



THE QBA BULLETIN

Published by the Queensland Bridge Association
www.qldbridge.com Email: qldbridge@ozemail.com.au

May-June 2004 Volume 30 No

3

From the President



Keith McDonald

It is not possible for every player to receive a copy of the World Bridge News. This is the official medium of the World Bridge Federation. The April 2004 edition has just been published. It can be downloaded from the official WBF site, (www.worldbridge.org) and it could be put on the club notice board. To quote from WBF President, Jose Damiani, "Sadly, I must reiterate that the state of the world today remains dreadful. The economy is tottering, exchange rates are unstable and terrorism is still rife. For all that, should we give up and allow ourselves to be submerged by the prevailing pessimism? Or, on the contrary, should we react vigorously and show that we are pre-

pared to fight to overcome the undeniable difficulties that we face?

For my part, I would like to believe that even if World Bridge is suffering from this harmful climate, our pro-active approach will bear fruit eventually, provided that everyone becomes aware of the need for solidarity. More than ever, we must accept our differences but smooth them over as much as possible in order to attain our common objectives."

Other highlights from his address were:

- a need to continue to urge admission to National Olympic Committees
- examining the feasibility of Intellympics a project comprising bridge, chess, draughts, and GO
- the constant need to teach bridge to our youth
- the need for more exposure in the media.

These are all issues I have included in past editorials. Solidarity and accepting differences are just as important at every level of bridge. No more so than in club-land. ■

Open Team Trials

Highs and Lows of the Trials

THE first stage of the Trials to qualify for the Open and Women's Teams was held on 13 & 14 March, and Therese and I (Richard Wallis) had what seemed the relatively easy task of coming in the top 5 of the 9 EW pairs to qualify for the next stage, but it was not to be.

We played below form for most of the weekend, and were never going well. It was so bad that the zero for our sit-out in match 7 was our second best result.

M 1	♠ K654
Bd 10	♥ K854
Dlr E	♦ 1097
Vul Both	♣ Q9
♠ Q97	♠ 832
♥ Q1076	♥ 2
♦ 82	♦ AQ643
♣ A1082	♣ 7653
	♠ AJ10
	♥ AJ93
	♦ KJ5
	♣ KJ4

	W	N	E	S
			P	1C
	P	1H	P	4H
	All pass			

On board 10 in match 1 against Ralph and Sheila Parker, Ralph responded 1H to Sheila's 1C opening, and suddenly found himself in game.

I eliminated the spade finesse for Ralph by my opening lead from East, and rose with the DA at trick 2. Playing teams it was only necessary for Ralph to limit the trumps losers to 1, but Ralph made the normal play of leading to the HK and then to dummy, and found that he was 1 off.

While not obvious at the time, the heart pips lend themselves to the standard safety play, by first cashing the HA, and then leading towards the HK, intending to cover West's card. As a safety problem, the North hand is normally K9xx, but otherwise it is the same.

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M 1	♠ 10982
Bd 13	♥ A753
Dlr N	♦ Q86
Vul Both	♣ 85
♠ QJ53	♠ K6
♥ Q10986	♥ K2
♦ A	♦ K1094
♣ J107	♣ A9432
	♠ A74
	♥ J4
	♦ J7532
	♣ KQ6

W	N	E	S
	P	1NT	P
2C	P	2D	P
2H	P	2NT	All pass

Sitting East and still against Ralph and Sheila, I did not fancy opening 1C and rebidding a 5-card suit, or opening 1D and treating my hand as 4-4 in the minors. So I opened 1NT and made the mistake of bidding again after Therese showed her major suit distribution and less than game interest.

Sheila (South) led the D3, and after winning on the table I took the club finesse won by South. Since she had received an encouraging signal on her opening lead, Sheila led another diamond, which I won with the DK to lead the HK, which held, followed by the SK, which also held.

At this stage if I had ducked a club, 8 tricks were certain, but I led the D10 to set up a trick, and this set up the 6th trick for the defence! During the play NS exposed a heart, and when Sheila was on lead, I chose to forbid a heart lead, not knowing her remaining heart was the jack, and the heart lead would have given me back the contract.

QCBC BEGINNERS' LESSONS

6-week course:
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DID YOU KNOW?

LHO always has the option of accepting an insufficient bid.



Playing in the Women's. Clockwise from left:
Sandy Johnson, Wynne Webber, Tony Bardon & Meta Goodman

M 2	♠ 9
Bd 17	♥ A107
Dlr N	♦ KJ7
Vul None	♣ AKQJ107
♠ A3	♠ KQ107542
♥ J65	♥ Q
♦ AQ10653	♦ 842
♣ 98	♣ 42
	♠ J86
	♥ K98432
	♦ 9
	♣ 653

W	N	E	S
	1C	2S	P
P	3C	P	3H
3S	4H	4S	5H
All pass			

Match 2 was against Geoff Olsen and Graham Rusher. Geoff (North) opened a Precision 1C, I made a weak jump, Graham and Therese passed, and Geoff showed his club suit, over which Graham bid 3H, raised to game by Geoff. However, when we competed to 4S, the weak 6-card suit went to 5H, and there the auction rested.

Therese led the SA, and with the singleton in dummy, my S2 could be read as either encouraging, or McKenny asking for a club switch. I was after a continuation, as I wanted dummy's 3rd trump removed in case Graham led the HK, and could then finesse Therese's hoped for HJ, using the Rule of Restricted Choice. However, Therese thought that we may be able to lock declarer on the table, so switched to a club. Luckily for us Graham made the wrong guess when my HQ was played on the first round, and went 1 off.

M 2	♠ AJ852
Bd 21	♥ J962
Dlr N	♦ 2
Vul NS	♣ Q93
♠ Q10	♠ 764
♥ 10853	♥ AQ4
♦ KQ1093	♦ A754
♣ 52	♣ K86
	♠ K93
	♥ K7
	♦ J86
	♣ AJ1074

W	N	E	S
	P	1NT	X
All pass			

I was East on this board and my Weak Notrump was sportingly doubled for penalties by Graham. Therese decided to take her chances by passing, and when it came around to me I had nowhere to go on a 4-3-3-3 shape, so also passed.

On an unlikely spade lead, NS could have taken the first 10 tricks, but on the more normal lead of the C7, I had the first 7 tricks, and took them. In leading to the HA to take my 7th trick, I found that Graham, in a desperate attempt to beat 1NTX, had bared his king, so I made 8 tricks for +280.

There is no need to psyche against weak opponents. They are quite capable of getting onto trouble without assistance.

Richard Lederer

M 3	♠ 73
Bd 6	♥ J985
Dlr E	♦ Q10986
Vul EW	♣ Q3
♠ AK109	♠ J42
♥ Q6	♥ AK74
♦ K543	♦ A72
♣ J74	♣ A108
	♠ Q865
	♥ 1032
	♦ J
	♣ K9652

W	N	E	S
		1H	P
1S	P	1NT	P
3NT	All pass		

Match 3 was against Mike Robson and Betty Lee. I was sitting East on this board and opened 1H (4-card suits). My 1NT rebid showed 15-17 and Therese just bid game, to which Betty led the C5.

When the spade finesse worked, I had 11 top tricks, and by giving up a club Mike was squeezed in the red suits when I cashed my outside winners; 12 tricks and +690. This was fairly flat, although 2 pairs made +660, and 2 made only +630.

