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THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

As I think it is still going to be a long time before bridge is played again in clubs, I hope those members who enjoy a regular 'bridge fix' have discovered BBO and got organised with it.

I commend those older members amongst our ranks who are not as familiar with computers and internet for persevering with BBO. It is both a method of keeping in touch with bridge friends and exercising one's brain, and a good alternative to just watching TV! Furthermore I suspect many of our members, like me, live alone and welcome BBO as a change from our now enforced home routine. I so look forward to my daily evening BBO session with friends.

I play using my cell phone and I know many others who use tablets to play. It is comparatively easy to get started with registration etc and Robert Stephens is ever willing and patient to help with this.

There are daily competitive events organised by Robert, Sid Ismail and others which one can play in, or one can just watch others play, or organise your own games. You can play for as long or as short a time as you want, like 12 boards or 18 boards or most events are 21 boards. Even teams is fun online!

One of the big advantages of this form of play is that when one is dummy one can see declarer's hand too and watch the play of the cards. This is interesting, especially if like me you play with someone who is very skilful at this, much can be learned. The timing of the play is important - maybe drawing trumps is not always the route to follow. Sometimes disposing of cards on another suit's winning cards might be the better option. You can see what others did on the same hand and compare your result to others playing the same hands. And if there is no partner available how about practising your play with robots?

As soon as there is an easing of lockdown which permits the live play of bridge in clubs we will let you know! However until then happy BBOing!

Yours in bridge,
Deirdre Ingersent

What a pity that the A C B L found it necessary to include this message from Robb Gordon in their recent ACBL Bulletin. Oh well, I suppose you get cheats everywhere, and unfortunately, "online" seems to encourage them. At least we know that cheats have very little chance of making their cheating count!

Cheating online

It's easy to cheat at online bridge, but it's hard to get away with it! Every call and play are recorded. In addition to player reports, there are automatic surveillance tools to alert the operators to potential cheating. If you are caught cheating in an ACBL-sanctioned game, the online club will bar you. In addition, you will be subject to ACBL discipline. We are doing everything we can to maintain the integrity of these games so that honest players can be confident of a fair contest.



Robb Gordon, National Recorder

FROM THE EDITOR

With no live bridge to write about, and only so much to be said about bridge online, (although see page 11), we need to find other topics with which to occupy ourselves.

The piece below has been doing the rounds on WhatsApp, but there may be those of you who have not read it yet. Why do I reproduce it here even though I do not know who the writer is? Simply to show that our World often goes through times of crisis, and somehow comes out the other end, if not stronger, at least in some sort of survival mode! And the same will happen after Covid-19, and Global Warming and ISIL and all the other catastrophes that may befall us. Please read it.

Stephen Rosenberg

"It's a mess out there now. Hard to discern between what's a real threat and what is just simple panic and hysteria. To gain a bit of perspective, imagine that you were born in 1900. On your 14th birthday, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, the Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million. On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. Countries nearly collapse along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. And don't try to catch your breath. On your 41st birthday, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war. At 50, the Korean War starts. 5 million perish. At



55 the Vietnam War begins and doesn't end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. On your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, could have ended. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How do you survive all of that? Like when you were a kid in 1985 and didn't think your 85-year-old grandparent understood how hard school was. Let's try and keep things in perspective."

SID'S QUIZ

	♠ A2 ♥ 98 ♦ K5432 ♣ 5432	
♠ KQJT9 ♥ 754 ♦ 987 ♣ T9		♠ 876543 ♥ 6 ♦ AJT ♣ KJ8
	♠ --- ♥ AKQJT32 ♦ Q6 ♣ AQ76	

You are sitting South in 6♥ and get the lead of the ♠K. What do you have to do to ensure you make this contract?

First, have a go at it yourself. **Then, look at Sid's Solution on Page 10.**



Sid Ismail

About the author.

