

## January 2018 ACBL Bridge Bulletin Notes

Jeff Kroll  
Sam Khayatt

### Page 22

Column 3: South's play of the 6N contract. South's 2N second bid shows 18-19 points in standard methods. North's 4N bid is quantitative – asking South to bid 6N if she is on the top of her bid. South has 19 points so she is on the top of her bid and takes the invitation to 6N.

Declarer can count one spade, four hearts, two diamonds and three clubs for 10 top tricks. The SQ is a possible trick and the diamonds could furnish another trick or two – maybe. Correctly, on the second trick, declarer played a small spade towards the SQ. Of course West won the SK. But now declarer needs only three diamond tricks.

She needs to find the DQ to make the contract. So she plays everything but diamonds to figure out as much as she can. She finds the West has a 5-2-1-5 shape. So since West has only one diamond, declarer cashes the DK, in case the singleton is the DQ. When it isn't, she takes the marked finesse of the DQ through the East hand. She found a 100% line instead of a 50% line.

### Page 26, Cocheme

Bath Coup: When declarer holds AJx and his left hand opponent leads the K, almost certainly he also has the Q. Leading the K from KQ is a natural lead. Usually (unless you only need one trick in that suit or you need to get in right now) there is no point winning the A. The Q is behind your jack. You should duck. If Lefty continues the suit, you win the A and the J. If he switches, you hope he leads a suit that's good for you.

The Shower Coup is similar. If declarer holds Jxx, and dummy has Axx, play low from both hands on the lead of the K. Lefty will give up a spade trick if he continues the suit. If not, hope the switch will be good for you.

Column 2, second paragraph: When you are 4-4 in the minors, standard is to open 1 D. However, many will open the weaker minor to stop the opening leader from leading the suit.

### The Bidding Box (p. 37 – 39)

#### Problem 5

*Bridge Bulletin* Auction: The East hand has 19 HCP (and not the expected 20-21) and the 6 card diamond suit is not robust. The author likes the six-card suit enough to value the hand in the 20-21 point range.

#### Problem 6

*Bridge Bulletin* Auction: Because Rabinowitz passed after the 1H overcall he can't have a normal (6-10 HCP and a heart stop) 1N bid. When he now bids 2N, it is for the minors.

## **It's Your Call (p. 40-43)**

### **Problem 2**

Boehm: 3S does not show length in spades because if South had four (or more) spades his second call would have been 1S. The 1N call denied four hearts and four spades. Note that at the 1-level, bidding a higher-ranking suit is not a reverse. The spade call at this point shows good values in spades.

### **Problem 3**

Walker: A cue bid of 5S asks partner to bid slam with second round control in spades. In this case, 6NT and not 6H or 6D, as there might be a ruff, given the distributional nature of the East hand.

### **Problem 5**

Weinstein bids 4S with his eight-count, because he values this hand at far more than eight points. 4-4 spade fit and two honors in the spade suit and the K in partner's first bid suit. Nothing in the opponents' heart suit.

**Page 45 Alder.** West needs to know how many times he should hold up on his CA to minimize the number of club tricks declarer takes. The key is East's signal. On the first deal, East should play 7 then 2 (high low), showing an even number of cards (two-). On the second, the 2 is played first (low-high), showing an odd number of cards (three). In both cases, East's signal shows how many cards in the suit he holds at the moment he plays the card. This is called present count. On the second hand, East is playing high-low from his two remaining cards.

**Page 46, Harrington,** second paragraph: Plan the play before playing to the first trick.

### **Page 47, Berg**

Column 1, last paragraph: Four-level preempts typically show an eight-card suit. However, in third and fourth seat after partner has passed, a four-level bid in the major is often made with a stronger hand and maybe a seven-card suit. Game is likely and slam is not after partner has passed; he's not likely to cover more than two or three losers.

Column 2, second paragraph: Preemptive bids are meant to describe your hand in one bid. A subsequent bid by the preemptor is usually incorrect unless partner has made a forcing bid.

