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THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

It strikes me many players are using weak two openings and some players have just changed to this because more people are doing it! Here's some advice about the responses to use when partner has started up with a weak 2 bid. The first decision to take is whether game is likely or unlikely? If unlikely there are two paths to consider:

- **Pass.** If you have a hand containing good defensive features it often works to allow the opponents into the bidding! They may get too high and you can get them down!
- **Continue the pre-empt.** You simply raise partner's suit to the next level. Hands which qualify for this have good trump support and poor defence against opponent's possible contracts. Vulnerability should be taken into account! The idea is to pre-empt as high as you can safely go.

If likely (game is a good possibility), here are some guidelines to follow:

- If you know you want to be in game just bid it! Not 2♥ or 2♠! Go straight to four! After a 2♦ opening, go to either 3NT or 5♦! This has two advantages. Opponents don't have any knowledge to base their defence on and are you bluffing, or do you have a full-strength hand for your bid?
- If you need clarification from partner respond with a forcing 2NT bid. This says to partner please describe your hand further, either with a Feature or Ogust:

Feature: Opener rebids a side suit in which he holds a feature e.g. an ace or a king. If he has no feature he just rebids his original suit. If he has a solid opening like **A K Q x x** he rebids 3NT and partner can place the contract correctly on this information.

Ogust: This system has set step responses in answer to partner's forcing 2 NT bid:

3♣ = poor hand, poor suit; 3♦ = poor hand, good suit; 3♥ = good hand, poor suit; 3♠ = good hand, good suit and 3NT = six cards and at least three of the top four honours in opener's suit.

With this information the 2NT bidder can now place the contract correctly.

Another possibility is that in response to a different suit bid by the responder, the original weak 2 opener must examine his hand and decide on a course of action. if he has two cards in the new suit, he supports that; if no support but some honour cards in the other two suits, he rebid 2NT. Otherwise, he rebids his own suit.

Voila . . . the mysteries of responses to weak two bids (very much in vogue now!) clearly explained, I hope!

And to all our Hindu members and their families, a Happy Diwali wish for the 14th of November

Yours in bridge, *Deirdre Ingersent*



FROM THE EDITOR

It is now time for me to write my final G B U editorial of the year; perhaps to wax philosophical and even a trifle whimsical.

Yes, 2020 is really nearing its end. Is it a year that will be missed? Certainly not by all those who experienced the COVID-19 induced lockdowns and lost friends and relatives to the pandemic.

The year has again contributed to South Africa's litany of woes – more road deaths, more abuse of women and children, more rampant and blatant corruption, and more platitudes from more politicians!

But there must be some bright spots. Of course. First, as I mentioned earlier, 2020 is nearing its end! And for those of us in the bridge world, we have the opportunity to look back and reflect on hands well-bid or butchered, contracts made or lost, deceptions that worked and those that didn't! And new systems and plays learnt, and others discarded. In some cases, it's also people pleased, and others offended, partners "divorced" and new partners acquired.

Pliny the Elder, a Roman politician and author, once said that "*ex Africa semper aliquid novi*", which translates as "*there's always something new coming out of Africa*" but, in our case, it has to be "*there's always something new coming out of playing bridge*" with the huge swing to BBO and online bridge, and our reliance on technology to be able to play at all.. However, I am sure that sometime next year will be bridge business as usual. See you all then.

Stephen Rosenberg



Editor

THE RETURN OF THE ELVES

by John Swanson

Those familiar with bridge activity at the North Pole will remember the animosity which reigned between the reindeer and the elves after last year's match to determine which group would load the sleigh. Tempers had cooled (as things are wont to do at the North Pole) as the year passed. After a relaxing January and February, the reindeer began training for their strenuous circle of the globe on Christmas Eve. The elves were busy year-round creating toys and games. But excitement grew in both camps as this year's match approached.

Both squads fielded their top pairs for the final 16 hands. The critical action took place on board 63 in the open room where Dancer and Vixen faced the Frost siblings, Jack and Dee.



South (Jack)

♠ AQJ953

♥ ---

♦ Q6

♣ AJ875

South (Dee)

♠ ---

♥ Q97653

♦ A54

♣ KQT3



Dee

<i>South</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>South</i>
Dee	Dasher	Jack	Vixen
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

(Some readers may be confused with all positions recorded as South, but at the North Pole the only possible direction is South! Ed.)

After an intelligent auction Dee became declarer in a club slam. The opening lead was the ♠6. Dee inserted dummy's queen which held, Vixen following with the ♠4. Before playing from her hand, Dee thoughtfully considered her line of play. How would you plan to score twelve tricks?