As a player Sid Ismail achieved Grandmaster status but has now made the transition from playing high-level bridge games to officiating them as an SABF National Director, one of the very few TDs with Grandmaster status anywhere in the world. He is now involved in many other aspects of the game as a teacher and lecturer, bridge webmaster, Vugraph commentator, and BBO ID-host. He was also the innovator of the "Forum" on the SABF website. If this is not enough, Sid owns a bridge club in Benoni where he is a player, administrator and the Tournament Director.

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

“SAFETY FIRST”

by Jeff Sapire

Many contracts that one plays in have choices in the play. But one of the first issues to consider is the matter of safety.

Dir. N Vul. None	♠ AJ84 ♥ AK2 ♦ 6 ♣ A8753	
♠ QT5 ♥ 5 ♦ K843 ♣ QT962		♠ K962 ♥ 764 ♦ QT952 ♣ 4
	♠ 73 ♥ QJT983 ♦ AJ7 ♣ KJ	

With only NS active. the bidding went:

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

This was a good auction by NS. 2♦ was the ever-useful fourth suit forcing – it’s game forcing and asks opener to describe his hand. Usually it’s used to find out if opener has a stopper in the 4th suit for No

Trump purposes, but it can also be employed on strong hands where responder wants to find out more about opener’s shape and strength. In this sequence, North’s delayed jump to 3♥, after 4th suit forcing, showed a better hand with three trumps, and a three suited hand with a shortage in diamonds. After that, South used Keycard Blackwood to find four key cards opposite (three aces and the trump king), and then asked for kings, over which North signed off.

West led the ♦3, fetching the singleton 6 from dummy, covered by East’s Queen and taken in hand with the Ace.

It’s easy to make a hash of a hand like this, and then complain afterwards about the bad breaks. With ten top tricks, one line of play is to try to establish the club suit, though much easier is to ruff two diamonds in dummy. But it’s the issue of getting back to hand twice that needs to be negotiated. If you win the ♦A, ruff a diamond low, then play a club to the king to ruff your last diamond, you will have to decide how to get off table. On this hand, unfortunately the ♣A will be ruffed, and if you try ace and another spade, West can win and give his partner a club ruff. The correct line is to ruff the first diamond high, play the ♥2 to your queen, ruff the last diamond high again, and then play a club to the king. Then draw the trumps and concede a spade.

It’s not a particularly difficult hand – so long as you think about it. Those solid hearts, the QJT983 are the key to the winning line. If you had say, QT8432 you could not afford the luxury of trumping high!

About the Author

Jeff Sapire, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, has represented South Africa. teaches all levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced. To find out more about his well-structured and informative lessons contact him on jeffshirl@telkomsa.net, or ‘phone him on 011 486 1495 or 082 551 2526.



Jeff Sapire

SVEN WRITES

The first in a series of articles highlighting modern bidding, play and defence by Sven-Åke Bjerregaard

LEADING AND CARDING

Leads against No Trump and suit contracts are normally treated differently. The most popular lead against NT is *fourth highest* which includes a high card from a bad suit. How do you define if a suit is bad? I suggest that if your highest card is the Ten, the suit is bad, so lead your second highest. If you hold T9765 lead the 9. If you hold 98765 lead the 8 and if you hold J9763 lead the 6. If you hold 964 lead the 6.



Sven-Åke Bjerregaard

When you have a combination with honours, you may have to solve some issues. Sometimes you want your partner to unblock, sometimes to give count and sometimes to give attitude. "Experts" try to solve this like for example, "If I lead the King give attitude"; "If I lead The Ace give count or unblock" and so on. That means they have to lead the Queen from both KQxx and QJxx. What is partner supposed to do? Encourage from Txx? That's not good if the lead was from KQxx. Declarer can duck with AJx and get a continuation.