M 3	♠ J107632
Bd 7	♥ QJ10
Dlr S	♦ Q5
Vul Both	♣ 76
♠ AQ5	♠ 9
♥ K542	♥ A63
♦ AKJ84	♦ 1093
♣ 9	♣ KJ10843
	♠ K84
	♥ 987
	♦ 762
	♣ AQ52

W	N	E	S
			P
1D	P	2C	P
2NT	P	3NT	All pass

After Therese, West, opened 1D my 2C bid was natural and showed 8+HCP. Therese's 2NT was 15+ and game forcing, so 3NT was reached fairly quickly.

On the lead of the S6, Therese found every card wrong, and went 3 off. Double dummy, 9 tricks are available by way of the 3-3 heart break and the DQ dropping offside, but most pairs were going off, and I expect that the 2 who made it played it from West and got a club lead!

The next match was against Janeen Solomon and Neville Francis.

M 4	♠ KQJ954
Bd 21	♥ A8
Dlr N	♦ J84
Vul None	♣ 109
♠ 6	♠ —
♥ QJ109542	♥ K63
♦ A1063	♦ KQ
♣ 5	♣ AKQJ8643
	♠ A108732
	♥ 7
	♦ 9752
	♣ 72

W	N	E	S
	1S	X	4S
5H	P	6C	All pass

I sat East and I was a little surprised to have an opening bid on my right when I had a 3-loser hand, but doubling for take-out seemed a good way to start the auction. Janeen bid 4S over my double and Therese made a free bid of 5H, so before I bid I checked that we all had the same colour backs on our cards. It seemed wrong not to bid a solid 8-card suit at least once, but when Janine led the H7 and Neville gave her a ruff at trick 2, I was sorry I did as 6H was cold.

Two pairs went off in 6C, and one pair made it, with nobody in 6H.

M 4	♠ Q7
Bd 22	♥ A
Dlr E	♦ KQ1098763
Vul EW	♣ J6
♠ AKJ432	♠ 10985
♥ 743	♥ J52
♦ —	♦ J2
♣ K842	♣ AQ95
	♠ 6
	♥ KQ10986
	♦ A54
	♣ 1073

W	N	E	S
		P	2D
3S	5D	All pass	

Janeen, South, opened a Multi-2D but before I could raise Therese's 3S to game, Neville had bid 5D. Though tempted to double, I was not tempted to bid 5S, but I eventually passed.

By a quirk of the 2D opening, Janine was declarer, and Therese was on lead. She cashed the SA but was not psychic enough to switch to a club, so 5D made an overtrick.

If Neville had been declarer, the singleton spade would have been exposed, and the club switch would have been much easier.

Gold Coast Congress 2005 February 19-25



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M 4	♠ KQ9632
Bd 24	♥ AQ
Dlr W	♦ K8
Vul None	♣ AQ5
♠ 8	♠ J1075
♥ 98753	♥ J1064
♦ 943	♦ 76
♣ J986	♣ 1072
	♠ A4
	♥ K2
	♦ AQJ1052
	♣ K43

W	N	E	S
P	2C	P	2D
P	2S	P	4NT
P	5C	P	5D
P	6D	P	7NT
All pass			

Janeen must have had to look at the bidding slip twice when Neville opened 2C, but she wisely bided her time to see what the basis of the 2C opening was before taking over and bidding the cold grand slam. Surprisingly, with 37 HCPs between the NS hands, only 4 pairs out of 8 played in 7NT. One unlucky pair appeared to play in 7S, 1 off on the 4-1 break, and 3 pairs only played in 6NT.

M 5	♠ J7652
Bd 3	♥ A2
Dlr S	♦ 1053
Vul EW	♣ K64
♠ AK	♠ 984
♥ J96	♥ Q104
♦ 7	♦ AKQ864
♣ AQ109753	♣ J
	♠ Q103
	♥ K8753
	♦ J92
	♣ 82

W	N	E	S
			P
1C	1S	2D	2S
3C	P	3D	All pass

On board 3 in the match against Kerry Wood and Charlie Howard, I was a wimp and put too much credence on Charlie's lead directing overcall of 1S, opting for the safer 3D rather than the riskier 3NT (via a 3S cue-bid). 3D was an easy 9 tricks, and after the lead of the S3, it could have been 13, via the 3-3 trump break and the ruffing finesse in clubs, but 3NT was easy also.

■ Richard Wallis

More hands are on page 14 of the web version of the Bulletin.

The Story of the 3NT Contract

WE all love playing 3NT. Why? Only 9 tricks to make, no trump suit to worry about, etc, etc.

Now look at the following hand from the Open and Women's Team Trials.

Bd 13	♠ 432
Dlr N	♥ A987
Vul Both	♦ A62
	♣ 532
♠ AK107	♠ QJ98
♥ 1042	♥ KJ6
♦ KQ1098	♦ J543
♣ 6	♣ K10
	♠ 65
	♥ Q53
	♦ 7
	♣ AQJ9874

North and East passed and South opened 3C. As West would you now pass? (Hey, **Hello!** I did not come here to **pass!** says West). So what do you bid? Double? Or bid 3D? At our table Charlie Howard chose to double. Also my choice. Kerry Wood, sitting East, bid 4S which became the final contract.

I (Bill Hunt) was sitting South and led the singleton D7, won by North (Magnus Moren). A diamond was returned, ruffed by South. The H3 was led to North's ace, another diamond returned for a further ruff and I cashed the CA. Result: +200 to NS.

Kerry was a little unhappy with the result, but should she be? No, not at all. NS can make 3NT for +600. The HA, DA and 7 club tricks. As we were playing IMPs scoring, this in theory should be +8 IMPs to Howard and Wood, but it never seems to work this way.

Luckily for us, we did not lose any IMPs on this board. The scores at the other tables were 3NT by East three times, losing -300 twice, and two other scores on the sheet being -500 and +500.

Now, what happened in the Women's? When this board came to Pele Rankin's table she was playing with the Rock (Rosa Lachman). Pele, over the 3C opening bid, only bid 3D. Her partner, remembering a similar hand in the 2003 GNOT, tried it again. '3NT', says she. Surely partner has enough for this to make, having bid at the 3-level. Where are the 40 HCP in this pack? Trying to visualise partner's hand she came up with following answer - we should have 5 or 6 diamond tricks, my CK, the HA, and the SA - equals 9 tricks (Yes, she was right about the SA). But as we see all four hands, on a club lead from



Bill Hunt demonstrating his brilliant dummy play

South (a crime) declarer would make 5 tricks only, equalling -400. On any other lead declarer would score only 4 tricks, equalling -500.

Results from other tables in this event were: 3NT twice by East for -400 and -500, 4S by East for -200, 3D by West for +110, and 3C by South for +110 NS.

This game can be so cruel, but we must love it as we keep coming back for more punishment time and time again!

■ Bill Hunt

25 Years Ago

Selection Trials 1979

THERE was a increase in the member of entrants to both the Open and the Women's sections of the trials. It is always pleasing to see new partnerships taking part in these events as it hopefully dignifies an improvement in the quality of the Queensland teams. Queensland performances in the interstate teams have been mediocre for the past few years, the women having a marginally better record than the men. Any new blood is therefore welcome, even if only to stir our 'regulars' to better things. The Open was graced by the presence of a women's pair - Anne Clarke and Beth Gutteridge who were by no means disgraced as they accounted for a number of top male partnerships. Also in the Open were Randall - Lorraway (last year's State Team members) undergoing the marathon Rockhampton-Brisbane-Rockhampton drive for two consecutive week-ends; Strong-King from the Gold Coast and assorted Brisbane partnerships.

In round 4 of the Open, three pairs were rather proud of reaching a slam on these cards only to be disappointed by an unlucky trump break.

One Acol - 4-card major pair bid it follows:

- ¹ Heart support and 1st round diamond control.
² Lead direct.