Some defenders like to under-lead the king in dummy's suit against a slam, feigning a singleton and hoping that declarer will reject a winning finesse. However, this auction seems to scream for a trump or diamond lead. Dee drew the inference that Dasher's desperate lead of a spade was because he held the diamond king and no trumps. A successful crossruff would require all nine trumps to be scored separately. This would necessitate Vixen holding at least three hearts, not so likely in view of the presumed four-card holding in clubs. Instead, Dee decided to play to establish dummy's spade suit. For this to succeed, the low diamonds in her hand were needed to force an entry with the ♦Q, so Dee discarded a heart on the first trick. The second trick was a spade ruffed with her low club, both defenders contributing low spades.

Declarer next led a low diamond towards the queen. Dasher rose with his expected king and continued the suit, but the defence was helpless. Dee ruffed a third round of spades (both opponents following), cashed the club honours in her hand, ruffed a heart and claimed with dummy's top trumps and good spades.

Dir. S Vul. Both	♠ AQJ953 ♥ --- ♦ Q6 ♣ AJ875	
♠ K862 ♥ AJT842 ♦ KT8 ♣ ---		♠ T74 ♥ K ♦ J9732 ♣ 9642
	♠ --- ♥ Q97653 ♦ A54 ♣ KQT3	

If Dasher had forced dummy with a heart instead of continuing diamonds, the ♦Q could have been used as an entry to dummy at the end. The slam had been made without winning a trick with the ♦A!

Because of systemic differences, the reindeer pair stopped in game at the other table. Declarer had to play well to bring in eleven tricks after a trump lead. The difference was enough to win the match for the elves. The reindeer appreciated the good play of their opponents and harmony has been restored in Santa land. However, if you notice on Christmas morning that a package seems to be dented here or there don't blame the post office. Reindeer hoofs are not designed for loading sleighs.



About the author.

John C. Swanson, Jr. (born 1937) is an American bridge player living in Lancaster, California. Swanson has won 1 Bermuda Bowl, and 5 North American Bridge Championships.



THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

by Jeff Sapire

There are some conflicting adages in bridge. ‘When in doubt, bid one more’, as against ‘The five level belongs to the opponents’. But when it comes to the really distributional hands, it is almost always right to keep bidding. On the hand below, once South elicited some support from partner he was never going to stop.

The bidding:

Dir. W Vul. NS	♠ Q73 ♥ Q7 ♦ AT63 ♣ Q976	
♠ AJT95 ♥ 62 ♦ 92 ♣ KJ53		♠ K8642 ♥ KT93 ♦ --- ♣ AT42
	♠ --- ♥ AJ854 ♦ KQJ8754 ♣ 8	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P	P	1♠	2♦
3♦	4♦	4♠	5♦
5♠	P	P	6♦
X	P	P	P

Opening lead: ♠A

After two passes, East opened 1♠ in 3rd seat. South started quietly with a simple overcall, and West’s 3♦ was the ‘cue bid raise’, showing a genuine high card raise to 3♠ (a jump to 3♠ would have been pre-

emptive). North showed diamond support, and South pressed on over 4♠. West decided to risk the five level with the extra trump, but South was not about to let opponents play with such a freaky hand. West doubled with alacrity, but had she have passed, no doubt East would have doubled.

The play was brief, and quite a shock for the defenders. Declarer ruffed the opening lead, drew two trumps finishing in dummy, and led the ♥Q, covered by the king and ace. He then cashed the ♥J, ruffed two hearts in the dummy, and conceded a club, scoring up a lovely 1540.

When the hand was over, the defenders just looked at one another in a slight daze, like a boxer who has been floored, and is groggily trying to get up. I don’t think they did anything wrong, and the double was more than reasonable – it was South’s incredibly shapely hand plus the lie of the hearts that caused the freak result. But South made a good decision to bid on. With 7-5 hands you should never defend – you just never know who is making what – perhaps they can make something and you have a cheap sacrifice, or vice versa, or sometimes both sides can make something. (Once in a while is it wrong when neither side can make a high level contract). Another aspect to note is that North’s two black queens were not even needed in 6♦, so effectively NS made the slam with a combined 17 points.

about the Author

Jeff Sapire, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, has represented South Africa. He 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.



