

June 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes

Jeff Kroll
Sam Khayatt

These are what we believe are the most useful articles in this Bulletin:

1. "Vic's Views" by Vic Quiros (p. 32). Why everyone plays reverses. They force the auction to a level that's appropriate only if you have a strong hand. Also includes examples of when not to reverse. The article includes a quick quiz.
2. "The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn, Problem 8 (p. 41). How to reach the correct 5♣ contract by evaluating the West hand properly and opening 1NT.
3. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 4 (p.44). Downgrading a response with 11 HCP but only one stopper in the opponents' suit and poor spot cards. All but one panelist bid 1NT, not 2NT.
4. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 46). Two loser-on-a-loser play deals.
5. "Lessons Learned" by Michael Berkowitz (p. 50). Why 2D, 2H and 2S are the only appropriate Stayman responses by opener. We also like to play Crawling Stayman. If opener responds with a major, the way to show a fit and slam interest is to bid 3 of the other major.
6. "Challenge of the Month" (p. 57). A dummy reversal problem.
7. "Boehm on Bridge: Trump management – review" by August Boehm (p.58). Three basic types of hands where you should not pull trump:
 - a. You need to trump with the cards in the short hand
 - b. You need the trumps as entries
 - c. You can't afford to lose the lead
8. "Bidding Matters". by Karen Walker (p. 60). Big double auctions can be awkward; it is often preferable to overcall, even with a big hand.

Our Favorites

“The Bidding Box” moderated by Josh Donn, Problem 8 (p. 41).

Problem 8

West deals. None vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ A 10 3	♠ 4
♥ 6 2	♥ A K 9 8 5
♦ A K J 10	♦ 3 2
♣ Q 9 7 6	♣ J 10 8 5 4

Reach the correct 5♣ contract by evaluating the West hand properly and opening 1NT.

Bridge Bulletin Auction			
	West	East	
<i>Only 14 HCP, but we like to add a point for the two useful 10s.</i>	1N (1)	2♦	<i>Transfer to hearts</i>
<i>Accepting transfer.</i>	2♥	3♣	<i>Game force. Second suit. Bit of a stretch, but distribution is good.</i>
<i>Natural.</i>	3♦	3♥	
<i>Spade stop.</i>	3♠	4♣	<i>One spades stop is not enough for NT</i>
	5♣		

(1) Bergen recommends adding a point for three tens. We like to add a point for the two useful 10s. Also, aces are worth more than four; Bergen recommends adding a point for 3 aces, surely 2 aces are worth at least ½ point or more. Both expert contestants also opened this hand 1NT.

“It’s Your Call” by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 4 (p.44)

4. Fingers and toes
 IMPs. East–West vulnerable.

♠9 6 5	♥A 6 5 2	♦K J 9	♣K 7 6
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	1♥	?

Most panelists bid 1NT although this hand has 11 points, which is what is needed for a 2NT response. The 1NT bidders were concerned that the hand would play poorly because:

1. The spots are bad
2. The shape is the worst
3. There is only one heart stop. Cohen would have bid 2NT with a stop and a half.
4. The hand will be played from the wrong side.
5. Game is unlikely. With 15-17 HCP, partner would have opened 1NT. With 14 HCP (or fewer), 3NT is unlikely to make.

“Boehm on Bridge: Trump management – review” by August Boehm (p.58)

Three situations where you do not want to pull trump:

<i>North (Dummy)</i>	
♠	Q J 7
♥	A 8 3
♦	K 8 2
♣	Q 10 9 4
<i>South (You)</i>	
♠	K 5
♥	Q J 10 9 6
♦	A 7 4
♣	K J 3

1. You need to trump with the cards in the short hand
2. You need the trumps as entries
3. You can’t afford to lose the lead

Against 4♥, West leads the ♦J.

You would like to take the heart finesse but if it loses, and the defense returns a diamond (which many defenders would) then you will lose one trick in each suit for down 1.

You need to work on the spades ASAP. That way you can discard your diamond loser on a high spade.

This deal also shows the importance of thinking at trick one. You should win the ace of diamonds at trick one so if the King of

spades is allowed to win and the ace of hearts gets knocked out, you have preserved the ♦K as an entry to the good spade.