Dir S	♠ J7		
Vul None	♥ K1042		
	♦ 983		
	♣ AQ53		
♠ Q10985		♠ 632	
♥ Q		♥ J965	
♦ KQ1074		♦ AJ652	
♣ 82		♣ 6	
	♠ AK4		
	♥ A873		
	♦ —		
	♣ KJ10974		

W	N	E	S
			1C
P	1H	P	4D ¹
X ²	XX ³	P	4H ⁴
P	5C ⁵	P	6H ⁶
All pass			

³ Denies 2nd round diamond control, so no wasted values.

⁴ Sign-off unless North can make another effort.

⁵ He does, 1st round club control.

⁶ Hoping for a good club side suit.

In fact the slam is an 80% or better chance which fails on the bad trump break. The only making slam on these cards is 6C: eliminate diamonds and spades and then allow West to hold the trick with the HQ, or alternatively lead a heart to the king and run the 10. This safety play is not available in 6H after the opening diamond lead.

■ Richard Ward

QBA

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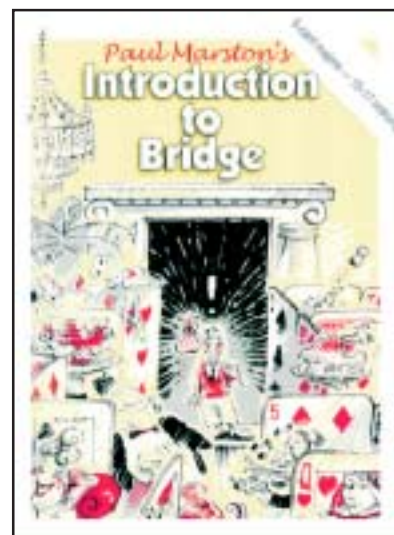
WITH the 4th edition of Paul Marston's 'Introduction to Bridge', you have all the material you need to present a sensational six lesson course on how to play bridge. It is available in two new versions: five card majors with 15-17 notrump, and weak notrump with four card majors.

Beginners love the book because they find it easy to read and understand. This is thanks to the simple language and the carefully chosen content of each chapter. For example, beginners often have trouble distinguishing between a change of suit response and a limit bid. So these two concepts are introduced in different chapters.

In the last Australian Bridge Teachers survey, more than 50% of the teachers in Australia said they use Introduction to Bridge with their beginners' lessons. Many of these teachers have made useful contributions to the fourth edition.

What's changed?

Now it is 12 HCP to open, five card majors and 25 TP for game. This is to fall in line with what has become mainstream practice. The preface contains a five page section on basic card play. To understand the bidding you have to know about card play.



Most students already know the very basics of card play so it is very tough for the minority who don't. This new section is for them.

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Cuppaidge's Column



George Cuppaidge

Good support, bad support!

THIRTY-FIVE years ago I overcalled 1S with 2H. My then regular partner heard 2S on his right and looked at a fair hand with seven-card support. He concluded that I was psyching and passed. Minus 110 against an available +450 was a very ordinary result. I would call that bad support.

History repeated itself recently, as it does, with another regular partner, on the Internet. This time partner held 8-card support!

Dir E	♠ 10		
Vul EW	♥ J3		
	♦ KJ987432		
	♣ AK		
♠ K75		♠ AQJ862	
♥ KQ108764		♥ 952	
♦ —		♦ —	
♣ 873		♣ Q654	
	♠ 943		
	♥ A		
	♦ AQ1065		
	♣ J1092		

East opened 1S, I bid 2D and West 3H. North bid 5D!! Everyone at the table took this to be a pre-emptive raise, which accounts for the subsequent bidding. East bid 5H and West 6H. North must have believed his own publicity because he passed! 6H became the final contract.

North led off his CA and CK then switched to his singleton spade. He might have led the king then the ace to show the doubleton but I was in the happy position where it didn't matter. When I took my HA, I could not go wrong! Whichever black suit I returned, North would ruff with his only remaining trump for 3 down. 300 was, again, a very ordinary score with most NS playing 5D but several had bid the slam.

I could not resist the remark to partner, "Did you think they would make their 18-point slam?" Actually they held 17. But the real failure lies not in the failure to double but in the 5D bid. Many partnerships are at a loss for how to show a strong raise with big support in com-

petition, particularly to a minor and particularly to an overcall. As a general proposition I use the positive double to distinguish the strong raise from the courtesy raise or the distributional raise. But there is a much better bid here.

How about 4S? North most certainly has full value for a raise to 5D. Why not show the singleton spade on the way? That way NS have a relatively easy 6D to bid and 6H will not escape unscathed.

A trickless trick

NORTH-SOUTH took no trick with the HK in the following hand, but without it the contract would have failed.

Dir E	♠ A95		
Vul EW	♥ K762		
	♦ 65		
	♣ J1086		
♠ 72		♠ 1086	
♥ QJ10983		♥ A5	
♦ J4		♦ K8732	
♣ AQ9		♣ 732	
	♠ KQJ43		
	♥ 4		
	♦ AQ109		
	♣ K54		

South opened 1S, heard 2H from West and raised his partner's 2S to game. West led HQ and switched to S2 when this was ducked.

This was an extremely parlous contract, declarer's best chance looked to be five trumps, two diamonds and two diamond ruffs and, with luck, a club trick. Trump control and the S10 were the clouds on the horizon. This was the successful line, win SA, take diamond finesse play DA and ruff a diamond. Ruff a heart, felling the HA and ruff the last diamond, play CJ to CQ. West continued with HJ, covered and ruffed. Had East been able simply to discard on this trick, his S10 would have come good by force. As it was, declarer was able to over-ruff draw the remaining trump and establish a club trick while still in trump control.

■ George Cuppaidge

Sunshine Coast

THERE were good fields in both the Open and Restricted Sections of the graded pairs at the Sunshine Coast Contract Bridge Club. The event was ably directed by David Anderson and Sunshine Coast players took all the major places. Congratulations to all place-getters

My partner and I play Flannery. We like

its both descriptive and pre-emptive intentions, but are often frustrated by opponents bidding first. However, we did have a couple of chances to apply this convention on Sunday. This is one of the most spectacular; we were EW.

Dir N	♠ QJ8		
Vul NS	♥ 104		
	♦ AKJ2		
	♣ 10652		
♠ 6		♠ A932	
♥ K972		♥ AQJ653	
♦ 864		♦ 105	
♣ 98743		♣ Q	
	♠ K10754		
	♥ 8		
	♦ Q973		
	♣ AKJ		

W	N	E	S
2H	X	2D ¹	P
P	P	3H ²	4D
		4H	All pass

¹ Flannery, 5+ hearts, 4 spades 11-15
² 6 hearts

We scored well when opponents failed to lead trumps twice and 4H was allowed to make. Interestingly, 4S is on for NS but Flannery makes this difficult to find.

How often does this happen to you?

Dir W	♠ 9753		
Vul None	♥ KQJ95		
	♦ 87		
	♣ A2		
♠ K84		♠ A106	
♥ 3		♥ 10864	
♦ Q65432		♦ A9	
♣ Q86		♣ KJ73	
	♠ QJ2		
	♥ A72		
	♦ KJ10		
	♣ 10954		

We were a new partnership, and maybe the opponents knew more about my partner's history of pre-empting than I did. However, partner (West) opened 3D. My RHO asked, 'Is that a pre-empt?' I answered, 'Yes', RHO passed, I passed and LHO bid 3NT; passed out. (Thought - 'I would love to double but they might escape to a major.')