BY THE NUMBERS

The fifth in a series of instructive articles by Mel Colchamiro

“THE RULE OF 23”

“Whether or not a Partnership holds sufficient HCP strength to either bid 2NT, in a competitive auction, else “double” the Opponents for penalty; *take action only if Mel’s “Rule of 23” has been satisfied*”

When the Game is in match points and you are in a competitive auction, if, from the bidding you can ascertain, with reasonable, certainty that you and your Partner have a combined 23 HCPs, either you play the contract, or they play it doubled! Do not let the Opponents steal the bid when you know your combined point count. If you know your side has at least 23 HCP and the Opponents “have the bid,” you have only two options: to **double** or to **bid on**. **PASS** is not an option. Some examples:

1. As South, you hold ♠AT732 ♥KJ65 ♦AJ ♣K4 (16 and partner + at least 10 = 26)

The bidding has gone:

West	North	East	You	
1♦	1♠	X	4♠	
5♦	P	P	?	you Double

2. As South, you hold ♠A7 ♥K832 ♦7542 ♣KT7 (10 and partner + about 13 = 23)

The bidding has gone:

West	North	East	You	
	1♠	P	1NT	
2♥	P	P	?	you bid 2NT

1. As South, you hold ♠973 ♥Q83 ♦542 ♣JT74 (4 + partner 15-17 = at most 21)

The bidding has gone:

West	North	East	You	
	1NT	2♠	?	you Pass

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 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!



Sam and Arthur, both elderly and avid bridge players receive the bad news that Arthur is dying. Sam says to Arthur, “Please, Arthur, when you get to Heaven, somehow send me a message and let me know if there is any bridge up there.” Arthur says that he will try. Arthur passes away and a week goes by, with not a word from Arthur. Then suddenly, Sam gets a call. It’s Arthur, “There’s good news and there’s bad news. The good news is that there is Duplicate Bridge up here every Tuesday and Thursday. The bad news is that you are playing on Thursday!”

GOOD PLAY AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

by Zia Mahmood, 4th January 2012

How would you take two tricks from this deal, and how would you respond if your partner slipped up? Given adequate entries to both hands and stoppers in the outside suits, how should you play to take two tricks from this combination which occurred in a teams' match, with the full deal as diagrammed.

Dummy **You**
 ♠KQ7 ♠J32

At both tables South opened 2NT and North raised him to six – both players were minimum for these actions, and the final contract appeared at first sight to depend on a 3-3 break in clubs. Both Wests led

Dir. S Vul. Both	♠ KQ7 ♥ 762 ♦ QJ63 ♣ A52	
♠ 98 ♥ T9854 ♦ 95 ♣ J963		♠ AT654 ♥ QJ ♦ 8742 ♣ T8
	♠ J32 ♥ AK3 ♦ AKT ♣ KQ74	

the ♥T, won by South with the king, and both Souths played a spade to the king, ducked by East. At one table South continued blithely with the queen of spades from dummy. Realising that this marked declarer with a holding of three or four spades to the jack, East decided to duck this trick also. If he ended up looking foolish because he never made his ace of spades, so be it – but the bidding meant that South must have the high cards he did in fact hold, and the only chance East could see for the defence was that South would have only 11 top tricks. South could indeed cash no more than 11 winners when the clubs did not break, and East did indeed never make his ace of spades. Instead, a rather surprised West ended up taking the last two tricks with the jack of clubs and a long heart.

At the other table, South handled the spade suit differently. After dummy's ♠K held the second trick, he crossed to his hand with the ♦A and led a second spade to the queen. Thinking that declarer was trying for his 12th trick by playing West for the ace of spades, East won this trick and played a third round of spades. Winning with the jack, South proceeded to cash the ♥A followed by four rounds of diamonds, and in the endgame West could not retain both four clubs to the jack and a heart winner. At this point West did something that I hope you will resolve to do for the New Year: instead of berating East for not noticing that West had played the nine and eight of spades in that order, marking South with three to the jack, West simply murmured: "Well played."

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, 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, the daughter of the 7th Earl of Rosebery, his wife since February 2001. She is. They have two sons: Zain and Rafi.





ENRICH YOUR BIDDING

by Richard Pavlicek

You are sitting South in a high-level duplicate pairs' event with this hand:

♠ A Q 8 4...♥ T 9...♦ A K 5...♣ A J 9 4 and the bidding goes like this:

West	North	East	South
P	3♠	X	XX
4♥	4♠	P	?

What do you bid next, and why? Where do you expect to end up? **Have a go at it yourself, and then compare your solution with Richard's Results on page 12.**

About the author. See page 11.

OVERHEARD AT THE BRIDGE TABLE



After yet another bad result, North tore a scrap off his personal scorer, threw it at South and said, "Write down everything you know about bridge, your address and your 'phone number on here!"

WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN?

A cleaning woman was applying for a new position. When asked why she left her last employment, she replied: 'Well sir, they paid good wages, but it was the most ridiculous place I ever worked. They played a game called bridge, and last night a lot of folks were there. As I was about to bring in the refreshments I heard a man say: "Lay down and let's see what you've got!" Another man said: "I got strength, but no length!" A third man said to the lady: "Take your hand off my trick!" I pretty near dropped dead just then when the lady answered: "You forced me! You jumped me twice when you didn't have the strength for one raise!" Another lady was talking about protecting her honour, and two others were talking when one said: "Now is the time for me to play with your husband and you can play with mine." Well, I just got my coat and hat but as I was leaving, I hope to die if one of them didn't say: "I guess we'll go home now! This is the last rubber!"'

