

July 2020 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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Page 30, The Bidding Box: Problem #1

Problem 1

North deals. None vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ K Q J 10 6 4 2	♠ A 7
♥ 10 5	♥ Q 6 3
♦ K 10 4 2	♦ A Q 9 5
♣ —	♣ A K J 7

West routinely opens 2NT. Both sets of contestants decided to transfer to hearts and then use exclusion Blackwood in clubs (asking for aces outside the club suit). The standard is not to ask for aces without at least a second-round control in any suit not bid by partner.

In this case maybe, it's reasonable as West has a big hand opposite the 2NT opener and the odds are that East has either the HA or the HK. But East had neither.

Without having exclusionary Blackwood available, the *Bridge Bulletin* auction was the winner.

	West		East
		2N	20-21, balanced
<i>Transfer to spades</i>	4♥	4♠	<i>Accepting transfer</i>
<i>First-round club control</i>	5♣	5♦	<i>First-round diamond control</i>
<i>Denying heart control</i>	5♠	P	<i>No heart control, either</i>

Page 48, Mike Lawrence: Mike's Bridge Lesson

Dlr: North ♠ A K 3
 Vul: None ♥ A 10 9 8 7 3
 ♦ 6
 ♣ J 8 2


♠ Q 9 2
 ♥ J
 ♦ A K 8 5 3
 ♣ Q 9 7 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the S5. South wins the SQ so as not to waste an entry in dummy. The way to make this hand is to set up the hearts.

The key to making this hand is to make the most of the entries. There are three of them. The key play is to play the HJ and overtake with the HA. Then continue hearts to knock out an honor. When you get in again, continue hearts to knock out the second honor. Then the rest of your hearts are good. This is true as you have all the good intermediaries in hearts and all the honors are gone.

Page 52, Challenge of the Month

	♠ A72		
	♥ J109		
	♦ J9432		
	♣ 42		
♠ Q983		♠ J654	
♥ Q6543		♥ A2	
♦ A10		♦ K875	
♣ 97		♣ K85	
	♠ K10		
	♥ K87		
	♦ Q6		
	♣ AQJ1063		

You are declaring 3N in the South against silent opponents. West leads the H4, East wins the A and returns the H2. How would you play it (course you don't get to see the East/West hands)?

As in many deals, the key play is at trick one. It's a good habit to think before playing at trick one. To make this contract you need all six club tricks to go along with the SA, the SK and a heart.

So, you need East to have the CK and no more than Kxx. When five cards are out, 68% of the time they will split 3-2. Course the club finesse is a 50%/50% shot, so the odds of you making this are against you, but you do have a reasonable shot if you play

the HK under the ace at trick one. That way you can reach your hand with a heart and with a spade to take the club finesse twice.