There is another big downside to leading the Queen from KQxx. Let's say they end up in 3NT and dummy comes down with AKQxxxx in a suit. Your partner leads the ♠Q. Dummy has xx and you hold Axx. You also have KQJT in hearts. Should you grab the Ace and shift to a heart? You know that if declarer holds the ♠K and if you encourage he will make his contract. If the player on lead holds AKJxx and leads the Ace, partner is supposed to unblock the Queen. That's not right if dummy has a singleton and Declarer has T98x. The only time its useful is when dummy has xxx, partner has Txx and declarer has Qx. That almost never happens!

In my opinion you can't combine all this, so just lead the top from a sequence: your partner will just give attitude, never count. That means that if partner leads the Ace you can only encourage if you have the Queen. The lead is probably from AKxx(x) and partner will next play small if you encourage. The same is true if partner leads the King; only encourage holding the Ace or the Jack. *Do not just give count, play a discouraging high from xx.* It is also popular to lead the ten from interior sequences like T9x. That means declarer will not know who has the Queen, *but neither will your partner!*

I recommend you always lead the third card from interior sequences like AQJxx or similar. It's much more important to show your partner what you have so he can plan a better defence. This is how you should lead when you lead fourth best.

My regular partner and I lead 1-3-5 against both suit and NT contracts. We find it important to know if the lead is from a 5-card suit, it's also easier to remember if you use the same leads both against NT and Trumps. When leading against suit contracts, I recommend that you lead 1-3-5 because your length is important. I also recommend third from interior sequence for the same reason against a NT contract. Don't keep your partner in the dark. From 932 you lead the 2.

As a carding system, I recommend UDCA; low encourages, high/low is odd number. The order of priority is

- Attitude
- Count

When we give count we always refer to the original length. High means I originally had an odd number. There are other signals that some "experts" recommend such as:

- Suit preference = "I want you to play a specific suit"
- Smith = "I liked that lead or I did not like that lead"

I do not recommend you use them at all! The Smith signal one normally forgets, and how can you know what's best? Suit Preference is only for World Class players, even though many think they are!! There is a common thought that if dummy has a singleton in a suit contract and you lead the Ace, your partner must give suit preference. I don't do that. I just give attitude so partner will know if he can continue if that seems to be the best defence. Remember your partner is just as clever as you are; he will find the best defence.

The key to a good defence is to count. Your defence is better when you know declarer's distribution. You all know that you must give count when dummy has a good suit but no side entry, so partner, holding the ace, will know how to block the entry. I defend like this: first give attitude, then give count in the suit, always referring to its original length.

My last piece of advice will be to keep it simple. Play a card partner will understand!

I am fortunate to have been loaned ten or so of the original "The Bridge Bulletin" published some 40 years' ago, by the SABF, sold for 30c each, and carrying advertising for South African Airways, J & B Whisky and Ransom Select (remember those?) among others. Here's an extract from an article by Leon Sapire from edition number 1/2, dated Jan. Feb. 1978, and entitled

SWEDEN'S DOWNFALL

Sweden needed a big win against the USA in the ninth round of the Bermuda Bowl, but the first hand out of the box proved dispiriting to the European champions. Here's Round 9, Board 1:

Dir. N Vul. None	♠ AKQ95 ♥ 653 ♦ Q93 ♣ AK	
♠ T876 ♥ AQT987 ♦ 5 ♣ 94		♠ J4 ♥ J4 ♦ AJ8 ♣ QJT762
	♠ 32 ♥ K2 ♦ KT7642 ♣ 853	

The bidding was straight-forward:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Morath	Kantar	Gothe	Eisenberg
			
	1♠	3♣	p
p	3NT	p	p
4♣	X	All Pass	

When Kantar's opening spade bid was overcalled with 3♣, Eddie figured he had a reasonable chance at 3NT, so he bid it! He would actually have gone down four tricks in 3NT because spades weren't going to break;