SVEN WRITES

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

“BIDDING HANDS WITH TWO 5-CARD SUITS” and “FOURTH SUIT FORCING”

If you are opener it's quite simple; open with your higher suit and then bid the lower. If you have a strong hand, say 16+ HCP, jump in your second suit. Some think that with 5 Clubs and 5 Spades you can open a club! Sometimes you can't bid your second suit because it would show more points than you have.

For example:

- You hold: AKxxx/x/xx/Axxx and open 1♠. Partner responds with 2♥; if you bid 3♣ you show 16+ points; rebid 2♠ and hope for the best.
- If you have AKxxx/Axxxx/x/xx you open 1♠ and if Partner bids 2♦ you bid 2♥, hoping your partner will explore if you have 5 hearts! He can bid 2NT (forcing since he has values for 2/1) or 3♣, 4th suit normally asking for a stopper. Now you bid 3♥ to show 5-5.

4th suit forcing is a very useful tool but you need to be on the same planet as your partner!

- You hold: AKxxx/AKxx/xx/xx. The bidding goes 1♦-1♠; 2♣ - ?
- You hold: AKxxx/xxx/Kx/Kxx. The bidding 1♦-1♠; 2♣-?

If you bid 2♥ on both you could be in trouble; Partner must have a Heart stopper to bid 2NT!

- You hold: AKxxx/Kx/xxx/Kxx. The bidding 1♥-1♠; 2♣- 2♦ ask for a stopper in Diamonds.
- You hold: AKxxx/x/Kx/Kxxxx. The bidding 1♥-1♠; 2♦- ? 3♣ would now ask for a stopper.

As a general rule, 4th suit is always asking for stopper. If you have a stopper yourself you should only bid 4th suit if you have other ambitions.

As in any rule there are exceptions:

- 1♦-1♠; 2♣- ? Heart is 4th the suit but 3♥ in this sequence is 5-5 in Spades and Hearts and is game forcing.
- 1♦-1♠; 2♣-2♥; 3D - 3♥= 5/5 in the Major and an inverted minor.

If you need to show a two-suiter in defence, there are some conventions you can use:

Michaels is quite simple:

- (1 of a minor) – 2 of a minor shows both Majors
- (1 of a Major) – 2 of a Major shows the other Major and a minor
- (1 of a suit) – 2NT shows the two lower unbid suits

Leaping Michaels is used when your opponents open on the 2-level.

- (2 of a Major) – 4 of a minor shows 5-5 in the bid minor and the other Major
- (2♦ multi) – 4 of a minor shows 5 in the bid minor and 5 in any Major. Partner bids 4 of a Major as pass or correct.

I strongly recommend you have a good hand when you show 2-suiters. I think that showing 5-5 with either a weak or a strong hand and bidding the suits one by one with medium hands is very wrong!

About the author.



Sven-Åke Bjerregaard was born in Sweden some 67 years' ago but has lived in Strand in the Cape Town area since 2011. He has had considerable international success with his regular partner Anders Morath, including a World Cup silver for Seniors. Sven-Åke is married to Gunilla (also a keen bridge-player) and they have two children. Other than bridge, he plays a lot of golf! To improve one's bridge game, he recommends playing a lot against opposition that are better than you are!

THE GREAT LADIES

5. EDITH KEMP FREILICH by Phillip Alder



One of the world's greatest female bridge players, Edith Kemp Freilich, died on May 14, 2011 in Miami. Freilich was coy about her age, declining to tell anyone when she was born. She was married three times but had no children. She won 29 national championships and one world silver medal, in the 1981 Venice Cup. In 1997 she became the first living woman to be voted into the American Contract Bridge League's Hall of Fame. (Josephine Culbertson and Helen Sobel Smith had been admitted posthumously.) Freilich is one of only two women (Sobel Smith is the other) who won the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, Spingold Knockout Teams and Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, the three most prestigious events on the league's calendar. She became the 70th life master in 1947, eventually gaining over 12 750 master points. Freilich came from a bridge-playing family. She won four national titles with her sister, Anne Burnstein. Freilich's brother, Billy Seamon, won five national championships and one world silver medal. Billy's wife, Rita, won one national title with Edith,

Billy, and Jerome Yavitz. Billy and Rita's daughter, Janice Seamon-Molson, has won 12 national and two world championships. Their son, Michael Seamon, has taken 13 national and two world titles and is currently sixth on the lifetime master point list.

The diagrammed deal was played in 1966. Edith Kemp, as she was then, sat South. In the Roth-Stone system that she and her partner were employing, which favoured very sound opening bids, North's three-heart rebid showed a hand with which a modern expert would bid four hearts. Not interested in giving the opponents further help, Kemp jumped straight to six hearts.

