



THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

Fellow bridge players I hope everyone is well. Hopefully Covid has died down a bit and we can relax. Most people I have spoken to have had a booster vaccination as well now. To me BBO bridge and bridge at clubs are going to co-exist from here on in. It is good to see people live and catch up with their news but BBO has a lot to offer and there is no doubt it is very convenient. You can while away many an hour either playing with a regular partner (socially or in a competition), practise your play out alone or partner a robot or watch top level bridge. For those of us who live alone it is wonderful to think we are exercising those little brain cells while doing something we love.

I was looking through some bridge information sheets on good habits recently and thought the following tips could prove

useful. Some are irrelevant when on BBO!

Count your cards face down before sorting to make sure you have 13 cards. (No need to at BBO - done for you and trumps shoot themselves far left before start)

Decide on your bid before touching the bidding box. Important at BBO too so you don't press the keys for a wrong bid!

Bid in tempo to avoid giving information. Yes this is vital with BBO too although we know occasionally connectivity can be a problem.

Remember about alerting! Partner must do this at live bridge by using the alert card but self-alerting is the way to go at BBO. Abbreviations can be used! Some bids especially have many meanings e.g. 2 diamonds is a classic one.

Treat partner well! No nasty comments at live bridge or in typing when using BBO. Always try to be encouraging!

NOVICE'S CORNER

Watch Your Entries and Exits

by Lisa Adamson

Unblocking

As declarer it is important to study how dummy combines with your hand to establish how many guaranteed tricks you have. Usually one finds that there are fewer guaranteed tricks than the contract requires.

So the next thing declarer must do is work out where extra tricks can be developed. One way of doing this is to unblock the hand.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>♠ 4 2 ♥ K Q 7 6 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ 10 8 7 2</p> |  | <p>♠ A Q 9 8 ♥ J 8 5 4 ♦ Q J 7 ♣ K J</p> |
| <p>♠ K 10 7 6 5 ♥ 10 9 3 ♦ 5 2 ♣ 9 5 4</p> | | <p>♠ J 3 ♥ A ♦ A K 10 9 8 3 ♣ A Q 6 3</p> |

Bidding:

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|------------------|
| W | N | E | S |
| P | 1♥ | P | 1♦ |
| P | 3♥ ² | P | 2NT ¹ |
| P | P | P | 4♦ |
| | 1 19 – 19points | | |
| | 2 5 card suit | | |

Lead 6♠

Rosebud and Bud were N-S playing this deal. Bud was not too perturbed by the lead, as he could trump the third spade. He ruffed in the North hand and led a ♦ to 10♦, which held.

He now paused to consider the situation. The heart suit was the only suit of value in North's hand, but it was blocked due to the singleton A♥ in the South hand. Bud could not see an easy entry into dummy's hand.

In the hopes that the opposition would at some stage lead a heart for him to make his K and Q of ♥, he played the A♥ at the 5th trick. He “unblocked” the suit.

Now Bud drew two rounds of trumps trapping East's Q♦.

He then turned to Clubs. He played A♣. then small ♣, losing to East's K♣.

What could East do now? With only ♥'s and Q♠ left in his hand, Bud heaved a sigh of relief when East led a small ♥.

10 tricks bid and made.

Smiles and congratulations from Rosebud.

- Riders:
1. 3♥ contract can, in fact be made. Can you see how?
 2. 4♦ contract can be defeated. Can you see how?

The following deal illustrates an unblocking technique that is often missed:

Bidding:

| | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | W | N | E | S |
| ♠ 10 x x | | | | |
| ♥ K Q x x | | | | |
| ♦ J x x x | | | | |
| ♣ x x | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| ♠ A Q x x x | | | | |
| ♥ A J | | | | |
| ♦ 10 x x | | | | |
| ♣ K Q x | | | | |
| | P | P | 1♠ | P |
| | P | P | | |

Lead 6♥

A hasty declarer will be delighted with the lead, winning with J♥. After losing a few tricks to N and S, East realises the awful truth that he has K, Q♥ in dummy, but no way of getting to them!

Had he stopped to see how his hand and dummy's "dovetailed", he would have unblocked the H suit by winning the 6♥ lead with his A♥. Now he would have the J♥ to lead to dummy's K and Q♥. At worst he makes 3♥ tricks, and at best the hearts are evenly split and he makes 4♥ tricks.

About the Author

Lisa Adamson has been teaching bridge since 2017, concentrating mainly on beginners and helping "rusty" players find their way into the game again. Many of these players now belong to clubs and are playing confidently on BBO and RealBridge.



SID'S QUIZ

by Sid Ismail

This hand comes from a game played at Benoni Northerns club.

N-S are playing Precision. 1D was 2+ "approach." You are sitting West.