Bob Hamman

and Gothe would probably switch to the ♥J after winning the ♦A. But Morath had no way of knowing that the no-trump game was doomed, so he went to 4♣ with his doubleton, and Kantar was happy to double. Eisenberg led his ♠3, and Kantar won the King and the Ace, then continued with the ♠9. Gothe ruffed with the ♣Q, giving Eisenberg the chance to discard a heart. Declarer led the ♥J, covered by the King and taken by the Ace. When he tried to cash the ♥Q, Eisenberg ruffed and led a club. Kantar took his AK and the led the ♠K, which declarer ruffed. But Gothe still had to lose two diamond tricks, so he went down four tricks –



Eddie Kantar

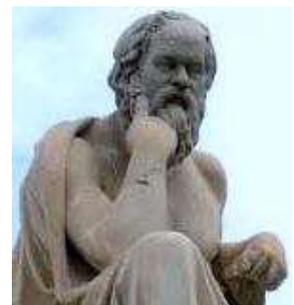
minus 700! Things were no better at the other table where Flodqvist, sitting North for Sweden, was playing in 3♠. He won the opening lead of the ♣Q with the Ace, and immediately led a diamond. But Hamman rose with the Ace and led the ♥J, covered by the Queen and won by the Ace. Wolff cashed the ♥Q, then led the ♥T that enabled Hamman to ruff with the ♠4 (dummy's highest trump was the 3!). He returned a diamond for Wolff to ruff and Wolff tried another heart, declarer ruffing with the Queen. This of course set up another trump trick for Wolff, so the Americans collected +100 to go with the +700 at the other table for a gain of 11 IMPs.



Bobby Wolff

With apologies to 4th Century BC Greek philosopher Socrates:

*People with small minds talk about other people.
People with ordinary minds talk about events.
People with great minds talk about ideas.
People with warped minds talk about bridge hands.*



The Guardian

TO OVERCALL OR NOT?

by Zia Mahmood, 15 Dec 2011

The two teams that finished first and second in the recently concluded English Premier League met in the final of this year's Gold Cup, Britain's oldest and most prestigious team competition. This time the team captained by Frances Hinden ran out the victors by a score of 127 IMPs to 100. With eight deals remaining the Hinden team led by 42 IMPs and the Allfrey team needed some large swings. On the first two boards of the final stanza the Allfrey players bid and made two vulnerable games while their counterparts picked up only small plus scores in defence, and the momentum was now very much with Allfrey. And then we came to the third board!

Dir. 5 Vul. None	♠ QT943 ♥ 5 ♦ T65432 ♣ K	
♠ 65 ♥ AQ73 ♦ --- ♣ AT86432		♠ AK2 ♥ KT94 ♦ AQ98 ♣ J7
	♠ J87 ♥ J862 ♦ KJ7 ♣ Q95	

South passed as dealer at both tables, and West opened one club. Allfrey overcalled one spade with the North cards, while John Howard for Hinden passed. On the one hand the overcall would take up bidding space, or might lead to a profitable sacrifice; on the other hand, who knows?

Both East-West pairs bid to the reasonable contract of six hearts. Each declarer received a spade lead, and the Allfrey player won with the ace and played ace and another club, working on his side suit before drawing trumps. South won the second round of clubs and continued spades, so declarer won and cashed dummy's ace and queen of hearts. If South showed out, East would run clubs until North ruffed, thereby picking up a

possible holding of four hearts to the jack in the North hand. Of course, if North showed out the contract would fail – but how could North, who had a singleton club, also have a singleton heart and not have overcalled West's opening bid of one club? East soon found out how, and the contract went one down.

At the other table Peter Lee for the Hinden team heard North's overcall, so he won the opening spade lead and played the ace and king of hearts since North was more likely to be short in the suit than South. When North showed out, declarer finished drawing trumps and led the jack of clubs. This was covered by the queen, ace and king in that order, so declarer won all 13 tricks, his small slam, and the Gold Cup.



Frances Hinden

About the Author.

