL-wide Charity Game (2 of 2)
MAY	May 5-11	Stardust Week
JUNE	All Month	North American Pairs – Flight A, B and C
	June 15-22	1 Day - Day of Bridge / Alzheimer Societies
JULY	All Month	North American Pairs – <i>Flight A, B and C</i>
	July 12-17	World Youth Team Championships - Italy
AUGUST	All Month	North American Pairs – <i>Flight A, B and C</i>
	August 20-31	World Bridge Team Championships, Denmark
SEPTEMBER	All Month	Sept. to Dec. (CNTC and COPC) Sept. to Dec. (CNTC and COPC)
	All Month	International Fund games – In person Clubs
	Sept. 15-30	Registration for CBF Online Team League
	September 20	CBF Online Game on BBO – 1:15 EST – COPC 2026 Qualifier
OCTOBER	All Month	Qualifying games in clubs for the 2026 CBC – Sept. to Dec. (CNTC and COPC)
	All Month	CBF Online Team League – Oct. through Feb.
	Oct. 16 (Thur)	Erin Berry Rookie Master Game at in person Clubs
	October 18	CBF Online Game on BBO – 1:15 EST – COPC 2026 Qualifier
	October 20	CBC 2026 – Round Robin Registration Opens (Teams)
NOVEMBER	All Month	Qualifying games in clubs for the 2026 CBC – Sept. to Dec. (CNTC and COPC)
	November 15	CBF Online Game on BBO – 1:15 EST – COPC 2026 Qualifier
DECEMBER	All Month	Qualifying games in clubs for the 2026 CBC – Sept. to Dec. (CNTC and COPC)
	December 15-21	Stardust Week – Gold Points at Clubs
	December 20	CBF Online Game on BBO – 1:15 EST – COPC 2026 Qualifier

PANELIST ANSWERS

March 2025 Bidding Contest

		Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3		Hand 4		Hand 5		
	Name	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Bid	Score	Total
	Fengming Chen	B	10	4♦yy	10	3♠	10	2NT/4♦	8	4♥	8	46
	Francine Cimon	C2	9	3NTyy	5	3♠	10	2NT/3♦	10	4♥	8	42
	Stephen Cooper	B	10	4♦yy	10	3♠	9	2NT/4♦	8	4♥	8	45
	Eve Deng	B	10	4♦yy	10	3♠	9	2NT/3♦	10	Dbl	10	49
	Terry Du	B	10	4♦yy	10	Dbl	10	1♦/3♠	9	Dbl	10	49
	Jason Feldman	B	10	4♦yy	10	3♠	9	2NT/Dbl	9	Dbl	10	48
	David Grainger	B	10	4♦ny	10	Dbl	10	2NT/3♦	10	Dbl	10	50
	Mike Hargreaves	B	10	6NTyy	6	Dbl	10	1♦3♠	9	4♥	8	44
	Hornby	B	10	6NTn?	6	Dbl	10	2NT/Dbl	9	Dbl	10	45
	Dan Jacob	B	10	4♦ny	10	3♠	9	2NT/Dbl	9	4♠	7	45
	Bob Kuz	C2	9	3NTny	5	Dbl	10	2NT/Dbl	9	Dbl	10	43
	Robert Lebi	B	10	4♦yy	10	3♠	9	2NT/3♦	10	4♥	8	47
	Nick L'Ecuyer	B	10	4♦ny	10	3NT	7	2NT/Dbl	9	Dbl	10	46
	David Lindop	A1	7	6NTny	6	Dbl	10	2NT/Dbl	9	4♥	8	40
	Zyg Marcinski	A1	7	4♦yn	10	Dbl	10	2NT/3♦	10	Dbl	10	47
	Danny Miles	A2	7	4♦ny	10	3♠	9	2NT/3♦	10	Dbl	10	46
	Julie Smith	C2	9	4♦ny	10	3♠	9	2NT/3♦	10	4♥	8	46
	Andy Stark	C2	9	4♦yn	10	3♠	9	2NT/3♦	10	4♥	8	46
	Paul Thurston	B	10	4NTny	8	3♠	9	2NT/Dbl	9	Dbl	10	46
	Bob Todd	B	10	4♦yy	10	3♠	9	2NT/3♦	10	Dbl	10	49
	Bill Treble	A1	7	4♦nn	10	3♠	9	1♦/3♠	9	4♠	7	42
	David Turner	A1	7	4♦yy	10	3♠	9	2NT/3♦	10	Dbl	10	46
	Edward Xu	B	10	4♦yy	10	3NT	7	2NT/3♦	10	Dbl	10	47