The bidding was 3D - P* - P - 3NT**

Well, the contract got its desserts, but because of my wimpy pass, we scored just above average.

I would like to make a general point about the bidding, though. To some, P* might be interpreted as - I have some points partner; while 3NT** might mean - I heard

you partner, I have some too. In such a case, there is a concern that no matter how innocent in intent, these questions may give unauthorised information to partner. If so, it becomes unethical when advantage is taken of same.

In summary, it was a very pleasant Sunday of bridge. Thanks to the Sunshine Coast Committee for its hospitality.

■ Sue Mabin

The 30 IMP Lead

SOME slams continue to haunt me even when I was on the success end of it. It is such a difficult situation where you find yourself unable to rejoice in victory as, in your conscience you feel that, this was achieved with cruelty to your opposition.

Here is one deal from the recent Surfers Paradise Bridge Congress held on the 8th of May, where 30 IMPs was at stake on the opening lead. To put so much at stake on an opening lead is extreme injustice! Especially when the opponent has very little inference from the bidding sequence.

At first glance it looked as if I have picked up the whole deck of cards with my hand. It was soon after lunch, so I checked my cards again. Yes I have:

♠ AKQJxx
♥ AKxx
♦ A
♣ Ax

I was wondering about another of those boring 2C opening bids when my partner scribbles something on the bidding slip; 2NT (5,5 in minors and weak) wow!

I had 10 tricks in my hand; can partner deliver another 3 more to make the grand? The 2NT opening promises 6-10 points all right, but I glance at the board and we are vulnerable. Therefore my partner Terry must have a 'decent' point count; I'll settle for 8 to 9 points. So what can he have? Will it be the CK, the DK and a queen in one of the minors? Three tricks from dummy is not too much to expect of. But what if partner didn't have the CK, where's the entry to dummy? May be he'll have 5-5-2-1 distribution and I can ruff a heart. Who knows he might have the S10 for an entry.

Prospects for a grand slam look very bright. So after an annoying (for partner as well as opponents) long pause I wrote 7S. Left hand opponent hesitated for a moment to pass, so I wrote the 7S again on the bidding slip to confirm that it was not meant to be a joke. My anxious wait was over with the DJ lead, and the dummy was revealed.

♠ x
♥ xx
♦ KQxxx
♣ Qxxxx

♠ AKQJxx
♥ AKxx
♦ A
♣ Ax

not, and what the lead was. On a spade lead 6S also goes down so, if you are prepared to bid 6S, why not put the money on a more profitable 7S?

Here is another slam, but this time with a bit of justice. In round one of the Colin Stone teams on the 5th of May I was dealt this hand.

♠ Kx
♥ x
♦ AQJx
♣ Axxxxx

My partner Darko opened 1S and we had a simple bidding sequence as follows:

1S - 2C; 2H - 3D (4th-suit force); 4C - 4NT (RKC); 5H - 6C.

The 4C bid showed a 5-4-1-3 type of distribution and so now I was interested in a slam. When partner showed 2 key cards I settled for 6C. The SJ was led and the dummy came down.

♠ Kx
♥ x
♦ AQJx
♣ Axxxxx

♠ AQxxx
♥ AJxx
♦ x
♣ xxx

A slam had been bid and made, missing the KQJ10 of trumps. How can I call this justice? Well, because I was on the receiving end when the Kiwis (Blackstock team) bid and made a similar 6C in the Gold Coast ANA Congress, earlier this year. I didn't have to wait that long for justice!

■ Kamal Sanmugarasa

Sunshine Coast June Congress

Graded Pairs & Teams
June 19-20

Contact Robyn Feuerherdt
Ph: 5452 6972

As anticipated the heart ruff gave me the entry for the 13 tricks and 17 IMPs, with 4S making at the other table. On a spade lead the contract would have been 2 down for minus 13 IMPs. During the break the hot questions in the foyer were whether 6S was bid or

From Overseas

These hands are from the Spring North American Bridge Championships.

Unblocking a 7!

In a knockout event, declarer's play on this deal would have meant little – perhaps an IMP. But that extra trick pays off hugely in a pairs game.

Dir N	♠ 10965
Vul EW	♥ J9
	♦ K876
	♣ J75
♠ K	♠ 8432
♥ A107432	♥ Q5
♦ A954	♦ J32
♣ 98	♣ K1032
	♠ AQJ7
	♥ K86
	♦ Q10
	♣ AQ64

	W	N	E	S
	1H	P	P	1C
	2D	2S	All pass	X

South, doubled at his second turn to show extra values, and North bid 2S, finding his side's 4-4 fit.

East led the HQ to the king and ace, and West continued with another heart to North's jack. Silverstein took the spade finesse, losing to the singleton king, then ruffed the heart return with the 9. He shifted to a diamond to the queen and West's ace. West returned another diamond to the king. Silverstein drew trumps, leaving this position:

—	—
—	—
8	J 7 5
—	—
10	—
9	—
9 8	K 10 3 2
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	AQ64

Silverstein called for the CQ and carefully unblocked the 7 from his hand. He was sure East had the king and it seemed very likely that he was down to all clubs. East won his king and returned a club, but Silverstein won with his jack, happy to see West follow with the 9. He led his last club and finessed the 6! Making +140 for a fine match point score.

The Worst

THE worst thing you can do at the bridge table is to squeeze your partner...or is it to endplay him? What if you have the choice?

Dir N	♠ 976		
Vul None	♥ A54		
	♦ K3		
	♣ K8764		
♠ A83		♠ KJ104	
♥ Q872		♥ 63	
♦ A84		♦ Q976	
♣ QJ9		♣ 1052	
	♠ Q52		
	♥ KJ109		
	♦ J1052		
	♣ A3		

W	N	E	S
X	1NT	2S	All pass

David Berkowitz, East, saw that he had his work cut out for him when the dummy appeared. South started with the HJ, ducked, and the H10, ducked. Berkowitz ruffed the third heart as the ace fell from North. He led a club and South climbed with the ace. Berkowitz unblocked the jack. South could have scored a club ruff at this point by continuing the suit, but apparently he thought he had a trump trick anyway. Instead he led a diamond to partner's king. Berkowitz won the diamond continuation in dummy with the ace.

At this point Berkowitz knew that North

had the HA, the DK, and the CK, so it was more than likely that South had the trump queen for his opening bid. Accordingly, he led a spade to the king, passed the SJ, and crossed to dummy's trump ace. Berkowitz was happy to find the trumps 3-3. Now he faced this ending:

—	—
—	—
—	—
—	K 8 7 6
—	—
Q	—
8	Q 9
Q 9	10 5
—	—
K	—
J 5	—
3	—

Berkowitz led the CQ...and what was North to do?

If North wins with the king, Berkowitz would unblock the ten and win the forced club return in dummy, squeezing South. If North ducks to avoid rectifying the count, Berkowitz would retain the lead in dummy and exit with the HQ to endplay South in diamonds. Either way Berkowitz has his 8 tricks and his contract.

■ Barry Rigal

International Bridge Press Assn

Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself

Alfred Sheinwold

Teacher's Corner



Joan Butts

WAS playing in a national pairs event recently, in Reno, and picked up this hand:

♠ AKQ32
♥ 10
♦ Q106542
♣ 8

What to open?

Lucky I've been reading Marty Bergen's books lately. By the way, they're next on the recommended list from my OK bridge partner!

Anyway, back to the hand: Normally I would have opened 1D, to show my 6-5 shape. But just as I was about to bid, some of Marty's tips sprang to mind:

- Bidding can be defined as an exchange of *relevant* information. You don't have to talk about *every* suit in your hand.
- When your diamonds don't sparkle, leave them at home
- 6-5, *Come Alive*. With a 6-5 distribution, and a minimum opening bid, open your 5-card suit when it is *higher ranking*.

