

November 2018 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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Page 7, Dummy Reversal: Playing 6S, the way to make this with the normal 3-2 split in spades and hearts is to make the South hand good. Set up the hearts to pitch the two little clubs and ruff the diamonds.

Panda-monium (p. 16-20)

Page 17, column 1, first auction: The information conveyed by the bidding:

- South's 3H jump in response to partner's take out double shows 9-11 HCP and at least four hearts.
- North's 3S bid is a cue bid, showing a control in spades (the ace)
- South's 4C bid is a cue bid, showing a control in clubs (the ace)
- North's 4D bid is a cue bid, showing a control in diamonds (the king; many players will cue bid kings below game level)

The rest of the auction is Roman Key card Blackwood, followed by the ask for the trump Q.

Page 18, column 1, auction: North's 2S bid is a delayed raise, showing exactly three spades. South's 3S bid can't be passed as NS is in a game-forcing auction (South's 2D bid was fourth suit-forcing to game).

Page 22, Jones

Column 2, second paragraph: When you make a 4N ace-asking bid and then follow it up with a 5N bid, you are not just asking for kings; you are guaranteeing all five key cards (four aces and the trump king) plus the trump queen. Partner can then go to seven with a source of tricks even if you should sign off at six.

Column 2, third paragraph: After partner's Jacoby 2N bid, opener can bid either 3S, showing shortness, or 4C, showing a strong side five card suit. Both responses are appropriate in the Jacoby 2N convention. The spade shortness shown by South made North's hand better as all those losing spade tricks disappeared. Then, with South's source of tricks in the club suit, she could follow up North's strong bidding to bid the easy-to-make Grand Slam in hearts.

Page 24, Gordon, third paragraph: it is inappropriate for a club to discriminate against a player based on "bridge skill" outside of masterpoints.

The Bidding Box (p. 37-39)

Problem 3

Diamonds had not been bid by anyone and East is void in them. Therefore, it is likely that partner (West) will bid them at his second turn. If he does, then we would make a delayed raise in hearts showing exactly three. This approach fits with our discussion of page 18. The *Bridge Bulletin* auction uses cue bids to show the first round control in clubs (the ace) and diamonds (the void).

Problem 5

2D by both Wests was fourth suit forcing to game. It's a close bid. We evaluate the hand at 12 points: 12 HCP plus a point for the long heart, but minus a point for not having an ace. We might try 1N as we like to declare when we hold a doubleton king (diamonds) in a suit not bid by partner. We don't know partner has the AQ and we would prefer that he held the SA, the CK, and two small diamonds.

Problem 6

Lafferty's 2D bid is fourth suit forcing to game.

Problem 7

Once the partnership has uncovered the big diamond fit, even though it only has 27 HCP they should (and did) find the slam. West is void in South's suit (clubs) and the partners have the AK in the major suits.

It makes seven, as West can ruff his losing spades high in the East hand. Since South opened 1C and EW has 27 HCP, South is marked for the CA and CK. So the QJT can be run through South for a ruffing finesse and the losing diamond and be discarded – making seven.

It's Your Call (p. 40-43), Problem 1: The key considerations in this problem are how to find a slam if it's there, and to right-side the contract. Holding Kx, you want to declare. You don't want a spade lead through your doubleton king.

Page 44, Alder

Column 2, first paragraph: Think before it's your turn to play. Good declarers will figure out what's in your hand based on your pausing to think at your turn to play.

Column 2, last paragraph: It is usually better to duck the HA; if you don't, South gets two heart tricks. You get one trick but give up two. There are exceptions to this.

Page 45, Parrish

Column 1, second paragraph: Aces and kings are undervalued and queens and jacks are overvalued in the 4-3-2-1 point count method. This is especially true in slam bidding as we need control of all suits.

Column 2, first paragraph: Double fits lead to lots of tricks while tricks are hard to come by in mismatches (unless you have sufficient trumps and distribution to cross ruff the hand).

Bullet points in column 2, slams are often makeable with less than the 32-33 hcp when there are:

- Double fits
- Ten (or more)-card trump fits
- Solid suits
- Shortness opposite partner's small cards (in a trump contract)

Column 2, bottom: Push to (or at least explore for) slam with a double fit and a source of tricks. You would not use any form of Blackwood immediately with your two small doubletons, but you and partner should cue bid controls.

