

## June 2020 ACBL Bulletin Notes

**Jeff Kroll  
Sam Khayatt**

**Page 43, It's Your Call: Deal #5.**

5. Matchpoints. North-South vul.				
♠ A J   ♥ 9   ♦ 10 7 4   ♣ K J 9 8 6 5 3				
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
Pass	3♥	3♠	3♣	
			?	
-----				
	<i>Call</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>Award</i>	
	3NT	7	100	
	Dbl	6	90	
	Pass	3	70	
	4♣	0	40	

3NT is the top spot, but it's close. 3NT is a favorite matchpoint contract due to the extra 10 points for taking the same number of tricks in a major suit contract. In this case it may or may not be a good contract.

South has almost a maximum for a preemptive bid. If the clubs were solid, there would scarcely be room for a spade stop. North would know this and should pull the 3NT bid without help in either clubs or spades. Both Sanborn and Korbel make this point.

The takeaway is that you need a strong partner to analyze this situation.

Double and pass are reasonable alternatives. Double if you think you'll set them with your AJ of spades and stiff heart. Pass if you don't.

4C is a weak fourth choice. You are vulnerable; if you go down, it might be a disaster.

### **Page 54, August Boehm: Boehm on Bridge**

At favorable vulnerability (they are vulnerable, you are not), LHO opens 1S, partner bids 5D and RHO bids 6S. Over to you....

RHO expects to make 6S, but partner's preempt made RHO guess. Bid on, double or pass?

Do you think you might set them? If so, pass.

Do you have a void in a side suit (not diamonds or spades)? If so, double. This is a Lightner Double asking partner to lead something unusual (either clubs or hearts). It usually shows a void. Partner will lead whichever suit (clubs or hearts) he has greater length in as that is where your void is most likely to be.

Do you have a void in partner's suit? Do **not** double. Remember this asks for an unusual lead. You must pass and expect partner to lead his suit (a diamond).

Do you expect them to make it? Remember partner has little defense if any, and if you don't have a likely trick, they are odds on to make it. If so, calculate how many you think you will go down, doubled. If that score is less than their vulnerable slam, take the plunge.

**Page 58, Karen Walker: Bidding Matters,**

A 2C opener promises at least:

- A balanced hand of at least 22 points
- At least 8 ½ tricks if your suit is a major
- At least 9 ½ tricks if your suit is a minor

It is always forcing to at least 2NT or 3M (three of a major).

Hands that are awkward to bid following a 2C opener:

- A minor two-suiter. It is best to open one of them at the one-level.
- A hand with one or two four-card majors
- Three suited hands

If your hand has a solid nine-card suit and nothing else, a 2C opener is inappropriate.