Column 3, last paragraph: The seven HCP hand is an automatic raise of partner's 1S bid to 4S. You have 5 trumps to the K, a singleton, a doubleton, and a side five-card suit headed by the A. This is great offensive hand, and not a good hand to defend against the red suits.

**Page 48, Helms,** column 1, last paragraph: second seat is the worst seat in which to preempt. You are only preempting two people and one is your partner. Preempts in second seat should be close to textbook.

### Page 49, Cohen

Column 1, fourth paragraph: Playing 2/1, over partner's opener of 1S (or 1H), 1N does not promise a balanced hand or stoppers. It's just a catchall bid for all 6-12 point hands.

Column 1, last paragraph: A 2C or 2D response to partner's 1S (or 1 H) opener shows four (or more) cards in that suit and forces to game.

Column 2, last paragraph: A 2N response to partner's 1S (or 1H) opener is the Jacoby 2N response in virtually all partnerships. It promises four (or more) trumps and enough for game.

**Page 52, Horton:** After winning the DQ, it is important not to cash the CK, as you will need it as an entry. You need that entry to lead toward the SK through the spade preemptor. You can't play spades at this point because you only have the one stop. East will come up Ace of spades and then knock out your king. Now you run the risk the defense getting in with the CQ and running the rest of the spades. Note that although the CQ is doubleton, that is not the percentage way to play the hand (playing the AK to drop the Q). Usually the preemptor in spades will have the short clubs.

### Page 54, Boehm

Column 1, deal: You are declaring 3N. When West leads a spade and the best East can do is play the 7, it looks like West has the AQ of spades. Therefore, you must keep East off lead so that he doesn't lead a spade through you. Therefore, don't finesse in diamonds, because if it loses East is in. Finesse the H9 by leading toward the HA and H9. Count your tricks. You have nine whether the finesse works or not.

Column 3, deal: Declaring 4S, duck the first heart to cut communications between the defenders in hearts. Play clubs to try to keep East off lead so he won't lead through your DK.

**Page 56, Challenge of the Month:** It is correct to play diamonds before clubs to see if you get lucky. You need a spade pitch on a diamond in any case. If you're lucky (as in this case) you get two spade pitches. If you play clubs first, even if you do get a pitch (in this case you're unlucky, so you don't) you still need the diamonds.

**Page 57, Bergen:** Partner bid diamonds, so he has at least three. When you lead the D4, and dummy plays the D3, partner plays the D9. He keeps the J over the T. Declarer wins the Q. Also, if partner had the D7, he would have played that to keep the J 9 over the 10 8. So declarer has the 7, he won with the Q, and since partner didn't go up with the Ace, declarer must have that, too. So partner has J 9 2 and declarer has A Q 7.

### Page 58, Walker

Column 1, second paragraph: To be good at bridge you have to do more than play. It requires study.

Column 3, fourth paragraph: Brain-training games improve your memory only for those specific games/tasks. To improve your bridge memory, practice bridge.

**Page 59, Kantar**, deal 1: This is made through just careful play. Take the A K of spades and A T of clubs, removing all the cards but the hearts in your hand. Now drive out the A of hearts. When West wins the A of hearts, he has to put you back in your solid heart hand. If you don't take your side suit winners first you will be put back in the dummy and over ruffed.

**Page 62, Stewart**

Column 1, third paragraph: At IMPS (teams) a vulnerable game.

Column 2, third paragraph: When figuring out where certain key high cards are, it is often correct to uncover as many other high cards as possible. So leading the CQ is a nice discovery play. They can't see through the cards. If East has the CK, he will likely cover.

Column 2, last paragraph: Since West did not lead a diamond it is highly unlikely that he has a singleton. Defenders love to lead singletons in trump contracts to get a ruff. It's a nice lead.

Stewart also points out that, to play correctly yourself, you need to assume that your opponents are playing correctly. Many experts make the point that the best way to improve is to play with the best partner you can get against the best opponents you can get.

**Page 63, Miller**, column 3, last paragraph: If partner overcalls at the three-level, a new suit by you is 100% forcing, at the one- or two-level, it is not.