

## April 2019 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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We like the following three articles / columns:

**Page 41 43, The Bidding Box – Grand slams with fewer than 30 points**

### Problem 1

Both contestants got to a good 6D contract, but the *Bridge Bulletin* Auction showed how to get to 7D for a top (opponents silent):

	West	East	
		1 ♦	Routine
Routine	1 ♠	2 ♣	Routine
Fourth-suit forcing to game	2 ♥	3 ♦	Likely shows 6+ diamonds and conserves bidding space
	3 N	4 ♣	Bidding past 3N shows an interest in slam
Sets the trump suit	4 ♦	4 ♠	Cue bid; spade control
Cue bid; heart control	5 ♥	6 ♣	Cue bid; club control
Big cards: HA, DA, DJ and CQ	7 ♦		

This is a lay-down 26-point grand slam. And the spade honors are useless.

### Problem 7

One contestant reached a routine 6S slam as did the *Bridge Bulletin* Auction. The other pair got to only 4S for a below average result.

	South	West	North	East	
2H is DONT; shows 5-5 in the majors (both sides vul).	1 N	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Limit raise or better in spades
Patterning out	Pass	4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦	Diamond fit
Heart ace	Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 ♠	Nothing to show
First-round club control	Pass	6 ♣	Pass	6 ♠	

That's where the *Bridge Bulletin* Auction ends. This auction sounds to us like East has at least two spade honors, and the missing honor can easily be finessed for through the notrump bidder. Since the opponents never bid clubs, we think it is likely that partner has at least three clubs. And partner having shown diamond strength, presumed club length and, obviously, spades, we think partner will have no more than two hearts. It's not a certain grand, but we don't see any likely losers. We would bid 7S. Besides we like to bid grand slams.

This is a 24-point grand slam.

**Page 50, Alder** – *Lower of touching honors*

Alder explains why it is usually correct to play the lower of touching honors in third position on defense. That is the opposite of what you do as declarer, when you win with the higher of touching honors in declarer's hand.

In the example at the top of Column 2, partner leads the S2, promising an honor. Holding the SQ and SJ and knowing partner would not lead away from the SA (against a suit contract, at least), you are pretty sure partner has the SK. You should play the SJ, not the SQ. When declarer wins the SA, partner will know that you hold the SQ, as declarer would have won the SQ if he held it.

**Page 52, Berg** – *Doubles*

Berg covers doubling the opening bid and responding to the double. The most common errors we see and that she discusses are:

1. Doubling a one-level bid and then bidding 1N over partner's one-level response shows 18-20 points. If you have 11-14 points, you should pass; partner has 0-8 points. If you have 15-17 points, you should have made a direct 1N overcall instead of doubling.
2. To double you need to have three (or more)- card support in all the unbid suits unless you have 17+ points. With 17+ you can double and bid a suit. So, if you don't have 17+ points and you don't have at least three- card support for all unbid suits, you must pass in the direct position – even if you have an opener. If responder also passes, partner, holding 8+ points, should take some kind of balancing action to protect your hand.

One final note on the *Bulletin*: Page 58, Boehm, at the bottom of column 1 gives an example of a forcing pass.