This gave West an awkward opening-lead problem. The main candidates were a passive club and an active spade. He unluckily chose a low spade when a lead from any other suit would have left the contract unmakeable. Even after the favourable start many declarers would fail by taking the trump

finesse. Kemp realized that there was a better line of play. At Trick 2 she led her heart jack to tempt West to cover but rose with dummy's ace; perhaps the king would drop. When it did not, South had to decide which opponent held the club king. If it were West, declarer had to knock out the heart king, eliminate the diamonds and run the trumps to squeeze West in the black suits (or to find spades 3-3 all along). However, one of the strongest parts of Edith's game was her table presence, which told her that East had the club king. So she cashed dummy's top diamonds and ruffed the last diamond in her hand. Then declarer took her spade king and played a spade to dummy's ace. Although East declined to ruff, South trumped dummy's last spade in her hand and led a heart. East won with his king but was end-played, forced to lead away from the club king. Once, when asked about bridge, Freilich replied: "*It's wonderful to have a sport you love. I'm going to be playing as long as I can walk and talk.*"

About the author.

Phillip Alder was a columnist for The New York Times and a syndicated columnist for 22 years with United Feature Syndicate. His bridge column appeared in over 200 papers worldwide. He has also helped to produce the Daily Bulletins at various WBF Championships and is a member of the WBF Youth Committee. Alder is the Associate Editor of The Bridge World magazine.

Dir. N	♠ A963		
Vul. Both	♥ AQ75		
	♦ AQ8		
	♣ Q3		
♠ QT54		♠ 82	
♥ 6		♥ K8	
♦ T752		♦ QJ94	
♣ T874		♣ KJ952	
	♠ KJ7		
	♥ JT9432		
	♦ 63		
	♣ A6		
West	North	East	South
	1♦	P	1♥
P	3♥	P	6♥
P	P	P	

LONG LIVE SOUTH AFRICA

by Sarita Mathur, during lockdown, 23rd April 2020

We've living in a country as beautiful as can be
Vibrant and powerful,
Different it can be.

People are resilient, strong, and true
in face of adversity.

They come together, yes they do.
The media is keeping us informed,
Health workers we have to applaud,
Essential services too.

The plumbers, the cashiers,
Everyone doing what they can do.
It's a time to come together one and
all,

We've got a great President who is
thinking of us all.

Each one of us is proudly South
African,

This nation can stand tall.

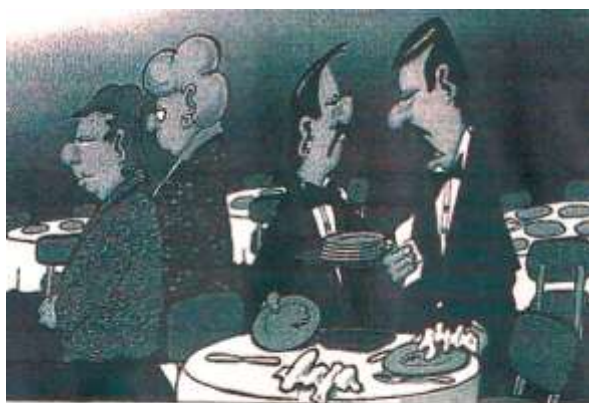
We aren't afraid of a virus, each one
must do their bit,

Small sacrifices we must make for the
greater good of all.

I am proudly South African, this is where I want to be.

We've got to be resilient, caring and giving,
As we shape our country's destiny.

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.....*"



"A real high-roller! - Under 'tip', he's written 'Never lead from an Ace!'"

OUT OF HAND

by Bill Buttle

About the author.

Bill Buttle (1941-2020) was a Canadian-born American dentist, bridge-player and cartoonist who delighted in lampooning the game and its players. His collection of cartoons "Out of Hand" has appeared in many bridge publications and have been



collected into a book.

RICHARD'S RESULTS



	♠ KJT9732 ♥ 6 ♦ 62 ♣ K72	
♠ 65 ♥ Q8753 ♦ 743 ♣ 863		♠ --- ♥ AKJ42 ♦ QJT98 ♣ QT5
	♠ AQ84 ♥ T9 ♦ AK5 ♣ AJ94	

When partner proceeds to 4♠ after your redouble, he should have a singleton or void in hearts, else he would pass in case you want to double.

If he likes his hand, hopefully based on a useful club honour, slam should be good, so invite with 5♠. There are no guarantees of course (few bids come that way) but note that any finesse rates to work through the doubler. And here's the whole deal on the left, and 6♠ is definitely on,

losing only one trick to the ♥A!

