

March 2019 ACBL Bulletin Notes

Jeff Kroll
Sam Khayatt

Three Great Columns

Page 36-38, The Bidding Box

Problem 1 30-point slam

Both contestants and the *Bridge Bulletin* auction bid a good small slam with only 30 combined HCP. Without a decent five-card (or longer) suit, slam is often iffy with 33 HCP.

The keys to this slam is to identify the double fit (spades and clubs) and to ensure that East is the declarer so that the defense cannot make a diamond lead through East's diamond king.

Willenken/Ginossar got East to be the declarer by using an artificial heart bid to show spades. East, then, was able to bid them and eventually to declare 6S.

Mikael/Ola got East to be the declarer by playing a 12-14 HCP opening no trump and then transferring to spades. Again, East got to declare 6S.

The *Bridge Bulletin* auction did not have either of these tools on its convention card. They did use new minor forcing to find the 5-3 spade fit. But with stoppers in both red suits and an unprotected diamond king, they settled on 6 NT to protect the diamond king. This was the best result, as it's match points and the extra 10 points are invaluable.

Whenever you hold Kx, or Kxx in a suit that partner has not bid, you should try to become declarer. Course this is not always possible and sometimes it isn't wise. But you should think about it.

Problem 5 Getting to 3N

Willenken/Ginossar auction. Ginossar opens a standard 1C, South overcalls 1S. Willenken is too strong for 2C and if he bids 3C it's still not forcing and leaves Ginossar nowhere to go but pass. So Willenken makes a 2S cue bid (that can never be passed). This leads to Ginossar's 2NT bid showing a weakish opening with spades stopped. This is the correct bid, even with the singleton diamond. We don't want to play clubs if notrump is an option. If they had overcalled hearts (instead of spades) then we would rebid clubs in response to partner's cue bid as we don't have hearts stopped. West is happy to raise to 3 NT with his opener.

Page 40-43, It's Your Call

Problem 3 Jump shift?

This hand splits the expert panel. It has only 12 HCP, including the singleton CK that is likely to have limited, if any, value. But the distribution is terrific: 7-5-0-1. The top award went to those who made the 3H jump-shift to force to game. However, the 2H bidders, who just couldn't bring themselves to jump-shift with this dearth of high card points, still got a 90.

Page 54, Boehm Opening leads

Column 1 hand: If you have an outside entry you should lead a high spade as you hope you'll get in later to run the rest of them, if the AK doesn't set up the suit. Lacking a side entry, you should lead the ST. If it loses, you hope partner will have at least a doubleton spade and an entry. Then partner will get in and lead a second spade and to set up the suit.

Column 2 hand: When everything is working for declarer -- card placement is favorable (finesses are on), suits are splitting -- lead aggressively and take your tricks before they disappear. Conversely, if the cards are placed well for the defense, lead passively and capture declarer's high cards with your higher cards.