Page 46, Harrington

First deal: Seeing that dummy's spades are going to run and provide plenty of discards, it's important that the defense takes its tricks ASAP. Accordingly, East makes the nonstandard play of leading the unsupported DQ to trap the DK and to keep the lead if declarer ducks. Normally we don't lead unsupported honors.

Second deal: This time we see that the spade suit will not provide discards, so West should play passively and just collect the tricks as declarer will be playing mostly from his hand.

Page 47, Berg

Column 1, fourth paragraph: 1N is often a reasonable opening bid, even with two unstopped suits, when it describes your shape and HCP.

Column 2, first paragraph: Opening a three-card minor is fairly uncommon using standard methods. Opening a three-card diamond suit is rare.

Column 2, third paragraph: A rebid of 1N does not show stoppers in all four suits.

Page 48, Helms

Column 2, third paragraph: A 1N rebid when you have a singleton in partner's suit is something to be avoided; however, if it's a singleton honor it might be the best available bid.

Column 3, second hand: After opening 1D, bidding 2D typically shows a six-card suit. However, if you have a strong five-card diamond suit and no better bid, it is acceptable to bid 2D.

Page 49, Cohen

This is a great review of the 1C-1S | ?? sequence. It is very similar to Cohen's article last month on the 1C-1H | ?? sequence. Among the bids discussed and what each shows:

2C	Six (not five) clubs and 11-15 HCP. With 16 HCP and a six-card suit, bid 3C.
2D or 2H	Four diamonds (or hearts), five clubs and 17+ HCP. This is a reverse. It's forcing for one round, shows at least 17 HCP and more cards in the first-bid lower-ranking suit than in the second.
2S	Four spades, 11-15 HCP. It is possible to make this bid with only three spades if all other bids are worse. For example, if your distribution is 3-1-4-5 and the spades are KQT, 2S is a better bid than anything else.
2N	18-19 HCP and a balanced hand. May include a four-card heart suit.
3C	16-18, including distribution, and a six-card suit. Texture matters. Count only useful distribution.
3S	16-18 HCP and four-card spade support.
3N	A hand capable of taking nine tricks in a running club suit. Stoppers in unbid suits.
4S	19-21 HCP (he did not open 2C) and four-card spade support. This is not a close-out bid; it's quite the opposite. It says that opener can make game opposite 6 HCP and four spades, the minimum promised by the 1S response.
P	You can pass with minimum values <i>only if partner is a passed hand</i> .

Page 51, Lawrence

This column covers basic counting. After one opponent opens showing 12+ points and the other redoubles showing 10+ points, and you hold 13 HCP, the most partner can have is five points. If he bids, he is just showing a preference for a place to play; if he passes he has no preference. If he jumps, he still has at most five points, but he is showing useful distribution.

In the *Post Mortem* (middle of column 3), Lawrence explains that 99% of the time you will pass at your next turn, unless partner passed the redouble. Then you'd have to bid.

Page 53, Kantar

The 2D bid in the auction is new minor forcing. North shows three spade cards with his 2S bid.

This is a classic “keep the dangerous hand off lead” situation. Declarer dodged a bullet with the H2 lead. Kantar always says to take all your chances, and you should. One of your chances is to set up dummy’s 4th club – if they split. So you can’t let West (the danger hand) back in to lead through dummy’s DK. That is what will likely happen if you give West a club trick.

Let them win the initial heart. When you get in, cash the HA and draw two rounds of trump, ending in dummy. Discard a small club from the South hand on the HK. Trump the third club (to see if they split 3-3) and cross back to dummy with a spade, picking up the last trump. West never gets in to lead the fatal diamond. You get to take all your chances: first the club split; if that doesn’t work, then lead up to the DK, hoping for the DA onside. You lose a heart unnecessarily but at a minimum you save a club trick.

Page 54, Boehm: Learning can take place by kibitzing a strong player. He also points out the benefits of playing with a strong player in column 1, paragraph 3.

Page 58, Walker: Take advantage of opponents’ body language and hesitations. She also provides examples of how not to impart information to your opponents.

Page 62, Stewart

North correctly raised responder’s 1S response to 2S with only three spades. Normally this should show four spades, as partner has promised only four spades. However, the other choices are worse:

- Rebidding a less than robust five-card club suit (Contrast this suit with Jerry Helms’ second diamond suit in column 3 on page 48).
- Bidding notrump with two small cards in the unbid major (hearts)

In this case, the opponents could take five heart tricks off the top against notrump contract and 4S makes.