OVERHEARD AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

After yet another bad result, North smiled sweetly at South and said,
*"You should count your winners and your losers.
 If they don't add up to 13, count your cards!"*

In this, our last Bulletin of 2020, and on behalf of all of us on the G B U Committee – myself, James Grant, Joe Israeli-Zindel, Jackie Solovei, Tor Meyer and Stephen Rosenberg – I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our bridge players and their families and friends



Yours in bridge, *Deirdre Ingersent*

THE PAVLICEK PAGE

NO. 6 - THE TALE OF THE TENUOUS TRUMPS

This deal in the finals of the U.S. Team Trials, caused quite a swing in Memphis. The same treacherous contract was reached at both tables after identical auctions. As South, what would you do over 4♥? The cowardly route is to pass (4♥ is down one with accurate defence); but with 6-5 shape it feels right to bid *something*. Both Souths concluded that 4♠ was a better guess than 5♦, so the tenuous game was reached.

Dir: W Vul: Both		♠ AK ♥ 5 ♦ K63 ♣ KT87543					
♠ 97 ♥ AK87643 ♦ T ♣ Q92	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ Q864 ♥ QJT2 ♦ Q94 ♣ A6	
N							
W							
E							
S							
		♠ JT532 ♥ 9 ♦ AJ8752 ♣ J					
West 3♥ All Pass	North 4♣	East 4♥	South 4♠				

Both West players led the ♥K, but then the play diverged. At one table, East signalled with the ♥T and West continued hearts. Declarer ruffed in dummy (pitching the ♣J) and cashed the ♠A. The contract could now be made with a first-round diamond finesse, but declarer crossed to the ♦A and led the ♠J to force out the queen. Declarer was tapped with another heart, and when the smoke cleared he was down three. At the other table, East signalled with the ♥2 at trick one, and West shifted to a club. Alas, East thought this was a *singleton*, so he won the ace and returned a club. Declarer accepted the free finesse (thank you), cashed the ♠A-K, crossed to the ♦A and forced out the ♠Q. The only way East could kill dummy's clubs was to return the ♦Q, but this surrenders the whole diamond suit. Making 4♠ for a 14-IMP swing. It is curious that neither West shifted to the singleton diamond at trick two, but this would be ineffective, too.

Declarer wins the ♦K (best to avoid guessing the diamond break when leading from dummy), unblocks the ♠A-K, finesses the ♦J and drives out the ♠Q; making easily. The club shift is the only defence that works legitimately; however, after winning the ♣A, East must revert to *hearts*. Declarer takes the tap in hand to have any chance, but now he cannot draw trumps without losing control; down one at least.

About the author.

Richard Pavlicek (born 1945) is an American bridge player, teacher, and writer from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, United States. Pavlicek began to play bridge in 1964 at the age of 18 while stationed in Stuttgart, West Germany, with the US Army. Upon returning to Florida in 1966, he started to play in bridge tournaments in his spare time.^[2] 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).



PROBABLY TRUE



And then there's the story of the bridge-playing widower from Johannesburg's North-Eastern Suburbs who advertised in *Wife Trader* for a wife. Within 12 hours, he had 89 replies, all saying the same thing:
"You can have mine."

GIVE AND TAKE

by Thomas Andrews

(Thomas Andrews is a good American club player and an informed and enthusiastic writer on our game; he writes mainly for Beginner to Intermediate players. Ed)

This hand was played in a good-level club tournament in New York. With neither pair vulnerable, South was dealer in this hand, and the bidding proceeded as shown!

Dir: S Vul: None		♠ AT4 ♥ AQ543 ♦ Q5 ♣ AQ4				
♠ KJ9762 ♥ T982 ♦ 83 ♣ 7	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q ♥ KJ6 ♦ K2 ♣ KT98532	
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ 853 ♥ 7 ♦ AJT9765 ♣ J6				
West	North	East	South			
			3♦			
P	4NT	5♣	5♦			
P	6♦	P	P			
P						

West heeded his partner's over-call and led his singleton club. Reading the writing on the wall, declarer flew up with the Ace, led a low diamond to the Jack; crossed to the ♥A and ruffed a heart. Declarer then cashed another diamond, glad for the good break, crossed to the ♠A, and ruffed another heart felling East's King; leading to this position:

		♠ T4 ♥ Q5 ♦ --- ♣ Q4				
♠ KJ976 ♥ T ♦ --- ♣ ---	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ --- ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ KT9853	
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ 85 ♥ --- ♦ T97 ♣ J				

With the lead in hand, declarer led the ♣J. Upon winning the trick, East would have to give entry to dummy's two Queens, allowing declarer to pitch his spade losers.

But our East was up for it! She simply let declarer win his ♣J! A simple play, maybe, but one which entirely destroyed declarer. By giving up the only trick in her hand, she also kept declarer from reaching dummy, and West scored two spade tricks to set the contract -1.



