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These are the articles that we believe will benefit our readers the most.

1. "The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn (p. 42-44), Problem 5. Why making and leaving in a double of 2♠ would have resulted in a higher score for both participants.
2. "Parrish the Thought: Declarer isn't drawing trump" by Adam Parrish (p. 51). A good declarer usually pulls trumps ASAP. When they don't, it's because they have a good reason not to. Often that reason is that they want/need to trump in the short trump hand. When on defense you should lead trumps to prevent declarer from doing this.
3. "Reasoning with Robert: Bidding opposite a passed hand" by Robert S. Todd (p. 52) It is sometimes correct to open a good four-card major in third seat. It is often right to preempt at the two-level with a good five-card suit in third seat.
4. "Startup Bridge: Redoubles: A seldom-used tool" by Lynn Berg (p.53). When and when not to redouble.
5. "Lessons Learned: Leading trumps" by Michael Berkowitz (p.54). When playing in his or her second suit, declarer will usually be looking to cross ruff. Lead a trump.
6. "Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge – part 32" by Karen Walker (p. 64). Four similar-sounding auctions where partner's double has various meanings.
7. "Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar (p 65).
 - Deal 1: End play East and avoid a likely losing finesse.
 - Deal 2: Try to set up a long suit and finesse only as a last resort.

Our Favorites

"Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge – part 32" by Karen Walker (p. 64).

Walker presents several auctions, each of which involves the red suit(s) and a double. Then she describes what the double is showing in each. Auctions 3 and 4 are interesting to review; all are worth a discussion with your partner.

3	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
	1NT	Dbl		

Partner's initial pass does not deny an opener. It just means that partner did not have a bid over 1♦. Maybe partner's suit is diamonds. Maybe partner cannot double

because partner does not have three-card support for all the unbid suits. This double is a takeout, something like ♠A 9 7 6 ♥4 ♦K Q 4 2 ♣A J 8 3.

If righty passes (instead of bidding 1♥), it is important for you to balance with 8+ points. Otherwise, opener buys the contract for 1♦ and partner might have had an opening hand.

4	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
	2♥	Dbl		

If partner is not strong enough to make a takeout double of 1♥, he does not suddenly become strong enough to make a takeout double of 2♥. This double is for penalty,

perhaps holding something like ♠8 ♥K J T 7 3 ♦A Q 4 ♣K Q T 7.

“Test Your Play” by Eddie Kantar (p 65)

1

Dlr: North ♠ 5432
 Vul: E-W ♥ 75
 IMPs ♦ KQ102
 ♣ Q43

♠ AKQJ96
 ♥ J4
 ♦ A
 ♣ A852

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♥	Dbl
All Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

(1) Weak

Opening lead: ♥10.
 East wins the first two tricks with the queen and ace and exits with the ♠7, West discarding a diamond. Plan the play.

If we do not pay attention to the auction, we would pull trump, cash ♣A and lead a small club to the ♣Q, hoping West has the ♣K. This line of play is unlikely to work since there are not enough points in the deck for West to have the ♣K. East opened holding about 13 points and NS have 26. It is almost certain that East has the ♣K. (If West does have the ♣K, make sure it's from the same deck.)

So, the way to play this is to pull another round of trump, leaving the last one in East's hand. Then cash the ♦A and lead a low spade to East's T. We are giving East a trick to which he is not entitled, but by doing so, we are also end-playing him. After winning the T, he will be forced to lead something useful for us:

- A club lead makes our ♣Q good; we can pitch losing clubs on the ♦KQ.
- A diamond lead gives us three diamond tricks for discards.
- A heart will be trumped in dummy, giving us a ruff and a sluff and access to the ♦KQ for discards.

A layout like this will give our plan a reasonable chance of success:

		♠ 5432	
		♥ 75	
		♦ KQ102	
		♣ Q43	
♠ —			♠ 1087
♥ 10982	N		♥ AKQ63
♦ J87653	W	♠ 1087	♦ 94
♣ 1096	E	♥ AKQ63	♣ KJ7
	S	♦ 94	
		♣ KJ7	
		♠ AKQJ96	
		♥ J4	
		♦ A	
		♣ A852	

2

Dir: South ♠ 8 4
 Vul: N-S ♥ A K 6 4 2
 IMPs ♦ J 9 3
 ♣ 9 8 4

♠ A Q J 10
 ♥ —
 ♦ A K Q 10 6 5 2
 ♣ A K

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	7 ♦
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♣Q.
 Plan the play ... carefully.

This is a “take all your chances” deal. A lazy declarer will live or die by the spade finesse. A careful declarer will see if the fifth heart sets up. The careful declarer will also manage the entries. The three entries to the dummy are diamonds. So, the ♦ 2 cannot be wasted as it is needed to get to the ♦ 3, the third entry.

If the fifth heart cannot be set up, then declarer will fall back on the spade finesse knowing he took all his chances.

Declarer is hoping for a layout like the one at right.