OK, I decided to open 1S, and when partner raised me to 2S, I upgraded my hand with its singleton club and secret diamond suit, and bid 4S.

Making 4S (losing one heart, one diamond, and one club) turned out to be a very good result, as most pairs had not reached game, playing in 1D.

My partner's hand was:

♠ J764
♥ 762
♦ A8
♣ 7542

She told me later that she would have passed a 1D opening, but not 1S. It's good to show the support, and even a Bergen 3S is possible. Thanks, Marty.

Teachers and players must keep up with the latest trends. You do your students a disservice by using the same old ideas and notes, and focusing on unimportant issues (eg for beginners, which suit to open with 3-3 in the minors. About this, Marty Bergen says, "Who cares?"). These



Joan Butts

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All *Marty Bergen's* and *Audrey Grant's* books and CDs

"Play Bridge" by *Joan Butts* "Guide By Your Side" *Joan Butts & Kathy Johnson*

"Openings Other Than 1Bids", "Competitive Bidding", "Partnership Defence" *Joan Butts*

days, we have constant supplies of great books and endless information on sites like Bridgebase.com. There's an online library on BBO, from which endless articles on everything can be printed out.

Unusual Auction

WHILST playing at Northern Suburbs on Sunday 28th March, against Ralph and Sheila Parker, I had the most unusual auction I have ever seen.

Dlr W	♠ 7		
Vul None	♥ 92		
	♦ KQ873		
	♣ AK942		
♠ 1063		♠ AKQ842	
♥ QJ76543		♥ AK8	
♦ A4		♦ —	
♣ 8		♣ J763	
	♠ J95		
	♥ 10		
	♦ J109652		
	♣ Q105		

W	N	E	S
2D	3D	4D	5D
P	P	6S	All pass

Pamela opened 2D (multi; a weak 6-card major or 21- 22 flat) Ralph overcalled 3D, I bid a forcing 4D, and Sheila then bid 5D.

Pamela passed as did Ralph, so I had to bite the bullet and gamble 6S. Luck was with me, the spades split and it makes 7 on a heart lead.

■ Jim Evans

QCBC JUNE CONGRESS

Pairs - Sunday June 13
\$44 per pair
Teams - Monday June 14
\$88 per team
Enquiries to Toni Bardon
3391 3241

DID YOU KNOW?

An insufficient bid may not be corrected by a double or redouble.

Arana Hills

Swiss Pairs & Teams

June 5 & 6

Contact 3851 0299 for more info.

DID YOU KNOW?

Should declarer use the non-recommended practice of instructing dummy to "run the diamonds" it is taken to mean "run the diamonds until I tell you to stop".

Ipswich Novice Pairs

Sunday July 18

Make point count your servant,
not your master

Terence Reese

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For all intermediate-level players who aspire to advance their bidding skills

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Coming Events

June 5-6	Arana Pairs & Teams
11-14	Barrier Reef Congress (Mackay)
13-14	QCBC June Pairs & Teams
19-20	Sunshine Coast Teams & Graded Pairs
20	Toowong Graded pairs
	Cleveland Bay Novice Pairs (0-99 MPs)
26-27	Gold Coast Swiss Teams
	Bowen Pairs
27	BBC Novice Pairs
July 3	Mackay Pairs
4	Old Graded Pairs (QCBC)
10	Caloundra Novice Pairs (0-99 MPs)
11	Coolum Swiss Teams
	Lockyer Pairs
18	Ipswich Novide Swiss Pairs (0-99 MPs)
23-Aug 6	ANC - Victoria
23-24	Cairns Pairs & Teams
24-25	Moreton-Bribie Pairs & Teams

Club News

If you want items about your club in this section, please send your newsletter to Kim Ellaway.

Arana

All funds raised from the Bring and Buy table will be going directly to library purchases.

The QBA loan is totally paid.

Pam Horton to be Convenor for the Arana Congress in June.

QCBC

Bring and Buy netted \$1,991

Working Bee - great job done

\$100 nights - 29th June, July 27th

Nationwide Pairs - 10 tables competed
16 April - next dates are Friday 21st

May 7.30pm and Saturday 29th May at 1.00 pm.

Surfers

30 new members since new year.

Book Exchange starting within the club

Congratulations to many winners within the club for the Gold Coast Congress

Mudgeeraba

The small Mudgeeraba Bridge Club held its inaugural Congress "Novice Swiss Pairs" on Sunday May 2 with 64 people attending from Brisbane to Ballina. All enjoyed the day and were particularly impressed with the beautiful - peaceful bushland venue.

The Gardiner Chess Centre, Hardys Road, where bridge is held Monday and Thursday 9:30am by Director and teacher John Dennis is a modern building with small coffee-café and verandah setting "Far from the madding crowd".

The Bulletin on the Web

More players are downloading the Bulletin from the web so we have been able to reduce our print run.

The Bulletin is available on the QBA website on or before the last Thursday of the months of publication (the odd numbered months). It contains extra material - poetry, more hands and sundry pieces on pages 13-15.

Website: www.qldbridge.com

Home Club

You can NOT have 2 home clubs. ABF and QBA levies should only be paid ONCE.

James O'Sullivan Awards as at March 31 2004

ALL GRADES

Janzekovic	Darko	143.38
Anderson	David	115.15
Francis	Neville	112.22
Tully	Therese	95.29
Solomon	Janeen	86.52

SILVER GRAND

Anderson	David	115.15
Tully	Therese	95.29
Haughie	Bill	82.45
Hunt	Bill	69.86
Millar	Margaret	52.31

GRAND

Francis	Neville	112.22
Pritchard	John	79.83
Strong	Terry	74.89
Appleton	David	66.02
Strong	Tom	63.49

GOLD LIFE

Tuxworth	Anthony	75.49
Moses	Larry	60.61
McLauchlan	Richard	44.76
Howard	Charles	44.50
McLauchlan	Helen	43.65

SILVER LIFE

Solomon	Janeen	86.52
Touton	Richard	46.58
Morawiecki	Roman	46.30
Afflick	Ian	42.45
Goss	Beverley	35.06

BRONZE LIFE

O'Brien	Joyce	51.61
Walford	Tony	46.18
Carvill	Wendi	34.35
Hughes	John	29.84
Dean	Sandy	27.49

LIFE

Janzekovic	Darko	143.38
Bourke	Lex	37.78
Gibson	Neil	36.07
Nichols	Ann	36.07
Clayton	Alan	35.75

**NATIONAL

Manton	John	26.55
Adams	Jeanne	20.20
Farnden	Lyn	20.01
Stringfellow	Eunice	19.39
Hedgeland	Brenda	19.06

*NATIONAL

Osmund	James	55.72
Wood	Kerry	41.58
Lindsay	Maria	40.23
Gibson	Elizabeth	36.22
Tait	Roberta	35.98

NATIONAL

Hille	Patricia	46.96
Gosney	Paul	44.78
Lindsay	Bill	40.82
Moschner	Ken	36.52
Barden	Bianca	35.60

*STATE

Kamalarasa	Sanmugaras	57.13
Wells	Peter	34.18
McAdam	David	32.98
Baker	Herschel	31.02
Mitchell	Barry	24.40

*REGIONAL

Leigh	Anna	12.93
Bartholomew	Tess	10.90
Savage	Dick	10.13
Coker	Ted	9.21
Baarda	Renk	8.44