WHAT TO OPEN 1NT OR 5 CARD MAJOR?

researched and edited by Stephen Rosenberg

One of the questions teachers are often asked is whether to open 1NT with a five-card major in an otherwise balanced hand with 15-17 points, e.g. ♠AK952 ♥A75 ♦KT8 ♣QT.

Really, bidding is about judgement, not so much about hard, fast, and unbendable rules, and teachers say, try it out and see what happens. Most players these days open 1NT as often as possible, and they count length points too, because after all, holding five cards in a suit is better than four.

There are five reasons to prefer opening 1NT rather than one-of-a-suit:

1. The pre-emptive effect: although the 1NT bid announces a reasonably strong hand, it also has a pre-emptive effect. The opponents can't come into the bidding at the one level. If an opening bid is 1♣, the opponents can overcall 1♦, 1♥, or 1♠, making the auction competitive. But if the opening is 1NT, it may not be so easy for them to enter the auction at the two level.

2. The partnership rarely gets to the wrong contract. After a 1NT opening, the partnership is on firm ground. Responder knows almost the exact strength of opener's hand. Responder can assume opener has about 16 points and never be wrong by more than 1 point. The partnership should rarely get to the wrong level: part-score, game, or slam. Also, the partnership has a number of familiar conventions, such as Stayman and Jacoby transfers, to help reach the best contract.

3. The stronger hand is hidden: the 1NT opening also keeps the stronger hand hidden when responder has a weak hand. That can be an advantage in the play. The opening lead comes up to the strong hand, and the defenders don't know which high cards declarer holds.

4. Opener's rebid is more straightforward: opening one-of-a-suit can sometimes lead to an awkward rebid problem. Consider this hand: An opening bid of 1♥ would lead to an awkward rebid problem after a response of 1♠. Even though this hand has a five-card major and a worthless doubleton, the modern choice would be to open 1NT.

5. The opening lead could be more challenging for the defenders. If the defenders have little or no information about the suits held by the 1NT opener, they may get off to the wrong lead. For example, if opener has a five-card major and opens 1NT, the defender may lead that suit when holding four or more.

THE LOLS ARE AT IT AGAIN!



Two little old ladies were playing in a tournament against two celebrated masters. One of the ladies opened the bidding with one no trump. The master to her left was looking at a hand containing 14 points on which he considered bidding. He turned to the opening bidder's partner and asked, "What range of no trump do you play?" "Strong," she answered, "around 18-20 points." Whereupon the master hastily passed and so did the opening bidder's partner. Dummy laid down 2 queens and a jack and the expert silently congratulated himself for not having stuck his neck out. But the defence started to take trick after trick and eventually accumulated 9 of them beating the contract by 3, un-doubled. Game was cold in the masters' hand. The expert with the 14-point hand turned to the dummy and said in an aggrieved tone, "Didn't you say you played a strong no trump?" "I do," answered the little old lady. "But my partner plays weak, about 10-12 points."

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"TRANSFER WALSH"

researched and edited by Stephen Rosenberg

Transfer Walsh is a bidding convention used after a 1♣-opening bid; responses of 1♦ and 1♥ show heart and spade suits respectively. In "Walsh", named for its founder Richard Walsh, these bids may conceal an equal or longer diamond suit. It allows opener to play a greater proportion of major-suit and no-trump contracts, particularly when bidding five-card majors. Transfer Walsh is used responding to partner's 1♣ opening bid. The main responses are as follows:

- 1♦ : Shows at least four hearts
- 1♥ : Shows at least four spades
- 1♠ : Shows at least four, alternatively five diamonds
- 1NT: Shows 6-9 HCP and a balanced hand without a four-card major

A variation is to have 1♠ show either diamonds or 6-9 HCP balanced, with the 1NT response showing 10-11 HCP balanced.

The term *Transfer Walsh* is commonly used, although responder's one level bids are not forcing a completed transfer from opener. In fact, over the 1♦ and 1♥ responses, opener will only accept the transfer holding minimum three-card support, otherwise bidding naturally. With four-card support, it is normal to accept the transfer at the 1-level holding a minimum hand and making a jump response (for example 2♥ after a 1♦ response) with a maximum (or higher with very strong hands). With three-card support the transfer is always completed at the 1-level, with less than three-card support another natural response is given. After 1♣-1♠, however, the transfer is only completed with four-card diamond support. Further bidding is essentially natural.