Mir Zia Mahmood (born 7 January 1940) is a Pakistani-American bridge player. He is a World Bridge Federation and ACBL Grand Life Master and reached his highest ranking in April 2011 as the 10th-ranked World Grand Master. Zia was born in Karachi, British India, now Pakistan. He was educated in England from the age of six to twenty-one. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant of the Institute of England and Wales and spent three years running a family business in Pakistan. He is married to Lady Emma, his wife since February 2001. She is the daughter of the 7th Earl of Rosebery. They have two sons: Zain and Rafi.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

“D O N T”

DONT stands for Disturbing Opponents' No Trump; it is a conventional defense against an opposing 1NT opening. It sacrifices the natural penalty double in order to show all possible one- and two-suited hands after an opposing 1NT. After hearing a double, partner is expected to bid 2♣, which is completely artificial. (He may, however, bypass the 2♣ relay and bid a very strong 6-card suit of his own.) The 2♣ bid allows doubler to then show his suit: he passes with clubs and bids his suit otherwise. A jump bid by either player is strong and invitational, but not forcing. A raise of doubler's suit is also invitational but not forcing. After hearing a 2♣ or 2♦ overcall, partner usually passes with support for the bid suit; otherwise, he can bid the next-highest suit to try correcting the contract. For example:

Opponent 1	Over-caller	Opponent 2	Partner
1NT	2♣!	Pass	2♦!

The 2♦ bid denies support for clubs and asks for over-caller's other suit. With diamonds, over-caller passes; with a major, over-caller bids it. A 2NT response by partner at any time is strong and forcing for one round. Depending on partnership agreement, it can be an intricate shape-asking bid, but if a simpler version of DONT is preferred, it can just show support for over-caller's suit and ask him to bid more with extra values.

BID	MEANING
X	Any one suit (5+ cards), relays to 2♣
2♣	2 suits – clubs and one higher
2♦	2 suits – diamonds and one higher
2♥	2 suits – hearts and spades
2♠	Natural

After hearing a double, partner is expected to bid 2♣, which is completely artificial. (He may, however, bypass the 2♣ relay and bid a very strong 6-card suit of his own.) The 2♣ bid allows doubler to then show his suit: he passes with clubs and bids his suit otherwise. A jump bid by either player is strong and invitational, but not forcing. A raise of doubler's suit is also invitational but not forcing.

After hearing a 2♣ or 2♦ overcall, partner usually passes with support for the bid suit; otherwise, he can bid the next-highest suit to try correcting the contract. For example:

Opponent 1	Over-Caller (You)	Opponent 2	Partner
1NT	2♣	Pass	2♦

The 2♦ bid denies support for clubs and asks for over-caller's other suit. With diamonds, over-caller passes; with a major, over-caller bids it. A 2NT response by partner at any time is strong and forcing for one round. Depending on partnership agreement, it can be an intricate shape-asking bid, but if a simpler version of DONT is preferred, it can just show support for over-caller's suit and ask him to bid more with extra values.

From all of us on the GBU committee to all our Muslim members and their families,

Deirdre Ingersent





THE PAVLICEK PAGE

NO. 2 - FLORIDA BELLES ARE RINGERS

Two Florida ladies put together a tremendous score — 78 percent — in the continent-wide International Fund Game on May 12. Helen Shanbrom and Julia Carswell played at the Palm Beach Bridge Studio, a popular club owned and operated by Daniel Cohen. Winning is nothing new to Shanbrom, arguably the most successful club player of all time. Her partner has not been playing bridge that long; but she learns fast and

has become a sound, reliable player. Carswell has posted a number of wins already. The diagrammed deal shows the ladies in action, stampeding their opponents to the five level. Shanbrom, West, opened routinely with 1♠ and Carswell, East, chose a single raise because her hand contained doubtful values — good judgment in my opinion. (North's decision to overcall and South's 4♦ bid are not clearly understood, perhaps for the best.)