STATE

Penlington	Paul	43.53
McArthur	Robert	43.29
Horan	Brian	30.89
Gulley	Anne	24.36
Hall	Irena	22.78

REGIONAL

Mosa	Eddie	18.75
Williams	Barry	16.49
Vayda	Steven	12.69
Lawrence	Jocelyn	12.62
Gillespie	Noelene	12.59

**LOCAL

Schoen	Pam	20.96
Mukherjee	Sunil	17.55
O'Donohue	Molly	12.12
Steffensen	Kevin	11.73
Raward	Neil	10.97

*LOCAL

Mundell	Desley	12.05
Geise	Betty	9.87
Mann	Paul	9.79
Smith	Garry	9.55
Dalton	Vincent	9.04

LOCAL

Varmo	Jan	81.58
Evans	Pamela	17.65
Duffy	Tricia	15.42
Dawes	Ines	13.28
Cheong	Dennis	11.31

CLUB

King	Gwen	16.68
Thompson	Philip	12.55
Dean	Kevin	10.23
Roberts	Geoffrey	10.23
Jones	Fred	10.04

GRADUATE

Guminski	Andrew	10.66
Williamson	Margaret	5.78
Boyce	John	5.33
Martin	John	4.82
Smith	Jill	3.71

NIL MASTER

Tamisari	Vittorio	15.73
Beaumont	Ed	4.29
Klimek	Mark	3.65
Beaumont	Anne	3.33
De Wit	Bert	3.33

Results

Northern Suburbs Swiss Pairs March 28

- 1 P Hainsworth R Tait
- 2 R Clayton A Smith
- 3 B & A Kempthorne

B section

- 1 D Cheong S Dean
- 2 D Wilkinson M Hoenig
- 3 K Moschner R Wright

C Section

- 1 M Corner J Gardiner
- 2 J & P Evans
- 3 P & P MacDonald

BBC Easter Pairs April 11

- 1 N Francis B Hunt
- 2 M Corner J Evans
- 3 L Vincent R Ward

Plate

- 1 R Ashman U Ridgway
- 2 G Malinas J Malinas
- 3 M Cooke M O'Malley

Consolation

B Carroll A Smith

Restricted

- 1 W Gout S Haites
- 2 D Rogers B Williams
- 3 H Morris K Nagrodski

BBC Easter Teams April 12

- 1 E Berger T Berger
J Osmund H Baumanis
- 2 A Kempthorne B Kempthorne
R Ward L Vincent
- 3 B Hunt M Moren
N Francis J Solomon

Plate

- =1 R Lachman P Rankin
T Bardon S Johnson
- =1 J Luck I Luck
A Tuxworth D Janzekovic
- 3 J Butts S Mabin
L Norden K Lonergan

Restricted

- 1 T Duffy B O'Donohue
B Horton J Smith
- 2 C Page B Stuthe
W Stuthe T Newnham
- 3 R Lynch M Graham
P Evans D Cheong

Mudgeeraba Novice Pairs May 2

- 1 G Smith M Beak
- 2 B Bijker B Hill
- 3 G Roberts K Dean

Plate

K Honik J Pecenicic

Cairns Easter Congress April 9-12

Pairs

- 1 P Andrews D Bayliss
- 2 H Thompson B Pearson
- 3 A & L Ruderman

Plate

- 1 D Holmes M Pritchard
- 2 L Zoia M Aiston
- 3 J Campbell P Crema

Best Novice Pair (< 50MPs)

J Smith F McMillan

Teams

- 1 G & P Allen
K Ramsbotham B Hobdell
- 2 A & P Hooper
P Haussmann M Sexton
- 3 M Yeates L Pollock
J Hughes A Brown

Toowoomba Congress May 1-3

Pairs

- 1 R Clayton I Luck
- 2 S Mabin L Norden
- 3 N Francis J Solomon

Plate

- 1 C Critchley L Jenkins
- 2 R Ashman Y Kilvert

Consolation

- 1 J Crandell K Linwood
- 2 J Fulloon J O'Connor

Teams

- 1 R Wallis T Tully
R Ward L Vincent
- 2 A Mayers R Crowley
N Francis J Solomon
- 3 L Norden S Mabin
M Jakes R Green

Plate

- 1 J Kenyon L Kenyon
J Rose V Rose
- 2 H Eastment R Constantine
E Willey H Billing

QCBC Anzac Teams April 25

- 1= R Ward N Francis
D & K Anderson
- 1= D Janzekovic J Han
B Barden J Pritchard
- 3 M Robson B Lee
R Parker G Malinas

B Section

- 1 B & J Stacey
B Holford B Stuthe
- 2 J Egan J Tregear
H Brooksbank M Hobbs

C Section

- 1 M Corner J Gardiner
J & P Evans
- 2 P Mann S Hall
S Solo J Campbell

Senior Team Trials

- 1 C Hyne K Bishop
- 2 E Berger D Osmund
- 3 I Afflick A Slater
- 4 R & H McLauchlan (reserves)

Open Team Trials

- 1 N Francis J Solomon
- 2 B Hunt M Moren
- 3 D Janzekovic S Kamalarasa
- 4 B Kempthorne T Strong (reserves)

Women's Team Trials

- 1 T Bardon S Johnson
- 2 A Kempthorne G Tucker
- 3 M Miller M Cooke
- 4 L Vincent M Walters (reserves)

Sunshine Coast Graded Pairs March 21

Open

- 1 A Kelly K Dawson
- 2 R Crowley A Mayers
- 3 C Fludder B Nielsen

Restricted

- 1 R Ashman Y Kilvert
- 2 H Brooksbank L Eaves
- 3 K Hewings M Stoneman

Redlands Novice Teams April 18

- 1 D Meyers G Wardrop
G Holliday P Lang
- 2 E Geise T Dowling
B Geise J Dowling

Plate

- 1 B O'Donohue N Raward
T Duffy P Jessep
- 2 P Evans S Solo
D Cheong H Kruse

QBA Official Positions

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Mr Andrew Hooper

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DID YOU KNOW?

Although set penalties are not applied for an established revoke from dummy, the director may still award an adjusted score to restore equity.

Directors' Corner

QBA regulations make spectators welcome at tournaments. Law 76A4 says that a spectator must not in any way disturb a player.

That a player feels disturbed by the mere presence of a spectator is sufficient reason for the spectator to be asked to move away. Call the Director. The heading of this law is "Consideration for Players" which just about says it all.

Law 20F1 confers on any player the right to ask questions at his turn to make a call. It is perfectly legal to ask a question and then pass. The problem is that questions are unauthorised information to partner. If partner's action is not clear cut after the question/pass then there may be some suggestion that the action was influenced by the question.

Asking out of idle curiosity is an unnecessary complication. The safest policy is to ask when you need to know - when you need to choose between a number of possible calls or opening leads or need more information to plan your defence.

Failure to alert promptly a conventional call or one with a special partnership is

misinformation - unless the call is self-alerting. Too many players wait until it is their turn to call, and therefore after RHO has called, before rather casually deciding to "Circle and Say Alert". RHO may change his call without penalty if it is probable that it was based on misinformation, providing his partner has not subsequently called.

Law 16C1 says that all information arising from the withdrawn call is authorised to the non-offending side but not to the offending side. Law 21C2 goes on to detail what happens if the late alerting opponent wants to change his call after such a correction.

Bridge Terminology

Me ta?

Is it my opening lead? Me ta lead?

Yes?

Please explain the call you alerted.

Great changes have been made to the directors' section of the QBA website. New material is being added at regular intervals and suggestions are welcome as to the information you want to be able to find there.