The method is usually combined with the *Walsh* convention, where responder always shows a four-card major suit, even with a four- or five-card diamond holding, unless responder is strong enough for a reverse bid later in the auction (12 HCP or more). A common variation is to have opener complete the transfer with 12-14 HCP balanced, even with only doubleton support for the major suit. Responder will pass with 5 cards if weak but rebid (perhaps 1NT) with only 4. This allows the 5-2 fit to be played in the better major contract. Opener will only break the transfer with a strong hand, such as 17+ if playing a 14-16 NT. Another variation is to play that a response of 1♠ is a transfer to 1NT and can be made with any strength. Not only does this right-side a NT contract, but it allows responder to rebid at the 2 level to show an invitational hand. 2♣ is Stayman to find a major fit, and 2 of any other suit shows 5 cards. This allows a game invitation to be declined and played in 2 of the major, a safer contract than the normal 3 level. Playing this way, if responder makes the initial transfer to the major and rebids it, it shows a 6-card suit. This enables the major length to be shown exactly, whether 4, 5 or 6, as well as showing the strength as weak, invitational, or game forcing. The now free 1NT response can then be used to show a weak hand with both 4 card majors, or alternatively to show diamonds.

If the auction goes 1♣-1♥; 1NT, opener has denied three-card spade support, and responder needs not worry about missing a 5-3 fit in spades.

If the auction goes 1♣-1♦; 1♥-1♠; 2♠, opener has given a relatively precise picture of his hand: By accepting the transfer bidding 1♥, he has shown three-card (rarely four-card) heart support, by bidding 2♠ four-card spade support (and a minimum opening), and by opening 1♣ (in a natural system) at least three clubs.

Using *Transfer Walsh* in a very early stage of bidding determines the possibility of a fit, giving good control of further game and slam bidding. Likewise, one has the chance of stopping at an early stage. It becomes significantly easier to find 3-5 major suit fits (and in some variants 2-5 fits). Opener (usually the stronger hand) becomes declarer in most major suit and NT contracts.

I would like to thank all my regular contributors, Jeff Sapire, Sid Ismail, Sven-Åke Bjerregaard, Sarita Mathur and Deirdre Ingersent, for putting up with my nagging and for helping to ensure that our GBU Bulletins retain a local and current flavour. Editor.



BIDDING A 4-3-3-3 DISTRIBUTION

AS RESPONDER. If you are the responder to 1♣ or 1♦, typically show the 4-card spade suit. You don't want to miss a 4-4 fit, especially if opener happens to be unbalanced.

Respond 1♠ to 1♣ or 1♦ with: ♠KT76 ♥A32 ♦Q76 ♣432. If you are responding to 1♥, you should raise to 2 hearts with 6-10 HCPs in support of hearts and ignore the spades!

If you have more than ten HCPs, you can start with 1♠ and raise hearts next round – raise 1♥ to 2♥ with ♠K654 ♥KT7 ♦QJ2 ♣654 but respond 1♠ with ♠AQ76 ♥A32 ♦K32 ♣765.

If responding to 1NT, try *not* to use Stayman with 4-3-3-3 hands – just treat them as balanced notrump hands.

AS OPENER. If partner responds to your 1♣ opening with 1♦, don't show the spades with a balanced hand – this is the modern "Walsh" style. Rebid 1NT with 12-14 balanced HCPs and 2NT with 18-19 balanced. When partner responds 1♦, he either won't have 4 spades, or it is his job to show them later. So, rebid 1NT after 1♣-1♦ with ♠QJ76 ♥KJ7 ♦KJ4 ♣K32 and rebid 2NT with ♠KJ76 ♥KJ7 ♦KJ4 ♣AK2.

If partner responds 1♥ to your minor opening, he could easily be 4-4 in the majors. His job is to respond up the line with 4-4. With 12-14 HCPs, show your spades so you won't miss a 4-4 fit. But, with 18-19, jump to 2NT; partner can look for a 4-4 spade fit on his way to 3NT.

Accordingly, rebid 1♠ after 1♣-1♥ with ♠AJ76 ♥KJ7 ♦T97 ♣A32, but rebid 2NT with a hand like this: ♠KJ76 ♥KJ7 ♦KJ4 ♣AK2.

SUMMARY. As responder, ignore 4 spades only when you have to raise 1♥ to 2♥ instead. Ignore 4-card majors with 4-3-3-3 when responding to 1NT. As opener, ignore 4♠ after a 1♦ response or if you have 18-19, *but this all takes some getting used to!*

TEN REASONS WHY BRIDGE IS BETTER THAN SEX!

Some of you may have seen this already when it was doing the rounds on WhatsApp. I got my version from that inveterate WhatsApper, Craig Gower.



1. You don't have to hide your bridge magazines.
2. It's okay to hire a professional.
3. You can play with strangers.
4. There are no BTDs (Bridge Transmitted Diseases).
5. You don't have to have the same partner for life.
6. You can still be active in it in your 90s.
7. Being short can be a good thing.
8. You can have fun squeezing others.
9. "Fast Arrival" is not only ok – it's often recommended.
10. Everyone goes down sometimes.