Dir: W Vul: None	♠ J 4 2 ♥ A J 7 6 3 2 ♦ J ♣ 6 3 2						
♠ A 8 7 6 5 ♥ Q 10 ♦ K 9 ♣ A 10 8 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 25%;">W</td><td style="width: 25%;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ Q 10 3 ♥ 8 5 ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ K Q J 5 4	
N	E						
W	S						
	♠ K 9 ♥ K 9 4 ♦ A 10 7 5 4 3 2 ♣ 9						

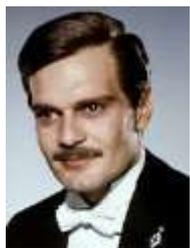
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	2♥	2♠	4♦
4♣	P	P	5♥
X	P	P	P

Shanbrom's push to 4♠ is best explained as "It was my turn," but this is the kind of aggressive tactic that a clever player senses to be right at the table. Sure enough, South took the bait and pushed to 5♥ (actually, North is more the culprit here for the frivolous overcall). Opportunity needs knock only once for Shanbrom, and she wielded the axe. Watch the defense! Carswell led the ♣ K and Shanbrom followed with the seven — a wisely chosen card to de-emphasize the desirability of a spade switch. (The partnership, as do most defenders, indicate suit preference when the dummy has a singleton in the suit led.) Shanbrom figured that her partner would routinely lead a spade if she held Q-J, but in the actual layout a spade shift would be costly. How many East defenders do you think would come through? This one did! Carswell found the killing play of *another club*, and declarer actually went down two when he misplayed spades later. If Carswell leads *any other suit* at trick two, declarer can make the contract by establishing the diamonds.



About the author.

Richard Pavlicek (born 1945) is an American bridge player, teacher, and writer from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, United States. In 1966 he started to play in bridge tournaments in his spare time. Since then he has won over 400 events and accumulated more than 6,000 masterpoints. He is a Grand Life Master of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and World International Master of the World Bridge Federation (WBF). His latest North American win was in 2004 when he and his son Rich became the first father-son partnership to win the Life Master Open Pairs. Pavlicek has written numerous bridge textbooks and lesson materials.



"There was a point when I became too keen. It was obsessive. I would play all the tournaments. I would not make certain films if they interfered with my bridge schedule. I dreamt about cards. I was driven by the competition. I was good at it and I wanted to be perfect. But bridge is like golf; you can never achieve perfection. You get better, but because it is a game of partnership there is no way you can get there. You need to perfect a system between you and your partner." Omar Sharif, actor and bridge-player.

BY THE NUMBERS

The first in a series of five instructive articles by Mel Colchamiro

"THE RULE OF 2"

"Whether or not to enter the auction by balancing in the 4th seat, after a strong 1NT opening bid by one's Left-Hand Opponent which is then passed around to you; enter the auction if holding at least 2 or more shortness points (either a void, a singleton, or two doubletons), regardless of high-card point strength and vulnerability!"

Suppose you hold **Q753 – 9 – AT5 – J8642**, and the bidding has gone 1-NT — Pass — Pass — ? Should you balance, for example with only 7 HCP's? "Mel's Rule of 2" says an emphatic "yes," and here is why! We know the Opener has 15-17 high card points, an average of 16, but we also know that the Responder has 0-8 high card points., an average of 4. So whenever the bidding comes around to you, their side has 20 HCPs, on average, and your side also has 20 HCPs, on average. So your side has just as equal a right to the contract as they do!

You know a lot about Partner's hand! Returning to the hand with 7 HCPs, we know our Partner has, on average, 13. Also, he/she probably has a balanced hand since he/she didn't originally bid. So whenever we are faced with a balancing decision after a strong, 1-NT opening bid, *high card points are essentially irrelevant. The controlling factor is our distribution, notwithstanding vulnerability.* Remember, the fewer points you have, the more your Partner has, because each side will have approximately 20 HCPs.