■ Jan Peach

Queensland Bridge Association Inc

The QBA can produce copies of "Bridge Directing Complete" by Ian McKinnon (in its 1979 format)
Cost: \$45.00 (including GST)

This includes a postage and handling cost of \$5.00

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Ph: (07) 3855 3331 or Email: qldbridge@ozemail.com.au

Brisbane Bridge Centre

104 Frederick St, Annerley. Ph: 3392 7933

Play Sessions	Tuesday	9.30 am
		7.30 pm
	Wednesday	10.00 am
	Thursday	7.30 pm
	Saturday	1.00 pm

Coaching Sessions & Beginners' Classes Monday 10.00 am

Tuesday 7.30 pm

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Going to the Gold Coast next year?

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Crown Towers

Chevron Renaissance

(opened 20/1/03)

Imperial Surf

St Tropez

Aloha

Enderley Gardens

Equinox

Our website is

www.gcbc.com.au

and this will give you an idea of the properties. Our number is **1300 553 800** and this is a local call cost.

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Editing of Material

Contributors should note that the right to modify submitted material is retained by the QBA.

D E A D

JULY 5 (noon)

Contributions to:

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Ashgrove 4060

Ph/Fax: **07 3366 1292**

Email:

psquire@acenet.net.au

L I N E

Poets' Corner

My John

I open with a minimum hand
John bids game with a flurry
With twenty points combined I'm down
'Bad luck!' he says, 'Don't worry!'

Opponent opens a strong two
John's overcall brings trouble
It's just to tell me what to lead
But the opposition double!

An optimist my dear John is
There may never come the day
When at the bridge table he exerts
Caution with bids and play.

Barbara Whitmee

6NTXX

One of the things I love about Bridge is that every
once in a while
You have this unbelievable win ~ you always recall with
a smile
No matter how badly you normally play, no matter how
lowly your rank
You come up with an absolute screamer and you've only
yourself to thank
One of those hands I often recall, (though my bidding
was somewhat befuddled)
Against opposition formidably smart; I made 6 No
Trump redoubled.

This man was a National champion, although rude and
condescending
Tales of his skill and arrogance were seemingly
unending
He wore a sneering, sullen frown, was sloppily attired
I think it's fair to say he was respected not admired
We moved towards his table with shaking trepidation
Knowing we were in for some intense humiliation
Just before we sat, my partner uttered in a hiss
"Don't try anything special, I just want to get through
this"

On counting 16 points I smoothly opened 1 No Trump
Then got a bit excited when I saw my partner jump
My tentative rebidding didn't sway her from her task
She came back pretty promptly with the 4NT Ace ask
Now here it gets quite ugly as I got my bidding wrong
Our slam prospects wore 'iffy' but she thought that
they were strong
With horror slowly building, my heart gave a massive
thump
When I saw my partner sign me up to making 6 NT

I watch in soundless horror as the opposition starts
To weigh the prospects of his King, Queen, Jack and
Ten of Hearts
He loomed, he frowned, he cogitated, saturnine and
stubbled
Then flourishing his pencil, he signed the fatal
'Doubled'.
Aghast I tried to reassess the value of my holding
While partner mute, communicated soundless tight
lipped scolding
She watched my frantic counting with thunder on her
face
Then MIRACLE of MIRACLES, 1 FOUND A MISSING
ACE

Recklessly euphoric, excitement in me bubbled
As slowly and deliberately I leant forward and
REDOUBLED
A frisson of anticipation quivered through the room
As watchers sotto voce noted my impending doom
I watched in dreamlike stupor as the opening lead was
faced
Then in four neat descending suits my partner's hand
was placed

As soon as I saw dummy, I knew that my success
Depended absolutely on a very deep club finesse
I swallowed up his King of Hearts, led low to my Club
Nine
I held my breath then breathed again when that one
worked out fine
Then using my Ace and King of Spades, I managed to
get back
To lead another little Club up to dummy's Jack

Well cutting short this long and detailed story of my
skill
I threw off all my losers then moved in for the kill
I made my contract easily, he didn't stand a chance
I finished off my triumph with a sympathetic glance

Our man was not too happy and my quiet jubilation
Was subsequently tempered by complete annihilation
Still though I know my triumph was due to some
mistakes
I figure that we all deserve some really lucky breaks
So every now and then when things; are looking pretty
grim
And the chances of my Bridge success are looking very
slim
My opposition's smirking, my partner's looking troubled
I think. back to that day when I made 6 NTXX.

Monica Pritchard

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M 6	♠ AQ102
Bd 3	♥ AJ42
Dlr S	♦ K10
Vul EW	♣ Q63
♠ K7643	♠ 98
♥ KQ75	♥ 98
♦ Q	♦ AJ9842
♣ 1084	♣ A92
	♠ J5
	♥ 1063
	♦ 7653
	♣ KJ75

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1NT	2C	P
2D	All pass		

We were sitting EW in Match 6 against Darko Janzekovic Kamal Sanmugarasa. It was risky to bid over the 14-16 1NT opposite a passed partner, but I had 2 aces and a reasonable 6-card suit. 2C has many meanings, but this time it was single-suited in diamonds, and 2D by Therese was passed out. With the fortunate K 10 of trumps short in the North hand, 2D was made after North cashed the SA when in with the HA, for a 1 IMP gain.

M 6	♠ 863
Bd 14	♥ Q105
Dlr E	♦ 9542
Vul None	♣ 864
♠ —	♠ AK642
♥ J976	♥ A4
♦ AKQ86	♦ J1073
♣ AQJ7	♣ K3
	♠ QJ1097
	♥ K832
	♦ —
	♣ 10952

W	N	E	S
		1S	P
2D	P	2NT	P
3C	P	3D	P
3H	P	4D	P
6D	All pass		

Still against Darko and Kamal, the bidding after 3D is a bit hazy, so we may have got to the cold 6D by a different route, but since 2 pairs did not bid slam, that was worth 3 IMPs. I could support diamonds immediately by bidding 4D, initiating cue-bids, or I could show my 15+ by bidding 2NT. 3C was an inquiry as to range, and 3D showed 15-16 HCPs. At this point, I could have upgrade my hand with its rich controls and bid 4D, which would have made bidding the slam easier.

M 6	♠ 4
Bd 5	♥ A872
Dlr N	♦ Q87
Vul NS	♣ AJ832
♠ AJ105	♠ KQ8763
♥ 94	♥ QJ5
♦ KJ4	♦ A65
♣ 9654	♣ 7
	♠ 92
	♥ K1063
	♦ 10932
	♣ KQ10

W	N	E	S
	1D	1S	X
2S	3H	3S	All pass

I had another tentative auction and stopped short of a reasonable game. The game was bid and made 4 times, but went off twice on the lead of the DT, but we still lost 2 IMPs. On the trump lead I was able to draw trumps and lead hearts from the table twice to establish a discard for my losing diamond.

M 8	♠ A1098
Bd 4	♥ 42
Dlr W	♦ QJ5
Vul Both	♣ Q1076
♠ KJ5	♠ 2
♥ KQ10	♥ J9873
♦ AK62	♦ 8743
♣ AK2	♣ 954
	♠ Q9764
	♥ A65
	♦ 109
	♣ J83

W	N	E	S
2D	P	2H	P
2NT	P	3D	P
3H	All pass		

Sitting EW against Tony Berger and Denis Croft, Therese's 2NT rebid showed 23-24 HCPs, and I did not think I had enough for game, unless Therese's hand suited very well, and there was no way to find that out. Opposite Axx in spades instead of KJ5, game is cold, so I probably should have had a go. On the actual hand, a club lead will beat 4H, but Denis led the H5, which gave me a chance for 10 tricks if I could get to hand and the SA was on side, but Denis refused the HK on the second round, which made sure of 1 off when the mandatory club switches came. Fortunately for us, we were not in game, but 4 other declarers did not get the same tight defence, so we lost 4 IMPs.