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Dummy | |
| | ♠ A97 | |
| | ♥ Q75 | |
| | ♦ 8765 | |
| Partner | ♣ QJ10 | You |
| ♠ J103 | | ♠ 82 |
| ♥ AKJ1083 | | ♥ 92 |
| ♦ 43 | | ♦ A1092 |
| ♣ 97 | | ♣ 86532 |
| | Declarer | |
| | ♠ KQ654 | |
| | ♥ 64 | |
| | ♦ KQJ | |
| | ♣ AK4 | |

The opponents are in 4 spades and your partner is on lead. Partner leads the King hearts followed by the Ace and you high-low with your 9 hearts and then 2. Now p leads a heart to Dummy's Queen and you trump with your 8 spades. This 8 spades forces declarer to use his Queen which ensures partner has a sure fire trump trick as he holds J103. There is no way declarer can avoid losing a diamond so a contract which looks sound will be defeated. NOTE that if you trumped with your small 2 spades declarer happily goes over with his 4 trumps keeping his Queen safe. Now after drawing trumps and surrendering to A D he makes 4 spades.

2. Clever use of high cards when opponents are finessing!

Example

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | DUMMY | |
| | ♦ AQ109 | |
| YOU | | PARTNER |
| ♦ KJ3 | | ♦ 8764 |
| | DECLARER | |
| | ♦ 52 | |

Declarer is playing this side suit in a trump contract. He leads from his hand and finesses the Q. Now in dummy he plays A and you must play K which he knows you hold. Declare now may try a ruffing finesse against partner's supposed J. If he does you will win your J. If you had played J instead of K, declarer could not go wrong. He would know you still have K. Next he ruffs 9 and your K is underneath and he has his 10 as a trick.

Another example

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | DUMMY | |
| | AJ7 | |
| YOU | | PARTNER |
| Q106 | | 842 |
| | DECLARER | |
| | K953 | |

Declarer leads the 3 and finesses the J which holds. On A lead play Queen. Declarer may now finesse partner for 10 which gives you a trick instead. Of course partner may be smart too and play 4 then 2 so Declarer is thinking that he had 4 cards originally.

These are subtle things and I find it helps to understand them better if you get a set of cards and lay them out and move them according to the example.



STOP PLEASE!

As Recounted by **Diana Boudewijns**

As most players do, I learned bridge by going for a few lessons before being sent off to a club to get more experience. My partner at the time and I found everything rather amusing, being young and energetic 20-something women.

Arriving at the club, full of nerves and giggles, we were unfamiliar with bidding boxes, the rules of silence and club etiquette. Nevertheless, we were enjoying ourselves and at one point found ourselves sitting at a table with our opponents being a rather experienced player and his partner.

As the bidding goes round, he makes his bid and then puts out the STOP card. I stare at it, look at my equally befuddled partner, and then ask him, “What does the STOP card mean?”

“You have to ask my partner.”

I turn to his partner, a woman with long blonde hair hiding most of her face as she stares intently at her cards.

“What does that card mean, please?”

She mumbles something.

“I’m sorry, I can’t hear you.”

Mumbling.

I look at my partner who shrugs. With nothing else for it, I ask again.

“Please repeat it, I didn’t quite catch that.”

“You have to wait ten seconds.”

“Ten seconds or ten minutes, I still won’t know what it means!” Calamity! My partner and I are both rocking in our chairs in fits of giggles, the regular players at the club are shushing us and every time they do we laugh a bit more, and the STOP card is still lying on the table to set us off every time we look at it.

Of course, many years later, the STOP card rules have fallen away, but my first foray into club level bridge will always be fondly remembered every time I see mention of that little red card.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

SID'S QUIZ

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>♠ J 9 3 2 ♥ Q ♦ A Q 10 9 3 ♣ K 7 6</p> | <p>♠ Q 8 6 5 ♥ 10 4 3 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ A J 4</p> | <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | <p>♠ 10 7 ♥ K J 9 5 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ Q 9 3 2</p> |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>♠ A K 4 ♥ A 8 7 6 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ 10 8 5</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |

Dealer: North
Love All

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | Pass | Pass | 1 ♦ |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 1 NT |
| 2 ♦ | 2 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Opening Lead:

We steer away from a diamond lead and lead partner's suit instead! We choose the HQ!

Dummy shows up with:

Q865

1043

K84

AJ4

Declarer ducks your HQ lead. What do you play now?

Partner is marked with a few goodies as they stopped short of game. Thus partner will get in sometime. We hope it will be sooner than later.

Switch to the DQ!

When partner gets in, partner will return her second diamond capturing the knave and allowing you to score four diamond tricks.

Well done if you got this right.