Returning to our example hand, we know that Partner has approximately 13 HCP' and that our finesses will usually win because Partner's points lie over the No-Trump Opener. However, if we have **A74 – K962 – KT3 – K98**, we should "Pass" with this balanced hand. Our finesses figure to lose since Partner will have only 7 points, on average. The fewer of our side's 20 theoretical points we have, the more eager we should be to balance, providing we have 2 shortness points. But even if we have the bulk of our side's 20 theoretical points, we should balance *only if we have at least 2 shortness points.*

The best results are frequently reached by using "DONT" in the balancing seat. "DONT" works fine in the direct position, but it's a particularly big winner in the balancing seat, when used in conjunction with "*Mel's Balancing Rule of 2.*" Using the "DONT" convention, any suit bid shows that suit plus one or more higher-ranking suits. Spades shows Spades only, and a "*double*" shows an unspecified, single-suited hand.

A. **Q842, A76, 5, J7532** (Bid 2♣)

B. **Q742, A95, 743, J62** (Pass)

C. **KJ8543, 6, 853, 763** (Bid 2♠)

D. **7, K852, Q8754, 762** (Bid 2♦)

E. **KJ5, A83, K76, AJ54** (Pass)

F. **KQ542, 84, K865, K5** (Bid 2♦)

G. **6, K8643, 76, J7643** (Bid 2♣)

H. **654, 976, KJ5, AK53** (Pass)

I. **75, A853, KQ843, 62** (Bid 2♦)

J. **AQ642, K8732, QJ, 9** (Bid 2♥)

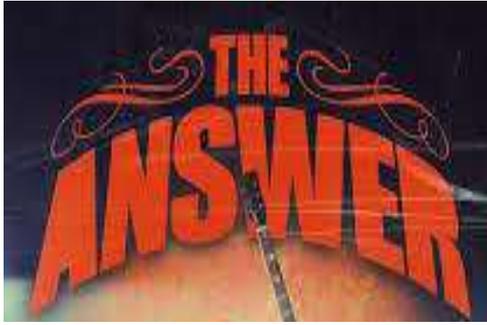
About the author.

Mel Colchamiro describes himself as a professional teacher, player, writer, author of best-selling "How You Can Play Bridge Like an Expert (without having to be one)" and of the ACBL Bulletin column "Claim with Colchamiro."; ACBL Bulletin panellist "It's Your Call."; proud 80% game winner in Nov. 2009 – 42% in afternoon, 38% at night!



FACT or FICTION?

A husband invites three friends round to play bridge. Throughout the evening he keeps pestering his wife: "*Honey, could you bring us some drinks?*"; "*Some sandwiches would be nice, dear?*"; "*Have we any cake?*" etc., etc. After his friends have gone home, he find his wife in the kitchen doing the washing up. "*You look busy.*" he says "*Can I give you a hand?*" "*That would be great!*" she says. "*OK. You've got 5 spades to the Ace, KQJ and another heart and 4 small clubs. What do you lead against six diamonds?*"



SID'S SOLUTION

This hand must be played *in the exact order below* for you to make 6♥:

1. Duck the opening lead in dummy and ruff the ♠K high!
2. Play a small trump to the 8 in dummy.
3. Lead a small diamond from dummy.

If East ducks the diamond, win with the ♦Q; then another small trump to the 9; now cash the ♠A discarding the ♦6; finesse the ♣Q; draw the last trump; now play ♣A and another club. Your last club is good; **you lose only a club!**

If East wins the ♦A at trick three, then play ♦6 on East's Ace; win the return:

- if a spade, discard a club;
- if a diamond, win with the ♦Q;
- if a club, of course you win with the ♣Q. Now cash the ♦Q (if East did not play a diamond after winning with his Ace); then a trump to the 9; on the ♠A and the ♦K discard two clubs; then ♣A, draw the remaining trumps and claim.

Your only loser was the ♦A.

