

March 2021 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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Page 37, "The Bidding Box," by Josh Donn – Slam bidding

Problem 2
East deals. N-S vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ 97	♠ A
♥ K3	♥ A96542
♦ A76	♦ QJ4
♣ AKQ1062	♣ J85

We like the Bridge Bulletin auction: ♣♠♥♦

	West	East	
		1♥	
<i>Game force</i>	2♣	2♥	<i>Six hearts</i>
<i>Six clubs</i>	3♣	4♣	<i>East bids past 3NT, looking for slam. Known nine-card club suit. Two major-suit aces. Only likely losers are in hearts (slow loser), and diamonds. Since West forced to game, he has something outside the club suit</i>
<i>Cue-bidding the ♦A. Asking for key cards would be incorrect with the small doubleton spade</i>	4♦	4N	<i>Once West shows the ♦A, East can ask for key cards. Known second-round control of all suits.</i>
<i>Three key cards: ♦A, ♣AK</i>	5♣	5♦	<i>Asks about trump queen.</i>
<i>Confirms ♣Q and shows ♥K</i>	5♥	7♣	<i>Likely that hearts can be established for discards: ♥AK and ruff one to set up the suit</i>

Page 51, "Ask Jerry," by Jerry Helms – Bidding undefined hands

<i>Me</i>	<i>Pard</i>
♠ J	♠ AK83
♥ A10762	♥ 53
♦ AK64	♦ Q1052
♣ AJ10	♣ 872
1♥	1♠
2♦	Pass

A disaster! They have 26 HCP and 3N makes.

On the **Me** second bid, the only choice is 2♦, not forcing, showing 12-18 HCP and four (or more) diamonds.

It's not a good choice because it shows a wide range of strength and distribution. But the hand is not strong enough to jump to 3♦. and the shape is wrong for 2N and 3♥. So, 2♦ is the best call available.

Pard can pass with a minimal response and more support for diamonds than hearts. Helms recommends that any time responder has nine or more points, responder should find a bid—just in case **Me** is near the top of the 12–18-point range.

In this case, **Me** is near the top of the range and should go on to bid 3NT.

Page 53, “Chalk Talk, Kantar” by Eddi Kantar, Deal 2 – Nice slam if you can make it

Dlr: South ♠ K 10 7
 Vul: N-S ♥ 7 4 2
 IMPs ♦ A 5 3
 ♣ J 10 9 8

 ♠ A Q J 9 8 6
 ♥ A Q 5
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A K Q

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 ♣
2 ♦	Pass ⁽¹⁾	4 ♦	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♠
All Pass			
(1) Values (Dbl = weak)			

West leads the ♦K.

As is often the case, the key play is made at trick one. If you reflexively win the ace of diamonds, and spades split 3-1, which happens about half the time, you can no longer make the contract if the hand with the three spades has only two clubs.

If you pull all the trump first, then you can't make four club tricks. If you play only two rounds of trump and then work clubs, the third round of clubs will be ruffed.

The winning play is to duck the ♦K!!!

If West continues with a diamond, win the ace and pitch a high club from your hand. Take the other two high clubs. Pull three rounds of trump, ending in dummy, and pitch the two losing hearts on the ♣J and ♣T.

If West plays a club or a spade, win in your hand. Cash two high clubs. Play three rounds of trump, ending in dummy. Play the ♦A and unblock the last high club from your hand.

		♠ K 10 7	
		♥ 7 4 2	
		♦ A 5 3	
		♣ J 10 9 8	
♠ 4 3 2			♠ 5
♥ K 9 6			♥ J 10 8 3
♦ K Q J 9 4	W	N +	♦ 10 8 7 6
♣ 7 2		S	♣ 6 5 4 3
		♠ A Q J 9 8 6	
		♥ A Q 5	
		♦ 2	
		♣ A K Q	