JUNE 2025 PROBLEMS

Host: Zygmunt Marcinski

Readers: Please submit your responses by May 9th.

1. As South, E-W vulnerable at IMPs, you hold
♠KQ10953 ♥QJ94 ♦A2 ♣4.

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

2. As East, neither vulnerable at IMPs, you hold ♠10
♥1082 ♦AKQ6532 ♣102.

West	North	East	South
	1♣ ¹	1♦	Dbl
2♣	2♦	?	

1. Two plus clubs.

What do you bid?

3. As South, N-S vulnerable at IMPs, you hold
♠A1064 ♥AK10987 ♦107 ♣9.

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

What do you bid?

4. As South, both vulnerable at IMPs, you hold
♠AQ97 ♥QJ9753 ♦4 ♣AK.

South	West	North	East
1♥	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2♥	Pass

What do you bid?

5. As East, both vul at IMPs you hold ♠K732 ♥J95 ♦84
♣7532.

West	North	East	South
-	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²
3♦	4♥ ³	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 11-16, either six plus clubs or unbalanced with five clubs and one or two side four card suits.

2. Artificial ask, at least invitational.

3. Five plus hearts, equal/longer clubs.

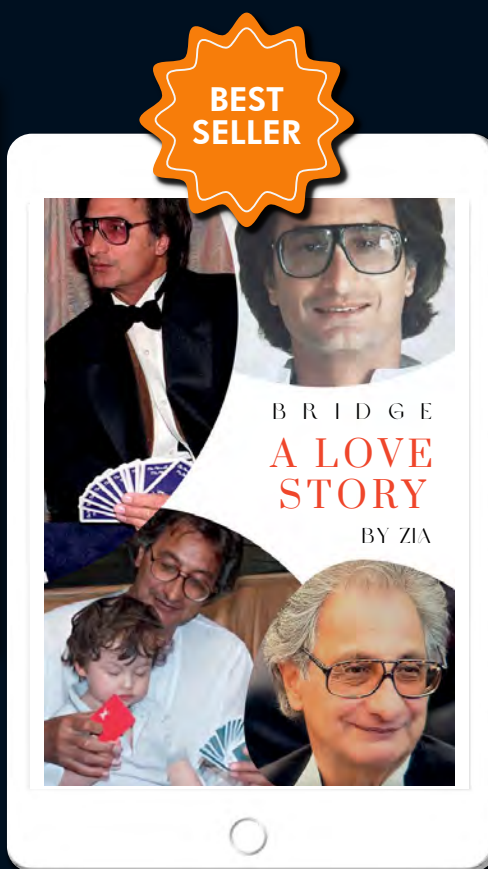
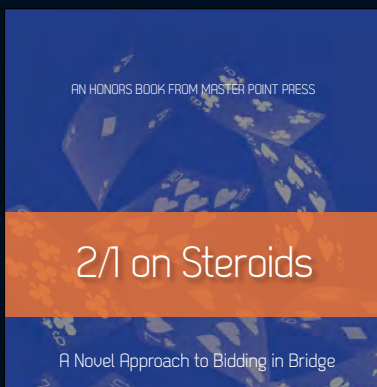
What do you lead?



The first session of the Regional Swiss did not go well for Ethan and Sam, with Ethan making some questionable bids and plays. While shuffling the boards, Sam notices that Ethan has only taken three hands out of the bidding box, but is mixing the cards as if he has them all.

Samantha: Ethan, I wish you would play with a full deck.

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