A MATHEMATICAL BRIDGE PUZZLE SOLUTION

provided by Deirdre Ingersent

This was a really tough one, and I received zero correct entries. Remember, you has to get from 1827 to 3237 in nine steps using bridge-related numbers and 4 minus signs, 2 plus signs, 2 multiplication signs and one division sign! Here's how you do it:

STEP	SIGN	CALCULATION	BRIDGE REFERENCE
start		1 827	the odds of being dealt a Yarborough are 1 827:1
1	minus	300 = 1527	red points needed to become a National Life Master
2	minus	7 = 1520	number of cards in one suit needed for a pre-emptive bid
3	÷	8 =190	tricks needed to make 2NT
4	x	4 = 760	number of players at a bridge table
5	+	23 = 783	traditional number of points needed for a 2♣ opening
6	minus	52 = 731	number of cards in a bridge pack
7	+	16 = 747	total number of honour cards in a pack
8	minus	3 = 744	points value of a king
9	x	13 = 3237	number of a cards in a suit

Q E. D.!

ONLINE BRIDGE

by Sarita Mathur, April 30th 2010

North is always looking down on south ,
While East is on the rise, West tried his best to bid
And keep the partnership alive.
At least in online bridge you can undo
Even though later you may rue what you eventually did.
Self-alert is something strange which one has to learn as well,
The explanations can go on and on while you ponder and dwell
On what is actually your contract and how did you eventually do?
Sometimes you make eleven and a zero do you get ,
While a simple eight may bring a smile 😊 as you get hundred percent.
Sometimes you're happy , otherwise your heart ❤️ can be sore ,
Whatever it is that happens
At online bridge, you always come back for more.



Sarita Mathur

About the author.

Sarita Mathur is a Durban-based bridge player and established author, having already had books of her poetry published. She writes in the well-established free verse format that dates back to the early Greek poets. The critique on Amazon of her most recent book "Once Again Love – Reconnecting with the Heart" includes the following: "*author Sarita Mathur introduces readers to the joy of a life filled with love through a whimsical mixture of poetry and prose, at times heart-breaking.*"



About the Author.

Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000), American, was a very keen bridge player and as the creator of "*Peanuts*" and its many off shoots, was the most influential cartoonist of his era.

HELEN SOBEL'S TALE OF TWO LITTLE OLD LADIES



Helen Smith Sobel's book entitled "All the Tricks!" is different from any bridge book I have seen in a long time. Helen Sobel has long been rated the outstanding woman bridge player of the world. You will even find some experts rating her as one of the ten outstanding players of all time among men and women. Her book is light enough to be fascinating, humorous enough to keep you smiling, and on top of that, it has some mighty fine bridge logic.



Helen Sobel

I liked today's hand, taken from the chapter entitled "Two Little Old Ladies." I liked it because an author is not always willing to tell a story against herself, and that is what Miss Sobel does here. Miss Sobel (North) was playing against two little old ladies of the type one often meets in

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

tournaments, and at card parties. When the bidding was completed, the little old lady in the East position promptly led the queen of clubs out of turn. The tournament director was called, and he told Miss Sobel she could call for a lead from the correct leader. East picked up the queen of clubs, and Miss Sobel smilingly asked West to lead a diamond (*allowed in the Laws of that time*. Ed.) and then it happened. The little old lady said she had no diamonds. Now the director told her she was free to lead whatever she wanted, and she led a small club. When Miss Sobel played the nine from dummy, East won the trick with the ten-spot, led back a diamond and West ruffed. The little old lady came back with a club, East won it with the queen and led back another diamond . . . and Miss Sobel's perfectly sound contract of four hearts was defeated. Here's the full deal:

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

About the Author.

William McEnney (1916-2007), American, was a competent bridge player and prolific writer and critic; this article was a review of Helen Sobel's book entitled "All the Tricks!" written in October 1942.



FACT or FICTION?

*"Bridge is a great comfort in your old age.
It also helps you get there faster."*