On the next board the splinter bid by

M 8	♠ K63
Bd 5	♥ 8
Dlr N	♦ 1098642
Vul NS	♣ 1086
♠ A10982	♠ 7
♥ KJ753	♥ AQ1064
♦ AJ	♦ Q75
♣ 4	♣ KQ52
	♠ QJ54
	♥ 92
	♦ K3
	♣ AJ973

W	N	E	S
	P	1H	P
4C	P	4H	P
4NT	P	5D	P
6H	All pass		

Therese promised at least 4-card trump support and a minimum of 8 HCP, but this did not look like enough against my minimum hand with possibly wasted values in clubs, so I signed off in 4H. Played by West, 6H is cold, but I got a heart lead, so did not need to try the diamond finesse for 12 tricks, and was disappointed to find out that it worked. I was able to draw trumps and ruff spades along the way to set up the 5th spade and discard the DJ on the club winner.

On this board against Tony and Denis, our own system and my cloudy thinking got me.

M 8	♠ 7543
Bd 8	♥ 106
Dlr W	♦ 9
Vul None	♣ AKJ1094
♠ AJ106	♠ 9
♥ Q95	♥ AJ8743
♦ Q872	♦ K65
♣ 87	♣ 532
	♠ KQ82
	♥ K2
	♦ AJ1043
	♣ Q6

W	N	E	S
P	P	2D	X
2H	3C	P	3NT
All pass			

My 2D was Multi, and NS were in 3NT before I had mentioned which suit I had, so I was pleasantly surprised when Therese led hearts for me.

However, she led the H5, and when leading partner's suit at trick 1 we lead reverse count, so the 5 showed an even number! I gave up on defeating the contract when I played the ace followed

by the jack! Any other card but the jack and Therese's unblock of the HQ enables her to maintain communication and take the contract at least 1 off. Of course, I was only playing from what I knew, Therese did not know for certain which major I held, so she was leading normally, low from an honour.

M 18	♠ 6		
Bd 9	♥ 10965		
Dlr E	♦ A98		
Vul NS	♣ J8542		
♠ AQJ752		♠ 84	
♥ 42		♥ AQJ7	
♦ 106		♦ K542	
♣ K97		♣ AQ3	
		♠ K1093	
		♥ K83	
		♦ QJ73	
		♣ 106	

W	N	E	S
2D!	P	1H	P
3NT	All pass	2NT	P

On board 18 in match 9 against Jim Wallis and Ziggy Konig, Therese did not notice that I (East) had opened 1H, and opened 2D (Multi) herself. When I bid 2NT to show 15+ and GF after my original opening, she was about to respond as if it was an inquiry to her 2D opening (whence 3D now shows a max weak 2 in spades), when she noticed my original opening, and the spade suit was now lost, as although she knows we have at least a 6-2 fit, a jump to 4S now would show a 6-5 distribution, with longer diamonds, so she just bid a practical 3NT.

Ziggy led the S3, one of the unbid suits, and then Therese was able to explain the unusual bidding. The spades were easy to set up now, and 10 tricks were easy, but 4S is also cold, so the status quo was restored.

■ Richard Wallis

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Bridge Myths

In 1999 Mark Horton released the "Mammoth Book of Bridge" and wrote the following about such hands as

♠QJ5 ♥QJ5 ♦QJ109 ♣QJ4

I wouldn't open this hand if you paid me! "I've looked at quite a few older books on opening the bidding and also some that have been published in the last two years and they ALL SUPPORT Mark. I think that this admonition has been passed down for the past one hundred years and that nobody has bothered to scrutinise this statement.

I am a novice and I have been successfully using this structure for the past ten years. There are no circumstances in which this hand should not be opened. This structure allows you to read your opponents cards as if you could see through the backs of them!

Consider that you open 1D and your left hand opponent (LHO) has:

- 1) a 5-card suit (about 65 % of the time)
- 2) no 5-card suit and also remembering that he can only have ace & king HCP.

If he has two kings or an ace - king he will pass with 1) so if he bids a major he must have at least two kings and an ace or three kings.

If he has no 5-card suit, 2) he must have 11 or 12 HCP to double so he will have three aces or two aces and a king .

What makes this even easier is the probability factor.

No	Hand Structure	Approximate Probability %
1	54xx	24.4
2	4432	21.6
3	6+ card suit	20.0
4	5332	15.5
5	3334	10.5
6	55xx	5.0
7	4441	3.0
		100.0%

Looking at this table your opponents and your partner have a 65% chance of having a 5-card suit. Quite surprising!

So when LHO does not bid he does not have two aces and a 5-card suit, but he may pass with 10 HCP

♠Kxx ♥Kxx ♦Axx ♣xxxx

or even a bad 11 HCP

♠Axx ♥Axx ♦Kxx ♣xxxx

but he would double with

♠A10xx ♥A10xx ♦Kxx ♣xx or

♠AKxx ♥A10xx ♦xxx ♣xx

Now consider the responder. If he has 6 HCP (two kings) and a 5-card suit he will

bid. He will also always bid with two aces but after an overcall he may pass with 6 or 7 HCP with

♠Axx ♥Kxx ♦xxx ♣xxxx

35% of the time your opponents and your partner will hold flat or balanced hands. Your partner with two aces will bid 1NT and if LHO did not bid would bid 1NT with 7 HCP (ace + king if not vulnerable) .

The interesting distribution to consider is 4-4-3-2. There are six possible TWO 4-card suit combinations:

- spades & hearts, hearts and diamonds
- spades & diamonds, hearts & clubs
- spades & clubs, diamonds & clubs

The probability of any particular combination is $21.5 \div 6 = 3.6\%$

Now your partner with his two kings may respond 1S, 1H or 2D without any difficulty.

WITH ANY 4-4-3-2 DISTRIBUTION

The only distribution that may cause a problem is 3-3-3-4 where the 4-card suit is clubs

- | | | |
|----|---------|---|
| eg | 4-3-3-3 | 1S |
| | 3-4-3-3 | 1H |
| | 3-3-4-3 | 2D |
| | 3-3-3-4 | Pass with the bare 6 HCP or bid 1 No Trump with 7 or 8 HCP. |

Now 3-3-3-4 with four clubs only occurs $10.5 \div 4 = 2.6\%$ or about once in a normal bridge session so there is virtually no danger with opening a hand such as

♠QJx ♥QJx ♦QJxx ♣QJx at any time.

It can also be seen that the opponents initially may have a possible collection of four aces and four kings but as soon as your partner bids you initially suppose that they have 22 HCP.

The LHO bid allows you to determine the point count range.

For LHO to double he must have 12-14 HCP which translates into A+A+A or A+A+K+K. With 15-17 HCP he will bid 1NT which shows (15) A+A+AK or (16) A+A+A+A or (17) K+K+K+A+A

Even the responder who doesn't know his partner's structure can take the NT bid and surmise that the LHO must have a good diamond suit so his partner really has a flat hand and not a long diamond suit and should be able to realise that partner *must* be 3-3-4-3, 4-4-4-1 or some combination of 4-4-3-2 eg D+S, D+H, D+C and this structure appears about twice as often as the 3-3-3-4 configuration.

The reasoning processes suggested in this essay have been extrapolated and applied to other balanced hands such as QJx KQx QJxx QJx and the results will be discussed in Bridge Myths 2.

■ Graham Cooper